

EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 6.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall

Link for public online access to this meeting:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5151158527563693911>

Webinar ID: 561-973-635

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Committee Members

Councillor Liz Frost (Chair)
Simon Durrant, Epsom Downs Racecourse
Councillor Bernice Froud
Sarah Rayfield, British Horse Society
Alex Stewart, Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society
Nigel Whybrow, Training Grounds Management Board

Representatives invited to attend

Caroline Baldock, Epsom Equestrian Conservation Team	Nick Harrison, Tattenhams Residents' Association
Richard Balsdon, College Ward Residents' Association	Steven McCormick, Woodcote Residents' Association
Andrew Cooper, Epsom Downs Racecourse	Conor Morrow, Lower Mole Countryside Management Service
Bob Eberhard, Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group	Stuart Walker, Epsom Golf Club
Nick Lock, Epsom Civic Society	James Vincenti, Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Conservators

For further information, please contact Democratic Services, 01372 732122 or democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

No emergency drill is planned to take place during the meeting. If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions.

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move to the assembly point at Dullshot Green and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

Agreed by the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee: **17 March 2014**

Ratified by the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators: **22 April 2014**

Terms of Reference:

To provide a means of regular consultation:-

- (a) on the future management and control of the tracks, rides, paths and areas for hack riding;
- (b) on the rights of horse riders on Epsom and Walton Downs pursuant to Section 15 of the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 and the byelaws made under the Act; and
- (c) on any other matters affecting the use and enjoyment of the Downs by the public.

Membership (voting rights)

The Committee shall comprise:

- (a) two Council members, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators ("the Conservators");
- (b) a representative of Jockey Club Racecourses Ltd;
- (c) a representative of the trainers nominated by the Epsom and Walton Downs Training Grounds Management Board;
- (d) approved representative (and substitute as appropriate) from :-
 - (1) Epsom Downs Riders' Protection Association (or such other body or bodies for the time being as in the Conservators' view represents the interests of local horse riders);
 - (2) a representative of the British Horse Society;
- (e) such other persons as the Committee may co-opt on an ad-hoc basis for such period as the Committee may determine.

Quorum

A quorum of the Committee shall be three members including one member appointed by the Conservators and one representative of either the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Association (or such substitute body as may be specified under paragraph 3(d) above) or the British Horse Society.

Constitution document

The full Constitution of this Committee (detailing the membership, voting rights, administrative arrangements and other information) is available on Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's website at the following address: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=173>

Public information

Please note that this meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Epsom and will be available to observe live on the internet

This meeting will be open to the press and public to attend as an observer using free GoToWebinar software, or by telephone.

A link to the online address for this meeting is provided on the first page of this agenda and on the Council's website. A telephone connection number is also provided on the front page of this agenda as a way to observe the meeting, and will relay the full audio from the meeting as an alternative to online connection. A limited number of seats will also be available in the public gallery at the Town Hall. For further information please contact Democratic Services, email: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk, telephone: 01372 732000.

Information about the terms of reference and membership of this Committee are available on the [Council's website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

Agendas, reports and minutes for this Committee are also available on the free Modern.Gov app for iPad, Android and Windows devices. For further information on how to access information regarding this Committee, please email us at Democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985. Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Chairman agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Committee will wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Questions from the Public

Questions from the public are not permitted at meetings of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee

AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 7 - 10)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2022 (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

2. EAFRD UPDATE (Pages 11 - 22)

To provide the Committee with an update report on EAFRD infrastructure installation which provides improvements to information and signage on Epsom and Walton Downs.

3. MATTERS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Pages 23 - 26)

To consider matters raised by Members of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee.

4. MATTERS RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES (Pages 27 - 30)

To discuss issues raised by representatives invited to attend the meeting of the Committee.

5. ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS

To identify any items which the Committee wishes to be brought to the attention of the Conservators at their next meeting, and nominate a spokesperson to present them if appropriate.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE held Virtually on 12 January 2022

PRESENT -

Councillor Liz Frost (Chair); Simon Durrant (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Councillor Bernice Froud, Alex Stewart (Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society) and Nigel Whybrow (Training Grounds Management Board).

In Attendance: Caroline Baldock (Epsom Equestrian Conservation Group), Richard Balsdon (College Ward Residents' Association), Andrew Cooper (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Hugh Craddock (British Horse Society) (Item 01-02 (Hack Sand Track) only), Nick Lock (Epsom Civic Society), Nick Harrison (Tattenhams Residents' Association), Steven McCormick (Woodcote Residents' Association), Stephen Wallis (Jockey Club Racecourses) and Robin Willes (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club)

Absent: Bob Eberhard (Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group)

Officers present: Kathryn Beldon (Chief Executive), Jackie King (Director of Corporate Services), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Manager)

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 17 September 2018 were agreed as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

2 ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Replacement of Hack Sand Track.** The Chair invited Mr Stephen Wallis, as a representative of the Training Grounds Management Board and Jockey Club Racecourses and Mr Hugh Craddock as a representative of the British Horse Society (BHS) to provide an update on this matter.

