



Lammas Lands Management Plan 2017



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Summary

The Lammas Lands are a group of floodplain meadows covering 31.8 ha located in the town of Godalming in Surrey. Most of the area is owned and the whole site is managed by Waverley Borough Council. The Lammas Lands are registered common land but there are no registered commoners. It is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI), an Area of High Archaeological Potential and an Area of Strategic Visual Importance. The site is also designated as an area of Open Access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Lammas Lands occupy the floodplain adjacent to the River Wey and the area becomes flooded after heavy rainfall with some areas often holding surface water in the wetter months. Located within Flood Zone 2, the Lammas Lands have been assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of being flooded by the river and are a vital part of the flood protection measures for the town.

The Lammas Lands support the habitats of principle importance ***Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and*** the non-priority habitat ***Good quality semi-improved grassland*** . A total of 108 species of flowering plants were recorded from the site in 1994, and 227 invertebrates were recorded from the site in 2001 including a number of rare and scarce species. The ornithological interest is generally modest but six amber and 12 red listed species have been recorded and the site has considerable potential to support additional numbers and species of bird.

The site is relatively unexplored archaeologically but has a long cultural history as grassland stretching back to Domesday and retains a number of features despite changes to the hydrology and management brought about by river improvements and road and rail crossings.

A recent visitor survey found that about 80% of visitors to the Lammas Lands were walking with or without a dog. Around 45% of respondents visited two to three times a week or more often. The survey responses underlined the importance of the Lammas Lands to the people of Godalming.

Overall, this plan seeks to ensure that the Lammas Lands continue to provide a valuable flood relief, recreational, wildlife, landscape and historical feature within Godalming.

The plan therefore lays out 14 objectives, each with a range of prescriptions with the aim of maintaining and improving the site for people and wildlife whilst preserving its use as a flood relief feature. Other objectives include the need for preserving the historic and landscape features, carrying survey and monitoring, meeting the site manager's statutory obligations and consulting with statutory bodies, the local community and others on future site management. All these matters are summarised in a ten year work programme.

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Acknowledgements

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1. Introduction to the Lammas Lands

Location

1.1 The Lammas Lands are a group of floodplain meadows covering 31.8 ha located in the town of Godalming in Surrey (central grid reference SU 977443). The original three meadows, known as Catteshall, Almshouse and Overgone Meadows are separated by the mainline railway, Bridge Road and Catteshall Road. A corner of Overgone Meadow is now split off from the rest of the meadow by the mainline railway. The River Wey forms the southern boundary, with the Wey Navigation running along the eastern boundary. Borough Road forms the western boundary and Chalk Road the northern boundary to the western half of the site; while Hell Ditch forms the northern boundary to the eastern half of the site (see Map 1). For management purposes the Lammas Lands are split into five compartments (also shown in Map 1).

Tenure

1.2 Most of the area is owned by Waverley Borough Council. However, within Compartments 2 and 3 and contiguous with them are three smaller areas, one owned by the Henry Smith Charity (totalling 0.11ha) and two owned by the Loseley Estate (2.5 ha). Details are shown on Map 2. Waverley Borough Council has agreements with both landowners to manage these areas with the rest of the site. The details of these agreements and the land ownership are contained in copies of the Land Registry Register and Maps held by Waverley BC.

1.3 The adjacent Wey Navigation is owned by the National Trust¹.

Other rights

1.4 The Lammas Lands and some adjacent areas are registered common land (CL153). There are no registered commoners (see Map 2).

1.5 There are no designated Public Rights of Way over the Lammas Lands, but the site is designated an area of Open Access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Designations

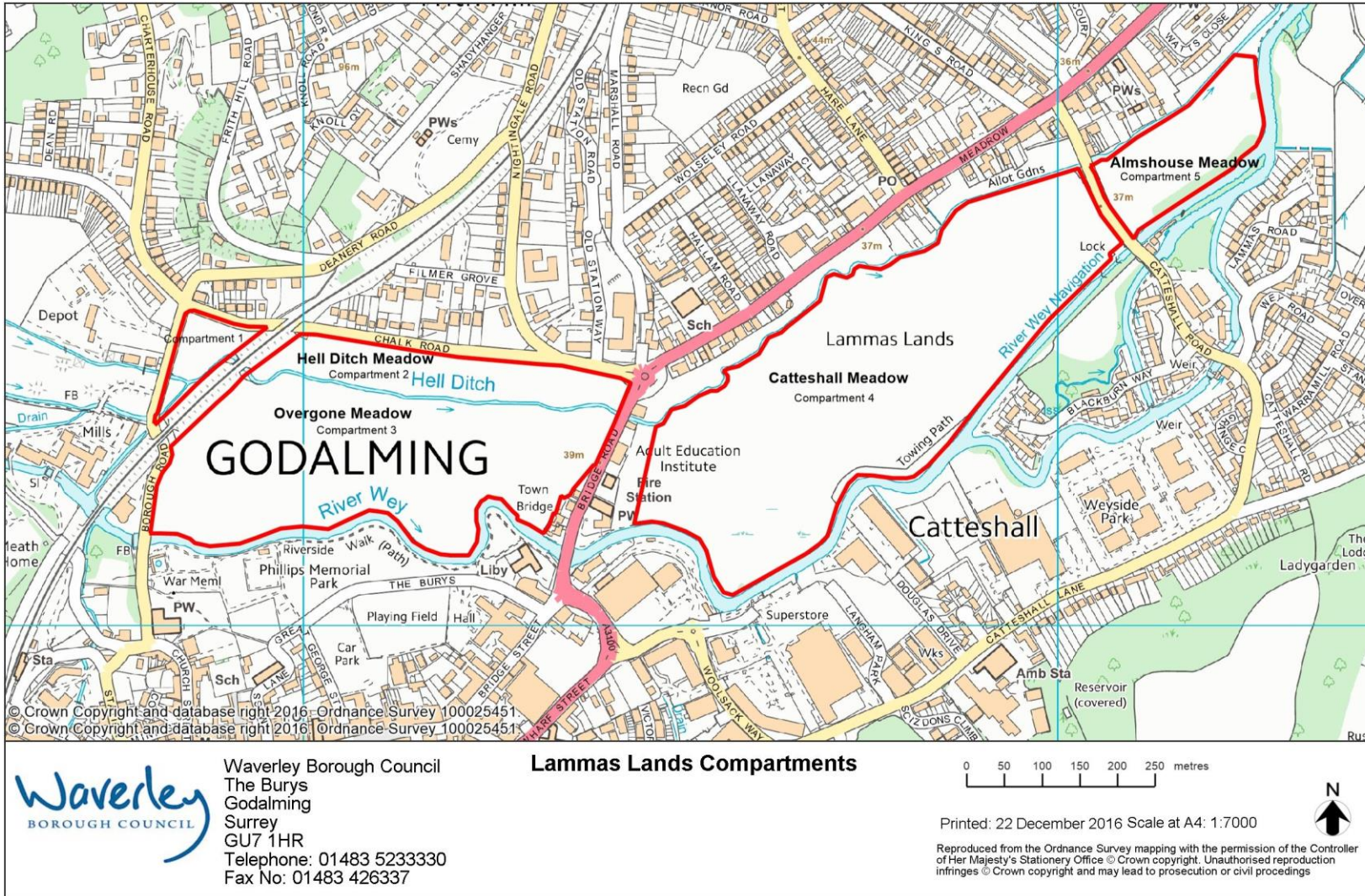
1.6 The site has a range of county-level designations as follows:

- Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) - reference numbers: Overgone Meadow WA066, Catteshall Meadow WA018; Almshouse Meadow WA065.
- Area of High Archaeological Potential (within Catteshall Meadow, close to Hell Ditch)
- Area of Strategic Visual Importance

