

PROGRESS REPORT

Report of the: Head of Operational Services
Contact: Samantha Whitehead
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe One – Magnetometry Results
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

To note the progress of items previously discussed.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

Notes

(1) To note the contents of this report.

1 Magnetometry in Old Stables Field

- 1.1 On 20-21 November 2017, Nikki Cowlard and her team from Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society (EEHAS) carried out a magnetometry evaluation of the Old Stables field.
- 1.2 It was anticipated that the team would lay out a base line and set up part of the overall grid using 30m squares. The team hoped to assess around ten grids throughout the course of the exercise; however, due to some frustrating difficulties they finally managed three reasonable grids of magnetometry in Old Stables Field.
- 1.3 Magnetometry works by mapping spatial variations and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock. Natural magnetism is altered by heating or burning, and it is particularly good at identifying hearths, structures of tile and brick, and ditches and pits containing burnt or partially burnt material.
- 1.4 The results of the exercise are shown in Annexe One and Nikki explained that the on the diagram north is to the right, and there is more activity to the west than the east. The darker greyscale represents higher magnetism and the paler, lower readings than the norm.

- 1.5 Although the results are encouraging, the team really need to do a much wider area to see patterns. When the team took the machine around the outside of the copse, they got some very strong readings both to the west, in the middle and to the east towards the north side of the copse. This suggests a linear feature such as a pipeline or even a brick culvert/drain. This could be drainage from the stable and further surveying of the area will be needed to gain a fuller understanding.

2 Palace Boundaries

- 2.1 On 4 January 2018, Nikki Cowlard from Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society (EEHAS) visited the Park along with David Wilkinson, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments from Historic England. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the possibilities for marking out the Palace boundaries.
- 2.2 The meeting was extremely useful and resulted in a clear plan of the steps that would be required to bring this project to fruition.
- 2.3 The first phase of the plan is for EEHAS to gain consent from Historic England to carry out a magnetometry survey of the Palace site. Nikki Cowlard agreed to apply for this consent and to carry out the survey once the formal permissions were in place.
- 2.4 Nikki Cowlard and David Wilkinson also agreed to visit Professor Martin Biddle at his home in Oxford to gain as much information as possible about the excavation of the site in 1959 and to ascertain if there were maps or other resources, which may assist in progressing this project.
- 2.5 In addition, David Wilkinson agreed to research and forward information to the group about other historic locations who had successfully completed similar projects.
- 2.6 The group agreed that this project had great potential to form the basis of a Heritage Lottery Bid, if the Joint Management Committee wished to pursue this course of action.

3 The Round Pond

- 3.1 As agreed at the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee, the Streetcare Manager has now ordered a wooden kissing gate for the Round Pond. It is hoped that this will be delivered and installed by the end of January 2018.

4 Dog Pond

- 4.1 Over the coming month, Epsom & Ewell's Estates Team have agreed to assist the Streetcare Manager with a Planning Application to create a dog pond in the Sparrow Farm area of the Park. A further update on progress will be presented to the next meeting.

5 Dementia Friendly Signs

- 5.1 The Streetcare Manager is currently working with Epsom & Ewell's Community Services team to procure Dementia Friendly signs, as Epsom & Ewell are updating a number of venues with these signs and we are keen on adopting a uniform approach and pooling resources.

6 Update from Nonsuch Voles

- 6.1 2017 Quarter 4 Update from the Nonsuch Voles. The Voles have carried out the following activities in the last Quarter:

- 6.2 In and around the Mansion House:-

In addition to the usual planned garden maintenance for Autumn / Winter, we have carried out the following tasks:

- We planted around 2000 Spring flowering bulbs in various locations around the Mansion House gardens to add to the spectacular bulb display in Spring.
- The annual programme of pruning has started in the rose arch.
- We continue to re-use plants reclaimed from old planting schemes around Epsom & Ewell when appropriate.
- In the Pinetum we have carried out the annual weeding around the specimen trees and have now planted 3 large tree-stumps with Spring-flowering plants.

- 6.3 In the woods:-

- We have continued to carry out coppicing and other woodland management tasks in accordance with the Habitat and Woodland Management plans.

As in previous years, we have planted saplings grown in our tree nursery.

- 6.4 Other activities:-

- The Voles Shelter: this has now been installed and we are finding it very useful, particularly at this time of the year!
- We have cleared the Wickham Avenue ditch and the Main Ditch from the autumn leaf fall and removed any blockages to promote drainage. Over 800 metres in total has been cleared.
- We have added a fresh layer of wood-chip to the path by the wood yard.

NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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- The Voles have noticed that a BMX track has been created near to the woodland under management by the Avenue. Tracks, jumps, hollows and banks have been created by digging soil from the woodland and using logs for structure. Some small trees have been uprooted or hacked down as part of this activity.

6.5 Total Volunteer hours for 2017 are 3910 (In 2016 it was 3912)

7 Update from Nonsuch Watch

7.1 A verbal update from Nonsuch Watch will be provided at the meeting.

8 Update from Friends of Nonsuch

8.1 A verbal update from Friends of Nonsuch will be provided at the meeting

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 To note the contents of this report.

WARD AFFECTED: Nonsuch Ward; (EEBC)