Mr Wallis expressed his thanks for the constructive and helpful way in which representatives of the BHS and Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society had engaged with the Racecourse as landowner in trying to find a solution to the problems surrounding the hack sand track. Mr Wallis outlined that the hack sand track was uneconomic to maintain and would

fall into disrepair in its current location. It was proposed that a new 16 metre wide grass hack canter ride be created in the bottom section of the area reserved for Racehorse training, and made available for use by the hack riding community after noon daily. The continued maintenance of the ride would be undertaken by the Jockey Club and Training Grounds Management Board. The Committee was presented with a plan showing the proposed location of the new ride. The Consultative Committee noted that the proposed route of the ride clipped the 'hatched area' at the foot of Walton Downs in part, and narrowed at both ends due to the space available in those locations. It was noted that there would be no impact from the proposed ride on the status or size of the 'hatched area'.

Mr Craddock informed the Committee that the BHS very much welcomed the initiative and felt that it was capable of being an enduring agreement subject to minor remaining negotiations, and that the BHS was more than prepared to commend it.

Mr Alex Stewart informed the Committee that the views of local hack riders had been sought via the BHS's Facebook and that there had been initial support from the 50 responses received. The BHS also would undertake a more comprehensive consultation of its Members, local riding establishments and individual riders. This would be communicated with an endorsement for the proposal from the BHS, setting out its benefits to hack riders. It was anticipated that the proposed new ride would reduce the incidence of hack riders encroaching on the Gallops and other tracks, and the communications would reinforce this message.

- b) **Condition of hack canter at top of Six Mile Hill.** The Committee received images of the condition of the hack canter at the top of Six Mile Hill. The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that the area was a high priority within the works schedule for the Downskeepers and extended an invitation to Mr Stewart to meet with the lead Downskeeper to assist in identifying future works.
- c) **Marking of hack ride across The Hill and Hack post renewal.** The Chair informed the Committee that the Conservators had been successful in a bid to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development recently and had been awarded funding for new signage, picnic tables and litter bins on the Downs. The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that the works to be funded by the bid included a full replacement of all hack posts across the Downs and some additional posts in areas where it was felt that they would be beneficial.
- d) **Water logging of track at top of Rifle Butts Alley.** The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that resurfacing work was underway by Surrey County Council as a result of a successful Community Infrastructure Levy Bid. Drainage channels would be incorporated into the works to help alleviate some of the problems caused by waterlogging and scrub clearance would also be taking place during February.

- e) **Update on Downkeepers' winter work programme.** The Streetcare Manager provided a verbal update on the winter work programme, and extended an invitation to the Committee to suggest works to be included in the next winter work programme.
- f) **Traffic light phasing for pedestrians and racehorses crossing by Bus Shelter.** Mr Stewart asked whether the phasing of the lights was correctly configured, as it seemed that the timing provided to pedestrians was the same as that provided to equestrians. It was noted that Councillor Steven McCormick, as the Surrey County Councillor for the area, would raise this issue with the County Council.

3 ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION

The Committee considered the following matters raised by invited representatives:

- a) **Lights on Farm Lane.** The Committee was informed that a condition on woodland trust car park for traffic lights had been removed by the relevant planning authority. It was noted that Councillor Steven McCormick, as the County Councillor for the area would be taking this matter forward with Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council. It was further noted that an alternative equestrian crossing solution was operated effectively in both Newmarket and Lambourn.
- b) **Encroachment on the gallops and grass above the wax track by hack riders and information signs and leaflets on the Downs.** The Committee noted the issues detailed on the agenda and was informed that the sign posts identified had been included in the recent signs audit undertaken by the Downkeepers. It was noted that the Streetcare Manager would discuss the issue of cyclists crossing the Valley Gallop with the lead Downkeeper and Training Grounds Manager to identify any actions which could assist with the matter. The Committee also noted that the Jockey Club had funded an education programme aimed at improving awareness of issues on the Downs.

4 ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS

The Committee did not identify any items from the meeting which would require verbal representation to the Conservators.

The meeting began at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.54 pm

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST (CHAIR)

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EAFRD UPDATE

Head of Service:	Mark Shephard, Head of Property and Regeneration
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Images of completed signs

Summary

To provide the Committee with an update report on EAFRD infrastructure installation which provides improvements to information and signage on Epsom and Walton Downs.

Recommendation (s)

- (1) That the Committee notes the progress made on improvements to signs on the Downs.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on the improvements to signs and information on the Downs, enabled by the Conservators' successful bid for European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development which secured over £132,082.60 in funding for the project.

