



MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 - 2017



Chipperfield Common



Welcome to the Chipperfield Common Green Flag Management Plan

Over the past five years Chipperfield Common has achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award in each successive year. This achievement has been made possible by following a robust and well-structured five year management plan and with the help of the people of Chipperfield.

Working in partnership with DBC, on all aspects of The Common, Chipperfield Parish Council strives to maintain the delicate balance between the needs of the residents and visitors whilst at the same time preserving the natural environment of The Common.

The aim of this five year management plan is to maintain the overall ethos and build upon the experience gained over the past five years. Driven by the Green Flag Award Scheme the Chipperfield Common Management Plan is reviewed each year but is constantly monitored to ensure that the overall aims and objects are being met. We believe that this management plan meets all the above objectives and will ensure that The Common continues to be held in high esteem and provide enjoyment for all.

Harry Laverack, Chairman – February 2013 On behalf of Chipperfield Parish Council

Chipperfield Common has been managed over the last five years through a collaborative partnership between Dacorum Borough and Chipperfield Parish Councils, this has allowed for local sensitivities to be respected and led to Chipperfield receiving the prestigious Green Flag award with improved marks every year since 2008.

During that period The Friends of Chipperfield Common have been formed and now number more than forty local residents. The Friends group are regularly updated with what is happening on the Common and act as eyes and ears informing Parish or Borough about anything that is of concern. During the last three years the Friends group have completed many tasks including pond maintenance and the creation of two new glades.

I commend this new revised management plan which continues to recognise that the Common is a delicate balance between the needs of people and the natural environment. I entrust those working for both Borough and Parish to continue striving to safeguard Chipperfield Common for residents and visitors alike.

Councillor Julie Laws – February 2013 On behalf of Dacorum Borough Council

Chipperfield Common Management Plan 2017

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Amendment Sheet

Alteration Date	Section Updated	Notes	Initials
<u>2007 - 12 Plan</u> January 2009	All	Plan amended through further discussion between DBC and CPC	CC/CCH
<u>2007 - 12 Plan</u> January 2010	1.1, 15.0. Additional Appendices 11 - 15	Plan amended through further discussion between DBC and CPC	CC/MB/C CH
<u>2007-2012 Plan</u> January 2011	15.1 - 9	Plan amended through further discussion between DBC and CPC	CCH/CC/
<u>2007-2012 Plan</u> January 2012	1.1, 15.0 Appendices 13, 17	Plan amended through further discussion between DBC and CPC	CCH
2013 – 17 Plan February 2013	All	New Plan 2013 - 2017	CCH / CPC
2013 – 17 Plan January 2014		Plan amended through further discussion between DBC and CPC	CCH / CPC
2013 – 17 Plan January 2015		Plan amended through further discussion between DBC and CPC	CCH /CPC
2013 – 17 January 2017		Plan amended through further discussion between DBC and CPC	CCH/ CPC

Response to Judge's Comments 2015



Green Flag Award 2015/2016

Name of Site – Chipperfield Common
Managing Organisation – Dacorum Borough Council

Bandscores

Desk Assessment	0-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-30			
Field Assessment	20-29	30-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-70
Overall score	30-44	45-54	55-59	60-65	66-69	70-74	75-79	80+

Status –

Overall band score – 70 - 74

Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and supporting documentation)

Band score – 20-24

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Response
Presentation	Well presented Reasonable detailed information Good maps	Would benefit from additional photographs Appendices could be put on website reducing size of management plan	New photographs added Appendices are referred to throughout plan
Health, Safety & Security	Well documented	Slight concern regarding accessibility to ponds by dogs and public	No easy answer without seriously detracting from the

Chipperfield Common Management Plan 2017

			pleasant appearance of the ponds
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	Adequate inspections laid out in management plan. A robust tree plan is in place		
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	Satisfactory provision made in management plan for litter and cleanliness	Could dog waste bins be replaced with litter bins	As and when they degrade, dog bins won't be replaced
Environmental Sustainability	A well presented and detailed account of procedures to maintain sustainability.		
Conservation of heritage & nature	Well documented but out of date	Update 2001 Nature Conservation Strategy Plan	
Community Involvement	Management Plan outlines detailed community involvement.		
Marketing Strategy	Has been designed to reflect requirements of the Common and so does not encourage too many events and visitors		
Overall management	Good relationship between Parish and Borough Council well documented		
Additional comments			

Field Assessment Feedback

Band score – 45-49

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	
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A Welcoming Place	Well known and supported by local community	May benefit from additional visitor signage from Borough Council	Extra interpretive signs (2) installed 2017
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Wide pathways accessible to all users creating a safe and secure environment. Slight concern on easy access to natural ponds by public and dog owners.	Is easy access to ponds highlighted on notice boards / website	
Clean and Well Maintained	No visible issues on site visit Continue with good work.		
Sustainability	Good use of local timber for benches Natural pruning has enhanced tree canopy to benefit of all users.		
Conservation and Heritage	Wide selection of tree species was evident on visit, blending in well to the surrounding landscape.	Old Sweet Chestnuts great addition to natural tree stock but could do with highlighting the fact they are here. What is happening with Silver Birch Plantation.	Are mentioned on the interpretive sign. Consider a sign dedicated to the Sweet Chestnut. Manual control of birch before they start seeding
Community Involvement	Cricket pitch self - funding and maintained by cricket club, providing good link with local community. Good links between Local Parish Council and Decorum Borough Council providing community involvement and feedback highlighting local issues.	No local community representation was present on visit Local survey / questionnaire good but out of date.	Will ask a member of the Friends group to be present in 2017
Marketing	Local information board provides basic	Low key marketing does not assist visitors to the	We are more likely to concentrate on web

	points of interest of natural woodland.	area, highlighting what the natural woodland has to offer. Information leaflet could be provided.	based information
Management	Good partnership between Parish and Borough Council providing stable financial environment. Tree officer very knowledgeable on arboriculture matters and historical woodland	It was mentioned that dogs often silt up natural ponds and defecate pathways. Recommend onsite meetings with local dog users to discuss concerns of local users.	Dogs are being thrown sticks all day every day and stir up the front third of Apostles Pond. Very difficult to stop it, mention is made on the new interpretive sign
Additional Comments			
A well maintained natural woodland with a number of highly prized tree species. Tree officer very committed and knowledgeable			

1.0 Chipperfield Common Management Plan Summary

1.1 Introduction

Chipperfield is a working village with a population of 1800 people. It is set in the midst of a farming community with a mixed population of well established locals, commuters, retired people and young families. It is situated relatively close to the urban areas of Hemel Hempstead and Watford. The Common represents approximately one quarter of the village area and stretches from the boundary of the village to its centre at the War Memorial. Issues relating to the Common inevitably affect the functioning of the village. This tight natural integration of the Common with the village and the demographic pressure of nearby urban communities require careful and sensitive management. The following Plan is intended to achieve this balance within the management of the Common.

1.2 Intent / Concept

Chipperfield Common has had a site management plan for over 25 years. These plans concentrated mainly on addressing forestry and woodland management issues and were used successfully as working documents.

The decision to enter the site for the Green Flag Award in 2008 necessitated the production of a new management plan to satisfy the requirements of the scheme. It is hoped that this new style of management plan will help to ensure that Chipperfield Common will continue to meet the needs of local residents and

visitors for many years to come whilst setting out a vision for its future.

1.3 Audiences

This comprehensive plan aims to satisfy the requirements and needs of a wide ranging and diverse group of internal and external organisations, partners and users. These include the following:

- Green Flag Award Scheme
- Chipperfield Parish Council
- Villagers
- Local Environmental Groups
- General Public

1.4 Process

The main partner with the strongest influence on the process is Chipperfield Parish Council (CPC). CPC has been closely involved in the preparation of the plan to ensure that any proposed developments fully meet the high expectations of local residents. Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) continues to meet with CPC on a quarterly basis to discuss Common issues

The Countryside Management Service, Hertfordshire Biological Record Centre and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust were also involved and assisted with the original production of this plan.

1.5 Style

The format of this management plan is based on the CABI Space recommended style.

1.6 Key Issues

The process of producing this management plan identified and highlighted several issues that have been fully addressed in this plan. These include the following:

- The need to revise and update several key strategies and policies.
- The need to consult more widely and comprehensively on issues affecting the site, as the Common is already very popular with local residents and visitors who may not welcome unnecessary changes to the area.
- The need to improve the existing facilities such as car parks.

- The need to achieve a balance between the number of visitors to the site and its nature conservation value. Although the site has the capacity to absorb a much greater number of visitors, this may have a detrimental effect on the tranquillity of the site, disturb local wildlife and cause erosion.
- The need to maintain the working life of the Village of which the Common is a significant part.



A – Where are we now?

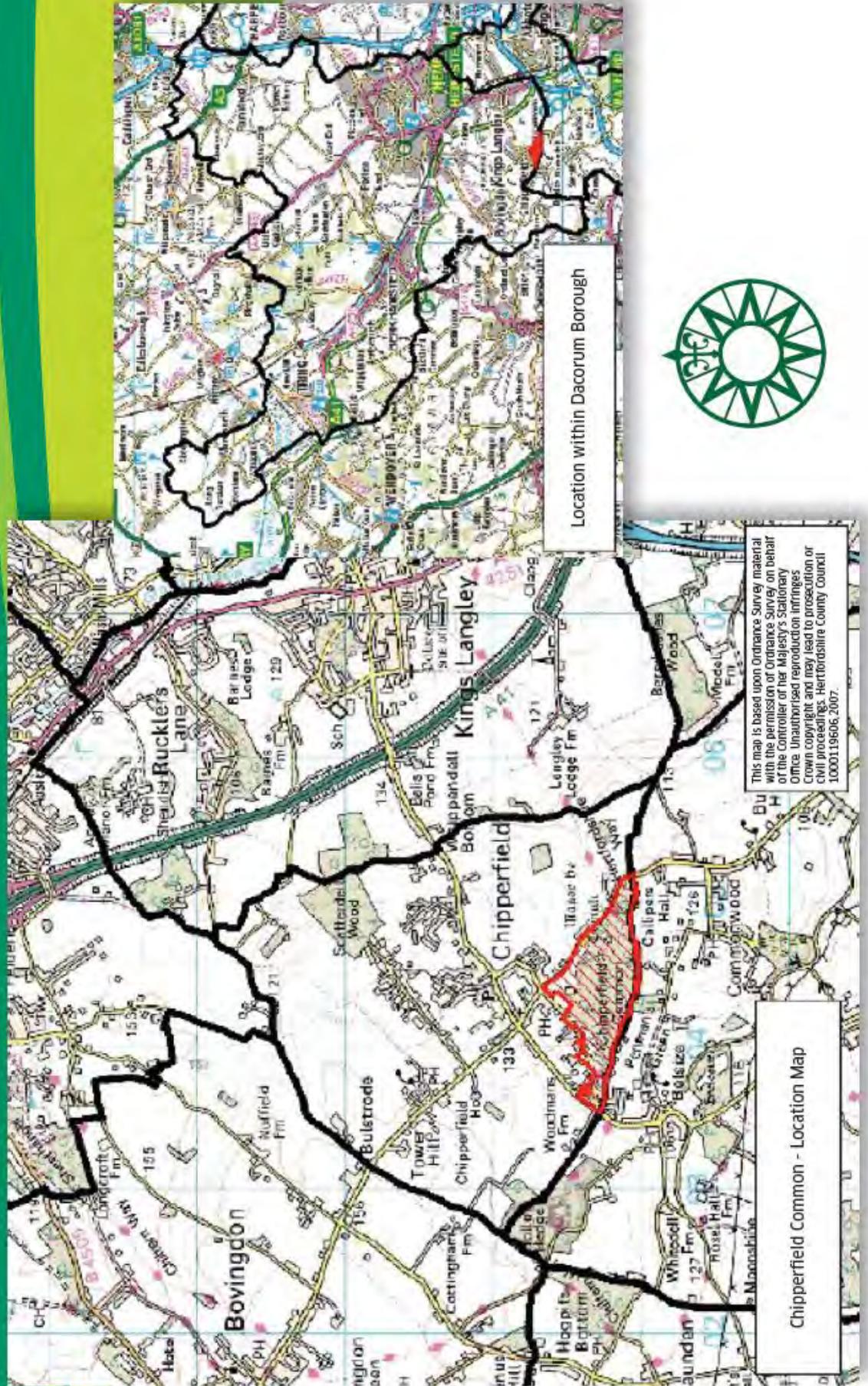
2.0 Site Description

2.1 Location

Chipperfield Common is situated in the village of Chipperfield on the southern boundary of the Borough of Dacorum in West Hertfordshire, approximately 5 miles north west of Watford / south west of Hemel Hempstead (see Map 1 for location). It is located on the southern edge of the village and forms a significant feature in the local landscape, covering an area of 47.5 hectares (118 acres). The woodland's relatively low elevation disguises its size and makes it less prominent than it otherwise would be. Whilst originally open heathland the site is now covered by approximately 40 hectares of woodland, forming the largest contiguous woodland managed by Dacorum Borough Council. The Common (road) runs along its north flank and it is also visible from Windmill Hill that runs directly through the Common's western end and Bucks Hill to the east. The National Grid Reference is TL045014.

