

## **GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE**

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27 August 2021

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU to attend the **JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE** meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming on THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 5.45pm. The meeting will be preceded by an inspection of **Nightingale Cemetery** at 5.00pm.

Andy Jeffery  
Clerk to the Committee

If you wish to speak at this meeting please contact Godalming Town Council on 01483 523575 or email [office@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@godalming-tc.gov.uk)

Committee Members: Councillor Martin  
Councillor Neill  
Councillor Purvis – Vice Chair  
Councillor PS Rivers  
Councillor Steel – Chair  
Councillor Stubbs  
Councillor Bond (Busbridge Parish Council)  
Councillor Westwood (Busbridge Parish Council)

### **AGENDA**

1. **MINUTES**

The Chair to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2021.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

To receive from Members any declarations of interests in relation to any items included on the Agenda for this meeting required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.

4. **PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chair to invite members of the public to make representations, ask or answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda or other matters not on the agenda. This forum to be conducted in accordance with Standing Order 5.

5. **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

To consider any questions from Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 6.

6. ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE LAST MEETING & SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Clerk to report on the accounts paid since the last meeting.

A schedule of the accounts paid will be tabled for the information of Members. The vouchers relating to these payments will also be tabled at the meeting for inspection. All payments made are in line with the agreed budget or other resolution of this Committee or Full Council.

Members to agree that the Chair should sign the schedule of accounts paid.

7. SIGNING OF BANK RECONCILIATIONS

The Committee to consider the tabled monthly bank reconciliations since the last meeting of the Committee and authorise the Chair to sign them.

8. BUDGET MONITORING – ITEM FOR NOTE

Members to consider a budget monitoring report to 31 July 2021 (detailed report attached for the information of Members).

Cost Centre	Year to date Variance	Projected Variance @ Year
	£	End £
Administration & Overheads	23,404 o/s	£29,000 o/s
Eashing Cemetery	29,265 u/s	£26,900 u/s
Eashing Chapel	805 u/s	NIL
Eashing Lodge	255 u/s	NIL
Nightingale Cemetery	9,299 u/s	£9,500 u/s
Nightingale Chapel	101 u/s	NIL
Nightingale Lodge	52 o/s	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,269 u/s</b>	<b>7,400 u/s</b>

The monitoring report shows a current variance of £16,269 underspend against budget.

Equipment is over budget by £12,500. A four wheel coffin bier was purchased for £2,300 to assist in moving coffins from vehicles to gravesides. £10,000 spent on flail attachment for the tractor (Min No 20-21 refers).

As per Min No 45-20 the administration charge was increased to reflect the support required for AMA burials. As this was agreed after the budget was set for 2021/22, there is an overspend showing. This will be adjusted at Revised Estimates.

Professional Fees includes £7,700 commission paid for the NNDR review of Eashing Cemetery. This is offset by a refund of £26,900 in Eashing Cemetery Miscellaneous revenue for the refund of NNDR paid over the last five years.

Councillor Heagin did a complete review of the Committee's insurance as part of the renewal of our Long Term Agreement. This resulted in savings of around £1,000 from last year and £1,200 against budget.

Nightingale Cemetery is not budgeted until Revised Estimates – we have had 7 interments and 5 grave purchases in the first four months.

9. RESERVE FOR FUTURE CEMETERY PROVISION – ITEM FOR DECISION

Best Practice recommends that the level of General Reserves be 40-60% of an Authority's precept. The Joint Burial Committee's current precept is £40,000 which puts the recommended level of General Reserves between £16,000 and £24,000. The actual level of the General Reserve is £130,062 which is well above the recommended level.

Nightingale Cemetery is considered to be full, unless permission to reuse graves is granted. Eashing Cemetery has a remaining useful life of 50-60 years at the current rate of burial. This could decrease as available grave spaces in surrounding towns' and villages' cemeteries diminish. This has of course been considered by this Committee in the past, as the Committee has attempted to acquire nearby land unsuccessfully.

Regardless of location, it would be prudent for this Committee to start building up a reserve for the purpose of acquiring additional land for future cemetery provision and accordingly, the Responsible Finance Officer recommends that £100,000 be transferred from General Reserves to an Ear Marked Reserve for this purpose.

10. BURIAL STATISTICS

Statistics for the period up to 17 August 2021 are attached for the information of Members.

11. COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMME – EASHING CEMETERY – ITEM FOR DECISION

**Recommendations:**

- A. Members to resolve to approve the use of the boundary land at Eashing Cemetery for planting of a Community Orchard.**
- B. Members to resolve to approve the creation of a Community Garden surrounding the closed Garden of Remembrance at Eashing Cemetery – costs to be allocated against the grounds maintenance revenue budget.**
- C. Members to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Waverley Borough Council and Godalming Town Council for the delivery of a Community Benefit Programme based around environmental improvements to Eashing Cemetery.**

Members will be aware that in 2019 a proposal was put forward to support Waverley Borough Council's (WBC) Community Benefit Programme (CBP) with its appointed contractor for site B, Ockford Ridge so that local residents and stakeholders could enjoy some wider benefits from WBC's investment.

Intended as an ongoing partnership between WBC, its contractors and the communities in which it delivers new, affordable housing, the original CBP proposal included a wildflower meadow scheme and re-wilding at Eashing Cemetery. Since that time the Burial Committee has already undertaken a number of actions to improve the biodiversity of Eashing Cemetery, some of which were intended to be part of the CBP programme. However, in consultation with the CBP partners, the scope of the CBP programme has undergone refinement to reflect both a greater understanding of the aims of CBP and the available funding.

For the Joint Burial Committee the aim of the CBP has been to enable improvements to the biodiversity and enhancement of the natural environment of the cemetery, whilst respecting its role as an operational cemetery serving the needs of the community. In developing a practical programme the CBP has sought to provide community programmes that are achievable within the constraints of cost and the operational needs of the cemetery.

Members are requested to consider the attached report regarding the proposed Community Benefit Programme, the Memorandum of Understanding between Waverley Borough Council

and the Joint Burial Committee and the concept plans for a Community Orchard around the boundary of the Cemetery.

12. **CEMETERY MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT – ITEM FOR NOTE**

As agreed by Members on 27 May (Min No 14-21 refers) in order to continue developing and improving the cemeteries' environment, a PTO operated cut and collect attachment has been purchased for the maintenance of the grass meadows. Additionally, as noted by Minute 17-21, the repairs to the Eashing Cemetery Driveway highlighted on 27 May have been completed.

13. **CEMETERY MAINTENANCE VEHICLE – ITEM FOR DECISION**

**Recommendation:**

**Members to resolve to approve the purchase of a Volkswagen ABT eTransporter LWB 87KW 37.7KWh Van for use as a cemetery maintenance vehicle.**

On 27 May 2021, Members agreed in principle that the JBC should procure a suitable vehicle to support cemetery operations, with officers to bring forward further details on purchase and lease options for consideration by Members (Min No 14-21 refers).

Whilst it had been envisaged that an electric powered tipper, with a behind cab tool storage and tail lift would be the most appropriate option, the limited availability and bespoke nature of such a vehicle makes it an unaffordable option. A diesel fuelled option utilising HVO alternative fuel is more readily available at an OTR price of circa £40,042 for outright purchase or £11,700 per annum for a 5 year rental hire, with no asset ownership at end of period. However, for a range of reasons including operating environment, carbon emissions and other climate issues relating to locally produced emissions, Members indicated that alternative electric vehicle options should also be explored.

As such, grounds staff and officers sought to establish whether an alternative option would be able to fulfil the same or an acceptable similar operational requirement to the previously considered tipper. Having reviewed the viable options, the following recommendation is offered that is considered to meet the operational and environmental needs at an affordable and sustainable cost.

Volkswagen ABT eTransporter LWB 87KW 37.7KWh Van, purchase price circa £35,723 (with Government Plug in Van Grant). In considering this option, although the range from full charge is limited to 82 miles at a maximum speed of 56mph, the operational need of the Joint Burial Committee on behalf of Godalming Town Council and Busbridge Parish Council is highly unlikely to exceed 82 miles on a single journey. With an anticipated need to charge once or possibly twice a twice a week, having a battery charge cycle in excess of 1,600 would cover a 15 year operational period. A further and important consideration of this option is the towing capacity of the vehicle at 1,500kg. This capability provides the versatility to not only transporting grounds staff, but also grass cutting equipment and grounds maintenance tools securely within the van (utilising loading ramps if required) as well as the ability to hitch a tipping trailer to move green waste between sites. Similar sized vans, at roughly the same cost but with a greater range have been identified, however the towing capacity of those vehicles is lower, at circa 1,000Kg, which after allowing for the weight of the trailer, significantly reduces their operational capabilities. The only other electric van identified with a 1,500kg towing capacity that also provides a significantly increased range is approx £20,000 more expensive. It is argued that on any basis, be it value for money versus environmental benefit or meeting operational need, the additional cost for an ability to reduce range anxiety in a situation where it is unlikely to exist is not justified.

The outright purchase, would mean that a tangible asset is brought, and whilst that asset will depreciate over the course of its life, that period is expected to be in excess of 10 years. As such the purchase cost is in the region of £3,575 per annum. Leasing the same vehicle at a cost of £31,680 over a 5 year period, would incur a revenue cost of £6,336 per annum, without ownership of an asset and the possibility of incurring 'settlement' payments at the end of the term for any damage not deemed as fair wear and tear, or for any mileage above the contracted 6,000 per annum.

In considering the above, if Members are minded to approve the provision of a cemetery maintenance vehicle, it is recommended that the Volkswagen ABT eTransporter LWB 87kw 37.7kwh Van as specified (specification attached for the information of Members), is purchased from the cemetery reserves. Additionally it is suggested that as a Joint Burial Committee cemetery maintenance vehicle, it is liveried as both Godalming Town Council and Busbridge Parish Council.

14. COMMUNICATIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

Members to identify which matters (if any), discussed at this meeting, are to be publicised.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Godalming Joint Burial Committee is scheduled to take place in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 4 November 2021 at 5.30pm.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brought forward by permission of the Chair. Requests to be submitted prior to commencement of the meeting.

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 31/07/2021

Month No: 4

## Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>401 Administration &amp; Overheads</u>										
1001 Precept - Godalming TC	0	0	0	18,845	18,845	0	37,690			50.0%
1002 Precept - Busbridge PC	0	0	0	1,155	1,155	0	2,310			50.0%
1300 Interest	4	33	29	17	132	115	400			4.2%
Administration & Overheads :- Income	<b>4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20,017</b>	<b>20,132</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>40,400</b>			<b>49.5%</b>
4102 Property Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	500		500	0.0%
4163 Domestic Supplies	85	0	(85)	85	0	(85)	0		(85)	0.0%
4164 Workshop Supplies	0	15	15	0	60	60	180		180	0.0%
4202 Car Allowances	0	40	40	17	160	143	500		483	3.4%
4204 Fuel Costs	34	25	(9)	66	100	34	300		234	21.9%
4205 Vehicle Maintenance	493	100	(393)	493	400	(93)	1,200		707	41.1%
4301 Equipment	2,159	750	(1,409)	15,454	3,000	(12,454)	9,000		(6,454)	171.7%
4310 Administration Charge	0	0	0	19,888	14,840	(5,048)	29,680		9,793	67.0%
4311 Professional Fees - Legal	0	0	0	100	0	(100)	0		(100)	0.0%
4313 Professional Fees - Other	6,980	0	(6,980)	8,240	500	(7,740)	2,000		(6,240)	412.0%
4314 Audit Fees	0	0	0	120	200	80	800		680	15.0%
4315 Insurance	0	0	0	3,758	5,000	1,242	5,000		1,242	75.2%
4321 Bank Fees	11	25	14	44	100	56	300		256	14.7%
4324 Broadband	19	0	(19)	95	0	(95)	0		(95)	0.0%
4326 Website	0	0	0	0	400	400	400		400	0.0%
4327 Publicity Advertising	0	95	95	0	380	380	1,150		1,150	0.0%
4900 Miscellaneous	0	30	30	190	120	(70)	400		210	47.5%
Administration & Overheads :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>9,780</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>(8,700)</b>	<b>48,548</b>	<b>25,260</b>	<b>(23,288)</b>	<b>51,410</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,862</b>	<b>94.4%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(9,776)</b>	<b>(1,047)</b>	<b>8,729</b>	<b>(28,532)</b>	<b>(5,128)</b>	<b>23,404</b>	<b>(11,010)</b>			