2 Update

- 2.1 The majority of the infrastructure is now installed. We are waiting on the Information inserts for the notice boards and lecterns, which are expected to be delivered in the first week of December and will comprise 48 x 'Holwood style' signs (these generally comprise warning signs rather than local information signs) and information inserts for the lecterns and upright signage that has already been installed.
- 2.2 Unfortunately, supply issues have pushed back the delivery date.
- 2.3 In the last 12 months, oak supplies have experienced high demand and rising prices. Current supplies have been unable to keep up with this demand.
- 2.4 The timber is now with the manufacturer and the signs are in production. It is anticipated that these will be with us in the first week of December.

- 2.5 Despite the rise in costs, the supplier, Fitzpatrick Woolmer, have absorbed the increases.
- 2.6 The funding application has been submitted to the RPA and is being processed. The application will not be completed until the final elements are installed.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 3.1.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 3.2.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.3 Safeguarding
 - 3.3.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.4 Dependencies
 - 3.4.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.5 Other
 - 3.5.1 None for the purpose of this report

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Financial implications are set-out in section 2 of this report.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 None
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** Not relevant for this report.
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** Not relevant for this report.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** Not relevant for this report.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** Not relevant for this report.

6.5 **Partnerships:** Not relevant for this report.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Report to Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators, 8 November 2021](#)

Other papers:

- None.

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Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Evidence for Project Reference 115452 (1 of 8)



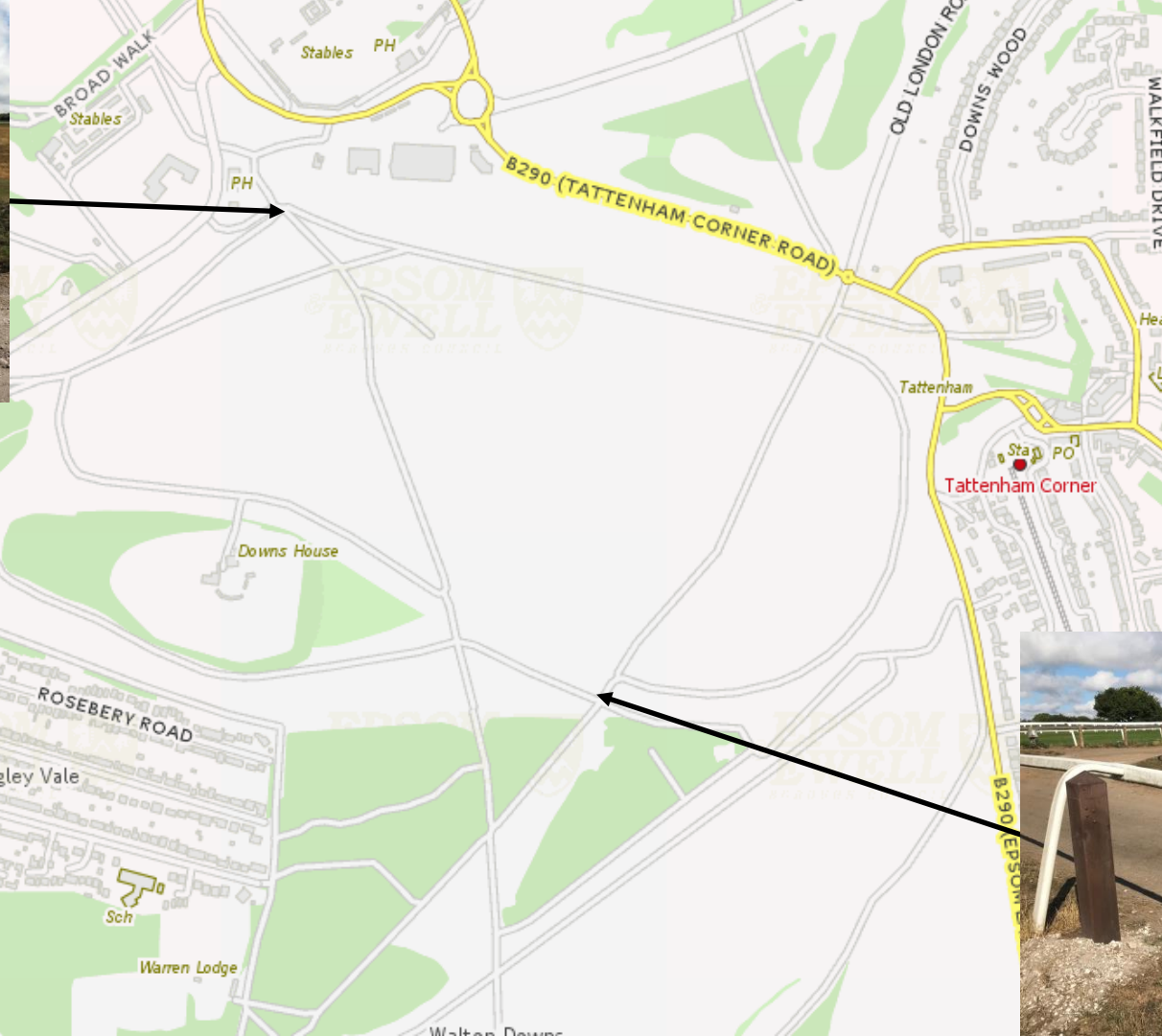
The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas

EAFRD Notification Signs – Supplied and funded by EEBC (no reference no required)

The double sided signs (813mm x 610mm) have been located at three
of the main entry points to Epsom and Walton Downs;
The Rubbing House, The Downs Keepers Hut Car Park and the Mile Car Park



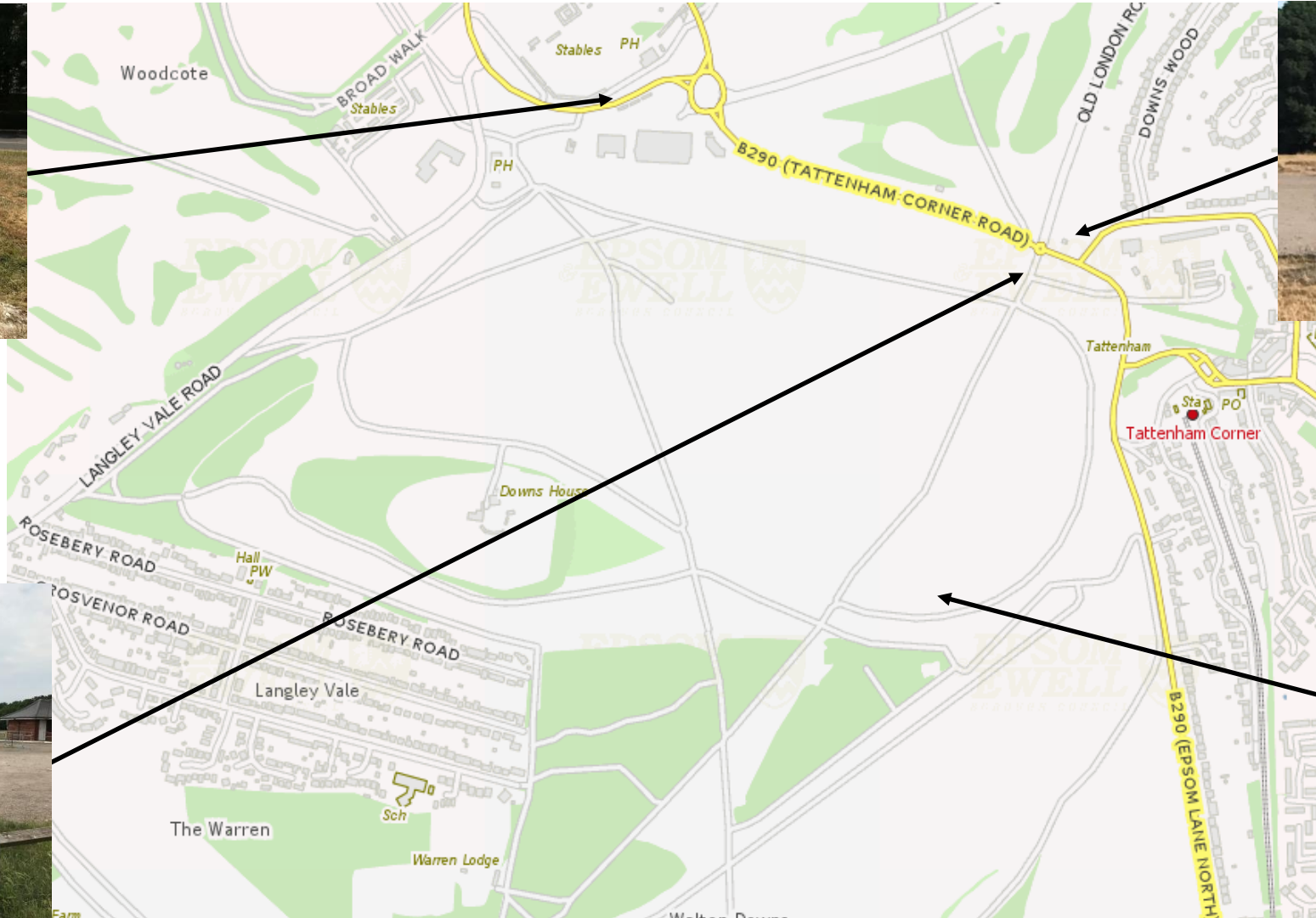
Evidence Reference No: B4 - Counter Posts
Counter Posts - Rubbing House and Mile Crossing
Supplied and installed by A & P Chambers Ltd



Evidence Reference No: A1
Information Boards & Lecterns (various locations)
Supplied by Fitzpatrick Woolmer and installed by EEBC



