

# Public Document Pack



## NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date and Time:</b>	<b>Tuesday 9 August 2022 7.00 pm</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>Council Chamber</b>
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Committee Services committeeservices@hart.gov.uk</b>
<b>Members:</b>	<b>Dorn (Chairman), Axam, Butcher, Butler, Coburn, Davies, Engström, Farmer, Smith (Vice- Chairman), Wildsmith and Woods</b>

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY  
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

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## AGENDA

**This Agenda and associated appendices are provided in electronic form only and are published on the Hart District Council Website.**

**Please download all papers through the Modern.Gov app before the meeting.**

- At the start of the meeting, the Lead Officer will confirm the Fire Evacuation Procedure.**
- The Chairman will announce that this meeting will be recorded and that anyone remaining at the meeting had provided their consent to any such recording.**

### **1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 4 - 6)**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 July 2022 are attached to be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence from Members\*.

**\*Note:** Members are asked to email Committee Services in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware they will be absent.

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare disclosable, pecuniary and any other interests\*.

**\*Note:** Members are asked to email Committee Services in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware they may have an interest to declare.

## **4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)**

Anyone wishing to make a statement to the Committee should contact Committee Services at least two clear working days prior to the meeting. Further information can be found [online](#).

## **6 ODIHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (Pages 7 - 89)**

To seek the Committee's views on the proposed draft Management Plan before submission to Cabinet.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the draft Odiham Common Management Plan attached at Appendix 1.
2. Approves and adopts a temporary Ash Dieback Strategy until a time where a more formal "Tree Strategy" will supplement this guidance.

## **7 OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2021/2022 (Pages 90 - 94)**

The purpose of this report is to receive the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (The LG&SCO) Annual Review Letter 2021 (attached as Appendix 1). It contains a summary of statistics on complaints and enquiries made to the LG&SCO about Hart District Council for the year ending 31 March 2022.

## **8 QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING (Pages 95 - 114)**

Quarterly update on the budget position.

**9 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2021/22 (HALF YEAR REPORT) (Pages 115 - 126)**

To report the Council's Treasury Management activities during the year ended 31 March 2022 for scrutiny and comments in advance of consideration by Cabinet.

**RECOMMENDATION**

To forward comments to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on September 1st, 2022.

**10 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 127 - 134)**

To consider the revised August Cabinet Work Programme.

**11 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN (Pages 135 - 140)**

To consider and amend the Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan.

**Date of Publication: Monday, 1 August 2022**

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 1

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 12 July 2022 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber

**Present:**

Dorn (Chairman), Axam, Butcher, Butler, Coburn, Davies, Engström, Farmer, Smith (Vice-Chairman), Wildsmith and Woods

**In attendance:**

Forster, Neighbour

**Officers:** Phillips, Joint Chief Executive  
Black, Committee Services and Members Officer  
Lord, Committee Services and Members Officer

Virtual - Brittain, S151 Officer, Bennet, Change and Digital Manager

### 1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

It was noted that the task and finish group would not be continuing and so no new members needed to be appointed to it.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Farmer declared an interest in Minute 7 as Chairman of the Swimming Club at the Sports Centre.

Councillor Dorn declared an interest in Minute 7 as a member of the Sports Centre

### 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

The chairman asked Mr Philips to explain to the committee how the version control worked with in the Mod Gov reporting system.

The meeting was also informed that an Executive Decision had been made by Cabinet with regards to the letting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the council offices to Farnborough College of Technology. The chairman stated that he was consulted about the decision and supported it.

## **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)**

None.

## **6 CRIME AND DISORDER JOINT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The committee was given a verbal report from the recent Crime and Disorder Committee.

The members were told that the meeting was very productive and that the new Chief Inspectors for Rushmoor and Basingstoke were there. Much of the discussion was around Anti-social behaviour, Knife crimes and crimes against women and girls.

Discussion took place around the reporting system. It was explained that members of the public should be encouraged to report crimes using the on line system rather than phoning 101. A link would be circulated to Councillors to share with residents in their Ward

## **7 PROVISIONAL 2021/22 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN POSITION**

Councillor Butcher declared an interest as director of Fleet Market.

The Revenue and Capital Outturn report was introduced to the committee.

Discussion took place around the use of reserves. It was confirmed that a more detailed breakdown would be created and distributed when the report was prepared for Cabinet.

Questions were raised and answered on items such as the sale of the Dog Warden van, the Domestic abuse grant, the lose of income in the car parks and future balancing of the budget. The committee was reminded that the Outturn report was a retrospective one and a forward looking report would be available later on in the year.

## **8 COMPLAINTS ANALYSIS APRIL-JUNE 2022**

The findings of the report were introduced to the committee.

The members agreed that it was a very useful report. However, they requested that in future there were more graphs, a grouping of complaints by underlying causes and that there were clearer breakdowns included, particularly with regards to the breakdown of complaints across the service areas.

Discussion took place about what information the committee would like to see in the future and what was done with the information; whether feedback was requested and analysed as well as what could be done to prevent upheld complaints happening. It was confirmed that the report was an organic document and that research would be carried out into how information could be collected and evaluated in the future.

Councillors Neighbour and Woods both left and returned during the discussion on this report.

## **9 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee was asked to review the Cabinet Work programme and to indicate if there was anything in it that they felt would benefit from detailed scrutiny. Members were reminded that once a report has reached Cabinet it could not come back to Overview and Scrutiny.

Points on the work programme relating to the technical information on the Cycle and Car parks and Fleet pond signs were queried and answered. Clarification was given about Odiham Common and when it would appear on the Cabinet work programme.

## **10 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor Forster declared an interest as a member of Hampshire County Council.

The committee discussed the working programme and the supporting document. It was suggested that the members ensured that there were not duplicating work that was already been done in working groups, Cabinet or Full Council.

The members agreed that all the items on the supporting document should be included in the Work Programme. Discussion took place about other items that the committee would also like to see; including Tier 3 savings, the Corporate Plan and the Urban Capacity Study. It was agreed to review these items.

The inclusion of the Climate Change document was debated. There were arguments made for both including it in the work programme and for not including it. It was suggested that the committee could ask for the chairman of the Climate Change committee to talk to the meeting at a future date.

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm

## Overview and Scrutiny

**DATE OF MEETING:** 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**TITLE OF REPORT:** ODIHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

**Report of:** Head of Environment and Technical Services

**Cabinet Portfolio:** Strategic Direction and Partnerships

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Confidentiality:** Non-Exempt

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek The Committee's views on the proposed draft Management Plan before submission to Cabinet

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee's comments on the following recommendations prior to its approval by Cabinet

That Cabinet:

- I) Approves the draft Odiham Common Management Plan attached at Appendix 1.
- II) Approves and adopts a temporary Ash Dieback Strategy until a time where a more formal "Tree Strategy" will supplement this guidance.

## BACKGROUND

2. As Odiham Common is a Site of Special Scientific Nature (SSSI), Natural England require the Council to prepare a Management Plan to show that the SSSI is reaching "Favourable Condition" and is meeting its legal duty as a Section 28 (g) Authority. (See section 14 for more detail)
3. A previous site management plan was developed in 2010 as a 10-year plan with the objective to restore the common to "Favourable Condition" from its previous level of "Unfavourable Condition". The management plan ended in 2020 having achieved "Favourable Condition" but due to the Covid pandemic, the new plan was not started until now.
4. In preparing a new Plan a consultation process was carried out with 11 key stakeholders. The draft plan was supported by the majority of the group. However, the plan has been subject to a petition and comments from the some residents. These responses have been considered along with the other stakeholder responses who are listed and responded within Appendix 2.
5. The Council has signed an agreement with Natural England (NE) for a 10-year delivery funded plan (which forms the basis of the draft Management Plan). Any amendments to the plan that effects the agreement will need to get consent from Natural England.

6. To support this report the Committee will receive a brief presentation from Officers from the Countryside Team on the contents on the proposed Management Plan attached at Appendix 1.

## **MAIN ISSUES**

7. As Odiham Common is a SSSI there is a need to conserve the biodiversity of the site as a priority over its public use. However, it is anticipated that the proposed plan will build on the successes of the past and represents a good compromise between biodiversity and the impacts of disturbance from recreational activities.
8. Biodiversity is a metric used to measure the variety of life in an ecosystem; the unit of biodiversity is the species. Greater biodiversity supports more resilient ecosystems, and careful management can be required to restore ecosystems to being healthy, functional, and resilient.
9. The UK is now in a biodiversity crisis with one if four species at risk in the UK we are in the 10% bottom performing countries in the world and last in the G7 group of nations. With half of our biodiversity left we are far below our “safe limit” of 90% decline and tipping into a “ecological meltdown”. This plan is intended to help build on the successes of its predecessor and provide a “haven” for biodiversity's continuing future in Hart.
10. The draft Management Plan includes a recommendation for Ash Dieback Management (see Appendix 3). Ash Dieback is a chronic fungal infection that is affecting ash populations across Europe and the UK. The pathogen attacks the internal capillary system that transports water and nutrients within the tree. This leads to loss of leaves, wilting, lesions in the bark and sometimes death.
11. The plan identifies and grades risk resulting from ash dieback. This considers the merits of retaining trees as a biodiversity resource where this risk is minimal. It is not designed to be a replacement for good woodland management.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

12. Alternative funding streams were considered as part of the development of this Plan. There is an alternative available (the Forestry Commissions woodland Grant Scheme) that offered more funding, but this option would have required more staffing resources and (to qualify) it recommended an elevated level of tree clearance that is unnecessary at this time to maintain the required “Favourable Condition” status and would have caused significant local disruption.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040**

13. Approval of the Management Plan will contribute to the Harts Corporate Plan priority of “A Clean, Green and Safe Environment.” Specifically, by the commitment to “protect and enhance biodiversity” where this explicitly commits to the positive management of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Fleet Pond, Hazeley Heath and Odiham Common).

### **Service Plan**

- Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan? No
- Is the proposal being funded from current budgets? Yes
- Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?  
Yes



## **Legal and Constitutional Issues**

14. As a Section 28g Authority, Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty to conserve biodiversity. It requires local authorities and government departments to “have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal function.” The recent Environment Act (2021) updates the NERC duty on all public authorities to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity it also requires Local Authorities to produce a biodiversity report every 5 years (which will include reporting on their ‘biodiversity actions’).
15. Odiham Common falls within the Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981, as amended) protects the interest features of the SSSIs from development, from other damage, and from neglect by ensuring that the SSSI interests are considered properly against other factors and requires the owners/occupiers to obtain consent for any operations likely to damage the SSSI interest. Local authorities must take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance the special features of SSSIs when carrying out statutory duties and giving others permission for works
16. See section 2.6 of the Management Plan for details of all legal issues.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

17. The Countryside Service has successfully applied for Countryside Stewardship funding to help deliver the plan. This amounts to a one-off capital payment of £6,384 and an annual average payment of £5,800 (varied dependant on amount of works particularly to veteran trees undertaken each year). This will help supplement the delivery of the Plan over a ten-year period.
18. Odiham Common has an approved revenue budget for 2022/23 which includes salary provision for a dedicated ranger. Any additional funding required to meet the recommendations of the draft Odiham Common Management Plan will be met from the Countryside Stewardship agreement which is funded by NE.

## **Risk Management**

19. The current ranger post is vacant, whilst this is to be recruited to there is a risk that we will not be able to recruit to this post.
20. The Countryside Stewardship agreement (which has been used to inform the draft management plan) is a ten-year agreement (with review in year 5) that has been signed with NE and confirms the conservation management objectives and funding for the duration of the agreement. To draw down the funding Hart must annually provide NE with evidence of works and compliance with the agreement's objectives. Failure to meet the objectives will result in Hart losing future years funding and could require the council to repay monies received to date.
21. If the Council does not have a Management Plan and funding in place for the site longer term the council could face legal action from Natural England for failing to maintain and improve an SSSI. Natural England could force the council to undertake appropriate works on site and / or carryout works itself and bill the council for them.

## **EQUALITIES**

22. An initial equality pre-assessment has been done and it does not require a full equality impact assessment to be undertaken.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

23. Management objective 9 relates to HDC's sustainability goals; specifically, the baseline for the site's habitat carbon sequestration will be established and options to increase sequestration will be considered. If any resulting options result in significant amendments to the planned management of the site, a revised management plan will be produced for consideration.

## **ACTION**

24. The agreed comments of the Committee will be reported to Cabinet for its consideration.

**Contact Details:** Adam Green [adam.green@hart.gov.uk](mailto:adam.green@hart.gov.uk)

## **Appendices**

- 1) **Odiham Common Management Plan 2022-2032 (final Draft for approval)**
- 2) **Consultation Responses**
- 3) **Ash Dieback Plan for Odiham Common**

**Background Papers:** [Devon Ash Dieback Advice Note](#)



# MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

# Odiham Common

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March 2022

# Version control

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

	Name	Position	Date
<b>Author</b>	Liz Vango-Smith	Senior Ranger	12.05.2022
<b>Reviewed by</b>	"Enter text"	"Enter text"	"Enter text"
<b>Authorised</b>	Steve Lyons	Operations Manager	"Enter text"
	Nicky Williamson	Ecology Officer	"Enter text"
	Leigh Wallace	Visitor Services Manager	"Enter text"
	Adam Green	Countryside Manager	"Enter text"
<b>Cabinet or Portfolio Holder approval</b>	David Neighbour	Leader of the Council	"Enter text"
<b>Permissions needed*</b>	Yes ( <i>Countryside Stewardship 2022-2023 approved by Natural England</i> ) ( <i>Woodland Plan 2022-2031 approved by Forestry Commission</i> )	<i>Ref: No</i>	<i>Obtain from NE July 2022</i>

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# 1. Priorities

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## 1.1 Corporate Priorities

This management plan has been written in accordance with Hart District Council's (HDC's) corporate priorities, which have been identified in the Corporate and Service Plans. This includes, but is not limited to, the following priority areas: -

Hart 2040 Vision and Corporate Plans -  
<https://www.hart.gov.uk/our-vision-values>

Climate change emergency, carbon sequestration and Hart's Climate Change Action Plan - <https://www.hart.gov.uk/climate-change-0>

Any relevant environmental legislation and in line with Hart's Biodiversity Action Plan - <https://www.hart.gov.uk/local-countryside-projects>

As a Local Authority, we also have a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity under the NERC Act. The site will be managed accordingly and is subject to review at any time, in response to any amendments or additions to these priorities.

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## 1.2 Vision

### 1.2.1. 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.

**1.2.2. 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. Site vision**

Odiham Common is a beautiful, tranquil space, rich in wildlife and steeped in cultural heritage. It is used by local people for quiet recreation and to connect with nature, contributing directly to their health, well-being and local sense of place. It continues to receive relatively low public use, compared to sites more suited to attracting high footfall, such as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs). As a result, the disturbance to wildlife from people and dogs remains relatively low, promoting high wildlife value. All parts of the SSSI have achieved Favorable Condition Status.

The Common supports a mix of wood pasture, ancient woodland, and meadows - habitats rich in plant, animal and fungi species that have evolved through the interaction between people and their environment over centuries. These habitats are managed with a range of techniques to maintain and enhance the mixture of natural open space, woodland and ponds, and ensure the continuity of the site's precious veteran and mature trees. A network of naturally surfaced paths allows visitors to feel safe and secure while enjoying the site. Path surfacing and other site infrastructure are made of natural materials where possible, retaining a rural feel. Effective engagement with members of the public and other stakeholders means that the wildlife and historical interest of the site are understood, and that management is supported; site users appreciate Odiham Common both as a wild place and a cultural landscape.

### 1.2.3. Woodland Vision

Odiham Common is a vibrant and diverse wood pasture that directly contributes to local people's quality of life and community spirit; and where the diversity of landscape, habitats and cultural heritage are better understood so as to enhance public enjoyment and improve management of the Common. There is a varied age structure of open-crowned trees and a new generation of pollards and protected areas of rotational coppice connecting locals and visitors with place, nature and tradition. The shifting kaleidoscope of grassland and scrub species that form the understorey and carpet the glades, rides and open spaces are bursting with nectar sources and dotted with saplings rising through the natural protection of thorn and briar to become the veteran trees of the future, meanwhile maintaining the sense of 'discovery' so valued by users

of the Common. Light is dappled through the canopy with openings enough that the trees grow with an open crown to a respectable age, whilst still sustaining moisture and ambient temperatures to the benefit of lichens, liverworts, hornworts and mosses. Standing and fallen deadwood pervades the forest, supporting a wealth of plants, fungi and creatures that rely on deadwood for part, or all of their lifecycle, and complimenting the prevalent microhabitats of the ancient and veteran trees, which themselves support multiple species of bat, birds and other species. Wherever possible, products from management activities feed into the local economy or else benefit the site directly for biodiversity, or the enjoyment of visitors and the local community. Grazing animals may or may not be present, but in their absence are imitated by hand or mechanically to mimic the unique disturbance, varied sward and browsing action that maintains diversity in a natural ecosystem. A string of open ponds connects the fragile habitats of species such as the Great Crested Newt and through careful management are maintained for posterity as permanent aquatic habitat. There is strong agreement between all people (including local residents, those responsible for managing the Common, and other interested organisations) over what is special about the Common and why it needs to be protected, conserved and enhanced. The resources and services that the Common provides to the community are newly appreciated and made relevant to 21st century living, in line with national and local government policies.

## 2. General Information

### 2.1 Customer Care Standards

All site management and related activities will be carried out with a commitment to excellent customer care standards, in line with Hart's core values. Further details of Hart's Customer Care Standards can be found on our website, here:  
<https://www.hart.gov.uk/customer-care-standards-0>

### 2.2 Location and status

<b>Grid Reference</b>	SU753528 (central point).
<b>Site Name</b>	Odiham Common
<b>Location</b>	Just to the northeast of Odiham (from which it is separated by the Basingstone Canal) and south of Winchfield in north Hampshire
<b>Site Status</b>	Countryside Site
<b>SSSI Name (if applicable)</b>	Part of Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI
<b>Date Notified</b>	7 February 1992
<b>Date Renotified</b>	N/A
<b>District</b>	Hart
<b>County</b>	Hampshire

<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	Hart District Council
<b>Total Area</b>	115ha
<b>Legal Right of Access</b>	Open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Dedication of the Common under Section 193 (2) of the Law of Property Act (1925) coupled with the High Court judgement R v SoS Environment ex part Billson 1998, gives horse riders a general right of access for air and exercise. A Public Right of Way (PRoW) footpath crosses the site from the B3106 in the north west to the footbridge over the Basingstoke Canal on the southern boundary, where two shorter PRoW footpaths also enter the site.
<b>Byelaws</b>	There are byelaws to prevent nuisance and preserve order on the Common (see Appendix 1)

### 2.3 Site Map

See Map 1

### 2.4 Land Tenure

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

<b>Ownership</b>	Hart District Council
<b>Type of holding</b>	Freehold
<b>Date of acquisition</b>	1945



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

## 2.5 Access and Structures

### 2.5.1. Footpaths, Bridges and other Access Structures

A length of boardwalk runs through the woods adjacent to the meadows in the south-west corner of the site leading to a bridge over the stream. There are 5 low footbridges crossing ditches in the meadows. There are numerous paths through the site (see Map 2), including three ProW which all lead from Broad Oak footbridge over the Basingstoke Canal on the southern boundary. The Three Castles Way runs adjacent to the site along the Basingstoke Canal.

### 2.5.2. Green Corridor

Odiham Common provides a green corridor in an otherwise arable and urban landscape, linking Park Hall Copse/Forest Park and Broad Oak Common and other Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) to the south-east to the SSSI component sites Bagwell Green and Shaw to the east and providing a stepping stone to woodland parcels at Winchfield and Phoenix Green to the north some of which are also SINCs.

### 2.5.3. Furniture

Four notice boards are situated at the key entrance points to the site (see Map 2). There is a bench beneath the Jubilee Oak in the Southern Pastures (east).

### 2.5.4. Car Park and Access Track

Odiham Common can be accessed via the underpass at Colt Hill Lane from Basingstoke Canal Car Park. There are also two laybys with room for 2-3 cars on the B3016 (see Map 2).

### 2.5.5. Access Points and Restrictions

The site can be accessed from numerous points as it is largely unfenced. Key access points are from the car park and laybys and where public rights of way enter the site (see Map 2). Removable bollards restrict vehicular access at the northern layby.

### 2.5.6. Fencing

The site is largely unfenced, although there is partial fencing around the Southern Meadows along London Road and at the foot of the A287 embankment.

## 2.6 Legislation and other Requirements

**Law of Property Act (1925):** Odiham Common was dedicated under Section 193 (2) of the Law of Property Act (1925) in May 1938. This includes legislation affecting the extent of works permitted on common land - the statutory consents process previously applicable under this act has now been superseded by the Commons Act 2006

**Commons Registration Act (1965):** Odiham Common was registered as common land under the Commons Registration Act 1965 which required local authorities to establish registers of common land within their areas. A list of registered commoners is held by Hart District Council (Hart DC); rights include grazing livestock and undertaking other specific activities.

**Commons Act (2006):** This act supersedes/builds upon the 1925 Law of Property Act and is now the main legislative reference point regarding the protection and management of common land. The Act enables commons to be managed more sustainably by commoners and landowners working together through commons councils, with powers to regulate grazing and other agricultural activities. It also provides for better protection for common land and greens by streamlining the consents system for works and fencing of commons and ensuring that existing statutory protections are applied consistently. It recognises that the protection of common land has to be proportionate to the harm caused and provides that some specified works can be carried out without the need for consent. The Act prohibits the severance of common rights, preventing commoners from selling, leasing or letting their rights away from the property to which rights are attached.

**Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:** Due to its common land status, the Common is mapped as having open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

**Wildlife Countryside Act, 1981:** Odiham Common falls within the Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which was notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife Countryside Act (1981) in 1992 on account of the many examples of rare flora and fauna. This protects the interest features

of the SSSIs from development, from other damage, and from neglect by ensuring that the SSSI interests are considered properly against other factors and requires the owners/occupiers to obtain consent for any operations likely to damage the SSSI interest. Local authorities must take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance the special features of SSSIs when carrying out statutory duties and giving others permission for works

**Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006:** Much of Odiham Common is Woodpasture and Parkland and Deciduous Woodland in addition there are areas of Good quality semi-improved grassland and Lowland Meadows, which are habitats listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 as being of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers, including local authorities, when in implementing their duty to have regard to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity when carrying out their normal functions.

**Environment Act 2021:** This updates the NERC Act's duty on all public authorities to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving **and enhancing** biodiversity.

### **Climate Emergency Declaration**

Hart District Council has declared a climate emergency and set a target for the district to be net zero carbon by 2040 (*Climate Emergency Declaration & 2040 Net Zero Target*: <https://hart.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g162/Public%20minutes%2029th-Apr-2021%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=11>). Science based target defines Net Zero as “at least 90% emissions reductions”, with the remaining 10% neutralised i.e., “the permanent removal and

storage of carbon from the atmosphere”, for example through nature-based activities within Hart District.

The sites Hart currently manages can play a part in meeting the 2040 Net Zero target through nature-based carbon reduction. However, we need to understand how we can improve carbon sequestration while also insuring we improving biodiversity. The management plan will need to take into account future biodiversity and carbon offsetting delivery strategy (due 2022/23), which will seek to baseline the current carbon sequestration and biodiversity on sites Hart currently manages and will sets out projects that could improve both.

## 2.7 Health, Safety and Security

All work undertaken is in line with our Corporate Health and Safety Policy and our departmental Health and Safety documents.

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 lead bodies and have been instrumental in the development of industry standards and guidance publications. They are also available for specialist advice.

### 2.7.1. Emergency Planning

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 an incident procedure. A copy of this plan can be found in the

Countryside Workshop and electronically on the Hart District Council system.

### 2.7.2. Site Safety

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. Records of these surveys are kept electronically on the Hart District Council system.

### 2.7.3. Enforcement

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 dedicated enforcement officers, who are able to give on the spot fines of for dog fouling or littering. This is provided through a contract with East Hampshire District Council. 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 our 'report a litter hot spot' function on our website (<https://www.hart.gov.uk/report-litter-hotspot>) or through the 'fix my street' function (<https://hart.fixmystreet.com/>).

If we have identify a particular hotspot then we will liaise with East Hampshire District Council. For specific problems with dogs or fouling at a site, we are able to run a 'pop up' stall in conjunction with the dog warden to educate members of the public and utilise social media campaigns if required.

A water safety risk assessment was last carried out on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and is reviewed annually.

### 2.7.4. 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.

## 2.8 Historical and social context

### 2.8.1. Past management for nature conservation

Odiham Common is managed and maintained by Hart DC. A timeline showing main events since Hart DC took ownership of the site in 1978 is provided in Appendix 1.

Since designation as an SSSI in 1992, a range of management activities have been carried out on Odiham Common with the aim of restoring its ancient character and retaining and improving its habitat value and visitor access. Management has included:

- Scrub treatment/clearance within the Southern Meadows
- Bracken and Rhododendron control;
- Tree felling and removal to enlarge rides;
- Rotational coppicing in defined coupes;
- Mowing, temporary fencing and grazing;
- Pond restoration; and
- Monitoring of flora and fauna.

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

- Maintaining the network of paths/rides by clearing obstructions, cutting back vegetation where necessary and mowing;
- Litter picking on paths, roadside edges, pull-ins, parking areas and the whole of the Common;

- 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 arrange for specialist works to be completed; and
- Checking safety condition of all footbridges, signs, drop bollards, dragons teeth, fencing, safety rails etc.

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

## 8.2. Past status of the site

A Scheme of Regulation and Management (approved in 1949 under the authority of the Commons Act (1899) sets out what the Council may do to protect and improve the Common and sets parameters for its access and use, stating that ‘the inhabitants of the district and neighbourhood shall have a right of free access to every part of the commons and a privilege of playing games and of enjoying other species of recreation thereon subject to any byelaws made by the Council under this scheme.’ Management of the Common has as a result been statutorily controlled and guided by the Scheme in conjunction with the relevant legislation.

Management has also been controlled through the designation of the site under the Wildlife Countryside Act (1981) in 1992 which ensures that the SSSI interest features are properly considered.

## 2.9 People

### 2.9.1. Local communities, partnerships and stakeholders

Hart DC has worked with a broad partnership on the management of Odiham Common. The Odiham Consultative Group was specifically formed to help inform development of the previous 2009-2019 management plan, in line with the ‘Common Purpose’ process. The committee consisted of representatives from the following groups and organisations:

- Hampshire CC
- Hart DC Councillor, Hartley Wintney Ward
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Odiham Biodiversity Group
- Odiham Parish Council
- Odiham Society
- Open Spaces Society
- Potbridge Residents Association

There are also good links established with Basingstoke Canal Authority Rangers (who manage and maintain the canal), Hampshire County Council (public rights of way officers) and other local landowners/managers.

The above management plan has now been completed and future communications will be directly through the Parish Councils as the local ward and subject to future corporate and service communication strategies.

The core mechanisms for future engagement will consist of the following methods, in line with Countryside's emerging Engagement Plan: -

- Future communications on general site management will be delivered by direct liaisons with Parish Councils, as well as via social media and website updates.
- Hart DC will continue to uphold any legal requirements in terms of engaging with other organisations on management of the site.
- Future projects will be subject to the identification and liaison with key stakeholders that may be impacted by the results of the project being implemented on site. This engagement will be based on the needs of such projects in line with the 'Common Purpose'. Where appropriate, engagement will be constitutionalised with clearly defined engagement periods that are project-specific.

