



Notice is hereby given of

THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
 on
Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 7pm at The Harlington

All Committee members are summoned to attend.

To Councillors:

G. Chenery, K. Davidson, P. Einchcomb, E. Engstrom, S. Forster L. Holt, E. May, P. Powell, R. Schofield, J. Stanton, D. Taylor, S. Tilley, G. Woods.

Rita Tong, Executive Officer
 10th June 2026

AGENDA

1.	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN To receive nominations for and to elect a Chairman of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee for the local government year 2026/2027.
2.	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN To receive nominations for and to elect a Vice Chairman of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee for the local government year 2026/2027.
3.	APOLOGIES Schedule 12 of the LGA 1972 requires a record to be kept of members present, and that this record forms part of the minutes of the meeting. A resolution must be passed on whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are acceptable.
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Under the Local Authorities Localism Act 2011, members must declare any interest and the nature of that interest, which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. Members are reminded that they must disclose both the existence and the nature of a personal interest that they have in any matter to be considered at this meeting. A personal interest will be considered a prejudicial interest if this is one in which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the members' judgement of the public interest.
5.	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 min per person maximum 15 minutes) To receive questions and statements from members of the public.
6.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes and confidential minutes of the RLA Committee held on Wednesday 18 th March 2026 (<i>copy attached</i>).
Part 1 – ITEMS FOR DECISION	
7.	THE CEMETERY CLERK'S REPORT To receive a report from the Cemetery Clerk (<i>copy attached</i>)

	<p>RECOMMENDATION To note the report.</p>
8.	<p>TEMPORARY USE OF CALTHORPE PARK FOR PARKING To consider a report from the Executive Officer regarding a request from Fleet Cricket Club for temporary access to Calthorpe Park to provide additional parking for parents attending junior cricket coaching sessions.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS Members are requested to consider Fleet Cricket Club's request and determine whether to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the request, subject to conditions; or b) Approve the request on a trial basis, subject to conditions; or c) Decline the request.
9.	<p>REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO INSTALL A KERB SET To consider a request from the registered owners/family representatives of Grave Plot 2157 for permission to install a kerb set around the grave.</p> <p>Background The Council has received correspondence from the family of the late occupants of Grave Plot 2157, located within the Lawn Section of Fleet Cemetery.</p> <p>The family advise that since the burial of their mother in 2009 they have experienced ongoing difficulties maintaining the grave and memorial due to the condition of the plot. The grave is situated beneath a mature oak tree, resulting in significant shade throughout the growing season. The family state that grass has never successfully established on the plot and that the grave surface is predominantly bare soil, becoming muddy during wet weather and dusty during dry periods.</p> <p>The family report that these conditions have resulted in repeated soiling of the memorial stone, flowers and tributes placed on the grave. They advise that they have incurred additional costs over the years in professionally cleaning the memorial and have attempted various measures to improve the appearance of the plot, including sowing grass seed, laying turf and placing protective mats, all without success.</p> <p>Following the recent interment of their father within the same plot, the family intend to install a new memorial commemorating both parents. They have requested permission to install a kerb set, to be filled with gravel, around the grave. They consider this to be the only practical solution to alleviate the mud and dust issues affecting the plot.</p> <p>In support of their request, the family note that graves located in other areas of the cemetery have been permitted to retain kerb sets despite being located in areas where grass growth is not problematic. They also express concern regarding the general appearance of sections of the Lawn Area, particularly along the northern boundary, where grass coverage has reportedly deteriorated over time.</p> <p>Request The family request that Fleet Town Council grant permission for the installation of a kerb set around Grave Plot 2157.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consider the representations received from the family of Plot 2157. b) Consider whether an exception to the current cemetery regulations/policies should be granted in this case. c) Determine whether permission should be given for the installation of a kerb set around Grave Plot 2157. d) Provide any further direction considered appropriate regarding the maintenance and future management of graves within the Lawn Section of Fleet Cemetery.

<p>10.</p>	<p>SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (SINC) – MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR OAKLEY PARK AND BASINGBOURNE PARK</p> <p>To consider a report from the Executive Officer regarding commissioning updated ecological surveys and management plans for the Council's two Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park, in order to guide future habitat management, support biodiversity objectives and facilitate potential external funding applications (<i>copies attached</i>).</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>a) To note the advice received from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and Hart District Council regarding the management of Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park SINC's.</p> <p>b) To note the concerns raised regarding the potential loss of heathland habitat at Basingbourne Park if restoration works are not undertaken in the near future.</p> <p>c) To agree in principle that updated ecological surveys and management plans should be commissioned for both Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park.</p> <p>d) To authorise officers to obtain quotations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecological resurveys of both SINC sites; and • preparation of management plans for both sites. <p>e) To support, in principle, the exploration of external funding opportunities for habitat restoration and enhancement works at Basingbourne Park, subject to any proposed works being consistent with the approved management plan and receiving the necessary Council approvals.</p> <p>f) To receive a further report once costs, funding opportunities and delivery options have been identified.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>MEMORIAL BENCH & CARVING REQUESTS</p> <p>To consider a request from the Fleet Carnival to donate and install another bench in Calthorpe Park. The bench will be the same as the previous in terms of size and make. The request is to install the Bench on the same side as the existing one, but in the direction of the Tennis Courts.</p> <p>They have also requested permission to erect a 70th Anniversary Carnival Carving. (<i>copy attached</i>)</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>a) To determine whether to approve the request to install a bench at Calthorpe Park. b) To determine whether to approve the request to erect a Carnival Carving.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>HCC BENCH ADOPTION</p> <p>As part of the HCC Upper Street improvement scheme, there have been proposed a number of changes to the existing Church Road modal filter including installing new benches. FTC already own and maintain the one existing bench in this area.</p> <p>FTC have been asked if they would take on the additional maintenance associated with the three additional proposed benches as part of the scheme.</p> <p>In considering this request, Members should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimated annual maintenance cost. • Future replacement costs when the benches reach the end of their useful life. • Whether a budget provision already exists. • Whether the requesting organisation will provide a commuted sum or contribution towards future maintenance. • Whether the benches provide a clear public benefit. • The level of community use. • Whether maintaining the benches supports the Council's objectives relating to public spaces, accessibility and community wellbeing. • Whether the benches are in a prominent location where their condition reflects on the town.

RECOMMENDATION

To determine whether to approve the request to adopt three additional benches in Church Road.

Part 2 – ITEMS TO NOTE

- 13. THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT**
To receive an update on events, hiring's and operational activities of The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre from the General Manager (copy attached).

- 14. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any announcements from the Executive Officer.

- 15. FUTURE EVENTS**
To note future events taking place on Council property, as detailed below.

Councillors' Coffee Morning	20 th June 2026	The Harlington
Fleet Carnival	4 th July 2026	Calthorpe Park & High Street
The Views	11 th July 2026	Vine Church Summer Community Event
Oakley Park	12 th July 2026	Fleet Infant School Family Fun Day
Oakley Park Summer Fete	18 th July 2026	Oakley Park
Lions Beerfest	1 st August 2026	The Harlington
Music On The Views	22 nd August 2026	The Views

- 16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2026, 7pm at The Harlington.

Part 3 – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Town Council, the Public and Press will be excluded from the Meeting
The following types of business will be treated as confidential:

- a. Engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees
- b. Terms of tenders, and proposals and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts
- c. Receipt of professional legal advice and preparation of cases in legal proceedings
- d. The early stages of any dispute
- e. Matters of a commercial nature.

There are no confidential matters for consideration.



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7pm

* Councillor Einchcomb (Chairman)

* Councillor Taylor (Vice Chairman)

* Councillor Chenery

Councillor Fang

* Councillor Holt

* Councillor May

* Councillor Oliver

Councillor Powell

* Councillor Schofield

* Councillor Stanton

* Councillor Tilley

Councillor Wildsmith

* Councillor Woods

* Present # Absent & No Apology Received 0 Apology for Absence L Late

Also in attendance:

Rita Tong – Executive Officer

Facilities and Open Spaces Manager (FOSM)

Cemetery Clerk

Friends of Basingbourne Park representative

Friends of Oakley Park representative

Jon Cragg - Hart Football Club representative

Andy Le Roux - Vine Church representative

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

Members received and accepted the apologies as noted above.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stanton declared an *Other Registrable Interest* in Agenda Item 7 as she is on the committee of the Repair Café.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public present at the meeting.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 10th December 2025.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 5 THE CEMETERY CLERK'S REPORT

Members received a report from the Cemetery Clerk.

Members noted that a complaint regarding the actions of a grave digger had been resolved.

Members noted a complaint concerning the condition of the lawn in certain areas of the cemetery and requested that the Cemetery Clerk investigate potential remedial measures.

Members further noted a complaint regarding the designated location for the scattering of ashes and requested that the Cemetery Clerk undertake a review of practices at other cemeteries and report her findings to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- a) To note the Cemetery Clerks report.
- b) To request that the Cemetery Clerk report back to the Committee on:
 - i. practices relating to the scattering of ashes at other cemeteries; and
 - ii. options for improving the condition of the lawn.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 6 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

Members considered the report from the General Manager on events, hirings, and operational activities of The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre.

Members noted that the request for forward-looking information and updates on forward sales for events within the next three to six months, together with the General Manager's assessment of whether operations are on track to achieve the full-year budget targets, had not been included in the current report.

RESOLVED

To remind the General Manager to include forward-looking information, specifically forward sales for events within the next three to six months and an assessment of progress against full-year budget targets.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 7 GREENING FLEET

Members received a report from the Executive Officer on the Greening Fleet Campaign. Members noted that, since the launch of the campaign in 2024, activity across the pillar groups had reduced significantly, with most pillars no longer actively progressing projects under the Greening Fleet framework. The Repair Café remained a notable exception.

Members agreed that the campaign had not developed as originally intended and should therefore be closed. Members requested that the Executive Officer write to Terena Plowright, National Greening Campaign Co-ordinator, to advise of the Council's decision and the reasons for it. Members further requested that the Executive Officer formally thank the volunteers from each pillar for their contributions to the campaign.

Members acknowledged the continued importance of environmental and greening initiatives and agreed that new initiatives should be developed to replace the campaign. However, in light of the forthcoming elections, it was agreed that this work should be undertaken by the new administration.

RESOLVED

- a) To continue supporting the Repair Café through the provision of hall hire and minor administrative support (including photocopying and promotion).
- b) To close the Greening Fleet Campaign and its associated Facebook page.
- c) To retain a budget for greening initiatives and to review potential future initiatives following the formation of the new administration.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 8**PLAY EQUIPMENT AT BASINGBOURNE PARK**

Members considered a proposal from the Friends of Basingbourne Park for the installation of a gondolier (“snake”) group swing within the over-eights play area at Basingbourne Park.

Members expressed support for the proposal in principle, including the potential to fund the project through available Section 106 developer contributions. It was suggested that residual monies from application 14/00106/MAJOR be utilised, with any remaining balance to be met from application 13/02513/MAJOR.

RESOLVED

- a) To agree in principle with the installation of a gondolier / snake swing within the over-eights play area at Basingbourne Park.
- b) To undertake further feasibility work including site suitability, safety requirements and confirmed cost estimates.
- c) To investigate the availability of S106 funding or other external funding sources to support the project.
- d) To report back to Committee with detailed proposals and confirmed costs before any procurement is undertaken.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 9**OPEN AIR CIVIC AND COMMUNITY EVENTS POLICY**

Members reviewed the *Open Air Civic and Community Events Policy*, originally approved in October 2017 and last reviewed in October 2020.

Members considered a revised version of the policy and made a number of minor amendments.

Members noted that the new administration may wish to review the current policy position of not directly managing events.

RESOLVED

To recommend the amended *Open Air Civic and Community Events Policy* to the Policy & Finance Committee for approval.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 10**PAVILION MULTI USER POLICY**

Members reviewed the *Pavilion Multi User Policy*, originally approved in October 2017 and last reviewed October 2020.

Members considered a revised version of the policy and made a number of minor amendments.

RESOLVED

To recommend the amended *Pavilion Multi User Policy* to the Policy & Finance Committee for approval.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 11**CCTV IN OPEN SPACES**

Members considered a report detailing current CCTV provision across Fleet’s open spaces, including associated costs, and discussed whether this provision should continue.

RESOLVED

- a) To review the continuation of the CCTV provision upon receipt of the 2026/27 pricing from Hart District Council.
- b) To authorise the Executive Officer to write to Hart District Council requesting full details of the contract, including provisions for equipment replacement, and clarification as to why previous instructions for cameras to operate on a panning setting have not been maintained.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 12**CEMETERY ROAD – TARMAC REPAIRS**

Members considered repair and maintenance works required on Cemetery Road, a private road owned and maintained by Fleet Town Council, which currently has a number of potholes.

RESOLVED

- a) To accept the quote of £1,550 to repair potholes between Richard Close and the Cemetery gates.
- b) To report all other potholes to Hampshire Highways.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 13**EVENT APPLICATIONS**

Members considered applications to hold events on Council land as follows:

- Hart Football Club Kickathon – Ancells Farm Park – 17 May 2026
- The Vine Church Summer Community Event – The Views – 18 July 2026

During discussion, Members raised concerns regarding the limited number of Temporary Event Notices (TENs) permitted and the need to ensure that the Council does not exceed this allowance, thereby potentially impacting other established events. Members also queried whether the area identified as “The Views” for the Vine Church event included Gurkha Square.

RESOLVED

- a) To approve both applications.
- b) That no charge be made for the use of the park in respect of these events.

The representatives from Hart Football Club and The Vine Church, along with the Cemetery Clerk, left the meeting at the conclusion of this item (approximately 7.48pm).

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 14**CALTHORPE PAVILION**

Members considered a report regarding the condition of the roof structure at Calthorpe Park. The report also highlighted a separate issue relating to soil erosion and drainage along a pathway within the park.

RESOLVED

To authorise the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager:

- a) To obtain three quotations for the roof repair works, with the costs to be met from General Reserves.
- b) To write to Hampshire Highways advising that the installation of the adjacent roadway has contributed to flooding issues within the park, resulting in significant cost implications for Fleet Town Council in seeking to remedy the matter.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 15**BASKETBALL COURT AT ANCELLS FARM PARK**

The Council has received correspondence from a local resident, writing on behalf of themselves and other residents, suggesting the installation of a dedicated basketball court at Ancells Farm Park.

Members noted that they had previously recommended the installation of a Multi Use Games Area, which would have included a basketball court; however, residents at that time strongly opposed the proposal.

The Council currently has other priorities within its capital works programme and is therefore unable to progress this suggestion at this time but will retain it for potential future consideration.

RESOLVED

To note the request for a basketball court at Ancells Farm Park and, whilst not progressing the proposal at this time due to current capital priorities, to retain the suggestion for consideration

as part of future play and open space development planning.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 16 ANCELLS KITCHEN

Members noted the progress of the supply and installation of a kitchen at Ancells Farm Community Centre. Works are scheduled to take place during the Easter holidays.

Members also requested that the approved design be circulated for information.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 17 HALLMASTER REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Members received the Hallmaster report to 28 February 2026 and noted that the information provided did not make sense and therefore required review.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 18 BASINGBOURNE WOODLAND – POTENTIAL ENCROACHMENT

The Facilities and Open Spaces Manager gave an update on this issue.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 19 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, as part of his opening statement, made the following tribute:

This afternoon I attended the funeral of one of Fleets' most favourite citizens, namely Hilary Wigg.

Hilary contributed considerably to the Leisure, Recreation and well-being of thousands of Fleet residents.

Hilary was well known for setting up Fleets first swim school in what was to become known as Wiggs Pool.

Leslie and Hilary Wigg realised that there was a need for a local indoor pool for serious swimming and that its running costs could be met by charging for lessons.

In 1966, with the help of Eric and Mary Cleeves and other volunteers, they designed and built a 25 x 8-yard heated pool with depth of 2'3" to 4'6" housed in a basic wooden building. In 1967, the Fleet Swimming School (affectionately known as 'Wiggs' Pool') opened and was an immediate success.

The pool remained open for 17 years and during that time many thousands of children and adults learnt to swim. Life Saving and Water Safety classes were also held and in 1968 the Fleet Swimming Club, later to become the Hart Swimming Club, was inaugurated.

Hilary lived until she was 96 years old and her legacy is set to continue as there is a proposal to name the Training Pool at Hart Leisure Centre in her memory.

The Executive Officer made the following announcements:

- Councillors seeking re-election in the May elections must submit their nominations to Hart District Council by 9 April 2026.
- A Freedom of Information request was received from a resident, who had posted a complaint shortly beforehand on Facebook regarding a gate at Ancells Farm Park. The information requested, where held, has been provided.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 20**FUTURE EVENTS**

To note future events taking place on Council property, as detailed below.

Fleet Marathon	29th March 2026	Calthorpe Park
Easter Egg Hunt	4 th April 2026	Oakley Park
Circus World	19 th April-26 th April 2026	The Views
Brass Band Concert	14 th June 2026	Oakley Park
Councillors' Coffee Morning	20 th June 2026	The Harlington
Fleet Carnival	4 th July 2026	Calthorpe Park & High Street
Oakley Park Summer Fete	18 th July 2026	Oakley Park
Lions Beerfest	1 st August 2026	The Harlington
Music On The Views	22 nd August 2026	The Views

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 21**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 17th June 2026, 7pm at The Harlington.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.

Signed: **Date**.....

Chairman

Officer Report

RLA June 2026

OFFICER: Sian Taylor
DATE: 10th June 2026
SUBJECT: Cemetery Report

Badger Activity

The Ecologist has visited the cemetery and inspected the grave and surrounding area. She recommends closing the grave entrance to the sett. This is pending receipt of a licence from Natural England. Quote received for application of licence and closure of entrance for £2,453.10

Results of survey

A badger sett with three entrances was identified within a patch of woodland in the south-east corner of the cemetery. The entrances were well used, and a worn path ran between them. There was evidence of fresh spoil/digging and recent foraging activity by badgers in the surrounding area and badgers are reported to be present in the wider area around the cemetery. As such, the sett is likely to be a main sett.

Two sett entrances had recently been excavated within and underneath a grave, approximately 6m north-west of the main sett. Due to the close proximity, it was determined that this was likely to be part of the main sett

Badgers had previously excavated a tunnel into this grave in 2023. This was closed under licence on the 16th of November 2023 (licence no. 2023-65637-SPM-WLM).

Summary and Recommendations

The survey confirmed that badger activity is the likely cause of excavations that have damaged the grave, likely directly connected to a larger sett system.

Remediation measures are therefore required to repair the damage to the grave and to try and prevent further damage in future. These measures would likely result in a breach in the legislation and, therefore, a licence to interfere with a sett is required before any works are undertaken.

Initially, the repair works should be kept as minimal and 'low key' as possible to avoid disruption to the current situation and the existing sett, as this could lead to displacement of badgers resulting in excavations elsewhere in the cemetery.

As such, it is recommended that the main sett is retained intact and disturbance to badgers prevented as far as possible. The entrances in the grave should be carefully cut back, blocked and infilled by hand, overseen by the named ecologist, who will check that no badgers are inside the tunnel at the time by using drain rods or endoscopes

The works would be carried out under a licence from Natural England. Mitigation works must be completed between July and November, avoiding the period when badgers have dependant young underground.

Lawn Cemetery Condition

The council has received a letter from a family regarding a specific plot located directly beneath a mature tree canopy. Due to heavy shade and root systems, all attempted reseeded methods have failed, leaving bare dirt which leaves the grave unsightly and upsetting for the family

The family has requested permission to install a kerb set. Current standard lawn cemetery regulations prohibit kerb sets to facilitate mowing. However, in this area grass does not grow

Given all the methods we have already tried, I recommend this is allowed, and allowed on other graves where the grass does not grow – exact graves to be determined by the council (cemetery clerk)

Recommendation: Allow kerb sets for the specific grave under the tree and extend this allowance to other graves in the lawn cemetery where grass struggles to grow. The cemetery clerk will determine which specific graves qualify.

Scattering of ashes

I have visited Farnham Town Council to view where and how they scatter ashes. This is done in a section of flower beds. Following the scattering the council then rake over the ashes into the bed, so no visible signs are left to upset others.

No other local cemeteries allow scattering of ashes due to logistical issues of how and where this could be done.

Recommendation: Continue to permit the scattering of ashes in undergrowth areas around the cemetery and some designated flower beds, to be determined by the cemetery clerk. The soil or undergrowth should be raked over after the scattering.

Water Leak

This is still ongoing and being dealt with by the Open Spaces manager.



8. TEMPORARY USE OF CALTHORPE PARK FOR PARKING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a request from Fleet Cricket Club for temporary access to Calthorpe Park to provide additional parking for parents attending junior cricket coaching sessions.

2. BACKGROUND

Fleet Cricket Club has advised that attendance at its Friday evening junior coaching sessions has increased significantly over recent years. The Club reports that 117 children under the age of 11 attended coaching sessions on Friday 29 May 2026.

The Club has advised that the increase in attendance has resulted in parking pressures around the cricket ground, with parents finding it difficult to find suitable parking spaces during these sessions.

The Club has therefore requested permission to use the hardstanding access road within Calthorpe Park (behind the tennis courts) for temporary parking on Friday evenings between 5.00pm and 8.00pm until the end of August 2026.

The Club has requested that the Council provide a key to the access gate to facilitate this arrangement.

3. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FLEET CRICKET CLUB

The Club has confirmed that:

- The gate would be manned at all times whilst open.
- Volunteers would be available to marshal vehicles and supervise the parking area.
- Only the hardstanding road area would be used for parking.
- All vehicles would be removed before the gate is locked and secured.
- The Club would be willing to undertake a trial period to assess how the arrangement operates in practice.

The Club has also noted its support for community events in Fleet and occasions where its facilities have been used to assist local events.

4. CONSIDERATIONS

Members may wish to consider the following matters:

Security

A key consideration is the security of Calthorpe Park. The Council has previously incurred significant costs associated with unauthorised encampments and associated remedial works.

Whilst the Club has provided assurances that the gate would be supervised at all times when open, Members may wish to consider whether these arrangements provide sufficient protection for Council land and assets.

Impact on Parkland

The request is limited to use of the hardstanding access road. Members may wish to consider whether sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent vehicles accessing grassed areas or causing damage to the park.

Operational Arrangements

Should Members be minded to approve the request, consideration would need to be given to:

- Responsibility for opening and securing the gate.
- Key holding arrangements.
- Supervision and marshalling requirements.
- Liability for any damage caused.
- The duration of any approval.
- Whether the arrangement should initially be approved on a trial basis.

Alternative Parking Provision

Members may also wish to consider whether alternative parking arrangements could be explored. It is understood that the adjacent football club car park may have capacity on Friday evenings and may provide a more suitable location for vehicle parking.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct budget implications arising from the request.

However, any damage to Council land, infrastructure or security arrangements could result in future costs to the Council.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to consider Fleet Cricket Club's request for temporary use of the hardstanding access road within Calthorpe Park for parking on Friday evenings between 5.00pm and 8.00pm until the end of August 2026 and determine whether to:

- a) Approve the request, subject to conditions; or
- b) Approve the request on a trial basis, subject to conditions; or
- c) Decline the request.



10. SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (SINC) – MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR OAKLEY PARK AND BASINGBOURNE PARK

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider commissioning updated ecological surveys and management plans for the Council's two Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park, in order to guide future habitat management, support biodiversity objectives and facilitate potential external funding applications.

2. BACKGROUND

Fleet Town Council manages two sites designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park.

Following enquiries with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), it has been confirmed that Oakley Wood SINC was last surveyed in 2016 and Basingbourne Road Heath was last surveyed in 2019. Woodland SINC's are typically surveyed on a 20-year cycle and non-woodland SINC's on a 10-year cycle. Whilst neither site is currently due for reassessment under the standard survey programme, HBIC has advised that updated ecological surveys should be undertaken before new management plans are developed to ensure that future management proposals are evidence-based and appropriate to the current condition of each site.

HBIC has advised that Hart District Council funds the periodic survey programme for SINC's within the district, although current year funding may already be allocated. HBIC has indicated that it will make enquiries as to whether either site could be accommodated within the current programme. Alternatively, the Council may choose to commission the surveys directly.

Whilst HBIC is unable to provide direct support with management planning, it has provided details of specialist land management advisors who may be able to assist.

3. BASINGBOURNE PARK

The Friends of Basingbourne Park (FoBP) have expressed an interest in pursuing external funding opportunities to support ecological restoration works within the park.

A site meeting was recently held involving representatives from Fleet Town Council, Friends of Basingbourne Park and Hart District Council's Environmental Promotion Service Manager, Adam Green.

Mr Green has extensive experience of the site, having originally managed Basingbourne Heath as a ranger, and has offered support in developing a long-term management approach.

The discussions focused on the restoration of heathland habitat in accordance with the objectives contained within the historic Heathland Management Plan and the ecological conservation objectives identified within the Fleet Town Council/Friends of Basingbourne Park Development Plan.

Mr Green advised that the priority actions should be:

- Selective tree felling and scrub clearance to restore heathland areas towards their original extent.
- Undertaking a programme of heathland scrapes to expose suitable substrate and encourage heathland regeneration.
- Deferring consideration of additional water management measures, including proposed weirs and ditch works, until the impact of habitat restoration works has been assessed.

Mr Green advised that tree clearance works could potentially be undertaken in phases. However, he considered that the heathland scrapes would be more cost-effective if delivered as a single contract, estimated to require approximately four to five days of specialist contractor time, as mobilisation costs would only be incurred once.

Mr Green has also offered assistance with the preparation of a management plan and has agreed to provide examples of similar heathland management plans which could be adapted for use at Basingbourne Park.

4. URGENCY OF ACTION

During the site visit, Mr Green advised that the remaining heathland habitat within Basingbourne Park is at risk of being lost within the next decade if restoration works are not undertaken. The gradual encroachment of trees and scrub is reducing both the extent and ecological quality of the heathland habitat and, without intervention, the site could lose many of the characteristics for which it is recognised as being of ecological importance.

Members were advised that restoration becomes increasingly difficult and costly the longer intervention is delayed. Early action would help retain and enhance the existing heathland resource and reduce the scale and cost of future restoration requirements.

5. NEED FOR MANAGEMENT PLANS

Management plans would provide:

- A clear evidence-based framework for habitat management and restoration.
- Prioritisation of works and associated timescales.
- Support for future grant funding applications.
- Assurance that ecological interventions are undertaken in accordance with recognised conservation objectives and best practice.
- A basis for monitoring progress and measuring ecological outcomes over time.
- Greater certainty for Members, officers and volunteers regarding appropriate site management activities.

In addition, Fleet Town Council, as a public authority and landowner, has responsibilities under biodiversity legislation to consider what action it can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity through the exercise of its functions. The preparation and implementation of management plans for the Council's SINC sites would provide a structured and evidence-based approach to meeting these responsibilities whilst protecting and enhancing the ecological value of the sites.

Given the ecological significance of both SINC sites, and the potential risk of habitat deterioration at Basingbourne Park, it is considered appropriate that management plans are developed for both Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park as a priority.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Members may wish to consider commissioning updated ecological surveys for both sites as a first step, followed by the preparation of management plans informed by those surveys.

Quotations would need to be obtained for both the survey work and the preparation of management plans before any commitment is made.

The availability of external funding opportunities for habitat restoration works may help offset future implementation costs, particularly at Basingbourne Park.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) To note the advice received from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and Hart District Council regarding the management of Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park SINC sites.

- b) To note the concerns raised regarding the potential loss of heathland habitat at Basingbourne Park if restoration works are not undertaken in the near future.
- c) To agree in principle that updated ecological surveys and management plans should be commissioned for both Oakley Park and Basingbourne Park.
- d) To authorise officers to obtain quotations for:
 - ecological resurveys of both SINC sites; and
 - preparation of management plans for both sites.
- e) To support, in principle, the exploration of external funding opportunities for habitat restoration and enhancement works at Basingbourne Park, subject to any proposed works being consistent with the approved management plan and receiving the necessary Council approvals.
- f) To receive a further report once costs, funding opportunities and delivery options have been identified.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Contacts for advice on managing SINCs in Hampshire

By geographic area:	Contact Name/Project	Contact details
County-wide	Natural England - Countryside Stewardship Advisors	enquiries.southeast@naturalengland.org.uk Countryside Stewardship: get funding to protect and improve the land you manage - GOV.UK
County-wide	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South East - Farm Conservation Advice, Habitat Management, Agri-environment management	info@fwagsoutheast.co.uk ; matthew.norris-hill@fwagsoutheast.co.uk www.fwagsoutheast.co.uk
Basingstoke & Deane	Shannon Rae, Biodiversity Officer, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	shannon.rae@basingstoke.gov.uk Tel: 07542664525
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB		info@cranbornechase.org.uk Tel: 01725 517417
Eastleigh	Sarah Boyd, Biodiversity Officer, Eastleigh Borough Council	sarah.boyd@eastleigh.gov.uk Tel: 023 8068 8352
East Hampshire (outside the South Downs National Park)	Julia Nethercott, Principal Ecologist, East Hampshire District Council	julia.nethercott@easthants.gov.uk Tel: 07738 883381
Gosport	Fred Gibson, Countryside Service, Gosport Borough Council.	Grange@gosport.gov.uk
Fareham	Mark Trigwell, Countryside Officer, Fareham Borough Council.	mtrigwell@fareham.gov.uk Tel: 01329 236100 Ext 4843
Hart	Mike Barry, Biodiversity Officer, Hart District Council	mike.barry@hart.gov.uk Tel: 01252 622122
New Forest & Avon Valley	New Forest Land Advice Service	enquiries@nflandadvice.org.uk
North Hampshire	Jack Norris, Senior Estates Manager (North & Central Hampshire), Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Jack.Norris@hiwwt.org.uk Tel:01256 381190
Portsmouth	Richard Jones, Portsdown Hill Countryside Service, Portsmouth City Council	rjones@portsmouthcc.gov.uk Tel: 023 9238 9623
Rushmoor	Heather Lewis, Ecology Officer, Rushmoor Borough Council	heather.lewis@rushmoor.gov.uk Tel 01252 398731
South Downs National Park	Western Region Ranger Services, South Downs National Park Authority	info@southdowns.gov.uk Tel: 01730 811769
Southampton	Dawn Bannatyne, Lead Ranger, Southampton City Council	dawn.bannatyne@southampton.gov.uk
South Hampshire	Sarah Jackson, Senior Estates Manager (South & West Hampshire), Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Sarah.Jackson@hiwwt.org.uk Tel: 01489 774409
Test Valley	Adam Rhodes, Ecologist, Test Valley Borough Council	arhodes@testvalley.gov.uk

Winchester (outside the South Downs National Park)	Helen Davies, Principal Ecologist/Biodiversity Officer (maternity cover)	HDavies@winchester.gov.uk Tel: 07980 732118
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By habitat type:	Contact Name/Project	Contact details
Woodlands	Forestry Commission, for the England Woodland Grant Scheme, felling licences & advice on woodland /forestry management, woodfuel use/supply and grants to support costs of harvesting and processing equipment.	Office access and opening times - Forestry Commission - GOV.UK
Rivers and wetlands	Kathryn Boler, Programme Manager, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Kathryn.Boler@hiwwt.org.uk Tel: 01489 774400
	Steve Bailey, The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (North Hants border)	Blackwater.valley@hants.gov.uk Tel: 01252 331353

Please note :

The information provided is correct as of **March 2026** but is liable to change as projects/schemes change and staff move on.

See also www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/SINCS

Zone	Title	Supports	Comments	Impact (1-5) 1 max	Difficulty (1-5) 1 easy	Cost (1-5) 1 cheap	Likely resistance (1-5) 1 low	Quick Win
1 - Grange Heathland Glade	Willow/sallow/scrub clearance (back to perimeter fence)	Heathland restoration & expansion; mire seepage restoration; water retention (less expiration from willows)	Ideally want to retain an evergreen perimeter to block lights, any suggestions? As this has grown over electric cables, can we get SSN to come and clear?					
1 - Grange Heathland Glade	Periphery clearance - more mature trees	Heathland restoration & expansion; water retention (less expiration from large trees)	Felling or pollarding some mature pines between heath and path; and other peripheral areas					
1 - Grange Heathland Glade	Award Rd & Grange drainage redirection	Water retention/re-wetting; mire seepage restoration	Redirect formal (Award Road) drainage pipe* and informal (Grange residents' drain along perimeter) in towards centre of the heath * I think pipe empties into the park near Grange perimeter					
1 - Grange Heathland Glade	Scrapes/mini-bunds and/or dams in pathside silted up drainage channel	Re-wetting; biodiversity	Also evidence of small drainage channel at base of hill towards pathside channel, reroute in opposite direction (towards centre of clearing)					
1 - Grange Heathland Glade	Pool creation or dredging	Increased biodiversity; restoration of lost species	RISK: with no obvious water sources, does creating pools just dry surrounding area out more (rather than capturing/storing water)					
1 - Grange Heathland Glade	Holly & tree clearance from slopes	Water retention (more run-off into heathland clearing); Improved recreational value	Improved					
2 - Pitch End Woods	Allow drainage from Basingbourne Road	Increased water retention	Basingbourne Road regularly floods; allowing water to drain into the woodlands and seep down generally will increase general wetness levels					
2 - Pitch End Woods	Heath or Woodland?		This appears to be boggy than the current heathland glade, so may actually be easier to keep wet, but is currently under tree cover. Not sure if there are opportunities there					
3 - Wayleave & "Den"	Re-open wayleave	Heathland restoration; biodiversity	Reopen from current clearing down to the electricity substation OPPORTUNITY - see if SSE want to assist to retain access to cables RISK - invasive "pendula" reed/grass					
3 - Wayleave & "Den"	Leaky dams and backfill of ditches	Water retention						
4 - Connecting Corridor	Connecting Corridor	Heathland restoration and increased resilience	RISK - invasive "pendula" get to other heath					

5 - Stream	Wiers /Dams and irrigation channels into Heath	Heathland restoration; improved biodiversity	Retain drainage water from park rather than releasing immediately into Sandy Lane Ditch ISSUE - DoE licence (main waterway) RISK - stream is up hill and must retain levee and control risk to downhill properties RISK - irrigation channels should be net increase to wetness, not increase drainage
5 - Stream	Profiling & additional pools	Increase water retention; biodiversity	Aim would be to retain more water which could be released slowly onto heath, otherwise it would potentially just be a minor contribution to contribute to downstream flood alleviation. May be difficult due to slope in park. Can't extend towards sports field (or loss of footballs)
6 - Longdown Heath	Heathland enlargement	Heathland restoration	Clear over "sand hill"/badgers set; clear towards stream; clear corner dammed ditch bridge
6 - Longdown Heath	Mini-bunds; pool creation	Water retention; increased biodiversity	Combine with scrapes (use scraped material for "mini-bund" to slow water surface seepage). Create additional pools/holes
7 - Wickham Ditch	Meandering - Wickham Ditch	Proposed by EA/FFAS	Proposed by EA/FFAS, but due to electric cable protection "pipes" this section is dry most of the year,so benefit is very limited: ISSUE - likely to require additional foot bridges ISSUE - requires DoE licence for works ISSUE - proximity to badger sett RISK - vocal local residents
7 - Sandy Lane Ditch	Meandering - Sandy Lane Ditch	Biodiversity; recreational benefit; water retention/flood alleviation	Meandering and profiling of banks could increase water retention capacity and slow outflow. ISSUE: licences, proximity to SSSI ISSUE: disposal of "spoil"
7 - Sandy Lane Ditch	Restoration of Chinnock Ponds	Biodiversity; recreational benefit; water retention/flood alleviation	Dredge out up to 4 historical pond areas to increase water storage capacity during heavy rain events, but ideally to remain as standing water throughout they year.
7 - Sandy Lane Ditch	Improved Paths and footbridges	Recreational benefits; enhance Hart Green Grid	Improve foot paths, foot bridges; steps & slopes up/down embankment.

Rewetting Longdown Heath



Rewetting Grange Heath



High level plan





MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve

**Sam Kerr
January 2023**

Version control

	Name	Position	Date
Author	Sam Kerr	Site Ranger	Jan 2023
Reviewed by	Jon Wells	Site Ranger	Jan 2025
Authorised	Steve Lyons	Operations Manager	
		Ecologist	
	Liz Vango	Senior Ranger	
	Adam Green	Countryside Manager	
Cabinet or Portfolio Holder approval	David Neighbour	Portfolio Holder	
Permissions needed*	<i>Yes or No</i>	<i>Ref: No</i>	<i>No</i>

* Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Planning Permission

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1. General Information

1.1. Location and status

Grid Reference	SU 805558 (central point).
Site Name	Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve & Open Spaces
Location	The site is in north Fleet, north-east Hampshire. The northern boundary of the site borders the M3 motorway
Site Status	The nature reserve is designated a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
SSSI Name (if applicable)	N/A
Date Notified	LNR 2003
Date Renotified	N/A
District	Hart
County	Hampshire
Local Planning Authority	Hart District Council.
Total Area	The Nature Reserve covers 19.5 hectares. The adjoining Open Spaces covers 6 hectares.

Legal Right of Access	There is no legal right of way on the site, but the site is registered as open access under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000
Byelaws	N/A

1.2. Site Map



1.3. Land Tenure

All tenure documents are held by the Legal Unit of Hart District Council at the Civic Offices.

Ownership	Elvetham Heath Developments
Type of holding	Lease
Date of acquisition	3 rd October 2002

This is not a legal document. Please refer to the original tenure documents before taking any decision or action which may have legal implications.

1.4. Access and Structures

The nature reserve is accessible to both full and reduced mobility site users on a network of pathways and kissing gates. There are gravel paths and raised boardwalks over wet areas.

1.4.1. Footpaths, Bridges and other Access Structures

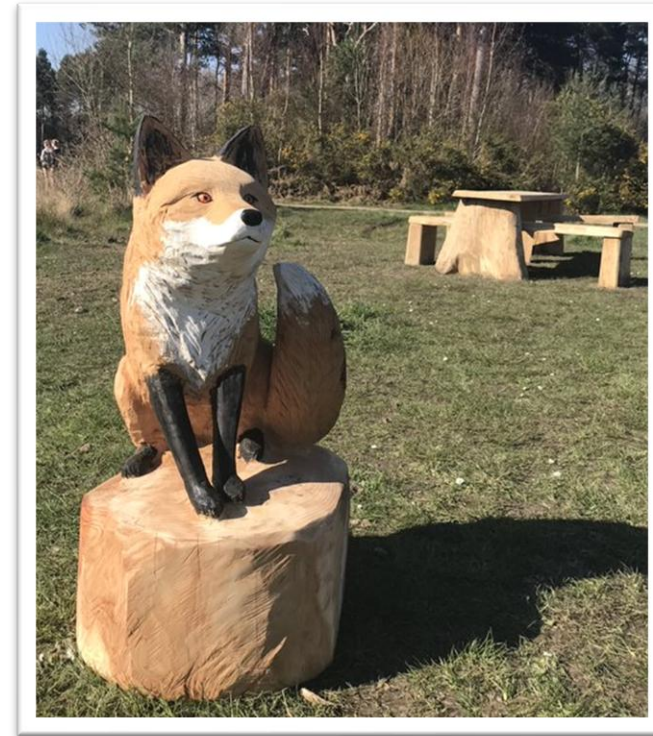
A network of gravel topped footpaths, raised boardwalks and informal desire lines allow visitors to access the site. There are 6 sleeper bridges within the nature reserve.

Access into the nature reserve is via kissing gates which are suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and bicycles.

The surrounding open spaces are interconnected with foot and cycle paths that run through the development and further afield to the neighboring communities of Fleet Town and Ancells Farm.

1.4.2. Furniture

Within the boundary of the nature reserve there is an all-ability picnic bench, five carved mushroom seats and four carved sculptures including a fox, reptile, acorn and buzzard. Finger posts help to direct visitors around the reserve.



Around the wildlife pond, there are two carved picnic benches, four individual benches and a dragonfly sculpture overlooking the pond.

Interpretation is provided in the form of welcome boards which are positioned on the three main paths onto the site. Three oak notice boards comprising a map with artwork, and a section for pinning notices, are positioned at entrances to the nature reserve compartments. A large carved wooden community board sits next to the community pond; members of the public are free to use this to display adverts for local events and activities. The content is checked regularly by the rangers and anything unsuitable is removed.

A Countryside Signage strategy was developed in 2022 to replace all countryside signage across the district. This will give an identity to Hart Council owned sites and clear branding throughout. Installation of the new signage at Elvetham Heath is underway, and will be completed when the Thames Waters works have reached a conclusion.



1.4.3. Access Track and Pumping Station

Contained within the site is a Thames Water pipeline and pumping station of 20m by 20m contained within a 2m high security palisade steel fence. An ecoturf (porous paving) roadway runs from the site boundary to the pumping station and access must be maintained to the pumping station, although vehicles access is infrequent.