Chipperfield Common Location Map

Map 1



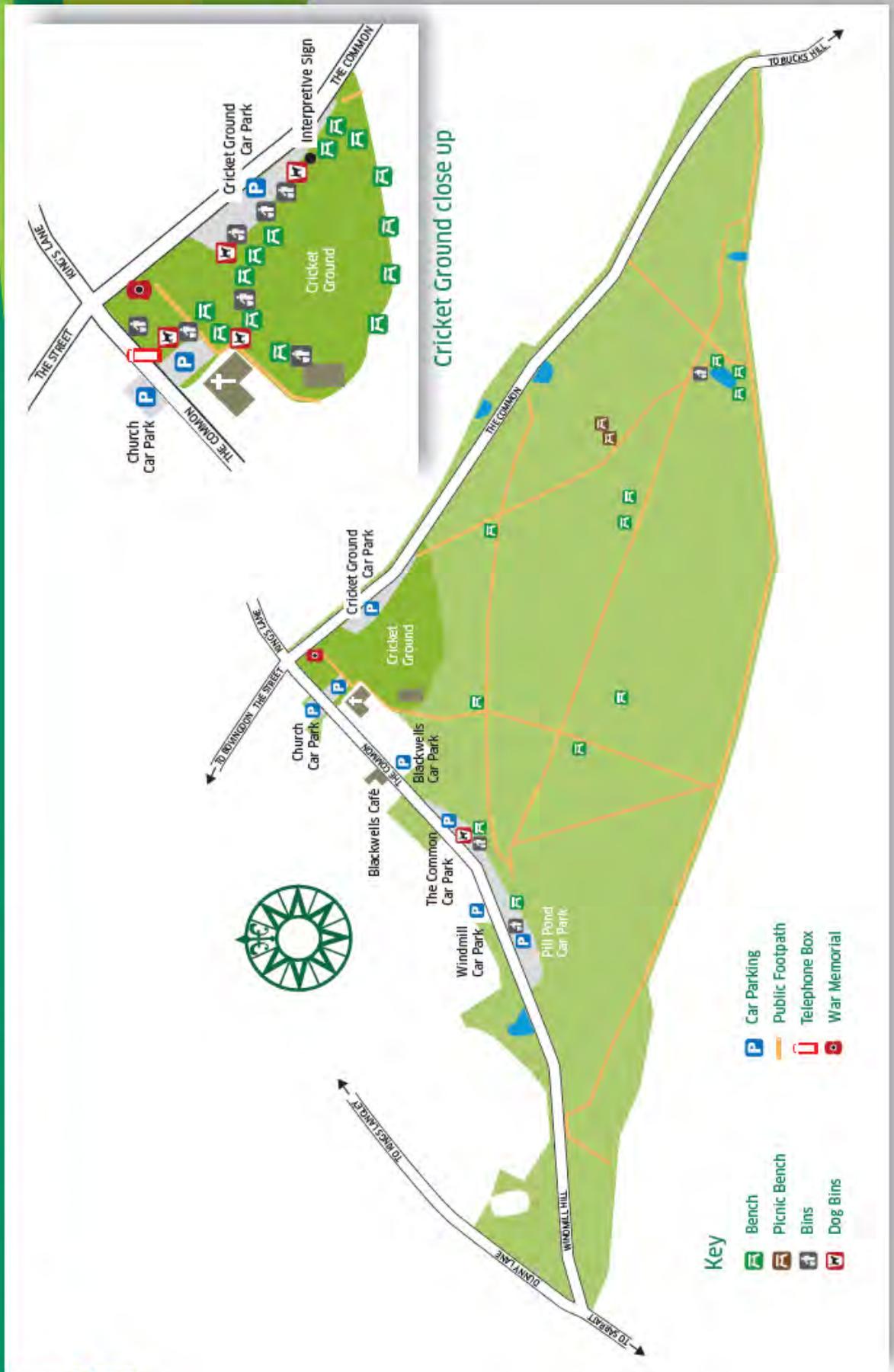
Natural Site Features

Map 2



Non Natural Site Features

Map 3





Boundaries and Compartments

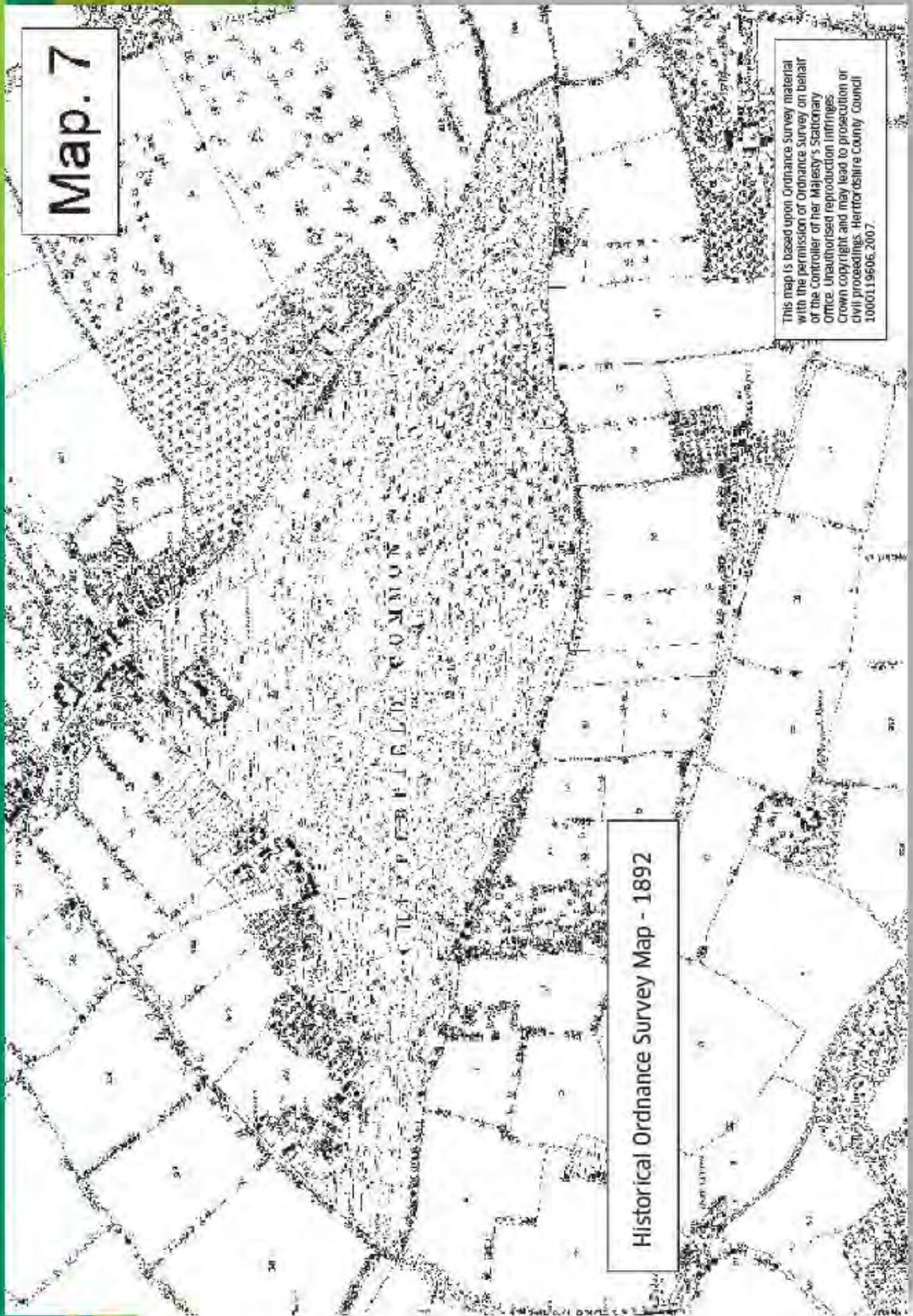
Map 5



Arial Photograph 2001

Map 6





2.2 Character and Features

Chipperfield Common is the best known feature in Chipperfield. It consists predominantly of secondary woodland that has gradually regenerated as traditional grazing practices have ceased. The age of the woodland varies across the site from approximately 40 to 200 years old. However, the eight veteran sweet chestnut trees, (see 2.2.6 & appendix 5) are believed to be up to 400 years old.

Prior to the establishment of Chipperfield Parish Council in 1956, The Common was gifted to the local authority, Hemel Rural District Council, in 1936 by the Blackwell family for a fee of 10 shillings on the understanding that they should “take great care to consult local feeling so far as the management of the Common is concerned in the future”. The Common is now jointly maintained by Dacorum Borough Council and Chipperfield Parish Council, for the benefit of the people of Chipperfield and the wider community. The Common contains a number of significant historical landscape features including five ponds, eight veteran sweet chestnuts estimated to date back to the 1600’s and two early bronze age burial mounds.

Chipperfield Common is well used for informal recreation, jogging, dog walking, horse riding and many other activities. In addition, there is a cricket ground and pavilion located on the northern tip of the site close to the village centre, which is home to Chipperfield & Clarendon Cricket Club. The War Memorial and St Paul’s Church are also situated in this area (shown on Map 3). Chipperfield Common not only serves the local population, it also attracts regular visitors from nearby towns such as Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley, Watford and Amersham.

The Blackwell family also provided funding for the construction of the Village Working Mens Club, in memory of their two sons who fell in the First World War. The Club is situated next to the Common and is now Blackwells Cafe providing a valuable focus and facilities for residents and visitors to the Common.

Map 2 shows the natural site features. Map 3 shows non natural feature within the site, Map 4 details access and original path names and Map 5 shows the Common boundary and management compartments. Map 6 is an aerial photograph of Chipperfield Common taken in 2001 and shows the links with the wider green space network and it’s relationship with Chipperfield. Map 7 is a historical map and is the earliest Ordnance Survey map of Chipperfield Common dating back to 1892.

2.2.1 Access and Public Rights of Way

A number of paths and (Public) Rights of Way provide easy access within the site. The site elevation ranges between 125 and 130 metres above sea level and

is relatively flat providing for good access. The site is accessible on foot from several directions and six car parks providing parking for visitors who wish to travel to the site. Footpaths and roads link Chipperfield Common to adjacent towns including Kings Langley, Hemel Hempstead and Bovington and play an important role in providing countryside access opportunities to walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

On the south and north boundaries of the Common there are access tracks, over which horse riding is permitted that provide links to surrounding areas and a pleasant environment for the significant horse riding interest in Chipperfield and nearby villages.

Map 3 shows the location of the Easy Access Route (EAR), a circular route of wider paths with a firm and level surface. Chipperfield Common has been classified as an Urban Fringe and Managed Landscapes as defined by the Countryside for All Charter. The circular EAR of 1 mile through the woodland was developed in the spring of 2007, as part of Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way Policy to provide a minimum of one route in each district. The route through the Common was the first to be developed in Dacorum. The intention of the EAR was to provide the opportunity of access for all without detracting from the semi natural environment enjoyed by visitors to Chipperfield Common.

During the life of the 2007 – 12 Management Plan, on either side of the paths that divide the management compartments, a 4 metre management strip was created. All trees and shrubs of less than 40 cm were removed and scrub vegetation controlled. This has created a safer 'feel' for walkers and forms the basis for the network of glades and rides, see 14.6 'Rides / Edge Management

To achieve this, any improvements to the route are designed to be in character for the site. Furniture installed for the EAR included signposts and seats. The route was surfaced with natural materials that will quickly blend in with the local landscape.

2.2.2 Car Parks and Non Natural Infrastructure

Of the 6 car parks at Chipperfield Common, shown on Map 2, the largest, Cricket Ground Car Park in The Common (road) has a stone surface which is appropriate for the rural setting of the site. The Windmill, Blackwells and Church Car Parks, all in The Common (road) have tarmac surfaces. There are 2 further small car parks, The Common and Pill Pond Car Parks with stone surfaces. The total capacity of the car parks is approximately 100 cars, which is a limiting factor in the number of visitor vehicles which can be accommodated without damage or obstruction to the village.

There are 9 litter bins, all fox proofed, 6 dog waste bins and 2 easy access picnic benches at Chipperfield Common identified on Map 2, Site Features. Scattered throughout the site are 10 benches, 2 of which are memorial benches. The car parks are bordered by low level wood fences that also provide a useful facility for securing bicycles.

2.2.3 Buildings

The Cricket pavilion is the only building within the Common. The cricket pavilion is managed by Chipperfield & Clarendon Cricket Club, the adjacent Church is independently administered by the Diocese of St Albans.

2.2.4 Signage

The Common is not signed from the main roads or surrounding areas..During discussions between DBC and CPC during the life of the 2007-12 plan it was considered that judging by visitor numbers, Chipperfield Common is very well known and further signage not considered necessary.

There is an interpretive board containing a map and information about the Common, installed in 2009, in Cricket Ground Car Park. There is another interpretive sign adjacent to one of the burial mounds.

2.2.5 Woodland Status and Development

Chipperfield Common comprises mainly of secondary Semi Natural Woodland at different stages of development.

The original woodland was cleared for grazing centuries ago, creating an open heathland with relatively few scattered trees. A census taken in 1608 established that there were only 512 trees on the Common at that time. With the cessation of grazing in 1930, trees have naturally regenerated to the secondary woodland seen today.

The woodland has a varied character that changes distinctly from east to west. The present composition of two distinct woodland types, reflects its previous management. Approximately two thirds of the woodland consists primarily of mature oak and beech woodland with significant stands of introduced Scots pine and established thickets of holly. It is likely that many of the oak trees have arisen from old coppice stools and grazed seedlings. Estimations of their age vary from between 80 and 200 years. The beech trees give the most straightforward estimate of the age of the woodland, based on the 'Average Site' category for beech they are estimated to be around 140 years old. The Scots pine present are

estimated to be 80 to 100 years. These figures are based on work carried out by consultant dendrologist John White in 1996.

The western section of the Common is developing birch woodland that has arisen as a result of natural regeneration.

In 2011 a substantial report, Ecological Survey of Selected Habitats, was commissioned to i) assemble base line ecological data ii) measure the effectiveness of works undertaken during the life of the 2007 / 2012 management plan. A summary of 'Ecological Survey of Selected Habitats' by RS Brayshaw, Ecological Consultant can be found on appendix 9

2.2.6 Veteran, Commemorative and Memorial Trees

There are eight veteran sweet chestnut trees within the Common, local tradition has it that the trees were grown from nuts brought back by the crusaders and are up to 800 years old. However an investigation by consultant dendrologist John White in 1996 concluded the trees date from between 1600 and 1620. The method used to estimate their age was based on prior knowledge of sweet chestnut growth rates and the suppositions on their early development. Traditionally sweet chestnut trees were pollarded in order produce fencing wood and other materials. There is little evidence of pollarding to the Chipperfield Common sweet chestnuts perhaps as the nuts were a more valued product. Grey squirrels had not colonised England at that time thereby making the chestnuts a harvestable product.

There are a number of commemorative trees on Chipperfield Common (see Map 2), all planted to commemorate a Royal occasion. The Blue Atlas Cedar opposite Queen Street on the open area, commemorates the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952.

The sweet chestnut at the entrance to the woods from Cricket Ground Car Park, commemorates the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 1977 and the English oak planted nearby, the Golden Jubilee in 2002.

An Atlas Cedar was planted opposite where footpath 10 starts at The Common (road) and commemorates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

In 2010 a sapling sweet chestnut was planted close to T5, in 2016, a sapling chestnut was planted close to T8, both saplings were memorial trees and sourced from the Common. (See Appendix 5 for T positions)

2.2.7 Lowland Heath and Open Ground

Less than 80 years ago the majority of Chipperfield Common was grazing land

and most probably consisted largely of lowland heath. Some older Chipperfield residents can remember sheep grazing on the Common and gorse gathered for animal bedding. Today, small areas of heath exist on the fringes of the woodland and within a few woodland glades. In 1996 a heath land restoration project was initiated in Compartment 7. A large canopy opening that had been created by the storm of January 1990 was cleared of natural regeneration and the mineral soil exposed to encourage germination of the remnant heath land seed bank. In the winters of 1997-98, heather seed was sown and by the summer of 1999, a patchwork of heather had developed throughout the newly formed glade. The glade was extended in 2010 and the whole area remains open although birch regeneration is a constant threat and without grazing needs periodic cutting. There have been further glades created around each veteran sweet chestnut measuring 80 metres in diameter, where possible a glade around each pond, and two further glades in the woodland. The glades are being linked by more open paths to form eco – corridors through the woods. See 14.6 & 7.

2.2.8 Ponds

There are five ponds at Chipperfield Common – Apostles, Shepherds, and Manor Ponds are long established and all situated within the woodland. The locally named Frog Pond is next to the Manor House on the north side of The Common (road). Situated to the north of Windmill Hill, adjacent to the road, the Pill Pond is seasonal due to an inconsistent water supply.

2.2.9 Boundaries

Along most of the southern boundary of Chipperfield Common the traditional ditch and bank boundary is still intact. It was customary to mark a land boundary by digging a ditch and heaping up the spoil to form a bank. The bank was often planted with trees that were then managed by laying or coppicing. A number of beech, oak, ash and hornbeam are established on top of the bank and all pre-date the current woodland.

2.3 Historical Context

As part of the Manor of Kings Langley, Chipperfield Common was in royal ownership from 1066.

When Edward II built the Kings Langley Priory for the Dominican Black Friars he gave them land close to the Palace in Kings Langley. In 1316, he granted the Manor House of Langley including Chipperfield to the Dominican Brotherhood. There is a strong tradition that Apostles Pond was a monastic fish pond belonging to the Dominican Priory as Edward II gave the friars permission to coppice wood and take fish from the pond. This practice continued until the 16th Century. It is believed that John and Mary Marriott planted 12 Lime trees around the pond in 1714 and because of this, the pond is known as the “Apostles Pond”.

Most of the what must have been secondary Limes planting at Apostles Pond have now given way to age and decay. In 2017 there is a mixture of old and young Limes. The Marriots also planted oak, beech and pine on The Common in groups of five.

In 1630 Chipperfield Common was sold to the City of London to pay the debts of King Charles I. The Manor was conveyed to Thomas Houlker of Middle Temple and stayed in private ownership until 1936, when the Blackwell family gifted the Common to Hemel Rural District Council.

2.4 Legal Context

2.4.1 Ownership

Chipperfield Common is in the Freehold ownership of Dacorum Borough Council. The site boundary is marked on Map 4.

2.4.2 Designations

Chipperfield Common is within the Chipperfield Conservation Area. The site is registered as a Common under the Commons Register with no Commoners rights. There are a number of local byelaws affecting the site these are shown in Appendix 1 & 2. The Common has been in receipt of the Green Flag award from 2008 to the present.

