

MHT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

PART 3: VISION, OBJECTIVES AND WORK PROGRAMME



Parts 1 and 2 have identified what is present on the MHT holding, what is most important, what MHT would ideally achieve and the factors present. Using the preceding sections, Part 3 draws up a picture of what we want to achieve (guiding principles and objectives) and prescribes the tasks necessary to help get there over the next 5 years (work programme).



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3.1 Vision and Guiding Principles

Part 2 identified MHT's ideal outcomes for the landscape. In the real world, all of the factors subsequently identified, such as resources and stakeholders, will shape what is realistically possible and refine both the Guiding Principles and specific objectives.

Guiding principles

VISION FOR 2040:

The Malvern Hills and Commons are a stunning, unique and inspiring landscape that is enjoyed and respected by everyone in harmony with rich and flourishing wildlife, natural and cultural heritage.

These guiding principles provide an over-arching framework that helps guide the way in which our Acts, other legal drivers and our Vision will be achieved. Subsequent specific objectives, MHT's regular work, finite projects and campaigns should all help to deliver these. The legislation that each principle helps to achieve is given in parenthesis.

1. To meet all legal obligations. (Malvern Hills Acts, Wildlife & Countryside Act, NERC Act, Ancient Monuments Act)
2. To maintain or expand the existing holding in order to protect the whole Malvern Hills and Commons landscape. (Malvern Hills Acts)
3. To provide suitable, safe access that enables people to use and enjoy the land in a way that does not negatively affect the important features and special qualities of the landscape. (MH Acts)
4. To meet the legal obligation to maintain and restore the habitats as per the SSSI notifications and maps where practicable. (W&C Act)
5. To adapt to a changing world, doing our part toward tackling global climate change whilst maintaining the Malvern Hills and Commons' special character. (Climate Change Act, 2008)
6. To achieve favourable for all important features and special qualities through a mixture of delivering traditional, sustainable land management practices and allowing natural processes to operate. Practices can include:
 - Undertaking or facilitating livestock grazing on historically grazed land to match traditional grazing that maintains these grasslands and open habitats.
 - Undertaking or facilitating orchard and woodland management.

- Undertaking or facilitating the cutting of bracken and scrub.
 - Eradicating all invasive, non-native species.
 - Maintaining or restoring suitable hydrological conditions.
 - Undertaking suitable specific management for important features.
- (Malvern Hills Acts, W&C Act, NERC Act, Ancient Monuments Act)
7. To offer or facilitate education and interpretation that enlighten and enthuse a wide variety of stakeholders. This in turn will help protect the landscape.
 8. To undertake and encourage monitoring and research that informs management and enhances our understanding.
 9. To work with nearby landowners/managers to achieve wider gain for the landscape and all in it.

The Trust uses five-year Land Management Plans in order to deliver on the Malvern Hills Acts and other legal duties. A five-year plan allows financial and resource planning and setting of goals over a realistic and appropriate time period.

Acts to Actions

This page identifies the various Land Management Plan (LMP) stages linking the MHT's charitable objectives and legislative drivers to the land management activities that take place on the ground. The relevant sections of the LMP are given in parenthesis.

What are
MHT here
to do?

- Malvern Hills Acts 1884-1995 (1.2)
 - Other conservation duties e.g. Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (1.2)
 - Other generic legislation e.g. Health & Safety (1.2)
- These can be summarised into the twin strategic purposes of landscape conservation and public access.



To what
end?

VISION FOR 2040 (3.1.1): *The Malvern Hills and Commons are a stunning, unique and inspiring landscape, that is enjoyed and respected by everyone in harmony with a rich and flourishing wildlife, cultural and natural heritage.*

This five-year land management plan continues our journey toward this vision.



By what
means?

GUIDING PRINCIPLES (3.1.1). These statements determine the broad methods that will be used to deliver the Acts and Vision.

The on-the-ground delivery and monitoring of these guiding principles are conveyed in 3 ways in the Land Management Plan...



1. **OBJECTIVES FOR FEATURES** (3.1.2). These are s.m.a.r.t* objectives for the most important features, ensuring they receive appropriate attention, management and that changes in them can be monitored (*s.m.a.r.t = specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-related).
2. **WORK PROGRAMME** (3.2). This details the activities that will be undertaken to deliver the Guiding Principles on a parcel-by-parcel basis. This allows stakeholders to find out what is going on at a specific location.
3. **PROJECTS PLAN** (3.3). This plan identifies short term projects that require special, additional, special effort within the next 5 year period, in addition to 'routine' works.

Results of work delivered will feed into future work programmes and Land Management Plans.

3.2 Objectives for the important features and special qualities

It is important that MHT know how the most important features are faring and whether our vision is being realised. Therefore, the most important features are given specific, 'SMART' objectives (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-based).

Criteria for the selection of those features include: having a legal duty for its maintenance; being of national importance; being easily monitored and; being representative of a wider interest (canary in a mine).

Each objective is comprised of a discussion, a vision, and key performance indicators. Attributes and factors are in **bold**.

OBJECTIVE 1: Landscape Character

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

Landscape character makes a huge contribution towards making the area famous, recognisable and distinctive. The mapping and describing of landscape character and the constituent landscape character types have been well documented by several local statutory bodies.

Existing management, chiefly livestock grazing, hay-making and woodland management is largely restoring and maintaining the condition of the landscape following the significant change during the late 20th century where character was degraded by succession, chiefly on the 'High hills and slopes' and 'Unenclosed commons'. Although livestock grazing and tree/scrub clearance remains challenging and expensive in this busy area.

There are six landscape character types that cover MHT land. Four of these are within the AONB and monitoring of their condition is done by the AONB team in their 5 year 'State of the AONB' report. The remaining two are not externally assessed.

Vision for 2040:

*The Malvern Hills and Commons has a **strong and distinctive landscape character**. The landscape has not been pickled in a manner to prevent change, but carefully overseen to ensure that changes do not degrade or obliterate features that are special and distinguishing.*

All landscape character types on MHT land are well-represented and provide visitors a varied, attractive setting full of interest and delivering many wider public goods.

***Infrastructure works** are done with great sensitivity to the landscape and people's enjoyment of it, especially within the AONB.*

*Approximate **areas and boundaries between different landscape character types** have been preserved. Most notably the hilltops and ridgeline are open and predominantly free*

from development and tree cover. Unenclosed commons are open, rough grasslands with scattered trees and scrub.

The AONB team's bespoke assessment in 2025 will find the MHT units 'maintained' or 'improving'.

Key performance indicator(s):	2025	TARGET FOR 2026
Landscape character type units (10)		All units 'maintained' or 'improving'

OBJECTIVE 2: Earth Heritage

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The more important geological exposures are primarily found on the Hills. They include a large variety of natural rock outcrops, such as Ivy Scar Rock, and rock exposures made by people such as Gullet Quarry. Several geological sites are designated as SSSI. 28 of these are designated as Local Geological Sites (LGS) with one at Castlemorton Common making a total of 29 LGS. The main threat to most sites is being obscured by scree/soil and vegetation which would prohibit scientific studies, recreational use and severely reduce their ecological and landscape value too. Development within the sites is not a significant threat.

At present certain geological exposures are kept clear by MHT staff and volunteers especially the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust. Cutting vegetation and clearing soils/debris with hand tools and treating stumps with herbicide works well. Grazing helps to keep some sites visible too.

Vision for 2040:

*The geological exposures play a significant and charismatic role in the natural heritage of the area. While all rock outcrops contribute, the designated LGS showcase Malvern geology to a high standard. Here, the **accessibility** to the exposure and **visibility** of the **rock face / landform** are excellent allowing their **study and use by people and wildlife**, such as the Grayling butterfly.*

*The relevant factors are under control; **invasive, obscuring soil and vegetation** is kept away from the earth heritage sites and the access routes to them. **Recreational use** does not cause damage nor leave any permanent imprint such as ropes, chalk etc.*

Key performance indicator(s):	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	TARGET FOR 2026
The number of LGS with clear access and visible geological detail /29.	16						25

OBJECTIVE 3: Herefordshire Beacon Camp

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

This monument is one of the most iconic and popular parts of the Hills. Its tiered sides are recognisable from far-afield.

The scheduled monument is part of the southern hills. Is predominantly covered by acid grassland with heath. Management is mainly grazing by rabbits and a hefted flock of sheep which is excellent for the visibility of the archaeology. However, steep slopes and high visitor/dog on the monument deters grazers from certain areas which allows these to succeed to bracken and scrub threatening the visibility and underground archaeology. Recent topping and scrub removal has improved the condition of the monument in terms of coarse vegetation cover.

Several rabbit warrens are present and, although, the grazing the rabbits do is valuable, the damage caused by burrowing is of concern to archaeologists. Licensed ferreting has been too ad-hoc to make any difference to rabbit numbers. Collapsed burrows also present a health & safety risk too.

The main stone/concrete/tarmac path is unattractive but successful in reducing erosion from most walkers but as visitor numbers continue to increase more widespread erosion is evident. Cyclists are unlawfully riding over the monument causing narrow eroded channels chiefly on the main citadel and ringwork. In places these channels have been exacerbated by water and resulted in large gullies – the worst of these was repaired in 2019. Two minor ones remain.

Historic England consider the monument at ‘medium risk (vulnerable) and declining’. The principle vulnerability is from visitor erosion (see ‘A management plan for Herefordshire Beacon’, Dorling, 2013). The monument sits within the Malvern Hills SSSI, with this unit considered ‘unfavourable recovering’ by Natural England in 2020.

Vision for 2040:

Herefordshire Beacon Camp is an iconic feature of cultural heritage that offers people outstanding panoramic vistas and multiple archaeological layers to view and interpret thousands of years of history.

*The hillfort is **predominantly covered by a short sward of acid grassland with heath** that show of the archaeology well. **Scrub**, mainly gorse, is very thinly scattered. **Perimeter vegetation** that surrounds the monument is a mixture of grass and scrub with scattered trees not within 5m of the monument. The **physical structure** is sound with no significant erosion damage.*

***Management** effort has halted the decline in condition and factors causing erosion are under control. **Visitors** are aware of the feature, its importance and take care of it. Successful campaigning has stopped cycling on the monument.*

Key performance indicator(s):	20/21	23/24	25/26	TARGET FOR 2026
Coverage of short, acid grassland	80 %			95 %
Extent with sound structural integrity	95 %			100 %

OBJECTIVE 4: The Shire Ditch and Burial Mounds

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The shire ditch is a linear scheduled monument that extends for over 8km on the Hills principally as a bank and ditch. The burial mounds are found adjacent to the shire ditch atop Pinnacle Hill.

Both monuments are lightly grazed every year and this keeps them in good condition. Scrub is removed from the shire ditch and some repair work has been undertaken on the most eroded sections.

Being so close to the ridgeline, these monuments suffer from visitor erosion, especially sections of the shire ditch. Digging and fires are also occasional issues. Scrub and secondary woodland have for many years obscured certain parts of the shire ditch.

The burial mounds are in good condition. Historic England record the shire ditch as 'medium risk and declining with the principle vulnerability being erosion from visitors' Mindykowski & Rimmington (2009) found 8 sections in good, 7 in medium and 11 in poor condition. In 2020, this is 8, 8, 10 respectively.

Vision for 2040:

*As nationally important heritage assets, the shire ditch and adjacent burial mounds are striking elements of the Hills clearly recording events in the area's history and enriching the tapestry of the land. Light grazing maintains **a sward of predominantly short, acid grassland** and the **landforms easily visible**. The archaeology is **structurally sound** with only minor **erosion** and no other damage.*

*Significant scars have been repaired and **scrub/woodland encroachment** has been sensitively reduced in partnership with Historic England. Alternative paths or diversionary measures are in place helping guide the public around sensitive areas.*

Key performance indicator(s)	2020/21	2023/24	2025/26	TARGET FOR 2026
Shire ditch - Number of sections in 'good or medium condition' by Historic England	16			18/26
Barrows - Coverage of short acid grassland	100 %			100 %

OBJECTIVE 5: Listed buildings and structures

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The three assets are St Ann's Well building, the whipping post & animal pound and the gas sewer vent near West Malvern.

St Ann's Well building has seen great improvements made in the structural condition of the roof and walls, rainwater goods, ceilings, and decor. Building works were completed in 2019. The other listed structures have been maintained through vegetation clearance and minor repairs necessary. All are easily visible for the public.

Although listed, the condition of the assets is not monitored by the listing body (MHDC). The condition is therefore checked on ad-hoc by MHT staff. Any works would require listed building consent from the planning authority.

Vision for 2040:

*The listed structures are in good condition and add to the local heritage that tells the story of the Malvern area. All structures are **structurally sound, of suitable appearance and are easily enjoyed by visiting members of the public.***

*St Ann's Well is a striking building complete with **authentic features** recording local history and providing access to Malvern Water. The building will also be **fit-for-purpose** for a modern-day small business. Signage and other business activities do not detract from the heritage value of the building.*

Key performance indicator(s)	2020/21	2023/24	2025/26	TARGET FOR 2026
Whipping post & animal pound is sound, visible and authentic	y			y
St Ann's Well is sound, visible and authentic	y			y
Gas vent is sound, visible and authentic	y			y

OBJECTIVE 6: Public access

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The public hold a right of access for recreation onto all MHT purpose land as granted by the Malvern Hills Acts. So, the extent and type of public access is pre-set. Only a few areas are permanently inaccessible for the public including quarries, staff buildings, and livestock handling areas. Every year some small areas are temporarily closed to the public for path restoration, emergency tree works etc. MHT has the power to close areas to the public for certain reasons, such as health and safety.

People on foot and horseback are permitted across all accessible land unless stated otherwise. Whilst bicycle riders are restricted to public bridleways and any permissive routes. A variety of routes for people of differing abilities are present including five 'easier

access trails' (up by 3 thanks to recent works). Although criss-crossed by public rights of way the actual path network present is far larger.

Access is facilitated by a variety of access infrastructure (see Part 1.3.6).

The Hills and Commons are a very important access site – its great size provides opportunities for exercise and outdoor enjoyment to millions of people throughout the year. The Hills especially are a much-cherished site and the demand to visit them and take in the panoramic views is high. There is some empirical data on visitor numbers and also some proxy-data from sources such as car park ticket sales (see Part 1.3.6.2). Generally, visitor numbers have steadily been growing with large growth in 2020 relating to the Covid19 emergency. This saw more visitors to the 'honeypot sites' but also big increases in people visiting the more remote areas of the MHT estate.

The path network on the whole is in moderate-good condition. Sections of path that are poor due to being loose/uneven/boggy have increased in recent years in response to wetter winters and heavier usage. Some of the paths do not have viable drainage structures and as such water erosion can be an issue. These can be an eyesore and a danger to users. There is no overall schematic of the path network that clearly highlights which paths are to be maintained to what standard nor where significant issues are present.

Access causes some issues for other features and qualities. Erosion, disturbance to wildlife, dog poo, littering, unlawful bike riding and conflict between users are key issues that are on the increase as shown by historic photos and more recent fixed-point photography. The carrying capacity of certain features and of the whole site needs to be better understood.

Works to maintain and improve access infrastructure are undertaken by staff, contractors and volunteers. There are no written specifications for path types.

Vision for 2040:

The Hills and Commons are open and available for the recreation and enjoyment of the public across this spectacular, shared landscape. Local people and tourists enjoy the Hills and Commons in their thousands every year. The suburban commons, the northern and central hills receive most visits leaving the southern hills and Castlemorton Common more tranquil.

*The **path network** is well-maintained, user-friendly, sensitive to its setting and open to the public (bar minor essential closures). A variety of path types provide access to parts of the Hills and Commons for many different abilities. The 5 **easier access trails** are all useable by those with buggies or mobility restrictions giving them a high-quality experience of some of the landscape. Horse-riders, cyclists and other user groups all enjoy their pursuits responsibly in this stunning setting.*

***Access infrastructure** is fit-for-purpose, well-maintained and sensitive to its setting. New access structures are located only where essential and of limited effect on the landscape.*

Signage is kept to a minimum. Attractive interpretation is carefully sited at visitor hotspots whilst MHT identification posts are found at all locations. Interpretation provides key messages about the landscape, about MHT, helps people plan their visit and take care of the area too.

Public access is carefully balanced with conservation needs. Several areas are managed chiefly for people and recreation, these areas, such as Link Common, are mown as amenity grassland and create a very useable surface for all kinds of recreation, hosting a variety of public events from year to year.

Well-targeted advocacy and education work helps the public and other stakeholders to understand and protect the important features and special qualities whilst respecting other users too. **Conflict, disturbance to wildlife, serious erosion and unlawful bike riding** are all at very low levels.

Leaflets, website and other **communications** further enhance access including intellectual access.

Key performance indicator(s):	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	TARGET FOR 2026
MHT land is open to the public	99 %						99 %
Proportion of paths safe and usable	95 %						99 %
Access infrastructure is in good condition	90 %						95 %

OBJECTIVE 7: Broad-leaved woodland

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

Woodland covers more of the Hills and Commons now than for hundreds of years past. Several different types of woodland are present. This objective concentrates on the high-value woodlands (including all ancient woods) and not the recent secondary woodlands that are replacing important open habitats.

The majority of woodland is managed by minimal intervention with no silvicultural management at all. Work does include tree safety survey and subsequent works especially near roads and infrastructure. Several small areas are coppiced. The last few years have seen a push to reduce non-native plants in woods, chiefly laurel and rhododendron. Whilst half of the ancient woods fare well, half are in poor condition due to historic grazing.

The condition of woodlands is variable. Many lack a varied structure that includes trees of all ages, deadwood and a desirable ground flora. Several woods are dominated by even-aged sycamore and lack structural and species diversity making them poor habitats and fragile in the face of new tree diseases and climate change. Invasive, non-native plants are still widespread. MHT woodlands are in general well-connected with the wider treescape.

The SSSI notified woodland (Hollybush Roughs), NE finds in 'favourable' condition.

Vision for 2040:

*A **large, well-connected network** of broad-leaved woodland stretches across the MHT holding contributing a large proportion of the total tree cover. The extent of this high-value woodland has been **maintained and expanded** where possible through woodland creation via natural succession and tree planting.*

These woods provide a secluded and cool green space which people enjoy now and in the far future, when many these woods have become ancient woodland.

***Woodland condition** has greatly improved. All degraded ancient woodland has been restored. All woodland compartments host a broad diversity of predominantly site-native tree species whilst still reflecting Malvern character and the relevant NVC communities. These woodlands are now more resilient to **climate change** and **tree diseases**. A varied woodland structure provides habitat for a range of wildlife with **rare/notable species** including Pied Flycatcher, Wood Barley, Hazel Dormouse and Barbastelle bat, all faring well. **Invasive, non-native species** are a level that does not significantly affect the wood.*

***Woodland management** such as coppicing, in a select few locations, maintains cultural traditions and diversifies the woodland structure. However, minimum intervention is the dominant form of woodland management.*

Key performance indicator(s):	2020/21	2025/26	TARGET FOR 2026
Extent of high-value woodland (ha)	282		285
Woodland compartments in good condition / 33	12		25
Pied flycatcher fledged	0		4

OBJECTIVE 8: Acid grasslands with elements of heath

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The acid grasslands of the Hills and Commons are a distinctive and nationally important feature. Structure varies with some of the plant communities being short and diverse with lichens and moss (U1) grading into taller, tussockier swards (U2 and U4) on mid/lower slopes and on thicker soils. In places grasslands grade into heath with bilberry in the north and common ling in the south.

Existing management involves extensive livestock grazing with sheep and cattle utilising temporary electric fencing. Areas of bracken are rolled twice where safe. Some topping is undertaken where necessary. Undesirable scrub and trees are actively removed every winter in an ongoing effort to restore open habitats.

The historic decline in livestock grazing has resulted in a decrease in the extent of these plant communities as they are replaced by coarser grasslands, bracken, scrub and

secondary woodland. The return of livestock grazing in ~2000 together with open habitat restoration works have seen expansion of these grasslands.

Localised nutrient increases have seen change to undesirable mesotrophic swards, this can be attributed to localised dunging, dog faeces, material left from scrub/tree works and atmospheric pollution. Milder winter also favour bracken and courser plants.

Recreation pressure causes the erosion of the most special of these communities in its location on the ridgelines. Recreation erosion is reducing and fragmenting this habitat whilst also causing disturbance to ground-nesting birds, such as meadow pipit. This factor is a key reason why these SSSI units are not in favourable condition.

SSSI units with acid grasslands are recorded by Natural England as 'Unfavourable recovering'.

Vision for 2040:

Acid grasslands span the length of the Hills covering substantial areas with distinctive hues through the seasons and bringing benefit to archaeology, wildlife and views from the hilltops.

*The hilltop and rocky area's **unique plant communities** are rich with short turf, lichens and spring ephemerals (U1) including national scarcities, such as Little mouse ear. Mid-slopes and flat commons are covered with a more tussocky grassland (U2 & U4) giving overall **structural variation**. This grassland also forms part of the mosaic of habitats known as ffridd on the mid-slopes. The total **area** covered by acid grasslands has increased as restoration efforts have been successful and scrub/secondary woodland or coarse grasslands have been turned back to acid grassland and ffridd.*

*Naturalistic, extensive **livestock grazing** works well, successfully maintaining this habitat by keeping **vegetation succession** in check and providing income for local farmers. Even the trickier areas are grazed through careful livestock management and innovative grazing solutions. **Mechanical works** compliment the grazing. Damage from **recreation** is slight and does not remove plant communities nor lead to soil erosion. People keep to the paths and permit **ground-nesting birds** across the grasslands.*

All SSSI units are in 'favourable' condition.

Key performance indicator(s):	2020/21	22/23	24/25	TARGET FOR 2026
Extent (ha):	104			110
No. of units in favourable or recovering condition /8	8/8			8/8
Meadow pipit numbers	104			100+

OBJECTIVE 9: Neutral grasslands

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The neutral grasslands are found on the flat lower areas of common and verge. They are more accessible and more easily managed with machinery than the upland grasslands. Historically they have been grazed by livestock and cut for hay. In summer stands grasses, herbs and flowers including several orchid species are present within these mesotrophic grassland communities (MG5 and MG6).

Today, the majority of these grasslands are cut for hay in late summer / autumn. This is successfully maintaining species-rich swards and keeping the area open for the public. None of the sites are aftermath grazed. Where machinery cannot reach, these swards have become rank and are succeeding in places. Bracken is a minor problem too.

Large parcels include Woodfords Meadow and parts of the verges along the Guarlford Road. The sward at Malvern Common has become rich enough that in 2018 it was designated a new Site of Special Scientific Interest. At Link Common areas have been strewn with green hay which has successfully increased species diversity including orchids. Skylark nest in areas including Malvern Common.

Damage is caused by utility companies who frequently dig these areas and often re-seed with inappropriate mixes. Driving and parking are also issues.

Malvern Common SSSI is in 'favourable' condition in Natural England's latest assessment. The other areas are in good condition.

Vision for 2040:

*MHT's neutral grasslands are a stunning display of grasses and wildflowers on the doorstep of hundreds of people. Traditional management maintains the **extent, structure and species composition** whilst ensuring the site is useable for all kinds of recreation.*

*These grasslands are dominated by typical mesotrophic communities (MG5 and MG6) and support a wealth of other wildlife including breeding skylark. Notable plants, including the nationally scarce Spreading bellflower, are in favourable condition. **Hay-cutting** removes the sward in a timely and sensitive manner maintaining the habitat.*

Vehicles are kept off the grasslands and **bracken** is under control.

Key performance indicator(s):	2020/21	22/23	24/25	TARGET FOR 2026
Extent (ha)	15			15
Hay cutting done	Y			Y

OBJECTIVE 10: Calcareous Grasslands

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The diverse geology of the Hills contains several areas of more calcareous rock types. The resultant soils are inhabited by calcicole floras including one calcareous grassland community (CG10).

This species-rich sward is a mix of herbs and fine grasses including Rock Rose, sheeps Fescue and Wild thyme. This habitat covers a large area at Hangmans hill, over the Warren House Volcanics, and smaller areas on Castlemorton Common that grade in and out of neutral and acid grasslands. It supports the nationally scarce Spring Cinquefoil. Together they total about 3ha.

Existing management is extensive livestock grazing with periodic scrub work, which is maintaining the habitat well. Vegetation succession is the main issue for this grassland and significant areas have been lost eastwards from Hangmans Hill to Castlemorton Common.

This grassland is a notified feature of the Malvern Hills SSSI and is found in 'unfavourable recovering' condition.

Vision for 2040:

*The calcareous grasslands have been expanded to cover more of their former **range** thanks to targeted **scrub control**. The species-rich swards have mixed **structure** and extensive **grazing** does a good job of removing thatch and allowing **characteristic herbs** including Spring Cinquefoil to flourish within a community of CG10.*

Key performance indicator(s):	2020/21	22/23	24/25	TARGET FOR 2026
Extent (ha)	3			4

OBJECTIVE 11: Mire and Bog

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

Both of these wet habitats are dependent on hydrological conditions and some management, normally grazing, is required to keep them open and free from trees.

