

Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2017-2117 - Executive Summary

The Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2017-2117 plan succeeds the 2006-2016 plan for the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve and aims to update and build upon its progress. The previous plan which was the first to be formally agreed and implemented for the site, and was successful in significantly improving access, biological monitoring and volunteer activity. In addition, it enabled the substantial external funding required to achieve the above to be secured.

Subject to ten year reviews, the plan aims to describe the important features of the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and set out an agreed approach for the continued management of the site to benefit both the people and wildlife of Epsom & Ewell for the next one hundred years.

The plan prescribes in detail (Stage Two Evaluation & Objectives section 2.7 and Stage Three Prescription) how the site will be managed from 2017 to 2027. Stage three of the draft management plan provides a guide to delivering the plan up to the first ten year review in 2027. The plan is aspirational and for guidance purposes only, estimated costs are given and as in the case of the previous plan 2006-16, implementation of the new plan is not dependent upon increased spending by the Council. During the previous plan substantial external funding was successfully secured. Possible funding sources currently include:

- EEBC
- DEFRA
- Lower Mole Trust
- Surrey County Council
- Community infrastructure levy
- Environment Agency
- South East Rivers Trust
- Heritage Lottery
- Other grants

It should be noted that, without a management plan there is very little chance of securing funds from other sources. The plan ensures that the Hogsmill LNR continues to provide excellent access to nature whilst at the same time protecting an internationally important habitat (Chalk Stream) and providing a home for wildlife of national and local importance.

The Hogsmill LNR is approximately 38ha which comprises the former Hogsmill and Bonesgate Open Spaces.

The management plan has been produced following a review of available ecological, historical and other information. It focuses upon, and attempts to achieve a realistic balance, between a range of issues that include:

- Nature conservation
- Maintaining and enhancing historical, landscape and cultural value
- Providing appropriate facilities for public recreation and enjoyment

- Encouraging opportunities for education in all aspects of the Local Nature Reserve's ecology, history, culture and landscape.

A PLAN FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Over the last 100 years The Hogsmill LNR has undergone great change. A once rural landscape that resulted from local and national economic pressure to provide pasture for grazing and water power for both flour and gunpowder mills, today provides local people with fresh air, exercise and protection for wildlife. As readers of this plan will discover The Hogsmill LNR is of both national and international importance for its habitats and wildlife and maintaining that value requires an informed, consistent, systematic and long term approach to habitat management and public access.

For example, urban rivers require careful management to restore and maintain their ecological health; trees live for hundreds of years and biological monitoring often yields really valuable information after many years of recording effort.

The plan provides a regularly reviewed (10 years) 100 year approach to the management of the Hogsmill LNR to ensure the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the wildlife and heritage of the Hogsmill LNR whilst also ensuring good public access to a wonderful place!

The key components in managing the Hogsmill LNR which are unlikely to change in the next one hundred years are as follows:

- Ensuring the protection, maintenance, monitoring and enhancement of biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Hogsmill LNR.
- Assisting the Environment Agency in the management and maintenance of the important features of the river channel.
- Ensuring good public access via a network of well-maintained and signed paths.
- Encouraging and supporting the work of volunteers.
- Interpreting the Hogsmill LNR to the public
- Maintaining a close working relationship with the owners of the Hogsmill River and banks (Environment Agency) and other partners such as the South East Rivers Trust (SERT).

Management Plan Page References:

- Page 5 - Introduction
- Page 5 - A plan for the next 100 years
- Page 57 - Stage Two identification of operational objectives and outline prescriptions
- Page 63 - Stage Three prescription tables for first ten years of the plan
- Page 78 - Maps and appendices