



Hatch Grange, Megan Green and Quob Green

Management Plan 2020 – 2026

West End Parish Council

Feb 2021



Contents

1.	Introduction	4
2.	Site Description.....	4
2.1	Location and ownership	4
2.2	History	6
2.3	Topography and drainage	10
2.4	Habitats, natural and heritage features.....	10
2.4.1	Hatch Grange	10
2.4.2	Megan Green.....	18
2.4.3	Quob Green.....	18
2.5	Wildlife	18
2.6	Access and community use	19
2.6.1	Physical access and infrastructure	19
2.6.2	Visitor Facilities.....	20
2.6.3	Informal public use	24
2.6.4	Formal public use.....	24
3.	Current management and community engagement.....	24
3.1	Parish Council structure and resources	24
3.2	Parish Council management policies	25
3.3	Current vision and aims for the site	27
3.4	Current site management	28
3.5	Community engagement.....	30
3.6	Visitor survey.....	31
3.6.1	Survey method.....	31
3.6.2	About the respondents.....	31
3.6.3	Reasons for visit.....	31
3.6.4	Frequency of visit	32
3.6.5	What people like about Hatch Grange & Megan Green	33
3.6.6	What facilities visitors use	34
3.6.7	What visitors think of the facilities.....	34
3.6.8	What visitors think about other aspects of the site	35
3.6.9	Suggestions for site improvements	36
4.	Evaluation, aims and objectives.....	37

4.1	Vision and aims	37
4.2	A welcoming place.	37
4.3	Healthy, safe and secure.....	40
4.4	Well maintained and clean.	43
4.5	Environmental management.	45
4.6	Biodiversity, landscape and heritage.	46
4.7	Community involvement.....	49
4.8	Marketing and communications.	49
4.9	Management.....	51
5.	Tasks and action plan.....	52
6.	Monitoring and review	61
	Appendix 1. Summary of 2008 HBIC survey of grazing meadows (cpts A1 & A2).....	62
	Appendix 2 – Bird species recorded at Hatch Grange, Megan Green and Quob Green	66
	Appendix 3. WEPC Health & Safety policy statement	67
	Appendix 4. WEPC Policy for Trees on Public Land	68
	Appendix 5. Leaflet: Hatch Grange – Woods and Meadows	70
	Appendix 6: Visitor Survey responses – all users.....	72
	Appendix 7. Net satisfaction scores for facilities by user group.....	79
	Appendix 8. Net satisfaction scores for other aspects of site, by user group	80
	Appendix 9. Landscape and Heritage statement.....	81

1. Introduction

Hatch Grange, Megan Green and Quob Green together form the largest public open space within the built-up area of West End. The land is either owned or managed under agreement by West End Parish Council, whose overall aim is to maintain these areas as high quality community, heritage and biodiversity assets. The land is largely managed as a single unit, hence this plan covers all three areas, and throughout it, use of the term “the site” refers to all 3 areas together, and use of “Hatch Grange”, “Megan Green” or “Quob Green” refers to each of the main compartments as described in section 2.

This plan provides information about the site as it is today - its habitats, wildlife and heritage interest; its visitors and how they use the site; and how it will be maintained and managed to benefit nature and the local community over the next six years. It has been prepared in consultation with Parish Council staff, voluntary groups, local residents and other users of the site. Its purpose is to direct the management of the site taking into account their views, its heritage and conservation value, and the available resources. However the condition and use of the site can change over time, so the plan is not intended to be completely rigid; progress should be reviewed each year, work plans adjusted accordingly, and a new plan should be written in 2025 to follow on from this.

2. Site Description

2.1 Location and ownership

The site is located just to the north of the West End local centre, approximately 5 miles north-east of the middle of Southampton, centred on national grid reference SU467148 (see fig 1) and is surrounded by housing or roads on all sides.

Hatch Grange (compartment 1) is mostly comprised of parkland and woodland, plus an area of semi-improved grazing meadow. It is bounded to the north by properties in Larch Close, to the east by Megan Green and properties in Chapel Close, to the south by Chapel Road and the High Street, and to the west by Barbe Baker Avenue and the stream running behind properties in Hatch Mead. For the purpose of this plan the Parish Centre and its environs are included as part of Hatch Grange.

Megan Green (compartment 2) is comprised of amenity grass and young planted woodland. It is bounded to the north by properties in Elm Gardens and Hornbeam Gardens, to the east by Quob Lane, to the south by properties in Megan Road and Patricia Close, and to the west by Hatch Grange.

Quob Green (compartment 3) is a small area of woodland and amenity grass bounded to the north by a stream and open space owned by Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC), to the east and south by Brookside Way, and by Quob Lane to the west.

Features of interest in each area are noted in the site description as numbered “Target Notes” (TN) and marked on the survey plan (Figures 5a & 5b).

Figure 1. Site Location

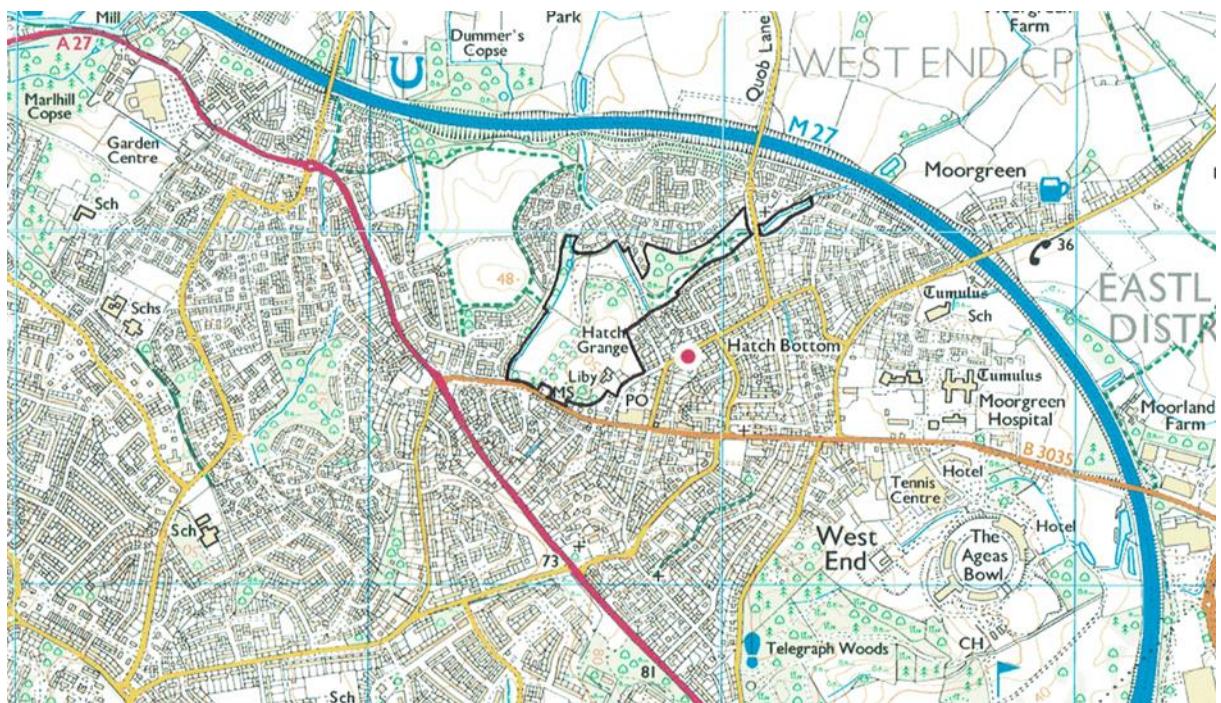
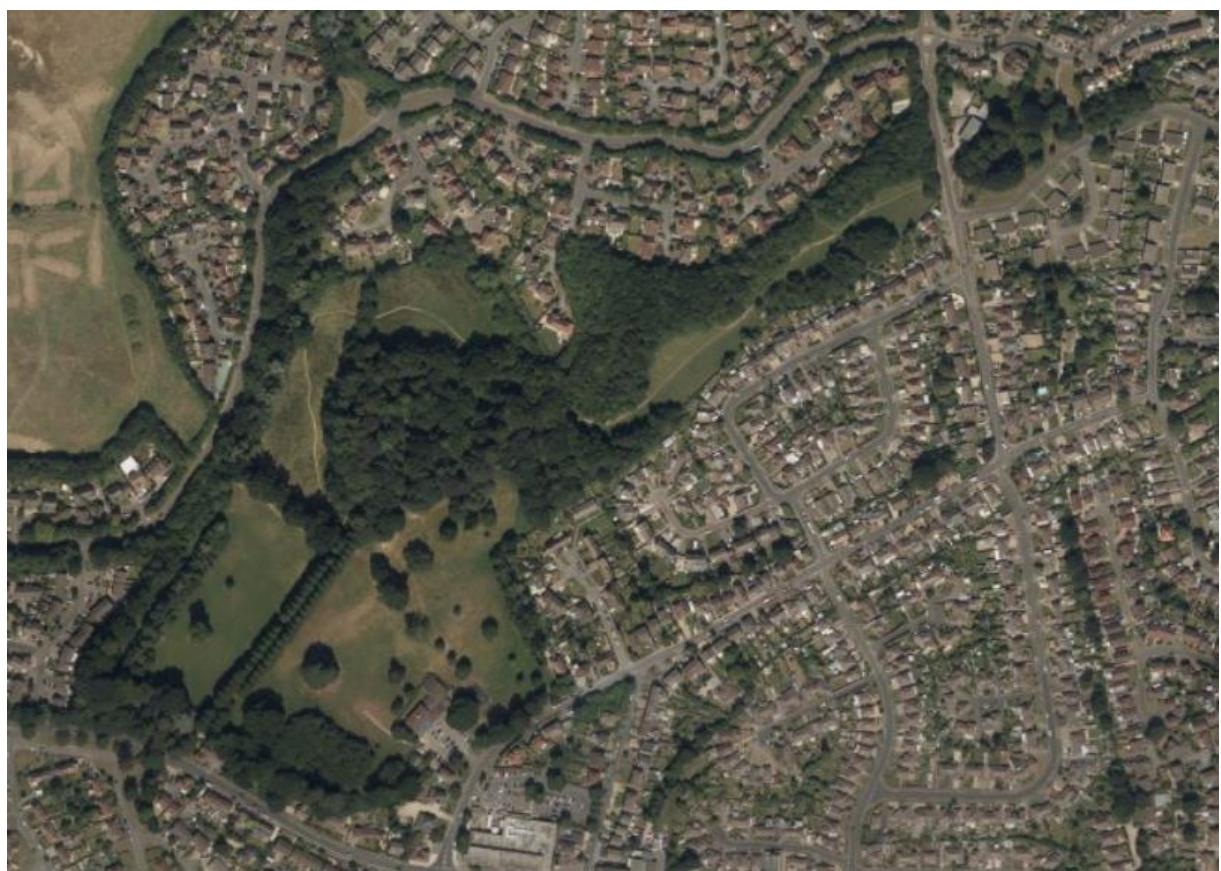