The dominant mire habitat is rushy pasture (M23) a species-rich grassland containing many rushes, sedges, herbs and umbellifers and a wide range of scarce plants such as Narrow-leaved Water Dropwort. Areas of mire are scattered across the holding with large patches on Castlemorton Common and smaller areas associated with hillside springs such as Hayslad.

Within certain rushy pastures there are very small areas where the ground conditions are particularly wet year-round and here remnants of bog habitat are found characterised by Sphagnum mosses and other bog flora.

Historically, there were more areas of both mire and bog and they were much greater in extent supporting specialist flora and fauna including sundew. But changes in hydrology, chiefly the

harvesting of water from across the hill range to supply Severn Trent Water's reservoir at British Camp and the capping/piping of natural springs.

Existing management includes livestock grazing and ad-hoc clearance of coarser vegetation. In 2020 a 20m long barrier was inserted into the ground below the remaining bog adjacent to Swinyard Hill in an attempt to restore wetter conditions. This experiment is still underway but initial signs look good.

Little grazing reaches many of the mire and bog sites at present, so succession is a key issue along with too dry a hydrology. The exception is the two large mires at Castlemorton Common which are faring well with grazing and scrub/tree work.

Rushy pasture is a notified feature of all 3 SSSIs in 'favourable condition'.

Vision for 2040:

*The bog and mire communities are flourishing in suitable open and wet conditions. The overall **area** of both habitats has increased thanks to restoration efforts that provide suitable conditions including locally **high-water tables**.*

*The bogs are rich with Sphagnum and **scarcer species** including sundew pepper the site. The mires are lush and support many scarce species including pennywort and marsh orchids.*

*Targeted, sensitive livestock **grazing**, high water tables and scrub work keeps **vegetation succession** in check in both habitats.*

Key performance indicator(s):	2020/21	2025/26	TARGET FOR 2026
Area of bog (ha)	0.0005		0.0010
Area of mire (ha)			
Number of sundew	0		1

OBJECTIVE 12: Adder

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

Adders are present at several locations on the central and southern Malvern Hills. Their population here is one of the few remaining on the West midlands and the species has suffered great national decline. It is a national priority species and a charismatic animal of the area. Adders are also a good indicator species – proof high-quality mid-successional habitat mosaics that include cover, hibernation sites and sunny basking areas. A mixture of bracken, grass and gorse (called ffridd) is perfect. They are also indicative of a healthy population of small mammals and other reptiles on which they prey.

Several areas are managed specifically for adders – here open habitat is maintained by careful piecemeal cutting. Surrounding habitats including ffridd, acid grasslands, woodland are used by adders too or provide suitable connections between prime habitat. Restoration works are undertaken every year to win back ffridd from it has been lost to secondary woodland.

The species face many issues including loss of habitat, injury/death from machinery, predation from wildlife and released pheasants, and disturbance from people and their dogs. As populations get smaller and more isolated, genetic bottlenecking also becomes a serious issue. With no management the Hills would quickly revert to woodland and adders would die out. Much ffridd has been lost in the late 20th century, but work is ongoing to restore it especially where this

connects adders and provides habitat further from busy areas. Climate change is bringing warmer winters and stormier summers both of which provide further pressures on this snake.

9 core populations were known of in 2015 with an estimated 60-80 individuals. In 2020 recent research (Hand, 2020) suggests that numbers have dropped to around 50 whilst the core populations at Chase End Hill and Ragged Stone Hill could have been lost entirely.

Vision for 2040:

Adders are a thriving and respected species found across much of the Hills and Commons.

*Adders **range** from the Wyche cutting to Chase End Hill. Numbers have increased to produce a **healthy, viable population** maintained by **natural recruitment**. The core populations enjoy areas of high-quality habitat that provide hibernation and basking sites, cover and prey. These areas are **connected together** by a network of **suitable, mid-successional habitat** that permits widespread movement, adaptation to **climate change** and provides sites without **disturbance**.*

Adders are a key species for MHT in partnership with neighbouring landowners and experts.

Key performance indicator(s):	2020/21	2023/24	TARGET FOR 2026
Range maintained:	Y		
No. of individuals:	~50		~55
No. of core populations:	9		9
Core populations with healthy recruitment:	5		7
Sufficient and connected habitat:	N		Y

OBJECTIVE 13: Grayling butterfly

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

The small population of Grayling present on the Hills is of national importance as a notified feature of the SSSI and a priority species. This butterfly needs fairly open habitat with fine acid grasslands for its larvae to feed upon plus bare rock with nectar sources for adults.

This butterfly has been the subject of significant research, monitoring and management effort by MHT, volunteers and the local Butterfly Conservation branch. Current management includes livestock grazing and targeted scrub clearance. The amount of suitable habitat has increased from 10ha to 12ha over the last 5 years up to 2021.

Historically, the species was distributed along the whole length of the Hills, however, the range has contracted to just the northern hills from ~2010. Population contraction and decline is probably a result of a change from early successional habitats, that were maintained by livestock grazing, burning and quarrying, to unsuitable scrub and woodland.

Vegetation succession is an ongoing issue for this species. This is especially true in the steeper, rockier areas where it is harder to undertake livestock grazing and scrub

clearance. It is now at low numbers so that other factors become significant threats to the population, including parasites and poor weather during the flight season.

Vision for 2040:

*This attractive butterfly can be found with a little bit of searching in most suitable habitat across the entire length of the Hills once more (**range**). The **population** of Grayling has increased and stabilised following a nadir in 2015.*

*An ample **area** of suitable mosaic habitats on the midslopes supports all the stages of this species' life cycle. **Vegetation succession** is actively maintained by sensitive **livestock grazing** and **scrub control**.*

Key performance indicator(s):	2016-20 average	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	TARGET FOR 2026
Number of adults (adjusted figure 5 counts):	33						>56
Hectareage of suitable habitat:	12						13

OBJECTIVE 14: Ponds

Discussion (including description, existing management, issues and current status):

Off the Hills, ponds are a fairly common feature in rural common and suburban green spaces too. They are mostly artefacts from historic quarrying and dug to provide water for livestock. Ponds enrich the landscape, provide clues to the past and are home to a wealth of specialised wildlife. They provide opportunities for fishing and pond-dipping. Ephemeral pools are present on Castlemorton Common hold a specialised flora dependant on drying out and on light trampling. Two large ponds are present in quarries – Gullet and Earnslaw.

Current management attempts to restore at least two ponds every winter by digging out accumulated mud/debris and reducing vegetation on the southern side. Tackling non-native species including *Azolla* sp and New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii* has also been undertaken with mixed success. A trial of smothering *Crassula* with opaque matting is currently being tried on Castlemorton Common. Non-native carp dominate the ecosystem of several ponds.

Ponds suffer from several issues the most potent of which is the introducing of non-native species both plants and animals. Vegetation succession eventually affects all ponds and keeping this in check on rotation is a challenge. Litter can be a minor problem and hazard to wildlife.

MHT's 36 ponds are in mixed condition across the estate (2020) with 11 in good condition (semi-open, mixed depths, native species, good water quality, no issues), 16 in moderate condition (minor issues) and 9 in poor condition (severe issue degrading the entire pond ecosystem) due to the issues raised above.

Vision for 2040:

*The MHT holding contains a high **number** of ponds across its span. They vary from well-used ponds busy with people feeding ducks and fishing, to hidden waterbodies full of native wildlife.*

*All ponds are in good or moderate **condition** with no **litter**, **vegetation succession** and **non-native species** are under control. **Management** includes a successful rotation of sensitive pond re-excavations and careful surveillance.*

Key performance indicator(s):	2020/21	25/26	TARGET FOR 2026
Number of ponds:	36		38
Number of ponds in good/moderate condition:	27		38

3.3 Work programme

This chapter identifies what must be done on the ground in the next five years to contribute towards the objectives.

Certain tasks are best dealt with at a whole-holding level rather than repeating for every unit of land. Following this, in 3.2.2, every piece of land under MHT jurisdiction is covered individually.

3.3.1 Tasks applicable to the whole holding:

All work items that directly contribute toward delivery of maintaining the Malvern Hills and Commons as an open space for the public as in the Malvern Hills Acts, are marked with a (1). Work items that help deliver the conservation of the MH&C landscape are marked (2). Work items that deliver conservation duties under other legislation (see LMP part 1.2) are marked (3). There is overlap on many items.

Text in black are standard activities and those in **green** are special projects (one-off, expensive, unusual, needing much effort etc).

FS = Field Staff

CT = Conservation Team

V = Volunteers

Gra = Grazier / Commoners

W = Wardens

Staff = all MHT staff

Cont = Contractor

Part = key Partners

	Years 2021-26					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
ACCESS – Tree safety (1)							GF
All trees in high-risk areas will be checked by a qualified arboriculturalist on a triennial basis. A report will be produced highlighting, mapping and prioritising all required works. See tree safety policy.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	
All trees in low-risk areas will be checked by qualified staff on a triennial basis. A report will be produced highlighting, mapping and prioritising all required works.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	
All tree works highlighted in the tree safety reports will be undertaken in a suitable time-frame as advised.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont FS	
Any tree that falls and causes a problem or danger will be safely dismantled and cleared. Trees that die or fall and pose no danger will be left to natural processes.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont FS	
All staff will look out for signs of a dangerous tree and of any tree disease and report to CT / Operations Manager.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	

ACCESS – Bins (1)							GF
All main litter and dog bins will be emptied once per week or more if needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / W	
All bins will be inspected on a weekly basis. Damage/faults with any bin will be reported to the Operations Manager. Existing bins will be replaced/repared but no new bins will be erected.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	
Rubbish will be accumulated in skips at Lower Shed and removed by a licensed contractor or saved for recycling / reclamation.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / FS / Cont	
ACCESS – Benches (1)							
Inspect all benches twice per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / V	GF
Maintain benches to a safe and usable standard.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Unrepairable benches will be removed or replaced. 5 per year. This will use the Memorial Bench project.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / CT	Memorial Funds
ACCESS – Car Parks (1)							GF
Car park surfaces will be inspected weekly. Any minor defects will be remedied to maintain an easily useable standard suitable for a rural location. Significant car park issues will be reported to the CEO.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / FS / W	
Weeds will be removed/sprayed on an annual basis.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
Leaves will be removed as appropriate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
Ticket machines will be emptied every day.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
Ticket machines will be inspected weekly and minor repairs carried out.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
Major faults in ticket machines will be fixed by approved contractor within one week.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / Cont	
Verges, visibility splays and adjacent picnic areas will be mown 4-6 times per year. See Mowing Schedule 2021-2026.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS (H'ways)	
Repaint car park lines as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	
Clear snow from main car parks (see Emergency Plan).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / W	
ACCESS – Health and Safety (1)							GF
All staff will be vigilant for any health and safety issues and make reports via the incident report forms to the CEO.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Highway sides and visibility splays will be kept clear.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / H'ways	
Inspect the state of quarry fencing and signage twice per year for people and livestock safety. Undertake repairs/extensions as necessary. Record.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	

Review all bicycle routes and stopping / dismantling structures that are unsafe or unlawful.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	
ACCESS – Paths, tracks and associated infrastructure (1)							GF
All surfaced paths will be maintained and vegetation cut back as necessary. Minor defects remedied.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	
Maintain water bars, drains, piping and other drainage infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	
Sections of footpaths in very poor condition will be repaired / improved.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Cont	
Public Footpaths and Bridleways will be kept clear to the necessary widths (1m and 2m respectively).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / W	
All paths will be walked and checked at least twice per year. Any issues will be reported to the CT & Operations Manager.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
Certain areas are to be mown more often to provide easily accessible green space for use by many abilities. See Mowing Schedule 2021-2026.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	
Certain routes are to be maintained to a higher standard more usable for buggies, mobility scooters etc. These include: De Walden loop, Earnslaw & Black Hills easier access trail and the path above Jubilee Drive.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Cont	
ACCESS – Signage and Interpretation (1)							
All signs and interpretation will be inspected monthly.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	GF
Existing assets will be maintained with minor repairs carried out.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	GF
Stone direction arrows to be cleaned / maintained.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	V	GF
New MHT identification posts and/or signage to be added to all separate MHT land parcels and well-used parking areas.	✓	✓				CT / W / FS	?
SITE CHECKS & PERIMETERS / ENCROACHMENTS (2)							GF
All MHT boundaries are to be checked at least biannually. Any issues will be fed back via the incident report form to the CEO.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
Where unmarked, agree and add new blue boundary stones especially at complex / controversial sites.						W	
All encroachments will be dealt with using the byelaws.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
All sites will be checked at least biannually. Any serious issues will be reported via the incident report form to CEO.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
LITTER (2)							GF
General litter will be removed during site visits by all staff.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

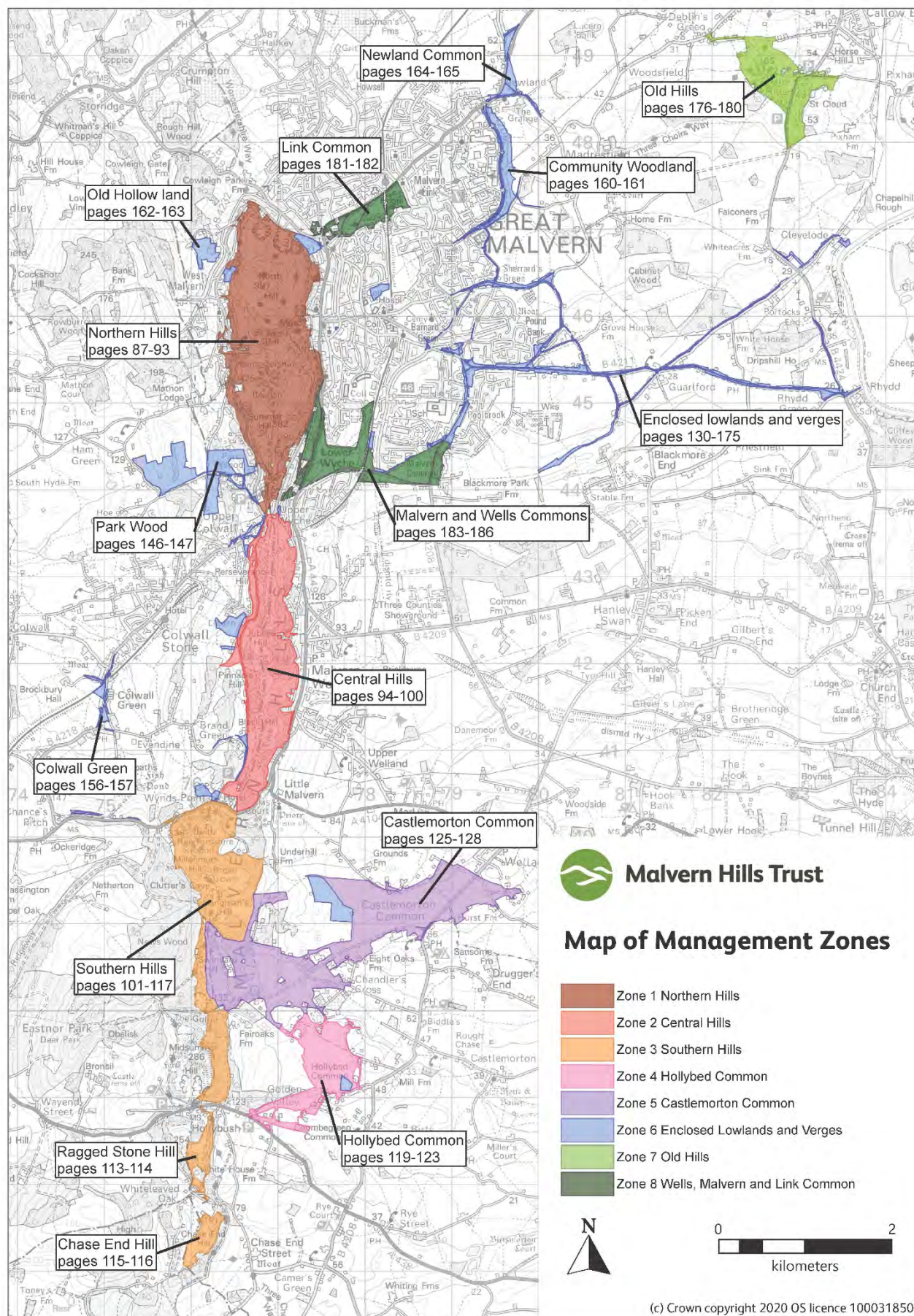
Hotspots for litter will be litter-picked at least weekly.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / V / FS	
Fly-tipping beside roads will be reported immediately to the Council and fly-tipping within MHT land will be removed by field staff in one day. Rubbish requiring specialists will be removed within one week.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / FS / Cont	
Work with partners and local stakeholders to prevent and reduce litter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
INJURIOUS WEEDS AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES (2&3)							
Any injurious weeds and non-native species will be recorded and reported to the Conservation Team.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Injurious weeds will be removed as per the Weeds Policy.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / W	GF
Non-native species will be assessed and those that pose a threat will be removed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / FS / W	GF / other
BYELAW ENFORCEMENT (2)							GF
Byelaws will be enforced and in certain circumstances will be followed by solicitor/Police/Court action. Feedback via incident report forms to the CEO.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (2&3)							GF
Assess type, quality and extent of the landscape character types.					✓	CT / AONB	
Undertake land management to maintain/improve MH&C character.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Clear and maintain key viewpoints, including from benches.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / W / V	
MONITORING / RESEARCH (1,2,3)							
Monitor important features and special qualities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Research visitor numbers, site usage and develop adaptive measures to manage/mitigate for high visitor numbers especially on SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments. Undertake this work with key partners.	✓	✓				CT / part	GF
The invertebrate fauna of the Hills and Commons is poorly understood and should be surveyed and recorded.				✓		CT	GF Grant aid
The future tenure arrangements of several areas of land needs clarification and securing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	GF
Undertake National Vegetation Classification survey.	✓					Cont	Gift fund
Undertake standardised bird monitoring across the holding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	V	
Undertake fixed point photography monitoring of all key areas.		✓			✓	W / V	GF

CONSERVATION GRAZING (2,3)							
Support sensitive, extensive livestock grazing run by local farmers/commoners. Improve existing grazing infrastructure to include installing water troughs, permanent posts for fencing and handgates.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	Stewardship & GF
Investigate ways to secure whole areas of common to prevent wandering livestock. Enact if appropriate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff / gra	Grant aid Parl
CAMPAIGNS (1,2,3)							
Responsible dog ownership.			✓	✓		CT	GF
Responsible mountain biking.	✓	✓				CT	GF
CONSENTED WORKS (3)							
To not undertake any works without the necessary consents/permissions in place from statutory bodies.						Staff / part	GF

3.3.2 Management units

This section looks at all of the land as individual management units. The key features and drivers behind our work are identified for each area together with a map, discussion and itemised work items. Each management unit is assigned a priority level from high, medium or low. This will help prioritise MHT resources on a geographical basis. The key determinants are: the number of internationally and/or nationally designated features present, the contributory significance of that piece of land to the Malvern Hills and current issues/hot topics. Again, any special projects are highlighted in green.

A location map is provided here:



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UNIT 1.1 Northern Hills

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	Y
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building / Cons Area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character area:	High hills and slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grassland with heath (U1, U4)
Nationally important species:	Meadow pipit, tree pipit, grayling, tree pipit, skylark, common lizard, dormice
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 16, Victorian promenades, Springs, St Ann's Well, views
Earth heritage:	All rock exposures and LGS

DISCUSSION

SEE NORTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 96)

The northern hills include the largest and highest of the Malvern Hills. As such the range, and Worcestershire Beacon in particular, is very popular.

Historically, the Hills were managed largely by commoners cutting vegetation and allowing their livestock to graze. This ceased in the 1990's. No grazing occurred until a conservation grazing scheme was initiated in 2001. During the intervening period the Hills changed much. Habitat surveys from 1987 show vast areas were open habitats – grasslands on the tops and a mosaic of bracken, grassland and scrub (ffridd) on the hill sides. However, without grazing, succession has replaced much of these open habitats with secondary woodland.

Despite this, these Hills still hold a resource of the important features and special qualities associated with the open habitats including views, archaeology, geology and the grassland itself. The access provision is good here with many paths, Victorian carriageways and bridleways.

The current grazing scheme does a good job at halting succession in most grassland areas. However, there are areas that are undergrazed (often steep, rocky and covered by coarse vegetation) are little-visited by the livestock and are thus still changing to woodland e.g. either side of the popular and picturesque Ivy Scar Rock. This land is too steep for vehicles too. Bracken is also spreading and degrading open habitats although bilberry appears to be replacing bracken in certain areas.

The grazing scheme uses electric fences and this has limitations with regard to effective targeted grazing and to containing the livestock successfully.

The fencing is also an eyesore although the public generally tolerate it now. It is labour intensive with stock checks, moving fencing and fetching bowsers regularly. Livestock are often out of the enclosures due to electric fence collapse, vandalism and dog attacks, and end up on roads causing a hazard.

The grazing scheme is funded until 2029. Funding from thereon is not secure.

Practical works compliment the grazing scheme. This includes topping, bracken rolling, tree felling and grassland restoration works. Large areas have been felled on many faces of these Hills. Many slopes are too steep and/or rocky for tractor-mounted machinery meaning many areas do not receive mechanical works.

Erosion is an issue in several locations here due to intensive use. This is causing localised scarring and degradation of the ridgeline, several key paths and the Shire Ditch. The public frequently report conflict between cyclists and walkers/horse-riders here.

Natural England rate these parts of the SSSI as 'unfavourable recovering' and 'favourable'.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run conservation grazing with temporary electric fencing that maintains/restores the habitats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / CT	Stewardship
Bracken roll all sizeable areas where safe, once in July and again in August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Top areas of coarse vegetation behind grazing livestock where necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Restore open habitats by felling secondary woodland (see long-term tree line on map below)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Cont	GF / stew
Restore open habitats through thinning of scrub and tree felling.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS W/V	GF / stew
Revisit cleared areas to control undesirable regrowth e.g. thistles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Repair short section of the Shire Ditch at Summer Hill.				✓		FS / CT	GF / Grant aid?
Repair / improve sections of the ridgeline in response to visitor erosion.	✓	✓	✓			FS / CT	GF
Cut and collect patches that have become rank, coarse swards within the acid grasslands.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Clear key Local Geological Site exposures with Earth Heritage Trust.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / V	GF
Inspect and maintain the sewer gas vent near West Malvern.	✓				✓	CT	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

UNIT 1.2 Northern Woodlands

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building / Cons Area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character area:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved Woodland
Nationally important species:	Bats, Narrow-leaved Bittercress
Cultural heritage:	Common Land Unit 16
Earth heritage:	Local geological sites

DISCUSSION

SEE NORTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 96)

The woods here show huge variation including minor areas of mature woodlands of oak and ash, and larger areas of young Sycamore monocultures. Near to town many ornamental trees are present too. The 1987 habitat survey clearly shows separate woodland blocks circumnavigating the northern hills with larger blocks on the eastern side. Many of these woodland blocks have now joined together forming a near-continuous girdle of woodland at the expense of open habitats. (See 'A study of the woodland boundaries within the Malvern Hills SSSI'. Stephen, 2002).

Many of these woods hold contour paths which offer cool walks in the summer and sheltered walks in the winter.

These woods have received some recent woodland management, chiefly tackling non-native plants but more work is required. Coppice stools and pollarded oaks clearly show that they once did. However, the steepness of gradient (meaning trees regularly fall) and relatively small size means they are fairly light and of mixed structure. They are missing older, trees and deadwood is in low amounts. The steepness of site precludes modern forestry vehicles/equipment.

The understorey in places is dominated by Laurel creating a dark and shrub layer devoid of character and wildlife. A conifer block is present near to Lodge fields that will need management in the future once it reaches maturity. A donkey shed is present at the east end of Happy Valley.

Visitor pressure is high.

UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintain woodland through minimal intervention allowing natural processes. Light works should focus on Laurel eradication, halo-thinning veteran trees, thinning of sycamore stands, diversifying the species mix and addition of deadwood.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	Stewardship
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓				Staff	

UNIT 1.3 St Ann's Well and entrance

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building / Cons Area	Y	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	High hills and slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Veteran trees
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	Notable trees, St Ann's Well
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE NORTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 96)

St Ann's Well is a listed building and famous attraction of the Malvern Hills. As well as the spout present, the café, views and gardens are an attractive stop for visitors. This area has changed in the last 25 years with many more trees now present surrounding the octagon and no grazing.

Buildings include: the octagon and various extensions and a toilet outbuilding for visitors. Building upkeep is covered by the MHT Business Plan.