### 2.9.2. Volunteers

There are currently limited opportunities for volunteers to participate in the management of Odiham Common, in part due to the isolated nature of the site and lack of parking. Future volunteer involvement will be through working parties arranged by the Hart DC Ranger Service

### 2.9.3. Access and tourism

Odiham Common has been freely accessible to the public for 'air and exercise' since 1936 and is valued for its landscape, history, wildlife and amenity. It is predominantly used by local people for informal recreation, including walking, dog walking and horse-riding. The site is also in close proximity to the Basingstoke canal, as well as the Hunting Lodge at Wilk's Water, which is owned and managed by the National Trust.

### 2.9.4. Past and current provision

As described in sections 1.5.1, 1.5.3-5 above, provision is for general public access and includes information panels, small footbridges, and a short length of boardwalk. There are numerous informal paths criss-crossing the site.

### 2.9.5. Past and current use

There is currently little information available about the past and current use of Odiham Common. The 2008 consultation included a questionnaire, which was completed by a subset of users, and indicated that the site is mainly used by local people for quiet recreation including walking, dog walking and horse riding. Due to the limited availability of parking, most users are likely to access the site on foot or on horseback.

## 2.9.6. Educational use

There is currently no formal educational use made of the site. However, there are low levels of educational use on site from local groups. Infrastructural constraints (the lack of parking and the unmade nature of the paths) mean that, with the exception of very local use, it is not general suitable for regular use by groups.

## 2.10 Site description

### 2.10.1.1. Physical

Odiham Common lies to the south of the M3 and is separated from Odiham village by the Basingstoke Canal and the A287. The site is dissected by Odiham Road (B3016), Bagwell Lane and Potbridge Road. A significant pylon wayleave crosses the east of the site with a smaller wayleave across the north of the site. There are a number of properties located within the common (outside of the SSSI boundary and Hart DC ownership).

### 2.10.1.2. Climate

The annual mean temperature for North East 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 of 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.

### 2.10.1.3. Hydrology

Odiham Common lies between the River Whitewater to the west and an un-named seasonal tributary to the north and east. In the southwest of the site there are a number of ditches, while small streams rise from springs to the north west and drain westwards towards the River Whitewater. The site becomes very wet in winter.

### 2.10.1.4. Geology

The Common lies at the junction of the London Clay, Plateau Gravel and Lower Bagshot Beds, with most of the site dominated by London Clay.

### 2.10.1.5. Geomorphology

Odiham Common forms a dome with the highest point at Cherry Hill (88m), from which the land slopes away to 68m at the lowest point. The landform is fairly consistent, although a large clay pit occurs between Cherry Hill and Hazel Cottage with smaller extraction pits scattered throughout the Odiham Common, particularly to the northeast.

### 2.10.1.6. Soils

Flinty, sandy and loamy soils occur over most of the site and are seasonally waterlogged in the surface layers. Lower land around the edges of the site have more protracted seasonal waterlogging due to the underlying London Clay. The soil pH varies across the site (and is reflected in the vegetation). Moderately acidic soils dominate the centre of the site with neutral to slightly acidic soils occurring to the south.

## 2.10.2. Cultural

### 2.10.2.1. Archaeology and Past Land Use

The history of Odiham Common is described in *Odiham Common – a report on common rights, historic use and encroachments on the Common* by Mary Bennett (Appendix 5 of the 2010-2020 management plan). This provides an account of how the Common was used on the past for grazing cattle and sheep, for timber, brushwood and underwood (coppice), and for sand, gravel and clay extraction. There was also a limited amount of turf cutting.

There were a number of encroachments on the common, some of which are now listed buildings (see Map 4).

A number of listed buildings lie within or on the edge of Odiham Common, including The Hunting Lodge (Site UID 4249) a late 18th century 'folly', Wilks Water (Site UID 4250) a two storey house dates from the 18th century and late 19th century, a 19th century Milestone (Site UID 4404) on the London Road south of the Junction with Bagwell Lane, Garden Cottage (Site UID 4434), part of which is 17th century and timber framed, Potbridge Farmhouse (Site UID 4435) a 17th century, early 18th century two storey timber framed farmhouse, Woodside and Gregor Gates (Site UID 4436 & 4437) a 18th/19th century irregular two storey timber framed block, now two cottages

There are a number of other buildings and archaeological sites which are included on the Hampshire County Council Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record including Green Hill (Site UID 55455) the only structure remaining on the site of the brickworks, Broad Oak Bridge (Site UID 54206) the canal bridge built in 1792 which links the southern part of Odiham Common with Broak Oak Common, Potbridge Farm (Site UID 38306), Site of Toll House and Toll Gate (Site UID 58580), Site of Odiham Brickworks (Site UID 55454) 19th Century, Section of Pale of Odiham Deer Park (Site UID 28838) (the boundary of the original deer park is marked by a continuous line of hedgerows and field boundaries). Site of Roman Tile Kiln (Site UID 28836)



### 2.10.3. Present Conservation Status

Odiham Common falls within the Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI (see Map 3) which was notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife Countryside Act, 1981 in 1992 (See Map 3).

A small area of Odiham Common (in the southeast corner around Wilks Water) is not SSSI but is designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and is protected in relation to development by Policy NBE 4 Biodiversity of the Hart Local Plan.

A smaller area of woodland between Trotters Lane and Potbridge Road in the north of the site has no nature designation but is Woodpasture and Parkland Habitat of Principal Importance.

### 2.10.4. Surrounding Landscape

Odiham Common falls within the area covered by Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032. It is noted that the Local Plan makes provision for 111 houses as set out in the Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan.

The landscape surrounding the site is described as follows:

#### **Northern boundary:**

The northern boundary of Odiham Common lies within a few hundred metres of the M3. The Common is bordered by the hamlet of Potbridge and an area of rush pasture, also part of the Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI; this compartment is currently in unfavorable condition. Beyond the M3 are the semi-rural villages of Phoenix Green and Hartley Wintney.

#### **Western boundary:**

Odiham Common bordered by agricultural land to the west, with North Warnborough 1km to the south west, beyond which are two small SSSIs (Warnborough Green and Greywell Fen) SSSIs. About 2km further west lie two larger SSSIs, Butter Wood, and Hook Common and Hartley Heath, with the town of Hook to the north.

#### **Southern boundary:**

The southern boundary is delineated by the A287 and Basingstoke Canal (SSSI), south of which is Odiham village and Broad Oak Common. Nearby Dogmersfield Park to the southeast of the Common is included as Grade II on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and includes Dogmersfield Water, part of the Basingstoke Canal SSSI.

#### **Eastern boundary:**

Bagwell Green and Bagwell Shaw, component woodland sites of the Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI are adjacent to the east, together with agricultural land including some permanent pasture and a livery yard. Agricultural land extends for some 4km, beyond which is Fleet, the major town of Hart District.

### 2.10.5. Ecological

#### 2.10.5.1. Surveys

A range of ecological baseline data is available for the site, with subsequent information collated from the following sources:

- Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI citation document<sup>1</sup> and associated SSSI Condition Assessment<sup>2</sup>;
- Odiham Common/Wood SSSI – Phase II (vegetation) survey (2018);
- Survey of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates of Odiham Common, Hampshire (2018).
- Odiham Common fungi survey (2011);
- A Management Plan for Odiham Common (2010) - the site's previous management plan;
- Odiham Common SSSI Bird Survey (2010);
- Odiham Common – Understanding the Place (2009);
- Entomological survey and assessment of Odiham Common (2009);
- Odiham Common felled area, grassland areas, and wayleaves - Phase II (vegetation) survey (2009);
- Odiham Common Woodland Management Plan (2010-2020);
- Odiham Common moth survey (2002);
- List of birds found on Odiham Common in the spring and summer of 1986, 1995, and 2002; and,
- A map of Priority Ponds (including those supporting Great Crested Newt) supplied by Natural England.

<sup>1</sup><https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1002756.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1002756&ReportTitle=Odiham%20Common%20with%20Bagwell%20Green%20and%20Shaw%20SSSI>

Summary descriptions of the contents of each of the targeted survey reports listed are provided in Appendix 2.

Additional records of relevant taxa may also be held for the site by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Center (HBiC), Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group and the British Trust for Ornithology amongst other local natural history groups.

Odiham Common has been subject to surveys for a range of habitats and taxa, with particular historical emphasis upon its important plant and invertebrate communities (for which recent, detailed, survey information is available). The potential presence of additional protected/noteworthy species, including bats and reptile species, are however detailed in some of the non-survey specific data sources highlighted previously (e.g. the Odiham Common Woodland Management Plan).

Specific future surveys for the site have been identified (see Section 4).

#### 2.10.5.2. Habitats and communities

Odiham Common consists of an extensive mosaic of wood pasture, meadows and rush pasture with smaller areas of mire and swamp communities. It formerly supported large areas of wood pasture, but this habitat became threatened by the cessation of traditional grazing activities. Nevertheless, an important array of acid grassland species still typifies the woodland ground flora, and an impressive number of ancient woodland indicator species have been recorded from the site. Drainage within the woodland, and other areas of the site, is facilitated by a network of ditches, although several of these are currently close-ended.

The majority of the woodland consists of oak, with holly, birch, or Hazel as the dominant shrub layer species (W10, W10c). Areas of Ash woodland (W8, W8a, W8d), supporting a good ancient woodland flora, are also found on site, with stands of wet woodland (W1, W4, W6a) also present. Coppicing continues in isolated areas and the central area of woodland is identified on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Active management of the site over the last 15 years has opened up several of the rides and glades within the woodland areas, and wood pasture habitat has been restored by felling and subsequent management. Rush pasture is also locally found within areas of structured wood pasture, with remnants of former wood pasture found in association with old/veteran oaks present within the site.

The wayleaves and rides across the site, as well as the southern meadows, comprise more established open areas. These support neutral grassland (MG1, MG1c, MG1e, MG5a, MG5c, MG6b) and acid grassland (MG25, M25a, U1e) communities, in addition to rush pasture, mire and swamp (M23, M23a, M23b, MG10, MG10a, MG27c, M30, S7) and areas of bracken and scrub (W24, W25). Several ponds are also found across the site, with the largest supporting significant aquatic vegetation.

### 2.10.6. Ecological Assessment of Significance

Odiham Common forms a core component of the nationally designated Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI. A small section of the site (in the southeast corner, around Wilk's Water), beyond the SSSI boundary, is designated as a SINC (i.e. a Local Wildlife Site). The site also supports several important habitat types. These comprise:

- Ancient and semi-natural woodland;
- Wood pasture;
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland;
- Wet woodland;
- Lowland dry acid grassland (including remnant/recovering wood pasture);
- Lowland meadow;
- Good quality semi-improved grassland;
- Purple Moor-grass and rush pasture; and,
- Ponds.

Within these broader habitat types a range of important features are also located. These include:

- Boundary banks;
- Fallen and standing deadwood;
- Glades and open rides; and,
- Veteran/notable trees.

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

- A single nationally Vulnerable plant species (Lesser Spearwort), and 11 nationally Near Threatened species (namely: Heather, Cross-leaved Heath, Wild Strawberry, Marsh Pennywort, Field Scabious, Wood Sorrel, Tormentil, Sanicle, Devil's-bit Scabious, Heath Speedwell, and Marsh Speedwell);

- The nationally Near Threatened Petty Whin was also known historically from the site, although it may have been lost due to the cessation of grazing;
- 2 plant species/genera listed on Annex 5 of the EU Habitats Directive (Butcher's-broom and *Sphagnum*);
- A single plant species identified as Scarce in North Hampshire (Floating Club-rush);
- 53 Ancient Woodland Indicator plant species;
- An important invertebrate assemblage associated with woodland, grassland, and wetland habitats. Surveys carried out in 2017 identified 1,097 invertebrate species on site including 26 Nationally Rare or Scarce, and 24 Nationally Notable, in addition to 4 Red Data Book and 3 S41 Priority Species. The site's saproxylic invertebrate community, and population of the Forester Moth, are both assessed as being of County importance. The site has historically been particularly noted for flies, and many of the rarer species are associated with dead or dying trees within its woodland areas.
- An array of bird species (45 recorded within the boundary, of which 34 species are breeding), including 6 Red-listed Birds of Conservation Concern<sup>3</sup> (Woodcock, Cuckoo, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Mistle Thrush, Marsh Tit, and Greenfinch), and a further 13 Amber-listed species, during the most recent targeted survey. Nevertheless, a small number of former specialist breeding species (including Wood Warbler and Nightingale) have been lost in recent decades, against a backdrop of more widespread national declines. There are historic records of a single breeding bird species (Firecrest) listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- Two reptile species (Common Lizard and Grass Snake) listed on *Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*. Have recently been recorded from the site, alongside historic records of Adder;
- Great Crested Newts, comprising a European Protected Species and listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Odiham Common also has potential to support Otter, Dormouse, and several bat species, all of which would comprise European Protected Species and be listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These have been recorded from localities within proximity to Odiham Common, but their presence on site has not yet been confirmed via targeted survey work. The habitats present suggest that all may however potentially be present, or at least occasionally use habitats within, the site boundary.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/publications/bocc-5-a5-4pp-single-pages.pdf>

### 2.10.6.1. Rarity of Features

The areas of Ancient Woodland (including associated remnant/recovering wood pasture) and lowland meadows on site comprise nationally important habitat types. The former is still abundant within the county of Hampshire, due to the presence of the New Forest, but constitutes an important national resource where found. Wood pasture has been lost from many areas due to changes in land management, and particularly as a result of changes in grazing. The woodland on site incorporates a number of veteran trees, as well as standing and fallen deadwood, which are likely to be localised in the landscape.

The extent of sympathetically managed lowland meadows has declined dramatically on a national level over the last century, largely due to changes in farming practices and land management, with those remaining areas comprising important biodiversity features. Ponds have also suffered a national historic decline in abundance and quality, with those still present subject to pressure from pollutants, drainage, and development.

Large-scale mosaics of semi-natural habitat, as found in the SSSI, are also declining, and risk isolation within agricultural or urban matrices.

Please refer to Section 1.10.6 for details on the rarity of notable plant and animal species found (or potentially found) on site.

### 2.10.6.2. Fragility of Features

The veteran trees on site are susceptible to trampling impacts and associated soil compaction, which may be exacerbated if future ditch improvements (and associated drainage) make veterans in wetter areas more accessible. Any impact upon veteran trees could also impact species or species groups dependent upon them (e.g. cavity nesting bird species or roosting bats). Reduced recruitment is also considered to increase the fragility of the site's woodland areas (on a multidecadal scale).

Veteran trees, and standing deadwood, are also susceptible to climatic effects (including storms and drought), and any major or sustained removal/moving of fallen deadwood from the forest floor (via management or access activities (e.g. den building)) has the potential to damage, or cause changes, to associated micro-habitats important for invertebrate and fungal species.

The areas of wood pasture on site require active management and, in the absence of grazing, newly opened glades and rides will require regular cutting to avoid scrubbing up. This includes cutting recently established open space where scrub encroachment is already apparent. Similarly, the lowland meadows on site need active management. In the absence of grazing, cuttings must be removed from meadow areas to avoid nutrient build up. Both habitats are susceptible to the effects of pollution and scrubbing up.

Several of the ponds on site are in recovery following management intervention. Ephemeral bankside habitats will change as succession occurs, and loss of existing open/bare areas will lead to the loss of invertebrate specialists associated with open habitat/exposed mineral substrates, in the absence of targeted management. Any increase in shading over time of newly “opened up” ponds will also comprise a longer-term issue for their aquatic plant and invertebrate communities. All wetland habitats on site are also particularly at risk from pollutants.

The continued presence of rare or notable plant and invertebrate species on site is dependent upon the continued availability of their specific habitats. If individual species on site occupy only a small area (e.g. species found only in ponds, relict populations of Heather, etc) then they will also be more susceptible to stochastic processes.

The breeding bird assemblage on site is has potential to be diminished by the loss of rarer species, as has happened historically with, for example, Wood Warbler, which may be on the edge of range or subject to ongoing national declines. The core assemblage of commoner species is however likely to be robust to anything but major changes in habitat quality or extent.

The reptile and amphibian species found on site will be susceptible to disturbance and potential killing or injury through specific access (e.g., dogs) or management actions. Great Crested Newts are also at risk from any activity negatively impacting their breeding ponds, or terrestrial activities which may hamper movement between ponds/metapopulations.

### 2.10.6.3. Typicalness

Odiham Common represents an impressive remnant of former common land, with the areas of woodland on site subject to recent positive management and supporting an exceptional number of Ancient Woodland indicator plant species. The presence of a saproxylic invertebrate community of County importance is also noteworthy. As such, parts of the site are typical (or even exemplative) of recovering wood pasture systems in the UK.

The areas of lowland meadow present on site are atypical in terms of their management (i.e., lack of grazing). Although areas of rank grassland are present alongside areas exhibiting a shorter, more species-rich, sward, a suite of typical grassland flora is nevertheless present.

A breeding bird assemblage typical of lowland English woodland and grassland mosaics is also present, alongside the more notable species identified in Section 1.10.6.

### 2.10.6.4. Potential for improvement/restoration

There is potential to close any gaps in Ancient Woodland/veteran tree age structure, resulting from reduced recruitment, through veteranisation of existing standards. This could potentially increase the number of features associated with veteran trees within the site, and consequently benefit associated flora and fauna. The continued haloing of secondary woodland surrounding existing veterans could also increase the biodiversity value of these features.

The ongoing management of glades and the linking of open rides across the site, should be focused upon areas supporting mature trees, which should lead to an increase in invertebrate species richness. Any fallen deadwood within these areas should be left *in situ* where possible, and the provision of boxes for cavity-nesting birds and roosting bats considered.

Shading of many of the site's woodland ponds under closed canopies has led to an impoverished invertebrate fauna within them. There is therefore scope to open up the canopy above a selection of such waterbodies and increase invertebrate species richness within them. Care should still be taken however to maintain some areas of shaded/wet woodland however to benefit associated invertebrate specialists. Rewetting of the quarry pits would also benefit wetland flora and fauna, and potentially increase breeding opportunity for the Great Crested Newt metapopulation.

Areas of rank lowland meadow on site may potentially lose important plant and invertebrate species in the absence of changes in current management practices. Currently, undesirables such as hemlock water dropwort are beginning to dominate areas of lowland meadow and have the potential to contaminate hay cuts. This is particularly apparent near roadsides and where water overflows from ditches in the meadow areas; active management of the ditches could help alleviate this issue. Early cuts and removal of material should be considered to promote removal of undesirable species before they set seed, without compromising floristic or invertebrate diversity. Grazing would be the preferred management technique to increase structural diversity and reduce the proportion of rank grassland species present. In its absence, the continued operation of hay cutting is essential. Nevertheless, traditional summer cutting is generally a suboptimal management technique for promoting invertebrate diversity in the long run, as many species will be negatively impacted by hay removal in the summer months. Therefore, areas should be left uncut each year on rotation, to create a more diverse mosaic habitat.

The reintroduction of grazing would also benefit grassland and scrub habitats within the main wayleave, as scrubbing up there has led to this particular area being considered in an unfavourable condition. Grazing would here, as in the lowland meadows, increase habitat structure and diversity, although rotational cutting would have a similar effect. The use of the latter, in the absence of grazing, would also be more beneficial to the invertebrate community than an "all in one" cut, allowing an array of microhabitats to develop.

## 2.10.7. Factors affecting the management of Ecological features

### 2.10.7.1. On site natural factors

#### **Negative trends**

Numerical trends are not generally available. It is known that a small number of breeding bird species (e.g. Wood Warbler and Nightingale) have been lost from the site subsequent to the designation of the SSSI. These losses are a symptom of larger scale reductions in their national populations and range, driven by a range of factors thought to be largely external to individual site management.

The arrival of Ash Dieback disease on site, subsequent to its arrival in the UK in 2012, has already led to declines in Ash tree health. Its presence in Ash standards on site, and the potential risk posed to site users by disease-mediated treefall as a result, will necessitate the planned and well-considered removal of infected trees from localities used for access for the foreseeable. This will be addressed through Hart DC's development of a wider tree strategy, in collaboration with partnerships at County level.

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 or storm frequency, in particular, has the potential to directly impact the site's veteran trees and wetland habitats.

#### **Positive trends**

Numerical trends are again unavailable, but the most recent invertebrate survey of the site identified the presence of a small number of adventive or recently colonising UK species. Colonisation by continental species may therefore continue to increase invertebrate species richness in the future.

### 2.10.7.2. On site human-induced factors

#### **Negative trends**

Numerical trends are not available, but there are indications that significant scrub encroachment within the main wayleave has led to a decrease in habitat and structural diversity. Changes in habitat structure, linked to an absence of grazing (or active management in its absence), has also potentially led to the loss of some rarer plant species from the site (e.g. Petty Whin).

Recent botanical surveys have also identified that the current grassland management regime is not optimum, with indications that the grasslands present are becoming rougher and more dominated by ranker species, such as False Oat-grass, with Bracken also spreading. Aftermath grazing, or a second cut (with arisings removed), may be required to mitigate the situation.



Trampling and damage to paths, with associated soil compaction, has been identified as a concern by site users, particularly in wetter areas. This is largely due to the nature of the site and ground conditions. Whilst horse riding has been identified as having a contributory impact, as a Commons site with rights to access, this factor is difficult to manage directly. Necessary access for site maintenance, including for statutory maintenance duties (e.g. for National Grid works), is a further contributing factor to route conditions. Some control is possible through appropriate communications and timings of work to be carried out, e.g. during drier ground conditions and with remedial works.

Intermittent fly-tipping has also been identified as having negative impacts upon habitats on site.

### **Positive trends**

The number of Ancient Woodland Indicator Plant Species found on site has increased from 48 in 2004 to 53 in 2017 due to improvements in forestry and coppice management. Areas of rush pasture and restored wood pasture (with scrubby components) have increased in the same period, increasing structural diversity.

Only a single notable plant species was identified on site during NVC surveys carried out in 2009, whilst 12 notable species were identified in 2017. It is not clear how directly this change is linked to changes in site management.

The creation of open areas and glades, and the reinstatement of coppicing, between 2009 and 2018 has led to a more open woodland/parkland habitat with a developed acid field-layer community and structurally complex scrub components.

Invertebrate species richness within the lowland meadows also increased within this period (from 315 species to 472 species) as a result of changes in management. A large increase was also observed in woodland areas (155 species to 597 species), although it was difficult to identify whether this was entirely due to changes in management or to greater survey effort/targeting of cryptic species.

Clearance and partial opening up of the pond in the northeast corner of the Common is likely to have improved conditions significantly for a range of aquatic and wetland invertebrates.

### **2.10.7.3. External factors**

Surface runoff from adjacent roads has the potential to pollute adjacent areas of terrestrial and aquatic habitat and/or other areas of habitat 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 lowland meadow and acid grassland).

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.

### **2.10.7.4. Opportunities**

There is the opportunity to enhance the wildlife interest at Odiham Common through:

- Ongoing veteran tree management, including the creation of future ancient trees through veteranisation and haloing of younger trees;
- Potentially expanding the area of ancient woodland under coppice management to benefit the ground flora and increase structural diversity (e.g. for breeding birds, Dormouse);
- Enhancing the deadwood resource;
- Preventing existing open areas from scrubbing up (such as the wayleave);
- Improving the diversity of the meadows through traditional meadow management include grazing or an improved cutting regime;
- Undertaking sensitive pond restoration;
- Potentially re-wetting quarry pits using the existing ditch system;
- Managing ditches where lack of management has a detrimental impact on surrounding flora

There have been previous challenges to reinstatement of grazing in the past, but there are opportunities to work with the local community, including through walks, talks, volunteer events and improved communications to seek mutually acceptable outcomes. Recent use of no-fence grazing on other Hart DC managed land is proving effective and this is a potential option that could be explored further.

Opportunities for funding through nearby development may be limited and there are no real commercial opportunities (although timber produced from Odiham Common could be used on site and on other Hart DC properties); however, a new Countryside Stewardship agreement began in 2021 and will provide funding for a variety of woodland, wood pasture, meadow and pond management.

Odiham Common is found within a landscape of isolated patches of semi-natural habitat. Opportunities should be sought to connect Odiham to nearby sites – there may be potential through the Landscape Recovery agri-environment scheme.

# 3. Site assessment, and objectives

## 3.1.1. Assessment and analysis

### Strengths:

**Biodiversity** – semi natural ancient woodland, wood pasture, semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, semi-natural grassland, lowland meadows and ponds are all of great importance for biodiversity, with veteran trees in particular providing unique habitats for rare and specialised species, particularly lichens, fungi and invertebrates associated with wood decay..

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**Carbon** - native broadleaved woodlands are reliable carbon sinks that continue to take up carbon over centuries with benefits for biodiversity and other ecosystem services<sup>4</sup>. Although sequestration rates decline over time, old woodlands are substantial and important carbon stores, with carbon both in above ground biomass, below ground biomass, dead wood, litter and within the soil. Wood pasture can play a greater role than closed canopy ancient semi-natural woodland by increasing carbon sequestration through allowing natural regeneration – trees growing in an open location with more access to light can grow faster compared to those in a closed canopy woodland. Large old trees in particular, store a large amount of carbon for the long-term. Undisturbed wood pasture soils may also be a valuable carbon store. Semi-natural grasslands are also important, storing carbon in the undisturbed soil, and store and sequester more carbon than modern agricultural landscapes.

**Climate** - lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wood pasture both have a lower climate change sensitivity that some other lowland woodland types e.g. Beech woodland, wet woodland<sup>5</sup>.

**Health and well-being** –low-key access contributes to the health and wellbeing of the local community.

### Weaknesses:

<sup>4</sup> R Gregg, J. L. Elias, I Alonso, I.E. Crosher and P Muto and M.D. Morecroft (2021) Carbon storage and sequestration by habitat: a review of the evidence (second edition) Natural England Research Report NERR094. Natural England, York.

<sup>5</sup> Climate Change Adaptation Manual NE751 - <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5679197848862720>

**The historic cessation of traditional management** - resulting in the loss of open spaces around veteran trees (although this is being addressed), scrub encroachment (e.g. under the wayleave) and the gradual deterioration of the meadows.

**Fragmentation** – major roads including the M3, A287, B3016, Bagwell Lane and Potbridge Road create barriers to wildlife and are likely to be impacting on the conservation interest of the site. In addition, smaller, isolated land parcels are more challenging to manage.

**Ride condition** - the naturally wet nature of the site means that ride conditions can deteriorate during the winter, potentially leading to a conflict of interest between different user groups and ride-widening as people seek to avoid churned up areas.

**Infrastructure** - Lack of car parking restricts events, including volunteer work parties. Water retention in winter months restricts access for some site users during this time, although this is largely due to the nature of this type of site and introducing properly surfaced paths across the site will likely have a negative impact on the site's significant wildlife value.

#### *Opportunities:*

**Habitat management** – ongoing reinstatement of management as wood pasture, with the potential for grazing in the longer term; potential to restore ponds across the site – in addition to biodiversity benefits (e.g. for Great Crested Newt), ponds, if well managed, could be carbon sinks (however, ponds prone to drying out can switch from carbon sinks to carbon sources)

**Engagement** - there is opportunity for wider engagement with the local community e.g. through liaison with Parish Councils and low-key on-site and off-site events such as guided walks, talks and volunteer work parties plus the use of social media platforms would help facilitate joint understanding about the value and management needs of the site. Three schools in Odiham are within walking distance of the Common - opportunities for real-world learning within Odiham Common would both enrich the educational experience of the students and enhance local community understanding about the site, where schools are open to engagement.