Figure 2. Aerial view



2.2 History

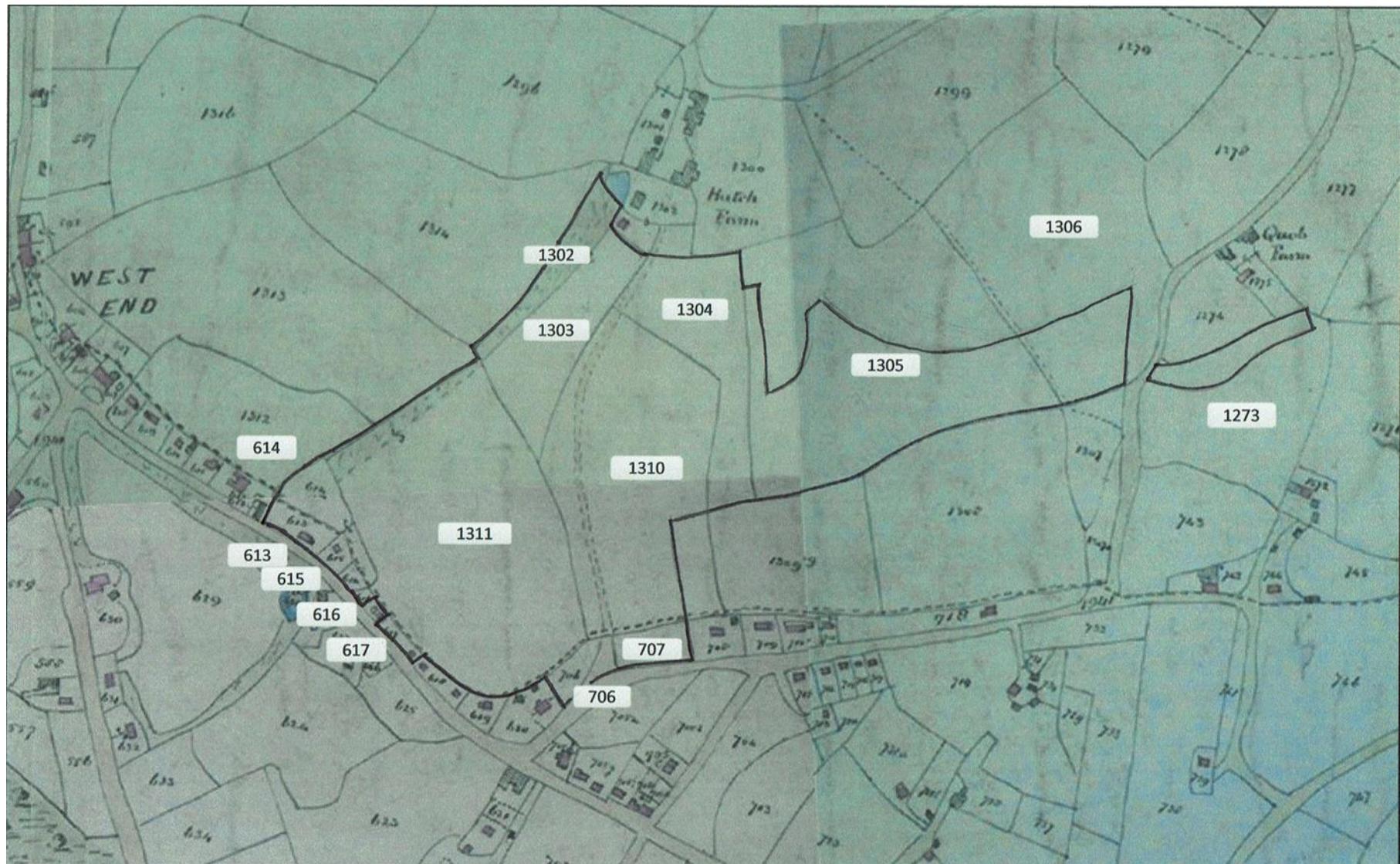
West End was originally a hamlet or small village in the parish of South Stoneham. The name Hatch Farm is mentioned in 16th century documents, and other documents refer to the “Manor of Hatch”, which probably corresponds roughly to the area of around 300 acres centred on Hatch Farm which the 1845 Tithe Map of South Stoneham and associated records show as being owned by the Gater family. The names, ownership and use of all the parcels of land which now fall within the site boundary are shown in figures 3 & 4.

At that time most of Hatch Grange and Megan Green was part of Hatch Farm, and was arable or pasture land, with the exception of a strip of woodland forming part of Pond Mead which remains today to the north-west of the remaining meadows. A track to Hatch Farm started in Chapel Road just north-east of the present parish centre between two gardens; there is no longer any visible sign of this, but large oaks in the park may lie on the line of the boundary between the fields Hatch Hill and Carpenters Close. Two cottages facing onto the High Street together with their gardens and a paddock also lay in the south-west corner of the modern boundary of Hatch Grange, and another cottage lay in what is now Fir Tree Gardens.

Figure 3. 1845 Tithe awards

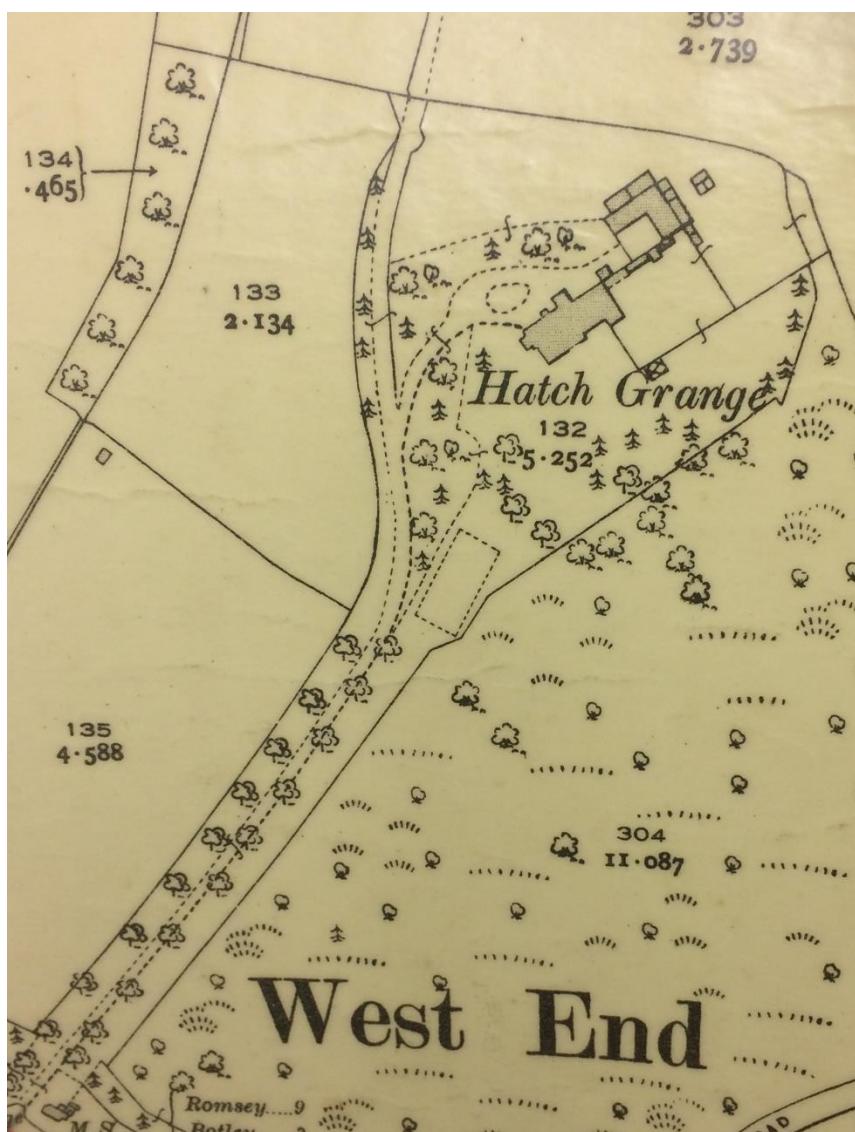
<u>Plot number</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Name/ Description</u>	<u>Cultivation</u>
613	Edward Gater	James Brown	Cottage and garden	
614	Jacob Gater dec'd (Ex'ors)	Charles Jelph	Paddock and garden	
615	John Brumham	Charles Morant	Cottage and garden	
616	William Vare	Charles Harvey	Cottage, garden & orchard	
617	William Vare	William Stone	Cottage and garden	
706	John Green	James Loader	Garden and orchard	Orchard
707	John Green	James Loader	Garden	Garden
1273	Anne Sait	William Webb	Quob meadow	Pasture
1302	Jacob Gater dec'd (ex'ors)	Themselves	Pond Mead	Wood
1303	Jacob Gater dec'd (ex'ors)	Themselves	Green Close	Arable
1304	Jacob Gater dec'd (ex'ors)	Themselves	Stable Purrock	Pasture
1305	Jacob Gater dec'd (ex'ors)	Themselves	Birch Moors	Arable
1306	Jacob Gater dec'd (ex'ors)	Themselves	Quob Close	Arable
1310	Jacob Gater dec'd (ex'ors)	Themselves	Hatch Hill	Arable
1311	Jacob Gater dec'd (ex'ors)	Themselves	Carpenters Close	Arable

Figure 4. 1845 Tithe Map with approximate modern site boundary overlaid



A new house known as Grange Farm was built by the Gater family in 1863 in the corner of the field called Hatch Hill, adjacent to the track from Chapel Road, but was never occupied by the Gater family. In 1872 Hatch Farm was bought by Ralph Warnford Fletcher, Grange Farm was renamed Hatch Grange, and became his family home. Fletcher landscaped the area around and to the south of the house, planting the avenue of lime trees alongside a new drive starting in High Street, the non-native specimen trees of a similar age and woodland around the house, and probably the conifers and other trees of a similar age on the site of the cottages in the south-west corner and along the boundary behind the other cottages on the north side of High Street. The layout of the house, outbuildings and surrounding grounds in the inter-war years is shown in Figure 5. A number of very mature/ veteran oak and beech trees predating this period are found on banks around the edges of the woodland and the grazing meadows, and in the parkland, many located on the pre-existing field and tithe boundaries and marked as TN1 on the survey plan (Figure 6 & 6a)

Figure 5 – Hatch Grange House and grounds, early 20th Century



Mr Warnford-Fletcher died in 1928, and there were two subsequent short-term owners before 30 acres including the house and landscaped grounds and two small fields to the north were bought by the Parish Council in 1938 to be open space for the benefit of the village. By this time the house was derelict and was destroyed by fire soon after. The land fronting Chapel Road between Chapel Close and cottages on the corner of Chapel Road was not included in the original sale, and was bought by the parish at a later date.

A map from around 1940 showed that the field of Hatch Hill had by that time become colonised by scrub (local people recall gorse), but was cleared and cultivated later during WWII. After WWII, the northern part of the field west of the lime avenue was used as a playing field. The new parish centre was opened in 1978 and has been extended several times to reach its present form.

Firtree Gardens, formerly the site of Fir Tree Cottage, was opened to the public as a formal garden for rest and reflection in 1991, and connected to Hatch Grange by steps and a footpath in 2009.

Hatch Grange is listed in the Hampshire Inventory of Historic Parks, Gardens and Public Green Spaces. Reportedly assessed as grade B in the 1997 original survey, an updated survey in 2019 states, “the significance of the site lies in its commanding position, its designed open space and historic features such as ancient wet meadows, a lime avenue and the “Jubilee Circle” of conifers planted for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, from where there are long views out of the site, including to Beacon Hill in the South Downs.” Although the adjacent beacon on Hatch Hill is not in its original position (having been relocated from Telegraph Woods) the view demonstrates the principle by which warning of attacking fleets would have been transmitted from the coast to London.

View from beacon and Jubilee Circle to Beacon Hill, South Downs



Megan Green was created as a buffer of public open space between new housing development on Hatch Farm and existing properties in Megan Road during the late 1980's. Eastleigh Borough Council owned the area initially and planted the blocks of trees, and the land was then transferred into the control of the Parish Council under a 35 year agreement in 2007.

At the time of the 1845 Tithe map, the land which now forms Quob Green was pasture forming part of Quob Farm owned by the Sait family. The area was laid out as open space at the time of the housing development in Brookside Way and transferred into the ownership of the Parish Council by Eastleigh Borough Council in 2007.