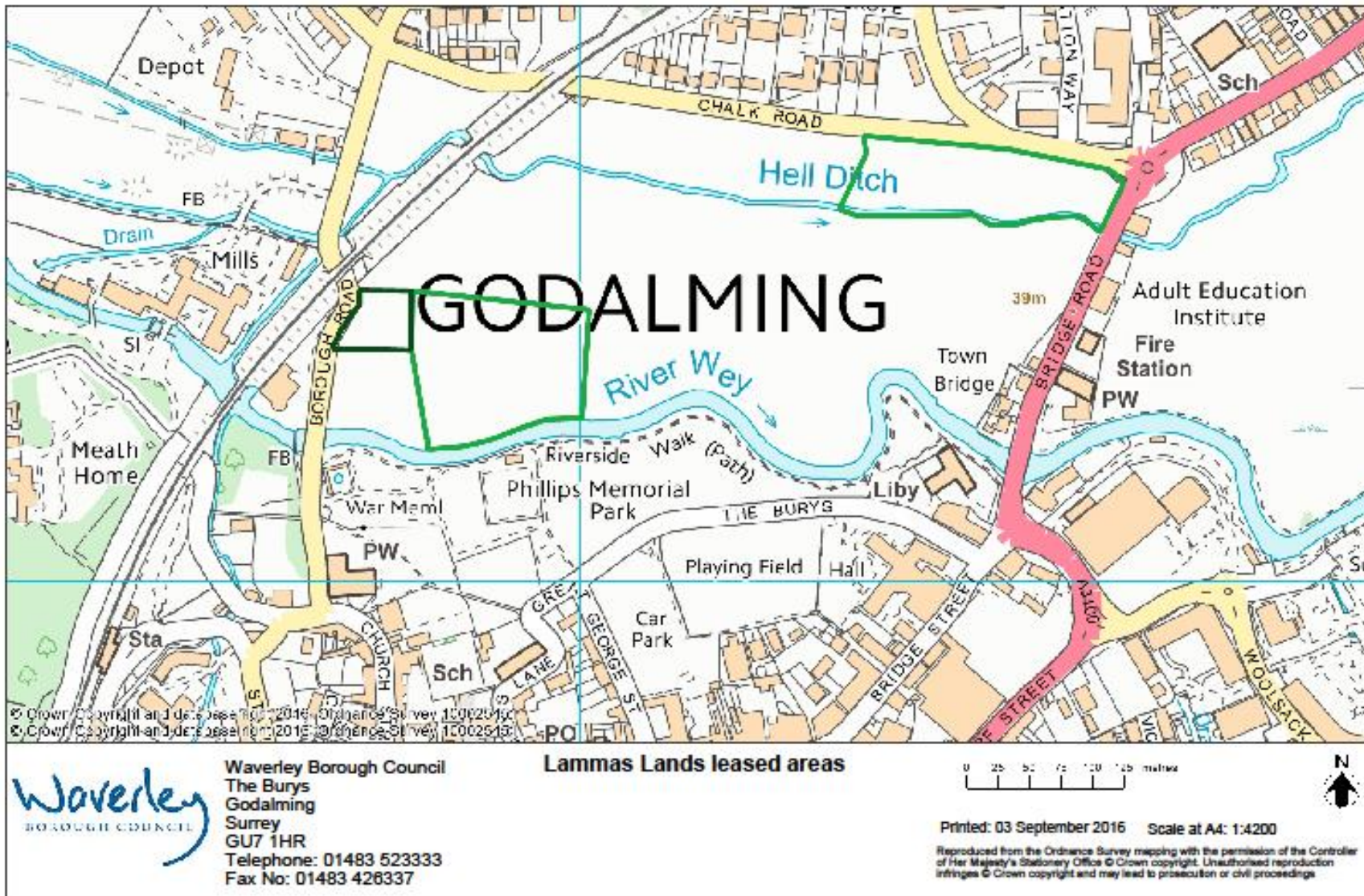
¹ <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-wey-and-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf>

- Part of the River Wey and Godalming Navigation Conservation Area (Catteshall and Almshouse Meadows).
- Countryside Stewardship Water Quality area medium priority

Map 1. Area of Lammas Lands (in red) managed by Waverley Borough Council with Compartment Numbers



Map 2. Areas of the Lammas Lands leased and managed by Waverley BC. (Adam Smith Charity-Dark Green and Loseley Estate- light green)



2. Natural heritage

Landscape

- 2.1 Despite being on periphery of London, the River Wey has a rural catchment and, although the lower reaches to the north are urban, within Godalming the setting remains semi-rural. Here, the valley is narrow and relatively shallow, with hills rising abruptly to the south. The Lammas Lands are found within the flat floodplain that extends both upstream and downstream of Godalming. The meadows form part of a sequence of open meadows and semi-natural vegetation, being virtually contiguous with two of the seven SSSIs found in the corridor of the River Wey (Wey Landscape Partnership 2013). To the north of the Lammas Lands, the Wey Valley Meadows SSSI support wet grassland and swamp vegetation, while Charterhouse to Eashing SSSI to the west is characterised by damp grassland, fen and alder swamp.
- 2.2 The River Wey is gently sinuous and meanders through the western part of the Lammas Lands. Godalming Town Bridge marks the official end of the navigable waterway, and downstream of here the oxbows and meanders were removed during the creation of the Wey Navigation. The low-lying, flat and open Lammas Lands are bounded by well-spaced trees along the banks of the river and adjacent roads, with both listed buildings and recent development on the skyline in Godalming. To the west, the lead-covered spire of the Church of St Peter and St Paul rises over the meadows, creating a characteristic and much-loved view. The Lammas Lands form a picturesque backdrop to the town centre.
- 2.3 A mix of grazing and vegetation cutting has led to a patchwork of grassland and taller, wetter swamp vegetation – parts of the site are cattle-grazed in the summer. Some of the willow trees have been pollarded and Hell Ditch, which forms the northern boundary in places, is picked out by marginal vegetation and occasional trees. Two surface drains hold flowing water at times, and there is one permanent and two seasonal ponds.
- 2.4 The site itself has a relatively tranquil feel, although some of the adjacent roads are busy with traffic and on sunny weekends this site is popular with visitors. A historical and archaeological assessment of the Wey Navigation undertaken for the National Trust in 1996 describes the Lammas Lands as: “the old meadows seem sadly derelict despite still being used as cattle pasture” (CKC Archaeology 1996). The assessment notes that the meadows adjoining the Wey Navigation “are often valuable historic features, but their proximity to major roads seems to signal their abandonment to the type of dereliction characteristic of the urban fringe”.

Geology and soils

- 2.5 The Lammas Lands lie on the Hythe beds of the Lower Greensand (a series of sandstones and clays). The alluvial soils have a sandy consistency and in places areas of poor drainages have resulted in gleyed soils².

Hydrology

- 2.6 The Lammas Lands occupy the floodplain adjacent to the River Wey and the Wey Navigation, a canalised channel that bypasses a section of the river in the south-eastern part of the site. Hell Ditch, in the north of the site, takes excess water from the River Wey by means of channels west of Godalming, and in times of heavy rainfall, Overgone Meadow may be completely flooded, as it was during the winter of 2008-9 and 2013-14. Parts of Catteshall and Almshouse Meadows also flood. Upstream of Catteshall Lock, the land is lower than the embanked Wey Navigation, and often holds surface water in the wetter months. Located within Flood Zone 2, the Lammas Lands have been assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of being flooded by the river. Investigations of what flood risk reduction may be viable in Godalming are being undertaken by the Environment Agency (*The Wey Management Catchment 2014*)
- 2.7 The River Wey is classified as being of poor ecological status under the Water Framework Directive³.

Wildlife

- 2.8 The Lammas Lands support the habitats of principle importance (previously known as BAP priority habitats) **Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh**. The Natural England priority habitat inventory also lists the non-priority habitat **Good quality semi-improved grassland** for the site. A total of 108 species of flowering plants were recorded from the site in 1994, and 227 invertebrates were recorded from the site in 2001.

Vegetation

- 2.9 Catteshall Meadow (Compartment 4) is the largest meadow and supports the most interesting flora. The drier, northern section has been agriculturally improved in the past (e.g. re-seeded) and no longer supports a species-rich sward such as that seen in the nearby Wey Valley Meadows SSSI. Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris* dominate the sward, which is enlivened in places with patches of Black Knapweed *Centurea nigra* and Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*. The southern section is wetter and supports swamp vegetation with rushes *Juncus* spp. and Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* with some Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, Water Mint *Mentha*

² Mottled soils in which iron compounds have been changed chemically and lose their brown colour due to lack of oxygen during long-term or periodic inundation)

³ Ecological status integrates biological, physico-chemical and morphological factors

aquatica, Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpiodes* and Ragged-Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*. An ephemeral pool in this area is a relict feature from the old course of the River Wey prior to the construction of the Wey Navigation.

