

Coldham's Common Management Plan 2016 – 2026



Foreword Coldham's Common Management Plan 2016-2026

Cambridge City Council is committed to maintain and manage all of its public spaces to the highest standards possible, within the confines of allocated budgets and operational resources. Coldham's Common is one such space, which is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors, supporting many different activities and habitats. The space has added socio economic and environmental benefits with large sports areas supporting public health and well-being opportunities and large natural areas for passive pastime.

This document will provide a framework for continuing and improving dialogue with local communities and other key stakeholders in relation to the management of the Common. We actively encourage suggestions both regarding the management and maintenance of the common and ideas about changes or possible improvements to elements of the commons infrastructure or its facilities.

The local community and key stakeholders, with specific interest in Coldham's Common helped to shape the 'vision' for the open space. The adopted plan will guide the management of this process and also the management and use of the site over the next 10 years. The monitoring and review defined will allow the key consultees to have their say on any significant proposed development changes or improvements to facilities which fall outside day to day routine maintenance operations.

The continuing pressure on public sector finances, not just locally but at national level, will inevitably have an impact on the resources available to improve and maintain our open spaces. We will continue to work closely with it key stakeholders such as the Friends of Coldham's Common, to maintain and develop standards through volunteer initiatives. In addition we will need to look for alternative ways of funding to maintain and improve valuable open space assets, such as Coldham's Common.

Central to our determination to maintain and, where possible, improve the facilities and infrastructure of our open spaces across the city, each management plan adopted will seek to support the strategic principles outlined in the Cambridge City Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and the national Green Flag green space quality standard.

Carina O'Reilly – Executive Councillor for City Centre and Public Places



If you require further details about this plan please contact:

Streets & Open Spaces,

Cambridge City Council,

Mill Road Depot,

Mill Road,

Cambridge

CB2 1AZ

Tel: 01223 458520

Email: parks@cambridge.gov.uk

<https://mobile.twitter.com/camcitco>

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/>

Contents

Page number

1	Executive Summary	6
2	Introduction	6
3	Site description and history	7
3.1	Location and boundaries	8
3.2	Tenure	8
3.3	Legal and policy context	8
3.4	Key policy references	9
3.5	Current management arrangements	9-10
3.6	Current land use	11
3.7	Key natural features	11-14
3.9	Compartments	15
3.10	Map coverage	15
4.	Guiding principles	16-17
5.	The vision	17
6.	Aims	17
7.	Aims, objectives and actions A – D	18-32
8	Resources	32
9	Monitoring and review	32-37
	Appendix 1 – Management Schedule	38
	Appendix 2 - Maps	39-46
	Management Plan Site Boundary	
	Registered common land and public rights of way	
	Currently grazed compartments	
	Nature Conservation designations	
	Compartment Management Maps	
	Newmarket Road	

Coldham's Lane

Sports pitches

Barnwell Road

Appendix 3 – DEFRA Regulations for carrying out

works on Common Land

47-49

Glossary

50--51

References

52

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a ten year management plan that seeks to deliver a vision for Coldham's Common. It has been developed with input from local residents, site users and other stakeholders and will be adopted by Cambridge City Council, who, in partnership with others, will lead its implementation.

The plan collates information on important features of the common. Each feature includes a brief description of why it is considered important, sets objectives for the next ten years and proposes specific actions to achieve them. It includes proposed management actions subdivided by geographical compartments, however it should be noted that these may be amended in the light of monitoring or new information. In addition to the ongoing monitoring and review timetable there will be a five year review of the plan, which will be undertaken and consulted on in 2021.

2 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this management plan is to identify and assess the important features of the common and provide clear guidance for their management over the next 10 years (2016 – 2026).

In the preparation of this plan, the results of previous public and other stakeholder consultations were taken into account. The most recent and extensive survey available was undertaken by Phil Back Associates who mail dropped 5000 homes near to the site in late 2013. The response rate for the survey was very positive with 704 returning views which are represented in the final report - 'Managing Coldham's Common'. The main purpose of this survey was to explore how local residents and visitors use and value the site. With the high response rate these views have been considered carefully when balancing the multifunctional uses and values of the common.

The management plan gives a general description of the site, briefly details relevant designations and legislation, describes key features and specifies management proposals. For ease of reference, the plan does not seek to be an exhaustive document of site history and species records, but refers readers to supporting literature. Annotated maps allow easy orientation and interpretation of the management proposals.

Given the common's recognised importance for biodiversity, a site wide habitat survey and report was commissioned by The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northampton (BCN) Wildlife Trust in 2013. This report provides recommendations for management to maximise the biodiversity potential of the site. The survey findings and recommendations have been considered against other site uses and consultation responses when prescribing future management actions.

Clear actions have been developed and some of these are complemented by an annual work programme to offer a clear reference for all interested parties to gauge progress on implementation of the management plan.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

Coldham's Common is one of the largest open spaces in Cambridge, covering an area of 42.45 hectares. It is widely used by people for a variety of different activities and is fundamentally important for its natural habitats and the biodiversity they support.

Just under 15 hectares is designated to sports pitches and the Abbey Pool Leisure Complex. Cambridge City Council oversees the management of the common for the people of Cambridge. Other facilities include a small children's play area and paddling pool and a BMX track. There is also occasional use of sections of the site to host events. The most significant of which is a campsite to support the attendees of the Cambridge Folk Festival held annually at Cherry Hinton Hall.

The site has a long and varied history, Coldham's Green is shown on the 1300 Field Map of Cambridge and was designated a Green Common by 1700. Between 1665 and 1666 outbreaks of plague afflicted the local inhabitants. In the plague's final year Parliament gave permission to use Coldham's Common for permanent pest houses to isolate victims. As the need had passed, these dwellings were never built and in 1703, the temporary ones were removed.

In the 19th century, the Common was divided by a rifle range, but with the coming of the Cambridge-to-Newmarket railway line across the Common, the rifle range was relocated to the north. A further miniature rifle range was established to the south of the railway line.

By 1944, Stourbridge Grove was developed for housing within an old field boundary along the southern boundary of the Common.

In March, 1972, the Common was the venue for the 59th International Cross Country Championships.

The site supports a mosaic of wildlife habitats, predominantly comprising of extensive areas of grassland, varying in quality from improved to species diverse. Parts of the site are currently cattle grazed and semi-improved, with grassland indicators species at low frequency. Though the site is largely flat, in places hollows and ridges from former coprolite workings add microclimates fostering plant and insect diversity and there is also a large chalk mound which was once a rifle butt.

The rest of the grassland is managed as sports pitches, with rank grassland and scrubby edges, although these hold one species rich area (referred to as the 'Triangle'). Coldham's Brook (designated a City Wildlife Site) flows along the northern and western boundaries, and the City Wildlife Sites of Barnwell West Local

Nature Reserve (LNR) and Barnwell East LNR, Barnwell Pit and Barnwell Junction meadows adjoin the site.

The site is bisected by the Newmarket rail line. It is bounded to the South by Coldham's Lane and Stourbridge Grove, Barnwell Road to the East and Newmarket Road and Whitehill road the north. Cycle routes link Coldham's Lane and Newmarket Road. Two statutory public rights of way cross the site, the whole site is publicly accessibly common land.

Please refer to the appendices for maps of the site and location of compartments, features, watercourses and infrastructure referenced in the plan.

3.1 Location and site boundaries

Site name:	Coldham's Common
District:	Cambridge City
Wards:	Abbey & Romsey
County:	Cambridgeshire
Local Planning Authority	Cambridge City Council
OS Grid Reference:	TL474586 (Central)
Area:	42.45 ha

3.2 Tenure

The majority of Coldham's Common is registered common land under the Commons Registration Act 1965. The Mayor Alderman and Citizens of the City of Cambridge are owners in trust for themselves and the inhabitants of the City of Cambridge.

The area of sports pitches and Abbey Pool complex is managed under a leisure contract. The current contract is over 7 years and is held by Greenwich Leisure Limited.

3.3 Legal and policy context

Key legislation:

- Commons Act 2006
- Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)
- The Cambridge City Council Act 1985
- Common Land. Registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965

3.4 Key policy references:

- Cambridge City Local Plan
 - 4/2 Protection of Open Space
 - 4/3 Safeguarding Features of Amenity or Nature Conservation Value
 - 4/4 Trees
 - 4/5 Protection of Sites of National Nature Conservation Importance
 - 4/6 Protection of Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
 - 4/7 Species Protection
 - 4/8 Local Biodiversity Action Plans
-
- Cambridge City Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
-
- County Wildlife Site (CWS)

The site qualifies as a CWS under criterion 2c of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CWS Selection Criteria version 6.1 (April 2013), supporting locally frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species, including 3 strong neutral grassland indicators species, and in addition has a good number of other neutral and calcareous indicators species. It also qualifies under criterion 5a as a habitat mosaic; a site more than 10ha which support three habitat features (semi-improved, woodland, and scrub) in close association, at least one of which is of or approaching CWS standard.

- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Cambridge City Council declared the eastern end of the site as a Local Nature Reserve, under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside, in 2012 to meet the objectives set out in the adopted City Council Nature Conservation Strategy (2006)

- Equalities Act (2010)

3.5 Current management arrangements

The Cambridge City Council Streets and Open Spaces team, within the Environment Directorate, has overall responsibility for maintaining the common and initiating work prescribed by the management plan. The Streets and Open Spaces Operations team undertake removal of litter and graffiti, as well as grass cutting, sports pitch marking and some scrub and invasive weed control. They also run the Pinder service that supports grazing on the site between April and October, with officers on call for emergencies.

The Enforcement Team are responsible for issues around unauthorised camping, fires or events. Tree Officers are responsible for assessment of tree

safety; including ensuring paths have sufficient clearance from trees, woodland/tree belt management, removal of dangerous trees and new tree planting as appropriate.

The City Council Drainage Engineer is responsible for maintaining appropriate water flow in the sites adopted waterways and drainage systems, including weed management and bank repairs.

The Local Reserves Officer and Biodiversity Officer is responsible for ensuring the management of the site aims to maximise the ecological properties and potential, whilst balancing other site uses and engaging volunteers. This work may be assisted by the Asset Management Officers, who are responsible for public engagement, consultation exercises, play and the administration of events.