2.4.3 Conveyances

The Common was gifted to Hemel Hempstead Rural District Council, for a fee of 10 shillings, in 1936 “for the use or purpose of a public open space”. A covenant attached to the sale of the Common states “Consult local feeling as to the management of the Common where reasonable”.

2.4.4 Leases and Licences

The cricket square, outfield and pavilion are leased to Chipperfield & Clarendon Cricket Club for a period of 60 years from 1965. The cricket club undertakes the grounds maintenance functions. The grass open space adjacent to the cricket ground is managed by Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) and may be used for special events throughout the year.

2.5 Site Surveys and Assessments

In summer 2011, a significant piece of ecological study was undertaken by Steve Brayshaw (Ecological Consultancy) a summary of which can be seen at Appendix 9

2.6 Archaeological Context

The two round burial mounds within the woodland probably date from the early Bronze Age (c.2300-c.1400BC). These burial grounds usually contain the ashes of a single cremation often in a pottery vessel and sometimes accompanied by objects intended for use in the next world. Ditches originally surrounded the barrows but these have been filled in over time, mainly with earth eroded from the mounds. Both barrows are legally protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The Government organisation responsible for enforcing this Act is English Heritage.

A monument which has been scheduled is protected against disturbance or unlicensed metal detecting. English Heritage encourages land owners to maintain their scheduled monuments in good condition by adopting sympathetic land uses. This may simply mean restricting stock levels sensibly or controlling excessive vegetation. It is a criminal offence to:

- Damage a scheduled monument by carrying out works without consent.
- Cause reckless or deliberate damage.
- Use a metal detector or remove an object found with one without a license from English Heritage.

Conviction for these offences can lead to fines.

Both barrows are protected by a post and rail oak fence and an interpretive sign has been placed adjacent to the first barrow on the right from the main car park. In 2011 bracken within the fenced areas was controlled by herbicide application

2.7 Wider Context

2.7.1 Policy Context

Many Council strategies and policy statements have a direct impact on this management plan. These include the following:

- Trees and Woodlands Policy 2015 - 2020
- Green Space Strategy
- Habitat Survey for Dacorum Borough Council: A Nature Conservation Reference Guide
- Dacorum Cycling Strategy
- Anti Social Behaviour Strategy
- Community Safety Partnership Strategy
- Corporate Sustainability Policy
- Right of Way Policy

- Dacorum Borough Nature Conservation Strategy, a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

3.0 Current Management and Maintenance Arrangements

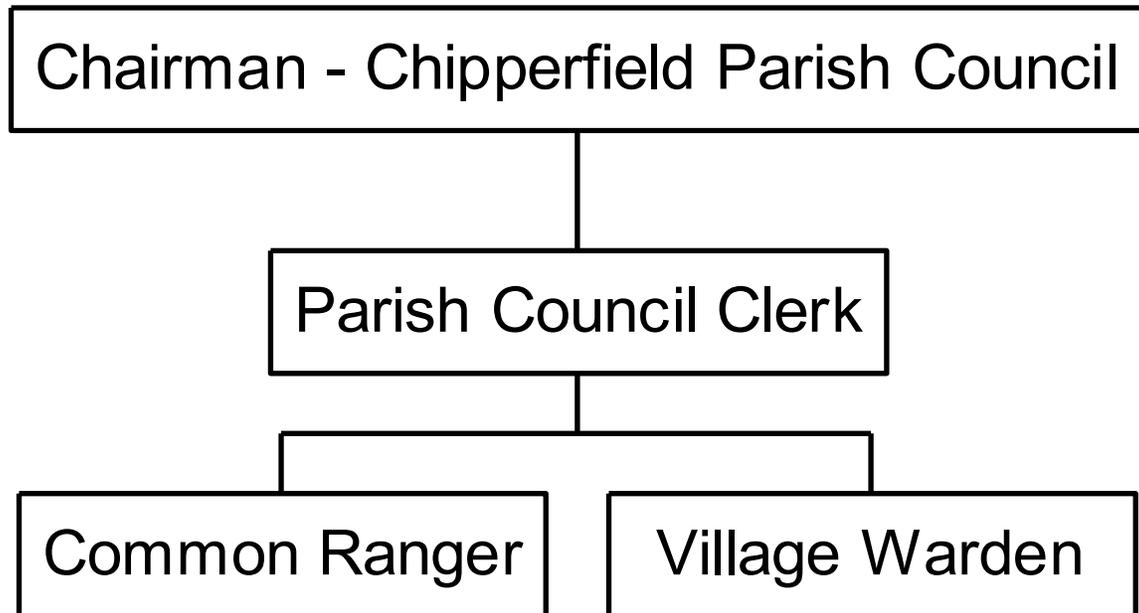
The woodland is managed by Dacorum Borough Council and maintained using external woodland contractors. Chipperfield Parish Council assists with the management of the site by providing an on site presence and undertaking grounds maintenance operations such as litter management and strimming

3.1 Staffing Arrangements

The Council's Woodlands Officer is directly responsible for the management of the site. The Parish Council provides a Woodland Ranger and a Village Warden on a part time basis. The 'Friends of Chipperfield Common' (formed 2009) meet on a regular basis and carry out practical work such as pond clearance and glade creation. See Appendix 8, Friends of Chipperfield Common, Project Days 2016.

Ad hoc volunteer groups also undertake work on the Common, all working in accordance with the management plan.

3.4 Chipperfield Parish Council - Organisational Chart



3.5 Inspection Regime

The entire site is inspected regularly by the Parish Council's Woodland Ranger and the Village Warden. Any defects affecting car parks, vegetation and infrastructure are reported initially to the Parish Clerk. The Council's Woodland Officer also carries out regular inspections of the woodland and takes appropriate remedial action when necessary. The Chipperfield Common Ranger, Inspection and Maintenance Routes can be seen at Appendix 4

3.6 Footpaths

All footpaths are inspected annually by the Council's Countryside Access Officer and the Woodlands Officer and weekly by the Parish Council Common Ranger. Any defects identified are quickly rectified.

3.7 Permissive Bridleways

Horses are an integral part of Chipperfield, there are around 20 stables in the village alone. Horse riders from Chipperfield and the surrounding villages not only use the Common for exercising their horses in a beautiful and natural environment, but also for social interaction with other riders, local residents and

visitors. There is a signed tracks on both the north and south of the Common over which horse riding is permitted, see Map 3.

3.8 Litter and Dog Bins

The Borough Council empties litter and dog waste bins once a week. Additional litter picks are carried out regularly by the Parish Council's staff.

3.9 Community Context

Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) manages the site in partnership with Chipperfield Parish Council (CPC). CPC is actively involved with the management of the site and ensures that any proposed changes or management decisions fully meet the expectations of local residents. Other partners include the Friends of Chipperfield Common, Hertfordshire Biological Record Centre (HBRC), Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and local environmental groups.

3.10 Community Involvement

Chipperfield Parish Council provides the main link between the local community and Dacorum Borough Council at Chipperfield Common. Liaison takes place on a formal and informal basis through the Parish Clerk and with individual Councillors as issues arise. The Parish Council is consulted and contributes to the preparation of management plans for the Common. Regular scheduled meetings between Parish and Borough ensure a partnership approach to the development and implementation of the plan.

Education forms an important aspect of the woods and Common. Environmental education lessons taken in the woods form a regular part of the school timetable for the local St Pauls School. Visitors from Kenmore Park School in Middlesex also make similar use of the Common.

The Council's Woodlands Officer leads an annual walk around the Common to explain the site's nature conservation value and management. The walk takes place on a weekday evening usually just before schools break up for summer. See appendix 12.

The 'Friends of Chipperfield Common' was formed in June 2009 and meets on a regular monthly basis under the guidance of the DBC Woodlands Officer. Since its formation in 2009, The Friends of Chipperfield Common have met regularly to undertake a range of projects within the Common. The Woodlands Officer annually produces a programme of dates generally from October to April. See appendix 8

During 2007, extensive consultation was carried out regarding Dacorum's
Chipperfield Common Management Plan 2017

greenspaces. The consultation included a questionnaire to the Citizens Panel, self-completion and web surveys, liaison with Town and Parish Councils and membership of the on-line parks survey website 'GreenStat'. This highlighted the importance of natural green spaces to the community as shown by the figures below, based on 637 respondents.

- 97.6% considered natural greenspace to be important.
- The quality of natural greenspaces was considered good by 87.9%
- Easy access to countryside in and around the towns and villages of Dacorum was important to 98% of respondents.
- 95% of respondents thought the inclusion of wildlife areas and natural greenspaces within their town/village was important.

3.11 Events

Dacorum's parks, playing fields and open spaces are used for public special events organised by community and charitable organisations. These are usually hired without a fee. Commercial bookings for which a fee is charged have included fun fairs, hot air balloon launches and filming units. Commercial and private functions must not restrict local resident's enjoyment of the open space nor pose any safety issues for the general public.

Under the terms of the 2003 Licensing Act, activities such as plays, live music and dance performance, are considered regulated entertainment. If under 500 people will be attending the event, the organiser can apply for a Temporary Events Notice from Dacorum Borough Council's Licensing Division. Larger events require a Premises Licence for the location. This is applied for by the landowner, and is a permanent licence for a set number of hours, days and types of activity.

Hirers of Dacorum Borough Council managed land are required to submit an Application Form for the Use of Council Land for Special Events, with a copy of their risk assessment, public liability insurance certificate and any additional operational procedures. Relevant groups such as The Parish Council, Environmental Health and The Dacorum Safety Advisory Group are then notified of the event. The Dacorum Safety Advisory Group is a multi-agency group including the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Hertfordshire Highways, and chaired by Dacorum Borough Council's, Head of Public Protection. The Group aims to provide advice and guidance to enable those responsible for organising events to run them safely and successfully. A Safety Event Guide has been produced to provide some of the information event organisers need to help them plan a safe event.

Due to the special nature of Chipperfield Common, being central to a small

village, special attention is paid to engaging the support of the Parish Council in the approval process. Normal village functions such as weddings, funerals and cricket matches etc. have a serious impact on the availability of the Common and good co-ordination is necessary to support external special events. A copy of event applications submitted to DBC is sent to CPC so that clashes with local activities can be avoided and any special circumstances can be taken into consideration.

Special event bookings at Chipperfield Common include historical re-enactments by the Dark Ages Society, junior training by the Herts Orienteering Club, Chipperfield & Clarendon Cricket Club's annual ball, Morris Men's Church Service and occasional filming or parking for filming units. Dacorum Borough Council and Chipperfield Parish Council divide the fees 50/50, levied in respect of special events taking place on the green spaces within the village.

Details of special events are regularly listed on Dacorum Borough Council's web site on the What's on and Events page.

3.12 Education

The Common is a significant educational asset and is used regularly by the local school for educational purposes. Visits include observation of seasonal changes, insect and pond life, fauna and flora. The local school has links with a school in Middlesex whose students also visit the Common for educational purposes. During autumn, fungi observing groups also visit The Common.



B – Where do we want to get to?

4.0 Vision and Aims

Our vision is to retain the existing natural woodland character of Chipperfield Common and to balance the varied demands of visitors with the nature conservation interest. Our aims are:

- To preserve the character and unique natural and historic features of the Common
- To sensitively manage the Common to increase its bio-diversity and nature conservation value
- To encourage and enable local community involvement in the management and care of the Common to maintain civic pride and a feeling of ownership in the site
- To ensure the Common is a well-used community asset which provides opportunities for passive recreation

5.0 Analysis and Evaluation

The site has been evaluated using the relevant Green Flag criteria. The prestigious and nationally recognised Green Flag Award Scheme is a critical element of the Government's aim to drive up the standards in our parks and green spaces. The purpose of the award is to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that the community can be proud of, and to provide a framework for raising the standard of management and maintenance.

At a local level, the importance of parks and open spaces to the well being of the community has been recognised within Dacorum Borough Council's Vision to promote civic pride and an active community and to create clean, tidy and a safe environment.

Chipperfield Common achieved a Green Flag Award at its first submission in 2008 and with increased marks has retained the award ever since. Green Flag is an annual award, ensuring that standards are maintained from year to year. The site management plan is an essential component of the scheme and must be a working document that directs management and maintenance on the ground and sets priorities for development and improvement. To meet this requirement, this revised plan includes an assessment of the site against the eight award criteria. Where this assessment has identified necessary recommendations, these have been incorporated into the action plan. Parish and Borough, working together are both committed to continuous improvement and retaining the Green Flag for Chipperfield. The action plan collates all recommendations with details of organisation/officer responsibility and the year of the plan it is to be implemented.

6.0 A Welcoming Place

6.1 Signage and Access

The interpretation board developed jointly by the Parish and Borough Councils and installed in Cricket Ground Car Park in 2009 needs to be kept under review in order to keep its information fresh and relevant. There are a number of signs containing the by-laws, these signs are in poor condition and now need renewing.

The burial mound sign was installed in 2011 and is not thought to need any review within the lifetime of this plan.

A sign that will provide details about all five ponds and other natural features on Chipperfield Common is needed to inform visitors about what they may expect to see.

6.2 Car Parks

The Church, Blackwells and Windmill car parks off The Common (road) have tarmac surfacing, the other three car parks are constructed from crushed stone in keeping with the natural surroundings.

The daily movement of cars in and out of the car parks creates wear particularly to the crushed stone surfaces. The car parks are to be inspected once a year and repaired as needed in order to prevent pot holes getting larger and larger.

There is no specific provision for cyclists on the site, however the barriers around the car parks can be used for securing bicycles.

6.3 External Access

The Common is accessible on foot from many directions and has a number of car parks, as shown on Map 2. The popularity of the Common particularly in summer means that car parks and paths must be kept clear and serviceable.

6.4 Access for All

There are no stiles or similar obstructions to access on the Common. The main footpaths are accessible in most seasons however the Common is a natural environment and footpaths can become muddy especially during the winter months. There are two permissive bridleways situated on the northern and southern sides of the Common.

6.4.1 Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) for Chipperfield Common

The level terrain and development of the Easy Access Route (EAR) has provided the opportunity of access for all without detracting from pleasing appearance of the site. The EAR leads from the Cricket Ground Car Park and once in the woodland provides a circular route past some of the main site features such as the burial mounds, Apostles Pond and veteran sweet chestnuts. Signposts and seats have been included along the route to aid visitors and provide resting points.

A full access audit of the site is available on request.

6.5 Public Transport

Several buses serve the village of Chipperfield from Kings Langley, Hemel Hempstead and Bovington. Details of the public transport routes can be found on the appropriate web sites.

6.6 Recommendations

1. That Dacorum Borough and Chipperfield Parish Councils continue to work together to achieve the Vision and Aims as stated at 4.0
2. Keep the interpretive sign in Cricket Ground Car Park under review
3. Develop a 'natural features' interpretation board to be installed near Apostles Pond.
4. Re-new as necessary, the signs containing the bye-laws
5. Inspect the car parks on annual basis in Autumn and undertake such repairs as needed to keep the car parks in good condition.
6. Maintain the EAR to allow the opportunity of access to all.
7. Maintain links with the local horse riding organisations and be receptive to the needs of horse riders

7.0 Healthy Safe and Secure

7.1 Internal Access

Access within the site is excellent thanks to its mainly level terrain and made access tracks. The site is inspected annually by the Countryside Access Officer, regular maintenance includes grass cutting (scheduled 2 or 3 times per year) to retain a mown strip either side of the EAR and other registered footpaths. Additional maintenance and improvements such as surface drainage are undertaken as required.

7.2 Inspection of Equipment and Facilities

The safety of site visitors is a high priority for the Borough and Parish Council. To ensure a safe visit by users, regular inspections are undertaken by the Woodlands Officer of facilities such as paths, benches and fencing. The Village Warden and the Common Ranger inspect the general conditions within and around the woods and Common on a regular twice weekly basis and remove any litter.

7.3 Tree Inspection

Trees adjacent to main footpaths are annually inspected (October) for safety by the Woodlands Officer along with a general visual inspection of trees throughout the site. Any defective tree that is considered a risk to the safety of visitors is either made safe or removed as soon as possible.