- 2.10 Overgone Meadow (Compartment 3) comprises a broad central bank of improved grassland and a more interesting wetter area with Marsh Bedstraw *Gallium palustre*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, and Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* and another ephemeral pool (known as Horse Shoe Pond). The area between Hell Ditch and Chalk Road (Compartment 2) supports eutrophic tall-herb vegetation with Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Great Willow-herb *Epilobium hirstum*, Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* and Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*. Cut off from the rest of Overgone Meadow by Hell Ditch, this area was un-managed although it has been cut and the vegetation removed in recent years.
- 2.11 Almshouse Meadow, the easternmost meadow, (Compartment 5) has also been agriculturally improved and is now dominated by Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* and Reed Canary-grass, slightly diversified by occasional Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum* and Marsh Foxtail.
- 2.12 Hell Ditch (part of Compartment 2) supports marginal Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* with Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus* and Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*. The invasive alien Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* is present in some places on the bank.
- 2.13 Two Black Poplar *Populus nigra* trees have been planted, one close to the railway in Overgone Meadow and one by Hell Ditch in Catteshall Meadow. Other tree species present are Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Crack-willow *Salix fragilis*.
- 2.14 Surveys carried out by Fellows 2014 and Attewell 2015⁴ identified a number of grassland and mire National Vegetation Survey communities. No NVC map was produced and a full NVC survey is still needed. The communities identified so far are:
- MG 6 Lolio-Cynosuretum cristati grassland-typical and Anthoxanthum odoratum sub communities. This is the rye grass-Crested dogs-tail grassland typical of improved permanent pasture on neutral soils across much of lowland England. The Sweet vernal grass sub community indicates that the agricultural improvements to the community were less comprehensive than in heavily improved swards. This community covers most of the drier areas on the Lammas Lands.
 - M27 Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire. This is a mire type with Meadow sweet and Angelica as typical dominants and is found on neutral soils which are moist through most of the year and generally with limited grazing.

⁴ These were student projects the reports from which are held in WBC files

Fauna

- 2.15 There has been a confirmed Otter *Lutra lutra* sighting along Hell Ditch. Small numbers of Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* use Catteshall, Overgone and Hell Ditch Meadows. There is no current data on reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.
- 2.16 Some bird data are available. Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* is present in the wetter reedy areas of the site, and Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* are occasionally recorded as a winter visitor. A Kingfisher *Alcedo althis* was recorded in 2015 and the site is increasingly used by Little Egret. Skylark *Alauda arvensis* used to be present on site, but there are no recent records.
- 2.17 Species recently recorded in the vicinity of the Lammas Lands and uploaded onto Birdtrack⁵ (viewed 04/03/2016) are listed in Appendix 1. They include Red and amber species which are detailed in Table 1.⁶
- 2.18 An invertebrate survey of the Lammas Lands carried out in 2001(Denton 2001)⁷ found that the site had a rich invertebrate fauna in places, including several rare or scarce species. The metallic greenish-golden Reed-beetle *Dinacua bicolora* feeds on Bur Reed and is associated with the River Wey – this population is the furthest downstream for the species on the River Wey. The nationally scarce Whirligig Beetle *Gyrinus urinator* was found in the weedy margins of Hell Ditch and the click beetle *Paraphotistus nigricornis* in the taller grassland vegetation (its larvae develop in areas of waterlogged soils). A log pile in Overgone Meadow was found to provide a good nesting site for bees, included the rare White-faced Bee *Hylaeus pictipes*. Other scarce species included the red plant bug *Adelphocaoris ticinensis*, and small bronze water beetle Helophorous arvenicus and a small metallic blue flea beetle *Chaetocnema subcoerulea*
- 2.19 However, extensive areas supported a more limited invertebrate fauna, particularly where the sward did not remain wet year round or was trampled by cattle or waterfowl.

Threatened, rare and scarce species

- 2.20 No rare or scarce plant species are thought to have been recorded from the site.
- 2.21 Protected species known from the site are listed in Table 1. Red and Amber bird status is taken from (Eaton *et al.* 2015)

⁵ www.birdtrack.net

⁶ See also <http://www.surreybirdclub.org.uk/recent.html>

⁷ The full list of invertebrates from Denton 2001 is held in the files of Waverley BC.

Table 1: Protected species recorded from the Lammas Lands

Species	Status	Notes
Mammals		
Otter	Wildlife and Countryside Act Annex 2 and 4 of the Habitats Directive Species of Principle Importance (BAP species) Global Red Data status is near threatened.	One confirmed record
Birds		
Mute Swan	Birds of Conservation Concern: Amber	Record of 2 submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Shoveler	BCC: amber	Recorded winter 2014/15
Kestrel	BCC: Amber	Record of 1 submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Lapwing	BCC: Red	Record in WBC files
Snipe	BCC: Amber	Occasional birds wintering (around 500 in the 1975). Up to 25 recorded (record submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016, 6 recorded 08/02/16)
Kingfisher	European Red List Vulnerable	Record of 1 submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
House martin	BCC: Amber	Record in WBC files
Grasshopper warbler	BCC: Red	Record of singing bird 2014 in WBC files
Starling	BCC: Red	Record in WBC files
Fieldfare	BCC: Red	Record in WBC files
Song thrush	BCC: Red	Record submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Redwing	C	Record submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Mistle Thrush	BCC: Red	Record submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Whinchat	BCC: Red	Record in BCC files
House sparrow	BCC: Red	Record submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Grey wagtail	BCC: Red	Record submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Meadow pipit	BCC: Amber	Record submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016
Linnet	BCC: Red	Record in WBC files
Yellowhammer	BCC: Red	Record in WBC files
Reed Bunting	BCC: Red	Up to 4 on Surrey Bird Club website, Jan 2016, record of 8 submitted to Birdtrack Feb 2016.
Invertebrates		

Species	Status	Notes
Reed-beetle	RDB – vulnerable, Species of Principle Importance (BAP species)	Most downstream population along the River Wey
Whirligig beetle	Nationally scarce (Notable B)	Hell Ditch
A click beetle <i>Paraphotistus nigricornis</i>	RDB - Rare	Only recent Surrey record, in tall grassland
White-faced Bee	Nationally scarce (Notable A)	
A plant bug <i>Adelphocaoris ticinensis</i>	Nationally scarce (Notable B)	
A water beetle <i>Helophorus arvenicus</i>	Nationally scarce (Notable B)	
A flea beetle <i>Chaetocnema subcoerulea</i>	Nationally scarce (Notable B)	Associated with rushes in damp patches

3. Cultural Heritage

Historical land use

- 3.1 Floodplain meadows evolved through an agricultural system which made use of the nutrients deposited by floodwater on riverine grassland to help produce a hay crop, which was essential for feeding livestock during the winter. These meadows, which were more highly prized than arable land, are in many cases ancient, dating back to the Domesday Book (1086) and earlier.
- 3.2 A Lammas meadow⁸ is one registered as being common land between Lammas (1 August) and Candlemas (1 February) each year (Lammas means ‘loaf mass’ as the day marked the start of the corn harvest). After Lammas, commoners were able to graze their livestock over the whole meadow until it was shut up for hay in February. In the summer, commoners were entitled to cut hay from the strips or parcels of the meadow (often marked by dole stones) that had been allocated to them. In some cases, the hay lots were sold to individuals, with each farmer responsible for cutting and harvesting the same parcel of land each year. In any case, after the hay cut, the aftermath, or second flush of grass, was again communally grazed until conditions became too wet, when livestock were taken off to higher, drier ground.

Surviving dole stone

- 3.3 The Godalming Lammas Lands, listed in the Domesday Book as Godalming Meadows, were named after this tradition. However, they are no longer managed as true Lammas lands and the practice of commoning the meadows ended in 1808⁹. Seven dole stones were marked on the OS map of 1910 and two



dole stones still exist. One, known as the Carpenter’s Stone, is in a private garden and a second remains in Almshouse Meadow. A third is mentioned by CKC Archaeology (1996).

- 3.4 Historically, many of the floodplain meadows in the valley of the River Wey were managed as water meadows. This was a practice whereby water was allowed to flood

⁸ More information on Lammas meadows and water meadows can be found the Floodplain Meadow Handbook (Rotherow, Lake & Gowing, 2016)

⁹ (CKC Archaeology 1996)

the meadows for a short period in the spring, draining away through a system of ditches and sluices. The river silt that was deposited by the slowly moving water added nutrients, and the water warmed the meadow, allowing an “early bite” for livestock.

- 3.5 Water levels on the Lammas Lands are thought to have been managed by a system of hatches (including Frith Hatch near the railway lines and Catteshall Hatch at the north end of Catteshall Lane), allowing controlled seasonal flooding between Hell Ditch and the River Wey.
- 3.6 It is not known exactly when these traditional practices ceased on the Lammas Lands. However, the Lammas Lands were significantly altered by two events. The Wey Navigation¹⁰ was built c1764 by a wealthy landowner in order to improve transportation to and from London and the John Roque Map from 1768 (Map 3) shows the Wey River navigable from Godalming. At Godalming, the creation of a canalised channel and lock altered the path of the river and bypassed a section of it; the resulting changes to the river course and flow are likely to have altered the hydrology of the Lammas Lands. There were also other works to lead the discharge from the old Tannery tanks into Hell Ditch, which it is believed, was dug for the purpose of deviating the foul smelling material from the river past the town. Two centuries later in 1857-9, the railway was built, with a girder bridge over the River Wey. Hell Ditch was diverted and a corner of Overgone Meadow was cut off from the rest of the Meadow, and has since been managed separately. Part of Overgone Meadow was important in the past in providing dry land for cattle in time of flooding.