1.4.4. Access Points and Restrictions

Access into the Northern compartment is through two field gates located alongside the corral. Vehicles can access the pumping station along the ecoturf roadway, 4x4s can navigate around the wider footpaths though they are restricted by narrow boardwalks. There are two field gates into the Southern compartment, however the conditions of the area do not allow for vehicle access through the compartment.

1.4.5. Fencing

Treated timber post and rail fencing is around the reserve boundary and a 10.5m by 9.5m livestock corral and 3.4m by 10.6m holding pen is located within the reserve for the loading and unloading of livestock. A 2.5m high chain link fence runs along the M3/ nature reserve boundary.

1.5. Legislation and other Requirements

- The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

- Occupiers Liability Act 1957

1.6. Health, Safety and Security

All work undertaken is in line with our Corporate Health and Safety Policy and our departmental Health and Safety document. For all tools and equipment used on site, specific risk assessments have been put in place and a task risk assessment is undertaken before any volunteer activities.

An Emergency Plan was produced in partnership with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. This identifies special danger areas, danger periods, fire prevention methods, organisation and incident procedures. A copy of this plan can be found in the Countryside Workshop and electronically on the Hart District Council system.

In the event of the community pond freezing over, the site ranger will install 'danger, thin ice' signs as soon as possible, to discourage people from walking on to the frozen water. There is a throw line and life ring by the water's edge, that is checked weekly by the site ranger.

An independent Health and Safety audit of the Countryside Service was last carried out by QLM (Quality Leisure Management) in 2014 and scored highly. QLM deliver industry best practice health and safety consultancy, supporting leisure facilities (including open spaces) with practical and cost-effective health and safety solutions. They work with industry leading bodies and have been instrumental in the development of industry standards and guidance publications. They are also available for specialist advice.

Hazard trees in high and medium risk areas are surveyed annually in line with our corporate Tree Safety Policy by the Hart District Council Tree Officer. Trees in low-risk areas that do not receive a high level of footfall are checked ad hoc by the site ranger whilst undertaking normal day to day duties.

Where appropriate, vegetation from path edges is cut back to provide good sight lines and visibility to make users of the site feel safe and secure. Structures such as bridges and boardwalks are either covered in a non-slip mesh or non-slip inserts to help reduce the risk of trips and slips.

The site ranger surveys all site structures annually for safety issues and any damage or repairs needed. This includes all bridges, benches, bins and community notice boards. They check structures for any visible signs of damage, test any supports with a sounding hammer, take a photo for record keeping and update the site's structure spreadsheet. Faults are ranked low, medium and high. Items marked as high are dealt with within a 2-week time frame, medium within 2 months and low up to 6 months. Records of these surveys are kept electronically on the Hart District Council system.



All of Hart's land is under an Open Space Protection Order, which makes it an offence to not pick up after your dog or to not be carrying the means to pick up after your dog, under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4, Section 59. To help enforce this we have a dedicated Enforcement Officer, who is able to give on the spot fines of £100 for dog fouling or littering. If there is a problem area, we can ask the Enforcement Officers to target this area until the issue has been resolved. In addition, the public are able to inform us of an area through the 'fix my street' function (<https://hart.fixmystreet.com/>).

In addition, if we have a problem with dogs or fouling at a site, we may run a 'pop up' stall to educate members of the public. We can also utilise social media campaigns if required.

Luckily, there is very little vandalism or graffiti on site. On the very rare occasion that this does occur, the site ranger will fix any broken items found, or if they are unable to, they will either be removed from site or fixed by a specialist contractor. Any graffiti found will be removed as soon as possible by the site ranger but immediately if it is of an offensive nature.

There is a play area in the west of the site, providing play opportunities for younger children, which is managed by the parish council. This is ROSPA inspected weekly by a contractor.

1.6.1. Contractor expectations

Hart DC Countryside team work with reputable contractors and ensure they have valid insurance and appropriate qualifications to carry out training and work operations. In addition, we expect contractors to adhere to best practice, including consideration or current sustainability and climate change issues and initiatives.

If the Council are going out to tender, climate change impacts and sustainability are a significant part of the scoring process when assessing bids.

1.7. Historical and social context

1.7.1. Past management for nature conservation

Elvetham Heath is managed and maintained by Hart DC.

Since designation as a LNR and SINC in 2003, a range of management activities have been carried out on Elvetham Heath with the aim of restoring the lowland heathland and wet woodland habitats to enhance its habitat and biodiversity value and to improve visitor access and enjoyment on site. Management has included:

- Removing stands of large mature pine to increase the heathland area
- Scrub clearance/treatment within the heathland and fen area
- Pool and scrape creation in the heathland
- Coppicing within the native wet woodland
- Glade creation within the southern wet woodland
- Grazing across the whole site
- Monitoring of flora and fauna

In addition, Hart DC rangers carry out routine maintenance tasks including:

- Maintaining the network of paths by clearing obstructions, cutting back vegetation and mowing where necessary
- Litter picking on paths and the whole of the site
- Maintaining drainage channels to serviceable condition, cutting back encroaching vegetation and removing all debris and blockages
- Carrying out annual hazard tree surveys, completing works as necessary or arranging for specialist works to be completed

- Checking safety conditions of all footbridges, signs, gates, fencing, safety rails etc.

Statutory undertakers carry out maintenance works as required to maintain the wayleaves for utilities/services which run under and over the northern edge of the site. Works proposed are reviewed, approved and monitored by Hart DC Senior Ranger.

1.8. People

1.8.1. Local communities, partnerships and stakeholders

Some of the surrounding open spaces are owned and managed by Elvetham Heath Parish Council via a contract with Lotus Landscapes, this includes the formal play area. The Site Ranger has a working relationship with the Parish Council to deliver a high standard of care in the reserve and the area as a whole.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group (HIWARG) have been carrying out reptile surveys on the site since 2019.

Elvetham Heath is currently in a Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreement. The original 5 year agreement ended on 31/12/2024, and was renewed for another 5 years in the form of a 'mirror agreement'.

1.8.2. Interaction with local communities

Interaction with local people is informal on site and through social media. Recent efforts have been made to advertise volunteering at Elvetham Heath. The result was regular, weekly volunteering days throughout the 2024/25 winter season, attended by 5 or so volunteers. As of March 2025, Hart intends to allocate specific volunteering days to each site. In line with this, Elvetham Heath will have volunteers once a fortnight for the spring and summer.

The volunteers that come to Elvetham mainly volunteer at other Hart DC sites as well. Previously, an attempt was made by Hart to set up a 'friends of' group for residents of the surrounding estate. However, this was unsuccessful due to lack of uptake.



1.8.3. Past and current measures to improve relationships

In December 2022 a Parish Engagement Plan was agreed through Cabinet. This will be rolled out across all parishes where Hart have managed land in 2023. The intent is to work more closely with the parish council and have improved communications, in order to serve our local community more effectively. At Elvetham Heath there is a good working relationship with the Parish Council, with a catchup meeting held every quarter. From Hart, this is attended by the Site Ranger and the Senior Ranger.

1.8.4. Access and tourism

Elvetham Village has a comprehensive footpath and cycle path network. The nature reserve is ideally placed so that walkers and cyclists can visit the site with minimum interruption by roads and other built-up areas.

The access, layout and location of the reserve does not make it appealing for visitors on horseback and the wet nature of the site would also detract from the ability to use off-path areas on a horse. Using the reserve for off-road vehicles may be an attraction for local owners, however the damaging effects of the integrity of the pathways and the off-path area are undesirable from both an access provision/maintenance and a nature conservation point of view, and so are prohibited.

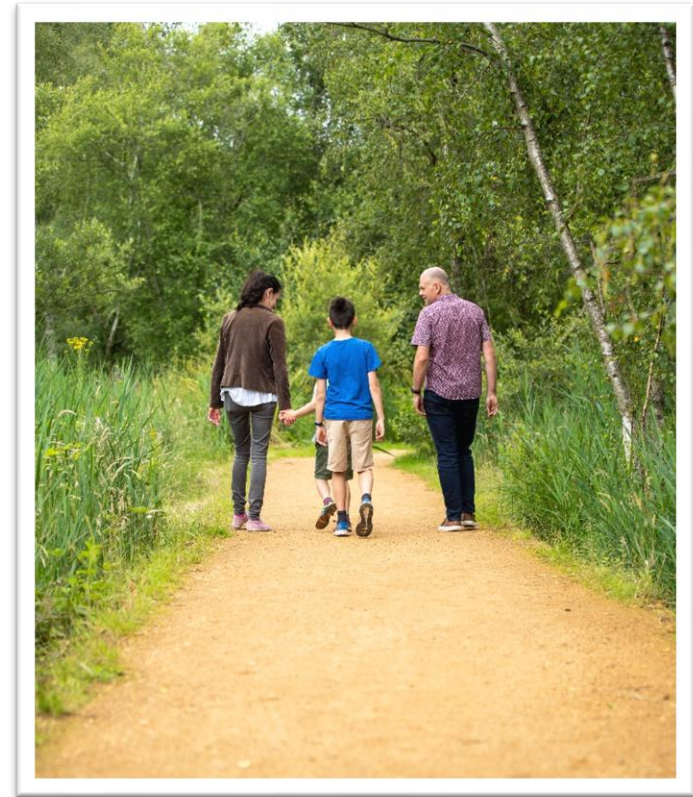
With all forms of use of the reserve the high water levels at the site do not make it suitable for heavy use away from the provided pathways. The mobility of the ground and the sensitive ground flora will suffer greatly from damaging activities and therefore the most suitable access option for the site is to allow open access for quiet enjoyment and controlled activities.

This is defined by allowing use of the pathways on foot and bicycles. Off-path use is permissive only and should be kept to a minimum, particularly by bicycles. Dogs should be kept under strict control at all times, this means that a dog can be off the lead, but its owner should remain in control of the dog at all times and should be able to recall the dog at any time. Any dog that cannot be recalled at any time should be kept on a lead. When livestock are present on site, all dogs should be kept on a lead when in the vicinity of the livestock. Signage is placed on the gates to communicate this to visitors.

1.8.5. Past and current provision

Within the nature reserve, there are gravel pathways with raised boardwalks over the wet areas to facilitate visitor movement across the site. All the boardwalks and bridges are fitted with either anti-slip mesh or grip strips to improve the safety of these structures. Self-closing kissing gates allow access into the reserve which are suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and bicycles.

In 2019 a sensory trail was installed across the site to enhance visitor experience. This has been altered since the new signage install (2025); it now comprises 5 mushroom seats, 5 carved sculptures, an all-ability picnic bench and a sensory boardwalk handrail.



1.8.6. Past and current use

Elvetham Heath is primarily used by the local residents who live in the Elvetham Heath estate, for dog walking and quiet recreation. It is popular with families and runners.

Although public transport is available nearby, previous questionnaires indicate that visitors do not appear to access the reserve in this way at present. There is a footbridge linking Elvetham Heath across the railway line to Elvetham Road that opened in 2005.

There is no formal car park, only nearby street parking or free parking at the Elvetham Heath community centre, which is a 5-minute walk away. The majority of visitors arrive on site by foot from the surrounding estate.

1.8.7. Educational use

Hart District Council's Education and Events ranger organises and manages events for the community which are held on-site with assistance from the site ranger and external sources such as the Educational Officer from the Thames Basin Heath Partnership.

Hart also offers either guided visits to site for local school or uniformed groups, or pre-visits with a teacher/leader, so that self-led visits can take place. Elvetham Heath has hosted several sessions previously to educate local children about this important habitat and the wildlife that relies on it.

As mentioned above, there is a sensory trail, popular with young children.

1.9. Site description

1.9.1. Physical

1.9.1.1. Climate

The annual mean temperature for Northeast Hampshire is around 10°C, or slightly above this where urban heating effects are a factor. Summer temperatures are high, the region being one of the warmest in Britain. The mean daily maximum temperature in July is about 21.5°C. The 25-year average is 91 days per year when the afternoon maximum exceeds 20°C.

The mean daily temperature in January is about 4°C, but the mean minimum for the month is 1.2°C. These figures may be lower in a low-lying, wet site. The average number of nights with air frost per year is 53, but ground frosts may double this total and occur in every month except July. The air frost-free period is late May until late September.

The average annual total of bright sunshine at Farnborough is 1510 hours: the monthly average varies from 206 hours (June) to 42 hours (December).

Rainfall is extremely variable, between a low of 3.1 mm (February 1993) to a high of 181.7 mm (November 1974). The mean annual average at Farnborough is 670 mm.

1.9.1.2. Hydrology

Elvetham Heath is fed by a number of ditches and drains which run through the site and contribute to the water supply of the nature reserve. There are also two sub-catchments situated in the western part of the reserve and drain towards the north-west, they do not directly contribute to the water supply of the area but do replenish ground water reserves. There are no springs within the site except for the source of Turner's drain (Turner's wildlife pond) which is fed by ground water.

1.9.1.3. Geology

The bedrock geology of Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve is primarily Windlesham Formation which is comprised of sand, silt and clay. The Northern boundary has an area of Camberley Sand Formation comprising silty fine-grained sand, or sandy silt.

1.9.1.4. Soils

The soils of the site are podzols and strongly acidic, with a topsoil pH of between 3.7 and 4.0. Soil texture is predominantly sandy loam or loamy sand. Peat deposits are more commonly found in the lower-lying north-eastern parts of the site.

1.9.2. Cultural

1.9.2.1. Archaeology and Past Land Use

An ancient parish boundary runs right through Elvetham Heath in the form of the stream, ditch and bank and is more than 1000 years old. It is likely that the bank was formed over the centuries by digging out the ditch.

The ancient parish boundary lies between the Hundreds of Crondall (to the east) and Odiham (to the west) and dates back to the 9th century.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was known as Sheepmoor and was used for grazing cattle, sheep, pigs and horses. It also provided a source of fuel in the form of peat and felled alder wood in the wet areas.

The stream formed the parish boundary until 1836 when Fleet (formally called La Flete) was created from parts of the former parishes of Crondall, Elvetham and Yateley.

1.9.3. Present Conservation Status

Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve was notified as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in 2003.

1.9.4. Surrounding Landscape

The landscape surrounding the site is described as follows:

The reserve borders on three sides with the Elvetham Heath residential estate and the M3 motorway to the north, although there are other wildlife habitats in the district including heathland, woodland, forestry plantation and wetlands.

Northern boundary: The M3 motorway runs parallel to the northern boundary edge of the site, increasing the potential for road run-off and noise pollution. Woodlands acts as a buffer between the roadside and the internal open habitats in the north of the site.

Western boundary:

Properties from the Elvetham Heath residential estate surround the western boundary. The western part of Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve lies approximately 85m above sea level.

Southern boundary:

The southern boundary is also bordered by the Elvetham Heath residential estate and is near the main commuter roads that run through the residential estate.

Eastern boundary:

Elvetham Heath lies within the Thames Basin and occupies land which rises from a little over 60m above sea level in the eastern part of the development. The eastern boundary borders with the Elvetham Heath residential estate.

1.10.5 Ecological

1.10.5.1 Surveys

Baseline ecological surveys are conducted to establish the potential for, and the presence of, habitats and species within the scope of the biodiversity management system. A range of ecological baseline data is available for the site with subsequent information collated from the following sources:

- Elvetham Heath – Phase II (vegetation) survey (2016)
- An Entomological Survey of Elvetham Heath (2007/8)
- Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve – A botanical survey (2006)

Where a potential for protected and/or noteworthy habitats and species has been identified within a baseline ecological survey, additional ecological surveys are planned. All surveys and surveillance will be documented and completed by competent people.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group (HIWARG) have been surveying Elvetham Heath for reptiles and amphibians since 2019. A total of 24 refugia tins are present on-site and form part of the survey effort. The presence of the common species of reptiles and amphibians found in the UK are recorded for the site.

For records of surveys undertaken, species lists, and more detailed information please see Appendix 5.1.

Specific future surveys for this site have been identified and are reviewed on a regular basis. See Appendix 4 for site-specific survey plans.

Habitats and Communities

Elvetham Heath is a large area consisting of heathland, mire and conifer plantation habitats. Historically, Elvetham Heath would have formed part of the extensive Turner's Common according to old OS maps and appears as a mixture of open moorland and conifer plantation. The site was cleared of trees over 20 years ago to create the nature reserve.

Currently, the site is a diverse mix of habitats; conifer plantations are still prominent though they support wet woodland habitat in some cases. Plantations which are species poor act as a screen from the neighbouring housing. Wet woodland and bog woodland are both present on site. According to HBiC's Phase II vegetation survey, there is a history of the wet woodland as unshaded and ungrazed, this has results in a floristically diverse array of wet woodland species. The bog woodland has developed more recently over the open mire areas.

The majority of the site is now open heath and wet mire or fen habitat, there is a range of communities found within the habitat which vary in age, structure, wetness and floristic diversity. These communities include rush-pasture, mire, bog pools, wet-heath and dry heathland communities as well as mesotrophic grassland and scrub communities. The scrub management and grazing which occur on site helps to create a mosaic of habitats which in turn helps create a greater diversity of species found onsite.

To the south of the site is a large pond which is fed by a nearby spring which then flows into the southern section of the fen/mire habitat. Pond margins support a diverse swamp habitat. The area surrounding the pond is maintained as an open space and the grass is mown short.



1.9.5. Ecological Assessment of Significance

Elvetham Heath is the remnant of a once large area, Turner's Common, the nature reserve has been designated a SINC and supports several important habitat types. These comprise:

- Dry lowland heathland
- Wet heathland
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Fen and mire
- Wet woodland
- Wood/scrub perimeter

- Mesotrophic meadow
- Conifer plantation
- Ponds

Within these broader habitat types are a range of important features which include:

- Historic ditch and bank system
- Fallen and standing deadwood

The habitats and features identified support a range of important flora and fauna, including:

- 17 nationally Near Threatened species including heather, star sedge, round-leaved sundew, bog-myrtle, tormentil and heath speedwell
- County rare species such as black-headed gull
- Hampshire BAP species including small red damselfly

1.9.5.1. Rarity of Features

Elvetham Heath is host to several rare and notable habitats. The presence of lowland heath which includes both wet and dry heath is significant as both habitats are classified as vulnerable according to the European Red List of Habitats. The vulnerability of this habitat is due to the change in the abandonment of traditional heathland practices.

Broadleaf wet woodland is also classified as a vulnerable habitat type according to the European Red List of Habitats report. One of the reasons for its vulnerability is due to the anthropogenic change to the hydrology of the area.

Fen and mire habitat are widely seen as vulnerable habitats due to changes in typical management techniques and changes in the hydrology surrounding the area, as previously seen on Elvetham Heath.

Although coverage on site is low, the presence of mesotrophic meadow on site is significant as it has been recognised as an endangered habitat on the European Red List of Habitats, this is largely due to a changes in farming practices and land management.

The ponds and pools present on site are at risk of being subjected to pressure from pollutants, drainage, and development.

1.9.5.2. Fragility of Features

Fragility implies that the site is susceptible to damage which is applicable for the wetland and heathland habitats found on site.

Wetland habitats are susceptible to the habitat drying out due to reduced water levels and pollution entering the system through the feeder streams and ditches. Reduced water levels would cause the fen habitat to dry out resulting in more scrub encroachment, increasing the succession to woodland. Active management is required to ensure the scrub is not able to take over the habitat and water is able to freely flow through the fen.

Wet woodland will decline if water levels, and ground saturation are not maintained. The dry woodland and scrub perimeter is more robust to environmental factors but can lack a diverse under storey.

Heathland habitats characteristically have poor soils and are subjected to grazing by deer on site. Heathlands are susceptible to excessive trampling and succession due to a lack of scrub management. Active management is required to allow for a diversity across the habitat and a control on the density of scrub found.



A heathland habitat which has become dominated with scrub

1.9.5.3. Typicalness

Elvetham Heath represents a typical heathland and fen habitat recovering through recent management after a period of succession. The habitat present contains a range of sub-communities which support a diverse range of plants and invertebrates. Therefore, parts of the site are typical examples of recovering heathland and fen habitats.

The areas of mesotrophic meadows on site are managed through grazing and annual cutting and collecting of rank grasses. This has resulted in a diverse range of both plants and invertebrates which represents a typical mesotrophic meadow.

1.9.5.4. Potential for improvement/restoration

There is a potential to continue improving the heathland habitat across the site through further scrub removal, bare ground and scrape creation. The creations of scrapes and patches of bare ground will help encourage further heather growth to occur, particularly in areas that have been subjected to dense levels of scrub debris and gorse. The provision of further bog pools within the wet heathland will benefit the plants and invertebrates which require the habitat.

Connecting smaller heathland compartments together through the felling of conifer trees has the potential to provide huge benefits for the heathland habitat and its relevant species.

Creating pools and channels within the fen area will have the potential of restoring this habitat as a diverse and beneficial fen habitat.

There may be further opportunities for restoration and improvement work on site as a result of the council's response to the climate change crisis.

1.9.6. Factors affecting the management of Ecological features

1.9.6.1. On site natural factors

Negative trends

It is typical of heathland habitats to be susceptible to woodland succession as tree species such as birch (silver and downy), pine, willow and alder can easily spread across the habitat if left unmanaged. The low and slow development of desired heathland plants such as heather means they are at risk of being lost to more dominant scrub species and brambles.

Wetland sites, such as the fen, are at risk from drying out due to the succession and development of tree species such as willow and alder. The addition of tree species within a wet habitat over time can dry out the habitat due to the deposition of their leaves and the water take up via the roots. If left unmanaged, the fen habitat can be lost to a wet woodland tree community.

Although data is not currently available, it is also considered probable that global climate change is already negatively impacting some of the site's important ecological features. Increased drought in particular, has the potential to directly impact the site's heathland and wetland habitats.

Positive trends

The natural development of the habitat compartments on-site will lead to a great diversity through the provision of a diverse array of habitats to suit a greater biodiversity.

1.9.6.2. On site man-induced factors

Negative trends

Elvetham Heath is a popular walking location for the residents of the local housing estate, this brings an increased pressure for the site in the form of more visitor disturbance and more dogs. These factors can impact the success of nesting birds, the development of heathland areas through trampling and the disturbance of the reptiles found on-site such as common lizard and slow worms.

Litter and anti-social behaviour on-site can negatively impact the area, in particular, small camp fires built in summer have the potential to spread to vulnerable heathland habitats. The temporary blockages (typically logs) placed across ditches has the potential of reducing water to wetland habitats which over time may impact their success.

Positive trends

The habitat management which has directly impacted the heathland and wetland habitats, positively impacts the site through the creation of a more diverse habitat. A number of species will directly benefit from the improvements that are being made to the habitats. By actively slowing the negative natural trends, Elvetham Heath can continue to benefit a range of species.

The mowing and grazing regime for the mesotrophic meadow has led to a greater abundance and diversity of associated species.



Using grazing animals on site helps to maintain the heathland habitat.

1.9.6.3. External factors

The water run-off from Turner's pond has the potential to pollute the adjacent areas of terrestrial and aquatic habitats linked to the site's ditch network.

There is also potential for aerial eutrophication as a result of vehicle emissions on adjacent roads to impacts on habitats across the site (although perhaps most relevant to the areas of mesotrophic meadow and lowland heath).

Drift of chemical pesticides and fertilisers from nearby areas of farmland and adjacent properties is considered a negligible risk. Care should however be taken to monitor on site for the presence of invasive/alien plant species potentially present in nearby gardens.

1.9.6.4. Opportunities

There is opportunity to enhance the biodiversity interest at Elvetham Heath through:

- Ongoing heathland and fen management to create a mosaic of age structures across the habitats.
- Potential to link the smaller heathland habitats through large pine removal and mulch scraping
- Increasing the extent of the meadow areas by clearing blocks of brambles to help encourage meadow species to spread.
- Creating pools within the wet heathland and fen areas to increase the water retention and benefit species which require these conditions.
- Working with Natural England to secure grant funding. Aside from the existing CS agreement, which runs out in 2029, this is most likely to come from CS capital grants, and other options that fall under the ELM scheme.

- Continuing with the grazing regime across the site from March to September. Researching into the possibility of introducing a different grazing animal such as ponies to bring further benefits to the site's biodiversity.
- Maintaining the ditches on site on a rotation to ensure sufficient water flow throughout the site.
- Addressing, reviewing and implementing ideas brought forward as a result of the council's need to address the climate crisis within the district.

2. Vision, assessment, and objectives

2.1. Vision

2.1.1. Countryside vision

A crucial part of the work of Hart Countryside Services is to make the experience of visiting the countryside come alive. There is a welcoming ranger team, lots of opportunities to join in guided activities, volunteer and to learn more about the natural world. A visit to a Hart Countryside site is a special experience. Providing an excellent service for our visitors is a core value for Hart Countryside Services. The Ranger team is committed to making this available to everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief.

Fundamentally, Hart Countryside services is managing these spaces for the benefit and enjoyment of the local community with the core aim of improving health and wellbeing, in line with the individual site needs for biodiversity, wildlife protection and enhancement and in line with HDC's Corporate Priorities.

2.1.2. Climate and Biodiversity vision

Hart DC has declared a climate emergency and intends to undertake management of its countryside sites to optimise climate mitigation and biodiversity enhancement opportunities in line with its climate commitments and biodiversity duty.

2.1.3. Site vision

Elvetham Heath LNR and SINC is a beautiful open space providing benefits for both the rich wildlife found onsite and the local people who use the site to connect with nature, directly enhancing their health, well-being and local sense of place. The heath and surrounding habitats are managed with a range of techniques to maintain and enhance the complexity of the habitats, supporting a wide range of plants, animals and invertebrates. Path surfacing and site infrastructure are maintained to ensure the site is accessible to the residents all year round. Natural play is encouraged, interpretation is used to educate and inspire, and there are opportunities to attend a range of events held on-site. The reserve holds a Green Flag award and is recognised as a site of distinction that Hart District Council can be proud of.

2.2. Assessment and analysis

2.2.1. Management Rationale

A nature reserve exists to serve a number of functions. It preserves examples of plant and animal communities which are rare, unusual or which are no longer commonplace. It will usually support populations of species which are also uncommon or rare, even if this applies only in a county context. A nature reserve should provide diversity and support many species in a small area. It should act as a reservoir and refuge from which species can spread to the wider countryside.

In order to maintain optimum diversity, a nature reserve requires management. To target management most effectively to the benefit of the widest variety of species a management plan is an essential tool. Few nature reserves are large enough for the natural process of succession, death, decay and regeneration to provide sustainable diversity. Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve supports a variety of habitat types within a very small area. To maintain this unique mosaic of differing habitats, carefully planned, monitored and reviewed management is essential.

2.3. Environmental Management

Climate change is the most serious environmental challenge facing us in the 21st Century. Over the past few years, issues such as adverse weather conditions, greenhouse gasses and the reduction of fossil fuels have been highlighted and local authorities across the UK are working together, and with external partners, to see what can be achieved to reduce climate change in their local area.

At a full council meeting in April 2021, a climate emergency was declared, and councillors committed to becoming a carbon neutral authority by 2035 and a carbon neutral district by 2040. A Climate Change working group has been set up, who meet regularly to discuss the climate change action plan.

The Hart Climate Change Action Plan 2020 – 2023 sets out the process by which the Council will become a net zero carbon emitter. Reduction of CO2 is at the front and centre of our policies and formal decision making.

The Hart [Climate Change Action Plan](#) sets out the pathway of actions that will be taken in order for the Councils operational carbon emissions to be net zero by 2040 at the latest. It will be updated annually to cover a rolling three-year period. In addition to

the reduction in the Council's own operational carbon emissions, the Action Plan sets out how the Council will work with stakeholders to support reductions in emissions across the district. Whilst this Action Plan focuses on carbon reduction, it identifies further actions to be undertaken to develop an adaptation and mitigation programme.

Some of the key objectives of the plan, that can be influenced by the Hart countryside team, are as follows.

We embed Climate Change objectives into all new key projects and strategies, including procurement and it is included as a standard item in the Cabinet decision making process. The countryside staff are also made aware of mitigation measures they can put in place and will seek opportunities for training with particular relevance to climate change.

The rangers work in partnership with Harts Climate Change Engagement Officer to promote sustainable living to residents of the district and engage with community groups that use our sites. Together we run an event during the national 'Big Green Week' called Wild at Hart, which incorporates messages around climate change with the beauty of our natural world and the countryside sites that we manage. Our website also promotes sustainable living and has lots of information and resources available for the public.

The ranger team have a suite of electric tools which are used for site maintenance and habitat management works. Hart District Council will also be procuring an electric vehicle for the service in 2023, to use when visiting sites. There is also an ambition to install electric charging points in some of our country park car parks.



The rangers use electric power tools for site maintenance

Waste created on site through habitat management work is either chipped or used to create brush piles for invertebrates and reptiles. Woodchip may be retained in piles on site for Stag Beetles, of which there is a healthy population, or used on horticultural beds at the community pond. This means large amount of woodchip does not need to be brought in from off site.

In addition, all furniture on site is made from FSC timber.

2.3.1. Chemical and Peat Use

Hart District Council are committed to reducing their use of pesticides as much as possible. Every opportunity will be taken to look at alternative methods of managing invasive species.

The use of pesticides may be considered when controlling invasive species such as *Rhododendron ponticum*. However, bracken is pulled, mown or bashed, rather than treated with chemicals. Birch saplings dominating the heathland are pulled with weed poppers wherever possible to avoid using pesticides to kill the roots.

No pesticides are used to treat weeds on path edges or for other horticultural reasons. Paths are maintained to look natural, to avoid any application of pesticides.

A Pesticide Reduction Plan is being produced in 2025 to eliminate pesticide use wherever possible and practical across the district.

No horticultural peat is used on site. Hart District Council do not use horticultural peat on any of our green spaces.

2.3.2. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

SUDS are management practices and physical structures that are designed and built to attenuate surface water in a more sustainable way than conventional drainage systems.

Significant developments are likely to increase the total area of impervious surfaces due to roofs, roads, car parks etc. This interferes with the natural hydrological cycle and increases the drainage requirements over those that were, prior to development taking place. SUDS act to manage surface water drainage and consequently help reduce flood risk areas; they can also make use of sedimentation, filtration and other natural processes in an attempt to reduce levels of pollutants being discharged into watercourses.

Elvetham Heath has several swales to act as SUDs. These are maintained by our shared grounds maintenance service with Basingstoke and Deane BC. They are cleared of scrub on a rotation, so that they continue to work as appropriate flood alleviation.

As well as providing flood control and mitigating the effects of pollution, the swales also enhance local biodiversity by creating some wetland habitat.

2.4. Management Objectives

Hart District Council sets objectives and targets to deliver our policy commitments. Objectives and targets are:

- a. based on the significant species and habitats as determined by the assessment of significance;
- b. based on policy commitments;
- c. reviewed periodically and revised as appropriate, and
- d. documented.

In order to enhance and maintain the features of the site, 8 main objectives have been identified.

1. To enhance and maintain the biodiversity of the heathlands, wet woodland, fen and meadows to benefit wildlife.
2. To restore, and thereafter maintain, the historic parish boundary as a prominent ditch and bank system
 - To take considerable care when carrying out management prescriptions within the vicinity of historic parish boundary to prevent damage to historic parish boundary or prominent ditch and bank system.

- Re-instate/re-profile banks and ditches where damage/natural processes have occurred, preferably with a mechanical digger
 - Report any suspected incidences of pollution immediately to the Environment Agency.
3. To control and where practicable eradicate non-native and invasive plant species
 4. To maintain the accessibility and safety of the site for public use, promoting health and wellbeing, without compromising the nature conservation interests.
 5. To increase educational opportunities and enhance knowledge and understanding of both on site and within the wider community, in relation to the site and its wider value.
 6. Obtain quantitative data on trends for key biodiversity features to assess and inform management activities.
 7. Management of the site in line with HDC's sustainability goals, maintaining carbon and water storage on site
 8. To meet all legal and other obligations.

2.4.1. Targets and Performance Indicators

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance biodiversity

Target 1.1: Heathland compartment scrub density managed through cutting, pulling and treating. Aiming for no more than 20% cover by 2025

BPI: % scrub managed in specified locations within the plan period

Target 1.2: Wide range of heather age classes achieved by mowing and removing on rotation – 10-40% pioneer; 20-80% building mature; no more than 30% degenerate, no more than 10% dead.

BPI: % heather density and age classes within the plan period

Target 1.3: Creation of 2-10% bare ground within the heathland compartments

BPI: % bare ground within the plan period

Target 1.4: Bracken stands managed rotationally each year by cutting/bruising/spraying to reduce cover of bracken to no more than 5% cover by 2025

BPI: % cover of bracken within the plan period

Target 1.5: Fire breaks to be maintained and kept open in the high-risk areas

KPI: Fire breaks annually cut and material cleared

Target 1.6: Maintain the fen to retain an open condition, with scattered trees and scrub covering between 1 and 10% of the area.

BPI: % scrub cover in specified locations within the plan period

Target 1.7: Keep streams and ditches clear within the fen to maintain clear, unpolluted water

KPI: Streams and ditches checked annually and cleared as and when required

Target 1.8: Create glades and open spaces within the wet woodland compartments, open space within the woodlands should be no less than 10%

BPI: % open space in the wet woodland within the plan period

Target 1.9: Wet woodland structure improved through scrub clearing and tree thinning to create a diverse age and height structure with an overall canopy cover between 50 and 90%

BPI: % canopy cover in the wet woodland within the plan period.

Target 1.10: Annually cut and collect vegetation from the meadow compartments to maintain a diversity of grass and flowering plants

KPI: Annual cut and collect of the meadow areas

Target 1.11: Reduce the encroaching bramble density to ensure no further loss in meadow size. Encroaching bramble should cover no more than 10% of the defined meadow area.

BPI: % bramble density across the meadow area

Objective 2: Historic ditch and bank restoration

Target 2.1: Historic ditch and bank system to be maintained to ensure there is no loss in extent or further compromise of the surviving system

Target 2.2: All major debris or blockages from the ditches should be removed. Ditches are to be dug out as and when necessary to maximise the capacity.

Objective 3: Non-native invasive species

Target 3.1: Non-native species survey carried out annually (to include waterbodies) and actions identified and implemented as necessary

Target 3.2: Removal of rhododendron across the heathland either by pulling or chemical treating. Cover should be less than 5% with no flowering plants present.

BPI: % cover of rhododendron within the plan period

Objective 4: Access

Target 4.1: Annual inspection of the path network to assess the condition of the footpaths. Information gathered will be fed back into the path management for the site

KPI: Surveys completed annually and actions implemented

Target 4.2: Interpretation panel to be installed to highlight the different walking routes and sensory trail to help inform site users

KPI: Panel to be installed by 2025

Objective 5: Visitor engagement and education

Target 5.1: A minimum of 6 on-site public events to be held each year, covering a range of topics including (but not limited to) ranger led guided walks, species identification sessions, community litter picks and volunteer work parties.

KPI: Number of on-site events held annually.

Target 5.2: At least annual liaison with relevant parish councils and statutory stakeholders such as Natural England

KPI: Annual liaison achieved

Objective 6: Monitoring

Target 6.1: Quantitative data obtained on trends for key biodiversity features as set out in Target Features monitoring table below, commissioning surveys as required.

Target 6.2: Monitoring and surveys continue for dragonflies, lepidoptera, reptiles, amphibians, bats, birds etc., by local groups

Objective 7: Sustainability goals

Target 7.1: Manage the site in line with HDC's sustainability goals, maintaining carbon and water storage on site. Establish baseline for habitat carbon sequestration and consider options to increase sequestration by site management where this does not contradict other site objectives.

Objective 8: Legal obligations

Target 8.1: All requirements for statutory consents and approvals for work on the reserve met

Target 8.2: Regular H&S checks on the features of the reserve carried out

Target 8.3: Tree safety survey carried out annually and safety works undertaken as required

KPI: Annual tree safety inspections of the site, responsive tree safety work when required

Target 8.4: Follow H&S guidelines for warning the public during management activities on the site and ensure that contractors or others working on the reserve follow the same procedures

3. Management Plan delivery

3.1. Relevant policies

The Council’s vision for Hart is a district that appreciates and celebrates its diversity, challenges intolerance and discrimination, and positively promotes equality and community cohesion. The Council has a legal duty to provide all services and employment opportunities fairly and without discrimination. The Council will not discriminate on grounds of sex, age, sexual-orientation, gender reassignment, marital status, race, religion or belief, disability, pregnancy or maternity. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty underpin our values and support the stance we take to eliminate unlawful discrimination in all parts of our business and services.

Sustainability: key priority in the Hart District Council Corporate Objectives to enhance the environment by: “Ensuring a clean, green and safe environment by maintaining and enhancing a high quality, sustainable environment for the people who live in, work in, or visit the District.”

The council is committed to issues on climate change, reducing its carbon emissions and being as sustainable as possible in the management of their green spaces.

In 2024 to 2025, an Accessibility Review is taking place at 5 of Harts Countryside sites, including Elvetham Heath LNR. Results of the review will be fed into a capital work programme, to make our sites as accessible as practically possible and to follow good practice guidelines.

3.2. Management Infrastructure and Resourcing

3.2.1. Finance and resource allocations

A financial summary, to give an indication only of funding over the next five years, can be seen in appendix 5.5.

3.2.2. Staffing

The HDC Corporate Director for Communities has overall responsibility for the Countryside Service. The responsibility of site management falls to the Countryside Manager, Operations Manager, Visitor Services Manager, Senior Ranger and the site Ranger. The Hart Countryside Ranger is responsible for operating and co-ordinating the implementation of the Management Plan for the site. The Ranger is also required to assist the other Ranger(s) of the Countryside Service in work at other sites within the district.

Within the Countryside team there are five other full time Countryside Rangers, one Trainee Ranger (if available), a Communications and Engagement Officer, an Events and Education Ranger, a Biodiversity Officer and a Landscape and Conservation Manager.

3.2.3. Site maintenance resource

Litter bin collection is carried out via our shared Street Care Service with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. There are 9 rubbish bins around the site in easily accessible and heavily used areas.

On site litter picking is carried out by the ranger team at least once per week, however there are one or two volunteers who also litter pick the site on an ad hoc basis.

Ditch maintenance works are completed annually, and some entrance points are mown / cut back by the shared grounds maintenance service with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Other grounds maintenance works are carried out through an agreed service with Basingstoke and Deane to include regular amenity grass cutting, removing scrub from swales etc. Refer to Grounds Maintenance Maps in Appendix 5.4.

3.2.4. Tools and equipment

There is a full inventory audit and review carried out each year of tools and equipment made available to the team to enable management actions to be carried out. This is stored in the Countryside SharePoint folders.

Countryside Rangers are trained in the operation and maintenance of tools and machinery and where relevant, certified for specific item use (e.g. use of chainsaw, chipper, etc.). Training is prioritised according to the Countryside training matrix. Appropriate PPE is provided for all relevant machinery and tasks as part of the standard uniform provision.

3.2.5. Countryside Service Workshop

The workshop is located on the western side of Fleet Pond, accessed from Kenilworth Road via Old Pump House Close. The original building was constructed in 1970 and was shortened and refurbished in 1996 when the building was handed over for use as a joint base for the Countryside Service and Fleet Pond Society Conservation Volunteers. The building is used as a secure store for tools and equipment used in the management of sites, a base for the Countryside Rangers whilst working at Fleet Pond and a meeting room.

There are also shipping containers for storage of equipment at three other countryside sites.

3.2.6. Community Involvement

3.2.6.1. Volunteers

Volunteering is a great way to get out in nature, socialise with like-minded people and do your bit for wildlife. It has huge health and wellbeing benefits, from light exercise to reducing loneliness.

The Council have a volunteer work force that can be used on any site within the district, including Elvetham Heath. Tasks vary from big jobs such as scrub bashing and to smaller tasks such as litter picking or sanding and oiling site furniture.

We welcome all people to our volunteer days, of varying abilities, backgrounds and ages. Under 16's are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. As well as volunteer sessions, we also offer corporate volunteer days, where work teams can get out of the office and do some good, whilst team building.

Student placements are also offered, including school work experience, college internships and we help facilitate the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

All the above activities have relevant risk assessments in place and Hart District Council have public liability of £10 million, which covers all volunteers working with us.



Volunteers play a vital role in the site's management

3.3. Marketing

Marketing is integral to help maintain and monitor local community use. Successful marketing allows the community to fully utilise and benefit from this local nature reserve.

Hart Countryside Services works to a communications plan which is produced by the Communications and Engagement officer and monitored by the Visitor Services Manager.

This document summarises annual events, press releases and publications through websites and social media for all of the sites Hart Countryside Service manage.

Communication is integral to help maintain and monitor local community use and successful marketing allows the community to fully utilise and benefit from this site.

3.3.1. – Website

Information about Hart Countryside sites can be found [here](#). The Communications and Engagement Officer is responsible for keeping the website up to date.

A booking system for guided walks has been developed and can be found [here](#). Not only does this allow the public to easily book onto guided walks but it also assists in building up a mailing list. Members of the community can choose to be added to our guided walks mailing list by entering their email address at the foot of the form.

