

Appendix A – Model letter for councillor/council to local MP

This model letter is a template that councillors and/or councils may use to highlight their support for legislation enabling the use of virtual and hybrid council meetings to their local MP. Text in bold for personalisation.

Template:

Dear **(Local MP)**,

I am/We are writing to you to seek your help in promoting the case for councils to have the flexibility to decide how best to conduct their local meetings. **I/We** welcome the return to in-person meetings where they can safely and efficiently take place, but also recognise the benefits of providing flexible meeting options, including opening up local democratic decision-making and creating a more accessible experience for councillors and the public.

Every week in local communities up and down the country, councillors are taking part in meetings as part of their responsibilities to represent their residents and make decisions about local issues. Councillors are proud to do this work and ensure that their residents voices are heard as part of this fundamental exercise of local democracy.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, council meetings took place in person with elected members, officers and the public present in one place. The contagious nature of the pandemic made this impossible and appropriate provision was made for councils to meet virtually under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. During this period of crisis, virtual council meetings allowed councillors to continue to meet and make democratic decisions safely and without delay or relying on delegating decisions to officers.

The relevant provision for council meetings ceased to have effect from 7 May 2021 and in-person public meetings resumed from this date. Councils are known for making things work in difficult circumstances and democratic services, monitoring officers and directors of public health have worked hard to ensure that council meetings go ahead as safely as possible. Despite this, in-person council meetings are not and cannot be fully accessible, without more flexibility as to how people can attend them.

For people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 and people who care for them, attending council meetings presents very real risks. As a consequence, councillors are being forced to decide between representing their residents in council meetings and protecting themselves or their loved ones. The combination of vulnerable councillors, self-isolation and children being sent home from school to isolate can mean it is difficult to get full attendance at council meetings. In most cases, the ability to attend meetings virtually would enable councillors who are unable to attend a meeting in person to attend and represent their communities from another location.

The requirement to always attend meetings in person can be a significant barrier for disabled councillors and councillors with children, caring responsibilities, and work commitments. For elected councillors, this can mean they are not able to attend as many meetings as their peers, missing relevant discussions and being deprived of their democratic right to vote on, decisions about key local issues. For prospective councillors, knowing that there will be the option to join meetings virtually can make the difference between them pursuing elected

office or not. Local parties already find it difficult to encourage people to stand for election and this is particularly the case for young people, parents and disabled people.

In my council....[INSERT PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OR EXPERIENCES AT YOUR OWN COUNCIL].

Offering a range of ways to engage with council meetings, including virtual options, is more democratic, accessible and efficient for councillors, officers and the public. Virtual meeting options can help disabled people, carers, parents and workers to engage more freely and frequently with council meetings resulting in better attendance by councillors and members of the public, and a reduction in travel time, cost and carbon emissions associated with council business. **[Support with evidence from the use of virtual meetings if you have such data]**

Councillors are glad to meet in-person where it is safe to do so, but this past 18 months demonstrated how inclusive councils could become. Returning to in-person only meetings is a missed opportunity to open up local democracy and create a 'new normal' where anyone interested in local democracy can participate, particularly people who are underrepresented or currently denied access due to their personal circumstances preventing them from attending meetings in person.

For these reasons and in the interest of local democracy, **I/we** implore you to support our call for the Government to amend legislation to provide councils with the flexibility to use virtual meeting options for council meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Name

Appendix B – Model councillor/council to Kemi Badenoch, Minister for Levelling Up Communities

This model letter is a template that councillors and/or councils may use to highlight their support for legalising of virtual and hybrid council meetings to the relevant Government minister. Text in bold for personalisation.

Template:

Dear Minister,

I am/We are writing to you to ask you to consider the case for councils to have the flexibility to decide how best to conduct their local meetings, including virtual, hybrid and in-person meeting options. **I/We** welcome the return to in-person meetings where they can safely and efficiently take place, but also recognise the benefits of providing flexible meeting options, including opening up local democratic decision-making and creating a more accessible experience for councillors and the public.

Every week in local communities up and down the country, councillors are taking part in meetings as part of their responsibilities to represent their residents and make decisions about local issues. Councillors are proud to do this work and ensure that their residents voices are heard as part of this fundamental exercise of local democracy.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, council meetings took place in person with elected members, officers and the public present in one place. The contagious nature of the pandemic made this impossible and appropriate provision was made for councils to meet virtually under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. During this period of crisis, virtual council meetings allowed councillors to continue to meet and make democratic decisions safely and without delay or relying on delegating decisions to officers.

The relevant provision for council meetings ceased to have effect from 7 May 2021 and in-person public meetings resumed from this date. Councils are known for making things work in difficult circumstances and democratic services, monitoring officers and directors of public health have worked hard to ensure that council meetings go ahead as safely as possible. Despite this, in-person council meetings are not and cannot be fully accessible, without more flexibility as to how people can attend them.

For people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 and people who care for them, attending council meetings presents very real risks. As a consequence, councillors are being forced to decide between representing their residents in council meetings and protecting themselves or their loved ones. The combination of vulnerable councillors, self-isolation and children being sent home from school to isolate can mean it is difficult to get full attendance at council meetings. In most cases, the ability to attend meetings virtually would enable councillors who are unable to attend a meeting in person to attend and represent their communities from another location.

The requirement to always attend meetings in person can be a significant barrier for disabled councillors and councillors with children, caring responsibilities, and work commitments. For elected councillors, this can mean they are not able to attend as many meetings as their peers, missing relevant discussions and being deprived of their democratic right to vote on,

decisions about key local issues. For prospective councillors, knowing that there will be the option to join meetings virtually can make the difference between them pursuing elected office or not. Local parties already find it difficult to encourage people to stand for election and this is particularly the case for young people, parents and disabled people.

In my council....[INSERT PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OR EXPERIENCES AT YOUR OWN COUNCIL].

Offering a range of ways to engage with council meetings, including virtual options, is more democratic, accessible and efficient for councillors, officers and the public. Virtual meeting options can help disabled people, carers, parents and workers to engage more freely and frequently with council meetings resulting in better attendance by councillors and members of the public, and a reduction in travel time, cost and carbon emissions associated with council business. **[Support with evidence from the use of virtual meetings if you have such data]**

Councillors are glad to meet in-person where it is safe to do so, but this past 18 months demonstrated how inclusive councils could become. Returning to in-person only meetings is a missed opportunity to open up local democracy and create a 'new normal' where anyone interested in local democracy can participate, particularly people who are underrepresented or currently denied access due to their personal circumstances preventing them from attending meetings in person.

For these reasons and in the interest of local democracy, **I/we** ask you to prioritise your Department's response to the Call for evidence: Remote meetings and bring forward legislation to allow councils the flexibility to use virtual meeting options for council meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Name

Clerk

From: David Inman
Sent: 20 December 2021 12:22
To: Clerk
Cc: Marija Aleksandrova; Bethan Aldridge
Subject: The Rural Village Services Group -- Cranleigh P.C.

FAO The Clerk Beverley Bell.

Hi Beverley,

Many thanks for the chat this morning. Thanks for agreeing to put before council the option for the (free) Rural Village Services Group package so that they can evaluate this newly introduced service which only started in November.

Here is a [link to a survey monkey questionnaire](#) for that particular group which we need completing for our administrative (largely GDPR!) purposes and which we would be glad if this could be completed on the PC's behalf at your earliest opportunity. We fully accept that by joining on the free membership offer you and the PC are not committing themselves to anything other than taking free membership of the RVSG until the 31st March 2022. As requested we will remind you towards that date.

I attach a link to the relevant area of our website that sets out full details of this service.

<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/page/rural-village-services-group> This gives full details of the intended operational arrangements for the group but I reiterate that your service will be free of charge at this point whilst your Council assess the value of the service. You are not committing to any future subscription of the service by doing that.

I look forward to hearing from you and the return of the survey..

We hereby formally withdraw the invoice for the RMTG as you did not find this service suitable for you.

Kindest regards,

David

David Inman
Director
[Rural England](#)



Notice of a Community Governance Review

Parish Councils in the Waverley Borough Area

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Waverley Borough Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of the civil parishes within the area to enable the Council to consider if any changes are needed to the current town and parish arrangements.

The council is conducting the first stage of the Review process and is inviting residents and interested organisations to submit their views on existing arrangements, together with any proposals for change, from 17 January to 25 February 2022.

The council has published its Terms of Reference for the Review and a copy can be viewed and downloaded from the [Council's website](#) or obtained by contacting the Corporate Policy team as shown below.

Should you wish to submit a written representation regarding this review please complete the form at Appendix 3 of the Consultation Document and return it by email to cgr@waverley.gov.uk or post it to:

Corporate Policy
Waverley Borough Council
The Burys
Godalming
GU7 1HR

The dates for submissions for the first stage are from 17 January to 25 February 2022.

Dated: 22 December 2021



Community Governance Review – Terms of Reference

Town and Parish Councils in Waverley Borough Council area

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Terms of Reference Published on 22 December 2021

1. Introduction

What is a community governance review?

A community governance review is a review of the whole or part of the Council's area to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election, council size (the number of councillors to be elected to council), and parish warding); and,
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes

A community governance review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will:

- be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- be effective and convenient.

If the Council is satisfied that the recommendation of a community governance review would ensure that community governance within the area under review will reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient, the Council makes a community governance order.

Why is the Council carrying out this community governance review?

The Council is required to keep its area under review – every 10-15 years. The Council has received requests from two Town Councils for a review, and it was

deemed appropriate to undertake a review of the whole principal council area, rather than dealing with review requests piecemeal.

Scope of the Review

The review will consider any community governance review requests received following publication of the Terms of Reference.

2. Consultation

How does the Council propose to conduct consultations during the Review?

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, the Council must consult local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review.

The Council will therefore:

- publish a notice and these terms of reference on the Council's website;
- send a copy of the notice and these terms of reference to Surrey County Council;
- send a copy of the notice and these terms of reference to all local Town and Parish Clerks and to the Surrey Association of Local Councils;
- send a copy of the notice and these terms of reference to all local Members of Parliament;
- inform local groups and interested parties such as local businesses, local residents' associations, local public and voluntary organisations such as schools or health bodies.

Before making any recommendations the Council will take account of any representations received. The Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the community governance review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them. The Council will notify each consultee and any other persons or bodies who have made written representations of the outcome of the review.

3. Timetable for the community governance review

The Council has to complete a community governance review within twelve months from the day on which the Council publishes the terms of reference. A community governance review is concluded on the day on which the Council publishes the recommendations made by the community governance review.

Timetable

Report to Full Council	14 December 2021	Council approves the principle of the community governance review and its terms of reference.
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Publish Terms of Reference	21 December 2021 The CGR must be completed within 12 months of the date of publication.	Publish terms of reference and notify stakeholders of the commencement of the review.
Prepare draft consultation document and invite initial submissions	17 January 2022 – 25 February 2022 (6 weeks)	Initial submissions invited: Surrey County Council, Town and Parish Councils, Members of Parliament, Local groups and interested parties such as local businesses, local residents' associations, local public and voluntary organisations such as schools or health bodies. Publish proposals on Waverley Borough Council website.
Consider submissions	28 February 2022 – 11 April 2022	Consider any submissions/representations and prepare report of draft recommendations for Full Council on 26 April 2022.
Publish draft recommendations	3 May 2022 – 10 June 2022 (6 weeks)	Publish draft recommendations for further consultation with: All local government electors Surrey County Council All town and parish councils Members of Parliament Local groups and interested parties Publish draft recommendations on Waverley Borough Council website.
Make final recommendations	19 July 2022 Full Council meeting	Consider any further submissions/representations and prepare final recommendations for report to Full Council.
Publish final recommendations	August 2022	Publish final recommendations and make Order.



Waverley Borough Council

Community Governance Review

Consultation Paper

January 2022

SECTION 1

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Waverley Borough Council, at its meeting on 14 December 2021, resolved that a Community Governance Review be conducted for the whole of the Waverley Borough Council area, in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
- 1.2 This consultation document is divided into two sections. Section 1 provides background to the Review process and explains how the Review will be undertaken. Section 2 details the specific topics for consideration by the Review to assist those wishing to make representations.
- 1.3 Representations may be made using the separate Word document (Consultation Responses) and returning it by email or post to Waverley Borough Council by the close of the consultation on 25 February 2022.

2. What is a Community Governance Review?

- 2.1 A Community Governance Review is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the Review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented.
- 2.2 Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how to undertake a Review, provided that it complies with certain duties in that Act, including details set out relating to consultation, the need to ensure any proposals reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient. The Council has to publish its recommendations but the manner in which the Council consults with its residents is not prescribed.
- 2.3 A Review can consider one or more of the following options:
 - creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
 - the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes and the creation of town councils;
 - the electoral arrangements for parishes (for instance, the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding);
 - grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes;

- other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.

3. Why is the Council undertaking a Review?

- 3.1 The Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government published in 2010 recommends that principal councils should undertake a Review of its area every 10-15 years. The Council has received requests from two Town Councils to review the size of their respective councils, and it was deemed appropriate to undertake a review of the whole principal council area rather than dealing with review requests piecemeal.

4. Who will undertake the Review?

- 4.1 Waverley Borough Council is responsible for conducting the Review and will be responsible for making both draft and final recommendations during the process. In coming to its recommendations in the Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. A full consultation process will form part of the Review to obtain these views.
- 4.2 The Council will publicise the Review by placing articles on the Council's website and on social media. The Council will also write to Surrey County Council, all relevant parish councils, the Surrey Association of Local Councils, Residents' Associations, voluntary and community organisations, Waverley County Councillors and Members of Parliament for the area.
- 4.3 The Council will be required to approve the final recommendations prior to the Community Governance Order being made.

5. Timetable for the review

- 5.1 An extract of the timetable for the Review is included at Appendix 1 to this consultation document. The programme and timeline may be adjusted after representations have been received from local people and bodies in response to the initial public consultation. This will allow the Council a degree of flexibility in the interests of ensuring that it manages the Review process efficiently. Any adjustments to the programme and timetable will be approved by the Council and published on its website.
- 5.2 The Review will include four key stages:
- Stage One - Invitation of initial submissions
 - Stage Two - Consideration of initial submissions
 - Stage Three - Publish draft recommendations for consultation
 - Stage Four - Final recommendations
- 5.3 This document relates to Stage One of the process and is inviting initial submissions.

6. Electorate forecasts for the Council

- 6.1 The Review will be conducted using electoral data taken from the May 2020 electoral register, with projected electorate forecasts for 2027 which reflect those provided by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as part of its consultation on an Electoral Review of Waverley.
- 6.2 When the Council comes to consider the electoral arrangements of the parishes in its area, it is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts. Whilst the 2027 projections go beyond this five year period, they correspond to those seen by towns and parishes as part of the Boundary Commission's recent consultation on borough ward boundaries.
- 6.3 It is the Government's guidance that these forecasts should be made available to all interested parties as early as possible in the Review process, so that they are available to all who may wish to make representations. The electorate forecasts are, therefore, set out in Appendix 2 to this consultation document.

7. Representations

- 7.1 Waverley Borough Council welcomes representations from any person or body who may wish to comment or make proposals on any aspect of the matters under review. Representations that are received will be taken into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 7.2 All initial submissions and representations must be made by 25 February 2022.
- 7.3 Our preferred method of response is using the Consultation Responses document available from the Waverley website, and returned by email with any accompanying maps or other documentation.
- 7.4 Alternatively, you can request a paper copy of the Consultation Responses form by calling 01483 523226 and then sending your completed form to:

Corporate Policy,
Waverley Borough Council,
The Burys,
Godalming
GU7 1HR
- 7.5 It would be helpful if you could make clear in your response whether you represent an organisation or group, and in what capacity you are responding.

- 7.6 All representations received will be published, as will the reasons for accepting or rejecting any such representations. In accordance with the Act, representations received in connection with the Review will be taken into account, and steps will be taken to notify consultees of the outcome of the Review.

8. Publication of responses – confidentiality and data protection

- 8.1 Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published, or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes.
- 8.2 If you want any information you provide to be treated as confidential, you should be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply, and which deals with, amongst other things, obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.
- 8.3 If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give any assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by IT systems will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Council.
- 8.4 Waverley Borough Council will process your personal data in accordance with Data Protection legislation and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

9. How will the results be disseminated?

- 9.1 The Council will publish full details on the Council's website; press releases and social media posts will be issued at key points and key documents will be on deposit at the Council's offices.

SECTION 2

10. Scope of the Review

- 10.1 The Review must make a series of recommendations based on the following topics, some of which are dependent upon and relate to each other:
- (a) Parish areas
 - creating, merging and abolishing parishes;
 - alternative styles for any new parishes;
 - lesser boundary alterations between existing parishes;
 - changes to parish names;
 - grouping parishes under a common council.
 - (b) Electoral arrangements
 - whether to have a parish council or not;
 - the size of the council;
 - whether to ward the parish or not;
 - drawing up appropriate ward boundaries;
 - allocating councillors to wards.
- 10.2 Arising from the Review, it may be necessary for the Council to consider a series of 'consequential matters' (where permitted) but these are not included within this initial submission consultation document.
- 10.3 This consultation document is structured to address the topic areas and assist with the development of recommendations required by the Review. To assist those wishing to make representations, a series of questions are included in this document. Where applicable, these questions request respondents to indicate how they feel the proposals meet the Community Governance Review criteria. These criteria are referred to at paragraphs 2.3 of this document.

Parish areas

11. Creating, merging and abolishing parishes, alternative styles for parishes, and boundary alterations between existing parishes

- 11.1 The Review must make recommendations in relation to each of the existing parishes under review, including whether those parishes should or should not be abolished; or whether the area of the existing parishes should be altered, e.g. possibly due to recent housing developments. These include:
- (a) aggregating one or more parished areas;
 - (b) aggregating parts of parishes;
 - (c) amalgamating two or more parishes;

(d) separating part of a parish.

11.2 The alternative styles that may be applied to parishes, in addition to parish or town, are:

- (a) Community;
- (b) Neighbourhood; and
- (c) Village.

11.3 The Review must also make recommendations as to whether or not the name of existing parishes should be changed.

12. Grouping parishes under a common council or dissolving groups

12.1 Where an application is received for a parish to be grouped with a neighbouring parish or parishes, an order to this effect may be made. However, parishes shall not be grouped without the consent of the parish meetings of each of the parishes in the proposed group.

Electoral arrangements

13. Whether to have a parish council or not

13.1 The guidance for undertaking Community Governance Reviews states that recommendations for the dissolution of parish councils are undesirable unless they are in cases of parishes with very low populations or where boundary changes are reordering the parish structure.

13.2 Where the Review makes recommendations that a parish should have a council or that an existing parish council should be retained, the Review must also make recommendations with regard to the electoral arrangements or changes to electoral arrangements.

13.3 'Electoral arrangements' in relation to an existing or proposed parish council are defined as:

- (a) the ordinary year of elections – the year in which ordinary elections of parish councillors are to be held. Should any proposals be made for new parishes, it is recommended that the ordinary year of elections would coincide with the ordinary elections for all other parishes within Waverley (e.g. May 2023);
- (b) the council size – the number of councillors to be elected to the council, or (in the case of a common council) the number of councillors to be elected to the council by local electors in each parish;
- (c) parish warding – whether the parish should be divided into wards for the purpose of electing councillors. This includes considering the

number and boundaries of any such wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any such wards and the name of any such wards.

14. The size of the council

- 14.1 Council size is the term used to describe the number of councillors to be elected to the whole council. The Local Government Act 1972, as amended, specifies that each parish council must have at least five councillors; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those councillors between parish wards but each parish ward, and each parish grouped under a common parish council, must have at least one parish councillor.
- 14.2 The National Association of Local Councils published guidelines (circular 1126) suggesting that the minimum number of councillors for any parish council should be seven, with a maximum of twenty-five.
- 14.3 The council size should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Regard should be given to the difficulty of attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election. In some parishes, this has led to repeated uncontested elections and/or a need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies. A parish council's budget and planned or actual level of service provision may also be important factors in reaching conclusions on council size.

15. Warding of parishes

- 15.1 Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors. This includes the number and boundaries of any wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any ward and the names of wards.
- 15.2 In considering whether or not a parish should be divided into wards, consideration must be given to whether:
 - (a) the number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
 - (b) it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented.
- 15.3 Each case should be considered on its merits, and on the basis of the information and evidence provided during the course of the Review.

16. Drawing up appropriate ward boundaries

- 16.1 In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards, the Review should take account of community identity and interests in the area

and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries.

17. Allocating councillors to wards

- 17.1 If the Review decides that a parish should be warded, consideration must be given to the levels of representation between each ward. It is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors.
- 17.2 Whilst there is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent a similar number of electors, guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards. Such variations could make it difficult, in workload terms, for councillors to adequately represent the interests of residents. There is also a risk that where one or more wards of a parish are over-represented by councillors, the residents of those wards (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.
- 17.3 Where a Community Governance Review recommends that two or more parishes should be grouped under a common parish council, then the Review must take into account the same considerations when considering the number of councillors to be elected by each parish within the group.

18. Ward names

- 18.1 Where parish wards are proposed, the Review should give some thought to existing local or historic places so that, where appropriate, these are reflected, and there should be a presumption in favour of ward names proposed by local interested parties.

Appendix 1

Community Governance Review - Timetable

Report to Full Council	14 December 2021	Council approves the principle of the community governance review and its terms of reference.
Publish Terms of Reference	21 December 2021 The CGR must be completed within 12 months of the date of publication.	Publish terms of reference and notify stakeholders of the commencement of the review.
Prepare draft consultation document and invite initial submissions	17 January 2022 – 25 February 2022 (6 weeks)	Initial submissions invited: Surrey County Council, Town and Parish Councils, Members of Parliament, Local groups and interested parties such as local businesses, local residents' associations, local public and voluntary organisations such as schools or health bodies. Publish proposals on Waverley Borough Council website.
Consider submissions	28 February 2022 – 11 April 2022	Consider any submissions/representations and prepare report of draft recommendations for Full Council on 26 April 2022.
Publish draft recommendations	3 May 2022 – 10 June 2022 (6 weeks)	Publish draft recommendations for further consultation with: All local government electors Surrey County Council All town and parish councils Members of Parliament Local groups and interested parties

		Publish draft recommendations on Waverley Borough Council website.
Make final recommendations	19 July 2022 Full Council meeting	Consider any further submissions/representations and prepare final recommendations for report to Full Council.
Publish final recommendations	August 2022	Publish final recommendations and make Order.

Appendix 2

Electorate Data for 2020 and 2027 Projected

Polling district	Parish/ Town	Parish ward (if applicable)	Number of councillors (if applicable)	Electorate 2020	Projected Electorate 2027	Electors per councillor 2027
ACEA	Alfold		7	884	2934	419
BBHA	Bramley		9	2581	2686	298
BBHB	Busbridge		5	804	840	168
CDA	Chiddingfold		9	2198	2336	260
FDTA	Churt		9	955	1007	112
ACEB	Cranleigh	Cranleigh - Elmbridge	1	340	362	362
ACEC	Cranleigh	Cranleigh - Rural	1	83	91	91
CEA/CEB	Cranleigh	Cranleigh East	5	5175	6168	1234

Polling district	Parish/ Town	Parish ward (if applicable)	Number of councillors (if applicable)	Electorate 2020	Projected Electorate 2027	Electors per councillor 2027
CWA	Cranleigh	Cranleigh West	4	3430	4165	1041
SGCB	Cranleigh	Cranleigh North	1	247	575	575
FDTB	Dockenfield		5	365	374	75
CDB	Dunsfold		7	879	870	124
ETA	Elstead		9	1985	2093	233
ACED	Ewhurst & Ellens Green	Ellens Green	1	214	233	233
EWA	Ewhurst & Ellens Green	Ewhurst	8	1646	1798	225
FBA/FBB	Farnham	Bourne	2	3299	3374	1687
FCA/FCB	Farnham	Castle	2	3340	4230	2115
FFA/FFB	Farnham	Firgrove	2	3279	3410	1705
FHHA/ FHFB	Farnham	Hale & Heath End	2	3362	3516	1758

Polling district	Parish/ Town	Parish ward (if applicable)	Number of councillors (if applicable)	Electorate 2020	Projected Electorate 2027	Electors per councillor 2027
FMPA/ FMPB	Farnham	Moor Park	2	3916	4754	2377
FSBA/ FSBB	Farnham	Shortheath & Boundstone	2	3248	3407	1704
FUHA	Farnham	Upper Hale	2	3127	3501	1751
FWBA/ FWBB	Farnham	Weybourne & Badshot Lea	2	3572	4131	2066
FWRA/ FWRB	Farnham	Wrecclesham & Rowledge	2	3614	3631	1816
FDTC	Frensham	Frensham	4	775	810	203
FDTD	Frensham	Rushmoor	3	558	554	185
GBA	Godalming	Binscombe	4	3086	3215	804
GCOA/ GCOB	Godalming	Central & Ockford	4	3846	4561	1140
GCA	Godalming	Charterhouse	4	2784	3179	795

Polling district	Parish/ Town	Parish ward (if applicable)	Number of councillors (if applicable)	Electorate 2020	Projected Electorate 2027	Electors per councillor 2027
GFCB/ GFCB	Godalming	Farncombe & Catteshall	4	3728	3932	983
GHA	Godalming	Holloway	4	3286	3493	873
WHB	Hambledon		7	606	637	91
BBHC	Hascombe		5	255	254	51
HCSA	Haslemere	Critchmere	3	2298	2380	793
HCSB	Haslemere	Shottermill	3	2239	2645	882
HEGA/ HEGB	Haslemere	Haslemere North & Grayswood	3	2240	2324	775
HEGC	Haslemere	Haslemere South	4	2888	3065	766
HIA	Haslemere	Hindhead	5	3294	3447	689
ETC	Thursley		7	526	551	79
FDTE	Tilford		7	584	547	78

Polling district	Parish/ Town	Parish ward (if applicable)	Number of councillors (if applicable)	Electorate 2020	Projected Electorate 2027	Electors per councillor 2027
MIA	Witley	Milford	8	3149	3631	454
WHA	Witley	Witley East	7	2445	2537	362
ETD	Witley	Witley West	1	363	389	389
BWA	Wonersh	Blackheath	1	236	242	242
BWB	Wonersh	Wonersh	4	1214	1319	330
SGCA	Wonersh	Shamley Green	4	1193	902	226
ETB	Peper Harow		N/A	183	178	N/A

Waverley Borough Community Governance Review – Initial Submission Consultation Response Form

(Deadline: Completed responses must be received not later than 25 February 2022)

Email to _____ or print and post to:

Corporate Policy, Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming GU7 1HR

Name of person completing response:		Postal address:	
Email address:			
Organisation or group (if applicable):			
In what capacity are you responding?			