Archaeology

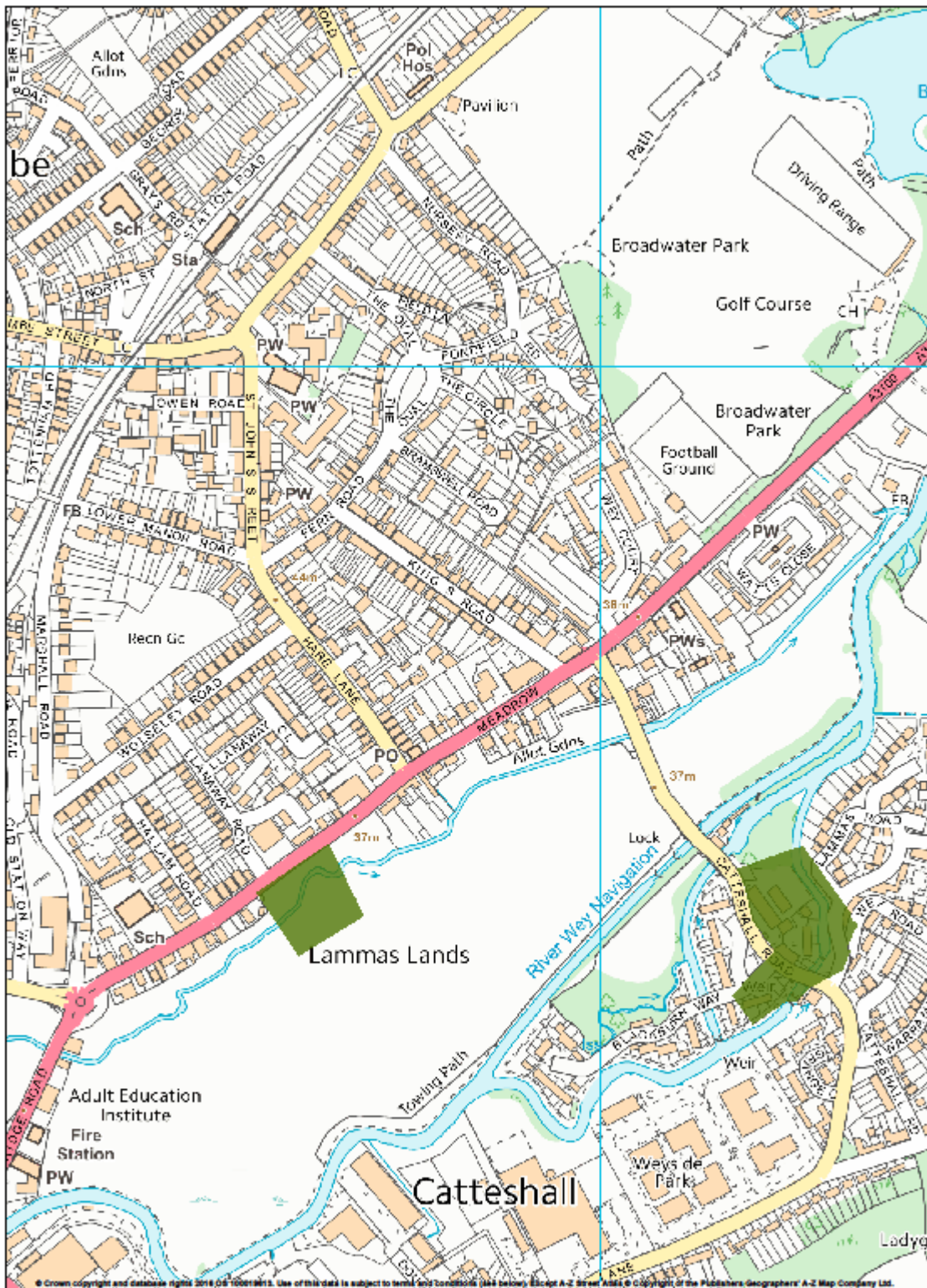
- 3.7 A Bronze Age socket gouge was discovered on the Lammas Lands. Such finds are often part of a larger cache of similar objects, or are indicative of nearby settlement. A small area of the Lammas Lands has been designated by Surrey County Council as an Area of High Archaeological Potential as a consequence. The full monument report is attached as Appendix II, and the Area of High Archaeological Potential is shown on Map 4.

¹⁰ More information about the Wey Navigation can be found here: http://weyriver.co.uk/theriver/nav_2_%20history.htm and here <file:///C:/Users/sophie/AppData/Local/Temp/weymain.html#hist>

Map 3 John Roque Map dates 1768



Map 4 Lammas Lands-Areas of high Archaeological potential



	OS terms & conditions: You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.	Printed By: Andrew Dearlove Printed On: 05/09/2016 Project No: 267/16 Scale: 1:5,000	Areas of High Archaeological Potential Lammas Land	
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4. Public access and use

- 4.1 As registered common land, the Lammas Lands have right of access on foot, including walking, running, wildlife watching and dog walking. Dogs must be kept on a lead no more than 2 metres long on open access land between 1 March and 31 July (to protect ground-nesting birds) and at all times around livestock (although this is often unenforced provided dogs are under control). A recent online survey (Lake & Panter 2016) found that 38% of visitors to the Lammas Lands were walking (without a dog) and 37% were dog walking or carrying out another activity but accompanied by a dog. Around 45% of respondents visited two to three times a week or more often. The survey responses underlined the importance of the Lammas Lands to the people of Godalming. The survey did not include data on where people went on the Lammas Lands, but in general, the drier parts of Catteshall Meadow are most used, with far fewer people using Overgone and Almshouse Meadows and the wettest areas generally avoided by people (although dogs may run through them).
- 4.2 The Godalming Angling Society¹¹ have angling rights on the River Wey from Borough Road to Town Bridge in Overgone Meadow (they also have rights downstream from Town Bridge, but these are from the tow path outside the Lammas Lands boundary).
- 4.3 The tow path associated with the Wey Navigation is just outside the site. The Navigation is also used by narrow boats, rowers and canoeists.
- 4.4 The Lammas Lands have been used for many years for the Godalming town bonfire and firework display, run by the Godalming Lions.
- 4.5 There are long established volunteer groups dedicated to working specifically on the Wey, but these do not cover the Lammas Lands or the adjacent stretch of river, and there are currently no formal volunteer groups working on the Lammas Lands although in the past volunteer tasks have been carried out. In a recent online questionnaire, 59 respondents said they might be interested in joining a “friends” group and left contact details, while 27 gave contact details in the context of undertaking biological monitoring.

¹¹ <http://www.godalminganglingsociety.co.uk/water/river-wey10>

5. Management

Recent management

5.1 Until 2000, the site was used for agricultural grazing. This had resulted in over-grazing on the larger meadows and under-grazing on the smaller ones. A Countryside Stewardship Scheme was entered into in 2000 with the aim of instigating appropriate cattle grazing to increase the floristic diversity, together with the restoration of old ditch lines and creation of a shallow pond and scrape. Lower stocking rates were achieved with a new grazier, and together with annual hay cutting, cattle grazing continued until 2005. In 2005 the lease holder introduced pony grazing, which proved unsatisfactory. Waverley Borough Council bought back the lease and in 2008 reintroduced hay cutting and grazing with Aberdeen Angus cattle on some of the site.

Current management

5.2 The Lammas Lands are currently managed under a Higher Level Stewardship scheme which runs until 2022. Areas of wet grassland are managed for wintering waders and wildfowl through grazing or cutting and removal of vegetation. Ponds of high wildlife value are maintained. Other areas of grassland are managed for target features. Details of management prescribed under the agreement can be found in the Environmental Stewardship Agreement Lammas Lands (AG00393377). At the time of writing:

- Overgone Meadow is grazed by cattle in the summer.
- Areas of Catteshall and Almshouse Meadows have been mown and the vegetation removed in recent years.
- Ragwort is pulled in Overgone Meadow.
- Bankside trees are coppiced or pollarded
- Perimeter trees are inspected under Waverley Borough Council's Tree Risk Management Guide every three to five years.