Information about volunteering and booking on to sessions can also be found [here](#).

Hart District Council work to a style and plain English guide which is followed to ensure the website is easy to read and navigate.

Hart is currently undergoing a review of the website, with an aim to produce a micro-site for the Countryside Service, that will allow more flexibility in content and style. We hope in 2023 for this to be live and for us to make the best use of this resource, for example,

having live webcams from bird boxes and footage from wildlife camera traps.

3.3.2. Social Media

The countryside service regularly schedules countryside specific social media posts that go out on our main corporate channels. This includes any news or stories regarding Elvetham Heath. We utilise [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

The Council also use [LinkedIn](#). The page is updated regularly with business news.

The social media channels are monitored by the corporate communications team, who work very closely with the countryside Communication and Engagement Officer to post regularly about countryside sites. The Communication and Engagement Officer is responsible for replying to messages and posts on these sites as soon as possible in business hours Mon-Fri. Interaction with the community through these sites is monitored via Sprout Social.

The countryside service also have a very well used Whats App group, specific to social media, to share photos when out and about on site, to be utilised on our social media channels.

3.3.3. Publications

Hart District Council publish [Hart News](#) twice a year - in the spring/summer and autumn/winter – it is delivered to all households in Hart District. Hart News is used to tell residents about the services we provide, local activities and events.

Councillor Connect is an electronic publication that is circulated every other week. Its content is aimed specifically at Parish and

Town councillors to keep them in the loop about Hart's activities and any other related information.

The Countryside Service also makes use of local press, magazines, leaflets and/or any publication to engage with its target audience.

All press releases go through the Communications and Engagement Officer and the council's Corporate Communications team. The Communications Officer then circulates the articles to the agreed media contacts, in accordance with the council's communications strategy.

3.4. Action plan and timetable

The Action Plan sets out management tasks by feature and divides the work up into 5 or 10 years. The total amount of work needed may not be finished in this timeframe, but at the end of this time a review of the work should be completed, and the Management Plan updated. The Action Plan acts as a guide for management tasks and should be flexible if necessary.

Each year should run from April to March, this coincides with the financial year and each year also includes a summer season and a winter season.

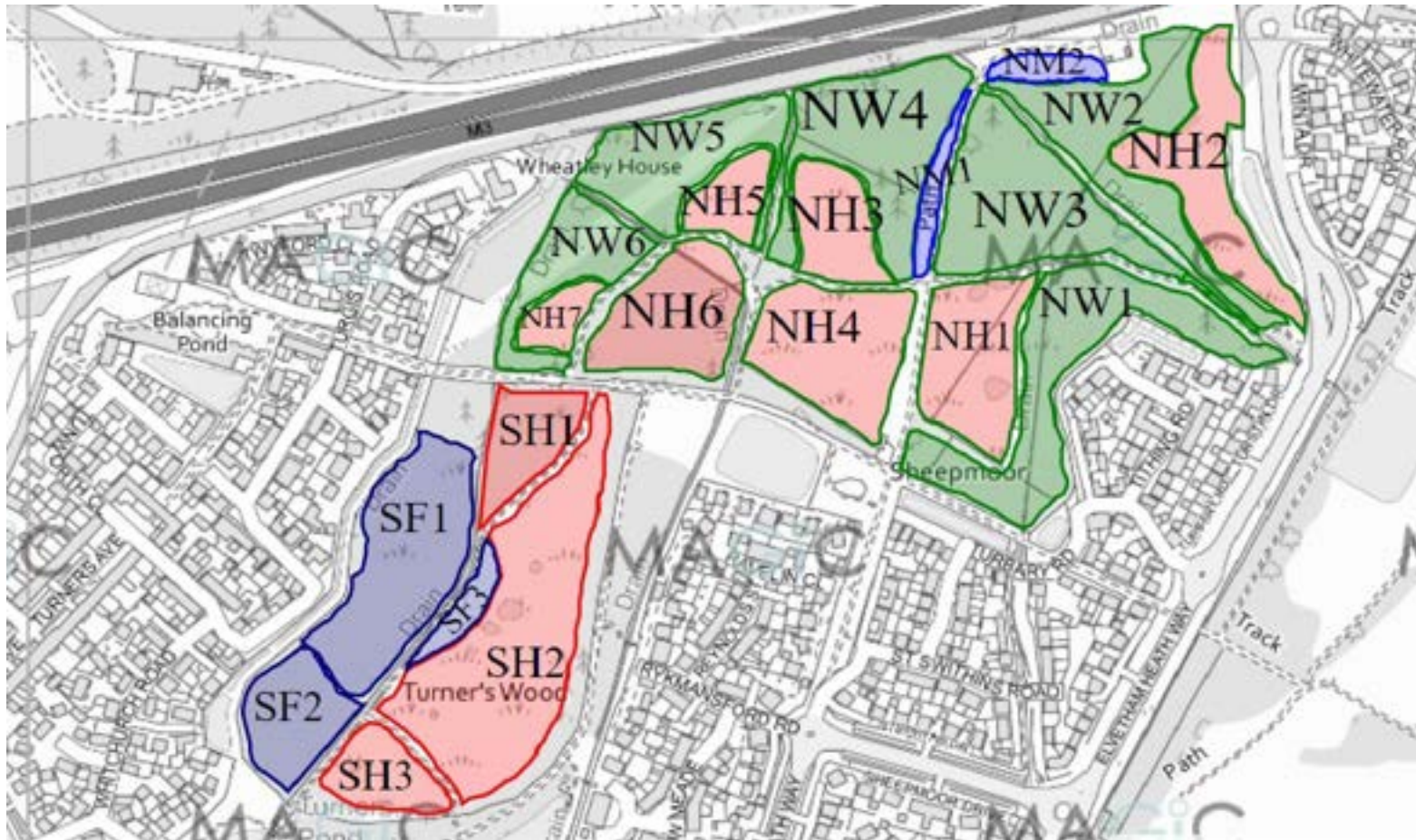
'Y' indicate when the tasks should be carried out; 'N' indicates that the work should absolutely not be carried out during these months e.g. due to the bird breeding season or to protect other wildlife.

a/w – As and when necessary or when time and resources allow.

SITE NAME:		Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve				Timings											
Objective	Prescription		Location	Additional target details	Target years	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
1 - Optimise biodiversity of heathland	1.1.1	Grazing	Across whole site	Through grazing, or cutting if grazing not possible	All	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
1 - Optimise biodiversity of heathland	1.1.2	Scrub cuts on rotation	Heathland compartments (North and South)	Control scrub so that by year 5, cover is no more than 20%	All (on rotation)	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
1 - Optimise biodiversity of heathland	1.1.3	Mowing of old heather	Heathland compartments (North and South)	Wide range of age classes: 10-40% pioneer; 20-80% building, mature stage; no more than 30% degenerate; no more than 10% dead	All (on rotation)	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
1 - Optimise Biodiversity of heathland	1.1.4	Bare ground creation	Heathland compartments (North and South)	Between 2-10% bare ground	All (on rotation)	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
1 - Optimise Biodiversity of heathland	1.1.5	Bracken control	Heathland compartments (North and South)	No more than 5% cover	All (on rotation)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
1 - Optimise Biodiversity of heathland	1.1.6	Rhododendron control	Heathland compartments (North and South)	Cover is less than 5% with no flowering plants	All (on rotation)	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	a/w
1 - Optimise Biodiversity of heathland	1.1.6	Fire break maintenance	Heathland compartments (North and South)	Fire breaks to be maintained and open in high-risk areas	All	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
2 – Optimise Biodiversity of fen	1.2.1	Fen cutting	Fen compartments (South)	Retain an open condition, with scattered trees and scrub covering	All (on rotation)	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

				between 1% and 10% of the area													
2 – Optimise Biodiversity of fen	1.2.2	Scrub control	Fen compartments (South)	Control scrub so that by year 5, cover is no more than 20%	All (on rotation)	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
2 – Optimise Biodiversity of fen	1.2.3	Water level control	Fen compartments (South)	Keep streams and channels clear to maintain clear, unpolluted water	All	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w
2- Optimise Biodiversity of fen	1.2.4	Rhododendron control	Fen compartments (South)	Cover is less than 5% of the area with no flowering plants	All	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	a/w
3 – Optimise Biodiversity of wet woodland	1.3.1	Glade creation	Wet woodland compartments (North)	Open space within the woodland should be no less than 10%	All (on rotation)	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
3- Optimise Biodiversity of wet woodland	1.3.2	Scrub control and tree thinning	Wet woodland compartments (North)	Diverse age and height structure with an overall canopy cover between 50% and 90%	All (on rotation)	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
3 – Optimise Biodiversity of wet woodland	1.3.3	Rhododendron control	Wet woodland compartments (North)	Cover is less than 5% of the area with no flowering plants	All	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	a/w
4 – Maintain wood/scrub perimeter	1.4.1	Manage dangerous trees	Across whole site	Respond to reports of dangerous trees in an appropriate timeframe	All	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w
4- Maintain wood/scrub perimeter	1.4.2	Rhododendron control	Across whole site	Cover is less than 5%, no flowering plants	All	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	a/w
5 – Maintain historic ditch and bank system	1.5.1	Restoration of open bank and non-functioning ditch	Across whole site	No loss in extent or further compromise of the surviving historic ditch and bank	All	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w

5 – Maintain historic ditch and bank system	1.5.2	Clearance of debris and blockages	Across whole site	All major debris or blockages from ditches should be removed. Ditches are to be dug out as and when necessary to maximise the capacity	All	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w	a/w
6 – Optimise biodiversity of meadow	1.6.1	Cut and remove grass species	Meadow compartments (North)	Maintain a diversity of grass and flowering plants	All	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
6 – Optimise biodiversity of meadow	1.6.2	Reduce the bramble density	Meadow compartments (North)	No further loss in meadow size due to encroaching bramble patches	Alternate 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030, 2032	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N



Site map of Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve

Key:

- NH1- NH7 = North Heathland compartments from 1 to 7
- NW1 – NW6 = North Woodland compartments from 1 to 6
- NM1 and NM2 = North Meadow compartments from 1 to 2
- SH1 – SH3 = South Heathland compartments from 1 to 3
- SF1- SF3 = South Fen compartments from 1 to 3



Key
— Boundary Bank
— Ditch & Water course

Extent of historic ditch and bank system

4. Monitoring

Monitoring and review process

Objective	Survey	Biodiversity Performance Indicator(s)	Frequency	Resource
To assess the condition of the heathland habitats	Rapid habitat survey	% scrub managed in specified locations within the plan period % heather density and age classes within the plan period % bare ground within the plan period % cover of bracken within the plan period	Annually – during late spring, early summer.	Conducted in house by site ranger and volunteers
To assess the overall performance and biodiversity of the site	Phase II vegetation survey		Ideally, every 5 years	HBiC
To assess the populations of the reptiles on site	Reptile refugia survey		At least every 2 months between March and September each year.	Continue to work with HIWARG, in-house ranger team can fill survey session gaps if needed.

5. Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1: Further details of ecological surveys identified in the Management Plan

Elvetham Heath – Phase II survey (2016)

This report, carried out by Joel Miller of HBiC between April and June 2016, comprises an updated National Vegetation Classification (NVC)/botanical survey of the entirety of Elvetham Heath. It describes the habitats present on site, the specific NVC floral communities, and plant species list (including notable species). The survey recorded an excellent number of floral species, over 200 being noted within the survey. This includes 15 ancient woodland indicators and 11 grassland indicators as well as 5 County Scarce species and 1 species Vulnerable in England. This report highlights the benefits of habitat management on the nature reserve.

An Entomological Survey of Elvetham Heath (2007/8)

This report, carried out by Mike Edwards and Peter Hodge between April and August 2007 and May to October 2008. The report summarises the raw data collected from invertebrate surveys on site. It describes the occurrence of the species, basic life history, distribution and indication of current conservation stature for each species. A total of 332 species were recorded, of these 25 were considered Nationally Scarce and 5 Red Data Book.

Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve – A Botanical Survey (2006)

This report, carried out by Chris Hall in the summer of 2006, details the results of a full botanical survey of Elvetham Heath. The survey recorded 243 species of plant with just over one tenth qualifying in one or more categories of conservation interest or concern. Three species were assigned within a threat category in the Red Data List. Some uncommon species have been lost since the housing development in the early 2000s along with the introduction of many non-native species.

5.2 Appendix 2: Further details of Site Management planning documents

Countryside Stewardship Agreement 2020-2024 (Approved by Natural England and Rural Payments Agency (RPA), 2020)

Legally binding agreement between landowner and RPA relating to funding that has been agreed to cover specific operations on site over a 5-year period (January 1st 2020 to 31st December 2024), to include specific areas for scrub works, as well as annual operations relating to heathland and fen management.

Elvetham Heath Operational Monitoring Plan 2021-2031

Internal document summarising overall plan of habitat operations across site. 'Operations Summary' tab below shows operational activity summary and includes any currently secured funding streams.

Parcel Number	Compartment Name	Option Code	Option Title	Work Prescriptions	When to complete
SU 8055 6473	Northern compartment	LH1	Management of lowland heathland	Scrub control	Annual
				Heather cuts	As required
				Gorse control	As required
				Invasive species control	As required
				Cattle grazing	Annual
SU 8055 6473	Southern compartment	LH1	Management of lowland heathland	Scrub control	Annual
				Cattle grazing	Annual
				Heather cuts	As required
				Invasive species control	As required
				Gorse control	As required
SU 8055 6473	Southern compartment	WD7	Management of fen	Scrub control	Annual
				Cattle grazing	Annual
				Invasive species control	As required

5.3 Appendix 3: Target Feature Monitoring

Feature	Target	Location (compartment, specific area)	Target year	Target reached?	Year achieved
Lowland heathland	By year 5, there should be 2 species from the list below present and 2 species from the list below at least occasional: * Typical dwarf shrubs - Heather, Bell heather, Cross leaved heath, Dorset heath, Cornish heath, Dwarf gorse, Bilberry, Cowberry; * Typical grasses - Bents, Fescues, Wavy hair-grass, Cotton grasses, Purple moor grass, White beak sedge, Black bog-rush, Deergass; * Typical wildflowers - Tormentil, Heath bedstraw, Sheep sorrel, Bog pimpernel, Sundews, Bog asphodel, Heath milkwort	North and South fen compartments	2025		
Fen	Maintain or increase species richness and diversity compared to HBiC survey 2016	Southern fen compartments	2025		
Invertebrates - heathland	Maintain or increase species richness compared to the 2007/8 survey	North and South heathland compartments	2026		
Invertebrates - fen	Develop a species list across the season to understand the species richness on site	Southern fen compartments	2026		

Invertebrates – wet woodland	Maintain or increase species richness compared to the 2007/8 survey	North wet woodland compartments	2026		
Invertebrates – mesotrophic meadow	Maintain or increase species richness compared to the 2007/8 survey	North meadow compartments	2026		
Breeding birds	Carry out a breeding birds survey to form a baseline of what's present on site	All	2026		
Reptiles	Continue to survey for reptiles and produce populations estimates.	All	2025,2026		
Amphibians	Continue with pond and surrounding habitat surveys to assess population of amphibians on site	All	2025,2026		
Bats	Establish monitoring programme with local bat group	All	2025, 2026		

5.4 Appendix 4: Ground maintenance map

Blue lines

- Mowing grass edges and open areas.
- Flailing the hedge alongside the cycle path.



Red shape (Turner's Pond)

- Mowing grass edges and open areas
- Clearing over-hanging vegetation at site entrances
- Cutting vegetation and scrub around the pond (restricted to winter)

5.5 Appendix 5: Financial Summary

Three Year Revenue Financial Summary – 2023 – 2025 are predicted budgets

<i>Year</i>	<i>Contractors</i>	<i>HLS funding</i>	<i>Equipment, tools and materials</i>	<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Uniform</i>	<i>Training</i>
2022/23	£5,300	£1831.69	£22,500	£2000	£3000	£8900
2023/24	£5,300	£1831.69	£17,000	£2000	£3000	As required
2024/25	£5,300	£1831.69	£17,000	£2000	£3000	As required

Equipment, tools and materials are used across the whole service. Uniform and training are split between all countryside staff members.



FRIENDS OF BASINGBOURNE PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2026 - 2032



Friends of Basingbourne Park Development Plan 2026 – 2032

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Basingbourne Park Development Plan – 2026 - 2032

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Basingbourne Park Development Plan, 2026 - 2032

1 Introduction

This Development Plan is a document which has been developed by the Friends of Basingbourne Park (FoBP) for adoption by Fleet Town Council (FTC). It sets out the current situation and establishes the ambitions and aspirations for the future of Basingbourne Park, Fleet, Hampshire.

The plan looks at the vision for the future development of the Park, and proposes a programme of works to achieve this vision.

[This draft revision reflects a 10th Anniversary review and Revision by FoBP, but has not been reviewed and/or adopted by Fleet Town Council](#)

2 Vision

The fundamental purpose of Basingbourne Park is [as an amenity for the local community](#) to promote the physical and mental wellbeing of park users, now and in the future. [The Town Council also has certain statutory conservation duties particularly in respect to the SINC.](#)

The vision for the future of Basingbourne Park to support this objective is:-

- 1) To provide a multi-purpose outdoor leisure facility, accessible and open to all, that will provide an attractive, safe and welcoming environment for a broad range of people regardless of age, gender or physical mobility.
- 2) To promote the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of Basingbourne Park in its entirety.
- 3) To enhance and improve the wildlife conservation and biodiversity framework of the park and maintain its status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- 4) [To increase engagement and involvement of the local community to support planning, management and development of the park; maintenance and improvement activities; and community social, sporting and educational events](#)

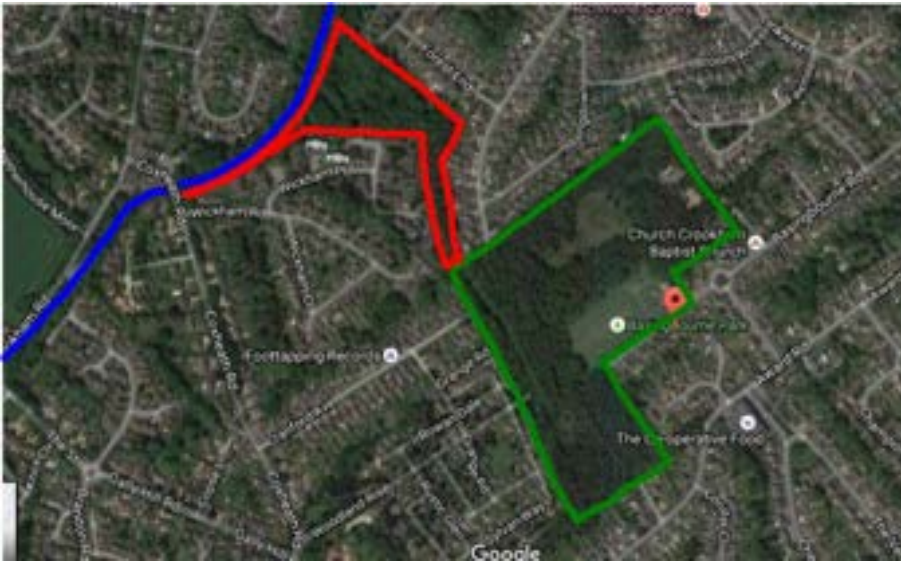
The programmes which will deliver this vision are:

- OBJECTIVE 1: Adoption of Wickham Woods and Chinnock Ponds
 - Improved Signage, bins, foot paths & foot bridges
 - Meandering of Sandy Lane Ditch
 - Restoration of Chinnock Ponds
- OBJECTIVE 2: Ecological Conservation and Restoration (including maintaining SINC status)
 - Renew and enforce Basingbourne Heathland Management Plan
 - Heathland Restoration/re-wetting (Longdown and Grange Heath) and connecting corridor
 - Re-wetting Longdown heath including declassifying Basingbourne Ditch
 - Re-wetting Grange heath
 - Comprehensive wildlife surveys
 - Encourage volunteer participation in management
 - Expansion of FTC Tool Bank
- OBJECTIVE 3: Play Provision Renovation & Expansion
 - Benches and picnic benches
 - More planted areas (raised beds)
 - Improved directional signage
- OBJECTIVE 4: Broaden Appeal and Increase Usage
 - Improved toilet facilities (and public access)
 - Refreshment concession
 - Improved directional signage
- OBJECTIVE 5: Improvement or replacement of Pavilion
 - Improved toilet facilities (and public access)
 - Refreshment concession
 - Improved directional signage
- OBJECTIVE 6: Recreation and Sport
 - Outdoor gym equipment
 - Outdoor table tennis table
 - Improved directional signage

3 Background Information

3.1 Location

Basingbourne Park, Grid Reference SU807525, is situated on the border of Fleet with Church Crookham.



The Park is set in a residential area and is largely surrounded by housing. The main entrance to the Park is in Basingbourne Road, but there are other entrances from Fairmile, Greenways, Wickham Road, Cranford Avenue, Award Road (x2), and Heather Drive. The park is within walking distance of local shopping parades at Linkway and the Verne. It is only a short walk from the Basingstoke Canal. It is also close to Court Moor School. A map of the area can be found in Appendix A.

Fleet Town Council own undeveloped land adjacent to the Basingstoke Canal, extending between Greenways & Forest end, and the Wickham Estate to adjoin the current Wickham Road Entrance to the Basingbourne Park. A map of the area can be found in Appendix B.

3.2 Land Ownership of Basingbourne Park

The site of Basingbourne Park and Wickham Woods is owned by Fleet Town Council. It was formally transferred to the Town Council from Hart District Council in 2009.

3.3 Previous Progress

The first Basingbourne Park Development Plan was agreed in 2017, and had been in force through until 2026. During this period, a number of the original objectives were fulfilled or progressed:

- Adoption of Canal side woods:
 - fly tipping cleared
 - paths cleared to canal side and to Coxheath Bridge
- Improved Play Provision:
 - Over 8s play park installed
 - Youth Shelter and kick wall with basketball hoop
- Ecological Conservation and Restoration:
 - Heathland degradation halted and restoration started (volunteer action days)
 - SINC status renewed
 - Full botanical survey completed
 - Regular monthly bat surveys undertaken
- Broaden Appeal and Increased Usage:
 - Public participation in park maintenance (including Regular FoBP Volunteer Days; Community Service Week with Scouts & Guides)
 - Public participation in regular events (e.g. Easter Egg Hunts, Carol Singing, Family Fun Run, Wildlife walks, Pond Dipping, link-up with Wildlife Explorers)
 - Public participation through improved facilities (including park benches throughout site, orienteering course & brass rubbing nature trail)
- Improvement of Pavilion
 - Improved security doors, CCTV, general décor, kitchen equipment, furniture, storage and toilets.

3.4 History of the Site

3.4.1 The Main Park Area

The main park area is a small remnant of Crookham Common, now surrounded by housing. The common may have been managed by traditional heathland practices. A document dated 1580 records Crookham and Ewshot as containing 1000 acres of moor and 300 acres of heath and gorse. As late as the 1950s a herd of goats was kept in Florence Road and regularly grazed on Basingbourne Heath (Beagley, 2015).

The land was originally purchased by ~~Hart-Fleet~~ Urban District Council with the intention to develop it. Ownership was transferred to Hart District Council with its formation in 1974. The land was later designated as open space and part as a SINC.

The Pavilion was constructed on site in the early 1970s.

The original play park was replaced in the 1980s but the under 8s play equipment is now over 40 years old. Over 8s provision was added in 2018 (play equipment, kick wall & basket ball hoop & youth shelter).

Beyond the play park and sports field, the site is primarily woodland with two heathland clearings. The heathland glades are recognised as having great conservation significance in their own right, and are to be preserved rather than being allowed to revert to woodland; Botanical Society records show at least 5 red listed species present, and the SINCC status was renewed in 2020.

Over the last 10 years ~~occasional FoBP, supported by FTC Grounds Maintenance, have undertaken regular~~ scrub and tree clearance ~~has been carried out on in~~ the two heathland areas to prevent them from being totally encroached by trees and in recent years have restored several perimeter areas back to heathland.

The larger northern heathland glade (nearest to Longdown) ~~has~~ suffered from regular arson and possibly accidental summer fires. The, worst recorded, occurred in spring 2009 when nine fires burnt through 70% of the heath over a period of ten days. However, with better management and community engagement this has reduced significantly in the last decade. The majority of bog pools previously found within both heathland areas have largely disappeared with a corresponding significant reduction in variety and number of wet heathland plants.

Several paths were surfaced with Tarmac, in the 1980s, to improve access. These principal routes have been resurfaced along with a greater network of woodland paths in 2015 with a “soft mulch” surface of bonded rubber chips, but this has now reached the end of its planned 10 year lifespan.

In 2009 an interpretation board was kindly donated by local resident Andrew Macallan. The interpretation board includes a notice board and an artwork panel with visual displays and descriptions of the site, highlighting biological interest and local landmarks. A nature interpretation board, a “brass rubbing” nature trail and orienteering routes have all been installed in the woods & heathland areas, as have four refurbished park benches.

3.4.2 ~~The Wickham canal side W~~woods Area (aka Wickham Woods or Chinnock Ponds).

The area of Wickham Woods appears on historical maps as “Peat Moor” and was probably used for cutting peat for fuel. The path traversing from Wickham Place to Forest End and Court Moor School was originally the back entrance to Dinorben House. This was also the location of a large lily pond (Beagley, 2015) known as “Chinnock Pond” and named after the family who owned Dinorben House, but more recently, during the dredging and renovation of the Basingstoke Canal in the 1970s, the area was used as silt settlement ponds for dredged materials, and the pond area has been drained and become overgrown. The area had also become a de facto dump for local residents.

In the last 10 years, FoBP (supported by local Guides, Scouts, DofE volunteers, Ramblers and FTC Grounds Maintenance) have undertaken significant efforts to clear much of the detritus from residential dumping, and to reinstate paths through the area, to allow increased access to the area for recreational, commuting and other functional journeys.

3.4.3 Fleet Flood Alleviation Plan

The Park (both the main park and canal side woods) was recognised in the Environment Agency Fleet Flood Alleviation Scheme as offering potential for increased water retention during periods of intense Working Draft v0.1.3g – 9th June 2026

rainfall. This could align with other objectives for the Park, but unfortunately did not have budget available to support any implementation work.

3.4.4 Hart Green Grid

The Hart Green Grid initiative has recognised Basingbourne Park as being at the centre of a green zone which offers great walking and cycling opportunities. This has been enhanced in recent years by resurfacing of paths through the main Park, and by enabling a woodland trail from Basingbourne Park to Coxheath Road canal bridge through the canalside woods, and the implementation of a zebra crossing on Reading Road South at the end of Basingbourne Road/Florence Road further extends this network.

4 Description of the Park

4.1 Overview

Basingbourne Park comprises a formal open park area containing the football pitch, pavilion, and children's play area; the North East of the site is given over to 3 plots of land leased to local community groups. The remaining area is a mix of heath and woodland. The heathland areas are designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The woodlands (and to a lesser extent the heathland) contain various pedestrian pathways, including paths which provide important routes from the Wickham estate to the local shopping parades, and for school children walking or cycling to Court Moor school.

The Wickham Woods area comprises woodland, scrub and flood plain. A formal path crosses from Wickham Place car park to Forest End & Court Moor School, whilst informal paths provide access along the stream and beside the Basingstoke Canal to Coxheath Road Bridge.

4.2 Football Pitch

Currently there is one 9-a-side football pitch. The goal posts are stored on fixings on the outside of the Pavilion. There is currently 1 pitch side bench. The pitch is currently used by Fleet Town Girls Football Club and Hart Football Club. It is used most Saturdays and Sundays for regular league matches. [There are two other recycled, green metal benches on the field, but these are not specifically located for views over the pitch.](#)

4.3 Pavilion

The Pavilion at Basingbourne Park is a small brick building that is currently used by all the football clubs and the Friends of Basingbourne Park.

The Pavilion has suffered from a lack of investment and maintenance, but in 2015 a new profiled coated aluminium roof was installed. Subsequently there has been renovation work to make the building safe and useable; electrical faults and water damage have been addressed; and some redecoration undertaken but further investment is required to make the building attractive and useable for any significant activities.

FoBP have secured second hand furniture and a small grant to purchase kitchen equipment. Additional power sockets were installed below kitchen work surfaces (for fridge and microwave oven).

Electric hand dryers were recently installed in the toilets.

4.4 Children’s Play Park

The current under 8s play area installed in 1980s serves only younger children up to the age of 8. It is dilapidated and requires substantial investment to renew or replace it.

A second play area for children over 8 years old was installed in 2018 and has proven to be a popular after school attraction for Court Moor pupils (and also attracts many under 8s!)

Commented [O91]: Check date

An old, larger wooden climbing frame was condemned by RoSPA in 2024 and has been removed, leaving a large “gap” (both physical and in play provision).

An additional 4-way springer has been donated and installed

A condition survey of all equipment is given at Appendix G

Commented [O92]: Can we get latest NJs or RoSPA report?

4.5 Other Recreation Facilities

There is a youth shelter and blue kick wall with Basketball Hoop (set back from the Pavilion) and a second wooden climbing frame for use by older children and a wooden kick wall by the sports field.

There is a “brass rubbing” nature trail and orienteering course within the woods and heathland areas (with supporting maps and materials on the FoBP website.)

Other park assets and their condition are listed in Appendix G

4.6 Woodland

The majority of the site is covered with secondary woodland of varying types. There are several mature pine stands, with bare ground or bracken coverage. Other areas have a blend of deciduous trees. Where there is more light penetration, there tends to be thick brambles and nettles.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of trees which have fallen due to waterlogged root systems and high storm winds. There is a high incidence of vandalism of saplings and young trees, leading to a concern that there is insufficient scope for the woodlands to “heal”, and therefore an increasing tendency towards scrub and bramble patches rather than woodland.

A number of areas are also tending to be dominated by invasive types including rhododendron and holly. FoBP have undertaken a number of Action Days to clear these species and whilst the benefits can be clearly seen, it is clear that the problem is too great to be addressed solely with volunteer resource.

Further detailed technical analysis from the 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan is available in Appendix E.

4.7 Heathland Glades

There are two distinct areas of heathland (labelled Longdown and Grange for convenience).



The northern “Longdown” heath has established footpaths (between Greenways/Longdown/Fairmile) and is of greater significance in terms of variety of plants and wildlife but its greater proximity to footpaths and the heavier footfall means it is subject to littering and sporadic bouts of arson. There has been ~~recent~~ regular work by FoBP to cut back trees and pull up saplings growing on the heathland, but there is a substantial margin on the stream side which is overgrown by mature silver birch (although marsh grasses still break through). Some progress has also been made with restoration by cutting back the fringe of mature saplings/young trees around the perimeter of the glade. Much of the diversity recorded previously is still present but with significantly reduced numbers, although recent bouts of arson have encouraged growth of grasses over the heather varieties, and historically identified sun dews are now very rare (although a few specimens were found during survey in 2016).

The southern “Grange” heath (between the Cranford Avenue, the Grange Estate and Award Road) is more isolated, so is less prone to antisocial behaviour but is also less interesting from a biodiversity perspective. Significant encroachment on the heathland here is in the form of pine trees (on the East side between the heath and path) with small saplings starting to dominate the Northern end of the heath. (This heathland has also been subject to clearance by FoBP volunteers since 2016). This heath tends to be wetter, and ~~longer term~~longer-term residents recall there being several open pools in this area. Historically this area extended as far as Cranford Avenue, and was kept clear due to the Wayleave for overhead power lines. However, since these were removed and replaced by underground power lines, this area has been allowed to backfill with secondary woodland.

The 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan notes “*The majority of bog pools previously found within both heathland areas have disappeared, this perhaps indicates a drop in the water table within site as a whole.*” However, it is noted that both areas of heathland have had drainage ditches dug into them (possibly in an attempt to improve access allow new paths to be established), but which may have contributed to this drainage. Opportunities to retain water within the park could benefit both improved conservation and biodiversity and local flood alleviation.

It should be noted that lowland heath ecosystem is of greater conservation and biodiversity value than secondary woodland, and hence policy is to maintain and restore the heathland glades, rather than allowing them to revert back to woodland or consciously planting saplings.

Further detailed technical analysis from the 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan is available in the Appendix E.

4.8 **Wildlife**

4.8.1 **Biological Diversity ~~Surveys~~ of the Site**

The Park and especially the woodland enjoys a wide variety of flora and fauna. The Park provides a green oasis for wildlife within the urban environment, connecting to the Basingstoke Canal SSSI via the Wickham Woodlands, and from there out to open farmland by Netherhouse Moor.

The 2015 Bioblitz and subsequent botanical and bat surveys confirm gave an indication of the continued biodiversity of the site but formal surveys of some remaining areas would be useful to fully baseline the current state of the site. This can be used to assess changes or degradation of areas which have previously been surveyed (primarily plants and entomology) and should baseline aspects which have not previously been surveyed (e.g. fungi, ~~bats~~invertebrates, birds).

Up to date biological information for other forms of wildlife is limited and new surveys should be carried out of fungi, and animals, in particular birds, and invertebrates.

In accordance with its obligations under The Environment Act 2021, Fleet Town Council has resolved to promote green initiatives. This includes maintaining and developing the Council’s open spaces policies to ensure that the preservation of plants and wildlife are a key consideration; and using grant opportunities, where possible, to enable open spaces projects that enhance the environment.

4.8.2 **Plants**

FoBP Member and British Botanical Society Hampshire Records Collator, Tony Mundell, has undertaken a survey of plants on the site during 2016 and 2017, and has noted that the numbers of most rare species have declined and no samples of the oblong leaved sun dew were found. More detail is set out in [Appendix E](#).

Commented [O93]: Include Tony's records.

Management efforts on the Longdown Heath have been particularly successful at increasing the amount of heather growing across the whole glade, and also led to the rediscovery of the red listed creeping willow. Efforts on the Grange heath have been less successful, with excessive grass growth.

Much of the park area is marked on historical maps as pine wood plantation, and rows or stands of scots pine trees are a distinctive part of the skyline for this part of Fleet and Church Crookham. However, many of the older scots pine trees are of similar age and increasingly susceptible to disease and failure. FoBP has undertaken a programme of "tree-location" – transferring scots pine saplings from the heath to areas which have lost mature trees to try and maintain the character of the park in these areas.

There have been some attempts to plant additional native species (including hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood). This was successful along the "woodland walk" providing additional protection to residents' perimeter fences, but otherwise have generally been unsuccessful due to lack of appropriate locations and lack of irrigation, and further attempts have been suspended.

Due to historical fly-tipping there are many non-native and invasive plants across the sites. There is a major issue with Himalayan Balsam in the Canalside woods, and FoBP organise annual "Balsam Bashes" to pull up and destroy plants before they develop their explosive seedheads. These events have resulted in a reduction in plants, but these efforts will need to continue for many years until the latent seedbank is exhausted. Rhododendron can also be a problem, providing little benefit for native wildlife whilst poisoning the soil and preventing other plants from competing with them. However, they do provide good all year cover, so FoBP implement a policy of removal from within the centre of the Park, but leaving near the perimeter to afford residents greater privacy. Other invasive species are kept under consideration.

4.8.3 Invertebrates

Detail from the 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan (see Appendix E) states:

"There are a variety of common invertebrate-s onsite and no doubt any enhancement of the heathland areas in particular may encourage more species to colonise the site. Tetrix undulate the Ground Hopper and Dolomedes fimbriatus the Raft Spider have been recorded on the heathland areas, as have several common butterfly species such as the Common Blue, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown, Comma, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Peacock, Red Admiral and Speckled Wood."*

*two female Raft Spiders, with egg sacks were encountered during Bioblitz 2015.

A variety of dragonflies and damselflies are encountered across the site (both as flying adults or as larvae in the pools and ditches.)

Further detailed technical analysis from the 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan is available in Appendix E.

4.8.4 Bats

Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, and Noctule bats have been identified in the main park during FoBP Bat Walks (undertaken during Spring, Summer and Autumn). Daubentons have also been

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observed from the Canal side woods, skimming above the Canal surface. A number of bat boxes have been deployed in 2015 (at the time of writing these are still new and have not yet been permanently occupied). A number of other possible roost sites occur both in the main park and in the Wickham Woods near the Canal.

4.8.5 Other mammals

Observations and anecdotal evidence show a variety of common mammals use the site, these include: roe deer, field voles, wood mouse, brown rat, fox, badger and grey squirrels. There have been regular sightings of roe deer and a breeding pair are resident within the woods. There are a number of badger setts on site, in places introducing risk of undermining of footpaths.

Further detailed technical analysis from the 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan is available in Appendix E.

4.8.6 Birds

There is a wide variety of birds present in the park.

FoBP, with support from Hart District Council, have installed a range of bird boxes and owl boxes. This has resulted directly in a pair of tawny owls successfully breeding over several of years. However, unfortunately these did not breed in 2025, and it is noted that rat bait boxes deployed in the woods may be a contributing factor.

Sparrow hawks regularly use the Heathland glades, including during the FoBP's RSPB Walk in Summer 2014. 23 different varieties of birds were identified during the Dawn Chorus Walk as part of Bioblitz 2015, and annual Dawn Chorus walks have reconfirmed the wide variety of birds in the park-

Further detailed technical analysis from the 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan is available in Appendix E.

4.8.7 Reptiles & Amphibians

Bioblitz 2015 and subsequent observations have reconfirmed a substantial population of common lizards and also a confirmed sighting of a Slow Worms, in both heathland glades. Follow up FoBP surveys have confirmed a substantial Slow Worm population (with 8 individuals identified across 5 reptile tiles on the northern heath).

There is also historical and anecdotal evidence of presence of toads and frogs, but these are rarely encountered within the Park. Following dredging of the ditch in the "Longdown" heath, 5 mature palmate newts were caught in one pond dipping session, and further individuals were encountered in the main stream.

Further detailed technical analysis from the 2009 Basingbourne Heath Management Plan is available in Appendix E.

4.9 Streams and Watercourses

There is one main "stream" (or drainage ditch) through the main park. Historically, this was a feed channel from the Sandy Lane Ditch to the Basingstoke Canal, but was diverted back to join the main Sandy Lane Ditch when the Wickham Estate was built in the 1950s. Much of this dries out during dry periods and so is not of significance for most wildlife but it is still home to a surprising variety of wildlife, although after recent dredging it did and has been known to occasionally attract interest from a pair of mallard ducks, and even herons and kingfishers. This discharges water from drainage ditches in the Park both towards Fairmile (via pipes-a culvert and onward to the Bourne), and towards the Wickham

Woods where it eventually joins Basingbourne Stream. During ~~recent~~ flooding (Sept 2015), both ditch exits were insufficient for the volume of water, and the drainage ditch overflowed at the bridge behind the Pavilion, running across the northern heath and on towards properties in Longdown.

The original Heathland Management Plan (c.2009) describes the southern heathland area as a marshy seepage drainage system. However, since then a number of deeper and more defined A-number of smaller drainage ditches have been dug from the southern heath and draining into the main ditch. These are possibly an attempt to drain the area and make it more accessible to walkers, but work against wildlife and conservation objectives of retaining boggy heathlands. Similarly, residents or agents of the Grange Estate have excavated a drainage channel within the Park, parallel to the perimeter which redirects water which previously entered the seepage system away from the heath. At the time of writing FoBP had raised concerns over the ~~seis~~, and note that with the soft-mulch surfacing of paths in 2015 that this area is now passable even in wet weather.

A second drainage ditch extends from the northern heath and behind some residences in Longdown, emptying via a pipe towards the Bourne Stream. This area has been subject of complaints of flooding by some local residents, and during the Sept 2015 floods gardens and at least one home ~~wasere~~ flooded.

The smaller drainage ditches on site have been identified as encroaching into the wetland heath areas, and so recent dredging has possibly been detrimental to the biodiversity of the site.

A ~~long-term~~long-term plan needs to be developed that balances ~~the~~ flood control ~~of the site with the need~~ to maintain public accessibility and ~~provide the right conditions to support the ecological healthy.~~

As part of its Fleet Flood Alleviation Scheme review, the Environment Agency recognised opportunities to improve the quality of ditches and water retention within the main Park and the Canal side woodlands. However, none provided sufficient benefit (from a regional perspective) to justify investment of EA funding.

4.10 “Chinnock Ponds” and Canal side Woodlands

The main Basingbourne Stream “~~stream~~” (drainage ditch) ~~from Basingbourne Park~~ continues through the Wickham Woods site where it joins with the main ~~stream from Basingbourne~~Sandy Lane Ditch. It then flows on towards the Canal where it passes into a culvert to pass under the Canal ~~embankment~~. With the increased volume of water from both sources, the ~~stream~~Sandy Lane Ditch continues flowing all year.

Either side of the stream are flood plains. During the flooding of September 2015, which was primarily caused by blockage of the culvert under the canal, flood waters extended about half way up some adjoining gardens, but is not thought to have reached any buildings. A grill has been deployed on the upstream end of the culvert in 2016, to reduce the probability of a similar blockage in the future.

