

REVISION OF THE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN TO INCLUDE EPSOM GOLF CLUB SITE

Report of the: Head of Operational Services
Contact: Samantha Whitehead
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 – Epsom & Walton Downs and Epsom Golf Club Habitat Management Plan 2015-20
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

To present the Conservators with the final version of the Habitat Management Plan for Epsom & Walton Downs and Downs Golf Club 2015-2020.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

That the Conservators:

- (1) note the amendments made to Habitat Management Plan, which now includes an updated version of the Epsom Golf Club Plan.**
- (2) That the Conservators approves the final version of the Plan and adopts the Management Recommendations set out for the next 3 years.**

Notes

1 Background

- 1.1 The Epsom & Walton Downs Habitat Management Plan was updated by Epsom & Ewell's Ecologist, Peter Howarth and presented to the Conservators over the course of 2015.
- 1.2 As the Epsom Golf Habitat Management Plan was due to be updated at the end of 2015 the Conservators requested that at this point the two documents were merged and aligned to provide one complete plan for the entire site which ran for the same period.

2 The Revised Plan

- 2.1 After agreement to merge and align the plans, Peter Howarth set about updating the Golf Club plan and conducting the necessary surveys over the course of 2016.
- 2.2 During this period Peter consulted with various stakeholders and also with Surrey County Council's Ecologist. Due to the differences between the main parts of Epsom and Walton Downs and the Golf Course, it was suggested that the plans should stay relatively independent from each other but form a two part document which ran for the same duration.
- 2.3 The Epsom & Walton Downs and Epsom Golf Club Habitat Management Plan is attached at Annexe 1.
- 2.4 The Epsom Golf Club element of the plan can be found in Part Two and follows the same structure as Part One of the plan. Both plans discuss geology of the site, botanical surveys, wildlife surveys, review of management and recommendations for future management of the sites.
- 2.5 The Streetcare Manager would like to thank Angela and Philip Clifford and Martin Ellis for their addition of first hand bird and butterfly observations which has now been included in Part One of the plan.
- 2.6 Now this work is complete the next step is to copy the maps and management recommendations for both sites out of the main body of the plan and form a separate document. This smaller document will be easier for the Downskeepers and Grounds Maintenance staff to navigate and work with on a day-to-day basis.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Conservators note the amendments made to Habitat Management Plan, which now includes an updated version of the Epsom Golf Club plan.
- 3.2 That the Conservators approve the final version of the Plan and adopts the Management Recommendations set out for the period 2015-2020.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: College Ward; Woodcote Ward;