Question 1	Response
<p>Do you feel that any existing parish area should be altered or abolished?</p> <p>If yes, please provide details of the proposals including a map illustrating the proposed boundary changes, the reasons for the proposal and explain how the proposal will:</p> <p>(a) be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and</p> <p>(b) be effective and convenient.</p>	
Question 2	Response
<p>Do you feel that the name of an existing parish should be changed?</p>	
<p>If yes, please provide details of the proposal and explain your reasons for the proposal.</p>	

Question 3 Response

Do you consider that any parish should be grouped with another parish or other parishes?

If yes, please provide details of the proposals, the reasons for the proposal and explain how the proposal will:

- (a) be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- (b) be effective and convenient.

You should also include suggestions for a proposed name for the group, whether the group should have a council and what electoral arrangements should apply.

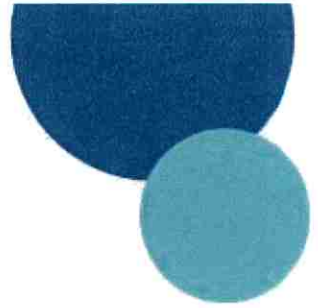
Question 4

Response

Should the number of councillors on an existing council be changed?

If yes, please indicate what the proposed number of councillors should be and the reasons for the proposal.

Question 5	Response
<p>Do you consider the parish should be divided into parish wards?</p> <p>If yes, please provide details of the proposals including a map illustrating the proposed ward boundary, the reasons for the proposal and explain how the proposal will make the election of councillors more practicable and convenient.</p> <p>You should also include suggestions for proposed parish ward names and the number of councillors that should represent the electorate in each ward.</p>	
Additional Comments	
<p>Please add any additional comments relevant to this Community Governance Review. Additional sheets may be supplied but please ensure these are clearly marked.</p>	



Waverley Borough Council
Biodiversity Policy and Strategy 2021 - 2031

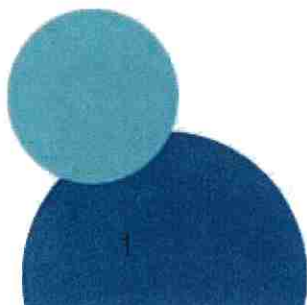
Policy Reference

Date of Adoption

Date of last review 11/01/21

Date of next review

Lead officer – Head Ranger – Parks and Countryside



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Health in all Policies	Not required	N/A	N/A	N/A

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1 Foreword

"Biodiversity is the name we give to the variety of all life on Earth. Bacteria to baboons, plants to people - the range of life on our planet is incredible.

All living things exist within their own communities, or ecosystems - oceans, forests, deserts, ice caps and even cities. All this put together is biodiversity: the variety of life on Earth as well as how different species interact with each other and with the physical world around them.

The word biodiversity is a contraction of 'biological diversity'. The concept is broad and complex, but that complexity is what makes Earth a perfect place for humans to live.

Why do we need biodiversity?

Humans rely on biodiversity to survive. We are intertwined in a big natural system, and each element supports and enables all of us to thrive.

It is easy to see why humans need nature: we need fresh water, clean air, and plants and animals for food. But what we need specifically is biodiversity.

Nature around us isn't enough - we need a natural world that is complex, resilient, thriving and full of variety.

The benefits biodiversity brings are called ecosystem services. Biodiversity keeps us all alive, but it also helps to make our lives healthy and safe.

Ecosystem services include forests that diminish floods, coastlines that protect us from changing sea levels, wetlands that regulate pollution and parks that ease our anxiety."

Credit Katie Pavid, Natural History Museum.

2 What is Biodiversity and why it matters?

2.1 Biodiversity defined

Biological diversity was first coined in 1980 by Thomas Lovejoy, an innovative and internationally recognised conservation biologist who produced the first projection of global extinctions in a forward (Soule, 1980).

Biodiversity was first publicly used in 1986 by W.G. Rosen while planning for the National Forum on Biological Diversity, the proceeds of which were published by E.O. Wilson a renowned entomologist (Wilson, Biodiversity, 1988). He then published "*A Diversity of Life*" in 1992 which reflects on biodiversity, its evolution and how humans are destroying it (Wilson, *A Diversity of Life*, 1992).

No one definition of biodiversity exists, however all definitions point to the variety of life, from the building blocks of life, genes, to individual species and ecosystems. Through thousands of millennia, these have evolved to make life possible on planet Earth. Biodiversity gives us the air we breathe, water we drink and food we eat. Without biodiversity, we have no life.

2.2 Why we should conserve and enhance it

So many people ask: what does it matter to me? As you sit there in your home, it's difficult to be connected to the natural world around you. Other than the occasional mouse, spider or fly entering your home and unless you are particularly interested in nature, few opportunities arise for many people to experience the wonders of biodiversity.

Every species on this planet has evolved to do a specific task. The loss of one of these species destabilises the fine balance that has taken millennia to establish. Whilst technology can help cushion some of these changes, it cannot replace the valuable role that biodiversity brings to our everyday life.

The planet is hugely diverse and whilst we've only recorded approximately 1.5 million species, it is likely that there are several million more (Sweetlove, 2011). We often talk about the big fluffy ones, the show-stoppers, however 95% of known animal species are invertebrates and lack a backbone (Centre for Biological Diversity, Accessed in 2021) and they are only just starting to make the headlines. Declines in invertebrate species will have catastrophic impacts on the planet. Not only do they pollinate plants and ensure our crops grow and fruit, but they have a very important role in decomposing dead matter, fertilising the soil and feeding species higher up the food chain.

Biodiversity and climate change are inextricably linked. Tackling climate change will help tackle the loss in biodiversity and vice versa. Biodiversity declines in the UK is also linked to the extensive loss and degradation of habitats. The UK has half of its biodiversity left, meaning it is the least diverse in the G7 countries and is within the bottom 10% of all countries globally (Davis, 2020).

The challenge the developed world faces is that we are cushioned from the incremental loss of biodiversity. We get our food from the supermarket and go to the doctor's for our medication. If we have a drought, we water the garden with our hose, or let the grass go brown, but we do not go hungry. Whilst developed countries are responsible for climate change, those that bear the brunt of impacts are developing countries. Droughts, famines, floods, wars are all the product of the loss of biodiversity and climate change. Over the last few years, however, some of the impacts have been felt in developed countries: fires and floods. We are therefore not immune to the adverse impact to biodiversity or from climate change and we must all take urgent action to promote biodiversity and protect ourselves from further losses.

3 Councils historical focus on biodiversity

3.1 Council Commitment to Biodiversity

As a custodian of several key habitat sites across the borough the Council has been able to ensure a steady and continuous commitment to the understanding, protection, and enhancement of the borough's natural environment.

The Council operates a Parks & Countryside team consisting of Countryside Rangers, Tree Officers and Greenspace Officers who work alongside 300 community volunteers, work placement students and PhD students undertaking project and maintenance work across the sites that the Council is responsible for. The Council works with community volunteers to undertake a range of wildlife surveys and monitoring as well as working with professional wildlife recorders to ensure we build up and maintain species records for our sites.

Officers have close working partnerships sharing best practice with organisations and groups committed to the environment including the National Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Surrey Amphibian Reptile Group, Amphibian Reptile Conservation, Surrey County Council, Butterfly Conservation and Open Spaces Society as well as local and National community Groups to adopt a joined-up approach to sites management and ensure the Council remains a leader in the field.

In addition, the Council also manages the Grounds Maintenance contract which includes conservation grass cutting and has managed schemes such as No Mow May, whilst also striving to reduce pesticide usage. The appointed contractor works closely with officers to understand and implement environmental enhancements. The Countryside Ranger team also use other appointed specialist contractors and organisations to help deliver the required site objectives and maximise biodiversity opportunities.

3.2 Achievements

The Council has successfully delivered environmental improvements under several Environmental Stewardship Agreements for the last 12 years and continues to work in partnership with Natural England to ensure we continue to do so.

Significant achievements include sites receiving the highest environment assessment by Natural England of being in favourable condition, bringing key sites under long term management plans and woodland management plans, undertaking extensive National Vegetation Classification (NVC) assessment, implementing grazing regimes at

Farnham Park and Lammas Lands, desilting, and maintaining the series of ponds across the Borough and developing long term management of ditches and watercourses. The Council has achieved 10 Green Flag Awards for its Greenspaces, eight of which are managed specifically for conservation and ecological purposes.

Appendix 2 highlights sites, designations, funding streams, key species, and management of our most important environmental areas. The Council continues to develop and strive for excellence with Natural England identifying sites as improving and in favourable condition and survey, monitoring and community activity ensuring current and frequent targeted management.

3.3 Enforcement and influencing

The Council is committed to protecting the natural environment against inappropriate development. The Council should therefore give considered scrutiny to residential encroachments such as driveway creation and should enforce where there has been boundary encroachment and green waste dumping by residents wherever possible as well as preventing planting with unauthorised/inappropriate trees or plants on its sites.

The Council also influences and directs utility and service providers wherever possible to ensure that methods used for their operations have the least impact on the environment, such as; no dig zones, tree protection and limits to environmental damage.

The Council is committed to enforcing the sites by-laws, preventing unauthorised activities which have the potential to cause damage to sites. The Council works closely with the Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue and other emergency services to ensure anti-social behaviours are prevented as much as possible and on heathland sites a fully developed system of fire breaks is created and maintained.

The Council is committed to undertaking our statutory duties regarding blue green algal events and invasive plant species across the borough.

The Council also recognises that providing opportunities for the public to engage with the natural environment, enjoying the mental and physical benefits of the green gym, can foster increased respect for the local environment with associated biodiversity gains.

4 Policy background

4.1 International context

In August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land, resulting in widespread and rapid changes around the planet. Many of these are irreversible and will be evident for many centuries and millennia. Their impacts will increase hot extremes and heavy rain, result in agricultural droughts in some areas and significantly impact our day to day lives around the planet; with many of these already being felt at a global, national and local level.

Climate change is a significant influence on biodiversity on a local, national and international level, but we must remain alert to understanding the local threats to biodiversity in all their forms and ensuring appropriate action is taken to mitigate and where possible reduce and remove.

Mobilising at all levels across society is essential to combatting climate change and its impacts on biodiversity.

4.2 County context

In 2017, Surrey's State of Nature reported a 56% decline in UK wildlife species populations between 1970 and 2013 ((Waite, 2017) and (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2019c)), reflecting a national decline (State of Nature Partnership, 2019).

Surrey is one of the 15 most populated counties in the UK, resulting in significant pressures to biodiversity from habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss.

The last few years has shown us how ruptures in ecosystems can have detrimental impacts to human health and well-being and affect food and water supplies. Protecting biodiversity is key to limiting the impact of climate change.

4.3 Borough context

The Council recognises its role in mitigating the effects of climate change, both as a community leader and through the services it provides. This reflects the powerful voice of the growing population who are demanding that individuals, companies, organisations and governments take responsibility for their actions and take steps to reduce, reuse, minimise their carbon footprints and contribute to the protection and enhancement of our natural world.

This was expressed by residents in 2020 following a public consultation whereby 70% of respondents indicated their desire to see Waverley Borough Council lead on climate change action (Waverley Borough Council, 2020).

In response to this feedback the Council declared a climate emergency and committed itself to being carbon neutral by 2030 and recognises the need to:

- Mitigate the effects of the climate and biodiversity crisis as a community leader and through the services it provides and the management of land under its control
- Support and encourage efforts to promote biodiversity across the borough through its influence over the planning process and its engagement with other stakeholders

Waverley Borough Council adopted a Carbon Neutrality Action Plan that focuses on the following seven themes (Waverley Borough Council, 2019):

- Organisational emissions
- Active travel and air quality
- Energy generation
- Built environment (housing and planning)
- Waste and resources
- Land use and adaptation
- Supporting a green economy

One of the key actions of the adopted Carbon Neutrality Action Plan was the development and implementation of a Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan that enhances the natural environment. Such a policy would complement the Pesticide Policy (Waverley Borough Council, 2020) and a Tree Policy to ensure that the Council:

- Manages habitats within the borough to maximise biodiversity
- Provides leadership across the borough to inspire others
- Supports residents, parishes and local initiatives to promote biodiversity

This document presents the Council's Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan. It applies to the current and future open and greenspace managed by the Council and provides a framework for biodiversity consideration across all of the Council's activities.

This Biodiversity Policy must also complement other Council policies including:

- Local Plan Part 1: Policies NE1, NE1 (Waverley Borough Council, 2018)
- Local Plan Part 2: Policies DM1, DM11 (Waverley Borough Council , 2020b)
- Climate Emergency Action Plan (Waverley Borough Council, 2019)
- Pesticides Policy and Action Plan (Waverley Borough Council, 2020)
- Tree and Woodland Policy (Waverley Borough Council, 2022)
- Greenspaces Strategy (proposed)
- Local policies detailed in Table 1
- Surrey County Council's Tree Policy (Surrey County Council, 2020).
- Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policies (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2019a)
- In delivering its duties, Waverley Borough Council's Biodiversity Policy must adhere to relevant legislation, as detailed in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Local biodiversity policies within Waverley Borough Council

Policy reference		Objectives
(Farnham Town Council, 2021)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership • Ensuring all sites in ownership have 10 year management plan • Strengthen wildlife corridors • All sites owned and managed to achieve status of Local Wildlife Site • Protection of species and habitats • Review of planning application in light of latest guidance in relation to protected species and habitats • Review policy every five years
(Haslemere Town Council, 2021)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy H9: Policy to support the protection and enhancement of trees and native hedgerows • Policy H11: Identified suitable Local Greenspaces and include Green Fingers that provide connectivity across the landscape • Policy H12: details measures to protect and enhance the ecological network across the Neighbourhood Plan area • Review Neighbourhood Plan in 2032 • In addition to the above, the Haslemere Biodiversity Project works with the local community to support and deliver local initiatives such as developing a network of hedgerows and undertaking surveys to identify measures to better manage river corridors

Policy reference	Objectives
	to promote riparian species such as otter and water vole.
(Bramley Parish Council, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BNP-E2: protects and enhances connectivity and free movement of wildlife along wildlife corridors and habitats
(Godalming and Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan Group, 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOD12: development to preserve the profile of the skyline and ensure buildings are not unduly prominent.
(Witley Neighbourhood Plan Group, 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy NE1 aims to maximise biodiversity through the creation of coherent ecological networks and protecting existing ecological assets. Policy NE2 aims to protect trees and hedgerows Policy NE3 requires methods to appropriately assess the impact of development on biodiversity and incorporate features for biodiversity. Development should consider and incorporate biodiversity features.
Wonersh Environmental Advisory Group (personal communication)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although no specific policies have been developed, the group has been proactive in managing open spaces for biodiversity including invasive species management, undertaking wildflower trials and hedgerow planting. Actions are published on their Facebook® page.
(Cranleigh Parish Council, 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy CRAN6 Natural Landscape and Rural Character detailing that all development proposal should maintain and enhance the natural environment, retain landscape features and enhance rural character. Encourage projects that include principles as defined in the policy. Identification of local green spaces

5 The Council's Greenspaces and Biodiversity resource

5.1 Councils land holding

The Council manages over 2200 ha of land, comprising more than 500 individual sites, which support the following habitats; woodland, parkland, grasslands, heathland, wetlands, watercourses and farmland. As well as amenity spaces and public open spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and road verges. Some of these sites are protected:

- By law:
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Special Areas of Conservation
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - Local Nature Reserve
 - Local Geological sites
- Through planning policy:
 - Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
 - Common land

Further information on these is provided in Appendix 2, including their level of protection, key species and partnerships. Sites protected by law and planning policy including those managed by the Council are presented in Figure 1, 2 and 3.

The Council is predominantly responsible for managing these, except where they are leased to third parties. The services are delivered through contractors and the Greenspace Services Team supported by volunteers.

Management plans have been developed for a number of the sites protected by law and common land, however none has been developed for other open spaces, such as road verges, parks, cemeteries and churchyards and housing estates. Management plan expiry dates are presented Table 5 & 6.

5.2 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Targeted approach by WBC in line with conservation priorities across sites.

5.2.1 What are biodiversity opportunity areas?

The Surrey Nature Partnership defines Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) as: "an individual BOA consists of a spatial concentration of already recognised and protected sites for wildlife conservation (its 'Foundation' sites), inside a boundary that also

includes further but as yet un-registered 'Priority habitat' types (plus some other essentially undeveloped land-uses); all of which have common and contiguous geological, soil, hydrological and topographic characteristics to those of the Foundation sites". As such, BOAs represent those areas where improved habitat management, as well as efforts to restore and re-create Priority habitats will be most effective in enhancing connectivity to benefit recovery of Priority species in a fragmented landscape. They are therefore the basis for achieving recovery a coherent and resilient ecological network in Surrey (Surrey Nature Partnership 2019).

Further information relating to BOAs can be found in [Biodiversity opportunity areas Surrey nature partnership 2015](#)

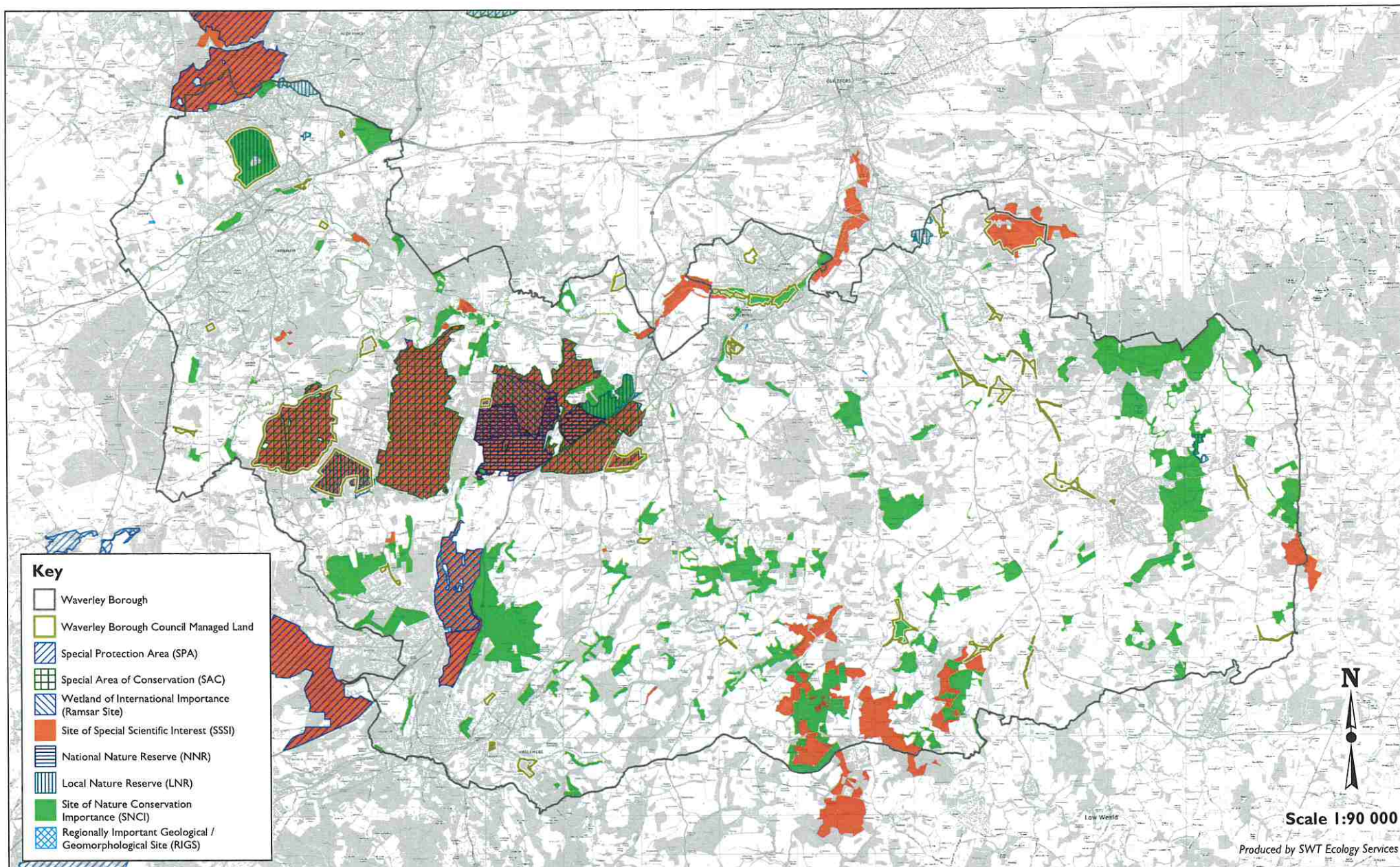
5.2.2 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in the Borough

Eight Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) are located within the Borough. Priorities associated with these are presented in Table 2 (as obtained from (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2019). Further details are available within each policy statement for the relevant BOA.

