

Hampshire Heathland Project

**Hazeley Heath Management
Plan: Completion of
Consultation Process**

**Outcome B: Management Aims
Addendum on Consultation
Responses**

Hampshire County Council

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Hazeley Heath Management Plan Consultation Process

Outcome B: Management Aims Addendum on Consultation Reponses

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Appendix A Questionnaire used for Outcome B

1. Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- A1.1 This brief report is intended to complete the outputs from Outcome B of the Study - the identification and evaluation of Management Aims – and is set out as an Addendum to the main Report: Outcome B: Management Aims Discussion Paper, July 2006.
- A1.2 The Addendum summarises the consultation response received from the content of that report.

CONSULTATION PROCEDURE

- A1.3 The report from Outcome B of the study was disseminated to all of the stakeholders on the contact list as provided by the Hazeley Heath Management Committee – 100 in total. Due to the inclusion of various figures and photographs in the report, the file size was inappropriate for general circulation by e-mail, hence the reports were distributed as printed copies.
- A1.4 The reports were accompanied by a questionnaire that requested a response to the Management Aims listed in the report, in terms of the extent of agreement or disagreement with each Aim. A blank table was provided for completion, as included in Appendix AA to this Addendum.

2. Consultation Results

OVERALL

- A2.1 40 responses were received, which is considered to be a reasonable result for this type of consultation. Out of the 40 responses received, only two were from non-local organisations. The rest were from local individuals. Many questionnaires had blank boxes against some Aims, so the total number of responses against particular aims does not often add up to 40, but is always at least 30. It is important to note that the results discussed below are purely based on the responses received and may not reflect the opinions of the 100 stakeholders contacted.
- A2.2 The responses are discussed separately for the generic and specific Management Aims.

GENERIC MANAGEMENT AIMS

- A2.3 The numbers of each type of response made against each Generic Management Aim are given in Table A2.1 and summarised in graphical form in Figure A2.1.
- A2.4 The strongest levels of agreement were for the following:
- ◆ minimise access for unauthorised vehicles
 - ◆ minimise litter/dog mess etc
 - ◆ minimise adverse affects from landfill
 - ◆ minimise conflicts between vehicles and other users, particularly along B3011
 - ◆ minimise susceptibility to reduction of status and protection of site
 - ◆ remove encroachment on common by neighbours
- A2.5 There were mixed responses to maximising nature conservation over the whole site and the majority wished to maximise nature conservation over substantial defined areas. There was also a mixed reaction to maximising recreational access over whole site and over substantial defined areas.
- A2.6 The majority of people agreed that nature conservation value should be maximised for species of special status. A high proportion of people wished to maximise diversity of nature conservation, landscape and access.
- A2.7 The majority of people disagreed with maximising the openness of the whole site by woodland removal, but agreed that the openness of the site should be maximised in defined areas.
- A2.8 There was a mixture of responses to increasing the educational and interpretive facilities on the site and to maintaining the existing condition, although most people disagreed with this.
- A2.9 A similar pattern emerges from the responses to the question to list out the respondents top 5 Management Aims, which are summarised in Table A2.2.

Table A2.1 – Responses to Generic Management Aims

Potential generic management aims	strongly disagree	disagree	impartial	agree	strongly agree
Maximise nature conservation value over the whole site	3	12	2	9	10
Maximise recreational access over the whole site for all users	8	10	6	8	4
Maximise nature conservation value over substantial defined areas	1	6	1	13	11
Maximise recreational access over substantial defined areas for all users	6	6	8	7	4
Maximise recreational access over substantial defined areas for defined user groups	1	14	5	8	5
Maximise nature conservation value for species of special status	2	2	3	15	11
Maximise diversity for nature conservation, landscape and access	4	3	3	18	8
Maximise openness of the whole site by woodland removal	8	13	6	5	1
Maximise openness of the site in defined areas by woodland removal	3	3	1	23	6
Increase the educational and interpretive facilities on the site	5	6	12	7	3
Minimise adverse effects of rubbish from landfill and other former uses on appearance and safety			5	14	17
Minimise litter, dog mess, old cars, etc			2	11	23
Minimise access for unauthorised vehicles (travellers, tipping, bikes)		1		4	30
Minimise conflict between vehicles and other users, esp. along B3011			7	10	13
Minimise susceptibility to reduction in status and protection of site			5	7	20
Remove encroachment on common by neighbours		1	2	11	20
Maintain the existing condition	4	15	5	4	6