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 31/07/2021

Month No: 4

## Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>411 Eashing - Cemetery</u>										
1100 Interment	3,875	1,200	(2,675)	9,925	4,800	(5,125)	14,300			69.4%
1101 Monument	0	183	183	1,130	732	(398)	2,200			51.4%
1102 Purchase of Grave Space	5,350	2,300	(3,050)	12,850	9,200	(3,650)	27,500			46.7%
1400 Miscellaneous	28,485	0	(28,485)	31,420	0	(31,420)	0			0.0%
<b>Eashing - Cemetery :- Income</b>	<b>37,710</b>	<b>3,683</b>	<b>(34,027)</b>	<b>55,325</b>	<b>14,732</b>	<b>(40,593)</b>	<b>44,000</b>			<b>125.7%</b>
4014 Sexton Duties	0	0	0	494	0	(494)	0	(494)		0.0%
4015 Grave Digging	0	0	0	2,050	0	(2,050)	0	(2,050)		0.0%
4102 Property Maintenance	0	0	0	5,743	0	(5,743)	0	(5,743)		0.0%
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	1,171	0	(1,171)	0	(1,171)		0.0%
4131 Rates	0	0	0	6,943	6,300	(643)	6,300	(643)		110.2%
4141 Water Service	9	20	11	47	80	33	240	193		19.6%
4162 Waste Removal	392	350	(42)	1,752	1,400	(352)	4,200	2,448		41.7%
4171 Grounds Maintenance	0	2,900	2,900	12,736	11,600	(1,136)	34,600	21,864		36.8%
4172 Memorial Inspection	0	165	165	0	660	660	2,000	2,000		0.0%
4301 Equipment	0	0	0	433	0	(433)	0	(433)		0.0%
<b>Eashing - Cemetery :- Indirect Expenditure</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>3,034</b>	<b>31,368</b>	<b>20,040</b>	<b>(11,328)</b>	<b>47,340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,972</b>	<b>66.3%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>37,309</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>(37,061)</b>	<b>23,957</b>	<b>(5,308)</b>	<b>(29,265)</b>	<b>(3,340)</b>			
<u>413 Eashing - Chapel</u>										
1200 Rent	70	0	(70)	70	0	(70)	0			0.0%
<b>Eashing - Chapel :- Income</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(70)</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(70)</b>	<b>0</b>			

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 31/07/2021

Month No: 4

## Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
4102 Property Maintenance	0	100	100	120	400	280	1,200		1,080	10.0%
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	100	100	119	400	281	1,200		1,081	9.9%
4111 Energy Costs	0	100	100	226	400	174	1,200		974	18.8%
Eashing - Chapel :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,135</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>(300)</b>	<b>(370)</b>	<b>(395)</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>	<b>(805)</b>	<b>(3,600)</b>			
<u>415 Eashing - Lodge</u>										
1200 Rent	1,350	1,350	0	5,400	5,400	0	16,200			33.3%
Eashing - Lodge :- Income	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,200</b>			<b>33.3%</b>
4102 Property Maintenance	85	100	15	145	400	255	1,200		1,055	12.1%
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	0	0	0	100		100	0.0%
Eashing - Lodge :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>11.2%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>5,255</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>(255)</b>	<b>14,900</b>			
<u>421 Nightingale - Cemetery</u>										
1100 Interment	300	0	(300)	2,400	0	(2,400)	0			0.0%
1101 Monument	0	0	0	230	0	(230)	0			0.0%
1102 Purchase of Grave Space	0	0	0	6,900	0	(6,900)	0			0.0%
Nightingale - Cemetery :- Income	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(300)</b>	<b>9,530</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(9,530)</b>	<b>0</b>			
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	700	700	0	700		0	100.0%



## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 31/07/2021

Month No: 4

## Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
4131 Rates	0	0	0	334	300	(34)	300		(34)	111.4%
4141 Water Service	16	15	(1)	57	60	3	180		123	31.6%
4171 Grounds Maintenance	277	950	673	4,000	3,800	(200)	11,600		7,600	34.5%
Nightingale - Cemetery :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>292</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>5,091</b>	<b>4,860</b>	<b>(231)</b>	<b>12,780</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,689</b>	<b>39.8%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(965)</b>	<b>(973)</b>	<b>4,439</b>	<b>(4,860)</b>	<b>(9,299)</b>	<b>(12,780)</b>			
<u>423 Nightingale - Chapel</u>										
1200 Rent	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000			0.0%
Nightingale - Chapel :- Income	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000</b>			<b>0.0%</b>
4102 Property Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	200		200	0.0%
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	55	55	119	220	101	660		541	18.0%
Nightingale - Chapel :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>13.8%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>(220)</b>	<b>(101)</b>	<b>4,140</b>			
<u>425 Nightingale - Lodge</u>										
1200 Rent	1,050	1,050	0	4,200	4,200	0	12,600			33.3%
Nightingale - Lodge :- Income	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,600</b>			<b>33.3%</b>
4102 Property Maintenance	0	0	0	251	0	(251)	0		(251)	0.0%
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	50	50	0	200	200	600		600	0.0%
4161 Cleaning	42	40	(2)	42	40	(2)	40		(2)	104.2%
Nightingale - Lodge :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>42</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>45.7%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>(48)</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>11,960</b>			

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 31/07/2021

Month No: 4

## Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
Grand Totals:- Income	40,484	6,116	(34,368)	94,542	44,464	(50,078)	118,200			80.0%
Expenditure	10,601	6,025	(4,576)	86,029	52,220	(33,809)	117,930	0	31,901	72.9%
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>29,883</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>(29,792)</u>	<u>8,513</u>	<u>(7,756)</u>	<u>(16,269)</u>	<u>270</u>			
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>29,883</u>			<u>8,513</u>						

<u>A/c</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
	<u>Current Assets</u>		
101	Debtors Control	855	
105	VAT Control Account	2,062	
201	HSBC Current Account	21,349	
202	HSBC Deposit Account	106,484	
203	CCLA Public Sector Deposit Acc	150,000	
	Total Current Assets		280,750
	<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
501	Creditors Control	3,194	
	Total Current Liabilities		3,194
	Net Current Assets		277,557
	Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>277,557</u>
	<u>Represented by :-</u>		
300	Current Year Fund	8,513	
310	General Reserves	130,062	
320	EMR Chapels	25,500	
321	EMR Cemeteries	60,883	
323	EMR Memorial Inspections	15,027	
324	EMR Lodges	37,571	
	Total Equity		<u>277,557</u>

## GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

### Final Statistics as at 30 June 2021 and to date 17 August 2021

#### INTERMENTS

	<u>Godalming</u>			<u>Busbridge</u>			<u>Excepted Category</u>			<u>Non-Parishioners</u>			<u>Total</u>		
	<u>Inhum-ations</u>	<u>Ashes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Inhum-ations</u>	<u>Ashes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Inhum-ations</u>	<u>Ashes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Inhum-ations</u>	<u>Ashes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Inhum-ations</u>	<u>Ashes</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Eashing</b>															
Quarter Ending															
30-Jun-20	4	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	13	0	13	18	0	18
30-Sep-20	3	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	1	7	10	2	12
31-Dec-20	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	3	11	0	11	14	2	16
31-Mar-21	3	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	16	1	17	20	2	22
30-Jun-21	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	2	8	8	5	13
30-Sep-21	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	11	10	4	14
31-Dec-21			0			0			0			0			0
31-Mar-22			0			0			0			0			0
<b>Nightingale</b>															
Quarter Ending															
30-Jun-20	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
30-Sep-20	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
31-Dec-20	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
31-Mar-21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-Jun-21	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
30-Sep-21	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	7
31-Dec-21			0			0			0			0			0
31-Mar-22			0			0			0			0			0
<b>Total</b>															
Year Ending															
31-Mar-13	16	6	22	0	0	0	4	1	5	6	0	7	27	7	34
31-Mar-14	10	10	20	0	0	0	5	2	7	5	1	6	20	13	33
31-Mar-15	19	11	30	0	0	0	3	1	4	7	4	11	29	16	45
31-Mar-16	16	6	22	0	0	0	4	0	4	7	7	14	27	13	40
31-Mar-17	19	5	24	0	0	0	8	3	11	3	5	8	30	13	43
31-Mar-18	9	0	9	0	0	0	4	2	6	7	6	13	20	8	28
31-Mar-19	19	10	29	0	0	0	5	5	10	4	2	6	28	17	45
31-Mar-20	9	7	16	0	0	0	4	3	7	6	1	7	19	11	30
31-Mar-21	13	5	18	0	0	0	4	3	7	46	2	48	63	10	73
31-Mar-22	8	6	14	0	0	0	0	1	1	14	6	20	22	13	35

#### Plots Sold

Quarter Ending	<b>Eash</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>N'gale</b>	<b>AMA</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Year End Total</b>
2009/10	16	8	7		31	31
2010/11	13	6	22		41	41
2011/12	11	3	2		16	16
2012/13	14	5	12		31	31
2013/14	12	1	15		28	28
2014/15	14	1	19		34	34
2015/16	15	1	5		21	34
2016/17	13	9	2		24	24
2017/18	11	8	6		25	25
2018/19	24	1	4		29	29
2019/20	12	2	9		23	23
2020/21	18	4	3	43	68	68
30-Jun-21	2	0	0	6	8	
30-Sep-21	4	3	6	7	20	
31-Dec-21						
31-Mar-22						28

<b>Interments 10 Year Average</b>	
18/19	36
19/20	36
20/21	39
21/22	41

10 year average                      29  
10 year average                      29  
10 year average                      31

10 year average to date              32

11. EASHING CEMETERY AND OCKFORD RIDGE - COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMME

**Introduction**

Members will be aware that in 2019 a proposal was put forward to support Waverley Borough Council's (WBC) Community Benefit Programme (CBP) with its appointed contractor for site B, Ockford Ridge so that local residents and stakeholders can enjoy some wider benefits from WBC's investment.

The CBP is intended as an ongoing partnership between WBC, its contractors and the communities in which it delivers new, affordable housing. The original proposal included a wildflower meadow scheme and re-wilding at Eashing Cemetery. Since that time the Burial Committee has undertaken a number of actions to improve the biodiversity of Eashing Cemetery, some of which were intended to be part of the CBP programme. However, although the Burial Committee has progressed with creating areas of wildflower meadow and re-wilding, in consultation with the CBP partners the scope of the programme has undergone refinement to reflect both the needs and available funding.

For the Joint Burial Committee the aim of the CBP is to enable improvements to the biodiversity and to enhance the local environment of the cemetery, whilst respecting its role as an operational cemetery serving the needs of the community. In developing a practical programme the CBP has sought to provide community programmes that are achievable within the constraints of cost and the operational needs of the cemetery.

**Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Assessment**

In 2019, as part of the CBP proposals, it had been hoped that a biodiversity net gain baseline assessment would be carried out. Unfortunately due to a variety of reasons, including the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, an assessment was not carried out. Therefore a 2019 baseline was not in place prior to the works carried out by the grounds team to improve the biodiversity and create environmental enhancements. Whilst Members did debate whether this was the right approach, it is argued that whether or not baselined the works undertaken since autumn of 2019 have been beneficial to the local environment.

The importance of a Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Assessment for the CBP was re-iterated by the JBC during further discussions with WBC and their partner contractors. This resulted in the Surrey Wildlife Trust being appointed to undertake an assessment, which was conducted on 25 July 2021. The assessment report is attached for the information of Members. There are a couple of points that Members will wish to note:

- The report states that the site (Eashing Cemetery) is owned by Waverley Borough Council. This was a misunderstanding by the assessor due to the fact that the assessment was commissioned for WBC as part of the CBP. All stakeholders acknowledge that the site is owned by the Godalming Joint Burial Committee.
- The report acknowledges the positive conservation enhancement measures already in place such as the creation of wildflower meadows by the JBC, which it states are being managed very well. As well as the no mow areas around the edge of the site and good hedgerow management.
- The report provides some simple recommendations to further enhance the biodiversity of the site.

In indicating the net biodiversity gain of the proposed CBP projects, the assessment is that they will fall short of the desired 10-20% increase. However, this should be balanced against the fact that the works undertaken in the last 2 years are not included as they were done prior to the setting of the baseline. Additionally, the assessment has taken the site as a whole and

not just the 30% of the site that the CBP is limited to in its use. It has been suggested that WBC may wish to have the assessment updated to reflect the limitations imposed on the CBP programme.

