



Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Risk Register

Generated on: 28 February 2024



Rows are sorted by Risk Score

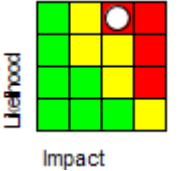
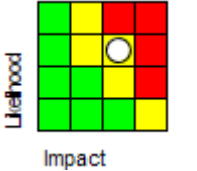

Risk no, title, creation date, owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating & Score		Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating & Score		Target Date/Risk Approach	Current Risk score change indicator
ENV-NE-BBSC 002 Negative impacts of visitor pressure 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<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	Visitor numbers have returned to more normal/pre-COVID levels, although the 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 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) but more work is required in order to reduce the impact of the risk. 28 Feb 2024	 Likelihood Impact	12	31-Dec-2024	Constant
							Reduce	

Action no	Action description	Latest Note			Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 002a	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			Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	30-Jun-2024

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		Buckinghamshire Council and work was expected to commence in October 2023, but there has been no action to date. The 'due date' for this action has been extended accordingly and the situation will be kept under review.			
ENV-NE-BBSC 002b	Develop an action plan to reduce the impact of high visitor levels.	<p>A 'Carrying Capacity' study has been carried out, the results of which will be used to formulate a 'Sustainable Visitor Access and Mitigation Strategy' to mitigate the impacts of high visitor levels. The aim is to do this by the end of July 2024.</p> <p>Funding is being finalised to carry out a mobile phone-based visitor assessment to gather additional data on visitor numbers and movements. This is expected prior to the end of March 2024.</p>	Helen Read	28-Feb-2024	31-Jul-2024

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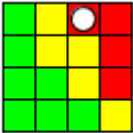
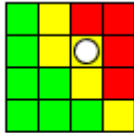
Risk no, title, creation date, owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating & Score		Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating & Score		Target Date/Risk Approach	Current Risk score change indicator
ENV-NE-BBSC 005 Negative impacts of pests and diseases 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: Inadequate biosecurity, purchase or transfer of infected plants, soil and animals. ‘Natural’ spread of pests and diseases e.g. Oak Processionary Moth/Ash Dieback, and lack of funding to deliver requirements of the OPM survey and nest removal.</p> <p>Event: OPM spreads further throughout sites. Additional Ash Dieback survey and tree works become necessary.</p> <p>Effect: Health and safety risk to staff and visitors: individuals suffer an allergic reaction to OPM. Increased costs for survey and tree works and reactive maintenance. Potential consequences of non-compliance with legal requirements. Reputational damage. Temporary site/area closures.</p>		16	<p>OPM is now well established at Stoke Common and still spreading there. OPM has also been discovered in trees at Burnham Beeches.</p> <p>We have been monitoring Ash trees and have now confirmed the presence of Ash Dieback at Burnham Beeches. Funding for works to deal with this issue is available from the Division’s central budget.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>28 Feb 2024</p>		12	31-Mar-2025	 Constant
							Accept	

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 005a	Ensure staff training is kept updated to enable timely identification of pests and knowledge of correct treatment/prevention.	Ongoing action. Training needs are reviewed at regular team meetings, and proactively promoted via Departmental Health and Safety Group and relevant corporate boards. Needs are also reviewed at six-monthly local Health and Safety meetings.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	31-Jul-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 005b	Annual tree inspections undertaken by qualified personnel.	Ongoing action. Inspections continue on a scheduled basis or if and when the need arises.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	31-Mar-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 005d	Measures in place for staff, volunteers and contractors including public messages	Ongoing biosecurity actions and implementation of biosecurity policy.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	31-Mar-2025

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ENV-NE-BBSC 005e	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 2024.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	01-Aug-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 005f	Actions for the management of OPM at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.	OPM Management Plan for 2023 was produced for both sites. The Plan sets out the actions that we will take in relation to OPM at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common, and it will be reviewed in 2024. We received positive feedback in 2023 from the Forestry Commission regarding our OPM Action Plan.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	30-Jun-2024

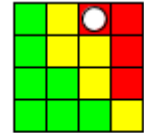
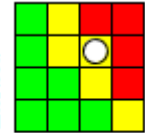
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<p>ENV-NE-BBSC 007 Rural Payment Agency Grants</p> <p>24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup</p>	<p>Cause: The Rural Payment Agency (RPA) has altered the administration of the BE6 grant for work on trees.</p> <p>Event: Reduction in direct grant available from the 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 style="text-align: center;">Lifelihood Impact</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>RPA is reassessing the 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>An appeal with the Independent Arbitration Board will take place on 18 September 2023. We sought external support for advice on preparing for the meeting. The Appeal Panel found in favour of our appeal and recommended the original agreement be honoured by the RPA. However, this finding was subsequently overruled by the Minister for Defra in a letter dated 14 December 2023. The City of London is now considering what further action is possible on behalf of the BBSC charity.</p> <p>Therefore, the current risk remains at Red (16) to reflect the significant financial impact this could cause.</p> <p>28 Feb 2024</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Lifelihood Impact</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>31-Mar-2024</p> <p>Reduce</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p>Constant</p>

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Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 007c	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> <p>An appeal with the Independent Arbitration Board took place on 18 September. We sought external support for advice on preparing for the meeting. The Appeal Panel found in favour of our appeal and recommended the original agreement be honoured by the RPA. However, this finding was overruled by the Minister for Defra in a letter dated 14 December 2023. The City of London is now considering what further action is possible on behalf of the BBSC charity.</p>	Martin Hartup; Helen Read	28-Feb-2024	31-Mar-2024

