

EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday 13 October 2025 at 6.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall

Online access to this meeting is available on YouTube: [Link to online broadcast](#)

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 Steven McCormick (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

Jim Allen, The Jockey Club (TJC)	Nick Lock, Epsom Civic Society
Caroline Baldock, Epsom Equestrian Conservation Team	Nick Harrison, Tattenham & Preston Residents' Association
Richard Balsdon, College Ward Residents' Association	James Vincenti, Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club
Jane Clarke, Woodcote Epsom Residents' Society (WERS)	Roger Marples, Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club
Bob Eberhard, Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group	

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Conservators

For further information, please contact democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or tel: 01372 732000

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 using free YouTube software.

A link to the online address for this meeting is provided on the first page of this agenda. A limited number of seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis in the public gallery at the Town Hall. If you wish to observe the meeting from the public gallery, please arrive at the Town Hall reception before the start of the meeting. A member of staff will show you to the seating area. 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 Act 1972 (as amended). Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Chair agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Committee may wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Questions and statements from the Public

Questions and statements from the public are not permitted at meetings of this Committee. [Annex 4.2](#) of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Operating Framework sets out which Committees are able to receive public questions and statements, and the procedure for doing so.

Filming and recording of meetings

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Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non-handheld devices, including tripods, will not be allowed.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 7 - 12)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24 March 2025 (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

2. ACTION TRACKER (Pages 13 - 18)

This report presents an update on the Committee Action Tracker.

3. ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES (Pages 19 - 34)

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

4. 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 at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 24 March 2025

PRESENT -

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

In Attendance: Jim Allen (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Caroline Baldock (Epsom Equestrian Conservation Team), Jane Clarke (Woodcote Epsom Residents' Society (WERS)), Nick Lock (Epsom Civic Society), and Roger Marples (EDMAC)

Absent: Richard Balsdon (College Ward Residents' Association), Bob Eberhard (Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group), Nick Harrison (Tattenham & Preston Residents' Association) and James Vincenti (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club)

Officers present: Samantha Whitehead (Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare), Sarah Clift (Senior Countryside Officer) and Phoebe Batchelor (Democratic Services Officer)

7 TRIBUTE TO PHILIPPA INGLEBY

The Chair paid tribute to Philippa Ingleby, who sadly passed away in March of this year.

The Chair expressed thanks for all the hard work Philippa did in initiating and developing the Epsom Downs Hack Riders Community Group and shared she will be greatly missed. These comments were echoed by the Committee.

The Committee observed a minute's silence in memory of Philippa.

8 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 14 October 2024 were agreed as a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

9 COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

The Committee received a report presenting an update on the Committee Action Tracker.

The following matters were discussed:

- a) **Condition of Hack Canter Ride.** The Chair explained that a site visit and meeting had taken place between relevant parties and the solution agreed upon is to move the hack canter ride. Nigel Whybrow confirmed that the work is scheduled to be done. The Chair stated that this would remain on the action tracker and be updated on at the next meeting.
- b) **Noticeboards on the Downs.** The Chair informed the Committee that he had met with the Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare in January to discuss the updates to the content proofs. The Chair explained that the final proof will be shared to Committee Members and Invited Representatives. The Chair stated that the final proof will be shared by the end of March 2025. The Chair explained once the proof is agreed, they will be sent off to print and put up on the boards as soon as possible. The EDMAC representative explained that an EDMAC noticeboard was removed last June and has only just been returned. The EDMAC representative requested that in future when the boards are moved, please can they be returned as soon as possible. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare noted the comment. The Epsom Civic Society representative asked if the noticeboard content would be put on the front and back of the boards or just the front. The comment was due to the back of the boards current displaying the byelaws using a sticky back plastic material, which was not working well. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare stated that they would look at getting the byelaws printed onto a more durable material. The WERs representative asked if volunteers were needed to help with the maintenance of the noticeboards. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare noted the comment and agreed to get the Downskopers to check all the boards and clean off any graffiti.
- c) **Spoil Heaps.** The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare explained it has been a joint effort between Operational Services and the Jockey Club to begin clearing up the spoil heaps and fly tipping, that had accumulated in the top car park. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare explained that it is a work in progress, but the site is becoming clearer. The Chair acknowledged Nigel Whybrow's hard work on reallocating the materials in the spoil heap. The Epsom Civic Society asked what is happening with the other spoil heaps, not in the top car park. Nigel Whybrow explained that the spoil heap on Ebbisham Lane, is a project that is currently happening, and the soil will go onto the ruts along the tree line and be used. The Chair stated an update on all spoil heaps will be provided at the next meeting.
- d) **Oak Trees.** The Chair explained that a location has been agreed, and funding has been secured for six trees. The funding is being provided by the Epsom Tree Advisory Board and the Business Improvement District. The Chair stated the trees will be ordered shortly and then planted early April. The Chair expressed thanks to Epsom TAB and BID for the funding.

