

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Risk Register

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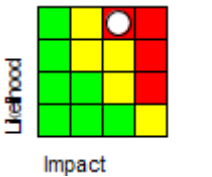
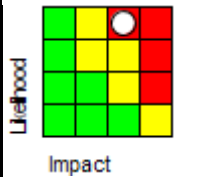


Rows are sorted by Risk Score

Risk no, Title, Creation date, Owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating & Score		Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating & Score		Target Date/Risk Approach	Flight path
ENV-NE-BBSC 002 Damage to sites 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: Burnham Beeches was damaged during the COVID-19 pandemic due to higher than usual visitor numbers. Even though numbers have since returned to 'normal' levels, the site is still subject to ongoing degradation.</p> <p>Event: Long-term environmental damage, with a particular focus on protected landscapes, especially Burnham Beeches which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and not designed for such high visitor numbers.</p> <p>Effect: Ecological and environmental damage; negative press coverage; loss of grants related to conservation; increased spend required to maintain the sites/mitigate damage.</p>	 Likelihood Impact	16	<p>Visitor numbers have returned to more normal/pre-COVID levels, although they have still been elevated at times in the last 12 months and impact of 'normal use' may lead to ongoing site damage and degradation. Seasonal area/path restrictions have now become part of normal business to protect the SAC but more work is required in order to reduce the impact of the risk.</p> <p>28 Apr 2023</p>	 Likelihood Impact	12	<p>30-Sep-2023</p> <p>Reduce</p>	

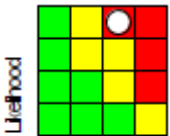
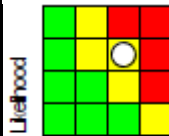

Appendix 4

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 002a Car parking	Prevent damage from car parking on surrounding roads and land.	Four miles of permanent parking restrictions are still expected to be installed by Buckinghamshire Council around Burnham Beeches. Officers have been in contact with Buckinghamshire Council who have asked us to contact them again after May 2023.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	30-Sep-2023
ENV-NE-BBSC 002b Action Plan	Develop an action plan to reduce the impact of high visitor levels.	A 'Carrying Capacity' study has been carried out, the results of which will be used to formulate an action plan to mitigate the impacts of high visitor levels. Funding has been agreed to carry out mobile phone-based visitor assessment to gather additional data on visitor numbers and movements.	Helen Read	28-Apr-2023	30-Sep-2023

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ENV-NE-BBSC 005 Tree Diseases and Other Pests 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	Cause: Inadequate biosecurity, purchase or transfer of infected plants, soil and animals. ‘Natural’ spread of pests and diseases e.g. Oak Processionary Moth, and lack of funding to deliver requirements of the OPM Plant Health Notice. Event: OPM spreads further throughout the site and inability to carry out legal requirements. Effect: Potential consequences of non-compliance with legal requirements; reputational damage; temporary site/area closures; increased costs for reactive maintenance; health and safety risk to staff and visitors.		16	OPM is now well established at Stoke Common and still spreading there. OPM has also been discovered in trees adjacent to Burnham Beeches and so is likely to spread there also in the coming years. Without additional funding there is nothing more we can do to reduce the risk. We will continue to undertake all reasonable actions to keep the situation under control as far as we are able. 28 Apr 2023		16	Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 005a Staff training	Ensure staff training is kept updated to enable timely identification of pests and knowledge of correct treatment/prevention.	Ongoing. Training needs reviewed at regular team meetings, and proactively promoted via Departmental Health and Safety Group and relevant corporate boards. Needs are also reviewed at 6 monthly local Health and Safety meetings.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Jan-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 005b Inspections	Annual tree inspections undertaken by qualified personnel.	Ongoing. Inspections continue on a scheduled basis or if and when the need arises.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 005d Biosecurity	Measures in place for staff, volunteers and contractors including public messages	Ongoing biosecurity actions and implementation of biosecurity policy.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 005e Tree Safety Policy	Review The Commons' Tree Safety Policy tri-annually and the local site policy annually.	The Commons' Tree Safety Policy is reviewed every three years: next due in July 2024. Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common local site policy is reviewed annually: next due in July 2023.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	01-Aug-2024
ENV-NE-	Actions for the management of OPM at Stoke	An OPM management plan was developed and implemented for Stoke Common in summer 2021 in	Martin	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024