### **Proposed Community Benefit Programme**

In collaboration with the WBC housing delivery team and its appointed contractors, the following practical opportunities are put forward for consideration. It is believed that not only could these enhance the biodiversity and the natural environment of Eashing Cemetery but will also provide opportunities for community engagement and further support the sense of place for Eashing Cemetery.

The proposals fall into two main areas:

**Community Orchard** – Working with the Community Orchard Project South East (COPSE) over a 5 year period, 60 fruit trees would be planted around the boundary of the cemetery at about 15m intervals. The orchard would be designed as an orchard trail to highlight wildlife and points of interest and the history of the site. Trees included in the plan include stone-fruit trees, apples trees, pear, medlars, quince and mulberry with the final years planting to be a staggered avenue of walnut trees.

The funding of the trees and associated materials, alongside the community engagement aspects of the project, including organising community planting days would lie with WBC. The JBC would be responsible for enabling works and ongoing maintenance of the trees. This is an important aspect of the CBP that hopefully prevents tree failure experienced on other projects where there has not been a professional grounds team presence. The concept plan of the Community Orchard is attached for the consideration of Members. It should be noted that no burial land will be lost to support the project.

**Community Garden** – The second element of the CBP is to seek community engagement with the design of a new garden around the closed garden of remembrance located adjacent to St Marks facing onto Franklyn Road. The CBP would also seek to recruit community volunteers to plant out the chosen design. The cost of the plants and any landscaping being the responsibility of JBC. In recognition of the importance of this location at the entrance to the cemetery, the JBC would retain a veto on the final design of the community garden. As with the community orchard project, the community garden would be established over a number of years.

**Memorandum of Understanding** – At the request of the JBC, in order to provide assurance to each party involved within the CBP programme, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GJBC and WBC has been produced (attached for the information of Members). Members are requested to consider the MoU.

# Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Assessment

Eashing Cemetery

Thakeham



Author	Isobel Girvan BSc (Hons) MCIEEM FLS – Principal Ecologist	Date	02/08/2021
Approver	Robert Hutchinson BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM – Principal Ecologist	Date	06/08/2021
Project number	4376-1		
Report and version number	1.0		
Survey date	25/06/2021		

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## 1 Summary

1.1.1 Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) Ecology Services was commissioned on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by Thakeham to undertake a baseline biodiversity net gain (BNG) calculation of Eashing Cemetery. The site is owned and managed by Waverley Borough Council with Thakeham as a contract partner. They would like to help improve the overall biodiversity value of the cemetery by 10-20% in a way that can be undertaken as a community planting project. This includes proposals including planting wildflowers on the grass swards around the cemetery (some 3000m<sup>2</sup>) and potential hedge laying, community orchard planting and redevelopment of the garden of remembrance at the front of the cemetery. The biodiversity net gain calculation is required to:

- Present the baseline biodiversity unit score for the survey area.
- Identify the opportunities within the project to deliver ecological enhancement, with the express purpose of achieving a net gain of at least 10%.

1.1.2 The information collected can then be used to inform the community planting project design.

1.1.3 The survey visit was undertaken on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by Isobel Girvan BSc (Hons) MCIEEM FLS – Principal Ecologist.

1.1.4 Ten UK habitat classification types were recorded during the field survey:

- Three grassland habitats
- One woodland habitat
- One scrub habitat
- Three urban habitats
- Two hedge habitats

1.1.6 A summary of the BNG calculations are presented in Table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of BNG calculations**

Headline results	Area units	Hedgerow units	Scattered tree units
Onsite baseline	45.90	8.40	1.28

1.1.5 The enhancement recommendations and community planting project proposals are summarised in Figure 2 and detailed in Table 6.

1.1.6 The initial enhancement recommendations for area grassland and scrub habitats include continuing to vary the cutting regime and height of the grassland and existing scrub next to the boundary hedge to provide opportunity for a more species rich and varied grassland/scrub ecotone. Some dense scrub pockets are proposed in the north west and south east corners (initially calculated at 500m<sup>2</sup>).

1.1.7 This is in addition to the community project proposals of additional wildflower meadow grassland creation and a community traditional orchard. These initial predicted onsite enhancement recommendations could achieve:

- A net biodiversity gain for area habitats with a likely results of 1.62% net gain.

- 1.1.8 The initial enhancement recommendations for hedgerow features include continuing to manage the boundary hedge, some hedge laying, as well as creating additional connecting species rich hedges with shrubs and trees that connect to existing hedgerows (initially calculated at 50m hedge creation). These initial predicted onsite enhancement recommendations could achieve:
- A net biodiversity gain for hedgerow habitats with a likely result of 5.78% net gain.
- 1.1.9 The current predicted percentage gain for the area and hedgerow habitats are not within the 10-20% set out for the project. This is in part due to the narrow margin of available habitat around the edge of the site representing 30% of the site, with the other 70% being the working cemetery. It is also due to the positive conservation enhancement measures already in place such as the creation of wildflower meadows, which are being managed very well. As well as other no mow areas around the edge of the site and good hedgerow management.
- 1.1.10 Table 6 ecological opportunities provides additional recommendations to further enhance the biodiversity of the site. These include several micro-habitat enhancements such as dead wood habitat piles, bat and bird boxes and bare ground creation. These enhancement recommendations will help the wildlife on the site on a small scale site basis, and will be valuable to the site.



**Key**

-  Site Boundary
-  g3c: Other neutral grassland (1-8)
-  g3c5: Arrhenatherum neutral grassland
-  g4: Modified Grassland
-  w1g: Other woodland; broadleaved
-  h2a: Hedgerow, priority habitat (9-10)
-  h2b: Other hedgerows
-  h3d: Bramble Scrub
-  u1b: Developed land; sealed surface
-  u1b5: Buildings
-  u1d: Suburban / Mosaic of Developed / Natural Surface
-  Secondary Codes:
-  11: Scattered Trees
-  12: Scattered Bracken
-  16: Tall Herb
-  50: Habitat Creation - Semi Natural (On Site)
-  73: Bare Ground
-  1150: Flowerbeds



Please note: locations are approximate

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4376-1, July 2021

**Figure 1:**  
**Eashing Cemetery**  
**UK Habitat Classification Survey Results**



**Ecology**  
Services

**Figure 2: Ecological constraints and opportunities for enhancement**

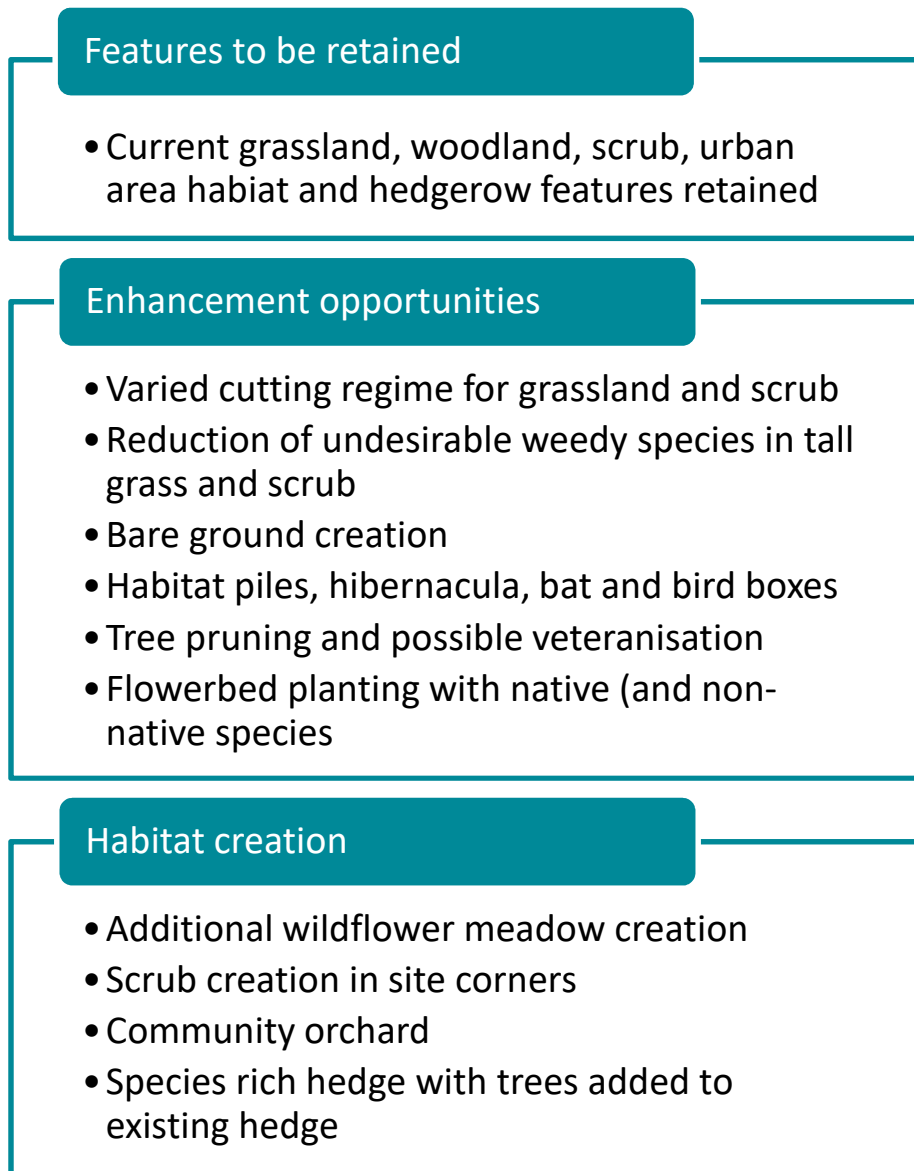




Figure 3: Site photographs



Photograph 1: g3c grass mown, left long and seeded wildflower meadow with tall herbs and native hedge in north east



Photograph 2: g3c, 50 wildflower meadow in the north east



Photograph 3: g3c mown cemetery grass across majority of the site



Photograph 4: g3c with tall herbs and wood chip mulch in north east





**Photograph 5:** g3c unmown grass in western corner with scattered trees



**Photograph 6:** g3c tall herbs on north east boundary



**Photograph 7:** g3c5 grass on edge of hedgerow and woodland



**Photograph 8:** g4 grass in north east with scattered trees





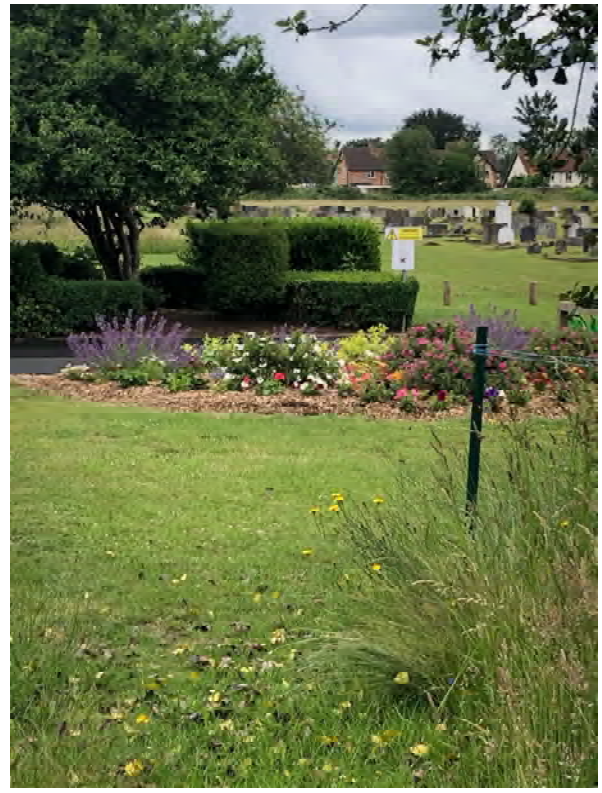
**Photograph 9:** w1g woodland to the south with bramble scrub g3c5 and bare ground track



**Photograph 10:** w1g woodland along the south with bracken scrub



**Photograph 11:** h2a beech hedge and scattered tree in north east



**Photograph 12:** h2b hedge with flowerbed





**Photograph 13:** u1b road and u1b5 cemetery building



**Photograph 14:** u1b5 cemetery building

## 2 Introduction

2.1.1 SWT Ecology Services was commissioned on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by Thakeham to undertake biodiversity net gain calculations of Eashing Cemetery. The site is owned and managed by Waverley Borough Council with Thakeham as a contract partner. They would like to help improved the overall biodiversity value of the cemetery by 10-20% in a way that can be undertaken as a community planting project.

### 2.2 Scope of work

2.2.1 The aim of this report is to:

- Present the baseline biodiversity unit score for the survey area.
- Identify the opportunities within the project to deliver ecological enhancement, with the express purpose of achieving a net gain of at least 10%.