**Agri-environment support** – landscape scale agri-environment schemes could in the future facilitate more joined up management with adjacent and nearby semi-natural habitats, including commons and woodland.

#### *Threats:*

**Climate change** – an increase in drought conditions is likely to impact sensitive trees on clay soils, conversely, an increase in water-logging may constrain root growth and results in more wind-blow (as will an increased frequency of storms), with the potential loss of veteran trees.

**Biodiversity** - apparent loss (as with other lowland woodlands) of characteristic species (e.g. Nightingale and Wood Warbler).

**Lack of grazing** – grazing is the optimal management for woodpasture and grasslands. Cutting is a partial substitute for grazing, but the current cutting regime is resulting in the slow deterioration of the meadow flora, invertebrate fauna and increased scrub encroachment in the wayleave.

**Engagement** - lack of meaningful engagement with the local community could result in the lack of dialogue about stakeholders' values and aspirations for the site and jeopardise future management. To ensure clear continued communications, future engagement will be carried out as set out in Section 2.9 People.

**Drainage** - Inappropriate drainage could contribute to the release of carbon through oxidation.

**Ash Dieback disease** – loss of Ash through Ash Dieback *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* and related tree safety issues (Ash is not an abundant species but is present in Potbridge East and West, the South East Woods and the Southern Pastures East and West, and Ash Dieback is already present in the Southern Pastures).

**Housing within Neighbourhood Plan** - an increase in housing within the neighbourhood that is not within easy walking distance of Odiham Common could lead to issues surrounding over-use of laybys for parking (e.g. anti-social parking, damage to vegetation).

### 3.1.2. Environmental Relationships and Implications for Management

Odiham Common supports a mosaic of wood pasture (much invaded by secondary woodland), closed canopy woodland, coppice, open rides and meadow.

Managed wood pasture is dynamic, slowly changing over long-time spans as individual new trees become established in the protection of scrub and the oldest trees gradually decay. Shaped by centuries of grazing, the open-grown trees characteristic of wood pasture require light and space for their unique assemblages of invertebrates and lower plants flourish, and gradually decline if enclosed by cohorts of new young trees. Management is therefore required, particularly in the absence of grazing and on small sites, such as Odiham, where there is little space for dynamic change. It is particularly important for veteran trees where these have been adversely impacted by the growth of secondary woodland

Managed in rotation, coppice provides diversity in the structure of the woodland, creating niches for birds such as warblers and allowing light to reach the ground flora. Without rotational cutting, coppice becomes overgrown and the structural diversity of the woodland is lost and species-richness diminished.

Meadow (grassland that was created and maintained by a combination of grazing and summer haymaking) is by its very nature, a transitional stage in the process of succession. To prevent it from being colonised by scrub and later woodland, management is again required.

Another key feature of the site is its hydrology – the underlying soils mean that it is naturally wet, with a number of ponds and historic drainage ditches. A balance is needed between ensuring paths are usable and that the water levels in ponds are maintained and retaining the overall wet character of the site.

### 3.1.3. Visitor and site usage and Implications for Management

Visitors to site mainly comprise of local people - the site is not promoted for recreational use and parking is very limited. The site is greatly valued by the local community. Those who participated in the 2009 consultation on the management of the site emphasised the need to maintain the Common's tranquil and wild nature for the benefit of the local neighbourhood.

The views of the local community need to be taken into account, e.g., through the relevant Parish Councils, with regard to the ongoing management required to safeguard the interest features of the SSSI and the cultural history of the site.

### 3.1.4. Management Rationale

Odiham Common preserves examples of habitats that are rare or scarce within lowland Britain. These habitats are all semi-natural, a result of the interaction between humans and their environment over many centuries. Ongoing management of some form is therefore needed to ensure that the plant and animal communities that are rare or no longer commonplace and are dependent on these habitats can be maintained and where possible enhanced and so that the site can act as a reservoir and refuge from which species can spread to the wider countryside.

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 processes of succession, death, decay and regeneration to provide sustainable diversity. To maintain this unique mosaic of differing habitats, carefully planned, monitored and reviewed management is essential.

## 3.2 Management Objectives

Hart DC sets biodiversity 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 biodiversity policy commitments;
- c. reviewed periodically and revised as appropriate, and
- d. documented.

In order to enhance and maintain the features of Odiham Common, 10 main objectives have been identified:

1. To maintain and enhance biodiversity of ancient woodland, wood pasture, meadow, ponds and ditches and safeguard all rare and notable species according to the objectives in the Forestry Commission-approved Woodland Management Plan: [link to online document to follow](#)
  - Manage veteran trees, identify and manage future veteran trees in accordance with the Odiham Common 'Arboricultural Veteran Management Report' (SMW Consultancy Ltd, August 2021) Consultancy.

- Bring existing coppice coupes into a 12-14 year rotation to create structural diversity and prioritise fruiting.
  - Sustain a balance of native woodland species whilst enhancing structural diversity.
  - Address ash dieback
  - Create and maintain deadwood habitat in line with UKFS guidelines<sup>6</sup> to sustain significant saproxylic and saprophytic diversity and provide a medium term carbon sink.
  - Encourage owners of nearby woodlands and land with ancient and veteran trees to manage positively for deadwood.
  - Maintain open space in wood pasture through mowing and scrub/bracken control, allowing the recruitment of open crown trees and shrub species in sunny positions within short and taller grassland
  - Maintain the diversity and extent of glades, rides and the acid grassland under the wayleave through cut and collect, scrub removal and some thinning
  - Maintain and increase diversity in the Southern Pastures grasslands through hay making, cut and collect. Maintain extent through scrub control
  - Restore and manage existing ponds
2. Improve aquatic habitat connectivity and improve path condition through undertaking a feasibility study for recreating ponds that have dried out by using existing draining ditches; implement findings as appropriate.
  3. Continue to explore viable options for the reintroduction of grazing in the future to sustain the rare and threatened habitat of ancient wood pasture (there are no immediate plants to reintroduce this historic practice, however, it is a valued and well-documented sustainable management technique).
  4. Monitor and control non-native invasive plant species.
  5. Maintain the accessibility of the site through the ongoing provision of a network of adequately waymarked, naturally-surfaced paths and encouraging use of open access to disperse visitor across the site and retain the tranquil, wild-feeling nature of the site. Maintain drains as required (see also Objective 2).
  6. Increase efforts to engage with stakeholders, including those from other sectors, and involve local people in caring for the Common to encourage understanding and enjoyment of the site and its wider value.
  7. Promote health and wellbeing, without compromising the nature conservation interests of the site.
  8. Obtain quantitative data on trends for key biodiversity features to assess and inform management activities.
  9. Manage the site in line with Hart DC's sustainability goals, maintaining carbon and water storage on site.
  10. Meet all legal and other obligations.

### 3.2.1. Targets and Performance Indicators

#### *Objective 1: Maintain and enhance biodiversity*

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/6947/FCPG020.pdf>

Target 1.1 – condition of 66 veteran trees improved with reduced danger of crown collapse, all over-shaded trees released and secondary growth interfering with branches removed by end of 10-year plan period (see veteran tree plan for detail).

**BPI: No. of veteran trees appropriately managed that are stable with no threat of preventable collapse healthy epicormic growth on the main stem**

Target 1.2 – 79 potential future veteran trees identified and managed to enhance veteran features through halo release, formative pruning and pollarding carried out as required over 10-year plan period.

**BPI: No. of future veterans that have received surgery and are alive with healthy epicormic growth on the main stem.**

Target 1.3 – 10 existing coppice coupes brought into 12-14 year rotation within 10 year plan period (see coppice plan for detail)

**BPI: No. of coupes coppiced within plan period and showing healthy regeneration**

Target 1.4 – woodland structure improved through 10-30% thinning at locations specified in Woodland Management Plan (WMP) and reduction of Holly to 33% (see WMP) within the 10 year plan period

**BPI: % thinning and Holly cover in specified locations within plan period**

Target 1.5 – all fallen and standing deadwood retained in situ, aiming for 20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha (unless there are over-riding H&S considerations<sup>7</sup> or ProW are blocked).

**BPI: Cubic metres of fallen and standing deadwood retained.**

Target 1.6 Rapid Deadwood Assessment<sup>8</sup> undertaken and deadwood plan created and implemented by 2023

**KPI: Plan created and implementation started within specified timeframe**

<sup>7</sup> See National Tree Safety Group document 'Common Sense risk management of trees: Landowner Summary'.

<sup>8</sup> <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/InPractice56jun2007.pdf>

Target 1.7– Maintain existing open space within wood pasture through cutting and scrub control so that by year 10 there is:

- 5-20% cover of open grown shrubs;
- A sward of patches of taller and shorter vegetation over at least 70%;
- Clear evidence of planned wood pasture succession with trees species including oak present at irregular spacings and varying densities, with an overall canopy of 5-20%, representing a range of ages classes and allow open growth grown trees to develop (ongoing scrub work across the site will be planned/reviewed annually, depending vegetation growth/regeneration).

**BPI: % cover of open grown shrubs, sward of taller/shorter vegetation and canopy age classes with plan period**

Target 1.8 – Glades created within woodland to allow 30-35% ground cover of transitional scrub and natural regeneration within 10 year plan period.

**BPI: % ground cover of transitional scrub and natural regeneration within plan period**

Target 1.9 – a structurally varied herb layer maintained with Desirable/important/characteristic species for lowland wet acid grassland, wet grassland and heathland present (Ling, Cross-leaved Heath, Lesser Spearwort, Heath Wood Rush, Tormentil at least occasional/locally frequent) and 40% flowering during May to July. Scrub controlled in woodland glades through annual mowing according to WMP

**BPI: % cover of bare ground**

**BPI: Frequency of desirable/important/characteristic species and % flowering during specified time period**



Target 1.10: Birch and Bramble scrub under wayleave controlled by pulling, cutting and treating so that by year 3, scrub cover is no more than 5-10% and bare ground provided through scrub removal is 2-10%.

**BPI – % cover of scrub and bare ground by year 3**

Target 1.11: Bracken stands managed rotationally each year by cutting/bruising/spraying to reduce cover of bracken to less than 10% by year 10

**BPI: % cover of bracken by year 10**

Target 1.12 - 4 main rides maintained through annual mowing and where necessary thinning, according to WMP

**KPI: No. of main rides cut annually**

Target 1.13 – Ash dieback regularly monitored and works prioritised following monitoring and recommendations, in accordance with Odiham's current Ash Dieback Plan until holistic approach to managing ash dieback across Hart sites has been formalised and agreed.

**KPI: Removal of grade 3-4 ash trees near boundaries/footpaths**

Target 1.14 Grassland diversity improved and maintained (in accordance with Countryside Stewardship agreement) through haymaking over 0.98ha + 3.30 ha of Southern pastures so that from year 1 at least 2 moderate value indicator species and from year 2 at least 2 high value indicator species are present; wildflower cover is 10-50% with 40% flowering during May-Jul; and bare ground cover is 1-5% in small patches

**BPI: No. of moderate and high value indicator species present in southern pastures from year 1 and year 2 respectively**

**BPI: % cover of wildflower and % flowering in specific time period**

**BPI: % cover of bare ground in small patches**

**BPI: Diversity of plant species compared with 2017 NVC baseline in 2027**

**BPI: Continued presence of Forester moth**

Target 1.15 – scrub controlled with Southern Pastures so that cover is no more than 2% in management parcels by year 10

**BPI: % scrub cover in management parcels by end of plan period**

*Objective 2: Pond and ditch restoration and creation*

Target 2.1 – ditches maintained, ensuring that adjacent ditches are not cleared within 2-5 years of one another

Target 2.2 – restore 2 key ditches plus additional ditches as required on rotation so that drainage flows freely by throughout 10-year plan period.

**KPI: No. of ditches restored within plan period**

Target 2.3 – Restore 1 existing pond every 5 years according to CS agreement so that 75% of southern margins are unshaded; cover of submerged and floating aquatic plants is at least 25% and marginal and emergent vegetation cover is 25-100%. One pond dredged as necessary every 5 years

**KPI: No. of ponds restored every 5 years**

**BPI: % of southern margins unshaded and % cover of submerged and floating aquatic plants and marginal and emergent vegetation**

**BPI: Presence of typical desirable species.**

Target 2.4 –pond re-creation feasibility study undertaken by 2027 and implement as appropriate (any drain modification to be agreed with Natural England)

**KPI: Completion of study and implementation within specified time period**

### *Objective 3: Grazing viability*

Target 3.1 –grazing viability assessment produced by 2030

**KPI: Grazing viability assessment completed by specified date**

Target 3.2 –stakeholder visit(s) to a site with No Fence virtual fencing operations (e.g. Hazeley Heath) organised by 2030

**KPI: No. of visits organised within specified period**

### *Objective 4: Non-native invasive species*

Target 4.1 – non-native invasive species survey carried out annually (to include waterbodies) and actions identified and implemented as necessary

**KPI Surveys completed annually and any actions implemented**

### *Objective 5: Access*

Target 5.1 – path survey undertaken annually to ensure all paths are mapped and described according to a simple categorisation including size/use and condition (e.g. RAG). Use to inform drain management in combination with path maintenance

**KPI Updated path map by specified date, surveys completed annually and any actions implemented**

Target 5.2 – low key consultation carried out with local horse riders to look for common ground and identify potential preferred horse-routes by 2025

**KPI: Preferred horse route identified by specified date**

Target 5.3 - interpretation panels at key site entrance points updated with preferred horse routes to inform both riders and pedestrian Include smaller paths to help distribute access across the site.

**KPI: No. of panels updated by specified date**

Target 5.4 - Low key, unobtrusive waymarkers installed as required to help distribute access across site by 2025

**KPI: Waymarkers installed by specified date**

### *Objective 6: Engagement*

Target 6.1 – 4 onsite and 2 off-site events held per year covering a diverse range of topics (e.g. traditional guided walks with the ranger, fungal forays, foraging/herb walks, volunteer work parties etc.) and hold events with other stakeholders e.g. Odiham Society, other local history societies etc.)

**KPI: No. of on-site and off-site events held annually**

Target 6.2 – at least annual liaison with relevant parish councils and statutory stakeholders including Natural England

**KPI: Annual liaison achieved**

*Objective 7: Health and wellbeing*

See targets under 5 and 6

*Objective 8: Monitoring*

Target 8.1 – quantitative data obtained on trends for key biodiversity features as set out in Target Features monitoring table below, commissioning surveys as required.

Target 8.2 – monitoring and surveys continued for lepidoptera, reptiles, amphibians, bats, dormice, birds etc. by local groups

Target 8.3 – deer impact monitoring carried out annually within coppice coupes

*Objective 9: Sustainability goals*

Target 9.1 - manage the site in line with HDC's sustainability goals, maintaining carbon and water storage on site (see previous targets). Establish baseline for habitat carbon sequestration and consider options to increase sequestration by site management where this does not contradict other site objectives.

*Objective 10: Obligations*

Target 10.1 - all requirements for statutory consents and approvals for work on the common met

Target 10.2 - regular H&S checks on the features of the common carried out

Target 10.3 - tree safety survey carried out annually and safety works undertaken as required

Target 10.4 - Follow H&S guidelines for warning the public during management activities on the site and ensure that contractors or others working on the Common follow the same procedures

## 4. Management Plan delivery

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## 4.1 Management Infrastructure and Resourcing

### 4.1.1 Staffing and Management Structure

Odiham Common is managed as a SSSI by Hart DC Countryside Services, as the owners of the land with overriding responsibility for the site. Ultimately, any management decisions over the land will be made by Hart DC as the legal owners of the land, however we try to accommodate the views and opinions of our various stakeholders where possible or appropriate.

At present, the Countryside Service sits within Environment and Technical Services. Environment and Technical Services is responsible for delivery of the following services:

- Delivery of Harts climate change action plan.
- Management of Harts countryside sites.
- Management of Harts trees and implementation and enforcement of tree preservation orders.
- Management and enforcement of Harts car parks.
- Implementation, management and enforcement of parking restrictions on the public highway on behalf of Hampshire County Council.
- Maintenance of Harts drainage assets and delivery of Environment Agency funded flood alleviation schemes.

The following services which are reported through Environment and Technical Services are delivered as part of a shared service by a neighbouring authority:

- CCTV – Delivered by Rushmoor (due to transfer to Runnymede BC by August 2022)

- Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance – Delivered by Basingstoke and Deane
- Litter and Dog Fouling Enforcement – Delivered by East Hampshire

The Countryside department is responsible for operating and co-ordinating the implementation of the Management Plan for the site.

### 4.1.2 Community Involvement

#### 4.1.2.1 Volunteers

Hart DC Countryside team run regular volunteer activities across the district and offer a variety of different volunteering roles to suit different interests and abilities. There are currently no volunteers specific to Odiham Common, but the Countryside team may hold work parties at the site.

## 4.2 Budget planning

At present, funding has been secured from the Rural Payments Agency to fund a Countryside Stewardship programme of works on the Commons over the next ten year period. Funded works consist of: -

- Capital items to the value of £6,384 to be delivered between Jan 2022 and Dec 2023. Works to include specific scrub works identified in Central Woods

- Annual payments with an average income of approximately £5,800. This figure will vary and is dependent on the amount of works undertaken each year, particularly in relation to associated veteran tree works. Works funded include aspects of meadow, specifically identified glade, pond and veteran tree management

Other habitat works that would benefit management of the site are identified in Appendix 3, but do not currently receive specific funding. Future funding will be sought where possible for relevant activities and projects that have been identified through this management plan and will be prioritised accordingly. This may include exploration of a Great Crested Newt Recovery Programme.

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## Marketing

Marketing of our countryside sites is important to ensure we are engaging with our site users encouraging responsible use of our sites and facilitating recreational activities. Marketing and publicity for Odiham Commons and any associated activities will be carried out in accordance with Hart's emerging Engagement Plan.

## 4.4 Action plan and timetable

The Action Plan sets out management tasks by feature and divides the work up into 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.

‘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:		Odiham Common					Timings											
Objective	Prescription	Location	Additional target details	Target years	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M		
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.1	Manage veterans and future veterans	Potbridge West (a), Potbridge East (b), Central Woods (c), South East Woods (e), Southern Pastures East (f), Southern Pastures West (g)	Halo release and formative pruning, maintain existing halos – follow Veteran tree plan	a,b: 6-10 c: 1, 3, 5, 6-10 e: All f: 2, 6-10 g: 6-10							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.2	Create future veterans	Potbridge West (a), Potbridge East (b), Central Woods (c), South East Woods (e), Southern Pastures East (f)	Halo release, formative pruning, including creating new pollards	a,b: 6-10 c: 1, 3, 5, 6-10 e: All f: 2, 6-10							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.3	Coppice	Central Woods (c), South East Woods (e)	Cut coupes in rotation and protect new growth from deer, remove protection after 2 years.	c:All e: 2, 4, 6-10													
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.4	Improve structural diversity within woodland	Potbridge West (a), Potbridge East (b), Central Woods (c), Southern Pastures East (f)	a: 10% thinning, holly removal b, c: 30% thinning, holly removal. f: 10% thinning to create small glades	a, b: 6-10 c: 4, 6-10 f: 1, 2, 6-10	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.5	Create Deadwood	Potbridge West (a), Potbridge East (b), Central Woods (c), North Eastern Woods (d), Southern Pastures East (f), Southern Pastures West (g)	Retain standing and fallen dead wood in line with UKFS guidelines and deadwood plan (1.6). Large diameter and length cut deadwood	a, b, d, e, g: All c: 1, 3, 5, 6-10 f: 6-10							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

SITE NAME:		Odiham Common				Timings											
Objective	Prescription	Location	Additional target details	Target years	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
			stacked in shaded, undisturbed location near (not against) the tree from which is came.														
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.6	Deadwood plan	Potbridge West (a), Potbridge East (b), Central Woods (c), North Eastern Woods (d), Southern Pastures East (f), Southern Pastures West (g)	Undertaken rapid deadwood assessment and create plan	1	Y	Y										
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.7	Open areas within wood pasture and meadows	Central Woods (c) Wayleave, Southern Pastures	Scrub control through pulling, cutting, treating, remove cut material so that cover of scrub is no more than 5-20% in wood pasture							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.8	Open areas within woodland	Potbridge West & East, Central Woods, North Eastern Woods, South East Woods, Southern Pastures East, Southern Pastures West.	Intermittently clear routes into and around compartments, maintaining transitional scrub/natural regeneration	All	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.9	Open areas within woodland	Potbridge East (b), Central Woods (c), North Eastern Woods (d), South East Woods (e) Southern Pastures East (f)	Mow glades (cut and collect where possible) (no more than 30% of wayleave in c in one year).	c:All b,d, e, f: 1, 3, 5, 6-10					Y	Y						
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.10	Scrub control	Wayleave	Birch and Bramble scrub controlled by pulling, cutting and treating	1-2, 6-7	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.11	Bracken control	Central Woods (c) Wayleave, Southern Pastures	Bracken control through cutting/bruising/spraying	All (or as necessary)		Y	Y	Y	Y							
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.12	Ride management in	Potbridge East (a), Central Woods (c), South East Woods (e),	Zone 2 Ride management by mowing (cut and collect where possible)	a, b, c, e: 1, 3, 5, 6-10 f: 1, 3, 6-10						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

SITE NAME:		Odiham Common				Timings											
Objective	Prescription	Location	Additional target details	Target years	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
	woodland and wood pasture	Southern Pastures East (f), Southern Pastures (g)		g: 2, 4, 6-10													
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.12 Ride management in woodland and wood pasture	Central Woods, Southern Pastures East, Southern Pastures West	Zone 3 Ride management by tree thinning and mowing , maintaining pinch points where branches meet	5							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.13 Ash dieback	Potbridge West (a), Potbridge East (b), South East Woods (e), Southern Pastures East (f), Southern Pastures West	Remove grade 3 & 4 affected Ash trees near boundaries/ footpaths	a: 1-3 b: 6-10 e: 2, 3, 4 f: 1, 2, 6-10 g: 1-4, 6-10							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.14 Haymaking	Southern Pastures East and West	Make field dried hay over 4.3 ha annually according to CS agreement. Leave 10-20% of any parcel uncut each year. Remove hay.	All				Y	Y								
1 – Maintain and enhance biodiversity	1.15 Maintain extent of meadows	Southern Pastures East and West	Cut and remove scrub, leaving up to 2% in each management parcel														
2 – Pond and ditch restoration and creation	2.1 Drainage	Central Woods, Southern Pastures East	Ensure drainage flows freely, clearing adjacent ditches 2-5 years apart, every 5 years	All, as needed						Y	Y	Y					
2 – Pond and ditch restoration and creation	2.2 Pond management	Central Woods, South East Woods	Restore one pond every 5 years through dredging, retain overhanging trees, bushes and any submerged deadwood, manage margins by cutting to control scrub, ensure no more than 25% of southern side of pond is shaded	2, 6													
2 – Pond and ditch	2.3 Pond creation	Central Woods, Southern Pastures East	Undertake feasibility study into rewetting clay pits via	5													



SITE NAME:		Odiham Common				Timings											
Objective	Prescription		Location	Additional target details	Target years	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
restoration and creation				existing drainage ditch network Explore possibility of a new pond to help with drainage issues													
3 – Grazing viability	3.1	Grazing – viability assessment		Undertaken viability assessment by 2030	By 10												
3 – Grazing viability	3.2	Grazing – stakeholder visits		Organise 2 stakeholder visits to sites using innovative grazing solutions	By 10												
Objective 4: Non-native invasive species	4.1	Non-native invasives	All	Regular surveys for non-native species (including aquatic; implementation of any control measures required)	All		Y	Y	Y								
Objective 5 - access	5.1	Path survey	All	Ensure all paths are mapped and described according to a simple categorisation including size/use and condition (e.g. RAG). Use to inform drain management in combination with path maintenance, waymarking and possible identification of horse route.	1												
Objective 5 - access	5.2	Riding route	All	Undertake low key consultation with local horse riders to look for common ground and identify potential preferred horse-routes	2-3												
Objective 5 - access	5.3	Info panels	All	Update panels at key site entrance points to reflect new horse route, if identified	3												

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SITE NAME: Odiham Common					Timings												
Objective	Prescription		Location	Additional target details	Target years	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Objective 5 - access	5.4	Waymarking	All	Install low key, unobtrusive waymarkers to help distribute access across	1-2												
Objective 6 - engagement	6.1	Events	Any	Hold on-site and off-site events and use social media platforms build relationship with site users and other stakeholders	All												
Objective 6 - engagement	6.2	Liaison		At least annual liaison with relevant parish councils and statutory stakeholders including Natural England	All												
8 - Monitoring	8.1	Tree safety	All areas	Conduct tree safety survey, carry out required safety works	All							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Monitoring	8.2	Biodiversity trends	All areas	Undertaken monitoring as set out in Target Feature Monitoring Plan below	Various												
8 - Monitoring	8.3	Survey groups		Facilitate surveys with local groups as appropriate	Various												
8 - Monitoring	8.4	Non-native invasives	All	Survey for and monitor changes in abundance and distribution of non-native invasive species	All		Y	Y	Y								
8 - Monitoring	8.5	Annual deer impact survey	Coppice coupes	Annual deer impact survey	All	Y	Y										
10 - Obligations	10.1	Statutory consents		Meet all requirements for statutory consents and approvals for work on the common													

SITE NAME: Odiham Common					Timings												
Objective	Prescription		Location	Additional target details	Target years	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
10 - Obligations	10.2	H&S checks	All	Carry out regular H&S checks on the features of the Common	All												
10 - Obligations	10.3	Tree safety	All	Carry out tree safety monitoring, undertake safety works as required	All												
10 - Obligations	10.4	H&S procedures	All	Follow H&S guidelines for warning the public during management activities on the site and ensure that contractors or others working on the Common follow the same procedures	All												

# 5. Monitoring

## 5.1 Operational activity summary

Example of record keeping for operational activities for Potbridge East (PE), Potbridge West (PW) Central Woods (CW), Northeast Woods (NeW), South Pastures East (SPE), South Pastures West (SPW) and Southeast Woods (SeW)

Action	Activity	Additional operational details	Target years	Location (compartment, specific area)	2022 Planned	Completed	Details (e.g. area completed, percentage cut)	2023-2031 etc.
Page 52	1.1	Manage Wayleave	<i>Cut and remove arisings</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Central Woods</i>	X		
	1.2	Manage Wayleave	<i>Scrub control</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Central Woods</i>	X		
	1.3	Manage Wayleave	<i>Top wayleave between Aug and Oct (no more than 30% annually)</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Central Woods</i>	X		
	2.1	Manage glades	<i>Scrub management</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>CW, NeW, SeW</i>	X		
	2.2	Manage glades	<i>Annual cut between July and Feb</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>CW, NeW, SeW</i>	X		
	3.1	Manage waterbodies	<i>Tree and scrub control around ponds</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>		
	3.2	Manage waterbodies	<i>Pond aquatic works</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>		
	3.3	Manage waterbodies	<i>Ditch management as per rotational program</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>All</i>			

Action	Activity	Additional operational details	Target years	Location (compartment, specific area)	2022 Planned	Completed	Details (e.g. area completed, percentage cut)	2023-2031 etc.
4.1	General woodland management	Tree thinning	All	All	X			
4.2	General woodland management	Scrub management	All	All	X			
4.3	General woodland management	Invasive species	All	TBC	X			
4.4	General woodland management	Ash dieback monitoring	All	All	X			
4.5	General woodland management	Tree operations to target ash dieback	All	All	X			
4.6	General woodland management	Zone 2 ride cuts, scallop alternative areas on 2-3 year rotation	All	PE, CW, SeW	X			
4.7	General woodland management	Zone 3 ride cuts, manage scrub on 8-20 year rotation	Year 5	CW				
4.8	<i>General woodland management</i>	<i>Manage veteran trees as per veteran tree management plan</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>All</i>	X			
4.9	General woodland management	Coppice and fence hazel as per rotational coppice plan and FC requirements	All	PW, CW, SeW	X			
4.10	General woodland management	Deer Monitoring survey as per FC guidance	All	PW, CW, SeW	X			
4.11	General woodland management	Tree safety inspections	All	All	X			

Action	Activity	Additional operational details	Target years	Location (compartment, specific area)	2022 Planned	Completed	Details (e.g. area completed, percentage cut)	2023-2031 etc.
5.1	Access management	Mow main paths	All	PE, CW, SeW, SPE, SPW	X			
5.2	Access management	Mark PRow route	2022	All	X			
5.3	Access management	Manage drainage on footpaths where appropriate	TBC	TBC				
6.1	Structures	Update notice board	All	CW	X			
6.2	Structures	Survey safety inspections	All	All	X			
6.3	Structures	Upkeep of furniture	2022, 2025, 2027	NeW	X			

## 5.2 Target Feature Monitoring

### Target Feature Monitoring:

Feature	Target	Location (compartment, specific area)	Target year	Target reached?	Year achieved
Lowland wet acid grassland, wet grassland and heathland	Ling, Cross-leaved Heath, Lesser Spearwort, Heath Wood Rush, and Tormentil all at least occasional/locally frequent (10-50% cover) and 40% flowering during May to July	Central woods, Wayleave	2026		
Lowland meadows	At least 2 moderate value indicator species; from year 2 at least 2 high value indicator species; 10-50% cover of wildlife flowers, 40% flowering during May-July; 1-5% bare ground in small patches Improved diversity of plant species (2017 NVC baseline)	Southern Pastures	2023, 2024 – 2032  NVC 2027		
Invertebrates - wetlands	Maintain or increase species richness, including specialists associated with newly created early successional marginal habitats	Ponds	2023		
Invertebrates - woodland	Maintain or increase species richness	Woodland	2023		
Invertebrates – lowland meadows	Maintain or increase species richness and ensure continued viability of Forester Moth population.	Lowland meadows	2023		
Breeding birds	Carry out update of 2010 survey and identify species gains/losses. Aim to maintain presence of remaining rarer species (including Lesser Spotted Woodpecker).	Entire site	2024		

Reptile species	Continue monitoring of reptile species and produce population estimates/identify key localities. Targeted surveys to confirm Adder presence.	Wayleaves, lowland meadows, wetlands, and woodland edge	2024		
Great Crested Newt	Monitor presence in Whitehall Pond via surveys and/or e-DNA assessment.	Whitehall Pond	2024		
Dormouse	Continue presence/absence surveys within site, including nest boxes and nut searches	Areas of woodland and scrub	2023		
Bats	Establish monitoring programme with local bat group	Entire site/bat boxes where relevant	2023		
Veteran trees	Veteran tree health check	All veteran trees	Rolling programme		



## 6. Appendices

### 6.1 Appendix 1: Odiham Common timeline

**1978:** Land provided as exchange land was conveyed to Hart District Council by Hampshire County Council.

**1980:** Land from the Common taken to construct the A287 bypass was conveyed to Hampshire County Council by Hart District Council.