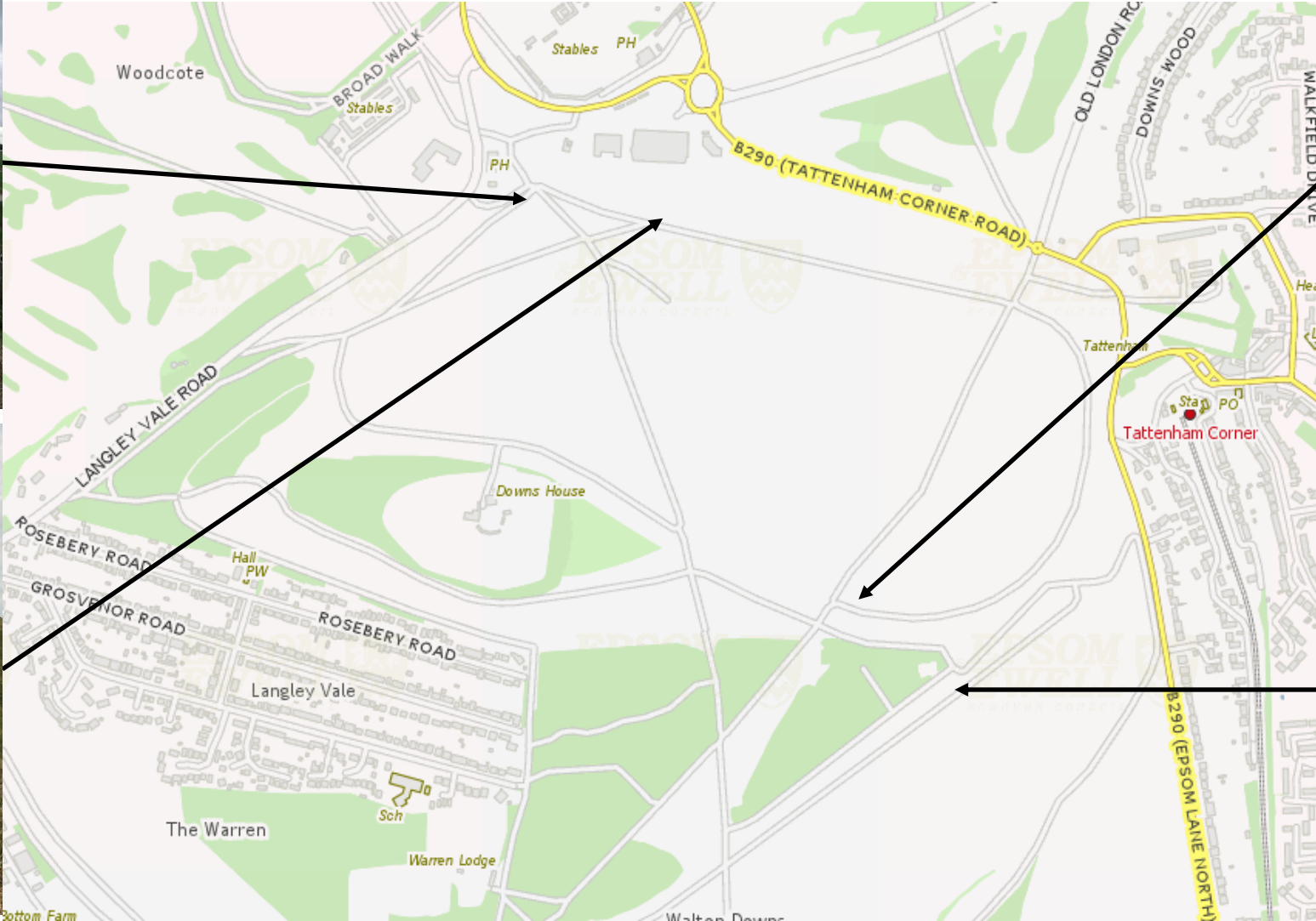
Page 18



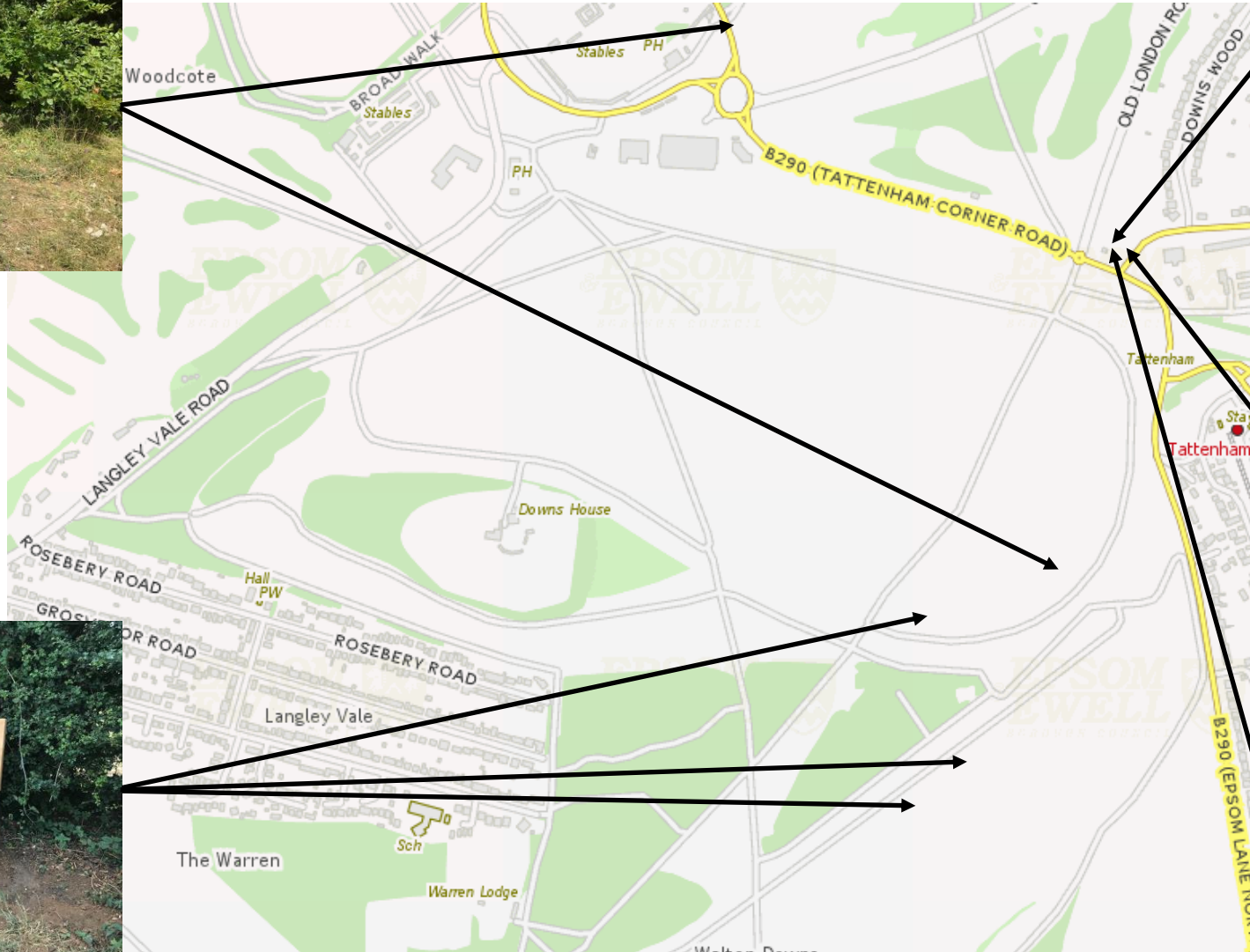
Agency
Appeal

2

Evidence Reference No: A1
Finger Posts (various locations)
Supplied by Fitzpatrick Woolmer and installed by EEBC