7.4 Risk Assessment

Chipperfield Common is a relatively safe environment for recreational activities. It is however maintained as a natural environment and barriers and safety notices are minimal. A detailed Risk Assessment has been carried out and is available upon request. The Risk Assessment is reviewed annually. Tree work contractors working on the site are the Council's term contractor. As such they are required to have a Health and Safety Policy and to undertake their own Risk Assessment. Special Events organisers are required to submit a risk assessment for their events.

7.5 Security

Chipperfield Parish Council's Village Warden, Common Ranger and the local Community Police Officers regularly patrol the site. The Parish Council staff wear high visibility yellow jackets with Chipperfield Parish Council Village Warden / Common Ranger / CPC Logo on the back, to enable visitors to easily identify them if they need assistance.

Anti-social behaviour at Chipperfield Common is sporadic and appears to be associated with the absence of police presence in the Village. The whole issue is regularly reviewed by CPC with the local force.

There have been few reports of crimes against individuals or property within the site in recent years. However, people can still feel at risk or unsafe if overgrown vegetation obscures their view. There are excellent sight lines in most parts of Chipperfield Common however if vegetation is left unchecked it can become overgrown, especially with holly and laurel adjacent to rides (routes).

Management of rides and edges will continue to provide a more open and secure environment for walkers and riders in the Common.

7.6 Dog Control and Fouling

Dog waste poses a potential health hazard for visitors, particularly children and cyclists. There are currently 6 dog waste bins within the site and a dog waste bag dispenser in the Church Car Park. The Parish Council provides the bags.

The Borough Council's Environmental Health Department empties dog waste bins. At present, there is some evidence of dog fouling within the site and the situation needs to be kept under review, however signage it is not considered necessary

7.8 Health and Fitness

Chipperfield Common is an excellent resource for informal and passive recreation. Visitors enjoy walking, horse riding, cycling, taking the dog for a walk or simply spending time in a natural environment and meeting other people. This is known to reduce stress, improve mood and induce a sense of well being.

7.9 Recommendations

1. Undertake annual inspections, maintain footpaths and undertake surface improvements as required.
2. Undertake annual inspection (October) of trees and main infrastructure items along main footpaths, make safe any hazardous trees identified and undertake other such repairs as necessary
3. Maintain open edge along the main paths as part of a safer environment and the glades and rides network.
4. Annually review and update Health and Safety Risk Assessments.

8.0 Clean and Well Maintained

8.1 Litter and Waste Management

The Parish Council's Warden patrols the site regularly, collecting litter and reporting any problems to CPC or DBC to take appropriate remedial action.

Warm holiday weekends can lead to more litter / food waste than there is capacity but the new bins with increased capacity and extra collections has made this the exception. The provision and collection of litter is something that can be kept under review.

Fly tipping is generally not a problem at Chipperfield Common. It is important that any fly tipping is dealt with promptly to deter further incidents.

8.2 Woodland Management

Chipperfield Common is managed by Dacorum Borough Council in accordance with the best woodland management practices. The Council employs a Woodland Officer who is responsible for managing all the woodlands in Dacorum including Chipperfield Common. Details of woodland management operations are described in Section C, 'How Will We Get There'.

8.3 Recommendations

1. In co-operation with the Parish Council keep the provision of litter bins and collection under review.
2. Work with the Parish Council to ensure any fly tipping is removed promptly.
3. Undertake the woodland management operations identified in Section C.

9.0 Environmental Sustainability

9.1 Environmental Management System

The Council first adopted its Corporate Environmental Policy in 2002. This Policy was refreshed in January 2011 and states the Council's aim to ensure that it identifies the environmental impacts of its operations and services and continually improves its environmental performance to promote environmental protection. In particular, the policy makes commitments to reduce pollution and waste from the Council's activities and to manage its use of natural resources.

In November 2012, the Council received accreditation to the standard 'ISO 14001' for the environmental management of its operational activities taking place at its operational sites. This demonstrates the Council's systematic approach to understanding its environmental impacts and commitment to continually improve.

To deliver ongoing improvement the Council annually sets environmental objectives and targets relating to its most significant environmental impacts and develops programmes to meet them. Priorities currently include reductions in the Council's use of fuel, energy and water and its production of waste.

All contractors who undertake work at Chipperfield must have their own environmental policies and work to those of the Council.

9.2 Climate Change

Dacorum Borough Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in February 2007 and is committed to fulfilling its obligations under the terms of this declaration. It is required to report its greenhouse gas emissions from its operations to the Government annually and as part of the environmental management system is working to reduce these emissions.

9.3 Pesticide and Peat Use

The use of pesticides or herbicides at Chipperfield Common (including the Cricket Club) is only be undertaken when all other control methods have been considered and strictly in accordance with the Council's Pesticide Policy, the manufacturer's recommendations and the most up to date requirements of the appropriate Government agencies.

The importation and use of peat is not permitted at Chipperfield Common.

9.4 Materials and Woodland Produce

All materials and products used during the management of Chipperfield Common comes from sustainable and ecologically viable sources. All wood products must or from Forestry Stewardship Council registered suppliers or derived from Chipperfield Common itself.

There is a general presumption against transporting wood chips arising from management works, away from Chipperfield.

Timber from larger trees is left to slowly decay providing habitat for insects or when a need for sawn timber arises, processed through a mobile sawmill and may be used in Chipperfield or other parts of the Borough.

In order to increase the amount of 'standing deadwood' to provide habitat for certain insects and encourage woodpeckers, dead trunks are occasionally be

retained instead of felling to ground level.

9.5 Recommendations

1. Work to the spirit and letter of the Council's Environmental Policy and all that is inferred in the receipt of its ISO 14001 award
2. Continue to implement a stringent pesticide policy at Chipperfield Common. Review the Council's Pesticide Policy
3. Source sustainable and ecologically viable materials and products for use at Chipperfield Common.
4. Accommodate timber materials and products arising from tree works on site or locally.

10 Conservation and Heritage

10.1 UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)

UK BAP supports the implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) on behalf of the UK Biodiversity Partnership and the UK Government.

Biological diversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

The UK Biodiversity Partnership replaced the UK Biodiversity Group in 2002 following the Government's response to the Millennium Biodiversity Report, with the aim of bringing together all the partners involved in or with an interest in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and in policy on biodiversity, and to co-ordinate action that should be taken forward at a UK level.

The UKBAP comprises three main elements

- Species Action Plans
- Habitat Action Plans
- Local Action Plans

For more information about UKBAP, see www.ukbap.org.uk

10.2 Dacorum Borough Nature Conservation Strategy – A Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Chipperfield Common Management Plan 2017

Each Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) works on the basis of partnership to identify local priorities and to determine the contribution they can make to the delivery of the national Species and Habitat Action Plan targets. Often, but not always, LBAPs conform to county boundaries

The Dacorum Borough Nature Conservation Strategy (2001) was jointly produced by Dacorum Borough Council, Dacorum Environmental Forum and Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

The Ecological Study undertaken in 2011 details the direction of required works to increase bio diversity at Chipperfield.

Habitat description most closely matching Chipperfield Common is 'Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland'.

This type includes all broadleaved and yew stands and mixed broadleaved and coniferous stands that have more than 20% of the cover made up of broadleaved and yew trees. It also includes patches of scrub of above 0.25ha that form a continuous canopy. Areas of recently felled broadleaved woodland are also included in this type, along with other integral features of woodland such as glades and rides.

Species listed that may be found in or close to Chipperfield Common include, Great Crested Newt, Tree Sparrow, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Barn Owl, Pipistrelle & Natterers Bat and Dormouse.

10.3 Protected Species and Habitat Regulation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 remains the most important piece of legislation for the protection of wildlife. Subject to a few exceptions, the Act covers a wide range of measures including the protection of birds, mammals, plants, their habitats and species introductions.

Since passing of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in 1981 there have been various amendments to the text of the Act, most significantly through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (England and Wales).

The Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and the Council Directive 79/409/EEC provides wider protection for species such as Bats.

All management works and activities at Chipperfield Common will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, subsequent amendments and EEC regulations.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee is the statutory advisor to the UK Government on nature conservation. For more information see www.jncc.gov.uk

10.4 Woodland Management

Chipperfield Common's woodland is not a static environment. It is a constantly changing and dynamic mosaic of different habitats that support a diversity of plant and animal life. It is only the longevity of the trees themselves that give the impression of permanence and the absence of change.

Due to external pressures on the woodland, it is necessary to actively manage these habitats in order to maximise their amenity and conservation value, as well as to ensure the perpetuity of the woodland itself. In order to translate the broader management objectives into a prescriptive proposal of works, the management actions for the woodland have been divided into the following categories.

- High Forest Management
- Under storey Management
- Veteran Trees
- Deadwood
- Ride / Edge Management
- Glade Creation and Management
- Pond Management
- Boundary Management

A list of woodland management actions is detailed in 15.8.

Currently the woodland is dominated by high forest and in some parts dense holly thickets that frequently extend to edge of the paths and tracks. The proposed ride and edge management is designed to

- Increase ground flora
- Increase shrub layer
- Encourage floor and mid-canopy butterflies and other insects
- Increase the range of birds
- Manage rides to create links between currently isolated open areas (glades and ponds)
- Give greater access for bat movement

10.5 Ecological Data

Some baseline information currently exists on rare or notable species found on or

near the Common other than those mentioned in the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan. More information on specific groups of plants and animals has been sought from individual HNHS (Hertfordshire Natural History Society), Country Recorders and County Hall.

Natterer's Bats *Myotis nattereri* and Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* are both action plans species within the Hertfordshire BAP. Chipperfield Common may support other BAP species. Further ecological surveys and data collection that build upon the survey work in existence, most recently in July 2011, is required in order measure the effectiveness of management works and create a baseline on which to judge to effect of future management work.

See Appendix 9 Summary Comment & Conclusions from Ecologists Report

10.6 Burial Mounds

The two burial mounds within the site are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are therefore protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Dacorum Borough Council, as the owner of the site, is responsible for the maintenance of these burial mounds. Continued monitoring is needed to ensure that neither site is invaded by undesirable vegetation.

10.7 Recommendations

1. Undertake works as described in Woodland Management in the Action Plan that will contribute towards the delivery of the Dacorum Borough Nature Conservation Strategy – A Local Bio-Diversity Action Plan.
2. Implement the management prescriptions for each woodland compartment as described in Section C, Woodland Management.
3. Build upon the existing survey data from 2011 ecological report and measure the effectiveness of management works.
4. Ensure that the Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected in accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and in consultation with the County Archaeologist

11.0 Community Involvement

The Parish Council is consulted and contributes to the preparation of this management plan for Chipperfield Common. Regular scheduled meetings ensure a partnership approach to the implementation of the plan.

The Borough Council's Woodlands Officer will continue to lead the annual summer walk around the Common to explain the site's nature conservation value and management.

The 'Friends of Chipperfield Common' (F of CC) to continue meeting regularly under the guidance of the DBC Woodlands Officer.

11.1 Recommendations

1. Continue the regular quarterly meetings between DBC and CPC to discuss ongoing management and maintenance of the Common.
2. Woodlands officer to arrange the annual Common Walk, bring in guest speakers as needed
3. Devise and support an annual programme of events for Friends of Chipperfield Common and as the need arises, develop the Friends group in accordance with members wishes

12.0 Marketing

Marketing was not included in previous management plans for Chipperfield Common. In 2008 a generic marketing plan for the Green Space Management Service was produced to support the production of management plans and the delivery of parks and open spaces for Dacorum that are well used and valued by the community, with facilities to meet their needs.

In the case of Chipperfield Common any marketing activity is carefully considered to ensure it achieves a manageable result consistent with maintaining the natural environment and preserving the life of the Village.

As Chipperfield Common is predominantly woodland the number and range of special events that take place is restricted, to ensure that the activities are appropriate for the location and to protect the site's nature conservation value. As such the Common is not suitable to be included in Dacorum wide promotional activity for special events. Similarly the number of visitors could impact on environmental value of the Common. As a result marketing focuses on customer research and visitor experience, rather than encouraging greater numbers.

For Chipperfield Common marketing activities are undertaken by both CPC and DBC, as described below

12.1 Media Releases

The monthly parish magazine Chipperfield News is the main publication used to inform residents of developments at Chipperfield Common and to generate interest and involvement in the site. Chipperfield News is distributed to each household within the village and is available at the local post office, Blackwells Cafe and pubs.

The Woodland Officer in conjunction with Friends of Chipperfield Common produce information and articles for inclusion in Chip News. There is something about the Common most months of the year.

Chipperfield Common's successful renewal of its Green Flag status is celebrated in Dacorum Digest, a DBC publication produced 4 times per year, which is available on-line and distributed to 58,000 households within the Borough. The respective Council's need to continue to mark successes with further media releases.

12.2 Leaflets

The original leaflets produced in 1984 have now been used up. In discussions with CPC it was decided that on site interpretation boards and making this plan available on both Parish and Borough website was a more effective way of conveying information about the Common

12.3 Signs

The interpretive sign in Cricket Ground Car Park shows the routes within the Common, further signs within the wood mark the public footpaths. A sign explaining the history and significance of the barrows is displayed next the first barrow

12.4 Web

The Parish Council contributes to the Chipperfield Village website which includes a section dedicated to the Common. The Common is also mentioned in various Hertfordshire websites. Chipperfield Common does not currently have a dedicated page on Dacorum Borough Council's website. This will be developed and detailed information on the Common provided.

12.5 Visitor Consultation

There is a need to consult with the public through as many avenues as possible.

Following on from the visitor survey in 2009, a further questionnaire will be needed in the life of this plan.

12.6 Recommendations

1. Undertake limited marketing activities appropriate to the nature of the site and target audience.
2. In partnership with CPC develop a new natural features sign for the Common.
3. Include Chipperfield Common page on Dacorum Borough Council's website.
4. Undertake consultation with site visitors, local residents and partners.
5. Contribute to Chipperfield News with updates on Common issues.

13.0 Management

There has been a management plan for Chipperfield Common for at least 25 years. The previous management plans have been produced as working documents for managing the woodland in accordance with standard forestry practices and to satisfy the Forestry Commission's requirements for their Woodland Grant Scheme. This new style of management plan combines the technical contents of the previous plans with the requirements of the Green Flag Award Scheme. It aims to balance the priorities and policies that affect the management of Chipperfield Common.

Management prescriptions for each woodland compartment are described in Section C, Woodland Management, the Action Plan and a summary displayed on Map 5.

13.1 Management Team

Chipperfield Common is managed by the Trees and Woodland section of the Clean, Safe & Green team of the Council. Clean, Safe & Green is a division of Environmental Services.

External contractors are used for main management operations within the site with the exception of the cricket outfield, the Council's own grounds maintenance team undertake some areas of maintenance. The Council's Woodland Officer is responsible for woodland management within the site and

works closely with other officers of the department to ensure that the management plan is implemented fully.

The new management plan actively seeks to form partnerships with other stakeholders to benefit the development of the site. These partnerships can influence the management decisions for the site.

The Parish Council Common Ranger and Village Warden undertake regular patrolling of the site and the collection of litter. They work closely with the litter collection service provided by the Borough Council.

13.2 Financial Management

Chipperfield Parish Council fund and through the Village Warden and Ranger provide the day to day management of Chipperfield Common. Dacorum Borough Council provides and funds the management expertise and the physical management of the Common.

13.3 Recommendations

1. Implement the Site Action Plan as detailed at 15.0.



C – How will we get there?



14.0 Specific Site Management

In order to deliver the objectives and recommendations set out in the previous chapter 'Where do We Want to Get to' an Action Plan has been developed. The principal focus is on woodland management and in order to translate the stated management objectives into actual work plans, the woodland has been divided into the components listed below.

14.1 Woodland Management

The overall aim is to maintain and enhance the nature conservation interest, amenity and landscape value of the woodland while providing informal recreational and educational opportunities.