**1992:** Designation by English Nature (now Natural England) as an SSSI. A short draft management plan developed by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

**1993/4:** Last known grazing by commoners.

**1994/5:** Hart District Council commissioned consultants to prepare a detailed management plan for the site.

**1997:** Application to PINs (under Section 194 of the Law and Property Act, 1925) for Secretary of State consent for perimeter fencing around the north-east compartment of Odiham Common for a temporary 5-year period on an experimental basis (to facilitate grazing management of the Common).

**1998:** Consent given for temporary fencing following a Public Inquiry associated with the above application resulting in consent being given.

Ten year agreement between Hart District Council and Rural Development Service (latterly Natural England) under Countryside Stewardship Scheme commenced.

**1999:** Felling and removal of timber from around 10ha in NE Compartment started. Some grazing took place (mainly cattle).

**2002:** Application made to PINS (under Section 194 of the Law and Property Act, 1925) for Secretary of State consent for permanent fencing on the Common to facilitate grazing.

**2002:** 'An assessment of Odiham Common Management Plan and progress so far' was prepared by Richard Burden for Odiham Parish Council.

**2002:** 'Public and Parish Council consultation on the Odiham Common Management Plan and its implementation so far' was prepared by Richard Burden for Odiham Parish Council.

**2003:** 'A Community Management Plan for Odiham Common' was prepared by Richard Burden for Odiham Parish Council.

Public inquiry associated with application for permanent fencing. The Inspector recommended that the application for consent for the erection of 4,795m of permanent fencing with foot/horse/field gates be refused.

**2003:** Temporary consent for fencing expired and grazing ceased on the Common.

**2004:** Taskforce established by Hart District Council to agree future management needs.

**2005:** Interim Management Dossier for Odiham Common SSSI 2005-2010 prepared to guide future management.

**1992 - to date:** Various research, survey, monitoring work and associated reporting prepared looking particularly at the ecology but also history and land management of the Common.

**2008:** Hart District Council Members' proposal to put the development of a new management plan on hold and follow the

procedure outlined in 'A Common Purpose: A guide agreeing management on Common Land' (University of Gloucester 2005) was supported by the Parish.

## 6.2 Appendix 2: Further details of ecological surveys identified in the Management Plan

### *Odiham Common/Wood SSSI – Phase II survey (2018)*

This report, carried out by Joel Miller of HBiC in June 2017, comprises an updated National Vegetation Classification (NVC)/botanical survey of the entire Odiham Common and Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI (similar to that carried out in 2009 – see below). It describes the habitats present on site, the specific NVC floral communities, and plant species lists (including notable species). The survey recorded an exceptional total of 53 ancient woodland indicator species, and an impressive number of 10 grassland indicator species, alongside 11 species Near Threatened in England. It also identifies the positive impact of conservation management being carried out on site.

### *A survey of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates of Odiham Common, Hampshire (2018)*

The report details the results of monthly invertebrate surveys carried out across Odiham Common between April and October 2018, by Scotty Dodd and Dr Jonty Denton. 1,097 species were identified, including 57 with nationally recognized conservation designations and a further 205 with a nationally Local distribution. All of the sampled terrestrial assemblages were found to be in a favourable condition, using the Natural England Pantheon/ISIS programme for

**2009:** Management Plan for Odiham Common 2009-2019 developed in line with 'A Common Purpose' guidance.

**2021:** Countryside Stewardship agreement and Woodland Management Plan agreed.

SSSI assessment, whilst none of the sampled wetland assemblages were.

### *Odiham Common fungi survey (2011)*

A fungal survey of the broad-leaved woodland areas of Odiham Common was carried out between February and November 2011, recording 416 species in total, with 31 of the species new for the Vice County of North Hampshire.

### *Odiham Common SSSI Bird Survey (2010)*

This report provides the results of a breeding bird survey carried out on Odiham Common between March and July 2010, by John Eyre and John Collman. 45 species were identified across the site, with 34 confirmed as breeding within the site boundary. Several notable species/species of conservation concern were recorded, including Cuckoo and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, although not all were confirmed as breeding.

### *Odiham Common felled area, grassland areas, and wayleaves - Phase II survey (2009)*

A precursor to the 2017 HBiC surveys detailed above, carried out by the same surveyor between June and August 2009. It includes similar information to that detailed under the later report.

### *Entomological survey and assessment of Odiham Common (2009)*

This report provides the results of an entomological survey and assessment carried out between April and October 2009, at key localities across Odiham Common, by Mike Edwards and Peter Hodge. A total of 513 species were recorded, including 41 with nationally recognized conservation designations.

#### *Odiham Common moth survey (2002)*

A targeted survey, carried out in June 2002 by Tim Norriss, recorded 45 species of moth on Odiham Common, including the Forester moth

#### *List of birds found on Odiham Common in the spring and summer of 1986, 1995, and 2002*

A total of 51 bird species were recorded from Odiham Common across the three years, with 32 identified as breeding in 2002. A range of notable species/species of conservation concern are listed, including Nightingale and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

### **6.3 Appendix 3: Further details of Site Management Planning documents**

#### **Woodland Management Plan 2022-2031 (Approved by Forestry Commission, 2022)**

Sets out permitted site operations and limits for identified woodland areas of Odiham Commons over a ten-year period.

#### **Countryside Stewardship Agreement 2022-2031 (Approved by Natural England and Rural Payments Agency (RPA), 2022)**

Legally binding agreement between landowner and RPA relating to funding that has been agreed to cover specific operations on site

over a ten-year period, to include specific areas for capital scrub works, as well as annual operations relating to glade, meadow and veteran tree management.

#### **Arboricultural Veteran Management Report (SMW Consultancy Ltd, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021)**

Independent report that was part-funded by RPA's PA1 feasibility study prior to entering into the Countryside Stewardship Agreement. Report identifies veteran and mature trees for future veteran management and prescriptions for managing those trees and immediate surrounding habitat.

## Odiham Commons Operational Monitoring Plan 2022-2031 (Internal departmental document)

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. 'Stewardship' funding refers to the current Countryside Stewardship Agri-Only Scheme that is funded through the Rural Payments Agency.

Compartment Name	Parcel Number	Funded works	CS code	Target operation
Central Woods	SU 75523791	Stewardship	GS13	Cut wayleave, incl. scrub management
		Stewardship	GS13	Top wayleave between Aug and Oct (no more than 30% per annum)
		Stewardship	WD4	Cut glades, incl. scrub management
		Stewardship	WT5	Pond management
		Stewardship	BE6	Veteran tree management
Central Woods	SU 75523791	Not at present	N/A	Coppice (Woodland Management Plan)
		Not at present	N/A	Deer monitoring on recent coppiced areas
		Not at present	N/A	Ride management
		Not at present	N/A	Glade management (non-CS)
		Not at present	N/A	Tree thinning (Woodland management plan)
		Not at present	N/A	Ash dieback
		Not at present	N/A	Ditch management
		Not at present	N/A	Pond management (non-CS)
South Pastures East A	SU 7452 9202	Stewardship	GS15	Hay making
		Stewardship	GS6	Cut and remove arisings
South Pastures East B	SU 75523791	Stewardship	BE6	Veteran tree management
South Pastures East	SU 75523791	Not at present	N/A	Ride management
		Not at present	N/A	Glade management (non-CS)
		Not at present	N/A	Tree thinning (Woodland management plan)
		Not at present	N/A	Ash dieback
		Not at present	N/A	Ditch management
South Pastures West	SU 74528111	Stewardship	GS15	Hay making
		Stewardship	GS6	Cut and remove arisings

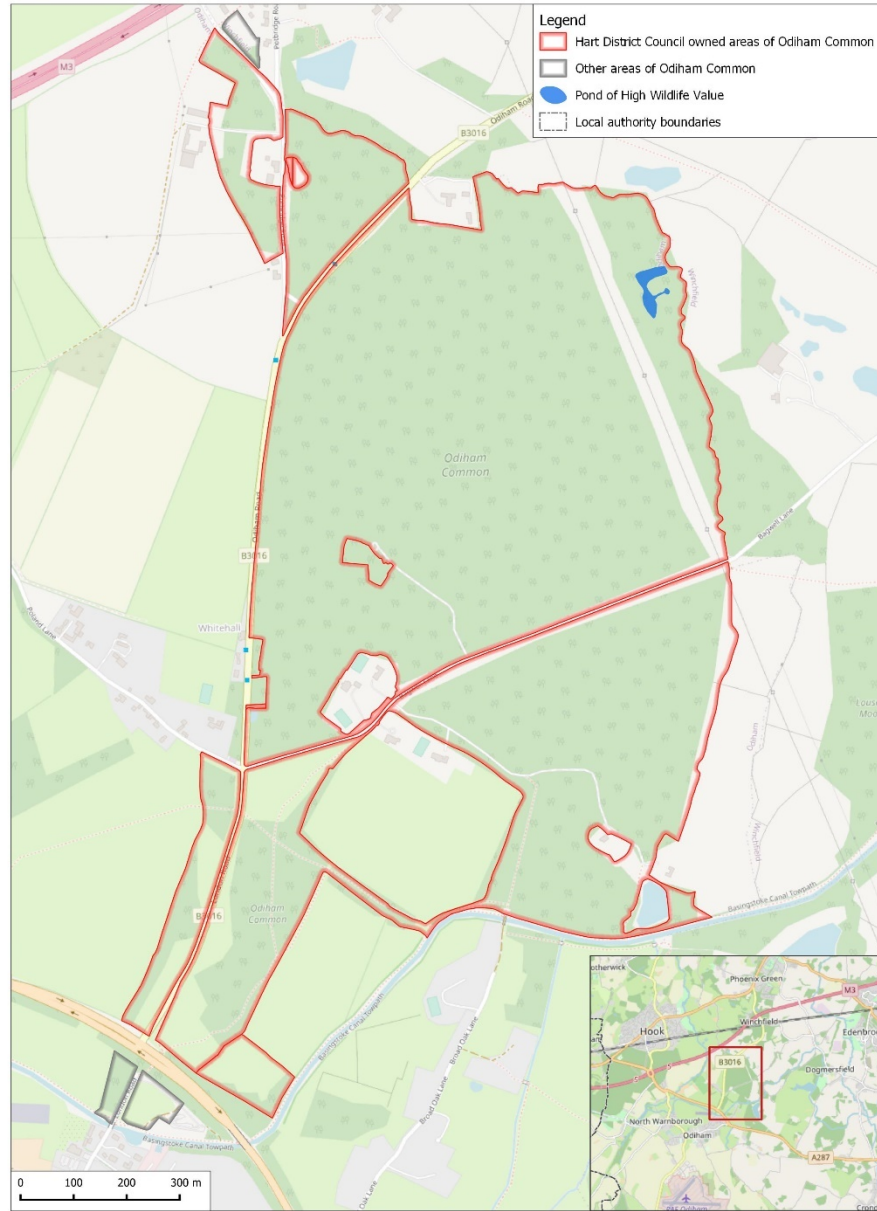
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		<b>Stewardship</b>	BE6	Veteran tree management
<b>South Pastures West</b>	<b>SU 75523791</b>	<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Ride management
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Glade management (non-CS)
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Tree thinning (Woodland management plan)
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Ash dieback
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Monitoring surveys
<b>Southeast Woods</b>	<b>SU 7552 5451</b>	<b>Stewardship</b>	WD4	Cut glades, incl. scrub management
<b>Southeast Woods</b>	<b>SU 75523791</b>	<b>Stewardship</b>	BE6	Veteran tree management
<b>Southeast Woods</b>	<b>SU 75523791</b>	<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Coppice (Woodland Management Plan)
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Deer monitoring on recent coppiced areas
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Ride management
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Glade management (non-CS)
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Tree thinning (Woodland management plan)
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Ash dieback
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Ditch management
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Pond management (non-CS)
		<b>Not at present</b>	N/A	Monitoring surveys

# 7. Maps

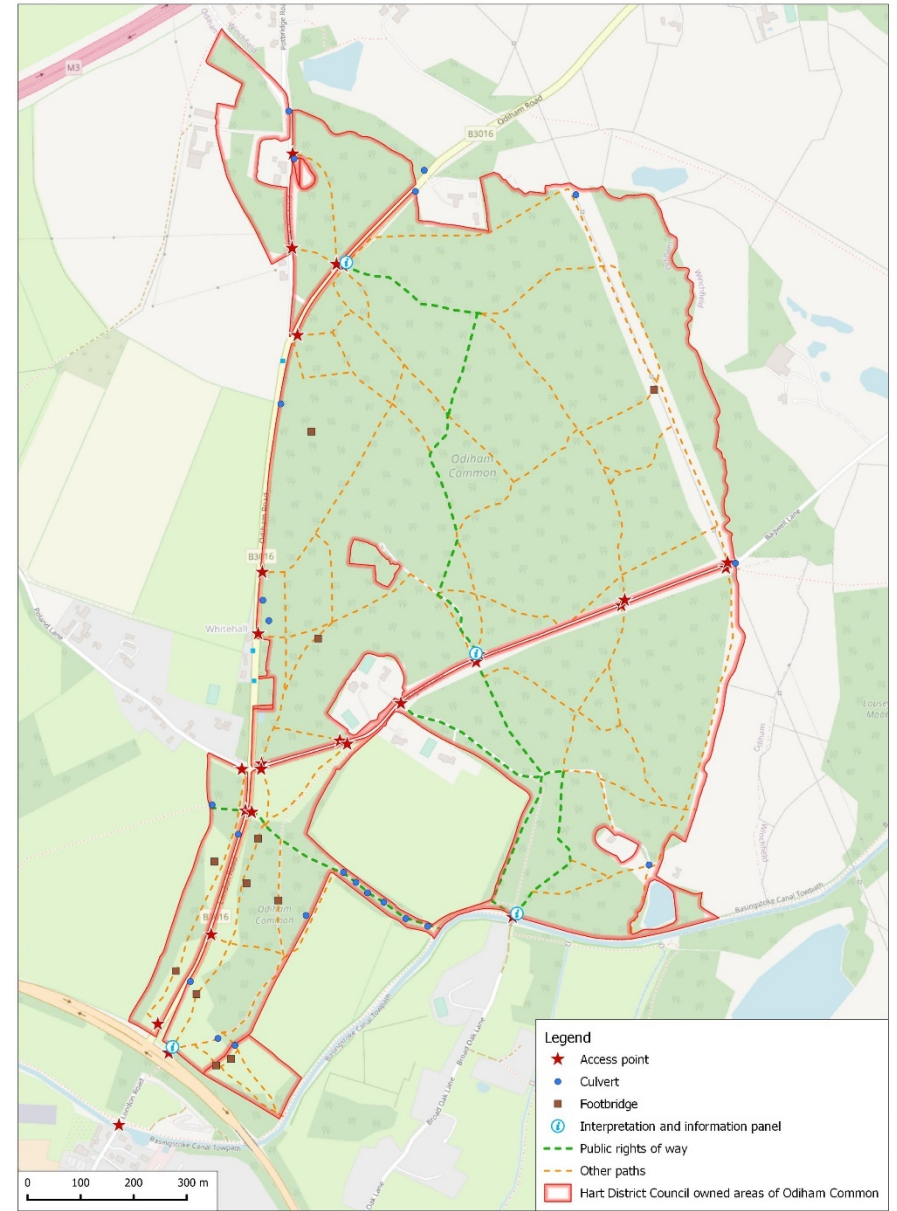
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Map 1: Odiham Common location and extent



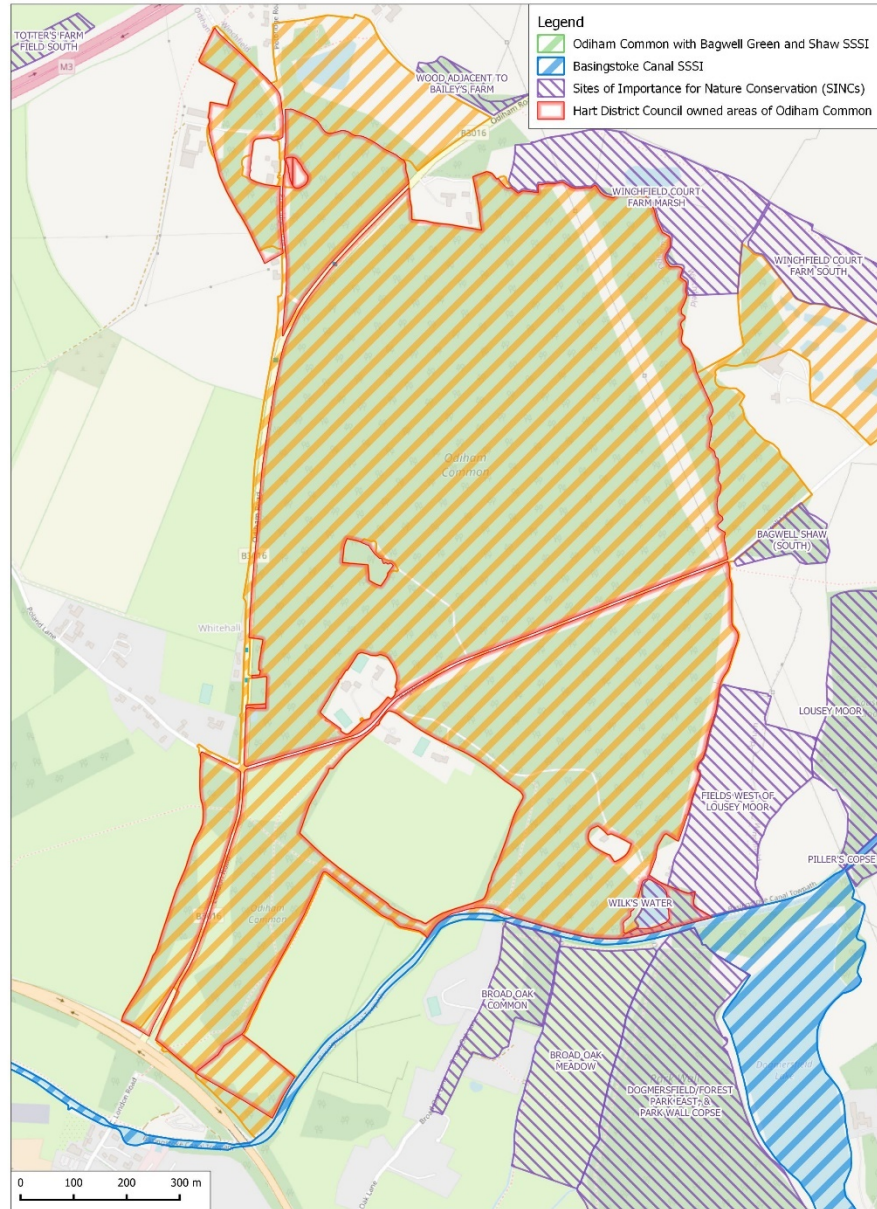
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Map 2: Access and infrastructure



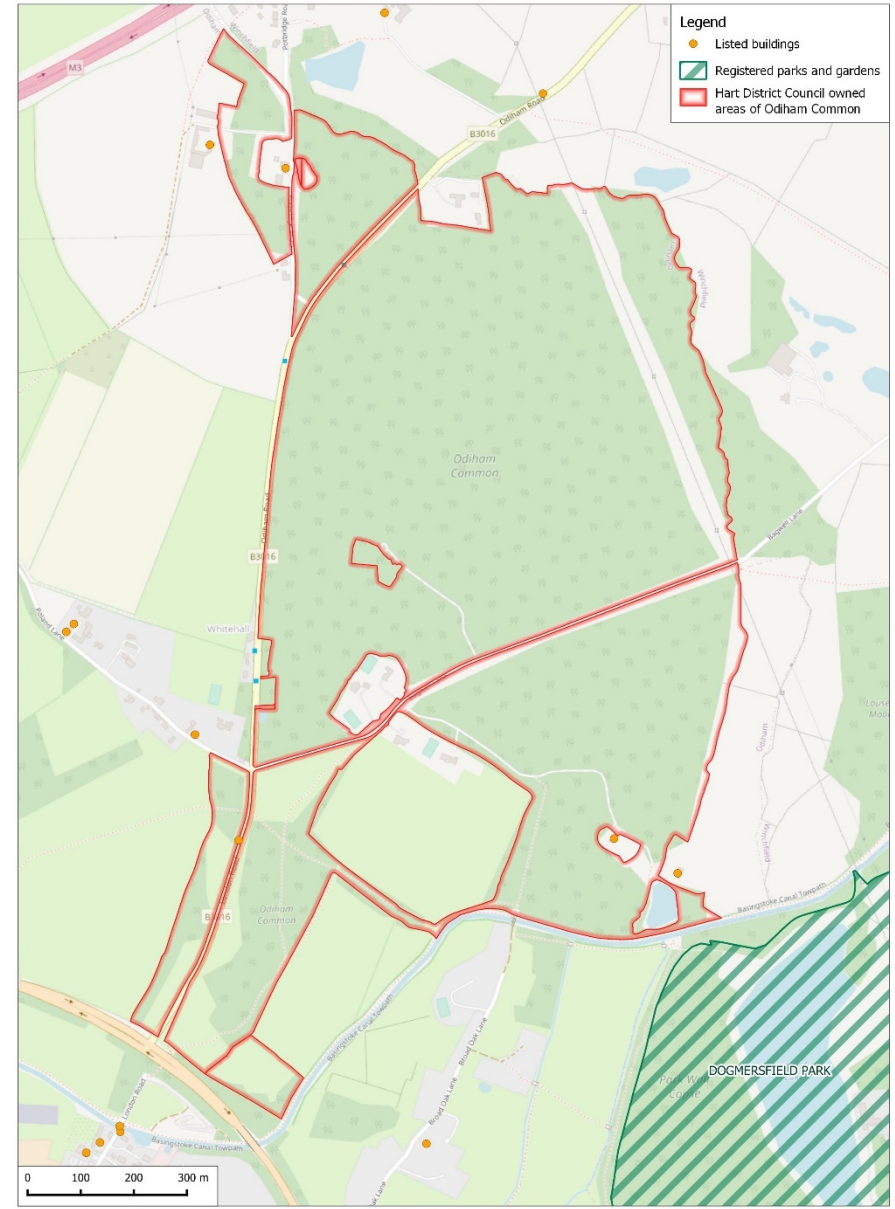
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Map 3: Nature conservation designations



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 SINC data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC).