Figure A2.1 – Distribution of Responses to Generic Management Aims

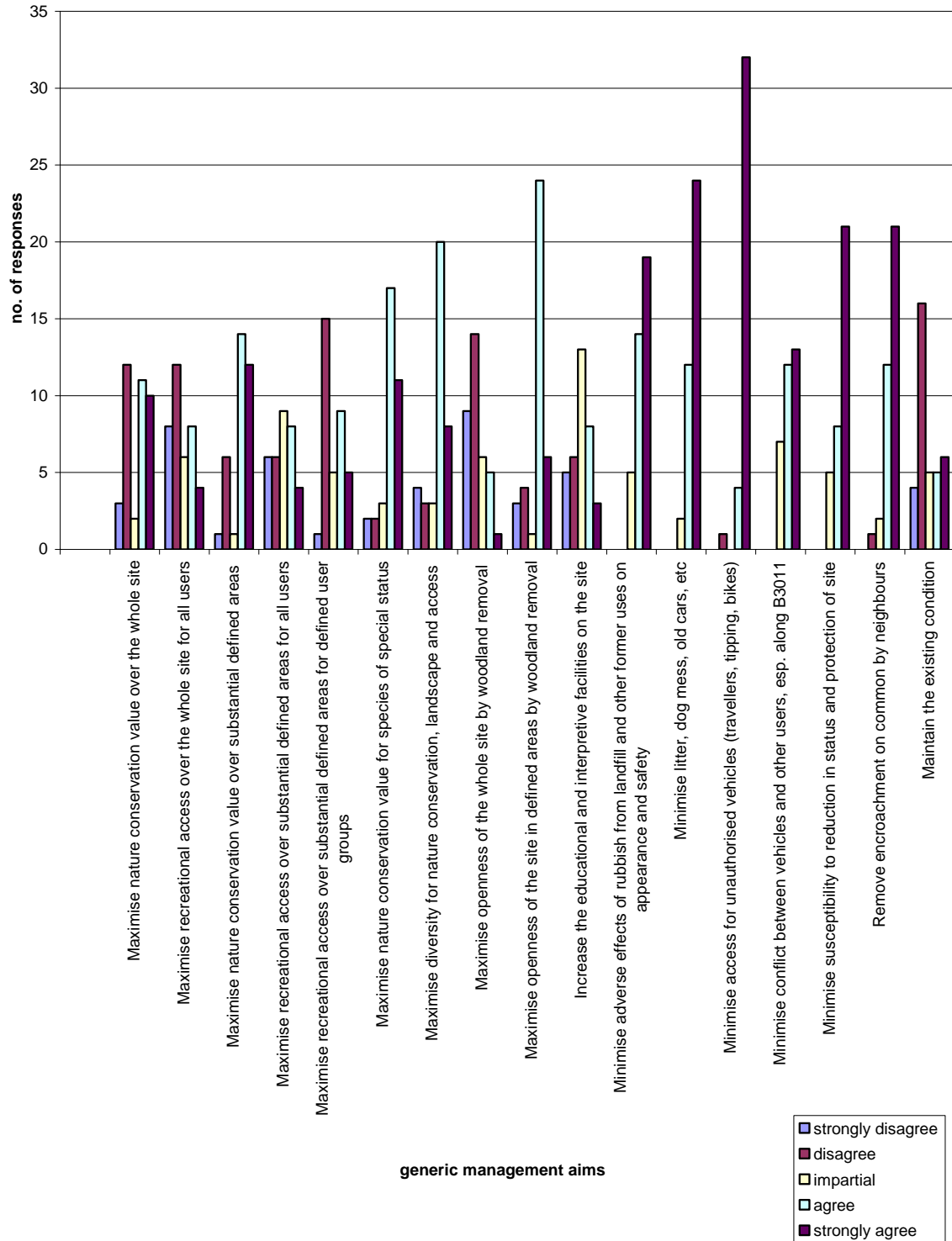


Table A2.2 - Quantity of Top 5 Choices for Generic Management Aims

Potential generic management aims	quantity of top 5 choices				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Maximise nature conservation value over the whole site	9	2	2	1	0
Maximise recreational access over the whole site for all users	2	0	1	1	1
Maximise nature conservation value over substantial defined areas	3	1	2	3	0
Maximise recreational access over substantial defined areas for all users	1	1	0	0	2
Maximise recreational access over substantial defined areas for defined user groups	0	0	0	2	0
Maximise nature conservation value for species of special status	1	4	3	1	2
Maximise diversity for nature conservation, landscape and access	1	5	1	3	1
Maximise openness of the whole site by woodland removal	1	0	1	0	0
Maximise openness of the site in defined areas by woodland removal	3	1	3	1	1
Increase the educational and interpretive facilities on the site	0	0	0	0	1
Minimise adverse effects of rubbish from landfill etc on appearance and safety	0	3	3	3	4
Minimise litter, dog mess, old cars, etc	2	1	6	5	4
Minimise access for unauthorised vehicles (travellers, tipping, bikes)	4	5	6	6	5
Minimise conflict between vehicles and other users, esp. along B3011	0	2	1	1	2
Minimise susceptibility to reduction in status and protection of site	1	6	5	3	1
Remove encroachment on common by neighbours	4	2	3	3	7
Maintain the existing condition	6	1	0	0	0

SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT AIMS

- A2.10 The numbers of each type of response made against each Generic Management Aim are given in Table A2.3 and summarised in graphical form in Figure A2.2.
- A2.11 For the habitats, prevention of the loss of lowland heath was generally agreed on as a management aim with only a few impartial and no one disagreeing. It was generally agreed that scrub was to be reduced with only a couple in disagreement. It was also generally agreed to remove alien species; minimize bracken, maintain mature woodland and reduce tree cover by selective removal.
- A2.12 The creation of ponds was more polarised. The majority of people were impartial with similar numbers agreeing/disagreeing.
- A2.13 Management of deer was also polarised; about evenly split between people wishing a reduction in numbers or an increase in numbers. For foxes, more people were against culling than for, but the majority of people were impartial.