Table 2: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas within Waverley Borough Council

BOA Area	BOA Number	BOA Name	Priorities
North Downs	ND01	North Downs Scarp; The Hog's Back	Opportunity to steer restoration obligations to complement adjacent BOA
Wealden Greensands	WG01	Puttenham & Crooksbury	Priority habitat enhancement & creation opportunities adjacent to BOA
	WG02	Farnham Heath	Priority habitat restoration potential; Heathland, Acid grassland, Native woodland. Important Sand lizard populations requiring connectivity management Native woodland & Heathland restoration opportunities realised by private owner

BOA Area	BOA Number	BOA Name	Priorities
	WG03 – WG04	Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Heaths/Devil's Punch Bowl & Hindhead Heaths	Priority habitat restoration & creation to enhance key corridor opportunities between BOAs
	WG04 – LW01	Devil's Punch Bowl & Hindhead Heaths/Chiddingfold & West Weald Woodlands	
	WG05	Hascombe, Winkworth & Hydon's Heath & Woodlands	Wetland habitat creation opportunities, inc. Reedbeds
Low Weald	LW01	Chiddingfold & West Weald Woodlands	SNCI enhancements, Native woodland, Meadows, Ponds restoration & creation opportunities under any proposed development scheme
Rivers	R04	River Wey & tributaries; Upper	Opportunity for Floodplain grazing marsh creation/restoration & reconnecting meanders, in-channel enhancements, connectivity through SANG proposals
		River Wey; Cranleigh Waters	Priority habitat creation/restoration opportunities alongside canal restoration project



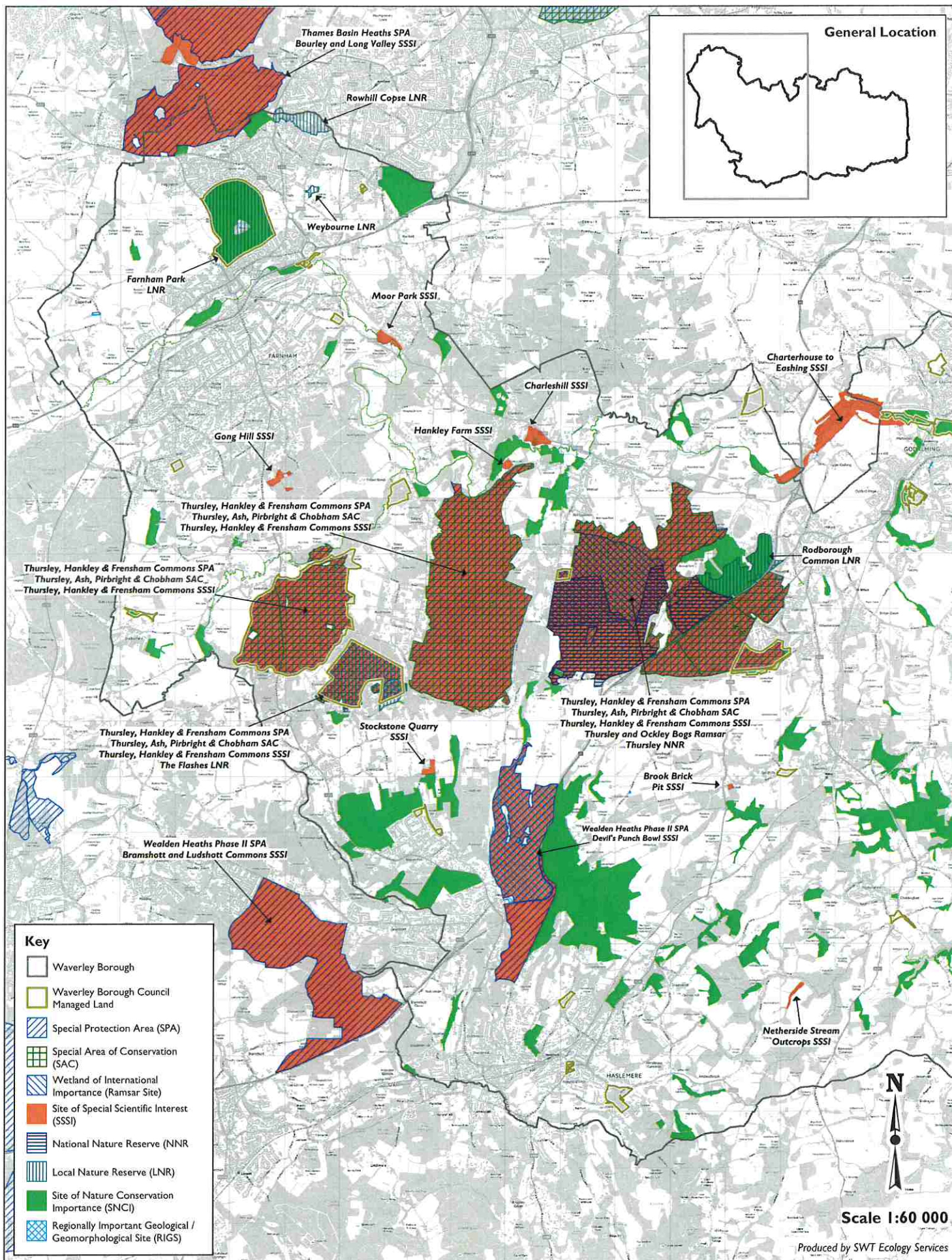
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4239-I, October 2021

Figure 1: Waverley Borough Council Biodiversity Strategy: Statutory and Non-statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation - Summary Overview



**Ecology
Services**

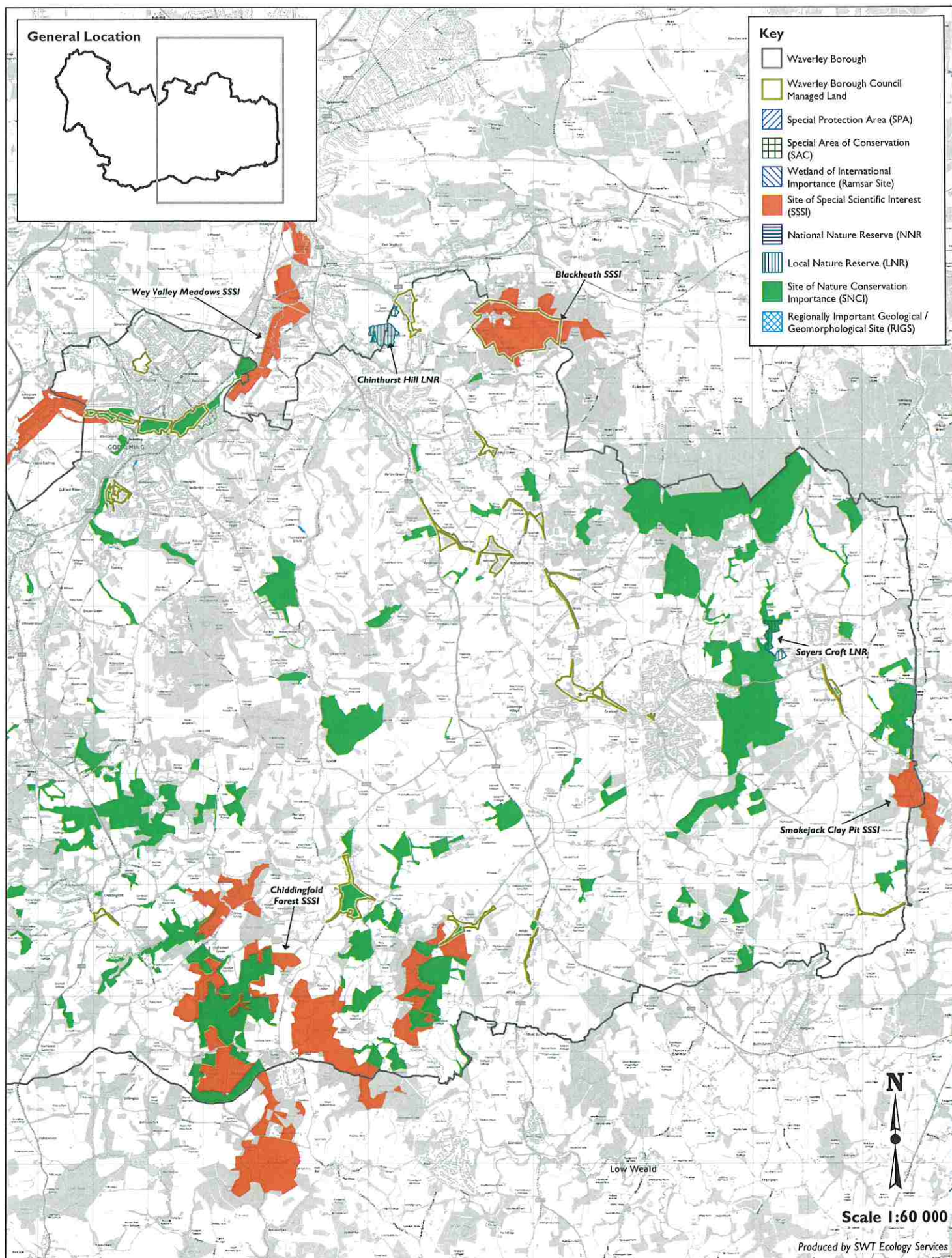


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Figure 2: Waverley Borough Council Biodiversity Strategy: Statutory and Non-statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation - West



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Figure 3: Waverley Borough Council Biodiversity Strategy: Statutory and Non-statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation - East



Ecology Services

5.3 Waverley Borough Habitats

Waverley borough supports a diverse range of habitats across 15 landscape characters (HDA, 2015) including:

- Chalk down with woodland
- Open chalk farmland
- Chalk ridge
- Wooded north down
- Open greensand hills
- Wooded greensand plateau
- Greensand valley
- Wooded greensand hills
- Rolling clay farmland
- Wooded rolling claylands
- Mudstone plateau
- River floodplain
- River valley floor
- Sandy woodland
- Wooded low Weald

Broadly these habitats can be summarised as:

- Woodland and parkland
- Grasslands
- Heathlands
- Wetlands
- Watercourses
- Amenity spaces
- Road verges
- Hedges

A brief description of these is provided below.

5.3.1 Woodland & Parkland

Surrey is the most wooded county in England, with an estimated 21% woodland cover (Waite, 2017) (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2020), whilst the Borough itself has an estimated 34%. This is compared with a national average of just under 16%.

Woodland habitats of principal importance in the borough include (Waverley Borough Council, 2018a):

- Mixed deciduous woodland
- Beech and Yew woodland
- Wet woodland
- Wood-pasture and parkland
- Traditional orchards
- Scots Pine, self-seeded as well as plantations, often on poor soils or (ex-) heathland sites

Much of the woodland and parkland habitat are within private ownership.

Woodland and parkland provide valuable habitat for a number of protected species and species of conservation concern, and common species, such as higher and lower plants, birds, mammals and invertebrates.

5.3.2 Semi-natural grasslands and heathlands

The Borough supports a range of grassland and heathland habitats including (Waverley Borough Council, 2018a):

- Lowland meadows
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Floodplain grazing marsh
- Lowland heathlands (lowland fens)

These habitats are generally created and maintained through early clearing of woodland to develop agriculture and as such are always in a state of flux, shifting towards successional scrub and young woodland (Waite, 2017).

The rarer habitats, such as lowland calcareous grassland and lowland fens, are often already protected habitats and are managed for conservation purposes, however some pockets of these habitats are likely to be found in private ownership.

These habitats are key to higher and lower plant, invertebrate, mammal, reptile, amphibian and bird species.

5.3.3 Wetlands and watercourses

Wetland is a broad term covering several types of habitats (Waite, 2017). Within the Borough, this includes the following habitats of principal importance (Waverley Borough Council, 2018a; Waverley Borough Council, 2018b):

- Reedbeds
- Rivers
- Standing open water
- Ponds

Key wetland features within the Council's management include Frensham Great Pond, including a reedbed system in this location. Several other waterbodies are present across the borough, with a large population of great crested newt around the Cranleigh area. The Council works with The Environment Agency around the Lammas Land which is managed for overwintering wader species. The site is being grazed during summer months. Weybourne Local Nature Reserve is also a key wetland habitat.

Wetlands are key for higher and lower plant, invertebrate, amphibian, fish, mammal, reptile and bird species.

5.3.4 Farmland

Farmland is abundant in the Borough, with the majority of the borough being rural (Waverley Borough Council, 2018b). Agriculture accounts for 16% of the borough's total business revenue, demonstrating its importance in the local economy. The key habitat of principle importance for biodiversity is arable field margins (Waverley Borough Council, 2018a).

This habitat is key for rare flora species, in addition to bird and invertebrate species.

5.3.5 Amenity spaces

The majority of the population lives in the main urban settlements of Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh (Waverley Borough Council, 2018b). Amenity spaces are those that can be used by members of the public for leisure and in this case also includes cemeteries, churchyards, allotments green spaces within housing estates and senior living areas. Although the primary purpose for these spaces is the provision of amenity to people they provide opportunities for common bird species, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and higher and lower plant and invertebrate species. Opportunities to enhance these for biodiversity also exists.

The majority of cemeteries and church yards are managed by local town or parish councils; however the Council manages Sunvale Cemetery in Haslemere and is also responsible for managing nine closed cemeteries that are important refuges for wildlife.

5.3.6 Road Verges

The Council is responsible for the management of roadside verges across the borough as part of an agency agreement with Surrey County Council highways department. This accounts for over 106 Ha of roadside verges. Road verges support a diversity of habitats and are key to providing connectivity to biodiversity across the landscape. They are important for higher and lower plant species, invertebrates, bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species.

Over 700 species of wildflower grow on the UKs road verges nearly 45% of our total flora. And where wildflowers lead, wildlife follows a multitude of bees, butterflies, birds and bugs.

However, our road verges are under considerable pressure. Priorities for safety and access, alongside budget constraints, a desire for neatness and difficulties with the collection of litter and grass clippings all mean that enhancing their wildlife value is often low on the list.

During 2020 the Council trialed Plantlife's "No Mow May" and "Let it Bloom June" campaigns to start addressing biodiversity losses and to promote our verges as wildlife refuges, over the coming years this will be reviewed and improved to ensure the correct areas are targeted and the initiative embedded as one strand of our overall strategies for wildlife across the Borough.

5.3.7 Hedges

Hedgerows are vital systems of connectivity as they criss-cross the landscape not only providing valuable habitat for our wildlife but connecting other habitats. For example; it's how a dormouse may travel from one patch of woodland to another; providing an important link between copses that are too small to support a viable dormouse population on their own.

Habitat fragmentation limits the distribution of some species and is thought to be a threat to the survival of others in this country. Fragmentation is dangerous as isolated populations are more at risk of local extinction and without corridors the populations cannot recover. The wildlife corridors provided by hedgerows can alleviate negative impacts of this fragmentation by allowing movement between other areas of habitat.

Flying insects like butterflies need sheltered conditions provided by hedges to be able to gain and retain the heat necessary to fly.

Protected Species, such as dormouse, most species of bat and great-crested newt require well connected networks of hedgerows, rather than individual hedgerows, emphasising the importance of hedgerows at a landscape level. Bats use them to commute between roosting and feeding sites and the shelter hedges provide makes it easier for them, and importantly their insect prey, to fly on windy nights. The presence of continuous hedgerows close to maternity roosts is very important for Pipistrelle bats. Bats with limited range echo-location calls rely strongly on continuous landscape features such as hedges for orientation.

Poor quality, gappy hedges are known to be detrimental to several farmland birds.

Understanding the importance of hedgerows in our countryside and promoting the restoration, health and extent of these connectivity superhighways will be crucial in achieving positive biodiversity and working ecological systems.

6 Ecological threats and challenges

One of the biggest threats to Surrey's countryside comes from the climate and ecological emergency. Wildlife habitats are at risk, and many of our native species face extinction. The climate emergency is degrading the natural environment, resulting in the loss of soil fertility and biodiversity. Biodiversity is in decline and a third of Surrey's wildlife is now either extinct or heading that way.

In 2017 the State of Nature Report for Surrey surveyed 4,242 species and concluded that (Waite, 2017):

- 12% were now extinct
- 21% were under threat
- 15% were stable
- 3% were increasing
- 49% were not in trouble

Understanding the ecological threats to biodiversity within Waverley borough is critical in the development of the Biodiversity Policy to ensure that it reflects the actions required to mitigate these.

The ecological threats are presented in Table 3, along with the proposed mitigation in relation to the Biodiversity Policy and the relevant policy number.

Table 3: Ecological threats and challenges and proposed mitigation measures

Ecological Threat and Challenge	Source	Impact on biodiversity	Proposed mitigation relevant to Biodiversity Policy	Relevant Biodiversity policy statement number
Climate change	Increased carbon emissions	Loss in biodiversity Increased invasive non-native species and pests Significant changes to weather patterns including increased drought, flooding, fire risk	Increased habitat resilience Habitat management to improve condition Improved education programme Increased collaboration across community Monitoring of performance Liaison with Development Control to ensure major project and those affecting the Nature Recovery Network (SNCIs) have appropriately considered impacts to biodiversity.	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Pollution	Pesticides, dog fouling, litter, unauthorised motor vehicles, untreated storm-water runoff	Habitat degradation Habitat loss	Increased habitat resilience Habitat management to improve condition Improved education programme Increased collaboration across community Monitoring of performance	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Disturbance	Free roaming dogs Increased visitor use	Disturbance to breeding birds, resulting nest success	Education programme	6, 7, 12
Habitat loss	Unauthorised or inappropriate development of common land	Habitat loss and degradation	Liaison with Development Control to ensure environmental impacts have been considered at the planning level.	5
Inappropriate habitat management	Poorly designed management plan Poorly implemented management plan Lack of management plan High frequency mowing	Habitat degradation Habitat loss	Education programme across the delivery team (contractors and employees) Ensure a recent management plan has been developed for each habitat/open space type and ensure biodiversity measures are incorporated Land within a BOA to be managed in line with the BOA objectives	1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Invasive non-native species and pests	Introduction of invasive non-native species through poor biosecurity measures	Habitat degradation Habitat loss	Development of best practice measures to be shared with employees, contractors and partners across Waverley borough. Implementation of biosecurity measures during habitat management works	1, 6, 7, 10, 14
Resource and investment	Budgetary restrictions	Lack of funding and staff resource to implement management and monitoring strategy.	Enhance volunteer opportunities across the borough. Link these to social prescription opportunities. Identify alternative funding opportunities.	3, 4, 8

7 Vision, aims and objectives

7.1 Vision

In managing its green spaces, the Council's vision is to lead the borough in maximising biodiversity, increasing habitat connectivity across the landscape and providing a central biodiversity community hub to promote, encourage and enhance community engagement and linkages across the borough.

7.2 Aims and objectives

The Biodiversity Policy aims to:

- Ensure open spaces are managed to maximise biodiversity and provide access to diverse open spaces to residents
- Ensure the Council operates within the law and adheres to best practice
- Raise awareness of the benefits and value of good quality, accessible, biodiversity rich open spaces
- Identify priorities for future investment and ensures the best use of available resources
- Plan for and mitigate the effects of climate change
- Support the delivery of local initiatives
- Develop and deliver a robust monitoring strategy

8 Summary of policy statements supporting the Biodiversity Policy

The Biodiversity Policy statements are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Policy statements

Topic	Statement number	Statement
Habitat management	1	The Council will ensure the habitats it manages are in good or very good condition and will prioritise management and habitat creation to maximise biodiversity and connectivity across the landscape.
	2	The Council will ensure there is a current habitat management plan or statement for all sites or habitat types it manages.
Natural Capital Funding	3	The Council will ensure the efficient use of existing resources and identify future opportunities for natural capital delivery and ensure S106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), or any other external funding opportunities are sort to manage and maintain greenspace infrastructure.
	4	Where the Council identifies suitable opportunities to accept biodiversity net gain offset funding on its own land, it will only accept these for projects that deliver a 20% biodiversity net gain.
Planning	5	The Council will ensure Development Control consults the Greenspaces team for planning applications that create new green spaces, have a landscaping strategy, impacts common land and/or adversely impacts a SNCI.
Education	6	The Council will identify training needs and deliver a robust training programme for the organisation to ensure Biodiversity Policy principles are embedded throughout the organisation and all Council activities are delivered in line with best practice and relevant legislation relating to biodiversity.
	7	The Council will lead the development of best practice guidance, in partnership with key

Topic	Statement number	Statement
		stakeholders, for the local community in managing habitats and biodiversity; and ensure its own operations are undertaken following best practice.
	8	The Council will work in partnership with primary care givers and community support teams to deliver green social prescription measures within its green spaces.
Communication	9	The Council will develop a communication strategy in relation to biodiversity initiatives and maintenance works, specifically identifying the objective of the initiative, method of delivery and outcomes.
Partnerships	10	The Council will cultivate positive partnerships across the borough and identify key projects it can support, sharing resources, where possible and proactively engaging with the local community.
	11	The Council will extend data information sharing agreements with external organisations to increase efficiency and accuracy of data used for management and monitoring.
Monitoring	12	The Council will develop a robust and costed monitoring regime across sites or habitats it manages to support and guide their management.
	13	The Council will review this policy every five years, or as required, and will report to Council and the community on the delivery of this Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan.
Third Parties	14	The Council will use whatever mechanisms are available to it, to ensure that third parties maintaining council-owned land, comply with the Biodiversity Policy. Where the council maintains land on behalf of a third party, it will ensure that, as far as possible, the principles of this policy are delivered.

9 Habitat management

9.1 Habitat designation

The green spaces that the Council manages can be broadly divided into three categories:

- Protected sites
- Common land
- Other sites (road verges, housing areas, amenity spaces, parks & recreation grounds and cemeteries and churchyards)

9.1.1 Protected sites

The Council has a legal obligation to look after sites that are protected by law (statutory designated sites). These include SPA, SAC, SSSI and LNR. Higher Level Stewardship funding is used to manage these sites and management plans have been prepared for these. Site management is overseen by the Councils countryside ranger team. Management plans detail the monitoring regime, along with reporting requirements, to ensure the management objectives are being met.

9.1.2 Common land

The Council manages large and small areas of Common land spread across the borough, often the above designations overlap some of these areas of Common land. Accordingly, some of these sites have management plans prepared whilst other areas do not. Site management is overseen by a combination of the Councils countryside ranger team, tree officers and green spaces officers.

9.1.3 Other sites

There is a great variety of these sites across the borough in urban and rural areas, often being the nearest greenspace that resident's access for recreation, leisure and dog walking activities. Site management in the main is overseen by the Councils greenspace and tree officers, however on occasions the countryside ranger team has led volunteer groups. Although in general, most of these sites do not have a management plan in place, most woodland sites have or are in the process of getting, a woodland management plan which incorporates biodiversity (see also Table 6 below).

9.2 Management Plans

Habitat management plans are essential for the successful management of land. They provide an assessment of the biodiversity features present, the ecological threats to

these and detail how they are best managed to maximise biodiversity. The absence of suitable information on the current ecology and habitat condition of a site (baseline condition) makes it challenging to make informed decisions on management measures. Ecological threats such as climate change, habitat degradation and visitor pressures can take some time to result in a measurable change in the local ecology. Therefore, undertaking surveys using a consistent methodology is crucial to ensuring the information collected can be used to make meaningful decisions with regards to management. The absence of data can mean the management measures implemented do not result in the desired effect and are detrimental to the local ecology.

Standard habitat condition assessment methods currently exist, and it is recommended that these are followed consistently across all sites managed by Waverley Borough Council. Surveys would need to be undertaken by experienced and qualified ecologists on a contracted basis.

Once the information is collated it will be possible to determine the priorities in relation to habitat creation and management, focusing on areas that are of poor or moderate condition that, if improved, are essential to creating and enhancing habitat connectivity across the landscape. This could be supported by aerial imagery to identify key areas deficient in habitat connectivity and liaising with community groups. Identifying how these relate to BOAs and BOA policies is also essential for providing a coherent and robust biodiversity approach across the borough.

The absence of a management plan does not mean a site is poorly managed, but does mean it is harder to ensure the management objectives are being understood and also met. The core of this policy is the enhancement and maximisation of biodiversity and habitat connectivity across the Borough, therefore it is vital to ensure that management plans and strategies are prepared for all sites being managed by the council.

9.3 Current status of site management plans with the Council

The Council currently has 23 active management plans and Statements that cover the statutory designated sites and Common land sites it manages (Table 5). Management plans are outdated for four of the Common lands Waverley Borough Council manages. In addition to these site management plans the Council has or is in the process of producing Woodland management plans for most of its woodland sites it manages (Table 6).

Furthermore in order to ensure biodiversity opportunities is maximised across all sites managed by the Council the following management plans should be considered for:

- Parks and recreation grounds
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Housing estates and senior living areas
- Road verges

These management plans or statements do not need to be extensive, however they do need to have clear objectives, detail management measures and include a robust monitoring strategy to report on progress.

Table 5: Site management plans, funding agreements

Sites	Mgt. Plan	Mgt. Statement	Expiry date	Funding agreement expiry dates
Farnham Park SANG	✓	N/A	2025	Grant is under annual extension until ELMs comes on-line
Frensham Great Pond and Common (includes Stoney Jump)	✓	N/A	2025	Grant is under annual extension until ELMs comes on-line
Lammas Lands	✓		2027	Grant is under annual extension until ELMs comes on-line
Blackheath	✓		2024	October 2023
Lower Hanger	No	No	No	N/A
Paradise Wood	N/A	✓	2012	N/A
Ten Acre Wood	N/A	✓	2013	N/A
Summerlands Estate	✓	N/A	2027	N/A
Shackleford Common	✓	N/A	2031	N/A
Phillips Memorial Park	✓	N/A	2021	N/A
Haste Hill Common	N/A	✓	2016	N/A
Shepherds Hill Common	No	No	No	N/A

Sites	Mgt. Plan	Mgt. Statement	Expiry date	Funding agreement expiry dates
Grayswood Common	N/A	✓	2014	N/A
Weydown Common	No	No	No	N/A
Weybourne Nature Reserve	✓	N/A	2028	Grant is under annual extension until ELMs comes on-line
Bealeswood Common	✓	N/A	2029	N/A
Mare Hill Common	✓	N/A	2027	2027
Burnt Hill	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Compton Copse	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Eight Acres	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Hale Reeds	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Laurel Grove	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Moons Hill	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Badshot Lea Pond	✓	N/A	2031	N/A
Snayles Lynch	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Cranleigh Common	✓	N/A		N/A

Table 6: Woodland Management Plans

Woodland Cluster Name	Sites	Mgt. Plan Status	Approval Date	Expiry Date
Haslemere East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight Acres East • Eight Acres West • Marchants Hill • Woodcock Green • Woolmer Hill North • Woolmer Hill South 	Approved	2019	2029
Haslemere West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grayswood Church • Weydown Common • Weycombe Road • Grayswood Common • Clammer Hill • Shepherds Hill Common • Haste Hill Common 	Approved	2019	2029
Frensham Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frensham Common and Flashes 	Approved	2020	2030
Farnham North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farnham Park 	Yet to be finalised	Due 2023	NA
Farnham South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilford • Dockenfield 	Yet to be finalised	Due 2023	NA
Mare Hill Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mare Hill Common 	Approved	2018	2028
Godalming North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Gore Woods • Binscombe Open Space • Broadwater Park 	Approved	2021	2031

Woodland Cluster Name	Sites	Mgt. Plan Status	Approval Date	Expiry Date
Godalming South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amberley copse • Aarons Hill • Bargate Wood • Holloway Hill 	Approved	2020	2030
Godalming West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shackleford Heath 	Approved	2020	2030
Blackheath Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackheath Common 	Yet to be finalised	Due 2023	NA
Northeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonersh Common • Phillips Hatch • Norley • Lordshill Common • Stroud Common & roadsides • Rushett Common to Birtley Green 	Approved	2016	2026
Southeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upfold Lane • Windmill Common • Kiln Copse • Barhatch/Brookhurst Road • Baynards • Ellens Green 	Approval waiting	Due 2022	NA

Maintaining current and comprehensive site management plans and woodland management plans will allow the Council to deliver its Biodiversity Policy coherently across the borough, provide leadership to other landowners and will inform the public on the Council's progress in delivering this Biodiversity Policy.