2.3 Topography and drainage

The topography of Hatch Grange is dominated by a ridge which extends north from a locally prominent high point on its southern side from which the land slopes down in all directions, steeply in places. A stream runs south – north along the western boundary of the site, and a second smaller stream runs along the boundary between Hatch Grange and Megan Green.

Megan Green slopes gently to the south-east and east from a slightly higher point at its north-west corner, and the small area of Quob Green is level. A stream emerges from a culvert at the western end of Quob Green and runs west – east forming the northern boundary.

The underlying geology is Bracklesham Beds, and the soil on the higher parts of the site is a sandy loam with some gravel, which drains well on the higher and steeper areas of Hatch Grange, but becomes wetter in other parts of Hatch Grange and in Megan Green, and can very soft from October to March, particularly in the lower parts of Hatch Grange where seepage lines may indicate a change to clay soils.

2.4 Habitats, natural and heritage features

For the purpose of describing the site in more detail, it has been divided into 3 main areas, or compartments, which correspond to the main parts of the site: Hatch Grange is compartment A, Megan Green is compartment B, and Quob Green is compartment C. Each has been divided into sub-compartments which are shown on figures 6a & 6b, with features of interest as target notes.

2.4.1 Hatch Grange

Compartment A1 – wet woodland and pond. Between Barbe Baker Avenue and the grazing meadows is the strip of woodland shown on the 1845 tithe map. A botanical survey was carried out by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) in 2008, and this woodland was added to the existing meadows Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Drier areas closer to Barbe Baker Avenue have a canopy of oak and sycamore above hazel, hawthorn and holly, and mainly ivy and bramble at ground level. Wetter areas have a canopy of alder and crack/ white willow, with bramble, nettle, ivy some ferns and other wetland plants beneath. The 2008 survey summary is included as Appendix 1.

This compartment contains a pond (TN2) which was originally excavated in the late 1980's/ early 1990's on the line of the stream, and as a result has always been prone to silting up. In 2008 it had become shallow and was dominated by parrot's feather, so was re-excavated and the surrounding scrub cut back. However silting has continued to the extent that there is now very little open water, and the silt has been extensively colonised by fools water cress, with some yellow flag iris and floating sweet grass. Despite the scrub clearance it remains heavily shaded by larger trees to the south and west.

South of compartment A1 and the boardwalk to Barbe Baker Avenue, the woodland is owned by Eastleigh Borough Council and not the parish, whose boundary lies on the stream. At its southern end the strip of Borough Council land between the stream and the adjacent properties in Hatch Mead is very narrow, and contains a number of large oaks and a beech on the bank which are immediately next to the fence of properties in Hatch Mead. Out of pragmatism and to be seen as a good neighbour, the Parish Council has organised and funded surgery to a number of these trees on the Borough Council's land.

Compartment A2 – grazing meadows. Two fields of improved/ semi-improved grassland separated by the remains of a hedge on a low bank, managed by cattle grazing, and also surveyed by HBIC in 2008.

The western field (compartment A2a) was described as arable in the 1845 tithe records, and has developed as grassland since cultivation. It is mainly marshy with fair species diversity but contains few species of note.

The eastern field (cpt A2b) was described as pasture in the 1845 tithe records, and the wetter areas have greater diversity including species not found elsewhere in the meadows such as lesser spearwort, marsh bedstraw, ragged robin, black knapweed and devils-bit scabious, a plant indicative of old meadows. The eastern edge of the field contains bramble and willow scrub and is very wet due to a seepage line and because the stream which lies just outside the fence has become blocked and diverted into the field. A rough hedge lies between the stock fence and the property boundaries on the north side.

Compartment A3 – Woodland and the site of Hatch Grange House. The woodland can be divided roughly into two parts. The western half includes the site of Hatch Grange house (TN4), and the end of the drive and turning circle (TN5), and contains a good number of specimen and non-native trees and shrubs including scots pine, lime, beech, cedar of Lebanon, yew, bay, laurel and rhododendron, plus other non-native species such as bamboo which have survived from the formal gardens. The ground flora is dominated by ivy, with bramble in the more open areas. The former turning circle at the end of the drive has been used for tipping of green waste and wood chippings by ground staff which has encouraged growth of nettles in this area.

A row of large beech and pine trees runs around the south-east corner of the wood, and the eastern half contains no non-native trees, and has a canopy of oak and

sycamore with some beech above a shrub layer of hazel and holly. The ground flora consists mainly of ivy, with occasional ferns, cuckoo pint, and bluebells.

Large trees, mainly oak with some beech, are found at a number of points on the north and east edges of the wood on the original field boundaries, most notably on the east side where erosion of the bank has left some of the trees appearing to stand “on tiptoe”. One very large oak has collapsed in recent years with the main trunk left in situ.

Compartment A4 – Woodland adjacent to Megan Green. This woodland between compartment A3 and the stream has developed on former pasture land. The canopy is mainly of oak, with a shrub layer of hazel and willow in wetter areas at the northern end. Ground flora is dominated by ivy, with slightly more diversity along the stream at the southern end where a fallen oak has allowed more light in, encouraging sedges and other species along the stream banks.

Compartment A5 – parkland. This makes up the largest part of Hatch Grange, and consists largely of mown amenity grassland, with individual and groups of specimen trees of various ages, and two blocks of more recent planting.

The main area of mown grass (cpt A5a) is divided in two by the avenue of pollarded limes running along the former drive to Hatch Grange House. (TN6) West of the avenue, a fine specimen liquidambar tree dominates the area which slopes down towards the stream on the western boundary. At the bottom of the slope is a belt of trees planted in the mid 1990’s consisting of alder, birch and poplar with mainly bramble and poplar suckers beneath (TN7).

East of the lime avenue more trees break up the open grass. A small number of older oaks remain on the line of the old boundary between the former Hatch Hill and Carpenters Close fields. Also on this line is a sculpture created in 2018 from the trunk of another oak which had to be felled for safety reasons. A circle of Corsican pines planted in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria’s diamond jubilee is located on the highest point of Hatch Hill (TN8), and individual specimens have been planted in other positions since, including weeping willow, hornbeam, fir, and horse chestnut, two of which are badly affected by horse chestnut leaf miner beetle.

The Jubilee pine circle



Along the eastern boundary to properties in Chapel Close is a belt of young trees and scrub including early mature oaks, hazel and bramble, which contains a ditch ending in a culvert at the southern end. Just west of the parish centre is a metal beacon fire basket, relocated to the site from Telegraph Woods in 1988.

In the south-west corner is a small area of planted woodland on the site of former cottages, (cpt A5b) including Corsican pines, douglas fir, redwoods and yew, with holly and laurel beneath, marked by a boundary bank on which are a number of mature oaks.

East of the lime avenue and west of the parish centre is Centenary Copse (cpt A5c), planted in 1994 to mark the 100th anniversary of the parish. The copse is made up of birch, ash, oak, hazel, holly, yew, hawthorn, blackthorn, beech, hornbeam and alder. Ground flora is limited, but includes wild garlic, bluebells and other bulbs which have been planted by volunteers. It was first thinned in 2009 when a glade and path giving access to Fir Tree Gardens were created. A green waste composting/storage area is sited in the woodland belt just behind the copse (TN9).

The north-east corner of the compartment bounded by woodland and the gardens of Chapel Close has a different character (cpt A5d). It contains a clump of young elm growth which may be the remnant of an older tree lost to disease; a grove of trees including, horse chestnut, oak, sycamore, and maritime pine planted in 1983 as a memorial to Richard St Barbe Baker, founder of The Men of The Trees (now the International Tree Foundation); and an area of rough grass on sloping ground which contains a number of young self-sown oaks, with bracken at the bottom of the slope.

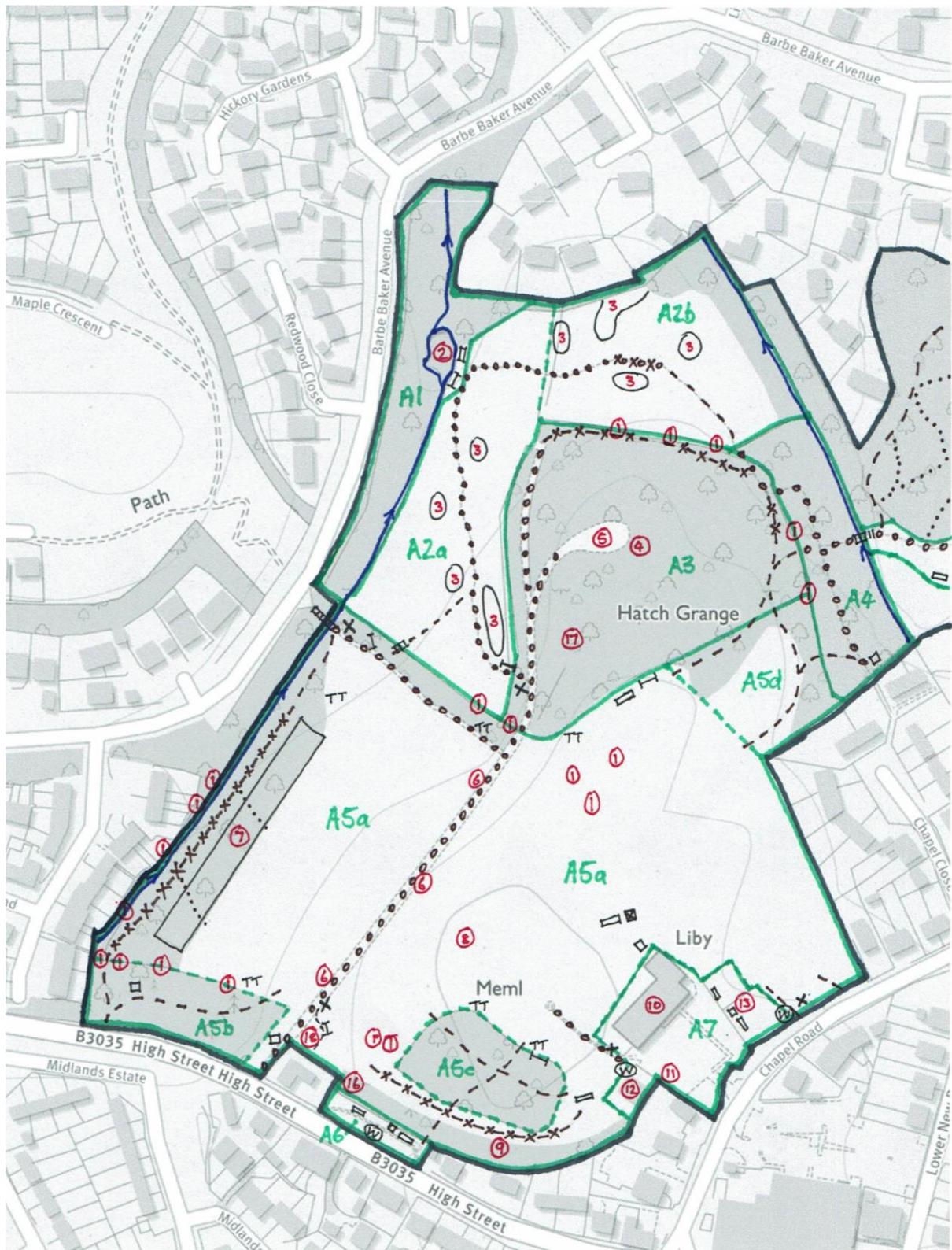
Firtree Gardens



Compartment A6 – Firtree Gardens. This is a small formal garden intended for rest and reflection fronting the High Street, separated from it by a mixed native species hedgerow. The garden is laid to amenity grass interspersed with trees and shrubs, some with memorial plaques. Entrances at either end are connected by a concrete path, there are two wooden benches and a mixed waste bin, and steps at the eastern end connect the gardens into compartment 5 behind Centenary Copse.