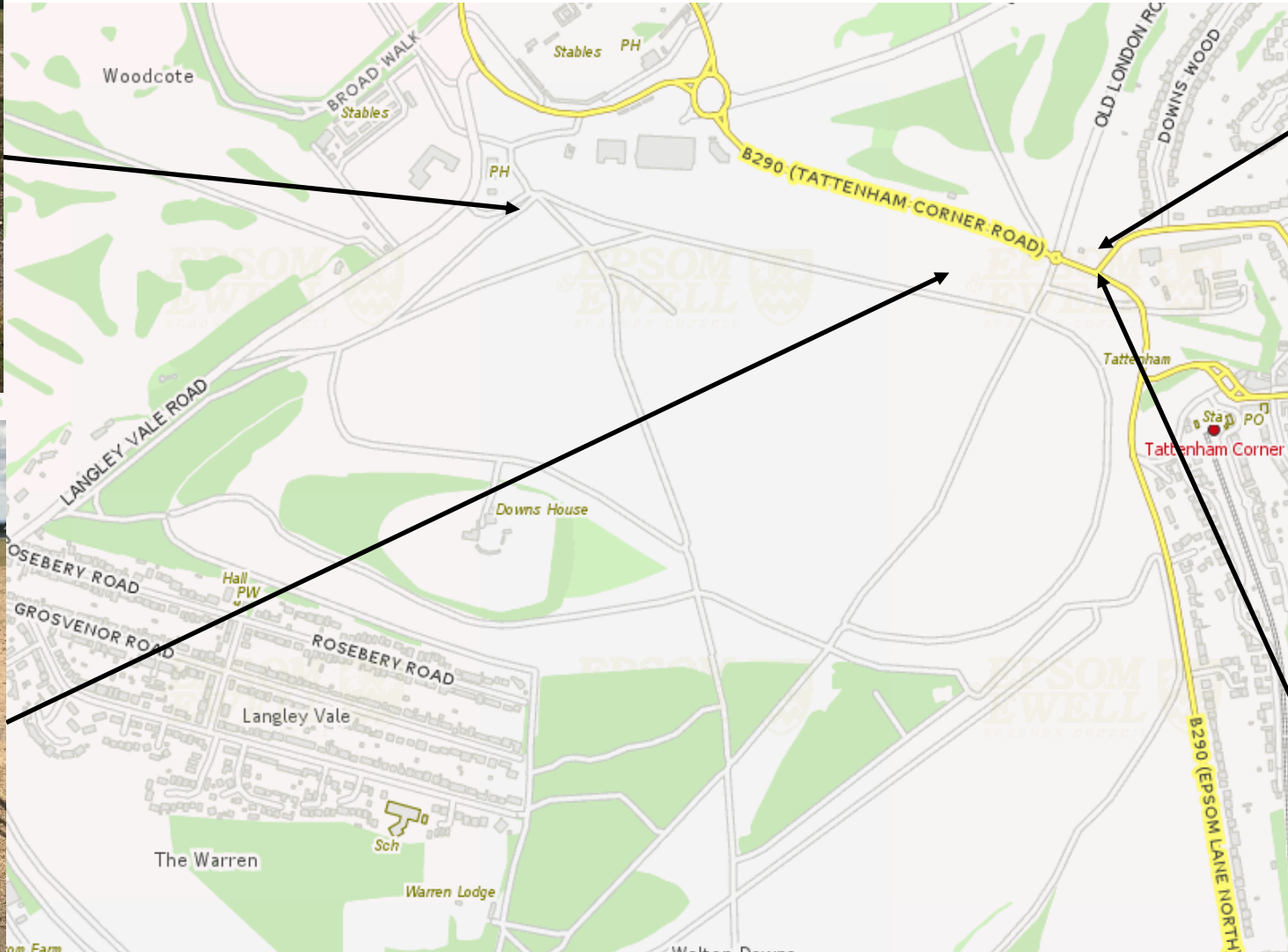
Evidence Reference No: A2
Benches and Picnic Tables
Supplied by Fitzpatrick Woolmer and installed by EEBC



