



ENV NE - Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Risk Register

Generated on: 24 October 2025

Rows are sorted by Risk Score

Risk Code	ENV-NE-BBSC 002	Risk Title	<i>Negative impacts of visitor pressure</i>
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Description	<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>
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Current Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
16	Likely	Major

Target Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major

Original Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major

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Red	Trend	Constant
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Amber	Target Date	31-Mar-2026
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Amber	Creation Date	15-Jun-2022
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Latest Note	<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 the first stages were implemented in 2024 to establish baselines for future comparison and allow for the monitoring of the impact of visitors and of mitigation efforts. A framework for sustainable visitor use at Burnham Beeches is being developed. This risk will remain and will need to be managed over the long-term.</p>	13-Oct-2025
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Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Martin Hartup

Associated Actions

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
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	13-Oct-2025	Helen Read	31-Dec-2025

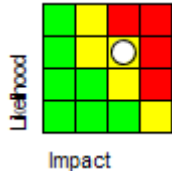
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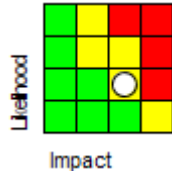
		strategy not show a reduction in the negative impacts of recreation pressure. This action will be kept under regular review.			
ENV-NE-BBSC 002c Mitigation Measures	Deliver action to monitor the impact of recreation and effect of mitigation measures.	A Monitoring Strategy has been prepared and the first 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.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Jan-2026

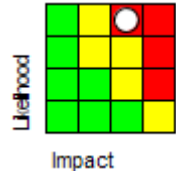
Risk Code	ENV-NE-BBSC 004
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Risk Title	<i>Negative impacts of development and encroachment</i>
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Description	<p>Cause: Pressure on Planning Authorities to meet housing targets. Failure to monitor and 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 impact on habitat quality; increased air, light and noise pollution; decrease in water availability; increased hydrological pollution risk; increase in traffic on local road network causing pollution and erosion.</p>
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Current Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Trend	Constant

Target Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely	Major
Amber	Target Date	31-Mar-2026

Original Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
16	Likely	Major
Red	Creation Date	15-Jun-2022

Latest Note	<p>Ongoing - Local Plans continue to be developed and are scrutinised and commented on when required. Staffing capacity is currently insufficient to manage the volume of work associated with this.</p> <p>The Draft Buckinghamshire Council Local Plan was issued in September and Burnham Beeches will be responding to the consultation. The Plan has established clear policies to protect the SAC at Burnham Beeches with an agreed mitigation strategy and funding mechanism for its delivery.</p> <p>The Slough Borough Council Local Plan is still very much a work in progress but, again, some mitigation has</p>	23-Sep-2025
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	already been agreed for specific development and funding identified to help protect Burnham Beeches from the impacts of increased development. However, officers have some doubts that aspects of the agreed mitigation will be sufficient to protect Burnham Beeches and therefore further active engagement will be needed.	
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Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Martin Hartup

Associated Actions

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 004a Local authorities/Counties 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 the revised Buckinghamshire Local Plan.	23-Sep-2025	Helen Read	31-Dec-2025

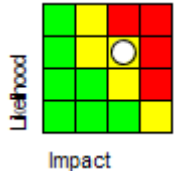
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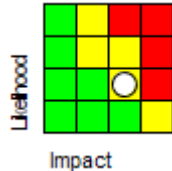
ENV-NE-BBSC 004b Monitoring of impacts	Active monitoring of air pollution and environmental impacts where possible. Undertake research where appropriate and where resources allow.	<p>A section 106 funded project on air quality work resulted in the production of a Site Nitrogen Action Plan (SNAP) in conjunction with Natural England and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.</p> <p>Other monitoring and mitigation projects are identified and carried out where possible.</p> <p>Officers respond to planning applications regarding air quality issues.</p> <p>£10,000 has been secured from Scottish & Southern Electricity, some of which will be used for a further project on lichens and air quality.</p>	23-Sep-2025	Helen Read	31-Dec-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.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	30-Apr-2026

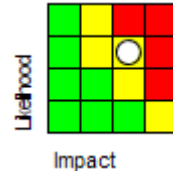
Risk Code	ENV-NE-BBSC 005
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Risk Title	<i>Negative impacts of pests and diseases</i>
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Description	<p>Cause: Inadequate biosecurity, purchase or transfer of infected plants, soil and animals. 'Natural' 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>
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Current Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Trend	Constant

Target Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely	Major
Amber	Target Date	31-Mar-2026

Original Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Creation Date	15-Jun-2022

Latest Note	<p>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. Funding to manage OPM is no longer provided.</p> <p>Ash Dieback is present at Burnham Beeches. Tree safety costs are likely to rise.</p> <p>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.</p>	23-Sep-2025
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Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Martin Hartup

Associated Actions

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	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 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.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Dec-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 005b Inspections	Annual tree inspections undertaken by qualified personnel.	Inspections continue on a scheduled basis or as 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 completed in July 2025 as scheduled, and tree inspection and remedial works are all in progress, in accordance with the 2025/26 plan.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Dec-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.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Dec-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 005e Tree Safety Policy	Review The Departmental Tree Safety Policy the local site policy.	The Departmental Tree Safety Policy is under review and should be complete by the end of December 2025. Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common local	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Dec-2025