Policy statement 1

The Council will ensure habitats it manages are in good or very good condition and will prioritise management and habitat creation to maximise biodiversity and connectivity across the landscape.

Policy statement 2

The Council will ensure there is a current habitat management plan or statement for all sites or habitats types it manages.

10 Natural Capital Funding

10.1 Existing Funding Sources

The main source of funding for Parks and Countryside management works is obtained through the Councils Revenue and Capital budget programme. The Parks and Countryside team plan revenue spending in line with service priorities and submitting annual capital bids to cover projects requiring additional funding where revenue budgets are unable to cover costs.

The costs of managing key green spaces are partially covered by Higher Level Stewardship grants, and this will gradually be transferred to the Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes in the future. These schemes should be supplemented by Council budgets in order to fully meet all the management objectives.

10.2 Other funding sources

Other sources of funding include CIL which is a charge to support the new infrastructure required to support new development and Section 106 agreements.

Natural Capital funding opportunities refers to financial investments to conserve the value of the natural environment for the long term (Natural Capital Coalition, 2016). Opportunities to attract Natural Capital funding should be explored by the Council to contribute towards the funding of managing open spaces.

10.3 Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity net gain is a method of determining whether development will leave a positive impact to biodiversity. The Environment Bill has received Royal Assent in 2021 and following a two year transition period all eligible planning applications will need to demonstrate projects will result in a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity net gain is calculated and interpreted following eight principles and rules, as defined in (Parks, et al., 2021).

This is further supported by (CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2019) that details, among other things, how to implement biodiversity net gain good practice principles within each stage of a development project's life cycle. The key principles referred to as the mitigation hierarchy must be implemented to habitats and species throughout a project life-cycle. These are to:

- Avoid impacts where possible through careful project design
- Minimise impacts where these cannot be avoided

- Restore habitats that are retained or could be impacted by the development
- **As a last resort**, compensate for the loss of or damage to habitats. As a priority these should be compensated for on site, and if this is not possible, offsite offsets can be considered.

The current rate of habitat loss due to development, urbanisation and land use change puts significant pressure on biodiversity (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019). The State of Surrey's Nature report reflects the continued threat to biodiversity at a local level (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2019c). It is therefore key to ensure ambitious targets are set to halt, and where possible reverse, biodiversity declines within the Borough.

Surrey Nature Partnership (SNP) is a Local Nature Partnership that is formally recognised by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and has the purpose of championing the value of the natural environment in decision-making at all levels. In November 2020, Surrey Nature Partnership produced a position statement recommending that Surrey's planning authorities adopt a 20% minimum biodiversity net gain for all development (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2020a).

In reviewing the appropriate level of gain, Surrey Nature Partnership assessed:

- Evidence from the national cost/benefit analysis (DEFRA, 2018)
- Surrey's rate of biodiversity loss (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2019c)
- Natural capital approach (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2015b)

DEFRA indicates in its cost benefit analysis that 10% is the **lowest level** of net gain that is required to deliver a genuine net gain or a no net loss; whilst the Natural Capital Committee "indicates that a net gain of 10% or above is necessary to give reasonable confidence in halting biodiversity (Natural Capital Committee, 2019)."

The Council wishes to support developments that incorporate ambitious opportunities for biodiversity. This can be achieved by using land managed by the Council to deliver biodiversity net gain offsets required by developments that cannot deliver these on site. However, where these opportunities are identified, the Council will review the information provided by the ecologist and ensure this has followed the mitigation hierarchy and delivers a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain reflecting the recommendations from Surrey Nature Partnership. Opportunities also need to link to local priorities, such as reflecting the BOA policies or other initiatives, where these are relevant.

10.4 Biodiversity net gain income

Delivering biodiversity net gain offsets for third parties can provide a source of income for the Council. This is currently a very relevant area of discussion and development across conservation organisations and over the next few years will become an established part of planning processes.

Considering the above, a number of developers will be seeking biodiversity offsets to meet their biodiversity offsetting obligations. This could provide a source of income for Waverley Borough Council. In order to determine the potential income that could be generated, Waverley Borough Council will need to understand the potential biodiversity units that could be delivered within its land-holding. To achieve this, Waverley Borough Council could:

- Develop a register of offset opportunities by establishing current baseline biodiversity units, identifying measures to improve habitat condition and determining the likely biodiversity units that can be delivered with the implementation of these management measures.
- Liaise with the Development Control team to identify third parties requiring offset opportunities.

Of note, the income generated through the biodiversity net gain scheme can only be used for habitat improvements to generate biodiversity net gains and cannot be used for other purposes. Waverley Borough Council would need to do a cost-benefit analysis looking at different funding opportunities to determine the most economically viable options.

The Council's Greenspaces team will therefore need to liaise regularly with the Development Control team, to ensure that such opportunities are identified.

Policy statement 3

The Council will ensure the efficient use of existing resources and identify future opportunities for natural capital delivery and ensure S106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), or any other external funding opportunities are appropriate to manage and maintain greenspace infrastructure.

Policy statement 4

Where the Council identifies suitable opportunities to accept biodiversity net gain offset funding on its own land, it will only accept these for projects that deliver a 20% biodiversity net gain.

11 Planning

11.1 Planning Policy

Development Control is a core service within the Council to deliver priorities for biodiversity throughout the borough. The Local Plan (Part 1 and Part 2) detail planning policies that relate to biodiversity that new developments need to consider, however collaboration across all Council's services is essential to ensure biodiversity is protected and enhanced throughout all activities within the borough.

Currently there is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that is being prepared by the Council's Planning Policy team, this details how the Council will consider climate change when assessing planning applications.

The SPD will provide further guidance to support the following policies in the adopted Local Plan Part 1:

- Policy CC1: Climate Change
- Policy CC2: Sustainable Construction and Design
- Policy CC3: Renewable Energy Development
- Policy ST1: Sustainable Transport

The SPD is expected to cover the following:

- Use of renewable and low carbon energy supply systems in new developments
- Site layout, orientation of buildings and the landscape
- Climate change resilience and adaptation
- Use of sustainable resources and materials and sustainable management of waste
- Water efficiency
- Design to encourage use of sustainable forms of transport

Our planning policy service have indicated that the section on 'site layout, orientation of buildings and the landscape', is intended to provide guidance on trees, landscaping, local food growing, green infrastructure, integrating green infrastructure into development, linking of green spaces to make wildlife corridors and biodiversity net gain in green and blue infrastructure.

11.2 Consultation

More specifically, some of the major applications involve the creation of green spaces (e.g., green infrastructure, Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANG)) which

will need to be managed by the Council therefore it is important that input is provided at the earliest opportunity to ensure this reflects the Council's policy requirements.

Development Control should liaise with the Parks & Countryside team, requesting consultation responses for all major applications and applications where landscaping strategies have been submitted and any applications where SNCIs or common land are likely to be adversely impacted by a proposed development.

The Parks & Countryside team will then review the information to determine whether appropriate objectives have been considered in line with the Biodiversity Policy, BOA policies, local biodiversity objectives, have appropriately considered green infrastructure design and considered how the plans would contribute towards climate change resilience.

Policy statement 5

The Council will ensure the planning department consults the Greenspaces team for planning applications that create new open spaces, have a landscaping strategy, impact common land and/or adversely impact a SNCI.

12 Education

12.1 Securing successful delivery of policy

Education is critical for promoting climate action such that people can understand and address the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises. Whilst the Council can be a leader in taking action, the successful delivery of this Biodiversity Policy is to ensure that all employees and residents develop and enhance their knowledge, skills, values and attitudes required to combat climate change.

The key areas of education are:

- Within the Council such that the policy principles can be embedded within the organisation
- For town and parish councils, and other local groups, so that they are supported in delivering biodiversity initiatives consistently throughout the borough and following the latest best-practice guidance
- For residents to inspire and guide these so that they better connect with biodiversity and open spaces, and their physical and mental health can benefit

12.2 Methods of achieving education

12.2.1 Within the Council

To ensure the Biodiversity Policy is adhered to and embedded across the organisation and its activities, the Council needs to identify training needs for its Members, workforce and contractors, specifically targeted for each team such that they can understand the relevance to their role.

This can be achieved by supporting well-resourced, knowledgeable and well-trained specialist staff who consult with the teams across the organisation and develop a bespoke training programme. Key biodiversity champions across different sectors of the organisation can also be identified that inspire others to take action. Through this process, employees and contractors will be made aware of relevant legislation and policies so they understand their responsibilities and can make informed decisions that ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity throughout the borough. For some employees and contractors their actions can directly impact biodiversity, for example where they undertake habitat management, whilst for others such as office based staff, the link between their actions and biodiversity may be less obvious. It is therefore essential to consult with the staff before training is provided to understand the training needs.

12.2.2 Town and Parish Councils

Town and Parish Councils, along with other stakeholders, were consulted on the biodiversity policy. A key theme that emerged as part of the consultation was the need for the Council to lead on biodiversity action and provide support in terms of best practice guidance. Many of the Town and Parish Councils have been developing their own biodiversity strategies and policies reflected in Neighbourhood Plans and other initiatives (Table 1). Throughout the consultation resources was identified as a limitation to delivering biodiversity enhancements at a local scale, with volunteers playing a key role for the delivery of habitat management at a local level. As detailed above, having a consistent approach across the borough is core to maximising biodiversity, therefore the Council can support Town and Parish Councils by ensuring these groups are invited to send representatives to the many County Council led forums including access to the Natural Nature Partnership and Land managers groups as well as other partnership meetings hosted by organisations such as the Wildlife trusts and National Trust to provide information sharing and development opportunities.

12.2.3 Residents

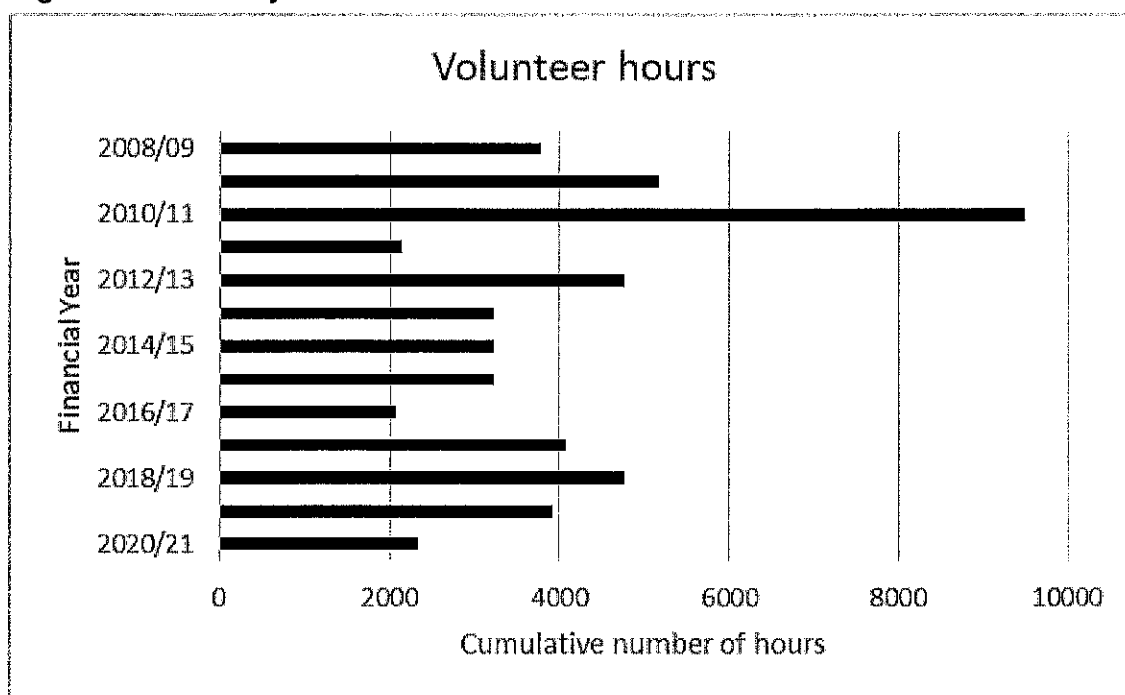
The Council can support residents in promoting biodiversity by:

- Increasing its engagement with volunteers
- Promoting community involvement with Greenspaces and their management
- Identifying measures that businesses, residents and landowners can implement to benefit biodiversity

12.3 Benefits for the Council with Volunteer work

Volunteers play a crucial role in delivering habitat management across green spaces within the Borough. Currently the Council has around 300 registered volunteers, with numbers increasing year on year. In the period between April 2019 and April 2020, the Council ran 143 volunteer sessions across 13 sites, thus gaining nearly 4000 volunteer hours over this time. Over the last 13 years, volunteers have contributed 53,000 hours to the Council, saving the organisation over £513,000 (Figure 4). Volunteer effort is therefore critical for the promotion of biodiversity and benefits the local community through physical and mental health well-being. Current volunteer programmes take place on sites that have the highest profile and greatest wildlife interest, including Frensham Common, Farnham Park, Mare Hill Common and Blackheath Common. Less frequent sessions take place on selected other council sites which have a particularly strong local community interest.

Figure 4: Summary of volunteer hours between FY 2008/2009 and 2020/2021



The sessions are open to all and are advertised on the Council webpages, site posters, and in some instances through collaboration with a local residents association. They are well received and attended by both local residents and also those living further afield. People value the opportunity to be involved in improving their local greenspaces and also to work on sites of high conservation status.

The work carried out by volunteers during these sessions is varied, but has a strong focus on habitat improvements and species conservation. Volunteers assist the Council with clearing scrub from protected heathland, improving ponds for great crested newt and other species, removing invasive plant species from valuable wetland habitats, and woodland management such as clearing sunny glades, coppicing, and thinning of saplings. They are also involved in specific habitat creation projects such as sowing wildflower meadows, constructing a tern raft and building bug hotels.

Away from practical tasks, the Council has also recruited a number of volunteers to carry out wildlife surveys on their key sites. These roles involve visiting the designated site on a regular basis, either during a fixed term period or all year round, and recording sightings of a particular wildlife group such as birds or butterflies. These records are then sent to the Council, and in some cases also national recording bodies, and collated to provide a picture of the current status of those species groups recorded. This data allows the Council to monitor trends, evaluate the impact of site

management works, and if necessary modify habitat management proposals accordingly.

Volunteers enable the Council to make improvements to sites, and undertake projects for which there would otherwise be staff or budgetary constraints. They thus help the Council to do more with their resources and to complete a wider range of projects. Volunteering enables residents to have a direct role in the management of their local greenspace, thus gaining a greater appreciation and understanding of the special interest of the site in question, and the Council's management objectives and practices. This involvement opens up channels for dialogue between the Council and local communities, and results in greater levels of trust and co-operation. This can lead to an increased awareness and more responsible behaviour from site visitors who act as the Council's eyes and ears.

12.4 Health and well being

The benefits of countryside volunteering extend beyond physical improvements to the Council's greenspaces. The considerable health benefits of outdoor exercise, both mental and physical, are widely accepted. Volunteers have the opportunity to meet people and socialise whilst learning new skills, discovering new places, and making a positive difference to their local environment. In a recent study published by Public Health England, 10% of medication prescribed to individuals has no or a harmful effect on the individual (Ridge, 2021).

Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of being outdoors for people's physical and mental health and also the inequality of access to green spaces. Ridge's review and the NHS Long-term Plan (NHS, 2019) recognises the need to increase social prescribing in tackling the over-prescription of medication and better linkages across the community to ensure individual needs are met. In relation to biodiversity, the Council has an opportunity to develop and enhance programmes that deliver social prescription using nature-based interventions and activities such as community gardening, green gyms and food-growing projects. In order to inform the design of these programmes, consultation with existing volunteers is required to improve the service and ensure biodiversity needs are being met, as well as objectives for the individuals supporting the Council. The Council would need to consider the review to determine required amendments to ensure objectives are being met.

Policy statement 6

The Council will identify training needs for the organisation to ensure Biodiversity Policy principles are embedded throughout the organisation and all Council activities are delivered in line with best practice and relevant legislation relating to biodiversity.

Policy statement 7

The Council will lead the development of best practice guidance, in partnership with key stakeholders, for the local community in managing habitat and biodiversity; and ensure its own operations are undertaken following best practice.

Policy statement 8

The Council will work in partnership with primary care givers and community support teams to deliver green social prescription measures within its open spaces.

13 Communication

Whilst effective communication on climate change and the biodiversity crisis are essential in taking action, evidence suggests engaging on climate change can be challenging (Corner & Shaw, 2018). The uncertainty of climate change modelling and its impact on biodiversity, distant impacts that do not affect day to day life and the absence of public and political discourse are key issues in communicating climate change and the biodiversity crisis to the public. Notwithstanding this, the Council residents are engaged with the need for climate change action therefore it is key to ensure the communication strategy is developed to maintain and enhance this engagement. In preparing the communication strategy, the Council will embed the following principles for effective communication on climate change and biodiversity crisis:

- Being sensitive to public opinion
- Relating information to areas that matter to the Borough residents, such as health and well-being
- Outline clear objectives for new initiatives and report on the outcome so that residents can see the achievements within their own communities
- Collating and sharing positive stories across the community

Policy statement 9

The Council will develop a communication strategy in relation to biodiversity initiatives and maintenance works, specifically identifying the objective of the initiative, method of delivery and outcomes.

14 Collaborative and partnership working

14.1 Successful policy delivery

To ensure the successful delivery of this policy the Council must work in a collaborative manner, not only across the various services within the Council but also with external partners.

In order to meet its biodiversity obligations the Council must ensure that the distinct services primarily of Planning, Housing and Parks & Countryside but not limited to, are working together to ensure consistency in approach and that work is complimentary.

The Council works with several key partners throughout the borough. These are presented in Appendix 3. The successful delivery of this Biodiversity Policy requires collaboration across the borough with our key partners. This is one of the core outcomes of the stakeholder meetings undertaken in September and October 2021. Local initiatives through Town and Parish Councils, businesses and landowners are being delivered throughout the borough and the Council has an opportunity to play a significant role in supporting these.

14.2 Collaborative working within the Council

Collaborative working across all Council services is essential to the delivery of this Biodiversity Policy and its objectives.

Whilst Development Control does review planning applications in relation to their impacts on biodiversity, consultation with the Parks & Countryside team specifically in the design and management of open spaces, green infrastructure and landscaping plans does not currently consistently occur. It is therefore essential this consultation occurs, particularly for major developments where new open spaces will be created and where the Council will ultimately be responsible for managing these.

Additionally where our Housing Development team are planning new developments within the borough, there needs to be a thorough cross service consultation on the design of the developments and their associated greenspaces and provision for gardens.

14.3 Developing partnerships priorities and initiatives

To achieve this, the Council will need to have a good understanding of initiatives proposed and being undertaken within the borough. The development of a mapping system that allows members of the community to identify local initiatives will be an

efficient method informing the Council of their existence. Information collected could include:

- Project location
- Aims of the initiative
- Project details
- Key outcomes for biodiversity
- Start and end dates
- Whether the project requires external funding or resources

This information will allow the Council to determine the type of support that can be provided, and prioritise this support based on the objectives and whether this directly reflects the objectives of the Biodiversity Policy. This will also allow resource sharing to be identified for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of these initiatives.

14.4 Stakeholder consultation

Furthermore, in order to understand community needs, the Council will consult annually with relevant stakeholders and residents specifically in relation to:

- The delivery of programmes to enhance biodiversity and community engagement
- Upcoming major works and management of greenspaces to benefit biodiversity to ensure clear aims and outcomes are being communicated
- Identifying additional methods that the Council can develop and enhance partnerships

As previously mentioned the effective delivery of habitat management measures requires a robust monitoring programme, but also excellent data on which to make informed decisions. Data is being collected by a number of stakeholders and although there is a central repository at Surrey Biological Information Centre (SBIC), the Council has an opportunity to extend and enhance the data sharing agreements with its partners. Where relevant and possible, these data sharing agreements will be updated.

Policy statement 10

The Council will cultivate positive partnerships across the borough and identify key projects it can support, sharing resources, where possible and proactively engaging with the local community.

Policy statement 11

The Council will extend data information sharing agreements with external organisations to increase efficiency and accuracy of data used for management and monitoring.

15 Monitoring

15.1 Monitoring frequency

The importance of monitoring in relation to management plans has previously been referred to in Section 5 and it is key element to the Council realising its biodiversity ambitions. In order to be effective and efficient in the delivery of the Biodiversity Policy action plan, the Council will need to ensure that the delivery is monitored regularly.

At a corporate level this will be achieved by the reporting required for the Corporate Strategy delivery and at the service level this will be achieved by the quarterly updates given by the Head of service reporting to the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

Throughout the year officers will record against the action plan the status of delivery of each of the action points listed and record and report on any net gains on an annual basis.

15.2 SNCI reporting

SNCIs form part of the key ecological assets across the borough, of which there are 170 sites and are central to delivering the UK government's Nature Recovery Network (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2020).

The aim of the Nature Recovery Network is to:

- Enhance sites designated for nature conservation using habitat restoration and creation, enhancing corridors and develop stepping stones so that wildlife can move across the landscape.
- Improve the landscape's resilience to climate change
- Reinforcing natural and cultural diversity across the landscape
- Benefitting health and well-being

The majority of SNCIs in the borough are in private ownership, with some being managed by the Council. SNCIs are protected under the planning system under policy NE1 of the Local Plan Part 1 that protects them from direct and indirect impacts from development. Their lack of statutory protection does not lessen their importance and nor should it lessen the perception of their importance as they play a vital role in conserving the natural heritage and form important linkages between core habitat areas, thus their protection and management is key to delivering a resilience landscape for biodiversity recovery and form part of the Nature Recovery Network.

DEFRA published guidance in 2006 with respect to monitoring SNCIs (DEFRA, 2006) which is further updated by Surrey Nature Partnership (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2019b). Monitoring should aim to identify whether the habitats within the SNCIs are in good or very good condition, and where they are not determine remedial management activities to ensure habitat quality and biodiversity are maximised (Gibbs, 2008). Sites supporting woodland should be monitored every 10 years, whilst those with grasslands and other less stable habitats should be monitored every five years.

To date the Council does not have an SNCI monitoring strategy therefore this will be developed as part of this Biodiversity Policy. The monitoring programme could be undertaken over a five-year period with key Council owned sites prioritised to reflect the objectives of this biodiversity strategy, specifically ensuring connectivity is enhanced across the landscape. This should also be phased with the Local Plan review cycle (Surrey Nature Partnership, 2019b).

As indicated under section 7, where an SNCI is likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by a proposed development, the Development Control team will liaise with the greenspaces team to ensure impacts have been appropriately considered, and mitigation measures developed.

In order to ensure this policy retains its relevance, it will be reviewed every five years.

Policy statement 12

The Council will develop a costed monitoring regime across all sites it manages to support and guide their management.

16 Third Parties

16.1 Devolution

Where land is transferred to Town and Parish councils through devolution; the Council will ensure the expectations with regard to the implementation of this Biodiversity Policy are communicated to these bodies and seek to negotiate covenants within the transfers. The Council will encourage the adoption of this Biodiversity Policy for future land maintenance.

16.2 Council land managed by other parties

Land leased out to sports clubs or other community organisations; the Council will ensure the expectations with regard to the implementation of this Biodiversity Policy are communicated to these bodies and will seek to influence these organisations. The Council will encourage the adoption of this Biodiversity Policy.

16.3 Land owned by other landholders

Where the Council carries out work on either land owned by other landowners, either by lease arrangements or agency agreements; the Council will ensure that the biodiversity policy principles are implemented as far as is possible.

Where management works are undertaken on behalf of a Highway Authority, the Council will continue to offer opportunities to enhance sites for biodiversity and increase connectivity across the landscape. This will ensure:

- Biodiversity is prioritised across all activities undertaken by the Council
- Appropriate training and information is provided to all involved; such as staff, volunteers and contractors

Policy statement 14

We will use whatever mechanisms are available to ensure that third parties maintaining council-owned land to comply with the Biodiversity Policy. Where the council maintains land on behalf of a third party, will ensure that, as far as possible, the principles of this policy are delivered.

Note: It is recognised that existing lease arrangements may be difficult and also financially costly to alter, in order to fully implement this Biodiversity Policy. In these cases; the Council would seek to educate and influence third parties wherever possible.

17 Policy review and delivery

17.1 Review timeframe

In order to ensure the policy is being delivered as per the action plan and reflects current trends and understanding, **it will be reviewed by the Greenspaces team every five years, or as required.**

Councillors responsible for the parks & countryside portfolio will also assist in the review of the document.

17.2 Policy delivery

Officers will report on the delivery of the policy every five years to the Council, however officers will be able to provide informal updates as and when requested.

Policy statement 13

The Council will review this policy every five years, or as required, and will report to Council and the community on the delivery of this Biodiversity Policy.