- e) **Ice Cream Van.** The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare informed the Committee that the Ice Cream Van has been resituated in the Downskeepers' Car Park as of the 24th of March. The Chair expressed thanks to The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare and lead Downskeeper for their working on organising this.
- f) **Toilets on the Downs.** The Chair explained there is still not budget but it will be kept on the Action Tracker so an update can be provided if some funding can be identified. The EDMAC representative asked if the toilets would be permanent or temporary. The Chair stated that they would be permanent facilities if the project was to be able to be funded and move forward.
- g) **Fibre Sand Gallop.** Nigel Whybrow informed the Committee that they have done what they can. The Chair stated that this item could be closed.
- h) **Resurfacing of Hack Track.** The Chair stated that this item has been dealt with and can be closed.
- i) **Events on the Downs.** The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare informed the Committee that the Business Support Team agreed to put up the relevant information regarding applying to hold an event on the downs, and also the table of all booked events on the downs, onto the Council's website. The Chair stated that the table of events would also be shared with the Epsom Downs Rider Facebook group.
- j) **Race Horses using Hack Tracks.** The Chair confirmed this item has been dealt with and can be closed.
- k) **Additional Lighting.** The Chair explained that some additional lighting will be going outside the Durdans, and progress should be seen shortly.
- l) **School Run Traffic.** The Chair looked into if there is a TRO for the bottom of Chalk Lane, and there is. The Chair explained that this is an ongoing issue and welcomed solutions from members and representatives.
- m) **Dog Walking on the Downs.** The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare explained that the Nonsuch Dog Walking licensing scheme goes live at the beginning of April. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare shared that there is a dog walking code of conduct which can be shared before the next meeting, to get Committee member and representative thoughts.

Following discussion, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Note the status and update on actions listed in the Committee Action Tracker.**

10 ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee discussed the issues raised by representatives invited to attend the meeting.

The following matters were discussed:

- a) **Flying on the Downs.** The Epsom Equestrian Conservation Team representative asked if there is a specific area where EDMAC fly their planes. The EDMAC representative explained that there is a specific zone within which EDMAC members fly their zone, it is bounded by the inner barrier of the racecourse. The EDMAC representative explained that there are noise restrictions on planes, and they can check planes, if there are any incidents, to ensure it meets the requirements of the club. The EDMAC representative explained it was probably an internal combustion engine plane that was making a lot of noise, as the electric planes are much quieter, and are the preferred choice of many members now.
- b) **Runway Damage.** The EDMAC representative explained that horses crossing the runway strips can cause damage and problems to planes taking off or landing. Alex Stewart explained that there is no reason for horses to be crossing the runway strips and stated that information could be shared on the Epsom Riders Facebook group to remind people where they should and shouldn't be riding. The Chair agreed with the comments made by Alex Stewart.
- c) **Hosting a family event.** The EDMAC representative explained that EDMAC wish to encourage young people to join and wish to hold a family event to get young people involved and able to try it out. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare explained that EDMAC need to apply to hold their event on the Downs via the normal form and process, which can be found on the Council's website.
- d) **Grazing on Juniper Hill.** The Senior Countryside Officer provided an update on the feasibility study carried out regarding reintroducing grazing on the Downs. They explained that there is nothing in the act that does not allow grazing on the Downs, and shared the Conservators must agree before it is reintroduced. The Senior Countryside Officer shared that it would be sheep grazing. A report will be going to Conservators in June to seek their approval. The Senior Countryside Officer has consulted with relevant parties and the main issue would be animals getting loose and the proximity to the gallops, with solutions currently being considered. They explained that the project will be progressed through getting grants to fund it. An invited representative asked if the grazing will affect the movement of deer. The Senior Countryside Officer said it would not impact deer. A Committee Member asked if animals would be moving around or located in one area. The Senior Countryside Officer said the animals would be located in just one area. The Member suggested reaching out to NESOT to get volunteers to help with the project. The Senior Countryside Officer

noted the comment. The Senior Countryside Officer explained it would roughly cost £15K to set up the project and a key point to sort would be having a member of staff who is responsible for finding and supporting the volunteers who help with the project. The Senior Countryside Officer stated that the timeline of the project is up for discussion.