BBSC 005f OPM at Stoke Common	Common.	line with Natural England advice/restriction and Forestry Commission requirements - survey and nest removal is undertaken as required. A similar plan may be required for the even more sensitive Burnham Beeches SAC if OPM spreads as expected. We are keeping the situation under review.	Hartup		
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ENV-NE-BBSC 007 Rural Payment Agency Grants 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Causes: The Rural Payment Agency (RPA) has altered the administration of the BE6 grant for work on trees.</p> <p>Event: Reduction in direct grant available from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to deliver agricultural/conservation related services.</p> <p>Effect: Reduction in the amount of grant received from the RPA; cessation of agricultural/conservation services; reduction in income, direct and indirect; reduction/loss of biodiversity (legal implications); restrictions on recreational access due to reduction/cessation of grazing activities.</p>	 <p>Lifehood</p> <p>Impact</p>	16	<p>RPA is reassessing agreed grant. There is the potential to reduce it by 50% which would cause a significant funding gap.</p> <p>Our initial appeal against the RPA's alteration of administration of the BE6 grant for work on trees was declined. We continue to challenge this and further decisions from the RPA. In view of this situation we have had to set our 2023/24 budget based on the minimum BE6 payments.</p> <p>Therefore, the current risk remains at Red (16) to reflect the significant financial impact this could cause. We have adjusted our target risk score to Amber 12 (Possible/major) to reflect the above outcomes.</p> <p>28 Apr 2023</p>	 <p>Lifehood</p> <p>Impact</p>	12	31-Mar-2024	
							Reduce	

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ENV-NE-BBSC 007c CSS Payment Changes	Seek clarity/advice from RPA/Natural England (NE) and agree any possible mitigation to limit the negative impacts of proposed changes in payments for the existing Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreement for Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common (BBSC).	<p>RPA is still looking to reduce payments for one element of the previously agreed CSS agreement at Burnham Beeches.</p> <p>Our initial appeal against the RPA's alteration of administration of the BE6 grant for work on trees was declined. We continue to challenge this and further decisions from the RPA. In view of this situation we have had to set our 2023/24 budget based on the minimum BE6 payments.</p>	Martin Hartup; Helen Read	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024

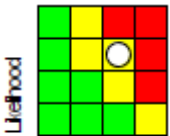
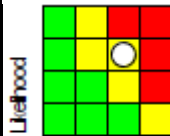
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ENV-NE-BBSC 009 Maintenance of buildings and other structures 15-Jun-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: Poor condition of buildings and other structures, combined with inadequate planned and/or reactive maintenance, reduced CWP budget and limited capital programme.</p> <p>Event: Structures become unsafe or unusable.</p> <p>Effect: Potential serious injury to a member of the public, or member of staff; disruption to service delivery/performance; financial loss; reputational damage as a result of legal action and/or negative publicity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Impact</p>	16	<p>The key issues at Burnham Beeches include the large, wooden corporate image (byelaw) boards located across the site.</p> <p>The local team has undertaken an update of the previous audit of byelaw boards which was carried out by the City Surveyor's Department (CSD) in 2019. Since this audit, a further board has been found defective and removed and others need urgent attention.</p> <p>Concerns about the general situation are raised at quarterly client liaison meetings with CSD. We continue to work with CSD to resolve service delivery issues.</p> <p>28 Apr 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Impact</p>	12	31-Mar-2024	
							Reduce	

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ENV-NE-BBSC 009a Ongoing monitoring	Periodic infrastructure checks.	Continual monitoring of byelaw boards and other structures. Any boards which are found to be unsound are removed. The Burnham Beeches Team have designed an alternative board and have installed this. We hope we will have the resources this year through the CWP to replace the remaining boards as well.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024

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ENV-NE-BBSC 001 Budget reduction and income loss 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	Cause: 12% budget reduction with in-year unidentified savings. Loss of income from car parking, filming and other funding streams. Event: Fewer visitors and less filming interest. Effect: Inability to meet approved budgets; reduction in essential repairs and maintenance; reduction in key services; failure to meet business plan objectives; reputational damage.	 L1: Lifehood Impact	12	Whilst the 12% budget reductions were addressed in 2021/22 and through stage one of the Natural Environment Division's Target Operating Model process, there are still unidentified savings listed in the budget until April 2024. The Rural Payment Agency (RPA) has proposed a change in the value of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme grant at Burnham Beeches, reducing it by around 50% due to a change in the claim rules after the agreement was signed. See ENV-NE-BBSC 007 for details. 28 Apr 2023	 L1: Lifehood Impact	6	31-Mar-2024 Reduce	