18 Glossary

Term	Definition
Climate change	Change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (obtained from (UNFCCC, 1992))
Biodiversity	The variety of life on Earth and natural patterns it forms (obtained from (United Nations, 2020)
Mitigate	Measures that avoid, reduce or manage negative effects (Natural England, 2021)
Natural Capital	Natural capital includes certain stocks of the elements of nature that have value to society, such as forests, fisheries, rivers, biodiversity, land and minerals. Natural capital includes both the living and non-living aspects of ecosystems. (obtained from (HM Treasury, 2020)
Biodiversity net gain	Approach to development and/or land management that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand (obtained from (CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2019)
Biodiversity offset	Conservation activities that are designed to give biodiversity benefits to compensate for losses - ensuring that when a development damages nature (and this damage cannot be avoided or mitigated) new nature sites will be created. Where appropriate, biodiversity offsetting is an option available to developers to fulfil their obligations under the planning system's mitigation hierarchy (obtained from (Natural England, 2013).

19 Acronyms

BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Area
CIEEM	Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
ELM	Environmental Land Management
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NHS	National Health Service
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SANG	Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
SBIC	Surrey Biological Information Records Centre
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

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Appendix 1: Legislative Context

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Provides for the protection of Natura 2000 sites (SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites), European Protected Species and habitats. European Protected Species are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, injury or killing
- Deliberate disturbance of a European Protected Species, such that it impairs their ability to breed, reproduce or rear their young, hibernate or migrate or significantly affect their local distribution or abundance
- Deliberately take or destroy effect
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange any live, dead or part of a European Protected Species

European Protected Species include, but are not limited to:

- Great crested newt
- Natterjack toad
- Otter
- Smooth snake
- Sand lizard
- All bat species
- Hazel dormouse

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Key piece of legislation consolidating existing wildlife legislation to incorporate the requirements of the Bern Convention and Birds Directive. It includes additional protection measures for species listed under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and includes a list of species protected under the Act. It also provides for the designation and protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Development which would adversely affect a SSSI is not acceptable except only in special cases, where the importance of a development outweighs the impact on the SSSI when planning conditions or obligations would be used to mitigate the impact. Developments likely to impact on a SSSI will likely require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) dataset is a GIS tool which details zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and specifies the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts. Natural England uses the IRZs to make an initial assessment of the likely risk of impacts on SSSIs and to quickly determine which consultations are unlikely to pose risks and which require more detailed consideration. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have a duty to consult Natural England before granting planning permission on any development that is in or likely to affect a SSSI.

Further information on specific legislation relating to species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is detailed below, under Protection of Protected Species and Habitats.

Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000

Amends and strengthens the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It also details habitats and species for which conservation measures should be promoted.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the Act places a duty on local authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England whilst carrying out their normal functions. Section 41 comprises a list of Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) and Species of Principal Importance (SPIs) which should be considered.

Hedgerows Regulations 1997

Under these regulations it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly remove, or cause or permits another person to remove, a hedgerow. Important hedgerows are defined in Section 4 of the Regulations. This includes hedgerows that have existed for over 30 years or satisfies at least one criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1.

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

Under this act wild mammals are protected from the intentional unnecessary suffering by crushing and asphyxiation.

The Commons Act 2006

Details the provisions made about common land and town or village greens.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Details the general duties that employers have towards employees and members of the public, and those that employees have to themselves and each other. A number of regulations also apply including waste management, noise, hazardous waste, Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Reservoirs Act 1975

Details provisions against escapes of water from large reservoirs or lakes artificially created or enlarged. In line with this, councils have the responsibility of taking water level readings, ensuring sluices and outfalls are maintained and cleared. Regular inspections are undertaken by council engineers and the Inspector of Dams.

Bathing Water Regulations 2013, as amended

Details information on the expected water quality at bathing waters. The information is displayed on water safety signs at Frensham Common and on the Waverley Borough Council website.

Appendix 2: Background information on sites managed by Waverley Borough Council

Sites	Designation	Management plan expiry	Funding	Key habitat	Key species	Current monitoring	Current partnerships
Frencsham Common (Including Stony Jump)	SPA, SAC, SSSI, LNR (Churt Common), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Country Park	2030	Higher Level Stewardship	Heathland	Reptiles Amphibians Birds Invertebrates Mammals Plants	SSSI assessment Fixed point photography since 2006 (with specific reference to erosion at Kings Ridge)	Volunteers Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group National Trust Surrey Botanical Society Surrey Heathland Project Surrey Bird Club
Mare Hill Common	SSSI, SPA and SAC, SNCI, AONB Green Belt Biodiversity Opportunity Area	2027	Countryside Stewardship	Heathland	Reptiles (sand lizard and common reptile species) Amphibians Birds (woodlark, Dartford warbler, nightjar) Invertebrates (silver studded blue) Mammals Plants (higher and lower plants) (dodder, bog asphodel, ling heather, bell heather, bilberry, <i>Phelloden niger</i> , <i>Phelloden melaleuca</i> , <i>Hydneillum conrescens</i> , <i>Fomitopsis pinicola</i>)	Volunteer research NVC Survey 2016 Annual Butterfly survey On-going Breeding Bird survey Recording of aculeates and fungi by local experts	SARG Butterfly Conservation Trust
Blackheath Common	SSSI AONB Green Belt Common Land	2024	Higher Level Stewardship	Heathland	Birds Invertebrate	Natural England site assessments NVC Survey 2016	National Trust Natural England
Farnham Park Medieval Deer Park	LNR SNCI SANG	2024	Higher Level Stewardship	Wood pasture Grassland	Reptiles Amphibians Invertebrates Plants (higher and lower)	Volunteers (annual weekly butterfly count)	
Lammas Lands	SNCI	2027	Higher Level Stewardship	Floodplain Meadow	Birds Invertebrate Mammals (otter) Plants	Historical survey by Surrey Wildlife Trust in 1994 Invertebrate survey (2001)	Surrey Wildlife Trust

Sites	Designation	Management plan expiry	Funding	Key habitat	Key species	Current monitoring	Current partnerships
						NVC (ad hoc since 2011) Bird surveys	
Weybourne	LNR Green Belt	2028	Higher Level Stewardship	Fen and unimproved grassland	Amphibians Birds Plants	NVC survey 2009 Hydrological survey 2009 NVC survey 2021	
Farnham Park	SANG	2025	None			None	
Bealeswood Common	Common land	2029	None			Regular recording of plants, butterflies, birds by local residents NVC survey 2021	
Bagshot Lea Pond	Common land	2030	None			None	
Broadwater Park	Common land	2025	None			None	
Cranleigh Common and Lucks Green	Common land	2028	None			NVC survey 2020	
Grayswood Common	Common land	2014	None			None	
Haste Hill	Common land	2016	None			None	
Lower Hanger		2003	None	Part ASNW		None	
Paradise Wood		2012	None			None	
Summerlands Estate		2027	None	Part ASNW		NVC survey 2020	Active Residents Association volunteer group
Shackleford	Common land	2030	None			NVC survey 2021	
Phillips Memorial Park	Common land	None	None			None	

Appendix 3: Waverley Borough Council Partnerships

Partner	Role
Noel Moss and the Bourne Conservation Group	<p>This group was set up by a resident of the Bourne in 2002 as part of a scheme run by the environmental charity Earthwatch, with the aim of improving the condition of Waverley Borough Council owned Paradise Wood, through which the founder regularly walked. The first project undertaken by the newly formed group was to clear invasive cherry laurel and rhododendron from Paradise Wood, and they formed a strong relationship with Waverley Borough Council which has continued to the present day. The group has grown and expanded, and they now work on a number of sites in the Bourne, both on behalf of Waverley Borough Council and other landowners. With the agreement of Waverley Borough Council, they carry out one or two work days a year on Waverley Borough Council owned woodlands in the Bourne, and also carry out <i>ad hoc</i> works on Langhams Recreation Ground. As well as carrying out practical work, they take an active role in surveying the wildlife in their patch, and have carried out several moth surveys in Waverley Borough Council owned Ten Acre Wood.</p> <p>Waverley Borough Council's partnership with the Bourne Conservation Group enables more practical habitat management and wildlife surveying to be carried out on their sites in this area than would otherwise be possible, and therefore helps the Council to manage these sites to a higher standard for biodiversity. The partnership also provides Waverley Borough Council with a vital link to the local community, increasing local awareness in the Bourne of its sites in and their management, and providing a channel for local residents to highlight issues and concerns.</p>
Surrey Amphibian Reptile Group (SARG)	SARG assists Waverley Borough Council with amphibian and reptile surveys on a number of its sites. This partnership enables these species groups to be surveyed more thoroughly than would otherwise be possible, and for Waverley Borough Council to have access to a comprehensive and up to date data set on herptile species on several its key sites.
Amphibian Reptile Conservation	<p>ARC has worked in partnership with Waverley Borough Council to re-introduce the threatened sand lizard to Mare Hill Common, with the aim of establishing a viable breeding population. Suitable heathland habitat was identified, and 50 juvenile sand lizards were released each year from 2011 to 2013 inclusive. Subsequent surveys in 2014 identified a number of juveniles, which were indicative of a successfully breeding population. ARC also assist Waverley Borough Council in maintaining the heathland in and around the release site in an optimal condition for this species through bringing their large team of experienced volunteers to Mare Hill for a day each winter to undertake scrub clearance.</p> <p>Waverley Borough Council's partnership with ARC has directly facilitated an increased diversity of reptile species on Mare Hill Common, and their ongoing assistance enables the Council to ensure that the introduced sand lizard population continues to thrive. ARC have also added Council rangers to their protected species licence issued by Natural England for the surveying of sand lizard, smooth snake and natterjack toad, which saves Waverley Borough Council undertaking the administration of obtaining this licence independently. WBC have management agreements with ARC for areas on both Blackheath Common and Frensham Great Pond and Common.</p>
National Trust	<p>National Trust is not only a partner in the local area but is also owns Frensham Great Pond and Common which Waverley Borough Council manages.</p> <p>Together, National Trust and Waverley Borough Council develop management plans for these sites and identifies significant works, changes, infrastructure and development which need to be approved by National Trust before Waverley Borough Council can deliver the work. A close partnership is essential to ensure threats and opportunities are responded to such that the sites are managed to protect and enhance the biodiversity.</p>
Natural England	Natural England is responsible for ensuring SSSIs remain in favourable condition. Waverley Borough Council works closely with Natural England across the SSSIs it manages to ensure Management Plans are approved and delivered in line with their guidelines and expertise. Any works that could impact a SSSI require consent from Natural England and in preparing the management plans, works are agreed and consented. A new grant scheme, Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme will be put in place in 2023, through which excellent partnerships will be maintained and enhanced.
Surrey Wildlife Trust	Surrey Wildlife Trust's mission is to restore nature across the county. This is achieved through the management of reserves, but also forging strong partnerships across the county. Waverley Borough Council has engaged Surrey Wildlife Trust to develop this biodiversity policy, and liaises with the Ecology Planning Advice Service to ensure planning applications appropriately consider impacts to ecology before determining applications.

Appendix 4 Proposed action plan and timescales

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
Habitat management	1	The Council will ensure habitat it manages is in good or very good condition and will prioritise management and habitat creation to maximise biodiversity and connectivity across the landscape.	Collate existing habitat condition information to determine current condition	Undertake an audit of the information that the Council holds on habitat conditions. This will involve reviewing the existing management plans and noting information gaps with regards to habitat condition.	1	Greenspaces team, and where appropriate other Services	Low	The Council will have a comprehensive list of habitat conditions and will be able to focus resources on areas most requiring improvement and connectivity.	None
			Survey the habitats for which baseline condition is not available	Develop a survey programme across habitats and sites in line with best practice guidance. This can be done in consultation with external consultants and to ensure cost-effective delivery would involve volunteer effort, internal staff and some support from consultancy staff.	10	Greenspaces team, volunteers and external consultants	Medium to High	Comprehensive understanding of the biodiversity present at each site and within habitats. Implement adaptive management that responds to key changes identified on sites. Demonstrating improvements in biodiversity and habitat condition.	Additional resources are required to deliver this.
			Identify priorities for improvement of habitat condition to improve connectivity across the borough	Use the survey information to prioritise habitat management across the borough.	10	Greenspaces team, Housing Development team and where appropriate other Services	Low	More efficient use of resources. Delivery of coherent biodiversity strategy across the borough.	None
			Identify opportunities for habitat creation to enhance habitat connectivity across the borough.	Use the survey information to prioritise habitat creation across the borough.	10	Greenspaces team, Housing Development team and liaison with Surrey County Council	Low	Ensures any habitat creation meets local biodiversity objectives. Maximises connectivity across the landscape.	None
			Identify existing funding mechanisms and review areas	Audit of current funding mechanisms across all sites and	5	Greenspaces team, Housing development and where	Low	More efficient use of resources.	None

¹ Low = £0 - £5,000, Medium = £5001 - £50,000, High = > £50,001

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
	2	The Council will ensure there is a current habitat management plan or statement for all sites or habitat types it manages.	where funding has been deficient so that these can be prioritised as part of future funding cycles.	habitats, and identification of how these can be prioritised in areas where funding has been deficient.		appropriate other Services			
			Identify which sites or habitats require a management plan or strategy, preparing these and keeping them up-to-date	Undertake an audit of the sites and habitats the Council manages and determine whether a current management plan has been prepared	5	Greenspaces team and external consultants	Medium	The Council can formally assess each Greenspace and set out its plans for the next 10 years or more to show how it will manage and improve the area for biodiversity. This can be shared with the public and will guide works irrespective of staff changes. Creates a living record of what is there and demonstrates achievement. Public consultation and engagement.	Additional resources are required to deliver this.
			Ensure management plans and strategies linked with the objectives of the Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) within which some sites are located in.	in reviewing each management plan, the BOA objectives will be checked and the objectives of the management plan will be developed to ensure these consider the BOA objectives.	5	Greenspaces team	Low	Ensures a coherent strategy across the borough with regards to biodiversity enhancement and protection.	None
Natural Capital Funding	3	The Council will ensure the efficient use of existing resources and identify future opportunities for natural capital delivery and ensure S106, Community	Determine opportunities for alternative funding resources, specifically relating to natural capital and ensuring these do not conflict with the biodiversity	Review existing funding opportunities and identify whether new opportunities exist.	5	Greenspaces team and where appropriate other Services	Low	Diversification of funding sources. Reducing the cost of managing land.	None

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
		Infrastructure Levy (CIL), or any other external funding opportunities are appropriate to manage and maintain greenspace infrastructure.	objectives of the sites being considered.						
			Review methods of delivering maintenance work to ensure these make best use of resources by efficient work planning and the recycling of by-product material wherever possible.	Review the current tools and modes of transport for all activities to determine whether alternatives that produce less carbon emissions are available.	10	Investing in new technology	Medium	Lower carbon emissions, in line with the Council's commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030.	The switch would require the installation of electric charging points at site offices, and resources required to deliver this.
				Where tool replacements are required, select alternatives that reduce impacts on the environment.	10	Investing in new technology	Medium	Lower carbon emissions, in line with the Council's commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030.	Additional resources are required to deliver this.
	4	Where the Council identifies suitable opportunities to accept biodiversity net gain offset funding on its land, it will only accept these for projects that deliver a 20% biodiversity net gain.	Liaise with Development Control team to identify projects where biodiversity offsetting could be delivered within Waverley Borough Council open spaces	The Council to assess its current assets to determine the potential gain that can be met on site. This would involve doing baseline surveys and model improvements that can deliver a biodiversity net gain.	10	External consultants	Medium	The costs of this would be medium in the short term to determine the current assets, however this money would be recuperated through developer contribution. When developing the funding strategy the outset costs would be incorporated such that no additional costs to the Council would be required.	Some initial funding is required, however costs would only be recovered where a developer signs an agreement with the Council to offset within its land ownership. There is therefore a risk that the offset will not be realised. Notwithstanding this, the cost of the calculations can be covered through developer contribution.
				Liaise with the Development Control team to identify projects that can be offset on Council land.	10	Greenspaces team and Development Control team	Low	Increased liaison between the two teams.	None
				Undertake biodiversity net gain assessments of the offset opportunities	10	External consultants	Low	This element would only be required where projects are identified for biodiversity offsetting.	None

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost Impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
								Should none be identified, this activity would not take place and there would be no cost to the Council.	
Planning	5	The Council will ensure Development Control consults the Greenspaces team for planning applications that create new green spaces, have a landscaping strategy, impacts common land and/or adversely impacts a SNCI.	Liaise as necessary with the Development Control team to identify future projects that would require consultation, such as major projects.	Monthly meeting with Development Control to identify projects that require review from Greenspaces team.	Ongoing	Greenspaces team and Development Control team	Low	Improved communication across the Council teams.	None
			Review and comment on landscape strategies and the design of open spaces to ensure these reflect the Biodiversity Policy, BOA policies (where relevant) and other local biodiversity objectives.	Identify the most appropriate team member to comment on applications and review these.	Ongoing	New Biodiversity officer, Greenspaces team and Development Control team	Medium	Impacts to greenspaces, species selection and landscape plans are determined. Opportunities to manage new green spaces, such as SANGs, are identified. This would also provide new income streams and reduce the costs to the Council. Upskills existing staff.	New Staff post required
Education	6	The Council will identify training needs and deliver a robust training programme for the organisation to ensure Biodiversity Policy principles are embedded throughout the organisation and all Council activities are delivered in line with best practice and relevant legislation relating to biodiversity.	Identify training requirements across the workforce and contractors	Audit of current knowledge on biodiversity and develop a robust training programme across the workforce and contractors.	1	New Biodiversity officer and/or external consultants	Medium	Embed biodiversity improvements across all of the Council's activities and decision-making.	New Staff post required
			Deliver the required training	Delivery of a robust training programme that considers how different departments should consider biodiversity in their activities.	5	New biodiversity officer and/or external consultants	Medium	Ensure contractors and consultants demonstrate how they will deliver the Council's biodiversity commitments.	
	7	The Council will lead the development of	Review existing land management	Audit of current management	1	Greenspaces team	Low	Ensures all management is	None

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
		best practice guidance, in partnership with key stakeholders, for the local community in managing habitats and biodiversity; and ensure its own operations are undertaken following best practice.	practices and determining whether the measures require updating.	measures and determine whether these need to be updated to reflect best-practice guidance.				delivered in line with the latest best-practice guidance. Leading by example.	
			Prepare simple guides that can be shared with the local community, the Council employees and contractors in managing and creating habitats for biodiversity.	Work with stakeholders to collate existing measures to manage land for biodiversity and prepare short and simple guides so that these can be shared with partners and key stakeholders.	5	Key partners and stakeholders	Medium	Strengthen cooperation and relationship with stakeholders.	Additional funding requirements.
			Engage with contractors to ensure management undertaken by third parties is undertaken in line with best practice.	Provide clear methods and aims of activities to contractors.	Ongoing	Greenspaces team	Low	Ensures contractors are accountable for their activities and these are delivered in line with the Council's Biodiversity Policy.	None
			Undertake an annual review of contractor performance and identifying areas of improvement where necessary.	Prepare a short questionnaire that will need to be filled by contractors to review performance.	Ongoing	Greenspaces team	Low	Ensures contractors are accountable for their activities and these are delivered in line with the Council's Biodiversity Policy.	None
	8	The Council will work in partnership with primary care givers and community support teams to deliver green social prescription measures within its green spaces.	Liaise with primary care givers and community support teams to develop green social prescription services to the local community.	Monthly meeting with primary care team to identify volunteer opportunities that can deliver social prescription.	1	Greenspaces team and Communities team	Low	Wellbeing benefits to the local community. Enhances volunteer opportunities.	Management of volunteers is time-consuming. Borough wide volunteer work plan would need to be created. Increased number of volunteers may increase the need for additional officers to manage this.
			Consult with its existing volunteers on an annual basis to identify improvements	Annual questionnaire to volunteers to maximise engagement and enhance the experience.	Ongoing	Greenspaces team	Low	Enhance volunteer experience and increase engagement. Improve volunteer skillset Increase work capacity and delivery.	

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
								Increased commitment and ownership.	
			Review and consider identified changes to improve the service	Review the results of the annual questionnaire.	Ongoing	Greenspaces team and Communities team	Low to Medium	Increased engagement	Should some of the improvements require financial input, this will result in additional resources being required.
Communication	9	The Council will develop a communication strategy in relation to biodiversity initiatives and maintenance works, specifically identifying the objective of the initiative, method of delivery and outcomes.	Developing a communication strategy that details the methods of communication, timescales, information to include and reasons for the initiative or maintenance work in addition to the delivered outcomes.	Liaise with the communication team to develop the strategy.	1	Greenspaces, Housing Development team and Communication team	Low	Maximises public engagement and understanding with regards to the actions require to manage greenspaces. Ensures communication with respect to activities is consistent.	Additional resources are required to deliver this.
Partnerships	10	The Council will cultivate positive partnerships across the borough and identify key projects it can support, sharing resources, where possible and proactively engaging with the local community.	Identify existing initiatives across the borough and determining whether resources can be shared to deliver these.	Undertake annual meeting with key stakeholders to review initiatives and progress and identify areas where resources can be shared to deliver these effectively.	Ongoing	Key partners and stakeholders	Low	Efficient delivery of projects. Strengthening of partnerships.	None
			Undertake annual consultations with the local community with regards to the management of open spaces.				Low	Maximises community engagement and understanding of biodiversity issues.	None
	11	The Council will extend data information sharing agreements with external organisations to increase efficiency and accuracy of data used for management and monitoring.	Review existing data sharing agreements and updating these where relevant	Audit of current data sharing and determine whether these require updating.	1	Key partners and stakeholders	Low	May reduce the need for additional surveys where recent information is gathered such that management plans and actions reflect latest survey information.	None

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
			Develop a mapping system that allows members of the community to identify local biodiversity initiatives.	Identify the most appropriate mapping tool to collect information on biodiversity assets. Work with Surrey Biological Information Center, Surrey County Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust.	5	Key partners and stakeholders	Low to Medium	Increases partnership working and community engagement and identifies key local priorities.	Additional resources are required to deliver this.
Monitoring	12	The Council will develop a robust and costed monitoring regime across sites or habitats it manages to support and guide their management.	Ensure all management plans and strategies include a robust and costed monitoring regime using the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) tools.	As part of the review and preparation of the management plans, ensure these included a robust and costed monitoring strategy.	10	Greenspaces team	Low	Management plans are regularly updated therefore ensuring the monitoring strategy is included will be part of this process. The monitoring strategy will ensure management actions reflect the needs of the site and habitats.	None
			Identify existing monitoring strategies and determine whether these require additional information, such as species-specific or habitat condition surveys.	The update monitoring strategies will need to determine whether updated surveys are required to inform the management of a site.	10	Greenspaces team	Low	Species and habitat surveys can help determine the success of a monitoring strategy and also inform future management measures to ensure objectives are met and biodiversity is maximised within sites and habitats.	Where additional surveys are required, this will require additional resources.
			Develop and implement a robust SNCIs monitoring strategy across the borough and link this to the local plan phasing	Identify all the SNCIs across the borough, the date last surveyed and commission the surveys in line with best practice guidance.	10	Greenspaces team, Development Mgt. Team, External consultants, Surrey County Council staff	Medium	Increases the robustness of Development Control review of planning applications in relation to SNCIs. Increases understanding of the biodiversity asset across these key sites. Determine the	Considering these sites have not been surveyed for many years, the initial surveys will be extensive and will require investment.