Recent habitat restoration and creation

5.3 A scrape was created in the south-west corner of Overgone Meadow in 2004 to add interest for birds. The line of the old Hell Ditch was restored in 2003 and 2014. In Catteshall Meadow, an old ditch running down the centre of the site was enlarged in 2014. An artificial Otter holt was installed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Survey and Monitoring

5.4 The Lammas Lands were surveyed by Surrey Wildlife Trust in 1994 as part of a SSCI survey within Waverley Borough (**REPORT REF**). An invertebrate survey was carried out in 2001 by Denton (Denton 2001). Students from Merrist Wood College (part of Guildford College of Further and Higher Education) have carried out NVC surveys on an *ad hoc* basis since 2011, although data were not available when preparing this plan. Bird sightings are recorded informally by volunteers and a bird sighting map prepared with

species seen and dates (see Appendix I), but the records are not formally uploaded to any sightings websites.

The wider context

- 5.5 The Lammas Lands fall within the area covered by the Wey Landscape Partnership¹², a group of conservation, environmental and related organisations working towards a Vision for the sustainable management of the Wey Catchment.
- 5.6 The Lammas Lands also fall within the Wealden Greensands Natural Character Area. The profile for this area¹³ identified that there are opportunities to restore, expand and re-link the wetland habitats of river valleys within the area, including alluvial grazing meadows with drainage ditches, marshy grassland, reed beds, and wet woodland.

Vision

The Lammas Lands continue to provide a valuable flood relief, recreational, wildlife, landscape and historical feature within Godalming. After heavy rainfall, water flows onto the open meadows from the river Wey and is stored safely before draining back to the river through a system of well-maintained ditches and culverts. The meadows are heavily used by walkers and dog walkers as well as nature lovers and others on foot, using the well-maintained access points. The meadows are also used by the local community for a number of public events. Following experimental work a programme to revert parts of the grasslands to flower-rich meadows has been successful and there are thriving assemblages of breeding and wintering birds in the wetter areas. The fringing woodlands and trees are in good health and have been reinforced with some additional planting which has not affected the views of the town but has added to the views across the meadows. There is an enthusiastic group of volunteers who help with the management, monitoring and research into the history of the site

Objectives and prescriptions

Objective 1: To carry out management and maintenance of the Lammas Lands without restricting their important function as a flood plain to the River Wey

Rationale

The Lammas Lands are part of the floodplain of the River Wey. At times of flood, water from the Wey runs onto the meadows from the river and either exits into the Hell Ditch

¹² <http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.org/thames/wey>

¹³ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5331490007154688>

marking the northern edge of the main field system or passes down the meadows to the east before exiting to the river further down. The slightly higher land around Lammas Lands is largely built up and the meadows form a vital part of the flood relief measures helping to prevent or alleviate flooding of these properties. It is therefore important that nothing is done to prevent or obstruct the free flow of water across the meadows, and that the open nature of the site is maintained.

Prescriptions

- Maintain close liaison with the Environment Agency over any proposed works on the Lammas Lands.
- Prevent the growth of thick herbaceous vegetation, scrub or woodland on the Lammas Lands where this could restrict the free flow of water during flooding by the River Wey.
- Contain any tree management or planting to existing tree lines or the side of the railway embankment.
- Notify the Environment Agency of any work required to maintain free flows of water on existing conduits and drains.

Objective 2: To manage Hell Ditch for the benefit of wildlife and flood relief

Rationale

Hell Ditch is an important part of the River Wey catchment and part of the flood relief measures for Godalming. The planned removal of a weir upstream will facilitate the passage of fish and eels through Hell Ditch to the catchment upstream. Both Otter and Water Vole have been recorded in the past and could return.

Prescriptions

- Maintain and enhance the in-stream habitat in Hell Ditch
- Prevent/remove blockages in Hell Ditch caused by waterside trees.
- Maintain suitable vegetation alongside Hell Ditch to encourage re-colonisation by Otter and Water Vole
- Liaise with the Environment Agency over all measures affecting the management of Hell Ditch
- Take any necessary measures to avoid diffuse pollution to Hell Ditch and River Wey

Objective 3: To return significant parts of the Lammas Fields to a flower-rich floodplain meadow community

Rationale

The Lammas Lands have been managed meadowland for upward of 1,000 years and retain remnants of the flora of this former management despite agricultural improvements having been carried out in the last century (including fertilisation and

reseeding). The hydrological status of the site suggests that restoration of a typical flood plain flora may be possible. However before this is attempted, further investigation of the existing vegetation and soils is required. This will benefit from expert advice and subsequent monitoring by a contract botanist.

Prescriptions

- Seek advice from the Floodplain Meadows Partnership¹⁴ as to the steps necessary to investigate the suitability of Lammas Lands in whole or in part for restoration to a traditional flood meadow flora.
- Following advice, collect and analyse soil samples.
- Investigate possible sources of seed or hay for re-establishing a characteristic wet meadow flora.
- Carry out experimental restoration work in plots in suitable locations and monitor against control plots. If successful, adopt more widely across the meadows.

Objective 4: Maintain the dry grassland communities by cutting and/or grazing, having regard to the use of the site by the public

Rationale

Historically the Lammas Lands have been grazed (probably by cattle, as has been the case in the last 50 years or so) and cut for hay. This management should be continued with a variety of cutting and grazing regimes to maximise the diversity of the grassland habitats for wildlife. The site is heavily visited by the public, many with dogs, some of whom could be wary or nervous of cattle.

Prescriptions

- Manage the site by a combination of grazing and cutting to maximise diversity of grassland habitat.
- For grazing, use a docile breed with animals acclimatised to people and dogs, and put in place a procedure for prompt removal of any problem animal.
- Use an alternative to Ivermectin for treatment of cattle parasites¹⁵
- Maintain a grazing pattern that results in some parts of the area being free of grazing animals at any one time and advise the public of the movements of animals on and off the area via notices at entrances and a website.
- Ensure that the grazier meets all requirements for the movements and health and safety of the animals, and that a grazing risk assessment and Animal Health Plan are in place.

¹⁴ <http://www.floodplainmeadows.org.uk/> The Flood Plain Meadows Partnership is a charity that promotes restoration and re-creation of floodplain meadows.

¹⁵ Safe alternatives to Ivermectin can be found at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2736>

- Investigate the possibility of seasonal fencing to contain cattle and direct dog walkers away from grazing stock

Objective 5: To provide suitable habitat and disturbance-free conditions for re-colonisation by a wetland breeding bird assemblage and to enhance existing conditions for wintering birds.

Rationale

Parts of the Lammas lands were noted for their breeding and wintering bird communities in the past. Most of the typical wetland breeding birds have disappeared in line with a general decline in such species nationally. Some wintering bird interest remains and is associated with the wetter areas and permanent ponds. The use of the site for recreation causes some disturbance to potential breeding and wintering birds. However areas of potential habitat for breeding and wintering birds are limited in extent and could be managed to provide more suitable habitat and reduce disturbance, without significantly affecting the use of the Lammas Lands by the public.

Prescriptions

- Manage the vegetation around the existing ponds in Overgone and Catteshall Meadows and the existing swamp vegetation in the south-east of Catteshall meadow and the north-eastern end of Almshouse meadow to maintain dense summer vegetation for breeding Sedge and Grasshopper Warblers, Reed Bunting, Water Rail and other potential breeding birds.
- Carry out rotational cutting to prevent the colonisation of wet areas by trees or scrub and to provide areas of shorter vegetation for wintering birds
- Investigate the hydrology of the existing swamp areas with a view to maintaining wet conditions in winter for wintering Snipe and other waders
- Liaise with the County Archaeologist the viability of carrying out a LIDAR survey of former watercourses on the Lammas lands
- Investigate the re-opening of existing ditch systems and the provision of new ditches/temporary fencing to facilitate grazing and habitat management and reduce disturbance to breeding and wintering birds

Objective 6: Take steps to eliminate alien invasive plants from the Lammas Lands

Rationale:

Alien invasive plant species can damage native plant communities directly by competition for nutrients and shading and indirectly by diverting pollenating insects away from native species. They can rapidly spread to new locations and can be difficult and expensive to remove

Prescriptions

- Eliminate stand of Japanese knotweed in Hell Ditch Meadow
- Liaise with upstream landowners and statutory bodies on a strategy for the removal of Himalayan balsam for the catchment including Lammas Lands

Objective 7: To maintain and create favourable conditions for invertebrates associated with wet meadows, swamps and dead wood

Rationale

Previous surveys have located a number of scarce and local invertebrate species associated with swampy conditions and dead wood. No further invertebrate survey work has been carried out in recent years.

Prescriptions

- Create small areas of wet swamp and shallow open water throughout the year in existing swamps.
- Maintain a variety of swamp vegetation by cutting, grazing and non-intervention zones for a variety of invertebrates.
- Establish flower-rich areas on the drier grassland which is not grazed or cut until late summer.
- Create additional secure (against washing away in flood conditions) log piles in existing tree belts using willow and alder either from on-site or from nearby sites where cutting is taking place and there is a surplus of suitable logs.