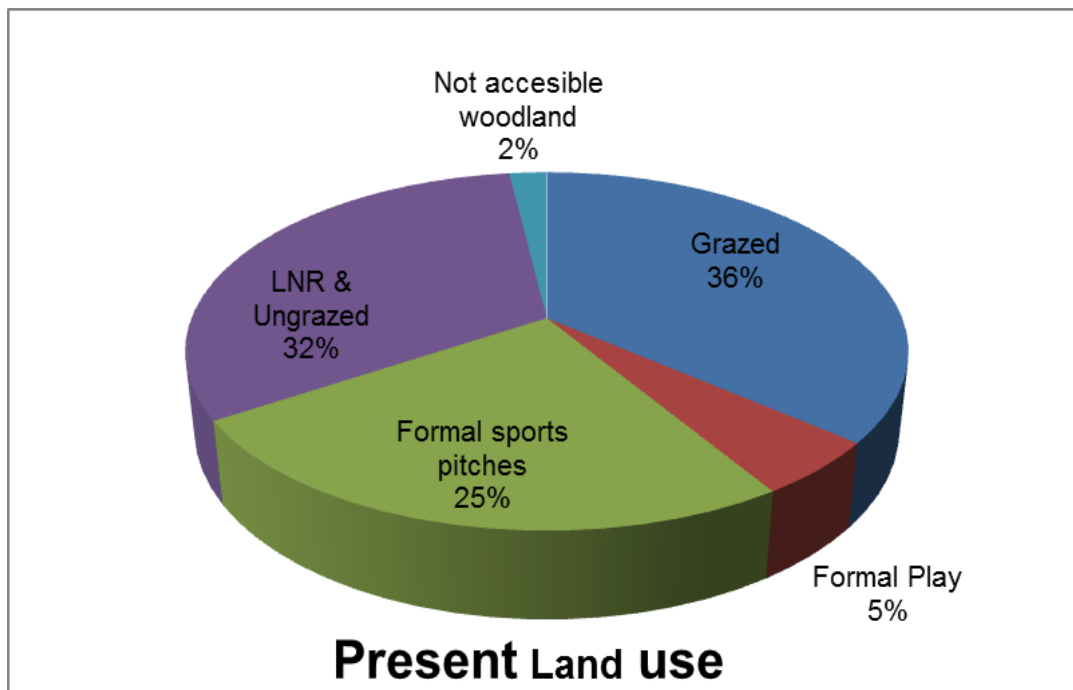
Booking of sports pitches and astro turf facilities is supplied through the current leisure contract between Cambridge City Council and Greenwich Leisure Limited.

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for maintenance of cycle routes and public footpaths through the site, including associated infrastructure such as cattle grids.

Network Rail is responsible for the railway line running through the site and the associated fence lines, underpass and footbridge.


The annual Folk Festival is managed by Cambridge Live Trust in partnership with Cambridge City Council.

3.6 Current land use







3.7 Key natural features

The following table lists the important natural features of the Common and identifies the key considerations for management;

Important Feature	Why?
<p>Chalk Grassland</p> 	<p>The chalk grassland areas on the rifle butts are a scarce and important habitat locally. Nationally, areas of chalk grass are recognised as scarce and fragmented habitats that are gradually succumbing to scrub and woodland encroachment and shading, as well as development pressures and changing agricultural practices.</p> <p>Nutrient enrichment is a key issue leading to scrub invasion, so grazing or cutting management is essential.</p> <p>Key species: Glaucous Sedge, Wild Basil, Spiny Restharrow, Marbled White butterfly,</p>
Neutral Grassland	<p>There is a shortage of species-rich grassland in Cambridge city. The majority of the grassland on the common is semi-improved. There is potential for improvement if the grazing regime is adjusted to allow more interesting flora to develop. In addition to flora,</p>

	<p>the grassland provides important habitat for reptiles, invertebrates and small mammals, in turn benefiting other species such as bats and birds of prey.</p> <p>The grassland, allowing cattle to be grazed in the centre of the city, is also key to providing the informal rural landscape of the area with a sense of continuity with the historic character of Cambridge. The neutral grassland areas on Coldham's Common are a scarce and important habitat locally. Nationally, areas of neutral grassland are recognised as scarce and fragmented habitats that are gradually succumbing to scrub and woodland encroachment and shading, as well as development pressures and changing agricultural practices. Nutrient enrichment is a key issue leading to scrub invasion, so cutting and grazing management is essential.</p> <p>Key species: Spiny Restharrow, Marbled White butterfly, Kestrel</p>
<p>Species Rich grassland (The Triangle)</p> 	<p>An important area of species rich grassland which contains 24 indicator species. This area has not been grazed or cut by tractor for many years. The resulting vegetation is diverse with many ant hills providing a mosaic of grassland and scrub edge microhabitats. Nutrient enrichment is a key issue leading to scrub invasion, so cutting management is essential. The area is currently managed by volunteer work parties to prevent the grassland being lost to encroaching scrub.</p> <p>Key species: Spiny Restharrow, Marbled White butterfly, Common lizard, Pyramidal orchids, Meadow Ant species, Green Woodpecker</p>
<p>Scrub</p>	<p>Scrub provides a valuable habitat, particularly in association with other features, providing a mosaic of vegetation structure and micro climates. The key issues are the prevention of scrub encroachment into grassland and watercourses. Scrub requires management to ensure a varied structure is retained to benefit different species. As well as providing habitat, scrub also offers screening of site boundaries, in particular the railway line and provides opportunities for site users to forage for blackberries etc.</p>

	<p>Key species: Bullfinch, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, small mammals.</p>
<p>Coldham's Brook (Chalk Stream)</p> 	<p>The brook provides an important habitat for wildlife and corridor through the common. Wet habitats such as these have been increasingly lost in the area as ditches have been filled in or culverted. Key issues are the management of the margins to prevent over-shading and invasive growth of reeds, poor water quality and invasive species.</p> <p>Key species: Water Vole, Kingfisher, Whorl Grass</p>
<p>East Main Drain</p> 	<p>The drain carries surface water from the majority of East Cambridge. Although subject to pollution and heavily shaded, this ditch has a reasonable flow and exposed aggregate bed in places. Rare Stonewort's have been found previously.</p> <p>Key Species: Water Vole, Kingfisher, Water Crowfoot & Stonewort species</p>
<p>Woodland</p>	<p>The woodland on the Common has been predominantly planted as blocks for screening of the boundaries and railway line. Natural regeneration of hawthorn, sycamore and ash trees has also occurred. These plantations have been largely unmanaged, they now require some management to ensure that the potential for wildlife and people is maximised. Small</p>

	<p>areas of woodland on site, contribute to the biodiversity of the site. There is potential for their improvement if non-native species are removed. The resulting increase in light through the canopy to the woodland floor will allow the native understorey to develop.</p> <p>Key species: Bats, woodland flora, scrub warblers, fungi.</p>
<p>Sports Pitches</p> 	<p>The sports pitches provide an important and primary recreational resource for sporting clubs across the City, the provision available consists of 6 full sized football pitches, 2 junior sized pitches, 1 American football and 1 Gaelic and also a baseball pitch. Predominantly the pitches are used between August and May and require regular grounds maintenance during this period and at the expense of species richness or structural diversity. Post season the pitches receive a renovation programme including aeration and over seeding of worn areas. There is however good grassland species diversity along the edges. The transition of short grass, through long grass margins to adjoining scrub and woodland provides an important mix of habitats on the common and should be developed further.</p> <p>Key species: Pied Wagtail, Black Headed Gull</p>

3.8 Key site infrastructure

- Metal footbridge and underpass allow access across railway line, which bisects the site.
- Cycle routes and metalled footpaths with cattle grids, self-closing gates, limited lighting and bridges across the East Main drain linking Coldham's Lane with the Abbey Stadium and Newmarket Road.
- Vehicle access is available to each compartment via lockable gates or raising barriers.
- Formal sports provision includes astro turf, courts, two play areas, a splash pad and BMX track. Car parking is available offsite adjacent to the Abbey Pool stadium
- Various styles of fencing have been installed round the site, sufficient to retain cattle in different compartments and prevent access to surrounding roads and properties and some woodland blocks. Cattle grids and self-closing gates retain access for cycles and pedestrians as appropriate. Some fence lines are dilapidated or no longer provide a useful function.

3.9 Compartments

This plan covers management of Coldham's Common, which can be broadly divided into four compartments.

Coldham's Lane:	7.74	ha
Newmarket Road:	10.3	ha
Sports Pitches:	14.62	ha
Barnwell Road (Local Nature Reserve)	9.79	ha
Total	42.45	ha

3.10 Map coverage

OS Maps	1:50,000	154
	1:25,000	209

4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The plan was written by Cambridge City Council with advice from the local Wildlife Trust and following national guidance on managing common land and drawing out the key management issues from the 2013 consultation. The plan focuses on the Common's natural strengths, such as the grassland, watercourses and woodland. It examines the management of established woodland areas and the impact of invasive scrub encroaching onto grassland and watercourses, providing advice and courses of action. The common also offers opportunities for a range of formal and informal sporting activities, also reviewed within this document.

An important element of the management plan is acknowledging the role of existing volunteers, who participate actively with conservation work parties on the site, including clearing scrub and invasive species. It is hoped the Management Plan will inspire, encourage and provide opportunities for more people to get involved.

The preparation and subsequent implementation of the management plan is guided by the following principles:

- **Actions will be discussed not imposed**

Actions to fulfil the Management Plan will only happen after full explanation and discussion amongst people and organisations who care for, use and enjoy the area.

- **Actions will be consensus-based**

As much consensus as possible will be sought for all main objectives and actions.

- **Gradual change**

Change brought about by the plan will be gradual and incremental rather than sudden and sweeping.

- **Good neighbour protocol**

A 'good neighbour' approach to operations will be adopted, raising awareness of the Common and its wildlife within local communities and to ensure that disturbance and any other potential effects of management operations is minimised.

- **Responsible use**

The site, its wildlife, and its amenity, is greatly valued by many people, from near and far, for a range of reasons. Everyone, whatever their main interest, has a responsibility to respect the sensitivities of the site and the interests of other users.