Policy type	Policy number	Aspiration	Action	Proposal	Timescale (years from policy launch)	Delivery option	Cost impact ¹	Advantages	Disadvantages
								management requirements to maximise biodiversity. Strengthen liaison with landowners.	
	13	The Council will review this policy every five years, or as required, and will report to Council and the community on the delivery of this Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan.	Review the Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan every 5 years, or as required, and report to Council and the community on the delivery of this Biodiversity Policy.	Review of Biodiversity Policy every five years.	5	Greenspaces team	Low	The Biodiversity Policy will reflect latest information and provide current advice and trends.	None
Third Parties	14	The Council will use whatever mechanisms are available to ensure that third parties maintaining council-owned land to comply with the Biodiversity Policy. Where the council maintains land on behalf of a third party, will ensure that, as far as possible, the principles of this policy are delivered.	Use whatever mechanisms are available to ensure that third parties maintaining council-owned land to comply with the Biodiversity Policy. Where the council maintains land on behalf of a third party, will ensure that, as far as possible, the principles of this policy are delivered	Communicate the Biodiversity Policy to third parties.	Ongoing	Greenspaces, Legal (possible external legal services) and Estates teams	Low - Medium	Ensures the consistent delivery of the Biodiversity Policy across the borough.	Potential additional legal costs

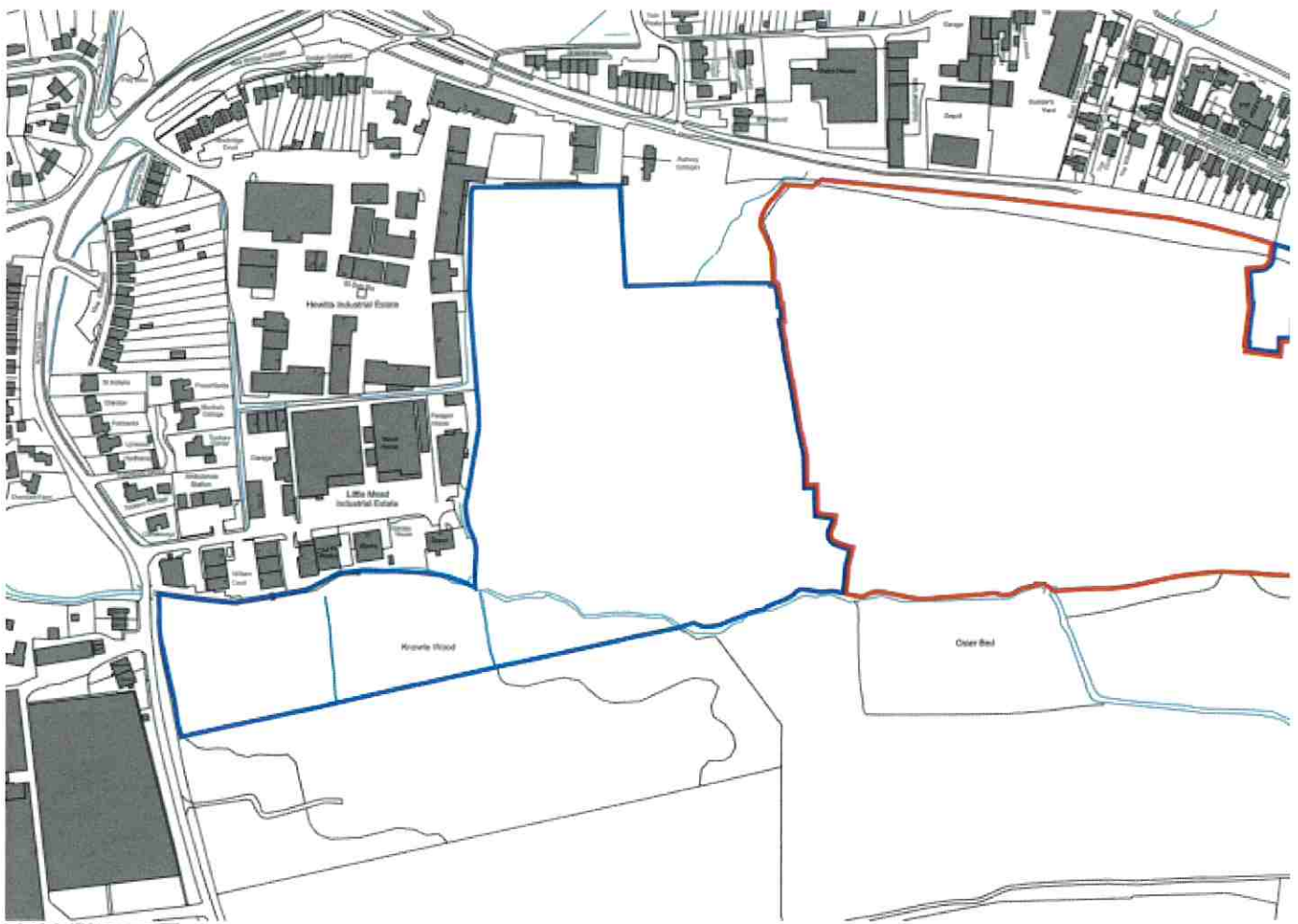
Clerk

From: Addressing <addressing@waverley.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 January 2022 13:31
To: Clerk
Cc: Finance; Addressing
Subject: SNN/2021/0056 - LAND SOUTH OF HIGH STREET BETWEEN ALFOLD ROAD AND KNOWLE LANE, CRANLEIGH

Good afternoon,

STREET NAMING APPLICATION SNN/2021/0056 – 8 NEW ROADS IN CRANLEIGH

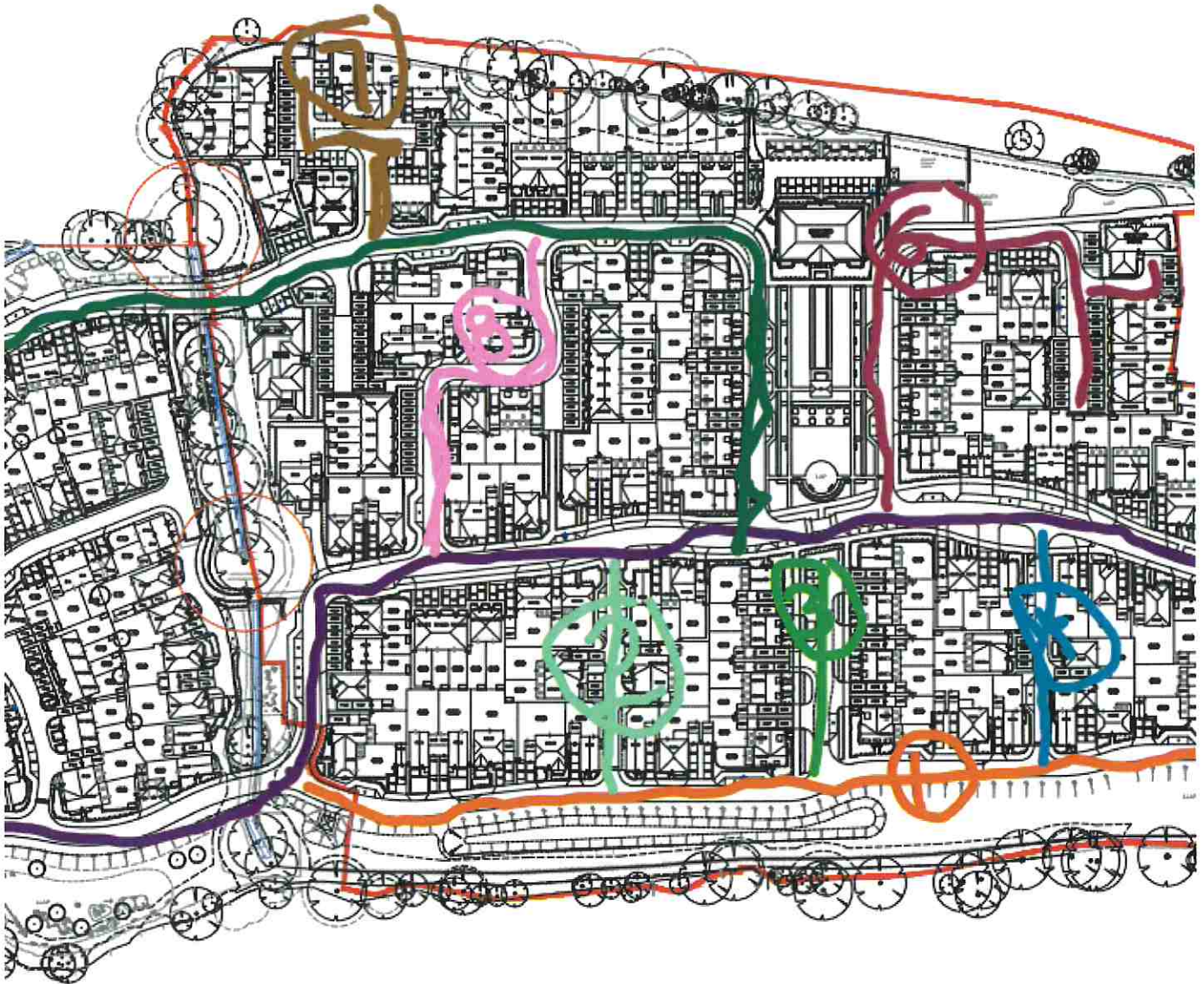
As you are aware Berkeley Homes (Southern) Limited is currently in the process of building a new development incorporating 8 new roads and 197 new dwellings at the above location. A location plan is below showing the site development.



Waverley as you know is the Street Naming & Numbering Authority for the Borough and is required under legislation to approve names for newly built highways. Berkeley Homes have proposed the names:

1. Chandler Grove
2. Verger Place
3. Quiller Close
4. Feller Lane
5. Potter Place
6. Spinner Avenue
7. Charley Close
8. Beagle Lane

for the highways shown on the plan below.



Waverley's Street Naming and Numbering policy states that the only basis for objecting to a new street name can be on the grounds of:

- duplication;
- difficulty of pronouncing or spelling; and/or
- if the name could cause offence.

We ask that you assess the street name in this regard as there may be some local considerations that the Address Development team may not be aware of.

I would be grateful if you could email your response to the new street name by **25 January at noon**. If Waverley does not receive a response from you by that date, the Address Development team will put the proposed name by the developer forward for approval.

For your information the numbering on **Harper Drive** and **Lorimer Avenue** will be continued as the roads are extended.

The road name Lavendar Avenue was rejected as there is a road in Waverley named Lavender Lane and we cannot agree to this duplication even though the spelling is slightly different.

Please find a link below to the Street Naming & Numbering Policy for Waverley Borough Council:

http://www.waverley.gov.uk/downloads/download/1029/street_naming_and_property_numbering_policy

Thank you for your assistance with this matter of street naming.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth Silley

Address Development Team

Direct Tel:

Working days – Monday 9-5, Tues – Thursday 9-2

Visit our webpages about [Addressing a new property](#) or making a [change to an existing address](#).

Remember that most building work requires building regulations approval. Waverley Building Control offer a professional, knowledgeable, and experienced building control service; able to offer a fast yet thorough technical plan checking service and next day inspections.

Visit [our website](#) for more [information about Building Regulations](#), how to [apply](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) about what we do.



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Waverley Building Control - Added Reassurance for your building work

From: Clerk <clerk@cranleigh-pc.gov.uk>

Sent: 05 January 2022 09:24

To: Addressing <addressing@waverley.gov.uk>

Cc: Finance <finance@cranleigh-pc.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: SNN/2021/0056 - LAND SOUTH OF HIGH STREET BETWEEN ALFOLD ROAD AND KNOWLE LANE, CRANLEIGH

[** This email originates from an external source **]



Good Morning Elizabeth

I have received the consultation and it is listed on the agenda for our Planning Committee meeting on Monday 10 January 2022.

Kind Regards
Beverley Bell FSLCC
Parish Clerk

Sign up for our newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/hfYGcz>

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From: Addressing <addressing@waverley.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 December 2021 12:53

To: Clerk <clerk@cranleigh-pc.gov.uk>

Cc: Addressing <addressing@waverley.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: SNN/2021/0056 - LAND SOUTH OF HIGH STREET BETWEEN ALFOLD ROAD AND KNOWLE LANE, CRANLEIGH

Good afternoon,

I am emailing in follow up to my email of 16 December (below).

The suffixes for the proposed road names are shown below:

1. Chandler Grove
2. Verger Place
3. Quiller Close
4. Feller Lane
5. Potter Place
6. Spinner Avenue
7. Charley Close
8. Beagle Lane

For some reason the site plan is large to attach but it can be viewed here: [Site Layout rev H \(waverley.gov.uk\)](http://waverley.gov.uk/Site%20Layout%20rev%20H)

This is not the road naming consultation email – I just thought I'd let you know we have received their application and give you the opportunity to comment on the road names prefixes requested. I will be sending you the consultation in the New Year.

Please let me know if you have any other road name prefix suggestions, if you have any comments on the prefixes for the road names or if you would like to discuss the application in any way. I have attached the site plan for your reference.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth Silley

Address Development Team

Direct Tel:

Working days – Monday 9-5, Tues – Thursday 9-2

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Waverley Building Control - Added Reassurance for your building work

From: Addressing <addressing@waverley.gov.uk>

Sent: 16 December 2021 12:51

To: Cranleigh Clerk <clerk@cranleighpc.org>

Cc: Addressing <addressing@waverley.gov.uk>

Subject: SNN/2021/0056 - LAND SOUTH OF HIGH STREET BETWEEN ALFOLD ROAD AND KNOWLE LANE, CRANLEIGH

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to let you know we have received the addressing application from Berkeley Homes for the addressing of 197 dwellings at the above location.

We will be addressing 197 dwellings and 8 new roads.

The development will have a continuation of the 2 roads already named: Baxter Lane and Lorimer Avenue.

The developer is sticking with the theme of old English occupations and have made the following suggestions for the prefixes for road names:

1. **Chandler**
2. **Verger**
3. **Quiller**
4. **Feller**
5. **Potter**
6. **Spinner**
7. **Charley**
8. **Beagle**

1. *Chandler – A candle seller*
2. *Verger – Church official*
3. *Quiller – one who operates machinery*
4. *Feller - woodcutter*
5. *Potter – seller of pottery*
6. *Spinner – spinning of yarn*
7. *Charley – a night watchman*
8. *Beagle – Policeman*

This is not the road naming consultation email – I just thought I'd let you know we have received their application and give you the opportunity to comment on the road names prefixes requested. I will be sending you the consultation in the New Year.

Please let me know if you have any other road name prefix suggestions, if you have any comments on the prefixes for the road names or if you would like to discuss the application in any way. I have attached the site plan for your reference.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth Silley

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Waverley Building Control - Added Reassurance for your building work

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Call for Evidence - Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review



**Evidence submitted on behalf of Cranleigh Parish Council
in support of extension to the Surrey Hills AONB**

January 2022

Tony Fullwood Associates

Chartered Town Planners



Introduction

In response to Natural England's call for evidence, Cranleigh Parish Council have undertaken an evaluation of the landscape within the Parish to understand whether any meet the criteria for designation as an extension to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The evaluation has involved extensive site visits and a review of relevant landscape studies of the area.

The Parish Council submits this evidence which it considers supports the inclusion of part of Evaluation Area 12 within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In addition, the Parish Council note that Natural England will consider evidence from other areas where these are immediately next to the Evaluation Areas or where they determine that there is a particularly strong case for its consideration. Evidence is submitted by the Parish Council in support of the inclusion within the AONB of a further area immediately south of EA12.

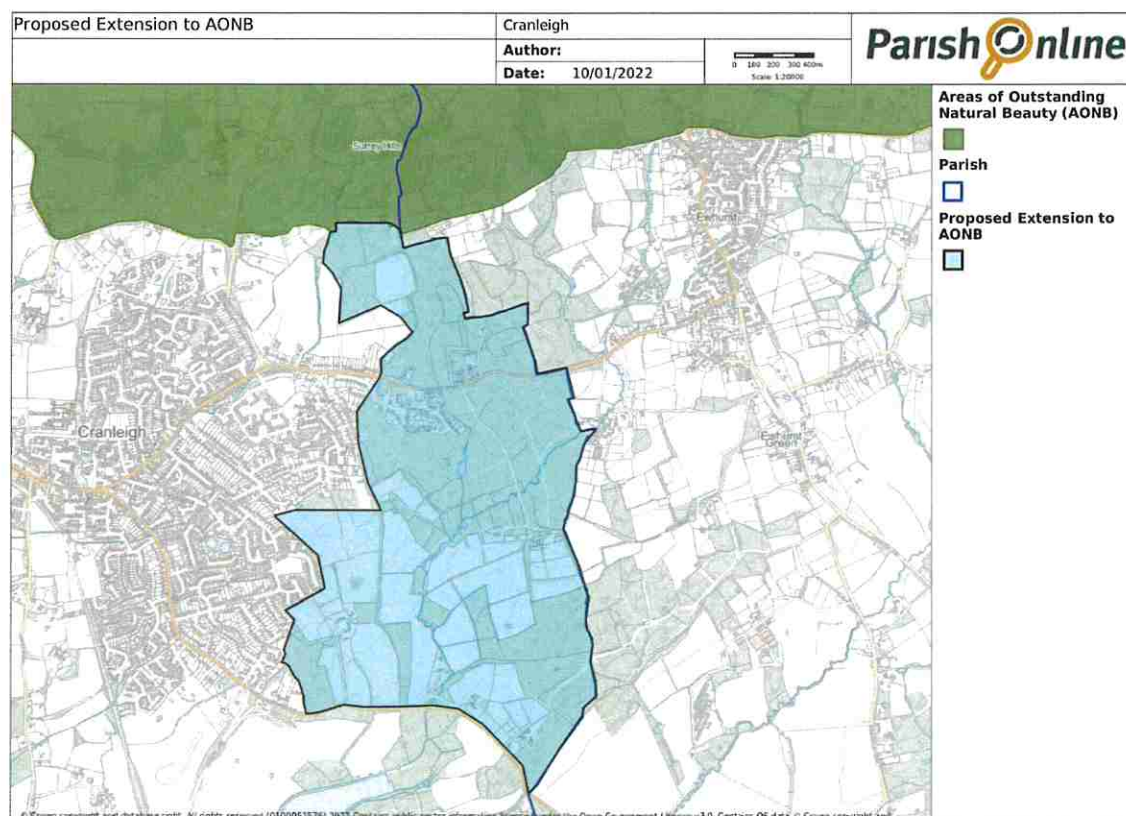
The evidence for the inclusion of each of the areas supported for AONB designation relates to the recognised criteria of Landscape Quality, Scenic Quality, Wildness, Tranquillity, Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage and is set out in detail within Sections 2 and 3 of this submission.

In addition, it is evident from previous studies¹ that the areas supported for AONB designation exhibit strong similarities with the landscape character and characteristics of the adjoining designated AONB. Whilst the studies are not relied on in assessing the appropriateness for inclusion of the landscapes within the AONB, they provide useful background to the landscape character of the proposed areas. Where relevant, they are submitted as Additional Information in support of AONB designation.

¹Surrey Hills AGLV Review, Chris Burnett Associates, 2007; Cranleigh, Shamley Green Landscape Assessment, Chris Burnett Associates on behalf of Surrey CPRE, April 2010; Surrey Hills AONB Areas of Search Natural Beauty Evaluation, August 2014; Surrey Landscape Character Assessment, Hankinson Duckett Associates, April 2015

2 Evidence in Support of the inclusion of part of Area EA12

Cranleigh Parish Council submits the following evidence in support of the inclusion of most of that part of Area EA12 which lies in the Parish within the Surrey Hills AONB. This submission provides additional information which the Parish Council considers justifies the inclusion of the area within the Cranleigh Parish shown on Map 1 below. The evidence sets out the separate qualities of the area within each of the relevant designation criteria.



Map 1 - Proposed additional AONB within Cranleigh Parish

The location and direction from which illustrative photographs has been taken is shown on the map at Appendix 1.

Landscape Quality

The landscape comprises large tracts of intact (largely deciduous) woodland which enclose small scale irregular fields on gently rolling topography. The landscape is crossed by running streams and wooded ghylls as well as well managed hedgerows (often containing mature trees in good condition). Some of the woodland is coppiced whilst the small fields are almost all pasture. (See Photographs 1 and 2 below).



Photograph 1



Photograph 2

The enclave of dwellings in at Fern Mead/Bracken Lane are situated within woodland and are not intrusive within the wider landscape.

Footpath No. 373 runs north-south through this landscape from which the eastern edge of Cranleigh is not visible (see Photographs 3 and 4 below). If this footpath were to be used as the new boundary for the AONB, no incongruous elements are present to detract from the high landscape quality of this area.



Photograph 3



Photograph 4

The eastern edge of Cranleigh is located on lower ground and does not significantly intrude into the wider landscape (see Photograph 5 below) due to the abutting rising topography and the intervening field boundaries and woodland, including the extensive Rowgardens Copse (just north of Horsham Road). For this reason, it would be possible to extend the AONB boundary up to the eastern edge of the built-up area of the village whilst still ensuring that incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree.



Photograph 5

Part of this area under review is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value in the Waverley Local Plan – defined in the Glossary to Waverley Local Plan Part 2 as:

A local landscape designation for an area considered to have high visual quality.

Scenic Quality

The gently undulating landform, woodland, winding watercourses and wooded ghylls form an interesting pattern of land cover and a distinctive sense of place (see Photograph 6 below). The landscape provides a mosaic of substantial tracts of woodland - contrasting with small scale irregular pastoral fields.

The woodlands give a strong sense of enclosure whilst the small scale enclosed fields give an intimate scale. The extensive woodland provides a strong structure to the landscape all year round but the sense of enclosure increases outside the winter months with the native, largely deciduous trees and woodland providing canopies of cover.



Photograph 6 – showing the mosaic of contrasting large tracts of woodland with small scale irregular pastoral fields and views of Greensand Hills to the north

The landscape is perceived from the large number of footpaths which cross the area including many which penetrate through the extensive and connected Brook Hurst and Lower Canfold Wood as well as Footpath 373 which runs the north-south through the area. Bookhurst Road runs to the north, and Horsham Road forms the southern boundary of Area EA12 but both are B roads, are not visually intrusive and any traffic noise does not penetrate into the area.

Aside from the enclave of dwellings within woodland at Fern Mead/Bracken Lane, the area contains only a handful of dispersed, largely farm, buildings. The landscape is not crossed by major roads. The area feels generally remote from buildings and traffic (particularly to the east of footpath 373) and provides a peaceful environment.

The peaceful atmosphere means that there are strong aesthetic qualities, and cognitive and sensory stimuli, including sounds of running water, bird song, grazing lambs and sheep and the sounds and smell associated with woodland.

An area of studs and horse paddocks at Bowles Farm has resulted in some small scale structures and fenced fields but these are contained between Lower Canfold Wood and Bowles Rough without significant impact on the overall scenic quality of the area.

Relative Wildness

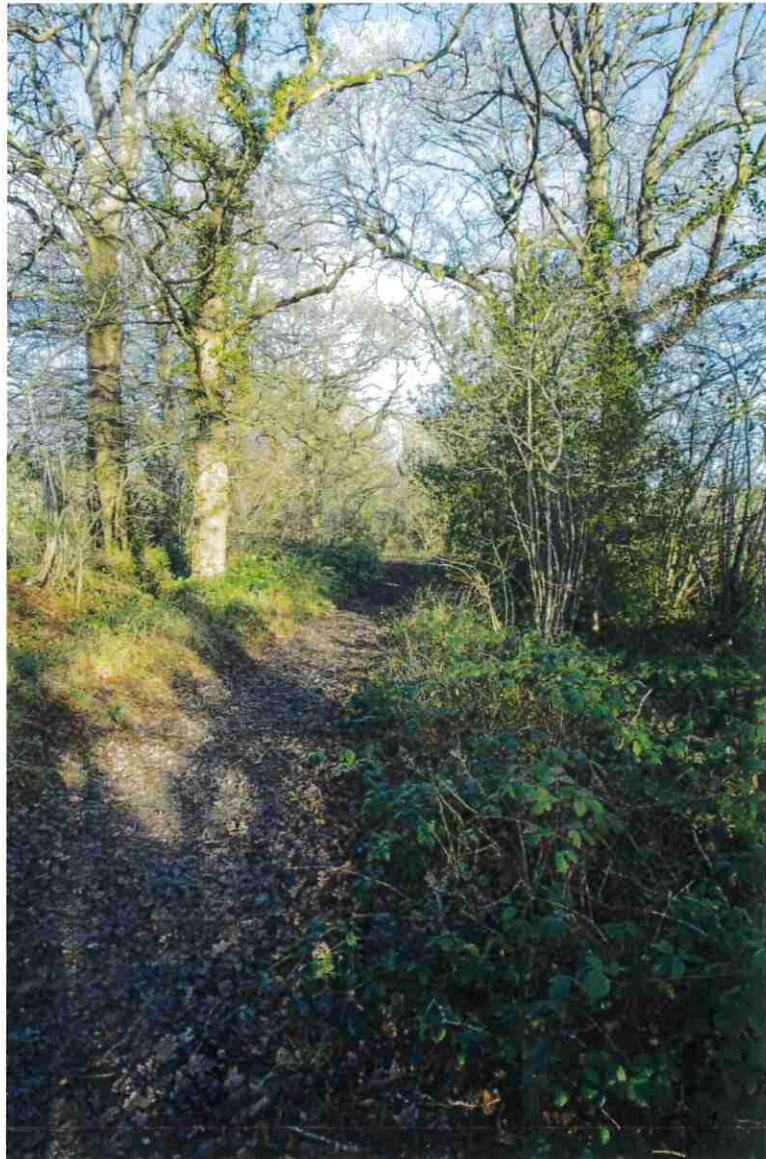
The area comprises extensive uninterrupted tracts of semi-natural woodland which are devoid of human influence. The exception is provided by the enclave of dwellings within woodland at Fern Mead/Bracken Lane.

The woodland and small field pattern and gently undulating topography combine to produce a generally enclosed, intimate landscape.

The area has very limited road access and relies on tracks and an extensive network of public rights of way.

The natural environment is evident through flora and fauna and running streams.

The limit of human habitation and influence (particularly to the east of Footpath No. 373) result in a sense of remoteness.



Photograph 7 – Footpath No. 373

Relative Tranquillity

Characteristic landscape elements such as woodland, streams and enclosed pasture and peace and quiet combine to result in a relatively tranquil area. The edge of settlement is generally assimilated well into the surrounding landscape and the absence of main roads ensures this area is relatively tranquil.