- e) **Repair and reinstatement of tracks and grass.** The Epsom Civic Society representative mentioned the damage caused by the repair of the lower track. The Chair mentioned that the area has significantly improved but there is still work to be done. The Epsom Civic Society representative asked if there is a date for when the work is due to be finished. Nigel Whybrow confirmed that the work would all be completed before the next meeting in October.
- f) **Horse Numbers.** The WERs representative raised concerns regarding the number of horses coming both ways through Langley Vale village. The Chair noted the comments and stated that communication would be made with the relevant parties to update them on the current situation and developments regarding Downs House. The Chair invited the WERs representative to a meeting on the Downs, to discuss areas of particular concern, regarding the condition of bridleways and pathways. The Chair shared that there is a new entrance at the back of Downs House and there is work going into looking at sight lines, visibility and awareness for those who aren't familiar with the area.
- g) **Fallen Tree.** A Committee Member raised that there is some fallen tree across the paths on the Downs. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare asked the Member to share the location of the fallen trees and agreed that the Downskeepers will have a look and move trees that are blocking paths. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare stated that if the trees are too big to be moved by the Downskeepers, it will be referred to the Tree Officer to sort.
- h) **Social Media Videos.** The Chair stated that there are videos circulating on social media of hack riders riding up the Poly Gallop on a Sunday afternoon. The Chair shared that the gallops will be monitored more closely from now on and expressed that this behaviour is trespass and if people are caught, they may be prosecuted. The Chair asked the Committee to share that warning and information with users of the Downs.
- i) **Open days.** The Chair shared that there are dates that will be shared, once confirmed, regarding open days of stables on the Downs. The Chair asked the Committee to help publicise the dates once they have been confirmed.
- j) **Filming on the Downs.** The EDMAC representative raised that EDMAC would like to produce a video of a plane flying over the Downs, as a promotional element for the club. The EDMAC representative asked if they had permission to do so. The Chair invited EDMAC to submit an

application to do so and encouraged them to avoid horse training times. The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare asked if EDMAC would be flying outside of the designated zone when taking the photo and video content. The EDMAC representative stated that they would not need to fly outside of the designated zone.

- k) **Hack Gallop.** An invited representative raised that there is no sign on a hack gallop, near the bottom gallop, informing people that it cannot be used until after 12. Nigel Whybrow confirmed that there are yellow hack markers in place to indicate that it cannot be used until after 12. The invited representative explained that a sign would also be helpful for those that do not know what the hack marker represents.
- l) **Hack posts.** The Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare informed the Committee that additional hack posts are being installed across middle hill. The Chair asked that hack posts in place can be left where they are and not removed or disturbed.

Following discussion, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

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

11 ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS

The Committee identify that the Grazing on the Downs item would be going to the June meeting of the Conservators to seek their approval before the project progresses any further.

The resurfacing of the lower track item was identified to be added to the Committee Action Tracker.

The meeting began at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.10 pm

COUNCILLOR STEVEN MCCORMICK (CHAIR)

ACTION TRACKER

Head of Service:	Jackie King, Chief Executive
Report Author	Phoebe Batchelor
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Committee Action Tracker

Summary

This report presents an update on the Committee Action Tracker.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **Note the status and update on actions listed in the Committee Action Tracker.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To provide the Consultative Committee with the updates on action items that were expressed at the previous meeting and inform the Committee of the target completion date for each item.

2 Background

- 2.1 An Action Tracker spreadsheet was compiled following the October 2023 Meeting of the Committee. The table in Appendix 1 provides an update on progress.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 No equality issues arise as a consequence of the contents of this report.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 No issues arise as a consequence of the contents of this report.

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3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No issues arise as a consequence of the contents of this report.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 Not applicable.

4 Financial Implications

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

5 Legal Implications

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

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: N/A

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

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

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

6.5 **Partnerships:** None.

6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None.

7 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- None.

Other papers:

- None.

