

**Progress against the Natural Environment Strategy Action Plans and Business Plan objectives
Quarter One (Apr-Jun) 2024-25**

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common =BBSC
 Burnham Beeches = BB
 Ashtead Common =AC
 West Wickham an Coulsdon Common = WWCC

1 Environment/Conservation/Heritage (NEB Nature Conservation and Resilience strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
1.1	Management plans are in place to ensure that their biodiversity and natural assets are conserved, engaged with stakeholders, and are implemented	<p>BBSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing Management: Grazing infrastructure checks completed, and livestock returned to Burnham Beeches (9 cows/4 ponies) and Stoke Common (26 cows) <p>AC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After ranger-led public consultation through March and April, “No Fence” GPS based cattle grazing system is being rolled out for the first time on the upper areas of wood pasture on Ashtead Common in partnership with the Surrey Wildlife Trust (cattle providers) Pollution monitoring equipment installed by rangers and volunteers at outflow pipe by Two Bridges on AC to provide data on pollution into Rye Brook in advance of possible reed bed project Each year a review of the previous year's work is undertaken in preparation for the year ahead’s activity program. Appendix 2 presents a single page review of the different work streams of 2023-24 given in the management plans. <p>WWCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued with annual programme of conservation grazing across WWCC with multiple herds of Sussex cattle and Jacob sheep targeting scrub and grassland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement

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1 Environment/Conservation/Heritage (NEB Nature Conservation and Resilience strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
1.2	SSSI condition improvement and Species Recovery plans are in place for all our sites	BBSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing impact assessment at BBSC undertaken • Vegetation monitoring at BBSC undertaken by the Tuesday Ecovolunteers • Young pollard response to cutting monitoring undertaken by the Tuesday ecovolunteers 	
1.3	Species records and other biological data are regularly gathered and professionally managed	BBSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reptile survey completed on BBSC WWCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfly transect survey completed WWCC • CER surveys of footpaths, nightjar & woodcock AC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfly transect survey completed on AC by volunteers • Lower slopes bird survey completed on AC by volunteers • Nightingale heard in two places on AC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement
1.4	Community support and engagement in the conservation of our open spaces is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 volunteer activities were run over the period involving 848 volunteers. This resulted in 3877 hours of volunteer support in the period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement
1.5	Greater and more effective engagement with the planning system to influence the protection of our open spaces in the most relevant way	BBSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slough and Buckinghamshire Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy Meetings attended covering both habitats and Species processes. Staff have provided support on the implementation of the Slough meetings AC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC senior ranger attended Mole River catchment partnership • AC head ranger attended Surrey Countryside and Parks Forum WWCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWCC staff attended habitat workshop Local Nature Recovery Strategy workshop for Greater London at City Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

1	Environment/Conservation/Heritage (NEB Nature Conservation and Resilience strategy)		
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
	Landscape connectivity around our open spaces is enhanced through collaboration with other organisations and stakeholders	<p>BBSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bucks Landscape Project: Stakeholder meeting held in June <p>AC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC rangers attend Ashtead and Epsom Commons' SSSI Working Group • WWCC • Natural England's response to the first consultation on the proposed extensions to the Surrey Hills National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) was published in July. A second phase of consultation will be held which will focus on the changes made since the first consultation. One change impacting land owned by the Coulsdon Commons charity was the proposed inclusion of a field to the east of Farthing Downs. A report will be prepared for the November EFCC Committee on this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	Reduced visitor impact on priority habitats and other important sites through sustainable visitor and mitigation strategies being in place and implemented		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	Damaging introduced species monitored and kept under control	<p>BBSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracken control undertaken by Volunteers/staff • Ash Dieback survey completed. • Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) surveys completed, and nest removal as required • Around 800 grey squirrels managed <p>AC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Rod and <i>Carex</i> control undertaken by Volunteers • OPM surveys completed, and nest removal as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement

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1 Environment/Conservation/Heritage (NEB Nature Conservation and Resilience strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPM nest collection by NL (Hampstead) team on AC to continue <i>Carcelia iliaca</i> study WWCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ragwort Control undertaken at WWCC (Volunteers) 	
	Climate resilience plans prepared for each open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	The City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy goals are met for the open spaces	AC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In liaison with the Environment Agency and SCC Natural Flood defence team, applications are being drawn up for 16 "Leaky Dams"; natural materials are being gathered whilst ground conditions allow from last winter's conservation projects on AC BBSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey Squirrel control implemented across BB (365 caught) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

2 Education / Training (NEB Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
2.1	Build and sustain meaningful and lasting partnerships with the communities we serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 unique groups were engaged over the period including volunteer groups, community organisations and schools. • Rangers and volunteers took the AC stall to the annual Ashtead Village Day • Attended the Annual Farnham Common Parish Council meeting including staffing a BB display. • CERs attended local nature recovery strategy meeting in Slough, Project Sponge meeting, Stoke Poges Horticultural show, & regular CER walks in Slough for Slough residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Recreation • Nature Conservation and Resilience. • Learning and Heritage