2.2.2 The information collected can then be used to inform the project design.

2.2.3 More specifically, the scope of work includes:

- A habitat survey following UK habitat classification methodology
- Condition assessment of the vegetation on site
- Identification of the potential ecological considerations with regards to the site and the proposed work and recommendations on how to manage the habitats to deliver a 10 – 20% biodiversity net gain, should this be achievable at the site.

2.2.4 The information and data provided have been prepared in accordance with current best-practice guidance (CIEEM 2017) and BS 42020:2013 (BSI 2013). Our ecologists are bound by CIEEM's 'Code of Conduct' (CIEEM 2019).

### 2.3 Survey area

2.3.1 The survey area, presented in Figure 1, comprises Eashing Cemetery. It is just over 6 hectares, located at Ockford Ridge in Eashing Surrey at central grid reference SU956431. The site is bounded by hedgerows and linear woodland. The surrounding area comprises Ockford Ridge housing estate to the east and south east, whilst to the north and west are arable fields. The wider area consists of dense residential housing, with belts of woodland and arable fields with hedgerows. The survey area is located in Waverley Borough Council.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Habitat survey

3.1.1 The calculations presented in this report are based on the specific habitat types and boundaries determined during the UK habitat classification survey undertaken by SWT Ecology Services on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 using the UK habitat classification survey methodology (Butcher B, Norton L and Treweek J, 2020).

3.1.2 UK habitat classification survey is a comprehensive system for classifying and mapping habitats within the UK. The aim of the survey is to identify and map habitats using aerial imagery and ground-truthing the information in a consistent and unified way such that this can be used for ecological impact assessment and habitat metrics. The whole survey area was walked by an experienced ecologist and habitats identified, classified and mapped.

3.1.3 Within each habitat type a record of the vascular plant species was made and an assessment of their abundance recorded. Abundances of each vascular plant species within each habitat type are based on the DAFOR scale, presented below.

- D – Dominant
- A – Abundant
- F – Frequent
- O – Occasional
- R – Rare

3.1.4 Nomenclature of vascular plants followed (Stace, 2019). Common names are presented in the text, with scientific names detailed in Appendix 1.

3.1.5 The survey visit was undertaken on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by Isobel Girvan BSc (Hons) MCIEEM FLS – Principal Ecologist. Weather conditions were warm and dry.

### 3.2 Condition assessment

3.2.1 BNG assessment requires information on the condition of the habitat. This was undertaken on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by Isobel Girvan BSc (Hons) MCIEEM FLS – Principal Ecologist, who has the relevant skills and knowledge to assess condition for the habitats encountered. The report review process includes an assessment to ensure that the condition assessment has been undertaken in line with best practice.

3.2.2 The condition assessment was undertaken in line with the methods set out in The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 (Natural England, 2021). Summary information is provided in Appendix 2 and detailed in a separate excel spreadsheet. All habitats are assigned as good, moderate or poor. For some habitats, the condition has been pre-determined, such as bramble scrub.

### 3.3 BNG assessment

3.3.1 BNG is calculated and interpreted following eight principles and rules, as defined in The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 (Natural England, 2021). This is further supported by (CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2019) that details, among other things, how to implement biodiversity net gain good practice principles within each stage of a project's life cycle. The key principles referred to as the mitigation hierarchy must be implemented to habitats and species throughout a project life-cycle. These are to:

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

#### Baseline biodiversity units

3.3.2 This report uses The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 (Natural England, 2021). The metric provides a way of measuring and accounting for baseline biodiversity as well as biodiversity losses and gains resulting from land management change.

3.3.3 Calculating baseline biodiversity units requires information on a habitat's area, distinctiveness, condition, and strategic significance. The habitat areas and habitat condition are based on the habitat survey methods detailed above.

- 3.3.4** Distinctiveness refers to the relative scarcity of the habitat and its importance for nature conservation. The distinctiveness categories are pre-determined by the metric, see Table 2. Strategic significance is assessed against information in the local plan or policies for that habitats and its location. This is considered separately for each habitat type.
- 3.3.5** The data were inputted into The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 (Natural England, 2021), accessed in July 2021. The completed metric accompanies this report.
- 3.3.6** The survey area includes a number of scattered trees. In biodiversity metric 3.0 the term ‘Urban tree’ applies to all trees in urban habitats such as private gardens, private land, institutional land and land used for transport functions, roads, streets, canals, rail, footpaths etc. Trees in urban areas can, under the right conditions, provide a large range of habitat opportunities, supporting lichens, bryophytes, invertebrates and birds. Tree planting in urban areas has for over two hundred years also introduced non-native species into towns and cities. In the context of biodiversity, native species are the preferred option. However, non-native tree species can contribute positively to biodiversity richness particularly in relation to providing a seasonal food source for nectar feeders and other invertebrates as well as supporting vertebrates that feed on species that are hosted by non-native trees. Examples are early and late flowering species of *Prunus* and aphids on varieties of *Acer* providing food for species higher up the food chain.
- 3.3.7** Trees in urban areas provide opportunistic sites for biodiversity to colonise and re-colonise, increasing connectivity and contributing to biodiversity critical mass between already established patches or sites.

**Table 2: Habitat distinctiveness categories and scores**

Category	Score	Description
Very High	8	Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) as defined in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 that are highly threatened, internationally scarce and require conservation action.
High	6	HPI as defined in Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 requiring conservation action.
Medium	4	Semi-natural habitats not classed as a HPI.
Low	2	Habitat of low biodiversity value.
Very Low	0	Little or no biodiversity value e.g. hard standing or sealed surface.

- 3.3.8** In The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 (Natural England 2021) a core spatial components is considered: the strategic significance of a place for biodiversity.
- 3.3.9** The idea of strategic significance works at a landscape scale. It gives additional unit value to habitats that are located in preferred locations for biodiversity and other environmental objectives. Strategic significance uses published local plans and objectives to identify local priorities for targeting biodiversity and nature improvement, such as Nature Recovery Areas, local biodiversity plans, biodiversity opportunity areas (BOAs), statutory designated sites and non-statutory designated sites (Biodiversity Metric 3.0 User Guide, Natural England 2021). The strategic significance categories and scores are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Habitat strategic significance categories and scores**

Category	Score	Description
High	1.15	High potential and within area formally identified in local policy.
Medium	1.1	Good potential but not in area defined in local policy.
Low	1.0	Low potential and not in area defined in local policy.

3.3.10 Area habitat's biodiversity unit was then calculated as:

$$\text{Area (ha)} \times \text{Distinctiveness} \times \text{Condition} \times \text{strategic Significance}$$

3.3.11 The biodiversity unit for hedgerow habitat is calculated as:

$$\text{Length (km)} \times \text{Distinctiveness} \times \text{Condition} \times \text{strategic Significance}$$

### **Biodiversity unit calculations – post-project**

3.3.12 Based on the initial ecological enhancement recommendations, the expected onsite area, type and condition of the habitats in the survey area post-project was determined.

3.3.13 Assessing the biodiversity units of a proposed project requires an assessment of retained habitats and those that will be created, including the spatial, temporal and delivery risks.

3.3.14 On this basis, the predicted post-project biodiversity units for area habitats are calculated as:

$$\text{Area (ha)} \times \text{Distinctiveness} \times \text{Condition} \times \text{Strategic Significance} \times \text{Difficulty} \\ \times \text{Time to target condition}$$

3.3.15 For hedgerow features, these are calculated as:

$$\text{Length (km)} \times \text{Distinctiveness} \times \text{Condition} \times \text{Strategic Significance} \times \text{Difficulty} \\ \times \text{Time to target condition}$$

### **Calculating intended biodiversity net gain/loss**

3.3.16 By comparing the baseline biodiversity units for each habitat with the expected biodiversity units for each habitat predicted post-project, the intended biodiversity net gain or loss for each habitat as a result of the project was determined. The change in biodiversity can be considered as:

$$(\text{Retained habitat units} + \text{enhanced habitat units}) - \text{baseline habitat units}$$

## **3.4 Limitations**

### **Biodiversity baseline calculations**

3.4.1 The biodiversity calculations in this report have been based on The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 (Natural England 2021), which has just been produced and is the recommended version. Should the metric be revised, then it may mean that the calculations within this report will have to be updated.

3.4.2 The habitat areas recorded during the UK habitat classification survey have been used for the baseline conditions. The majority of the habitats in the survey area have clear



boundary changes, which increases the accuracy of the calculations. Therefore the methodology used to calculate the areas has no limitation.

**3.4.3** Biodiversity net gain calculation scores can only ever be a prediction when they are calculated prior to project completion. In order to ensure that the predicted biodiversity net gains have been met a post-project calculation would be required.

**3.4.4** The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 values are unique and cannot be compared to values from the original DEFRA metric or any other metric that may be in use.

**3.4.5** The three distinct modules of the metric that being areas, hedgerows and river habitats, are unique and cannot be summed or considered together. They must be kept as separate values.

**3.4.6** This report is valid for a maximum of two years, provided site conditions do not significantly change. If more than two years have lapsed between the site survey and works being undertaken, an updated survey may be necessary to ensure recommendations for further survey, mitigation and enhancements remain valid.

## **4 Legislative and planning policy framework**

**4.1.1** Project proposals must comply with relevant UK legislation and planning policies. Details of these (including national planning policy and local planning policy) are presented in Appendix 3.

## 5 Habitat survey results

5.1.1 The following ten UK habitat classification primary habitats were recorded on the site:

- g3c – other neutral grassland
- g3c5 – *Arrhenatherum* neutral grassland
- g4 – modified grassland
- w1g – other woodland broadleaved
- h2a hedgerow, priority habitat
- h2b – other hedgerow
- h3d – bramble scrub
- u1b – developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 – buildings
- u1d – natural surface

5.1.2 The following secondary codes were also used to provide additional detail to the survey:

- 11 – scattered trees
- 12 – scattered bracken
- 16 – tall herb
- 50 – habitat creation (wildflower areas)
- 73 – bare ground
- 1150 - flowerbeds

5.1.3 The location of these is presented in Figure 1 and photographs are presented in Figure 2. A summary of each habitat is provided in Table 4.

**Table 4: UK habitat classification survey results**

UK habitat classification	Map code	Photo no.	Description	Condition	HPI	Ecological function	Area (ha)
Other neutral grassland (g3c)	(g3c)1	1,3,11,14	Short regularly mown neutral grassland around the edge of the cemetery and the main area of the cemetery with graves. Here there are a variety of grasses and herbaceous plants, including occasional herbs such as white clover, common bird's-foot trefoil, yarrow, daisy, dandelion, ribwort plantain, cat's ear and mouse-ear hawkweed as well as grasses, Yorkshire-fog, perennial rye-grass, rough meadow-grass, cock's-foot and common bent.	Moderate	No	Bats, birds badger, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	4.19
Other neutral grassland (g3c)	(g3c)2	1,11	There are several large areas across the site where the main body of grassland has been allowed to grow long during the summer. These patches are located on the edge of the site to the north, north west, west and south east edges of the cemetery, the latter forming the largest patch. Although grasses look dominant, there are plenty of herbs including a good range of vetches present. Grass species found include frequent to occasional common bent, rough meadow-grass, red fescue, cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog, false oat-grass and rare sweet vernal-grass and perennial ryegrass. Herbaceous plants include occasional dandelion, ribwort plantain, cat's-ear, white clover, yarrow with locally frequent common sorrel, tufted vetch, lesser stitchwort, common mouse ear, common knapweed, meadow vetchling, hairy tare, smooth tare, common vetch, mouse ear hawkweed and oxeye daisy. It tends to be a little more herb rich along the southern edge especially towards the south east corner with common knapweed and vetches being relatively prominent such as hairy tare, common bird's-foot trefoil, meadow vetchling, common vetch, as well as creeping buttercup, lesser stitchwort, oxeye daisy, common sorrel and ribwort plantain.	Moderate	No	Bats (foraging), bird (foraging), badger, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.89



