

SIGNS ON THE DOWNS AUDIT

Report of the: Clerk to the Conservators
Contact: Samantha Whitehead
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 – Signs Audit 2017
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents the Conservators with an audit of signs on the Downs.

<u>RECOMMENDATION (S)</u>	<i>Notes</i>
(1) To note the audit of signs on the Downs, which will be used to inform a signs replacement programme.	

1 Background

- 1.1 There are over 200 signs on Epsom and Walton Downs, which include hack ride markers, warning and information signs.
- 1.2 Although there has been piecemeal replacement of signs, there has not been a comprehensive audit and planned approach to maintenance and replacement.
- 1.3 In order to address this the Downskeepers have recently completed a comprehensive study of all signs on the Downs, including hack post markers. This is attached at Annexe 1.

2 Proposals

- 2.1 The information from the audit has been categorised into groups by type, current condition and action required. This information allows the team to prepare a planned approach to maintenance and replacement of signs.
- 2.2 In summary, the findings of the audit have identified that of the general signs on the Downs, 37 need no action, 7 need replacement posts, 10 need replacement posts and signs, 12 need replacement signs only and one needs repositioning.

- 2.3 The findings of the hack marker element of the audit has revealed that 47 require no action, 1 needs cleaning, 3 need replacement posts, 30 need replacement signs and posts and 20 need replacement signs only. The audit of hack marker posts has been provided to the Hack Rider Representatives to the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee, and a meeting will be arranged with the representatives to discuss possible improvements for posts which are ambiguous or unclear.

3 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 3.1 Obviously, there are cost implications to all of the required work and the next step will be to cost out and prioritise the works in accordance with the available budget and resources.
- 3.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** Costs for works will be considered in view of the available budget and resources in the relevant financial year.

4 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 4.1 There are no legal implications for the purposes of this report.
- 4.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

5 Partnerships

- 5.1 We will work closely with the Racecourse regarding planned works and will share the proposed replacement/maintenance programme with them once completed.

6 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Some of the signs are not in ideal locations for health & safety reasons and we will address this in the next phase of works.

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 7.1 This is a very useful piece of work which, in time, improve the not only the visual appearance of the Downs but the enjoyment and safety of all Downs users.
- 7.2 It is recommended that the conservators note the Signs on the Downs Audit 2017 and that the next phase of work which will cost, prioritise and plan the maintenance and replacement of signs on the Downs.

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