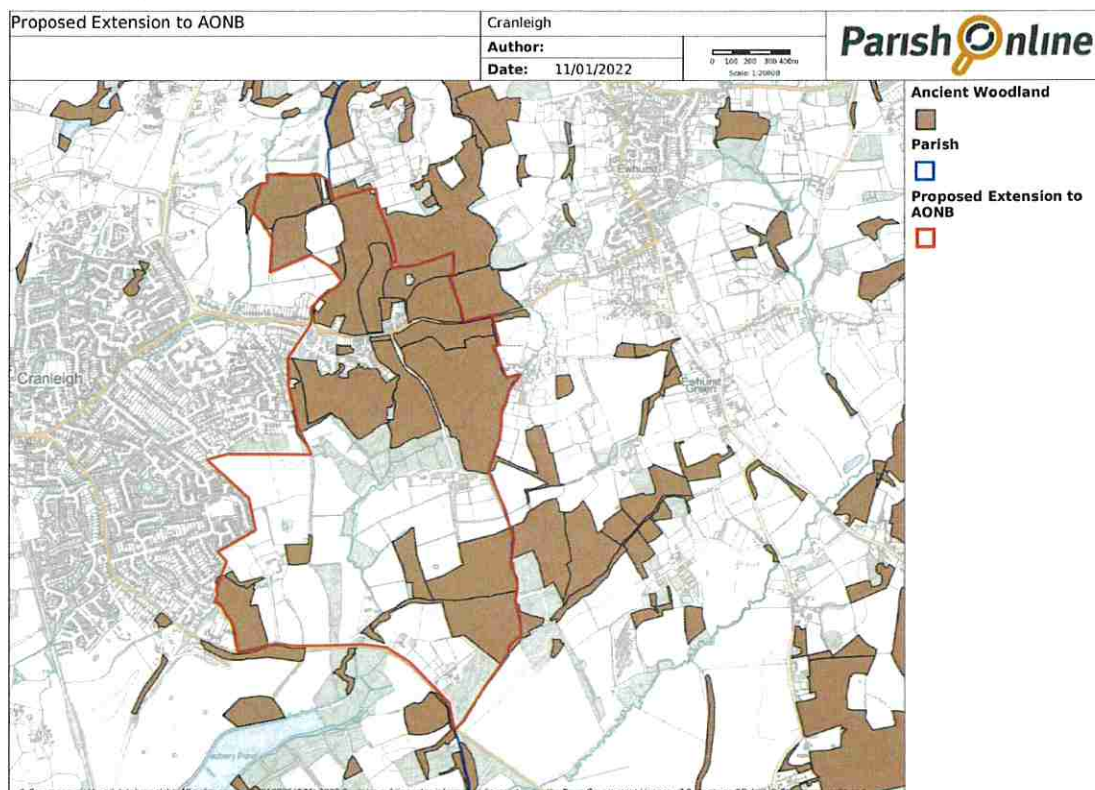
Natural Heritage

Many natural features contribute to the natural heritage of the proposed area, including

- the extensive interconnected ancient woodland (see Map 2 below) such as Ashen Copse; Fishpond Cpose; Upper Cowfold Wood; Bookhurst; Bowles Wood; Whitehall

Copse and Rowgardens Copse which are designated as part of a wider Site of Nature Conservation Importance and comprise around 25% of the proposed AONB area within the Parish,

- streams, ghylls and ponds,
- tree/ hedge-lined pastures, and
- mature Beech and Oak trees



Map 2 – Ancient Woodland

The natural features provide an abundance of habitats for wildlife with the water features attracting the presence of kingfishers and great crested newts and the woodland attracting drilling woodpeckers and hooting owls – adding to the sense of place and relative wildness. The woodland is carpeted in bluebells in the spring.

Cultural Heritage

The landscape comprises ancient woodland which covered the land prior to human occupation. The irregular pattern of small fields is characteristic of medieval land management practices.

The area contains very few buildings. The isolated property New Park is a Grade 2 listed building. The timber framed house is C16 with C17 cross wing (and possibly older core) and is under-built with brick and tile hanging in a fishscale pattern with plain tiled roofs.

Overall, the landscape of this area illustrates a time depth which adds to the sense of place and the appreciation and enjoyment of the area.

Additional Information

It is evident from previous studies² that the areas supported for AONB designation exhibit strong similarities with the landscape character and characteristics of the adjoining designated AONB. Whilst the studies are not relied on in assessing the appropriateness for inclusion of the landscapes within the AONB, they provide useful background to the landscape character of the proposed areas.

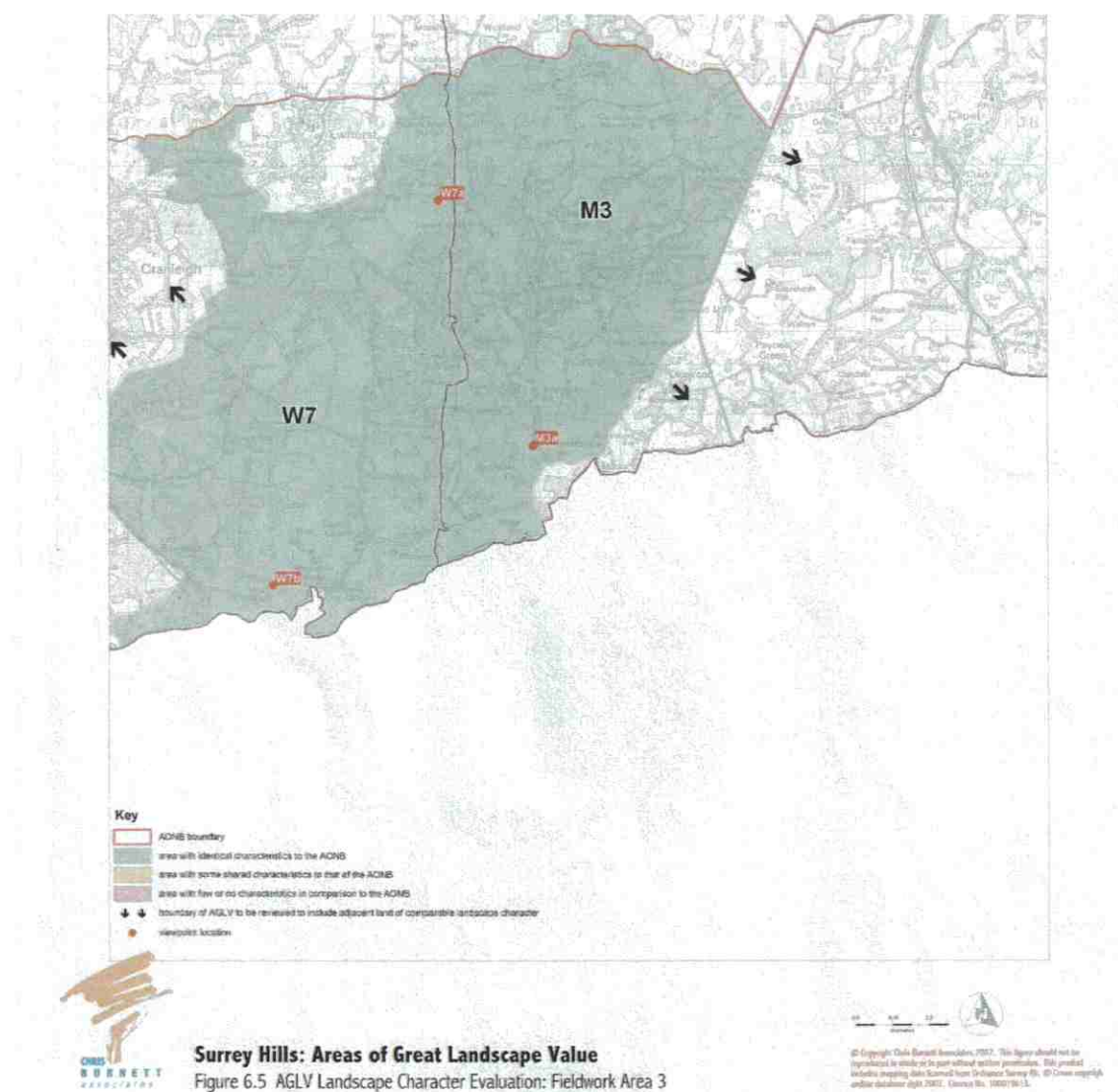
Within the **Surrey Landscape Character Assessment, 2015**, EA12 falls within Character Area: WW8 Cranleigh to Charlwood Wooded Low Weald.

Many of the key characteristics for this Character Area are exhibited in the area supported by Cranleigh Parish Council for inclusion in the AONB:

- Underlain by Wealden Group Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone solid geology. Paludina limestone outcrops.
- Relatively low lying, undulating landform, rising to meet slightly more elevated weald to the north, elsewhere the landform rises to localised high points.
- The character area consists of small scale pastoral and arable fields, largely enclosed by intact hedgerows and tree belts. The concentration of woodland varies, however increases generally within the central and western parts of the character area, particularly between Cranleigh and Ewhurst, where it constitutes the dominant land cover.
- Woodland is prominently broadleaved, including semi-natural Beech and Oak, but conifer plantations are also present.
- Watercourses wind their way through the character area, generally flowing northwards. Some watercourses are steep sided and wooded gills. Large ponds, including those formed from occasional clay pits, are scattered across the character area.
- Woodland and tree cover encloses the character area and limits long distance views, although views of higher wooded weald and greensand hills to the north is possible between gaps in tree cover, from elevated positions mostly within the northern part of the character area.
- Elsewhere, there are scattered farmsteads and small groups of dwellings.
- A network of rural lanes cross the character area, however a few areas have limited road access and rely on tracks and an extensive network of public rights of way.
- A number of farm houses and agricultural buildings, including barns, within the character area, are grade II listed buildings.
- A number of areas are designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance across the character area, including areas of semi-natural woodland.
- A rural, tranquil landscape, with a sense of remoteness and intimacy due to woodland/tree cover.

²Surrey Hills AGLV Review, Chris Burnett Associates, 2007; Cranleigh, Shamley Green Landscape Assessment, Chris Burnett Associates on behalf of Surrey CPRE, April 2010; Surrey Hills AONB Areas of Search Natural Beauty Evaluation, August 2014; Surrey Landscape Character Assessment, Hankinson Duckett Associates, April 2015

Within the **Surrey Hills Areas of Great Landscape Value Review, 2007**, Proposed Area EA12 falls within Area W7.



Area W7 is identified as similar in character to the Wooded Weald fringe of the AONB in most respects. Occasionally, small sporadic areas with larger field pattern and less managed hedges occur but generally this area is homogenous and directly comparable to that of the adjacent AONB Wooded Weald: Wonersh to Holmwood character area. This is characterised by a fusion of gently undulating topography and woodland cover which encloses small to medium sized fields.

Part of this extensive area with the following characteristics:

- Undulating landform
- Small scale irregular fields, hedgerows and oak copses
- Bushy hedgerows and shaws
- Small streams
- Large country house and small parklands
- Lanes connecting Wealden villages with Greensand Hills
- Intimate secluded landscape

The table below from the Surrey Hills Great Landscape Value Review shows strong similarities between the characteristics of the designated Surrey Hills AONB and the adjoining W7.

WAVERLEY SHEET 6

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA Greensand Valley

Reference No. WS6

Description

Stretching from Holmwood Common in the east to Wonerish in the west, this is a low lying area of gently undulating farmland rising up to join the Greensand ridge. The area comprises small-scale irregular field patterns, largely pastoral, within a well-defined woodland setting. The area has an intimate, secluded feel with a scattering of villages and hamlets, greens and commons, and a network of narrow, winding, enclosed lanes with mature hedgerow oak trees. Other features in the area include localised framed views of the Greensand ridge, unique wooded ghylls, large country houses with parkland, and distinctive styles of buildings, especially cottages and farmhouses.

Characteristic Features	AONB	M3a	W7a	W7b	W8a
Undulating landform	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓
Small scale irregular fields, hedgerows and oak copses	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Bushy hedgerows and shaws	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Small streams	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Large country house and small parklands	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	X
Lanes connecting Wealden villages with Greensand Hills	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓
Intimate secluded landscape	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓
SUMMARY CHARACTERISTICS					
M3a	Undulating, small to medium mixed arable/pasture field deferred by shaws and copses providing a well wooded landscape character with restricted views. Winding lanes. Slightly less managed feel to hedges. As M3a but slightly larger fields. As for M3a but more individual parkland trees. As for M3a but flatter due to river valley. Less enclosed with views to distant hills and birch gives a slightly different character.				
W7a					
W7b					
W8a					
PERCEPTION					
Views	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Distant
Scale	Small	Small	Medium	Small	Medium
Enclosure	Enclosed	Enclosed	Enclosed	Enclosed	Semi-end
Variety	Varied	Varied	Varied	Varied	Varied
Texture	Textured	Textured	Textured	Textured	Rough
Colour	Colourful	Colourful	Colourful	Colourful	Colourful
Movement	Peaceful	Active	Active	Active	Active
Unity	Unified	Unified	Unified	Unified	Interrupted
Naturalness	Tamed	Tamed	Tamed	Tamed	Tamed

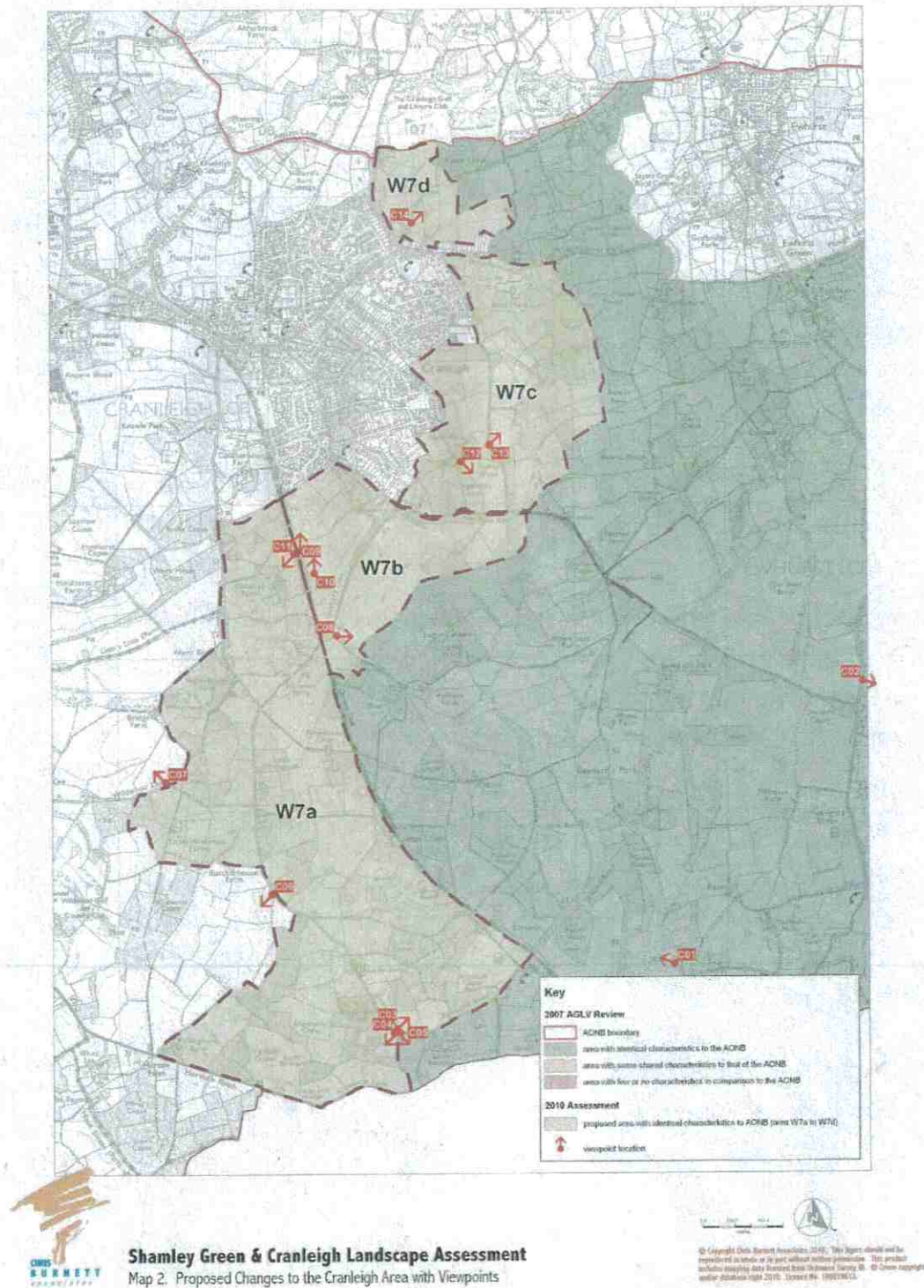
✓ = subtle

✓✓ = evident

✓✓✓ = conspicuous

The **Cranleigh, Shamley Green Landscape Assessment for Surrey CPRE, 2010** reviewed the potential for the eastern fringe of Area EA12 which abuts the built up edge of Cranleigh to be designated as AONB. The eastern fringe of Area EA12 falls within **Area W7**

and comprises two sub compartments within EA12: W7d and W7c as illustrated on the map below.



Of sub compartment W7d the study states:

'This is the most northerly of the sub compartments and covers the area occupied by the Cranleigh showground and is illustrated by C14 on Fig 2.7. The AONB boundary lies immediately to the north and the AGLV boundary lies to the east. The area is heavily enclosed by woodland on its eastern margins and hedgerows, lines of mature trees and the occasional mature trees break up an even expanse of intensively grazed pasture.

The urban fringe of Cranleigh only becomes apparent on the southern margins of this space as the western perimeter is well screened by mature trees.

Good views of the Greensand Hills to the north are obtained throughout the area.

The characteristics of the Wooded Weald are sufficiently well developed, therefore, for the area to be considered for inclusion within the proposed extended area of AGLV /AONB.'

Of sub compartment W7c, the study states:

'Further north the pattern of small fields enclosed by oak woodland, some of it coppice woodland, with hedgerows in rolling pasture continues and the compartment is sufficiently homogenous in character for it to be included in the extended area. This is illustrated by C12 and C13.'

The study concludes:

'There is considerable justification for extending the AGLV boundary, and hence by inference the AONB boundary, in a westerly direction to cover the area marked on Map 2. The similarities between the extension and the existing AGLV are sufficiently closely matched to make a comparison between the two areas both valid and robust.'

Summary

Drawing together the various studies undertaken on the character and characteristics of the area in Cranleigh Parish within Proposed Area EA12, it is clear that the area exhibits most of the characteristics of the adjoining Surrey Hills AONB. The character of the landscape differs subtly in that the area is lower lying, rising to meet slightly more elevated weald to the north. However, guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England, 2011, Natural England states:

'It is not necessary for the land to be included in a proposed designation to be of the same or similar character.'

Conclusion

Cranleigh Parish Council have carefully examined the criteria for AONB designation in relation to Evaluation Area 12. It would appear from the evidence that most of Evaluation Area 12 which lies within the Parish as defined on Map 1 justifies AONB designation.

The evidence indicates this area of the Parish is special because:

- Landscape quality is high with intact characteristic features well represented throughout, with incongruous elements largely absent.
- Scenic quality is high with undulating landform, woodland, streams and enclosed pasture forming a very interesting pattern of land cover which, together with sensory stimuli, create a distinctive sense of place.
- Gently undulating topography and woodland combine to produce enclosed spaces and the limited human influence of lanes and settlement result in a sense of remoteness.
- The area exhibits relative tranquillity with characteristic landscape elements such as woodland and streams and the absence of any significant human influences.
- Significant areas of ancient woodland, streams and tree/hedge lined pasture create an abundance of habitats which attract flora and fauna which add to the visual and auditory stimulation.

It would be beneficial for AONB designation to apply to this area of landscape because this would ensure that the qualities of the area are recognised and attributed the appropriate landscape status. As a consequence, the landscape would be afforded the appropriate level of protection. There appears to be no logical reason why the current boundary excludes EA12 and this area should represent a continuation of the Surrey Hills AONB.

The area sits well with the Vision and Aims of the Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan

THE VISION

The Surrey Hills AONB is recognised as a national asset in which its natural and cultural resources are managed in an attractive landscape mosaic of farmland, woodland, heaths, downs and commons. It provides opportunities for business enterprise and for all to enjoy and appreciate its natural beauty for their health and well-being.

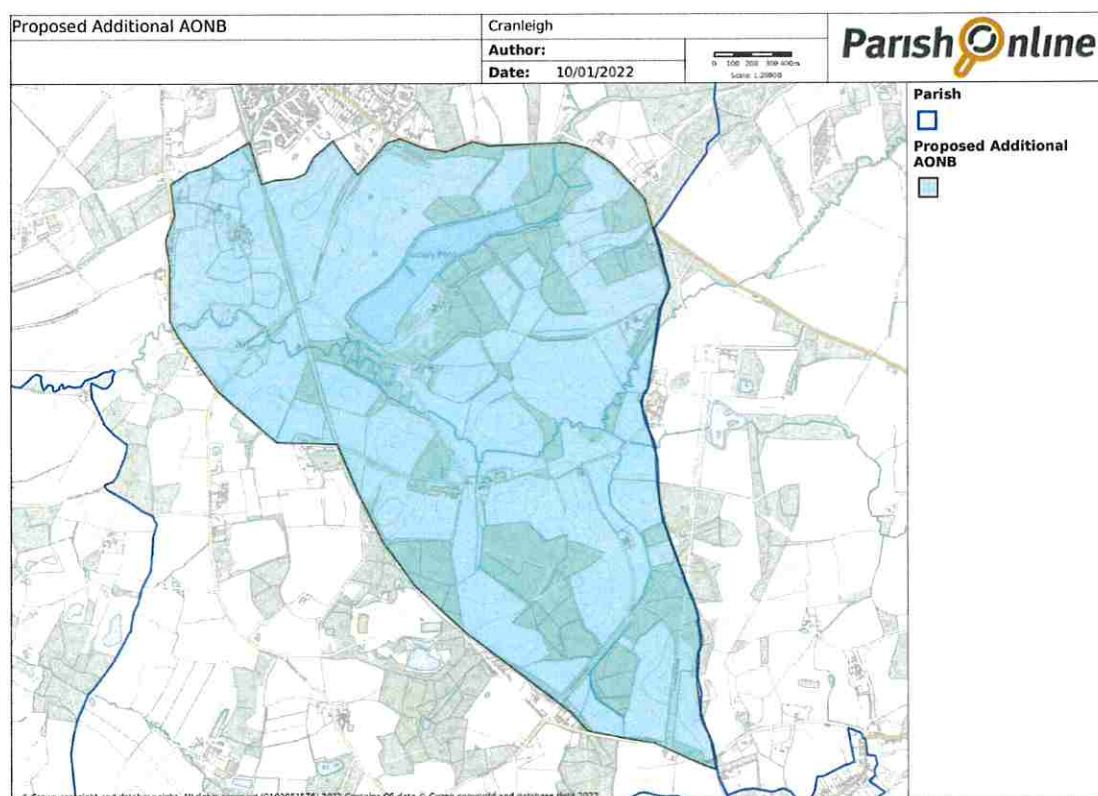
The area would benefit from participation in the implementation of the AONB Management Plan projects, in particular the Landscape Conservation and Enhancement and Access, Enjoyment and Understanding initiatives.

3 Evidence in Support of the inclusion of Additional Area South of EA12

Cranleigh Parish Council note that Natural England has requested evidence for land within the Evaluation Areas but that evidence will be considered where it is immediately next to the Evaluation Areas or where Natural England determine that there is a particularly strong case for its consideration.

The Parish Council submits the following evidence in support of the inclusion of an Additional Area shown on Map 3 below within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The evidence sets out the separate qualities of the area within each of the relevant designation criteria.

The landscape and scenic quality; relative wildness and tranquillity and natural and cultural heritage extend beyond Area 12 and there is no logical reason for the assessment area to terminate at Horsham Road, as currently proposed. Indeed, the assessment area should be extended to include the area shown on Map 3.



Map 3 - Proposed additional AONB within Cranleigh Parish

The location and direction from which illustrative photographs has been taken is shown on the map at Appendix 1.

Landscape Quality

The landscape comprises tracts of intact (largely deciduous) woodland which enclose small scale irregular fields on gently rolling topography. The landscape is crossed by running streams and wooded tree-lined ghylls as well as well managed hedgerows (often containing mature trees in good condition). Some of the woodland is coppiced whilst the small fields are almost all pasture. (See Photograph 8 below).



Photograph 8

The area contains two historic parks and gardens: the western section of Baynard's Park which lies within the Parish and continues eastwards into Ewhurst Parish and Vachery Park which contains Vachery Pond. The more formal landscapes comprise some non-indigenous vegetation such as pines and rhododendron but assimilate well into the surrounding landscape and add to the cultural heritage and sense of place.



Photograph 9 – entrance to Vachery House

The Downs Link (footpath and National Cycle Route 223 linking Chertsey to Shoreham-by-Sea) runs north-south through this landscape.

The southern edge of Cranleigh is located on lower ground and does not significantly intrude into the wider landscape. New development being built on the southern edge is visible from the Downs Link which is elevated at this point. However, the topography of the field immediately south of the development acts as an effective screen from the wider landscape. Vegetation also provides a screen to the development (see Photograph 10 below). For these reasons, it would be possible to extend the AONB boundary up to the southern edge of the built-up area of the village whilst still ensuring that incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree in the wider landscape.



Photograph 10

Part of this area under review is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value in the Waverley Local Plan – defined in the Glossary to Waverley Local Plan Part 2 as:

A local landscape designation for an area considered to have high visual quality.

Scenic Quality

The gently undulating landform, woodland, winding watercourses and wooded ghylls form an interesting pattern of land cover and a distinctive sense of place. The landscape provides a mosaic of contrasting tracts of woodland with small scale irregular pastoral fields. The woodlands give a sense of enclosure whilst the small scale enclosed fields give an intimate scale.