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UK habitat classification	Map code	Photo no.	Description	Condition	HPI	Ecological function	Area (ha)
Other neutral grassland (g3c,50), from a semi-natural created habitat	(g3c,50)	1,2	Planted wildflower mix of a neutral grassland with a range of grasses and herbaceous plants and some annual weeds. This is the second year after a wildflower mix of perennials and some annuals were planted in on the edge of the cemetery near the entrance. Herbs include frequent to abundant yarrow, common knapweed, cat's ear, common bird's-foot trefoil, ribbed meililot, cornflower, dianthus sp, wild carrot, ribwort plantain, kidney vetch, oxeye daisy, red campion, white campion, sainfoin, common poppy, lesser stitchwort, tufted vetch and black medick. Grasses are less obvious and include a mix of tall and finer species such as rough meadow grass, red fescue and false oat-grass.	Moderate	No	Badger, bats (foraging), birds, hazel dormouse, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	Inc. in (g3c)1
Other neutral grassland (g3c)	(g3c) 3	4	Unmanaged small area of grassland behind the wildflower meadow near the cemetery entrance. This area of neutral grassland is a tall mixture of grasses and herbs including ribwort plantain, creeping buttercup, common mouse-ear, germander speedwell, black medick, white clover and cat's ear. Grasses include Yorkshire-fog, false oat-grass and rough meadow-grass. One holly tree is also present	Moderate	No	Bats (foraging), bird (foraging), badger, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.02
Other neutral grassland (g3c)	(g3c) 4	4	Tall neutral grassland along the hedge of the hedge in the north west of the site with grasses and herbaceous plants including hedge mustard, false oat-grass, cock's foot, poppy, Yorkshire-fog and spear thistle.	Moderate	No	Bats (foraging), bird (foraging), badger, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.01

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UK habitat classification	Map code	Photo no.	Description	Condition	HPI	Ecological function	Area (ha)
Other neutral grassland (g3c,11)	(g3c,11)	5	Tall grass dominated neutral grassland under the shade of maturing planted maturing pedunculate oaks trees in the western corner of the site. Red fescue appears to be the most abundant grass accompanied by common bent, Yorkshire-fog, cock's foot, false oat-grass and less common sweet vernal grass. Herbs are generally sparse under the shade with rare to occasional common bird's-foot trefoil, germander speedwell, common sorrel, ribwort plantain, cat's ear, oxeye daisy and lesser stitchwort.	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), birds (foraging), invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.17
Other neutral grassland (g3c,16) with tall herb	(g3c,16) ) 5	1,4,6	Linear area of tall herbs associated with the hedge along the northern corner of the site by houses. The tall herbs are co-dominated by hedge mustard and common nettle.	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), bird (foraging), invertebrates, small mammals	0.00 too small to calculate
Other neutral grassland (g3c,16) with tall herb	(g3c,16) ) 6	1	Linear area of tall herbs associated with the hedge along the northern corner of the site by houses. The tall herbs are represented by common nettle, false oat-grass and bramble.	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), bird (foraging), invertebrates, small mammals	0.01
Other neutral grassland (g3c,16) with tall herb	(g3c,16) ) 7	1	Small area of overgrown tall herb vegetation near the cemetery entrance. The tall vegetation contains a collection of herbaceous plants including cut-leaved crane's-bill, common bird's-foot trefoil, ribwort plantain, common poppy, black medick, sheep's sorrel, germander speedwell and white clover. Some grasses such as Yorkshire-fog are present too.	Moderate	No	Bats(foraging), birds (foraging), invertebrates, reptiles, and small mammals	0.00 too small to calculate

UK habitat classification	Map code	Photo no.	Description	Condition	HPI	Ecological function	Area (ha)
Other neutral grassland (g3c, 16) with tall herb	(g3c, 16) ) 8		Area of tall herb vegetation to the west of the buildings. Herbs such as hedge mustard, curled dock, black medick, perennial rye-grass and yarrow.	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), bird (foraging), badger, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.01
<i>Arrhenatherum</i> neutral grassland (g3c5)	(g3c5)	7	Hedge associates in the form of a tall unmanaged grassland buffer zone along the northern, western and southern hedge edges. With frequent false-oat grass, locally abundant common nettle, hogweed, cock's-foot, common couch, creeping thistle, cleavers and rare white bryony. Patchy bracken and bramble scrub are also present along the hedge edge but too small and integral to the hedge to map (g3c5, 12 and h3d).	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), birds (foraging, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.19
<i>Arrhenatherum</i> neutral grassland (g3c5, 12) with bracken	(g3c5, 12)	10	Along the southern edge of the cemetery next to the linear line of woodland trees is a stretch of bracken.	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), bird (foraging), badger, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	

UK habitat classification	Map code	Photo no.	Description	Condition	HPI	Ecological function	Area (ha)
Modified grassland (g4, 11) with scattered trees	(g4, 11)	8	Short regularly mown grassland in the north-eastern part of the site close to the cemetery entrance. This is currently an area of poor semi-improved grassland including common grasses such as common bent, Yorkshire-fog and Perennial Rye-grass and garden flowerbeds. There is one horse-chestnut tree present.	Moderate	No	Bats(foraging), birds (foraging), invertebrates, reptiles, and small mammals	0.05
Other neutral grassland (g3c,73) area of bare ground	(g3c, 73)	9	In the southern corner of the site is a patch of bare ground and gravel.	N/A	No		Area inc. in (g3c)1
Other woodland; broadleaved (w1g)	(w1g)	9, 10	Along the south western and south eastern edge of the cemetery there is a line of woodland trees. The linear woodland edge comprises species such as Sycamore with blackthorn and Hawthorn.	Moderate	No	Badger, bats (foraging), birds, hazel dormouse, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.37
Hedgerow; priority habitat (h2a)	(h2a) 9	1	Mature overgrown hedge along the northern corner of the site by housing and running down the north western edge of the cemetery. The hedge is dominated by native scrub Including, hawthorn, holly, hazel, pedunculate oak, dog-rose, field maple.	Good	Yes	Badger, bats (foraging), birds, hazel dormouse, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	419m

UK habitat classification	Map code	Photo no.	Description	Condition	HPI	Ecological function	Area (ha)
Hedgerow; priority habitat (h2a)	(h2a) 10	11	Predominantly Beech planted, unconnected hedgerows. The small section near the cemetery entrance is a young relatively newly planted hedge around the edge of modified mown grassland. The second area is towards the western corner of the site and is a more mature hedge, well maintained, likely trimmed annually.	Poor	Yes	Badger, bats (foraging), birds, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	36m
Other hedgerow (h2b)	(h2b)	12	Manicured garden type hedge near the cemetery entrance.	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), birds, invertebrates, small mammals	30m
Bramble scrub (h3d)	(h3d)		Along the southern edge of the cemetery next to the linear line of woodland trees is a linear patch of bramble scrub with false oat-grass hogweed and rosebay.	Poor	No	Bats (foraging), birds, invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals	0.05
Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)	(u1b)	13,14	Cemetery driveway.	N/A	No		0.19
Buildings (u1b5)	(u1b5)	13.14	Cemetery buildings.	N/A	No	Bats and birds	0.03

UK habitat classification	Map code	Photo no.	Description	Condition	HPI	Ecological function	Area (ha)
Suburban/ mosaic of developed/ natural surface, flowerbed (u1d,1150,11) with scattered trees	(u1d, 1150, 11)	8	Beds around the modified grassland area located close to the cemetery entrance. A former area of cherry laurel that has been cleared and the chippings used a mulch for the flowerbeds. There are several scattered trees including pissard plum, pedunculate oak, copper beech, Lawson's cypress and beech.	N/A	No	Birds, bats (foraging) and invertebrates	0.05
Suburban/ mosaic of developed/ natural surface, flowerbed (u1d,1150)	(u1d, 1150)	2, 12	Planted garden species with mulch located near the entrance of the cemetery. Introduced garden species, including garden lady's mantle and geranium species.	Poor	No	Invertebrates	0.00 too small to calculate area
Scattered trees			Several scattered trees across the site of varying sizes, condition, age and species type including broad-leaved native and conifer trees.	Moderate	No	Birds, bats, (foraging) and invertebrates	0.16

## Flora

**5.1.4** A total of 121 vascular plants were recorded during the survey. This is a fairly average number given the habitats present, size of the site and the survey timing. A list of vascular plant species recorded within each habitat type and their abundance is provided in Appendix 1. No rare or unusual species were recorded, however several species are on the grassland indicator and axiophyte plants<sup>1</sup> for Surrey (worthy plants that indicate good quality habitat). Some were in the wildflower planted mix such as viper's-bugloss, oxeye daisy, kidney vetch, wild carrot and cornflower were in the wildflower planted mix. However some occur naturally on site including sweet vernal-grass, meadow vetchling, common bird's-foot trefoil, common sorrel, sheep's sorrel, lesser stitchwort, lesser trefoil, hairy tare.

## 5.2 Baseline biodiversity unit calculations

**5.2.1** The biodiversity unit calculations for area habitats and hedgerow features are presented in Table 5. All technical evidence for distinctiveness and condition assessment are presented in Appendix 2.

**Table 5: Biodiversity baseline scores for habitats in the survey area**

Headline results	Area	BNG units
Other neutral grassland g3c	5.11ha	40.80
Other neutral grassland, habitat creation (wildflower grassland) g3c,50	0.01ha	0.08
Other neutral grassland with scattered trees g3c,11	0.17ha	0.68
Other neutral grassland with tall herbs g2c,16	0.02ha	0.08
<i>Arrhenatherum</i> neutral grassland g3c5	0.19ha	0.76
<i>Arrhenatherum</i> neutral grassland with bracken g3c5,12	0.01ha	0.04
Modified grassland g4	0.05ha	0.20
Other woodland broadleaved w1g	0.37ha	2.97
Bramble scrub h3d	0.05ha	0.20
Urban sealed surface driveway u1b	0.19ha	0.00
Urban sealed surface building u1b5	0.03ha	0.00
Urban flowerbed/introduced shrub u1d	0.05ha	0.10
Species rich hedge with trees h2a	0.419m	8.30
Native hedgerow h2a	0.036m	0.07
Ornamental non-native hedge h2b	0.030m	0.03
Scattered trees	0.16	1.28

<sup>1</sup> Axiophytes are plants which are indicators of habitat that is considered important for conservation.



### 5.3 Discussion

- 5.3.1 The initial enhancement recommendations for area grassland and scrub habitats include varying the cutting regime and height of the grassland and existing scrub next to the hedge along the northern and western edge to provide opportunity for a more species rich and varied grassland/scrub ecotone.
- 5.3.2 The community project proposals include planting further wildflower meadows on the grass swards around the cemetery (some 3000m<sup>2</sup>) and community orchard planting and redevelopment of the garden of remembrance at the front of the cemetery.
- 5.3.3 With the addition of planting a variety of native shrubs in the north west and south east to create some dense scrub pockets in the corners (initially calculated at 500m<sup>2</sup>) will also enhance the site.
- 5.3.4 These initial predicted onsite enhancement recommendations could achieve:
- A net biodiversity gain for area habitats with a likely result of 1.62% net gain.
- 5.3.5 The initial enhancement recommendations for hedgerow features include continuing to manage the boundary hedge along the western edge, including some hedge laying, as well as creating additional connecting species rich hedges with trees that connect to existing hedgerows (initially calculated at 50m hedge creation).
- 5.3.6 These initial predicted onsite enhancement recommendations could achieve:
- A net biodiversity gain for hedgerow habitats with a likely result of 5.78% net gain.
- 5.3.7 The current predicted percentage gain is not within the 10-20% set out for the project. This is in part due to the narrow margin of available habitat around the edge of the site representing 30% of the site, with the other 70% being mostly the working cemetery. It is likely that if the calculations were for the edge only that the 10% would be achieved.
- 5.3.8 In addition a lot of positive enhancement measures are already in place such as the creation of wildflower meadows, which are being managed very well, the inclusion of other no mow areas around the edge of the site and good hedgerow management.
- 5.3.9 The ecological opportunities Table 6 provides further recommendations to enhance the biodiversity of the site. These include several micro-habitat enhancements such as dead wood habitat piles, bat and bird boxes and bare ground creation.
- 5.3.10 Once a project plan has been finalised, a biodiversity net gain report could be prepared to present the biodiversity net gain calculations.

## 6 Ecological opportunities

- 6.1.1 Biodiversity net gain is an approach to embed and demonstrate biodiversity enhancement within project (Baker *et al.* 2019). In line with this, biodiversity loss must first be avoided, then minimised. Where this cannot occur, losses must be offset and a measurable gain which contributes to local and strategic biodiversity priorities must be established.
- 6.1.2 Habitat creation and enhancement opportunities are detailed in Figure 2, and are summarised in Table 6.



- 6.1.3** Once a project plan has been finalised, a biodiversity net gain report could be prepared to present the biodiversity net gain calculations.