Map 4: Heritage features and landscapes

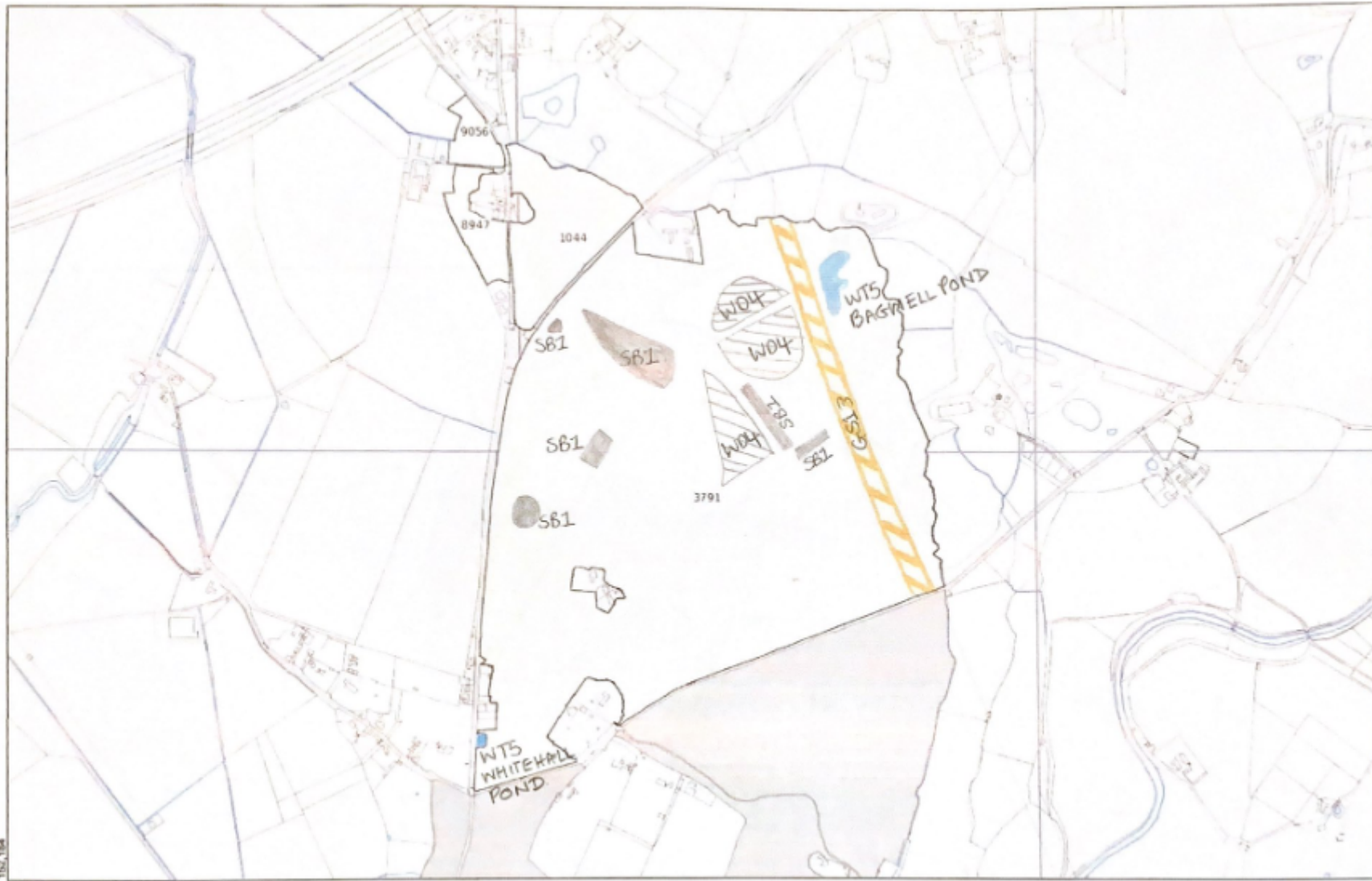


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**Maps 5: Countryside Stewardship Agreement for Central Woods, Potbridge East, Potbridge West and Northeast Woods** (Includes management activities for scrub control (SB1), glade/wood pasture (WD4), ponds excluding Whitehall Pond (WT5) and wayleave (GS13)

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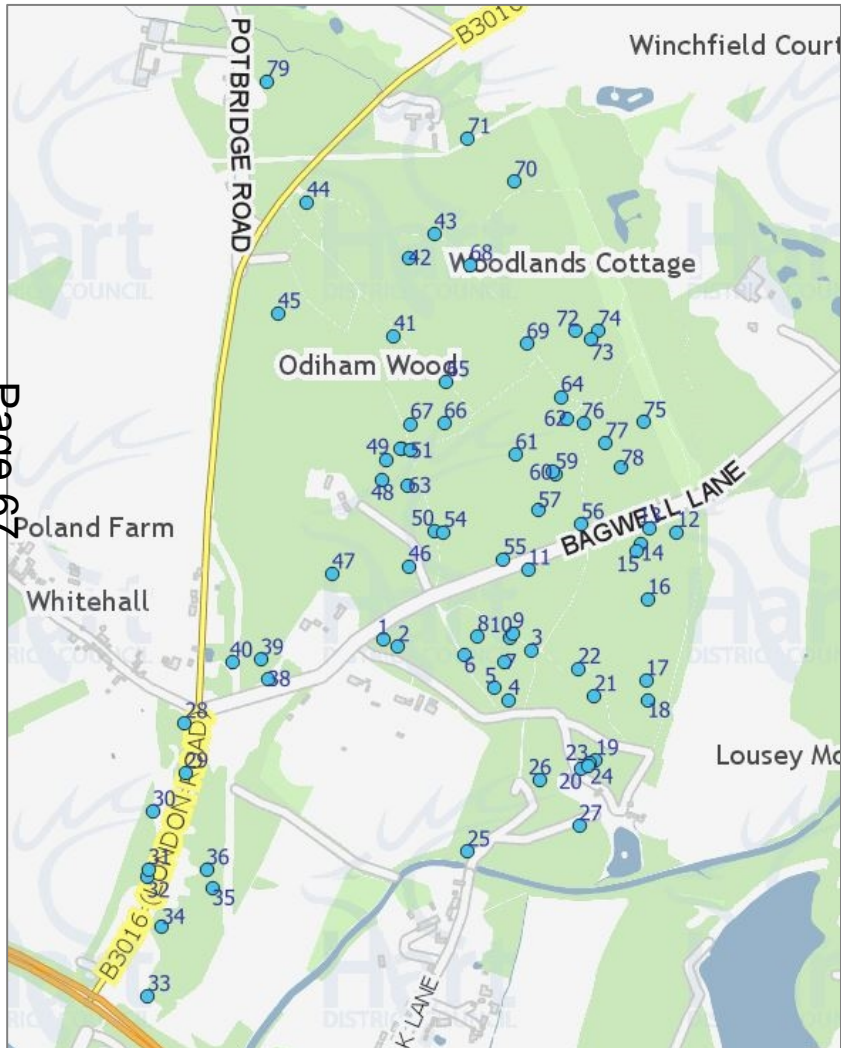


**Maps 6: Countryside Stewardship Agreement for Southeast Woods, Southern Pastures East and Southern Pastures West** (Includes management activities for grassland (GS6) and hay making (GS15))

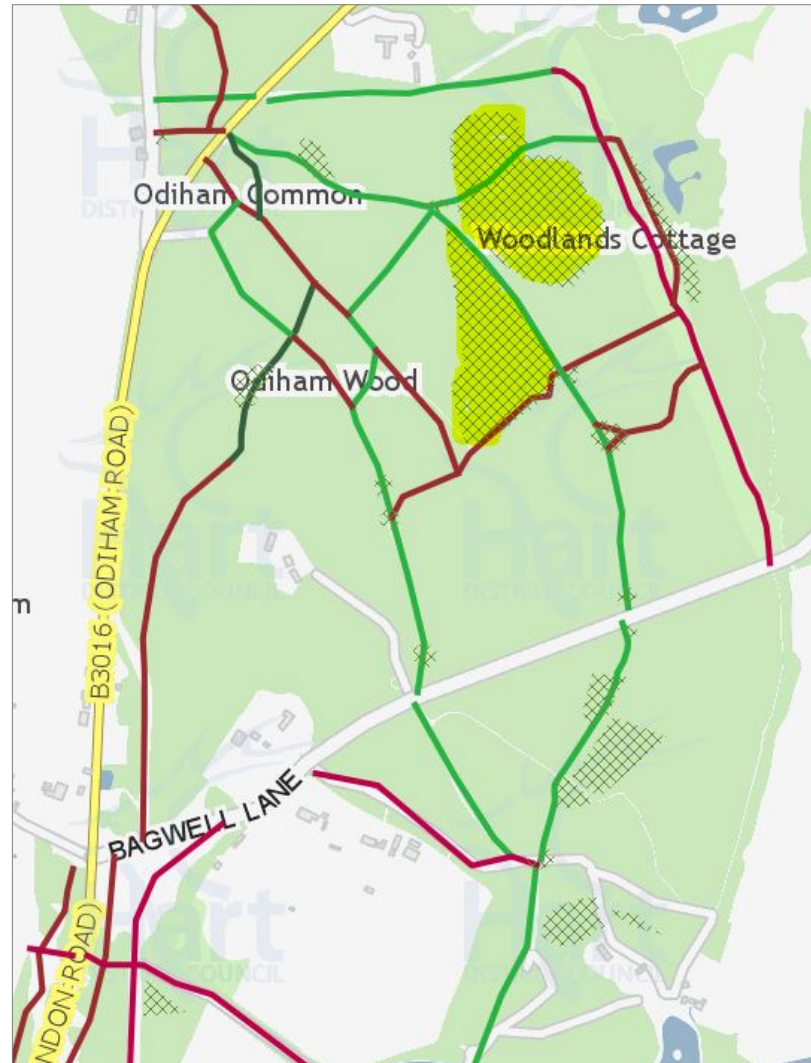


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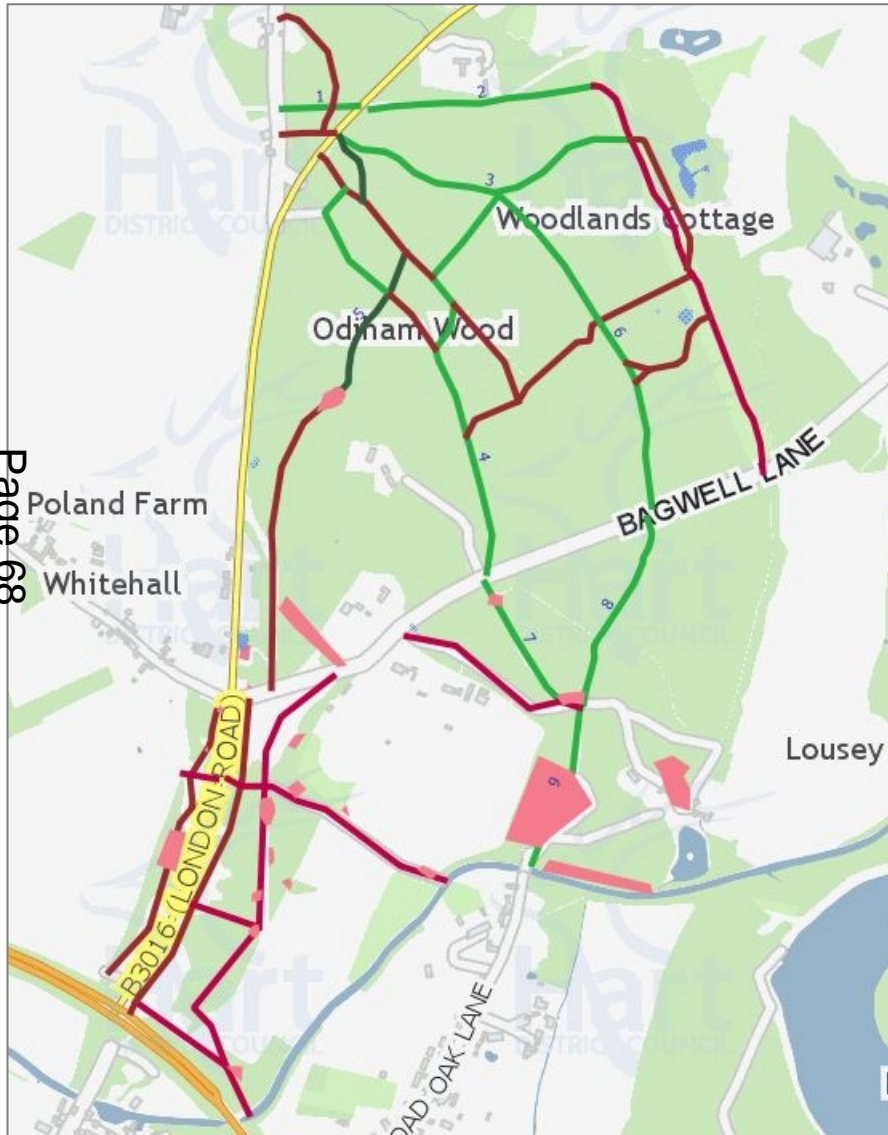
**Map 7: Trees identified in the SMW consultancy report for veteran and future veteran tree management, part-funded through Countryside Stewardship**



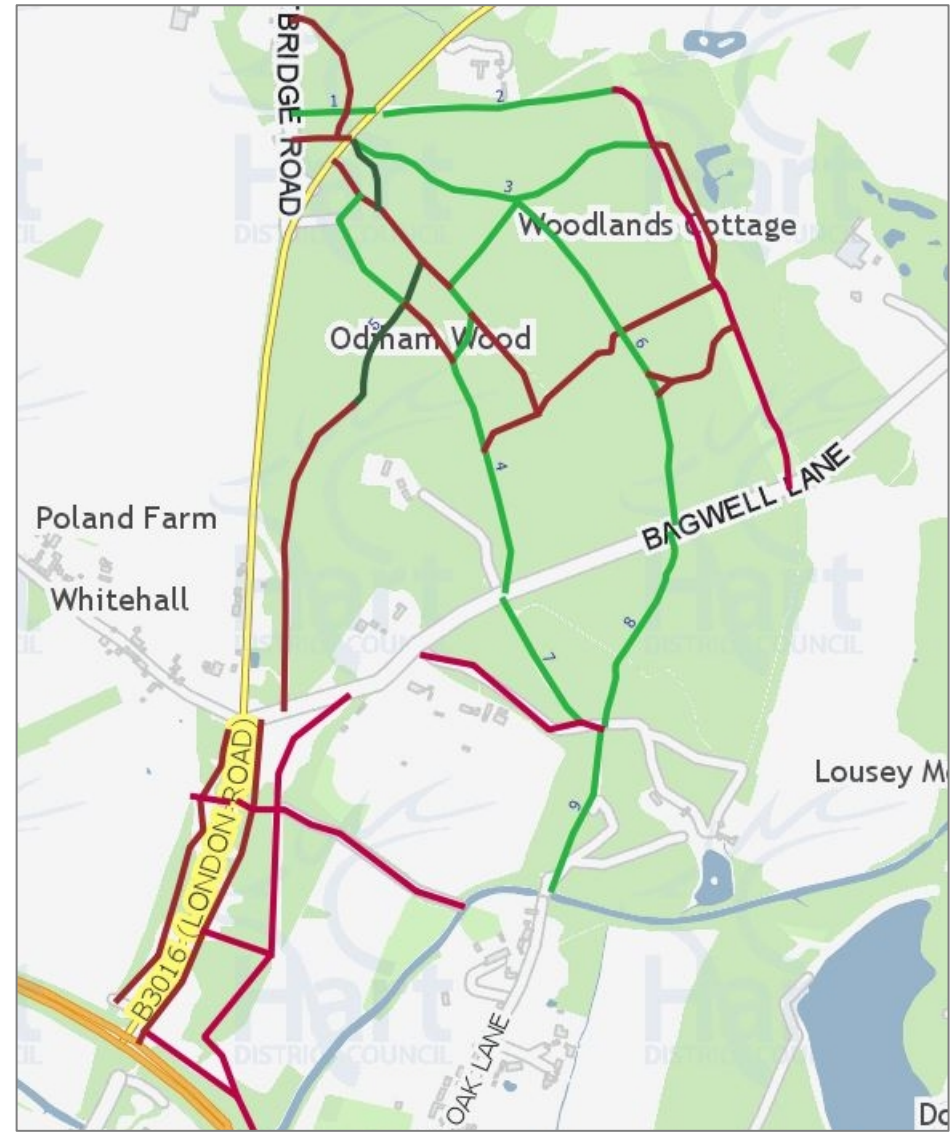
**Map 8: Glades** (those managed under the Countryside Stewardship agreement are highlighted in yellow)



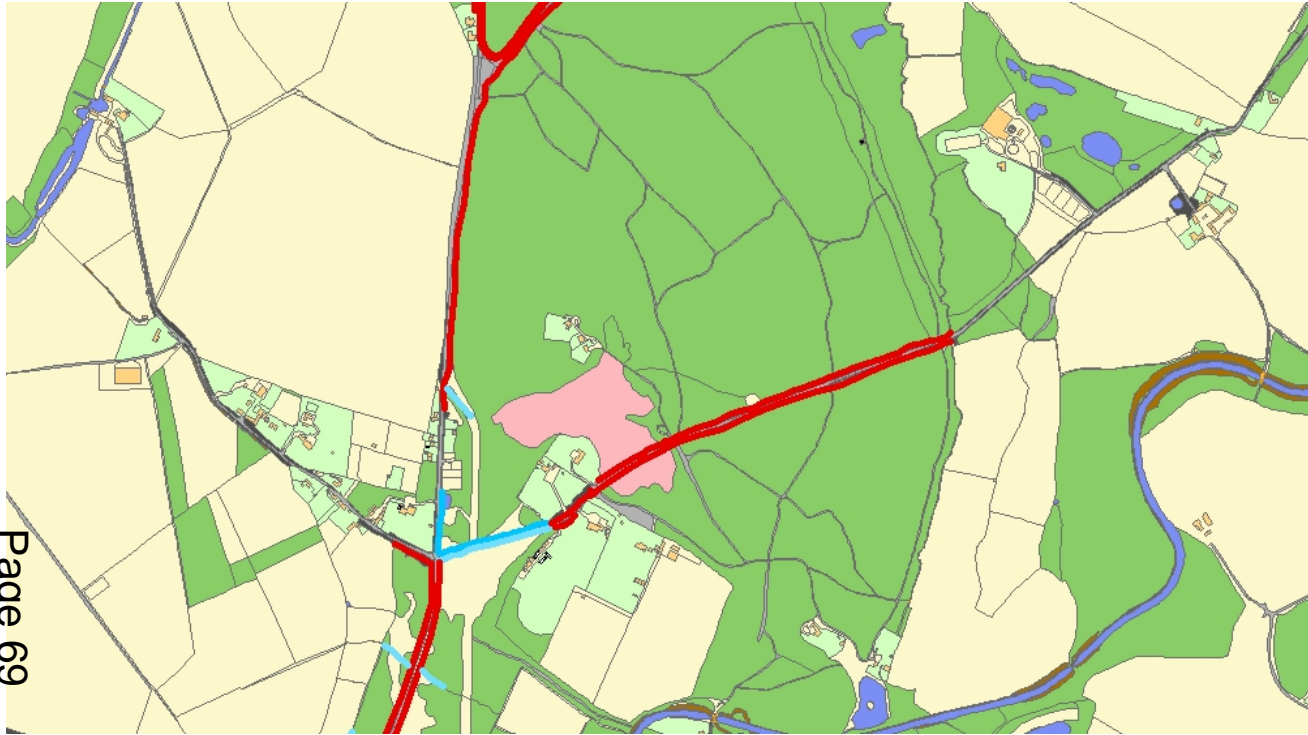
Map 9: Ash dieback based on 2021 site inspection



Map 10: Paths and rides - priority rides predominantly under zone 2 management (light green) and zone 3 management (dark green), main paths for general maintenance identified (red)

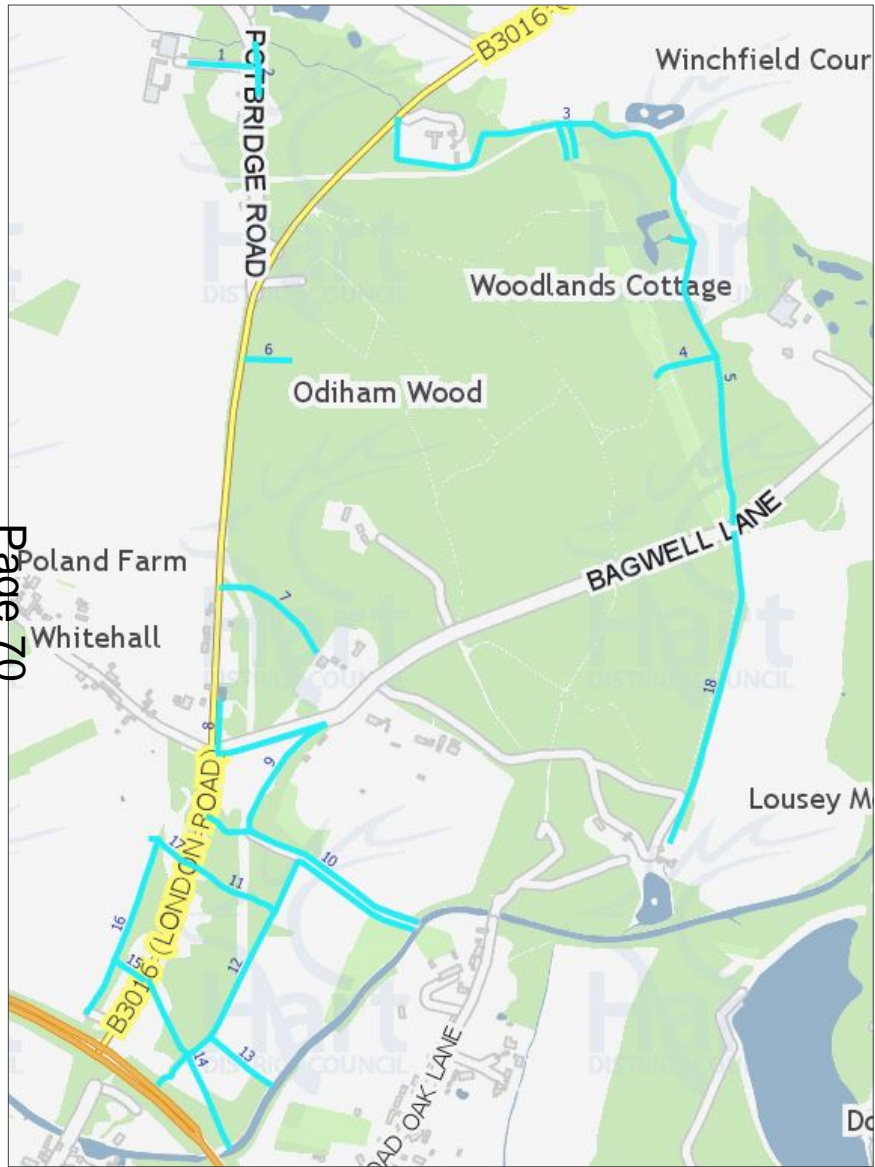


Map 11: Roadside flailing



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Map 12: Ditch management



Map 13: Coppice coupes



**Appendix 2, Paper A**  
**Consultations sought and responses received for Odiham Commons**  
**Management Plan draft proposal 2022-2031**

Draft plan and associated documentation sent to the following: -

Local Ward Members

Odiham Parish Council

Basingstoke Canal Society (no response received)

Forestry Commission (in addition to this response, HDC liaised with FC in an extensive consultation on the overall Woodland Management Plan for site)

Natural England

Resident representatives for Poland Lane, Bagwell Lane and Potbridge

Hampshire County Council

National Trust (adjacent landowner)

Hart DC responses are shown in bold italics below and general points have been collated and address in the Odiham Management Plan 2022-31 DRAFT under Section 10.2 'Responses'.

**National Trust response:**

Dear Liz and Hart Countryside Team,

Thank you for sending over the Odiham Common draft management plan. As neighbouring landowners, I have looked over the management plan and approve the content. I believe the introduction to grazing livestock on the common will be most beneficial.

The National Trust have introduced grazing cattle to one of our woodland reserves (The Chase, near Newbury) with great success.

[The Chase | National Trust](#)

Please keep us up to date with any works planned around the hunting lodge/Wilks water. A joint venture between ranger teams in the future would also be welcomed.

**Natural England response**

Hi Liz,

As requested, please find below my feedback after sight of the management plan for the common.

Firstly, I think your vision for the woodland on page 5 of the plan corresponds well with the SSSI objectives set for the broadleaved wood and wood pasture elements of the common.

Your mention of the common acting as a green corridor on page 6 rather deftly reflects one of Natural England's main focus areas of nature recovery, as well as our future plan to create a nature recovery network that aims to ensure protected sites remain in favourable condition and that also both expands and connects protected sites within a local area.

It is promising to see the inclusion of grazing as a potential future management option in the Opportunities section of the plan, as it could help maintain a varied sward structure for the benefit of each grassland habitat's associated invertebrate assemblages across the common, in addition to supporting the maintenance of scrub cover within target for favourable condition of the site.

The management objectives covered on pages 30-31 align agreeably with the site-specific targets set for the special interest features of the common that define favourable condition for this SSSI.

Finally, it is heartening to see that over and above the detailed outline of measures to enhance biodiversity across the common, the management objectives also have a good breadth in terms of encouraging opportunities to engage with the local community, which is another key focus area of the organisation under our Connecting people with nature work programme.

I do hope this feedback proves useful!

Kind regards,

Natalie

**Follow-up response from NE to Hart DC's query about path surfacing and access:**

Natural England cannot specify particularly exacting or appropriate levels of access by the public to land that is owned by a third party. Having said that, with land that has a SSSI designation, then the management of the site concerning public access should attempt to limit both disturbance or damage to the special features of interest for which the site was originally designated.

As an example of this, path maintenance for use of by the public should be undertaken in the most practical way to reduce the risk of changing the extent of adjoining notifiable habitats, which could lead to in some circumstances to either the introduction of non-native invasive species or pollution of nearby watercourses. Any plans for enhancing public access or adapting recreational use of SSSIs should be judiciously studied to enable their compliance with the future maintenance of monitored features on site.

In relation to commons, there is a greater requirement that works reflect their locality, so local materials that mirror existing foot paths should be employed for use of in resurfacing a path.

Best,

Natalie

**Hampshire County Council response**

Odiham plan looks good. You guys know what you are doing, so nothing further from me!

**Odiham Parish Council response**



Dear Liz

I confirm that Odiham Parish Councillors discussed the Management Plan at their full Council meeting on Tuesday.

Councillors made no comment on the proposed ecological management of the Common but did support residents in their request for representation on the Consultative Committee.

Please can you keep the Parish Council updated on this. Cllr Coleman is Odiham Parish Council's representative but it would be good to be kept in the loop.

Many thanks

Andrea

*Hart response to Parish Council, following clarification discussion*

*Hi Andrea,*

*Further to our conversation today I wanted to clarify the main point we discussed. It was unclear from your email whether the objection was to have no consultative group or whether it was more to do with residents being excluded from a consultative group and not having their voices heard. My understanding from you is that it is mostly about residents feeling they have no mechanism to express their views in the new management plan proposal.*

*To be clear, the most recent consultative group for Odiham originally set up for a specific common purpose to write the previous management plan, which had a considerable amount of significant works proposed (mainly the open space creation, timber removal, etc). The group should have ended at the end of the 'project' and been replaced with more typical methods of communication in line with other sites, but for no particular reason has never officially ended (but should have done once the original purpose of the group had been met, i.e. completion of the previous 'project'.*

*I think we all agree that a positive aspect of managing our local area is engagement with residents and site users. However, the current engagement is heavily focused on a small handful of properties that are in the closest proximity to the site, but should really reflect the views of residents across the wider community Odiham/Winchfield/etc. Therefore, what we propose is to liaise with the Parish Council and Ward members who will be in tune with the needs and views of their local residents, so that you can liaise directly with us and feed back comments and queries. We feel this would provide a clear mechanism for balanced engagement with the entire community. In addition, we would continue to respond to individual resident comments/enquiries through our usual channels, e.g. via website/email enquiries, on a more ad hoc basis, as is the case in other areas across Hart.*

*For significant future projects, there will be a stakeholder engagement process that will identify the relevant people and groups, as and when such projects arise.*

*I hope this clarifies things and please come back to me with any additional comments you have from your councillors on this. I understand this will go to Overview and Scrutiny, so there will be an opportunity for further comments with those in attendance, at that point.*

*Many thanks,*

*Liz*

### **Odiham Society response**

Liz,

Sincere apologies for not responding to your requests for comments on the Odiham Common Management Plan. The Society has been a bit pre-occupied recently with the move of our archives to our new home in the Parish Room in Odiham and our launch of our first exhibition on subjects connected with the village.

We have reviewed the draft plan and we feel that it is an excellent document and forms a sound basis for the future management of this very important local natural asset.

