

Management priorities for Ashtead Common — 2018- 2019

The Commons Division shared aims

Protect and conserve the biodiversity and heritage of The Commons	Provide accessible sites that bring benefit to, and are valued by, local and wider communities who play an active part in their management	Develop stakeholder relationships to promote The Commons in the context of their wider landscapes, whilst seeking to balance conflicting demands	Embed innovative financial sustainability across our activities
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The Commons Division core values

For the community:

- **Providing welcome, safe and secure sites for people and wildlife**
- **At the heart of the local community**
- **Working with others to maximise benefit to the Commons and surrounds**

For the team:

- **Outward facing, forward looking**
- **Ready to challenge and wherever possible mitigate environmental threat**
- **Maintain multifunctional staff, valued for their skills and knowledge**

Ashtead Common Priorities (Charity Reg. 1051510)

- **Rye Brook Reed Bed** - work with the South East Rivers Trust to design a system to remove pollution from the surface water outlet at Two Bridges.
- **Vision & management planning** - continue programme to define management aims and objectives and develop plans to deliver these over the long term.
- **Survey and monitor** for veteran tree vitality and the effects of veteranisation. Develop a comprehensive survey and monitor programme and deliver the top priority identified.
- **Veteran trees** - continue with the district based approach to deliver the agreed plan.
- **Grazing** - extend Birch Grazing Area to include the wooded area east of Footpath 30.
- **Mowing** - increase the frequency of ride mowing to ensure firebreaks are maintained to an adequate width.
- **Bracken control** - maintain the area mown in 2017 and introduce spraying as a control method.
- **Oak Processionary Moth** - continue surveys to check for the presence of OPM and respond to infestations by removing nests and spraying infested trees.
- **Volunteering** - maintain the Monday and Thursday volunteer groups, support work experience placements and provide corporate volunteering opportunities.
- **Scrub grassland** - Continue the restoration program to establish a 50% mix of scrub and grassland.

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Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common Priorities (Charity Reg. 232987)

- **Veteran trees** Carry out clearance & reduction work as per work programme & carry out squirrel control to ensure reduction in damage on old pollards
- **Young pollards** - Carry out annual programme of cutting on young pollards
- **Grazing** - Continue to graze 163ha at Burnham Beeches as well as cattle grazing via contractor & pony grazing on Stoke Common
- **Heathland restoration** - Continue with work programmes on both sites. Carry out follow up work on Stoke Common, including small scale mowing to control gorse and birch and encourage a mix of heather ages
- **Grant applications** - Apply for Countryside Stewardship grants for Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common including liaison with NE adviser over detailed structure of grants
- **Stoke Common management plan** - Produce new 10 year plan for Stoke Common including consultation with experts and public.
- **Impact of development** - Continue working with South Bucks District Council and Natural England to obtain the best protection possible from development pressure through the local plan. Liaise with other neighbouring authorities regarding their plans.
- **East Burnham Quarry** - Liaise with Summerleaze Ltd over the operation of the quarry and ensure protection of Burnham Beeches from harm. Carry out associated monitoring
- **Events & social media** - Continue to work with the community to deliver the annual events programme. Maintain activity on social media to increase the number of people following accounts and attending events.
- **Friends of Stoke Common** - Assist work parties and help recruitment drive for more volunteers.

Management priorities for the West Wickham & Coulsdon Commons

2018 – 2019

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West Wickham Commons (Charity Reg. No. 232989)

<p>West Wickham Common</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak pollards – deliver annual condition monitoring so that we can review plan for restoration work • Heathland – restore, maintain and monitor our relic health lying above the ancient earthworks • Earthworks – Continue to research and interpret landscape features • Boundaries – review to ensure site protected, safety of people and management of landscape 	<p>Spring Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coppicing – Continue the annual work programme of restoring traditional management to this woodland • Boundaries – review to ensure site protected, safety of people and management of landscape
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Coulsdon Commons (Charity Reg. No. 232988)

<p>Farthing Downs and New Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassland – restore open areas on Farthing Downs and New Hill to achieve ESS agreement options • Scrub – manage blocks of retained scrub on Farthing Downs and restore succession on New Hill • Boundaries – review to ensure site protected and safety of people • Stock fencing – carry out repair and replacement of stock fencing 	<p>Coulsdon Common</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rydons Wood – work with volunteers to continue restoring woodland area • Boundaries – review to ensure site protected and safety of people • Stock fencing – carry out repairs and replacement of stock fencing 	<p>Kenley Common</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassland – restore and maintain the open areas of species-rich grassland along Whyteleafe Bank & Bunker Bank. • Boundaries – review to ensure site protected and safety of people • Stock fencing – carry out repairs and replacement of stock fencing 	<p>Riddlesdown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub – restore successional areas in Main Common and Riddlesdown Quarry • Grassland – restore open areas across Norfolk Bank, Farnet, Bull Pen and Butterfly Glade and in the Quarry • Stock fencing – carry out repairs and replacement of stock fencing
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