Objective 8: Maintain the facility for roosting bats and encourage use of the site by otters.

Rationale

There is only a modest mammal interest on the Lammas Lands. Otter has been recorded from Hell Ditch in recent years and under the previous management plan an Otter holt has been constructed. Given the levels of disturbance by people and dogs, and the use of a path along much of the length of the Wey, otters are probably always going to be shy and nocturnal here. The only other large mammal seen in the area is Roe Deer, where similar considerations pertain particularly as regards dogs. There is already a facility for bats in the WWII pill box in Overgone Meadow.

Prescriptions

- Maintain the facility for bats in the WWII pill box and check usage from time to time in association with Surrey Bat Group (SBG).

- Investigate whether a suitable site exists to create a second potential holt for Otters and if successful, create a further Otter holt.

Objective 9: Carry out a systematic survey and monitoring programme of major groups of flora and fauna using volunteers or professional surveyors as available and appropriate and encourage the submission of casual records by the public

Rationale

No detailed surveys of some groups of flora and fauna have been carried out for some years. Some volunteer monitoring is undertaken (e.g. for birds) but collection of data is not systematic. Many members of the public visit the site regularly but no mechanism exists for the collection of casual records or sightings. A number of visitors have expressed an interest in the wildlife of the area.

Prescriptions

- Arrange for comprehensive surveys of plants, National Vegetation Classification mapping, an updated invertebrate survey and a reptile and amphibian survey of the site using volunteers where possible but commissioned surveys if necessary.
- Set up a suitable facility and encourage visitors to the site to record their sightings and records.
- Encourage the formation of a volunteer network to record specific species or groups (e.g. birds and reptiles/amphibians).
- Carry out periodic monitoring of the use by Otters of the holts using a licenced surveyor.

Objective 10: Maintain all the historic features of the site and encourage collection of further data on history and archaeology

Rationale

The Lammas Lands have a long history and there are a small number of known surviving artefacts on site mostly from WWII. Part of the area has been designated as of High Archaeological Potential and there are, in places, the remains of former ditch and sluice systems reflecting past management as flood or water meadows. All these features are a valuable reminder of the history of the site.

Prescriptions

- Maintain the existing known features of the site including the WWII pillbox and the surviving dole stone.
- Survey and re-form former ditch systems to recreate former features and create additional wildlife habitat subject to advice from the County Archaeologist and Floodplain Meadow Partnership (see also Obj. 5).
- Encourage historical research into the history of the Lammas Lands.
- Encourage archaeological research on the site under the supervision of the County Council Heritage Conservation Team and Surrey Archaeological Society.

Objective 11: Maintain the views across the Lammas Lands and from within the meadows to the features of the town.

Rationale

The Lammas lands lie in the middle of Godalming and form an important landscape feature in the town. Residential properties look down on the meadows from the north and south and there are views of local churches, the river Wey and the town from the meadows. In some places the views are glimpses through the surrounding trees which add interest and variety to the landscape. The maintenance of the landscape features of the site and its rural feel are an important consideration for visitors.

Prescriptions

- If resources allow, carry out a landscape appraisal of the Lammas Lands
- Maintain the open landscape of the meadows by preventing the growth of trees and scrub.
- Maintain the views from the meadows of the features of the town.
- Maintain the tree belts and individual trees around the edges of the site.
- Maintain and reinforce the line of willows alongside Hell Ditch in Hell Ditch and Overgone Meadows and at suitable intervals carry out traditional pollarding
- Establish a small area of woodland and scrub for the benefit of wildlife along the eastern side of the railway embankment in Overgone and Hell Ditch Meadows

Objective 12: To continue to promote the Lammas Lands as a safe, enjoyable and educational facility for the local community and visitors to the area

Rationale

Lammas Lands are a popular recreation facility for walkers, dog walkers, nature lovers and other visitors as well as a local amenity for events such as the annual firework display and bonfire. Access onto the common land is of right and the use of the area for local events follows a long tradition of community use of common land which should be conserved and encouraged. Users of the site should be encouraged to give consideration to other users and use the site safely.

Prescriptions

- To carry out maintenance on the main footpaths on the site and particularly the gateways to make and keep these safe and passable but with a continued rural character.
- To maintain the gates as fit for purpose and replace any stiles with gates.
- To provide information boards in keeping with the rural feel of the site at the main entrances to Almshouse and Catteshall Meadows
- To provide up-to-date information of grazing animals presence on site.
- To encourage the use of the site for local events compatible with the other uses and interests.
- Dog walkers should be encouraged to keep their dogs under control and to pick-up dog waste in the interests of other users. If problems continue consider further measures.
- Cyclists should continue to be confined to the tow path
- Users should be encouraged to minimise disturbance to the wetland features of the site, including appropriate temporary signage.
- Extend the finger post name boards to Overgone and Hell Ditch Meadows and provide information boards on Bridge Road and Catteshall Road entrances
- Encourage the educational use of the Lammas Lands by local schools and others. Provide information on the site and assess demand for basic facilities.
- A network of volunteers should be established and encouraged to assist with management and survey and monitoring and the provision of help and information to other users.

Objective 13: Carry out all statutory and other duties as site manager

Rationale

As site manager Waverley Borough Council will need to meet all its statutory obligations both to manage the site for its wildlife and to ensure the well-being and safety of the visiting public.

Prescriptions

- Meet all requirements for statutory consents and approvals for work on the common
- Carry out regular Health and Safety checks on the features of the common
- Follow H & S guidelines for warning the public during management activities on the site and ensure that contractors, licencees or others working on the common follow the same procedures
- Continue to take steps to prevent undesirable activities on the common which could pose a hazard to the wildlife interest or the visiting public.

Objective 14: To liaise with other landowners, community organisations and statutory bodies as necessary over management of the site

Rationale

Waverley Borough Council will need to liaise with other site owners and statutory bodies over its management of the site.

Prescriptions

- To liaise with other landowners or their representatives over management plans for their land
- To liaise with other statutory organisations, particularly Natural England, the Environment Agency, County Archaeologist and others as necessary over site management
- To liaise with other local community and amenity organisations as necessary over site management and access issues
- To consider encouraging/seeking local funding for Lammas Land management activities

6. Work Programmes

- 6.1 The following work programmes show the tasks needed to manage the site as a whole and by compartment in accordance with the prescriptions under objectives outlined above.

Table1. Schedule of habitat and related management in each compartment 2017-2026 (Compartment numbers and boundaries are shown on Map 1)

Year	Season		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Habitat		Action										
Grassland	S	Annual mowing/rotational cutting programme	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5	1,4,5
	S	Check site safety for livestock	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4
	S	Install drinking trough	2									
	S W	Graze with livestock ¹⁶ Graze with Livestock	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 3, 4
	S W	Install signage when stock present Install signage when stock present	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4	3, 4 3, 4
	S	Seek advice from Floodplain Meadow Partnership	4									
	S	Experimental work to re-establish flora		4			4			4		
	S	Install invisible fencing	5									
	S	Check no lime/pesticides/herbicides used except where permitted	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
	S	Eliminate Japanese Knotweed	2									
Habitat		Action										
Watercourse & Ditches	W	Inspect and clear Hell Ditch	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5	1,2,4,5
	S	Prevent cattle access to Hell Ditch	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,	2, 3, 4, 5,
	S, W	Liaise over elimination of H Balsam	1,2,3,4 5	1,2,3,4, 5	1,2,3,4, 5	1,2,3,4, 5	1,2,3,4, 5					
	W	LIDAR survey of ditch systems		4, 5								

¹⁶ Livestock grazing confined to period(s) between March-November

LAMMAS LANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017

Year	Season		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	S, W	Liaise over, survey and clear ditches			4, 5							
	W	Liaise over installation of 2nd otter holt		All								
Ponds	S, W	Check pond outflow and install structure if needed to maintain water levels			4							
	S	Improve pond by clearance of vegetation			4,5		4,5		4,5		4,5	
Trees	W	Inspect trees for H&S			1,24,5			1,2,4,5				1,2,4,5
	W	Inspect roadside trees for H&S			2			2			2	
	W	Reinforce amenity planting				1						1
	W	Plant additional trees		2								
	W	Removal, coppice/pollard trees	2, 4, 5			3, 4, 5		3, 4, 5				2
	W	Plant additional trees in gaps	4, 5									4, 5
	W	Install log piles in existing woods			4, 5							4, 5
Habitat		Action										
	W	Plant up scrub below railway and beat up	2	2								
	W	No fires on site except where permitted	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
	S W	Check status of bats in Pill Box	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Access	S W	Make up gateway access	4, 5									
	W	Install new gate	3									
Information	W	Install finger post	2, 3									
		Install information Boards	3, 4, 5									
Monitoring & Surveys	W	Monthly counts of wintering waders	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4	3, 4
	S	Carry out botanical survey			All							
	S	Carry out updated Invertebrate survey					All					
	S	Carry out reptile and amphibian survey				All						
	W	Set up facility for casual records	All									
	S, W	Carry out landscape appraisal if resourced						All				
	S, W	Monitor Otter holt										
Information, education	S, W	Establish Volunteers network		All	All	All						
	S	Encourage and monitor educational use	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Year	Season		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Habitat		Action										
H & S	S, W	H&S checks	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
		Warning signs about management work	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
Liaison	S, W	Liaison with landowners, EA, NE, services, Statutory bodies and archaeologists	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
		Liaison with local community	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All