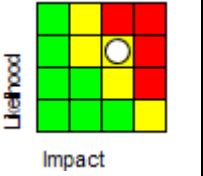
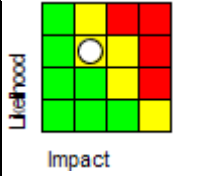

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<p>ENV-NE-BBSC 009 Decline in condition of assets</p>	<p>Cause: Poor condition of buildings and other structures, combined with inadequate planned and/or reactive maintenance, reduced CWP budget and limited capital programme. Event: Structures become unsafe or unusable. 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="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Likelihood</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Impact</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	<p>The key outstanding issues at Burnham Beeches: the large, wooden corporate image (byelaw) boards located across the site and the ‘access for all’ gate which was out of use for several months have now been resolved. The gate was repaired in November 2023 and the byelaw boards have now been replaced.</p> <p>However, there is a general failure of maintenance arrangements, including failure to undertake timely critical repairs (e.g. roof leaks), and safety critical issues not being addressed. For example, important PPMs with health and safety implications, such as checks on roller shutters, fall arrest systems, boilers and lightning protection, and at business critical locations, e.g. sewerage pumps at public toilets, are not being undertaken resulting in non-compliance and the inability to deal with other maintenance issues.</p> <p>There is a general deterioration of built assets and mechanical and electrical installations due to lack of inspection and maintenance.</p> <p>Concerns about the general situation are raised at quarterly client liaison meetings with City Surveyor's Department (CSD), and we continue to work with CSD to resolve service delivery issues.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Likelihood</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Impact</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p>31-Jul-2024</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">■</p>

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15-Jun-2022 Martin Hartup				The risk score remains 16 (major/likely) to reflect the ongoing issues. 28 Feb 2024			Reduce	Constant
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Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 009a	Work with City Surveyor's Department to resolve the issues with the byelaw boards and access gate.	<i>This action has now been completed and will be removed from the risk register.</i> <i>The 'access for all' gate was repaired in November 2023, and the byelaw boards have now been replaced.</i>	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	31-Mar-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 009b	Continual liaison with CSD on overdue PPM checks on key infrastructure.	The Head Ranger continues to liaise with colleagues in the City Surveyor's Department (CSD) to restore a programme of regular PPM checks on key infrastructure. We are reliant on the CSD Facilities Management Team to achieve this.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	31-Jul-2024

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ENV-NE-BBSC 001 Budget pressures 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: 12% budget reduction with in-year unidentified savings. Loss of income from car parking, filming and other funding streams.</p> <p>Event: Fewer visitors and less filming interest.</p> <p>Effect: Inability to meet approved budgets; reduction in essential repairs and maintenance; reduction in key services; failure to meet business plan objectives; reputational damage.</p>		12	<p>Whilst the 12% budget reductions were addressed in 2021/22 and through stage one of the Natural Environment Division's restructure, there are still unidentified savings listed in the budget until April 2024.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>28 Feb 2024</p>		6	31-Mar-2024	 Constant
							Reduce	

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 001a	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. This is an ongoing action.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	30-Sep-2024

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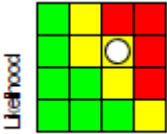
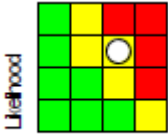

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ENV-NE-BBSC 004 Negative impacts of development and encroachment 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	<p>Cause: Pressure on Planning Authorities to meet housing targets. Failure to monitor and challenge housing and other development plans. Lack of partnership 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 style="text-align: center;">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 Feb 2024</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Impact</p>	12	Accept	Constant

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 004a	Inclusion in core strategy planning documents or equivalent. Close partnership working with local planning authorities. Active monitoring of planning applications with responses	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-Feb-2024	31-Mar-2025

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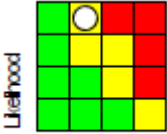
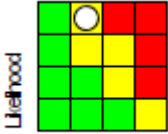
	as appropriate.	Officers made comments on the proposed Farnham Common Neighbourhood Plan and responded to the formal consultation.			
ENV-NE-BBSC 004b	Active monitoring of air pollution and environmental impacts where possible. Undertake research where appropriate and where resources allow.	A section 106 funded project on air quality work resulted in the production of a Site Nitrogen Action Plan (SNAP) in conjunction with Natural England and Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Other monitoring and mitigation projects are identified and carried out where possible. Officers respond to planning applications regarding air quality issues.	Helen Read	28-Feb-2024	31-Mar-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 004e	Monitor the success of the funded Ranger posts.	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. The 2024 report will be produced by the end of April 2024.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	30-Apr-2024

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ENV-NE-BBSC 006 Adverse impacts of extreme weather and climate change 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	Cause: Severe wind events, prolonged precipitation or restricted precipitation. May be climate change influenced. Event: Severe weather/climate impacts; fire, flood and storm events (potentially increasing in frequency). 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.	 Likelihood 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 Feb 2024	 Likelihood Impact	12	Accept	 Constant
							Accept	

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 006a	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. An 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-Feb-2024	31-Jul-2024
ENV-NE-BBSC 006b	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. This is an ongoing action.	Martin Hartup	28-Feb-2024	31-Mar-2025

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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>		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 stated that they would present detailed proposals by December 2023 - we have not heard from them and await further communications.</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 Feb 2024</p>		8	Accept	Constant

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
NE-ENV-BBSC 008a	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 committed to propose a solution by December 2023, however, we have not yet heard from them and await communications. The due date of this action has been extended accordingly.	Helen Read	28-Feb-2024	31-Jul-2024