I have a few minor comments:

1. Page 15 - Should the reference be to 'Bartley Heath' not 'Hartley Heath'? Hartley Heath may be correct but I have never heard of it.

2. Page 19 - I was interested in the reference to otters but surely these would inhabit the canal itself rather than the common as their main source of food is fish. (incidentally I gather that otter spraint has been found near Colt Hill bridge).

3. Page 29 - In para 3 note that 'plants' should be 'plans'.

I note a couple of references to the possibility of introducing grazing on the Common but this appears to be a long term objective (2030 is mentioned). If grazing is desirable, I would question why it is not being considered sooner, although I appreciate that it is a controversial issue.

As I have mentioned, the Odiham Society is now planning to arrange periodic exhibitions at the Parish Room and we would like to explore with you the possibility of having an exhibition focusing on the history and ecological importance of the common. Would you and your colleagues be interested in working with us on that idea? The exhibition could be used to promote the Management Plan.

Best wishes

Philip

### **Forestry Commission response**

Hi Liz

I hope you are well and thank you very much for your email. I am sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. As you have stated you already got an approved WMP from ourselves, so we have little to add. I would though highlight the need for active Chalara management as a priority and draw up a work programme on tackling this as sadly the situation will not improve.

I also wish to draw your attention to the fact we received numerous emails from the residents of Potbridge raising concerns over the work planned, the following is a section of a letter we received that went to our CEO and I believe the MP "agree that the proposals for thinning and Holly reduction in Potbridge be removed from the Woodland Management Plan. In my letter of 10 November I

explained again my purpose in writing to Mr Stanford was to ask him to agree that the proposals for thinning and Holly reduction in Potbridge be removed from the Woodland Management Plan. I hope our request and the reasons behind it are clear in our letters to you. All the residents in Potbridge, our District Councillors, and James Sunderland, the MP resident in Potbridge, all know that the proposed felling in Potbridge would be extremely bad”.

I trust any consultation with the residents has been include in drawing up the plan

Regards

Andy Glover

### Cllr 1 response

Many thanks for these, I've had a careful read through.

I'm hoping and expecting that the residents group will respond separately and in detail. They have built up a comprehensive knowledge of the site and its issues over the years and the more we can show we've listened to them (not quite the same as agreeing!) then the better the relationship should be and hopefully you can help them understand the difficult choices that have to be made.

From my perspective I would note:-

#### **Odiham Common Management Plan (March 2022)**

1. General, the PDF document shows as “Gypsy Traveller and....” In the tab heading. This can be fixed by editing the Document Title in the Properties (under Info in the File menu).  
**Completed**
  - a. Very happy to help with Word issues, if necessary and apologies, if you're already very familiar.
  - b. It might have been easier to circulate the Word version for comments and edits, as you can merge the comments and tracked changes.
2. Page 3 – this should auto update, but you can force that by clicking anywhere in the document, use Ctrl-A to select all and then right click and select “Update Field” **Completed**
3. 1, page 4 – I would suggest a “purpose and scope” section would be helpful to be very clear about the purpose of the document and its scope (both geographically and authoritatively).  
**Added**
4. 1.1 – It should also refer to the Hart Local Plan 2020 **Content of Hart Local Plan not directly relevant, relates more to planning policy**
5. 1.2.2
  - a. The reference to the SSSI doesn't explain how it relates to the site and reports its current condition. Suggest adding “...and this is to be maintained going forward by the policies and actions described in section x.y.z). **This section is a vision for the future and should not include information on how the site will be maintained.**
  - b. Page 5 – this is mainly description, not vision. **The vision is an aspirational description of the site as we envisage it in the future.**
6. 1.2.3 – this is also mainly historic description, which is good to have, but should be in a separate section. Any vision should be forward looking. **Couldn't find reference to historic description**
7. 2.1 – Who are the “customers”? Would help to provide some guidance. I think its members of the public using the space and any organisation paying (or needing permission) for access. **Have amended to reflect general ‘customers’**
8. 2.3 – Reference to Map 1 (page 53). Unfortunately the map image is too low quality to be read. It would be helpful to also show the SSSI boundaries. **PDF version shared was lower**

- quality, but original Word Doc is in a higher quality. SSSI boundaries shown on Map 3, but have asked consultant to make this clearer**
- a. Similarly for Map 2 and several others.
  - b. The area that is the “common” includes private house that appear to be outside the SSSI designation, yet clear influence the overall site. It would benefit from some description of these features (or maybe in 2.5?) **Have added detail in Section 3.10.1.1 ‘Physical’**
9. 2.7.1 – When was the Emergency Plan last reviewed? When is that due? Does Hampshire Fire & Rescue get a copy? **Reviewed annually. Hampshire Fire and Rescue have original copy**
10. 2.7.3 – This needs a little update, as we don’t have a Dog Warden any longer. **Amended**
11. 2.9.1
- a. page 12 – its not clear which “management plan” is being referred to. **Changed wording for clarification**
  - b. The comms policy seems to be focussed at Parish Councils, rather than the Odiham Consultative Group, which includes the various stakeholders. **Have added Hart response in Appendix under ‘Responses’, which addresses the frequently raised comments/queries**
    - i. Also in section 3.1.3,
1. 2.9.2 – Suggest this should explain how those working parties will be formed. “...through specific requests to the Odiham Consultative Group, who will cascade such request to their members.” **As above**
- a. Additionally, I’m aware that the Scout Association often seeks areas to undertake service works on, so could be another source of effort.
2. 2.9.5 – Should this point to a future action to conduct a survey? **Added a line for future consideration (Section 3.9.5)**
3. 2.10.2.1
- a. Would a copy of Appendix 5 be available on the Hart website? And add the link. **Not sure which Appendix 5 is – presumable the internal document table. This is shown as a summary table – the annual recording and monitoring document will remain an internal document as it is for operational purposes and not suitable for publication.**
  - b. It would be helpful to show these features on a map, I think most show-up on the Hart GIS tool.
4. 3.2 (3) Plants -> “plans”? **Amended**
5. 3.2.1 – These targets (and KPIs) need specific dates, so that work is reasonably prioritised and spread through the plan period. **Target dates are shown in 5.1 Action plan and timetable**
6. 4.4 – There is a lot of detail here, I can only assume that it makes good sense to those that know such things! **Hopefully!**
7. 5.1 – With a “completed” column (and other information columns), would there be annual updates to this Plan or a separate progress report? **‘6.1 Operational activity summary’ is an example to demonstrate the key information that will be recorded, to help staff keep track of works internally. The rest of the plan outlines what should be delivered over the ten years and will be available to the general public. This type of recording table will be used by managers and site rangers to monitor work activities and amend as needed (e.g. where works were not completed, whether they should be moved into another year, etc). Progress reports will be a requirement by Rural Payments Agency/Natural England/Forestry Commission/etc, as requested to demonstrate we are meeting any legal requirements and agreements.**
- a. And 5.2 etc

### Ash Dieback Management Plan (Draft 2020)

1. I would recommend page, section and version numbers to ease referencing. **Amended**
2. The overall plan looks good to me, but suggest that the consideration of "risk" should be more than just property. It should include: popular paths, roads and infrastructure items (eg. telephone and power cables) at direct risk. Clearly a broken phone line is a smaller risk than a downed power cable. **The different types of risk are shown in the plan as examples, but not limited to these. Have added roads and infrastructure items.**
3. I wonder if the grades, inspection rates and actions could be more usefully added to Table 1 for easier referencing? **Inspection rates added, grades and actions already included.**
4. Table 2 to be completed. **This is an example table so does not require completing. Have added information about the current software Hart DC uses to record hazardous tree information.**

I hope that all makes sense, very happy to answer questions and explain more if that helps.

### Cllr B response

I have taken a look at the draft management plan and have seen Councillor (A)'s input which I agree and support. Below are some comments from me.

Section 1 Priorities and Vision.

It is clear from this section that Odiham Common is a unique challenge for Hart's Countryside team in that it is managed primarily to protect and enhance its biodiversity unlike other assets like the County Parks which are managed primarily as SANG "leisure" facilities.

1.2.2 refers to "effective engagement" with members of the public. This has historically been challenging at times in particular in achieving a joint vision of the Common as a "wild place and cultural landscape", a very different place from a country park.

This management plan is a unique opportunity to create and agree that shared vision.

Section 2 ,

#### 2.8.1 Past management for Nature Conservation.

The section title is significant and indicates Hart's priorities for the site. It would perhaps be useful to categorise the management activities for clarity, something like:

- what we do to enhance biodiversity
- what we do to facilitate public access and enjoyment
- what we do to control "invasive species"

This approach might better enable public understanding and engagement. This section includes the word "grazing" which has had an unfortunate negative history.

***This section (3.8.1) specifically refers to management for nature conservation, so have added the word 'habitat management' to further clarify. Public access and enjoyment is addressed in other sections, such as '3.9 People'***

My personal view is that it is now time to reconsider selective grazing as a means of natural management and an alternative to modern, disruptive and damaging mechanical management. Hart and Hampshire Wildlife Trust now have a lot of experience of selective grazing and it should not be ruled out for Odiham Common.

I note the comments in 2.10.6.4 on this topic.

## 2.9 People

When the Consultative Group was formed to support the Common Purpose, many stakeholders, such as the Open Spaces Society and others, had an interest. It is now appropriate to update the stakeholder engagement arrangements and work with those stakeholders who are most passionate and engaged with Odiham Common. Working solely with Parish Councils will in my view not be inclusive enough. Ward District Councillors and interested residents should be included. The future arrangements set out in paragraph 2.9.1 need to be updated to provide more detail.

***This has been addressed in the Appendix under 'Responses' section***

## 2.10.7.4

I welcome the opportunities set out in this paragraph including re reinstatement of occasional ranger led walks on the Common.

## 3.2 Management objectives

On the whole I support these objectives with a couple of concerns:

1. Tree felling in the plan period should be restricted to only that which is necessary to manage Ash die back.

***This has been addressed in Appendix 'Responses' section***

2. Management of existing open spaces by mechanical means should be done with great care not to damage paths and rides.

***Agreed, will partly depend on other factors such as resources, restrictions to when contractors can get onto site, National Grid and the works they carry out, but we will do***

***our best to reduce impact by working with National Grid for less visual impact, e.g. rutting.***

### 3.2.1 Targets and Performance Indicators and sections 4 Action Plan and 5 Monitoring

I don't wish to comment on particular indicators or action plan items but note that there are quite a number. A couple of comments:

1. It is not clear to me how the plan consultation responses will be handled. In the past Hart's Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) have considered evolving plans and made recommendations to Cabinet to advise on plan adoption. This might include detailed scrutiny of indicators and action plans.

***Understanding is that this will go to Overview and Scrutiny, then Cabinet for endorsement. An additional section has been added in the Appendix under 'Responses', which will be recirculated to consultees, to show consideration of key points raised and responses***

2. O&S have regular service plan reviews with heads of service. It would probably be appropriate for Odiham Common plan to be included in these service reviews.

***Head of Service has been engaged with as part of the Odiham Management Plan review process***

## **Feedback from Resident Representatives**

### **Odiham Common Management Plan – letter addressed to Cllr. Neighbour following circulation of draft management plan:**

Liz Vango circulated the new Management Plan just before the school half term and Jubilee Bank Holiday when some members of the community, including one of the residents' representatives and the Chairman of the residents association, were on holiday. We are sorry but it was therefore impossible for us to meet the abbreviated deadline.

Ever since 1994 the residents have shown a huge interest in the common. This is not surprising as they live within the ambit of the common; use the common regularly with many walking their dogs daily; they value the benefits the common provides to them through informal recreation, exercise, wellbeing, tranquillity; and closeness to nature and wildlife. The common is a key part of their daily lives. The Land Use Consultants surveys in 2009/10 confirmed the common was predominantly used by the local community. Representatives of the residents have served on every committee organised by Hart since 1994 and bring the usually unique perspectives of the user experience and public enjoyment: perspectives that Natural England, Forestry Commission and Hart Countryside do not provide.

The consultation on the new Management Plan has started for many of the residents by looking at the last ten years. We were surprised there was no review with the Consultative Committee at the end of the last Plan. What went well? What not so well? What lessons can we learn and take forward? As the residents reviewed the last 10 years they saw a common that had deteriorated. In 2010 the residents questioned the amount of open space that Hart planned to create and had doubts about their ability to cope with managing the new open space especially as funding tends to be for creating something rather than maintaining it. Those doubts proved to be fully justified. Trees were felled and replaced by bracken and bramble that is now rampant. Open spaces might be cut once but then the mowing was reduced to cutting a path through the space and then abandoned. Paths and rides were identified as problem issues in 2010 that prevented enjoyment of the common but little was done and so the problem has simply got worse. Many were waterlogged even in our survey in mid-July 2021 and of course are even worse during the winter months. Management of the paths/rides has been poor and in the next 10 years Hart barely get beyond plotting them and so there is no optimism there will any significant improvement in the paths/rides during the next plan. Grass cutting on the rides, paths and open glades has been reduced from twice a year ( see page 3 of the 2010 Plan) to once and in the next ten years it seems they will at best have a cut in the autumn with some every other year in the first five years. Many of the waterlogged paths were adjacent to areas of tree felling and we notice trees are to be 'thinned' close to an entrance on the B3016 used by visitors parking their car and adjacent to a wide ride that provides an important entry point for humans and horses and is notoriously waterlogged particularly of course in the wetter winter months. The last woodland area to be 'thinned' near Bagwell pond is now a beautiful, wall to wall carpet of bracken. Are we sure the proposed 'thinning' will not lead to greater water problems on the ride and another carpet of bracken that will deter visitors? It seems significant to us that the driest paths are where no felling has taken place and the worst close to felling.

It is of course good to learn of the great crested newts but users also like simple wildlife like ducks. Ducks had been on the ponds for at least 40 years but where are they now? Perhaps they do not like the algae and grass filled ponds. The residents are therefore pleased that two ponds will be managed during the next ten years although Bagwell Pond was dredged during the last Plan but to no good effect. It was not surprising that Hart refused to allow the consultative committee to meet from 2015 to 2019 but in 2017 we did submit the attached memorandum to Steve Lyons identifying some of the issues of importance to the users at that time although there was no evidence it was welcomed or valued. The outcome of the last 10 years is a less attractive common with a much changed landscape in need of maintenance of paths/rides, open spaces, bracken/bramble, and water management. The number of visitors has dwindled. For example some residents choose to walk on other PROWs than struggle through mud filled paths and there are fewer riders. There was an upturn in new visitors from the local community at the start of the Covid lockdown but they have not been retained.



There are two specific issues we wish to highlight. Firstly the residents are bemused by Hart official's proposal to abandon the consultative committee. There is no explanation of why this would be beneficial. It flies in the face of the DEFRA guide 'A Common Purpose: A guide to agreeing management on common land' that sets out best practice for managing a common and stresses the views of all interested parties should be taken into account. That was the process used by LUC in preparing the 2010 Management Plan but it has been abandoned for the current Plan. There is frequent mention of the importance of engagement in the Management Plan and it is difficult to reconcile this with the reduction in the engagement with the relevant district councillors and residents' representatives by abolishing the Consultative Committee. Of course the Parish Councils must be involved but, if you have interested parties with knowledge of the common willing to participate, bringing all the expertise together is surely the best option. It is difficult to think of organisations willingly abandoning direct engagement with end users. Walks on the common with the ranger are hardly a satisfactory alternative to positive engagement with all parties.

Our second issue concerns the felling in Potbridge. After a site visit in June 2020 involving the three residents' representatives and two Hart rangers it was agreed, apart from two or three specific trees, no felling would take place in the Potbridge East section of the common i.e. between Potbridge Road and the B3016 in recognition that Potbridge lay between two busy roads – the M3 and B3016 – and the trees provided a valuable sound barrier as well as a much valued character and sense of place. This agreement was confirmed in the exchange of e-mails from two of the residents' representatives on 23 June 2020, 1 and 2 July 2020 and from Hart on 1 July. For Potbridge West we suggested removing the 10%+ felling until the preparation of the ash die back plan so that the two issues could be considered in context. However, when the residents next saw the Woodland Management Plan in 2021, felling in Potbridge was included and at 30%+. We reminded Hart of the agreement and asked to revert to it. On 2 June 2021 Hart suggested for the East section having a no felling zone parallel to Potbridge Road in which only trees providing a H&S issue or standard maintenance be felled and with only a 10% felling in a strip parallel to the B3016 although the residents still favoured the original agreement. We next saw the Woodland Management Plan on 21 July 2021 and were astonished to see 30% felling was still included and again took issue with Hart as we thought they had made a simple mistake and inserted the wrong section into the document. We never received a response but assumed the document had been corrected. We then discovered in September 2021 that without any explanation Hart had submitted the Woodland Management Plan to the Forestry Commission with the East section having a 30% thinning plus a reduction of Holly (that accounts for 20% of the trees in the section), plus removal of necessary ash die back trees (5% of the trees in the section), plus haloing of a veteran tree. In the West 10% tree thinning plus removal of ash die back trees. Ash accounts for 15% of the trees in the West. Liz Vango explained that felling in Potbridge had been included 'because FC have said the entire site must be included for reasonable management techniques'. The result is that felling of some 40% of the trees to the East and 20% to the West are included in the current Management Plan. The mortality rate from ash die back is some 90% and so a 10% thinning in the West

can be expected from the natural consequences of ash die back and felling of that scale in Potbridge East would be devastating and so unnecessary.

The good news is that the Forestry Commission advised us on 29 November 2021 that 'the works proposed in the Woodland Management Plan are not legally binding, that Hart District Council will not face any action from the Forestry Commission if they do not undertake the felling'. They clarified that advice on 7 December 2021 by telling us 'The work in the Woodland Management is not legally binding and the FC do not insist that the work is carried out, we have no legal powers to enforce the felling that is in the plan. The FC whilst reviewing the works stated that felling could be carried out within areas other than those that were originally stated. There are areas of Ash trees within the common that are suffering from chalara and unfortunately a significant amount of these will die.' There is thus a very clear statement from Forestry Commission that there is no need to include thinning, et al in Potbridge in the Management plan. Natural consequences of ash die back on the West Section will more than reduce the trees by 10% and they have indicated there will be more than enough natural ash die back felling elsewhere on the common. The Hart proposals about Potbridge East ranging from no felling; a no felling zone and strip parallel to the B3016 with 10% felling; to the current 40% felling hardly suggest there is a sound scientific basis for including 40% in the Management Plan. There is no funding for the felling. It is nonsense to include an activity no one wants, that is non critical and that has no funding: if additional funding happens to become available it should be allocated to activities that are desired and will increase public enjoyment. We therefore respectfully request that felling in Potbridge be deleted except for haloing, ash die back, H&S, or standard maintenance.

A key part of good public sector management is transparency and accountability. As we have briefly set out our experience is that the track record of management activity over the past 10 years on Odiham Common has not been good. If external engagement is to be reduced we would see a need for greater internal accountability of objectives and outcomes of the Countryside Department in relation to its activities on Odiham Common.

As one household reminisce of daily walks on an attractive common with a unique character, landscape and sense of place; weekly walks with the children to feed the ducks and embed a love of nature and wildlife in the next generation; leaving food at the regular place for the fox, checking the next day that it has all gone, and replenishing it; watching in hushed silence as a deer gives birth; standing in awe as four small fox cubs run towards us thinking we were mother returning with lunch, only to realise we were mere humans that provoked a screeching stop, a magical moment as we gazed at each other before they turned turtle and dashed off. All now consigned to history and on the current common not likely to be repeated.

As we say au revoir we trust we have provided you with a picture of the common without the consultant's rose tinted spectacles and signposted for you and your Cabinet colleagues what really needs to be done. A common, even one that 200% ticks all the bio-diversity boxes, but with dwindling users and shorn of those who provide a passionate interest in its well-being, provide support and defend it, where public enjoyment is simply a luxury extra that is always lost in bio-diversity priorities is indeed a sad, dark and dank place. We fear for the future of the common especially with officials seeking to simply have their way. It has underachieved and failed to provide its full potential benefits to the local community.

The new Management Plan is merely a biodiversity plan with lip service to wider benefits and aspirations for the common. Bio-diversity of course is important and after the 2004 Public Inquiry when Hart and Natural England had their plans for the common rejected a Director of Natural England confidentially visited the residents in Potbridge to look at the common and offered removal of the SSSI designation. The residents rejected the removal of the SSSI status and so we hope you can appreciate we do support bio-diversity objectives but there is a wider remit. The pace of change should be at a rate that can manage the new maintenance requirements and does not lose sight of the unique landscape, sense of place, or character; recognition that good paths and rides provide the essential infrastructure of the common all of which are ingredients of healthy exercise and improved mental health and mood; and that public enjoyment is an essential and not a luxury. There are words about engagement and health and wellbeing but they are very lightweight – health and well-being objectives limited to liaison with the parish councils and on/off-site events and engagement actually reduced. We may have missed it but we did not see much recognition of public enjoyment. If the common is to realise its full potential and maximise all the benefits it can provide to the community a bio-diversity approach in itself is inadequate We suggest

- A change of culture is required to genuinely embrace the wider potential of the common, understand the elements that contribute to the wider potential, and be willing to accept others may have an occasional view that is legitimate and valuable
- Some of the key objectives and targets need to be sharper with progress monitored at appropriate stage points throughout the 10 years. For example we welcome the mention of rides and paths but an annual survey was part of the last plan: some of the waterlogged paths would benefit from action now but there are no targets to improve any paths and no funding. Again we welcome bracken and scrub control but in some categories there is no indication of volume or area to be controlled and a clear starting position and clear end position would help identify the effort involved, ensure adequate progress was being achieved, and areas addressed were reviewed for effectiveness of the action: we recognise bracken and bramble return and keep spreading.
- There needs to be greater accountability through the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee.
- Lessons must be learned from the last 10 years. Particularly about the rate of progress and availability of resources. There is no point in dashing into management activities that create

maintenance activities that cannot be met or maintained. For example we support the haloing of trees to provide some great veterans for future generations but 66 is a significant increase on the 20 in the last plan and using the LUC criteria this will create 3.3ha ha of open space. Can this be managed? Managing the common is a marathon not a sprint.

- The Plan indicates £5,800 pa of CS funding is available. Many of the activities are unfunded – including path repairs, ditch management in the central woods and southern pastures, glade management, and ash die back. £2151 pa of the CS funding is earmarked for haloing veteran trees (66 X £326). There is a big backlog of neglected maintenance from the last 10 years but the amount of CS resource available is only half of the funding allocated for the last plan and we ask whether all the activities included represent a realistic aspiration. We fear that any aimed at public enjoyment will be squeezed out.

We bid you Au Revoir and trust you will have the full benefits that the common can provide to the community at heart. We ask you to ensure all available resources are allocated to the neglected backlog of maintenance: water management – waterlogged paths, ditches, ponds; getting control of the rampant bracken and bramble; and adequate mowing to make the common an attractive place for humans to enjoy. The longer these tasks are delayed the worse the common will become and the more expensive to put right.

*Above letter signed by current resident representatives for Potbridge, Bagwell Land and Polland Lane.*

**The following items were received by the Council (from the resident representatives), prior to management plan draft and again following management plan draft circulation:-**

10 year plan to address the following priorities:

1. Public enjoyment and character of common become priorities
2. Waterlogged paths: repair and maintain
3. Ditches and watercourses: inspect, clear; repair and maintain
4. General maintenance: mow; remove invasive bracken and bramble
5. Ponds: clean water and return of birds and wildlife
6. Deal with diseased ash
7. Only fell healthy trees when absolutely necessary and consider the consequences
8. Obtain grants for approved work in the Plan
9. Improve Communication
10. Review work carried out

**Petition also received from Resident Representatives, signed by a number of households living in Bagwell Lane, Potbridge and Poland Lane**

Content of petition:

'You are currently considering the details of the next 10 year plan for Odiham Common. You are aware that public use and enjoyment of the common has deteriorated because of waterlogged paths, poor maintenance, and the big expansion of bracken and bramble.

- We want you to stop the decline.
- We support the response of our representatives to the inadequate draft management plan.
- We want you to positively and constructively engage with representatives of the community and abandon you attempt to terminate the local input. How can you justify termination of the Consultative Committee?
- Give equal weigh to biodiversity and mangement activities that enhance public enjoyment and include some of the latter equally in the 10 year plan.
- Scrap the 'more of the same' approach that will continue the decline of what people appreciate. The common must be a pleasant and enjoyable place for humans.'

## Ash Dieback Plan for Odiham Common 2020

To be used for monitoring and decision processes for ash dieback management at Odiham Commons until an overall Tree Strategy that addresses ash dieback has been formalised and agreed for Hart District Council.

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<b>4.0 Recording, Monitoring and Implementation Plan</b>	<b>...4</b>

#### 1.0 Overview

The following plan has been developed utilising the latest guidance from Forestry Commission, as well as direct consultation and site visits with Hart's designated Forestry Commission Advisor.

#### 2.0 Odiham Commons current condition

Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI is a large area of woodland, wood pasture and grassland mosaic in North Hampshire, designated in 1992 for its invertebrate assemblages and supporting habitats, including a mosaic of woodland and wood pasture, lowland dry acid grassland and purple moor rush pasture.

The active work by Hart District Council in recent years has included creating more rides and glades, whilst enlarging existing rides. This has developed the mosaic habitat effect across the site and created multiple open spaces to link habitats throughout the woodland.

Its current condition has been ungraded to favourable, following a recent assessment by Natural England (Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI Integrated Site Assessment Report, 2019).

It is important to look after the mosaic of open and closed canopy space throughout the woodland, whilst maintaining links between them, to enable the important invertebrate assemblages to be retained and enhanced.

Like many sites across the UK, Odiham Common has a large proportion of ash trees that have been identified as having ash dieback disease. Whilst there would be benefit to creating further existing space at the site, it has been agreed with Natural England and the Forestry Commission that the

current levels are adequate. Therefore, in the majority of cases where possible, preference will be given to encouraging natural regeneration of the woodland where ash dieback needs to be managed. This plan sets out the approach Hart District Council will be taking to identifying and managing ash dieback across the site, in a way that compliments the overall composition and condition of the site.

### 3.0 Management Principles

Management for Odiham Commons woodland, in relation to managing ash dieback disease, is based on joint guidance from Natural England and the Forestry Commission on SSSI management under such circumstances (Managing woodland SSSIs with ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), April 2019). Where information has been taken directly from this document, it is italicised below.