Compartment A7 – Parish Centre and environs. This area comprises the Parish Centre building (TN10), car park and standalone public toilet block (TN11), grounds maintenance store (TN12), and play area (TN13). Within the parish centre, the parish council office, West End library, and halls/rooms for hire have no operational connection to Hatch Grange and are not considered further within the management plan, but the Hatch Café is used by visitors to the site and is discussed briefly. A hawthorn hedge encloses the sides and rear of the parish centre and a number of specimen trees. A very large open grown mature oak lies between the car park and the play area. The facilities which relate to the operation and use of Hatch Grange are described in more detail later in the plan.

Figure 6a. Site survey map – Hatch Grange - compartments and features of interest (target notes)



Key to site survey plan		Survey Plan – target notes	
	Boundary of WEPC ownership/control	1	Very mature/ veteran trees
A1	Compartment boundary and number	2	Heavily silted pond
A2a	Sub-compartment boundary and number	3	Bramble patches
—	Stream	4	Site of Hatch Grange House
• • • •	Surfaced paths	5	Driveway turning circle
— - - -	Main unsurfaced paths	6	The lime avenue
-x-x-x-	Main unsurfaced paths – very muddy in autumn/ winter	7	1990's tree belt
.....	Minor unsurfaced paths	8	Jubilee circle of Corsican pines
IIIIIII	Steps and Bridge/ boardwalk	9	Green waste storage/ composting site
X	Dog bin	10	Parish Centre
□	Mixed waste bin	11	Public Toilets
==	Bench	12	Grounds maintenance store
TT	Trim trail station	13	Play area
I→	Interpretation panel	14	Rough grass – previously seeded with wildflower mixture
W	Welcome sign	15	Pond with open water
		16	Badger sett – recently active
		17	Badger sett - inactive
		18	Parking area inside Jubilee Gates

Figure 6b. Site survey map – Megan Green & Quob Green - compartments and features of interest (target notes)



2.4.2 Megan Green.

This part of the site consists of a number of blocks of young woodland planted in the late 1980's/ early 1990's with a corridor of mainly close-mown amenity grass running between them linking the four access points.

Compartments B1 - B5 are blocks of young woodland consisting of a closed canopy of alder, ash, cherry, oak, and willow, which are now becoming sufficiently tall to overtop a shrub layer of hazel, holly, hawthorn, and dog rose. Ground flora consists mainly of ivy with some bramble, and in the few locations where there are gaps in the canopy allowing more light, other species such as herb Robert and broad buckler fern. In places there is also good seedling regeneration of tree species, particularly ash and field maple. Occasional non-native shrubs have presumably been planted or escaped from neighbouring properties.

Compartment B6 consists mainly of close-mown amenity grass, but towards the western end between the path and the woodland is an area of rough grass with a low bank adjacent to the woodland (TN14), which was previously seeded with a wildflower mixture.

2.4.3 Quob Green

This part of the site is divided into two parts by the footpath connecting Brookside way to Quob Farm Close.

Between the footpath and Quob Lane, compartment C1 is an area of mown amenity grass containing a pond (TN15), areas of bramble and laurel along the bank of the stream, two mature oaks and a number of younger specimen trees.

The pond is several feet lower than the surrounding open space; the bank on the north side has been colonised by bramble, and much of the water area is dominated by reedmace and sedges, but about 1/4 of the area is open water. The pond may have previously been fed by a pipe from the stream, but this is now blocked by silt so the pond must now be maintained by groundwater. An outflow pipe at the north-east end of the pond controls the water level.

North-east of the footpath, Compartment C2 contains mature oak and ash trees and willow and alder scrub, with bramble and ivy beneath, which has grown up around a second pond. This pond is fed by a culvert at its western end which flows after heavy rain, but the pond does not hold open water because the outflow pipe to the stream is set at the same level as the bottom of the pond.

2.5 Wildlife

Mammals. A badger sett is located in the bank at the northwest corner of Fir Tree Gardens (TN16), with one recently active entrance and one disused entrance. It is thought that this was established as an alternative to the larger disused badger sett

located in a bank in compartment A3 (TN17) among the remains of a stand of bamboo, which appears to have been in use until approximately 10 years ago and was formerly more screened and covered by the bamboo. These may be outliers from a large sett in the bank of the M27 motorway 500m north which was closed as part of motorway improvements in January 2020 - mammal paths were found crossing Barbe Baker Avenue from Hatch Grange into a connecting open space – or independent setts albeit home to a small number of animals. Other active setts at West End Copse 600m east, and at Telegraph Woods 700m south-east are probably too distant and separated by roads and housing to be related.

Pipistrelle bats and a Noctule bat have been recorded on bat walks. Two bat boxes are placed in large oaks, and there are many large mature trees which are likely to have potential bat roosting features, but a detailed bat survey and assessment has not been carried out. The mixture of woodland and grassland habitat on the site is good general bat foraging habitat, and is probably used by a number of common bat species. All bats species and their roosts are protected under the habitats regulations.

Grey squirrels are seen regularly, and roe deer have been reported from Hatch Grange and Megan Green.

Birds. While the management plan was being written, 21 mainly common resident species were recorded, most of which are likely to breed on the site, and two other species have been seen or heard at or near the site in the past and are thought likely to still be present. Of these, two – house sparrow and song thrush – are notable species, being UK or Hampshire BAP priority species, and on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) red list, and a third – tawny owl – is on the BOCC amber list. A full list of species observed is given in appendix 2.

Reptiles. No surveys were carried out and no casual observations were made during preparation of the plan, but suitable habitat for common reptiles exists in the rough grass at Megan Green, and in Hatch Grange in compartment A5d, and around the fringes of the woodland and grazing meadows. An adder was reported in the south-east corner of the grazing fields in June 2018.

Invertebrates. No surveys have been carried out; Orange tip, small white, speckled wood and Holly Blue butterflies were sighted during preparation of the plan, and the site probably supports small numbers of other common butterfly species.

2.6 Access and community use

2.6.1 Physical access and infrastructure

The main entrance points and path network are shown on figures 6a & 6b. Parking for 36 cars including 2 blue badge holders is available at the parish centre, and planning permission has been secured for a ten space temporary car park for staff in the area behind the grounds maintenance store. Four further spaces are available in a small parking area at the start of the lime avenue drive (TN18), where a locked barrier

provides access for authorised vehicles along the gravelled drive to the grazing fields and site of Hatch Grange House.

Within the more elevated parkland area of Hatch Grange, ground conditions are mostly good and surfaced paths are unnecessary, but gravel paths have been laid connecting the parish centre car park to the beacon, and the lime avenue drive to the boardwalk from Barbe Baker Avenue, which is built from recycled plastic and in good condition. The area east of the play area including outside the gate is soft and wet after rain, as is the lower slope of the park west of the lime avenue, particularly the strip between the tree belt and the stream which is wet all year and very soft and muddy after rain, to the extent of being difficult to walk even in boots.

A gravel path runs through the grazing fields via the pond, with metal kissing gates at each end and where it passes through the fence dividing the two fields. Though the fields are wet from autumn to early spring, the path remains generally firm apart from the section to the west of the dividing hedgerow. The path from the Chapel Close entrance to the grazing fields and the connecting path into Megan Green are also surfaced. The bridge over the stream at this point is sound and in fair condition, though the steps leading up the bank are rather uneven.

Where the gravel drive ends at the field gate into the grazing fields, an unsurfaced path runs along the north side of the woodland and is very muddy after rain, but the unsurfaced path linking the grazing fields through the wood back to the north-east corner of the parkland is drier.

Within Megan Green, the paths entering from Hatch Grange, Megan Road, and Quob Lane are surfaced for some distance, but a long section through the centre of the site is unsurfaced, and where it passes through a pinch-point between the woodland blocks it is very wet even though woodchips have been used to surface this section. A network of paths through woodland compartment B1 is also unsurfaced and very muddy in winter/ after rain, and in places the paths have become very wide as a result, eroding the adjacent ground flora.

The footpath running through Quob Green from Brookside Way to Quob Farm Close has a tarmac surface in good condition.

2.6.2 Visitor Facilities

The facilities referred to below are all marked on figures 6a & 6b.

A number of coated steel benches are positioned around the site of two different designs, mainly with backrests on Hatch Grange, and without at Megan Green, and there is a recycled plastic bench at Quob Green. Most are in fair condition, but some of the metal benches have rusted where the coating has been scraped off.

Bench on hatch Grange



Five dog waste bins are located on Hatch Grange and one at Megan Green; they are generally not in good condition, and some are in need of replacement. Mixed waste bins (litter and dog waste) are located across the three areas, and are generally in good condition.

Six fitness/ trim-trail stations are located around the edges of the main parkland area.

There are welcome signs with contact details for the parish council at the two entrances to Hatch Grange closest to the Parish Centre, at the Quob Lane entrance to Megan Green, and at Quob Green. Six interpretation panels are sited around Hatch Grange, providing information about different aspects of the site and its history, and are in good condition. A noticeboard adjacent to the parish centre car park contains information about events at the site and elsewhere in West End, and an information panel provides information about walks in the parish.

The play area is adjacent to the parish centre car park (TN13), and is divided into two parts, one junior with equipment for children under 8, and the other senior with equipment for children aged 9 – 15. It was refurbished and extended by the addition of the under-8's section in 2007.

Junior play area



The junior section has 6 pieces of equipment: bucket and standard swings in good condition; and a roundabout, small multiplay unit, climbing frame, seesaw and roller/stepping stones units, most in fair condition but with some components in poor condition (see photos below). The entire area has a wet-pour rubber impact-absorbing surface which has been patched in places.

Damage / wear & tear to junior play equipment



The senior section is on two levels and has 4 pieces of equipment: swings, a slide, a carousel and a hanging trackway, all in fair condition, with impact absorbing surfacing around each item, and grass elsewhere. The play areas have a combined play value score of 28 using the method in NPFA TAN 28.

Senior play area



The Hatch Café is located within the parish centre building and is open to visitors to Hatch Grange serving hot and cold drinks, cakes, snacks, and light lunches from 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday, and 10am – 1pm on Saturdays. There are tables for approximately 20 people indoors and four outdoors.

Toilets are available inside the parish centre for café customers, and there is a small public toilet block located within the car park (TN11) which costs 20p to use.

Public toilets



2.6.3 Informal public use

Dog walking is the most common use of the site, with dog walkers present at most times of the day, sometimes in significant numbers, and most dogs appear to be exercised off the lead. Smaller numbers of people without dogs also use the site for walking, and a few for exercise using the trim trail, particularly the stations closer to the parish centre. During the summer and in fine weather at other times, families and young people use Hatch Grange as a place to meet, play and some have a picnic. When there is snow on the ground, the steep slopes on Hatch Grange make it a very popular site for sledging, attracting local children and those living somewhat further away. The play area is well-used, particularly after school and at weekends, and geocaching has become popular in recent years with a number of caches placed on the site. More detailed information about public use of the site is given in section 3.4.

2.6.4 Formal public use

Formal public use of the site (for organised events) is by agreement with the parish council, which in some cases assists with organisation and support. Most events take place in the parkland area adjacent to the parish centre; the largest is West End Carnival Fete in June, there are also two dog shows a year organised by a local pet rescue centre, and an Easter egg hunt held by the local primary school. Other less informal events also take place such as a dog pack walk organised by regular dog walkers, and from time to time the site is used by the local scout group. One-off events are held at Hatch Grange to celebrate special occasions such as the new millennium, 60th anniversary of D-Day and the queen's diamond jubilee, which are often focused on the beacon, which was installed behind the parish centre in 1988. In addition, the parish council has in recent years organised children's trails e.g. at Easter and Hallow'een.