**Table 6: Ecological opportunities**

Habitat	Key ecological function	Opportunities for enhancement and creation
Grassland	Provides shelter and food for many invertebrate species, and forage for vertebrate species including birds, reptiles and small mammals.	<p><b>Wildflower meadow creation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional wildflower meadow creation similar to that already created on site to cover a proposed 3000m<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community orchard:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Near the entrance of the cemetery there is a lawn of modified grassland (g4), where it is proposed that this be planted up with a community orchard. This should use a variety of species such as apple, plum, pear, walnut and quince. Fruit trees also have the added biodiversity value that they create bat roost features more quickly than broad-leaved trees such as oak. This also has the potential to be a future priority habitat. More information can be found on People's Trust for Endangered Species website under traditional orchards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cut and collect of grassland:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All grassland cuttings should, where possible and practical, be collected either on the day of cutting or a few days after and removed.</li> </ul> <p>Composing areas are on site on the southern edge.</p> <p><b>Varied cutting regime grassland timings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to provide varied floristic diversity and help with structural variation in the grassland the cutting should be varied.</li> <li>The main area of the cemetery needs to be maintained regularly, however consideration should go to raising the cut level to 3-5cm.</li> <li>Half the areas (eg those in the north of the site) that are currently left long during the summer (g3c) 2 could be cut on a twice a year cutting regime of early spring (late March) and late summer (early September).</li> <li>The section along the southern edge of the site should be cut once a year in late summer (August to September).</li> <li>The tall herb and tall grassland around the boundary edge of the site could be cut on rotation every three to four years. This would allow the seeds to set and the plant architecture to overwinter for overwintering invertebrates. The cutting in sections (i.e. a third or a quarter) every three to four years would also prevent the encroachment of too much scrub (however, see also scrub enhancement options below).</li> <li>The tall herb and tall grassland habitat will also provide a refuge to wildlife especially invertebrates when other areas of grassland are cut.</li> </ul> <p><b>Varied structural grassland cutting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to enhance this habitats condition it is also recommended that when the grassland is cut consideration is given to creating varied grass lengths. The above will help by using different cutting regimes, also consider</li> </ul>

Habitat	Key ecological function	Opportunities for enhancement and creation
		<p>when strimming or cutting the creation of jagged, wavy edges between shorter and taller vegetation. This will help to create micro-habitats for invertebrates such as moths, butterflies and grasshoppers.</p> <p>Reduction of undesirable weedy species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The above cutting regimes will help to reduce undesirable weedy species such as creeping thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common nettle, creeping buttercup, greater plantain, white clover or cow parsley.</li> <li>If they do start to spread or they are becoming frequent, then consider strimming them out prior to flowering.</li> </ul> <p>The idea is to create variety of all wildflowers and not to eradicate them completely. Common Nettle is especially used as a feeding source for butterfly caterpillars and creeping thistle is visited by a wide variety of invertebrates, common ragwort is a valuable nectar source for hoverflies and flies.</p> <p>Bare ground creation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to enhance this habitats condition some small localised areas of bare earth should be created. This should replicate mole hills or rabbit scrapes, whereby small 20cm x 20cm areas of grass are scuffed up in discrete locations around the edge of the site. On the edge of tall and shorter grassland would be ideal.</li> <li>In addition one or two larger south facing sandy mounds should be created. There are some areas of soil likely used for burials on the southern edge of the site, but perhaps consider using some for the mound. They should be well packed down. These sandy warm south facing banks will be likely used by solitary bees and wasps.</li> </ul> <p>Log pile and brash habitat piles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are some large trunks from previous felling works on the south eastern edge of the site and they were likely going to be distributed around the site has habitat piles. The larger the decaying wood is the better, however given this is a working site, they may require cutting up into smaller pieces for moving.</li> <li>If brash from other felling/lopping management is created some additional piles should be made on the edge of the site. Contractors who cut the site should be made aware that they are present.</li> <li>When they start to decompose and bed down other brash material and leaf litter can be added.</li> </ul> <p>Reptile hibernacula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of the brash from felling/lopping could also be used to create a small reptile hibernacula that would be used by other wildlife. Dig a hole about 1m x 2m and around 75cm deep and fill with brash, leaved, rubble left lying around and then over top with the dug out soil and viable vegetation including bramble. Again make grass cutting contractors aware of its presence.</li> </ul> <p>Hedgehog homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buy hedgehog home or create your own with 20 bricks and a paving slab. The entrance can be bricks or a drainpipe. Or see RPSB given a hog a home guide.</li> </ul>

Habitat	Key ecological function	Opportunities for enhancement and creation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can add a narrow drainpipe at the back for additional ventilation.</li> <li>• The box should be out of direct sunlight.</li> <li>• The entrance should be out of the direct wind.</li> <li>• Fill chamber with a layer of dead, dry leaves, they prefer small leaves such as birch, oak, hawthorn and hazel</li> <li>• Cover the box with garden cuttings, leaved, logs or soil.</li> <li>• Every year or two clean out ideally in October before hibernation and after hoglet weaning.</li> </ul> <p>Prune out some young oaks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a number of young oaks in the western corner of the grassland that are maturing well. However they are too close together and as they continue to grow they will impede each other crown canopy. Consideration should go to either considering this area as a woodland and prune out up to 50% of the oaks and interplanting with scrub species such as hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, guilder-rose, dogwood, dog rose, hazel and holly. Or considering this area as grassland with open grown oaks and pruning out up to 75% of the oaks.</li> <li>• If neither of these options are taken up, then consider cutting back oaks around one oak tree to ensure that at least one grows in the open.</li> </ul> <p>Potential for veteranisation of some young oaks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is also opportunity to provide early veteranisation cuts to the trees, seek advice from an experienced arboriculturalist or local planning office tree officer.</li> </ul> <p>Varied cutting regime bracken and tall grassland timing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See grassland section above for reasoning and apply in the bracken encroached areas.</li> </ul> <p>Varied structural bracken and tall grassland cutting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See grassland section above for reasoning and apply in the bracken encroached areas.</li> </ul> <p>Bat boxes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxes should be installed, with a south west or south east orientation approximately 3-4m high, on suitably mature existing trees this will help protect them from potential predators.</li> <li>• A number of different brands for general purpose boxes are available including Schwegler, Beaumaris and Vivara. The NHBS website supplies some of these brands. Locally made bat boxes with inconspicuous designs are also available from barkbox.co.uk.</li> <li>• Two of the bat boxes should be a crevice type box and one a cavity type, at least three in total.</li> <li>• Bat boxes are more likely to succeed in areas where there is good quality foraging habitat and trees and should be positioned so that they are sheltered from the wind and unshaded for most of the day.</li> </ul>
Woodland	Provides shelter and food for many invertebrate species, and forage for vertebrate species including birds, bats, reptiles and larger mammals.	

Habitat	Key ecological function	Opportunities for enhancement and creation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most bat species will tend to avoid artificial light sources so the boxes location should be also selected based on areas with low levels of artificial light.</li> <li>• If bat boxes require maintenance an appropriately licenced person would need to be commissioned to undertake this task.</li> </ul> <p>Bird boxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional bird nest boxes can be found on the NHBS website. Nest boxes designed to blend in more are also available from <a href="http://barkbox.co.uk">barkbox.co.uk</a>.</li> <li>• The direction of north through east to south-east are likely most favourable. But when north and north-east away from the direct sunlight is also fine as long as it is away from wind and wet weather conditions, placed between 2m and 4m high and tilted forwards slightly so that any rain should hit the roof and more likely to drain clear of the nest box.</li> <li>• Bird boxes should be checked for damage and cleaned out annually. Site bird nesting boxes in locations accessible for maintenance and away from bird feeders to protect from predator, away from other boxes and away from overhanging vegetation.</li> <li>• Use galvanized or stainless steel screws or nails that will not rust. If fixing boxes to trees, galvanised wire can be used to tie the box to the trunk or hang it from a branch. Make sure to regularly inspect these fittings to ensure the box remains securely attached.</li> <li>• Houses for house sparrows - a nest box with a 32mm entrance hole fixed on the wall of a house could well be used by House Sparrows. For Starlings try a box with a 45mm entrance hole. For more information <a href="https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/bto-nest-boxes-essential-guide.pdf">https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/bto-nest-boxes-essential-guide.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Bramble scrub	Provides shelter and food for many invertebrate species, and forage for vertebrate species including birds, bats, reptiles and small mammals.	<p>Varied cutting regime scrub timings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See grassland section above for reasoning and apply in the bramble encroached areas.</li> </ul> <p>Varied structural scrub cutting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See grassland section above for reasoning and apply in the bramble encroached areas.</li> <li>• Again the idea is not to remove all of it as the nectar and late fruits are valuable to foraging wildlife.</li> <li>• Cutting in wavy or jagged edges will provide shelter, micro-habitat niches and variation of heights.</li> </ul>
Urban	Provides shelter and food for some invertebrate species,	<p>Employ varied grassland cutting regime in community garden area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cuts can be more frequent, with consideration to varying the timings, the frequency of cutting and height. For example allow some of the grass to grow to 7cm (up to 20% of this grassland area).</li> </ul> <p>Flowerbeds to be planted up with native (and non-native) species:</p>



Habitat	Key ecological function	Opportunities for enhancement and creation
	and can be used by birds, bats and reptiles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native species are recommended, although there are plenty of garden non-native species that will also help to attract invertebrates such as butterflies, bee. As well as night flying insects such as moths and thereby will help enhance the site for bats by providing them with prey. For example Plants for moths could include wild honeysuckle, campions, pinks (Dianthus sp.), sweet william, soapwort, evening primrose, red valerian, hemp agrimony, clematis heracleifolia, hebe sp., great orme, verbena, wild marjoram.</li> </ul> <p>Flowerbeds to have structural diversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The more varied the structure from short ground hugging species to taller species and creeping plants such as honeysuckle the better for a wider variety of opportunities for wildlife.</li> <li>Spring – Blackthorn, field maple, hawthorn, hazel, horse-chestnut, willow, mahonia with primrose, cowslip, hellebore sp., heather sp.</li> <li>Summer – bramble, common lime, honeysuckle, wild privet and viburnum sp. With chive, foxglove, globe thistle, lavender, mint sp., sage sp. and thyme sp.</li> <li>Autumn – hebe, common ivy and sedum sp.</li> <li>Winter – goat willow with, crocus sp. snowdrop sp. and winter aconite.</li> </ul>
Hedgerow	Provides shelter and food for many invertebrate species, and forage for vertebrate species including birds, bats, reptiles and small mammals.	<p>Beech hedge connection to new hedge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently the two beech hedges in the west and east of the site are stand along hedges that are heavily managed, of a single species and do not provide a corridor to other hedges or edge trees.</li> <li>There is opportunity to extend the hedge on the western side by at least 50m and connect to the wider landscape.</li> <li>Hedges are valuable flight lines for bats, as well as being used by breeding birds.</li> <li>Hedge species include hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly, pedunculate oak (left to grow as a tree), dog rose, dogwood, English elm and guilder-rose.</li> </ul> <p>Species rich hedge with trees creation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hedge species include hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly, pedunculate oak (left to grow as a tree), dog rose, dogwood, English elm and guilder-rose.</li> </ul> <p>Removal or reduction of sumach tree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the north corner of the site next to the houses there is some encroachment of sumach tree. This should be stumped/cut back and not allowed to encroach further into the site.</li> </ul> <p>Re-laying of hedge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along the mature hedge on the north western side of the site the hedge is due for relaying, this will ensure that the hedge is healthy and full of wildlife when it grows back.</li> </ul>

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### Appendix 1: Vascular plant species recorded during UK habitat classification survey

Scientific name	Common name	Site abundance	Habitat/s	Abundance in habitat type
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	R	w1g, h2a	R
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	R	w1g, h2a	R
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	O	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	R	w1g, h2a	R
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corncockle	R	g3c, 50	LF
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent	O	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's-mantle	R	u1d, 1150	R
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Jack-by-the-hedge	R	g3c, g3c5, w1g, h2a	R
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal-grass	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch	R	g3c, 50	R
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale-cress	R	g3c	R
<i>Arrhenatherum elatis</i>	False oat-grass	LF	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	R	g3c5	R
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's-beard	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Purpurea'	Elephant-ears	R	u1d, 1150	R
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	R	h2b	R