Woodlands are a dynamic collection of plants and animals supported by a range of interlinked habitats. Woodlands are constantly changing throughout the passing seasons and it is only the longevity of the tree species which suggest the absence of change. Variation in the woodland structure increases the nature conservation value of the woodland. This diversity is achieved through various management prescriptions.

Non native trees make up a significant part of the high forest at Chipperfield Common. 'Eradication of non natives' is championed by some but in the case of Chipperfield Common this would mean: the veteran sweet chestnuts, the 100's of Scots pine (not native to Hertfordshire) all the sycamore and the Limes around Apostles Pond.

In the main native trees will be favoured over non natives but a balance needs to be struck and management as opposed to eradication will be the way forward.

14.2 High Forest Management

This is the management of established woodland where the trees are allowed to grow to maturity. The high forest in Chipperfield is mainly oak, beech, birch, pine and sycamore. The objective of this management system is to achieve woodland where all age classes are appropriately present. This is described as a 'normal' age class structure. It is achieved and/or maintained through selective individual or group felling and thinning. Selective removal creates canopy gaps that allow natural regeneration to take place in order to improve both the woodland's age class structure and species diversity. There are a number of different criteria that can be used to select trees for removal. These criteria will vary from compartment to compartment depending on their different management priorities,

species composition and habitat value. For the life of the last plan (2007 – 2012) and it is projected, the life of this plan, the concentration will be on the creation and maintenance of glades and connecting rides. Thinning within compartments will annually be considered as part of the management regime and comments recorded in the action plan.

14.3 Under-story Management

The shrub layer in Chipperfield is species poor partly because of the relatively young age of the wood, partly because of the dominance of holly and laurel and in part because of the continuous canopy cover of the high forest Under-story management will include control/management of non-native species such as laurel. In areas of open canopy such as rides and glades, management will be necessary to control scrub. Dense areas of holly will also need to be controlled to encourage natural regeneration of other plants. Dense holly may be some benefit to roosting birds, especially in winter and so works to control holly within the management blocks will take the form of felling but retaining some blocks of no more than 6 metres across

14.4 Veteran Tree Management

There are 8 veteran sweet chestnut trees scattered within the wooded area of the Common.

These trees are in varying stages of senescence, one has fallen, two are dead, others have lost major limbs. Individual management plans will ensure their survival as viable trees as long as possible. This will build on the work undertaken in 1996 by John White (Consultant Dendrologist) and contain a prescription for each tree and surrounding area.

During the life of the previous plan (2007 – 2012) individual management plans were written for each tree and works were undertaken (see appendix 5) During the life of this plan it is unlikely that further works will be required to the trees themselves however some further tree removal within surrounding glades of the live Chestnuts will be required. An annual inspection of each Chestnut will be scheduled.

During the life of the previous plan (2007 – 2012) , 4 of the veteran limes surrounding succumbed to decay and collapsed. There are 3 remaining Limes all of which have advanced levels of decay and need to be re-pollarded every five years. A number of replacement limes are growing in the area that surrounds Apostles pond. A full survey of the Apostles Pond Limes will be undertaken.

14.5 Deadwood

Unmanaged woodlands contain a much higher proportion of dead and dying trees than would be found in a managed wood. New trees would colonise as old trees fall or die (gap phase re-generation). In the interest of safety, public woods have fewer dead / dying trees. Intervention management has traditionally resulted in wood and timber being taken off the site and has therefore caused a decline in habitat for invertebrates and opportunities for birds such as woodpeckers. In order to try and reverse this trend, a certain amount of timber will be left to naturally decay on the woodland floor and where opportune, to create standing deadwood where previously a tree would have been felled to ground level.

14.6 Ride / Edge Management

Woodland edge is particularly rich in species diversity thanks to the range of habitats present. It is therefore important that edges and rides are managed appropriately and sympathetically. This can be achieved through a programme of selective felling, coppicing and rotational mowing. This will ideally produce a graded edge running from regularly mown short grass, to longer grass and herbs cut once a year in late summer, to tussock grass, herbs and woody perennials cut every 2-3 years in autumn. The next tier would be shrubs coppiced on a 10 year cycle and finally the high forest. During the life of the previous plan (2007 – 12) a 4 metre management swathe was created on both sides of paths that surround each management plot. All trees of 40 cm DBH within the 4 metre swathe were removed and after 1 or 2 years the newly created edge was flailed. During the lifetime of this plan 2013 – 17 further works are required to the 4 metre strips to include

- Closer mowing of a 1 metre strip to the side of each path
- Further felling of + 40 cm DBH.
- Flailing of the remaining 3 metres

14.7 Glade Management

Permanent glades are important to the maintenance of habitats as well as providing a valuable amenity feature for woodland users. Linking glades to paths and other open spaces will create ecological corridors between similar habitats within the woodland. The glades will be maintained through tree and scrub clearance when appropriate and mowing once a year in autumn, ideally with the cuttings being removed from the site.

Compartment 7 contains the remnants of heathland that was more typical of the area when it was grazed. Some heather and gorse is still present, it would be

ideal to maintain this area by grazing however confining animals and moving them on and off the Common is difficult and so the area will be managed by manual and chemical tree, scrub and bracken clearance.

Windmill Hill Glade, which was restored by the Friends of Chipperfield Common in 2011 requires cutting and scarification twice during 2013 and from then annual mowing.

14.8 Pond Management

The Common's ponds will be managed to maintain and enhance their healthy aquatic ecosystems in accordance with the principles of best practice and with the benefit of expert advice. Annual inspections of the ponds will determine the effectiveness of the works carried out and any future works that may be needed. Management will follow the recommendations set out in study work undertaken by R S Brayshaw in 2011. The areas surrounding ponds will be treated and managed as glades.

Pond Management Summary

Pill Pond

- Monitor lesser bulrush, consider removing a block in order to i) limit its spread ii) create a small permanent water body
- Surrounding grassland – late summer, mow and rake off cuttings
- Course grassland – late summer, mow 50% each year, rake off cuttings
- Scrub – Monitor and retain at 2011 levels

Frog Pond

- Eradicate water fern (invasive, non – native)
- Retain current good light levels by management of the adjacent trees / scrub

Apostles Pond

- Control or eradicate parrots feather weed (invasive, non – native)
- Maintain marginal protection along western edge (for nesting birds)
- Consider various methods of deterring dogs from the pond

- Consider removal of underwater debris

Shepherds Pond

Work to identify certain micro – biology will be considered prior to doing anything with Shepherds Pond. See Appendix 11

Manor Pond

- Dredge out (half at a time) dense vegetation
- Increase light levels by further tree removal particularly on the south-east and south west banks

14.9 Boundary Management

Where an old ditch and bank boundary exists on the southern edge of Chipperfield Common, care will be taken to ensure the feature is not damaged. There are numerous trees growing on top of the bank that were managed as coppice trees or in some cases cut and layed. In the intervening years the trees have become large and often multi-stemmed. Their position on the bank top makes them vulnerable to the wind and at a greater risk of blowing over than other trees. In order to prevent their loss and subsequent damage to the bank, the trees will be surveyed and where needed, some reduction in their overall height and width programmed. Opportunities exist to manage holly that has colonised the boundary bank in order to provide views out of the Common, extra light to the southern bridleway and make links between adjacent open land and the Common. Management may take the form of hedging particularly where there is an adjacent property/garden or cutting ground level where a screen is not required.

14.10 New Planting and Regeneration

There is a presumption against planting on Chipperfield Common. The conditions where natural regeneration can take place will be created via management already described.

2 areas of new woodland planting were undertaken in 2008 and these will be managed to assist their assimilation into the Common. In 2010 and 2016 young sweet chestnuts originating from the Common were planted close to veteran sweet chestnuts T5 and T8 as memorial trees and eventual replacements. See appendix 5.

15.0 Site Action Plan

At all stages of both development and implementation of action items at Chipperfield Common there will be consultation and exchange of information between the Borough and Parish Councils.

15.1 A Welcoming Place				
Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Comments
Keep the main interpretive sign at Cricket Ground Car Park up to date, relevant and in good condition	Review the information annually. Replace the sign when it becomes faded or damaged	DBC / CPC / TWTL	2013	March 2013, interpretive sign updated and replaced.
Inform visitors about the natural features found at Chipperfield Common	Design and install near Apostles Pond a sign that describes the natural features that can be seen at Chipperfield Common	DBC / CPC / TWTL / AWAO	2013	Deferred until 2017
Maintain the car parks in a safe and useable condition	Annually inspect the Car Parks and undertake such maintenance as needed to keep them in good order	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	Cricket Ground, The Common and Windmill Car Park, repaired February 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
Ensure the Easy Access Route remains accessible to all	Annually inspect the EAR, undertake such maintenance as required to keep it in good order. Increase the number of seats around the EAR	DBC / CAO / TWTL	Ongoing	Inspection undertaken, January 2014, 2015, 2016

Be receptive to the needs of horse riders	Maintain links with local horse riding organisations and undertake such works as needed to provide a safe or where possible, a better riding environment	DBC / TWTL / CAO	Ongoing	Top dressed, EAR section of southern trackway (permissive) April 2013. Top dressed boggy section of northern trackway (permissive) August 2016
Maintain a visible presence	Increase the range of clothing worn by the Warden and Ranger	CPC	2013	Current range now satisfactory

15.2 Healthy Safe and Secure				
Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Comments
Maintain public access	Annual inspection of footpaths and undertake surface improvements as required.	DBC / CAO / TWTL	Ongoing	Inspected February 2014, 2015, 2016
Ensure reasonable levels of public safety	Undertake annual inspection of trees adjacent to main access paths and bridleways and main infrastructure items. Remove / make safe any trees considered hazardous and undertake such repairs as necessary.	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	Inspected February 2014, 2015, 2016
Ensure all operations on site are in accordance with current Health & Safety policies	Annually review & update Health & Safety Risk Assessments	DBC / TWTL / TO (to take primary responsibility)	Ongoing	Ongoing
Maintain visibility and openness on main access paths	Undertake and maintain ride management as described in Specific Site Management / Ride / Edge Management	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	Ongoing
Improve site cleanliness	Maintain discrete signage encouraging responsible dog	CPC / DBC	2017	Following discussion with

	ownership			CPC it was decided that dog owners are in the main responsible and that littering the woods with signs was unnecessary
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15.3 Clean & Well Maintained

Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Comments
That storage and removal of litter is adequate to meet the needs of the site	Keep litter bins and collection frequencies under review.	DBC / TWTL / VW	Ongoing	Levels of rubbish, bins and collections are considered adequate to meet needs, 2016
Ensure that fly tips are removed without delay	Arrange prompt removal of fly tipping by working closely with CPC	DBC / VW / CR / TWTL	Ongoing	Ongoing
Manage The Common to benefit people and wildlife	Undertake woodland management in accordance with operations identified in Section C, Woodland Management	DBC / TWTL	2013/17	Ongoing
Ensure the Common is inspected, free of litter and that infrastructure items meet expectations of visitors	Regular inspections undertaken by the Village Warden and Common Ranger dealing with problems on a day to day basis. Reporting as necessary to the Parish Council Clerk	CPC / VW / CR	Ongoing	Ongoing

15.4 Environmental Sustainability

Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Comments
Contribute towards delivering Dacorum's Corporate	In working towards this goal, the Council will ensure that it considers the environmental impacts of its operations and service delivery and that it	DBC / CPC / All Officers	Ongoing	Ongoing.

Environmental Policy	continually works towards improving its environmental performance and promoting environmental protection.			
To minimise the use of pesticides	Continue to implement a stringent pesticide policy at Chipperfield Common.	DBC / All Officers	Ongoing	In the absence of grazing, it has been decided that a herbicide is, needed to help maintain the glade in compartment 7 and prevent re-growth from ride and glade creation work
Ensure best practice	Review the Council's Pesticide Use	DBC / TLO / TWTL	Ongoing	Ongoing
Practice sustainability in all operations at Chipperfield Common	All materials and products used in the management of the Common must whenever possible come from sustainable and ecologically viable sources.	DBC / All Officers	Ongoing	To be implemented during works as detailed in 15.8
Use of woodland produce	Wherever possible, materials arising from woodland operations will be accommodated / used locally	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	Many repairs undertaken using Chipperfield oak (see appendix 13)

15.5 Conservation & Heritage				
Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Comments
Contribute towards delivering the Dacorum Borough Nature Conservation Strategy and Local Bio-Diversity Action Plan.	Ensure operations are designed to deliver the Local Bio-Diversity Action Plan and the Dacorum Borough Nature Conservation Strategy	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	As per the Management Plan
Increase the nature conservation interest and bio –	Implement management prescriptions for the Common as described at 15.8, Woodland Management.	DBC / TWTL	2013/17	See 15.8 for progress with various management prescriptions

diversity of the site.				
Monitor the effectiveness of management work	Base line survey work was undertaken in 2011 by S J Brayshaw. Follow up survey work will build up a picture of progress on bio diversity	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	A significant report was undertaken in August 2011 by RS Brayshaw and will act as a baseline for judging management work against. Conclusions summarised in appendix 9. RS Brayshaw booked to return in May 2017 for further monitoring
To ensure that the Burial Mounds are managed in accordance with the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979.	Liaise with the County Archaeologist prior to any form of management within the fenced area	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	Bracken now under control

15.6 Community Involvement				
Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Comments
Involve local residents, community groups and other stakeholders in ongoing management and development issues	Continue regular meetings with CPC, four times a year, to discuss ongoing management and maintenance of the Common	DBC / CPC	Ongoing	Ongoing
Support The Friends of	Devise a programme of activities, support the project	DBC / CPC / TWTL	Ongoing	Ongoing

Chipperfield Common	days. As the need arises, develop the Friends group in accordance with member's wishes.			
Increase the available educational value of Chipperfield Common	Utilise CPC's established links with local groups, residents, community organisations, schools to develop the educational use of the Common	CPC / DBC	Ongoing	Ongoing
Increase local interest in matters related to management of Chipperfield Common	Involve other local interest groups	DBC / CPC / TWTL	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide occasion for local residents to meet and question the TWO	Re-establish the annual lead walk around the Common for local people	DBC / CPC / TWTL	Ongoing	Ongoing (Appendix 12)
Ensure EAR continues to meet the needs of local groups	Undertake consultation with local disabled groups to ensure the EAR meets their needs	DBC / CAO / TWTL	Ongoing	Ongoing

15.7 Marketing				
Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Comments
To promote Chipperfield Common	Undertake limited marketing activities commensurate with the nature of the site and target audience. Produce regular articles in Chipperfield News. Place management plan on both CPC & DBC web sites	DBC / CPC	Ongoing	Mapping in Management Plan now revised and re-organised
Increase on site information	Produce a further interpretive sign at Apostles Pond display natural features on The Common. Deal with the smaller DBC bye-law signs (3)	DBC / CPC / AWAO	2013 & 14	Deferred to 2015
Ensure that management	Undertake site specific customer research.	DBC / CPC	2014	Deferred to 2015

protocols reflect the views of local residents and other users				
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15.8 Woodland Management					
Objective	Action	Responsible Body / Person(s)	Year	Compartments	Comments
Reduce the impact and spread of non native species	Manage non native species	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	1 to 9	Ongoing
Develop mixed species, mixed age high forest across the majority of the site	Inspection and thinning as appropriate	DBC / TWTL	2012/17	1 to 9	Given way to glade and path edge development
Promote mixed underwood Ensure that holly does not become to dominant	Coppice existing underwood in conjunction with other work Selectively reduce extent of holly thickets in conjunction with other work	DBC / TWTL	2012/17 2013/14, 14/15, 15/16, 16/17	1 to 9 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, & 9	Would only be undertaken in conjunction with thinning Holly treated in compartments 4 & 8 Inner compartments not touched to date
Maintain the health and structural integrity of veteran trees	Annual inspection	DBC / TWTL	2012/17	5, 6, 7, & 8	Inspection undertaken December 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017. No further works required.