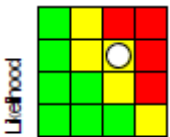
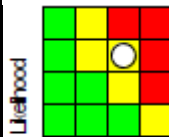
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ENV-NE-BBSC 001a Budget monitoring	Keep budgets under continual review.	Budgets are kept under continual review and reported quarterly as part of the budget forecast process. We continue to liaise with our Chamberlain's Business Partners on potential solutions to this matter.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024

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ENV-NE-BBSC 004 Local Planning Issues 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: Pressure on Planning Authorities to meet housing targets. Failure to monitor and challenge housing and other development plans. Lack of partnership working with Planning Authorities and inclusion in Local Development Plans. Lack of resources to employ specialist support or carry out necessary monitoring/research.</p> <p>Event: Large housing or other developments on land affecting Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.</p> <p>Effect: Increase in visitor numbers and general recreation pressure; potential decline in biodiversity due to disturbance and habitat quality; increased air, light and noise pollution; decrease in water availability; increased hydrological pollution risk; increase in traffic on local road network.</p>	 <p>Likelihood</p> <p>Impact</p>	12	<p>Ongoing - local plans continue to be developed and are scrutinised and commented on when required. Staffing capacity is currently able to manage the volume of work associated with commenting on local plans.</p> <p>The Buckinghamshire Council Local Plan, whilst not yet produced, has established clear policies to protect the SAC at Burnham Beeches with an agreed mitigation strategy and funding mechanism for its delivery. The Slough Borough Council plan is still very much a work in progress but, again, some mitigation has already been agreed for specific development and funding identified to help protect Burnham Beeches from the impacts of increased development.</p> <p>Risks, however, still remain.</p> <p>28 Apr 2023</p>	 <p>Likelihood</p> <p>Impact</p>	12	Accept	



Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 004a Local authorities/Cou nties Local Plans and Core Strategies	<p>Inclusion in core strategy planning documents or equivalent.</p> <p>Close partnership working with local planning authorities.</p> <p>Active monitoring of planning applications with responses as appropriate.</p>	Monitoring activity continues. Mitigation strategy with Buckinghamshire Council completed and projects within it are underway. Plan/mitigation strategy still a work in progress with Slough BC.	Helen Read	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024

Appendix 4

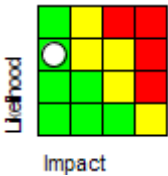
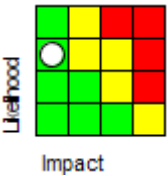
<p>ENV-NE-BBSC 004b Monitoring of impacts</p>	<p>Active monitoring of air pollution where possible. Active monitoring of environmental impacts where possible. Undertake research where appropriate and where resources allow.</p>	<p>Implementation of a section 106 funded project on air quality work and subsequent report will start the process of producing a Site Nitrogen Action Plan (SNAP) in conjunction with Natural England and Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.</p> <p>Other monitoring and mitigation projects identified and carried out where possible.</p> <p>Responding to planning applications regarding air quality issues.</p>	<p>Helen Read</p>	<p>28-Apr-2023</p>	<p>30-Sep-2023</p>
<p>ENV-NE-BBSC 004e Monitor success</p>	<p>Monitor the success of the funded Ranger posts.</p>	<p>Establish monitoring programmes to measure the success of the two funded Ranger posts to deliver s106 and SAMMS commitments. This will involve annual SAMMS 106 reports to the relevant parts of Buckinghamshire Council and Slough Borough Council on how the funds have been spent, and the EF&CC will be kept updated throughout the year.</p>	<p>Martin Hartup</p>	<p>28-Apr-2023</p>	<p>31-Mar-2024</p>

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ENV-NE-BBSC 006 Climate and Weather 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: Severe wind events, prolonged precipitation or restricted precipitation. May be climate change influenced.</p> <p>Event: Severe weather/climate impacts; fire, flood and storm events (potentially increasing in frequency).</p> <p>Effect: Service capability disrupted; increased demand for staff resources to respond to incidents and maintain site safety; loss of species, temporary site closures and associated access; increased costs for reactive management; injury or death to staff, visitors, contractors and volunteers; damage/loss of rare/fragile habitats and species.</p>	 Impact	12	Work on site continues to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events and this is monitored on an ongoing basis. We accept the current level of risk. 28 Apr 2023	 Impact	12	Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 006a Fire management	Review and update plan annually. Habitat fire management and monitoring policies and plans are in place and link to staff training and local emergency services.	New Burnham Beeches site maps are currently under construction in collaboration with local fire services. Emergency plan for Stoke Common agreed with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue is in place and subject to annual review and fire drills.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 006b Storms	Storm monitoring & management and closure policies are in place across the sites and are linked to high staff awareness and training.	The site continues to monitor and respond to warnings of extreme weather.	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024