Scientific name	Common name	Site abundance	Habitat/s	Abundance in habitat type
<i>Bryonia alba</i>	White Bryony	R	h2a	R
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed	R	h2a	R
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading bellflower	R	u1b5	R
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	R	g3c	R
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	R	g3c, 50	LF
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common knapweed	R	g3c, g3c5, g3c, 50	LF
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky mouse-ear	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i>	Lawson's cypress	R	g3c,11	R
<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	R	g3c5	R
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen	R	g3c	R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	R	g3c	R
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	R	w1g, h2a	LF
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	R	w1g, h2a	LF
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawk's-beard	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	R	g3c, 50	R
<i>Dianthus sp</i>	Pinks	R	g3c, 50	LF

Scientific name	Common name	Site abundance	Habitat/s	Abundance in habitat type
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's bugloss	R	g3c, 50	R
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	Short-fruited Willowherb	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field horsetail	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Ervilla hirsuta</i>	Hairy tare	R	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	R	w1g, h2b	R
<i>Fagus sylvatica 'purpurea'</i>	Copper beech	R	w1g, h2a	R
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Gallium aparine</i>	Cleavers	R	g3c, g3c5, h2a	LF
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot crane's-bill	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-robert	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	R	g3c, g3c5, h2b	R
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	R	g3c5, h2b	LF
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common ivy	R	w1g, h2a	R
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	F	g3c, g3c5	F
<i>Holcus molle</i>	Creeping soft-grass	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley	R	g3c	R
<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	O	g3c, g3c5	LF

Scientific name	Common name	Site abundance	Habitat/s	Abundance in habitat type
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	R	g3c, h2b	R
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common ragwort	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Lamiastrum album</i>	White dead-nettle	R	h2b, g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Larix decidua</i>	Larch	R	g3c, 11	R
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	R	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Lesser hawkbit	R	g3c	R
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	O	g3c, g3c5, g3c 50	O
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird's-foot trefoil	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Lycopsis arvensis</i>	Bugloss	R	g3c, 50	R
<i>Matricaria discoide</i>	Pineappleweed	R	g3c	R
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick	R	g3c	R
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick	R	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed melilot	R	g3c5	LA
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall lettuce	R	g3c5	R
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not	R	g3c	R
<i>Onobrychis vicifoli</i>	Sainfoin	R	g3c, 50	R
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Poppy	R	g3c, 50	R
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium poppy	R	g3c, 50	R

Scientific name	Common name	Site abundance	Habitat/s	Abundance in habitat type
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Pilosella officinalis</i>	Mouse-ear hawkweed	O	g3c, g3c5	LA
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	O	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough meadow-grass	O	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	R	g3c	R
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	R	h2a	R
<i>Prunus cerasifera 'Pissardii'</i>	Pissard's plum	R	u1b, 11	R
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry laurel	R	u1b, 11	R
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	R	h2a	LF
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	R	g3c5	LA
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate oak	R	w1g, h2a, g3c, 11	R
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Rhus sp</i>	Sumach	R	h2a	R
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose	R	h2a	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	R	g3c5	LA
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	R	g3c	LF
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel	R	g3c	R
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	R	g3c, g3c5	R

Scientific name	Common name	Site abundance	Habitat/s	Abundance in habitat type
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	R	h2a	R
<i>Sedum</i> sp	Stonecrop	R	g3c	R
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	R	g3c	R
<i>Silene alba</i>	White campion	R	g3c5	R
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	R	g3c5	R
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly sow-thistle	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sow-thistle	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	R	h2a	R
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser stitchwort	O	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac	R	u1b, 1150	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Hedge parsley	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil	R	g3c	R
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	O	g3c, g3c5	O
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow oat-grass	R	g3c	R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	R	g3c, g3c5, h2a	R
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell	R	g3c, g3c5	R



Scientific name	Common name	Site abundance	Habitat/s	Abundance in habitat type
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	R	g3c, g3c5	LF
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	R	g3c, g3c5	R
<i>Ernum tetraspermum</i>	Smooth tare	R	g3c, g3c5	R

## Appendix 2: Technical Background to The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 calculations

Table 7: Justification of area habitat conditions

Habitat	Condition	Justification of Condition <sup>2</sup>
Other neutral grassland g3c	Moderate	Pass on criteria 2, 3 and 4. Fail on criteria 1 and 5.
Other neutral grassland g3c,50	Moderate	Pass on criteria 1, 4 and 5. Fail on criteria 2 and 3.
Other neutral grassland g3c,11	Poor	Pass on criteria 4 and 5. Fail on criteria 1, 2 and 3.
Other neutral grassland g3c,16	Poor	Pass on criteria 2 and 4. Fail on criteria 1, 3 and 5.
Other neutral grassland g3c5	Poor	Pass on criteria 2. Fail on criteria 1, 3, 4 and 5.
Other neutral grassland g3c5,12	Poor	Fail on all five criteria.
Modified grassland g4	Moderate	Pass on criteria 3, 4, 6 and 7. Fail on criteria 1, 2 and 5.
Other woodland, broadleaved w1g	Moderate	Five good scores on criteria 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Four moderate scores on criteria 1, 7, 8 and 13. Four poor scores on criteria 9, 10, 11 and 12. Score total of 27.
Bramble scrub h3d	Poor	Pass on criteria 3 and 4. Fail on criteria 1, 2 and 5.
Urban developed land sealed surface u1b	N/A	No criteria.
Urban introduced shrub	Poor	Pass on criteria 3. Fail on criteria 1 and 2.
Native species rich hedgerow with trees	Good	Fail on criteria
Native hedgerow	Poor	Pass on criteria
Hedge ornamental non native	Poor	Pass on criteria

<sup>2</sup> Based on the condition assessments provided in The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Technical Supplement – (Natural England 2021) see separate excel spreadsheet



**Table 8: Area habitats biodiversity baseline calculation**

Habitat	On or offsite	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Suggested action	Total habitat units
Other neutral grassland	Onsite	5.1	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	40.80
Other neutral grassland	Onsite	0.01	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	0.08
Other neutral grassland	Onsite	0.17	Medium	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	0.68
Other neutral grassland	Onsite	0.02	Medium	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	0.08
Other neutral grassland	Onsite	0.19	Medium	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	0.76
Other neutral grassland	Onsite	0.01	Medium	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	0.04
Modified grassland	Onsite	0.05	Low	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	0.20
Other woodland; broadleaved	Onsite	0.37	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	2.96



Habitat	On or offsite	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Suggested action	Total habitat units
Bramble scrub	Onsite	0.05	Medium	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	0.20
Developed land; sealed surface	Onsite	0.19	V.Low	N/A - Other	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Compensation Not Required	0.00
Developed land; sealed surface	Onsite	0.03	V.Low	N/A - Other	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Compensation Not Required	0.00
Introduced shrub	Onsite	0.05	Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	0.10
Scattered trees	Onsite	0.16	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	1.28

**Table 9: Hedgerow condition assessment criteria and scores**

Functional Group Code	Name	Definition
A1	Height	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees is > 1.5 m. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m in height).

Functional Group Code	Name	Definition
A2	Width	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees is > 1.5 m. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are > 0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).
B1	Gap – hedge base	The vertical gappiness of the woody component of the hedgerow and its distance from ground to the lowest leafy growth is < 0.5 m for > 90% of length (unless a line of trees).
B2	Gap – hedge canopy continuity	The horizontal gappiness of the woody component of the hedgerow where gaps make up < 10% of total length and no canopy gaps > 5 m. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall gappiness, but are not subject to the > 5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	> 1m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for > 90% of length, measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and present on at least one side of the hedgerow.
C2	Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate < 20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground. The indicator species are nettles, Cleavers and docks. Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold
D1	Invasive and neophyte species	> 90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and neophyte species. Neophytes are plants that have naturalised in the UK since 1500 CE.
D2	Current damage	> 90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).
Condition	Score	Justification
Good	3	No more than two failures in total, and no more than one in any functional group (A, B, C or D).

Functional Group Code	Name	Definition
Moderate	2	No more than four failures in total and fails both attributes in a maximum of one functional group
Poor	1	Fails a total of more than four attributes or both attributes in more than one functional group.

**Table 10: Justification of hedgerow habitat conditions**

Habitat	Condition	Justification of Condition <sup>3</sup>
Native species rich hedgerow with trees h2a	Good	Pass on all criteria.
Native hedgerow h2a	Poor	Pass on criteria 3, 6, 7 and 8. Fail on criteria 1, 2, 4 and 5.
Hedge ornamental non native h2b	Poor	Pass on criteria 3 6, 7 and 8. Fail on criteria 1, 2, 4 and 5.

**Table 11: Hedgerow biodiversity baseline calculation**

Hedgerow Type	On or offsite	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Suggested action	Total habitat units
Native Species Rich Hedgerow with Trees	Onsite	0.419	High	Good	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium	Like for like or better	8.30
Native Hedgerow	Onsite	0.036	Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/not local strategy	Low	Same distinctiveness	0.07
Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Onsite	0.030	V. Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/not local strategy	Low	Same distinctiveness	0.03

<sup>3</sup> Based on the condition assessments provided in The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Technical Supplement (Natural England 2021) see separate excel spreadsheet

## Appendix 3: Legislation and Planning Policy

### EU Directives

#### Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

Required protection of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna through the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (Natura 2000 site) which support habitats listed on Annex I and species listed on Annex II of the Directive. Special protection measures are afforded to species listed on Annex IV, V and VI (European Protected Species). Introduces the precautionary principle which (with some exception) permits projects only if no adverse effect on site integrity is ascertained. Transposed into English law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

#### Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)

Aims to maintain ornithological and habitat diversity through the creation of Special Protection Area (SPA) (Natura 2000 site) which aim to maintain ornithological and habitat diversity through the entire European range. Provides a framework for the conservation, management and human interaction with wild birds in Europe and includes measures to prevent the introduction of non-native species. Special protection measures are afforded to species listed on Annex I. Transposed into English law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

### English Legislation

#### Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

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

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

European Protected Species include, but are not limited to:

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

#### Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Key piece of legislation consolidating existing wildlife legislation to incorporate the requirements of the Bern Convention and Birds Directive. It includes additional protection

measures for species listed under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and includes a list of species protected under the Act. It also provides for the designation and protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

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

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

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

### **Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000**

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

### **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

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

### **Hedgerows Regulations 1997**

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

### **Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996**

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

## **Planning policy**

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2021)**

Details the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied, particularly to contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the decline of biodiversity. When assessing planning applications, LPAs should have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity by applying a number of principals, including:

- Avoiding impacts to biodiversity through appropriate site selection.
- Mitigating residual impacts.

- Encouraging the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
- Preventing the development of protected sites, such as SSSIs.
- Refusing permission where habitats that cannot be recreated, such as ancient woodland, would be lost.
- Encouraging good design that limits light pollution.

### Local planning policy

#### Waverley Borough Council

Policy NE1 of the **Waverley** Local Plan 2018 states:

“The Council will seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity within Waverley. Development will be permitted provided that it:

- a. Retains, protects and enhances features of biodiversity and geological interest and ensures appropriate management of those features.
- b. Ensures any adverse impacts are avoided, or if unavoidable, are appropriately mitigated.

“Particular regard will be had to the following hierarchy of important sites and habitats within the Borough:

- i. SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites (international designations)

“Development within the Hindhead Concept Statement Area will be required to make appropriate contributions in accordance with the Hindhead Avoidance Strategy (2011) unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal will not have a likely significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.

“Where new development is proposed that would result in net increase in residential accommodation within 400 m of the boundary of Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase I) SPA and Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA, the Council will need to be satisfied that there will be no significant adverse effects on the ecological integrity of the SPA through a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

- ii. SSSIs and National Nature Reserves (national designations)
- iii. SNCIs, LNRs, Local Geological Sites and other Ancient Woodland, Ancient and Veteran Trees; or any other Priority habitats not identified within (ii) above (local designations)

“Within locally designated sites, development will not be permitted unless it is necessary for appropriate onsite management measures or can demonstrate no adverse impact to the integrity of the nature conservation interest. Development adjacent to locally designated sites will not be permitted where it has an adverse impact on the integrity of the nature conservation interest.

“Outside of these areas, and especially within and adjacent to the BOAs, new development will, where appropriate, be required to contribute to the protection, management and enhancement of biodiversity. This may include the restoration and creation of Priority habitats and the recovery of Priority species populations. Within BOAs, enhancements should relate directly to their specific objectives and targets. New development should make a positive contribution to biodiversity in the Borough, through provisions mentioned above. The Council



will seek to retain and encourage the enhancement of significant features of nature conservation value on development sites.”