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2 Education / Training (NEB Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
2.2	Implement a holistic approach to community engagement that encourages active participation		•
2.3	Cultivate and support successful partner organisations that support us in mission delivery	<p>WWCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked closely with the Kenley Revival Volunteers on public events/activities promoting the airfield heritage over the period • Hosted visit by Natural England staff in June to WWCC • Liaised with Sustrans on a CoL funded project to improve roadside safety between Kenley Station and Riddlesdown on WWCC and create a volunteer group to manage a wild meadow area at Kenley Station <p>BBSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted visit by Natural England National staff responsible for giving guidance on trees, wood pasture and woodland. • Hosted visit to BB by National Trust staff from Ashridge • BB hosted a visit from head forester Peter Fixler from Morris Arboretum, Pennsylvania University to discuss veteran tree management and resilience/shared learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and Heritage • Nature Conservation and Resilience • Access and Recreation
2.4	Ensure diverse and representative participation in our work and spaces)		•
2.5	Create physical spaces that are as accessible as possible to as many people as possible		•

2 Education / Training (NEB Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
2.6	Engage in continuous self-reflection to identify opportunities for continuous improvement		•
2.7	Create opportunities for user groups and communities to provide additional resource to the Corporation to support mission delivery	•	•
2.8	Improve health and wellbeing through our open spaces through successful and effective community engagement	<p>BBSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health walks organised or hosted at BB • CERs attended wellbeing events at Burnham & Farnham common • Forest Bathing event held at BB <p>WWCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged with over 120 people during WWCCs 'Big Wild Walk' event on Kenley Common in May. This 4km trail had multiple stations led by Rangers and volunteers with activities to highlight important species/habitats and showcase management actions e.g. conservation grazing, coppicing/charcoal production. 	•
2.9	Provide bespoke learning sessions for children and young people with additional needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual summer programme of school visits, scout groups and work experience students on AC 	• Community Engagement

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2 Education / Training (NEB Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
2.10	Provide opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships leading to skills and career development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A second apprentice Ranger has been agreed for WWCC and is being progressed. This will mean we have three apprentices operating at the Commons 	

3 Recreation (NEB Access and Recreation Strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
3.1	Capital Projects: Signs replacement	AC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender undertaken for a supplier to make 6 new signs utilising on oak timber from AC WWCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices sought for suppliers of 40 new entrance signs based on sustainable durable timber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
3.2	Kenley Common Long term vision and plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . . . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
3.3	Accessibility audit and strategy		<ul style="list-style-type: none">
3.4	Sustainable Visitor Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footprint Ecology engaged to prepare a Sustainable Visitor Strategy for BB. First draft is due in Sept 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

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3 Recreation (NEB Access and Recreation Strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
3.5	Infrastructure annual audits	•	•

4 Arts / Culture / Heritage / Science (NEB Culture, Learning and Heritage Strategy)			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
4.1	"Engage participants in activities which increase feelings of wellbeing."		•
4.2	Provide opportunities for adult volunteering as a means to increase wellbeing.	•	•
4.3	Engage participants in our learning, heritage and cultural activities which provide opportunities to explore, enjoy and feel safe in our spaces.	•	•
4.4	Provide activities which enable participants to build confidence to explore green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Information Ranger led a series of walks on the WWCCs to promote the South London Downs National Nature Reserve as part of Natural England's NNR week in May. These events engaged with over 40 people who had not visited the site before. • CERs led several on and off-site activities promoting sustainable use of green spaces 	▪

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4.5	Develop strategic partnerships with organisations that help to deliver our culture, heritage and learning offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New team at Leatherhead Museum met with rangers and a new partnership formed and they are planning an event in September on AC. • Kenley Revival volunteers represented the WWCC at the Military Aviation Network meeting at the RAF Museum in Hendon exchanging knowledge with aviation heritage organisations/sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Access and Recreation
4.6	Conserve and enhance our heritage assets in accordance with statutory requirements, sector guidance and best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
4.7	Facilitate a deep sense of pride in and attachment to our open spaces among user groups and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Tidy up/Litter pick events held at AC, WWCC • Hosted Forest Activity Badge activity for 1st Fetcham Scouts • Held two community mega tasks to pull ragwort on WWCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Conservation and Resilience

5	Income Generation		
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
5.1	Car Park income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking income for the first quarter was £16,001.67 for all car parks. This is down £1721.71 on the four-year average and reflects the wet weather of this quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . • . • .
	Filming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large feature film completed filming during the Quarter at BB returning a location fee of £101,150 with staff costs charged on top of that at £8526. Filming fees are charged as laid out in the schedule for fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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Grant Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim for £54,862 submitted to RPA for AC 2024 • Claim for £91,634 submitted to RPA for BBSC 2024 • Claim for approximately £43,000 submitted to RPA for WWCC 2024 	•
Wayleaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-standing wayleave dispute at BBSC has been agreed seeing the annual fee increased from £50/year for 19 units to £92.54/unit/year 	•

6	People Management		
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
6.1	Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Support Services Officer has been recruited to fill the vacant post at AC • New Assistant Ranger Conservation & Assistant Ranger People & access recruited and in post • The fifth recruitment process has been successful for the BB Conservation Officer with the roll offered and pending the HR procedures. 	
	Apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second apprentice Ranger has been agreed for WWCC and is being progressed. This will mean we have three apprentices operating at the Commons 	
	Accidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had four accidents during this quarter. A volunteer was injured by a sheep. A staff member and two volunteers were impacted by OPM hairs as part of a task in June. One member of staff suffered a bad back following a task and another had a bump to the head. • All incidents have been investigated as per the COL procedures. 	

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	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ranger at AC completes VetCert (Consultant level) accreditation• Three Rangers completed sit inside ATV Training.	
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