- Specimens with less than 25% of their crowns affected can be considered as having a *good level of disease tolerance where they are within a known area of infection and surrounding trees are more severely affected*. Therefore, noting the condition of surrounding ash trees will also be beneficial and where groups of ash trees are surveyed, it is important to retain those with grade 1 rating, to help with the retention of potentially tolerant individuals. In addition, *tolerance of disease is highly heritable and will be passed onto new generations of trees*.
- *Trees with more than 50% of the crown affected will show little or no annual growth increment and are likely to die*. Therefore, where trees are recorded as grade 3-4 and within falling distance of people or property, there needs to be a plan for active removal.
- It is important that the monitoring programme includes monitoring trees that do not currently show signs of ash dieback (i.e. grade 1), as it can take years to identify more tolerant trees and baseline data sets a useful benchmark for ongoing monitoring.
- Where there is a high proportion of grade 1 and 2 trees, it may be *several years* until more serious level of dieback occurs. If ash is removed before looking for resistant specimens, we will not be allowing a resistant generation to develop. Therefore, there should be a limit of ash removal over the next ten-year management plan cycle, with the majority of ash-specific works focusing on grade 3 & 4, where ash dieback is the main reason for the works. This should be sufficient, providing there is good management (removal) of grade 3 and 4 specimens.
- Furthermore, *955 species make use of ash trees as a habitat on one site. Some of these are obligate or highly dependent on ash. These species are vulnerable and likely to decline if suitable alternative habitat is not provided when ash dies*. This supports Hart's monitor and response approach, which gives the woodland an opportunity to grow new species or ash trees to replace felled ash, as part of natural woodland regeneration. Planting will only be supported where regeneration is not apparent within the first 3 years.
- If there is an unpredicted catastrophic rate of decline in the health of ash on site over the next ten years, this will need to be taken into account with the 5-year management plan review.
- Ash dieback disease affects woodland most where there are existing issues and challenges, such as
  - *Reduced diversity of tree/shrub species*
  - *Unsuccessful natural tree regeneration due to lack of light grazing/browsing by deer and other animals*

- *Lack of structural diversity across the wood in terms of tree size/class/shrub layer/open space/dead wood*
- *Damage to trees and regeneration by grey squirrels/other pests and diseases*
- *Non-native species*
- *Climate change impacts*

Therefore, it is imperative that the overall management of the woodland continues for these other features, to promote structural diversity and ensure the overall health of the woodland does not suffer

- Ash trees and stands that affect the health and safety of people should be considered as the priority.

#### **4.0 Recording, Monitoring and Implementation Plan**

Regular monitoring is recommended to map the progress of the disease, *at least annually....recommended between late July and early August*. Therefore, monitoring will ideally adhere to these timescales, particularly in areas deemed to be high risk to members of the public. Ash trees and ash stands will be monitored regularly and recorded according to their graded condition. Location risks will also be applied, using an appropriate risk zoning system. Where ash poses a higher potential health and safety threat (e.g. adjacent to main paths, roads, buildings, neighbouring properties, infrastructure items), the ash will be inspected annually. Where ash stands are present and are away from areas considered to be high risk (see above definition), they will be monitored every 2-3 years. If areas in low risk areas reach grade 3, they should be inspected more frequently i.e. annually, to help monitor and control spread to the wider area.

*The overall impact on a stand will be less in mixed stands*. Therefore, grade 3&4 trees that are ‘stand alone’ should be removed as well as those in groups of grade 3&4 ash, but the single species group should be prioritised if any priorities need to be made. Annual felling works should be prioritised in the following order:

1. H & S (adjacent to paths, buildings, etc)
2. Groups of trees with high proportion of ash
3. Individuals
4. Groups of mixed species containing ash

*However, felling a large proportion of mature, diseased ash in the same stand...can make the remaining (more tolerant) trees more vulnerable to infection by honey fungus*. It is therefore preferable to retain more mature trees where possible by felling smaller sections of ash rather than large areas all at once, to help retain the woodland’s overall structural diversity.

Trees and groups will be graded according to their current condition, to enable the recorder to compare with previous years of data (Table 1). Other useful information such as percentage of growth on a tree or stands of trees should also be noted to assist with comparing with historical records and building up a long-term picture of tree health.

*Table 1. Grading and proposed activity for inspection and recording of ash dieback.*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>State of health</b>	<b>Dieback cover</b>	<b>Inspection frequency</b>	<b>Recommendation (where rate of decline is steady)</b>
1	Good	0-25%	Every 3 years	Continue to monitor as per frequency outlined in above management principles



2	Reasonable	26-50%	Every 3 years	Continue to monitor as per frequency outlined in above management principles
3	Poor	51-75%	Annually	Plan for removal of tree within following 2 winters if within area of high health and safety concern
4	Very poor	76-100%	Annually	Definite removal within following winter (or sooner if appropriate), if in area of high health and safety concern

It is also important to take into account the rate of decline, as those individuals declining at a higher rate will need a more rapid decision and response. Such examples may require an increase in frequency of inspections, for example where a tree or group of trees show a significant change in percentage dieback between one annual inspection and the next. Table 2 is an example of the level of information that should be considered for ash dieback records. At present, a software mapping system is used to record tree safety issues.

*Table 2. Hart DC use a software mapping system (currently Ezytreev) to record data and the type of information that is recorded is demonstrated in the example table below.*

Tree ID (or group of trees)	Dieback cover percentage (%)	Grade (1-4)	Location risk zone (1-3)	Other notes (e.g. condition of surrounding trees)	Recommendation	Timescale
1						
2						
3						
4						

According to the guidance document, *if the loss of native species is greater than 10% over a 5 year period, then the condition is unfavourable*. Therefore, recording and monitoring should include the diversity of native species within the woodland, every 5 years.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

**DATE OF MEETING: 9 AUGUST 2022**

**TITLE OF REPORT: Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman – Annual Review Letter 2022**

**Report of: Monitoring Office**

**Key Decision: No**

**Confidentiality: No**

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to receive the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (The LG&SCO) Annual Review Letter 2021 (attached as Appendix 1). It contains a summary of statistics on complaints and enquiries made to the LG&SCO about Hart District Council for the year ending 31 March 2022.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

2. The report is for information only.

## **BACKGROUND**

3. The LG&SCO investigates allegations of maladministration that have caused injustice to the complainant. Most council services can be investigated including some areas of housing, planning, education, social services, council tax, housing benefit and highways.
4. The LGO provides dispute resolution services free of charge to the complainants. It will usually only become involved after a council's complaints procedure has been exhausted.
5. If the LGO finds the body investigated acted with fault, which caused the person an injustice, it will recommend a remedy to put things right. The LGO remedies are aimed at putting the person back in the position they would have been were it not for the fault. Where appropriate it also recommends action to avoid similar issues affecting other people – such as reviewing practice and procedure – and can recommend remedies for other persons affected by faults found in an individual complaint.

## **COMENTARY**

6. The Council has a good relationship with the LG&SCO and this year is no different. The LG&SCO reviewed four complaints that related to Hart District Council of with none being upheld. The LGO synopsis of these four cases is attached.

## **ACTION**

7. Mo action is required.

**Contact Details:** Daryl Phillips: [daryl.phillips@hart.gov.uk](mailto:daryl.phillips@hart.gov.uk)

## **Appendices:**

APPENDIX 1 – LG&SCO annual review letter 2022

## Background Papers:

- [Hart District Council \(21 007 534\)](#)

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Statement: Closed after initial enquiries/Planning advice

Summary: Mr Y complains that inaccurate pre-application planning advice provided by the Council in 2018 contributed to substantial losses when he pursued a planning application which the Council later refused. We have discontinued our investigation into Mr Y's complaint for the reasons explained in this statement.

- 
- [Hart District Council \(21 001 248\)](#)

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Statement: Not upheld/Planning applications

Summary: Mr C complained the Council failed to follow planning guidance and procedures before it discharged the planning conditions for a large development of homes in his local area. As a result, he said there was a risk of damage to protected trees and injury to pedestrians. We found the Council and its Tree Officer properly considered the Developer's plans before discharging the planning conditions. It made decisions it was entitled to make, and we cannot therefore criticise the merits of its decisions.

- 
- [Hart District Council \(21 009 791\)](#)

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Statement: Closed after initial enquiries/Planning applications

Summary: We will not investigate Mr X's complaint about how the Council handled his planning application. This is because he has a right of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) which was reasonable for him to use.

- 
- [Hart District Council \(21 007 694\)](#)

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Statement: Closed after initial enquiries/Council tax

Summary: We will not investigate Mr X's complaint the Council requires him to pay council tax on an empty property during the Covid-19 period when he could not get new tenants and was refurbishing the property. There is insufficient evidence of Council fault and we cannot achieve the outcome Mr X wants.

20 July 2022

*By email*

Mr Phillips & Ms Hughes  
Joint Chief Executives  
Hart District Council

Dear Mr Phillips & Ms Hughes

### **Annual Review letter 2022**

I write to you with your annual summary of complaint statistics from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for the year ending 31 March 2022. The information offers valuable insight about your organisation's approach to complaints. As such, I have sought to share this letter with the Leader of your Council and Chair of the appropriate Scrutiny Committee, to encourage effective ownership and oversight of complaint outcomes, which offer such valuable opportunities to learn and improve.

### **Complaint statistics**

Our statistics focus on three key areas that help to assess your organisation's commitment to putting things right when they go wrong:

**Complaints upheld** - We uphold complaints when we find fault in an organisation's actions, including where the organisation accepted fault before we investigated. We include the total number of investigations completed to provide important context for the statistic.

**Compliance with recommendations** - We recommend ways for organisations to put things right when faults have caused injustice and monitor their compliance with our recommendations. Failure to comply is rare and a compliance rate below 100% is a cause for concern.

**Satisfactory remedy provided by the authority** - In these cases, the organisation upheld the complaint and we agreed with how it offered to put things right. We encourage the early resolution of complaints and credit organisations that accept fault and find appropriate ways to put things right.

Finally, we compare the three key annual statistics for your organisation with similar authorities to provide an average marker of performance. We do this for County Councils, District Councils, Metropolitan Boroughs, Unitary Councils, and London Boroughs.

Your annual data, and a copy of this letter, will be uploaded to our interactive map, [Your council's performance](#), on 27 July 2022. This useful tool places all our data and information about councils in one place. You can find the detail of the decisions we have made about your Council, read the public reports we have issued, and view the service improvements your Council has agreed to make as a result of our investigations, as well as previous annual review letters.

### **Supporting complaint and service improvement**

I know your organisation, like ours, will have been through a period of adaptation as the restrictions imposed by the pandemic lifted. While some pre-pandemic practices returned, many new ways of working are here to stay. It is my continued view that complaint functions have been under-resourced in recent years, a trend only exacerbated by the challenges of the pandemic. Through the lens of this recent upheaval and adjustment, I urge you to consider how your organisation prioritises complaints, particularly in terms of capacity and visibility. Properly resourced complaint functions that are well-connected and valued by service areas, management teams and elected members are capable of providing valuable insight about an organisation's performance, detecting early warning signs of problems and offering opportunities to improve service delivery.

I want to support your organisation to harness the value of complaints and we continue to develop our programme of support. Significantly, we are working in partnership with the Housing Ombudsman Service to develop a joint complaint handling code. We are aiming to consolidate our approaches and therefore simplify guidance to enable organisations to provide an effective, quality response to each and every complaint. We will keep you informed as this work develops, and expect that, once launched, we will assess your compliance with the code during our investigations and report your performance via this letter.

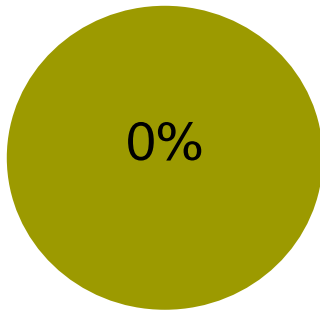
An already established tool we have for supporting improvements in local complaint handling is our successful training programme. We adapted our courses during the Covid-19 pandemic to an online format and successfully delivered 122 online workshops during the year, reaching more than 1,600 people. To find out more visit [www.lgo.org.uk/training](http://www.lgo.org.uk/training).

Yours sincerely,



Michael King  
Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman  
Chair, Commission for Local Administration in England

### Complaints upheld



**0%** of complaints we investigated were upheld.

This compares to an average of **51%** in similar organisations.

**0**  
upheld decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **1** investigation for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

### Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations

No recommendations were due for compliance in this period

### Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation

The Ombudsman did not uphold any detailed investigations during this period



# Budget Monitoring – Period end 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Date 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

# Glossary of Terms

Revenue costs include the day-to-day expenses of the council and any fees and charges that offset those costs. The net revenue budget is funded by Business Rates , Council Tax and government grants

Capital expenditure relates to one off investment items that add value to assets or deliver a new asset. Funding for these items can be a variety of sources including grants, capital receipts and borrowing.

Reserves are funds set aside for specific purpose in the future. The 2022-23 budget for Hart District Council was set with some of these contributions already allocated as funding for specific one off spend.



# Revenue Overview

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Service Area	Total Budget	Total Projected Outturn	Cont. (from)/to EMR	Projected Outturn post Reserves	Variance from budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Community	719	764	(45)	<b>733</b>	14
Corporate Services	6,844	7,826	(982)	<b>6,820</b>	(24)
Place	2,320	2,210	110	<b>2,256</b>	(64)
Technical & Environment	3,082	3,082	0	<b>3,052</b>	(52)
Non-Controllable costs	(1,005)	(1,005)	0	<b>(1,005)</b>	0
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>11,960</b>	<b>12,877</b>	<b>(917)</b>	<b>11,856</b>	<b>(126)</b>

# Capital Overview

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<b>Service Area</b>	<b>C/F Budget 2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>Total 2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>2022-23 Forecast</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Community	0	1,817	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,817</b>
Corporate Services	0	90	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>
Place	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Technical & Environment	536	1,636	<b>2,172</b>	<b>2,172</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>4,079</b>	<b>4,079</b>

C/F = Carried Forward

# Summary

## Revenue

- The council is forecasting an overall underspend of £126k against the 2022-23 revenue budget of £11.96m\*.

*\*the budget included planned Tier 2 savings of £202k.*

- Included in the outturn are £917k net contributions from Earmarked Reserves (EMR)
  - The largest contribution from EMRs is £982k to replace the shortfall in the leisure centre management fee income target. (*Approved at Cabinet October 2021*)
  - A contribution to EMR of £110k represents a payment award from a Health & Safety Fatality Court Case.

## Capital

- There is no forecasted variance to the 2022-23 Capital Budget of £4.1m. The budget includes budget carried forward from 2021/22.

## 2022-23 Savings









- Tier 2 savings are largely expected to be achieved within the 2022-23 financial year.

**Reserves  
agreed  
through  
the budget  
process**

<b>Reserves 2022-23</b>	<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>Contributions In</b>	<b>Contributions Out</b>	<b>Closing balance</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>General Fund</b>	6,911	0	0	6,911
<b>Earmarked</b>	26,311	110	(1,027)	25,394
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,222</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>(1,027)</b>	<b>32,305</b>

# 2022-23 Tier 2 Savings

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SERVICE	BUDGET	FORECAST	RISK	RAG
Corporate Service Restructure	62	62	0	
Senior Management Team Review	52	52	0	
Member & Staff Allowances	4	4	0	
Internal Audit	15	15	0	
Dog Warden Service	3	3	0	
Planning Development	28	28	0	
Place Service efficiencies	21	21	0	
Technical & Environmental – resource review	17	9	0	
	<b>202</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>0</b>	

The Tier 2 savings are included in the £11,960k – Net Cost of Service

### **Corporate Services - £133k**

Restructure – bring services back from Mendip and restructure Corporate Services £62k  
Review and revise skills and resources of Senior Management Team - £52k  
Review of member and staff allowances - £4k  
Internal Audit £15K - to be achieved through outsourcing of Internal Audit to one provider.

### **Place Service - £52k**

An additional £3k will be achieved through outsourcing of Dog Warden Service  
£28k Planning Development by delaying recruitment  
£21k to be achieved by efficiencies across the Place Service

### **Technical and Environmental £17k**

To be achieved through staff reduction within the structure

# **2022-23 Savings (narrative)**

Community Services Revenue variances (£14k overspend)

Community Services	2022-23 Budget	Full Year Forecast	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Community Safety	161	161	0
Housing Needs Service	331	331	0
Private Sector Housing	171	186	15
Social Inclusion & Partnership	(26)	(40)	(14)
Strategic Housing Services	82	90	8
Lateral Flow Test Centre	0	5	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>14</b>

# Revenue - Community Services (£14k overspend)

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**Community Services is forecasting an overspend of £14k after the agreed drawdown of £45k contribution from earmarked reserves.**

- Housing Needs Service has a net budget of £330k. This is the largest budget within Community Services and represents 46% of the total budget. There are no forecast variances to this budget.
- Private Sector Housing is forecasting an overspend of £15k by year-end which is mainly related to agency cost. This was because of fire safety issues at a permitted development block of flats. We bought in specialist fire safety expert services, fortunately, because of this action we managed to avoid a Prohibition order being served & 120 plus homes being evacuated
- This overspend was largely off-set by £14k saving in staff costs relating to a vacancy in Social Inclusion.



# Community Services Capital Projects

<b>Community Services</b>	<b>2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>Carry forward 2021-22</b>	<b>Total 2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>Full Year Forecast</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000
DFG - Mandatory	867	0	867	867
Grants for Affordable Housing	950	0	950	950
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,817</b>

Corporate  
Services  
Revenue  
variances  
(£24k  
underspend)

Page 106

Corporate Services	2022-23 Budget	Full Year Forecast	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000
5 Council Contract - Capita	2,154	2,147	(7)
Hart Election Costs	172	176	4
IT Contract	493	500	7
Leadership Team	673	678	5
Revenues & Benefits Contract	(399)	(400)	(1)
Support To Elected Bodies	392	397	5
Waste Client Team	(599)	(643)	(44)
Waste Contract	1,983	1,983	0
Total Other budgets	1,975	1,982	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,844</b>	<b>6,820</b>	<b>(24)</b>

# Revenue - Corporate Services (£24k underspend)

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**Corporate Services is forecasting an underspend of £24k after the agreed drawdown from earmarked reserves.**

- Cabinet has previously agreed that the anticipated shortfall in management fees from the leisure provider (Everyone Active) can be met from Earmarked Reserves. For 2022/23 this is forecast to be £982k.
- The Waste Client Team is forecasting an additional £44k in income from recycling credits.

# Corporate Services Capital Projects

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<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Carry forward 2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>Total 2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>Full Year Forecast</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Website Development	0	90	90	90
Grand Total	0	90	90	90

# Place Revenue (£64k underspend)

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PLACE	2022-23 BUDGET	FULL YEAR FORECAST	FORECAST VARIANCE
	£000	£000	£000
Buildings, Repair & Maintenance	316	319	3
Building Control - Fee Earning	(173)	(165)	8
Building Control - Non-Fee	114	114	0
Business Support Staff	769	763	(6)
Economic Development	85	52	(33)
Env Health Commercial	179	169	(10)
Environmental Protection	254	254	0
Local Land Charges	(90)	(90)	0
Planning Development	137	124	(13)
Planning Policy	314	305	(9)
Other budgets	415	411	(4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>(64)</b>

# Revenue - Place Services (£64k underspend)

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- £110k in costs have been received from a Health & Safety Fatality prosecution. The case has taken 3 years to conclude. It is proposed that this income is transferred to reserves.
- A significant underspend within Economic Development (33k) is a result of a staff vacancy with no plans for recruitment within this financial year.
- One of the largest budgets in the directorate is Business Support Team £769k (37%) which is forecasting a small favourable variance of £6k. The costs of this team include staffing and the relevant IT systems.
- The largest budget cost in the team is Planning Development where there is an underspend due to a staff vacancy. However, this budget has a large income budget to offset these costs. There is a small £13k underspend in this budget overall.

# Technical & Environmental Revenue (£52k underspend)

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Technical and Environment	2022-23 Budget	Full Year Forecast	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Bramshot Farm	190	189	(1)
CCTV	155	155	(0)
Climate Change	311	310	(1)
Edenbrook Country Park	213	212	(1)
Environment Promotion Strategy	156	157	1
Grounds Mtn Contract	420	420	(0)
Off Street Parking	(299)	(326)	(27)
On Street Parking	83	84	1
Small SANG Sites	164	149	(15)
Street Cleaning	754	754	(0)
Total Other budgets	935	926	(9)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>(52)</b>

## Revenue – Technical and Environmental (£52K underspend)

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- Parking income is forecast to be £37k higher due to increased daily parking activity. This is offset by £10k increase on ticket machine maintenance.
- Expenditure in Small SANGS is forecasting to be £15k lower than budget due to staff vacancies.



# Technical & Environmental Capital Projects

Technical & Environment	Carry forward 2021-22	2022-23 Budget	Total 2022-23 Budget	Total 2022-23 Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bramshot Farm	0	340	340	340
Edenbrook CP - Teen Health	170	65	235	235
Edenbrook CP - Visitor Improve	82	158	240	240
Fleet Pond Visitor Enhancement	75	31	106	106
Fleet Pond Green Corridor Ecology	0	25	25	25
Fleet Pond Green Corridor	58	373	431	431
Hazeley Hth Access Improvement	26	30	56	56
Kingsway Flood Alleviation Sch	0	54	54	54
Mill Corner, North Warnborough	0	27	27	27
Phoenix Green, Hartley Wintney	0	70	70	70
Hartley Wintney Access	80		80	80
Electric Service Vehicles	45	70	115	115
Small SANGS Capital Works	0	184	184	184
Countryside Stewardship	0	134	134	134
Cove Road Crossing	0	75	75	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>2,172</b>

# Non-Controllable Costs (£0k variance)

NON-CONTROLLABLE COSTS	2022-23 BUDGET	FULL YEAR FORECAST	FORECAST VARIANCE
	£000	£000	£000
Transfer from Reserves	(1,260)	(1,260)	0
Movement in Reserves (MiRs) <i>Includes: pension, depreciation</i>	160	160	0
Interest Payable	95	95	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1,005)</b>	<b>(1,005)</b>	<b>0</b>



## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**TITLE OF REPORT:** TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2021/22

**Report of:** Head of Corporate Services & Section 151 Officer

**Cabinet Portfolio:** Finance

**Key Decision:** No

**Confidentiality:** Non-Exempt

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To report the Council's Treasury Management activities during the year ended 31 March 2021 for scrutiny and comments in advance of consideration by Cabinet.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

2. To forward comments to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

## **BACKGROUND**

3. This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2021/22. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).
4. During 2021/22 the minimum reporting requirements were that the Council should receive the following reports:
  - an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (25.02.2021)
  - a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (06.01.2022.)
  - an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)
5. The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.
6. This Council confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by the Scrutiny Committee before they were reported to the full Council. Member training on treasury management issues was undertaken in December 2020 in order to support members' scrutiny role.

**THE COUNCIL’S CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING**

7. The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:
- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council’s borrowing need; or
  - If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure	1,334	8,385	21,688
Financed in year	(1,851)	(1,585)	(3,127)
<b>Unfinanced capital expenditure</b>	<b>(517)</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>18,561</b>

**THE COUNCIL’S OVERALL BORROWING NEED**

8. The Council’s underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council’s indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2021/22 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years’ net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
9. Gross borrowing and the CFR - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2020/21) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2021/22) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2020/21. The table below highlights the Council’s gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total CFR	22,889	31,194	41,450
Gross borrowing position	11,535	16,554	18,088
<b>(Under) / over funding of CFR</b>	<b>(11,354)</b>	<b>(14,640)</b>	<b>(23,362)</b>

10. The authorised limit - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2021/22 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.
11. The operational boundary – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.
12. Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream.

	2021-22
	£'000
Authorised limit	30,000
Maximum gross borrowing position during the year	18,088
Operational boundary	25,000
Average gross borrowing position	14,812
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	-5.30%

### TREASURY POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

13. At the beginning and the end of 2021/22 the Council’s treasury (excluding borrowing by PFI and finance leases), position was as follows:

	2020-21	2021-22
	£'000	£'000
Short-term Borrowing	(1,382)	(2,439)
Long-term Borrowing	(10,152)	(15,649)
Short-term Investments	17,000	15,000
Cash & Cash Equivalents	16,127	14,844

14. The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

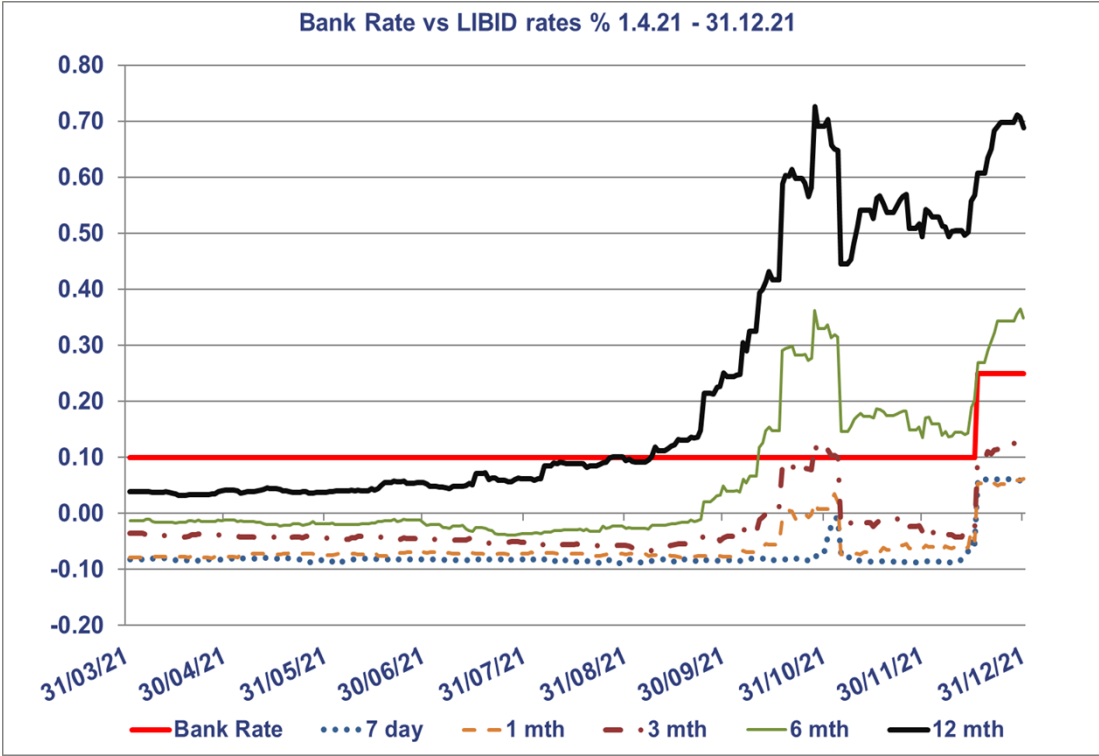
	2020-21	2021-22
	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	1,383	2,439
Between one and two years	1,303	1,314
Between two and five years	2,025	1,085
Between five and ten years	1,955	1,998
Between ten and fifteen years	2,180	2,228
Between fifteen and twenty years	2,431	2,224
More than twenty years	257	6,800

15. Investment portfolio:

	(£) Balance	Interest Rate	Maturity (days)
Standard Chartered	5,000,000	0.28%	162
Qatar National Bank	5,000,000	0.72%	180
Barclays Ltd - Green Account 95 days	5,000,000	0.30%	95 days notice
Bank of New York Mellon - Federated	4,900,000	0.39%	Instant
Insight Liquidity Funds plc	4,000,000	0.39%	Instant
Aberdeen Liquidity- Standard Life	5,000,000	0.40%	Instant
Barclays-FIBCA	746,598	0.00%	Instant
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,646,598</b>		

**THE STRATEGY FOR 2021/22**

16. Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk



	Bank Rate	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
<b>High</b>	0.25	0.06	0.06	0.14	0.36	0.73
<b>High Date</b>	17/12/2021	29/12/2021	31/12/2021	31/12/2021	30/12/2021	28/10/2021
<b>Low</b>	0.10	-0.09	-0.08	-0.07	-0.04	0.04
<b>Low Date</b>	01/07/2021	27/08/2021	17/09/2021	08/09/2021	27/07/2021	08/07/2021
<b>Average</b>	0.11	-0.07	-0.05	-0.01	0.09	0.31
<b>Spread</b>	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.20	0.40	0.68

17. Investment returns remained close to zero for much of 2021/22. Most local authority lending managed to avoid negative rates and one feature of the year was the continued growth of inter local authority lending. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was that Bank Rate would remain at 0.1% until it was clear to the Bank of England that the emergency level of rates introduced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer necessitated. The Bank of England and the Government also maintained various monetary and fiscal measures, supplying the banking system and the economy with massive amounts of cheap credit so that banks could help cash-starved businesses to survive the various lockdowns/negative impact on their cashflow. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was

demand to borrow, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates remained low until towards the turn of the year when inflation concerns indicated central banks, not just the Bank of England, would need to lift interest rates to combat the second-round effects of growing levels of inflation (CPI was 6.2% in February).