Policy NE2 of the **Waverley** Local Plan 2018 states:

“The Council will seek to protect and enhance benefits to the existing river corridor and canal network, including landscaping, water quality or habitat creation. This will be partially achieved, on development sites, by retaining or creating undeveloped buffer zones to all watercourses of 8 m for main rivers and 5 m for ordinary watercourses. In accordance with the Water Framework Directive, development will not be permitted which will have a detrimental impact on the visual quality, water quality or ecological value of existing river corridors.

“In addition to the measures mentioned in NE1, new development should make a positive contribution to biodiversity by creating or reinforcing habitat linkages between designated sites, in order to achieve a connected local and regional ecological network of wildlife corridors and green infrastructure.

“The Council will seek, where appropriate, to maintain and enhance existing trees, woodland and hedgerows within the Borough.”

Policy NE3 of the **Waverley** Local Plan 2018 states:

“New residential development which is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of Thames Basin Heaths SPA will be required to demonstrate that adequate measures are put in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects. Such measures must be agreed with Natural England.

“Within the 400 m ‘exclusion zone’ of the SPA boundary, no net new residential development will be permitted, as mitigation measures are unlikely to be capable of protecting the integrity of the SPA.

“New residential development which the Council considers that either alone or in combination is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the SPA beyond 400 m and within 5 km of the SPA boundary (in a straight line) must provide:

- Appropriate contributions towards the provision of SANG identified by the Council; or
- A bespoke solution to provide adequate mitigation measures to avoid any potential adverse effects; and
- A financial contribution towards wider Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM).

“Proposals for largescale development (50 dwellings or more) between 5 km and 7 km from the edge of the SPA should be assessed on an individual basis. Where appropriate a full appropriate assessment may be required to ascertain whether the proposal could have an adverse effect on the SPA.

“All mitigation measures shall be agreed with Natural England and be provided prior to occupation of the development and in perpetuity.

Where mitigation is provided in the form of SANG, the following standards and arrangements will apply:

- A minimum of 8 ha of SANG land (after discounting to account for current access and capacity) should be provided per 1000 new occupants.

- Developments of fewer than 10 dwellings should not be required to be within a specified distance of SANG land provided it is ensured that a sufficient quantity of SANG land is in place to cater for the consequent increase in residents prior to occupation of the dwellings.”

### **ODPM Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System (2005)**

The Government’s Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/05 (ODPM 2005) presents the legal requirement for planning authorities with regard to statutory designated sites. Planning approval should not be granted where impacts to statutory designated sites that are not connected to the site maintenance for nature conservation, or will have a significant effect on the site’s conservation objectives and/or affect the site’s integrity. Permission may be granted if the proposed development overrides public interest.

### **Protection of protected species and habitats**

#### **Amphibians**

Natterjack toad, pool frog and great crested newt are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). They are also afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Natterjack toad, common toad, great crested newt and northern pool frog are also SPIs.

#### **Reptiles**

Smooth snake and sand lizard are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). They are afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow-worm are all protected from killing and injury under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). All UK reptile species are SPIs.

#### **Birds**

All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This includes damage and destruction of their nests whilst in use, or construction. Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act are afforded protection from disturbance during the nesting season.

The following 50 bird species are SPIs: lesser redpoll, aquatic warbler, marsh warbler, skylark, white-fronted goose, tree pipit, scaup, bittern, dark-bellied brent goose, stone-curlew, nightjar, hen harrier, northern harrier, hawfinch, corncrake, cuckoo, Bewick’s swan, lesser spotted woodpecker, corn bunting, cirl bunting, yellowhammer, reed bunting, red grouse, herring gull, black-tailed godwit, linnet, twite, Savi’s warbler, grasshopper warbler, woodlark, common scoter, yellow wagtail, spotted flycatcher, curlew, house sparrow, tree sparrow, grey partridge, wood warbler, willow tit, marsh tit, dunnoek, Balearic shearwater, bullfinch, roseate tern, turtle dove, starling, black grouse, song thrush, ring ouzel and lapwing.

#### **Badger**

Badger is protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under this legislation it is an offence to kill or injure a badger; to damage, destroy or block access to a badger sett; or to disturb badger in its sett. The Act also states the conditions for the Protection of Badgers licence requirements.



## Bats

All bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as detailed above. Bats are further protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to:

- Deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place which bat(s) use for shelter or protection.
- Disturb bat(s) while occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.
- Obstruct access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection.

Furthermore, seven bat species are SPIs, covered under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. These include western barbastelle, Bechstein's, noctule, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, lesser horseshoe and greater horseshoe.

## Hazel dormouse

Hazel dormouse is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), including obstruction to a place of shelter or rest.

Hazel dormouse is also a SPI.

## Hedgerow

Under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the LPA, which are also the enforcement body for offences created by the Regulations. LPA permission is normally required before removing hedges that are at least 20 m in length, more than 30 years old and contain certain plant species. The authority will assess the importance of the hedgerow using criteria set out in the regulations. The regulations **do not** apply to hedgerows within the curtilage of, or marking a boundary of the curtilage of, a dwelling house.

Hedgerow is a HPI.

## Otter

Otter is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and is afforded additional protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Otter is also a SPI.

## Water vole

Water vole is fully protected from capture, killing or injury; damage, destruction or blocking access to a place of shelter; disturbance whilst in a place of shelter or possessing, selling any part of a water vole, dead or alive under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Water vole is also a SPI.

## Other mammals

West European hedgehog, brown hare, mountain hare, pine marten, harvest mouse, polecat and red squirrel are all SPIs.

The following mammals are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended): wildcat, brown hare (Schedule 5A), mountain hare (Schedule 5A), pine marten and red squirrel.

### Non-native invasive plant species

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is a list of non-native plant species for which Section 14 of the Act applies. It is an offence to plant, or otherwise cause to grow in the wild species listed under Schedule 9 of the act. These include, but are not limited to:

- Himalayan balsam
- Cotoneaster sp.
- Japanese knotweed
- Giant hogweed

### Habitats of Principal Importance

Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 details 56 HPis, divided into 10 broad categories: arable and horticulture, boundary, coastal, freshwater, grassland, heathland, inland rock, marine, wetland and woodland.

### Ancient woodland and veteran trees

The NPPF 2019 states that 'Planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss'. In addition, Natural England's standing advice for ancient woodland indicates that a 15 m buffer is retained between ancient woodland and any works or development. Ancient woodlands, and ancient and veteran trees, may also be protected by Tree Preservation Orders.





### Draft Orchard Concept Design

1. 60 Fruit-trees to be planted annually along the boundary of Eashing Cemetery, at about 15m-spacing, over a 5-year period. Natural log seating is indicated at intervals.
2. It is proposed that the Community Orchard is to be designed as an Orchard Trail around the site boundary to Eashing Cemetery. The Trail would be designed over time by local community group/s such as School, Scouts or the Friends of Group, highlighting wildlife, points of interest and the history of the burial site.
3. Year 1 – 12 stone-fruit trees to be planted along the northern boundary of the site.
4. Year 2 – 12 Apple varieties (local heritage) along eastern boundary
5. Year 3 – 10 Pear varieties (heritage cookers, as well as eaters)
6. Year 4 – 16 miscellaneous fruit (eg. medlars, quince, mulberry)
7. Year 5 – 10 nut trees, planted as a staggered Avenue (eg. walnuts)



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

Between Waverley Housing Service and Godalming Joint Burial Committee

August 2021

### **Introduction**

Waverley Borough Council is midway through an ambitious regeneration programme on its Ockford Ridge housing estate. This combines both redevelopment and refurbishment works across 6 sites and the remainder of its owned stock, some 70 properties, all built in the 1930s. The total investment will be around £40M, most of which is in the construction of new, affordable homes.

This regeneration programme is not just about investment in the physical infrastructure of the estate but is wider - encompassing The Green, a public open space; the local community centre; the local school and a proposal for an Orchard and Community Garden at Eashing Cemetery.

A large part of this rebuilding is helping our community to identify and then value the natural environment that forms an intrinsic part of their community. The Housing Service is committed to providing new, spacious homes with good-sized gardens, all with small fruit trees: it is building in swift bricks and bat boxes, as well as bird nesting boxes. It is using construction techniques that are climate-friendly including low carbon/zero carbon manufacturing processes and it is reducing the energy consumption of its new homes through thermal efficiency.

The chosen developer for each of the 6 sites will be asked to commit to a community benefits programme. Part of this programme is to develop a Memorial Garden and Orchard at Eashing Cemetery over a 5 year period starting in September 2021.

This Memorandum of Understanding will underpin the relationship between Godalming Joint Burial Committee and Waverley Housing Service for the 5 year period as this project is delivered.

### **Waverley Housing Service (WHS) Responsibilities:**

1. WHS will be responsible for the delivery and implementation of the proposed orchard plan, all aspects of community consultation and the design and consultation element of the community garden.
2. The initial plans agreed in September 2021 may be subject to change depending upon cost, capacity or other unforeseen factors but WHS will discuss and agree any amendments with Godalming Joint Burial Committee (GJBC).
3. WHS will organise regular meetings with GJBC – either on a needs basis e.g. before a planned event but a minimum of twice a year. WHS will minute meetings and distribute.
4. WHS reserves the right to sub-contract the work to suitable consultants or voluntary sector organisations who will deliver aspects of the plans. WHS will inform GJBC of their choice of contractor and will answer any questions regarding suitability or liability.
5. WHS staff may lead on some aspects of community consultation in order to ensure the project is on track to deliver its outcomes and to ensure Waverley tenants are fully aware of the benefits of the project.

### **Godalming Joint Burial Committee (GJBC) Responsibilities**

1. GJBC will communicate any concerns regarding the scope or direction of the project directly to WHS.
2. GJBC will assure WHS that all aspects of future maintenance will fall to either GJBC directly or the new voluntary sector organisation which should form during the consultation and planting process over the 5 years.
3. GJBC will manage the emerging costs from the Community Garden design - WHS will limit its exposure to the initial costs of design and ongoing community consultation/involvement.



4. GJBC will endeavour to provide WHS and its contractors with information on contacts, users, contractors and other interested parties who may wish to be involved in either the design, delivery and ongoing management of the Orchard and Community Garden.
5. GJBC will give clear instructions on the amount of clearance work they will undertake prior to each planting site so WHS contractors will understand how much work is involved in each section of the cemetery.
6. GJBC agree to meet with WHS and contractors a minimum of twice a year but also commit to more regular contact prior to events.

#### **Both parties**

- Will agree to review the Memorandum of Understanding in August/September every year.
- Will respond in good time to emails and telephone calls, especially in the lead-up to planned events.

13. POTENTIAL CEMETERY MAINTENANCE VEHICLE

Volkswagen ABT eTransporter LWB 83KW, 37.7KWh Van Auto	£38,892.00
Solid Ascot Grey	£0.00
Anti-theft alarm with interior cab, back up horn & towing protection	£330.00
Rear Wing doors with 250 <sup>o</sup> hinges	£420.00
Rubber Floor Covering passenger/load compartment with loading edge protection in rear & step illumination	£234.00
Tow bar removable/lockable (including trailer stabilisation)	£768.00
Power folding electric heated & adjustable door mirrors	£168.00
Front & rear Parking Sensors	£240.00
Full length Rhino Roof Rack with rear roller	£752.24
Ply Lining	£240.00
Delivery & Number Plate	£768.00
Vehicle Excise Duty	£0.00
First Registration Fee	£55.00
On The Road Price incl VAT	£42867.24
<b>On The Road Price ex VAT</b>	<b>£35,722.70</b>

## GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Disclosure by a Member<sup>1</sup> of a disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration at a meeting (S.31 (4) Localism Act 2011 and the Codes of Conduct adopted by Godalming Town Council & Busbridge Parish Council).

As required by the Localism Act 2011 and the adopted Codes of Conduct, **I HEREBY DISCLOSE**, for the information of the authority that I have [a disclosable pecuniary interest]<sup>2</sup> [a non-pecuniary interest]<sup>3</sup> in the following matter:-

**COMMITTEE:**

**DATE:**

**NAME OF COUNCILLOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the form below to state in which agenda items you have an interest.

Agenda No.	Subject	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Non-Pecuniary Interest	Reason

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> "Member" includes co-opted member, member of a committee, joint committee or sub-committee

<sup>2</sup> A disclosable pecuniary interest is defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) regulations 2012/1464 and relate to employment, office, trade, profession or vocation, sponsorship, contracts, beneficial interests in land, licences to occupy land, corporate tenancies and securities

<sup>3</sup> A non-pecuniary interest is defined by Section 5 (4) of the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.