Epsom & Walton Downs Consultative Committee Action Tracker 2023-2025

Issue No.	Issue Subject	Follow-up Action	Contact	Deadline	Action Completed	Fed back to Conservators/CC Y/N	Notes
1	Condition of Hack Canter Ride	> added to the Winter Workplan for 23/24	Sam Whitehead	Feb-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES	<p>This area has suffered severe damage from vehicle use. This has worsened following the upgrades to the fibre gallop. Works to restore the surface for hack use have been promised over several winters but it remains hard, very rutted and for all but horse walking ; - Consultative Committee Issue add to winter workplan for 2023/24 and follow up with Conservators when completed.</p> <p>26/09/24 Nigel Whybrow has mentioned that vehicles have been accused but it's predominantly caused by pedestrians (desire lines). There is a good hack canter down at the bottom, that is working positively. This one is misbranded as a hack canter.</p> <p>The Streetcare Manager is to arrange a meeting with Nigel, Alex, and Caroline wc 30th of September to look at and discuss this item further.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place with Alex Steward and Nigel Whybrow to look at the issue and come up with a solution. The solution agreed upon, is to move the Hack Ride over slightly, as the current one is beyond repair.</p>
2	Noticeboards on the Downs	> to put up noticeboard content and protective covering	Sam Whitehead	Feb-24		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	<p>25/03/24 The Chair informed the Committee that there has been a slight delay in getting the artwork for the inlay completed and agreed and that is something that has been progressing with the Streetcare Manager. The Chair acknowledge the work is significantly behind, but reassured the Committee that work is being carried out to get this job completed as soon as possible and an update will be provided once the works are complete.</p> <p>26/09/24 The Chair to bring print outs to the meeting for members and invited representatives to consider. The printers are ready to go.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that there are copies of the information to be put on the noticeboards, for Members and Invited representatives to consider and feedback on following the meeting. Invited representatives raised two noticeboards that needed further attention. The Streetcare Manager noted the locations and confirmed they would look into it.</p>
3	Spoil Heaps	> removal / recycling of spoil heaps on the downs > work to start Oct 23	Nigel Whybrow and Sam Whitehead	Feb-24		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	<p>26/09/24 Update from Nigel Whybrow to be provided verbally.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that the spoil heaps in the top car park have increased. The Chair explained that this is primarily due to materials arriving from Kempton and Langbourne to help update and refurbish some of the bottom gallop. The bottom gallop is due to be updated through October and some, if not all, of those materials will be used to do that work.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed they would look into the spoil heaps behind the Derby start and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>7/03/25 The Streetcare Manager agreed to send cages up on the Downs, wc 10th of March, to removed flytipping content from the Top Car Park. The Chair agreed they would arrange to meet Jim Allen to work out what the spoil heaps are for and how long they will be there.</p>
4	Oak Trees	> (potential) planting of an Oak Tree > talk to Nigel to determine exact location	Sam Whitehead	Nov-27	ITEM CLOSED	YES	<p>26/09/24 The Streetcare Manager will purchase the oak trees soon. The current intention is to buy 6 x 8ft oak trees to be put in. The Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board (EETAB)and Business Improve District (BID) to be approached to help financially contribute.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that the Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board are happy to fund the trees depending on the size. The Chair set out that the next steps will be to discuss with the Council's Tree Officer, and the Countryside Team, to progress this item along. The Chair raised that there is a suggestion that the trees are a mix of native trees and disease resistant elms. The Chair committed to speak to the Business Improvement District to provide additional funding for the project.</p>

5	Ice Cream Van	> risk assessment of current location of ice cream van > start conversation with vendor about potentially moving pitch/location	Sam Whitehead	May-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Report went to Conservators on the 17/06/24 and 23/06/25	<p>The Conservators agreed on the 17/06/24 that Officers would investigate and take legal advice to determine if the Ice Cream Vendor could be relocated to the Downskeeper's Hut Car Park, for safety reasons.</p> <p>26/09/24 Streetcare Manager to get in touch with the vendor and move this along.</p> <p>26/09/24 The wider scheme of vending on the downs (discussed at Conservators on the 17/06/24) is in progress - with the six month trial commencing soon. Contracts for the pilot scheme are currently with legal to be looked at before anything is agreed with specific vendors. The Streetcare Manager is currently looking into appropriate pitch sites.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Streetcare Manager confirmed that the Ice Cream Van will move location, into the Downskeeper's Car Park, starting from next season.</p>
6	Sycamore Trees	> discussion regarding management of sycamore trees on the downs > recognition and research into the potential threat they pose to horses	Sam Whitehead (and Tree Officer and Countryside Team)	May-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC on the 14th of October 2024	26/09/24 Streetcare Manager has had discussions with the Countryside Officer. The Sycamore trees have been up there for years and no horses have fallen foul. This item will continue to be monitored and updates fed back if any issues arise. The trees will not be cut down as they are key at the moment to fill gaps from Ashdieback works.
7	Grandstand Road Car Park Volunteer	> discussion with Mayor regarding the inviting of volunteer to have tea in the Mayor's Parlour > organising of tea with the mayor and an award / certificate for volunteers continued hard work	Jackie King	Jan-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC on the 25th of March 2024	19/2/24 Unfortunately both volunteers declined any recognition so not progressed at their request
8	Toilets on the Downs	> To assess the options for the future provision of a toilet facility at the Downs	Mark Shepherd and Sam Whitehead	N/A	No budget provision for either construction or ongoing maintenance	Fed back to CC March and October 2024	<p>25/03/24 The Chair informed the Committee that there is currently no budget provision for this project so it will be worth looking at different forms of additional funding. The Chair confirmed this was a longterm project that will be looked into further.</p> <p>26/09/24 There is still no budget provision. This item will be kept on the action tracker and will be updated as and when anything changes.</p>
9	Fibre Sand Gallop	> an unfriendly horse crossing of fibre sand gallop on Walton Road approaching the woods	Nigel Whybrow and Sam Whitehead	Nov-24		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	<p>25/03/24 The Member from the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society asked if the layout could be improved. The Member from the Training Grounds Management agreed to meet with the Member from the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society to gain more information regarding the unfriendly horse crossing and then to feedback at the next Consultative Committee Meeting.</p> <p>26/09/24 Streetcare Manager to arrange to meet Alex Stewart on site and see if improvements can be made.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place with the Streetcare Manager, Nigel Whybrow, and Alex Stewart. The solution agreed is for Nigel Whybrow to amend the gateway that crosses the fibre sand gallop, to make it more open and inviting for hack riders to get across.</p> <p>This item has been completed.</p>
10	Vegetation Dump near Rifle Butts Alley	> Concern as plastic waste has been seen accumulating - need to monitor situation	Sam Whitehead	Nov-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC October 2024	<p>25/03/24 The Chair informed the Committee that the Downskeeper's will investigate and take any action necessary, and an update will be provided at the next Committee Meeting.</p> <p>26/09/24 Rifle Butts Alley is being cleared currently.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that the vegetation dump has been cleared.</p>
11	Resurfacing of Hack Track from Langley Vale behind Downs House	> The resurfacing includes stones and rocks and needs to be looked at	Nigel Whybrow and Sam Whitehead	Nov-24		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	<p>25/03/24 The Member from the Training Grounds Management informed the Committee that said now the weather is drier, it will be something the team will focus on, and an update will be brought back to next meeting.</p> <p>14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that they had visited the Hack Canter in question, and observed it was ok. The Chair invited Members and representatives to raise anything if they were still experiencing issues. The Chair agreed to speak to Nigel Whybrow to look at the areas mentioned by invited representatives and focus on getting some improvements.</p>

