





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 Negative impacts of visitor pressure	<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 the impact of 'normal use' may lead to ongoing site damage and degradation.</p> <p>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 long term risk.</p> <p>In addition, a SAMMs Project has been established: A Community Engagement Ranger has been employed to raise awareness of the impact of recreation pressure at Burnham Beeches. A Monitoring Strategy has been prepared and first stages were implemented in 2024 to establish baselines for future comparison and allow for the monitoring of the impact of visitors and impact of mitigation efforts. A framework for sustainable visitor use at Burnham Beeches is being developed. This</p>	 Likelihood Impact	12	31-Mar-2026	

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24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup				risk will remain and will need to be managed long term. 17 Apr 2025				
							Reduce	

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 being installed by Buckinghamshire Council around Burnham Beeches. Buckinghamshire Council is completing works in phases. Phase 1 was completed in May 2024. Phase 2 is also now completed and this is now being enforced.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
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 have been used to produce a 'Sustainable Visitor Access and Mitigation Strategy' to mitigate the impacts of high visitor levels. An action plan based on this strategy has also been developed. The Plan sets out already planned actions as well as future options that will be taken over the next 5 or 10 years should the monitoring strategy not show a reduction in the negative impacts of recreation pressure. This action will be kept under regular review.	Helen Read	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 002c Mitigation Measures	Deliver action to monitor the impact of recreation and effect of mitigation measures.	A Monitoring Strategy has been prepared and the first stages implemented in 2024 to establish baselines for future comparison and allow for the monitoring of the impact of visitors and impact of mitigation efforts. This will improve the information for 5 yearly SAMMs reviews, the next of which is due in December 2025.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Jan-2026

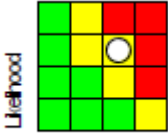
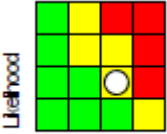
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ENV-NE-BBSC 004 Negative impacts of development and encroachment <								

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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	Inclusion in core strategy planning documents or equivalent. Close partnership working with local planning authorities. Active monitoring of planning applications with responses as appropriate.	Monitoring activity continues. Mitigation strategy with Buckinghamshire Council completed and projects within it are underway. Plan/Mitigation Strategy is still a work in progress with Slough Borough Council. Officers made comments on the proposed Farnham Common Neighbourhood Plan and responded to the formal consultation. This has now been completed Officers are maintaining contact with local authorities and Natural England but further engagement will be required to ensure mitigation for Slough developments is effective and that the needs of the SAC are taken into account in any revised Buckinghamshire local plan.	Helen Read	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 004b Monitoring of impacts	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. £10,000 has been secured from Scottish & Southern Electricity, some of which will be used for a further project on lichens and air quality.	Helen Read	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 004e Monitor success	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 2025 report will be produced by the end of April 2026.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	30-Apr-2026

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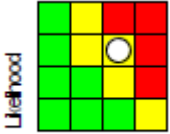
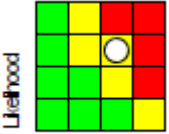
Risk no, Title, Creation date, Owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating & Score		Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating & Score		Target Date/Risk Approach	Flight path
ENV-NE-BBSC 005 Negative impacts from pests and diseases 24-Feb-2022 Martin Hartup	Cause: Inadequate biosecurity, purchase or transfer of infected plants, soil and animals. 'Natural' spread of pests and diseases e.g. Oak Processionary Moth/Ash Dieback, and lack of funding to deliver requirements of the OPM survey and nest removal. Event: OPM spreads further throughout sites. Additional Ash Dieback survey and tree works become necessary. 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.	 Likelihood	12	OPM is now well established at Stoke Common and is still spreading there. OPM has also been discovered in trees at Burnham Beeches. This is now managed on a health and safety basis rather than Plant Health Notice. Ash Dieback is present at Burnham Beeches. Tree safety costs are likely to rise. We have set a target to reduce the risk from a score of 12 (possible likelihood / major impact) to 8 (unlikely / major) but this is dependent upon additional funding becoming available. We will continue to undertake all reasonable actions to keep the situation under control as far as we are able. 17 Apr 2025	 Likelihood	8	31-Mar-2026	
							Reduce	

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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 action. Training needs are reviewed annually as part of Performance Development Reviews and in line with the Tree Safety Policy. Training needs are also proactively reviewed at six-monthly local Health and Safety meetings.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	30-Sep-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 005b Inspections	Annual tree inspections undertaken by qualified personnel.	Inspections continue on a scheduled basis or if and when the need arises, and are subject to annual review of tree safety maps/training needs which are checked in July each year. This is an ongoing action with reviews due to be completed in July 2025 as scheduled, and tree inspection and remedial works are all in progress, in accordance with the 2025/26 plan.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 005d Biosecurity	Measures in place for staff, volunteers and contractors including public messages	Ongoing biosecurity actions and implementation of biosecurity policy. This is an ongoing action – the due date shown is the date the action will next be reviewed.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025

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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 and should be completed by the end of December 2025. Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common local site policy is reviewed annually, procedure review happened in July 2025.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Dec-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 005f OPM at Stoke Common	Actions for the management of OPM at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.	OPM Management Plan for 2025 was produced for both sites and is being implemented.	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Mar-2026

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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.	 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. The Target Date shown is the date of the next review. 17 Apr 2025	 Impact	12	31-Jul-2025	
							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. Next meeting booked September 2025. An emergency plan for Stoke Common, agreed with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue, is in place and subject to annual review and fire drills. There is now one being developed for Berkshire Fire and Rescue. Next meeting booked September 2025. All employees undertaking Fire Action Training to be completed by the end of May 2025.			Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	30-Sep-2025
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. There have been two one day closures in the last quarter.			Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025

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ENV-NE-BBSC 009 Decline in condition of assets	<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>Likelihood</p> <p>Impact</p>	12	<p>Recent improvements in reactive repairs work and Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) have slowed in the last quarter with slow response times and repeated visits to repair jobs. There is a failure in the quoted work system where jobs get lost and do not proceed to resolution with no performance KPIs.</p> <p>The original CWP backlog still exists. However, a complete fabric condition survey has been undertaken to help guide priorities. Works are now starting in some locations.</p> <p>Concerns about the general situation continue and 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>The risk has been held at a score of 12 major/possible and the target date has been extended to reflect the current situation.</p>	<p>Likelihood</p> <p>Impact</p>	8	30-Sep-2025	
15-Jun-2022 Martin Hartup				17 Apr 2025			Reduce	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 009b	Continual liaison with CSD on overdue PPM checks on key infrastructure.	The Head Ranger and Assistant Director continue to liaise with colleagues in the City Surveyor's Department (CSD) to restore a programme of regular PPM checks on key infrastructure. We are	Martin Hartup	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025

Liaison with City Surveyor's Department		reliant on the CSD Facilities Management Team to achieve this.			
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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 committed to propose a solution by December 2023, however, we have not yet heard from them and await communications. The Due Date shown is the date of the next review.	Helen Read	17-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025