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ENV-NE-BBSC 008 Pollution 15-Jun-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: Continual pollution of Burnham Beeches as a result of inadequate sewerage provision for existing development in the local area, which is managed by Thames Water.</p> <p>Event: Sewage escapes into the watercourse running into Burnham Beeches after heavy rain.</p> <p>Effect: Pollution of the watercourses running into Burnham Beeches and associated degradation of the environment; potential reputational damage.</p>	 Likelihood Impact	8	<p>Thames Water is looking at the whole sewer system in Farnham Common with a view to carrying out work to resolve the issue across the whole area. We are engaging in the process, which so far has largely been fact finding, prior to drawing up detailed proposals. Thames Water have now stated that they will present detailed proposals by December 2023.</p> <p>We are unable to reduce the possibility of the risk occurring but continue to report any issues to the Environment Agency and Thames Water.</p> <p>28 Apr 2023</p>	 Likelihood Impact	8	Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
NE-ENV-BBSC 008a Surveys to monitor impact	Commission surveys to assess the impact of pollution on indicator species.	BBSC has commissioned a project to compare the mosses and liverworts of the polluted stream with those of another local unpolluted stream. Thames Water is funding an equivalent project on freshwater invertebrates, the first part of the field work for which has been completed. Surveys and associated reports have been completed. Thames Water will continue to support monitoring activity and have committed to propose a solution by December 2023.	Helen Read	28-Apr-2023	31-Dec-2023

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ENV-NE-BBSC 011 Industrial action by emergency services 10-Feb-2023 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: The emergency services (e.g. Fire Brigade or Ambulance Service) undertake industrial action.</p> <p>Event: Emergency services are not available/slow to respond to incidents at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.</p> <p>Effect: Inability to control wildfires; lack of urgent medical assistance for injured persons. Increased possibility of injury or death to staff, visitors, contractors and volunteers; damage/loss of rare/fragile habitats and species; service capability disrupted; temporary site closures; damage to CoL property; increased demand for staff resources to respond to incidents and maintain site safety; increased costs for reactive management.</p>		3	<p>Should the emergency services take industrial action, contingency plans will be implemented to minimise the impact of this risk. We accept the risk at its current level as we are doing everything possible to mitigate the impact, but the likelihood of the risk occurring is beyond our control.</p> <p>Fire Management and Habitat Management Plans include appropriate contingency measures. In the event of industrial action by the ambulance service, high-risk activities such as tree-climbing would be paused and planned events would be assessed and modified, postponed or cancelled as appropriate should continuing with them be deemed unsafe.</p> <p>Staff monitor reports of potential or confirmed industrial action and implement relevant contingency plans as necessary.</p> <p>Staff are fully conversant with the relevant local plans and the CoL's Fire Safety 'Industrial Action Contingency Advice' document as it applies to the site.</p> <p>28 Apr 2023</p>		3	Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 011a	Implement appropriate controls within the Fire Management Plan and The Commons	Days on which industrial action takes place are classed as 'high risk' days and 'The Commons Habitat Fire Action Plan' will be enacted accordingly (no burning, increased patrols etc).	Martin Hartup	28-Apr-2023	31-Mar-2024

Appendix 4

<p>Fire management</p>	<p>Habitat Fire Action Plan.</p>	<p>Maps within the 'Emergency Action Plan' will help in a slow response/unfamiliar fire crew/army reserves scenario.</p> <p>Proactive work to manage firebreaks and residential boundaries to increase the resilience of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common to wildfire will also help in a slow/no response scenario.</p> <p>A water bowser. And other fire control equipment (beaters and back pack is available on site for use by staff to damp down ground after a work fire or support of fire service.(not used for fire-fighting).</p> <p>Staff are conversant with the content of the CoL's 'Industrial Action Contingency Advice document as it applies to their site.</p>			
<p>ENV-NE-BBSC 011b Events and high-risk activities</p>	<p>Assess safety of planned events and high-risk activities.</p>	<p>High-risk activities such as tree-climbing would be paused or have additional controls applied should the emergency services be unavailable.</p> <p>All planned events are risk-assessed to ensure appropriate controls are in place to address fire, health and safety, and other risks. If it is considered that it would be unsafe to proceed with an event in the absence of external emergency service availability, a decision would be taken to modify, postpone or cancel as appropriate.</p>	<p>Martin Hartup</p>	<p>28-Apr-2023</p>	<p>31-Mar-2024</p>