12	Events on the Downs - Webpage	> collate information about events on the downs (how to apply, classification of events, table of events) > update and add info to EEBC Website	Sam Whitehead (and Business Support and Democratic Services)	Apr-25		To be fed back to CC 13.10.25	27/01/25 Conservators received a report which stated that the events on the downs would be listed on the EEBC website. 28/02/25 Additional Information to be collated and shared with the Chair before going live.
13	Race Horses using Hack Tracks	> Speak to Nigel Whybrow to look into issues with Race Horses using Hack Tracks	Nigel Whybrow and Steven McCormick	Oct-25		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	14/10/24 The Chair noted comments made about race horses using hack tracks and confirmed they would speak to Nigel Whybrow and the issue will be addressed.
14	Additional Lighting	> look into possibility of additional lighting outside the Durdans	Steven McCormick	Oct-25		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that they have asked SCC for additional lighting, to improve safety, to be put in place outside the Durdans. The Chair stated that if that can be achieved within their SCC Member allowance, it will be actioned. 7/03/25 The Chair provided the update that these lights have been quoted for and signed off.
15	School Run Traffic	> look into issues with speeding traffic on Chalk Lane > Check TRO	Steven McCormick	Oct-25		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	14/10/24 An invited representative flagged an issue with speeding traffic on Chalk Lane and queried if the gate at the bottom of Chalk Lane could be locked. The Chair informed the Committee that Surrey Highways have looked into this and determined that the gate can be locked, but the logistics of how it will be managed is an issue that has not been sorted yet. The Chair committed to providing an update when here is more information to share. The Member from the BHS raised that the Traffic Regulation Order should be checked to see if it mentions all vehicular traffic or just motorised traffic. The Chair confirmed that they would check the TRO.
16	Dog Walking on the Downs	> look into options regarding dog walking on the downs and increasing awareness of restrictions and improving behaviour of dogs and owners	Sam Whitehead	Jan-26		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	14/04/24 Discussion at CC Meeting regarding out of control dogs. 04/11/24 Conservators received a report on the Nonsuch Dog Licensing Scheme and debated options for dealing with out of control dogs on the downs. The decision was to plan a targeted communication campaign regarding dog walking behaviour on the Downs.
17	Car Park Management Plan	> the Jockey Club to produce a Management Plan to assess how the land would be used and how it would be managed to ensure there was no detrimental effect on the habitat >once produced will be approved by senior Officers in consultation with the Chair of the Conservators	TJC, Sam Whitehead, and Steven McCormick	Jun-25		Conservators to be updated with progress at the next meeting	27/01/25 Review of Car Parks report went to January 2025 Conservators - The Chair asked for the management plan to be added to the Action Tracker.
18	Local Government Reorganisation	>Local Government Reorganisation across Surrey will affect the make up and work of the Conservators and Consultative Committee	Jackie King	May-27		Verbal update to be provided at the 13.10.25 CC Meeting	1/08/26 Question received from invited CC rep regarding LGR and CGR implications on Conservators and Consultative Committee

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ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES

Head of Service:	Jackie King, Chief Executive
Report Author	Phoebe Batchelor
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 - Epsom Civic Society – Item 1 – Dumping of Material on the Downs – additional photos

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:

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13 October 2025

Epsom Equestrian Conservation Team, Caroline Baldock

1: Signs on the Downs

Cyclists are going wherever they want to and over the gallops. We need signs it has been 5 years now since the signs were taken down.

2: Litter bins

Many are a poor condition.

3: Events on the Downs

We need a list of events sent to all equestrian establishments and put on the website for the Downs.