Enhance the ride creation achieved during 2007/12, path/rides round each management compartment	Further selective felling	DBC	2012/17	1 - 9	Edges round compartments 4 & 8 improved. Edges round all compartments flailed October 2014, 2017
Create graded edges along rides	Annual mowing along path edge and selective rotational mowing/flailing along edge zones	DBC / TWTL	2012 /17	1 to 9	Annual mowing undertaken along rights of way
Ensure ponds are healthy and ecologically diverse	Works in accordance with Ecological study work by RS Brayshaw 2011	DBC / TWTL	2012/13, 13/14, 14/15 & 15/16	5, 6, 7 & 8	Deferred until 2015. Some work undertaken to Apostles and Pill Pond 2016, 2017
Ensure that glades formed 2007/2012 are maintained and where needed, enhanced	Phase 2 of selective felling in glades surrounding veteran sweet chestnuts and general shrub control in other glades including those that surround veteran trees and ponds.	DBC / TWTL	2012/17	3, 4, 5, 6,7, 8 & 9	Flailing and further selective tree felling in glades undertaken in 2013/4. All glades worked on October 2015, 2017
Prevent damage to the old bank and ditch boundary	Undertake survey of old boundary trees, undertake work to ensure trees remain intact. In	DBC / TWTL	2012/17	2,3,4,7 & 8	Section near Apostles Pond, re-cut and created link between common and pasture beyond, 2015

	selected locations, reduce usually holly, to create view, let in light, link outer areas with the Common				
2008 planted areas	1 Remove tree guards 2 Selectively thin stand	DBC / TWTL	2012/13	1 & 9	Defer to 2014. Thinned February 2015, 2016
Public safety	Fell hazardous trees	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	1 to 9	Walking survey and trees felled Jan/Feb 2014
Ensure no trees establish on / around mounds	Monitor	DBC / TWTL	Ongoing	6	No works needed 2013/4/5/6/7

Key

CPC – Chipperfield Parish Council
DBC – Dacorum Borough Council
FoCC – Friends of Chipperfield Common
CAO – Countryside Access Officer
CR – Common Ranger
AWAO – Asst. Waste Awareness Officer
TLO – Trees and Landscape Officer
TO – Tree Officer
TWTL – Trees and Woodlands Team Lead
VW – Village Warden
WM – Website Manager

15.9 Management Compartments by Year

Woodland operations have been divided over a five-year period. Routine works (denoted ®) have been programmed in compartments, other works have been programmed by compartment to coincide, both often being undertaken in the same year. This approach will help to concentrate resources into the same area, reduce inconvenience and impact in the remaining parts of the Common and help to set up a mosaic of habitats across the woodland.

Financial Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Manage non-native species ®	1	4 & 8	2 & 5	7 & 3	6 & 9
Manage high forest ®	1	4 & 8	2 & 5	7 & 3	6 & 9
Manage underwood ®	1	4 & 8	2 & 5	7 & 3	6 & 9
Ride Enhancement ®	1	4 & 8	2 & 5	7 & 3	6 & 9
Edge Management		All	All	All	All
Manage Pill Pond	3				
Manage Apostles Pond		7		7	
Manage Shepherds Pond					7
Manage Frog Pond		9			
Manage Manor Pond			8		
Manage Main Glade		7	7		7
Manage Windmill Hill Glade		5	5	5	5
Manage Southern Boundary	7	4 & 8	2,	3, 7	3
Inspect Veteran Sweet Chestnut and Manage Associated Glades	5, 6, 7 & 8	5, 6, 7 & 8	5, 6, 7 & 8	5, 6, 7 & 8	5, 6, 7 & 8
Thin new plantings	1 & 9				



D - How will we know when we have arrived?



16. Measures of Success

The process of Green Flag Award makes measurable targets possible. The success of the management and this management plan can be measured against the following criteria. The renewal of the Green Flag Award will be an indication of a successful management approach.

- **A Welcoming Place**
- **Healthy, Safe and Secure**
- **Clean and Well Maintained**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Conservation and Heritage**
- **Community Involvement**
- **Marketing and Promotion**
- **Overall Management**

17. Monitoring and Review

This management plan will be reviewed annually with monitoring of progress against targets. The Action Plan will also be monitored quarterly and amended when necessary. The Green Flag Criteria and the judge's comments will be used as the best indicators for measuring the achievements against this management plan.

17.1. Baseline Environmental Monitoring

During 2011 survey work was commissioned resulting in a report 'Ecological Survey of Selected Habitats' by RS Brayshaw, summarised in appendix 9. Further survey work is anticipated and further monitoring against the established baseline will help to measure the effectiveness of management work.

Further monitoring is scheduled for May 2017

Appendices

1. The Commons Act 1899, Chipperfield Common, The Scheme
2. Chipperfield Common Byelaws
3. Description of Woodland Compartments
4. Chipperfield Common Ranger, Inspection and Maintenance Routes
5. Veteran Sweet Chestnut Survey 2009 – Summary
6. Chipperfield Common, Policy Statement & Guidelines
7. On site notification of works and contact details
8. Friends of Chipperfield Common, Project Days 2016/7
9. Comment & Conclusions from Ecologists Report
10. Key Achievements 2007 -2012
11. Shepherds Pond – Micro-biology 2015
12. Annual Walk Flyer
13. Use of Chipperfield Oak

THE COMMONS ACT, 1899.

CHIPPERFIELD COMMON.

Parishes of
Kings Langley
and
Watford Rural.

COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

Scheme.

E. ARBED & SON, Printers, Round Hempsstead.
1007/139

THE COMMONS ACT, 1899.

CHIPPERFIELD COMMON.

PARISHES OF
KINGS LANGLEY and WATFORD RURAL

COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

SCHEME.

Definition of
Commons and
Districts
to which
the Act applies.

1. The piece of land with the ponds, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as Chipperfield Common, situate partly in the parish of Kings Langley and partly in the parish of Watford Rural in the County of Hertford and hereinafter referred to as "the Common" as the same is delineated in a plan sealed by and deposited at the office of the Rural District Council of Hemel Hempstead, hereinafter called "the Council" and thereon coloured green, being a "Common" within the meaning of the Commons Act, 1899, shall henceforth be regulated by this Scheme and the management thereof shall be vested in the Council.

Provisions
of the Act

2. The powers of the Council generally as to appointing or employing officers and servants and paying them under the general Acts applicable to the Council shall apply to all such persons as in the judgment of the Council may be necessary and proper for the preservation of order on and the enforcement of byelaws with respect to the common and otherwise for the purposes of this Scheme, and the Council may make rules for regulating the duties and conduct of the several officers and servants so appointed and employed and may alter such rules as occasion may require.

Provision
of
amenities
at
discretion

3. The Council may execute any necessary works of drainage, rising, levelling or other works for the protection and improvement of the common and may, for the prevention of accidents, fence any quarry, pit or other like place on the common, and shall preserve the turf, straws, trees, plants and grass thereon, and for this purpose may, for short periods enclose by fences such portions as may require rest to revive the same, and may plant trees and shrubs for shelter or ornament, and may place seats upon and light the common, and otherwise improve the common as a place for exercise and recreation. Save as hereinafter provided, the Council shall do nothing that may otherwise vary or alter the natural features or aspects of the common or interfere with free access to any part thereof, and shall not erect upon the common any shelter, pavilion, drinking fountain, convenience or other building without the consent of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (in this Scheme referred to as "the Minister"). The Minister in giving or withholding his consent shall have regard to the same considerations and shall, if necessary, hold the same enquiries as are directed by the Commons Act, 1876, to be taken into consideration and held by the Minister before forming an opinion whether an application under the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882, shall be acceded to or not.

Provision
of
amenities
at
discretion

4. The Council shall maintain the common free from all encroachments and shall not permit any trespass on or partial or other enclosure of any part thereof.

Provision
of
access
and
recreation

5. The inhabitants of the district and neighbourhood shall have a right of free access to every part of the common and a privilege of playing games and of enjoying other species of recreation thereon subject to any bye-laws made by the Council under this Scheme.

Provision
of
access
and
recreation

6. The Council shall have power to repair and maintain the existing paths and roads on the common other than highways repairable by the inhabitants at large, and to set out, construct, and maintain or authorise the construction and maintenance of such new paths and roads on the common as appear to the Council to be necessary or expedient, and to take any proceedings necessary for the stopping or diversion of any highway over the common.

Games etc.

7. The Council may set apart for games any portion or portions of the common as they may consider expedient, and may loan grounds thereon for cricket, football, tennis, bowls and other similar games, and may allow such grounds to be temporarily enclosed with any open fence, so as to prevent cattle and horses from straying thereon, but such grounds shall not be so numerous or extensive as to affect prejudicially the enjoyment of the common as an open space or the lawful exercise of any right of common, and shall not be so near to any dwelling-house or road as to create a nuisance or be an annoyance to the inhabitants of the house or to persons using the road.

Parking Places

8. The Council may, with the consent of the Minister temporarily set apart and fence such portion or portions of the common as they may consider expedient for the parking of motor and other vehicles, and may make such charges for the use of such part as they may deem necessary and reasonable; provided that any area so set apart shall not be so near to any dwelling-house as to create a nuisance or be an annoyance to the inhabitants of the house. The Minister in giving or withholding his consent, shall have regard to the same considerations and shall, if necessary, hold the same enquiries as are directed by the Commons Act, 1876, to be taken into consideration and held by the Minister before forming an opinion whether an application under the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882 shall be acceded to or not.

By-laws

9. The Council may, for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order on the common, and subject to the provisions of Section 10 of the Commons Act, 1899, make, revoke and alter bye-laws for any of the following purposes, viz.:

(a) For prohibiting the placing or depositing and leaving on the common without lawful authority of road-sand, materials for repair of roads, wood, glass, china, earthenware, tin, carton, paper or other rubbish, so as to create or tend to create a litter.

- (b) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from digging, cutting or taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the common, and from cutting, felling or injuring any gorse, heather, timber or other tree, shrub, brushwood or other plant growing on the common.
- (c) For regulating the place and mode of digging and taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance, and cutting, felling and taking trees or underwood on or from the common in exercise of any right of common or other right over the common.
- (d) For prohibiting the injury, defacement, or removal of seats, shelters, pavilions, drinking fountains, fences, notice-boards, rubbish receptacles, or any works erected or maintained by the Council on the common.
- (e) For prohibiting or regulating the posting or painting of bills, placards, advertisements, or notices on trees, or fences, erections or notice-boards on the common.
- (f) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from bird catching, setting traps or nets or laying snares for birds or other animals, taking birds' eggs or nests, and shooting or chasing game or other animals on the common.
- (g) For prohibiting the drawing, driving or placing upon the common or any part thereof without lawful authority of any carriage, cart, caravan, truck, motor cycle, steam engine or other vehicle, or any aircraft (except in the case of accident or other sufficient cause), or camping or the lighting of any fire thereon.
- (h) For prohibiting (or in the case of a fair lawfully held, for regulating), the placing or erection on the common of any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout or other like thing, or any stall, trestle table or other structure for the sale or exposure for sale of goods.

- (i) For prohibiting or regulating the firing or discharge of firearms or fireworks or the throwing or discharge of missiles on the common.
- (j) For regulating games to be played and other means of recreation to be exercised on the common, and assemblages of persons thereon.
- (k) For regulating the use of any portion of the common temporarily enclosed or set apart under this scheme for any purpose.
- (l) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from driving, exercising or breaking in horses on the common or any part thereof and for regulating the riding of horses on the common.
- (m) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from driving out or permitting to remain on the common any cattle, sheep or other animals.
- (n) Generally, for prohibiting or regulating any act or thing tending to injury or disfigurement of the common, or to interference with the use thereof by the public for the purposes of exercise and recreation.
- (o) For authorising any officer of the Council, after due warning, to remove from the common any vehicle or animal drawn, driven or placed or any structure erected or placed thereon in contravention of the Scheme or of any byelaw made under this Scheme or to exclude from the common any person who within his view commits, or whom he reasonably suspects of committing an offence against any such byelaw or against the Vagrancy Act, 1824.
- (p) For prohibiting the hindrance or obstruction of an officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under this Scheme or under any byelaw made thereunder.

Subsections
of sections
of sections

10. All byelaws made under this Scheme shall be published on notice boards placed on such parts of the common (not less than two) as to the Council may appear desirable.

*Savings of
frictions
in the soil
and highways.*

17. Nothing in this Scheme or any byelaw made thereunder shall prejudice or affect any right of any person or appurtenant to any property which is lawfully exercisable in, over, under, or on the soil or surface of the common in connection with mines, minerals, or other substra or otherwise, or prejudice or affect any right of the commoners in or over the common or the lawful use of any highway or thoroughfare on the common, or affect any power or obligation to repair any such highway or thoroughfare.

*Copies of
Schedules.*

12. Printed copies of this Scheme shall at all times be sold at the office of the Council to all persons desiring to buy the same at a price of sixpence each.

*The Common Seal of the Menel Henystead
Rural District Council was hereunto affixed
in pursuance of a Resolution passed on the
Fourth day of April 1939, in the presence
of—*



*(Signed) A. MARNHAM, Chairman,
(Signed) L. F. SNEATHMAN, Clerk.*

*Approved by Order of the Minister of
Agriculture and Fisheries this Twenty-fourth
day of May, 1939.*

(Signed) J. L. MORGAN,

Authorised by the Minister.



THE COMMONS ACT, 1899

RURAL DISTRICT

of

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Parishes of Kings Langley and Watford Rural

CHIPPERFIELD COMMON

BYELAWS

For the preservation of nuisances – and the
Preservation of order on the Common

W.G Kingham, Printer, Kings Langley.300.2.61

The Rural District Council of Hemel Hempstead

BYELAWS

Made by the Rural District Council of Hemel Hempstead in pursuance of a scheme made by the Rural District Council and approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under section 1(1) of the Commons Act, 1899, with respect to Chipperfield Common in the parishes of Kings Langley and Watford Rural in the County of Hertford for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order on the Common.

1. Throughout these byelaws the expression 'the Council' means the Rural District of Hemel Hempstead; the expression 'the Common' means the piece of land with ponds, paths and roads thereon commonly known as Chipperfield Common situate in the Parishes of Kings Langley and Watford Rural in the County of Hertford and referred to as 'the Common' in the scheme for the regulation and management of the Common under the Commons Act, 1899, made by the Council on the fourth day of April, 1939; and approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on the twenty- fourth day of May, 1939; and the expression 'the scheme' means the aforesaid Scheme.
2. An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the Common by an Officer of the Council, or by any person or servant of any person employed by the Council shall not be deemed an offence against these byelaws.

3. A person shall not without consent of the Council or other lawful authority erect or permit to remain on the Common any building, shed, tent, post, railing or other structure.
4. A person without authority shall not dig, cut or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the Common or cut, fell or carelessly or negligently injure any gorse, heather, timber or other tree, shrub, brush-wood or other growing plant on the Common.
5. A person shall not without lawful authority catch birds, set traps or nets or lay snares for birds or other animals, take birds' eggs or nests, or shoot or chase game or other animals on the Common: Provided that this byelaw shall not be deemed to apply where an offence is committed against the Malicious Damage Act, 1861, or the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880-1939 or any order made thereunder.
6. A person shall not, except within 15 yards of a road, being a road on which a motor vehicle may lawfully be driven, for the purpose only of parking the vehicle on that land, without lawful authority draw, drive or place upon the Common or any part thereof any carriage, cart, caravan, truck, motor cycle, steam engine or other vehicle, unless it is a wheeled chair or perambulator intended for the use of an invalid or a child or children, or any aircraft (except in the case of an accident or other sufficient cause), or camp or light any fire thereon; Provided that this byelaw shall not be deemed to apply where an offence is committed against section 193 of the Law of Property Act, 1925.
7. A person shall not (except in the case of a Fair lawfully held) place on the Common any show, exhibition, swing,

roundabout, or other like thing. In the case of a Fair lawfully held no show, exhibition, swing, roundabout or other like thing shall be placed on the Common except in the position and for the period authorised by the Council.