3. Current management and community engagement

3.1 Parish Council structure and resources

Council and Committees. Parish Council policy and key decisions are determined by the full Council of 14 members, and responsibility for the management of open spaces including Hatch Grange, Megan Green and Quob Green lie with the Recreation and Environment Committee. The Committee meets monthly and receives a report of issues arising at the site and decides on actions and expenditure recommended by Parish staff.

Staff & equipment. The Parish Council currently employs four full time and one seasonal member of groundstaff to maintain all the open spaces in West End who report to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The groundstaff have access to ride-on mowers, push mowers, strimmers, hedge trimmers, chainsaw and chipper which are stored in a stand-alone workshop/store adjacent to the Parish Centre. The team also liaise with neighbouring parishes with a view to sharing equipment.

Financial resources. The annual budget for maintenance and management of the site is £4000, while tree works are funded from a separate parish-wide budget as required on the basis of tree surveys; expenditure in recent years is estimated at £2000pa. The Grounds Team in consultation with the Clerk to the Council can use the maintenance budget to carry out work speedily without the need to obtain Council approval. The grazing fields are included in a government agri-environment scheme from which the parish receives a small amount of income, but otherwise the site does not generate any income for the Council.

Funding for major projects needs to be sourced from other organisations, donations, or borrowing. The Friends of Hatch Grange funded £15,000 of improvements in the past (see 3.3) but don't currently have access to funds of this scale. Eastleigh Borough Council's Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Committee (HEWEB LAC) maintains a Capital Investment Project List and any developers' contributions can be made available for improvement projects at Hatch Grange and Megan Green which the Parish Council include on this list.

3.2 Parish Council management policies

General. West End Parish Council believes that well designed, managed and maintained public spaces can make a major contribution to securing sustainable economic development, support an ageing population, promote social and community cohesion, improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, and reduce perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Health & Safety. West End Parish Council recognises that it has a legal duty of care for the health and safety of its employees and others who may be affected by the council's activities in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Occupiers Liability Act and other legislation, and that managing health and safety is a business critical function. The Parish Council has adopted a Health & Safety Policy Statement (Appendix 3), and maintains a safe place of work, safe equipment and safe systems of work. Risk assessments have been developed for all tasks, and are reviewed annually. If an accident occurs, the risk assessment will be amended to ensure the prevention of further incidents.

All equipment is regularly maintained and serviced, and a log is kept in the workshop. Most routine maintenance is carried out by the groundstaff, but annual servicing of larger machinery, e.g. ride on mowers is carried out by the manufacturer. Staff carry out visual safety checks prior to use of any machinery/vehicle and follow the adopted Health & Safety Policies.

Use of pesticides/ chemicals. COSHH assessments have been produced for all chemicals used. Every effort is made to minimise use of pesticides although currently Roundup is used to control weeds in the car park and around buildings.

Biodiversity. Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 states that, “*Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity*”. This statutory obligation is often referred to as the “Biodiversity Duty for Local Authorities”; West End Parish Council accepts this responsibility and will maximise opportunities to protect and enhance the natural environment of the site.

In 2010 the Parish Council adopted a Parish Plan which recognises the Biodiversity of West End and includes the following aims:

- To protect, restore and maintain the green and natural sites that exist in West End,
- To protect, conserve and enhance the fauna and flora that are present in and around West End,
- To encourage residents of West End to value the flora and fauna in their midst;
- To develop projects by which all residents can become involved in the conservation of the biodiversity of West End
- To improve access to green sites for disabled residents and visitors

The Parish Council values input from the Parish Plan Steering Group and takes account of their aims when discussing and considering all projects for Hatch Grange, Megan Green and Quob Green. In a 2014 review of the action plan for Parish, the Steering Group proposed that the Parish council should reapply for The Green Flag award following its unsuccessful first application.

Sustainability and climate change. The parish council is in the process of preparing a new environmental policy, which will set out its strategic aims and policies, and an action plan to achieve them. In line with this, the council is seeking a stronger focus on sustainability and climate change in its management of Hatch Grange and Megan Green. Actions to address the issues of sustainability and climate change can be broadly categorised as mitigation – action to reduce the extent to which management of the site contributes to global warming and other negative impacts on the environment; and adaptation – adjustments to enable the site and visitors to better cope with these impacts. Some actions are already being taken.

Mitigation

- Much green waste arising from maintenance operations is either chipped for use as mulch or to surface paths, or composted, albeit informally - a small compost site has been created to the rear of Centenary Copse.
- Recycling is encouraged.

- Where feasible, recycled or renewable materials are to be preferred when sourcing new infrastructure (bins, benches etc).
- Peat is not used in the management of Hatch Grange or Megan Green.
- New habitat has been created through the planting of Centenary Copse and woodland bulbs within it.
- Although not strictly within the scope of this plan, the parish centre has solar panels installed on most of its east-facing roof, thereby reducing the indirect CO2 emissions relating to management and maintenance of the site.

Adaptation

- Trees are planted regularly, though not recently in large numbers, to replace losses or add to the overall tree stock, which can provide shade for visitors.
- The toilet block in the car park has a green roof.

3.3 Current vision and aims for the site

The 2013 management plan (p20) states that, “West End Parish Council’s Vision for Hatch Grange is to maintain and improve the site for the local community to use as an open space providing opportunities for outdoor recreation to all ages and abilities, and to enhance their appreciation of the biodiversity and environmental issues of Hatch Grange. This will be achieved by :

- o Providing a safe and well managed site which can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone
- o Continually improving the range of facilities
- o Minimising the impact on the environment by incorporating sustainable management practices and encouraging users to adopt similar practices.

Elsewhere, (p9) the plan says that the Parish Council’s aim is, “to maintain Hatch Grange as a community and biodiversity asset, and to maximise opportunities to protect and enhance the natural environment.”

More specific aims were:

- To provide a welcoming open space, facilities and activities to enable the residents of West End and visitors from further afield to have good quality open space.
- To ensure Hatch Grange is clean, safe and maintained to a high standard.
- To achieve sustainability in the use of resources, land and the environment.
- To protect conserve and enhance biodiversity and other features of interest on Hatch Grange.
- To operate the recreation ground as efficiently as possible and make maximum use of the resources available.

There is a degree of overlap between these, and they and the vision for the site are reviewed in section 4.1.

3.4 Current site management

General. Parish Council grounds staff visit the whole site on Mondays and Fridays spending on average 8 staff hours/ week. The Head Groundsman undertakes a more in depth inspection monthly and an annual inspection with the Clerk to the Council. Amenity grass areas are mown approximately every 2 weeks from April – October, weather permitting. Other work carried out by staff is mainly reactive in response to vandalism or tree safety issues. In addition some time is spent supporting FoHG and enabling work to be carried out by other volunteer groups. Site boundaries are checked annually for encroachment or the creation of new private access points by neighbouring residents which is strongly discouraged, with gates from private properties being formally closed for one day a year to prevent rights of access becoming established.

Litter. Litter picking and emptying litter bins is carried out by staff as part of the twice-weekly visits and at other times if required; litter is also picked up by early morning dog walkers, and sometimes includes NOX cylinders, wrappers of legal highs and broken glass. Fly-tipping is removed as soon as it is discovered, though this is rare. The four dog waste bins are emptied twice weekly under contract by Eastleigh Borough Council.

Play area. Staff carry out a visual inspection of the play area every day, and a thorough “hands-on” inspection every Friday and Monday. RoSPA carry out an annual inspection in May and all work identified is carried out as quickly as possible.

Tree and woodland management. Trees on the site are maintained in accordance with the Parish Council’s adopted Policy for Trees on Public Land (see appendix 4) which outlines the council’s general strategy and maintenance programme for trees on all Parish Council owned land. All parts of the site are identified as high risk under this policy, and on this basis trees which overhang residential neighbours’ properties or well-frequented paths are inspected annually, and where there is a demonstrable hazard to people or property then the appropriate works will be carried out as a matter of urgency to render the tree safe by a qualified tree surgeon. In addition all significant trees are inspected by a tree surgeon every 3 years, and recommended work phased according to urgency.

The avenue of lime trees were pollarded in 2008 and again in 2017/18, and epicormic growth is removed annually often by volunteers.

Thinning of the younger planted woodland of Centenary Copse and the woodland blocks on Megan Green has been carried out by volunteers.

Public access. All paths and path furniture are checked during routine site visits; gates, fences, signs etc are repaired or maintained by groundstaff with some path clearance

carried out by volunteers. Some path surfacing has also been carried out by volunteers. Woodchips have been used to surface paths in Megan Green, Centenary Copse and other paths in wetter parts of the site. The Jubilee Gates and vehicle barrier, and gates adjacent to the parish centre are locked at night to prevent unauthorised access.

Biodiversity. The SINC meadows are grazed by a small number of traditional breed cattle from May to October, during which time dogs are not allowed into these fields. The meadows were last surveyed by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre in 2008, who noted that the cattle grazing had resulted in an increase in the diversity of species compared to the previous regime. Invasive bamboo was cleared from the western edge of the western field (compartment A2a) in March 2019.

Standing deadwood is retained for its biodiversity value where safety permits, and felled or fallen timber is left in situ in appropriate parts of the site.

Volunteers have planted woodland bulbs in Centenary Copse and adjacent areas and into the woodland in compartment A4, and wildflower seeds into meadow areas, possibly the grazing fields.

Information and marketing. On site, entrance signs provide basic contact details for the Parish Council, and the information panels provide quite detailed information about various aspects of the site. A noticeboard is located adjacent to the parish centre car park.

A leaflet, “Hatch Grange – Woods and Meadows” includes a map of the site and information about features of interest which is attached as Appendix 5.

The Parish Council’s website makes reference to Hatch Grange on its home page, and provide slightly more information “Walking in West End” (Home > parish facilities > walking in West End). There is also a page for the Friends of Hatch Grange (Home > Community), where there is also a link to download the site leaflet, and news and events relating to the site are included on the relevant pages. The page for the Hatch Café contains opening hours and information about events and promotions.

WEPC has Facebook and Twitter accounts which post news relevant to the site. Its Facebook page has 583 followers and in the past 12 months there were thirteen posts about the site, several relating to grazing, and four about the Hatch Café, and there is some engagement from the community. Its Twitter account has 190 followers. There is also a Facebook page for the Hatch Café with 18 followers, but there have been no posts.

3.5 Community engagement

The Friends of Hatch Grange (FoHG). The group was formed in 1989, and has ten members, most of whom are also regular dog walkers at the site. Around seven members meet monthly to discuss and plan improvements to Hatch Grange, with similar numbers attending two workdays a year in the spring and autumn to carry out tasks which have included tree planting, coppicing, path surfacing and bulb planting. The group has its own tools which are kept in a store at the parish centre. The number of members and tasks has declined over time; tasks used to also be held on Wednesday mornings and were attended by 4 – 5 people but these ceased some years ago. Members see FoHG's role as being to do the additional tasks rather than basic maintenance, and this is reflected in the tasks: suggestions are made by members and the senior groundsman and agreed with the parish council. There is good liaison between the group and the parish, with a member of parish staff attending FoHG meetings, and FoHG making a report to the Recreation and amenities committee.

The group has previously funded the planting of Centenary Copse, the trim trail and the information panels from a large grant, but doesn't currently have access to significant funds. Members' views about the site are similar to those of other site users (see 3.5 below), and suggestions for improvements included reviewing dog bin provision; improving paths with a view to increasing access suitable for people with disabilities; reinstating the hedgerow between the two grazing fields, and building/installing more bird and bat boxes.