The associated garden and lawn are currently maintained by a gardening contractor to a good standard. A pond needs regular maintenance as well as the surfaces of all the paths. Many drystone walls are present adding greatly to the Malvern character.

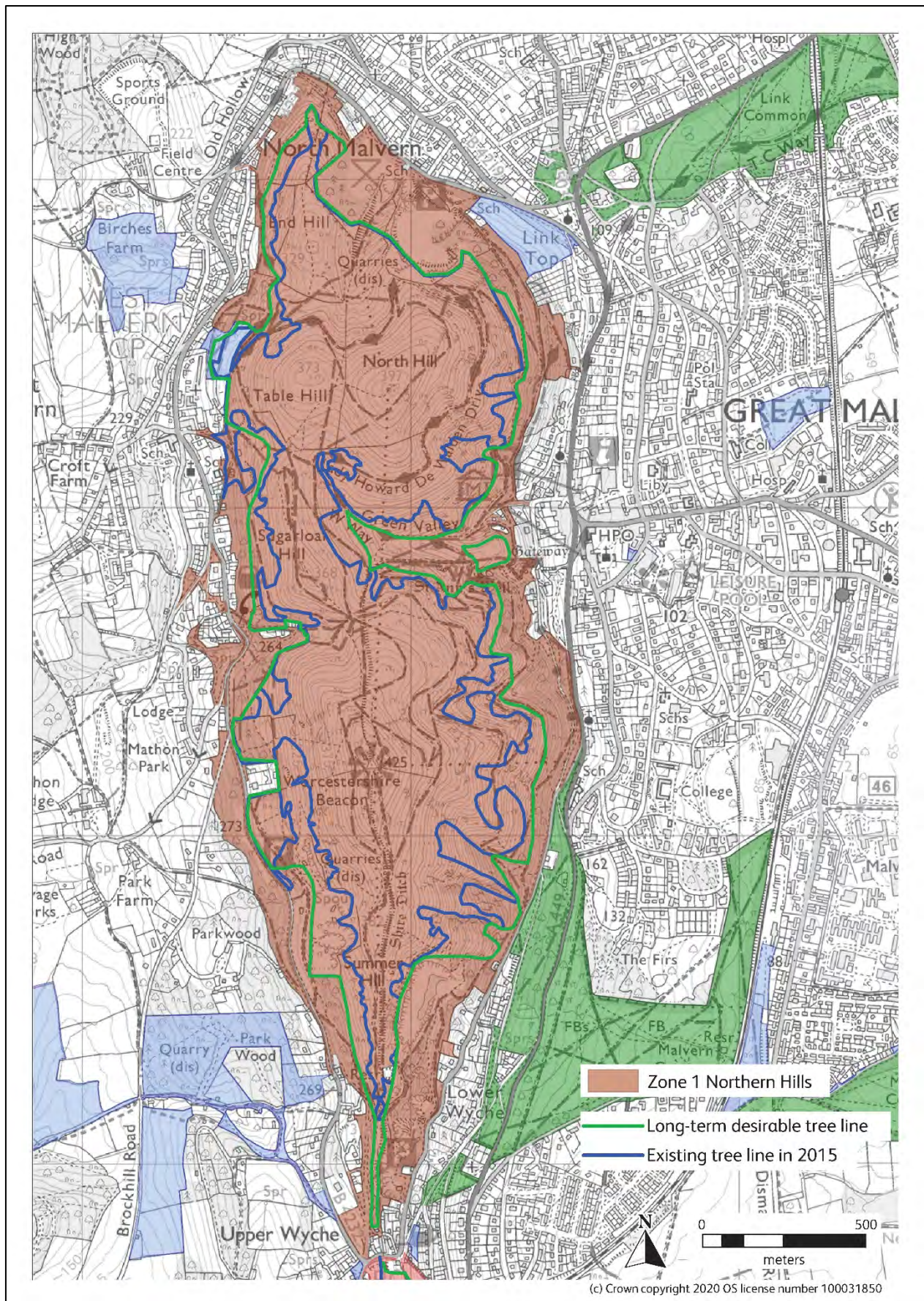
The road that zigzags to the café is in good repair. Several veteran and notable trees are beside the road and any essential tree work necessary should be carefully done.

Nearby in Happy Valley is the Donkey Shed. This structure is in poor condition and few people that walk passed it are aware of its significance as the last remaining donkey shed evidencing this once popular pastime.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintain well buildings and public toilet in good condition. Minor works and regular cleaning.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Tenant	
Maintain well buildings and public toilet in good condition. Major works as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT Cont	GF
Inspect and maintain dry-stone walling in good condition.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain garden, fencing, pond, St Anns stone sign and lawn in good order.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	GF
Maintain road and associated drainage structures.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Clear leaves from paths, terraces, drains.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Undertake sensitive restoration work plus new interpretation on the Donkey Shed.	✓	✓				Cont	Grant aid?



Zone 1 Northern Hills with tree lines

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UNIT 2.1 Central Hills

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	Y
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building/artefact	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grasslands (U1,U2,U4)
Nationally important species:	Adder, White Horehound, Tree pipit, Meadow Pipit, Common Lizard, Square spot Dart moth
Cultural heritage:	Shire Ditch, Pinnacle mounds
Earth heritage:	Local geological sites/quarries

DISCUSSION

SEE CENTRAL HILLS MAP (Page 104)

A conservation grazing scheme is in operation delivering essential management to maintain the open areas. Around 150 sheep and 15 cattle graze compartments on rotation. This system uses electric fences which have their limitations as far as controlling the livestock goes and are an eyesore. Livestock escape the fencing regularly and can cause a hazard on the roads.

The grazing here is maintaining the sward well, the steepness of ground however often precludes any complimentary mechanical works. The result is that bracken and bramble are dominating in places. Funding for the grazing scheme expires in 2028. The current grazing scheme is limited in extent – large areas of the central hills have been amputated from hills grazing by Jubilee road leading to massive tree growth in between Chase road and Jubilee road.

Paths are more rural here as there are no Victorian carriageways although a broad bridleway is present above Holy Well and the easier access trail from Black Hill. Erosion from visitor pressure is acute especially on the ridgeline and on the Shire Ditch. Conflict between walkers and cyclists is often reported from the footpath above Jubilee Drive.

Scrub/tree clearance in recent years has made good ground in returning the open habitats but follow up work is essential to present them returning to trees. Scrub clearance by Malvern Hang Gliding Club has been welcome. Cut and collect operations on Black Hill have been successful in opening up areas to grazing. The goal should be restoration of large areas of open habitat whilst retaining old and some new woodlands that is right for the future.

The central hills extend from the Wyche cutting to Wynds point. The range includes Perseverance, Jubilee, Pinnacle and Black hills. Although less lofty than the northern hills, the central hills are nearly as popular, offering fabulous walking and panoramic views. Their history is very similar to that of the northern hills, so too are the issues present, however, the central hills' smaller size means issues are more concentrated here. This unit is concerned with the open hills above the mature, fringe woodlands.

Acid grasslands span the ridgeline and in places down the mid-slopes – Pinnacle Hill still has a large area of fantastic acid grassland communities. Open habitats of grassland, bracken and scattered scrub are present but much reduced by succession as clearly evidenced by old photos and habitat surveys. Secondary woodland now covers large swathes of the central hills rising from the perimeter roads all the way to the ridgeline in places. This degrades many of the important features and special qualities such as Shire Ditch, acid grasslands, views and commoners' ability to exercise their rights. Many veteran hawthorns are perishing within these new secondary woodlands. Wildfires have occurred here and the burnt ground colonised by Birch woods e.g. on Pinnacle Hill. The invasive, non-native species Rhododendron and Laurel are scattered at the woodland edges.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run conservation grazing scheme that maintains / restores the habitats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra	stew
Bracken roll all sizeable areas where safe, once in July and again in August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Restore open habitats by felling secondary woodland as per the tree line map below.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS Cont	GF / stew
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub / felling trees.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS V	GF / stew
Revisit cleared areas to control undesirable regrowth e.g. thistles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Clear key Local Geological Site exposures with Earth Heritage Trust.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / V	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Repair / improve sections of the ridgeline in response to visitor erosion.	✓	✓	✓			FS / CT	GF

UNIT 2.2 Central Hills Woodlands

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building/artefact	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved woodland
Nationally important species:	Bats
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 14
Earth heritage:	LGS

DISCUSSION

SEE MAP CENTRAL HILLS MAP (Page 104)

Only one block of ancient woodland present at Holy Well. The 1886 OS map records several plantations including Thirds Wood, Malvern Wells and Wynds Point. Mature woodland skirts discontinuously around the eastern foothills. The remaining woodland on western sides and mid-slope is all recent secondary growth following the reduction in grazing. (See 'A study of the woodland boundaries within the Malvern Hills SSSI'. Stephen, 2002).

Sycamore makes up a large proportion of the mature woods here but the structure is moderate with some native field layer and a mixture of canopy species. Old trees and deadwood is lacking. Large blocks occur at the southern end and these have been bolstered by more recent growth. These woodlands are very important for bats, both providing food and cover for commuting.

Like the northern hills, this area is very steep and little woodland management has occurred recently. It is not practicable for modern forestry as it is. Several paths run through these woods offering more sheltered woodland walks.

Invasive Rhododendron and Laurel are present. The latter through many of the woods here, the former mainly above Malvern Wells. Beech is frequent in certain areas and is beginning to dominate the woodland.

A flood event down the slopes to Holy Well led to the construction of two gabion basket dams being built near to the road.

UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintain woodland through minimal intervention allowing natural processes. Light works should focus on Laurel & Rhododendron eradication, halo-thinning veteran trees, thinning of sycamore stands, diversifying the species mix and addition of deadwood.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	stew
Selectively thin certain woods to reduce dominance of Beech.		✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	stew
Inspect and maintain the gabion basket structures.	✓				✓	FS	GF
Retain certain secondary woodland from Wynds Point to Pinnacle Hill and allow to become mature woodland.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓				MHT	

UNIT 2.3 Thirds Wood

STATUS

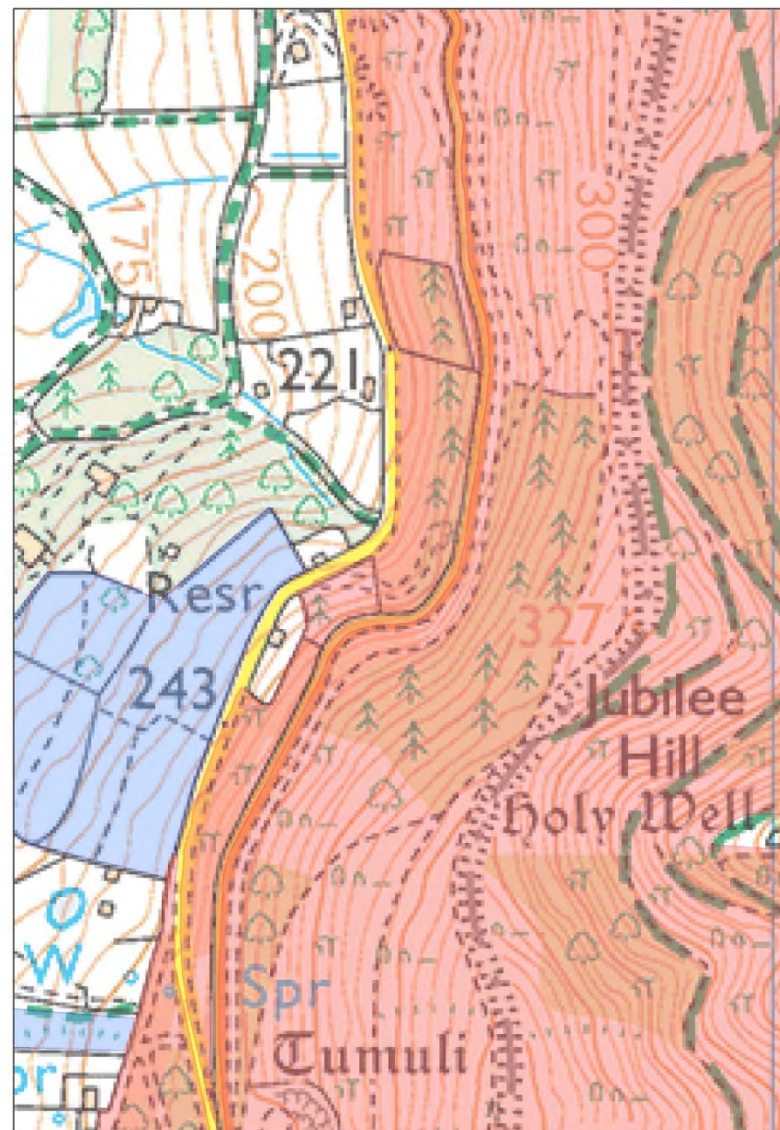
Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building/artefact	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	N
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	'Little Switzerland' character
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Thirds Wood is a 5.4ha block of mixed woodland on the west side of Jubilee Hill. A commemorative planting, the woodland once stood surrounded by grassland. It now blends a little more gently into the landscape with scrub and trees either side. The conifer element is popular with local people and the area has the nickname 'Little Switzerland'. The woodland has received no standard silvicultural management.

The plantation contains European Larch, the majority of which is of uniform age and reached 'over-maturity'. This means the Larch have all reached the final stage of their lives. A major thinning operation was undertaken in 2017 to improve the safety of the wood. Because of the current threat to Larch of all species from the tree disease *Phytophthora*, MHT have been advised by the Forestry Commission not to plant any Larch species. Following the thinning, around 100 Scots pine, Norway spruce and Hornbeam were planted.

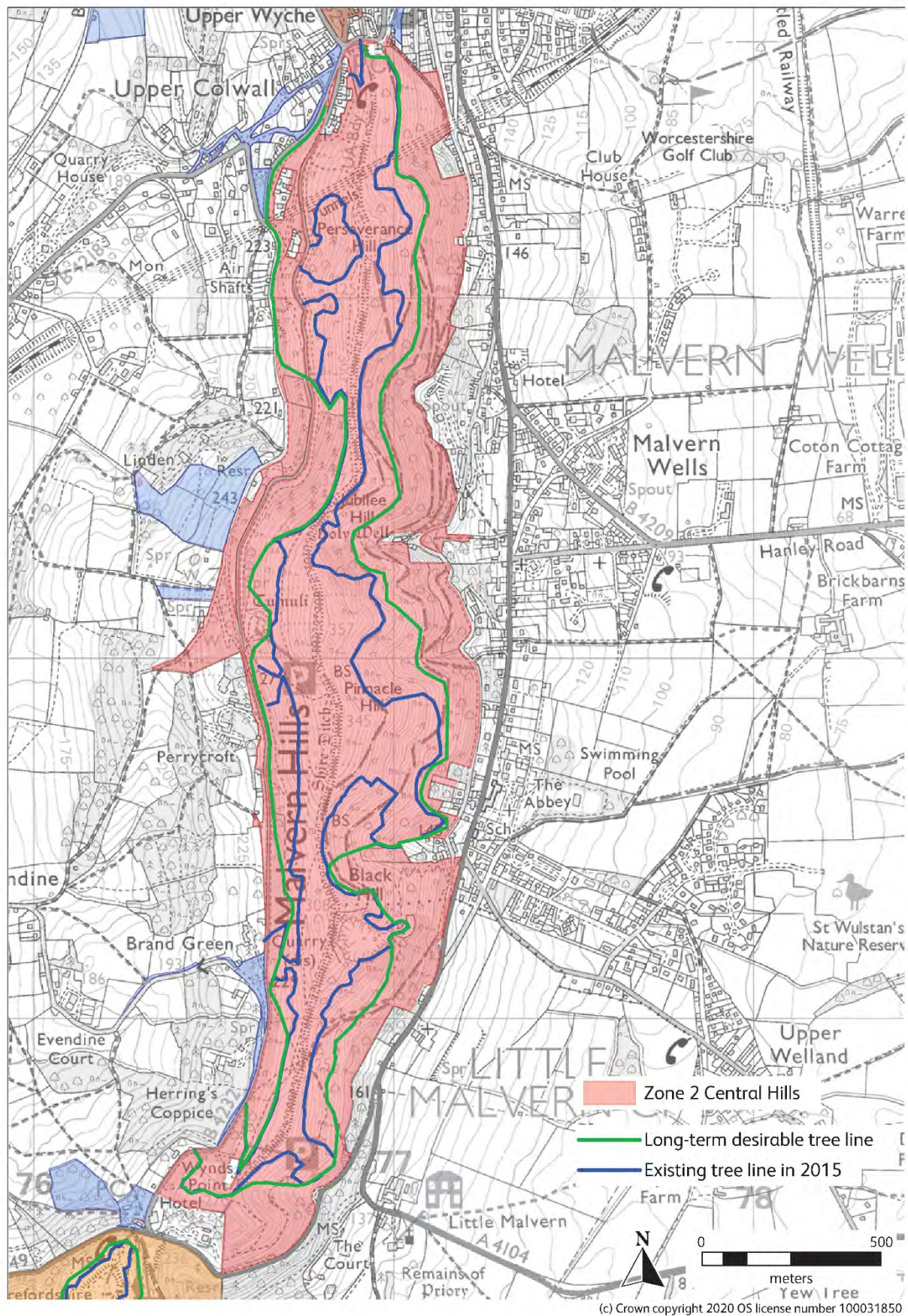


The site is within the SSSI and NE find the unit in 'unfavourable recovering' condition.

UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintain the mixed woodland and undertake any aftercare of the newly planted trees.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	GF



Zone 2 Central Hills with tree line

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UNIT 3.1 Herefordshire Beacon / British Camp

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	Y
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	High hills and slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grasslands with heath (U1, U4)
Nationally important species:	Adder, Meadow Pipit, Wheatear
Cultural heritage:	Scheduled Monument, iconic hill
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE SOUTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 117)

Of national importance as a Scheduled Monument, this multi-age archaeological site is arguably the most iconic part of the Malvern Hills.

Grazing has historically maintained the site as grassland – the ideal vegetation cover for sites of archaeological importance. It has always been a popular site to visitors and now with many facilities nearby it is even more popular than ever.

Main issues as identified in ‘A conservation management plan for Herefordshire Beacon’ (Herefordshire Archaeology, 2013) and ‘Mapping threats to heritage assets on the Malvern Hills’ (University of Worcester, June 2015) are: 1. the development of vegetation to bramble and trees which obscures the archaeology and deep roots damage underground archaeology. 2. Rabbit damage by burrowing especially on the central ringwork. 3. Erosion from recreation, especially gullies formed by unlawful mountain biking. The largest gully has been repaired in 2019.

There are no active commoners. The site is currently grazed by a hefted flock of sheep as part of an MHT scheme. However, the site has several areas which are a combination of steepness, high number of people and of a northerly aspect all meaning that sheep do not graze much on those spots and vegetation succession is taking place. Recent works to remove scrub have been successful but limited in extent. Bracken is spreading onto the monument from downslope.

Permissions have been granted for local people to undertake responsible ferreting to try and control rabbit numbers. Despite ~240 being removed over winter 2014/2015 this seems to have had little effect on the ongoing damage to the monument

The main path going up the northern face is in moderate condition. It has been patched up with various materials over the years and looks rather shabby, especially for one of the most well-used routes of all.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run conservation grazing scheme that maintains/restores the habitats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	stew
Target sheep grazing to ensure all areas are controlled.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	stew
Undertake bracken bashing by hand twice per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / V	GF
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub/felling trees.	✓	✓				FS / W / V	GF / stew
Revisit cleared areas to control undesirable regrowth e.g. thistles.		✓	✓	✓		FS / Cont	GF / stew
Repair remaining significant gullies and holes in the monument in liaison with Historic England.				✓		CT FS	GF
Monitor condition of the monument with Historic England.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / HE	GF
Encourage suitable recreation / discourage unlawful use of site by mountain bikers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Facilitate archaeological research.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	
Investigate other options for controlling the rabbits on the monument.		✓	✓			CT / HE	
Resurface the main concrete track with a safe, aesthetically sensitive material.					✓	Cont	Grant aid?
Deliver the remaining Stewardship agreement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

UNIT 3.2 Broad Down & Hangman's Hill

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	Y
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons Area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	High hills and slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grasslands U1, U2, U4. Calcareous grassland (CG10)
Nationally important species:	Meadow Pipit, Spring Cinquefoil, Adder
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 12, Clutters Cave, Shire Ditch, Pillow Mound
Earth heritage:	Warren House Formation exposures/quarry

DISCUSSION

SEE SOUTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 117)

This unit covers the Southern Hills from Tinkers Hill Wood to Dale's Hall. The reservoir and surrounding land are owned by Severn Trent Water.

These are hills of contrast – their relatively flat tops are dominantly open, acid grassland with some heather. This is maintained by a hefted sheep flock and the Shire Ditch is in good condition. The eastern steep slopes are now largely covered by secondary woodland of ash and sycamore. The 1987 surveys show these slopes as Bracken with scattered Hawthorn so the change has been dramatic. It cuts the Hills off from Shadybank Common below. The western slopes are of ancient woodland belonging to Eastnor Estate (News Wood). With open grasslands abutting woodland there is very little in the way of scrub habitat (ffridd).

Recent management has felled minor blocks of secondary woodland to return the site to open habitats. Bracken rolling helps maintain the site.

One open tract between Hangman's Hill and Castlemorton has been kept open with much effort. This area is of a more calcareous geology (Warren House Formation) and supports a rare flora for the Malverns. It is characterised by the nationally scarce Spring Cinquefoil. Clearance by volunteers and occasional grazing help but this tract is so small it is regularly being invaded by bramble and other undesirable plants.

One dead-end bridleway extends beside the British Camp. However, unlawful mountain biking is frequent across this unit and is causing substantial damage to localised sections of the Shire Ditch. This feature also suffers as walkers tend to follow the top of the Ditch and erode it down. Restoration works have been undertaken with Historic England to build it back up.

The area is very popular with walkers. 1 toposcope is present.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run conservation grazing scheme to maintain/restore the habitats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	Stew
Bracken roll all sizeable areas where safe once in July and again in August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Restore open habitats by felling secondary woodland.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS Cont	GF
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub and felling trees.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	GF
Revisit cleared areas to control undesirable regrowth e.g. thistles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Restore section of the Shire Ditch north of Pink Cottage and add diversionary measure to guide the public traffic.	✓	✓				CT FS	GF
Cut back bramble and scrub off the open tract off Hangman's Hill especially Spring Cinquefoil patches.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / V	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship remaining agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Inspect and maintain toposcope.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF

UNIT 3.3 Hollybush Roughs

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	Y
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	High hills and slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved Ancient Woodland
Nationally important species:	Pied flycatcher, Redstart, Marsh Tit Drab Looper, Dormice
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 12, quarrying
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE SOUTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 117)

The eastern face of Midsummer Hill is largely wooded and known as Hollybush Roughs. It is bordered by the National Trust's hillfort and a minor road. The woodland is mainly of oak and ash canopy with hazel understory. A small area of Larch is found in the west.

Traditionally this wider area was grazed by a hefted sheep flock. Since this activity has stopped the woodland has been invaded in places by Sycamore probably to the detriment of certain specialist woodland birds that frequent an open structure. The site is a remaining stronghold for Pied Flycatcher although numbers are very low. They are dependent upon the nest box scheme that is run here by volunteers.

There has been no recent woodland management but the steepness of the site means many trees fall naturally creating gaps.

Mountain biking is popular although no bridleways are present. Tracks are cut through the woodland and extend onto the National Trust's hillfort scheduled monument causing damage to the archaeology.

A sliver of woodland extends northeast toward Swinyard car park. This too is native broadleaved woodland with Dormice recorded here. An overhead powerline passes through here and utilities need to keep it clear.

Natural England find this part of the SSSI area in 'favourable' condition.

UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Undertake suitable sensitive woodland works to maintain open understorey for woodland birds.	✓					CT	Stew / GF
Support nest box schemes both with finance and effort.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Liaise with National Trust over management.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT Part	GF
Advocate responsible mountain biking.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

UNIT 3.4 Gullet Quarry and track

STATUS

Public access	N	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grasslands U1, U4 Pond
Nationally important species:	Adder, Slow Worm, Toad Nesting birds
Cultural heritage:	Quarrying site, drystone walls
Earth heritage:	Huge and important exposures of Precambrian and Silurian geology and their unconformity contact.

DISCUSSION

SEE SOUTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 117)

The last quarry to cease operations in the 1970's, Gullet Quarry is a huge void in Swinyard Hill now part filled with a 5m deep lake. The site is very popular both as a beauty spot and a venue for water recreation despite the latter being unlawful for health and safety reasons.

Works in 2014 completed a barrier circuit around the waterbody. This, coupled with press coverage, new signage, gorse planting and patrolling by Emergency services and MHT wardens, has decreased the amount of swimming, tomb-stoning, camping, climbing and other unlawful activities here.

