Ashtead Common Risk Register

Generated on: 08 May 2025



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 Flight path Date/Risk Approach
ENV-NE-AC 005 Negative impacts of pests and diseases	Cause: 'Natural' spread of pests and diseases from neighbouring areas e.g. ticks and Lyme Disease and Oak Processionary Moth (OPM). Event: Individuals are affected by Lyme Disease or suffer allergic reaction to OPM. Effect: Staff and other individuals suffer severe long-term health effects; service capability disrupted; damage to corporate reputation.	Impact 12	There has been one reported case of Lyme disease in 2025 to date, which was quickly diagnosed and treated. In the past, some individuals experienced long-term issues. Therefore, the current score remains the same and the target date has been extended. An action plan is in place for Lyme Disease, including adjustments to staff work schedules to reduce the risk of exposure. Tick/Lyme Disease information cards have been produced for volunteers, contractors and visitors to Ashtead Common. OPM is endemic and widespread at Ashtead Common but appears to be subject to natural controls which have suppressed numbers.	Impact 6	Reduce

Action no, Title,	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-AC 005f Risk review	1 &	The tick and Lyme Disease situation is kept under review and further measures will be implemented as and when they become necessary.	Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	30-Sep-2025

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ENV-NE-AC 004 Negative impacts of development and encroachment	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. Event: Increase in housing or other developments on land affecting Ashtead Common. Effect: Increase in visitor numbers and general recreation pressure; potential decline in biodiversity due to disturbance and habitat quality; increase in air, light and noise pollution; decrease in water availability; increased hydrological pollution risk; increase in traffic on local road network.	Impact	8	A planning application has been submitted to Mole Valley District Council for a battery energy storage system next to the Epsom and Ashtead Commons SSSI. The City has objected to this proposal. For this reason the risk score remains 8 (likely / serious). Epsom and Ewell Council has submitted a Local Plan that makes provision for nearly 5,000 new dwellings in the borough, of which 1,580 will be within walking distance of Ashtead Common. Representation to Epsom and Ewell has been made to highlight the impact this will have on the Common, particularly in relation to additional recreational pressure. 03 Apr 2025	Literhood Control of the Control of	6	30-Sep-2025	

Action no, Title,	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-AC 004c Ongoing Review	Keep situation under regular review.	This situation is kept under regular review.	Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	30-Sep-2025

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24-Feb-2022	Causes: Climate change causes severe wind, drought or floods to occur more frequently. Event: More frequent and severe storms or fires at Ashtead Common. Effect: Injury or death to staff, visitors, contractors and volunteers; damage/loss of rare/fragile habitats and species; service capability disrupted; temporary site closures; increased demand for staff resources to respond to incidents and maintain site safety; increased costs for reactive management.	Impact	6	Fire is a significant risk to Ashtead Common. Although a number of measures are taken to manage the impact of this risk, we are unable to reduce the likelihood of it occurring. The target date shown is the date of the next review. 03 Apr 2025	Impact	6	31-Jul-2025 Accept	

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ENV-NE-AC 006a Fire management	Review and update Fire Management Plan biannually. Habitat fire management and monitoring policies and plans are in place and link to staff training and local emergency services.	The Major Emergency Plan was shared with Surrey Fire and Rescue in May 2022. A revision is currently underway.	Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
ENV-NE-AC 006b Storms	Storm monitoring & management and closure policies are in place and are linked to high staff awareness and training	Officers continue to monitor and respond to warnings of extreme weather.	Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
ENV-NE-AC 006c Climate change	Understand the potential impacts of climate change on Ashtead Common. Engage in climate change research and debate.	Officers continue to explore ways to maintain and improve the Reserve's resilience to climate change.	Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025

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ENV-NE-AC 008 Water pollution 27-May-2022 Andy Thwaites	Cause: Pollution of the Rye Brook. Event: Polluted water poured into road drain; misconnection into the surface water system from other utilities. Effect: Toxins and/or biohazards introduced into the watercourse threatening the health of people and animals; damage/loss of rare/fragile habitats and species; adverse local media coverage.	Impact	A technical design for a wetland filtration system has been produced. If implemented, this system will intercept polluted water from a surface water outfall before it enters the Rye, thereby improving water quality for at least a 1km stretch of the brook. However, there is no clear funding source available for this project. The Rye Brook is regularly monitored, including kick sampling and measurement of phosphate levels. 03 Apr 2025	8	30-Sep-2031 Reduce	

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	reedbed filtration system would be beneficial.	Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025

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ENV-NE-AC 009 Decline in condition of assets	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, specifically byelaw boards, deteriorate to an unsafe condition. 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.	pooler Impact	6	Cyclical Works Programme work has commenced, and some long-standing issues and maintenance lapses have been rectified. New byelaw boards have arrived and are being installed. Therefore, the current risk rating has been reduced to the target score of Amber 6 (serious/ possible) and is accepted at that level. The target date shown is the next review date.	pooder Impact	6	31 Jul-2025	
15-Jun-2022 Andy Thwaites				03 Apr 2025			Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note		Latest Note Date	Due Date
	and remove any which become unsound.	New byelaw boards have now replaced the defective signs. All remaining old style byelaw boards, although not defective, are due to be replaced in the next few weeks. Due date extended to cover full replacement.	2	03-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
	1	replaced. Due date extended to cover full replacement.	Geoff Sinclair; Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025

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ENV-NE-AC 001 Budget pressures 24-Feb-2022 Andy Thwaites	Cause: Potential reductions in budget and income. Event: The City of London reduces its budget for Ashtead Common, or external funding is reduced. Effect: Financial failure; failure of key services; loss of staff; failure to maintain habitats on site; reduction in the ability to manage threats; significant reduction in service to users; reputational damage.	Impact 4	This risk remains low for Ashtead Common. Additional Countryside Stewardship funding has been secured up to 2031. Therefore, the current likelihood of this risk occurring is 'unlikely'. The risk is accepted at its current level. The target date shown is the date of the next review. 03 Apr 2025	input	31-Jul-2025 Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-AC 001a Risk review	Keep risk under regular review.	1 &	Andy Thwaites	03-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025