This area also known as the silt ponds, due to historical use during Canal dredging work in the 1970s, but prior to this (1950s) there was a large lily pond (“Chinnock Pond”) on the Forest End side of the stream. These areas tend to be waterlogged but do dry out in summer months. They are also largely overgrown with Rhododendron, which is not beneficial to native wildlife. The site has been resurveyed by Tony Mundell (FoBP member and records collator for the British Botanical Society for

North Hampshire) in 2016. There were no plants of great significance from a wildlife perspective, although they provide additional valuable habitat for roe deer and possibly allow access to the site from the Canal. There was no evidence of previously occurring red listed pond weed but Tony Mundel advised there is a high probability that it would re-emerge if permanent ponds were reinstated.

4.11 Usage of the Site

4.11.1 For Recreation

Basingbourne Park is used mainly by local people for recreational purposes, such as walking dogs, jogging, cycling, playing etc. Children’s football teams, Guides and Scouts make use of the facilities.

Friends of Basingbourne Park organise events in the park throughout the year to engage local people and to get them involved in the care and maintenance of the site. These events include park clean-ups, Easter egg hunts, Carol Singing, Nature Walks, coffee mornings, scrub clearance and guided wildlife and bat walks.

FoBP have implemented a “brass rubbing” nature trail in the woodlands for younger park users, and an orienteering course for older park users. Both provide additional encouragement to take exercise away from the main play areas (and in shaded areas during high Summer). Both features are heavily used by the resident Guide and Scout groups, as well as attracting groups from across Fleet and Church Crookham, and from as far as Farnborough and Farnham.)

FoBP have provided facilities to play table tennis or darts in the pavilion.

4.11.2 ~~4.11.2~~ For Education Walking and Cycle Journeys/Transport

Basingbourne Park is a green hub at the centre of a wide variety of possible foot and cycle routes. The Park is often a destination in its own right (for play, exercise, Guides and Scouts); or it may provide a pleasant, shorter and/or calmer route between homes, schools, shops, churches, pubs and many other local destinations. The area is highlighted in HDC’s Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan, which identifies the Court Moor area in Fleet as a primary walking zone, and Basingbourne Park is a key contributor to this status.

The implementation of the soft mulch surfacing for paths in the main Park are a major contributor to this status. Paths are now passable in all weather conditions, with shallow puddles being the worst barrier (compared to muddy and flooded paths prior to the surfacing). Unfortunately, the soft mulch surfacing is degrading as it has reached the end of its projected 10-year lifespan.

Re-opening informal paths in the canalside woodlands and up to Coxheath bridge has also created a range of additional recreational and functional journey options. However, the informal nature of these routes and ditch digging by grounds maintenance, mean that these are not suitable for cyclists, pushchairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters and some pedestrians (particularly in wet weather.)

HCC have recently provided improved stepped access to the Canal Towpath at Coxheath Bridge which links the Basingbourne path network to the Basingstoke Canal, which is a green gid “superhighway” linking many other destinations across Fleet, Crookhams and beyond.

HCC are also implementing a Zebra Crossing at the top of Basingbourne Road, which again improves the safety for cyclists and pedestrians for journey options through Basingbourne Park and linking to destinations on the North East side of Reading Road South.

4.11.3 ~~4.11.2~~ For Education

Friends of Basingbourne Park run events using educational activities to get children and adults alike involved in learning about nature.

FoBP also run events in conjunction with the RSBP Wildlife Explorers, Guides, Scouts and Boys Brigade.

Wonderwood Explorers run regular forest school sessions for pre-school and primary aged children.

The park is also occasionally used by Crookham Infants School for sports events.

4.12 Antisocial Behaviour on site

4.12.1 Flytipping and littering

However Basingbourne Park, the site is surrounded by urban development which creates local problems including litter and fly-tipping. Fly-tipping of garden waste is a problem as it may contain non-native species and garden plants which can colonise and spread, shading out native woodland species. Piles of waste will also smother ground vegetation. Litter and fly-tipping also give the appearance of untidiness and neglect. FTC has a policy to leave fallen trees and cut wood to promote biodiversity. This may be misinterpreted that it is acceptable to leave cut materials in the woodlands. There is a problem that cut branches and logs are deposited in the ditches and streams which is both unsightly and jeopardises their primary function, to drain excess water from the site and from surrounding residential areas

FTC have deployed a number of additional or improved litter bins across the site. FoBP run regular litter picks, encourage collaboration with Guides, Scouts and DofE volunteers. Many local residents/dog walkers also now pick up fresh litter, knowing there is always a bin relatively close at hand. These measures have led to a significant reduction in littering in recent years.

Dumping of domestic and business waste in park bins remains a problem and is irritating to local residents and costly for FTC to dispose of.

Flytipping remains a sporadic problem, particularly around the Wickham Estate perimeter.

4.12.2 Arson

Arson was previously a significant problem particularly on the Longdown Heath, with multiple events each year, and promoting the growth of grasses and birch, whilst valued species were restricted to unburned perimeter.

In recent years, there have been significantly fewer incidents and those which have still occurred have been much smaller incidents. Factors influencing this could include:

- Societal changes, with teenagers spending less time outdoors with friends (rather favouring virtual networking on gaming platforms, particularly following COVID)
- Positive engagement with young people (e.g. Guides, Scouts feeling shared ownership for the space due to participating in yearly community service)
- FoBP scrub bashes reduce the amount of vegetation and dead wood available as fuel, so intensity of events is smaller and less likely to spread.

4.12.3 Travellers

Basingbourne Park has suffered from encroachment of traveller communities twice in recent years (July 2024 and August 2025). Both resulted in loss of access to the Park by local residents, lots of litter and low-level vandalism, as well as human and animal excrement being left in the park.

5 Community Involvement

Friends of Basingbourne Park group was re-established in 2011 and formally constituted in 2013 and is an important aspect of community involvement. The group, which meet on a regular basis, take a keen interest and active role in the activities, events and horticultural work taking place in the park. The group has its own bank account and has adopted its own constitution which states:

The objectives of the Organisation (Friends of Basingbourne Park) shall be:

- 1) To promote improved health and wellbeing of the local community through the use and improvement of Basingbourne Park & other local green spaces
- 2) *To work towards maintaining and improving Basingbourne Park (including the Pavilion, sports field, play park and equipment, surrounding woodlands, and canal side woodlands) for the benefit of the local community in partnership with Fleet Town Council and other interested parties.*
- 3) *To promote the preservation and maintenance of Basingbourne Park woodlands and to promote their use as a public amenity and as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)*
- 4) *To encourage increased use of Basingbourne Park and to promote improved community relationships between users of Basingbourne Park by promoting Basingbourne Park as a focus for community activities.*

In furtherance of the said objectives the Organisation may, through its Committee:

.....

3) *Work with the local Councils to:*

- a) Maintain and enhance the open space area.*
- b) Control invasive non-native species of plants*
- c) Help maintain and enhance the structural diversity of the woodland and wet heath.*
- d) Enhance the amenity and wildlife value.*

4) *Work towards promoting and developing the educational use of the site through activity sessions, signage and liaising with local schools and youth organisations.*

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- 5) Provide social events for members of the local community.
- 6) Raise money for improvements in the park and for providing community activity events.
- 7) Communicate with its members and the local community via newsletters, flyers, a website and the local press
- 8) Hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
- 9) Make or commission surveys of the park and create maps or plans.
- 10) Develop partnerships with organisations with similar objectives to Friends of Basingbourne Park (FoBP)
- 11) Do anything that is lawful which will help to fulfil the aims.

The Friends of Basingbourne Park shall remain an integral part of the running of the park and also as a body that will actively seek to improve facilities, through fund raising and raising awareness of the needs of the community. The Friends of Basingbourne Park raised funds towards the “Over 8s” play equipment and youth shelter, and contributed to the selection of equipment and review of the implementation plans.

The Guides and Scouts are both based in compounds on the perimeter of the site. Both groups make use of the wider park (woodlands, play equipment and sports field). Both groups have participated in Action Days with FoBP and with litter picks and generally to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the park- there is now an annual “Community Service Week” when up to 250 youngsters from Guides and Scouting (all age ranges) participate in a range of activities including litter picking, painting, stream clearing, balsam bashing and many other useful tasks.

The Friends of Basingbourne Park also work with RSPB Wildlife Explorers to host events promoting nature and conservation in the Park, and Fleet Town Council have approved use of the Pavilion to host joint indoor events during the Winter months.

The Friends of Basingbourne collaborate with the Church Crookham Baptist Church to host Carol Singing in the Park each year, and to run “Hot Chocolate Mondays” – handing out hot chocolate and a snack to park users going to school or work on dark, cold winter mornings.

A number of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers have volunteered for regular litter picking in the Park, targeting Sundays (the only day with no Grounds Maintenance presence) or undertaking “deep cleanse” picks away from the regularly patrolled paths.

Several children’s football teams play regularly at the park.

A number of other groups use the park on an occasional basis (including fitness groups, children’s nurseries and local schools).

Informally, a large number of youths frequent the park, despite there being very limited resources targeted specifically at them.

6 Current Management Practices

Basingbourne Park is owned and managed by Fleet Town Council and maintained by a Grounds Maintenance Contractor on behalf of FTC. The Council funds and makes any final decisions on any management works that take place on the site. Day to day decisions are taken by the Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

FoBP (along with other Friends of groups) have requested increased utilisation of the Grounds Maintenance staff and Wildlife advisor to help address issues including woodland encroachment into heathlands and management of invasive species in the woodlands.

A maintenance programme covering the whole area of the park was developed by Fleet Town Council via a new Grounds Maintenance contract awarded in 2011. The Contract Document comprising the Conditions of Contract, a Specification, a Preamble and a Bill of Quantities ~~which~~ can be inspected at Fleet Town Council's Offices. This agreement was extended ~~a further 3 times, the latest being in 2025. for a further 2 years to September 2017-~~ Minor changes (improvements) have been made to the specification with each renegotiation.

All contract staff who carry out work at Basingbourne Park, possess relevant horticultural qualifications, and have been trained in areas such as Health & Safety, Handling of Hazardous Substances, and use of equipment/machinery.

Activities by FoBP are discussed thoroughly with FTC and agreed prior to being implemented.

The legacy "Basingbourne Heath Management Plan" inherited by FTC with ownership of the land is only partially implemented.

7 Objectives

Objectives are specific aspirations which will need to be achieved if the overall vision is to be achieved.

7.1 Adoption of Wickham Woods and Chinnock Ponds

OBJECTIVE: Capitalise on an underutilised area to deliver a broad range of benefits to park users; to increase overall park usage; increase local foot and cycle journeys; support water retention and flood alleviation efforts; and restore and increase/improve biodiversity; whilst and to ensure the area is protected, maintained and improved in line with the rest of Basingbourne Park.

7.1.1 Benefits:

- ~~€~~Further capitalise on an underutilised space
- Improved leisure opportunities including walking and running and cycling, in woodlands
- Improved wellbeing from access to water features (Canal bank, reinstated Chinnock "lily" Pond or other pools)

- Improve the connection between Basingbourne Park and Basingstoke Canal and onward to other local leisure spaces
- Improved access (improved bridges; cleared tracks; longer term board walks)
- Improved access for litter picking, tree management, stream/ditch management
- Reduction in fly tipping due to increased usage (but supported by increased litter picks)
- Increased biodiversity (particularly by reinstating ponds and recovering red pond weed)
- Increase the number of Park Users due to increased awareness driven by a larger number of access points (both local residents and wider community via link to Basingstoke Canal)
- Increased number and duration of visits by existing users (due to increased size and variety)

7.1.2 Expand Park to include Canal Side woods (Wickham Woods/Chinnock Ponds)

Formally adopt the woodlands between Greenways, Forest End and the Basingstoke Canal “Wickham Woods” as part of Basingbourne Park (or as a separate, recognised site). Agree a name for the area, deploy FTC branded signs and rubbish bins at entrance points. ~~Open up~~ improve access from the path, deploy directional signage and information boards. Deploy rubbish bins generally as shown on the plan at Appendix B.

Establish strategy for the Canal side woods which balances conservation, flood alleviation and nature with increased recreational use.

7.1.3 Woodland & Canal Side Walk

~~Provide a passable route~~ Improve the two informal paths from Basingbourne Park to the Basingstoke Canal bank and on to Coxheath Bridge. This supports the Hart District Council Green Grid initiative, as it will encourage walking and cycling for additional short journeys. This requires action to:

- Incorporate path clearance during the summer months into the schedule of works of the FTC grounds’ maintenance team.
- Deploy foot bridges, where appropriate, to enable or improve access (particularly for disabled, pushchair and cycle access)
- Level paths removing trip hazards and improving access for pushchairs, wheel chairs, mobility scooters and cycle access
- Deploy board walks where it is too difficult to level up access
- Deploy concrete slabs near badger setts to protect from undermining of paths by badgers
- Redefine/reprofile zigzagged path from culvert up to canal side to facilitate improved access
- Install steps at Canal embankment where there are currently steep, informal footpaths
- Deploy directional signage and maps for pedestrian/cycle users to increase use.

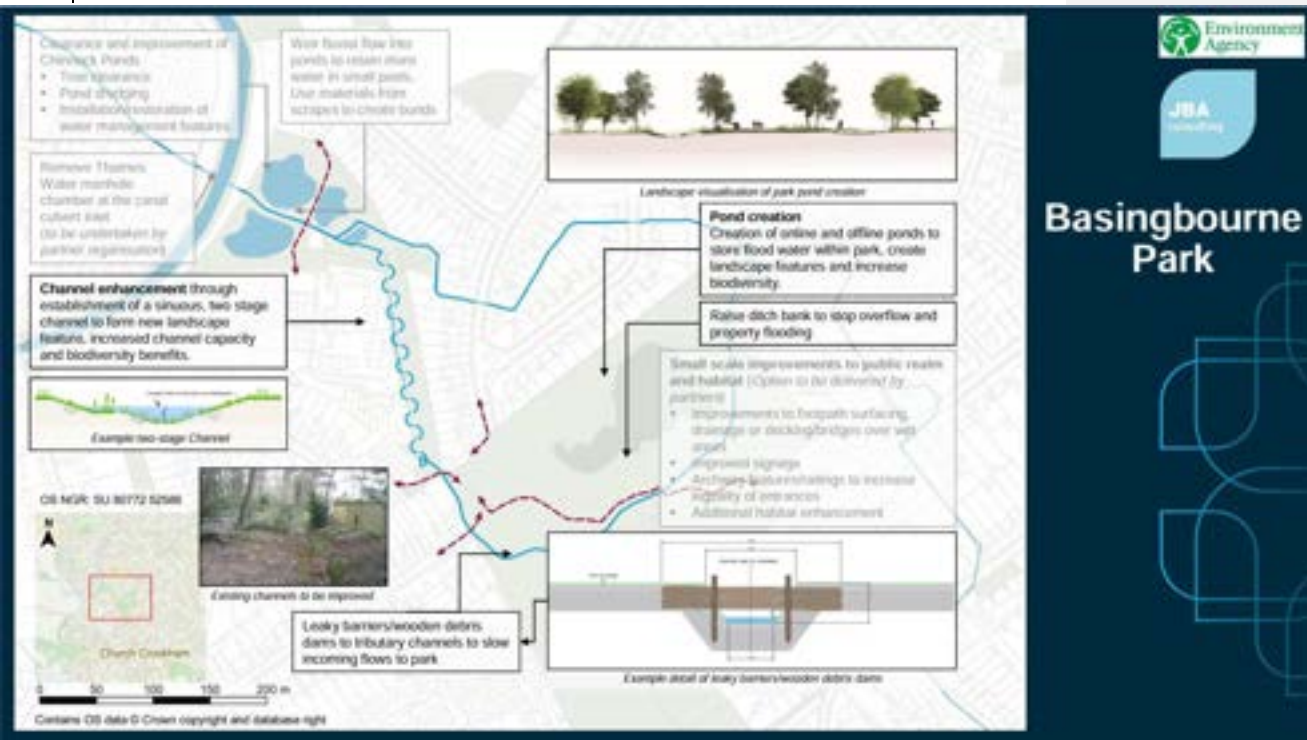
~~clearance of fallen trees, encroaching vegetation on existing tracks and opening access in a few areas; also installation of a number of new foot bridges across ditches. However, there will be no formalisation of the route which will remain as a woodland walk only.~~ Any works will be carried out in consultation with other stakeholders including Basingstoke Canal Authority and HDC Ecologists. Where possible, holly and thorn bushes will be planted to protect neighbouring residents’ properties/boundaries. All works need to be sympathetic to existing wildlife, in particular badger setts.

Note: this area appears to have been subject to land grabs by some residents, with new boundary fences, sheds and outbuildings having been potentially installed beyond the original boundary. However it should also be noted that some boundaries with Forest End are not clearly marked and with encroachment of park users into neighbouring gardens. FTC should consider re-surveying and marking the boundary where required, and challenging where encroachment has occurred.

7.1.4 Water course amendments (Sandy Lane Ditch and Canal side)

By reintroducing meanders and profiling our Sandy Lane watercourse, we can improve water retention, slow the rapid run-off of water, and foster a thriving, interconnected and more attractive biodiversity haven.

In alignment with Fleet Flood Alleviation Plan:
(illustrative only; meanders would be more effective in Sandy Lane Ditch section)



- Add meanders and channel profiling to Basingbourne Ditch between Greenways and Wickham Place, to slow water run off rates, increase water retention capacity and deliver cosmetic improvements compared to the current straight, paving slab lined channel
- Add meanders, channel profiling and leaky dams for Sandy Lane Ditch between Forest End and Wickham Place*
 - *Note: channel would have fewer bends than in the illustration as care needs to be taken to avoid interaction with badger setts.
- Revised routing should trace route which will support restoration of ponds in future
- Leaky dams (or weirs) should direct water on “new” course
- As a contingency, leaky dams will allow overspill of water back into current route, if new route causes water to back up excessively (i.e. before it could endanger local properties)
- A new meandering, profiled route will increase the amount of open water and will be more visually appealing than the current straight channel with perpendicular banks

7.1.47.1.5 Restoration of Chinnock Ponds

Eye witness accounts of Chinnock Pond in its hey-day recall an idyllic lily pond, frequented by swans and kingfishers and used by children for fishing and swimming. In addition, there are relatively recent records (1976) of a rare Red Pondweed (*Potamogeton alpinus*) which survives many decades in mud and could therefore be recoverable.

Restoring Chinnock Pond in this area, supported by a system of weirs to improve water management could provide a wonderful focus for the park's leisure users, provide a valuable contribution to flood management and a boon for biodiversity on the site. Further work should be undertaken to establish the feasibility of this.

7.2 Ecological Conservation, Maintenance and Restoration

OBJECTIVE: Maintain & restore biodiversity to support renewal of SINC status and encourage increased public participation

7.2.1 Benefits:

- Retain, restore and improve biodiversity for future generations
- Mental and physical health benefits for helpers and park users
- Educational benefits (resource for local schools, Guides & Scouts as well as adult talk & events)
- Enable "complementary" leisure activities
- Addresses Fleet Town Council's 'biodiversity duty' under the Environment Act 2021

7.2.2 Renew & Enforce the Heathland Management Plan

A comprehensive update to the Heathland Management Plan is to be developed, with a minimum objective of ensuring that Basingbourne Park retains the status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and ensuring that FTC's increased statutory responsibilities are recognised and addressed. Ideally, this should ensure all natural resources in the woods and heathlands are maintained or improved.

Surveys undertaken in recent years and anecdotal evidence show reductions in all key wetland plants in the heathland, and the standing (expired) plan must be updated to prioritise water retention and diversion into the heathland glades.

This should allow for a periodic review of planned activities, particularly in or near the SINC areas, to allow any concerns to be discussed before action is undertaken.

Heathland management has primarily been led by FoBP volunteers but with increasing contributions from Grounds Maintenance. The revised plan should ensure that all parties are aligned and working towards common objectives.

Plan should include elements to:

- Support water retention within heathland areas and NOT increase drainage from them
- Amend the stream dredging policy (segmented dredging on biennial basis) for the main ditch
- Include targeted mowing or scrapes

7.2.3 **Heathland restoration and connecting corridor:**

Create a corridor (blue) in the woodland to link the two heathland areas (red) and enhance biodiversity by providing a continuous route for wildlife to move between isolated habitats.



The corridor will allow species to migrate and interbreed, which is essential for the long-term viability of wildlife populations.

It will help in recolonizing areas where local populations have declined (e.g. sundews) or become extinct, stabilizing ecosystems and preventing biodiversity loss.

Public consultation will be needed to allay any concerns regarding tree loss.

Plan may include:

- Planned felling and disposal of significant semi-mature and mature trees around perimeter of current heathland glades;
- Clearing of the old electric “way-leave” (possibly with support of Scottish & Southern Electric);
- Sizeable scrapes to encourage restoration of plant species from seedbank
- Agree route and clear “heathland corridor” from end of “wayleave” (near Crandford Ave) to Longdown Heath (near Bilberry patch). This would need to include cutting mature trees, surface soil/leaf litter scraping, and disposal of scraped and cut materials)

7.2.4 **Streams, pools and drainage:**

The on-site drainage network will be managed to:

- reduce risk of “downstream” flooding ([supporting Fleet Flood Alleviation Plan](#)).
 - Locally in locations like Longdown and Forest End
 - broader impacts in the Loddon catchment area
- [increase water retention in the Park, both for short term “flash flood” risk reduction and to maintain moisture levels in heathlands during longer and warmer dry periods.](#)
- maintain and improve the biodiversity of the site.

These objectives are not necessarily contradictory, and a balance needs to be achieved between the flood control capacity of the site and the environmental objectives. Work needs to be coordinated with HDC’s Flood Control Officer, [but is aligned with the Fleet Flood Alleviation Plan](#).

Proposed works include:

- 1) ~~D~~[Reduced frequency and alternate year](#) dredging and clearance of [main](#) drainage ditches – [main ditches to be marked in 10m stretches with alternate stretches dredged each year \(so each section is dredged biennially – reducing adverse impact on wildlife\)](#)
- 2) Dredging existing and historical heathland and woodland pools, to provide both an increased capacity for retaining water on site, and to increase biodiversity
- 3) ~~Creating a~~[Use spoil from Basingbourne stream dredging to bolster the](#) levee and path behind the Pavilion/[noticeboard](#) (un-made-up section of streamside path [which overflowed and was further eroded during flooding event of 2015](#)), to increase ditch capacity and reduce risk of future flooding.
- 4) Creating additional woodland pools to both heathland areas; woodlands near Longdown), to increase localised capacity and allow increased biodiversity opportunities
- 5) Installing weirs where ditches have been dug near sensitive wetland heath areas, to allow improved management of water, retaining water during dry periods whilst allowing increased drainage during wetter seasons.

(Note: also see proposal for Chinnock Ponds [and water retention on Longdown and Grange heaths.](#))

7.2.5 [Re-wetting the Longdown Heath](#)

[This heath has suffered from general increased drainage due to surrounding developments, but also dredging works on a previously defunct ditch crossing the SINC.](#)

- [The Basingbourne Stream collects water run-off from the park and delivers this to the Sandy Lane Ditch. By capturing and storing this water, and releasing into the heath in a controlled manner, the heath can be kept wetter, allowing improved conditions for listed wet heathland species; supporting conservation and restoration initiatives as well as flood alleviation.](#)

[Possible initiatives to include:](#)

- [Install a weir or leaky dam at the Fairmile end of the Basingbourne ditch to reduce water outflow \(unless safe threshold exceeded\).](#)

- [Deploy irrigation ditch/ditches \(probably with weir system for flood control\) to direct water from the Basingbourne ditch and into the heathland areas](#)
- [Reprofile the stream southern banks by adding slopes and bays to increase storage capacity](#)
- [Add a major storage pool north of Pavilion \(similar to Oakley Park’s “pond and island”\) to significantly increase water capture/storage capacity.](#)

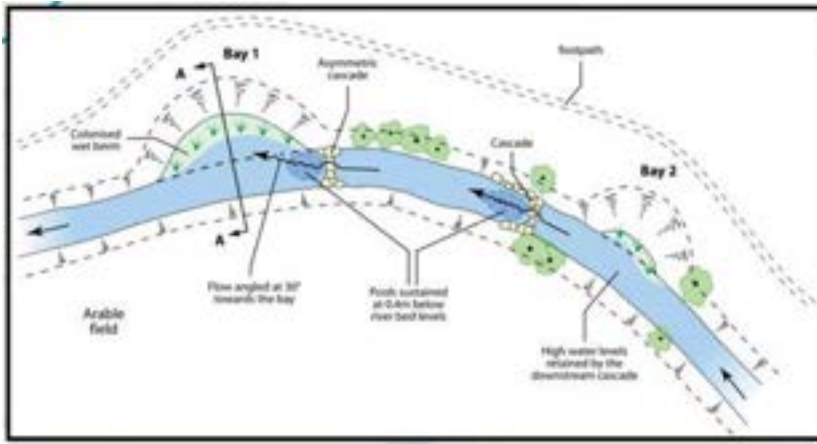


Figure 1 Example of Bays created to increase water retention capacity

- [In order to safeguard residential properties from increased flood risk, consider creation of a balancing pond \(normally empty\) at north perimeter drain](#)

[Note: Rewetting is a major undertaking and will be guided by the South East Rivers Trust. It will follow the work to reclaim the natural heath margins by removing encroaching trees and shrubs, as well as the creation of new scrapes and pools. These preceding actions may influence the extent of rewetting ultimately required.](#)

7.2.6 [Water retention and rewetting the Grange Heath](#)

[The Grange heath used to be significantly wetter, but in recent years water levels have dropped favouring growth of grasses and brambles. As a result, for example, Sundews which were recorded in their thousands in the 1980s are now extremely rare.](#)

[It is likely that this is due to increased drainage in surrounding areas, to historical attempts to improve drainage in the park to create a dry footpath across the heath and due to the increase of mature trees on the fringes of the heath.](#)

[More recently \(around 2023/24\) unauthorised drainage ditches were dug parallel by the Grange Estate perimeter when fence work was undertaken, diverting further water which has previously fed the overland seepage system.](#)

[Proposed actions to increase water retention:](#)

Working Draft v0.1.3g – 9th June 2026

- Ensure Grounds Maintenance are aware of water retention policy and do not attempt to clear “blockages” (leaky dams) in minor ditches and do not create further drainage channels
- Stop any further dredging of drainage ditch flowing northward and emptying into the main ditch. Implement leaky dams or backfill ditch top end of ditch.
- Create irrigation channels from Grange Estate Perimeter to direct drainage water into the centre of the heath (possibly excavating holding pools). Block the channels running directly towards the main Heath.
- Implement “diagonal” scrapes with low level bunds on north side, to slow water run-off from the heath, and direct it back towards the centre of the heath. The scrapes may allow restoration of sundew population from the seedbank.
- Further restoration of southern end of heath (removal of saplings & trees) to increase water run-off from hillocks and into the heath.

Note: this also aligns with recommendations from Fleet Flood Alleviation scheme.

Note: Rewetting is a major undertaking and will be guided by the South East Rivers Trust. It will follow the work to reclaim the natural heath margins by removing encroaching trees and shrubs, as well as the creation of new scrapes and pools. These preceding actions may influence the extent of rewetting ultimately required.

7.2.7 Comprehensive wildlife survey

Undertake comprehensive-further nature surveys of the Basingbourne Park and Canal side woods, covering trees, plants, fungi, invertebrates, birds, as well as other animals. Extend survey to cover Wickham Woods.

Surveys will allow better stewardship of the area by identifying any species in decline, allowing timely intervention to reverse this and supporting applications for grant funding.

The previous main wildlife survey is now 10 years old. The recent 2015 BioBlitz provided a valuable snapshot, and raised concerns over lack of amphibians and sundews. As a result of this FoBP volunteer Tony Mundell has undertaken a survey of trees and plants in both the main Park and in the Canal side Wickham Woods. FoBP have undertaken regular surveys of bats across the site for several years. Historical surveys have not covered areas such as fungi, invertebrates and birdsats. In order to fully understand the current status within the park. If necessary, FoBP will seek grant funding to fulfil these activities.

7.2.8 Encourage Volunteer Participation in Management Work

Volunteer heath and woodland management activities by FoBP or other groups should continue to be encouraged. FoBP have also enabled and co-ordinated volunteering by local Guides, Scouts, RSPB Wildlife Explorers, DofE volunteers, Boys Brigade, Rotary group and Ramblers Society volunteers.

The work of the volunteer groups should be integrated into the overall maintenance programme for the site.

Ideally, regular “ranger” led sessions should be scheduled, which can be publicised in FTC, HVA and other local publications and allowing more sessions during Winter maintenance window.

7.2.9 **Expansion of FTC Tools pool**

FTC has established a small pool of tools which can be used by volunteer groups (e.g. for play park renovations, heath and woodlands maintenance work). These supplement tools brought by volunteers and allows increased productivity of work groups. Further tools should be added to the stock to support **increased public participation in park management activities** which delivers benefits both to participants and to FTC.

A secure storage location should be provided at Basingbourne Park Pavilion and a subset of FTC tools to be permanently housed there (but available for use by other groups). Space should also support storage of FoBP tools.

7.3 **Renovation and Expansion of Play Equipment**

To **increase physical activity and social development of children and young people**, play facilities should be added for over 8s and teenagers, and the facilities for under 8s improved.

7.3.1 **Benefits**

- Exercise; physical, mental and social development of children and young people
- Increase the number of park users
- Increase the frequency and duration of visits
- Increase the capacity (more equipment allows more simultaneous users at peak times)
- Providing facilities for older children and teenagers reduces inappropriate use of under 8's play park

7.3.2 **General approach to existing play equipment**

The current provision for play in Basingbourne Park is an aging, fenced in play park focused on under 8s, and over 8s play equipment in front of the Pavilion (and delivered c.2018). The main priority for the park is therefore to expand provision for over 8s and teens, which in turn will release capacity in the under 8s park.

Much of the existing play equipment is dated and in need of refurbishment or in some cases replacement. To ensure that the playground remains functional any worn out/broken equipment should be replaced with modern play equipment. The state of the safety surfaces, paths and multiple concrete or brick surfaces are of greatest concern and need urgent attention.

A large wooden climbing frame was removed due to safety concerns in 2025, leaving a substantial "gap" in the over 8s play area and provision.

7.3.3 **Improve Provision for "Over Eights"**

7.3.3.1 ~~Provide “Over Eights” play equipment~~ New Gondola/Snake Swing

~~Facilities for “over eights” are very limited~~ were significantly improved during the term of the previous Development Plan, but suffered a set back with the removal of the old wooden climbing frame. This has left a large, vacant space.

A new Gondola/snake swing has been selected as a suitable replacement:

- Requires physical exertion/exercise
- Requires team work
- Can encourage interaction/co-operation between different groups and age ranges
- Must be sized for 8-18 full age range.

~~Provision of additional equipment outside of the existing playpark will provide more appropriate challenges for this group, increase overall capacity of the park, reduce friction between this group and parents of younger children, and reduce inappropriate use & damage of under 8s play equipment.~~

~~New equipment could include:~~

- ~~a) Cantilever swing~~
- ~~b) Rope “witches hat” roundabout/climber.~~
- ~~c) Basket Swings (including accessible swing)~~
- ~~d) Web climbing frame~~

~~There is also interest in utilising the pine stand (near the Scout Hut) to create a small climbing, rope and tree house/platform facility, but this would potentially require significant investment.~~

7.3.3.2 ~~Not used.~~ Kids cycle track

~~There is a longstanding proposal to create a small cycle track with jumps and obstacles. There is evidence within the woodlands that young people are already trying to create their own tracks close to sensitive SINC areas (with holes being dug and ramps built up to tree stumps). A number of possible locations have been considered, but due to the number of paths and areas of wildlife interest, the most appropriate location is the Longdown/Broom Acres/Long Down corner, although this does not have any interesting “geography” to help with the creation of hills, jumps, etc. A second area for consideration could be in Wickham Woods under the electricity lines. Ideally, the design of the course should be in consultation with local children and parents, and there should also be consultation with neighbouring property owners prior to finalising any track design.~~

7.3.3.3 ~~New~~ Catch fence for Kick walls/climbing wall

~~Whilst there is currently a wooden~~ Both the wooden and blue ~~kick walls~~ kick walls ~~available in the park,~~ it suffers ~~from low utilisation because~~ if balls missing the walls end up in bushes/brambles or

in the stream. Wire mesh fences (similar to Oakley Park) should be installed behind the kick walls. ÷

- ~~1) Relatively small (compared to alternatives)~~
- ~~2) Risk of loss of balls in dense brambles and growth~~
- ~~3) Wooden wall doesn't rebound balls as effectively.~~

~~The Pavilion is a defacto kick wall resulting in damage to the facility and muddy ball prints.~~

~~To address this, it is proposed to select from:~~

- ~~1) Install alternative second purpose build kick wall close to Pavilion (propose simultaneous planting of shrubs around pavilion to deter continued use of Pavilion)~~
- ~~2) build one or two new dedicated brick kick walls (45 degrees to edge of park, so there is no "blind spot" behind the wall, and noise is reflected towards woods (design to be confirmed)~~
- ~~3) Install a fence behind the kick wall(s) similar to Oakley Park to prevent balls going into woods~~
- ~~4) The reverse side of kick wall could be modelled as a climbing wall for younger children (i.e. not to adult level) and could incorporate shelves for sitting on~~
- ~~5) Either side of the new kick walls could have basketball hoops installed, to further increase their functionality~~
- ~~6) When new facilities have been installed, then bushes should be planted around the Pavilion to prevent further use of the Pavilion as kick wall~~

7.3.4 Replace & improve under 8's children's play provision

7.3.4.1 Replacement "accessible" roundabout

The current spinning "stump" only engages a single child for a short time and is not accessible. This should be replaced with a more traditional style of roundabout, which should support wheel chair access, including ground level access, and which will allow multiple users, collaborative play, and easier "spinning" by parents/carers.



7.3.4.1.7.3.4.2 Under 8's children's play area surfacing.

Safety surfacing around play equipment is degrading and is both visually unattractive and more importantly is increasingly seen as a health and safety hazard.

All paths and fall areas within the play park should be resurfaced, potentially with soft mulch/bonded rubber chips. This could be extended over the edges of the current safety surfaces to address the problem of shrinkage.

A rail track could then be painted in a circuit around the park to further emphasize the popular train based play features.

In a few areas, the grass within the play park has largely been worn away. These areas should be improved and re-turfed to bring them back up to the original ground level.

The current “stump” roundabout should be replaced with a modern, accessible roundabout.

Children’s “trampoline” spring pads

7.3.4.27.3.4.3 Under 8’s children’s play area drainage.

Drainage in the play area is inadequate and needs repairing and improving to prevent flooding.

Softmulch surface would go some way to alleviating the problems of standing puddles.

7.3.4.37.3.4.4 Under 8’s children’s play area – Concrete & brick surfaces

Concern exists among users of the play area that too many hard surfaces exist and hard features, such as raised brick flower beds and concrete cladding around train climbing fame present a hazard and should be removed, replaced or have cladding applied.

7.3.4.47.3.4.5 Wickham Toddler Park – “On hold”

Toddler play facilities should be located close to the homes of users. To this end there is a proposal to create a small toddler park close to the Wickham estate. Currently, no suitable location has been identified within or close to Basingbourne Park. This item is therefore “on hold” but retained in case new opportunities become evident.

7.4 **Broaden Appeal and increase number and range of Park Users**

The provision of multiple “focal points” where groups of people can relax and interact will **increase the number of users and the number and duration of visits.**

7.4.1 **Benefits**

- Better facilities for more diverse groups of park users (youths, fitness/exercisers, young families and elderly)
- Allow additional leisure focal points to encourage increased use of park whilst reducing friction between different park users or stakeholders; hence overall benefit to community cohesion

7.4.2 **Section not used Youth Shelter**

~~There is a small youth shelter in the existing wooden multigym climbing frame. By drawing young people away from the car park and play park, this has already contributed to a reduction in confrontations between park users and local residents.~~

~~To improve the facilities for teenagers, one or more youth shelters should be deployed in the park. One possible location is in the “far corner” of the open park area, where it is away from residents (minimising the risk of disturbance to residents) but still visible from the road (for Police patrols).~~

~~Consideration could also be given to building additional seating and shelter into proposed kick walls – to provide multiple, distinct “hang out” points for multiple groups of youths.~~

7.4.3 **Section not used Woodland Benches**

~~FoBP secured a number of metal “vandal proof” benches from Hart District Council (ex Fleet Pond) with the intention of deploying these at strategic points outside the formal park areas, to allow park users (but primarily benefiting older or infirm users and mothers with young children) locations within the woodlands to take short breaks during walks. Target locations are:~~

- ~~● By northern “Longdown” heath footpath~~
- ~~● Southern “Grange” heath by footpath~~
- ~~● Canal side in Wickham Woods (or half way along Wickham to Pavilion path)~~

~~In agreement with FTC a trial site was located on the northern heath. 9 months in, there has not been a significant increase in littering, no incidences of arson, and no complaints from local residents. There has been a minor issue with fixings being pulled out and the bench “migrating”. However, further similar benches would be desirable.]~~

7.4.4 **Benches in the sports field**

There are currently 3 benches in the open sports field area. The request for additional benches was raised during Friends of Basingbourne Park user survey. The current pitch side bench was welcomed by all football teams using the field. The request is for at least 3 more benches, 2 more pitch side spectator benches and a “management” bench opposite. These benches are also heavily used by the general public when football matches are not in progress.

~~[Note: 2 additional benches were provided by FoBP and are currently deployed in the park but FoBP would like to relocate these into woodland locations.]~~

7.4.5 **Picnic Benches.**

Basingbourne Park ~~is the only one of Fleet Town Council’s main parks with no provision of picnic benches. Picnic benches have repeatedly been requested by park users in FoBP surveys, and provision should be made for at least 3 near the play parks.~~

~~only has a single picnic bench, which has been funded by FoBP using a grant from Fleet Lions. This is significantly fewer than most other parks in Fleet, and has been cited by some parents as a reason for not using the park. The request for more picnic benches came up in Friends of Basingbourne Park user survey. Ideally, there should be at least 4 more picnic benches (3 around perimeter of play area, 1 near kick wall and one at far end of park).~~

~~[Note: In addition, FoBP were offered further ex-Fleet Pond picnic benches, and had planned to deploy these on Canal side, and on the “small hill” overlooking the southern heathland glade. Final locations need to be agreed with FTC prior to progressing this further.~~

7.4.6 **More planted areas.**

To create a more interesting panorama across the field consideration should be given to increasing the number and variety of trees and bushes in the formal area of the park, in and around the play park and pavilion. For example:

- consider planting trees following path across the park to provide additional shade;
- consider planting additional bushes or shrubs round Pavilion to help it to blend it.

Any plans would need to balance planting with need to retain open space so as not to compromise usability of the limited open space.

Consider whether raised beds should be installed between roadside trees for flower beds or community vegetables. This could be a deterrent to traveller communities accessing the sports field.

Consideration should be given to creation of wild meadow margins to the park (e.g. seeding with wildflower seeds and leaving unmown during summer months). Hart Countryside Services have indicated that they could provide support with implementing this. To avoid complaints about poor park maintenance, ensure notices are posted to raise awareness of the project.

7.4.7 **Improved Signage**

- To assist new park users additional sign posts could be installed to direct the public to key locations such as the Guide and Scout Huts, the Community Store, and to the Pavilion. The woodlands can also be quite disorientating and signposts to main park entrances would be beneficial, or marked “coloured” routes.

All redundant Hart District Council signs and their fixings should be removed.

- The park currently has a single notice board, which is inadequate for a park of this size. Lockable Notice boards should be added to the Basingbourne Park signs at each entrance, to help keep park users informed of events (A2 size minimum; lock to share key with existing notice board).

- iii. The park currently has an single interpretation poster displayed in the main notice board and an interpretation board by the Longdown Heath.
A number of additional interpretation boards should be deployed to make park users aware of the natural diversity of the area.

Signs should be deployed in the car park to deter idling, as there can be excessive diesel fumes, particularly at pick up time for Guides/Scouts and during football matches.

7.5 Provide a modern, user friendly Pavilion

The Pavilion should become a focal point of the park and be a valued community resources utilised throughout the week, not just for a few hours at the weekend.

7.5.1 Long term renewal

Long term, it would be desirable to replace the current 1960s/70s Pavilion with a more modern, multi-use facility.

In the short to medium term, the current programme of internal renovation should be completed so that the facility is pleasant and can be used as the focus for community activities and even for private hire.

7.5.2 Refreshments concession.

A refreshment concession (either commercial or community enterprise) would be a major boost to the park. Ideally this should be located where the existing meter room is (so would require some remodelling). This would also increase the draw of the park as it would allow an opportunity for the toilets to be accessible to the public during opening hours.