18. While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.
19. Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates as illustrated in the charts shown above and below. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing the counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

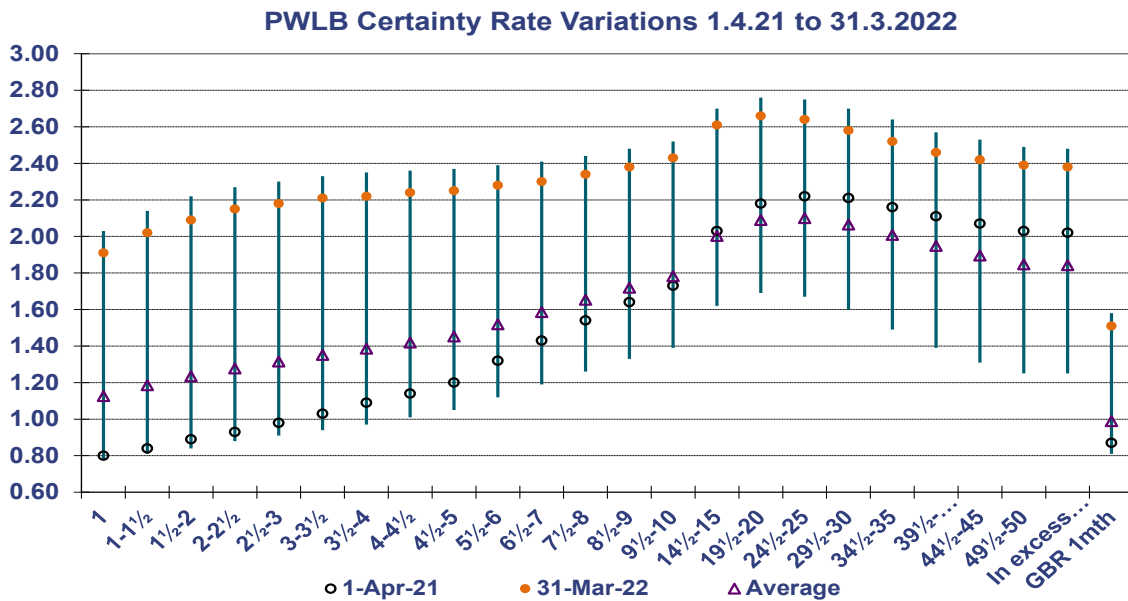
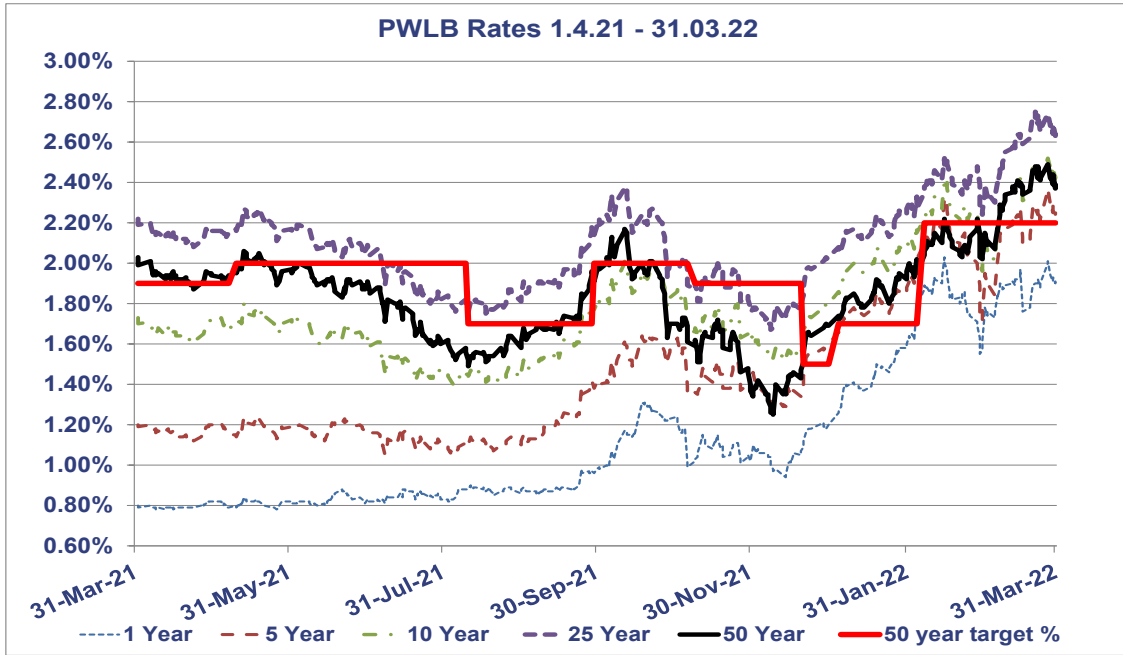
## **BORROWING STRATEGY AND CONTROL OF INTEREST RATE RISK**

20. During 2021-22, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.
21. The policy of avoiding new borrowing by utilising cash balances has been implemented where possible.
22. Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2021/22 and the two subsequent financial years. However inflation concerns increased significantly at the start of 2021/22 and internal, variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing until well in to the second half of 2021/22.

Link Group Interest Rate View 7.2.22													
	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25
<b>BANK RATE</b>	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
3 month av. earnings	0.80	1.00	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
6 month av. earnings	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30
12 month av. earnings	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.60	1.60	1.50	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40
5 yr PWLB	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30
10 yr PWLB	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40
25 yr PWLB	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
50 yr PWLB	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40



23. PWLB Rates 1.4.21 – 31.03.22

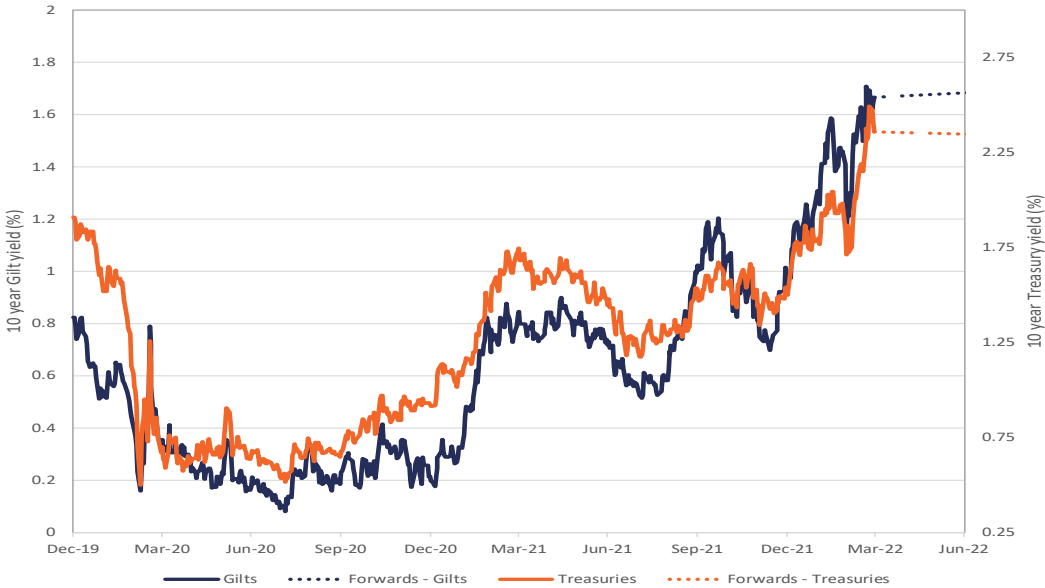


**HIGH/LOW/AVERAGE PWLB RATES FOR 2021/22**

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
<b>01/04/2021</b>	0.80%	1.20%	1.73%	2.22%	2.03%
<b>31/03/2022</b>	1.91%	2.25%	2.43%	2.64%	2.39%
<b>Low</b>	0.78%	1.05%	1.39%	1.67%	1.25%
<b>Low date</b>	08/04/2021	08/07/2021	05/08/2021	08/12/2021	09/12/2021
<b>High</b>	2.03%	2.37%	2.52%	2.75%	2.49%
<b>High date</b>	15/02/2022	28/03/2022	28/03/2022	23/03/2022	28/03/2022
<b>Average</b>	1.13%	1.45%	1.78%	2.10%	1.85%
<b>Spread</b>	1.25%	1.32%	1.13%	1.08%	1.24%

24. PWLB rates are based on gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through H.M. Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields. The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations and movements in US treasury yields. Inflation targeting by the major central banks has been successful over the last 30 years in lowering inflation and the real equilibrium rate for central rates has fallen considerably due to the high level of borrowing by consumers: this means that central banks do not need to raise rates as much now to have a major impact on consumer spending, inflation, etc. This has pulled down the overall level of interest rates and bond yields in financial markets over the last 30 years. We have seen over the last two years, many bond yields up to 10 years in the Eurozone turn negative on expectations that the EU would struggle to get growth rates and inflation up from low levels. In addition, there has, at times, been an inversion of bond yields in the US whereby 10 year yields have fallen below shorter term yields. In the past, this has been a precursor of a recession. Recently, yields have risen since the turn of the year on the back of global inflation concerns.

**Graph of UK gilt yields v. US treasury yields**



25. There is likely to be a further rise in short dated gilt yields and PWLB rates over the next three years as Bank Rate is forecast to rise from 0.75% in March 2022 to 1.25% later this year, with upside risk likely if the economy rates proves resilient in the light of the cost-of-living squeeze. Medium to long dated yields are driven primarily by inflation concerns but the Bank of England is also embarking on a process of Quantitative Tightening when Bank Rate hits 1%, whereby the Bank’s £895bn stock of gilt and corporate bonds will be sold back into the market over several years. The impact this policy will have on the market pricing of gilts, while issuance is markedly increasing, is an unknown at the time of writing.

## BORROWING OUTTURN

26. Treasury Borrowing – breakdown of borrowing at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022:

Lender	Balance (£'000)	Type	Interest Rate	Maturity
PWLB 1	8,338	Fixed Rate	2.19%	25 years
PWLB 2	6,800	Fixed Rate	1.91%	50 years
Hampshire County Council	2,950	Fixed Rate	0.00%	7 years

27. Borrowing – New £6.8mil PWLB loan has been undertaken during the year to finance purchase of Edenbrook apartments with the housing accommodation purpose.

28. Borrowing in advance of need – The Council has not borrowed more than, or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

## INVESTMENT OUTTURN

29. Investment Policy – the Council’s investment policy is governed by DLUHC investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 19/01/2021. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

30. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties

31. Resources – the Council’s cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council’s core cash resources comprised as follows:

Balance Sheet Resources	2020-21	2021-22
Balances	£'000	£'000
Earmark Reserves	(25,556)	(26,454)
Provisions	(274)	(527)
Usable Capital Receipts	(387)	(382)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(26,216)</b>	<b>(27,363)</b>

32. Investments held by the Council – at the end of the financial year the Council held the funds detailed in 6.3 which were managed internally. The total investment income for 2021/22 was £118k compared to a budget of £100k.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

33. Counter Party Limits. The council permanently extended the counterparty limits for Barclays bank accounts from £5mil to £10mil to accommodate for Barclays green 95 days' notice account.
34. Counter Party limits for Barclays have been authorised for overnight limit breach on two occasions during 2021-22:
  - when council received PWLB £6.8mil
  - in preparation for Centenary house £12mil payments

## **EQUALITIES**

35. There are no impacts to equality from the recommendations of this paper

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

36. There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations of this paper

## **CONCLUSION**

37. This report provides Members with information on the level of investment and interest earned during the last financial year and demonstrates the council's compliance with the Treasury Management Strategy.

**Contact Details:** Isabel.Brittain@hart.gov.uk

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Treasury Management Strategy Statement (19. January 2021.)

## **APPENDICES**

- 1- Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- 2- Approved countries for investments as at 31.3.22

## Prudential and Treasury Indicators

During 2021/22, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows:

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure	1,334	8,385	21,688
Gross Debt	11,535	16,554	18,088
<b>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)</b>			
Brought Forward 1 April	23,405	22,889	22,889
Carried Forward 31 March	22,889	31,194	41,450
Change in CFR	(516)	8,305	18,561
<b>Incremental impact of capital investment decisions</b>			
	£ p	£ p	£ p
Increase in council tax (band D) per annum	(15.97)	(9.71)	(28.38)

TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS	Actual	Budget	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
	<b>Authorised Limit for External Debt</b>		
Borrowing	30,000	30,000	30,000
<b>Operational Boundary for External Debt</b>			
Borrowing	25,000	25,000	25,000
<b>Actual External Debt</b>	11,535	16,554	18,088

**Approved countries for investments as at 31.3.22**

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

AA-

- Belgium
- Hong Kong
- Qatar
- **U.K.**

## Cabinet Work Programme August 2022

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Termination of the Shared Corporate Health and Safety Service with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council To seek Cabinet approval to terminate the shared Corporate Health and Safety Service	Cabinet	4 Aug 2022			Termination of the Shared Corporate Health and Safety Service with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	
Cycle and Car Parking Standards To approve the Technical Advice Note on Cycle and Car Parking Standards	Cabinet	4 Aug 2022			Cycle and Car Parking Standards	Portfolio Holder for Environment <i>Adam Green, Ecology and Countryside Manager</i> <i>adam.green@hart.gov.uk</i>
Green Grid Signage and Wayfinding To agree signage and wayfinding for the Fleet Pond Corridor	Cabinet	4 Aug 2022			Fleet Pond Corridor Signage and Wayfinding	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Direction and Partnerships <i>Adam Green, Ecology and Countryside Manager</i> <i>adam.green@hart.gov.uk</i>
Request the release of S106 funding towards Hook Community Centre and Sports Pavilion Hook Town Council are seeking the release of S106	Cabinet	4 Aug 2022		Open	Request the release of S106 funding towards Hook Community Centre and	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Direction and Partnerships <i>Adam Green, Ecology and Countryside Manager</i> <i>adam.green@hart.gov.uk</i>

Agenda Item 10

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
funding held in earmarked reserves for improvements at Hook Community Centre and towards the provision of a Sports Pavilion and Changing Rooms at the Land at North East Hook					Sports Pavilion	
Revenue and Capital Outturn 2022/23 Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to consider the Annual report on outturn.	Cabinet	4 Aug 2022			Revenue and Capital Outturn 2022/23	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
Treasury Management 2021/22 (Half Year Report) To consider a Half Year review report on Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 before it goes to cabinet	Cabinet	4 Aug 2022				<i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
EV Charging Points Tender Process	Cabinet	4 Aug 2022			EV Charging Points Tender Process	Portfolio Holder for Environment <i>John Elson, Head of Environment and Technical Services</i> <i>john.elson@hart.gov.uk</i>
To receive the request from Audit Committee to provide a response to the management recommendations contained within the Shapley Heath Audit Review report, and to review	Cabinet	1 Sept 22				Chair of Audit Committee



Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
the application of project governance, financial controls, and reporting for the Shapley Heath project and to provide a response to Audit Committee on lessons learnt.						
Climate Change Working Group To receive the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group and approve the budget expenditure as outlined in the minutes of 27 June 2022	Cabinet	1 Sep 2022			Climate Change Working Group	Portfolio Holder for Environment <i>John Elson, Head of Environment and Technical Services</i> <a href="mailto:john.elson@hart.gov.uk">john.elson@hart.gov.uk</a>
5 Councils Governance, Joint Committee and representation please 129	Cabinet	1 Sept 2022				Portfolio Holder for Corporate <i>Patricia Hughes, Joint Chief Executive</i> <a href="mailto:patricia.hughes@hart.gov.uk">patricia.hughes@hart.gov.uk</a>
Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Asset Management Plan Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to consider the Council's medium term financial strategy position and future capital strategy, treasury management strategy statement and asset management plan	Cabinet	1 Sep 2022			Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Asset Management Plan	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <a href="mailto:isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk">isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</a>
Odiham Common	Cabinet	1 Sept 2022			Odiham	Leader and Portfolio Holder for

<b>Subject / Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Decision Due Date</b>	<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Likely Exemption</b>	<b>Background documents</b>	<b>Member / Officer Contact</b>
Management Plan To approve the Odiham Common Management Plan					Common Management Plan	Strategic Direction and Partnerships <i>Adam Green, Ecology and Countryside Manager</i> <i>adam.green@hart.gov.uk</i>
Quarterly Budget Monitoring Quarterly Update on budget position	Cabinet	1 Sept 2022			Quarterly Budget Monitoring	<i>Joanne Rayne, Finance Manager</i> <i>joanne.rayne@hart.gov.uk</i>
Annual SANGS Review The Annual SANGS Review to be noted by Cabinet	Cabinet	1 Sep 2022			Annual SANGS Review	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Ken Robinson, Finance Manager</i> <i>ken.robinson@hart.gov.uk</i>
Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal to endorse the CA appraisal for planning/development management purposes	Cabinet	1 Sep 2022			Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal	Portfolio Holder for Place <i>Daniel Hawes, Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager</i> <i>daniel.hawes@hart.gov.uk</i>
The Swan Inn, North Warnborough To seek Cabinet approval for cost projection and next steps	Cabinet	1 Sep 2022			The Swan Inn, North Warnborough	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Direction and Partnerships
Quarterly Performance Reports To seek Cabinet approval on reports on performance data	Cabinet	6 Oct 2022			Quarterly Performance Reports	Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation and Corporate Services <i>Ashley Grist, Contracts &amp; Procurement Manager</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
						<i>ashley.grist@hart.gov.uk</i>
Risk Register Review To review the Risk Register and agree recommended amendments	Cabinet Cabinet	6 Oct 2022 6 Apr 2023			Risk Register Review	Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation and Corporate Services <i>David Harwood, Internal Auditor</i> <i>david.harwood@hart.gov.uk</i>
Review of Finance Regs and Contract Standing Orders Post consideration by Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	6 Oct 2022			Review of Finance Regs and Contract Standing Orders	Portfolio Holder for Finance
Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Emerging 2023/24 Budget Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	3 Nov 2022			Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Emerging 2023/24 Budget Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Emerging 2023/24 Budget	Portfolio Holder for Finance
Consideration of the Business Case for a Shared Chief Executive between Hart	Cabinet	3 Nov 22				Leader of the Council

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council						
Annual SANGS Review The Annual SANGS Review to be noted by Cabinet	Cabinet	3 Nov 2022			Annual SANGS Review	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Ken Robinson, Finance Manager</i> <a href="mailto:ken.robinson@hart.gov.uk">ken.robinson@hart.gov.uk</a>
Waste Strategy and Contract Change To look at the efficiency of Serco	Cabinet	1 Dec 2022			Appendix 1 Local code of corporate governance Local code of corporate governance	
Q2 Review and Capital Outturn to September 2022 Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	5 Jan 2023			Q2 Review and Capital Outturn to September 2022	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <a href="mailto:isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk">isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</a>
TM Strategy - Mid Year Review Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	5 Jan 2023			TM Strategy - Mid Year Review	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <a href="mailto:isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk">isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</a>
Forecast 2022/23 Capital and Revenue Outturn Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	5 Jan 2023			Forecast 2022/23 Capital and Revenue Outturn	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <a href="mailto:isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk">isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</a>

<b>Subject / Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Decision Due Date</b>	<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Likely Exemption</b>	<b>Background documents</b>	<b>Member / Officer Contact</b>
Budget Report for 2023/24 Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	2 Feb 2023			Budget Report for 2023/24	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
Fees and Charges for 2023/24 Post consideration by Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	2 Feb 2023			Fees and Charges for 2023/24	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
Draft Budget Book Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	2 Feb 2023			Draft Budget Book	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	2 Feb 2023			Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
Q3 Capital & Revenue Outturn to December 2022 Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	2 Mar 2023			Q3 Capital & Revenue Outturn to December 2022	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
Forecast 2022/23 Capital and Revenue Outturn Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	2 Mar 2023			Forecast 2022/23 Capital and Revenue Outturn	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>

<b>Subject / Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Decision Due Date</b>	<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Likely Exemption</b>	<b>Background documents</b>	<b>Member / Officer Contact</b>
Bad Debt Write Offs Post consideration by Overview and Scrutiny	Cabinet	2 Mar 2023			Bad Debt Write Offs	Portfolio Holder for Finance <i>Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer</i> <i>isabel.brittain@hart.gov.uk</i>
Draft Service Plans 2023/24 To consider the draft service plan for 2023/24	Cabinet	6 Apr 2023			Draft Service Plans 2023/24	Portfolio Holder for Finance

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME – August 2022**

<b>Issue and Description of Topic</b>	<b>Current Position Objective</b>	<b>Original Due Date</b>	<b>Resources Required</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>*This item may contain Exempt Information</b>
<b>Treasury Management 2021/22 Annual Review</b>	To consider the annual review report on Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 before it goes to Cabinet.	Aug 22	Report	Corporate	
<b>Odiham Common Management Plan</b>	To provide comments to Cabinet on the Odiham Common Management Plan	Aug 22	Report & Presentation	Environmental & Technical	
<b>Annual Review Letter 2022/23</b>	This annual review from the Ombudsman covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The complaints and enquires received in the period</li> <li>• The decisions made in the period</li> <li>• Compliance with the recommendations recorded during the period</li> </ul>	Aug 22	Report	Monitoring Officer	
<b>Quarterly Revenue &amp; Capital outturn monitoring</b>	To receive the Quarterly (Q1: April-June) update on the projected budget outturn To receive the Quarterly update on the current budget position,	Aug 22	Report	S151 Officer	

<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)</b>	To consider the emerging budget for 2023/2024 and the draft MTFS	Sept 22	Report	S151 Officer	
<b>Corporate Risk Register (half yearly review)</b>	To review the content of the Corporate Risk Register.	Sept 22	Report	Corporate	
<b>Service Panel Reviews</b>	Feedback from Members of the Service Panels for the four service areas: Corporate, Environment and Technical, Community and Place.	Aug 22 – now Sept 22	Oral update	Various members of O&S Committee	
<b>Butterwood Homes Update</b>	Update from members of the scrutiny panel after a meeting with the three company directors.	Aug 22 – now Sept 22	Notes and oral update	Members of the Housing Company Scrutiny Panel	
<b>Review of Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders</b>	Prior to consideration by Cabinet and adoption by Council, to review draft updates of Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders	Oct 22	Report	Corporate Services	
<b>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP)</b>	Prior to adoption by Cabinet, to consider the plan is to create a cycling and walking network across the district.	Oct 22	Report	Place	
<b>Service Panel Review - Place</b>	Feedback from Members of the Service Panels for the four service areas: Corporate, Environment and Technical, Community and Place	Oct 22	Oral update from Members of the Service Panels	Various members of O&S Committee	
<b>Annual Sites of Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) Review</b>	The Annual SANGS Review is carried out by Cabinet. It looks at overall capacity, demand. In terms of the	Oct 22	Report	Place	



	Council administration of SANGS Cabinet also looks at support for neighbouring Councils and long term financing.				
<b>Quarterly Complaints Analysis July-September</b>	To note the Quarterly (Q2: July-September) update on budget outturn position prior to consideration by Cabinet To review statics on complaints received by the Council	Oct 22	Report	Corporate	
<b>Multi Agency and Parish Flood Forums</b>	Updates from the meetings of Multi-agency and Parish Flood Forums	Oct 22	Minutes	Chairman	
<b>Green Grid Review: Fleet Pond project</b>	This is an Audit Committee report and is part of the Audit Committee's work programme. Referral to Overview and Scrutiny Committee will only arise if Audit Committee asks for further scrutiny.	Nov 22 (provisional)		Place	
<b>Service Panel Review</b>	Feedback from Members of the Service Panel for the four service areas: Community, Corporate, Environment and Technical and Place Services	Nov 22	Oral update from Members of the Service Panels	Various	
<b>Quarterly Revenue &amp; Capital outturn monitoring</b>	To receive the Quarterly (Q2: July-September) update on the projected budget outturn.	Nov 22	Report	S151 Officer	

<b>Treasury Management - Mid year review</b>	To review the half-year review on Treasury management 2022/23 prior to consideration by Cabinet.	Dec 22	Report	Corporate Services	
<b>Annual Planning Monitoring</b>	To receive the draft annual report monitoring the implementation of policies in the Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 adopted April 2020.	Dec 22	Report	Place	
<b>Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy</b>	To make comments on the draft 2023/24 Revenue Budget, Capital programme, and Council Tax Proposal prior to consideration by Cabinet and recommendation to Council	Jan 23	Report	S151 Officer	
<b>Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy</b>	To consider the draft Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 which incorporates the Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential and Treasury Indicators prior to consideration by Cabinet	Jan 23	Report	S151 Officer	
<b>Fees &amp; Charges 2023/24</b>	To review the proposed 2023/24 Fees and Charges prior to consideration by Cabinet and recommendation to Council.	Jan 23	Report	S151 Officer	
<b>Draft Budget Book</b>	To review the draft Budget Book prior to consideration by Cabinet.	Jan 23	Report	S151 Officer	

<b>Service Panel Reviews</b>	Feedback from Members of the Service Panel for the three service areas; Corporate, Community, and Place Directorates	Feb 23	Oral update from Members of the Service Panels	Various members of O&S Committee	
<b>Quarterly Complaints Analysis</b>	To receive the Quarterly (Q3: October-December) update on complaints received by the Council	Feb 23	Report	Corporate	
<b>Quarterly Budget Monitoring</b>	To receive the Quarterly (Q3: October-December) update on the projected budget outturn	Mar 23	Report	S151 Officer	
<b>Annual On-Street Parking Report</b>	To review the annual report	Feb 23	Report	Community	
<b>Butterwood Homes update</b>	Update from Members of the scrutiny panel after a meeting with the three directors.	Feb 23	Report	Corporate	
<b>Corporate Risk Register</b>	The committee to review the content of the Corporate Risk Register	Mar 23	Report	Corporate	
<b>Draft Service Plans</b>	To review the draft Service Plans prior to consideration by Cabinet	Mar 23	Report	All Services	
<b>Quarterly Budget Monitoring</b>	To receive the Quarterly (Q3: October-December) update on the projected budget outturn	Mar 23	Report	S151	

<b>Multi Agency and Parish Flood Forums</b>	Updates from the meetings of the Multi-agency and Parish Flood Forums	Apr 23	Minutes only		
<b>Review of Affordable Housing Efficiency Measures</b>	To review the effectiveness of the policy agreed by Cabinet in March 2021	April 23	Report	Community	
<b>Chairman's Annual review of the work of Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	Prior to consideration by Annual Council, the Chairman to report on the work over the past year of overview & Scrutiny Committee	Apr 23	Report	Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	To comment on the draft Corporate Plan	TBC	Consultation response request	Leader of the Council	
<b>Return of Highways Agency to Hampshire County Council</b>	To review the implications of the return of the Highways Agency to Hampshire County Council	TBC	Report	Place	
<b>Off Street Parking</b>	To invite the Portfolio Holder responsible for Car Parks to outline any plans that he may have to review off-street parking across the District.	TBC	Oral	Portfolio Holder responsible for Car Parks	