- **Ecological whole**

The Common is split into compartments by virtue of the rail line, but it is important that the site is appreciated as an ecological whole and with relation to neighbouring

habitats. There is an importance to ensure the protection and enhancement of the wooded buffer and rural landscape character of the common whilst maintaining the current important range of wildlife and increasing biodiversity where appropriate.

- **Nature and people**

The Management Plan will set out the needs of people, who live nearby and use the site alongside that of the wildlife and associated habitats found there. Whilst safeguarding, restoring and caring for the wildlife species and habitats present, it must also reflect the site's vital contribution to people's health and well being and the wider natural environment.

5 THE VISION

“Coldham’s Common is recognised, protected and managed as a unique, wildlife rich common and open space in Cambridge. A natural and historic asset for both Romsey and Abbey wards, the site provides a multifunctional, natural green space for residents and visitors. Free from unnecessary fencing and with well-maintained paths, it provides a clean, attractive landscape, easily accessible to all in the community, whether for sport, passive recreational pursuit or as a route to another destination. The grazed pasture, watercourses and wooded surrounds of the site provide a feeling of tranquillity and a strong rural landscape character, connecting with adjacent green spaces and wildlife corridors.”

6. AIMS

The following set of aims provides the strategic framework for the development of supporting objectives and detailed delivery actions (as described in the next section).

- **Objective A**
Enhance ecological integrity, manage and protect habitats and species that are a feature on the site.
- **Objective B**
Maintain and enhance the valued sense of place, its informality and tranquillity, while ensuring informal public access and discrete interpretation allows people to enjoy, navigate and appreciate the site.
- **Objective C** - Continue to engage community support for the site's care and management, to provide opportunities for education and to enable people to learn and interact with the site's wildlife, history and use
- **Objective D**
Note and account for the provisions of the statutory obligations and to the rights of the people who use the site and those that live nearby.

7. ACTIONS

The following section details the supporting objectives and associated actions required to take forward each of the above aims. Due to the high level of ecological value and features on the site, Aim A has greater detail than the others.

Accompanying this aim and its supporting objectives and is a series of map appendices showing agreed proposals for habitats and other management over the period of the plan s.

7.1 Aim A - Enhance ecological integrity, manage and project habitats and species that are a feature on the site.

7.1.1 Grassland

The grassland areas on Coldham's Common are a scarce and important habitat locally. Historically, grazing by cattle has maintained the ecological balance on much of the Common. Opportunities to restore grazing to other areas of the Common would be beneficial and increase biodiversity potential, however, other recreational pursuits preclude grazing of the whole site. In the absence of grazing, hay cutting is the next best option. The management plan aims to conserve, enhance and increase areas of species-rich grassland. All areas of grassland should be managed through grazing and / or cutting with cut material being removed from the more species rich areas. This will maintain the grassland floral diversity and provide a good habitat for insects and other wildlife. The transitions (ecotones) between grassland and scrub habitats are particularly important for wildlife, with ideally gradual change between the habitats rather than sharp boundaries. The aim should be to develop such ecotones wherever possible and appropriate and employ rotational cutting management on the scrub/grass margins to maximise wildlife benefit.

The Common contains extensive areas of grassland varying in quality from improved to highly diverse. Parts of the site are currently cattle grazed and semi-improved, with grassland indicator species at low frequency. Though the site is largely flat, in places hollows and ridges from previous coprolite workings add microclimates and there is also a large chalk mound which was once a rifle butt. The rest of the grassland is managed as sports pitches, with rank and scrubby edges. The approved City Council Nature Conservation Strategy (2006) states the continuation of sensitive grazing management is critical to the ecological health of the Cambridge Commons.

The Wildlife Trust was commissioned by the City Council to undertake a site wide habitat and species survey in 2013. Their subsequent report included recommendations to protect and enhance existing grassland. They concluded that grazing has occurred on the common for hundreds of years and has produced a well-structured and species-rich grassland and

associated species that rely on it. As well as maintaining the grassland, grazing animals can also limit the scrub and bramble encroachment and in some cases will actively knock back bramble and small scrub. Grazing will not remove the need for mechanical cutting completely due to the constraints on the site and availability of livestock, but the action of browsing will create a far more valuable grassland habitat that cutting with a tractor will produce.

Grazing the appropriate number of cattle produces a varied sward structure, aids the movement of plant seeds to new areas, enhances the movement of nutrients around the site and produces dung. Over 250 invertebrate species are found solely in or on dung, some of which were noted during the 2013 survey. These invertebrates provide a valuable service in recycling nutrients and also food for further up the food chain. For example dung beetle remains frequently observed within the droppings of hedgehogs on the Cambridge Commons. The relatively high stocking density and timing of grazing currently reduces the available habitat for invertebrates, birds and small mammals. Altering the timing of grazing and adjusting the stocking density will help reverse this.

Cattle are more appropriate grazing livestock than horses, which have a tendency to follow and scare people walking through the area. In addition, horses create distinct lawn and latrine areas, with the latrine areas favouring weed species such as nettle. The fencing surrounding the area is not appropriate for containing sheep, which would not produce the diversity of sward required and are more susceptible to attack by dogs. Good management of this site, as with other commons that are grazed, is dependent on the willingness of graziers to graze their cattle on these public spaces. The pinder service therefore needs to continue to support graziers in managing the health of their livestock to encourage their continued involvement.

Where cattle are not able to graze the compartments, the site should be mown (between July / September) to retain a height of 5-15cm and arisings should be removed or placed in pre-identified sacrificial areas. Mowing should be followed by the occasional use of a chain harrow across particularly species-rich parts of the grassland to prevent a build-up of thatch which can smother the wild flowers.

Areas of grassland currently managed for public use for sitting, picnicking and as informal paths should continue to be mown short on a regular basis.

The grassland, and the cattle that graze on the grass, are key to providing the naturalness, rural and historic feel of the commons and provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife. The grassland also provides the feel of wide open space, valuable in the context of the urban environment. If left

unmanaged natural succession will turn grassland into scrub and then woodland. The current condition of the majority of the grassland is species poor. In particular the frequency of the presence of indicator species that are on site is low, with the majority rare and none with a frequency more than occasional. However, the presence of neutral and chalk grassland indicator species across the site suggests that each area on site has the potential to reach City Wildlife Site status for their grassland.

7.1.2 Grassland objectives

- Manage the area of grassland (including sports pitches) on the site to remain at least as large as in 2015, 28 hectares (65%)
- Enhance the species richness of the grassland to achieve a more diverse grassland habitat and increase the abundance to frequent of at least five neutral / chalk grassland indicator species in each area of the site.
- Grassland on each area of the site qualifies for City Wildlife Status.
- Retain the 2015 proportion of grassland to trees to keep the open 'common' feel of the site.
- Presence of invasive weeds, creeping thistle, nettle, docks, ragwort and cow parsley will be reduced to no more than 5% of grassland.

7.1.3 Grassland Actions

Grazing by Compartment

The 2013/14 Phil Back Associates consultation identified a significant level of agreement amongst users that the common should remain grazed, although identified that stocking densities and compartments required review.

This ten year management plan proposes to continue to graze the existing two compartments (Newmarket Road and Coldham's Lane) with a single herd of between 5 and 15 traditional breed cattle between 1st April and 1st November. This herd will be rotated between the two currently grazed compartments. The species diversity and structure of the resulting sward will be monitored to determine future stocking densities and timings. It is envisaged that these area will improve with this slightly lower grazing intensity from previous years. The City Council also graze a number of other commons in the City, including Midsummer and Sheep' Green and Coe Fen. These sites sometimes require stock removal in the grazing season for events or to prevent overgrazing. One of the grazed compartments may be used to hold other, similarly sized, herds during these times. The Barnwell Road compartment has the potential for grazing after the July hay cut, however, site

users have expressed concerns that this would lead to overgrazing of this site and that it is a known cattle free area for dog walkers. Consequently, this area will continued to be hay cut with the option to graze revisited in 2021.

Compartment	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Coldham's Lane												
Newmarket Rd												
Barnwell Rd												
Triangle												
Sports pitches												

	Cattle graze, invasive weed control as required
	Mechanical Hay Cut
	Volunteer cut and rake
	Mechanical cut through growing season

7.1.4 Continue grazing using appropriate stock

Cambridge City Council takes the risk of grazing livestock on public spaces very seriously and has looked closely at ways to ensure that it can continue to use this effective and sustainable method of managing the grass in a way that does not conflict with the public's enjoyment of the common.

The Council is confident that by using experienced graziers, by choosing animals very carefully, by providing the support of the Council's pinder service and by making the public aware of their own responsibilities when visiting open spaces, that its grazed commons and Local Nature Reserves continue to be safe places for people to visit and cared for in the best possible way.

A risk assessment is undertaken for grazing on City Council land. A summary of the identified control measures are:

- Grant grazing licences to only experienced graziers who choose the appropriate animals for public sites, using native and historic breeds known for their placid and docile nature.
- Do not graze bulls
- Do not graze pregnant animals
- Provide signage at entry points to remind visitors of the requirements to keep their dogs on leads in the vicinity of livestock.
- Check stock daily and any animal that is showing signs of illness or change of temperament is removed.

- Regularly check that fences, gates and signs are safe and fit for purpose. Erection of temporary fencing to if needed for 6 month period in line with DEFRA regulations. (see appendix 3)

Invasive weed management of grasslands

Native creeping thistle and spear thistle are found throughout the site and in some areas at detrimental levels, outcompeting other flora, reducing the aesthetics of the site and limiting areas that can be enjoyed by members of the public. Mechanical cutting has been undertaken in most year, ideally this needs to take place just prior to the undesirable species flowering and before they set seed (usually July, depending on species and seasonal conditions). However, this measure to control thistle can have a detrimental effect on non-target species and can alter the grassland habitat suddenly, severely impacting on invertebrate and small mammal populations.

Hand pulling / cutting of creeping thistle has occurred on areas of the Barnwell Road section. This has noticeably reduced the amount of thistle within the sward. The future management of creeping thistle should try to reduce the wholesale cutting of areas. Limited mechanically flailing (topping) and hand clearance, where feasible, will remove any seed source and weaken the plant without removing other non-target species.