FoHG also have a fairly active Facebook page with 210 followers, which is used to promote tasks and also acts as the main contact point for local residents with information and questions about the site; there were 14 posts in the last 12 months, and a reasonable level of public engagement.

Other volunteer activity. The reduction in tasks by FoHG has to some extent been offset by other groups, such as the Midweek Conservation Volunteers who have carried out thinning of the woodland at Megan Green; staff from NICE at Hedge End who carry out tasks as part of the company's CSR programme, and more recently a geocaching group who attended 3 times in the winter of 2019/20.

Social Media. In addition to the FoHG page, Hatch Grange is mentioned regularly on other local community group Facebook pages, messages being usually positively or at least neutral or providing useful information about the site. An unofficial Facebook page for the site has 66 likes and is rated 4.3/5. The Hatch Grange Dog Walkers Facebook group has 72 members, and indicates that there is a strong sense of community among dog walkers who use the site. Mentions on Twitter are mostly positive, often with links to Instagram posts.

3.6 Visitor survey

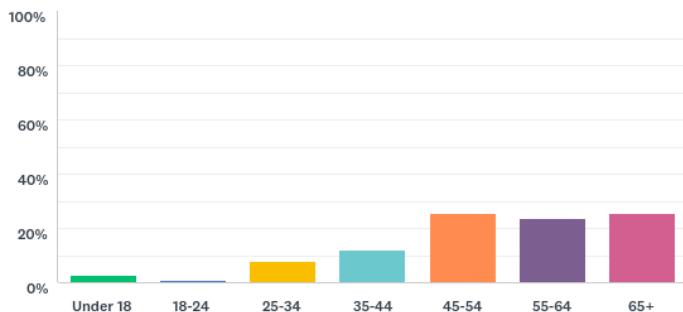
3.6.1 Survey method

To inform preparation of the new management plan, during March 2020 a survey of local residents and visitors was carried out using Surveymonkey to gather information about visitors to the site and their opinions of it. One link to the survey was posted on local Facebook and Nextdoor social media groups, and a second weblink was advertised on posters on site, with paper copies available at the parish centre. 101 responses were received in total, 64 via the social media weblink, 28 via the weblink on posters, and 9 via paper copies. The latter part of the survey period fell during the period of the Coronavirus lockdown, but most responses were received before this came into effect. The results and key points are summarised below, and full results given in Appendix 6.

3.6.2 About the respondents

Replies to the survey were predominantly from older age groups: 24% were aged 44 or younger, 26% aged 45 – 54, 24% aged 55 – 64, and 26% aged 65+.

Q10 How old are you?

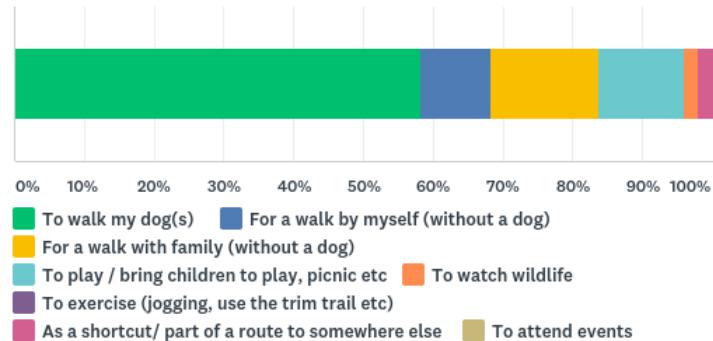


A significant majority live nearby, within half a mile of the site; 87% from the SO30_3 postcode area east of the A27, and 13% from west of the A27 mainly from the SO18_3 postcode area. Overall the vast majority (93%) of visitors walked to the site; just 5% of those living east of the A27 came by car, rising to 21% of those living west of the A27. The most distant visitor drives every day from the SO19_4 postcode area west of Bitterne.

3.6.3 Reasons for visit

58% of respondents said the main reason for their visit was to walk their dog, making this easily the largest user group. The main reason for 15% of visitors was to walk with family without a dog; for 12% it was to play or bring children to play/picnic, and for 10% it was to walk by themselves without a dog. The other four suggested reasons accounted for only 4% of responses.

Q3 What is the main reason you visit Hatch Grange & Megan Green?

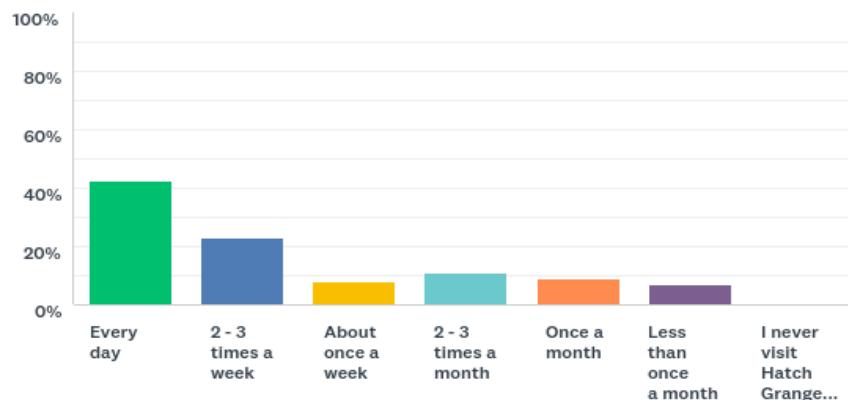


From here on the four main user groups are referred to as “dog walkers”, “family walkers”, “play visitors” and “Lone walkers”, and any notable differences between their views are highlighted below.

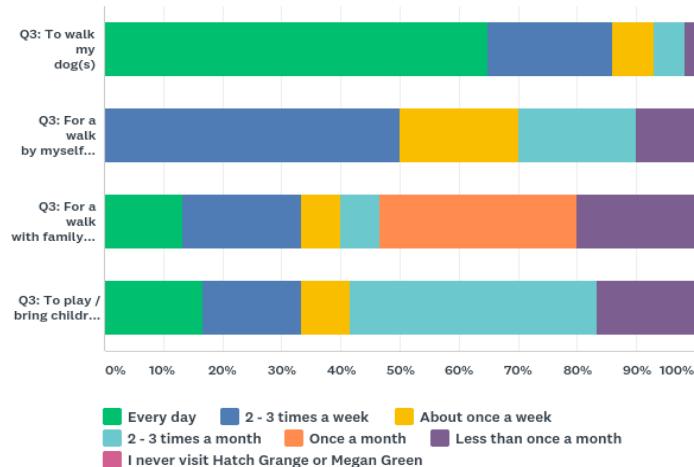
3.6.4 Frequency of visit

A high proportion of respondents visit very frequently: 43% every day and 23% 2 – 3 times a week. This is particularly true for dog walkers, of whom 85% visit at least 2 – 3 times a week (64% daily), but less so in other user groups: 50% of lone walkers, and 33% of family walkers and play visitors visit at least 2 – 3 times a week.

Q1 How often do you visit Hatch Grange and Megan Green?



Q1 How often do you visit Hatch Grange and Megan Green?

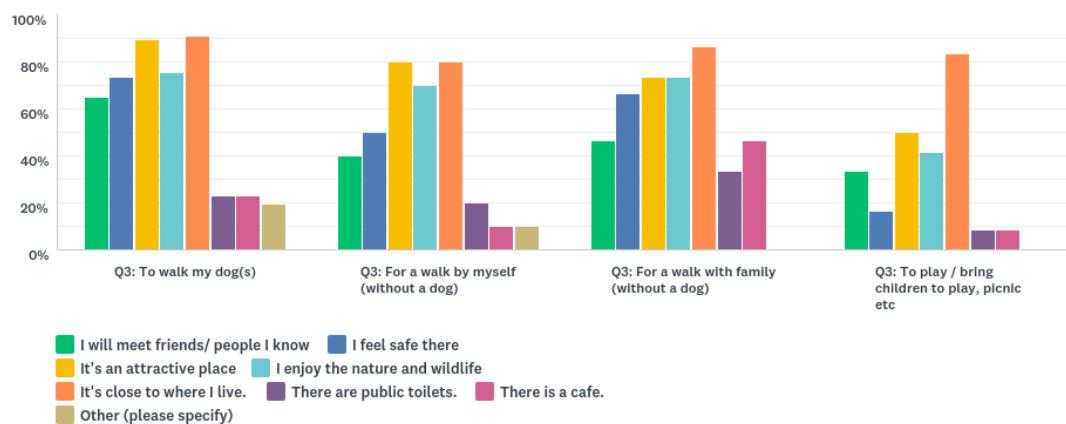


No respondents said that they never visit the site, but eight gave reasons why they don't visit more often, of which three said there wasn't enough to do, and two said it was because of dogs off their leads.

3.6.5 What people like about Hatch Grange & Megan Green

The top three things people like about the site are that it's close to home (87%), it's attractive (82%), and the nature and wildlife (72%). This is true for the four main user groups, though attractiveness and nature and wildlife were less important for play visitors (50% and 42% respectively).

Q5. What do you like about Hatch Grange and Megan Green? (Select all that apply)



60% of all respondents feel safe at the site, but there is considerable variation between user groups: 74% of dog walkers and 67% of family walkers reported this, but the figure for lone walkers is 50%, and for play visitors is only 17%.

53% of respondents like that they will meet friends/ people they know, and this is particularly true for dog walkers (65%). Fewer people appreciate the presence of the café (24%) and toilets (23%), but these are of much more importance to family walkers (33% and 47% respectively).

3.6.6 What facilities visitors use

Benches are the most commonly used facility (67% of all visitors), particularly by lone walkers (100%) and play visitors (75%).

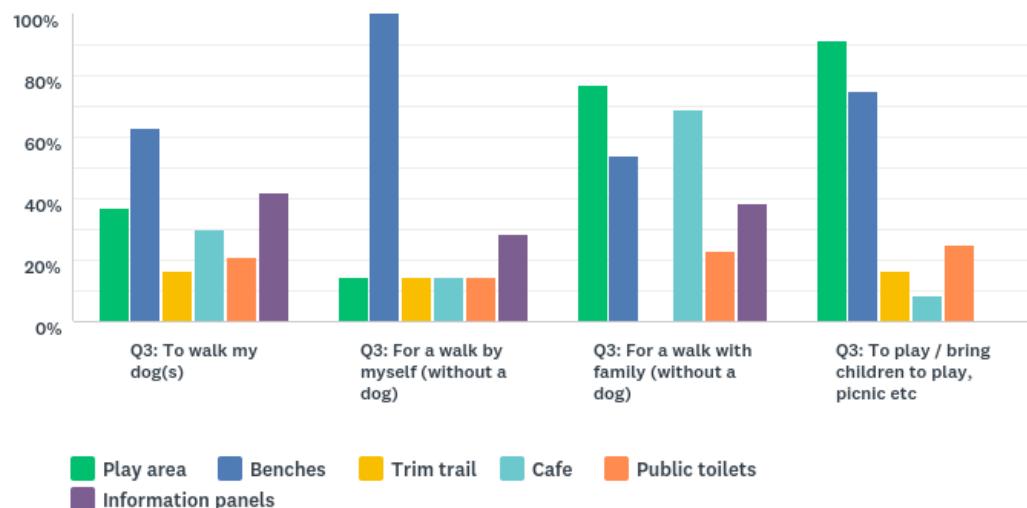
The play area is used by 51% of visitors; as would be expected this is highest among play visitors (91%) and family walkers (77%), but also used by 37% of dog walkers.

The information panels are used by 32% of visitors, with all user groups reporting similar figures except play visitors, none of whom reported using them.

The café is used by 32% of visitors; less by lone walkers (14%) and play visitors (8%), but much more by family walkers (69%), and by 30% of dog walkers even though dogs can't be taken into the café.