- A2.14 Most people agreed that wet or damaged paths needed to be improved, but there were those that disagreed. In terms of enhancing access to wetter areas, similar numbers agreed as disagreed and many were impartial. The majority of people disagreed that the quantity of paths should be increased. People were impartial to the removal of tarmac tracks.
- A2.15 More people agreed that bridle paths should be provided than disagreed, although there were quite a few that strongly disagreed. Most people were impartial to reducing horse numbers, but the majority were in favour.
- A2.16 Access for dogs was polarised, with very similar numbers wishing to see dogs on leads as those who wishing dogs to have unrestricted access.
- A2.17 There were majority agreements to improve visitor behaviour and establish steering group(s). Most people disagreed that visitors should be discouraged.
- A2.18 The majority of people were in favour of enhancing views, but many were impartial.
- A2.19 A similar pattern emerges from the responses to the question to list out the respondents top 5 Management Aims, which are summarised in Table A2.4.

Table A2.3 – Responses to Specific Management Aims

Potential specific management aims	strongly disagree	disagree	impartial	agree	strongly agree
Prevent loss of lowland heath			6	18	13
Reduce scrub	2	1	4	18	11
Remove invasive alien species		1	7	18	11
Minimise bracken		1	5	17	14
Maintain mature woodland			3	24	9
Reduce tree cover by selective removal of species or sizes	1	2	6	21	6
Create additional ponds and ditches	4	6	15	10	2
Encourage deer population for browsing and visual beauty	6	9	9	10	3
Reduce deer population	7	8	7	9	4
Reduce number of foxes	6	11	12	3	3
Remove tarmac tracks	2	4	18	5	7
Improve wet or damaged paths	4	2	5	15	6
Enhance access to wetter areas	3	13	12	10	2
Increase quantity of paths	7	12	9	4	2
Provide bridle paths to separate pedestrians and horses	6	4	6	10	10
Reduce number of horses due to safety; dung and damage	6	5	12	10	4
Provide unrestricted access for dogs	6	6	8	12	5
Keep dogs on leads during bird nesting season	2	9	6	11	8
Improve visitor behaviour and respect for site		1	3	19	12
Discourage visitors to enhance tranquillity of site	11	13	4	3	4
Enhance views	3	6	11	10	4
Establish community steering group(s)	1	3	13	15	5