In areas of dense thistle then mechanical cutting or weed wiping, if a height differential between the creeping thistle and other grassland species can be achieved by grazing, this would be the best option. The complete removal of creeping or spear thistle from the site should not be attempted as they are both native species and there are several species of invertebrate found solely on them. They are also a valuable nectar source for bees, butterflies and other insects. Scattered plants throughout the sward provide a valuable nectar source but they should be monitored so as not to become a problem.

Hemlock is an invasive non-native plant species and is generally found around the northern and eastern edges of the Barnwell Road section. This too needs to be cut and removed as it is flowering to weaken the plant and reduce the species spreading via seed to the detriment of the existing grassland.

Hoary Cress is found in parts of the Triangle and Newmarket Road sections. It too can be controlled by hand removal where its spread is not too severe. This has been successful in those areas where it is present but needs to continue to completely eradicate this species.

Hay Cutting on Barnwell Road compartment

Barnwell Road compartment is currently cut for a hay crop in July, prior to the area being used as a camp site by the Cambridge Folk Festival. This practice has begun to increase the floral diversity of the compartment. The plan seeks

to continue this practice; however, areas will be left uncut around the edge next to the scrub to achieve a gradation of vegetation height and areas on long grass to overwinter for some invertebrate species to complete their lifecycles. These areas will be subject to cyclical management, with occasional cutting and removal to prevent scrub encroachment.

7.1.5 Scrub

Many invertebrate species are found solely on certain scrub species. Some also need a mix of scrub and grassland to complete their life cycle. Many bird species rely on scrub for nesting and foraging. Different age scrub supports different assemblages of invertebrates, so the presence of both young scrub and maturing and collapsing scrub is important. It is however important that the good quality areas of species-rich grassland are not lost when allowing young scrub to develop.

As a result of the lack of active management within the planted areas bramble and young scrub has encroached onto the adjacent grassland. This interface between scrub and grassland is an important habitat but requires management to ensure it does not encroach grassland and watercourses. Where grazing has been removed or reduced and mechanical cutting has not replaced it then scrub has rapidly encroached into the grassland. This can be seen to the north-east of the Rifle Butts where up until the late 90's there was a wide grassy strip between Coldham's Brook and the strip of scrub running north from the Butts. Once grazing was removed scrub quickly encroached and the path running along the brook becomes very narrow during the summer months.

Scrub should be cut in the autumn / winter and stump treated to stop it regrowing on the most important areas of species-rich grassland or those areas of grassland identified for restoration of species-rich grassland.

Provision of scrub of different species and at different ages should be allowed to develop on the site without a reduction in the quality or area of species-rich grassland. All the areas of planting are of even age and have a restricted value to wildlife. An option for enhancing the value of these areas for wildlife would be to introduce coppicing to certain areas and then allowing the trees and shrubs to regrow, thereby providing the early growth stage habitat and in time a dense thicket stage of value to breeding birds. The resultant cut wood should be left in piles to provide dead wood habitat on the site.

7.1.6 Scrub Objective

- Retain the 2015 area of scrub on the site, 11 hectares (5%)
- Scrub has predominantly native species and a diverse age structure

- Scrub as scalloped edges and graded zone (ecotone) with adjoining habitats
- Retain and enhance scrub boundary screening
- Opportunities remain for site users to forage blackberries, plums etc

7.1.7 Scrub Actions

- Prepare a programme of scrub management to provide a diverse age structure of scrub across the common
- Remove and stump treat scrub that is encroaching on species rich grassland, Coldham's Brook and informal footpaths.

7.1.8 Woodland

The woodland on the Common has primarily been planted as screening, with some arising by natural seeding of previous grassland areas. The woodland has been largely unmanaged as it established, it now requires some management to ensure that its potential for wildlife and people is maximised. The aim should be to develop a diversity of tree age and structure, with glades and rides, presenting opportunities for woodland ground flora to establish. Structural diversity within the woodland, with both young and old trees, will maximise benefits for wildlife and provide a pleasing landscape for people. Dead wood is a very important part of woodland ecology. Woodland management will create additional deadwood on the common which will benefit invertebrate and fungi communities. Standing dead wood should be left where it does not cause a hazard to users of the Common or a significant fire risk. Habitat piles should be created where woodland work takes place. Dead wood in 1.5 – 2m lengths should be stacked away from open ground in piles no more than 0.5m high. Rides and glades are an important component of woodlands. They create corridors for animal movement, light patches where ground flora can develop, and they warm up more quickly than exposed meadow areas, which is important for invertebrates and reptiles.

Management on the margins of the woodland should aim both to prevent scrub encroachment into grassland but also cut back to 'soften' the edges and provide a graded transition to the grassland habitats where possible. Scalloped edges to provide sheltered zones would also be beneficial.

The small areas of woodland on site provide valuable additional habitat for wildlife on the site. At present they are largely unmanaged, except for the weeping willows along the northern boundary which have been pollarded. Management should seek to diversify the species and age structure within each woodland block, favouring the long term survival of native species of good form that will provide long term habitat and screening value.

Selective removal to thin out the woodland blocks should concentrate on non-native trees species. This will maximise the benefit for wildlife and increase light reaching the woodland floor, which should assist the development of the understorey. The majority of non-native understorey species would ideally be removed to facilitate the development of a native understorey, so increasing the woodlands' value for wildlife.

The wide open space of the common enclosed by wooded boundaries is highly valued by site users. Additional screening should be provided along Newmarket Rd, Cambridge Football Ground and Coldham's Lane, planting locations and species should be mindful of traffic sightlines, future climate scenarios, potential future tree diseases, and the likelihood of shading or encroachment over water courses. Any redevelopment of adjacent land holdings should protect and enhance these boundaries woodlands and the landscape setting they provide.

7.1.9 Woodland Objective

- Retain the 2015 area of woodland on the site, 15 hectares (35%)
- Woodland has predominantly native tree species and a diverse age structure
- Woodland has understorey of native species
- Woodland contains some dead and standing deadwood
- Retain and enhance wooded boundary screening around the common

7.1.10 Woodland Actions

- Prepare a cyclical programme of woodland management across the common to ensure a varied age and species structure, develop a native understorey and provide deadwood features
- Remove redundant fencing from around woodland blocks that no longer require protection from grazing stock.
- Install appropriate bird and bat boxes within the woodland blocks to increase roosting and nesting opportunities within the relatively young tree stock.
- Provide new planting of native understorey species such as hazel and field maple within managed woodland blocks that are not subject to grazing.

7.1.11 Watercourses Coldham's Brook (Cambridge City Council awarded watercourse)

Coldham's Brook rises in Cherry Hinton (TL485562) from the chalk aquifer and is known as Cherry Hinton Brook until entering the Commons south eastern corner.

Passing through the common, water is lost to the adjacent lower East Main Drain through several swallow holes, so that the brook itself gradually loses energy and dries out. Chalk streams are a National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat, being potentially very species-rich, and rare even at international level, so improving the brook is a conservation priority. Cherry Hinton brook has recently benefited from restoration work by Cambridge City Council, The Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook and the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall. However, the Coldham's section still faces significant ecological problems including:

- Canalisation
- Over deepened and over widened sections
- Vertical banks
- Silt deposition within channel and lack of exposed substrate
- Slow flow /lack of flow diversity
- Barriers to passage of migrating fish and invertebrates
- Dense shading from trees and scrubs
- Nutrient input vis leaf-fall
- Invasive species (including *Crassula helmsii*)

The Anglian Region Basin Management Plan aims to get Cherry Hinton Brook to “good ecological potential “status by 2027, which entails delivering mitigation measures to improve the brook’s ecological status. The plan recognises a need to increase the morphological diversity of the channel, to implement appropriate vegetation control, to manage the deposition and erosion of sediment, to create structures to allow fish to migrate, and to manage invasive species.

The brook supports kingfishers and water voles as it flows through the Barnwell compartment. However, further downstream the usually dry channel is of low ecological value. The reach adjoining the Abbey Stadium within the Newmarket Road compartment tends to hold fluctuating water levels and supports water voles, as well as the scarce Whorl-grass *Catabrosa aquatica*. Whorl-grass is a rare creeping perennial that grows on the muddy margins of slow moving streams or sometimes floats in shallow water and flowers from May-July. Cattle create the muddy, damp habitat favoured by Whorl-grass. The grass has been recorded from the poached margins on Coldham's Brook within the Newmarket compartment. The size of the population on the site is very small and this species could easily be lost from the area. However, this section also harbours the non-native invasive *Crassula helmiss* which requires specialist control, particularly due to the risk of damaging and disturbing the scarce plants and water voles population.

7.1.12 Coldham's Brook Objectives

- The brook continues to support breeding water voles and foraging kingfisher
- Increase native aquatic plants within the channel

- Increase flow and stream bed substrate diversity
- Eradication of *Crassula helmsii*
- Retain or increased the population of Whorl Grass, *Catebrosa aquatica*

7.1.13 Coldham's Brook Actions

- Coppice and lay hedging along the Barnwell Road compartment to increase light levels to the watercourse
- Monitor effect of cattle grazing on Whorl Grass populations. In the flowering month of May to July and consider cattle locations
- Appoint specialist contractor to eradicate the *Crassula helmsii* whilst protecting the water vole and rare Whorl grass present on site.
- Develop a scheme for future public consultation to address the lack of flow in the dry section north of the sports pitches. Include measures to diversify in- channel flows to enhance the chalk stream habitat.

7.1.14 East Cambridge Main Drain

The East Main Drain carries the majority of surface water from the south and east of Cambridge. The man made channel is steep sided and heavily shaded with self-set scrub. Water levels and quality fluctuate widely depending on weather conditions which limits aquatic plant diversity. Some sections however provide suitable conditions for native ferns and the Newmarket Road section harbours a population of water voles and aquatic species such as Water Crowfoot, scarce Stoneworts have also been recoded. The urban drainage function of the watercourse is paramount, however management could be tweaked to increase biodiversity. Due to the poor water quality and steep bank profile the scrub could arguably be more beneficial to biodiversity than increasing light to the drain. Breeding birds include Whitethroat, and Blackcap have been recorded using this ditch side scrub belt. One section harbours a small are of common reed which has supported territories of potentially breeding Reed Warbler and on occasion Sedge Warblers.