Evidence Reference No: A2

Bins (various locations)

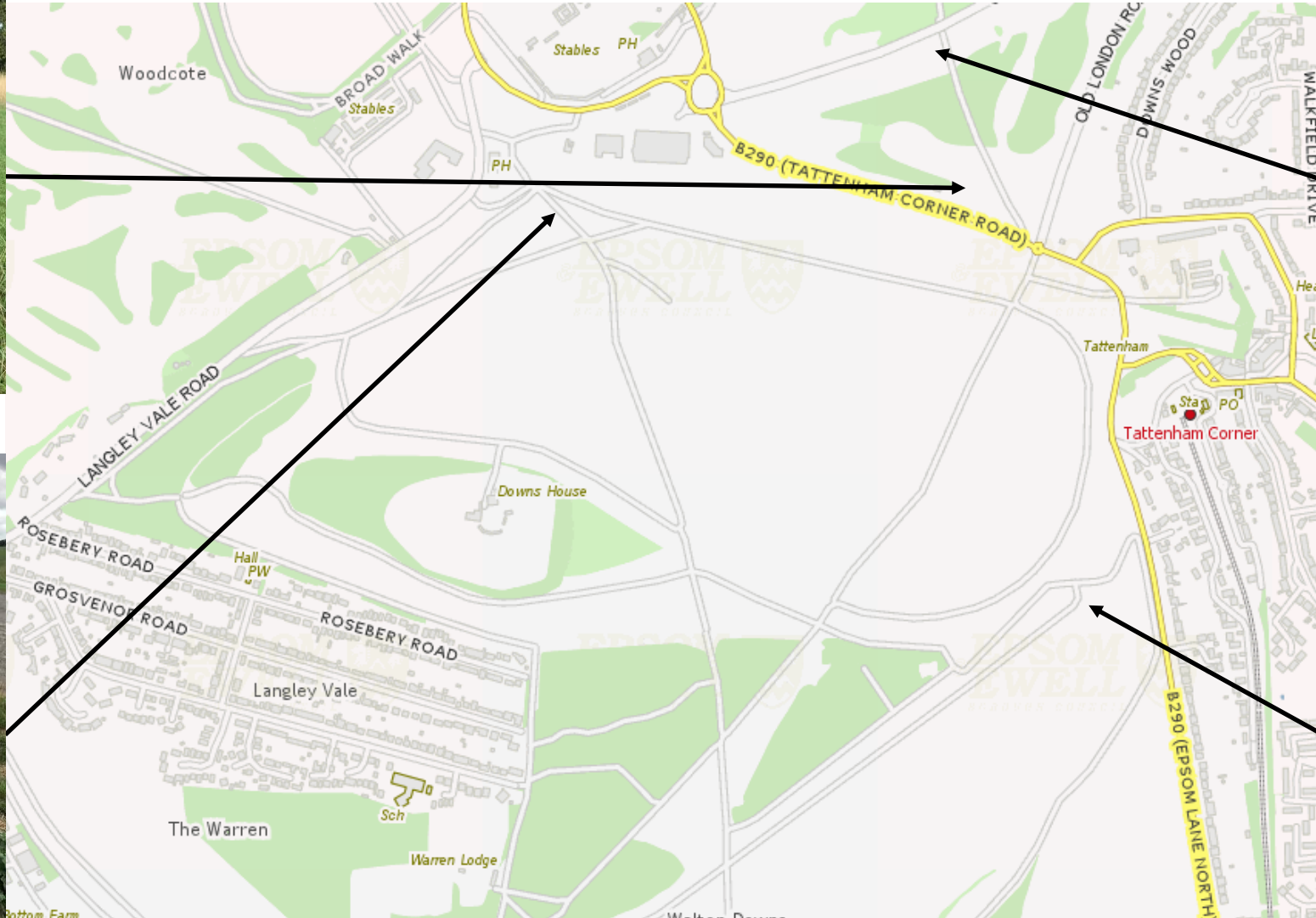
Supplied by Fitzpatrick Woolmer and installed by EEBC