The new perimeter fence and drystone walls are in good condition. However, the northern fencing is gappy and cut in places, its rather 'cold war' appearance does nothing for the protected landscape either. The north-western fencing is mainly stock fencing, being low and rather loose, its efficacy could be reviewed. A throw line, 3 bins and a gate are also present. Informal paths are present leading to Eastnor and Swinyard Hill.

Native woodland fringes the site and is spreading. Vegetation succession mainly to Ash, Oak and Alder is occurring although the western edge is kept open through volunteer efforts. Vegetation can obscure nationally important rock faces (including key locations for scientific study) and the views over the quarry from all sides devaluing the site for visitors.

Tree growth adjacent to the wall also threatens its structure as the trees grow. Small areas of acid grassland and bare ground are present and support an interesting flora and fauna. These areas are likely of particular interest to invertebrates such as Common Groundhopper. Despite clearance by volunteers these areas are succumbing to bramble and trees.

Litter is an ongoing problem here.

The high visitor numbers and climbing of the rock faces causes disturbance to nesting birds and reptiles present.

Within the water fish are present, but of unknown species. Trapping by the Environment Agency in 2014 revealed a large population of the non-native Turkish Crayfish here.

From Gullet road (Flapgate Lane) a tarmac track leads up to the quarry. This track a barrier and is also accessed by a local residence. The track is maintained by MHT.

This SSSI unit is considered 'favourable' by Natural England.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Cut trees to hedge height in certain locations to maintain vegetation barrier but restore views.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	GF
Inspect and maintain signs, throw line, fencing and gate. Increase frequency in the summer season.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / FS	GF
Monitor and upgrade the fenceline to deter unlawful access to the dangerous quarry.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Facilitate a fish survey.					✓	CT / EA	Grant aid?
Clear the most important parts of the geological exposures.		✓		✓		CT / EHT	GF
Focus efforts to clear short sward areas that still have high value. Clear with hand tools twice per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / W / V	GF
Consider changing Gullet Quarry from open water area (with associated recreation problems) to a well-vegetated waterbody offering new habitat and deterring swimmers.	✓					MHT	Grant aid?

UNIT 3.5 Tinker's Hill Wood

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building/Cons Area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Ancient broad-leaved Woodland
Nationally important species:	Bats, Spotted flycatcher
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE SOUTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 117)

An area of mature, native woodland on a steep slope. The canopy and understorey are of predominantly native species although some Laurel and Sycamore are present. There is no recent woodland management, however, the steepness of the site regularly generates fallen trees, deadwood and canopy gaps. The site is particularly notable for bat species. Natural England find the site in 'Unfavourable recovering' condition.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Manage the woodland as minimal intervention.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Liaise/support bat experts on related works/projects.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Liaise with STW over the maintenance of their infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	GF
Reduce Laurel in woodland.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF / stew

UNIT 3.6 Swinyard Hill

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	Y
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grassland, Wood Pasture, Mire/Bog
Nationally important species:	(High Brown Fritillary) Adder, Common Lizard, Grass Snake, Kestrel, Harvest Mouse
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 9 & 12, quarrying
Earth heritage:	Quarry exposing Malvern's Complex geology

DISCUSSION

SEE SOUTHERN HILLS MAP (Page 117)

Traditionally grazed by commoners' sheep this narrow hill would have been predominantly grassland with some sparse scrub and pollards. The 1987 survey records much of it as grassland, open bracken with wood pasture on the western side.

The decline in grazing has allowed scrub, trees and bracken to develop and dominate the site. Grassland is now restricted to very small patches covering ~5 % mainly along the ridgeline which is disturbed and badly eroded. Bracken has become tall and dense over much of the site excluding other species and providing nothing for farm livestock. Wood pasture has been infilled by secondary woodland.

Wet flushes contain some very restricted areas of mire/bog plant communities that have seen recent conservation effort for re-wetting. The area supports a very important population of Adder and other reptiles that utilise the varied habitat structures. It is a popular site and mountain bikers use it even though there are no bridleways present.

Disturbance and localised erosion are issues here. The Shire Ditch is mostly hidden under bracken and scrub.

Recent management has included tree felling, cutting and bracken rolling where the terrain allows. Undertaking this in a sensitive manner to avoid damaging the herpetofauna interest is tricky (see Reptile Habitat Management Handbook, 2010).

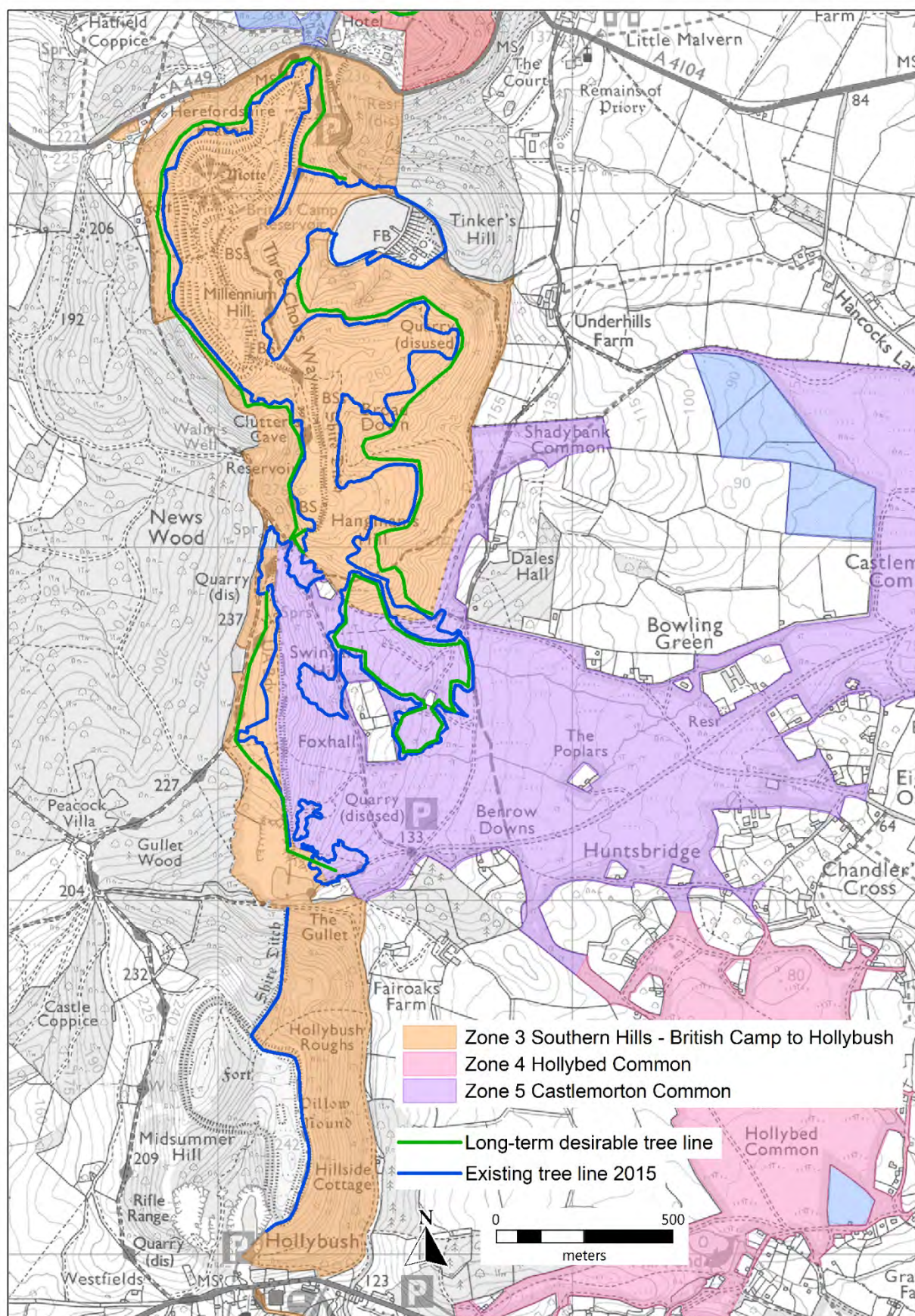
Volunteers have undertaken successful clearance work in small patches. Work needs to be consistent each year to have a worthwhile effect. Pheasants are present and in high numbers at certain times of the year. They predate native wildlife present here.

The area is crossed by several paths and bordered by vehicular tracks – to Pink Cottage and Eastnor Estate’s track. There is one toposcope and several heritage signs.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Bracken roll the eastern foothill slopes along contours leaving strips. Alternate rolling those strips each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Run conservation grazing scheme to maintain/restore the habitats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	stew
Cut and collect foothill slopes. Burn arisings on site.					✓	FS	GF
Maintain network of glades and flushes through cutting.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	V	GF
Restore open habitats by felling secondary woodland.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Cont	GF
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub / felling trees. Prioritise mire/bog habitat.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	V	GF
Investigate the use of horse-drawn bracken rolling.	✓	✓				CT	GF
Undertake restoration to wood pasture on the western hillside through felling secondary woodland.	✓	✓				FS	Stew
Make the western hillside more suitable for extensive grazing by installing infrastructure.	✓	✓				FS Gra	GF
Clear vegetation and restore acid grassland to scallops along ridgeline.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / FS	GF
Facilitate studies into the effect of Pheasants and, if necessary, investigate options for control.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	?
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	stew



Zone 3 Southern Hills – British Camp to Hollybush with tree line

UNIT 3.7 Ragged Stone Hill

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons Area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	High Hills and Slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid Grasslands (U1, U2, U4) Broad-leaved woodland
Nationally important species:	Adder, Smooth Cat's Ear
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 11
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE CHASE END AND RAGGED STONE MAP (Page 122)

Half of Ragged Stone Hill is under MHT jurisdiction and the other belongs to Eastnor Estate. The hill has been managed as a whole common land unit with sheep maintaining the pasture with occasional trees.

No commoners exercise their rights here anymore and old maps/photos clearly indicate how much change has happened. Much secondary woodland now wraps around the outside and bracken has extended uphill and become tall and dense. Only a small hilltop area of acid grassland persists. This is high quality acid grassland with fantastic U1 communities and nationally scarce species present. Wild daffodils are a popular feature here although degraded by garden variety daffodils which hybridise.

The site is managed by limited sheep grazing (1 month per year) as part of an MHT grazing scheme. Occasional practical works clear scrub. Earth scraping works to clear bracken have been futile and the plant is still rampant. However, 2 field gates are regularly left open. Wintercombe Copse has been recently fenced meaning the boundary is 90 % secure to livestock which can now only escape through two small openings and when the gates are left open.

The site is steep and not-well known hence visitor numbers here are low. There is no access infrastructure present.

Natural England find this part of the SSSI in 'unfavourable recovering' condition.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Secure the site for grazing by investigating options for the two gateways. Enact appropriate solutions.	✓	✓				CT	GF / Parl
Run conservation grazing scheme that maintains/restores the habitats. Extend the period of extensive sheep grazing to July-March.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	Stew
Cattle graze the site for at least 1 month to try and control the Bracken in May.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	Stew
Investigate the potential for using herbicide to control Bracken.	✓					CT / EA	
Remove any garden variety / hybrid daffodils.			✓			CT / W	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

UNIT 3.8 Chase End Hill

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	High hills and slopes
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grasslands U1, U4
Nationally important species:	Adder, wild daffodil, Woodcock
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 10
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE CHASE END AND RAGGED STONE MAP (Page 122)

The southernmost hill of the Malverns range, this isolated hill is jointly owned half by MHT and half by Bromesberrow Estate. The perimeter of the hill is a mixture of woodland, dwellings, pastures and minor roads.

Some superb stands of acid grassland rich in lichens (U1) can be found on the thin upper slopes. These are surrounded by a thick girdle of bracken. Some undesirable stands of Yorkshire Fog, other coarse grasses and bramble are present even near to the summit. Woodland has encroached relatively little since 1987. Wild daffodils are numerous here and a popular feature. However, garden varieties have been planted that are degrading the wild stock.

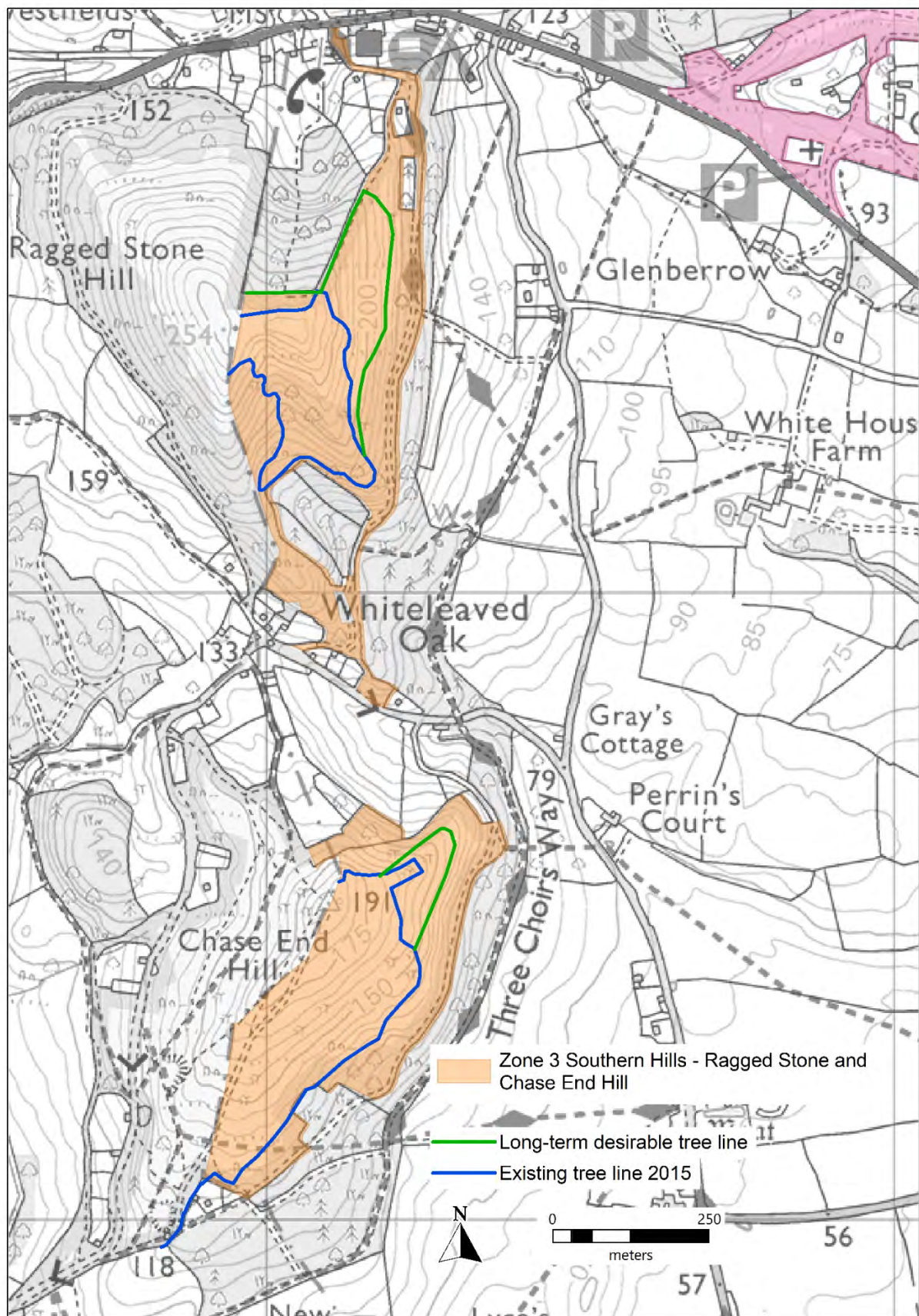
Management is undertaken in partnership with Bromesberrow Estate. This common land unit is secure with fencing and cattle grids permitting viable extensive grazing by Bromesberrow Estate. Cattle are grazed on-site although the site would benefit from more grazing and also grazing by sheep too. Recent cut and collect operations have helped remove excessive vegetation and nutrients. The site is tranquil for the few visitors that do pass through. Horse-riding is popular here, which has caused some damage to turf on occasions. In recent years mechanical works have been too enthusiastic and removed much mosaic habitat at the midslope, to the detriment of adder and other species.

There is no MHT infrastructure present. NE consider the SSSI unit in 'unfavourable recovering' condition.

UNIT PRIORITY: High

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Work in partnership with the Bromesberrow Estate on management.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Run conservation grazing scheme that maintains/restores the habitats. Graze the site with both sheep and cattle.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	Stew
Remove garden-variety daffodils.			✓			W / V	GF
Undertake cut and collect operations as needed.			✓			CT / Cont	GF
Add small fencing areas to permit gorse recolonisation at the eastern foothill. Plant gorse if necessary. Ensure future mechanical works occur only on the grassland areas.		✓	✓			CT	Grant aid? GF
Deliver the remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	



Zone 3 Southern Hills - Chase End and Ragged Stone Hills with tree line

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UNIT 4.1 Hollybed Common

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	Unenclosed Commons
Nationally important habitats:	Calcareous grassland, Mire (M23), Neutral grassland (MG6), Acid Grassland (U1, U4) Veteran Trees, Scrub, Ponds
Nationally important species:	Slender Hare's Ear, Fiddle Dock, Skylark
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 9, archaeology including enclosures, drover's tracks.
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE HOLLYBED COMMON MAP (Page 128)

Hollybed Common has a very similar background to Castlemorton Common (unit 5.2). It is predominantly grassland and dominant form of management is, and has been for considerable time, grazing by local commoners with the majority being done by one individual. Presently it is solely sheep but cattle were grazed here but ceased within the last decade.

Most of the common is unimproved pasture (MG6) but there are significant areas of rarer, more species rich grasslands and mire. Scattered scrub is present, maintained at acceptable coverage through clearance works. The amount of bracken is stable thanks to grazing/mechanical works although undergrazing is less of a problem here. The site is unsecure and livestock wander onto roads causing a hazard to both car and animal. This is a key factor in local people not turning animals out.

The site is well-used by horse riders. It is a more visited site than Castlemorton mainly due to the honeypot site of the Mill pond and free car park. This large dammed pond is popular with the public for feeding ducks and fishing. It has filled in a lot and is now very shallow. Large numbers of cars can be present and driving and parking extends well off the car park and onto the common bringing some damage and disturbance. Driving on the common is frequently done unlawful. This, coupled with the parking and high visitor use, means a large proportion of the area is disturbed, compacted and the tranquil aspect degraded.

UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run conservation grazing scheme that maintains/restores the habitats. Cross-graze the site with cattle and sheep year-round.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Com	Stew
Support existing grazing by commoners and attract new graziers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF / stew
Undertake flailing / cut & collect in conjunction with the grazing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Cont	GF
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub / felling trees.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS V	GF
Revisit cleared areas to control undesirable regrowth e.g. thistles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Cont	GF
Bracken roll all sizeable areas where safe, once in July and again in August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Cont	GF
Retain certain bracken stands as habitat and to guide access.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Investigate ways to secure the common to livestock.	✓	✓	✓			CT / Cont	?
Enact ideal ways in which to secure the common.		✓	✓	✓		CT / FS / Cont	?
Inspect and maintain dam including clearing large vegetation off the dam wall.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Clear pond and associated flush.		✓		✓		W / V	Stew
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

UNIT 4.2 Morgan's Orchard (Golden Valley)

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Enclosed Common
Nationally important habitats:	Traditional orchard
Nationally important species:	?
Cultural heritage:	orchard
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE HOLLYBED COMMON MAP (Page 128)

A small, ex-farmstead orchard adjacent to Hollybed Common. The orchard contains 9 veteran pears, at least 15 old apple trees and approximately 15 younger apple trees. These include some great three county and more local varieties.

The fruit trees are pruned as required. The grassland in-between trees is kept open through livestock grazing and occasional clearance by mechanical means mainly strimming of thistles, bramble etc.

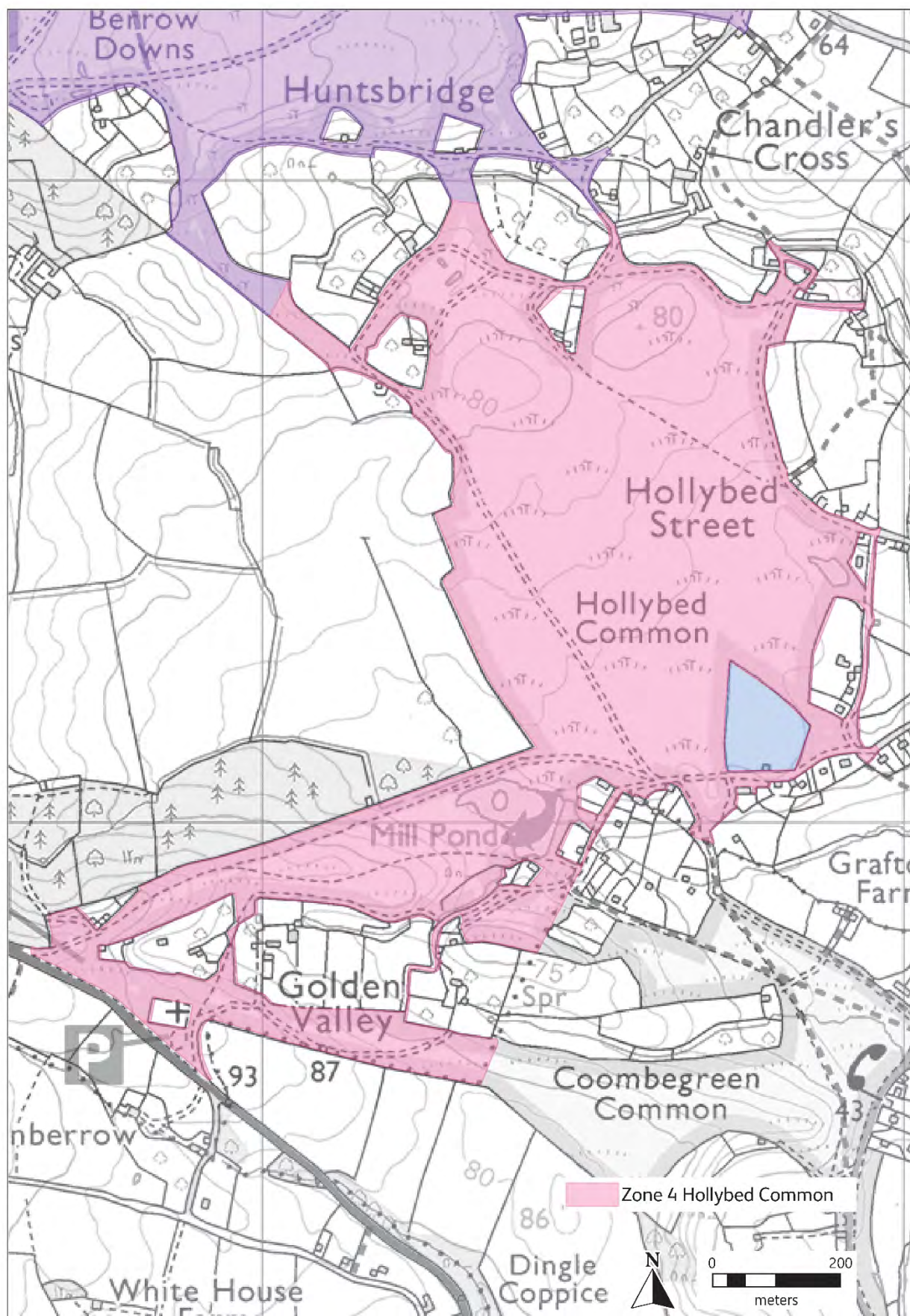
The site was fenced off from the common in 2014 to prevent commons livestock from eating fruit (poisonous), outside of autumn a gate is propped open allowing livestock and visitors to wander through the orchard. An interpretation board and restored cider mill are present at the southern end.

Colwall Orchard Group produced a site management plan for the orchard.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Flail/strim encroaching vegetation.		✓		✓		FS / W	GF
Prune fruit trees as necessary.		✓		✓		CT / W	GF
Maintain tree guards and remove when appropriate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	GF
Maintain gate and fence.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Replant with suitable local varieties following significant tree deaths.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	GF
Close the gate during autumn only until fruits have gone.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / W	GF
Inspect and maintain cider press structure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF



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Map: Zone 4 Hollybed Common

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UNIT 5.1 Castlemorton Common

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons Area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	Unenclosed Commons
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grassland (U4), Mire (M23), Neutral and Calcareous grasslands (CG10), Ponds, Veteran trees
Nationally important species:	Adder, Great Crested Newt, Turtle Dove, Slender Hare's Ear, Narrow-leaved Water Dropwort, Skylark, Autumn Ladies Tresses
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit CL9, pastoral grazing, locally important archaeology (enclosures, holloways in HER)
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

SEE CASTLEMORTON COMMON MAP (Page 133)

Castlemorton Common is a large and mainly flat common dissected by roads and two minor streams. Several properties are located within it served by easements. Historically the site has been managed mainly by grazing of commoners' livestock and other commoners' rights. In recent decades the numbers of animals depastured has decreased to a nadir in 2015.