A small proportion of most user groups reported using the trim trail, though none of the respondents gave exercise or using the trim trail as a reason for visiting the site.

Q6. Which of these facilities do you normally use? (Tick all that apply)

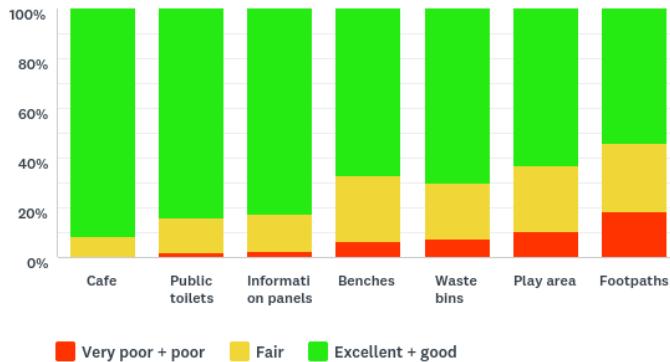


3.6.7 What visitors think of the facilities

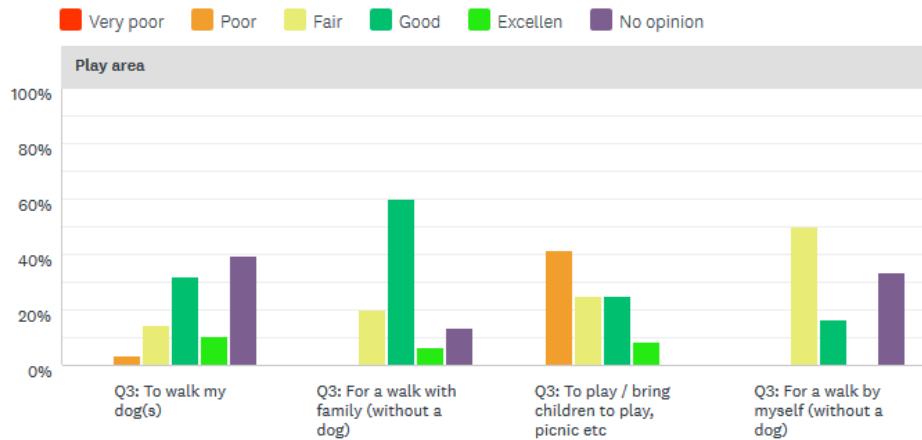
Respondents were asked to describe the various facilities on a scale of very poor, poor, fair, good and excellent. These ratings can be used to create a net satisfaction score, by deducting the combined percentage of very poor and poor ratings from the combined percentage of good and excellent. Net satisfaction scores for all facilities and user groups are shown in Appendix 7.

Satisfaction was high with the café (92%), public toilets (82%) and information panels (80%), with very few respondents rating these facilities as poor or very poor. Net satisfaction was slightly lower with waste bins (62%) and benches (60%), and lower again with the play area (53%), which 10% of respondents rated poor or very poor. Lowest net satisfaction was with footpaths at 36%, with 18% of respondents rating them poor or very poor.

Q7 How would you describe the following facilities?



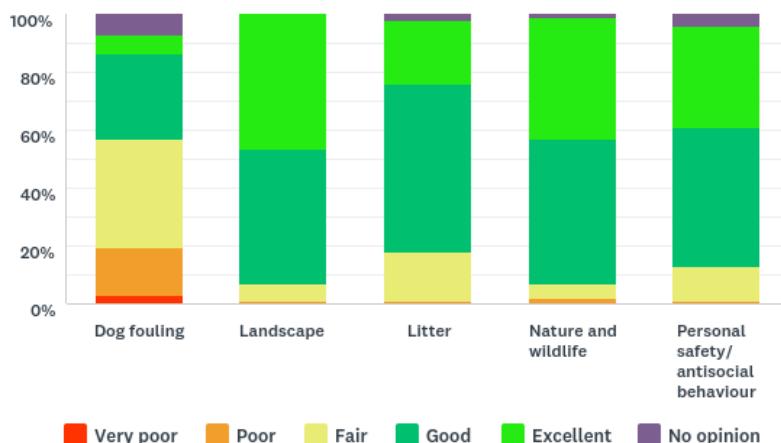
The views of the main user groups were broadly the same as for all groups combined: lone walkers and play visitors were generally less satisfied, and family walkers more satisfied than users overall. The café was scored highest and toilets and information panels second or third by all groups, with benches and waste bins fourth and fifth. Satisfaction with the play area varied between groups, but the most notable result was that play visitors ranked it the lowest, with 42% of respondents rating it poor and net satisfaction of -9%, the only negative score for any group and facility. Footpaths received the lowest net satisfaction score from all groups, particularly play visitors (11%) and lone walkers (10%).



3.6.8 What visitors think about other aspects of the site

Respondents were also asked to rate five more general aspects of the site on the same scale of very poor to excellent. Net satisfaction scores for all aspects and user groups are shown in Appendix 8. Net satisfaction with most aspects was very high: landscape 93%, nature and wildlife 91%, personal safety/ antisocial behaviour 85% and litter 81%, but much lower for dog fouling at 17%. The largest proportion of respondents rated it “fair”, but 21% rated it poor or very poor. Visitors without dogs rated the site worse for dog fouling, with over 33% of those three groups rating the site poor or very poor, but even among dog walkers 15% rated the site poor or very poor.

Q8 Please rate the following aspects of the site.



3.6.9 Suggestions for site improvements

Respondents were asked what would make Hatch Grange and Megan Green better and encourage them to visit more often; full details of their comments are shown in Appendix 6. 15 respondents felt that the site is good as it is and no changes are needed, and 83 suggestions for changes or improvements were made.

The most common suggestion, made by 34 people, was improvements to paths; 16 for general improvements, 15 for improvements specifically at Megan Green, and two for a new path linking the lime avenue to the parish centre/ Chapel Close.

Thirteen people suggested improvements or renewal of the play area, referring to its age and the slipperiness of the safety surfacing. Additional or improved dog waste bins were suggested six times, and other suggestions for facilities for dogs included a dog wash or hose; drinking water; and an enclosed dog exercise area. Three people suggested that better control of dogs would be an improvement.

Five suggestions were made to improve biodiversity in a number of ways, and additional benches or picnic benches were suggested four times. Three people suggested additional rubbish bins, with two proposing better litter control, and there were two suggestions for a splash park or water fountains in summer.

Clearing the stream, a children's trail, a summer tea/ ice cream kiosk, vending machines, additional information about trees and shrubs, cycle access to Barnsland, and stopping cattle grazing were suggested once each.

4. Evaluation, aims and objectives

4.1 Vision and aims

The vision for Hatch Grange in the 2013 management plan includes recreation, biodiversity and environment, but does not refer to landscape, which has been identified as an important factor for site visitors. The vision has therefore been updated to incorporate all the main themes of importance as follows:

"West End Parish Council's vision is that Hatch Grange, Megan Green and Quob Green should form the green heart of West End: a safe, welcoming, high quality greenspace accessible by all, for recreation and to appreciate its landscape, history and wildlife."

The aims in the 2013 plan have also been updated and are:

- To provide the best possible experience for all visitors - ensure the site is clean and safe to use, and to improve the quality of access and facilities;
- To increase the range and quality of wildlife habitats on the site, and increase the range and knowledge of species present.
- To increase community engagement in site management and development, and satisfaction of all site users.
- To manage the site sustainably, efficiently.

The Parish Council applied unsuccessfully for the Green Flag Award for Hatch Grange in 2012, and staff, councillors and volunteers were very disappointed with the result. The Parish Council did not reapply in 2013 as originally intended, but is now considering reapplying for the award, so evaluation of the site has been made against the eight Green Flag Award criteria. Objectives and actions identified through the evaluation are defined and linked to the aims in section 5, the action plan.

4.2 A welcoming place.

Welcome. There are eight entrances into Hatch Grange and three into Megan Green; Quob Green has no fenced boundaries and no formal entrance points. Some site entrances present a reasonably attractive introduction to the site, with open views into it, and nothing to deter visitors from entering, but others are less appealing. The western High Street entrance into Hatch Grange has limited views and a kissing gate frame of mixed materials, and the entrance from Chapel Close runs between tall fences and leads into fairly dense woodland. The entrance into Megan Green from Megan Road also runs between tall fences, but does give more open views into the site. Most of the entrances are well used, but most lack any welcome sign or visitor information. Welcome signs should ideally be provided at all entrances, but priority should be given to those which lack clear views into the site, and those where there is no other entrance nearby, i.e. western High Street, Barbe Baker Avenue, Chapel Close and Megan Road.

Good and safe access. The vast majority of visitors are very local and walk to the site, but for those travelling from further afield e.g. to attend events, public transport provision is good, with bus stops for services from Eastleigh and Southampton only 100 metres from the site. Demand for car parking by visitors is not high, but often exceeds the small number of spaces available on site inside the Jubilee Gates and at the parish centre, where parking is mainly intended for and used by visitors to the parish centre. On-street parking in Chapel Road is well-used, but additional on-site parking would not be justified.

The means of access at site entrances is varied: some are open and easily used with baby buggies or potentially wheelchairs, others have kissing gates or staggered barriers though are still accessible with baby buggies, as at Megan Green. Off-road motorcycling is not known to be a problem; the site is already open to though not well used by bicycles, and most entrances are protected against or not large enough for cars. It should therefore be possible to remove gates and barriers from pedestrian entrances where this would improve access with buggies and wheelchairs. This should be trialled at the western High Street entrance where the kissing gate is not passable with a buggy, and changes in use as a result should be monitored.

Entrance to Megan Green from Quob Lane



Level access (not via steps or steep slopes) into the site is available at most entrances into the site. At the entrance to Megan Green from Quob Lane the entrance is around 2 metres above the pavement and the steps are necessary. The entrance from Chapel Road adjacent to the play area has two rough steps which could be replaced by a ramp; and at the western High St entrance, the step down into the kissing gate could also be levelled off in association with other access changes.

Entrance to Hatch Grange from Chapel Road



The topography of Hatch Grange means that access here for wheelchairs or people with mobility difficulties without support is limited to a few areas and paths such as the lime avenue, a route between the lower High St entrance and the boardwalk from Barbe Baker Avenue, and the path from Chapel Close towards the grazing fields. The path through the grazing fields is fairly level and well-surfaced, and could be made more accessible by removing the step down from the bridge into the kissing gate in the southern boundary and surfacing the existing desire line to meet the main path. Access from the Parish Centre and Chapel Road is less practical due to the slopes on this side of the site, and a circular route would be difficult to achieve. Major works e.g. new zigzag ramps would not be practical or justified, but access for people with disabilities should be improved wherever improvements to entrances and path surfacing are being made, and facilities such as accessible/adapted benches could be provided where access is possible, e.g. along the lime avenue or within Megan Green.

The condition of paths within the site is highly variable, and some areas without surfaced paths, such as parts of Megan Green and the lower western slope of the parkland in Hatch Grange, are difficult to use in autumn and winter. The visitor survey was carried out just after the wettest February on record when some paths had been in very bad condition, so it is to be expected that paths were rated poorly, but a number of respondents made comments about problems over the longer term, and improvements to footpaths were the most common suggestion made by respondents, particularly within Megan Green, but also to connect Chapel Road and the play area to the lime avenue, where there is an existing desire line. Hard surfacing of the remainder of the route from Quob Lane to Hatch Grange should be the priority within a rolling programme of access improvements. As self-binding path gravel such as "Romsey Red" would be the most appropriate material for the site, and should be laid with care in order that the top surface binds without leaving a layer of loose stones.

Signage. Welcome signs should be added at well-used entrances where they are absent, but otherwise the level and type of information provided on site is already good, and the visitor survey shows that it is appreciated by site users. New signs showing a map of the whole site including information about site facilities and accessibility for visitors with limited mobility would be a useful addition.