“All” applies to all relevant compartments

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Compartments: All	Area (ha):31.8 ha	Ownership: Waverley Borough Council; Henry Smith Charity; Loseley Estate	Commons Reg. Unit No:CL153								
Description:											
A number of prescriptions apply to all the compartments on Lammas lands and these are listed here											
Past management:											
Future Management:											
Habitats:	Management Actions	Year									
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Surveys	Carry out a botanical survey of site			√							
	Carry out updated invertebrate survey of site					√					
	Carry out reptile and amphibian survey of site				√						
	Set up a suitable facility for recording casual records by public and volunteers and encourage the latter to take on species groups	√									
	If resources allow carry out landscape appraisal of Lammas Lands						√				
Access, Information, Education	Establish volunteers network		√	√	√						
	Encourage educational use of the site and monitor results	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Duties	Carry out regular H&S checks on Lammas Lands	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Install temporary warning signs of any proposed management work	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Liaison	Liaise with EA, NE, adjoining landowners, statutory undertakers, County Archaeologist and emergency services as necessary	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Liaise with local community and other organisations over site management and access issues as necessary	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Compartment: 1	Area (ha):0.8ha	Ownership: Waverley Borough Council	HLS (RLR) Field No:								
SNCI Reference:		Access: From Chalk Road and Borough Road	Commons Reg. Unit No:CL153								
Description:											
This small area was separated from the rest of the Lammas Lands by the construction of the railway line in 1857/59. It is now an open grassland amenity areas with a number of mature Silver Maple trees and an informal path running between Chalk Road and Borough Road. Two feeder streams to the Hell ditch joining in the South-west corner of the site and then run under the railway embankment via a culvert into Overgone Meadow.											
Past management:											
Past management has consisted of mowing the grass to maintain the amenity area.											
Future Management:											
Habitats:	Management Actions	Year									
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Amenity grassland	Maintain annual mowing programme	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Trees	Reinforce existing amenity plantings with small numbers of additional trees protected by post and rail guards				√						√
	Inspect trees every 3-5 years for health and safety			√			√				√
Watercourse	Inspect and clear debris from Hell Ditch watercourse as required	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Liaise with upstream owners on a plan for the elimination of Himalayan Balsam from Hell Ditch	√	√	√	√	√					

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Compartment: 2	Area (ha):2.8ha	Ownership: Waverley Borough Council; Loseley Estate	HLS (RLR) Field No: 1534 HLS (RLR)									
SNCI Reference:		Access: From Chalk Road and Borough Road	Commons Reg. Unit No:CL153									
Description:												
<p>This compartment, called Hell Ditch Meadow, consists of a narrow field running between Chalk Road and Hell Ditch with Overgone Meadow to the south of Hell Ditch. To the east is Bridge Road and to the West the railway embankment. In the north-west corner there is a WWII pill box. The field is low lying with currently rather rank vegetation and a number of Lime trees against the road, a Black poplar by the pill box and some willows lining Hell Ditch. There is a proposal to fence the side of the road (with access gates for pedestrians and a stock handling facility with access off Chalk Road to allow loading and unloading of stock.) to allow the field to be grazed. The field at present supports a rank, tall herb vegetation indicative of high nutrient levels.</p>												
<p>Past management: For several years the field has been cut but this has proved expensive and caused compaction of the wet soils. The roadside trees have been unmanaged but the willows have been pollarded at intervals in the past. The pill box has been converted to be suitable as bat roost site. The prescription for this compartment under the HLS Scheme is for maintenance as semi-improved or rough grassland for target species.</p>												
Future Management:												
Habitats:	Management Actions		Year									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Grassland	Check the overall safety of the site for livestock introduction particularly with respect to Parsley Water Dropwort (the roots are poisonous to cattle)		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Install drinking trough for stock		√									
	Introduce grazing by livestock for short periods in summer and autumn depending on vegetation growth.		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Eliminate Japanese Knotweed		√									
New scrub area by railway embankment	Plant up scrub area and beat up with native scrub species		√	√								
Roadside trees	Inspect roadside every 3 years for health and safety				√			√			√	
Willows by Hell Ditch	Pollard willow trees every 10 years											√
	Plant additional native willows to fill larger gaps in line of trees			√								
WWII pill box	Bat group to check pill box annually for roosting bats		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Information	Install finger post to Hell Ditch meadow gated entrance		√									

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Water course	Maintain fences to prevent cattle access to Hell Ditch	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Liaise with the EA and inspect and clear debris from Hell Ditch watercourse as required	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Liaise with upstream owners on a plan for the elimination of Himalayan Balsam from Hell Ditch	√	√	√	√	√						

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Compartment: 3	Area (ha):9.9 ha	Ownership: Waverley Borough Council; Henry Smith Charity; Loseley Estate	HLS (RLR) Field No: 0823 HLS (RLR)									
SNCI Reference: WA066, 2445		Access: From Borough Road	Commons Reg. Unit No:CL153									
Description:												
The compartment, called Overgone Meadow, is a large grass meadow bounded by Hell Ditch to the North and the River Wey to the South. There is access for stock via private land to the east where the Compartment adjoins Bridge Road, but the only public access is via a stile from Borough Road. At the western end there is a large permanent pond and an additional area that holds water after heavy rain or flooding sited next to the old ditch. The vegetation is mostly semi-improved grassland with a community of more frequently inundated grassland to the south. There are two Weeping willows by the river and some trees and scrub on the railway embankment. A water trough provides drinking water for livestock and there is a cattle handling facility at Bridge Road.												
Past management: The meadow is grazed by cattle and is little visited by the public so there have been no reported problems with livestock and dogs. The fence adjoining Hell Ditch and Bridge Road was replaced in 2015. A scrape was created in the south west corner in 2004 and the line of the old Hell ditch was restored in 2003 and 2014. The prescription for the grassland in compartment under the HLS Scheme is for maintenance as wet grassland for breeding waders and for the pond as maintenance of pond of high wildlife value. Ragwort is pulled when necessary.												
Future Management:												
Habitats:	Management Actions		Year									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Grassland	Continue to carry out summer grazing with cattle		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Confirm that a Grazing Risk Assessment and Animal health Plan are in place		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Install suitable signage advising dog walkers of the presence of livestock and the need to control dogs and if necessary police this		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Ditches	Liaise with the County Archaeologist on carrying out a LIDAR survey of the ditch systems			√								
	Liaise with the EA and NE reinstate the defunct ditch system on the meadow to create a shallow water feature for feeding birds				√							
Pond	Check existing outflow to the River Wey and liaise with the EA and NE to insert dam and pipe sluice if required to maintain the pond water levels				√							
	Improve the pond by pulling back part of the dense soft rush surrounding the pond to create shallow water for feeding waders				√							
	Maintain pond water levels to agreed height		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Watercourse	Maintain existing Hell Ditch fence to prevent cattle/people access and provide suitable habitat for water vole		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

	Liaise with the EA and inspect and clear debris from Hell Ditch watercourse as required	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Liaise with upstream owners on a plan for the elimination of Himalayan Balsam from Hell Ditch	√	√	√	√	√						
Trees	Inspect trees every 3-5 years for health and safety			√			√					√
Access	Remove existing stile to Borough Road and replace with pedestrian gate	√										
Information	Provide small information board at the gated entrance to Overgone Meadow together with named finger post	√										