8. Where the Council set apart any such part of the Common as may be fixed by the Council, and described in a notice board affixed or set up in some conspicuous position on the Common, for the purpose of any game specified in the notice board, which by reason of the rules or manner of playing, or for the prevention of damage, danger or discomfort to any person on the Common, may necessitate at any time during the continuance of the game, the exclusive use by the player or players of any space on such part of the Common – a person shall not in any space elsewhere on the Common play or take part in any game so specified in such manner as to exclude persons not playing or taking part in the game from the use of such a space.
9. A person resorting to the Common and playing or taking part in any game for which the exclusive use of any space on the Common has been set apart shall not play on the space any game other than the game for which it is set apart.
10. A person shall not without lawful authority drive, exercise or break in or except on existing public bridle paths, ride any horse on any part of the Common.
11. A person shall not without lawful authority turn out or permit to remain on the Common any cattle, sheep or other animals.

12. A person shall not on any part of the Common wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt or annoy any other person in the proper use of the Common.
13. A person shall not, without lawful authority, place or deposit and leave on the Common any road-sand, materials for repair of roads, or any wood so as to create or tend to create a litter.
14. A person shall not hinder or obstruct any Officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under the scheme or any of the foregoing byelaws.
15. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two pounds.
16. It shall be lawful for any Officer, after due warning, to remove from the Common any vehicle or animal drawn, driven or placed or any structure erected or placed thereon in contravention of the Scheme or any of the foregoing byelaws, or to exclude from the Common any person who within his view commits, or whom he reasonably suspects of committing an offence against any such byelaw or against the Vagrancy Act, 1824.

The Common Seal of the Hemel Hempstead Rural District Council was hereunto affixed the twenty-fourth day of October One thousand nine hundred and fifty in the presence of:

HUGH D. ARONSON
Chairman

W. A. F. SHARP

Clerk

I hereby confirm the foregoing byelaws and fix the date on which they are to come into operation as the 1st March, 1951.

J. CHUTER EDE,

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State

Whitehall. 11th January, 1951

GENERAL

It is an offence against the byelaws made in Hertfordshire County Council on the 15th July, 1895, and the provision of the Malicious Damage Act, 1861, and the Criminal Justice Administration Act, 1914, or Section 289 of the Local Government Act 1933, or the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations, 1948, if any person wilfully, carelessly or negligently injure, soil, defile, deface or remove any seat, shelter, pavilion, drinking fountain, fence, notice board, or any other works erected or maintained by the Council or without lawful authority post or paint any bills, placard, advertisement or any notice on any tree fence, erection or notice board on the Common.

It is an offence against the provisions of Section 80 of the Explosives Act, 1875, and also against byelaws made by the Hertfordshire County Council on the 15th July, 1895, if any person without lawful authority shall fire or discharge any missile on the Common.

Appendix 3 - Description of Woodland Compartments

Compartment 1 (1.4 Ha.)

The western section of this compartment was felled in 1997 and replanted in 1998 with a mixture of oak, ash and beech, with a native shrub mix along its northern edge (Windmill Hill) and naturally regenerated ash and sycamore. It is also heavily choked with brambles. The eastern area of this compartment adjacent to Dunny Lane is high forest and contains mature oak, sycamore, ash, cherry and an under-storey of holly, rowan, sycamore, hawthorn, elder and hazel.

Compartment 2 (1.6 Ha.)

This compartment is high forest and was thinned in 1998/99. The west of the compartment consists of an over-storey of predominantly oak and sycamore along with cherry, birch and ash. The under-storey is open in nature and consists of sycamore, beech, rowan, holly, laurel, yew and hazel. There is a stand of pole stage birch and cherry present towards the centre of the compartment. The over-storey of the eastern end of the compartment is oak, birch, sycamore and cherry. The understory in this section is largely open consisting of elder, sycamore and yew with dense patches of holly and laurel.

Compartment 3 (2.2 Ha.)

This compartment is high forest with an over-story of predominantly scattered mature oak and semi mature birch, some cherry and sycamore are also present. The understory in the southern areas of the compartment is open in nature and consists of yew, sycamore, rowan and elder. The understory of the northern section of the compartment consists of dense holly, laurel and yew.

Compartment 4 (7 Ha.)

This compartment is high forest with the over-story consisting of predominantly birch in its northern section and oak in its southern, cherry is also present. The understory is open towards the west where it consists of holly, elder, rowan and beech, in its eastern section it is dense and consists of holly, laurel and yew.

Compartment 5 (3.7 Ha.)

This compartment is high forest consisting of mature oak, cherry, ash, beech, sycamore, and birch. The understory is relatively open at the woodland edge consisting of holly, elder, rowan, sycamore, birch, beech, cherry and hawthorn.

Compartment 6 (5.2 Ha.)

This compartment is high forest consisting predominantly of oak with cherry, some birch and Scots pine are also present. The understory consists of hazel, holly, hawthorn, beech, rowan, yew and laurel and has an open character. There are also areas of dense birch regeneration.

Compartment 7 (10.9 Ha.)

The western section of this compartment is high forest with an over-story consisting of mature Scots pine and oak, with birch dominating its northern limits. This section's understory comprises of dense growths of holly and laurel with more open areas of young beech, rowan and birch at its southern end. The central section of the compartment is high forest. The over-story consists predominantly of oak and Scots pine, with some birch, rowan and beech present. The understory in the central section is dense consisting of holly and laurel with young beech, rowan and birch in the more open areas. The area of heathland in the centre of the compartment is swamped with dense birch regeneration. The eastern section of the compartment is also high forest, with an over-story consisting predominantly of Scots pine and oak, with some birch, cherry and beech also present. The understory of this section is open consisting of young beech, holly, birch and hazel.

Compartment 8 (7.2 Ha.)

This compartment is high forest with an over-story of predominantly Scots pine, oak and beech, along with sycamore, cherry and birch. The understory consists of dense holly, hazel and yew in the south but becoming more open towards its northern end.

Compartment 9 (0.8 Ha.)

The majority of the compartment consists of mature cherry, oak, beech, birch and sycamore with a dense understory of holly, yew and hazel. The south eastern section of the compartment was felled in 1997 and replanted with ash, oak and beech. sycamore and birch have regenerated naturally.

Appendix 4 – Chipperfield Common Ranger – Inspection and Maintenance Routes

This shift pattern has been created to ensure that during any given week each of the numbered footpaths within the Woodlands are free from litter. During each visit the following areas that regularly attract visitors, have been incorporated into the patterns:-

- 1) **The common, to include area around benches and the pathway (un-numbered entering the woods next to Cricket Pavilion.**
- 2) **Queen Street Car park.**
- 3) **Apostles Pond and bin**

Footpath = Complete length unless otherwise stated.

	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME ALLOCATED</u>
<u>Week 1</u>	Day 1 Footpath 8 (until) Footpath 4 (west) Queen Street car park Area opposite The Windmill, the public car park and along bridleway to Footpath 3 Apostle's pond/bin Footpath 1 complete length The Common	Approx 2 Hours
<u>Week 1</u>	Day 2 Footpath 8 Footpath 4 (east) Apostles Pond/bin Footpath 4 (west) Footpath 5 (south) Footpath 6 Queen Street car park Footpath 7 (until) Un-numbered path parallel with footpath 5 Footpath 5 (north) The Common	Approx 2 Hours
<u>Week 2</u>	Day 1 Footpath 7 (until) Footpath 5 Footpath 3 (west) to un-numbered path opposite the Windmill Queen Street car park Footpath 6 Footpath 3 (east) Apostles Pond/bin	

Footpath 1 (until road)
Footpath 8
The Common

Approx 2 Hours

Week 2

Day 2 **The Common**

Footpath 5
Footpath 6
Footpath 4
Apostles Pond/bin

Footpath 8 (until)

Footpath 7

Queen Street car park

Approx 2 Hours

Each shift pattern has been allocated 2 hours to complete, allowing 30 mins for:-

- 1) Bramble cutting.
- 2) Clearing of un-numbered footpaths near of the numbered paths being cleared during that visit.
- 3) Clearing of hedgerows, as necessary.
- 4) Taking full/heavy litter bags to designated bins.
- 5) Inspections/clearance of War memorial

Mrs J Deacon

Clerk to the Council

Veteran Sweet Chestnuts, Chipperfield Common 2009

As part of management protocols detailed in the 2009 Chipperfield Common Management Plan, an undertaking was given to produce an individual plan for each of the eight veteran sweet chestnuts.

The object of the survey work was to enable the Trees & Woodlands Officer to draw up an action plan for each tree in order to produce the following outcomes:

- A higher level of public safety
- Prevention of structural failures
- An increase of functional parts (live growth)
- Maximise wildlife habitat
- Create/develop an open/semi open glade area round each tree
- Involvement of the community in production of local names for each tree

It was clear that some Chestnuts were in decline and an inspection was undertaken in January 2010. Tree no. 7 is dead, tree no. 8 may not re-shoot, tree number 2 has fallen over and the remainder are at risk of limb shedding or collapse.

A number of local residents from the newly formed Friends of Chipperfield Common group assisted with the process of basic data collection and mapping surrounding trees. The following is a summary of findings for each tree.

Tree 1, adjacent to the cricket field is in reasonable condition, requiring minimal pruning work and some tree thinning towards an open glade around it.

Tree 2 has fallen over, possibly in the storm of January 2007. It is still partly rooted and has some leaf. Await new shoots and maintain as a horizontal tree. Control bramble to assist new shoots, some tree thinning round T2, 3 & 4 towards creation of an open glade.

Tree 3, is overtopped by Tree 4, has multiple cavities in the upper crown. Some pruning work is scheduled to stabilise the crowns.

Tree 4, has multiple wounding/decay at 3 metres. Pruning work is scheduled to reduce the possibility of major collapse

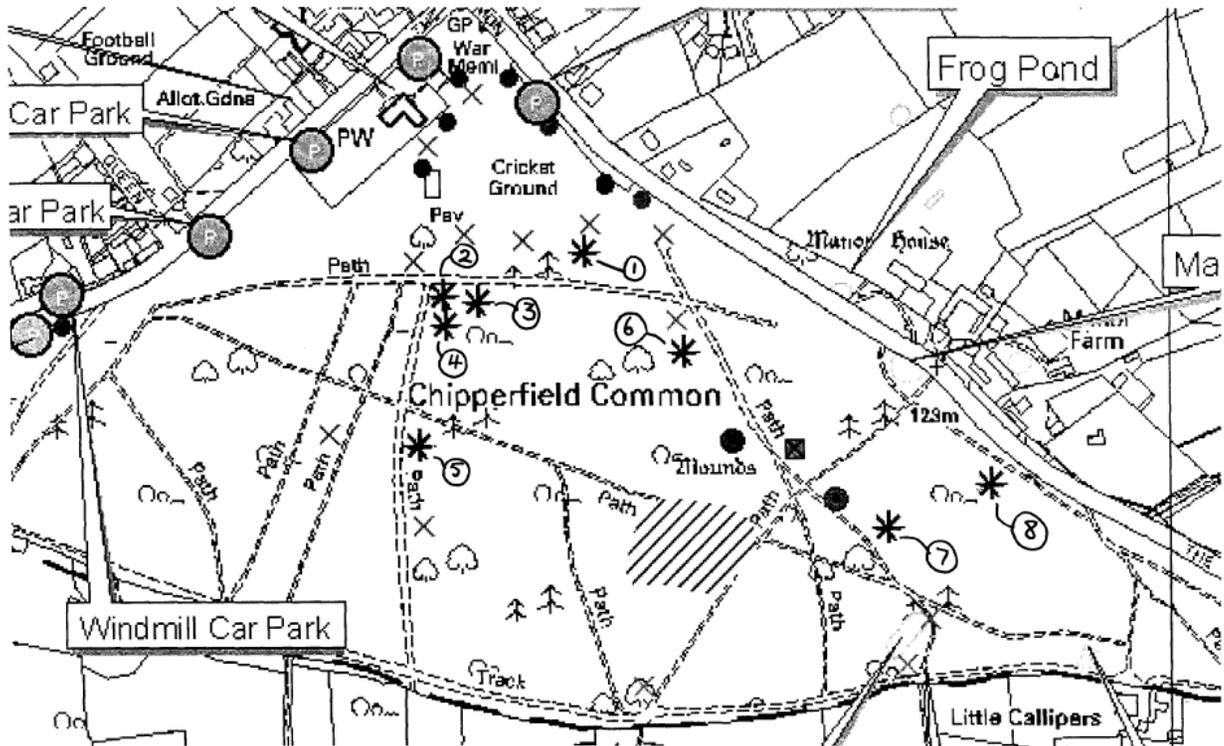
Tree 5, this once fine tree was described in 1996 in a report by John White (Dendrologist) as 'an outstanding specimen in a prime situation and greatly admired by the public'. Sadly it has suffered a catastrophic decline to the point where it is now only 10% functional. Work is scheduled to encourage further growth, stabilise the dead parts and create a glade. A sweet chestnut sapling

from within the Common will be transplanted to a position nearby as a permanent replacement.

Tree 6, is arguably the best Chestnut on the Common and because of its position next to Fish Pond Path, the most frequently seen. Two major limbs have been shed in the last two years. Pruning work is now scheduled to reduce the risk of further limb shedding and some tree thinning to surrounding trees to create a glade.

Tree 7, a stump with no growth and almost certainly a lost cause. A sweet chestnut sapling from within the Common will be transplanted to a position nearby as a permanent replacement. Create glade round existing tree. Retain old stump for nature conservation and historical interest.

Tree 8, just a stump no growth or apparent signs of life. There was a very large limb which became detached. At the time of surveying there were the shrivelled remains of leaves on the extremities of the fallen limb suggesting that it fell off in Spring / early Summer 2009. Create glade round tree, watch for any signs of growth in 2010.



Sweet Chestnuts – Location Map

Policy Statements for Chipperfield Common & Guide lines for Implementation

Chipperfield Common Management Plan 2013

Introduction

Chipperfield Common is an important woodland and nature conservation site, where people can still enjoy the peace and quiet of a natural environment. It is also a valuable asset to education. The Common, the car parks and the Village are, however, limited in capacity and the management of The Common needs to take these limitations into consideration to ensure its unique environment is preserved. The following policy statement for the public use of The Common will guide management and enable issues which arise to be resolved promptly, fairly and with clarity.

Vision

Our vision is to preserve the existing natural woodland, character, flora and fauna of Chipperfield Common and to manage the varied demands of visitors with the nature conservation interest.

Aims

To preserve the character and unique natural and historic features of the Common.

To conserve and enhance the ecological value of the Common through the sensitive and appropriate management of its habitats.

To encourage and enable local community involvement in the management and care of the Common to develop civic pride and a feeling of ownership in the site.

To ensure the Common is a well-used community asset which provides opportunities for education and passive recreation.

Restrictions

For reference purposes, where a restriction relates to the interpretation of the bye laws into modern day activities, the relevant bye law is shown in italics.

1) Fires and barbeques are prohibited

A person shall not,....light any fire thereon...

2) The removal or introduction of soil, plants or animals from or to the Common is prohibited.

A person without authority shall not dig, cut or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the Common

A person shall not without lawful authority catch birds, set traps or nets or lay snares for birds or other animals, take birds' eggs or nests, or shoot or chase game or other animals on the Common.

3) Cars and other vehicles must only be parked in the designated car parks

A person shall not drive or place upon the Common or any part thereof any carriage, cart, caravan, truck, motorcycle, steam engine or other vehicle,

4) Dogs must be under control at all times (Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Dogs dangerously out of control in a public place)

5) Horse riding is restricted to the permissive bridleways signed around the edge of the Common.

A person shall not without lawful authority drive, exercise or break in or except on existing public bridle paths, ride any horse on any part of the Common.

6) Events, exhibitions, and shows are not permitted without formal application and approval, for which a minimum of eight weeks' notice is required.

No show, exhibition, swing, roundabout or other like thing shall be placed on the Common except in the position and for the period authorised by the Council.