The area is perceived from the large number of footpaths which cross the area including many which penetrate through the woodland such as Collins Copse, Home Wood and Massers Wood as well as the Downs Link which runs north-south through the area. Horsham Road runs to the north, Knole Lane forms the western boundary and Cox Green Road forms the southern boundary. **These narrow, winding lanes are not visually intrusive within the landscape with traffic noise limited.**

The area contains a very limited number of scattered, mainly farm, buildings. Many of these are listed buildings with a vernacular entirely in keeping with their 16C and C17 origins and the landscape. The area is not crossed by major roads. It is generally remote from buildings and traffic and provides a peaceful environment.

The peaceful atmosphere means that there are strong aesthetic qualities, and cognitive and sensory stimuli, including sounds of running water, bird song, grazing lambs and sheep and the sounds and smell associated with woodland.

An active brickworks is located to the south west of the Downs Link. It is surrounded by woodland and is not visually intrusive. Noise? Lighting? Overall the site has a minor impact on the scenic quality but is proposed to be excluded from the AONB.

Relative Wildness



Photograph 11 – Downs Link

The area comprises tracts of semi-natural woodland which are devoid of human habitation.

The woodland and small field pattern and gently undulating topography combine to produce a generally enclosed, intimate landscape.

The area has very limited road access and relies on tracks and an extensive network of public rights of way.

The natural environment is evident through flora and fauna and the running streams.

The limit of human habitation and influence result in a sense of remoteness.

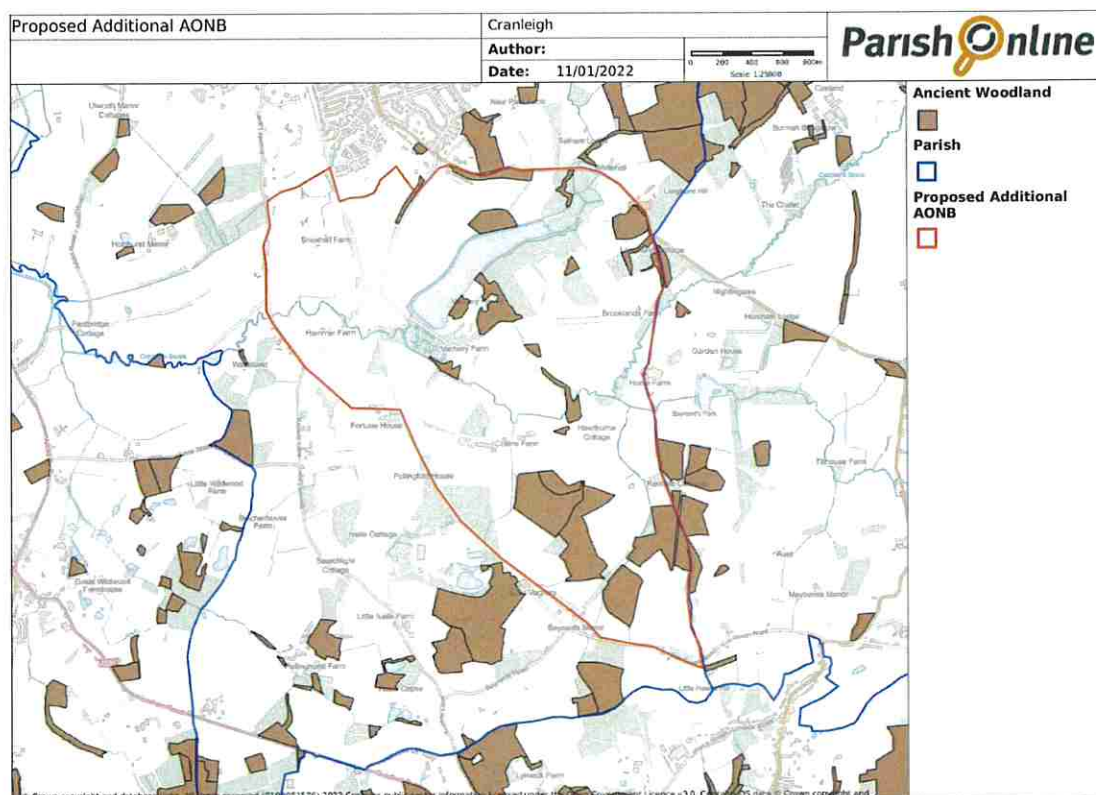
Relative Tranquillity

Characteristic landscape elements such as woodland, streams and enclosed pasture and peace and quiet combine to result in a relatively tranquil area. The edge of settlement is generally assimilated well into the surrounding landscape and the absence of main roads ensures this area is relatively tranquil.

Natural Heritage

Many natural features contribute to the natural heritage of the proposed area, including

- the extensive interconnected ancient woodland (see Map 4 below) such as Massers Wood, North Wood, Grub Copse, Home Wood and Owlbarn Copse
- streams, ghylls and ponds,
- tree/ hedge-lined pastures, and
- mature Beech and Oak trees



Map 4 – Ancient Woodland

The natural features provide an abundance of habitats for wildlife with the water features attracting the presence of kingfishers and great crested newts and the woodland attracting the drilling of woodpeckers and hooting owls – adding to the sense of place and relative wildness. The woodland is carpeted in bluebells in the spring.

Cultural Heritage

The proposed AONB is rich in cultural heritage.

The landscape comprises ancient woodland which covered the land prior to human occupation. The irregular pattern of small fields is characteristic of medieval land management practices.

Many of the limited number of dispersed farm buildings in the area are Grade 2 listed buildings dating from the 16C or 17C:

- Snoxall's Tudor House is a two storey possible manor house with late C16 origins and late C19 extensions. There is close stud framing to the front with whitewashed infilling, C19 red brick underbuilt below and a plain tiled roof with tile hung gable end.
- Hammer Farm House is a two storey C17 house with C19 extension forming front. Timber framed with whitewashed brick and a Horsham slab roof.
- New House Farm House has C17 origins and was extended and altered in C19. The timber framed building is clad in incised whitewashed stucco with plain tiled roofs.
- An intact dated early C18 barn with attached late C18 or early C19 brick and timberframed cow sheds with an unusual roof structure over the central passageway.
- New Barn, Baynards Park is a timber framed barn clad in weatherboarding with half-hipped tiled roof dated 1702 with the initials of the Onslow family, with attached late C18 or early C19 cow sheds. The cow sheds are one storey brick structures in Sussex bond with hipped roofs. The barn was built when the Onslow family owned the Baynards estate. According to the VCH, William Freeman granted the lease of the estate in 1700 for a year to Sir Richard Onslow "to test the possession" and his son, Thomas Onslow, afterwards the second Lord Onslow, mortgaged the property in 1714 as owner. The Onslow family sold the estate in 1818.
- Brooklands is a C17 house which was restored and extended in late C20. The house is timber framed with brick and whitewashed render infill below plain tiled roofs. It is partly tile hung in fishscale pattern.

These scattered historic farm buildings remain some of the few buildings in the area and their unique history and architecture add greatly to the sense of place.

The remains of a medieval moated site west of Vachery Farm comprise a nearly-square broad ditch with a causeway which leads onto a central island. This scheduled monument represents the prestigious residence of the Lord of the manor with the moat marking the high status of the occupier and serving to deter casual raiders and wild animals. Most moated sites were constructed in the years either side of 1300, and Vachery Manor House is known from historical records to have existed in 1296. A scatter of medieval roofing tile in the interior bears witness to the former existence of a grand house on the site.

The moat has been almost completely filled by silt and decomposing vegetation and remains water-logged or water-filled throughout the year. It is fed by a stream from the south-east. The interior is bordered by a slight bank on the inner edge of the moat, which was probably originally surmounted by a palisade fence. The main part of the moat island is now wooded and represents a feature that provides significant time depth to the landscape.



Photograph 12 - medieval moated site

Vachery Pond was used as a reservoir for the Wey and Arun Junction canal which opened in 1816 but it is marked on maps before the canal existed and is likely to have originated as a forge or hammer pond. Hammer Farm is situated close by to the east on the stream which is dammed to make it. Whilst the pond is not visible from public footpaths due to surrounding vegetation and topography it is a striking feature in the landscape and significantly adds to the sense of place.



Photograph 13 – Vachery Pond

Overall, the landscape of this area illustrates a time depth which greatly adds to the sense of place and the appreciation and enjoyment of the area.

Additional Information

It is evident from previous studies³ that the areas supported for AONB designation exhibit strong similarities with the landscape character and characteristics of the adjoining designated AONB. Whilst the studies are not relied on in assessing the appropriateness for inclusion of the landscapes within the AONB, they provide useful background to the landscape character of the proposed areas.

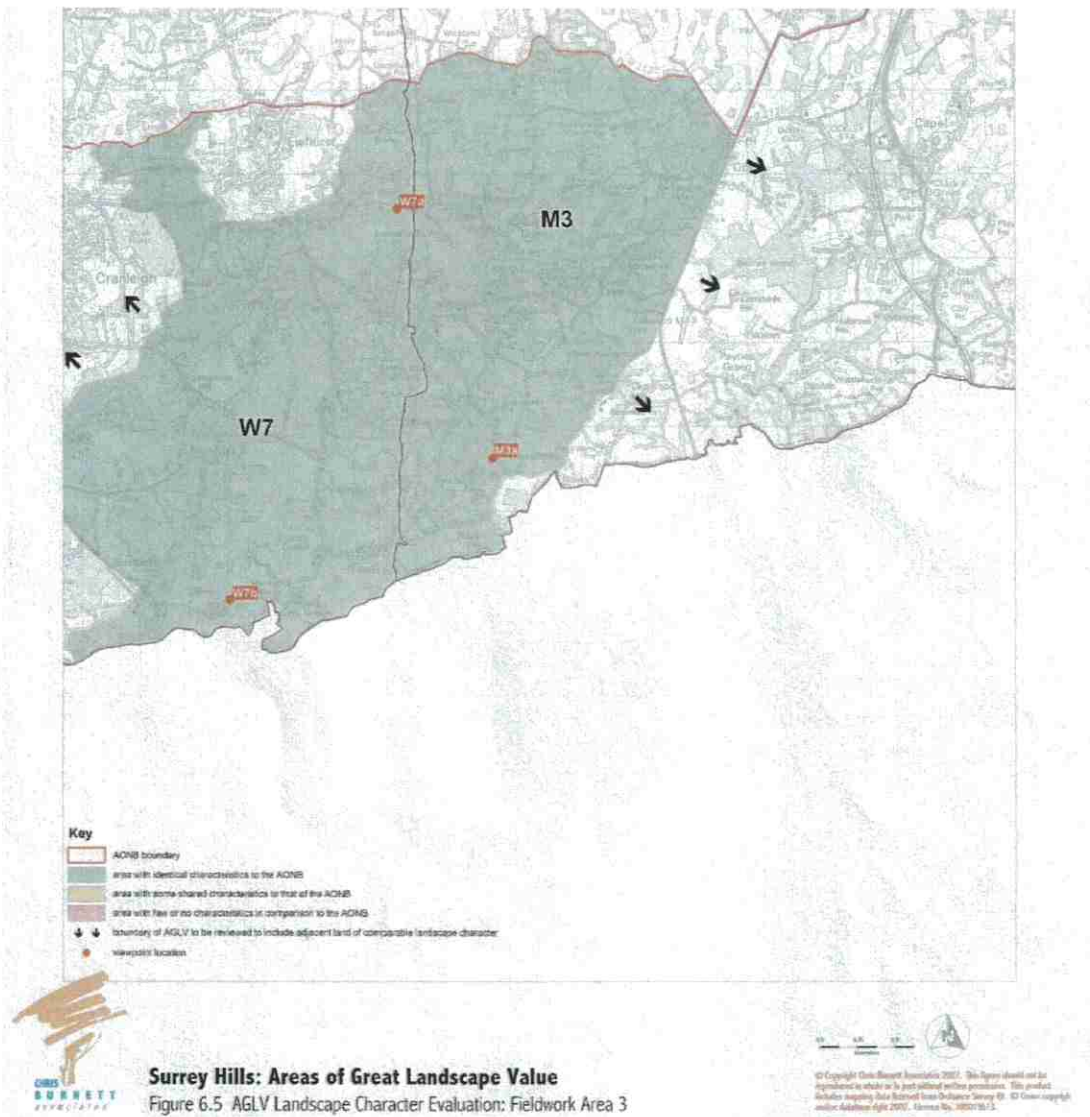
Within the **Surrey Landscape Character Assessment, 2015**, the area south of Evaluation Area EA12 falls within Character Area: WW8 Cranleigh to Charlwood Wooded Low Weald.

Many of the key characteristics for this Character Area are exhibited in the area supported by Cranleigh Parish Council for inclusion in the AONB:

- Underlain by Wealden Group Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone solid geology. Paludina limestone outcrops.
- Relatively low lying, undulating landform, rising to meet slightly more elevated weald to the north, elsewhere the landform rises to localised high points.
- The character area consists of small scale pastoral and arable fields, largely enclosed by intact hedgerows and tree belts. The concentration of woodland varies, however increases generally within the central and western parts of the character area, particularly between Cranleigh and Ewhurst, where it constitutes the dominant land cover.
- Woodland is prominently broadleaved, including semi-natural Beech and Oak, but conifer plantations are also present.
- Watercourses wind their way through the character area, generally flowing northwards. Some watercourses are steep sided and wooded gills. Large ponds, including those formed from occasional clay pits, are scattered across the character area.
- Woodland and tree cover encloses the character area and limits long distance views, although views of higher wooded weald and greensand hills to the north is possible between gaps in tree cover, from elevated positions mostly within the northern part of the character area.
- Elsewhere, there are scattered farmsteads and small groups of dwellings.
- A network of rural lanes cross the character area, however a few areas have limited road access and rely on tracks and an extensive network of public rights of way.
- A number of farm houses and agricultural buildings, including barns, within the character area, are grade II listed buildings.
- A number of areas are designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance across the character area, including areas of semi-natural woodland.
- A rural, tranquil landscape, with a sense of remoteness and intimacy due to woodland/tree cover.

³Surrey Hills AGLV Review, Chris Burnett Associates, 2007; Cranleigh, Shamley Green Landscape Assessment, Chris Burnett Associates on behalf of Surrey CPRE, April 2010; Surrey Hills AONB Areas of Search Natural Beauty Evaluation, August 2014; Surrey Landscape Character Assessment, Hankinson Duckett Associates, April 2015

Within the **Surrey Hills Areas of Great Landscape Value Review, 2007**, Proposed Area EA12 falls within Area W7.



Area W7 is identified as similar in character to the Wooded Weald fringe of the AONB in most respects. Occasionally, small sporadic areas with larger field pattern and less managed hedges occur but generally this area is homogenous and directly comparable to that of the adjacent AONB Wooded Weald: Wonersh to Holmwood character area. This is characterised by a fusion of gently undulating topography and woodland cover which encloses small to medium sized fields.

Part of this extensive area with the following characteristics:

- Undulating landform
- Small scale irregular fields, hedgerows and oak copses
- Bushy hedgerows and shaws
- Small streams
- Large country house and small parklands
- Lanes connecting Wealden villages with Greensand Hills
- Intimate secluded landscape

The table below from the Surrey Hills Areas of Great Landscape Value Review shows strong similarities between the characteristics of the designated Surrey Hills AONB and the adjoining W7.

WAVERLEY SHEET 6

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA Greensand Valley

Reference No. WS6

Description

Stretching from Holmwood Common in the east to Womersley in the west, this is a low lying area of gently undulating farmland rising up to join the Greensand ridge. The area comprises small-scale irregular field patterns, largely pastoral, within a well-defined woodland setting. The area has an intimate, secluded feel with a scattering of villages and hamlets, greens and commons, and a network of narrow, winding, enclosed lanes with mature hedgerow oak trees. Other features in the area include localised framed views of the Greensand ridge, unique wooded ghylls, large country houses with parkland, and distinctive styles of buildings, especially cottages and farmhouses.

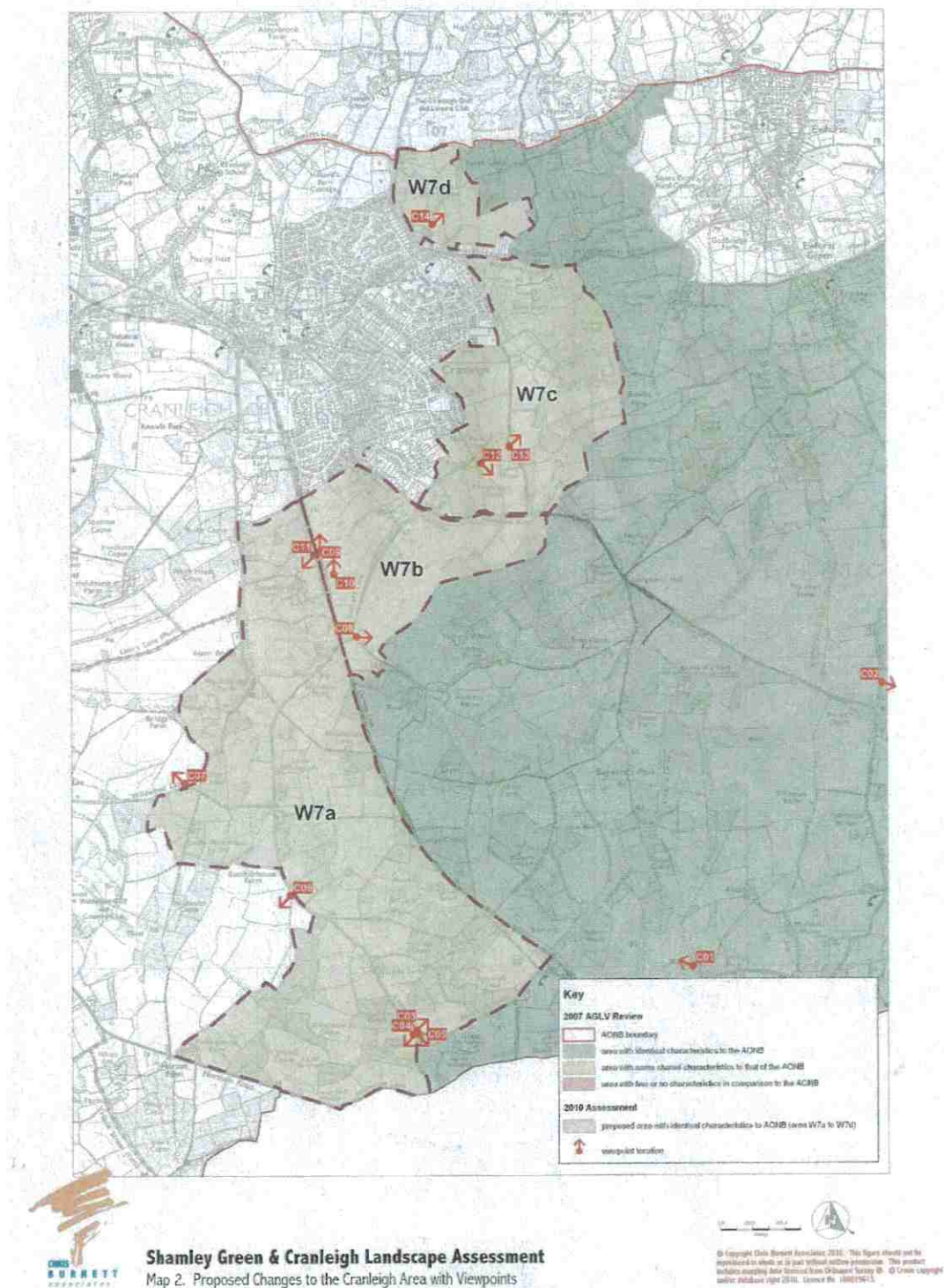
Characteristic Features	AONB	M3a	W7a	W7b	W8a
Undulating landform	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓
Small scale irregular fields, hedgerows and oak copses	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Bushy hedgerows and shaws	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Small streams	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Large country house and small parklands	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	X
Lanes connecting Wealden villages with Greensand Hills	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓
Intimate secluded landscape	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓
SUMMARY CHARACTERISTICS					
M3a	Undulating, small to medium mixed arable/pasture field deferred by shaws and copses providing a well wooded landscape character with restricted views. Winding lanes. Slightly less managed feel to hedges. As M3a but slightly larger fields. As for M3a but more individual parkland trees. As for M3a but flatter due to river valley. Less enclosed with views to distant hills and birch gives a slightly different character.				
W7a					
W7b					
W8a					
PERCEPTION					
Views	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Distant
Scale	Small	Small	Medium	Small	Medium
Enclosure	Enclosed	Enclosed	Enclosed	Enclosed	Semi-end
Variety	Varied	Varied	Varied	Varied	Varied
Texture	Textured	Textured	Textured	Textured	Rough
Colour	Colourful	Colourful	Colourful	Colourful	Colourful
Movement	Peaceful	Active	Active	Active	Active
Unity	Unified	Unified	Unified	Unified	Interrupted
Naturalness	Tamed	Tamed	Tamed	Tamed	Tamed

✓ = subtle

✓✓ = evident

✓✓✓ = conspicuous

The **Cranleigh, Shamley Green Landscape Assessment for Surrey CPRE, 2010** reviewed the potential for the eastern fringe of Area EA12 which abuts the built up edge of Cranleigh to be designated as AONB. The eastern fringe of Area EA12 falls within **Area W7** and comprises two sub compartments: W7d and W7c as illustrated on the map below.



Of sub compartment W7a the study states:

'All of the characteristics of the Wooded Weald are found in this area which is the most extensive of the sub compartments.

The mapped area consists of an intricate combination of small scale fields and woodland on gently rolling topography which matches the neighbouring AGLV area seamlessly. This is illustrated convincingly in the panoramas C3 and C4 (undesignated land) and C5 (AGLV) which demonstrate similar characteristics.

The northern boundary of this sub compartment lies just south of Coldharbour farm. Up to this point shared characteristics are in abundance but beyond and to the north, the settled fringe of Cranleigh exerts more of an influence and a more suburban character prevails.'

Of sub compartment W7a the study states:

'This area of landscape is dominated by the disused railway line which is now used as a major trail.

Characteristics of historic parkland planting are found here, manifest in small isolated clumps of parkland trees, nonetheless the dense woodland cover and topographic variation in landform provide the basis of a continued classification as AGLV code green.

Although the influence of Cranleigh does affect the northern fringes of this sub compartment, the perimeter tree cover is sufficient for the effect not to become overtly intrusive.

This is demonstrated by C10, which is taken from the higher ground, in which Cranleigh is almost wholly obscured by tree cover allowing distant views of the Greensand Hills.'

The study concludes:

'There is considerable justification for extending the AGLV boundary, and hence by inference the AONB boundary, in a westerly direction to cover the area marked on Map 2. The similarities between the extension and the existing AGLV are sufficiently closely matched to make a comparisons between the two areas both valid and robust.'

Summary

Drawing together the various studies undertaken on the character and characteristics of the area in Cranleigh Parish within Proposed Area EA12, it is clear that the area exhibits most of the characteristics of the adjoining Surrey Hills AONB. The character of the landscape differs subtly in that the area is lower lying, rising to meet slightly more elevated weald to the north. However, guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England, 2011, Natural England states:

'It is not necessary for the land to be included in a proposed designation to be of the same or similar character.'

Conclusion

Cranleigh Parish Council have carefully examined the criteria for AONB designation in relation to an area south of Evaluation Area 12 which lies within the Parish. It would appear from the evidence that the area as defined on Map 3 justifies AONB designation.

The evidence indicates this area of the Parish is special because:

- Landscape quality is high with intact characteristic features well represented throughout, with incongruous elements largely absent.
- Scenic quality is high with undulating landform, woodland, streams and enclosed pasture forming a very interesting pattern of land cover which, together with sensory stimuli, create a distinctive sense of place.
- Gently undulating topography and woodland combine to produce enclosed spaces and the limited human influence of lanes and settlement result in a sense of remoteness.
- The area exhibits relative tranquillity with characteristic landscape elements such as woodland and streams and the absence of any significant human influences.
- Significant areas of ancient woodland, streams and tree/hedge lined pasture create an abundance of habitats which attract flora and fauna which add to the visual and auditory stimulation.
- Rich cultural heritage with the presence of ancient woodland, medieval field patterns, many listed buildings and an ancient monument.

It would be beneficial for AONB designation to apply to this area of landscape because this would ensure that the qualities of the area are recognised and attributed the appropriate landscape status. As a consequence, the landscape would be afforded the appropriate level of protection. There appears to be no logical reason why the current boundary excludes EA12 and land to the south and this area should represent a continuation of the Surrey Hills AONB.

The area sits well with the Vision and Aims of the Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan

THE VISION

The Surrey Hills AONB is recognised as a national asset in which its natural and cultural resources are managed in an attractive landscape mosaic of farmland, woodland, heaths, downs and commons. It provides opportunities for business enterprise and for all to enjoy and appreciate its natural beauty for their health and well-being.

The area would benefit from participation in the implementation of the AONB Management Plan projects, in particular the Landscape Conservation and Enhancement and Access, Enjoyment and Understanding initiatives.

Appendix 1

Location of photographs