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Compartment: 4	Area (ha):15.2 ha	Ownership: Waverley Borough Council	HLS (RLR) Field No: 7433 HLS (RLR)									
SNCI Reference: WA018, 601		Access: From Bridge Road and Catteshall Road	Commons Reg. Unit No:CL153									
Description:												
<p>The compartment, called Catteshall Meadow, is a large grass meadow bounded by Hell Ditch to the North and the River Wey (becoming the River Wey Navigation at the eastern end)to the South. There is a towing path alongside the River which is fenced off from the meadow and owned by The National Trust. The eastern end is bounded by Catteshall Road and the western end by Bridge Road. There is stock fencing along both roads (with access gates) and along Hell Ditch. Alongside Hell Ditch there is an area of grazed or cut meadow with some remnants of the original vegetation including Black Knapweed and Meadow Saxifrage. South of this there is a wetter area containing tall mire vegetation, old ditch lines and a large ephemeral pool. This area holds water in winter and is favoured by Snipe and Reed Buntings. There some trees and scrub against the tow path and a water trough provides drinking water for livestock. This is the most heavily visited part of the site with many visitors using a footpath in the north by Hell Ditch and few visitors venturing into the mire vegetation in the south</p>												
Past management: This compartment has been cut for hay in recent years but was grazed in the past. An old ditch line was restored in 2003 and 2014 and a wet area in the mire community was enlarged in 2014.												
Future Management:												
Habitats:	Management Actions		Year									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Grassland	Seek advice from the Floodplain Meadows partnership on restoring a traditional floodplain flora including collection and analysis of soil samples and investigating possible sources of seed or hay		√									
	Carry out experimental work on re-establishing a wet meadow flora including monitoring			√			√			√		
	Maintain annual mowing programme with removal of cut material		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Install invisible fencing around swamp area		√									
	Introduce light grazing with cattle into the wetter swamp communities in summer/autumn		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Confirm that a Grazing Risk Assessment and Animal health Plan are in place		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Install suitable signage advising dog walkers of the presence of livestock and the need to control dogs and if necessary police this		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Carry out rotational cutting of swamp area with one third cut every third year		√			√			√			√
Watercourse	Maintain existing Hell Ditch fence to prevent cattle/people access and		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

	provide suitable habitat for water vole										
	Liaise with the EA and inspect and clear debris from Hell Ditch watercourse as required	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Liaise with upstream owners on a plan for the elimination of Himalayan Balsam from Hell Ditch	√	√	√	√	√					
Trees	Inspect trees every 3-5 years for health and safety			√			√				√
	Carry out tree removal, pollarding and coppicing in accordance with HLS requirements	√			√		√				
	Install log piles for invertebrates soundly attached to existing trees to prevent washing away during floods			√							√
	Undertake additional planting to fill gaps within existing wooded area			√	√						
Ditch	Liaise with the County Archaeologist on carrying out a LIDAR survey of the ditch systems		√								
	Investigate the hydrology of the area with respect to the swamp and pool areas, liaise with the EA and NE to reinstate the defunct ditch system in the mire community with a small dam and pipe sluice at the lower end of the main ditch to maintain water levels into spring			√							
Access	Make up gateways with gravel base and if necessary rehang gates and maintain	√		√		√		√		√	
Information	Provide information board s at the gated entrances to Catteshall Meadow	√									
Monitoring	Carry out monthly counts of wintering waders	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

L A M M A S L A N D S M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 7

Compartment: 5	Area (ha):2.6 ha	Ownership: Waverley Borough Council	HLS (RLR) Field No: 1763								
SNCI Reference: WA065 2445		Access: Catteshall Road	Commons Reg. Unit No:CL153								
Description:											
This compartment called Almshouse Meadow is at the lower end of the Lammas lands and is generally low lying and wet in winter with rank vegetation. To the north it is bounded by Hell Ditch and to the South and west by the River Wey Navigation and the River Wey. Access is through a gate from Catteshall Road to the east and the path joins the tow path outside the meadow at the western end which returns to the road via another gate. There is a line of large Alder and Crack willow trees along the boundary with the tow path. In drier conditions it is popular with dog walkers and walkers.											
Past management:											
Past management has consisted of mowing the grass to maintain the amenity area.											
Future Management:											
Habitats:	Management Actions	Year									
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Grassland	Maintain annual mowing programme with removal of cut material	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Trees	Inspect trees every 3-5 years for health and safety			√			√				√
	Install log piles for invertebrates soundly attached to existing trees to prevent washing away during floods			√							√
Watercourse	Liaise with the EA and inspect and clear debris from Hell Ditch watercourse as required	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Maintain existing Hell Ditch fence to prevent people access and provide suitable habitat for water vole	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Liaise with upstream owners on a plan for the elimination of Himalayan Balsam from Hell Ditch	√	√	√	√	√					
Access	Make up gateway with gravel base and if necessary rehang gate and maintain	√		√		√		√		√	
	Provide information board at the gated entrance to Almshouse Meadow	√									
Monitoring	Carry out monthly counts of wintering waders	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

7. References

- CKC Archaeology. (1996) A Historical and Archaeological Assessment of the Wey and Godalming Navigations and their Visual Envelopes Volume 1.
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- Harrop, A.H.J., Collinson, M., Dudley, S.P., Kehoe, C. & The BOU Records Committee. (2013) The British List: A checklist of birds of Britain (8th Edition). *Ibis*, **155**, 635–676.
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- Wey Landscape Partnership. (2013) *River Wed Catchment Vision - Consultation Draft*. Wey Landscape Partnership.

8. Appendix I.

Bird List. Bird names are given in English followed by the scientific name. Species names in red are red listed due to severe historical declines in breeding or wintering numbers (shown as Bd or W in parentheses) or shown in an amber colour as having experienced moderate declines (Harrop *et al.* 2013). A few species have also been listed as vulnerable (VU) on the European red list.¹⁷

Bird List Lammas Lands

<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute swan (W)
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose
<i>Alop[ochen aegyptiaca</i>	Egyptian goose
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Shoveler (W) (recorded winter 2014/15)
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Pheasant (x2 D Wood 28/11/14)
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Cormorant
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little egret
White Egret (x2 D Wood 28/11/14) ¹⁸	
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron (D Wood 28/11/14)
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk
<i>Buzzard</i>	Buteo buteo
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel (Bd) (max 3)
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Hobby
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing (Bd) (VU)

¹⁷ The English names rather than the IOC International names have been used throughout and the order follows the British List published by the BOU. 2013. The British List: A checklist of birds of Britain. Ibis 155:635-676. Records from the BTO Birdtrack records have been included-for further details see the records in WBC files.

¹⁸ Not clear whether this record is great egret *Egretta alba* or little egret *E. garzetta*

<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Jack snipe
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Snipe (Bd & W)(6 recorded winter 08/02/2016 max 25 2014/15)
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed gull
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser black-backed gull
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock dove
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared dove
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher (VU)
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green woodpecker
<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	Great-spotted woodpecker
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Jackdaw
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion crow
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest
<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue tit
<i>Parus major</i>	Great tit
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House martin (Bd)
<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's Warbler (Ed Stubbs 1/02/15)
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed tit
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiffchaff (max 3)
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden warbler
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Whitethroat
<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper warbler (Bd) (heard Julie Russ NE)

	01/07/14)
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge warbler
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Reed warbler
<i>Sitta europea</i>	Nuthatch
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Treecreeper
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling (Bd)
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare (Bd)
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song thrush (Bd) (max 3)
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing (Bd) (max 4)
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle thrush (Bd)
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat (Bd)
<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Stonechat (max 4)
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow (Bd) (max 6)
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey wagtail (Bd)
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pied wagtail
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit 8 (Bd) (recorded winter 2014/15)
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Greenfinch (max 8)
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch (max 10)
<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>	Linnet Bd
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer (Bd)
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting (Bd)(max 8 recorded winter 2014/15)

9. Appendix II Surrey County Council Monument Full Report

J Caldwell, Waverley Borough Council, SHER Ref 267/16. 05/09/2016

3401 - MSE3401

SMR Number Record Type

Monument Types and Dates

Location

Description and Sources

A Late Bronze Age gouge.

Hanworth, R, 31/12/1984, Surrey Archaeological Collections, 269 (Serial). SSE76.

DISCOVERY OF LATE BRONZE AGE GOUGE REPORTED BY JULIE ARTHUR.

Late Bronze Age Gouge, Godalming

Site Name

Find Spot

Sources

Associated Finds

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Administrative Areas

National Grid Reference

SU 9790 4470 (point) SU94SE

Associated Designations - None recorded

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Land Use

Ratings and Scorings

Other Land Classes

Description

Centre/Point

Associated resources - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

FINDSPOT (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 701 BC)

Evidence FIND

Civil Parish Godalming, Waverley, Surrey

District Waverley, Surrey

County Surrey

SHINE Candidate (Unlikely) Active

National Monuments Record - SU94SE41 Active

Serial: Hanworth, R. 31/12/1984. Surrey Archaeological Collections. 75. 269

FSE5139 FIND (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 701 BC)

Condition (REP93) not known

Geology river terrace gravel

Landuse Recreational usage

Mon Full Rpt. Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd Page 1

SMR Number 3401 - MSE3401 Site Nam Late Bronze Age Gouge, Godalming

Mon Full Rpt. Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd Page 2