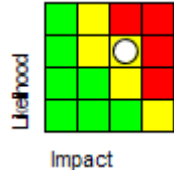
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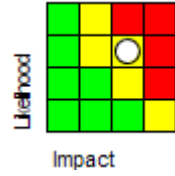
		site policy is reviewed annually, most recently in July 2025.			
ENV-NE-BBSC 005f OPM at Stoke Common	Actions for the management of OPM at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.	OPM Management Plan for 2025 was produced for both sites and was implemented.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Mar-2026

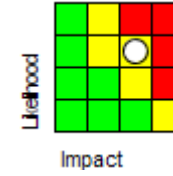
Risk Code	ENV-NE-BBSC 006
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Risk Title	<i>Adverse impacts of extreme weather and climate change</i>
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Description	<p>Cause: Severe wind events, prolonged precipitation or restricted precipitation. May 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>
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Current Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Trend	Constant

Target Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Target Date	31-Dec-2025

Original Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Creation Date	15-Jun-2022

Latest Note	<p>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.</p> <p>The Target Date shown is the date of the next review.</p>	23-Sep-2025
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Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Accept
Risk Owner	Martin Hartup

Associated Actions

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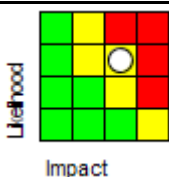
Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 006a Fire management	Review and update plan annually. Habitat fire management and monitoring policies and plans are in place and link to staff training and local emergency services.	New Burnham Beeches site maps are currently under construction in collaboration with local fire services. 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. All relevant staff undertook Fire Action Training in May 2025.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Dec-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 has been one single day closure in the last quarter.	23-Sep-2025	Martin Hartup	31-Dec-2025

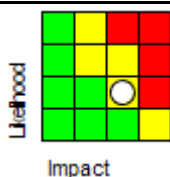
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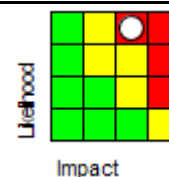
Risk Code	ENV-NE-BBSC 009
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Risk Title	<i>Decline in condition of assets</i>
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Description	<p>Cause: Poor condition of buildings and other structures, combined with inadequate planned and/or reactive 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>
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Current Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
12	Possible	Major
Amber	Trend	Constant

Target Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Unlikely	Major
Amber	Target Date	31 Dec-2025

Original Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
16	Likely	Major
Red	Creation Date	21-Jun-2022

Latest Note	<p>Chief Officers in occupation are typically accountable for asset condition within their functional area. They are responsible for commissioning required work, and ensuring an appropriate funding route is identified. This action is often delivered upon the professional advice of the City Surveyor's Department (CSD). Once a work package is commissioned, it is the responsibility of CSD to deliver those works as agreed and funded within the given cost/timeline/specifications. The Chief Officer in occupation is to be closely supported by the City Surveyor's Department and the Environment Department Head of Estates as subject matter experts.</p> <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>	09-Jul-2025
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	<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. The risk has been held at a score of 12 major/possible and the target date extended to reflect the current situation.</p>	
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Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Reduce
Risk Owner	Martin Hartup

Associated Actions

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
ENV-NE-BBSC 009b Liaison with City Surveyor's Department	Continual liaison with CSD on overdue PPM checks on key infrastructure.	<p>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 reliant on the CSD Facilities Management Team to achieve this.</p> <p>The due date for this action is the date of the next review.</p>	09-Jul-2025	Martin Hartup	30-Sep-2025
ENV-NE-BBSC 009c Delivery of Works	City Surveyor's Department to deliver works as agreed and funded either by CWP funds and/or directly by the Environment Department.	The CSD's Operations Group deliver work packages as agreed with the Environment Department, within agreed allocated funds, timelines and specifications. This is delivered either via the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP), capital and/or local risk budget.	23-Sep-2025	Peter Collinson	31-Dec-2025

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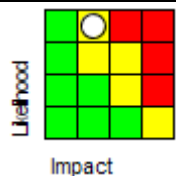
		Regular liaison meetings are held between Environment and CSD to manage the delivery programme, and to ensure any risks / issues / conflicts / etc are escalated and understood by all parties.			
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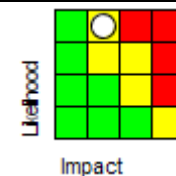
Risk Code	ENV-NE-BBSC 008
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Risk Title	<i>Pollution</i>
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Description	<p>Cause: Continual pollution of Burnham Beeches as a result of inadequate sewerage provision for existing development in the local 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>
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Current Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Likely	Serious
Amber	Trend	Constant

Target Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Likely	Serious
Amber	Target Date	31-Dec-2025

Original Risk		
Risk Score	Likelihood	Impact
8	Likely	Serious
Amber	Creation Date	21-Jun-2022

Latest Note	<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 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. There has been an interim proposal from Thames Water that is currently being reviewed by officers prior to any major scheme being developed.</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>Thames Water have presented the proposals for remedial work to Ofwat to gain approval for funding and a</p>	23-Sep-2025
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	<p>decision is pending. It is unclear how the financial issues relating to Thames Water will impact on the future of this project.</p> <p>The risk is accepted at its current level. The target date shown is the date of the next review.</p>	
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Risk Level	Service
Department	Environment

Risk Approach	Accept
Risk Owner	Martin Hartup

Associated Actions

Ref No:	Description	Latest Note	Note Date	Owned By	Due Date
NE-ENV-BBSC 008b	Continue to monitor the situation with Thames Water	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.	23-Sep-2025	Helen Read	31-Dec-2025