That decline in grazing resulted in a broad loss of important features and special qualities here, including landscape character, access, archaeology and wildlife (including nationally important habitats and species). More extensive and taller vegetation also makes animal husbandry much harder and obscures livestock to oncoming traffic causing a danger. In recent years the scattered low scrub and mixture of different grasslands has generally been maintained thanks to the grazing by ~500 sheep and ~75 cattle. That number is well matched to the forage available and not too reliant on supplementary feeding. Small areas have been restored over the last 5 years focusing on the mires.

Mechanical management includes topping, scrub bashing and cutting and removing of arisings.

Joyriding is an issue in certain locations where it damages flora and soils and disturbs/scares people. Soil damage is caused by commoners and others driving on the common especially in wet conditions. Parking on the common also causes localised damage in several locations including adjacent to Swinyard car park but most notably within the SSSI (off Hancocks lane).

Utility companies often commence work (digging, vehicle movements etc.) without first contacting MHT or NE and this, again, can cause localised negative changes in flora, soils and sometimes the hydrology. Supplementary feeding has caused localised negative changes in flora, it also necessitates the use of vehicles in winter too.

Many veteran pollards are present, including Black Poplars, and an active pollarding regime is maintaining these features and a planting scheme is ensuring their future. Recent work has successfully cleared some pollards from being shaded out by adjacent tree growth especially from Sycamore.

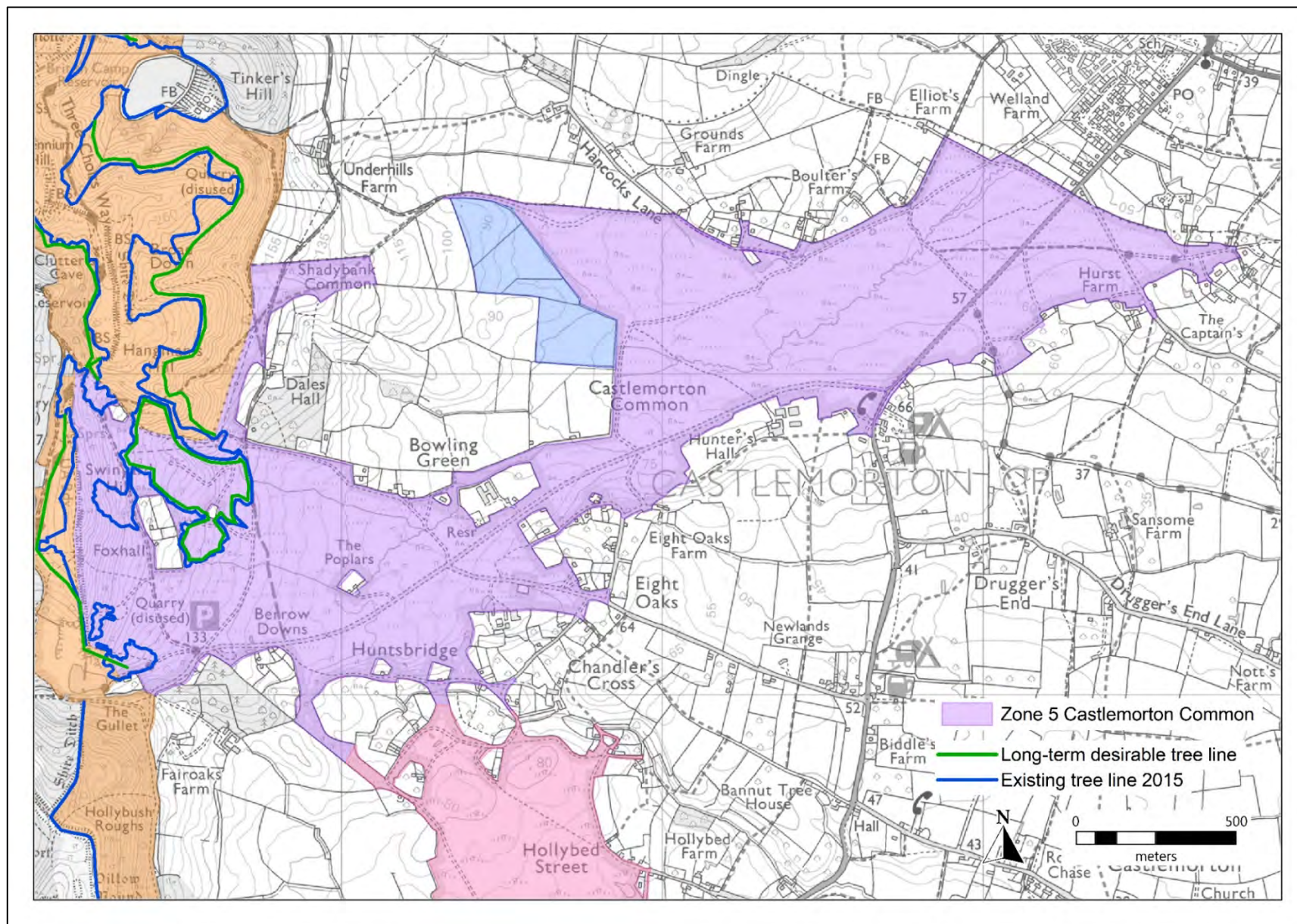
At least four ponds are present providing drinking water to livestock and habitat to wildlife including Great Crested Newt. Two ponds are covered by the invasive, non-native plant *Crassula helmsii* – a trial using opaque covering to kill the plant is underway.

UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintain pollarding regime of 2-3 trees per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Run conservation grazing scheme to maintain/restore the habitats. Cross-graze the site with sheep and cattle.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Com	Stew
Support remaining grazing by local commoners.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / W	Stew
Undertake flailing / cut & collect in conjunction with the grazing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Investigate ways in which to secure the Common to livestock.	✓					CT	GF
Deliver actions to secure the Common to livestock.		✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	?
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub/felling trees (including parkland-style trees).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS Cont	GF

Revisit cleared areas to control undesirable regrowth e.g. thistles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Work with commoners to minimise supplementary feeding and driving on the common.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Work closely with NE to improve site condition and secure funding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Eradicate <i>Crassula</i> from the two ponds.	✓	✓				CT / Cont	Grant aid
Purchase adjacent land suitable as in-bye land.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	LAF
Work with the Police and Highways to tackle joyriding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / W	GF
Develop and enact a strategy to reduce parking on the common, especially the SSSI. Utilise stobs, rocks etc to prevent parking and improve the parking situation at Swinyard car park.	✓	✓				staff	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	



Zone 5 Castlemorton Common with tree line.

UNIT 6.1 Bowling Green Meadow, Clevelode

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	Lowland neutral grassland Pond
Nationally important species:	Spreading Bellflower <i>Campanula patula</i>
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Historically grazed and also used as allotments, this long thin meadow has been cut for hay in recent years. Two thirds of the site is species rich grassland while the northern third is a mix of scrub, trees and ruderal plants such as docks. A small patch of Spanish/hybrid Bluebells is present.

The hedges, silt trap and ditches belong to neighbouring farms, with the exception of the southernmost ditch which is MHT and was dug to prevent vehicles/caravans from entering but this is not enough. This ditch is scrubbing over and is crossed by a small, pedestrian concrete bridge. The 3m pond is shaded and silted up. Some flytipping is evident beside the B4211. The site is little visited by the public. There is no signage/interpretation.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:



	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Ensure grassland is cut for hay after July as weather allows.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT Cont	GF
Survey for Spreading Bellflower.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Undertake works specifically for Spreading Bellflower as per professional advice.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / V	GF
Install MHT land identifier post near Clevelode Lane.		✓				W	GF
Install stobs to prevent vehicles accessing the site unlawfully.	✓					staff	GF
Flail ruderal vegetation.		✓		✓		FS	GF
Remove Spanish/hybrid Bluebells.		✓				W	GF
Inspect bridge and ditch – follow up with any works needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Liaise with neighbour regarding Spreading Bellflower.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF

UNIT 6.2 Riverside, Clevelode

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	N
Nationally important species:	Veteran trees
Cultural heritage:	Ferry platform, saltway
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

A small piece of the river Severn floodplain and riparian corridor. Historically used for unloading barges and as a platform for the Cleve ferry. Periodic flooding occurs and enriches the soil. This, combined with cutting, creates a ruderal flora of grasses, nettle and docks. The invasive non-native Himalayan Balsam is present covering a small patch.

Eight veteran willow pollards, some split, are still on an active pollarding cycle. Two old fruit trees are present. No young trees are present. A wooden fishing platform is present with steps.

This is an outlier site, little visited by the public. Visits are mainly from fishermen both in and out of fishing season. An easement leads to a private field gate. The roadside verge leading to the river is mown by Highways.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Pollard 1 split veteran willow.					✓	FS	GF
Plant and guard two young willows for continuity.				✓		FS	GF
Mow open area 4-5 times per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Inspect fishing platform every month.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	GF
Repair fishing platform and keep steps clear as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Control Himalayan Balsam.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF

UNIT 6.3 Woodford's Meadow

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

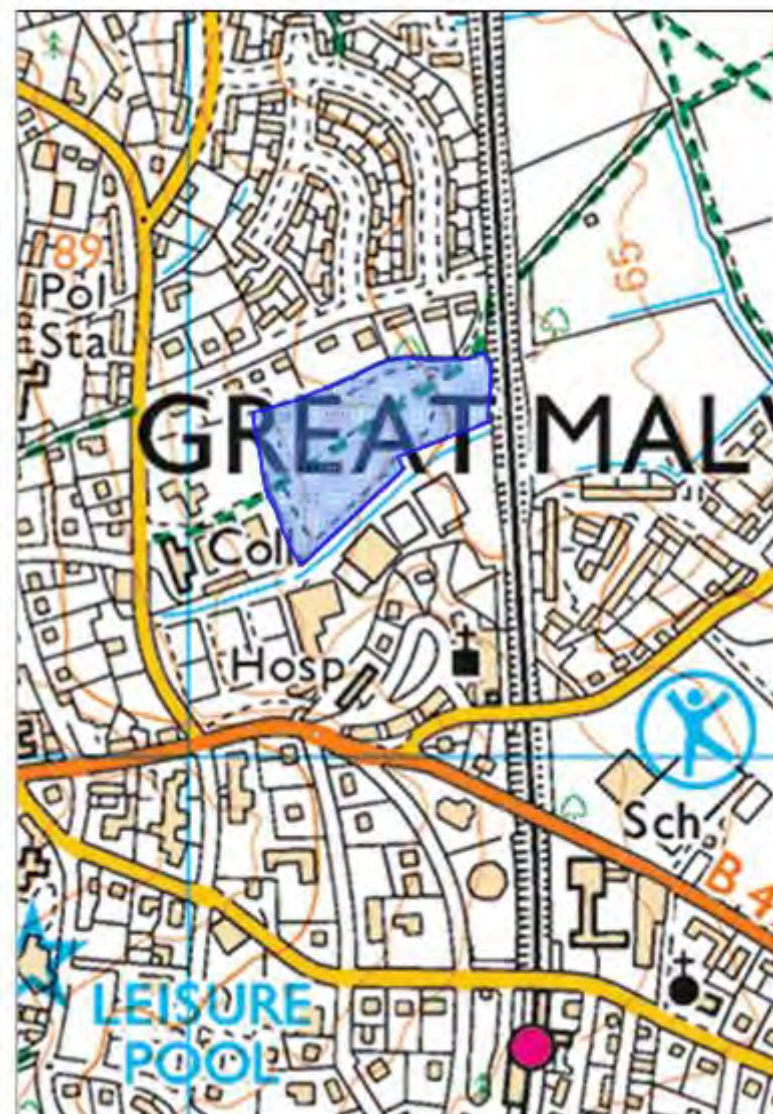
Landscape character area:	Urban
Nationally important habitats:	Lowland neutral grassland (MG5)
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

A small, suburban meadow bounded by mature trees, mainly oak and ash, and by the fenced railway line to the east. The ownership of the boundary trees is uncertain, most lie outside of the perimeter fence. The fence has been breached in two places giving access to the adjacent recreation grounds/college.

Inside, a valuable border of native young trees and scrub has developed, although augmented with garden escapees; Laurel, Cotoneaster and Bamboo. In places bramble patches are expanding far out from the perimeter into the grassland. Several mature maiden oaks are present and one new commemorative oak planting.

The meadow is cut for hay in Autumn. It receives low visitor numbers, mainly of dog walkers and commuters. Litter, dog poo and cycling are minor issues here. Paths are cut if necessary but mainly maintained by footfall.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Undertake hay cut after seeding in late July/August as weather permits.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	GF
Flail bramble that is invading meadow (out of bird breeding season).	✓				✓	FS	GF
Eradicate non-native garden escapees.	✓					W / V	GF
Relocate western MHT sign to main gate post.		✓				FS	GF
Add signage relating to dog poo and cycling.				✓		W	GF

UNIT 6.4 Wood Street and Rectory Lane verge

STATUS

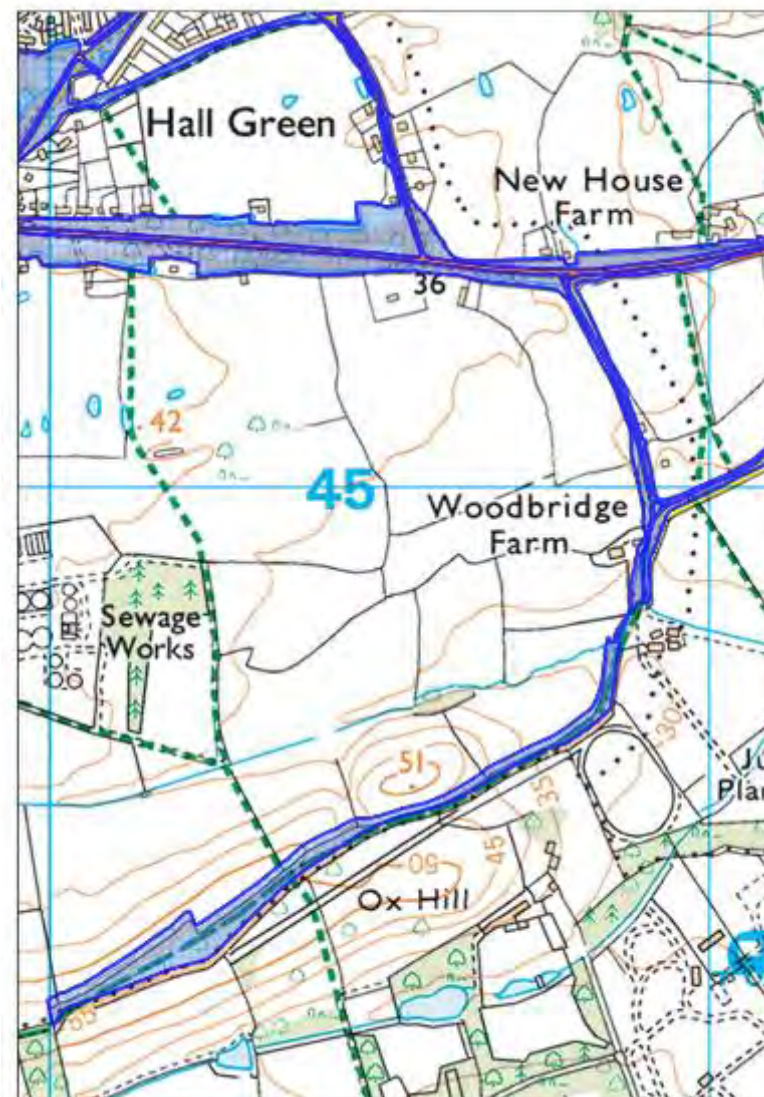
Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	Veteran trees Wet Woodland
Nationally important species:	Slow worm Bats
Cultural heritage:	Drover's track, saltway, CL unit 18
Earth heritage:	(Active riverine geomorphology)

DISCUSSION

Wood Street is an old drovers' track and 'saltway', the character of this feature is still very strong today. A long thin piece of land with a public bridleway running through its length with several offshoot footpaths. The borders are fenced and lined with scrub and mature trees including some veteran Oak pollards. No recent pollarding. Low numbers of local visitors.

The southern half is higher and drier, trees and scrub have encroached into Bluebell, Wood Anemone and Bracken open ground, narrowing access and degrading the historic character. Sycamore is especially invasive. Some annual mowing has taken place keeping some areas open immediately adjacent to the bridleway. However, several pinch points are evident and here the ground is poached. Some branches are too low for horse-riders. Glow-worms are a notable species here.



In the northern half the ground is damper approaching and crossing the Pool Brook. Several redundant drains and pools are present.

The flora is of rank grasses, hogweed and docks. The non-native poisonous Giant Hogweed is present near to the Brook. This plant is also present on the neighbouring meadow (Heath Farm Estates) and in the small area of Alder Woodland. Here, old Willow and Alder coppice are mature or have collapsed. A small bridge crosses the Brook forming part an easement to Highfield Organic Farm. Heading north to Guarlford Road and northeast along Rectory Road, the verges are cut biannually by MHT. Ditch/pool works have been done when necessary. Some mature and veteran pollards are present.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Inspect bridge and undertake any remedial works as necessary.	✓				✓	Cont	GF
Mow open areas and roadside verges annually after August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Cut back side vegetation at pinch points and remove low branches.		✓				FS	GF
Spot treat all Giant Hogweed in Spring.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Organise Giant Hogweed eradication works from all nearby land with EA.			✓			CT	Grant aid?
Re-pollard urgent pollards.		✓	✓	✓		FS	GF
Coppice urgent Willows and Alder.				✓		FS	GF
Remove Sycamore where it is blocking views and crowding bridleway.			✓	✓	✓	V	GF

UNIT 6.8 Purlieu track and fields

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character area:	Principal Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	Calcareous grassland Broad-leaved woodland
Nationally important species:	Bats, Hazel dormouse? Dingy Skipper
Cultural heritage:	Old trackway, water pump
Earth heritage:	Streamside Silurian stratigraphy & tufa Quarry with exposed Silurian stratigraphy

DISCUSSION

A moderately steep rough track winding up the lower slopes of the Hills from Brockhill road to West Malvern road. From Brockhill road westwards to Mathon road it is a path only.

This land comes under the jurisdiction of MHT and the byelaws apply. The land is not owned according to the Land Registry.

It is used by walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and local residents' vehicles of the adjacent properties. It has ditching or a stream running adjacent for its entire length. Occasionally the stream crosses the route. Piping of the watercourse is present and a plank bridge. Wooden revetments on the lower half retain the path above the watercourse.



Parking on the verges is causing damage.

The watercourse has natural features including the cliff which is one of the local geological sites. It is not known whether the stream has native crayfish.

Broad-leaved woodland lines much of the track and is in good condition although non-native invasive Laurel, *Lonicera nitida* and *Crocsmia* sp are present in small numbers. The remainder is of amenity grass verges with two grass triangle areas. Some localised poached areas result in winter. Some dumping of garden waste occurs especially adjacent to Mathon road. The quarry at the western end has excellent exposures. The quarry is mostly fenced off and warning signs are present.

Purlieu Fields:

These two small fields are fenced and dissected by a small wooded stream. Two gates and an informal path are used by low numbers of local people. The flora suggests that these fields were extensively grazed in the past. Recent abandonment has allowed bracken and scrub to take hold. The result is a diverse range of plant structure from anthills covered with sparse short herbs to tall dense Angelica, Willowherb and Bracken stands. As a flower-rich glade within a woodland the site is of particular interest to invertebrates and Adder's Tongue Fern and Meadow Saffron are also of note. The latter is poisonous. Dingy Skipper has been recorded on this site in the recent past. The host plant, Bird's-foot Trefoil, is present but swamped by *Arrhenatherum*.

Recent management includes bracken cutting several times per year by volunteers, especially around the Saffron and anthills and this is working well but is labour intensive. Short spells of winter cattle grazing have much helped in keeping succession under control.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Mow verges and grass triangles 4-5 times per year as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Remove invasive, non-native species.			✓			W / V	
Inspect and undertake necessary works to the bridge and revetment infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain geological exposures.		✓		✓		CT / FS	GF
Cut or roll bracken in autumn avoiding Meadow Saffron.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Winter graze both fields ideally with cattle to open up the site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Gra	GF
Clear priority areas through cutting with hand tools and removing arisings.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / V	GF

UNIT 6.9 Lodge Fields (Link Top)

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

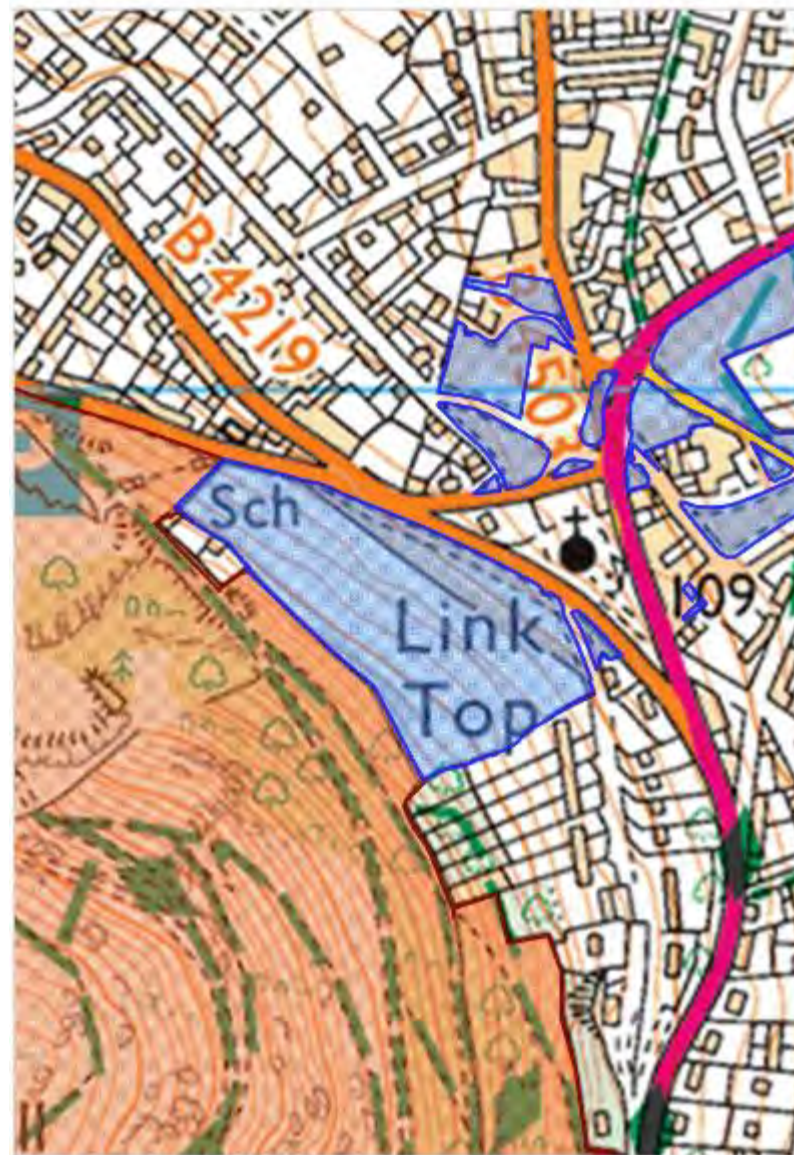
Landscape character type:	Urban
Nationally important habitats:	Lowland neutral grassland (MG6) Veteran trees
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Lodge Fields were originally four enclosed fields. The internal boundaries have gone leaving one large pasture with the remains of a small stock enclosure. The perimeter is stock fencing and Malvern stone walling. Some of this walling retains the site from the road.

It is predominantly species rich grassland that is sheep grazed in winter under grazing license. The sward appears in good condition. Areas of ruderal vegetation are very minor and peripheral. The northern and western edges have several parkland style veteran trees, mainly Ash, Oak and an unknown Larch sp. Several young trees are present in the centre of the field including Hornbeam and Beech.

This site forms a part of the Hills but despite this it is little used by the public and only one permissive path passes through.



UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run a conservation grazing scheme that maintains / restores the habitats. Sheep grazing in winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	Stew
Inspect and maintain the fencing and water trough.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / FS	GF
Inspect and maintain the retaining wall boundary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	staff	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

UNIT 6.10 Kendall's Common, North Malvern

STATUS

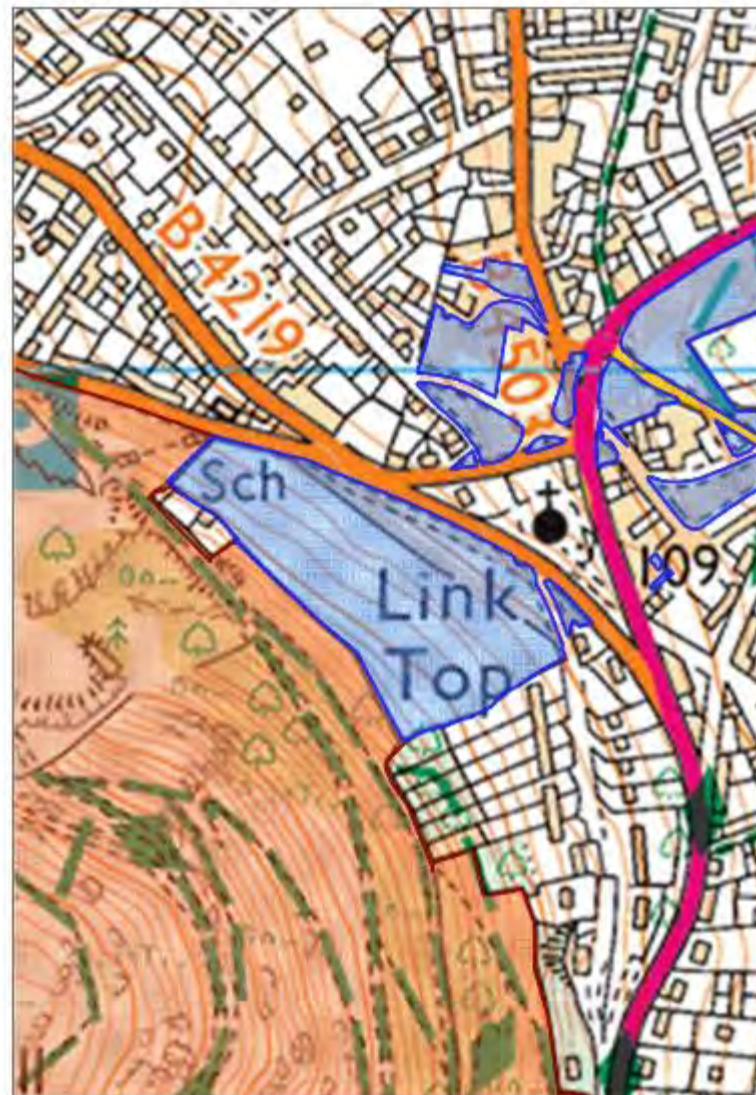
Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	Y
Listed building/Cons area	Y	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Urban
Nationally important habitats:	N
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	Stocks, whipping post, animal pound. Common land unit 16
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

A sliver of hill common land downhill of the enclosed Lodge Fields. It is mainly common grasses, hogweed, and nettle grassland with an avenue of mature lime running its short length. The area is cut annually. A recently felled lime has been replaced although if all the limes become dangerous within ten years there will be no mature limes here. The western perimeter was once a Malvern stone wall. Now only a fraction of this remains and the rest is native hedge planting with intermittent mixed age trees and shrubs including Laurel, Snowberry and Sycamore. Spanish/hybrid Bluebells are present.

Two permissive paths cross the site and there is one bench and two MHT id posts. At the southern end are three listed structures; a livestock pound, stocks and a whipping post. They are in good condition.



UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Mow grassland once annually within September to November.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Inspect the stocks and whipping post.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Undertake any essential maintenance / repair to stocks and whipping post in liaison with MHDC.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / FS	GF
Investigate ownership / responsibility of roadside walling.	✓					CT	GF
Remove non-native Snowberry and Laurel.		✓				W / V	GF
Reduce Sycamore to just the mature individuals.		✓				W / V	GF
Plant additional 2-3 limes.					✓	W / FS	GF
Mow verges and beside road 4-5 times per year or as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain new hedge planting.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / V	GF

UNIT 6.11 Chance's Pitch

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

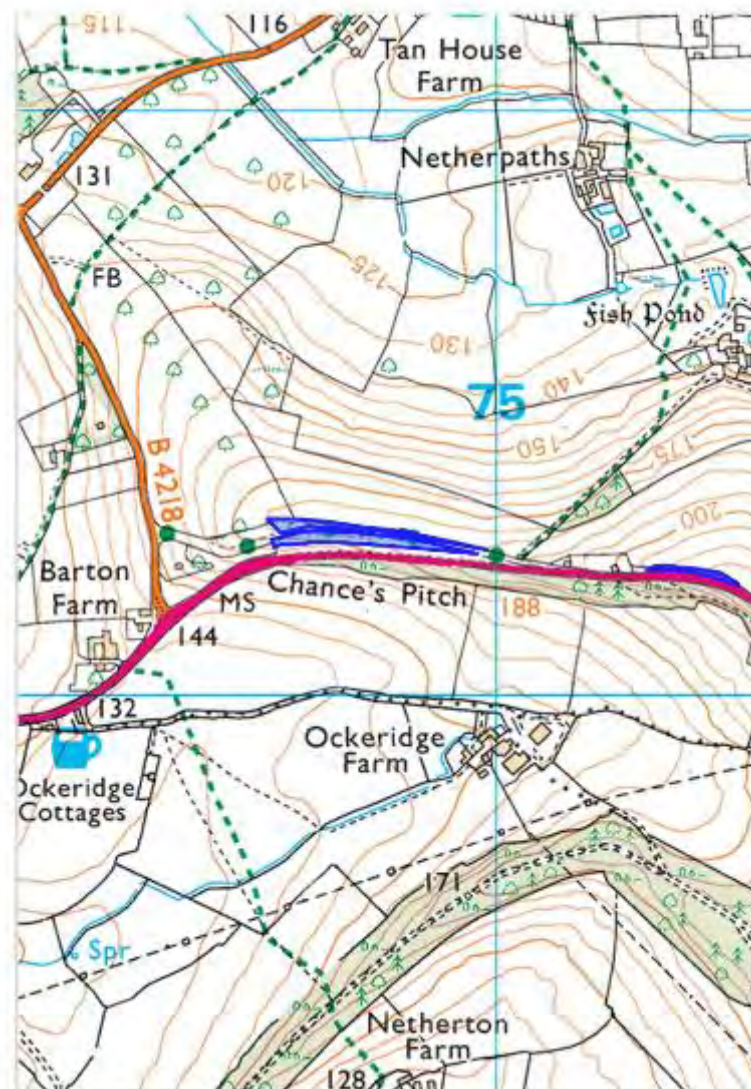
Landscape character type:	Principle Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	N
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Three small fragments of land near to the A449. They are mostly covered by secondary woodland and the old Ledbury road. One small old quarry is present.

Gates and fencing prevent any unauthorised use of the track. Highways Agency do occasionally use it for storage or parking.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low



WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintain gates and fencing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
The old highway surface will not be maintained.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Any reasonable works/use of the land Highways wish to do shall be accommodated.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Permit the remaining land to become woodland by natural succession.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

UNIT 6.12 Park Wood

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	Y

Landscape character type:	Principle Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved ancient Woodland
Nationally important species:	Wood Barley, Birds-nest Orchid Spotted Flycatcher, Marsh Tit, Dormouse
Cultural heritage:	Quarrying and lime-making industry Coppicing of woodland
Earth heritage:	Silurian limestone exposed in quarries

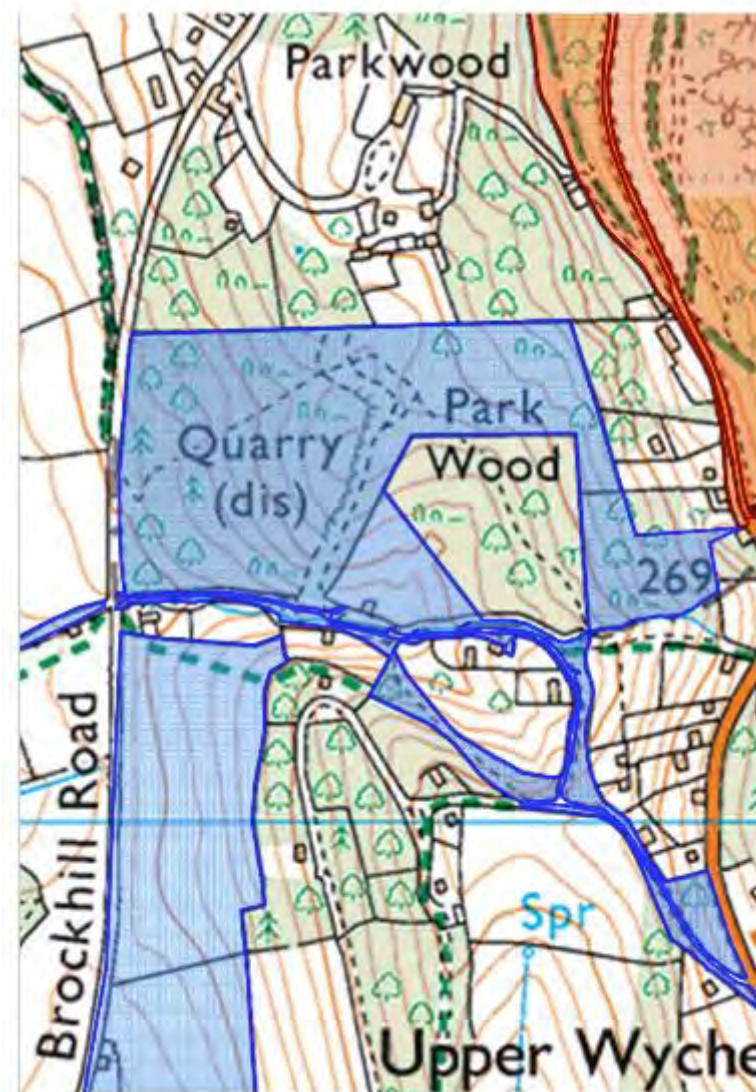
DISCUSSION

Park Wood is a fantastic piece of ancient woodland, full of evidence of the site's use by people for hundreds of years.

A third of the wood is currently actively managed as coppice with standards through a management license with a local woodsman. This is helping to maintain the cultural heritage and coppice habitat depended upon by Dormice. A Dormouse nest box scheme is in operation here. The remainder of the wood is unmanaged bar minor maintaining of paths.

The site is popular with local people mainly for walking and some horse/bike riding. The latter can cause localised poaching issues.

The site has a management license and Site Management Plan guiding specific works.



UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Continue to manage one third of the wood with active coppice with standards.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	GF
Manage the remainder with minimal intervention.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Maintain path network.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / FS	GF
Liaise with local people about work within the wood.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Update and enact Park Wood site management plan.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Support nestbox schemes (dormouse and pied flycatcher)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship scheme here.	✓					MHT	

UNIT 6.13 The Hacketts

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	Principle Timbered Farmlands
Nationally important habitats:	Mesotrophic grassland (MG6c)
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	Victorian cowshed, coppice
Earth heritage:	N

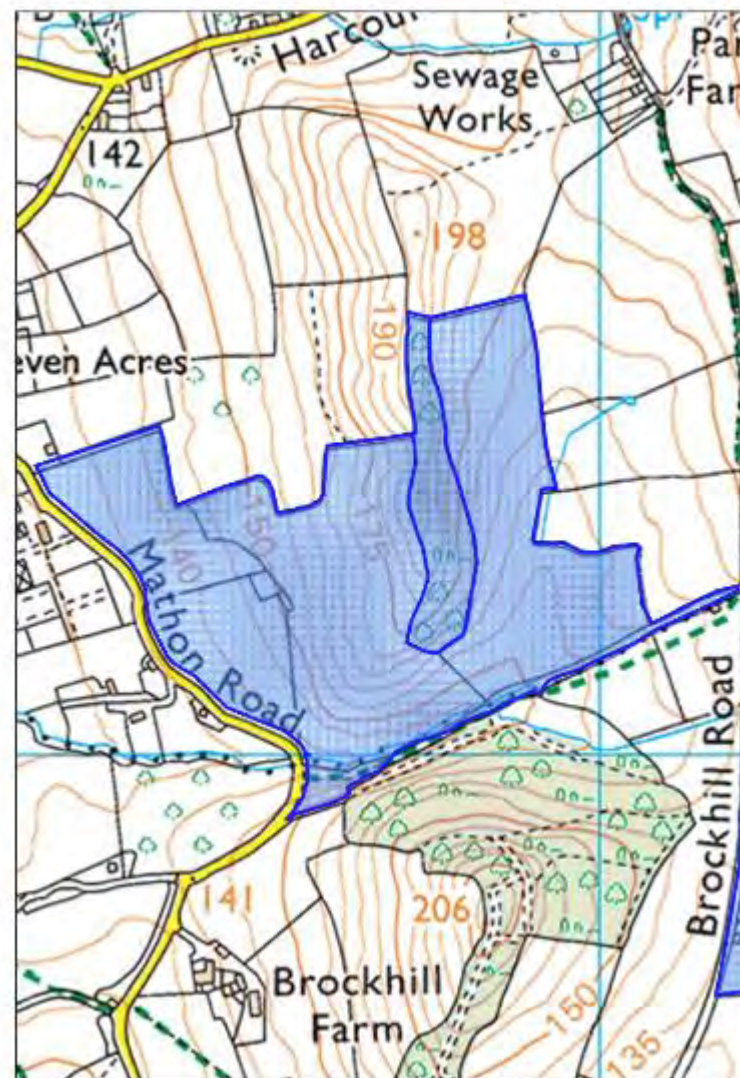
DISCUSSION

Collectively known as the Hacketts, this area is comprised of four parcels of land. Three large fields; Fern Hill, The Knell and Thetford's Meadow, are dominantly grassland divided by stock fencing. They were purchased in order to help facilitate grazing of the Hills. As such they are grazed by sheep and/or cattle on and off throughout the year.

The sward has not been fertilised recently and certain areas, especially on the steeper slopes are more species rich with Salad Burnet, Agrimony etc.

A surfaced track leads to a Victorian cowshed and associated hardstanding. Although not listed this building is of heritage value. It is used to store machinery and other materials. Its structural condition is good. The bottom of the track gets wet and easily poached.

The fourth land parcel is rented out to a private plant nursey business – John Richard's Nursery.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintain the use of the fields as in-bye land to help facilitate the Hills grazing as part of a license.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT Gra	
Cross-graze the fields to ensure the grassland is maintained or shut up and cut for hay in late Summer/Autumn.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra	GF
Maintain/fix fences and gates.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Spot-spray/weedwipe thistle infestations or top as necessary (as part of a rental agreement).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra	
Maintain cowshed in a suitable, weatherproof condition that befits its character.		✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / Gra	GF
Further improve the track to prevent poaching at the gateway.		✓				FS Cont	GF
Cut roadside hedge.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	GF
Plant new native hedgerow connecting Knell Coppice eastwards to the existing hedge network. 70m.	✓	✓				FS CT V	Grant aid?

UNIT 6.14 Knell Coppice

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	Principle Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved Woodland
Nationally important species:	Badger (Nightingale)
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Old maps show that this wood dates back to at least 1887. It was coppice with standards woodland. Nightingale have been reported from here in the recent past.

Today the wood is dominantly oaks of a uniform age with very little understorey due to livestock grazing within the wood. Tree diversity is poor especially at the southern end. Understorey and regeneration are vital components of a wood. As such, livestock were excluded from the wood in January 2014. However natural regeneration has been poor probably due to muntjac.

The site is perimeter stock fenced.

The site sees very little use by the public.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Manage the wood with minimal intervention allowing natural processes.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Ensure the site remains stock proof to allow natural regeneration.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / FS	GF
Create minor openings in the southern end and plant locally native tree species.	✓					CT	Grant aid?
Monitor the condition of the wood.	✓		✓		✓	CT	GF

UNIT 6.15 Ballard's Land

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/artefact	N	Local Geological Site	N

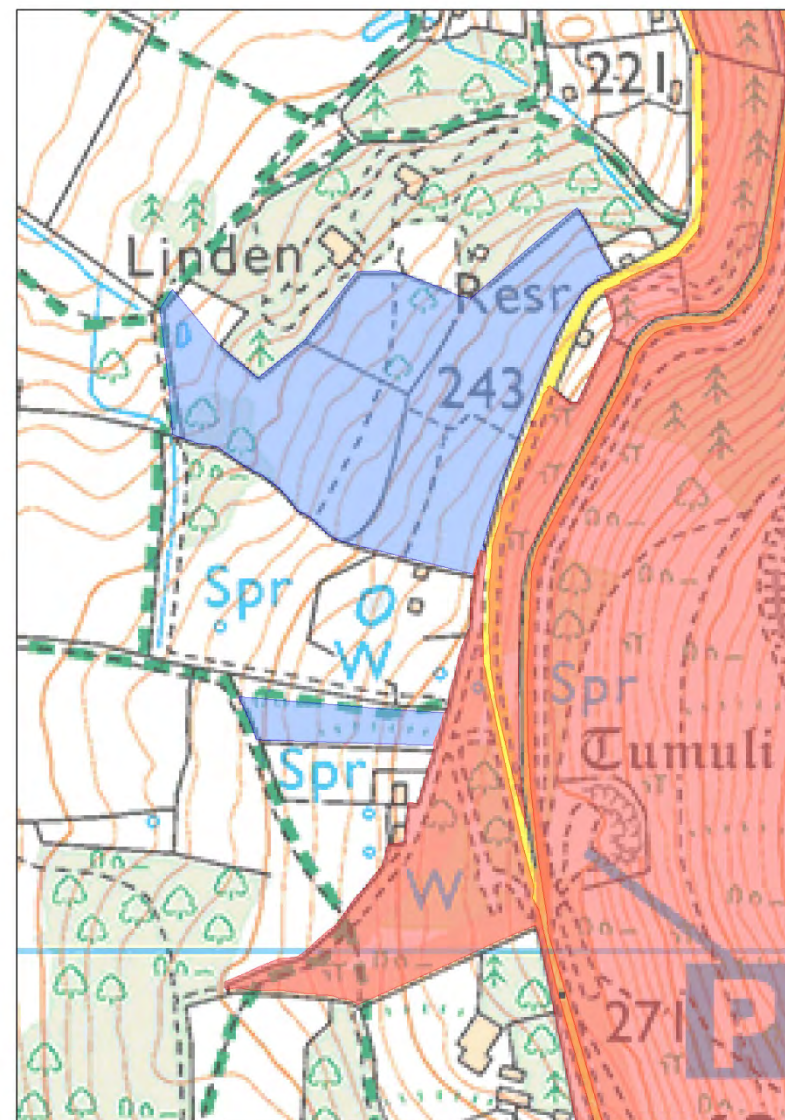
Landscape character type:	Principal Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grassland (MG6 & 10), Veteran trees, Ponds
Nationally important species:	Dingy skipper, Green Woodpecker, Bats
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Another piece of the foothills of the Malverns range. Ballard's land is comprised of three pasture fields with tree-lined borders and some internal fencing. Several fantastic veteran trees are present in the boundaries and these have been reduced in recent years to help keep them going.

The majority is unimproved grassland that provides a reasonable pasture for livestock. Heath spotted orchids and other herbs are more common in the northernmost field especially on anthills. Dingy skipper has been recorded here in recent years. Several young fruit trees have been planted. Wild daffodils are present in the pasture.

These fields are currently sheep and cattle grazed to keep the pasture maintained and the site open to the public. The land lies wet in winter and is easily poached. A pond lies at the western end, it's in good condition. Bracken has become dominant in places replacing the grasslands.



UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run conservation grazing scheme that maintains/restores the habitats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	Stew
Maintain fences, hedges and gates.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Bracken roll all sizeable areas where safe, once in July and again in August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain guards on fruit trees and replace if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Re-pollard/reduce veteran trees as needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / FS	GF
Lay second half of the boundary hedge beside the road.	✓					Cont	Gift Fund
Plant 4 new in-field trees to become future veterans.				✓		CT	Grant aid / Gift Fund

UNIT 6.16 Gardiner’s Common and adjacent fields

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/artefact	N	Local Geological Site	N

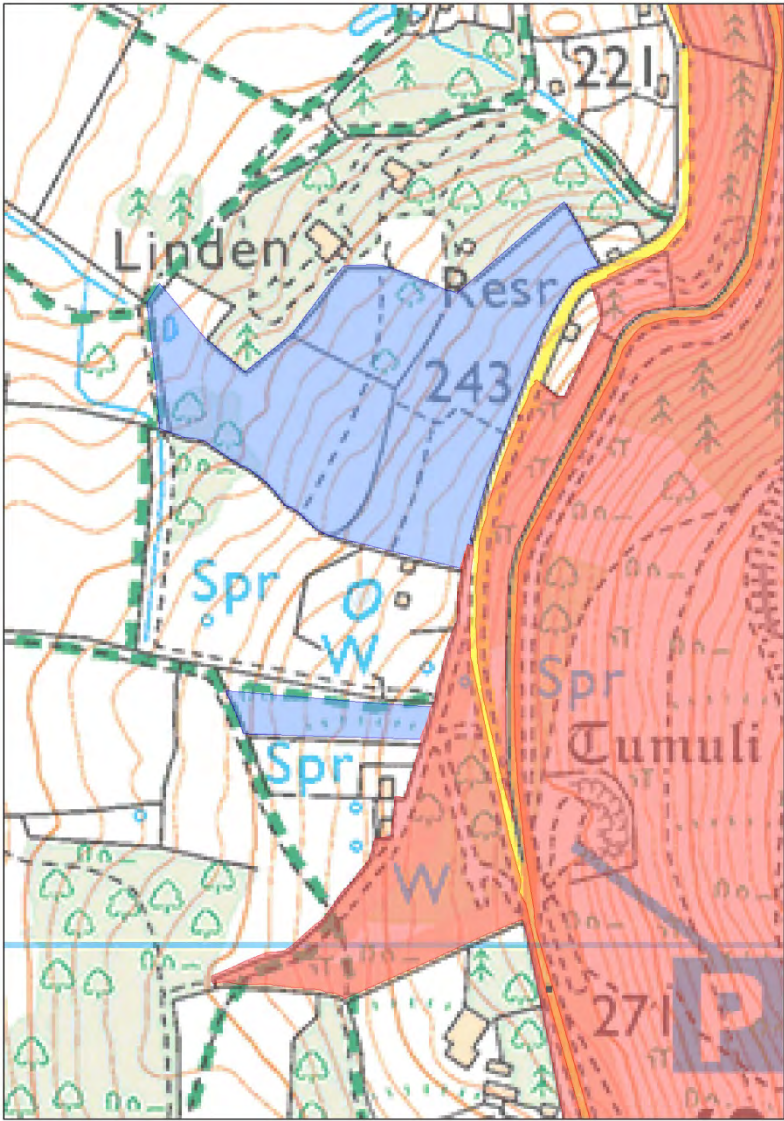
Landscape character type:	Principal Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved Woodland
Nationally important species:	Common spotted orchids, bats?
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 14
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

The area of common was historically grazed, probably as a part of the Hills. However, the road and tracks have amputated this area from Hills grazing. Much of the site is not mature woodland especially the western side. A strip between café and road is a mixture of grass, gorse and scattered trees.

The more open area is flailed every year to keep it open and permit access as it is busy with visitors here. Two tracks and two car parks are located here with some licensed business signage.

Nearby are three small enclosed fields running westwards adjacent to the public footpath. The eastward two have been used as in-bye pasture to help facilitate the grazing on the central hills. They are rather poached and the grass sward gives way to nettle beds in several places. A veteran beech tree is present whose roots have been fenced off from compaction by livestock. The westernmost little field is unused and becoming woodland. The fencing is in moderate condition.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Cut and collect open areas of the upper common.		✓		✓		FS	GF
Permit the western parts to become woodland through natural processes.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Use fields as in-bye pasture grazing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	
Weed-wipe / top nettle beds when necessary.	✓					Gra / Cont	GF

UNIT 6.17 Colwall Green

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	Urban / Principal Timbered Farmlands
Nationally important habitats:	Mire (M23), Wet woodland, Acid grassland (U4)
Nationally important species:	Song Thrush
Cultural heritage:	Village Green, Common land unit 13
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Land at Colwall is owned by Colwall Parish Council and MHT but all comes under the jurisdiction of MHT. It is jointly managed by both parties as accessible public space.

Grassland predominates with many mature trees mostly in avenues chiefly of Common Lime. The majority of grassland here (73 %) including Stowe Lane, Colwall Green and the verges is mown for amenity purposes (football pitch, paths, visibility splays, a playground and green space) they are regularly mown resulting in a common flora (MG1, MG7). Dumping of cuttings has created some small, enriched areas of Nettle and Dock.



Other areas have been managed for people and wildlife (27 %) through infrequent cutting and cut-and-collect operations by MHT. This has allowed rarer swards of great conservation interest to develop including Mire (M23) in the wetter areas and acid grassland (U4) in the drier areas. In late summer this creates a striking blaze of Devil's Bit Scabious – both aesthetically pleasing and valuable for invertebrates.