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An explanation of the type of activities not permitted is detailed within the guidance section of the policy statement.

Guidance

1) Events

For the benefit of doubt, the following event activities will not be permitted.

Organised cycle rides

Cross country events

The advertising of any special events on the Common through fly posting

In addition

Amplified music will only be permitted on a maximum of 5 occasions per year on the Common. The music must cease before 12pm and the sound level must be reasonable when heard from within local properties. Further advice is available from DBC's Environmental Health Section. No amplified music is permitted within the wooded area.

Alcohol will only be permitted by prior agreement and with an appropriate licence

Events within the woodland will be restricted to low key activities appropriate to the location. In particular these events

will be for the benefit of the participants and will not draw spectators

must not impinge on the enjoyment of Common by other visitors

do not give participants precedence over other users

2) Filming

DBC and CPC understand that requests to use the Common for filming and parking for film units may take place at short notice. Filming and parking will not be permitted at a date or time when it would interfere with the functioning of village activities.

Parking on the green verges alongside The Common (road) is not permitted. In the event that the number of requests is to the detriment of residents' quality of life and of visitors' enjoyment of the Common, a separate filming policy will be adopted.

3) Educational Use

St Pauls School is an integral part of the village and the use of the Common as an outside classroom is encouraged. Given the limited school grounds, the school may

also use the Common for physical education classes.
Other schools may use the Common for science and nature activities.

4) Dog fouling

Dog waste must be disposed of in the dog waste bins provided.

5) Memorial Policy

DBC and CPC are sensitive to residents and visitors attachment to the Common and understand their wish to remember friends and loved ones within the area. As custodians of the Common our role is to protect, conserve and enhance the environment for the benefit of future generations. To ensure that the nature of the site remains unchanged, the following code is adopted.

The Chipperfield Common Management Plan sets out the presumption against tree planting, in favour of natural regeneration. From time to time limited opportunities for 150

replacement tree planting or relocating a young specimen may arise, which potentially could be sponsored as a memorial tree. Plaques either on or by a memorial tree are not permitted

A memorial bench may replace an existing bench which is no longer fit for purpose, or be part of pre-planned work as identified through the Chipperfield Common Management Plan. The design and materials of the bench will be selected by DBC/CPC to be in keeping with the location and existing furniture. A small plaque may be fitted onto a memorial bench, subject to permission. Applicants for a memorial bench will be expected to pay for the repair or replacement of the bench so approved. The Parish Clerk will maintain a list of applicants for a memorial bench. Permission for a memorial bench will be at the sole discretion of the Council who's decision will be final.

Any issues arising concerning the War Memorial will be dealt with separately by CPC.

Enquiries

All enquiries should be directed in the first instance to the Clerk of Chipperfield Parish Council.

**CHIPPERFIELD COMMON MANAGEMENT
VETERAN SWEET CHESTNUTS - TREE WORK – FEBRUARY &
MARCH 2010**

An individual management plan has been drawn up for each of the eight veteran sweet chestnuts on Chipperfield Common to

produce the following outcomes:

A higher level of public safety

Prevention of structural failures

An increase of functional parts

Maximise wildlife habitat

An open glade area round each tree

Involvement of the community in production of local names
for each tree

If you want to discuss any aspect of tree management in Chipperfield Common please contact Colin Chambers, Trees & Woodlands Officer for Dacorum Borough Council on 01442 228375 or colin.chambers@dacorum.gov.uk

If you are interested in finding out about or joining The Friends of Chipperfield Common, please contact Vanessa Johnson, Trees & Woodlands Administrator on 01442 228844 or vanessa.johnson@dacorum.gov.uk or Chipperfield Parish Council Clerk on 01923 263310 or parishclerk@chipperfield.org.uk

Appendix 8 - Friends of Chipperfield Common, Project Days 2016/17

Friends of Chipperfield Common, Activity Days 2016/17							
Day	Date	Month	Year	Place	Time	Activity	Meeting Place
Sunday	25	September	2016	Pill Pond	9.15	Removing self sown trees. Digging out weed to create open water	Pill Pond
Thursday	3	November	2016	Pill Pond	9.15	Removing self sown trees. Digging out weed to create open water	Pill Pond
Saturday	17	December	2016	Apostles Pond	9.15	Joint Project day with Friends of Bunkers Park. Clear weed and restore timber edging	Cricket Ground Car Park
Wednesday	25	January	2017	Glades around ponds / sweet chestnuts	9.15	Putting up bird boxes	Cricket ground Car Park
Saturday	25	February	2017	Apostles Pond	9.15	Joint Project day with Friends of Bunkers Park. Clear weed and restore timber edging	Cricket ground Car Park
Saturday	25	March	2017	New woodland area	9.15	Joint Project day with Friends of Chipperfield Common. Continue with woodland thinning.	Bunkers Park Car Park, Bedmond Road (map to follow)
Tuesday	18th	April	2017	TBA			
For further details contact Vanessa Johnson on 01442 228844 or vanessa.johnson@dacorum.gov.uk							

General comments and conclusions

The habitats that are present at Chipperfield Common today demonstrate the power of successional change. Less than 100 years ago the Common was open heathland, managed by grazing animals with a few ponds and a scattering of magnificent sweet chestnut trees. Following the cessation of grazing this started to change, with the rapid colonisation by bracken and scrub and eventually the development of secondary broadleaved woodland. The ponds too show the effects of ecological succession, in particular Pill Pond which comprises a variety of habitats from swamp vegetation through dry grassland communities to scrub – but no open water.

An assessment of the ecological significance of the habitats that were once present and those that remain would suggest that, in a local and national context, the restoration of heathland should be the focus of management; there are now only 15 heaths across the whole of Hertfordshire. However, realistically the wholesale reversion of the Common to heath, due to the advanced stage of ecological succession, would be too costly and time-consuming, and would also require significant resources to provide effective long-term management. Furthermore, it would be unlikely to meet with the approval of locals, the majority of whom have only known Chipperfield Common as woodland.

Instead it is recommended that the management of key areas of the site - the biodiversity hotspots – should be the favoured option. The management of the ponds, heath/acid grassland glades and the magnificent sweet chestnuts (and their glades) will maintain a diversity of habitats that show something of what the Common was once like. Although this will still require significant commitment from Dacorum Borough Council, Chipperfield Parish Council and the local community to check succession in these key areas.

It may also be useful to examine patches of grassland on the margins of the woodland to determine the survival of other areas of acid grassland, such as the area that was detected in the south-east corner of the cricket pitch. Non-specialist volunteers could survey for the presence of indicator species such as heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel and tormentil (all of which are readily identifiable even when not in flower). Much of this peripheral grassland is currently being managed by frequent mowing, but a change to one or two cuts a year and the removal of the cuttings would allow these rare fragments of acidic grassland to flourish again.

The ride management should also continue. The work that has been undertaken to date has resulted in significant amenity improvements to the surface of the paths, if not major improvements to the ride-side habitat. The programme of ride widening should be extended to other rides and, in order to maintain their more open nature, a programme of ride-side mowing should commence with the aim of creating a

gradation of shorter vegetation beside the path, through a shrub margin to high forest beyond.

As mentioned above, the retention of a range of habitats provides a link to the history and past management of the Common and this also provides educational opportunities both formal and informal. The benefits, particularly to young children, of the “outdoor classroom” are well known and the Common provides many opportunities for learning.

The ponds, particularly Apostles’ Pond which has the only significant and accessible area of open water, are great places to learn about aquatic ecology. Pond dipping is ever popular, although care should be taken to prevent the transfer of invasive species to other ponds on the Common and further afield (invasive species and the concept of bio-security – the cleaning and drying of nets and not transferring plants and animals from one pond to another without careful thought becomes part of the educational experience). The concept of ecological succession - from heathland to woodland and from wetland to woodland - is also amply demonstrated on site.

The educational opportunities should be seen as a fundamental part of site management. First hand contact with nature engenders a greater appreciation and understanding of the natural environment and opportunities to get involved with the management of the Common will serve to reinforce a sense of ownership. This should help to ensure that antisocial behaviour is minimised and the whole community treats the Common with respect.

Appendix 10 – Key Achievements 2007 - 12

Key Achievements – Chipperfield Common Management 2007 – 12

- Production of Green Flag style management plan
- Installation of Easy Access Trail
- Protective fencing round both ancient burial sites
- Installation of whole site interpretive sign in main car park
- Installation of burial mound interpretive sign adjacent to burial mound.
- Initiation of footpath inspections (annual)
- Initiation of trees near footpaths inspection (annual)
- Form new linking footpath at Dunny Lane
- Apply old names to footpaths
- Make all bins 'fox proof' (and only then could Mike retire)
- Instigate quarterly meetings between Borough and Parish
- Extend and maintain main glade
- Make eight more glades
- Form The Friends of Chipperfield Common
- Make regular contributions to Chipperfield News
- Re-instate the annual Chipperfield Common Walk
- Undertake and publish major users survey
- Survey and formulate a management plan for each veteran sweet chestnut
- Undertake management to each live sweet chestnut
- Commission baseline ecological study work
- Form 4 metre edge zones along the management compartment boundaries
- Took the first (in recent times) oak timber crop

I've managed to get a quick look at my samples, and I would say that the Shepherds Pond, TL 049010 is outstanding in its protozoan 'fauna' (the only organisms I've looked at), and although there is no objective yardstick for such statements, it would not be surprising if it has not been cleared since it was formed a couple of hundred years ago. It must indeed be the one that was thought 'old' and overgrown with rushes when Arthur Earland collected from it in 1906. If you have any colleagues who deal with the natural environment, perhaps you might pass on this message: **never to be cleaned!**

The sample from Apostles Pond at TL 047011 appears barren by comparison, and I'm sure it has been cleaned. It is far more accessible, probably shallower, and probably has a more solid bottom than Shepherds, so a man could easily go in with waders (a thing you wouldn't dare to do at Shepherds). Let the public enjoy it and its monastic associations.

Shepherds Pond 125-250 µm [µm = micron, 1/1000 millimetre] shows (relatively) large testate amoebae scattered amongst solid ?clay (black) pellets and some sand grains. This is what remains in a 125 µm sieve after you have removed the rotting vegetation (**lots of it**); **I haven't concentrated this or exaggerated it in any way** – rather the reverse because I think a lot fell off on the microscope slide. There will be many many more in the finer fractions, but the pond became famous for these. All the little creatures you can see (or rather **their 'tests' or shells**) are various species of *Diffugia*, a testate amoeba which lives in the top centimetre or so of the mud (they may either be water or air above that) ingesting rotting vegetation and anything else it finds, and breeding. It will get eaten by anything a little bigger in the food chain.

To give you a sense of scale, this general view is of an area a little smaller than 2 x 3 mm. An ordinary pinhead is about 1.66 mm so you could get one in the picture, but not two. The little *Diffugia* are up to 300 µm in length, just specks to the naked eye. The limit of visibility for the unaided human eye is 75 µm even for black objects on a white background, or vice versa. The things here are well beyond the view of a hand lens, and require a microscope.

In 1904 Arthur Earland visited the pond. He was a senior civil servant who turned to the microscope, and finally the study of foraminifera, as a relief from what he said was the tedium of his work. In later years he became the foremost British authority on forams. He was obviously impressed with the quantity and variety of what he found in Shepherds, and sent a sample to James Cash who was then preparing his books on *The British Freshwater Rhizopoda and Heliozoa* (Ray Society 5 vols from 1905) – which became a standard work since it was realised, during the course of the twentieth century, that these little beasts are **worldwide in their distribution. I don't think Cash visited as he lived in Cheshire**, and was in poor health by this time. Earland had probably heard of the pond through the microscopists' grapevine; **I think he lived in south London.**

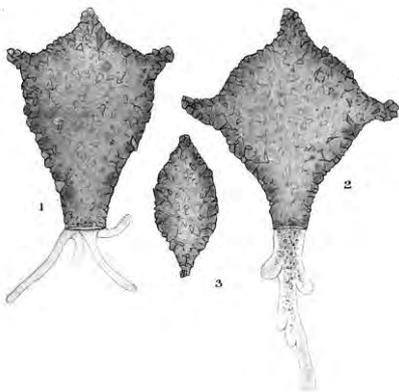
Cash was impressed: *'The coarser Diffugiidae exist in this pond in great abundance.* The quality of the water, the nature of the soil, or some other cause unknown, appears to favour their growth and development.'* *[A small

pond overgrown with rushes, on the south edge and near the east end of Chipperfield Common.]. One type he had never seen before and he named it *Diffflugia crassa*, new species. Earland had also found a new variety of a common type, *Diffflugia acuminata*, and this Cash called *var. curvata*. The commonest form, here as elsewhere, is *Diffflugia oblonga*, but he noted their large size and smooth outline. (All attached, and showing the protoplasm 'rhizopods' emerging – you'll see that Earland and Cash used live samples; I'm afraid I killed mine before I started work on it.)

In recent years it's been realised that Cash's *D crassa* from Shepherds Pond is probably the same beast as one found in ?Holland in the 1870s and named *D nodosa* – so the older name has precedence and it will retain it unless DNA work shows otherwise (yes, people are DNA testing things this small). So Shepherds was a type site for a species; and may be again.

My photographs of a few almost randomly selected specimens are in the file *Shepherds Pond testates*. *D oblonga* is far left, *D crassa/nodosa*, then unidentified, and 4th from left *D acuminata*. At top right is a little thing called *Centropyxis*, only just over 100 µm across and so quite a challenge to work with; but there will be many more and smaller types. By the way, these images are taken through a very good compound microscope with special lighting, and digitally stacked from (say) a dozen photos each, before being tidied up in Photoshop.

Cash saw that this was an unusual pond, and he spent much of his life studying ponds and lakes. I suspect what was unusual was its age and isolation. Isobel Thompson at HCC Archaeology confirms that it is on both the earliest OS map (1870s) AND on the tithe map of c 1835, same shape, same place. It begins to look as if it dates from the formation of the Common, or possibly even before, and is now over 200 years old. Were the sheer number of tests that Earland found the dead specimens of many generations? (That could possibly be tested.) But in its 200 year history the pond has not received incoming stream water (nor does it drain out), will have been unaffected by farm fertilizers and pesticides (not invented in the **eighteenth century**), and looks as if it hasn't been cleared out. It is on flat land (a plateau) so there is very little tendency to silt up with mineral soil etc, and the reeds or rushes keep people at bay. We should probably encourage specialists to see what other beasts lurk there, and I may be able to do that next month if you agree.



Diffflugia nodosa

CHIPPERFIELD COMMON

ANNUAL GUIDED WALK

COULD YOU BE AN IVY LOVER ?

Join Colin Chambers, Trees & Woodlands Manager at
Dacorum Council for a guided walk round Chipperfield
Common - 6.30 – Dusk.

- Introduction and raising the 2016 Green Flag for Chipperfield Common
- Summer Branch Drop
- 6 things to Love about Ivy
- Our ponds - doomed to become marshes ?
- Tree limbs – Nothing man made can equal them
- New Bridleway surface – a compromise
- Replacement for our Veteran Sweet Chestnuts –
with ‘Royal Sap’ 
- The main open glade – reverting to woodland ?
- Bat listening at dusk by Apostles Pond

Meet by the Cricket Club Building near the main Car Park

Thursday 8th September 2016 at 6.30 PM

Appendix 13 – Uses of Chipperfield Oak - 2017

Repair to bench by Apostles Pond

Repair to bench on Pavilion Path

Repair to bench Cricket ground Car Park

Repairs to picnic tables on Fish Pond Path

Main posts at entry/exist to Cricket Ground car park

Construction of 2 benches, nr Glade, Wide Path

Traffic control posts near Queens Street and at Church car park

Construction of 8 new benches at Bunkers Park, Nash Mills

Construction of 3 new benches at Gadebridge Park

Construction of 6 new benches at Shrubhill Common, Chaulden

Re-construction of steps at Shrubhill Common

Construction 6 planters for sheltered housing schemes