College Ward Residents Association, Richard Balsdon

1: Surface of Car Parks

The surfaces of all five car parks on Grandstand Road are continuing to deteriorate to the extent that considerable damage could be caused to a car whose driver for one reason or another was unable to avoid the deep potholes. To whom should any requests for compensation be addressed?

(I know that in the past "scrapings" have been obtained and judging by the orange marks on that road some repairs are due shortly on the main carriageway. Any chance of being able to obtain in fills from this work?)

2: Vehicles Parked outside Derby Arms

I have noticed that recently there have been a number of vehicles parked every day in the north-east corner of the triangle outside the Derby Arms. It is my understanding that this is a designated hack-riding area, but the Jockey Club has the right to use for parking on a limited number of occasions through the year. Have the Conservators extended this permission to other parties (the three businesses being conducted on the opposite side of Derby Arms Road?) and if so, on what basis?

Epsom Civic Society, Nick Lock

1: Dumping of Material on the Downs

There has been a tendency over the past few years for the by-products of renewing and enhancing the racing gallops to be dumped on the Downs and then just left to become weed-infested eyesores. The Civic Society does not believe this is compatible with the duty of the Downs Conservators “preserve the Downs so far as possible in their natural state of beauty” (Epsom & Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984, section 10).

Some of these spoil dumps have been left for a number of years, despite the issue being raised many times in previous consultative committees where undertakings have been given that the material will be removed. The most recent dump, at the junction of the path towards Ebbisham Lane and the lower gallop track, was the result of a project to build a new ‘slipway for horses’ to join the gallop. We were assured that it would be removed on completion of the slipway, but it is still there one year later – now with the added ‘decoration’ of some discarded plastic rails.





Over the years, most of the spoil has been deposited in the top (7th Furlong car park) along with various other unsightly objects such as water containers and old tractor equipment.



At the other end of the car park, there has been a pile of unused gallop material sitting on a frayed tarpaulin for nearly 4 years now:



And behind the Derby Start of the main racecourse is a linear pile of spoil from re-surfacing the fibre sand gallop (a number of years ago now!):



Epsom Civic Society was pleased that the very large pile of material from resurfacing the bottom nine-furlong gallop was removed shortly after we mentioned it the last Consultative Committee meeting, and that the churned-up ground caused by that work has been levelled. We noted also that most of the fly-tipped material we reported on last time has been removed, although a small pile of dumped rubble is still there and may prove to be a magnet for future fly-tippers. The Society remains of the view that unused material resulting from works on the gallops should be removed from wherever it has been left – if it can be recycled on the Downs it should be kept in the works enclosure at the Warren and if not, it should be transported off site. If there is a need for an extra works area in the top car park, it should be low level and fenced off to avoid unsightliness and discourage illegal dumping.

2: Noticeboards

We have raised these repeatedly over a number of years but note that they still have no content despite numerous assurances that work on this is progressing. The most recent promise (at the last meeting) was that we would see draft content by end-March (2025) but it still has not materialised. We understand that the plan is to bring drafts to the October meeting so we assume this will already be on the agenda.

Tattenham and Preston Residents Association, Nick Harrison

1: Local Government Reorganisation

What will be the impact of Local Government Reorganisation and Epsom & Ewell's Community Governance Review on the position of the Conservators and on the Consultative Committee itself?

Response provided prior to the Committee Meeting -

There is no definitive answer at this point. The expectation is that all such arrangements and obligations will transfer over to the new Unitary authority in May 2027, but this will not be clear until we receive the Structural Change Order from Government in early 2026 which will set out the process, timeline and responsibilities for all new Unitary partners.

We have this on our high priority list for resolution and will update both the Conservators and the Consultative committee as soon as we are able to.

The Chair noted that the issue you raised has been added to the action tracker of the Conservators and also the Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB). He stated that budget will be allocated to deal with any LGR legal work from Conservators and TGMB will to do a similar thing in their own budget.

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.

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4 Financial Implications

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

5 Legal Implications

5.1 **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:

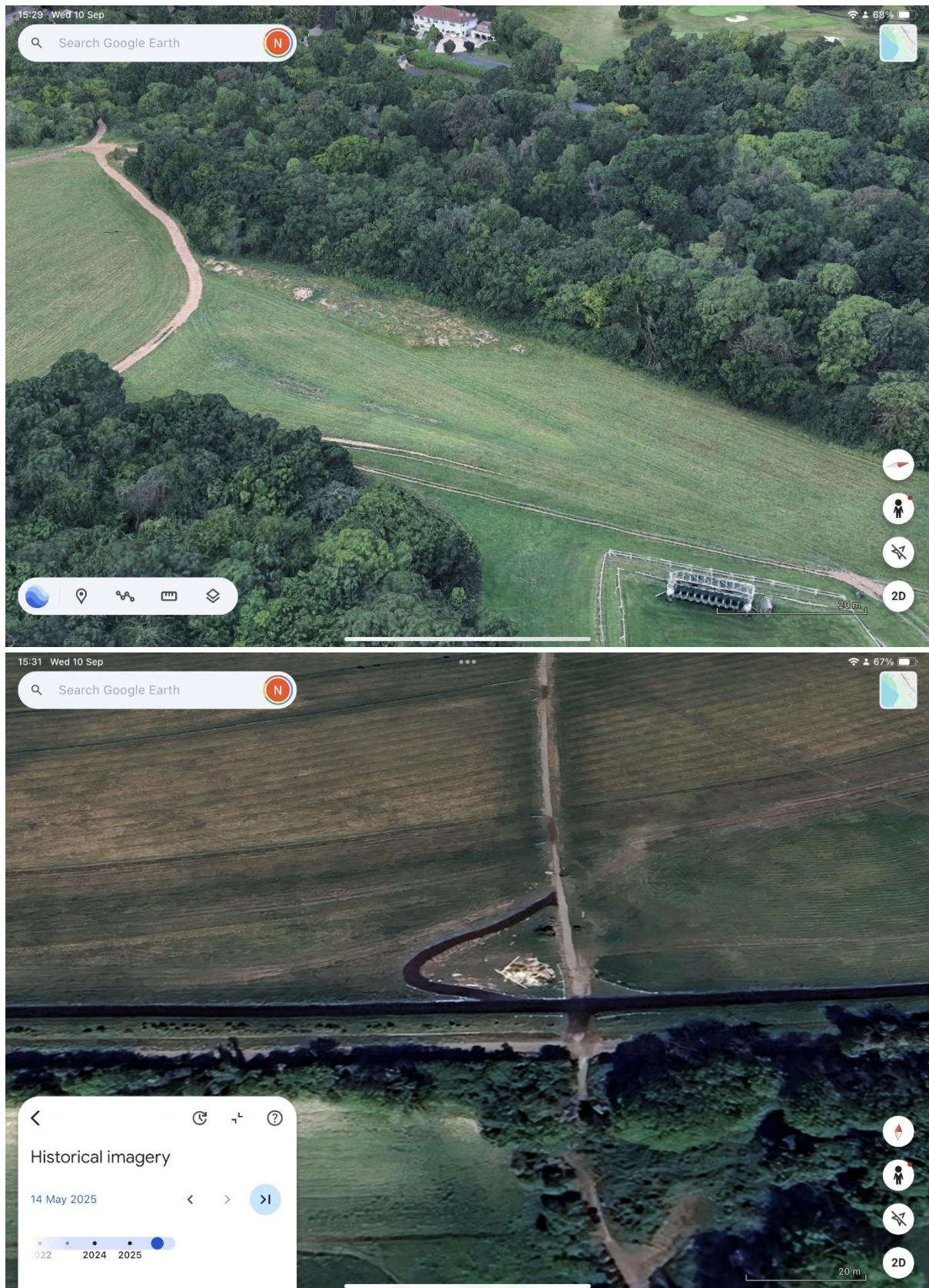
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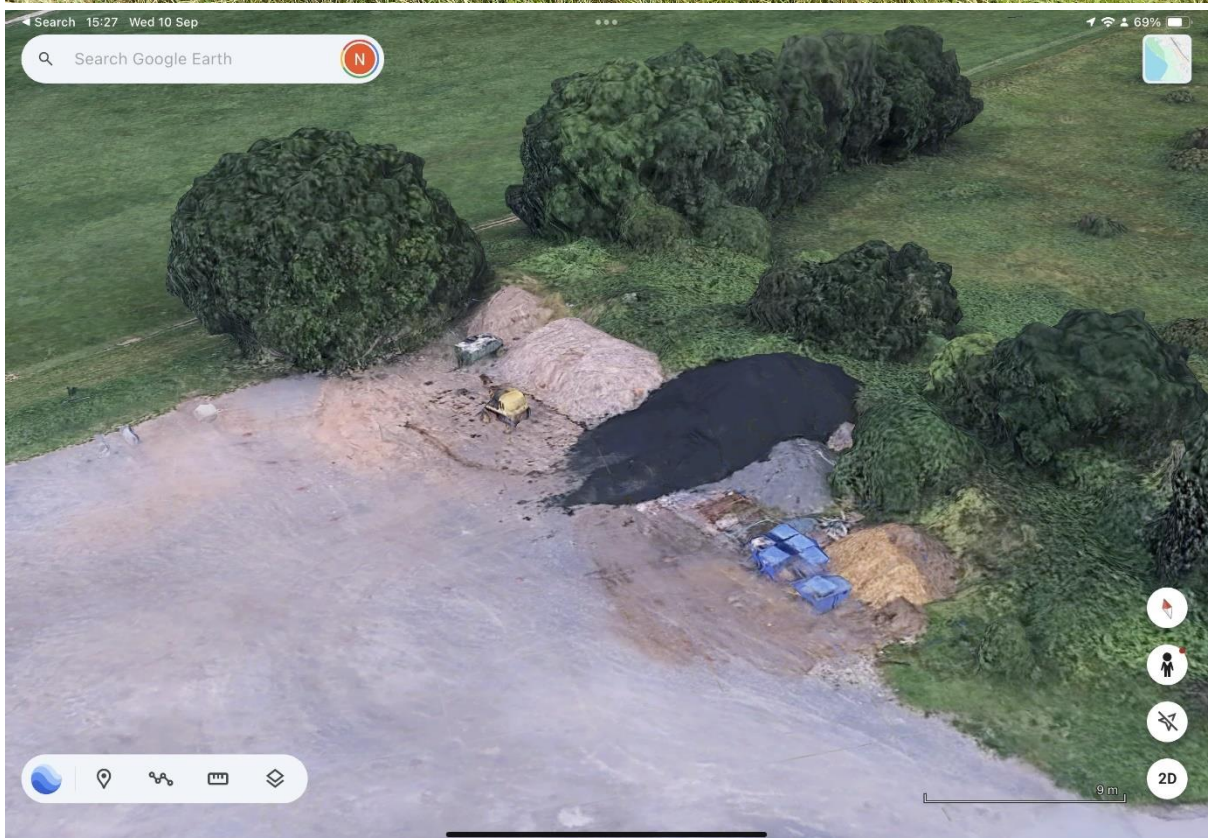
- None.