7.5.3 Toilet facilities.

There are no public toilet facilities in the park. There are however toilets in the pavilion which are only available on a regular basis when the Footballers or FoBP are using the facilities. Requests are made fairly frequently for increased provision of toilets and ideally these should be provided for the general public. Lack of toilets is cited as a reason why families with young children do not use the park.

The current toilets are poorly maintained and require refurbishment. To allow more general access to public, also need further security considerations (e.g. more locking doors on kitchen and other storage areas).

The urinals in the Gents toilets should have a modern, motion triggered flush mechanism installed.

Toilets are cleaned once per week, which is adequate with current usage levels. If opened as part of concession, or for public hire, then consider whether specific conditions of use include responsibility for maintaining state of toilets, and notifying council if issues.

Consideration should be given to disabled toilet in any redevelopment.

Consideration could also be given to a standalone toilet pod. Management and maintenance of remote toilets is a major issue and a considerable cost. There is a potential social problem unless the facility is supervised. However, they are also a facility valued by the community and should be given due consideration. If a refreshment concession was viable, and the responsibility for management and maintenance was passed to the operator as a condition of a short-term lease arrangement.

7.5.4 Environmentally Friendly Improvements to Pavilion

The Pavilion is exposed to plenty of sunshine throughout the day. Consideration should be given to installing solar panels, to help FTC's environmental objectives and to help offset energy consumption of the Pavilion and other Council activities.

A new large capacity underground rainwater collection tank (with pump/filtration, indoor header tank and internal tap and optional feed to toilet cisterns) which can be used for watering plants, rinsing down equipment, etc.

7.6 Recreation and Sport.

To improve the physical and mental well-being for local community consideration should be given to:

7.6.1 Outdoor Gym Equipment

Many people use Basingbourne Park for exercise (e.g. running, walking, cycling, and outdoor exercise classes). A selection of outdoor gym equipment would allow these users to include some additional variety into their exercise regime, and would attract additional park users, and would should lead to a small improvement in health within the local community.

Equipment could either be located in one location in the sports field, or could be dotted around the woodlands as a "Trim Trail", to encourage people to move around the park and increase the overall work out (and increasing uptake by non-extroverts!). (In this case equipment and locations would need to be carefully selected to minimise risk of vandalism to isolated equipment in un-supervised areas.)

7.6.2 Table Tennis tables

An outdoor table tennis table is available and should be installed near the pavilion. A concrete base needs to be built and then the table can be deployed.

Basingbourne Park Development Plan – 2026 - 2032

~~An indoor table tennis table could be purchased for the Pavilion, and which could possibly be promoted as an additional benefit to encourage external hire of the Pavilion.~~

Appendices

A. APPENDIX Map of Basingbourne Park

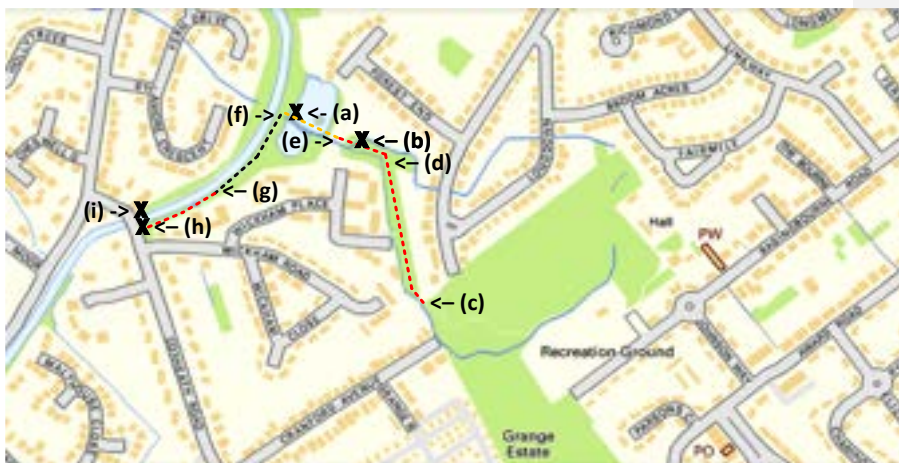


B. APPENDIX Map Of Wickham Woods



C. APPENDIX Map Woodland Walk Proposal

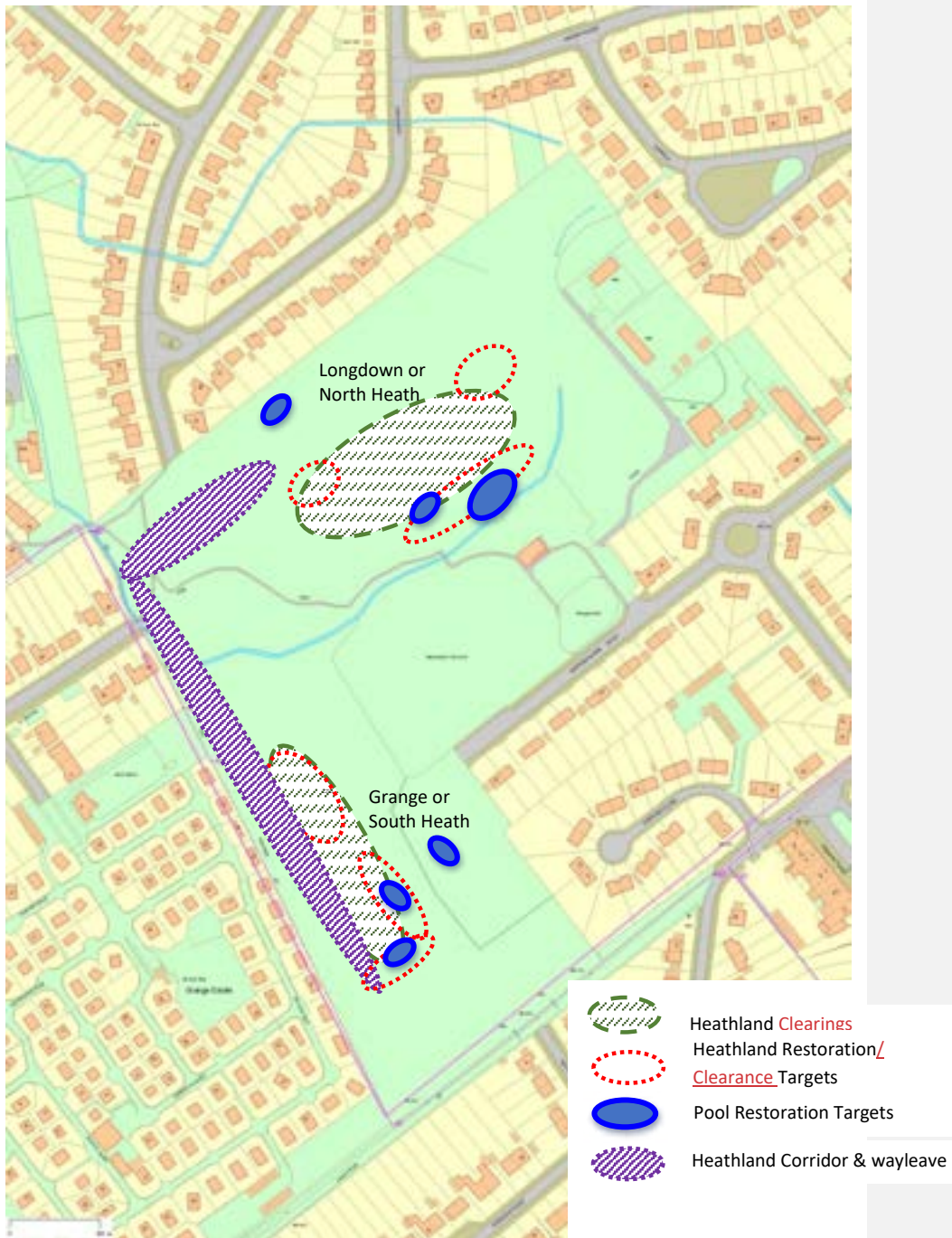
To be updated for 2026. Status as proposed at 2015:



(Please can FTC insert a better map here if available)

- 1) Enable access at base of embankment (clearing fallen trees and overgrowing vegetation) (e) to (f) to (g) – amber & black
- 2) Improve railway sleeper bridge (a) – currently too low and first point to flood and deploy additional bridge to cross main stream at culvert
- 3) Clear access through (c) to (d) to (e) – currently blocked by fallen trees and unusable
- 4) Deploy two sleeper bridges at (b)
- 5) Clear access (g) to (h) – currently informal path is precariously close to canal side in places – establish improved path set back from canal bank
- 6) Improve access at remaining locations (h) to (f) and (c) to (d) – clearing fallen trees and encroaching shrubs and other vegetation; clear access to avoid badger sett
- 7) Longer term, consider raised board walk (f) to (d) to (e) so that streamside path remains useable when pools flood
- 8) Lobby Basingstoke Canal Authority & Hampshire Council to deploy sloping path from Coxheath bridge pavement (east side) down to main canal towpath (north side) to allow safe access

D. Appendix – Target Heathland Restoration Areas & Pools



E. Appendix – botanical records

Basingbourne – main Park (including woods & heathlands)



All plant species recorded for Basingbourne

Field Code Changed

Canalside woods Wickham woods:



Plants recorded in proposed extension to

Field Code Changed

~~E.A. Appendix – Bridge designs~~



designstandards-bridges.pdf

F. Appendix – Basingbourne Heath Management Plan (2009-2014)



Basingbourne Heath Mgt Plan 2009

Extracts:

From 3.1.1. Management Objectives:

1. To enhance and maintain the heathland to benefit wildlife.
 - To maintain and where possible actively increase the open areas of heathland vegetation and to enhance the structural diversity of the heathland vegetation.
 - To create new wet scrapes and temporary pools.

From Appendix 2 - Feature 1 –Lowland Heathland

Attribute Target Area of extent

- No reduction in the total area of heathland and wet heath/mire from current area
- Increase total area by 50%
- To link up areas of heathland and wet heath/mire

G. APPENDIX Inventory of Play Equipment

To be updated for 2026. Status as at 2015:

Location	Equipment	Condition	Recommendation
Playpark	Train Climbing Frame	Good, repainted by FoBP	Retain, repaint, holes in floor to drain
Playpark	Train "crossing" bars	Good	Retain, repaint
Playpark	Train Signal	Good	Retain, repaint
Playpark	Train Station	Needs improvement	Replace roof panels, fence panels & seat & table
Playpark	Train Buffers	Wooden cladding falling off and leaving exposed nails	Urgently replace
Playpark	Signal Box	Good	Retain, repaint
Playpark	Train Hump backed bridge	Recently renovated	Retain, repaint
Playpark	Concrete Cladding	Risk to falling children	Replace or clad with wood or softmulch
Playpark	Springers	Adequate, but prone to failure due to age	Replace
Playpark	Metal Climbing Frame	Adequate, repainted by FoBP; wooden "arch" creates risk of slipping; safety matting damaged in several locations	Retain, but long term consider replacement options
Playpark	Train "crossing" bars	Good	Retain, repaint
Playpark	Balance bars	Poor condition - grip tap consistently comes loose so slippery when wet	
Playpark	Balance stumps	Inadequate - exposed concrete from old/removed stumps; gap too large	Dig out or cover old concrete; install a couple of additional logs

Playpark	Toddler Swings	Adequate; but seats are worn and cracked; colours tired	Replace seats or full unit
Playpark	Swings	Adequate; but seats are worn and cracked; colours tired; no "accessible" swings	Replace seats or full unit
Playpark	Roundabout	Inadequate - not accessible	Replace or supplement
Playpark	Paths & surfaces	Breaking up; holed; trip hazard around edges; prone to minor flooding	Resurface with softmulch
Playpark	Brick flower beds	Poor; bushes not maintained; hard surface pose risk to children tripping	Wooden cladding to create castle feature; or remove completely
Main park	Wooden "multigym"	Tired; monkey bars have been broken and not replaced (over a year); wooden steps on climb wall are seriously worn.	Replace
Main park	Kick wall	Risk of rotting posts (one panel recently fell); muddy in front so unusable during winter; causes noise disturbance to local residents; not favoured by kids due to risk of losing balls in brambles	Ideally replace, or if not then softmulch surface in front of wall to allow use during autumn & winter months; consider fencing behind
Main park	Pitchside bench	Good	Retain and provide more for spectators
Main park	Metal benches	Good - refurbished by FoBP.	Ideally replace with wooden benches and move metal benches to woodland/heathland locations
Main park	Picnic benches	Poor - bench was moved by residents and youths to a secluded location and has been subject to some burning and vandalism	FTC should provide at least 4 additional picnic benches in the park, which will fulfil demand by families and reduce mobbing by youths

H. Appendix – Bridge designs



OAKLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013 – 2018



Adopted at Full Council on 2 October 2013

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OAKLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 2013 - 2018

No.	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY {1 = HIGH 5 = LOW}
1	The tree that is obstructing the view by CCTV camera should be removed and a suitable replacement planted P11 9.3.2	1
2	A comprehensive ecological inspection and enhancement programme for the entire park should be adopted. Prepare Management Plan to 2019 P10 9.1	1
3	Replace the many concrete bridges in the park with more appropriate wooden structures. P11 9.5.1.	1
4	Install additional Play Equipment Age 8+. P12 9.6.2	1
5	Open up the ride down the centre path. P12 9.7.2	1
6	New glades need to be created and existing ones opened up further. P14, 14 9.7.1 9.7.2	1
7	Replace the bridge to the island P11 9.5.1	1
8	The central path needs to be replaced. P11 9.5.3	1
9	The metalled pathway around the perimeter of the formal open area needs to be extended from the children's play area through to the NE quadrant to form a continuous pathway around the perimeter of the park. P11 9.5.3	1
10	The existing play equipment needs upgrading and more modern play equipment introduced p12 9.6.3	1
11	Stream Banking needs substantial work. P12 9.5.2	2
12	2- more picnic benches should be installed in the formal open area. P6 5.4	3
13	Provide Public toilet facilities in the park P11 9.2.5	3

No.	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY {1 = HIGH 5 = LOW}
14	Install woodland benches p10 9.2.2	3
15	The sports pavilion should be extended to provide a community facility and the old football pavilion refurbished P12 9.6.1	4
16	More planted areas should be created within the formal open area of the park. P11 9.2.5	4
17	A tool bank should be created by Fleet Town Council. P11 9.4.2	4
18	There may be an opportunity for a community firewood cooperative to be created P13 9.7.3	5

Oakley Park Development Plan, 2013 - 2018

1 Introduction

The Development Plan is a document which has been developed by Friends of Oakley Park for adoption by Fleet Town Council. It sets out the current situation and establishes the ambitions and aspirations for the future of Oakley Park, Fleet, Hampshire.

The plan looks at the vision for the future development of the Park, and proposes a programme of works to achieve this vision

2 Site Location

Oakley Park, Grid Reference SU 815541, is situated close to the centre of Fleet Town off Albany Road. It is within walking distance of Fleet Pond, the Basingstoke Canal and Fleet High Street.

The park is set in an urban area, surrounded by housing. A map of the area can be found in Appendix A.

3 Land Ownership of Oakley Park

The site of Oakley Park is owned by Fleet Town Council. It was formally transferred to the Town Council from Hart District Council by an Order dated 15th October 2009.

4 History of the Site

In 1920 James Oakley, a wealthy landowner and businessman, bequeathed the open space area of the Park to the community. This was in thanksgiving for the signing of the peace treaty at the end of the 1914-1918 war. The Deed of Gift states: 'Unto and to the promise of the council in fee simple to be used for ever hereafter as a public park and recreation ground for the inhabitants of Fleet and neighbourhood thereof and the public generally under the control and management of the council...'

A copy of the Deed is presented at Appendix 2

The woodland, making up the North Eastern area of the park, was part of land owned by the Shrimpton family in the 1880's. It encompassed a tennis court and a small boating pond as well as two orchards. The Shrimpton family sold the woodland to private owners in 1947. In 1972 Fleet Urban District Council bought the woodland.

In 2010 Fleet Town Council acquired ownership of Oakley Park in its entirety.

5 Description of the Park

5.1 Overview

Oakley Park covers an area of 5 acres (2.08 hectares). Two acres comprise a formal open park area containing the football pitch, pavilion, children's play area, some planted areas and the majority of the recreation facilities. To the north east of the formal park is the woodland area of 1.25 hectares (3 acres). The woodland has various pedestrian pathways and contains a variety of mature trees and a pond. Access is gained from the formal park area, Kings Road from the North and Burnside to the West. The woodland is designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

5.2 Football Pitch

Currently there is one 11-a-side football pitch. The 11-a-side goals are stored next to the pitch. The pitch is currently home to Fleet Town Girls Football Club, Ravens Youth FC and Fleet Athletic FC. It is used most Saturdays and Sundays for regular league matches. In addition to this, the park is used for community football during evenings and school holidays by Aldershot Town Community Trust. The Community Trust runs a variety of different schemes in the park.

5.3 Pavilion

The Pavilion at Oakley Park is a small brick building that is currently used by all the football clubs and Friends of Oakley Park. Fleet Town Council endeavoured to turn this into a multi-user pavilion so that it could be used by community groups as well as the football clubs, but it proved uneconomic at the time to upgrade the building to modern Building Regulations.

5.4 Recreation Facilities

The current play area was installed in 2005 and serves to entertain only young children. Climbing boulders for older children were installed in 2009. In addition there is a tyre swing, basketball hoop, kick frame and an orienteering course. In the formal park area there are seven benches (six wooden and one metal) along with three wooden picnic benches.. In the children's play area there is one metal bench and one metal picnic table.

5.5 Woodland

The structure of the woodland varies throughout the site. In the wetter areas species such as alder and willow are the most common. Drier areas are dominated by Scots pine, silver birch, oak and holly. Other tree species present in smaller numbers include hornbeam, sycamore, beech and hazel. The area of wet woodland is a United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) priority habitat due to the decline of this type of woodland and therefore needs careful management to enhance and maintain it. The areas of wetter woodland are comparable to W6e, *Alnus glutinosus* – *Urtica dioica* (alder – stinging nettle) woodland, *Betula pubescens* (downy birch) sub-community. A section of the

woodland adjacent to the stream is closer to the W6b *Salix fragilis* (crack willow) sub-community. (Hall, 2008). The drier woodland, dominated by oak and birch, is best referred to as W10c *Quercus robur* – *Rubus fruticosus* (oak – bramble) woodland, with *Hedera helix* (ivy) sub-community.

There are certain areas within the woodland where clearance has been carried out in the past or where storm damage has cleared areas of trees. Regeneration of new trees is now taking place in these areas. Species trying to take advantage of these areas include birch, oak, pine and sycamore. This regeneration needs to be controlled if the open areas, which are important for ground flora and some fauna, are to be maintained.

Holly, although native, is dominating many areas of the site to the extent that no other ground flora is able to survive. A greater diversity in holly structure needs to be maintained if more species of shrub and vascular plants are to be encouraged in the woodland. This is also the case for bramble which, although important for many species of invertebrates and birds, needs to be controlled to stop its spread into more open areas of the woodland.

Non-native species are present in many areas, threatening the wildlife value of the woods. These will dominate areas of the site if left unmanaged. The species causing the most threat are bamboo, cherry laurel, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and rhododendron. Many of these could have been garden outcasts. Eradication rather than control would be the most effective method of managing invasive species.

Surfaced paths run around and through the woodland as well as alongside the stream. Some of these paths however are in bad condition and in need of replacing. In areas where the paths are not surfaced at all the paths become muddy in the winter months making access even more difficult. The paths should ideally be replaced and kept in good condition to improve access for people as well as bikes, pushchairs and wheelchairs.

5.6 Streams and Watercourses

Several streams enter the park from the formal open space park area and enter the main stream which runs through the western side of the woods to the northern tip of the site where the park meets Kings Road. After this the stream runs through residential areas until it enters Fleet Pond Local Nature Reserve where it eventually runs into Fleet Pond itself which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This makes the stream an important feature for reducing local flood risks as it takes water from surrounding roads and storm drains. The stream is also an important part of the site as it has good wildlife value (herons and kingfisher are often seen along it) and it also links the site with the neighbouring nature reserve. There are also ditches in the woodland which flow into the stream when water levels are high enough and act as important features for reducing the flood risks for the nearby properties. The ditches also have a certain importance for wildlife such as frogs using them for spawning. By far the most wildlife rich water feature on the site is the pond area.

5.7 Pond Area

The pond is situated in the south-west corner of the woodland and is an important feature of the site. It can easily be viewed from the main path running through the site and the formal open space area adjacent to the woodland giving it a high amenity value. The pond is shaded by vegetation on most sides. Although some works have been carried out already to clear this vegetation, regular work is needed to keep it as open as possible to allow more light to the water. The pond has also suffered from leaf litter dropping into it from the surrounding vegetation. Regular work is also needed to dredge certain areas to maintain the depth of the water. Despite the work needed on the

pond it has a high wildlife value. It can be used for pond dipping activities as part of a Countryside Service education programme. Frogs and newts spawn every year in it and heron and kingfisher are also regular visitors. Dragonflies and damselflies are also known to use to pond to breed and many other invertebrates are found during pond dipping activities. The aquatic community of the pond is comparable to A24a *Juncus bulbosus* (bulbous rush) aquatic community, *Utricularia vulgaris* (bladderwort) subcommunity. A3 *Spirodela polyrhiza* – *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (greater duckweed – Frogbit) community is artificial as it has been created by introductions. A section of the pond also includes a stand of S12a *Typha latifolia* (reedmace) swamp.

5.8 Usage of the Site

5.8.1 For Recreation

The site is used mainly by local people for recreational purposes, such as walking dogs, jogging, cycling, playing etc. Friends of Oakley Park organise events in the park throughout the year to engage local people and to get them involved in the care and maintenance of the site. These events include park clean-ups, Easter egg hunts, coffee mornings, and guided wildlife walks. However, a site surrounded by urban development and therefore some people do create local problems. These include litter and fly-tipping. Fly-tipping is a problem as it may contain non-native species and garden plants which can colonise and spread, shading out native woodland species. Piles of waste will also smother ground vegetation. Litter and fly-tipping also give the appearance of untidiness and neglect.. Garden encroachment has been an issue.

5.8.2 For Education

The Pond area is used for pond dipping activities due to its high wildlife value. A pond dipping platform was installed on the bank of the pond in 2003 making Oakley Park one of the main sites for educational pond dipping. Friends of Oakley Park run events using educational activities to get children and adults alike involved in learning about nature.

5.9 Biological Diversity of the Site

The park and especially the woodland enjoys a wide variety of flora and fauna. More detail is set out in Appendix 3

Up to date biological information is limited and new surveys should to be carried out as a matter of urgency. A botanical survey was carried out in 2008 by local ecologist Chris Hall, the first detailed botanical list since the last survey in 1992. However, other groups such as fungi have not been recorded in over 15 years. An entomological assessment was carried out in 1995 as was a survey of birds in the woodland. However, aside from a few odonata records and general sightings, there are no up to date records. More work needs to be done in these areas.

6 **Community Involvement**

A well run and well supported Friends of Oakley Park Group is an important aspect of community involvement. The group, who meet on a regular basis, takes a keen interest and active role in the activities, events and horticultural work taking place in the park. The group has its own bank account and has adopted its own constitution which states:

The objectives of the Organisation shall be:

- To work towards maintaining and improving Oakley Park for the benefit of the local community in partnership with the local Council
- To promote the preservation and maintenance of Oakley Park woods and to promote their use as a public amenity and as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- In furtherance of the said objectives the Organisation may, through its Committee:
 - Collect annual subscriptions from its membership
 - Work with the local Council to:
 - Maintain and enhance the open space area
 - Control invasive non-native species of plants
 - Help maintain and enhance the structural diversity of the woodland and pond
 - Enhance the amenity and wildlife value
- To work towards promoting and developing the educational use of the site through activity sessions, signage and liaising with local schools and youth organisations
- Provide social events for members of the local community
- Raise money for improvements in the park and for providing community activity events
- Communicate with its members and the local community via newsletters, flyers, a website and the local press
- Hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions
- Make or commission surveys of the park and create maps or plans
- Develop partnerships with organisations with similar objectives to Friends of Oakley Park

Friends of Oakley Park will remain an integral part of the running of the park and also as a body that will actively seek to improve facilities, through fund raising and awareness of the needs of the community.

Other community groups-support the park. Fleet Pond Society and the Fleet and Church Crookham Civic Society also provide invaluable support. Friends of Oakley Park work closely with the other Friends groups in Fleet and Church Crookham.

7 Current Management Practices

Oakley Park is owned, managed and maintained by Fleet Town Council. While the Town Council funds and makes any final decisions on any management works that take place on the site, decisions are discussed thoroughly and agreed at liaison meetings with user groups of the site prior to being implemented.

A maintenance programme covering the whole area of the park was developed by Fleet Town Council via a new Grounds Maintenance contract awarded in 2011. The Contract Document comprising the Conditions of Contract, a Specification, a Preamble and a Bill of Quantities which can

be inspected at Fleet Town Council's Offices. The Ground Maintenance Contract embraces the routine work identified in the Oakley Park Management Plan 2009 – 2014 (Appendix 4)

All staff who carry out work at Oakley Park, possess relevant horticultural qualifications, and have been trained in areas such as Health & Safety, Handling of Hazardous Substances, and use of equipment/machinery.

8 Vision

The vision for the future of Oakley Park is described below:-

- 8.1 To promote the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of Oakley Park in its entirety.
- 8.2 To enhance and improve the conservation and biodiversity framework of the park and continue its status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- 8.3 To create a multi-purpose outdoor leisure facility, accessible and open to all, that will provide an attractive, safe and welcoming environment for a broad range of people regardless of age, gender or physical mobility.

9 Objectives

Objectives are specific aspirations which will need to be achieved if the overall vision is to be achieved.

9.1 Preservation and maintenance

- 9.1.1 A comprehensive inspection and maintenance programme to be developed beyond 2014 to guarantee that, as a minimum, Oakley Park maintains the status quo and that the status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) be maintained and improved.
- 9.1.2 Physical and financial resources need to be made available to prepare a new Management Plan covering the whole of the park for the period 2014 - 2019

9.2 Making the park more accessible

- 9.2.1 Improved pathways through the park from Albany Road to Kings Road.
This is a main thoroughfare for many people who use the park, including commuters and school children. Currently the unsurfaced section of path primarily through the woodland area gets very muddy in the winter. Improvements in keeping with the woodland setting are required. At present disabled access is difficult at times.
- 9.2.2 Improving the pathway around the pond
This pathway becomes extremely muddy and makes it difficult for people to enjoy the amenities at the pond at many times of the year. Improvements are required in keeping with the woodland setting.
- 9.2.3 Bridges.
See section 9.5.1
- 9.2.4 Woodland Benches
These need careful consideration to placement and type to enhance the environment. They could be created from existing materials on site when woodland work is undertaken.

- 9.2.5 Benches in the open area.
There are currently seven benches in the open area. The request for more benches came up in Friends of Oakley Park user survey. Some of the existing benches become very muddy underfoot and require appropriate local ground treatment to make them usable in all weather conditions.
- 9.2.6 Picnic Benches in the open area.
There are currently four picnic benches in the open area. The request for more picnic benches came up in Friends of Oakley Park user survey. There is room for another pair of picnic benches to complement the existing benches.
- 9.2.7 More planted areas.
There are currently two community gardens (maintained by Friends of Oakley Park), and an attractive shrubbery around the playground. However, the open space still needs further planting to enhance the park. There is scope for a minimum of two more planted areas: around the George Road entrance and in the NW corner of the open space. Plants must be chosen with both ecological and visual impact in mind.
- 9.2.8 Toilet facilities.
There are no public toilet facilities in the park. There are however toilets in the pavilion which are only available when the Footballers use the facilities. Requests are made fairly frequently for the provision of toilets and ideally these should be provided for the general public.

9.3 Health and Safety/Well Maintained

- 9.3.1 Signage
All redundant Hart District Council signs and their fixings should be removed and replaced with new Fleet Town Council signage. Signage should remain a positive feature and any negative signage should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- 9.3.2 Anti-social behaviour
Strong links between Friends of Oakley Park, Fleet Town Council and local beat officers should be maintained and encouraged. At present foliage from a tree partially blocks the view from the CCTV to the children's play area. This tree should be removed and a suitable replacement be planted out of line of sight between the camera and the play area.

9.4 Community Involvement

- 9.4.1 Friends of Oakley Park run many activities throughout the year including the Easter Egg hunt, educational activities and working parties. Support should be given to the group in terms of small grants and free access to the pavilion.
- 9.4.2 A centrally located tool bank should be created by Fleet Town Council for use by local voluntary groups so that they can run safe and effective working parties.

9.5 Sustainability and Management

- 9.5.1 Bridges
All of the concrete bridges in the park are an eyesore. Some will become dangerous due to erosion caused by the streams. Handrails become unstable despite repairs. Substantial refurbishment or replacement of these is needed. Access can be difficult across some of the bridges for those with impaired mobility and needs to be improved. Wooden structures would be more appropriate in this setting and any bridge replacements should be of this nature.

The bridge to the island is becoming eroded at both ends and is in need of repair/replacement.

9.5.2 Stream banking

Much of the banking in the formal area of the park is unstable and likely to collapse with little provocation and some of it has become an eyesore. Repairing/improving the banking is a substantial project. The stream is becoming colonised by Signal Crayfish – an invasive, non-native species which can greatly undermine stream banks. Inspections of the banks must take place at regularly scheduled intervals.

9.5.3 Paths

The metalled paths throughout the park have become uneven and are in need of immediate repair.

The central path through the formal open area is becoming eroded at the edges and needs to be replaced. The present pathway, at the Burnside entrance, is subject to localised flooding. To facilitate disability access through the park the path needs to be wider than at present.

The metalled pathway around the perimeter of the formal open area needs to be extended from the children's play area through to the NE quadrant of the formal open area to form a continuous pathway around the perimeter of the park.

9.5.4 Non-native invasive plant species.

Areas of the formal open area of the park require regular inspection to identify and remove non-native plant species. The removal of all garden rubbish and fly tipping is essential to the prevention of further colonisation of invasive species.

9.6 Recreation and Sport.

9.6.1 Change of Use of Sports Pavilion

The sports pavilion should be extended so it can be used as a multi-functional pavilion. It is envisioned this would enable local community groups to use the pavilion as well as football teams and Friends of Oakley Park.

9.6.2 Install Play Equipment Age 8+

Currently there is not enough equipment for older children to keep them adequately entertained and active. When park users were asked in a recent survey by Friends of Oakley Park what improvements they would like to see this was the most frequent concern. New play equipment should be installed.

9.6.3 Young children's play area

Some of the play equipment is starting to become outdated. To ensure that the playground remains within modern standards and any worn out/broken equipment should be replaced with different equipment to keep interest fresh in the park.

New safety surfaces where installed should ensure that they do not cause a trip hazard.

9.7 Woodland General

9.7.1 Friends of Oakley Park hold working party sessions in the woodland. In recent years the focus has been on the area in and around the pond. The focus is now on a glade in the south east of the woods. It has an attractive large fallen tree and fairly good light. It needs trees

taking down from the south to allow more light. A considerable amount of holly needs to be removed.

- 9.7.2 More glades need to be created and a ride needs to be opened up along the path down the centre of the woodland to create structural diversity within the woodland. Woodland management should not concentrate purely on tree safety but needs to look at all aspects of woodland, including open formal areas and low level plants.

- 9.7.3 Financial sustainability could be explored as part of the woodland review. There may be opportunities for a community firewood cooperative to be created. Although the woodland is relatively small, the sum total of woodland managed by Fleet Town Council is of substantial size and this woodland should not be considered in isolation but as part of an overall woodland programme.

APPENDIX 1 Map of Oakley to be updated.



APPENDIX 2 Deed of Gift

Typed version of Deed of Gift document, copy of which was located in the archives of Fleet and Crookham Local History Group (Yvonne Wyatt, Archivist) and received by FOP September 2012 - accuracy not guaranteed.

25th February, 1920

James Oakley

To

The Urban District Council of Fleet

DEED OF GIFT

Freehold land in Albany Road Fleet, Hants
A public park

This indenture made the twenty-fifth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty BETWEEN James Oakley of Fleet in the County of Southampton, Gentleman, hereinafter called the Donor of the one part and The Urban District Council of Fleet aforesaid (hereinafter called the Council) of the other part WITNESSETH that the Donor hereby freely and voluntarily gives and conveys unto the Council All that piece of land situate in the Parish of Fleet in the County of Southampton and having a frontage to Albany Road of three hundred and seventy feet or thereabouts and an area of Five acres or thereabouts which said piece of land is delineated in the plan drawn hereon and is thereon coloured pink and green TO HOLD Unto and to the use of the Council in fee simple to be used for ever hereafter as a Public Park and Recreation Ground for the Inhabitants of Fleet and the neighbourhood thereof and the public generally under the control and management of the Council but subject to an Indenture of Lease dated the 24th day of February One thousand Nine hundred and twenty and made between the said James Oakley of the one part and Colonel George Sloane Thomson, The Reverend Hendry Charles Robins, James Oakley, Harold Oakley, Alfred James Woodford, Percy Vass, Albert Edward May Ernest Nash and Robert Wellstead Miller of the other part whereby the land coloured Green on the said plan was demised for the term therein mentioned at the annual rent of one shilling IN WITNESS whereof the Donor shall hereto set his hand and seal and the Council hath caused its Common Seal to be hereto affixed the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered by
The above named James Oakley in the presence

of ?Chatfield Valetta, Connaught Road, Fleet, Hants.,
Acting Paymaster

Ernest Nash (?) Solicitor, Fleet, Hants,

The common Seal of the Council was hereto affixed
In the present of George Elner (?)
Chairman

W. H. Wright?
Clerk to the Council

Enrolled on the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales under
Section 6 (2) of the Mortmain (?) and Charitable Uses Act 1888 and Section 1 of the
Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act Amendment Act 1892 by order of the Board dated
the Fourth day of May 1920 (Vol. 9 to 364)

G.C. Bower
Secretary

The following amendments also appear:

It is certified that the transaction effected by the within Deed does not form part of a
larger transaction or of a series of transactions in respect of which the amount or
value or the aggregate amount or value of the property conveyed or transferred
exceeds five hundred pounds (signed James Oakley, WH Wright.

Memorandum

By a Deed of Grant dated the (4th?) 7th March 1961 made between the within named
Urban District Council of Fleet (Council) (1) and Edward Vladimir Fraser and Sally
Elizabeth Fraser (Grantees) (2) the Council granted to the Grantees an easement to
lay a drain across part of the within described land together with ancillary rights of
entry maintenance and repairs connected therewith subject to the covenants on the
part of the Grantees to be performed and observed therein contained and the usual
acknowledgement production and delivery.....

By a Deed of Grant dated the 8th of August 1969 made between the within named
Council (1) and Humphreys Homes Limited (company) (2) the Council granted to the
Company an easement to lay construct and maintain a private foul sewer and
surface water drain across part of the within described land together with the

ancillary rights connected therewith subject to certain covenants on the part of the company.....

APPENDIX 3 BIODIVERSITY

A3.1 Trees and Shrubs

Trees are the dominant feature of the woodland with wetter areas being dominated by alder and willow and the driest areas being mainly oak, Scots pine and silver birch. Species such as sweet chestnut, beech and sycamore are also present in fairly good numbers. The under storey is dominated mainly by holly. Cherry laurel, rhododendron and sycamore are also fairly dominant in some areas.

A3.2 Vascular plants

In many areas the ground flora is dominated by bramble, ivy and stinging nettles. There is a greater diversity of flora in the more open areas including a good number of species such as foxgloves. In the Phase 2 survey by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), 17 ancient woodland indicator species were noted, including bluebell, wild garlic, yellow pimpernel, giant fescue, remote sedge and wood speedwell.

A detailed botanical survey by Chris Hall in 2008, commissioned by Friends of Oakley Park, identified 157 species including 37 trees and shrubs, 85 herbs and 40 wetland plants. This survey also identified 24 introduced species not naturally occurring in the British Isles. A few species of conservation interest were recorded including Frogbit, a British Red Data List species and classified as vulnerable, and Greater bladderwort which has become scarce in lowland England. Both of these species were introduced into the pond and have become well established. They still flourish today. Some uncommon sedges were also recorded including Hop sedge, Star sedge and Green-ribbed sedge.

A3.3 Birds

A large number of woodland birds have been recorded on the site and this is most likely due to the diversity in the woodland structure. A bird survey was carried out by G Rowland in 1995. From 1991 – 1995 there are records from local bird watchers listing 47 species present.

A3.4 Mammals

The woodland is also used by a number of mammal species. Bats make use of the woods and the areas of water and species such as common pipistrelle and daubenton's have been identified using bat detectors. Bat boxes, purchased by Friends of Oakley Park, have also been put up throughout the woodland to create further roosting places for the bats. Other mammals known to use the site include grey squirrels and foxes; however a small mammal survey has never been carried out.

A3.5 Amphibians and Reptiles

Common frogs and newts breed in the pond every year. Palmate and smooth newts have both been caught during pond dipping activities.

A3.6 Butterflies

Up until 2008 there are only casual observations of species such as brimstone, comma, peacock, speckled wood, green-veined whites and orange tips.

A3.7 Odonata

There is also limited recordings for dragonflies and damselflies. However 4 counts were carried out between 1993 and 1995 by Chris Hall and 5 species were recorded. The large-red damselfly, azure damselfly and the common darter were all found often in large numbers and were therefore likely to be breeding on site. The southern hawkler and late hawkler were seen in smaller numbers. In summer 1996, 11 species were recorded on site including the beautiful demoiselle and the broad-bodied chaser.

A3.8 Other Invertebrates

A few notable species of invertebrates were recorded by Mike Edwards in his 1995 survey. The thick headed fly *Conops vesicularis*, a nationally scarce species associated with heaths and heathy woodlands and *Parhelophilus fruteorum*, a local species of hoverfly associated with bulrushes (Edwards, 1995). However, whether these species still remain is unknown. The 16-spot and 7-spot ladybirds have been noted in the woods. Other diving beetles have been found in the pond including the great diving beetle, one of Britain's largest beetles. Other invertebrates found include water boatman, pond skaters, water louse, water fleas, freshwater shrimps, water stick insect, caddis fly larvae, plumed gnat larvae, phantom midge larvae, pond snails and freshwater limpets on stones in the stream (Chris Hall, 1997).

A3.9 Fungi

Woodlands are always an important habitat for fungi as they contain all the right conditions such as standing deadwood and dead wood on the ground. 53 species were recorded in 1995 (Chris Hall, 1995). However, it is very likely that the wood supports hundreds of species and many species are notoriously difficult to identify in the field. At least 4 species of myxomycetes were also recorded however specialist knowledge is needed to fully study this group (Chris Hall, 1995). Myxomycetes are commonly known as true slime moulds and are fungus-like protists usually occurring in decaying plant matter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Some of the above data have been extracted from Joanna Lawrence's
"Oakley Park Management Plan 2009-2014"*

APPENDIX 4 Current Woodland Management Plan to be attached.

Oakley Park Management Plan

2009 - 2014



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1. Introduction

1.1 Woodland Management

Woodland has dominated Britain since the end of the last ice age. After the ice retreated and the climate warmed, trees began once again to colonise the land. Species that colonised at this time, around 8000 years ago, are known as native trees. There are around 33 of these species including silver birch, scots pine, English oak, common alder and ash. In 1998, 11.6% of Britain was covered by woodland according to a survey carried out by the Forestry Commission. This was an increase from 9.2% in 1980 (Starr, 2005).

Oakley Park can be categorised as semi-natural woodland. This category can be characterised by the regeneration of native species, often on areas that were formally moors or heathlands, as is the case here (Starr, 2005).

Woodlands now create an important habitat for wildlife as well as areas that people can also enjoy. As with all habitats, creating diversity within the wood will increase the biodiversity. Therefore the structure of the wood is important and needs to be maintained to improve the wildlife value.