Evidence Reference No: A2
Way Marking Posts (various locations)
Supplied by Fitzpatrick Woolmer and installed by EEBC



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Agenda Item 2
Appendix 1

MATTERS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Head of Policy and Corporate Resources
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote Ward;
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

To consider matters raised by Members of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Consider the matters raised by members of the Committee as set out in this report.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Section 7 c of the Constitution of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee permits any member of the Committee to have an item included on the agenda subject to the item being delivered to the Clerk at least 10 days before the next meeting of the Committee.
- 1.2 Accordingly, this report informs the Committee of items requested for this meeting by Members of the Committee.

2 Items requested by Members

- 2.1 The following matters have been requested by the Epsom Downs Riders' Protection Association Member, Alex Stewart:

1: A review / feedback on the points raised under Item 2 of the Agenda of the last Consultative Committee meeting held on 12th January 2022.

In particular observations from the racecourse and trainers' representatives on the implementation and use of the new hack canter would be welcomed.

The relevant items were:

- Replacement of Hack Sand Track.
- Condition of hack canter at top of Six Mile.
- Marking of hack ride across The Hill and hack post renewal on the Downs.
- Water logging of track at top of Rifle Butts Alley.
- Update on Downskeepers' winter work programme.
- Traffic light phasing for pedestrians and racehorses crossing by bus shelter.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 None.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 None.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** Not applicable.

6.2 **Service Plans:** Not applicable.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None.

6.5 **Partnerships:** None.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee, 12 January 2022](#)

Other papers:

- [Constitution of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee](#)

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MATTERS RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Head of Policy and Corporate Resources
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote Ward;
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

To discuss issues raised by representatives invited to attend the meeting of the Committee.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Consider the matters raised by invited representatives as set out in this report.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Section 4 of the Constitution of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee sets out that a number of representatives will be invited to attend meetings of the Committee and may participate in the discussions (but not vote) on items. The Chair has agreed to permit invited representatives to raise matters within the terms of reference of the Committee and to be included on the agenda subject to the item being delivered to the Clerk at least 10 days before the next meeting of the Committee.
- 1.2 Accordingly, this report informs the Committee of matters raised for consideration by invited representatives for this meeting by Members of the Committee.

2 Background

- 2.1 The following issues have been requested:

Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club (EDMAC), James Vincenti

1: Signage

The signage situated at the entrances to Epsom Downs Racecourse and in the car parks is not always clear. Some signs show out of date information, others are missing important information, and some seem to be entirely empty. For Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club (EDMAC) the signs do not give sufficient information that model flying takes place on the Racecourse. We would like to discuss this matter at the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee meeting to see if a recommendation to have a review of signage on the site can be passed onto the Conservators. This we feel will benefit all users of the site.

2: Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club (EDMAC) mobility impaired parking

We have a few members in our model flying club who have severe mobility issues and are struggling with the current parking arrangement. We would like to discuss this issue with the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee and see if an alternative parking arrangement can be outlined to pass onto the Conservators for approval. (This would only be applicable for a handful of club members who have blue badges; the majority of the club would continue to park in the top car park as normal).

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 None.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 None.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** Not applicable.

6.2 **Service Plans:** Not applicable.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None.

6.5 **Partnerships:** None.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None.

Other papers:

- [Constitution of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee](#)

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