On Stowe Lane more recent tree planting has included Beech and Cherry but Lime predominates here too. A small area of alder coppice is present at the western end. Young Sycamore and Ash is growing immediately adjacent to the road which could become an issue. Five non-native Birch have been planted in Colwall Green. One Small-leaved Lime is present and one veteran Oak.

Some perimeters have ditches belonging to neighbouring properties. These are in various states of maintenance.

The site is very popular with local people and used daily by school children.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Mow amenity areas (football pitch, splays, and main paths) 4-5 times per year. Ensure any gathered cuttings are deposited in set locations. (See local agreement)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / CPC	GF
Replace any fallen / felled trees with Lime.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain existing extent of mire and acid grassland through a cut around March and cut and collect in October.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Trim epicormic growth on avenue trees once per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain / inspect children's play equipment.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CPC	
Remove any persistent tree saplings from the green.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CPC / MHT	GF
Investigate and enact ways to tackle roadside verge erosion.		✓				W	GF

UNIT 6.18 Malvern Verges (Guarlford Road, Chance Lane, Clevelode Road, Madresfield Road)

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	Neutral grasslands (MG5), Ponds
Nationally important species:	Great crested newt
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 18
Earth heritage:	N



DISCUSSION

A collection of wide road verges and manorial 'wastes' that now form part of the green space of suburban Malvern. Grazing here persisted into the 90's with travellers and their ponies. Several verges possess distinctive tree avenues including oaks, some veteran fruit trees and black poplar. Young planted trees are present ensuring continuity.

All of this land is grassland with the majority being amenity grassland mown frequently to permit easy public use and to keep highway sides clear.

A large area of the Guarlford road is managed as a hay meadow (Green Dragon to Rhydd). This includes patches of species-rich neutral grasslands.

Six ponds are present and are in mixed conditions. Two ponds beside Blakes Lane are in need of restoration as they are full of Reedmace. One pond has had *Azolla* and been treated with a biocontrol weevil, this has been effective. Ponds at Sherrards Green are popular fishing site. Rubbish and out-of-season fishing are minor issues here.

Some of the verges are mown by residents to varying degrees which suburbanises the common and deprives the farmer of some hay.

Beside the B4424 a thin sliver of highway verge forms a part of Dripshill Wood. It is a mixture of grass and trees. No management is currently undertaken. No issues are known of.

The ornamental/garden areas on the roundabout are managed by MHDC and beside the War Memorial by a gardening contractor. They are kept to a good standard.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Mow amenity grasslands 4-5 times per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Replace any fallen/felled avenue trees with locally native species.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Survey the ponds for invasive species.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Undertake any ditch work as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Empty the roadside drainage structure at Poolbrook / Geraldine junction annually.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain the extent of meadow grassland through an annual hay cut in July/August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	Stew
Flail encroaching side vegetation and scrub that escapes the hay cut to maintain the grassland.			✓			FS	GF
Maintain amenity areas (Barnards Green)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / MHDC	GF
Work with local residents to reduce verge mowing and increase wildflower areas.	✓	✓	✓			Staff	GF

UNIT 6.19 Townsend Way and Community Woodland

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved ancient Woodland, Neutral grassland (MG1), Veteran trees, Traditional Orchard
Nationally important species:	Slow worm, Newts
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

A linear strip of land at the edge of Malvern including roadside verge (B4208) and adjacent parcels. The verges beside the road are cut regularly and have avenue trees amongst the amenity sward. The verge's hinterland is more species rich with Knapweed. It is currently cut and collected annually.

The adjacent land is a 'Community Woodland' largely covered by secondary and newly planted woodland with neutral grassland. A small block of ancient woodland is present. A traditional orchard at the southern end of the unit is planted with local fruit tree varieties.



The site is criss-crossed with paths although some become unpassable in winter. Given the flat nature and proximity to housing the site has great potential as an accessible for all site.

Several waterways, streams and drains run through the site. Veteran trees, mainly willow and oak pollards, are found here.

Non-native *Aster* sp. is present invading grasslands, alongside other non-natives includes White poplars and ornamental birch species.

A site management plan is running that guides the work items of MHT and a supporting local volunteer group who help maintain the site.

Litter is a problem here with large quantities blowing across from the retail park.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Cut and collect species rich grasslands every other year.		✓		✓		FS	GF
Mowing highway verges 4-5 times per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Replace any fallen/felled avenue trees with native species.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Enact site management plan.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Work with local volunteer group to manage the site in partnership.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Maintain paths and access infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Investigate options to block litter from entering MHT land from retail.				✓		FS / CT	GF
Eradicate non-native <i>Aster</i> sp.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Work with Worcs CC/Highways to investigate new pedestrian crossings.		✓				CT	GF

UNIT 6.20 Old Hollow Land

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Principle Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	Acid grasslands (MG6), Mire (M23)
Nationally important species:	Waxcap assemblage
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

An outlier site, Old Hollow Land is a piece of the Malvern foothills. The land has been sheep grazed historically and presently by a local farmer.

The extensive grazing and unimproved soils ensures that the damp sward is of conservation interest and is particularly notable for its diverse waxcap assemblage. Grassland covers approximately one-third of the site with bracken/scrub and woodland on the remainder. The current condition is good and supportive of the landscape type.

Two pieces of ancient woodland are present – Walmspout Coppice to the northeast and Horsecroft Coppice to the west. Walmspout is a third of its former size due to historic fencing and livestock grazing. Livestock have recently been excluded and planting is underway particularly to restore a hazel understorey.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Extensively graze the open habitats with sheep within March – October.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra	
Diversify the sward of the northern field by strewing green hay from a suitable site.	✓					CT	Stewardship
Flail scrub and bracken to maintain rush pasture/grassland/scrub balance.	✓				✓	FS	GF
Maintain fencing and gates.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Cut / spot-treat pernicious creeping/spear thistles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra	
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Continue to improve woodland condition through light woodland works including coppicing.						CT	Stewardship
Restore ancient woodland section through planting and natural succession.	✓	✓				CT	Grant aid?

UNIT 6.21 Newland Common

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	Y	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	Neutral grasslands (MG5) Ancient trees, Pond
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 119 & 29
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Newland Common is a small collection of verges, open common with trees bounded by ancient boundaries. It is heavily dissected by busy roads which gives poor tranquillity and makes future grazing very unlikely.

Grassland predominates with coarse grasses (MG1) where no or little mowing has happened and one area of species rich grassland (MG5). Verges and visibility splays are mown regularly.

Several tree avenues are present, older avenues are of Common Lime and more recent additions are of Horse Chestnut and Red Oak. One gap is present in the lime avenue.

Some succession has occurred at the perimeters and some secondary woodland has grown up with Ash, Sycamore, White Poplars copses adjacent to rich boundary hedges.



One veteran Oak pollard is present and is crowded out. A pond is present and in good condition. It is linked to a redundant ditch and dam structures. The notable plant Corky-fruited Water Dropwort has been recorded near to these waterbodies.

There is no designated parking areas and no recreation infrastructure. There is evidence of driving on the common and gypsy encampment as there is nothing to stop vehicular access. Littering is also an issue. Several easements cross the common. Significant planned housing development in the local area will bring more visitors and possibly more issues to this site.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Replace missing Lime in avenue by Church					✓	FS	GF
Cut verges and splays 4-5 times as necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H'ways / FS	GF
Hay cut and collect existing species-rich areas in July/August annually	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS Cont	GF
Investigate expanding hay cut to other areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / FS	GF
Investigate protecting the site from vehicle encroachment	✓					CT	GF
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub / felling trees. Remove young sycamore infill.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / Vols	GF
Inspect and maintain drainage and dam infrastructure	✓				✓	FS	GF
Halo thin around ancient oak pollard	✓					W / V	GF
Cut remaining grassland once per year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Survey for Corky-fruited Water Dropwort		✓		✓		CT / V	GF
Replace any fallen / felled trees with site native species – Oak, Pear, Lime	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF

UNIT 6.22 Woodland off Jubilee Drive

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N&Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	Principal Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved Woodland
Nationally important species:	Bats
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 14
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Two small parcels of woodland adjacent to the southern end of Jubilee Drive (B4232). The first, Fishpool Leys Coppice, is opposite the Malvern Hills Hotel and is a foothill site of woodland and rough pasture. The hotel's sewage tank is present here that needs vehicular access. A well-used public toilet block is present and managed by Herefordshire Council. This is not common land.

The second site, beside Evendine Lane, has mature woodland with a good structure. Several non-native garden plants are present that are replacing the native ground flora. This is part of common land unit CL14. It is now ungrazed and has turned into mature woodland.

Old maps show that both parcels were once open pasture however they now contain mature woodland that positively contributes towards the landscape character type.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years ✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Remove non-native garden plants in the woodland site beside Evendine Lane.	✓					W	GF
Maintain arrangement with HC regarding the toilets. Undertake improvements to the dirty water collection/disposal system.	✓	✓				CEO	
Negotiate access and any works necessary for each hotel septic tank emptying.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W	
Allow the sites to become woodland via natural succession.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	staff	GF
Maintain the ancient woodland with minimal intervention.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	staff	GF

UNIT 6.23 Brockhill Road fields (Colwall Lands)

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Principle Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	N
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

These fields are semi-improved grasslands. They are stock-fenced and used as in-bye land to support the grazing of the Northern Hills. As such they are grazed intermittently throughout the year with sheep and cattle.

A modern farm building is present that houses livestock and associated equipment. A hardstanding is present too.

One public footpath crosses the northern field with a stile at either end.

Tree cover is low. Further hedging to field boundaries could help protect livestock and improve connectivity for wildlife.

A pond is present in the southwest corner. It is fenced off and nearly filled in from vegetation succession.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Graze the pastures to maintain the sward.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra	
Trim back the hedge along the roadside.		✓		✓		FS	GF
Control pernicious weeds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra	
Inspect and maintain fencing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gra FS	GF
Inspect and maintain stiles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain building and hardstanding area in good, cross-compliant condition.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont / FS	GF /
Plant native hedging with tree standards along the internal boundaries and double fence.	✓	✓				CT Cont	Grant aid
Assess existing buildings against existing operations and progress any capital improvements.	✓					CT Gra	Parl

UNIT 6.24 Land at Upper Colwall

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Principle Wooded Hills
Nationally important habitats:	N
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 14
Earth heritage:	N

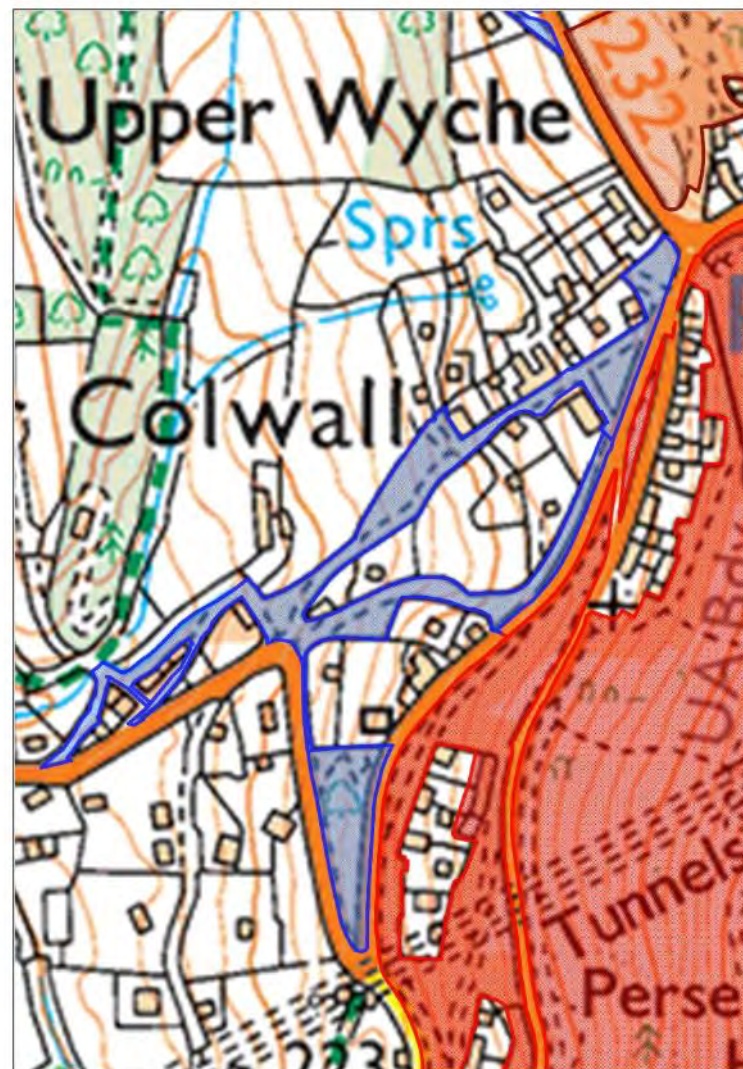
DISCUSSION

A collection of narrow slivers of land leading down the foothills of the Malverns. Most have paths or tracks running through them providing access mainly used by local people.

They are chiefly covered by commoner grasses and native woodland. Both of which contribute well to the landscape type. Grass areas are currently mown several times per year to keep them open. *Lonicera* has escaped gardens and is spreading on site.

Beside Fossil Bank is a spring, small green and playground. The play equipment is inspected and maintained by contractors.

The triangle of woodland is steep and enclosed by roads. It has a path through its northern part.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Mow grass areas 4-5 times per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Remove <i>Lonicera</i> .		✓				W	GF
Arrange inspection and maintenance work on play equipment.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CPC	

UNIT 6.25 Lidiards Field

STATUS

Public access	N	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Enclosed Common
Nationally important habitats:	Native hedgerow
Nationally important species:	House sparrow
Cultural heritage:	-
Earth heritage:	-

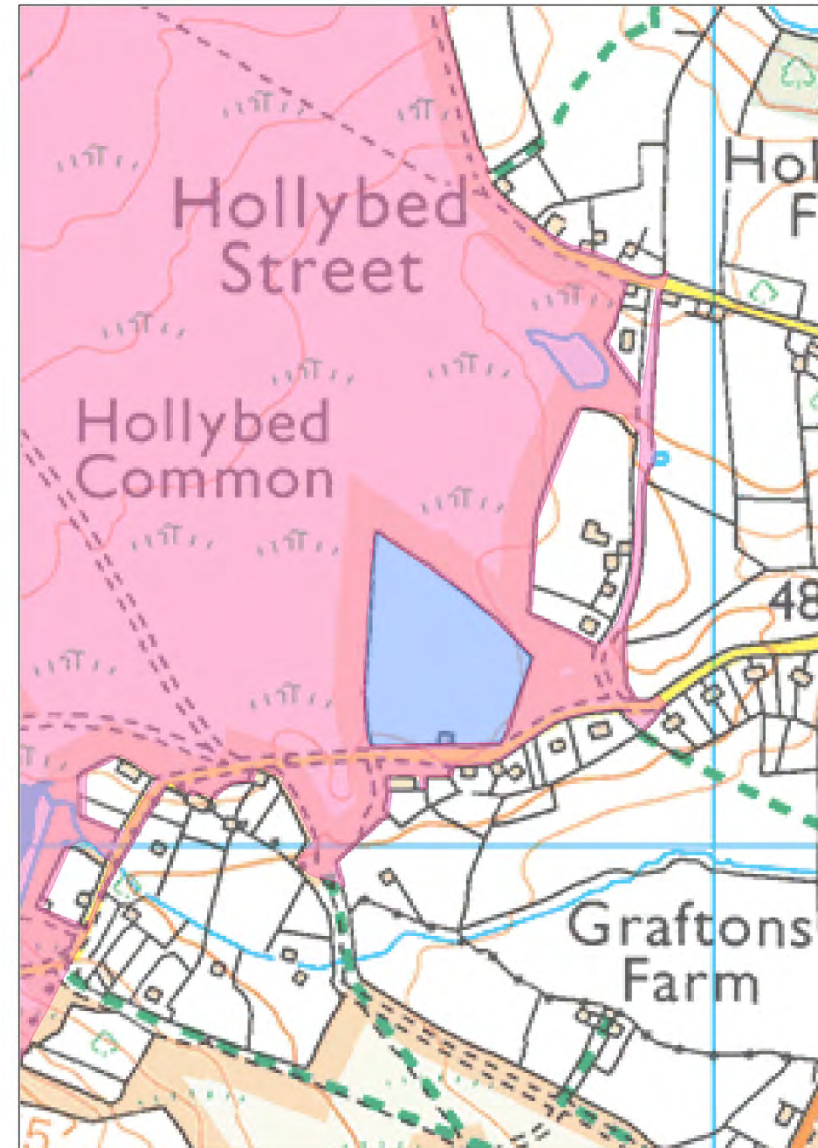
DISCUSSION

This single field was enclosed from the surrounding common in the far past. More recently it has been used for private livestock grazing unrelated to the common.

It comprises several acres of semi-improved grassland surrounded by a thick native hedge that provides good cover to both livestock and wildlife including the red-listed house sparrows.

It has been purchased by the Trust to provide in-bye land to support commoners grazing of Hollybed Common.

New fencing and water trough have been installed.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run short licences allowing commoners to keep livestock in the fields or shut up for hay. No fertilisers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT Gra	
Maintain fencing and water infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Maintain hedges as thick, wildlife friendly habitats to be cut when necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	GF

UNIT 6.26 Broomy Bank, Brooks Meadow, Plants Piece, Snookes Croft.

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	N	Rights of Way	N
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Enclosed Commons
Nationally important habitats:	Veteran trees, pond
Nationally important species:	-
Cultural heritage:	-
Earth heritage:	-

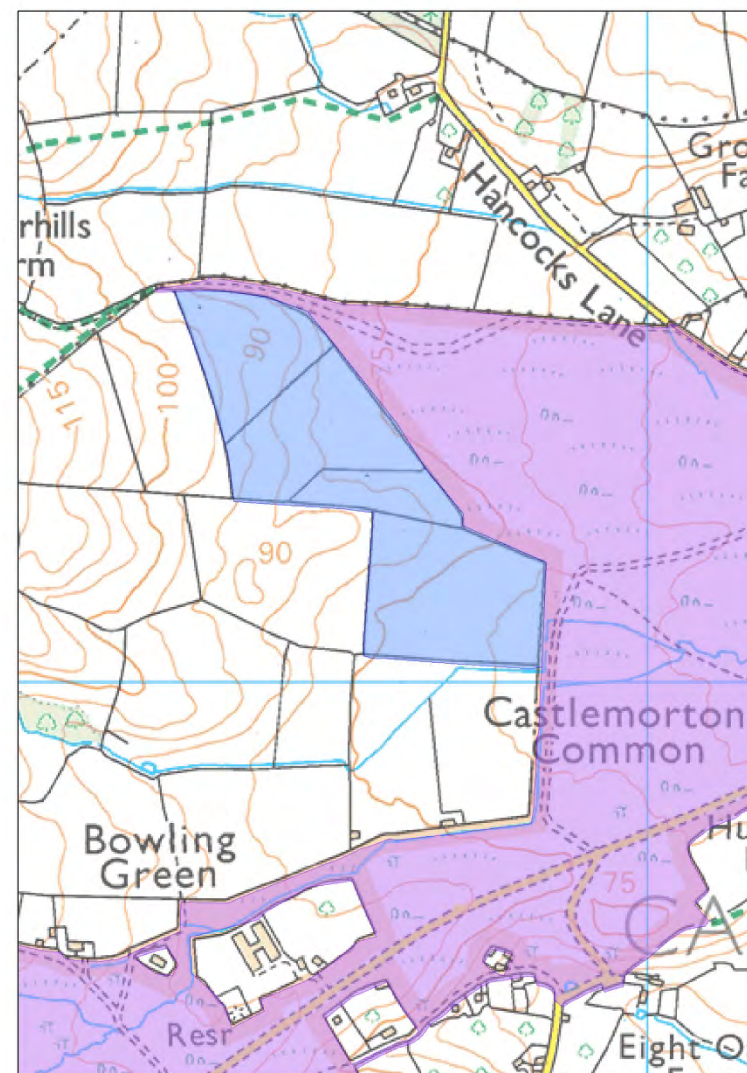
DISCUSSION

All four fields are the lowest part of the Malvern foothills before the flat Common of Castlemorton. all of the fields support semi-improved grasslands bordered by native hedges some with tree standards.

A ramshackle hay shed is present in Snookes Croft and a small hut in Broomy Bank.

The fields were purchased in order to provide in-bye land to support the grazing of Castlemorton Common by commoners' livestock or to supply local hay.

In 2020 the fields were re-fenced and mains water was connected to new troughs. New hedging was planted along two internal boundaries. A pond was created in Snookes Croft.



UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Run short licences allowing commoners to keep livestock in the fields or shut up for hay. No fertilisers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT Gra	
Maintain fencing and water infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Provide aftercare for newly planted hedges.	✓	✓				CT	GF
Maintain hedges as thick, wildlife friendly habitats to be cut when necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Plant perimeter and in-field trees of local character.				✓		CT V	Grant aid
Replace existing hay shed with cattle shed and hard-standing suitable to house livestock over winter.		✓	✓			Cont	Grant aid Parl

UNIT 7.1 OLD HILLS (west)

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	Lowland neutral grassland (MG6) Rush pasture Ponds
Nationally important species:	Great crested newt, Cuckoo, Barn owl, Song thrush. Bats, Slow worm, grass snake, White letter hairstreak, White admiral, Grass Rivulet Berkley's Earthstar
Cultural heritage:	Common land unit 28
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Today, Old Hills is a popular recreation location favoured particularly by dog walkers, horse riders and summertime picnickers.

The common and adjacent Deblin's Green were grazed by local commoners with a variety of different animals. Grassland was the dominant cover but scattered parkland style trees were present. Grazing declined when the B4211 became busy and the number of dog attacks on livestock rose.



Today only a few tethered horses graze for a few weeks of the year. Since the decline in grazing, the vegetation composition has become increasingly dominated by scrub and woodland.

The lowland grassland / meadow (MG6) is maintained by a late annual hay cut and this moderately species-rich grassland covers 1/3 of the unit. Yellow rattle, the food plant of the Grass rivulet moth, is abundant.

The remaining grassland is maintained by annual mowing or not at all so is thus succumbing to vegetation succession and becoming increasingly dominated by coarse *Arrhenatherum* grassland communities. Anthills, the main food source for green woodpeckers, are abundant.

Scrub and trees account for 2/3 of the unit, much of it boasts a varied species composition and age class, maintained in part by the mowing schedule. Elm scrub is found on the northern edge and southern side of the unit, the leaves being the foodplant of the White-letter hairstreak butterfly and the roots being associated with the critically endangered Berkley's Earthstar fungus (thought extinct in the UK until its discovery here). The scrub is valuable for birds and invertebrates but is being lost to trees especially Sycamore.

The site's reptile and amphibian population is strong with Slow worms frequenting the mown grassy glades through the scrub thickets and grassland edges, Grass snakes and Great Crested Newts making use of the ponds and rough vegetation.

The site is dissected by unsurfaced paths mown 2-3 times per year, an easement and has a land drainage network of ditches. Two surfaced car parks are present and the eastern parcels are opened up for off-road car parking in summer. This has become so popular that the ground is becoming compacted and the species-rich sward lost. Many adjacent houses undertake mowing of the common outside their properties and paths nearby. The site is popular with horse-riders and this can cause localised poaching especially in winter making access difficult for others.