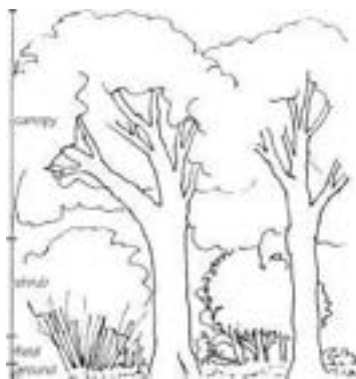
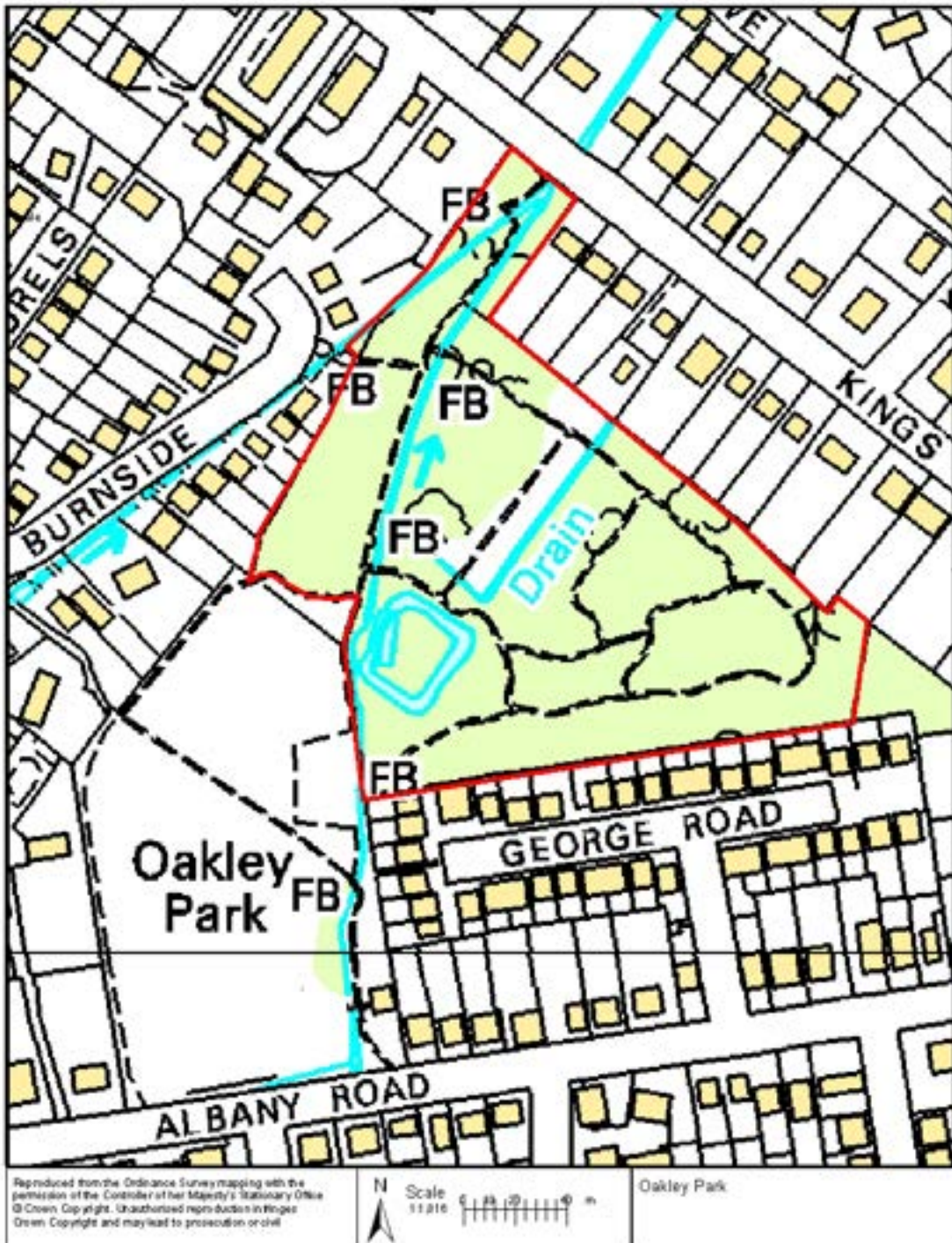





Figure 1; Woodland Structure

The structure of a woodland is comprised of 4 layers, the first being the canopy layer formed by the tops of the tallest trees. The shrub layer, (2m - 5m), is formed by the smaller trees and the tallest shrubs. Invasive species such as rhododendron and holly can often smother out the shrub layer when they become too big and management is needed to control these. The field layer, (up to 2m high), includes larger herbs such as bracken, as well as smaller species such as bluebells and wood sorrel. This layer is more often found in more open areas where there is plenty of light, therefore clearings and rides where these herbs can grow should be maintained and enhanced within the woodland. Anything growing up to 10cm is classed as the ground layer. This includes fungi, mosses, seedlings of larger herbs and trees and also any deadwood on the ground. This layer provides an important component of the woodland ecosystem in terms of the recycling of nutrients.

Any deadwood should ideally be left in-situ as it provides habitats for many invertebrates as well as fungi and mosses. Woodland management is therefore important to maintain the structure and safety of the woodland so that it can be used by people and wildlife alike.

1.2 Site Map



-  Site Boundary
-  Water Courses
- FB** Foot Bridge
-  Foot Paths

1.3 Aims

The aims of the management carried out in the woods is to maintain and enhance the habitats found within the woodland for the wildlife, including the flora, fauna and fungi found on the site. To enhance the pond area and the clearings and glades within the woodland. To enhance the area of wet woodland due its importance as a UK BAP priority habitat. And to maintain a safe and enjoyable amenity for local people to use.

1.4 General Site Information

1.4.1 Location and Access

Oakley Park covers 2.08 hectares (5 acres) and situated near to the centre of Fleet, Hampshire. The grid reference is SU 815541. The Park consists of a formal park area, (0.83 hectares, 2 acres), with a children's play area, other play equipment and a football pitch, and to the north east of the formal park is the woodland area (1.25 hectares, 3 acres). The site is surrounded by housing. There are metalled paths around and through the site and access is gained from Albany Road to the south, George Road to the south-east, Kings Road from the North and Burnside to the West. Hart District Council has established an open access policy for the site.

1.4.2 History of the Site

The area of Fleet in which Oakley Park now lies was once dominated by the heathland that was Crookham Common. Some evidence of this past remains and heathland plant species can still be found in the woodland, although most of these have been shaded out by the trees and scrub which now dominate. The usage of the site began to change around the turn of the 20th century. A survey from 1896 shows that this land was being used as a nursery and an orchard, and that parts remained as a wet heath. The pond was also in existence at this time and was known as the "fish pond". This pond was abandoned for many years until it was cleared out by the Friends of Oakley Park in 1992. Around 1920, records show mixed woodland on the site. The woods therefore are not ancient although some ancient woodland indicator species have been recorded. The land at this time was in the ownership of the Oakley family, who donated it for public recreation use in 1923. By 1930 the whole area was wooded. We can therefore calculate that these woods are around 70-90 years old. There is no evidence that the woods were ever coppiced, or indeed that any formal management has taken place on site. The primary use of the site is that it has been used as an amenity by the local community since it was handed over to the people of Fleet by the Oakley family.

1.4.3 Conservation Status

Oakley Park woods are designated as a SINC, (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation), due to the considerable biological and historical interest of the woods, and the site's community value.

1.5 Description of Site

1.5.1 Woodland

The structure of the woodland varies throughout the site. In the wetter areas species such as alder and willow are the most common. Drier areas are dominated by Scots pine, silver birch, oak and holly. Other tree species present in smaller numbers include hornbeam, sycamore, beech and hazel. The area of wet woodland is a UK BAP priority habitat due to the decline of this type of woodland, and therefore needs careful management to enhance and maintain it. The areas of wetter woodland are comparable to **W6e**, *Alnus glutinosus* – *Urtica dioica* (alder – stinging nettle) woodland, *Betula pubescens* (downy birch) sub-community. A section of the woodland adjacent to the Stream is closer to the **W6b** *Salix fragilis* (crack willow) sub-community. (Hall, 2008).

The drier woodland, dominated by oak and birch, is best referred to as **W10c** *Quercus robur* – *Rubus fruticosus* (oak – bramble) woodland, with *Hedera helix* (ivy) sub-community.

There are certain areas within the woodland where clearance has been carried out in the past or where storm damage has cleared areas of trees. Regeneration of new trees is now taking place in these areas. Species trying to take advantage of these areas include birch, oak, pine and sycamore. This regeneration needs to be controlled if the open areas, which are important for ground flora and some fauna, are to be maintained.

Holly, although native, is dominating many areas of the site to the extent that no other ground flora is able to survive. A greater diversity in holly structure needs to be maintained if more species of shrub and vascular plants are to be encouraged in the woodland. This is also the case for bramble which, although important for many species of invertebrates and birds, needs to be controlled to stop its spread into more open areas of the woodland.

Non-native species are present in many areas, threatening the wildlife value of the woods. These will dominate areas of the site if left unmanaged. The species causing the most threat are bamboo, cherry laurel, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and rhododendron. Many of these could have been garden outcasts. Eradication rather than control would be the most effective method of managing invasive species.

Surfaced paths run around and through the woodland as well as alongside the stream. Some of these paths however are in bad condition and in need of replacing. In areas where the paths are not surfaced at all, the paths become muddy in the winter months making access even more difficult. The paths

should ideally be replaced and kept in good condition to improve access for people as well as bikes, pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Several streams enter the park from the open space park area, and enter the main stream which runs through the western side of the woods to the northern tip of the site where the park meets Kings Road. After this the stream runs through residential areas until it enters Fleet Pond LNR where it eventually runs into the SSSI Pond itself. This makes the stream an important feature for reducing local flood risks as it takes water from surrounding roads and storm drains. The stream is also an important part of the site as it has good wildlife value (kingfisher are often seen along it,) and it also links the site with a neighbouring nature reserve. There are also ditches in the woodland which flow into the stream when water levels are high enough. These also act as important features for reducing the flood risks for the nearby properties. The ditches also have a certain importance for wildlife, such as frogs using them for spawning. By far the most wildlife rich water feature on the site is the pond area.

1.5.2 Pond Area

The pond is situated in the south-east corner of the woodland and is an important feature of the site as it can easily be viewed from the main path running through the site and the open space area adjacent to the woodland, giving it a high amenity value. The pond is shaded by vegetation on most sides and although some works have been carried out already to clear this vegetation, regular work is needed to keep it as open as possible to allow more light to the water. The pond has also suffered from leaf litter dropping into it from the surrounding vegetation. Regular work is also needed to dredge certain areas to maintain the depth of the water. Despite the work needed on the pond, it has a high wildlife value and is used for pond dipping activities as part of the Countryside Service education programme. Frogs and newts spawn every year in it and heron and kingfisher are also regular visitors. Dragonflies and damselflies are also known to use to pond to breed and many other invertebrates are found during pond dipping activities. The aquatic community of the pond is comparable to **A24a** *Juncus bulbosus* (bulbous rush) aquatic community, *Utricularia vulgaris* (bladderwort) sub-community. **A3** *Spirodela polyrhiza* – *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (greater duckweed – Frogbit) community is artificial as it has been created by introductions. A section of the pond also includes a stand of **S12a** *Typha latifolia* (reedmace) swamp.

1.5.3 Usage of Site by People

The site is used mainly by local people for recreational purposes, such as walking dogs, jogging, cycling etc. A local community group called the Friends of Oakley Park organise events in the park throughout the year to engage local people and to get them involved in the care and maintenance of the site. These events include park clean-ups, Easter egg hunts, coffee

mornings, and guided wildlife walks. The Friends of Oakley Park also work alongside the countryside rangers, making a strong partnership between the local community and the Council.

However, a site surrounded by urbanised development and therefore many people, does create some problems. These include litter and fly-tipping. Fly-tipping is a problem as it may contain non-native species and garden plants which can colonise and spread, shading out native woodland species. Piles of waste will also smother ground vegetation. Litter and fly-tipping also give the appearance of untidiness and neglect, making the site appear more as a dumping ground than a woodland.

1.5.4 Usage of Site for Education

Hart Countryside Service runs an education programme in the summer months involving local school children. The Pond area is used for pond dipping activities due to its high wildlife value. A pond dipping platform was installed on the bank of the pond in 2003 making Oakley Park the main site for educational pond dipping. The Friends of Oakley Park also run events using educational activities to get children and adults alike involved in learning about nature.

1.6 Biological

Up to date biological information is limited and new surveys need to be carried out. A botanical survey was carried out in 2008 by local ecologist Chris Hall, the first detailed botanical list since the last survey in 1992. However, other groups such as fungi have not been recorded in over 10 years. An entomological assessment was carried out in 1995, as was a survey of birds in the woodland. However, aside from a few odonata records and general sightings, there are no up to date records.

1.6.1 Flora

Trees and Shrubs

Trees are the dominant feature of the woodland, with wetter areas being dominated by alder and willow and the driest areas being mainly oak, Scot's pine and silver birch. Species such as sweet chestnut, beech and sycamore are also present in fairly good numbers. The under storey is dominated mainly by holly. Cherry laurel, rhododendron and sycamore are also fairly dominant in some areas.

Vascular plants

In many areas, the ground flora is dominated by bramble, ivy and stinging-nettles. There is a greater diversity of flora in the more open areas including a good number of species such as foxgloves. In a recent Phase 2 survey by

HBIC, 17 ancient woodland indicator species were noted, including bluebell, wild garlic, yellow pimpernel, giant fescue, remote sedge and wood speedwell.

A detailed botanical survey by Chris Hall in 2008, commissioned by The Friends of Oakley Park, identified 157 species including 37 trees and shrubs, 85 herbs and 40 wetland plants. This survey also identified 24 introduced species, not naturally occurring in the British Isles. A few species of conservation interest were recorded, including Frogbit, a British Red Data List species and classified as vulnerable and Greater bladderwort, which has become scarce in lowland England. Both of these species were introduced into the pond, but both have become well established and still survive in the pond today. Some uncommon sedges were also recorded, including Hop sedge, Star sedge and Green-ribbed sedge.

1.6.2 Fauna

Birds

A large number of woodland birds have been recorded on the site and this is most likely due to the diversity in the woodland structure. A bird survey was carried out by G Rowland in 1995. From 1991 – 1995 there are records from local bird watchers listing 47 species present.

Mammals

The woodland is also used by a number of mammal species. Bats make use of the woods and the areas of water and species such as common pipistrelle and daubenton's have been identified using bat detectors. Bat boxes, purchased by The Friends of Oakley Park, have also been put up throughout the woodland to create further roosting places for the bats. Other mammals known to use the site include grey squirrels and foxes however a small mammal survey has never been carried out.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Common frogs and newts breed in the pond every year. Palmate and smooth newts have both been caught during pond dipping activities.

Butterflies

Up until 2008, there are only casual observations of species such as brimstone, comma, peacock, speckled wood, green-veined whites and orange tips.

Odonata

There is also limited recording for dragonflies and damselflies. However 4 counts were carried out between 1993 and 1995 by Chris Hall and 5 species were recorded; the large-red damselfly, azure damselfly, and the common darter were all found often in large numbers and were therefore likely to be breeding on site. The southern hawker and late hawker were seen in smaller

numbers. In summer 1996, 11 species were recorded on site including the beautiful demoiselle and the broad-bodied chaser.

Other Invertebrates

A few notable species of invertebrates were recorded by Mike Edwards in his 1995 survey. The thick headed fly *Conops vesicularis*, a nationally scarce species associated with heaths and heathy woodlands and *Parhelophilus fruteorum*, a local species of hoverfly associated with bulrushes (Edwards, 1995). However, whether these species still remain is unknown.

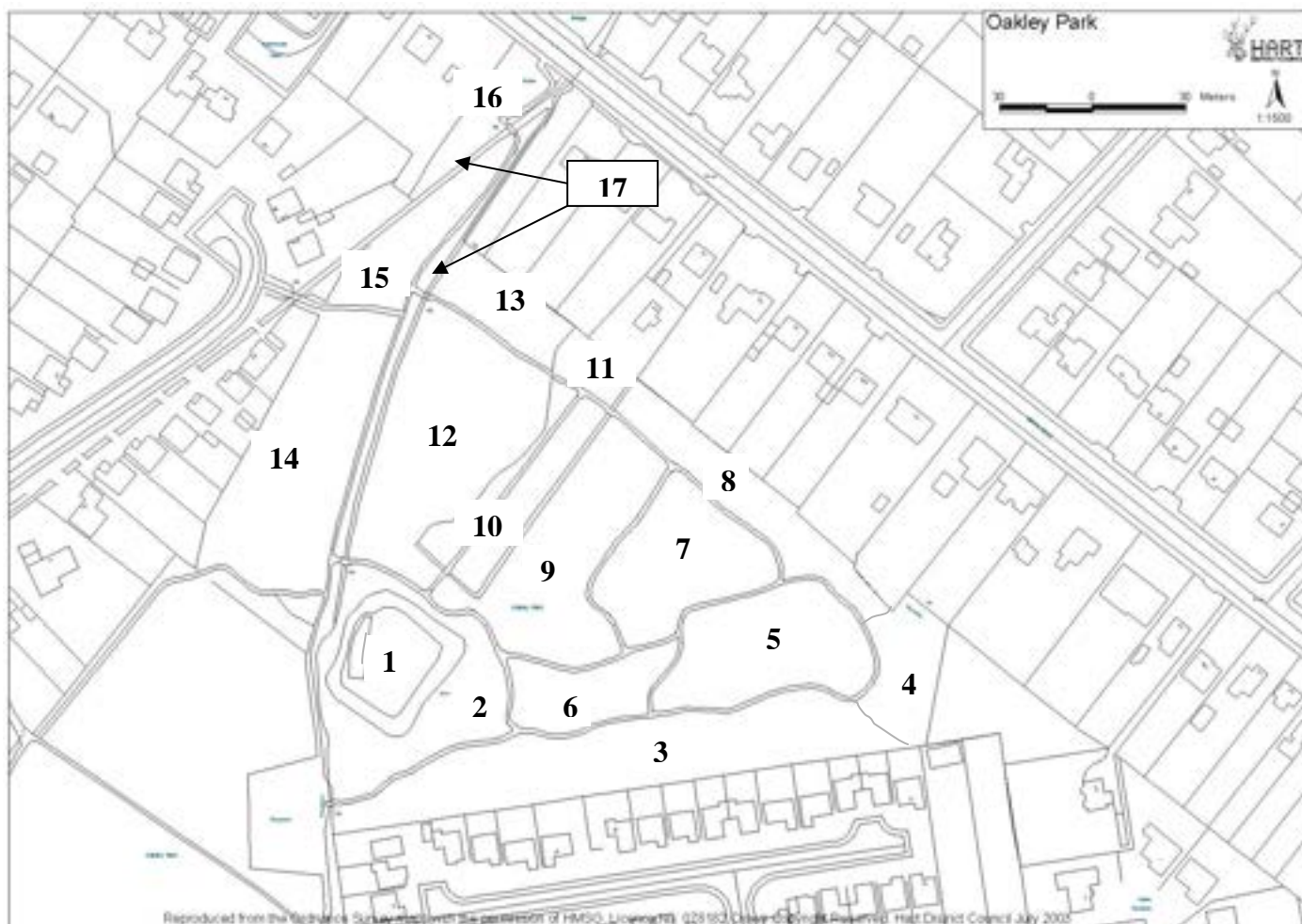
The 16-spot and 7-spot ladybirds have been noted in the woods. Other diving beetles have been found in the pond, including the great diving beetle, one of Britain's largest beetles. Other invertebrates found in the pond include water boatman, pond skaters, water louse, water fleas, freshwater shrimps, water stick insect, caddis fly larvae, plumed gnat larvae, phantom midge larvae, pond snails and freshwater limpets on stones in the stream (Chris Hall, 1997).

1.6.3 Fungi

Woodlands are always an important habitat for fungi as they contain all the right conditions such as standing deadwood and dead wood on the ground. 53 species were recorded in 1995 (Chris Hall, 1995). However, it is very likely that the wood supports hundreds of species and many species are notoriously difficult to identify in the field. At least 4 species of myxomycetes were also recorded however specialist knowledge is needed to fully study this group (Chris Hall, 1995). Myxomycetes are commonly known as true slime moulds and are fungus-like protists, usually occurring in decaying plant matter.

2. Management

2.1 Management Compartments



Comp't	Description
1	The pond and island. The pond is circular with a narrow bridge over to the island which is half covered in vegetation, including bramble small birches and a large dead pine. The pond itself is surrounded by small scrub and some larger trees. It is fairly full of leaf litter but is still rich in aquatic wildlife. However, over recent years the quality of the pond has deteriorated and plant species in the pond have decreased, as indicated in Chris Hall's survey of 2008.
2	The area surrounding the pond. This area is fairly open to the east of the pond due to an area of rhododendron being cleared. However ground vegetation is still sparse due to the dense overhead canopy. To the south, there are large trees plus holly and scrub which shade the pond. Along the other banks there is

	also small trees and scrub which shade the pond and drop leaf litter, adding to the degradation of the pond. There is a patch of rhododendron to the south of the pond, needing to be cleared.
3	This is stretch of mixed woodland between the main path and the properties of George Road. It is dominated by birch and oak, creating a dense canopy cover. Holly is also dense in many areas with cherry laurel and rhododendron present in patches.
4	This area, dominated by pine, oak and birch, is the eastern most point of the site. There is a very dense patch of holly here but also a small clearing where a dying beech has been removed.
5	Area 5 is dominated by large oaks, birch and pine, with a dense under storey of holly and tree saplings. Any small openings there may be in the shrub layer are dominated by bramble.
6	This area contains a few large birches with a few smaller oaks, mainly alongside the paths surrounding the compartment. The centre is more open but is dominated by bramble. The western point of the compartment where there is more bare ground contains young rhododendron and cherry laurel.
7	Compartment 7 is similar in structure to 5, being dominated by large oaks, birches, and pines and a dense under storey of holly. However, the section of compartment 7 which borders 6 and 9 is a more open glade. There is more light getting in here, meaning there is a good patch of vegetation growing including grasses, foxgloves and other herbaceous vegetation. There are also tree saplings growing here which should be removed to maintain the glade. There are also small birches and oaks in this open section which could be removed to increase the opening. The ground is already bare in places where rhododendron has been removed in the past. However young cherry laurel is growing here also and should be removed.
8	This compartment lies between the main circular path and the properties on Kings Road. There are some very large pines in this area along with birches. There are also young sycamore saplings growing here. The shrub layer is dominated by holly and brambles.
9	Compartment 9 contains a dense and tall area of holly which would benefit the woodland greatly if it were removed as the opening and glade in area 7 would be increased. There are few other trees in this patch except for some very large pines that border the ditch. The rest of section 9 which borders area 8 is general mixed woodland of mainly birch and oak with brambles and more holly.
10	Area 10 is an open ride with a path running the length of it. It was probably created as the result of storm damage. It is surrounded by tall trees, mainly alder, birch and some willow, but despite this is fairly light. It is wet and boggy in some areas and therefore has wetland plants growing. In drier areas it is dominated by nettles in the summer months, with some herbs mainly alongside the path where the nettles have been cut back. Further management such as mowing would be of benefit to this compartment.

	There is a ditch running around section 10, dividing it from section 9 and part of 12. The wettest patches of 10 are next to this ditch.
11	This compartment is fairly open and lies between a path, ditch and an area of larger alder trees. It also borders a property. There are a few small oaks here but it is dominated by bare ground in the winter and herb vegetation in the summer months. The ditch also separates sections 11 and 8.
12	Compartment 12 is an area of alder carr wet woodland. Alder is the dominant species of tree here, along with some birches and willows. There is also an under storey of holly in the half bordering compartment 10 which over time will become denser. In the other half bordering the stream, the shrub layer is dominated by brambles. Although there are some boggy wet patches in this area, which contain some wetland plant species. Wet woodland is a UK BAP priority habitat and therefore this area should be improved wherever possible. The increase in bramble and holly in this area indicates that it may be drying out. Therefore, work needs to be done on surrounding water features such as the ditches to keep water in this area rather than letting it all drain away.
13	This area is drier than compartment 12 and they are separated by a path. Alder is still the dominant species of tree along with some very large pines which border onto properties on Kings Road. There is some holly and bramble in this area. This area is also a UK BAP priority habitat and therefore work should also be done here to ensure that it retains more water.
14	Compartment 14 is dominated by pine and oak with an under storey of patches of holly and bramble. This section borders the backs of properties on Burnside.
15	As 14. 14 and 15 are divided by a footpath from Burnside into the park.
16	Area 16 is a slightly wetter area than 14 and 15. There is much less holly in this compartment, although quite a lot of bramble. Some wet patches contain wetland plants. Birch is the dominant tree species here, with some small oaks and smaller saplings of sycamore, horse chestnut and beech.
17	The stream (and ditch). The stream is generally shallow, with fairly high banks which are partly covered by vegetation. It runs through the woodland, meeting another section of stream which comes from a residential area at the northern most point of the site. Concrete footbridges pass over the stream at 4 points. The ditch runs through compartments 12, 10, 11 and 13, and drains into the stream. The paths run over the ditch at 2 points. The stream and ditches are important as they reduce the risks of local flooding. They drain water away from roads and nearby properties, making maintenance a high priority. Ditches are cleared by a contractor employed by Hart District Council.

2.2 Management of Site Features

Each compartment contains certain features that management tasks will focus on to enhance and maintain.

2.2.1 Management Objectives

In order to enhance and maintain the features of the site, 6 objectives have been identified.

1. To enhance and maintain the structural diversity of the woodland to benefit the wildlife.

- Create and maintain as wide a range of habitats within the woodland as possible.
- Maintain structural diversity of the woodland by removal of dominant species such as holly and bramble.
- Remove areas of holly to allow more light in, and so benefit ground flora, shrubs and younger trees.
- Manage UK BAP habitats (such as wet woodland) wherever possible to enhance and maintain them.
- Retain deadwood wherever possible.

2. To enhance and maintain the wildlife and amenity value of areas of standing water and water courses.

- Remove scrub from the edge of the pond to prevent leaf litter falling in as much as possible and to prevent shading of the water.
- Carry out periodic dredging of the pond to maintain the depth of the water.
- Keep ditches clear of debris such as logs and leaf litter.
- Keep stream clear of blockages and debris.
- Remove invasive species such as rhododendron, cherry laurel, Himalayan balsam and skunk cabbage from the island and banks of the pond, the stream and ditches.

3. To enhance and maintain open areas, rides and glades within the woodland.

- Control bramble in open areas to prevent its spread, while retaining patches of it as a nectar source for invertebrates.
- Control and remove any invasive plant species present.
- Increase light levels to the ground flora by removing tree saplings and selected larger trees.
- Maintain open areas by carrying out periodic cutting or mowing of grass.

4. To control and eradicate non-native invasive plant species.
 - Cut and remove non-native plant species.
 - Treat stump with pesticide to prevent re-growth.
 - Remove garden rubbish and fly tipping to prevent further colonisation of invasive species.

5. To stop any misuse of the site, i.e. Fly-tipping and vandalism.
 - Clear any fly-tipping to avoid invasive species taking hold, and to avoid encouraging others to fly-tip.
 - Use posters and publicity where necessary to highlight and stop the problem.
 - Repair any breakages as a result of vandalism where possible, or remove from site any hazards resulting from vandalism.
 - Remove from site any other objects dumped, i.e. objects used for building camps etc.

6. To create and maintain an enjoyable and safe amenity for the local community.
 - Keep paths open by cutting the edges back in the summer months.
 - Maintain the surfaces of paths and bridges.
 - Remove any dangerous trees near to paths or properties.
 - Litter pick regularly to maintain cleanliness.
 - Keep pond, stream and ditches clear of debris and blockages.
 - Maintain open views in the pond and glade areas.

2.2.2 Discussion of Site Features

The main feature of the site is the woodland itself, of which there is two types; the dry mixed woodland and wet woodland, or willow and alder carr. Other features include the pond area, streams and ditches and the clearings and glades. Each feature requires its own form of management to maintain and enhance it.

Feature 1; Willow and Alder Carr



Figure 2; Alder trees with under storey of bramble

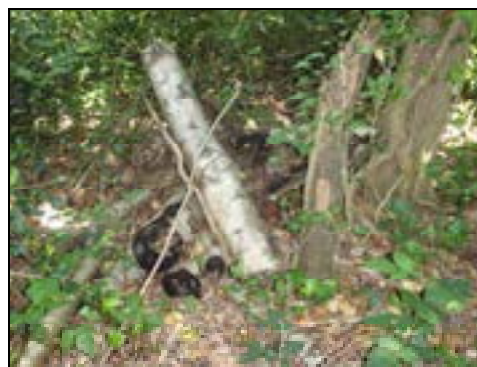


Figure 3; A log pile

Compartments	12, 13
Description	This area is the wettest of the whole site. It lies between the stream and ditch system. It is dominated by alder, willow and birch and has an under storey of holly. Ground flora is limited to the edges of this section where the wood meets the paths and more light is available. This area does not suffer from much misuse such as fly-tipping or littering.
Vision	This section of woodland is a UK BAP priority habitat and therefore should be managed to maintain and enhance this important habitat. This management should mean that water tables in this section remain high and that there is a reduction in the amount of bramble and holly, creating more diversity in ground vegetation. Any invasive species should be removed.
Objectives	1: To enhance and maintain the structural diversity of the woodland to benefit the wildlife. 4: To control and eradicate non-native invasive plant species. 6: To create and maintain an enjoyable and safe amenity for the local community.
Management	The ditch surrounding this area needs to be managed in a way that will retain more water in this section of woodland. Sluice gates or notch weirs could be put in place to ensure that water does not drain away from the area as rapidly, while ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased. Holly and bramble need to be removed to open the wood up to more light and to increase the structural diversity of the woodland. Any invasive species found in this area should be removed. Dead wood will be retained wherever possible. Any dead, dying or dangerous trees near to paths would be removed for public safety. All paths surrounding this section would be kept open and clear of hazards.

	Vegetation growing over the paths would be strimmed back where necessary.		
Tasks	Ranger tasks	Management of water features to retain water.	2 days
		Removal of dead, dying or dangerous trees	As and when (Aprox 3 days per yr for whole site)
		Strimming paths	2 days
	Volunteer tasks	Removal of holly and alien species	2 days
	Contractor tasks	Removal of dead, dying or dangerous trees.	As and when (Aprox 3-4 days per yr for whole site)
Monitoring	Botanical surveying should take place to establish whether management has been successful. Management should result in the increase in abundance and diversity of flora as well as a higher water table.		

Feature 2; Dry Mixed Woodland

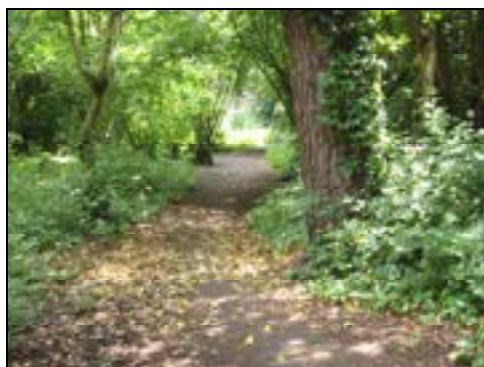


Figure 4; Path leading through dry woodland



Figure 5; Holly in the dry woodland

Compartments	2-9, 14-16
Description	Dry woodland covers the majority of the site, the dominant species being birch, Scot's pine and oak. Much of the woodland contains a dense under storey of holly and some bramble. Ground vegetation is limited.

Vision	The main task would be to reduce the amount of holly in some areas to increase the amount of light getting to the ground. The structural diversity of the woodland needs to be increased and enhanced so as to benefit the wildlife of the woodland. Ground vegetation also needs to be increased wherever possible.		
Objectives	1: To enhance and maintain the structural diversity of the woodland to benefit the wildlife. 4: To control and eradicate non-native invasive plant species. 5: To stop any misuse of the site. 6: To create and maintain an enjoyable and safe amenity for the local community.		
Management	Patches of holly will be removed to increase light levels and improve the structure of the woodland. Invasive species such as rhododendron and cherry laurel should be removed. Any dead, dying or dangerous trees near to paths should be made safe and dead wood will be retained wherever possible. In the summer months, any vegetation growing over paths will be strimmed back.		
Tasks	Ranger tasks	Clearance of holly and alien species.	4 days
		Removal of dead, dying or dangerous trees.	As and when (Aprox 3 days per yr for whole site)
		Strimming paths	2 days
	Volunteer tasks	Clearance of holly and alien species.	1 day
	Contractor tasks	Removal of dead, dying or dangerous trees.	As and when (Aprox 3-4 days per yr for whole site)
Monitoring	Botanical surveying should take place to establish whether management has been successful. Management should result in the increase in abundance and diversity of flora.		

Feature 3; Pond and Island



Figure 6; Largest area of the pond



Figure 7; Pond dipping platform

Compartments	1, 2		
Description	A distinctive feature within the woodland. The pond is circular in shape with an island half covered by large trees and the other half covered by scrub and brambles. The pond contains wetland plants and is rich in aquatic wildlife, although it suffers from the accumulation of leaf litter, resulting in the degradation of the quality of the pond.		
Vision	To enhance the quality of the pond by reducing the amount of leaf litter that falls in and by allowing more sunlight to reach it, therefore improving the quality of the water. To increase the depth of the pond in some areas by regular dredging.		
Objectives	2: To enhance and maintain the wildlife and amenity value of areas of standing water and water courses. 4: To control and eradicate non-native invasive plant species. 5: To stop any misuse of the site. 6: To create and maintain an enjoyable and safe amenity for the local community.		
Management	Regular dredging of the pond is needed, as well as removing as much scrub as possible from the areas surrounding the pond to prevent leaf litter falling in as much as possible. Creating deeper areas and leaving some areas as shallow would benefit the wildlife here by creating diversity within the habitat. Scrub and bramble on the island should be controlled. Any invasive species such as rhododendron should be removed. Rubbish and logs etc that are thrown into the pond should be pulled out.		
Tasks	Ranger tasks	Control of scrub and brambles on the island and banks.	2 days
		Removal of alien	1 day

		species. Dredging of the pond.	3 days
	Volunteer tasks	Clearance of scrub and alien species.	1 day
	Contractor tasks	Dredging of the pond	2 days
Monitoring	Regular surveying of the wetland plant species found in the pond would be a good indication of the quality of the water and the pond in general. Regular monitoring of the animal life would also be recommended to give further information on pond quality. A greater abundance and diversity of wildlife would indicate that the condition of the pond is improving.		

Feature 4; Clearings and Glades



Figure 8; Path through compartment 10

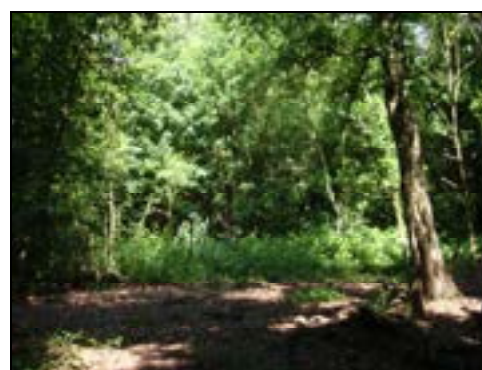


Figure 9; Clearing in compartment 7

Compartments	2, 7, 10, 11
Description	These consist of open clearings within the woodland (compartments 2 and 7) and more open glades (compartments 10 and 11) with denser ground vegetation and less bare ground than in the other clearings.
Vision	To improve the quality of these areas by improving light and ground vegetation. No alien species should exist in this area, and invading holly should not be retained.
Objectives	1: To enhance and maintain the structural diversity of the woodland to benefit the wildlife. 3: To enhance and maintain open areas, rides and glades within the woodland. 4: To control and eradicate non-native invasive plant species. 5: To stop any misuse of the site.

	6: To create and maintain an enjoyable and safe amenity for the local community.		
Management	Trees and holly (mostly in the middle of clearings) that create shade should be removed. All alien species such as cherry laurel's, should also be removed before becoming too established. Where ground vegetation is dominated by nettles and brambles, these should be cleared or mown to improve the diversity of herbaceous vegetation.		
Tasks	Ranger tasks	Removal of trees and shrubs to increase light.	2 days
		Mowing of glades.	1 day, x 2 per yr
	Volunteer tasks	Clearance of alien species.	2 days
	Contractor tasks	Removal of dead, dying or dangerous trees.	As and when (Aprox 3-4 days per yr for whole site)
Monitoring	Botanical surveying should take place to establish whether management has been successful. Management should result in the increase in abundance and diversity of flora.		

Feature 5; Streams and Ditches

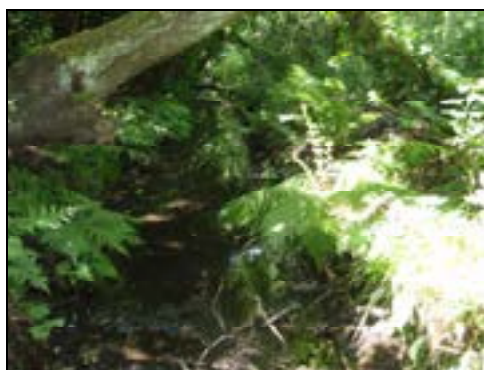


Figure 10; Ditch



Figure 11; Section of stream

Compartments	17
Description	The stream runs alongside the main path through the woodland and is shallow with fairly high banks. The ditch runs around compartments 9, 10 and 11 and contains some water all year round, but more in the winter. Footbridges run over the ditch where it is crossed by paths.
Vision	To maintain the stream and ditches by keeping them open

	and free of debris. All invasive species should be removed from the banks of the stream.		
Objectives	2: To enhance and maintain the wildlife and amenity value of areas of standing water and water courses. 4: To control and eradicate non-native invasive plant species. 5: To stop any misuse of the site. 6: To create and maintain an enjoyable and safe amenity for the local community.		
Management	Management would involve removal of any alien species such as Himalayan balsam and skunk cabbage. This is especially important as the stream runs into Fleet Pond SSSI, and Himalayan balsam could readily spread their seeds downstream. Any blockages in the ditches or the stream must be cleared.		
Tasks	Ranger tasks	Remove any alien species. Remove blockages from stream and ditches.	½ day As and when (Mostly after heavy rainfall)
	Volunteer tasks		
	Contractor tasks	Ditch clearance	1 day
Monitoring	Little monitoring is needed other than to observe the vegetation alongside the stream, i.e. that invasive species do not spread.		

2.2.3 Individual Projects

Pond Dredging

The pond is one of the most valuable features of the site and needs work almost yearly to keep it in a condition that is beneficial to wildlife. However, as time goes by this is becoming more difficult to do on a small scale. The pond was last properly dredged in 1992, and for the remainder of the 90's it was an excellent pond in terms of the number of plant species in it. Work was carried out around the pond from 2001 onwards to remove scrub and rhododendron from around the bank to reduce leaf litter and increase light getting to the water. Some small scale dredging also took place, however the number of plant species has still decreased.

In the most recent survey (Hall, 2008) it was found that there is no longer any pondweed and there was too much filamentous algae, most probably caused by the nutrient levels of the pond being too high. Silt and sediment are also likely to be smothering over wintering shoots, further suppressing growth (Hall, 2008).

To reduce these problems and increase the value of the pond once more, it would be beneficial to remove more of the surrounding trees and scrub so as to reduce the amount of leaf litter falling into the water. To reduce the nutrient levels in the water and the amount of leaf litter already in the pond, dredging would need to take place. This would be most effective if done by a small digger as this type of machine could dig deeper and get the job finished in a short amount of time. Spoil from the pond would then be left on the banks to allow any animals in it to get back into the water. Once dry, the spoil could then be moved away into the woodland to avoid any of it being pushed back in.

Interpretation Boards

Interpretation boards would be a great addition to the site as they could be used to inform people about the wildlife and habitats found there, or some of the history of the site. A prime location for one of these boards would be next to the pond, giving some information about its history and wildlife. Another good location would be in the woodland itself, maybe in a glade, possibly giving some information on woodland management, wildflowers or the birds that use the woods.

However, this project could only be done as and when funding becomes available as these types of signs are often costly. The artwork would need to be done professionally and the frame etc would need to be strong and vandal proof.

Many companies today specialise in making notice boards etc out of recycled plastic. Interpretation boards can also be made from this material, making the boards stronger and more resistant to vandalism and graffiti. Using the recycled plastic also has the advantage of being environmentally friendly and lasting much longer than anything made from wood.

Notch Weir in the Wet Woodland



Figure 12; Example of a small notch weir

<http://geoscience.stevekluge.com/apg/labs/weir2web.jpg>

To prevent the wet woodland from drying out as it is currently starting to do, a notch weir can be put into the ditch surrounding this section to retain more water and stop it draining into the stream. This will increase the water tables within compartments 12 and 13.

A notch weir works by retaining water behind it until the water gets to a certain level. Water then flows over the notch cut out of the weir and into the stream, as shown in the diagram below. Water levels in this section can therefore be much more controllable. The weir can easily be made from treated wood or old sleepers than can be dug into the banks on both sides to prevent water escaping around the ends of the weir.

Path and Bridge Safety Works

The path and bridge opposite the children's play area (the path runs through compartments 2 and 3) is in need of some safety improvements and to improve access. The bridge has recently had a second rail put in on one side for safety reasons as there is a large drop from the bridge to the stream below.

However, there is a section of tarmac path from the bridge to the level path below which is very steep and becomes slippery in wet weather. This makes access to the woods difficult for those with limited mobility, pushchairs and children. By widening and levelling out the path using a sand and gravel mix, access will be greatly improved.



Figure 13; The section of path in need of improvements

3. Action Plan

The following Action Plan aims to set out a general work programme for the site. This is divided up by the 5 features of the site and details when the various works for each feature should take place. Grey boxes indicate that the work should take place during these months, white indicates that the works should not be carried out due to the bird nesting season and to protect other wildlife.