Figure A2.2 – Distribution of Responses to Specific Management Aims

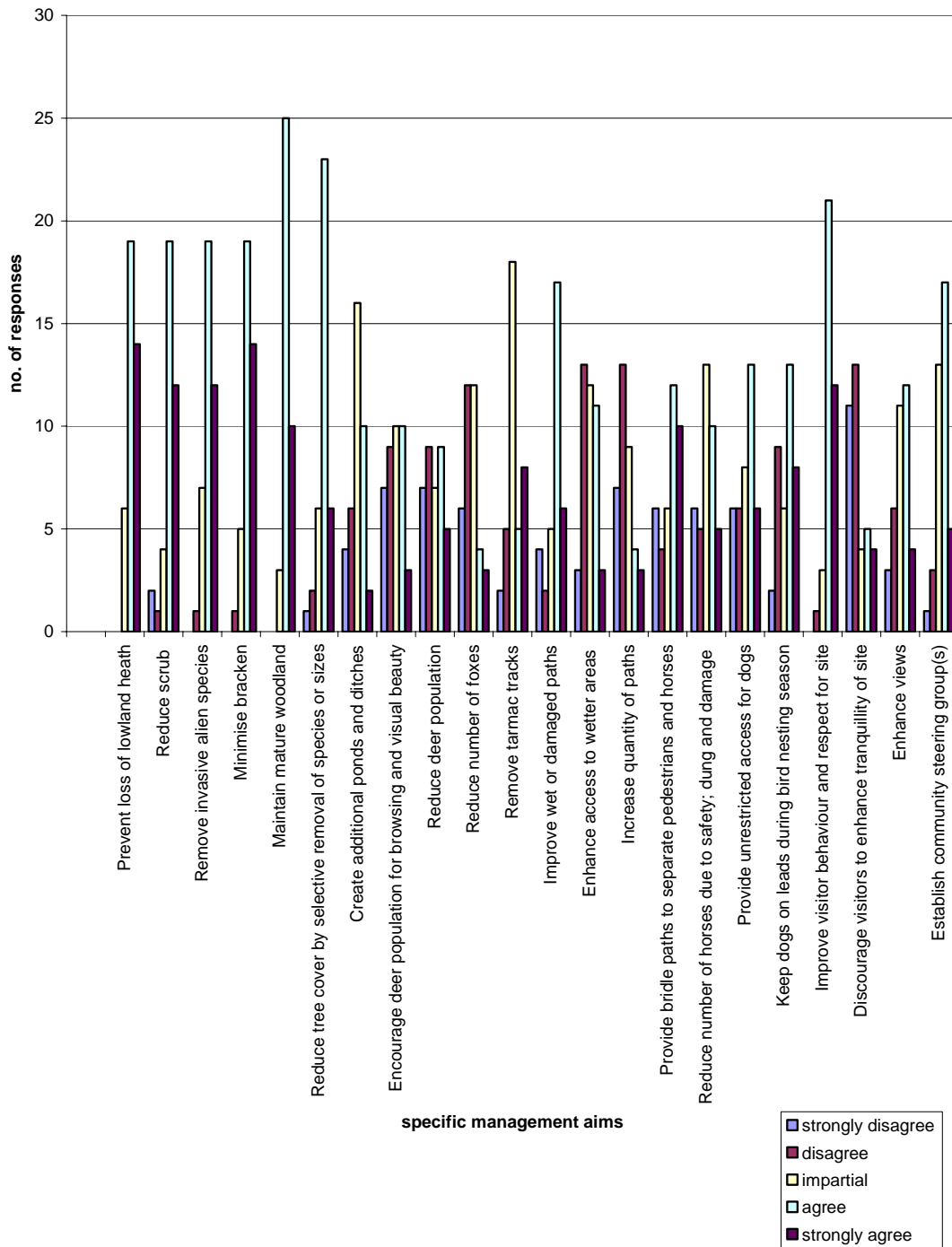


Table A2.4 – Quantity of Top 5 Choices for Specific Management Aims

Potential Specific Management Aims	quantity of top 5 choices				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Prevent loss of lowland heath	13	3	3	0	1
Reduce scrub	3	7	4	1	1.5
Remove invasive alien species	4	2	3	2	2
Minimise bracken	3	6	2	3	0.5
Maintain mature woodland	1	3	7	5	0
Reduce tree cover by selective removal of species or sizes	0	4	2	0	1
Create additional ponds and ditches	0	0	3	0	0
Encourage deer population for browsing and visual beauty	0	0	0	0	0
Reduce deer population	0	4	0	2	1
Reduce number of foxes	0	0	2	1	0
Remove tarmac tracks	0	2	1	0	0
Improve wet or damaged paths	0	1	2	4	5
Enhance access to wetter areas	0	0	1	1	2
Increase quantity of paths	1	0	0	0	1
Provide bridle paths to separate pedestrians and horses	3	3	2	3	2
Reduce number of horses due to safety; dung and damage	2	0	0	2	1
Provide unrestricted access for dogs	3	1	2	2	2
Keep dogs on leads during bird nesting season	0	0	1	5	1
Improve visitor behaviour and respect for site	2	1	1	1	5
Discourage visitors to enhance tranquillity of site	0	0	0	2	1
Enhance views	0	0	0	1	1
Establish community steering group(s)	1	0	0	0	5

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

A3.1 On the Generic Aims, there is a group of favoured Aims that are broadly phrased and would fit well together – the maximisation of:

- ◆ nature conservation over substantial defined areas
- ◆ nature conservation value for species of special status
- ◆ openness of the site over substantial defined areas
- ◆ diversity of nature conservation, landscape and access.

A3.2 The strongest levels of agreement were for the following:

- ◆ Minimise access for unauthorised vehicles
- ◆ Minimise litter/dog mess etc
- ◆ Minimise adverse affects from landfill
- ◆ Minimise conflicts between vehicles and other users, particularly along B3011
- ◆ Minimise susceptibility to reduction of status and protection of site
- ◆ Remove encroachment on common by neighbours

A3.3 There was less enthusiasm for the maximisation of recreational use. There was on balance a disagreement with maintaining the existing condition.