7.1.15 East Main Drain Objectives

- The bank side scrub continues to support breeding bird populations
- The drain continues to support breeding water voles and foraging Kingfisher
- The small reed bed feature is maintained and expanded

7.1.16 East Main Drain Actions

- Implement an annual cut of aquatic plants and overhanging scrub from within the channel. Where sufficient light is available, retain clumps of water plants to provide a meandering course through the stream bed.

- Manage scrub sensitively along the Newmarket compartment to ensure light levels for marginal and in channel vegetation, including the water crowfoots.
- Manage habitats adjacent to the small reed bed north of the sports pitches to encourage the reed to spread and enhance the conditions for breeding warblers.
- Retain shaded banks along the reaches favoured by native fern species.
- Develop a scheme for future public consultation to provide enhanced reed bed habitat and opportunities to filter and attenuate flows along the drain.

7.2 Aim B - Maintain and enhance the valued sense of place – its informality and tranquillity, while ensuring informal public access and interpretation allows people to enjoy, navigate and appreciate the site.

7.2.1. Public access

Registered as common land Coldham's does provide statutory obligations/uses and a 'right to roam' including statutory rights of way (see map, Appendix 2) and also including permissible activities such as walking, sightseeing, bird watching, picnicking, climbing and application to graze.

The public access points to the Common were raised as a key area for improvement within the public consultation. The general consensus was that access points should be accessible to all, welcoming, safe and well maintained, with appropriate information and way finding.

7.2.2 Access Objectives

- All access points should be accessible to all, welcoming, safe and well maintained, with appropriate information and way finding.
- New infrastructure and signage will be robust, low maintenance and in keeping with the interface between the common and its more urban setting.
- Information will be collated to avoid a proliferation of signage upon the common

7.2.3 Access Actions

- Complete audit of infrastructure at each site access point to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and good design practice.
- Complete programme of improvements identified within the access audit
- Work with stakeholders to provide site information, interpretation and notice boards for regular updates on management and activities.

7.3 Aim C - Continue to engage community support for the site's care and management to provide opportunities for education and to enable people to learn and interact with the site's wildlife, history and use

7.3.1 Community engagement

Providing opportunities to get involved in volunteering on Coldham's Common has been identified as an action from the public consultation. A friends group formed in 2013 and it is hoped the management plan will encourage both their, and other stakeholder, participation and involvement with practical management on the common and monitoring of species and the effectiveness of the plan.

Currently volunteer activities are restricted to occasional litter picks and practical conservation work parties led by the City Council or Wildlife Trust. The number and scope of these sessions could be increased to encourage more site users to get involved. It is proposed that, once the management plan has been adopted, an annual programme of volunteer opportunities will be published and promoted amongst the key stakeholders, friends group, local schools and libraries, local newsletters, on site notice boards and City Council publication, including the website.

7.3.2 Community Engagement Objectives

- Increase number and diversity of people volunteering on the site
- Encourage and enable local groups to make use of the common, without damaging the biodiversity and landscape character of the space
- More people appreciate the history and biodiversity of the site
- Clearly defined and measurable management plan for the site.

7.3.3 Community Engagement Actions

- Work with key local stakeholders, Wildlife Trust and other local groups to implement the management plan objectives and ten year vision
- Produce and promote an annual programme of volunteer opportunities, including practical management, litter picks and wildlife monitoring
- Run a number of guided walks to introduce local groups to the wildlife on the common
- Install public notice boards at the key entrances for the City Council and Friends group to provide updates on management activities and volunteers.
- The creation of this plan provides an in depth reference document but this should be supplemented by a short summary version for day to day public reference available on the City Council website.

7.3.4 Monitoring and surveying

Increased ecological surveying would be beneficial for supporting and directing future management plan reviews. The City Council will continue to monitor the plant diversity and structure of the grassland and the population of Whorl grass in Coldham's Brook. Opportunities for surveys of other wildlife groups and species will be promoted to local interest groups and individuals.

7.3.5 Monitoring and Surveying Objectives

- Over the next 10 years an increased dataset of species records, over several groups will be submitted to the Cambridge & Peterborough Biological Records Centre (CPERC)
- Species records will be reviewed annually and new information used to tweak management operation to suit species deemed as scarce, vulnerable or of specific interest to the site.

7.3.6 Monitoring and Surveying Actions

Prioritising of species monitoring and methods;

- Bats – Including foraging routes and potential roost sites. Surveys could form part of a public bat walk on the site. Bat boxes could be monitored annually.
- Small Mammals – particularly associated with long grass and scrub areas. Important prey for species such as Kestrel, Tawny Owl and weasel. Potential school or student monitoring project.
- Birds - Little is known of the breeding birds of the Common. The proposed scrub, woodland and watercourse management has the potential to benefit breeding and wintering species. Approach the Cambridge Bird Club to appeal for volunteer surveyors.
- Reptiles – common lizards and grass snakes have been recorded. Though little is known about population size. Approach Cambridge & Peterborough Reptile & Amphibian Group
- Butterflies– Establish a transect route across the various habitats on the common to be walked throughout the butterfly season. Approach local Butterfly Conservation Trust representatives
- Moths – Good indicators of general habitat health. Surveys could form part of a public evening event.
- Dung Beetles (& associated fauna) – establish species present within cattle dung, could form part of guided walk around the site.
- Aquatic invertebrates – Base line studies of the aquatic macro invertebrates would provide a useful guide to water quality and habitat condition within the two watercourses. This information would be used to guide enhancement proposals.

- Volunteering opportunities, events etc.

7.4 Aim D - Note and account for the provisions of the statutory obligations and to the rights of the people who use the site and those that live nearby.

7.4.1 Events and activities

Registered as common land Coldham's does provide statutory obligations/uses and a 'right to roam' including statutory rights of way (see map in appendix) and also including permissible activities such as walking, sightseeing, bird watching, picnicking, climbing and application to graze. Alongside the permissible activities there are others which are not allowed or require consent from the registered land owner, namely, camping, lighting of a fire or barbeque or hosting events. Whilst some of these activities are undertaken daily by individuals and small groups the events and grazing require active management;

The Sports pitches and Barnwell Road compartment provide the opportunity for hire to host occasional events, at present many of these are sports based but on occasion applications are received to host cycle rides. The largest and established annual event however see these areas used for additional camping for the duration of the annual Cambridge Folk Festival, held at Cherry Hinton Hall on the last weekend of July. The site is fenced and marshalled throughout the setup and operation of the event, with all relevant health and safety and environmental legislations complied with. The consultation identified significant local support for the common to continue hosting the event, with some concerns raised about communication with site users during the organisation.

7.4.2 Event Objectives

- To be open to event applications which do not present significant disturbance to habitats or species on the common.
- To ensure any permitted event is undertaken without significant disruption to other site users

7.4.3 Event Actions

- Ensure that any expression of interest to host an event follows current event application process with consultation of local councillors primarily to proceed and then notification to key stakeholders and local residents for awareness.
- Offer a meeting with the interested stakeholders to discuss the set up for any large event and a post event meeting to feedback on any issues raised.
- Undertake ecological walk over and risk assessment prior to large events

- Provide information on the sites history and biodiversity to event organisers and attendees when on site.

8 RESOURCES

8.1 The successful delivery of this plan and associated actions is subject to available resources, including capital and revenue funding and community engagement and volunteer support. The City Council has an existing revenue budget, which covers the annual maintenance costs of its green spaces across the city, including Coldham's Common. Coldham's Common also currently attracts annual grant payments from the European Union's Agri-Environment Scheme towards its grassland management. The Council also manages a capital programme, which provides the opportunity for service's to submit bids for capital funding against. With continued pressure on public finances, the Council is actively seeking to engage communities and volunteers more in supporting service delivery and maintaining standards. Only by a successful combination of these inputs will the Coldham's Common management plan and associated outcomes be achieved.

9 MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is fundamental that a mechanism is in place to ensure that the implementation of the management plan is monitored periodically reviewed. The following table sets out the proposed monitoring and review framework for the plan, which is focused on the key actions. These are supported by more specific appendices giving more detail on operational activity and when tasks should be completed during the calendar year as appropriate.

9.1 Actions and Monitoring

Ref	Action/Activity	Monitoring	Review date
7.1.3	Compartmental grassland management by Council and volunteers	Ensure cutting operations have been undertaken and at correct times.	November annually
7.1.4	Continue grazing using appropriate stock	When grazing licences are issued annually in March crosschecks outlined in 8.1.3 to be adhered to.	March - annually
7.1.7	Prepare a programme of scrub management to provide a diverse age structure of scrub across the common	Production of specific plan and timetable	April 2016

7.1.7	Remove and stump treat scrub that is encroaching on species rich grassland, Coldham's Brook and informal footpaths.	Production of specific plan and timetable	April 2016 Implement 2017
7.1.10	Prepare a cyclical programme of woodland management across the common to ensure a varied age and species structure, develop a native understory and provide deadwood features	Tree evaluation programme. Tree team to undertake and monitor site on cyclical basis.	From April 2016
7.1.10	Remove redundant fencing from around woodland blocks that no longer require protection from grazing stock.	Task completion - CCC operations	2017
7.1.11	Install appropriate bird and bat boxes within the woodland blocks to increase roosting and nesting opportunities within the relatively young tree stock.	Identification of funding stream 2016. Implementation.	December 2018
7.1.11	Provide new planting of native understorey species such as hazel and field maple within managed woodland blocks that are not subject to grazing	Identification of funding and implementation.	December 2018
7.1.13	Coppice and lay hedging along the Barnwell Road compartment to increase light levels to the watercourse	Task completion	Dec 2017