Some tasks such as managing dangerous trees and retaining dead wood, are only required as and when. Other tasks can be carried out at the allotted times of the year when time and resources allow. Others, such as litter picking and ensuring that the stream is clear of blockages, need to be carried out and checked regularly, i.e. once a week.

Management Action Plan

work carried out

no works

Feature 1: Willow and Alder Carr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Manage dangerous trees												
Retain dead wood												
Reduce holly to increase light												
Management of ditches to retain water												
Remove any alien species												
Keep surrounding paths open and safe												

Feature 2: Dry Mixed Woodland	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Manage dangerous trees												
Retain dead wood												
Clear holly in some areas to increase light												
Remove any alien species												
Keep surrounding paths open and safe												
Clear litter and other items left in the wood												

Feature 3: Pond and Island	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Reduce scrub and trees around pond												
Dredge pond to maintain and enhance depth												
Control bramble on the island												
Keep water clear of logs, litter and other debris												
Clear any alien species												
Educational pond dipping												

Feature 4: Clearings and Glades	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Manage dangerous trees												
Keep paths open and trimmed												
Increase light by removal of trees and scrub												
Remove any alien species												
Mow areas to increase vegetation diversity												
Control the spread of brambles												
Remove any litter												

Feature 5: Stream and Ditches	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove any obstructions to the flow of water												
Keep clear of debris and litter												
Remove any alien species from banks												

References

Flatt, M. E. *Fleet Sites, Ecological Survey.* **1995.** Report produced by Hampshire Wildlife Trust for Hart District Council.

Hall, Chris. *A survey of Hart District Council sites. (Including botanical surveys, odonata records, additional fauna records, and lists of fungi recorded.)* **1995.** Information collected for Hampshire Wildlife Trust Ecological surveys, 1995.

Hall, Chris. *Oakley Park and Wood: Nature Notes.* **1997.** (Information collected for The Friends of Oakley Park.)

Hall, Chris. *A Botanical Survey of Oakley Woods, Fleet.* **2008.** (Commissioned by The Friends of Oakley Park.)

Miller, Joel. *Brief summary of Oakley Wood survey.* **2008.** Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

Starr, Chris. *Woodland Management, A Practical Guide.* **2005.** The Crowood Press.

Bird records taken from notes made by G Tapper (1991/92), M Hann (1993), C Turner (1995).

Appendix 1

Species Lists

Vertebrates

Birds

Species	Recorded
Blackbird	91/92, 93, 95
Blackcap	91/92, 93, 95
Brambling	91/92
Bullfinch	91/92, 95
Chaffinch	91/92, 95
Chiffchaff	91/92, 93, 95
Crossbill	91/92
Crow, carrion	91/92
Dove, collared	91/92, 95
Dunnock	91/92, 95
Fieldfare	91/92
Goldcrest	91/92, 95
Goldfinch	91/92, 95
Greenfinch	91/92, 95
Heron, grey	95
Jay	91/92, 95
Kingfisher	91/92, 93, 95
Magpie	91/92, 93, 95
Mallard	91/92, 95
Martin, house	91/92
Nuthatch	91/92, 93, 95
Pigeon, wood	91/92, 95
Redpoll	91/92, 95
Redwing	91/92, 95
Robin	91/92, 93, 95
Siskin	91/92, 95
Sparrow, house	91/92, 95
Sparrowhawk	95
Starling	91/92, 95
Swallow	91/92
Swift	91/92
Thrush, mistle	91/92, 95
Thrush, song	91/92, 95
Tit, blue	91/92, 93, 95
Tit, coal	91/92, 93, 95
Tit, great	91/92, 93, 95
Tit, long-tailed	91/92, 93, 95
Tit, willow/marsh?	91/92
Treecreeper	91/92, 93, 95

Wagtail, grey	91/92, 93, 95
Wagtail, pied	91/92, 95
Warbler, garden	91/92
Warbler, willow	91/92, 95
Woodpecker, green	95
Woodpecker, greater spotted	91/92, 93, 95
Woodpecker, lesser spotted	91/92, 95
Wren	91/92, 93, 95

Amphibians

Palmate and Smooth newts found during pond dipping in 1997.

Invertebrates

Odonata

	1994		1995	1996					1997	
	1/7	24/8	23/9	7/6	25/6	12/7	17/8	15/9	17/5	16/8
Damselflies										
Azure	86	7		56	89	50	17		2	8
Beautiful Demoiselle					1 ♀					
Blue-tailed					1 ♂					
Emerald							2			1
Large red	6			22	20	11			26	
Dragonflies										
Broad-bodied chaser					1					
Red darter		5	23				17	26		17
Ruddy darter							3			
Brown hawker							2			1
Late hawker			3							
Southern hawker		1	1				1	2		1

Other invertebrates noted by Chris Hall, 17th May 1997.

In the Pond; Azure damselfly nymphs, Large red damselfly nymphs, Great diving beetle, Water boatmen, Pond skaters, Water louse, Water fleas,

Freshwater shrimps, Water measurer (or Water stick insect), Caddis fly larvae, Plumed gnat larvae, Phantom midge larvae, various pond snails, an Alder fly, Freshwater limpets in the stream.

In the Woods; 16-spot ladybird, 7-spot ladybird, Speckled wood, Brimstone, Green-veined white.

Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs noted in the woodland (Chris Hall, 1997); Alder, sycamore, Norway maple, silver birch, downy birch, hornbeam, sweet chestnut, hazel, cotoneaster, hawthorn, broom, beech, copper beech, holly, honeysuckle, Scot's pine, wild cherry, plum, English oak, cherry laurel, rhododendron, redcurrant, gooseberry, goat willow, common sallow, crack willow, elderberry, rowan, lime, gorse.

Vascular Plants

A Botanical Survey of Oakley Wood. Chris Hall, 2008. – Held separately.

Plants noted in the woodland glade (Chris Hall, 1997); Sheep's sorrel, white clover, birds-eye speedwell, thyme speedwell, annual meadow grass, rough meadow grass, giant fescue, honeysuckle, rats-tail plantain, dandelion, wood dock, broad-leaved dock, common sorrel, foxglove, hairy tare, field woodrush, heath woodrush, stinging nettle, tufted hair grass, cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, creeping soft grass, bent grass, creeping buttercup, hedge woundwort, American willowherb, broad-leaved willowherb, great willowherb, rosebay, field horsetail, yarrow, bittersweet, broad-leaved helleborine, lesser stitchwort, primrose, bramble, wood brome, creeping thistle, marsh birdsfoot trefoil, catsear, goosegrass, enchanter's nightshade, soft rush, common St. John's wort, red clover, daisy, bugle, ground ivy, common ragwort, Canadian goldenrod, star of Bethlehem, oxalis (garden plant), garden bluebell, forget-me-not (garden plant).

Introduced species, not naturally occurring in the British Isles in the wood and wetland areas (Hall, 2008);

Species	Frequency
Skunk Cabbage	Rare
Water Lily	Very localised

Ribbon Grass	Rare
Norway Maple	Rare
Sycamore	Occasional
Horse Chestnut	Rare
Cotoneaster	Rare
Irish Ivy	Locally dominant
Garden Tutsan	Rare
Highclere Holly	Rare
Japanese Privet	Occasional
Cherry Laurel	Occasional
Portugal Laurel	Rare
Rhododendron	Occasional
Snowberry	Very locally abundant
Slender Rush	Very localised
Bellbine	Very locally abundant
Montbretia	Very localised
Japanese Knotweed	Rare
French Cranesbill	Very localised
Gunnera	Rare
Garden Bluebell	Very localised
Garden Forget-me-not	Rare
Solomon's Seal	Rare

Rare: typically no more than ten plants.

Occasional: widespread but sparsely scattered, total numbers small.

Very localised: absent from most of the site, occurring in one to several small, discrete clusters.

Very locally abundant: well established but only over a restricted part of the site.

(Hall, 2008)

Fungi

Notes made by Chris Hall, autumn 1995.

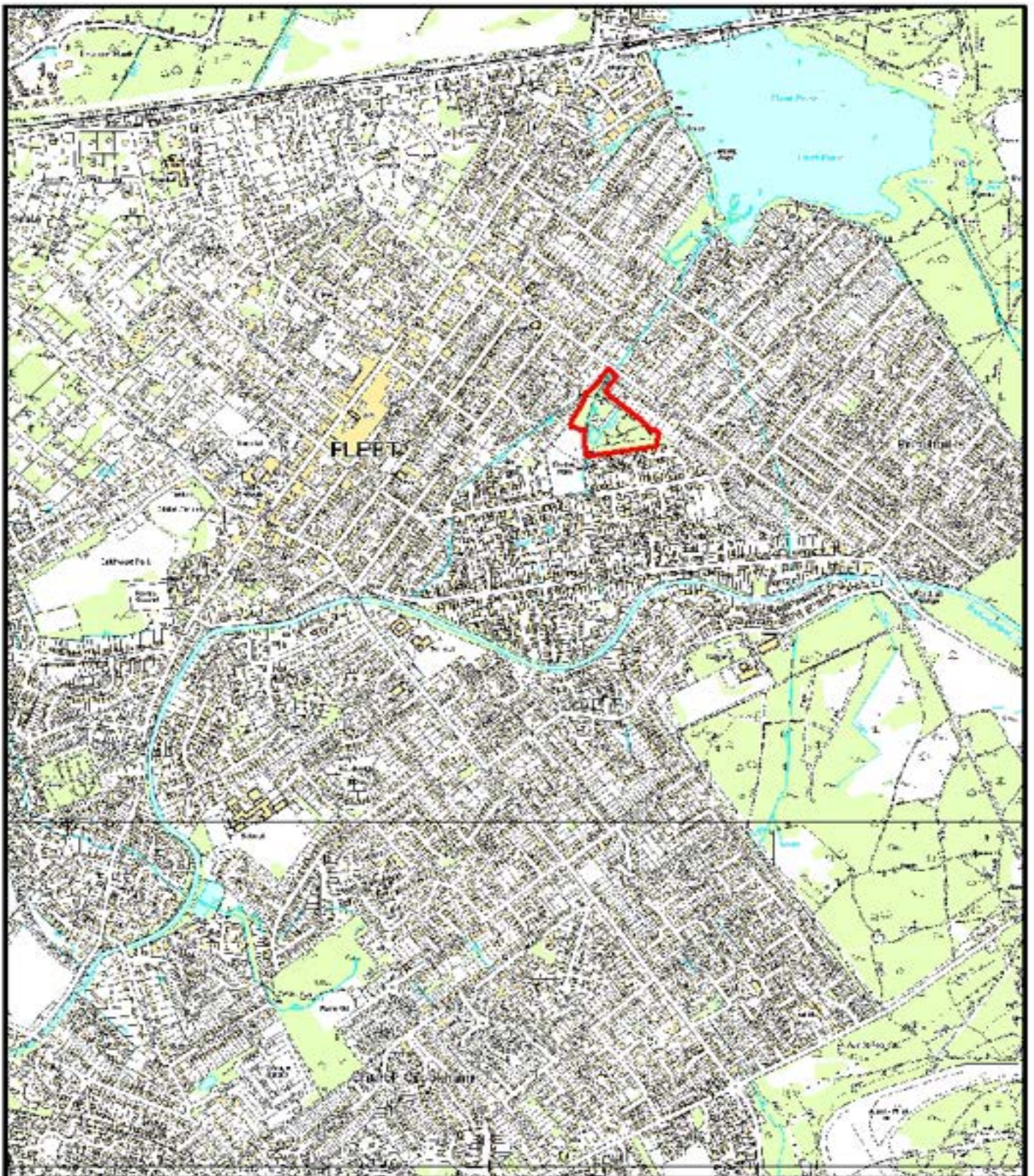
Species	Common Name
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly agaric
<i>Anthracobia melaloma</i>	
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey fungus
<i>Ascocoryne sarcoides</i>	
<i>Calocera pallido-spathulata</i>	
<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	
<i>Calvatia excipuliformis</i>	Tall puffball
<i>Clavariadelphus contortus</i>	

<i>Coriolus versicolor</i>	Many-zoned polypore
<i>Coriolus comatus</i>	Lawyer's wig
<i>Coriolus micaceus</i>	Glistening ink cap
<i>Coriolus disseminatus</i>	Fairies' bonnets
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's cakes
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing bracket
<i>Dasyscyphus apalus</i>	
<i>Dasyscyphus virgineus</i>	
<i>Endostilbum albidum</i>	
<i>Galerina marginata</i>	
<i>Helvella crispa</i>	White helvella
<i>Hirschioporus albietinus</i>	
<i>Hymenoscyphus frutigenus</i>	
<i>Hyphodontia sambuci</i>	
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur tuft
<i>Hypoxylon multiforme</i>	
<i>Hypoxylon sp.</i>	
<i>Laccaria amethystea</i>	Amethyst deceiver
<i>Leptosphaeria acuta</i>	
<i>Marasmius epiphyllus</i>	
<i>Marasmius oreades</i>	Fairy ring toadstool
<i>Marasmius ramealis</i>	
<i>Microsphaera alphitoides</i>	Oak mildew
<i>Mollisia sp.</i>	
<i>Mycena capillaris</i>	
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Bonnet mycena
<i>Mycena galopus</i>	
<i>Naucoria escharoides</i>	
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral spot
<i>Panellus stipticus</i>	
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown roll-rim
<i>Phellinus ferruginosus</i>	
<i>Phlebia merismoides</i>	
<i>Piptoporus betulina</i>	Razor-strop fungus
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Tar spot
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Yellow russula
<i>Schizopora paradoxa</i>	
<i>Stereum gausapatum</i>	
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	
<i>Typhula erythropus</i>	
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	
<i>Xylaria carpophila</i>	
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candle-snuff fungus

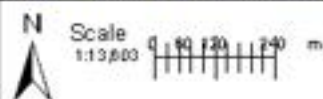
Appendix 2

Maps





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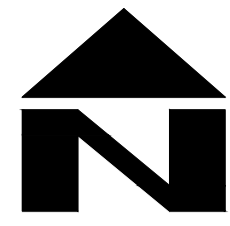
Oakley Park
 Location within Fleet, also showing Fleet Pond
 Local Nature Reserve SSSI to the North East

Materials	120
Carving Work	450
Treatment	75
	<hr/>
	£645



66 cm

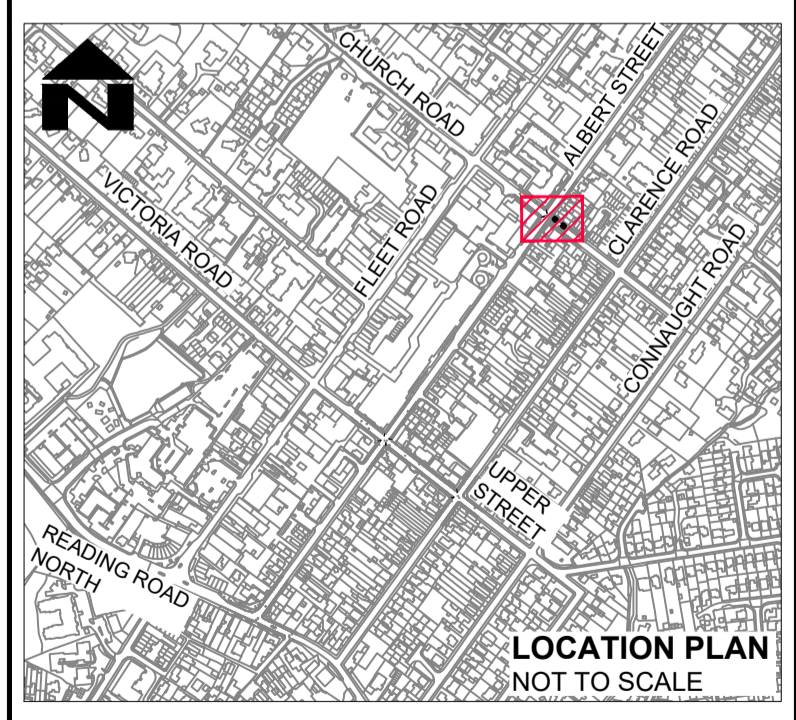
50 cm



- NOTES**
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 - FOR OVERVIEW AND SHEET LAYOUT REFER TO DRAWING C/J009695-HEH-HGN-16708574-DR-CH-0010
 - THIS DRAWING SHALL BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH APPENDIX 11/1 OF VOLUME 2
 - EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY PAVEMENT IN FRONT OF NEW KERBS SHALL BE REINSTATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/M/010.
 - DETAILS OF PAVEMENT CONSTRUCTION TREATMENTS ARE PROVIDED IN APPENDIX 7/1
 - LONGITUDINAL SURFACE COURSE JOINTS ARE TO BE POSITIONED OUTSIDE OF WHEEL TRACKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLAUSE 903.21
 - MILLING DEPTHS SHALL BE INCREASED WHERE NECESSARY AND AS AGREED WITH THE OVERSEEING ORGANISATION TO REMOVE ANY LOOSE MATERIAL OR LAYERS

- KEY**
- PC1** PROPOSED TYPE PC1 PRECAST CONCRETE KERB TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/010
 - PC2** PROPOSED TYPE PC2 PRECAST CONCRETE KERB TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/010
 - PC3** PROPOSED TYPE PC3 (25mm UPSTAND) OR PC4 (FLUSH) PRECAST CONCRETE KERB TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/010 WITH 2 No. TRANSITION KERBS (WHERE USED AT CROSSINGS)
 - CDA** PROPOSED CYCLE DEMARCATION KERB WITH 50mm UPSTAND AND 1 No. TRANSITION KERB (WHERE USED AT ENTRY/EXIT POINTS)
 - DK** PROPOSED 500mm CHARCON DUTCH KERB OR APPROVED EQUIVALENT WITH 2 No. TRANSITION KERBS (WHERE USED AT ENTRY/EXIT POINTS)
 - TK1** PROPOSED BULLNOSED TO HALF BATTERED TRANSITION KERB
 - TK2** PROPOSED HALF BATTERED TO 45° SPLAYED TRANSITION KERB
 - CO1** PROPOSED PRECAST CONCRETE TYPE CO1 CONSERVATION KERB TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/025
 - QPC** PROPOSED PRECAST CONCRETE QUADRANT KERB 305mm RADIUS
 - QSP** PROPOSED PRECAST CONCRETE SPLAY QUADRANT KERB 305mm RADIUS
 - EF** PROPOSED PRECAST CONCRETE EDGING TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/045
 - PROPOSED 'ROSEHILL LS01' OR APPROVED EQUIVALENT BOLT DOWN TRAFFIC LANE SEPARATOR
 - PROPOSED BUFF COLOURED TACTILE PAVING FLAGS TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/060
 - PROPOSED BUFF COLOURED TACTILE PAVING BLOCKS TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/060
 - PROPOSED BUFF COLOURED HAZARD (CORDUROY) PAVING.
 - PROPOSED TYPE 1A FULL DEPTH FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/045
 - PROPOSED TOPSOIL AT 100mm DEPTH FINISHED WITH GRASS SEED TO APPENDIX 6/8
 - FOOTWAY INLAY RESURFACING. 20mm DENSE ASPHALT CONCRETE SURFACE COURSE AC6 DENSE SURF 100/150 TO BS EN 13108-1. MIN PSV 45. REFER TO HCC11/C/045 FOR NOTES
 - FOOTWAY OVERLAY RESURFACING. 20mm DENSE ASPHALT CONCRETE SURFACE COURSE AC6 DENSE SURF 100/150 TO BS EN 13108-1. MIN PSV 45. 80mm EX SITU COLD RECYCLED BOUND MATERIAL (CRBM) QVE. B4 TO CL. 948, WITH REFERENCE TO BS 9228. REFER TO HCC11/C/045 FOR NOTES
 - TREATMENT TYPE CO-01 HRA 55/10 F SURF 40/60 MIN PSV 65 MAX AAV 12 SURFACE COURSE LAID 45mm THICK TO CLAUSE 911 OF SHW AND BS EN 13108-4 0-85mm REGULATING BINDER COURSE. REFER TO HCC11/C/100 FOR NOTES
 - TREATMENT TYPE CO-02 HRA 55/10 F SURF 40/60 MIN PSV 65 MAX AAV 12 SURFACE COURSE LAID 45mm THICK TO CLAUSE 911 OF SHW AND BS EN 13108-4 0-55mm REGULATING BINDER COURSE.

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SUIT	REV	PURPOSE OF ISSUE AND DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS	DATE	DESIGNER	CAD	CHKD	APPD
D2	P02	AMENDMENTS FOLLOWING TECHNICAL REVIEW. FIT FOR TENDER	09.02.2026	JA	DF	MJE	GPC
S3	P01	FIT FOR INTERNAL REVIEW	01/12/2025	JA	JA	MJE	GDC

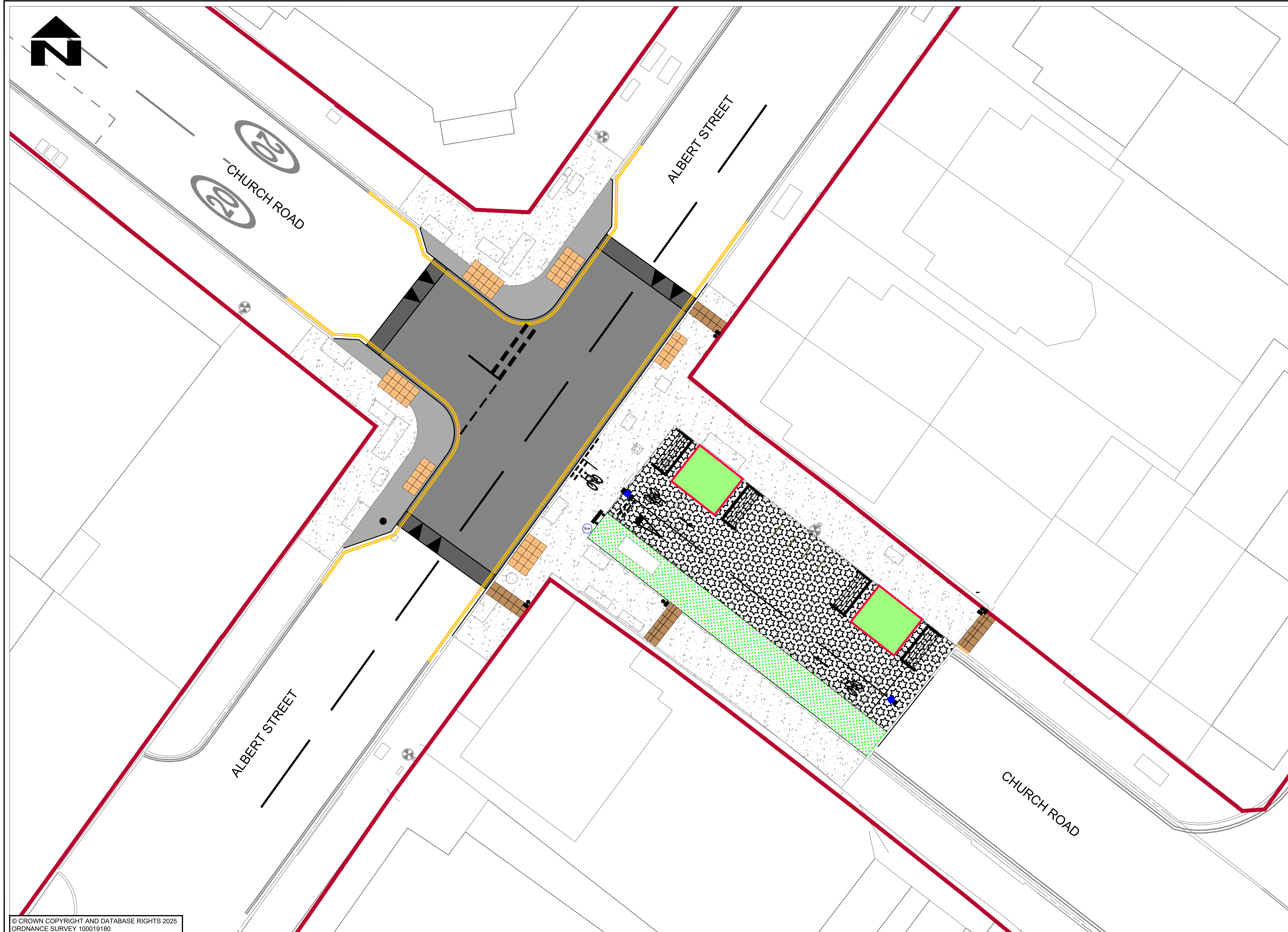
CLIENT
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
UNIVERSAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE
TRANSPORT IMPLEMENTATION

CONSULTANT

Hampshire
County Council
Engineering Services
TIM LAWTON BEng CEng FICE FCIHT - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES

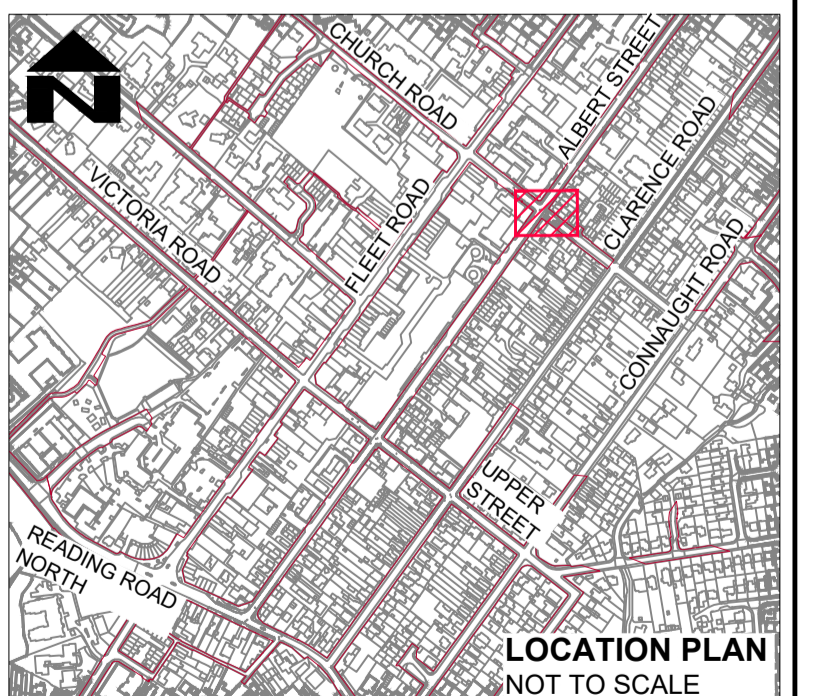
HORIZONTAL SCALE @ A1
1:100
VERTICAL SCALE @ A1
N/A
SCHEME
UPPER STREET JUNCTION
IMPROVEMENTS - FLEET
SHEET NUMBER
5 OF 5
JOB No. C/J009695.01

DRAWING TITLE
CHURCH ROAD, ALBERT STREET JUNCTION
KERBS, FOOTWAYS AND ROAD PAVEMENTS
HCC CAD PLG1 - 13/02/2025 10:27:12



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 - HSC - SITE CLEARANCE
 - HDG - DRAINAGE
 - HKF - KERBS, FOOTWAYS AND ROAD PAVEMENTS
 - HSN - TRAFFIC SIGNS, ROAD MARKINGS AND BOLLARDS
 - HLG - STREET LIGHTING
 - TTM - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
 - TTW - TRIAL PITS
 - VUT - EXISTING UTILITIES
 - HSE - CROSS/LONG SECTIONS
 - HEW - EARTHWORKS

- KEY**
- PROPOSED CYCLE BOLLARD AND OR STANDARD BOLLARD. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED PRECAST CONCRETE KERB. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED PRECAST CONCRETE EDGING. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED RUBBER TRAFFIC LANE SEPARATOR. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED BUFF COLOURED TACTILE PAVING. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED BUFF COLOURED TACTILE PAVING LAID IN BLOCKS. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED BUFF COLOURED HAZARD (CORDUROY) PAVING. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGN ON NEW OR EXISTING POST OR LC. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED OVERLAY ASPHALT CARRIAGEWAY CONSTRUCTION. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED OVERLAY ASPHALT FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED INLAY ASPHALT FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED FULL DEPTH ASPHALT FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED TOPSOIL AT 100mm DEPTH FINISHED WITH GRASS SEED. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED PLANTER/FLOWER BED. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED EXTERNAL SEATING/BENCH. SEE NOTE 4
 - 4x PROPOSED CYCLE STANDS. SEE NOTE 4
 - PROPOSED ROAD MARKING. SEE NOTE 4
 - EXISTING ROAD MARKING. SEE NOTE 4
 - EXISTING ROAD MARKING TO BE REFRESHED. SEE NOTE 4
 - EXISTING LIGHTING COLUMN (LC)
 - HIGHWAY BOUNDARY



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ORDNANCE SURVEY 100019180

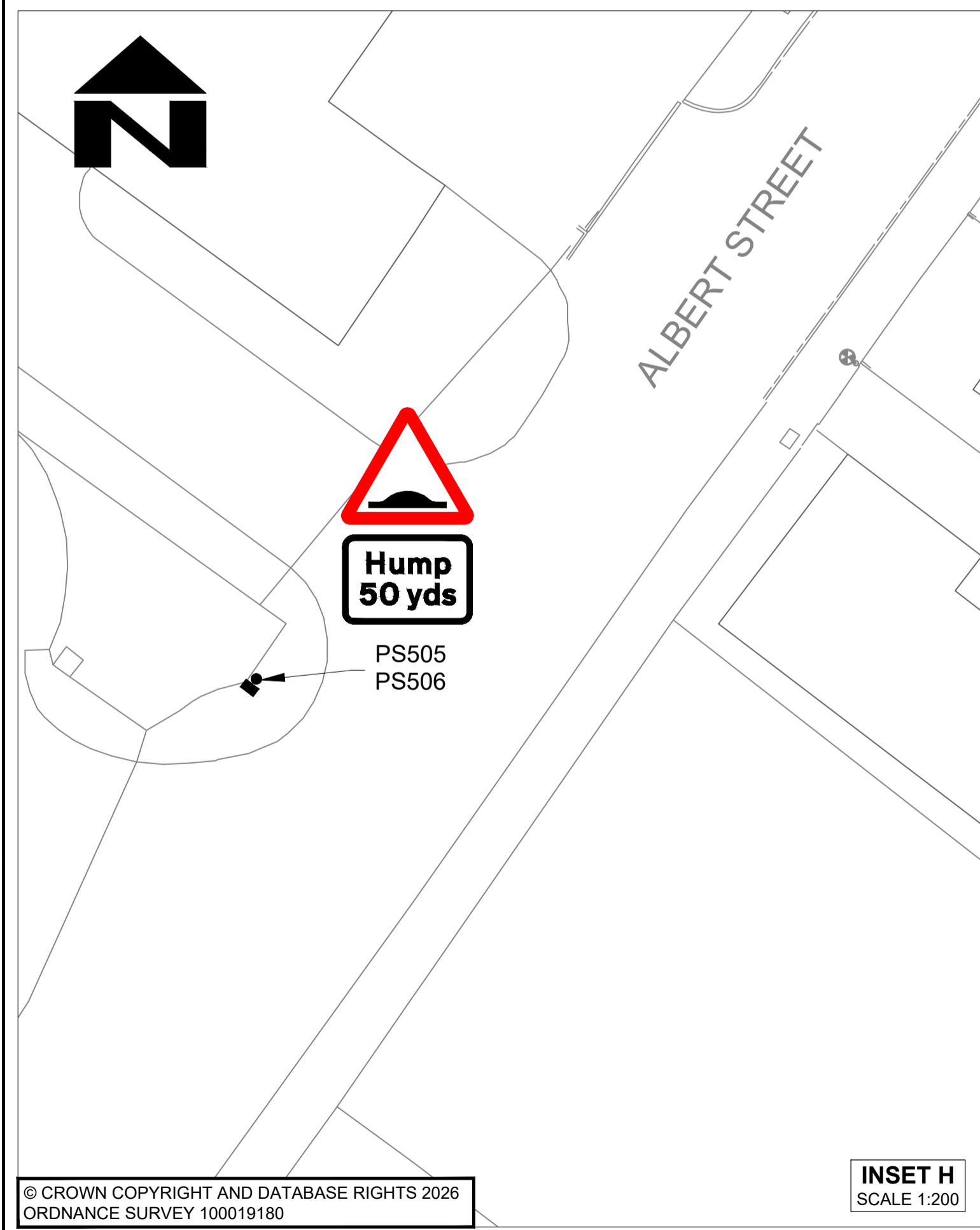
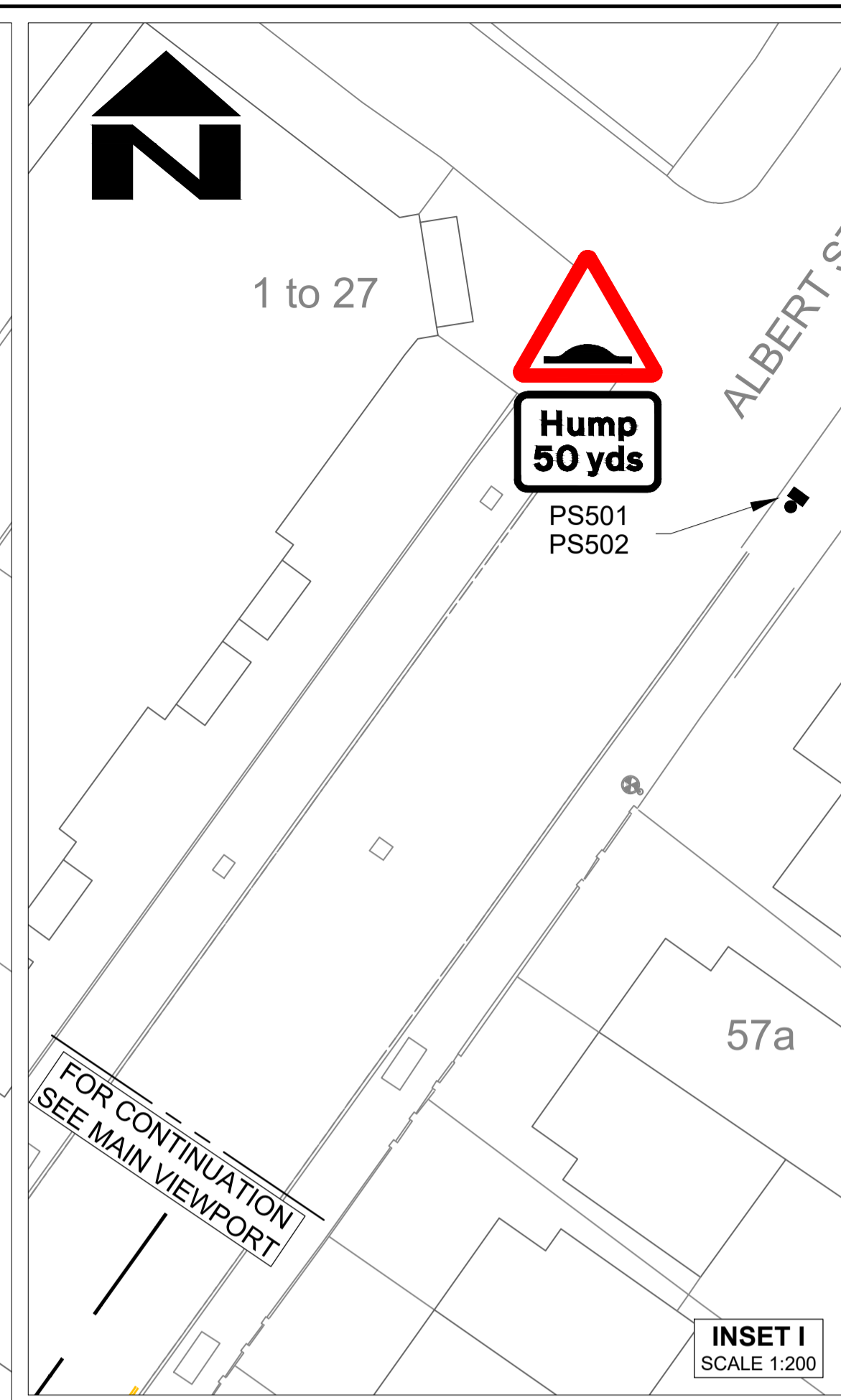
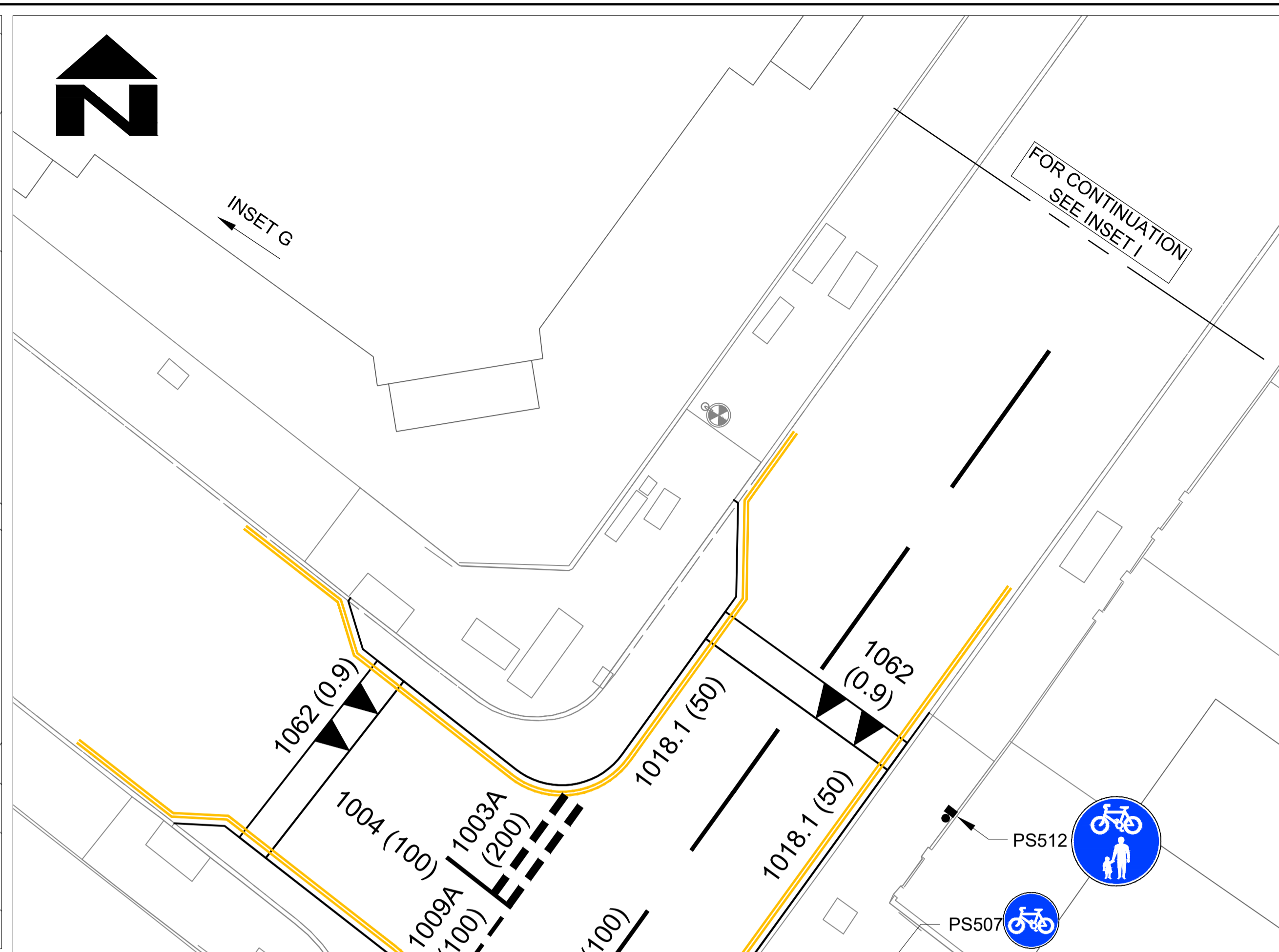
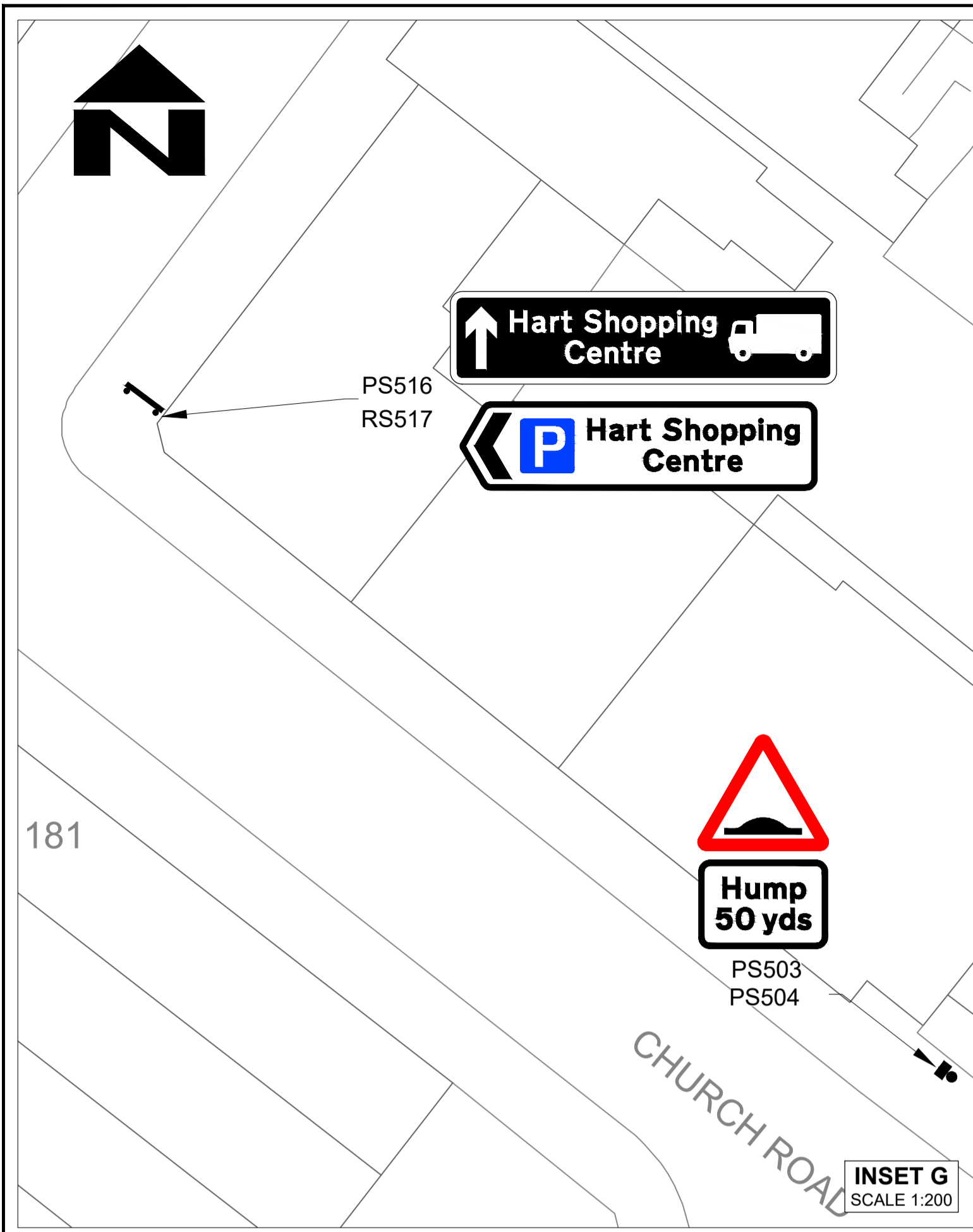
SUIT	REV	PURPOSE OF ISSUE AND DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS	DATE	DESIGNER	CAD	CHKD	APPD
D2	P02	AMENDMENTS FOLLOWING TECHNICAL REVIEW, CHURCH ROAD SOUTHEAST CYCLEWAY GIVE-WAY MARKINGS REMOVED. FIT FOR TENDER	06.01.2026	JA	JA	MJE	GDC
S3	P01	FIT FOR INTERNAL REVIEW	01/12/2025	JA	JA	MJE	GDC