A3.4 Specific Aims follow a similar pattern with clear preferences for improving the valued habitats in various ways but more mixed responses to increasing path types and numbers. The management of visitors is seen as a useful tool, whilst the management of visitors' dogs polarises opinion.

A3.5 The following specific aims had the highest levels of agreement:

- ◆ Prevent loss of lowland heath
- ◆ Reduce scrub
- ◆ Remove invasive alien species
- ◆ Minimise bracken
- ◆ Maintain mature woodland
- ◆ Reduce tree cover by selective removal of species or sizes
- ◆ Improve visitor behaviour and respect for site

A3.6 There were some issues where there appeared to be a divergence of opinion:

- ◆ Increase the educational and interpretive facilities on the site
- ◆ Provide bridle paths to separate pedestrians and horses
- ◆ Reduce number of horses due to safety; dung and damage
- ◆ Provide unrestricted access for dogs
- ◆ Keep dogs on leads during bird nesting season

- A3.7 Establishing a community steering group to lead in the implementation of the Management Plan did not emerge as a priority – although very few respondents were actually opposed to the suggestion, a significant minority felt impartial. However around half expressed positive support for the idea.
- A3.8 The responses from the questionnaire are generally in line with the conclusions drawn from the previous consultation exercises in the first part of Outcome B, although with slightly less apparent support for enhancement of recreational aspects of the site.
- A3.9 The Aims which have been highlighted as receiving the higher levels of agreement will be used as the basis for the identification and selection of management options. The Aims that have had a more polarised response will also be considered to see if a balance can be provided.
- A3.10 These findings, taken in the round, provide a clear impetus for the need to manage change at the site in such a way as to enhance the existing diversity and attractiveness by gaining the best value from the areas of different character and attributes, with human influences kept at bay. Stakeholder opinion would appear to show that such an approach should be weighted to serve the nature conservation requirements *slightly* more than the recreational requirements.