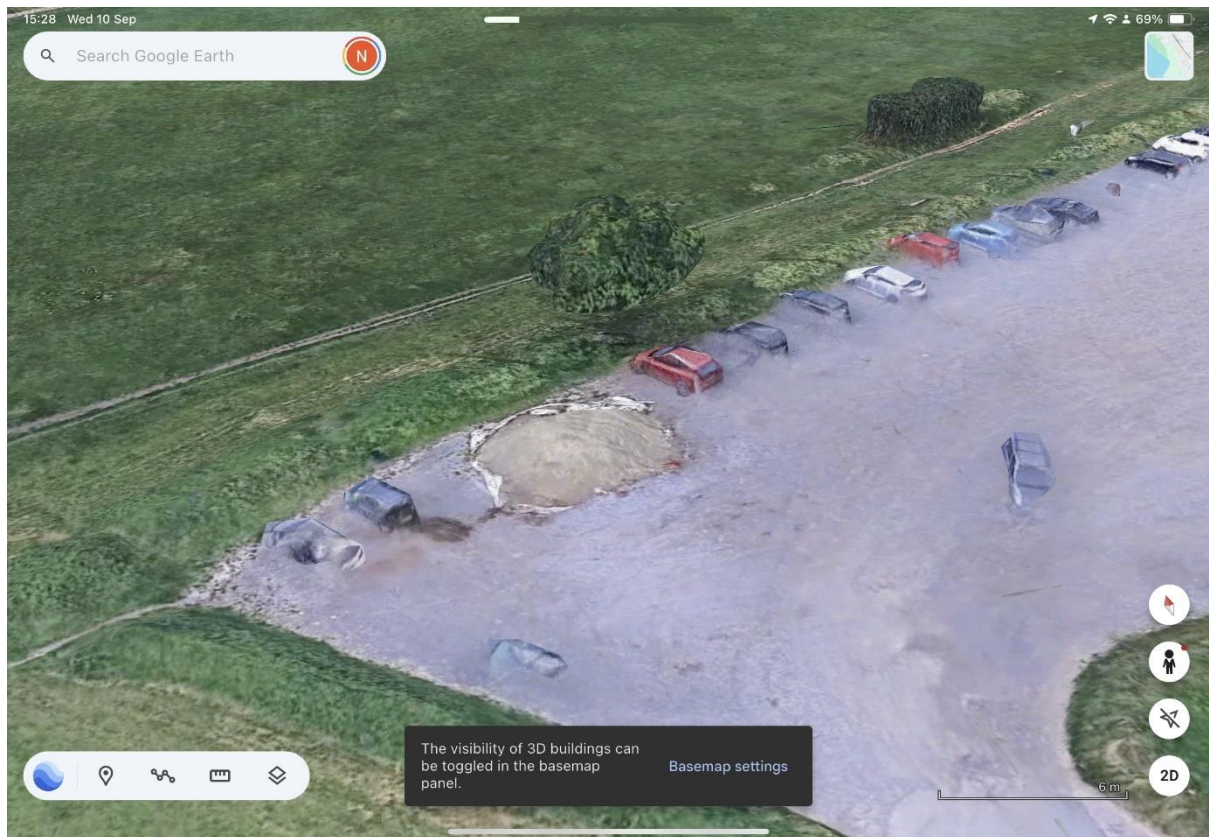
Other papers:

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

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