CLIENT
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
UNIVERSAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE
TRANSPORT IMPLEMENTATION

CONSULTANT
Hampshire County Council
Engineering Services
TIM LAWTON BEng CEng FICE FCIHT : ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES

HORIZONTAL SCALE @ A1
1:100
VERTICAL SCALE @ A1
N/A
SHEET NUMBER
5 OF 5
SCHEME
UPPER STREET JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS - FLEET
JOB No. C.J009695.01

DRAWING TITLE
CHURCH ROAD, ALBERT STREET JUNCTION
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
HCC CAD PLOT: 16/2/2026 13:55:39
SUIT REV
D2 | P02



NOTES

- DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING
- ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- PARTS OF THIS DRAWING SHOULD BE SHOWN IN COLOUR. IF THIS NOTE IS NOT RED REPRINT A COLOURED COPY.
- FOR LOCATION PLAN AND SHEET LAYOUT REFER TO DRAWING CJ009695-HEH-HGN-16708574-DR-CH-0010
- TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRAFFIC SIGNS REGULATIONS AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS 2016 AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS
- THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH VOLUME 2 APPENDIX 12/1, SITE CLEARANCE DRAWINGS CJ009695-HEH-HSC-16708574-DR-CH-0101 TO 0105

KEY

- PS##: PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGN ON EXISTING POST OR POSTS WITH REFERENCE
- PS##: PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGN ON NEW CHS POST OR POSTS WITH REFERENCE
- RS##: REMOVE FROM STORE AND RE-INSTALL TRAFFIC SIGN ON NEW CHS POST OR POSTS WITH REFERENCE
- PS##: PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGN ON LIGHTING COLUMN WITH REFERENCE
- RNP#: RELOCATED STREET NAME PLATE AND POSTS WITH REFERENCE
- 1010 (100): PROPOSED WHITE COLOURED ROAD MARKING WITH DIAGRAM NUMBER AND WIDTH IN MILLIMETRES OR LENGTH IN METRES INDICATED IN BRACKETS
- 1018.1 (50): PROPOSED PRIMROSE YELLOW COLOURED ROAD MARKING WITH DIAGRAM NUMBER AND WIDTH IN MILLIMETRES INDICATED IN BRACKETS
- 1010 (100): EXISTING WHITE/YELLOW COLOURED ROAD MARKING WITH DIAGRAM NUMBER AND WIDTH IN MILLIMETRES OR LENGTH IN METRES INDICATED IN BRACKETS TO BE REFRESHED
- PB#: PROPOSED SELF-RIGHTING RETROREFLECTIVE BOLLARD WITH REFERENCE
- PB#: PROPOSED 'PLASTIC BOLLARD' TO STANDARD DETAIL HCC11/C/135 WITH REFERENCE
- PB#: PROPOSED GLASDON MINI-ENGIN PLASTIC BOLLARD OR APPROVED EQUIVALENT WITH SIGN FACES AND REFERENCE
- BN: REMOVE FROM STORE AND RE-INSTALL BIN
- BENCH: BENCH TO BE REMOVED FROM STORE AND RE-INSTALLED
- SEAT: PROPOSED 'LAKESIDE ANTI-VANDAL SEAT' OR APPROVED EQUIVALENT. COLOUR TO MATCH EXISTING BENCH
- STAND: PROPOSED SHEFFIELD CYCLE STAND OR APPROVED EQUIVALENT
- KERBLINE: PROPOSED KERBLINE

LOCATION PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

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ORDNANCE SURVEY 100019180

SUIT	REV	PURPOSE OF ISSUE AND DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS	DATE	DESIGNER	CAD	CHKD	APPD
D2	P02	AMENDMENTS FOLLOWING TECHNICAL REVIEW. FIT FOR TENDER	09.02.2026	JA	DF	MJE	GDC
S3	P01	FIT FOR INTERNAL REVIEW	01/12/2025	JA	JA	MJE	GDC

CLIENT		HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UNIVERSAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE TRANSPORT IMPLEMENTATION	
CONSULTANT		 Hampshire County Council Engineering Services	

HORIZONTAL SCALE @ A1 AS SHOWN	SCHEME	DRAWING TITLE
VERTICAL SCALE @ A1 N/A	UPPER STREET JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS - FLEET	CHURCH ROAD, ALBERT STREET JUNCTION TRAFFIC SIGNS, ROAD MARKINGS & BOLLARDS
SHEET NUMBER 5 OF 5	JOB No. CJ009695.01	HCC CAD PLOT: 12/20/2025 12:31:18
CJ009695-HEH-HSN-16708574-DR-CH-0105		SUIT REV D2 P02

TIM LAWTON BEng CEng FICE FCIHT : ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES

STATUS OF DRAWING AT SUITABILITY: **RED BACKGROUND** = WORK IN PROGRESS, **AMBER BACKGROUND** = SHARED NON-CONTRACTUAL, **GREEN BACKGROUND** = EARLY PUBLISH & PUBLISHED CONTRACTUAL

HCC CAD FILE: K:\Eng\Roads\Schemes\CJ009695.01 Fleet - Upper Street01-WIP01-Lead Team\03-Drawings\01-Contract\CJ009695-HEH-HSN-16708574-DR-CH-0101 TO 0105 - TRAFFIC SIGNS, ROAD MARKINGS & BOLLARDS.dwg	
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DATE: RLA meeting 17th June 2026

OFFICER: Alex Robins – General Manager

REPORT COVERING: March - May 2026 (End of year report)

General Overview

Figures and supporting notes illustrated in this report relate to 2025/26 year-end and cover the entire financial year. April/May performance totals can be seen on the provided separate sheet.

The Harlington achieved almost a £50k surplus against budget, helped predominantly by a large underspend on utilities. The three key income areas of hall hire, bars and ticket sales fell below target for the first time, however, were still strong against previous years. Further information and contributing factors are shown in the relevant areas on this report.

Ancells Farm Community Centre achieved a £3.5k surplus against budget due to higher-than-expected hall hire income.

The new financial year started strongly in April with some high sales, although there has been a dip during May. The month has featured several new shows, which don't have an already captured audience and good weather towards the mid to late part of the month never helps with sales.

RECOMMENDATION: FOR NOTING

Hall Hire

Budget	Actual	%
£98,000	£92,300	94

- Lost key hires to include Ceroc (reducing costs due to low numbers) & ballet (after building fire)
- Shortfall almost met through additional long term (music school) & one-off hires
- Focus on retaining hires in build up to development. New long-term hires difficult to attract due to 14-month building closure

RECOMMENDATION: FOR NOTING

Ticket Sales

Budget	Actual	%
£261,200	£233,450	90

- 2nd highest recorded venue ticket sales (£7,500 below 2024/25)
- 2 cancelled shows worth a projected £7,000 (artist cancellation)
- Marketing manager on 9-month surrogacy leave. Not replaced. Under resourced

Top 10 shows (Net ticketing income v expenditure surplus)

	Show	Net income
1	90's v 2000's Rewind	£5,000
2	80's Rewind (show 1)	£5,000
3	80's Rewind (show 2)	£5,000
4	Barrioke	£3,800
5	AC/DC UK	£3,400
6	Oasish	£3,000
7	Bootleg Blondie	£2,500
8	Mainly Madness	£2,200
9	Ultimate Elton	£2,200
10	Money for Nothing	£2,100

- 8 of the top 10 are higher capacity standing events, which allow for greater income. These events generally produce both higher ticketing and bar incomes and help to finance the less profitable, but important programming variety, in order to give balance

Multiple shows (Net ticketing income v expenditure surplus)

	Show	Net income	Average per show
1	Jazz Club (11 shows)	£8,900	£809
2	Comedy Club (9 shows)	£6,600	£733
3	Jack off the Beanstalk (Adult panto)	£2,800	£1,400

Show deficits (Net ticketing income v expenditure)

	Show	Deficit
1	Studio 236 (feat City Funk Orchestra)	-£1,400
2	Johnny Cash Roadshow	-£700

RECOMMENDATION: FOR NOTING

Bars & Ancillary Sales

Budget	Actual	%
£147,500	£139,350	95

- Loss of 2 shows directly effects bar income

Top 10 events (Net bar sales)

	Event	Net income	SPH
1	90's v 2000's Rewind	£5,750	£12.77
2	80's Rewind (show 1)	£5,700	£12.67
3	Oasish	£5,600	£12.44
4	80's Rewind (show 2)	£5,400	£12.00
5	Barrioke	£4,800	£12.53
6	Bad Manners	£4,400	£12.39
7	Mainly Madness	£4,200	£13.72
8	AC/DC UK	£4,000	£8.88
9	Cheesy Bingo (October)	£3,300	£13.58
10	Cheesy Bingo (January)	£3,100	£12.70

- 8 of the top 10 are unsurprisingly standing events with larger capacity
- Even though larger capacity, the SPH figures are still very high. They perform well in both total income and the amount each customer spends

Lowest income events (Net bar sales)

	Event	Net income	SPH
1	Kerry Ellis	£400	£2.94
2	The Dumb Waiter	£400	£2.74
3	Jazz Club	£400	£4.30
4	Martin Fry	£750	£3.32
5	Taylormania	£800	£2.21

- 3 of these events are theatre type shows, where the bar opens preshow and interval only. They're never expected to attract high bar income
- Number 5 was a high-capacity standing format, but aimed at a family audience, so bar income will never be high
- These shows tend to produce low income and low SPH and this is accounted for when budgeting

RECOMMENDATION: FOR NOTING

Ancells Farm Community Centre

Hall hire budget	Actual	%
£28,000	£33,500	120

- New booking/entry system has cracked down on hirers using the premises without a booking
- Additional regular hirers added
- Party bookings increased through online booking system

RECOMMENDATION: FOR NOTING

2025/26

Monthly Performance Totals (net of VAT)

April	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution
The Big Abba Party	£ -	£ 3,608.00	57%	£ 1,750.00	£ 1,858.00	£ 1,887.74	£ 755.63	£ 1,132.11	£ 274.73	£ 5,495.74	£ 2,780.36	£ 2,715.38
Lunchtime Jazz	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 157.91	£ 64.26	£ 93.65	£ -	£ 157.91	£ 64.26	£ 93.65
Comedy Club	£ -	£ 1,242.50	45%	£ 1,000.00	£ 242.50	£ 874.74	£ 354.22	£ 520.52	£ 286.93	£ 2,117.24	£ 1,641.15	£ 476.09
Jazz Club	£ -	£ 1,487.50	65%	£ 951.61	£ 535.89	£ 446.32	£ 179.73	£ 266.59	£ 48.84	£ 1,933.82	£ 1,180.18	£ 753.64
The Dumb Waiter	£ -	£ 1,460.42	47%	£ 686.40	£ 774.02	£ 401.66	£ 161.69	£ 239.97	£ 76.31	£ 1,862.08	£ 924.40	£ 937.68
Roller Disco	£ 245.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 268.66	£ 112.01	£ 156.65	£ 61.05	£ 513.66	£ 173.06	£ 340.60
Clinton Baptiste	£ -	£ 6,186.25	100%	£ 4,328.82	£ 1,857.43	£ 1,265.74	£ 508.31	£ 757.43	£ 265.58	£ 7,451.99	£ 5,102.71	£ 2,349.28
Sex Pissed Dolls	£ -	£ 1,778.33	43%	£ 1,700.00	£ 78.33	£ 1,565.83	£ 627.48	£ 938.35	£ 247.36	£ 3,344.16	£ 2,574.84	£ 769.32
Barrioke	£ -	£ 3,775.83	58%	£ 3,500.00	£ 275.83	£ 2,843.16	£ 1,138.71	£ 1,704.45	£ 339.55	£ 6,618.99	£ 4,978.26	£ 1,640.73
Film Club x 2	£ 300.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 201.41	£ 80.90	£ 120.51	£ -	£ 501.41	£ 80.90	£ 420.51
Ceroc x 4	£ 1,139.20	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 154.41	£ 62.29	£ 92.12	£ -	£ 1,293.61	£ 62.29	£ 1,231.32
TOTALS FOR APRIL	£ 1,684.20	£ 19,538.83		£ 13,916.83	£ 5,622.00	£ 10,067.58	£ 4,045.23	£ 6,022.35	£ 1,600.35	£ 31,290.61	£ 19,562.41	£ 11,728.20
May	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution
Floyd Effect	£ -	£ 5,460.00	100%	£ 3,799.80	£ 1,660.20	£ 1,968.16	£ 793.29	£ 1,174.87	£ 320.51	£ 7,428.16	£ 4,913.60	£ 2,514.56
Money for Nothing	£ -	£ 4,590.83	100%	£ 2,500.00	£ 2,090.83	£ 2,050.82	£ 823.82	£ 1,227.00	£ 320.52	£ 6,641.65	£ 3,644.34	£ 2,997.31
Bootleg Blondie	£ -	£ 3,895.00	71%	£ 1,400.00	£ 2,495.00	£ 2,234.58	£ 895.63	£ 1,338.95	£ 314.41	£ 6,129.58	£ 2,610.04	£ 3,519.54
Film Club x 1	£ 150.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 143.83	£ 57.67	£ 86.16	£ -	£ 293.83	£ 57.67	£ 236.16
Jazz Club	£ -	£ 1,683.33	73%	£ 1,019.22	£ 664.11	£ 541.32	£ 218.53	£ 322.79	£ 82.72	£ 2,224.65	£ 1,320.47	£ 904.18
Comedy Club	£ -	£ 1,071.67	39%	£ 1,000.00	£ 71.67	£ 843.16	£ 341.92	£ 501.24	£ 280.84	£ 1,914.83	£ 1,622.76	£ 292.07
Lunchtime Jazz	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 175.57	£ 70.56	£ 105.01	£ -	£ 175.57	£ 70.56	£ 105.01
King King Acoustic	£ -	£ 2,829.17	59%	£ 2,500.00	£ 329.17	£ 728.24	£ 293.73	£ 434.51	£ 167.99	£ 3,557.41	£ 2,961.72	£ 595.69
Ceroc x 5	£ 1,424.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 8.25	£ 3.30	£ 4.95	£ -	£ 1,432.25	£ 3.30	£ 1,428.95
TOTALS FOR MAY	£ 1,574.00	£ 19,530.00		£ 12,219.02	£ 7,310.98	£ 8,693.93	£ 3,498.45	£ 5,195.48	£ 1,486.99	£ 29,797.93	£ 17,204.46	£ 12,593.47
June	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution
90's v 2000's Rewind	£ -	£ 8,176.67	100%	£ 3,150.00	£ 5,026.67	£ 5,736.16	£ 2,298.63	£ 3,437.53	£ 528.08	£ 13,912.83	£ 5,976.71	£ 7,936.12
Brave Rival	£ -	£ 2,649.17	77%	£ 1,294.46	£ 1,354.71	£ 1,460.74	£ 584.30	£ 876.44	£ 345.84	£ 4,109.91	£ 2,224.60	£ 1,885.31
Martin Fry	£ -	£ 7,815.00	73%	£ 5,804.16	£ 2,010.84	£ 793.58	£ 319.86	£ 473.72	£ 290.00	£ 8,608.58	£ 6,414.02	£ 2,194.56
Film Club x 3	£ 450.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 327.57	£ 131.24	£ 196.33	£ 13.00	£ 777.57	£ 144.24	£ 633.33
The Jam'd	£ -	£ 3,428.33	54%	£ 1,750.00	£ 1,678.33	£ 2,191.83	£ 877.93	£ 1,313.90	£ 299.45	£ 5,620.16	£ 2,927.38	£ 2,692.78
Cheesy Bingo	£ -	£ 3,485.00	100%	£ 2,424.43	£ 1,060.57	£ 2,325.74	£ 933.83	£ 1,391.91	£ 394.50	£ 5,810.74	£ 3,752.76	£ 2,057.98
Jazz Club	£ -	£ 1,220.83	52%	£ 923.29	£ 297.54	£ 399.49	£ 160.35	£ 239.14	£ 27.47	£ 1,620.32	£ 1,111.11	£ 509.21
Goldie Lookin Chain	£ -	£ 4,274.17	52%	£ 3,700.00	£ 574.17	£ 2,225.82	£ 892.01	£ 1,333.81	£ 372.52	£ 6,499.99	£ 4,964.53	£ 1,535.46
Studio 236	£ -	£ 1,998.33	37%	£ 3,400.00	£ -1,401.67	£ 1,628.83	£ 653.09	£ 975.74	£ 306.35	£ 3,627.16	£ 4,359.44	£ -732.28
Lunchtime Jazz	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 167.91	£ 67.74	£ 100.17	£ -	£ 167.91	£ 67.74	£ 100.17
Ceroc x 4	£ 1,139.20	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,139.20	£ -	£ 1,139.20
TOTALS FOR JUNE	£ 1,589.20	£ 33,047.50		£ 22,446.34	£ 10,601.16	£ 17,257.67	£ 6,918.98	£ 10,338.69	£ 2,577.21	£ 51,894.37	£ 31,942.53	£ 19,951.84
July	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution
Lunchtime Jazz	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 335.91	£ 135.21	£ 200.70	£ -	£ 335.91	£ 135.21	£ 200.70
Film Club x 1	£ 150.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 72.25	£ 28.90	£ 43.35	£ -	£ 222.25	£ 28.90	£ 193.35
Jazz Club	£ -	£ 3,123.33	100%	£ 1,387.92	£ 1,735.41	£ 911.82	£ 367.43	£ 544.39	£ 61.06	£ 4,035.15	£ 1,816.41	£ 2,218.74
Ceroc x 5	£ 1,424.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 6.25	£ 2.50	£ 3.75	£ -	£ 1,430.25	£ 2.50	£ 1,427.75
TOTALS FOR JULY	£ 1,574.00	£ 3,123.33		£ 1,387.92	£ 1,735.41	£ 1,326.23	£ 534.04	£ 792.19	£ 61.06	£ 6,023.56	£ 1,983.02	£ 4,040.54
August	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution
Music on the Views	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 1,536.08	£ 614.43	£ 921.65	£ -	£ 1,536.08	£ 614.43	£ 921.65
Lunchtime Jazz	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 135.91	£ 54.36	£ 81.55	£ -	£ 135.91	£ 54.36	£ 81.55
Ceroc x 4	£ 1,139.20	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,139.20	£ -	£ 1,139.20

TOTALS FOR AUGUST	£	1,139.20	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	1,671.99	£	668.79	£	1,003.20	£	-	£	2,811.19	£	668.79	£	2,142.40	
September	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution											
Johnny Cash Roadshow	£	-	£	2,291.67	50%	£	3,000.00	-£	708.33	£	1,032.48	£	416.53	£	615.95	£	275.24	£	3,324.15	£	3,691.77	-£	367.62
Comedy Club	£	-	£	1,791.67	65%	£	1,125.64	£	666.03	£	1,575.16	£	636.73	£	938.43	£	308.60	£	3,366.83	£	2,070.97	£	1,295.86
Jazz Club	£	-	£	1,641.67	70%	£	1,093.67	£	548.00	£	525.33	£	210.60	£	314.73	£	27.47	£	2,167.00	£	1,331.74	£	835.26
Roller Disco	£	245.00	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	522.24	£	218.62	£	303.62	£	88.24	£	767.24	£	306.86	£	460.38
Lunchtime Jazz	£	-	£	-	45%	£	-	£	-	£	163.41	£	65.63	£	97.78	£	-	£	163.41	£	65.63	£	97.78
Film Club x 2	£	300.00	£	-	67%	£	-	£	-	£	291.15	£	116.51	£	174.64	£	-	£	591.15	£	116.51	£	474.64
Flash Tribute to Queen	£	-	£	4,550.00	74%	£	3,153.60	£	1,396.40	£	2,425.91	£	972.36	£	1,453.55	£	274.73	£	6,975.91	£	4,400.69	£	2,575.22
Ceroc x 4	£	1,139.20	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	1,139.20	£	-	£	1,139.20
TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER	£	1,684.20	£	10,275.01		£	8,372.91	£	1,902.10	£	6,535.68	£	2,636.98	£	3,898.70	£	974.28	£	18,494.89	£	11,984.17	£	6,510.72
October	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution											
Lunchtime Jazz	£	-	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	156.16	£	62.94	£	93.22	£	-	£	156.16	£	62.94	£	93.22
Kast Off Kinks	£	-	£	2,502.50	55%	£	1,731.77	£	770.73	£	1,165.91	£	468.39	£	697.52	£	250.30	£	3,668.41	£	2,450.46	£	1,217.95
Roller Disco	£	245.00	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	654.91	£	270.39	£	384.52	£	91.58	£	899.91	£	361.97	£	537.94
Cheesy Bingo	£	-	£	3,645.00	100%	£	2,537.23	£	1,107.77	£	3,318.32	£	1,341.36	£	1,976.96	£	402.94	£	6,963.32	£	4,281.53	£	2,681.79
Jazz Club	£	-	£	1,958.33	84%	£	1,301.14	£	657.19	£	616.91	£	247.96	£	368.95	£	54.94	£	2,575.24	£	1,604.04	£	971.20
Film Club x 2	£	300.00	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	284.66	£	114.16	£	170.50	£	-	£	584.66	£	114.16	£	470.50
Comedy Club	£	-	£	1,700.83	62%	£	1,065.87	£	634.96	£	1,504.66	£	607.33	£	897.33	£	238.09	£	3,205.49	£	1,911.29	£	1,294.20
Bad Manners	£	-	£	7,270.83	79%	£	6,020.00	£	1,250.83	£	4,407.82	£	1,766.13	£	2,641.69	£	442.60	£	11,678.65	£	8,228.73	£	3,449.92
The Witching Hour	£	1,544.57	£	-	100%	£	-	£	-	£	2,211.73	£	890.32	£	1,321.41	£	421.25	£	3,756.30	£	1,311.57	£	2,444.73
Ceroc x 5	£	1,424.00	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	116.16	£	46.92	£	69.24	£	-	£	1,540.16	£	46.92	£	1,493.24
TOTALS FOR OCTOBER	£	3,513.57	£	17,077.49		£	12,656.01	£	4,421.48	£	14,437.24	£	5,815.90	£	8,621.34	£	1,901.70	£	35,028.30	£	20,373.61	£	14,654.69
November	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution											
Kerry Ellis	£	-	£	3,725.00	44%	£	2,770.52	£	954.48	£	408.24	£	166.52	£	241.72	£	152.63	£	4,133.24	£	3,089.67	£	1,043.57
Lunchtime Jazz	£	-	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	207.58	£	83.63	£	123.95	£	-	£	207.58	£	83.63	£	123.95
Dom Martin & Blue Nation	£	1,197.20	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	1,654.57	£	664.28	£	990.29	£	271.68	£	2,851.77	£	935.96	£	1,915.81
Film Club x 2	£	300.00	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	143.74	£	57.55	£	86.19	£	-	£	443.74	£	57.55	£	386.19
Jazz Club	£	-	£	1,841.67	79%	£	1,177.56	£	664.11	£	573.48	£	231.81	£	341.67	£	54.94	£	2,415.15	£	1,464.31	£	950.84
Comedy Club	£	-	£	1,885.00	69%	£	1,187.06	£	697.94	£	1,700.24	£	682.94	£	1,017.30	£	259.45	£	3,585.24	£	2,129.45	£	1,455.79
Creedence Clearwater Review	£	-	£	4,590.00	100%	£	3,203.46	£	1,386.54	£	2,220.15	£	891.88	£	1,328.27	£	330.37	£	6,810.15	£	4,425.71	£	2,384.44
Ultimate Elton	£	-	£	4,221.67	94%	£	2,000.00	£	2,221.67	£	2,060.99	£	830.69	£	1,230.30	£	357.16	£	6,282.66	£	3,187.85	£	3,094.81
Xmas light switch on	£	-	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	545.82	£	219.12	£	326.70	£	-	£	545.82	£	219.12	£	326.70
80's Rewind	£	-	£	8,250.00	100%	£	3,250.00	£	5,000.00	£	5,659.49	£	2,265.51	£	3,393.98	£	625.16	£	13,909.49	£	6,140.67	£	7,768.82
80's Rewind	£	-	£	8,250.00	100%	£	3,250.00	£	5,000.00	£	5,377.32	£	2,152.47	£	3,224.85	£	661.81	£	13,627.32	£	6,064.28	£	7,563.04
Ceroc x 4	£	1,139.20	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	1,139.20	£	-	£	1,139.20
TOTALS FOR NOVEMBER	£	2,636.40	£	32,763.34		£	16,838.60	£	15,924.74	£	20,551.62	£	8,246.40	£	12,305.22	£	2,713.20	£	55,951.36	£	27,798.20	£	28,153.16
December	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution											
Jazz Club	£	-	£	3,595.83	100%	£	2,089.39	£	1,506.44	£	761.41	£	305.40	£	456.01	£	54.95	£	4,357.24	£	2,449.74	£	1,907.50
Mainly Madness	£	-	£	5,610.00	68%	£	3,407.40	£	2,202.60	£	4,169.65	£	1,671.41	£	2,498.24	£	418.20	£	9,779.65	£	5,497.01	£	4,282.64
Comedy Club	£	-	£	3,025.00	75%	£	1,265.18	£	1,759.82	£	1,884.74	£	756.19	£	1,128.55	£	369.35	£	4,909.74	£	2,390.72	£	2,519.02
Panto	£	19,695.58	£	-	75%	£	-	£	-	£	14,211.71	£	6,062.44	£	8,149.27	£	4,509.50	£	33,907.29	£	10,571.94	£	23,335.35
TOTALS FOR DECEMBER	£	19,695.58	£	12,230.83		£	6,761.97	£	5,468.86	£	21,027.51	£	8,795.44	£	12,232.07	£	5,352.00	£	52,953.92	£	20,909.41	£	32,044.51
January	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution											
Film Club x 2	£	300.00	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	302.33	£	122.50	£	179.83	£	-	£	602.33	£	122.50	£	479.83
Lunchtime Jazz	£	-	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	132.74	£	53.30	£	79.44	£	-	£	132.74	£	53.30	£	79.44
Jazz Club	£	-	£	1,725.00	76%	£	1,006.14	£	718.86	£	588.33	£	236.49	£	351.84	£	54.94	£	2,313.33	£	1,297.57	£	1,015.76
Roller Disco	£	245.00	£	-	n/a	£	-	£	-	£	663.74	£	281.28	£	382.46	£	42.73	£	908.74	£	324.01	£	584.73
Comedy Club	£	-	£	2,340.00	89%	£	1,486.45	£	853.55	£	2,019.82	£	817.56	£	1,202.26	£	256.40	£	4,359.82	£	2,560.41	£	1,799.41

AC/DC UK	£	-	£ 8,213.33	100%	£ 4,814.83	£ 3,398.50	£ 3,994.24	£ 1,599.48	£ 2,394.76	£ 405.99	£	12,207.57	£ 6,820.30	£ 5,387.27
Adult Panto x 2	£	-	£ 11,878.33	78%	£ 9,113.28	£ 2,765.05	£ 1,942.74	£ 803.45	£ 1,139.29	£ 528.09	£	13,821.07	£ 10,444.82	£ 3,376.25
Cheesy Bingo	£	-	£ 3,660.00	100%	£ 2,547.81	£ 1,112.19	£ 3,121.32	£ 1,254.70	£ 1,866.62	£ 418.21	£	6,781.32	£ 4,220.72	£ 2,560.60
TOTALS FOR JANUARY	£	545.00	£ 27,816.66		£ 18,968.51	£ 8,848.15	£ 12,765.26	£ 5,168.76	£ 7,596.50	£ 1,706.36	£	41,126.92	£ 25,843.63	£ 15,283.29
February	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution		
Lunchtime Jazz	£	-	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 180.00	£ 72.70	£ 107.30	£ -	£	180.00	£ 72.70	£ 107.30
Genesis Connected	£	-	£ 4,670.00	100%	£ 3,042.53	£ 1,627.47	£ 2,112.90	£ 846.41	£ 1,266.49	£ 427.46	£	6,782.90	£ 4,316.40	£ 2,466.50
Experience Beck (Cancelled)	£	-	£ -	0%	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£	-	£ -	£ -
Voodoo Room	£	-	£ 4,070.00	100%	£ 2,526.79	£ 1,543.21	£ 2,082.65	£ 837.59	£ 1,245.06	£ 333.43	£	6,152.65	£ 3,697.81	£ 2,454.84
Jazz Club	£	-	£ 1,962.50	84%	£ 1,044.62	£ 917.88	£ 674.32	£ 271.40	£ 402.92	£ 70.20	£	2,636.82	£ 1,386.22	£ 1,250.60
Roller Disco	£	245.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 639.16	£ 266.36	£ 372.80	£ 88.23	£	884.16	£ 354.59	£ 529.57
Comedy Club	£	-	£ 2,769.17	100%	£ 1,768.84	£ 1,000.33	£ 1,586.83	£ 641.14	£ 945.69	£ 302.71	£	4,356.00	£ 2,712.69	£ 1,643.31
Film Club x 2	£	300.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 348.33	£ 142.08	£ 206.25	£ -	£	648.33	£ 142.08	£ 506.25
Barrioke	£	-	£ 7,321.67	85%	£ 3,500.00	£ 3,821.67	£ 4,824.32	£ 1,931.76	£ 2,892.56	£ 363.25	£	12,145.99	£ 5,795.01	£ 6,350.98
Oasish	£	-	£ 8,305.00	100%	£ 5,288.15	£ 3,016.85	£ 5,608.16	£ 2,248.17	£ 3,359.99	£ 448.74	£	13,913.16	£ 7,985.06	£ 5,928.10
TOTALS FOR FEBRUARY	£	545.00	£ 29,098.34		£ 17,170.93	£ 11,927.41	£ 18,056.67	£ 7,257.61	£ 10,799.06	£ 2,034.02	£	47,700.01	£ 26,462.56	£ 21,237.45
March	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution		
Lunchtime Jazz	£	-	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 143.16	£ 57.66	£ 85.50	£ -	£	143.16	£ 57.66	£ 85.50
Hayseed Dixie	£	-	£ 5,479.17	59%	£ 3,808.66	£ 1,670.51	£ 2,954.32	£ 1,183.50	£ 1,770.82	£ 400.59	£	8,433.49	£ 5,392.75	£ 3,040.74
Purple Zeppelin	£	-	£ 4,171.67	91%	£ 2,751.87	£ 1,419.80	£ 2,243.57	£ 900.99	£ 1,342.58	£ 336.67	£	6,415.24	£ 3,989.53	£ 2,425.71
Q Dance	£	738.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 292.91	£ 125.04	£ 167.87	£ 30.53	£	1,030.91	£ 155.57	£ 875.34
Film Club x 2	£	300.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 269.41	£ 108.26	£ 161.15	£ -	£	569.41	£ 108.26	£ 461.15
Roller Disco	£	245.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 595.58	£ 253.43	£ 342.15	£ 100.84	£	840.58	£ 354.27	£ 486.31
Gold to Rio (Cancelled)	£	-	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£	-	£ -	£ -
Jazz Club	£	-	£ 1,625.00	70%	£ 982.07	£ 642.93	£ 604.41	£ 244.16	£ 360.25	£ 79.36	£	2,229.41	£ 1,305.59	£ 923.82
Quo Connection	£	-	£ 2,935.83	65%	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,435.83	£ 1,413.73	£ 570.14	£ 843.59	£ 228.94	£	4,349.56	£ 2,299.08	£ 2,050.48
Comedy Club	£	-	£ 1,832.50	67%	£ 1,152.51	£ 679.99	£ 1,550.07	£ 629.37	£ 920.70	£ 225.89	£	3,382.57	£ 2,007.77	£ 1,374.80
Taylormania	£	1,587.00	£ -	81%	£ -	£ -	£ 812.91	£ 349.76	£ 463.15	£ 327.32	£	2,399.91	£ 677.08	£ 1,722.83
TOTALS FOR MARCH	£	2,870.00	£ 16,044.17		£ 10,195.11	£ 5,849.06	£ 10,880.07	£ 4,422.31	£ 6,457.76	£ 1,730.14	£	29,794.24	£ 16,347.56	£ 13,446.68
TOTALS	£	39,050.35	£ 220,545.50		£ 140,934.15	£ 79,611.35	£ 143,271.45	£ 58,008.89	£ 85,262.56	£ 22,137.31	£	402,867.30	£ 221,080.35	£ 181,786.95

2026/27

Monthly Performance Totals (net of VAT)

April	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution
Lunchtime Jazz	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 139.83	£ 56.13	£ 83.70	£ -	£ 139.83	£ 56.13	£ 83.70
Floyd Effect - SOLD OUT	£ -	£ 5,460.00	100%	£ 3,793.50	£ 1,666.50	£ 1,803.90	£ 726.01	£ 1,077.89	£ 368.60	£ 7,263.90	£ 4,888.11	£ 2,375.79
Private Party	£ 480.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 384.66	£ 153.86	£ 230.80	£ 117.57	£ 864.66	£ 271.43	£ 593.23
Film Club x 2	£ 300.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 302.07	£ 121.61	£ 180.46	£ 19.07	£ 602.07	£ 140.68	£ 461.39
Cheesy Bingo - SOLD OUT	£ -	£ 3,630.00	100%	£ 2,525.67	£ 1,104.33	£ 2,547.82	£ 1,027.86	£ 1,519.96	£ 423.12	£ 6,177.82	£ 3,976.65	£ 2,201.17
Comedy Club	£ -	£ 2,227.50	80%	£ 1,383.65	£ 843.85	£ 1,832.90	£ 746.97	£ 1,085.93	£ 302.58	£ 4,060.40	£ 2,433.20	£ 1,627.20
Jazz Club	£ -	£ 1,662.50	72%	£ 1,137.54	£ 524.96	£ 583.99	£ 235.77	£ 348.22	£ 79.44	£ 2,246.49	£ 1,452.75	£ 793.74
ELO Encounter x 2	£ -	£ 6,837.50	74%	£ 4,436.58	£ 2,400.92	£ 3,412.40	£ 1,373.37	£ 2,039.03	£ 537.02	£ 10,249.90	£ 6,346.97	£ 3,902.93
Steve Craddock - SOLD OUT	£ -	£ 9,200.00	100%	£ 6,820.24	£ 2,379.76	£ 1,892.99	£ 761.33	£ 1,131.66	£ 260.55	£ 11,092.99	£ 7,842.12	£ 3,250.87
TOTALS FOR APRIL	£ 780.00	£ 29,017.50		£ 20,097.18	£ 8,920.32	£ 12,900.56	£ 5,202.91	£ 7,697.65	£ 2,107.95	£ 42,698.06	£ 27,408.04	£ 15,290.02
May	Hall Hire Income	Ticket sales	% of capacity	Perf costs	Contribution	Ancillary sales	Cost of stock	Contribution	Casual Staffing	Total performance income	Total performance costs	Total performance contribution
Awards Ceremony	£ 783.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 2,763.67	£ 393.20	£ 2,370.47	£ 142.99	£ 3,546.67	£ 536.19	£ 3,010.48
Lunchtime Jazz	£ -	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 199.58	£ 80.38	£ 119.20	£ 33.82	£ 199.58	£ 114.20	£ 85.38
Luke Combs Experience	£ -	£ 3,666.67	58%	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,166.67	£ 2,183.82	£ 877.73	£ 1,306.09	£ 324.10	£ 5,850.49	£ 3,701.83	£ 2,148.66
Mac*Busted	£ -	£ 1,613.33	30%	£ 2,000.00	£ -386.67	£ 825.66	£ 334.06	£ 491.60	£ 92.14	£ 2,438.99	£ 2,426.20	£ 12.79
Film Club x 1	£ 150.00	£ -	n/a	£ -	£ -	£ 88.50	£ 35.22	£ 53.28	£ -	£ 238.50	£ 35.22	£ 203.28
90's v 2000's Rewind	£ -	£ 3,740.00	46%	£ 3,150.00	£ 590.00	£ 3,309.65	£ 1,328.01	£ 1,981.64	£ 406.73	£ 7,049.65	£ 4,884.74	£ 2,164.91
Comedy Club	£ -	£ 1,260.83	46%	£ 1,000.00	£ 260.83	£ 1,119.98	£ 451.77	£ 668.21	£ 228.77	£ 2,380.81	£ 1,680.54	£ 700.27
Matt Long Album Launch - SOLD OUT	£ 1,086.20	£ 6,445.83	100%	£ -	£ 6,445.83	£ 2,538.15	£ 1,030.27	£ 1,507.88	£ 527.47	£ 10,070.18	£ 1,557.74	£ 8,512.44
Jazz Club	£ -	£ 1,525.00	65%	£ 1,237.20	£ 287.80	£ 641.99	£ 258.28	£ 383.71	£ 82.62	£ 2,166.99	£ 1,578.10	£ 588.89
True West x 2	£ -	£ 3,316.67	32%	£ 1,558.83	£ 1,757.84	£ 966.15	£ 386.06	£ 580.09	£ 168.41	£ 4,282.82	£ 2,113.30	£ 2,169.52
Nouveau Cabaret	£ 883.00	£ 471.67	n/a	£ -	£ 471.67	£ 258.65	£ 105.55	£ 153.10	£ 79.43	£ 1,613.32	£ 184.98	£ 1,428.34
TOTALS FOR MAY	£ 2,902.20	£ 22,040.00		£ 11,446.03	£ 10,593.97	£ 14,895.80	£ 5,280.53	£ 9,615.27	£ 2,086.48	£ 39,838.00	£ 18,813.04	£ 21,024.96
TOTALS	£ 3,682.20	£ 51,057.50		£ 31,543.21	£ 19,514.29	£ 27,796.36	£ 10,483.44	£ 17,312.92	£ 4,194.43	£ 82,536.06	£ 46,221.08	£ 36,314.98