7.1.13	Monitor effect of cattle grazing on Whorl Grass populations. In the flowering month of May to July and consider cattle locations	Site monitoring and local cattle management programme where identified	May-July Biannually from 2016
7.1.13	Appoint specialist contractor to eradicate the <i>Crassula helmsii</i> whilst protecting the water vole and rare Whorl grass present on site.	Contractor appointment and action. Monitor water vole populations.	Biannual reviews from 2016
7.1.13	Develop a scheme for future public consultation to address the lack of flow in the dry section north of the sports pitches. Include measures to diversify in- channel flows to enhance the chalk stream habitat.	Production of specific plan and timetable for consultation.	2018/2019 plan. Consult 2020
7.1.16	Implement an annual cut of aquatic plants and overhanging scrub from within the channel. Where sufficient light is available, retain clumps of water plants to provide a meandering course through the stream bed.	Site review to identify works needed. Production of specific plan.	End 2017
7.1.16	Manage scrub sensitively along the Newmarket compartment to ensure light levels for marginal and in channel vegetation,	Internal communications to ensure work is programmed.	Annually 2016-2026

	including the water crowfoots.		
7.1.16	Manage habitats adjacent to the small reed bed north of the sports pitches to encourage the reed to spread and enhance the conditions for breeding warblers.	Work with local volunteer groups to implement.	Annually 2016-2026
7.1.16	Develop a scheme for future public consultation to provide enhanced reed bed habitat and opportunities to filter and attenuate flows along the drain.	Production of specific plan and timetable for consultation.	2018/2019 plan. Consult 2020
7.2.3	Complete audit of infrastructure at each site entrance to ensure they comply with relevant legislation	Audit documented and reviewed biannually to ensure up to date.	Initial completion 2017
7.2.3	Complete programme of improvements identified within the entrance audit	Delivery of changes required in order of priority identified.	2016-2026 with biannual review
7.2.3	Work with stakeholders to provide site information, interpretation and notice boards for regular updates on management and activities.	Evidence of consultations on permanent installations (e.g notice boards) After implementation regular updating of content.	End of 2018 Quarterly on annual basis
7.3.3	Produce and promote an annual programme of volunteer opportunities, including practical management, litter picks and wildlife	Production of specific plan and timetable. Arrangement of on-site working days. Twice yearly (or as required) updating of notice boards and web	2016 2016-2026 Annually/ongoing

	monitoring	pages.	
7.3.3	Run a number of guided walks to introduce local groups to the wildlife on the common	Evidence of walks/tours undertaken on regular basis (minimum of one per annum on specific topic)	2016-2026 annually
7.3.3	The creation of this plan provides an in depth reference document but this should be supplemented by a short summary version for day to day public reference.	By production summary version of full management plan	2016
7.3.6	Prioritising of species monitoring and methods (specific species identified in 7.3.6)	As objective Species records reviewed annually and new information used to tweak management operation to suit species deemed as scarce, vulnerable or of specific interest to the site.	2016-2016 annually
7.4.3	Ensure that any expression of interest to host an event follows current event application process with consultation with local councillors primarily to proceed and then notification to key stakeholders and local residents for awareness.	Citywide annual events programme	2016-2026 Annually
7.4.3	Offer a meeting with the interested stakeholders to discuss the set up for any large event and a post event meeting to feedback on any issues raised.	Meetings documented	2016-2026 Annually but as required.

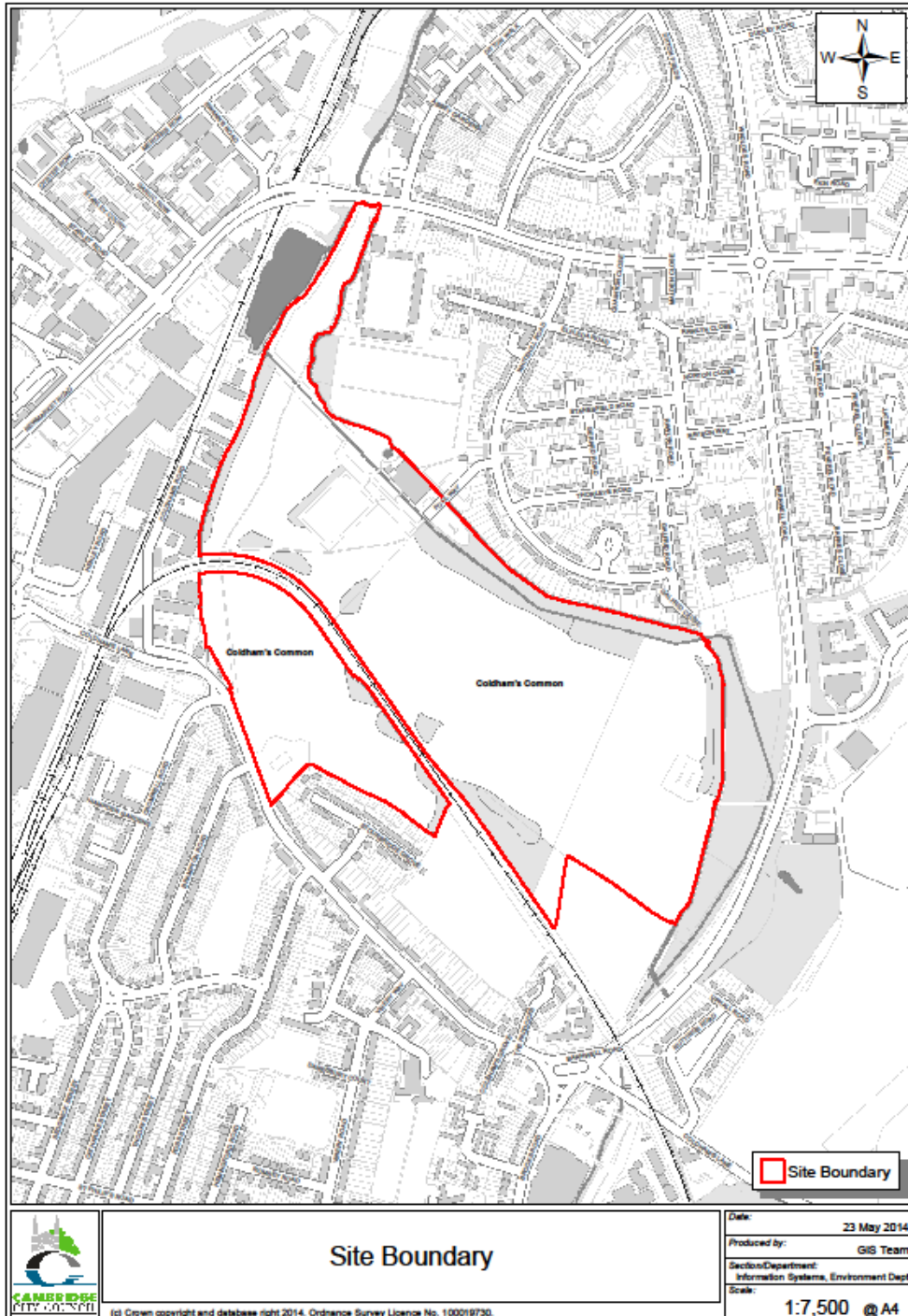
7.4.3	Undertake ecological walk over and risk assessment prior to large events	By arrangement and determined by event programme.	2016-2026 Annually but as required
7.4.3	Provide information on the sites history and biodiversity to event organisers and attendees when on site.	Triggered by successful event application.	2016-2026 Annually but as required
General	Management Plan review	Success of plan measured by completion of all defined actions.	Mid plan review 2021 Plan completion review 2026

Appendix 1.

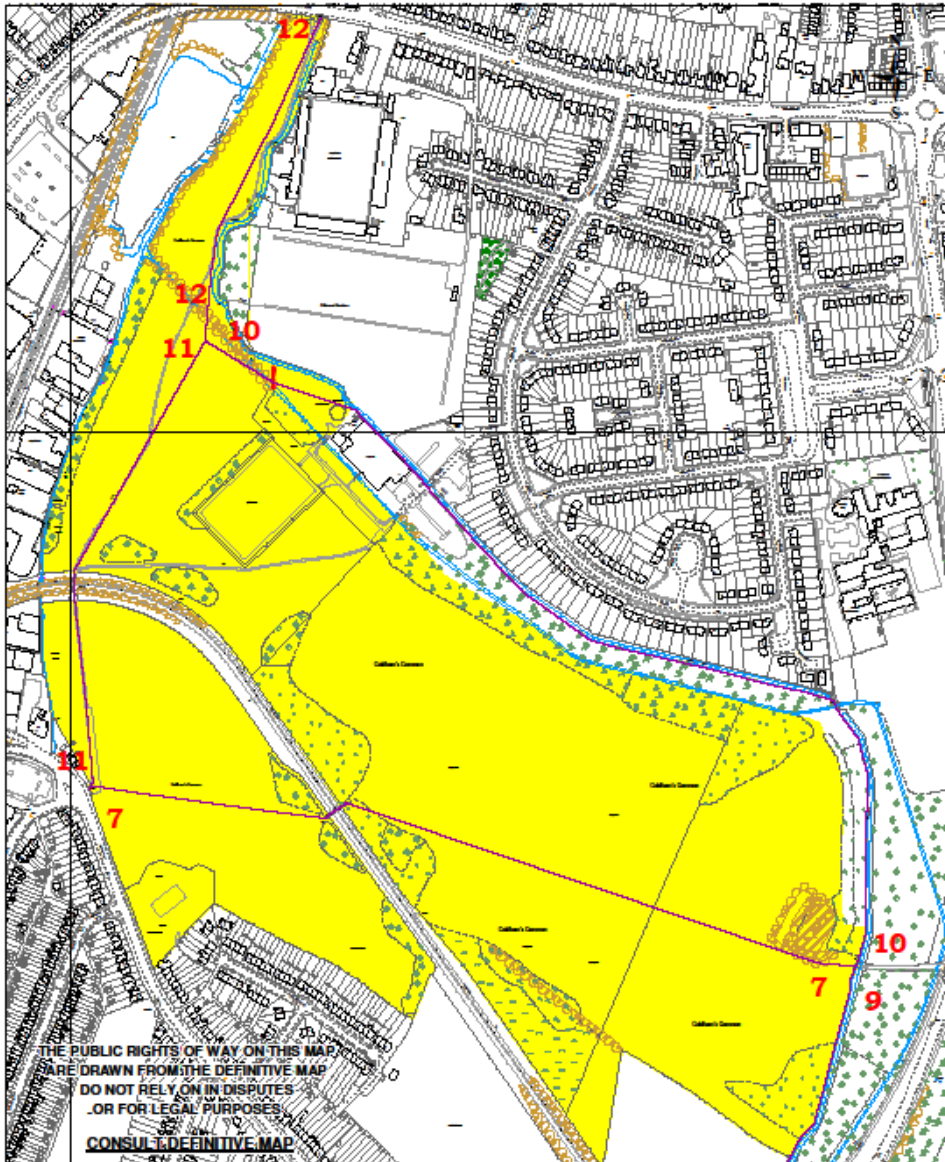
Coldham's Common - Management Schedule													
Annual Task	Team	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Graze compartments A & B	Operations (Pinder)												
Cut amenity grassland	Operations												
Haycut & Collect Barnwell Compartment	Contractor												
Top thistles (as required)	Operations												
Cut informal paths	Operations												
Cut and rake 'Triangle'	Volunteers (Wildlife Trust)												
Hand pull Haory Cress	Volunteers (Wildlife Trust)												
Reduce encroaching scrub on rotation	Volunteers, Operations												
Thin shelter belts on rotation	Tree team, Contractors, Volunteers												
Annual watercourse vegetation management	Watercourse Contractors												
Litter Pick	Operations												
Deep clean, including watercourses	Operations, Volunteers												
Projects 2016													
Reduce scrub along Coldham's Brook	Operations, Volunteers												
Control Himalayn Balsam	Volunteers												
Control <i>Crassula Helmsii</i>	Specialist Contractor												
Remove redundant fences / water trough	Contractors, Volunteers												
Install public notice boards	Volunteers												
Tree Inspections & maintenance*	Tree Team												
Projects 2017/18													
Tree Planting**	Tree Team												
Ongoing tasks													
Playground inspections	Asset Management												
Folk Festival	Asset Management												
* Area B in Parks tree maintenacne programme. 16/17, 19/20, 22/23,26/27													
** Areas B in Parks tree maintenance programme. 17/18, 20/21, 23/24, 27/28													