The Stewardship plans clearly highlight which ponds to restore and which scrub areas to undertake work upon.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Hay cut the meadow once annually, after mid-July.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	
Restore some scrub to open grassland diversity by cutting and removing arisings.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	Stewardship
Run conservation grazing scheme that maintains/restores the habitats. Priority areas are species-rich grassland / anthills in the north.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	Stewardship
Diversify existing grassland swards by green hay strewing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / W / V	Stewardship

Restore open habitats by thinning scrub and felling trees. Target sycamore trees (south and west sides).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / V	Stewardship
Restore ponds through de-silting works (3) and removal of shading scrub (6).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / V	Stewardship
Review horse riding situation with stakeholders and take relevant actions.		✓				CT	GF
Mow paths and adjacent to car parks 4-5 times per year as needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Undertake ditch clearance if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Install interpretation board and other new signage.			✓			CT	GF
Consider installing a car park meter.			✓			MHT	
Inspect and maintain plank bridges.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / W	GF
Undertake special works for the Earthstar in liaison with mycologists.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Devise a plan to secure the common along the main road for livestock grazing across this eastern part of the common together with enhancement to the car parking to reduce driving/parking on the greenspace. Enact if appropriate.		✓				MHT	GF
Expand existing lower car park by replacing traffic island with further parking bays.	✓					FS Cont	GF

UNIT 7.2 OLD HILLS (east)

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Severn and Avon Vales
Nationally important habitats:	Broad-leaved Woodland
Nationally important species:	Bats, woodland butterflies
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

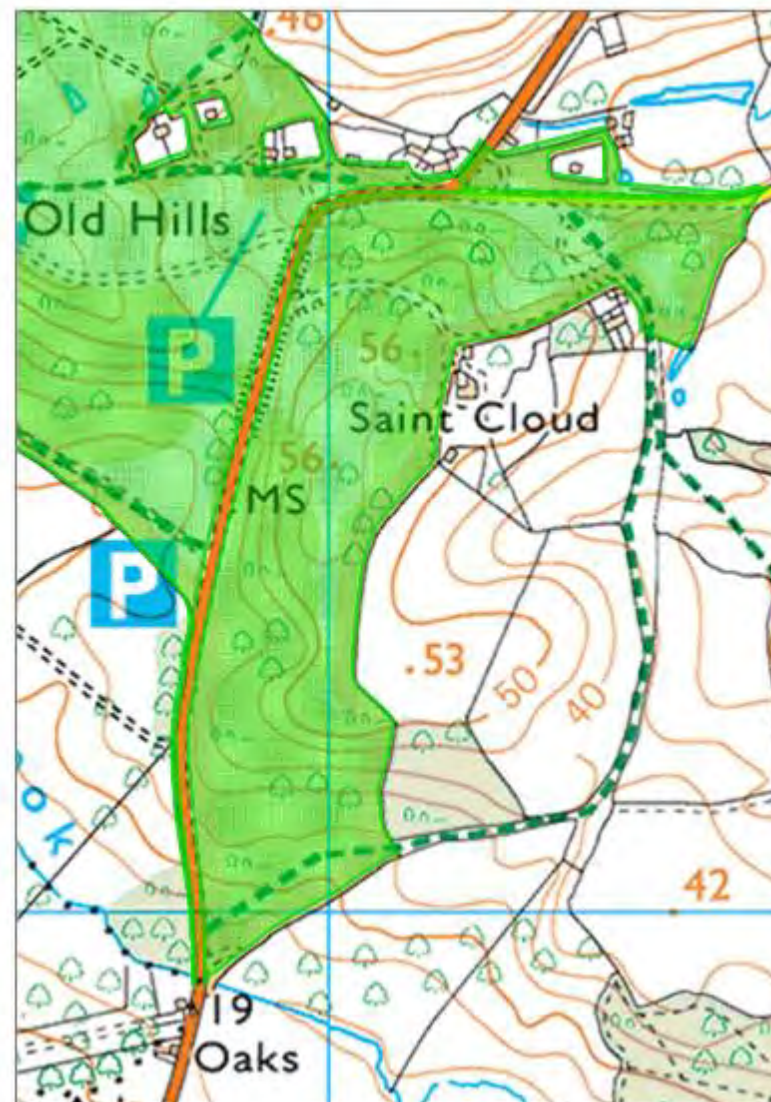
DISCUSSION

The 1886 OS map clearly show this site as open, however, the decline in commoners' grazing animals has affected this half of Old Hills earlier. Mature woodland and scrub now predominate. The woodland is mainly Oak and Ash with minor exotic shrubs.

A track crosses to St Clouds and informal and public footpaths go through the wood. One woodland ride is fairly wide and creates some habitat diversity. Use by horse riders can cause localised poaching and access issues.

Recent management has focused on tree safety, maintaining the ride and keeping rights of way useable. No broader woodland management has taken place.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low



WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Create native broad-leaved woodland through natural succession on this unit.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	
Mow verges and visibility splays 4-5 times per year as needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / H'ways	GF
Maintain ride and main access routes through annual flailing after August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Survey site for access issues and address poaching by horse-riders if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / W	GF
Identify non-native shrub species and remove if necessary.	✓					W / V	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	

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UNIT 8.1 Link Common and land by Hornyold Road

STATUS

Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	N
AONB	N	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	Y	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character area:	Urban
Nationally important habitats:	N
Nationally important species:	Slender Hare's Ear
Cultural heritage:	Tree avenues, social events, CL unit 19
Earth heritage:	N

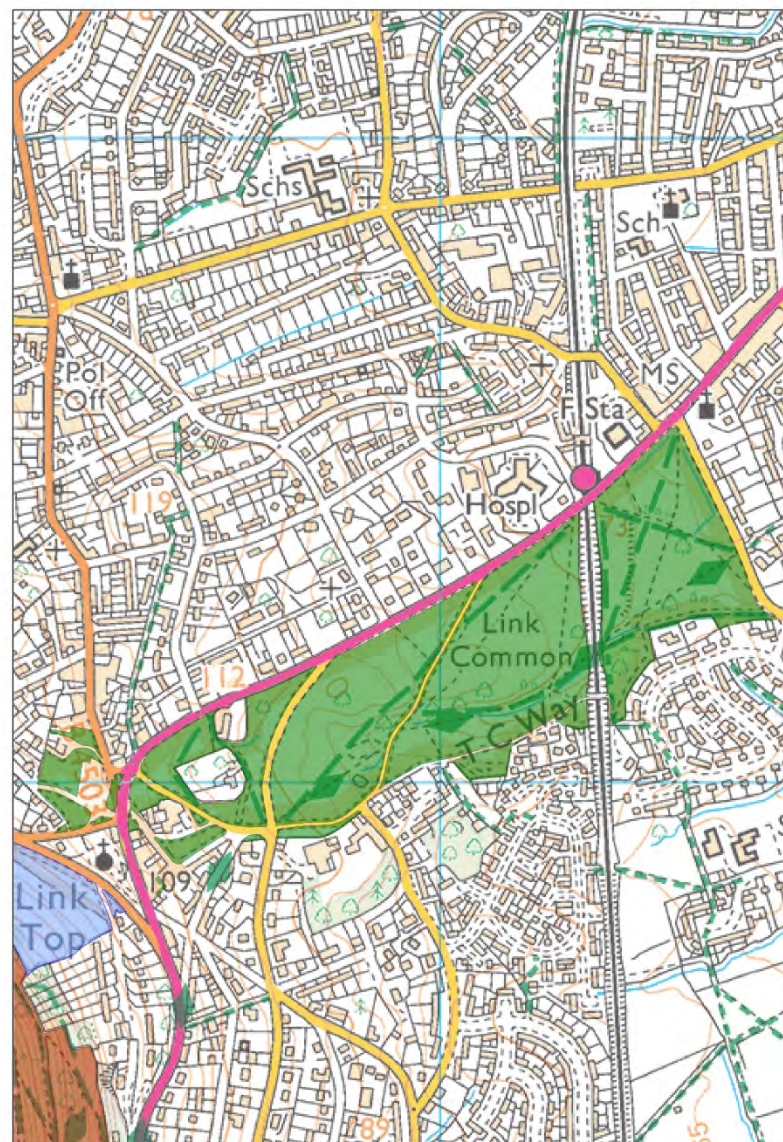
DISCUSSION

Old maps and photos show Link Common in much the same order as today. The most notable changes are the siting of two car parks, addition of tree avenues and the growth of trees i.e. the transition from working common to park.

No common rights have been exercised here in recent times and mowing has replaced grazing. Steeper ground has become woodland and scrub which now covers about 20 % of the site. The remainder being grassland; half of which is cut regularly and the other half cut once per year. The proportions are about right.

The site is very popular with local people for recreation. Several annual events are held including music festivals and a fairground.

Bins (4) and benches (4) are present.



No major issues can be identified here and the site serves society well. Minor issues present include; suburbanisation, encroachment, joyriding, litter, cycling and digging.

Slender Hare's Ear has a small population here. It's at risk from vegetation succession and also verge cutting.

UNIT PRIORITY: Low

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years✓					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Review mowing schedule to ensure amenity areas are located sensibly.	✓					CT / FS	GF
Mow all grassland (except for meadow areas) as amenity sward. 4-5 times per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Cut and collect meadow areas every other year.		✓		✓		FS	GF
Cut ditch-side vegetation and clean out ditch as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Replace avenue trees with Lime when necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
The focus on this site should remain people and recreation. Events should be carefully overseen.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Investigate the use of the site and possible improvements to existing structures for wheelchair and pushchair users.			✓			CT	GF
Cut and remove roadside vegetation on the Cockshot road cutting for Slender Hare's Ear.	✓					CT / W / V	GF
Survey for Slender Hare's Ear.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT	GF
Improve the surface of all the bridleways.			✓			FS Cont	Grant aid GF

UNIT 8.2 Malvern Common

STATUS

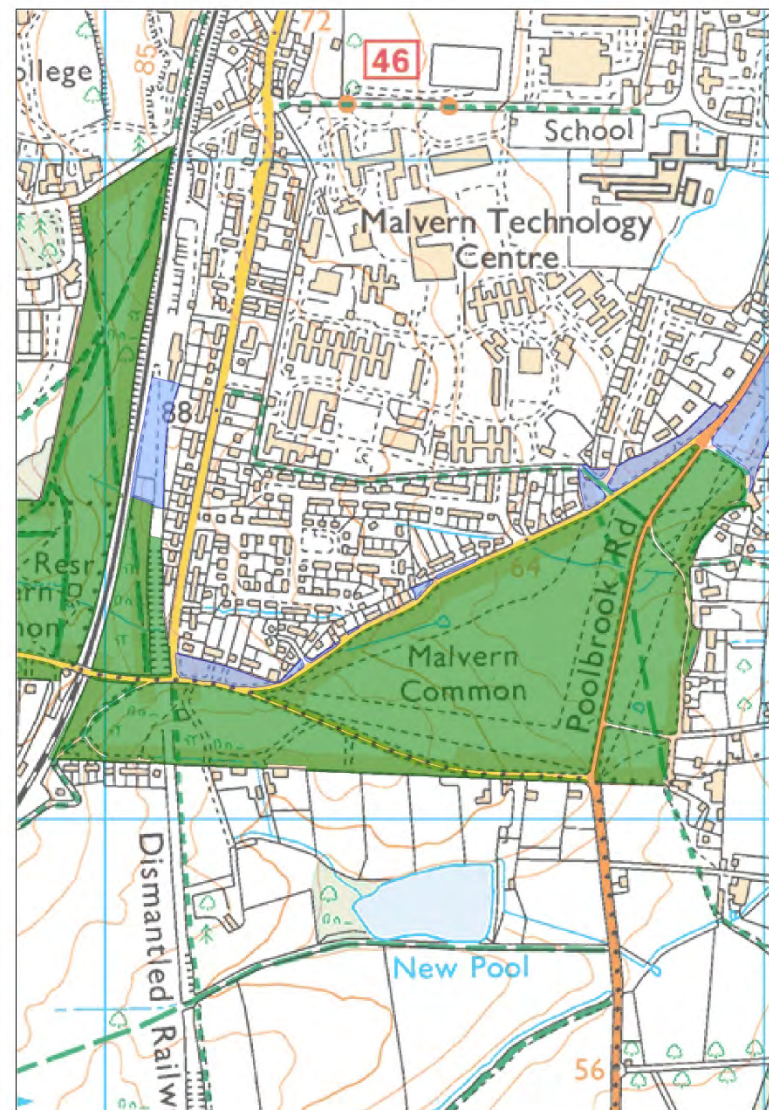
Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	Y	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	N	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	Unenclosed Commons
Nationally important habitats:	Lowland neutral meadow (MG5) Mire (M23), Ponds
Nationally important species:	Skylark, newts, Marsh Orchid
Cultural heritage:	N
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Traditionally this common was grazed by local commoner's livestock until the 1990's. Parts have also been used as a golf course. Cutting the central part of the common for hay has taken over as the main form of management today and this has developed the species-rich grassland and mire flora now present on 85 % of the site. The remainder is rank grasses and herbs where the hay cut machinery cannot reach or amenity grass kept for access or highway visibility. The eastern 6th of the site is too uneven for large machinery which hinders hay cutting and the quality of habitat here has deteriorated. Bracken is present at the western edge and appears to be advancing eastwards.

Two small ponds are present and both were restored in 2017. One holds a good flora and fauna, although the non-natives Curly Waterweed (*Elodea densa*) and a Lily species are present.



The other pond, to the east, is shallow and can dry out. Two small watercourses cut across the site and are dredged periodically. A scattering of trees is present adjacent to Longridge road with many younger trees adjacent, mainly oak, willow and horse chestnut. Three White Willows are present in the southwest corner.

The site is used mainly by local people especially for dog walking. Horse-riding, kite flying and nature study are popular pastimes here. Access is improved in summer by mowing main paths regularly. There are two small car parks and one bench. Issues include digging and reseeding by utility companies, litter, disturbance to nesting Skylark and dumping of household/garden waste. Driving on the common between the two car parks has been greatly reduced by adding barriers and stones.

The site extends from the track opposite St Andrew's road eastwards to Churchdown road.

The SSSI is in 'favourable condition'.

UNIT PRIORITY: high

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Undertake annual hay cut and collect in August/September as season dictates. This should cover as much of the site as possible.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cont	Stewardship
Mow highway visibility splays, main paths and verges 4-5 times per year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Cut and collect with smaller machinery the eastern 6 th of the site in August/September as the season dictates.	✓		✓		✓	FS	Stewardship
Restore open habitats by thinning scrub / felling trees.		✓				W / V	GF
Remove non-native pond species.		✓				W / V	GF
Advocate sticking to paths during bird breeding season.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	W / CT	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓				MHT	

UNIT 8.3 Wells Common

STATUS

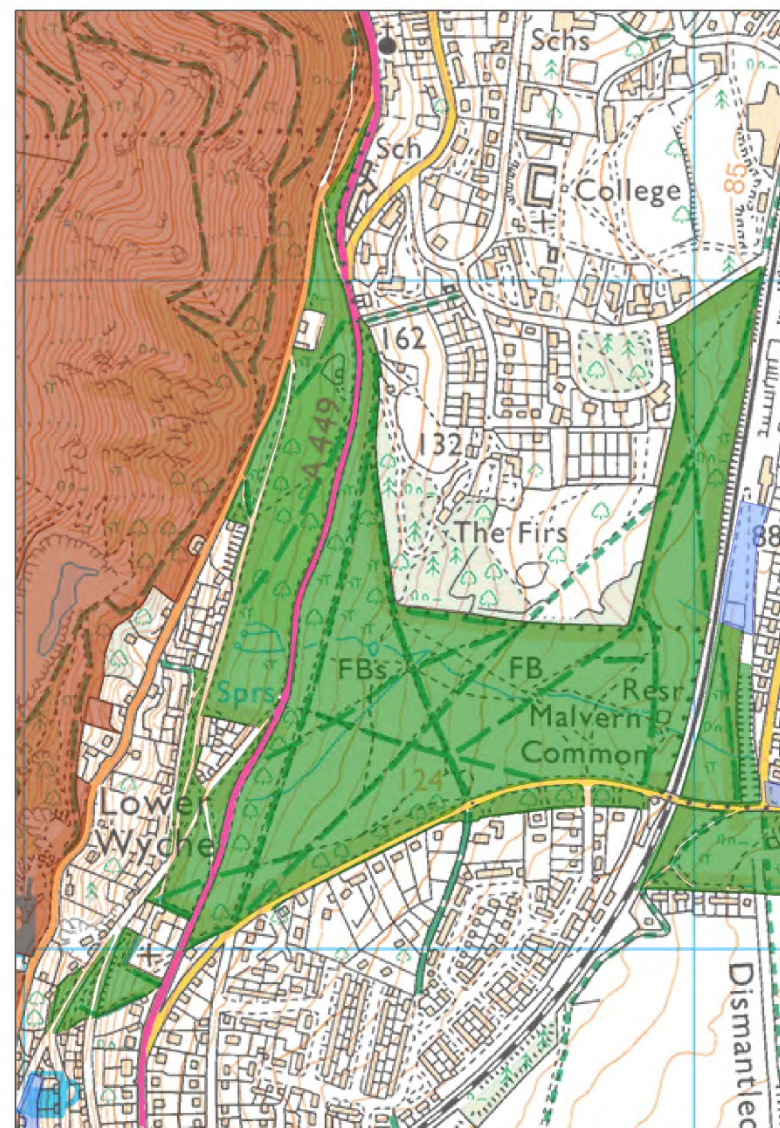
Public access	Y	Scheduled Monument	N
Common land	Y	Rights of Way	Y
SSSI	N	Scheme (e.g. Stewardship)	Y
AONB	Y	Water Source Protection Zone	N
Listed building/Cons area	Y	Local Geological Site	N

Landscape character type:	Enclosed common
Nationally important habitats:	Lowland neutral grassland (MG6), Stream
Nationally important species:	N
Cultural heritage:	Tree avenues, common land unit 17
Earth heritage:	N

DISCUSSION

Wells Common is an open, moderately steep common dominantly of grass and bracken with scattered, mainly peripheral mature trees. Historically it was grazed by local commoners' sheep and horses. Later it was mown as a golf course (~1900). The site is criss-crossed with paths including the Ladies Mile promenade. A small stream dissects the site. Victorian and modern drainage structures are present.

The grassland is rank (MG1) and dominated by False-oat Grass. Bracken is present on two-thirds of the site. In places Bracken is dominant especially in upper areas where stands can be tall and prevent access. Bracken rolling and cut-and-collect takes place on a third each year to good effect. On awkward terrain succession has occurred and the tree cover has increased, mainly of Oak, Ash, Sycamore and minor Laurel. Some small copses are now present especially either side of the A449. Certain areas are regularly mown by the school and beside Longridge road.



The grassland of the northeastern part is more species-rich (MG6) possibly related to historic gravel extraction. The flora is maintained by an annual hay cut. However, bracken is spreading to this area too making it unattractive as a hay crop. Many ornamental trees have been planted here.

Mature tree avenues that border the roads are dominantly Lime with some Horse Chestnut. They make a striking local landmark.

Severn Trent Water has pipework, pumping station and storage structures underground. A couple of small areas with hatches are regularly mown by this company. The pond is on-line, dammed and is very popular with dogs. It is very silty. Several 'gas' lamps are on the verges.

Adjacent to the railway underpass is an enclosed parcel that was formerly a plum orchard then livestock pen. A few remnant yellow egg plum trees remain.

The site receives moderate use by the public, mostly for walking, running, dog-walking, horse-riding, football and events such as Malvern College's annual National Cross-country event. There are 4 plank bridges, 3 bins, 5 car parks and 5 benches. 1 goal post stands on the football pitch and one is missing.

UNIT PRIORITY: Medium

WORK SCHEDULE:

	Years					Who	Fund
	1	2	3	4	5		
Undertake annual hay cut of all suitable grassland after mid-July and before September.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT / Cont	GF
Bracken roll all sizeable areas where safe, once in July and again in August.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Permit woodland creation via natural processes and planting beside Wells road north.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	Grant aid?
Remove Laurel and treat stumps.				✓		W / V	GF
Inspect and maintain the footbridges, pond dam and other water infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Mow amenity and highway areas 3-4 times per year as needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS / H'ways	GF
Mow football pitch and main paths 5-10 times per year as needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	FS	GF
Cut saplings in open areas and those along the stream which are dividing the common.				✓		FS	GF
Replace fallen/felled avenue trees with native species.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CT FS	GF
Clear ditch/vegetation to allow access to bridge structures.			✓			FS	GF
Deliver remaining Stewardship agreement here.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	GF
Restore orchard to a become a community orchard with local fruit varieties. Plant 20 trees.	✓	✓				CT FS	Grant aid?

3.4 PROJECTS PLAN

To help highlight special pieces of work programmed for the next 5 years and to help with financial planning this section lists all of the special projects that have been identified in the work programme. These projects are captured from the preceding text and reproduced in a table in no particular order.

PROJECT & PRIORITY STATUS (High / Medium / Low)	YEAR					WHO	FUND	COST EST
	1	2	3	4	5			
1# New MHT identification posts and/or signage to be added to all separate MHT land parcels and well-used parking areas. H	✓	✓				CT / W / FS	?	£25,000
2# The invertebrate fauna of the Hills and Commons is poorly understood and should be surveyed and recorded. L				✓		CT	GF Grant aid	£3000
3# Undertake National Vegetation Classification survey. M	✓					Cont	Gift fund	£6000
4# Support sensitive, extensive livestock grazing run by local farmers/commoners. Improve existing grazing infrastructure to include water troughs, permanent posts for fencing and handgates. M	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff	Stewardship & GF	£7500
5# Investigate ways to secure whole areas of common to prevent wandering livestock. Enact if appropriate. M	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff / gra	Grant aid Parl	-
6# Repair short section of the Shire Ditch at Summer Hill. M				✓		FS / CT	GF / Grant aid?	£1000
7# Repair / improve sections of the ridgeline in response to visitor erosion. H	✓	✓	✓			FS / CT	GF	?
8# Undertake sensitive restoration work plus new interpretation on the Donkey Shed. M	✓	✓				Cont	Grant aid?	£20,000
9# British Camp – Repair remaining significant gullies and holes in the monument in liaison with Historic England. M				✓		CT FS	GF	£1000
10# British Camp – Resurface the main concrete track with a safe, aesthetically sensitive material. L					✓	Cont	Grant aid?	£30,000
11# Restore section of the Shire Ditch north of Pink Cottage and add diversionary measure to guide the public traffic. M	✓	✓				CT FS	GF	£1000
12# Gullet quarry – Facilitate a fish survey. L				✓		CT / EA	Grant aid?	£1500

13# Consider changing Gullet Quarry from open water area (with associated recreation problems) to a well-vegetated waterbody offering new habitat and deterring swimmers. L	✓					MHT	Grant aid?	£2000
14# Swinyard Hill – Undertake restoration to wood pasture on the western hillside through felling secondary woodland. M	✓	✓				FS	Stew	£3000
15# Swinyard Hill – Make the western hillside more suitable for extensive grazing by installing infrastructure. M	✓	✓				FS Gra	GF	£2000
16# Ragged Stone Hill – Secure the site for grazing by investigating options for the two gateways. Enact appropriate solutions. M	✓	✓				CT	GF / Parl	£3000
17# Chase End Hill – Add small fencing areas to permit gorse recolonisation at the eastern foothill. Plant gorse if necessary. Ensure future mechanical works occur only on the grassland areas. L		✓	✓			CT	Grant aid? GF	£500
18# Castlemorton Common – Eradicate <i>Crassula</i> from the two ponds. M	✓	✓				CT / Cont	Grant aid	-
19# Castlemorton Common – Develop and enact a strategy to reduce parking on the common, especially the SSSI. Utilise stobs, rocks etc to prevent parking and improve the parking situation at Swinyard car park. H	✓	✓				staff	GF	£3000
20# Bowling Green Meadow – Install stobs to prevent vehicles accessing the site unlawfully. L	✓					staff	GF	£1000
21# Wood Street – Organise Giant Hogweed eradication works from all nearby land with EA. L			✓			CT	Grant aid?	?
22# Ballards Land – Lay second half of the boundary hedge beside the road. L	✓					Cont	Gift Fund	£2000
23# Ballards Land – Plant 4 new in-field trees to become future veterans. L				✓		CT	Grant aid / Gift Fund	£100
24# Walmspout Coppice – Restore ancient woodland section through planting and natural succession. L	✓	✓				CT	Grant aid?	£300
25# Hacketts - Plant new native hedgerow connecting Knell Coppice eastwards to the existing hedge network. 70m. L	✓	✓				FS CT V	Grant aid?	£1530
26# Brockhill rd fields - Plant native hedging with tree standards along the internal boundaries and double fence. L	✓	✓				CT Cont	Grant aid	£4750
27# Brockhill rd fields - Assess existing buildings against existing operations and progress any capital improvements. M	✓					CT Gra	Parl	£5000

28# Snookes Croft - Plant 10 perimeter and in-field trees of local character. L				✓		CT V	Grant aid	£1500
29# Snookes Croft - Replace existing hay shed with cattle shed and hard-standing suitable to house livestock over winter. M		✓	✓			Cont	Grant aid Parl	£50,000
30# Old Hills west - Devise a plan to secure the common along the main road for livestock grazing together with enhancement to the car parking to reduce driving/parking on the greenspace. Enact if appropriate. L		✓				MHT	GF	?
31# Old Hills west - Expand existing lower car park by replacing traffic island with further parking bays. L	✓					FS Cont	GF	£500
32# Permit woodland creation via natural processes and planting beside Wells road north. L	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT	Grant aid?	-
33# Malvern Common - Restore orchard to a become a community orchard with local fruit varieties. Plant 20 trees. M	✓	✓				CT FS	Grant aid?	£800
34# Continue with open habitat restoration works as guided by the SSSI mapping. 7ha. H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MHT cont V	Stewardship grant aid?	£18,000
35# Research visitor numbers, site usage, car parking and develop adaptive measures to manage/mitigate for high visitor numbers especially on SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments. Undertake this work with key partners. H	✓	✓				MHT	GF Grant aid?	£?
36# Re-excavate the Mill Pond. L				✓		cont	GF Grant aid?	£5000?
Total: 36								

END

J.Bills April 2021