Appendix 2

Maps: Coldham's Common Management Plan Site boundary



Coldhams Common

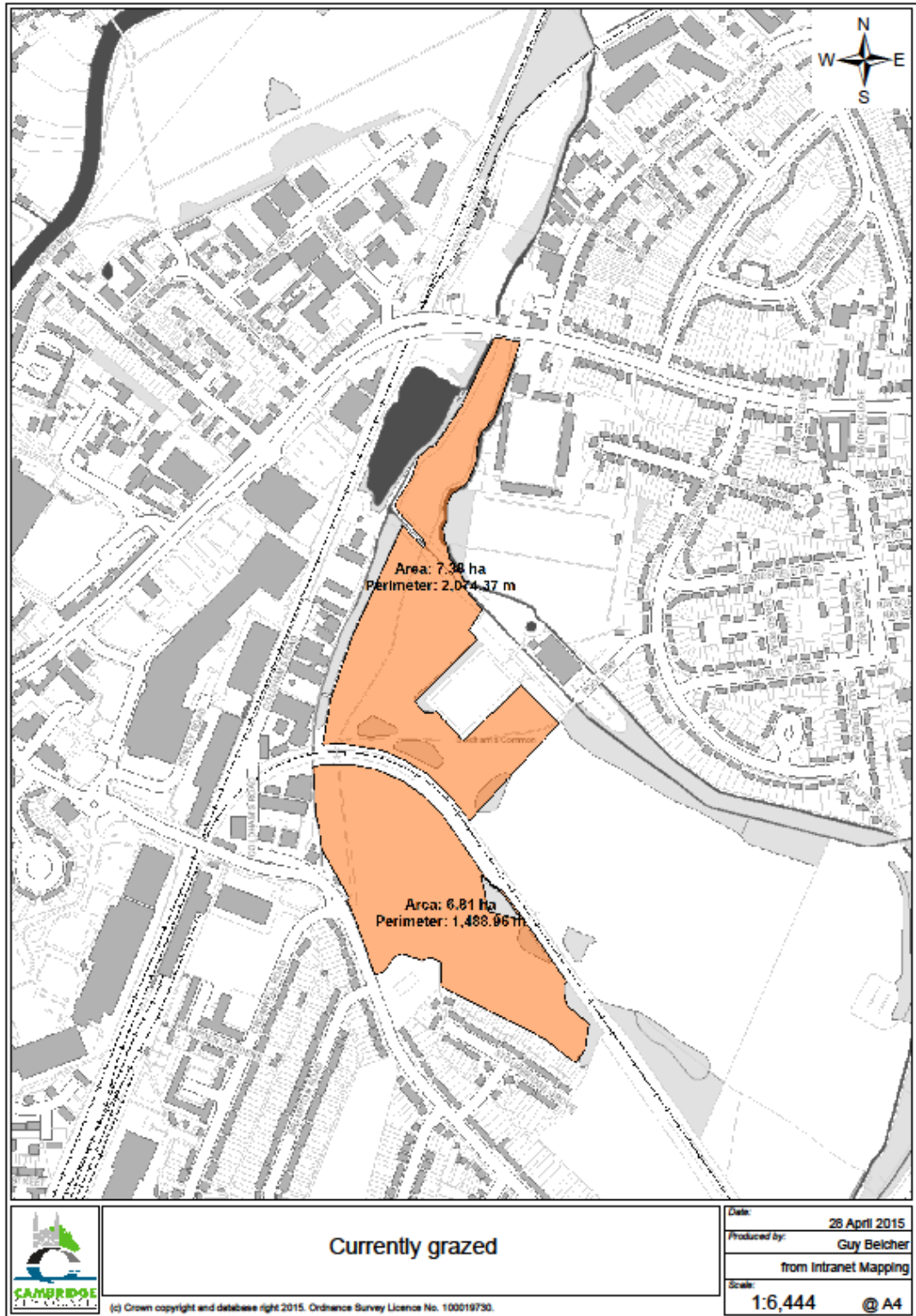


Scale: 1:5000
 Date: 24/05/2010
 By: cg283

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 (2008)

Key - Drawn from the Definitive Map		
Public Footpath (purple)		Permissive Footpath (red)
Public Bridleway (green)		Permissive Bridleway (red)
Byway Open to All Traffic (brown)		Permissive Access (red)
Parish boundary (yellow)		Potential Highway (orange)

Registered common land and public rights of way



Currently grazed compartments



Nature Conservation designations, including Cherry Hinton brook to the south and the Barnwell Junction Meadows heading to Fen Ditton Meadows and Stourbridge Common to the north

Compartment management maps:

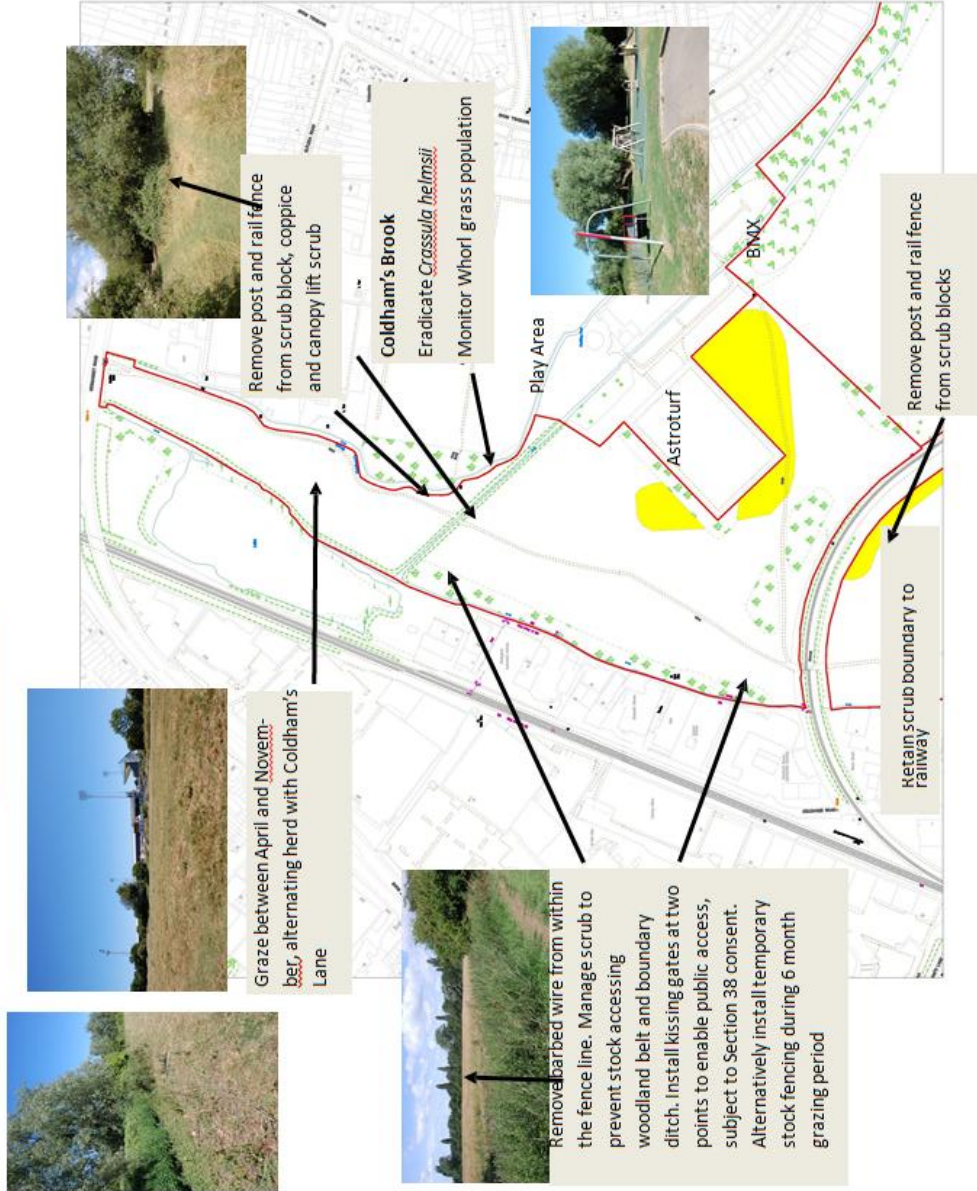
Newmarket Road

Coldham's Lane

Sports Pitches

Barnwell Road

Newmarket Road Compartment — Management Map



Catabrosa aquatica

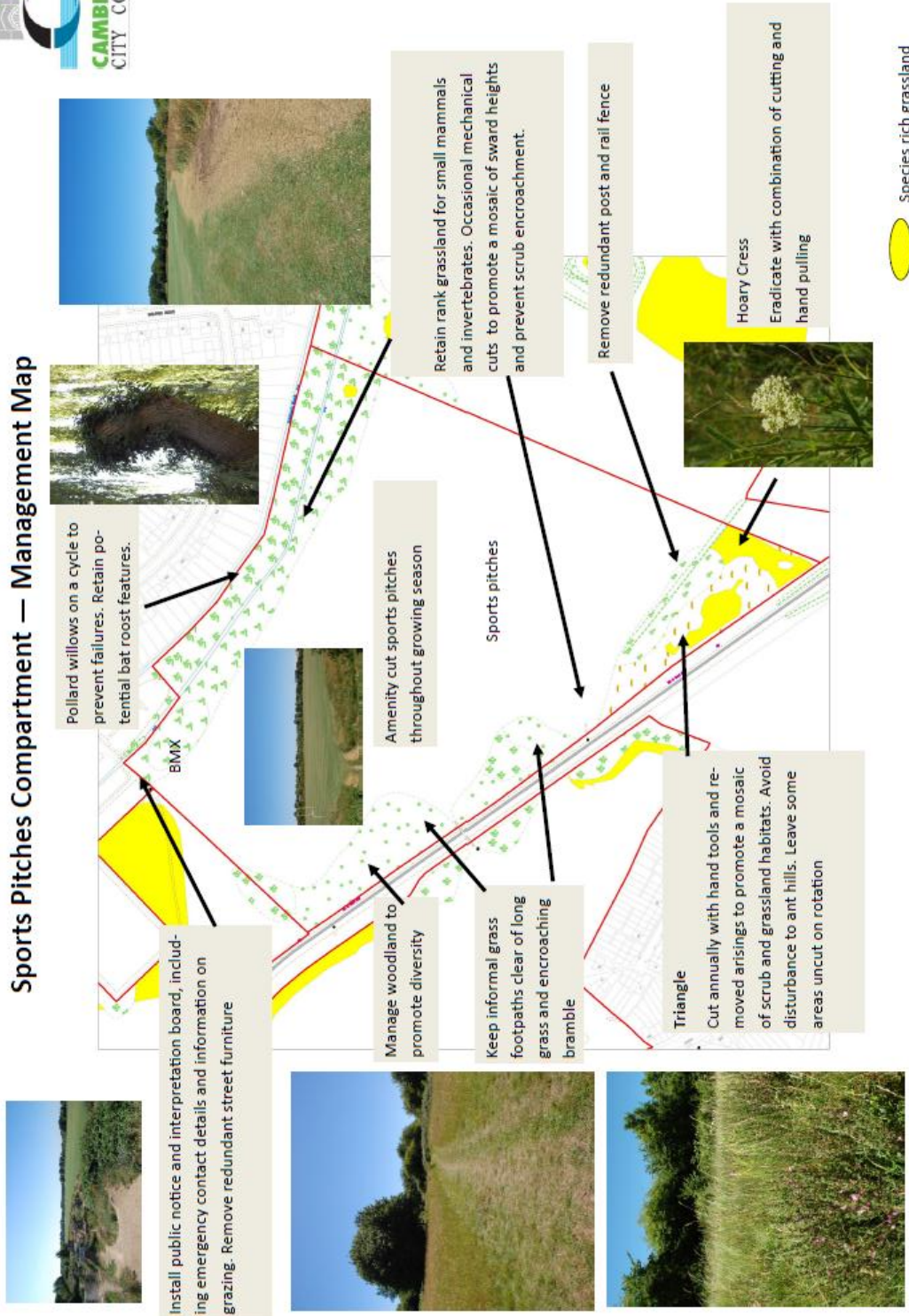


Species rich grassland

Coldham's Common Management Plan 2016 – 2026



Sports Pitches Compartment — Management Map



Barnwell Road Compartment – Management Map



Appendix 3

Natural England, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Regulations for carrying out works on Common Land

The following outlines the regulations outlined by DEFRA in relation to carrying out works on common land.

Works you don't need consent for

It's your responsibility to make sure the works you're doing don't need consent.

You don't need Secretary of State consent to:

- add new stiles and gates in existing boundaries
- add direction signs and information boards
- create or widen existing unsurfaced or loosely surfaced footpaths
- add seats
- add shooting butts that are smaller than 10 square metres add temporary sheep pens for fewer than 28 days in one year eg for separating sheep from lambs or lug tagging during a gather or drift
- burn heather or cut bracken, or manage vegetation by any mechanical means
- set out areas for sport or games including goalposts, provided they don't need any major permanent construction
- add a temporary shelter for fewer than 14 days in 1 year for animals that need emergency veterinary treatment
- add feeding and watering troughs, provided they're proportionate to the number of animals that need to be fed
- add scrapes for grouse or lapwing
- add larsen traps or crow traps
- dredge and clear ponds or other bodies of water
- plant and protect indigenous trees and shrubs, provided it's not for forestry and won't impede access at any stage of growth
- allow the Highways Agency to put up temporary snow fences

Works that are exempt

Some works, like erecting temporary fencing or putting up bollards are considered 'exempt' in certain circumstances - this means you don't need consent to carry them out.

If you want to carry out these works, you must complete a notice of exemption and send it to the Planning Inspectorate.

You must also display a copy of your notice of exemption on the site where you're carrying out the works

Erecting fencing for up to 6 months

You can erect temporary fencing on commons for up to 6 months to restrict the movement of grazing animals.

To do this, you must be:

- the owner of the land
- a commoner (anyone who has rights of common on the land)
- anyone acting with written consent of the owner

The area you want to fence off must not be bigger than either 10 hectares or 10% of the area of registered common land that it's part of, whichever is a smaller area

It can't exceed this size limit, either by itself or cumulatively with any other areas in same area of registered common land which you have fenced off without section 38 consent.

If you fence off a piece of land for 6 months under this exemption, you must then remove the fences for 6 months before you can fence it off again.

Erecting fencing for up to 1 year

You can put up temporary fencing for up to 1 year (or up to 3 years on moorland) to protect vegetation if you're growing or restoring it.

The area you fence off must not be larger than 1% of the registered area of common land it's part of.

It also can't have been enclosed within the previous year.

To do this, you must be:

- the owner of the land
- a commoner (anyone who has rights of common on the land)
- anyone acting with written consent of the owner

Erecting fencing for up to 5 years

You can put up temporary fencing for up to 5 years if you're restricting access to conserve nature.

The area you want to fence off can't be bigger than 1% of the registered area of common land that it's part of, by itself or along with other areas in the same area.

To do this, you must:

- own the land or have written consent from the owner to prove you're working on their behalf
- have a written agreement with Natural England or the Secretary of State requiring you to conserve nature

Installing rows of obstacles

You can install a row of obstacles, eg bollards or large stones to stop vehicles accessing common land - it can't be greater than 200 metres in length.

You can't have more than one row of obstacles on your land (ie within a single land registry unit).

You can extend an existing row of obstacles, but the combined length of the original row and the extension can't be more than 200 metres.

You can only do this if vehicles accessing the land would:

- stop members of the public using it for recreation or commoners from exercising their rights of common
- damage the land

To do this you must be either:

- the owner of the land
- any other person acting with the written consent of the owner of the land

Glossary

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	A statutory designation that protects a forsite for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.
County Wildlife Site	County Wildlife Sites (CWS) are areas of land recognised as being at least county, sometimes national, importance for their nature conservation value; this is defined by the presence of important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species. County Wildlife Sites are not protected by law, their survival depends on owners and managers being sympathetic to the needs of wildlife. Local Authorities as part of their planning function have a responsibility to take account of County Wildlife Sites alongside other material planning considerations.
City Wildlife Site	Have the same level of protection as County Wildlife Sites. However, the criteria for selection considers the sites importance in a urban context. Therefore their value may be local as opposed to County level.
Coprolite	Fossilized dung from prehistoric vertebrates
Biodiversity	The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.
Ecotone	An ecotone is a transition area between two habitats. It is where two communities meet and integrate.
Arrisings	Materials generated following cutting
Ruderal	A plant species that is first to colonize disturbed lands. Often associated with manmade disturbance and waste ground.
Steer	Castrated male, also known as bullocks. They are naturally boisterous and may sometimes even appear aggressive to

visitors. This is due however to their inquisitive nature and is unlikely to cause injury

Heifer

Young female (cow) that has not yet given birth to a calf and consequently is well tempered and suited to an environment where there is likely to be interaction with the public.

Pinder

Local term for stockman who manage the grazing of cattle on the Cambridge Commons.

S106

Developer contribution for enhancement of local formal and informal green spaces.

References:

- Managing Coldham's Common - A report by Phil Back Associates 2014
- Cambridge City Nature Conservation Strategy, "Enhancing Biodiversity", September 2006.
- Watercourses on park and open spaces, survey report 2008, Active Communities, Cambridge City Council.
- The Lowland Grassland Management Handbook, second edition. A Crofts and RG Jefferson (eds) 1999.
- Conservation grazing, Wildlife Trust, 2009.
- Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy. Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2011
- Cambridge City Council Code of best practice on consultation and community engagement, CCC, June 2011
- Watercourses on Parks & Open Spaces, Cambridge Survey Report 2008
- The Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual Ada & Natural England 2008
- Cambridge City Wildlife Sites Register 2005
- Barnwell Local Nature Reserve Summary Plan 2001-2010
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- A Common Purpose, A guide to Community Engagement on Common Land 2012
- Finding Common Ground
- CCC Streets & Open Spaces – Operational Plan 2014-15
- Coldham's Common County Wildlife Site Citation (2005) Site No. H5.1
- Coldham's Brook City Wildlife Site Citation (2005) Site No. H5.2
- Habitat Management for Invertebrates: a practical handbook P. Kirby 1992
- Water Vole Handbook 3rd Edition 2011r. Strachan, T Moorhouse & M Gelling