Equal access for all. The parish council's vision is to provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, and the site has features and facilities of interest to a number of groups. However the visitor survey suggests that access and provision could be improved for some groups, and this is considered in more detail under other criteria including Healthy, Safe and Secure, Community Involvement, and Marketing and Communication.

4.3 Healthy, safe and secure.

Appropriate provision of quality facilities and activities. The site provides a range of opportunities for activities to benefit the health of visitors. Informal areas such as the grazing fields and woodland allow space for quiet enjoyment of nature, of benefit to mental health; the more formal parkland is a well-used space for dog owners to be active outdoors with their animals and to meet friends; the play area provides some physical challenge for children, and the trim trail offers the same for adults. However the results of the visitor survey show that the quality of the facilities and the experience of different user groups is variable and there is scope for improvement.

The play area is now 13 years old, some pieces of equipment have been replaced or repaired (rotating seesaw 2019, slide 2020) but others are showing their age, and this is reflected in the visitor survey results. It is used by 51% of all the survey respondents, who ranked it 6th of the seven facilities asked about in terms of quality, with a net satisfaction rate of 53%, and 10% of respondents rated it poor or very poor. As may be expected it is used by 91% of children or those visiting with children, but among these main users it rated much lower in terms of quality,

ranked lowest of all the facilities, with a net satisfaction score of -9%, and 42% rating it as poor. Improvement or renewal of the play area was the second most common suggestion made by respondents. Twelve to fifteen years is considered a reasonable lifespan for play equipment, and on the basis of its age and the responses to the visitor survey, renewal of the play area should be a high priority, though significant renovation while retaining equipment in good condition could be considered. Whichever option is followed, the updated play areas should achieve a higher play value score than the current 28.

Benches are used by 67% of survey respondents, the most commonly used facility on the site, and received a net satisfaction score of 60%, with only 6% rating them poor or very poor. However the groups most likely to use them, lone walkers and play visitors, rated them lower. Most of the benches are in reasonable condition, but many lack backrests, so provide less support when seated; and none have arms to provide support when sitting down or standing up, so can be harder for older people to use. A number are also located away from surfaced paths and so are less easy to reach when ground conditions are poor. This might explain the lower rating from the lone walkers group who are the oldest, and if using the site alone would have no assistance in sitting and standing if needed. Existing benches should be replaced and where necessary relocated as part of a rolling programme, using a single design with arms and backrests, and/or “perching” seats, and be adjacent to surfaced paths or in areas with better ground conditions in winter.

Safe equipment and facilities. Appropriate safety policies, risk assessments and inspection regimes are in place, and formal facilities are safe and in reasonable condition or better.

Personal security. The visitor survey results show that in general, people using the site feel safe, though there is some variation across user groups. When asked what they like about the site, 60% selected “I feel safe there”. Much of the site is not visible from outside, and the woodland areas are unavoidably more enclosed, but large areas are open with good visibility, offering visitors plenty of space to use if they feel less confident using the more natural informal areas. As the site is well-used there is a good level of informal supervision, and the grounds staff are based at the site and seen regularly, further increasing a sense of safety. There are few significant natural hazards, but if not already in place, a site-wide risk assessment for use by visitors should be carried out to identify any specific on-site hazards not covered by other policies and assessments, which can then be addressed through maintenance and site improvement programmes.

Staff report that there is a low level of antisocial behaviour, mainly in the evenings, often focused on the pond, elm circle and area behind the grounds maintenance store, and evidence of the use of alcohol and soft drugs is sometimes found in the mornings. Nevertheless, when rating the site for personal safety and anti-social behaviour, 86% of respondents rated it good or excellent, suggesting that these activities don't adversely affect most users because they happen in the evening. If

not already in place, a simple incident log could be introduced as a way of monitoring these and any other safety issues, with significant issues being reported to the police Safer Neighbourhoods team so that they could visit the site when necessary.

Some user groups feel less safe than others however. Asked what they like about the site, 50% of lone walkers and only 16% of play visitors selected “I feel safe there”. It might be expected that people visiting alone would feel less safe than those with dogs or other people, but this does not explain the much lower figure for play visitors. Further research into the reasons why some visitors feel unsafe may be worthwhile, but one potential reason is considered in the next section.

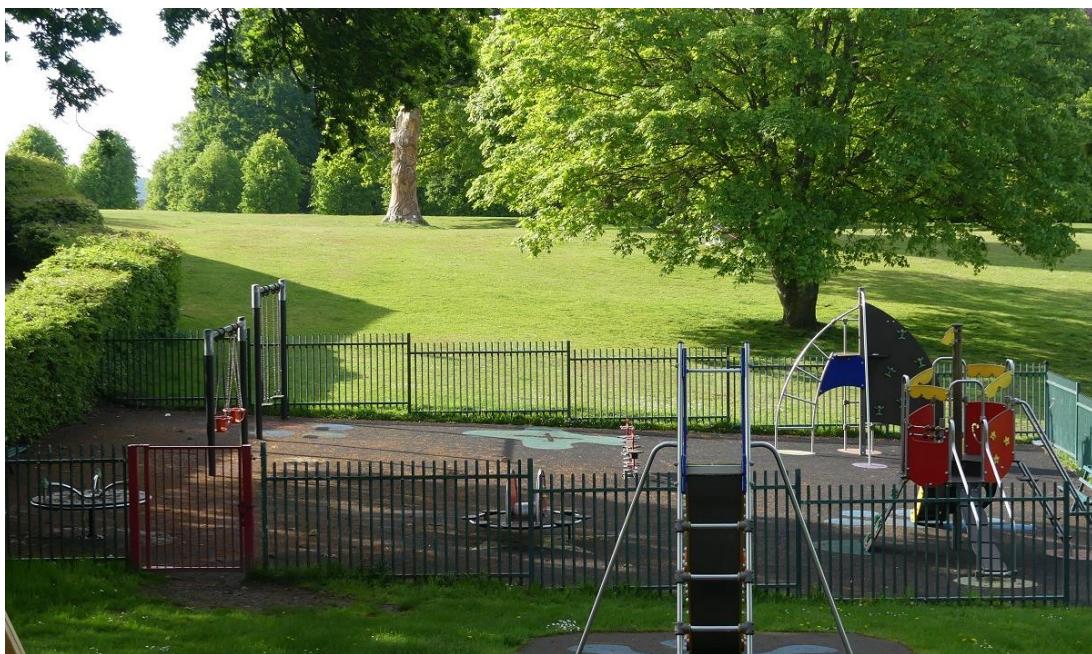
Control of dogs/ dog fouling. Dog walkers are the largest user group at the site, with 58% of visitor survey respondents saying that walking their dog was the main reason for visiting the site. Even allowing for the fact that the survey was self-selecting, and dog walkers may have been more likely than other groups to respond, this is noticeably higher than the equivalent figures nationally (40% across all natural sites, 50% at playing fields or recreation areas¹). This may be because there are no controls on dogs (e.g. dogs on lead byelaw) at the site, meaning that dogs can be allowed to run off the lead, providing better exercise and more socialisation with other dogs, and because dog walkers like to go to areas where there are other dog walkers and which are not busy with other users without dogs².

It has been shown that people without dogs may avoid areas with lots of dogs, particularly if they have children. Much advice on how children can be safe around dogs includes not approaching animals they are unfamiliar with, but this can be difficult to achieve in areas where there are lots of dogs off leads. It therefore seems likely that the valuable space for dog walkers which the site provides may be less attractive to other groups, particularly those with children, reducing the numbers of these users who visit the site. The responses to questions about safety in the visitor survey suggest this, as do comments made about why people don't visit more often: “too many dogs off their leads”; “I used to go every day but too many large dogs off lead and too many owners talking and not watching their dogs, making it an unsafe place to visit now”. There are also occasional posts and comments on the FoHG and parish council Facebook pages which suggest there may be some tension between dog owners and other site users.

Introduction of dog controls would be inappropriate, as the parish council does not have the resources to enforce them, and they would be likely to alienate a user group which is important to the site by providing informal supervision and reporting problems, litter picking, and support through the FoHG. Facebook posts about dogs at the site indicate that there is strong support for self-policing by the majority of responsible dog owners to address undesirable behaviour, which has affected other dogs in the past e.g. dog-on dog attacks, and the parish council should continue to work with and support dog walkers in doing this. In addition, there should be improvements to facilities for other users to enable them to use the site with less

concern for their safety. A fenced dog-free area would enable groups with children to sit on the grass to play, have picnics etc, and if located adjacent to the junior play area would provide for free movement between the two and ready supervision by parents. Provision of picnic tables would enable groups of visitors without dogs to sit together e.g. for picnics and be less likely to be disturbed by dogs than if seated on the ground. These should preferably be located where they are overlooked to reduce the risk of becoming focal points for anti-social behaviour.

Location for dog-free area adjacent to junior play area.



Dog fouling is not severe, but is a problem, recognised by dog owners and non-owners alike in the visitor survey (see 3.6.8, p26). Liaison with dog owners to promote responsible behaviour and review provision of waste bins, events to highlight the issue, and working with the Borough Council's animal welfare officers regarding potential enforcement are likely to be most effective in reducing the occurrence of fouling and bags of waste being left on site.

4.4 Well maintained and clean.

Litter and waste management. The combination of bin provision and litter removal by staff and visitors results in the site being close to litter-free much of the time, other than in the early mornings. The dog waste bins are in increasingly poor condition and in need of replacement, which provides an opportunity to review bin provision overall, and to replace the dog waste bins with mixed waste bins which can be emptied by the parish council, resulting in a small revenue saving.

Dog waste bin, Megan Green.



Green waste is chipped and/or composted, but the supply of new material appears to exceed demand for the end product. Although the surplus material is not stored in highly visible locations, large quantities have accumulated in the turning circle at the end of the former driveway to Hatch Grange house, obscuring this heritage feature. It would be preferable if composting and storage took place away from accessible areas, and staff have indicated that there is a vacant plot on the parish allotments which may be suitable for this purpose.

Horticultural maintenance. The largely informal nature of the site means there is very little work of this type other than in the semi-formal Firtree Gardens which is well-maintained chiefly needing shrub maintenance.

Arboricultural and woodland maintenance. An appropriate tree policy and inspection/ maintenance regimes are in place, though there may be scope to review the designation of the whole of the site as high risk; some areas appear to fall into the medium risk category, and this might reduce the amount of work required and therefore cost to the council. Where trees which are important for biodiversity or landscape/heritage reasons develop defects or are affected by fungus or disease, efforts should be made to retain them in a safe condition for as long as possible, e.g. by crown reduction or pollarding to reduce the risk of falling. Repollarding of the lime avenue should continue on an approximately ten year cycle. Existing practice regarding deadwood should continue, and wherever possible, trees which have to be felled should be left as monoliths to provide standing deadwood habitat.

Management of planted woodland at Megan Green and Centenary Copse has only been sporadic, and where this has consisted only of coppicing hazel stools without thinning of canopy trees it has resulted in the decline or even death of the hazels due to shading. In most of these areas the trees have become drawn and over-extended, are unlikely to form good specimens and may be at increased risk of windthrow as they grow further. An exception is compartment B3 in Megan Green, where heavier thinning appears to have left canopy trees at wider spacings, allowing a stronger shrub layer to develop. More thorough thinning of all these areas, removing poor or suppressed trees to promote the better specimens, should be carried out as soon as resources allow, while at least some of the work is still suited to volunteers. As well as improving the condition of the remaining trees, this would have the added benefit of increasing sunlight in these woods, making them more pleasant to walk in, and thinning along the edges of the main woodland path at Megan Green would increase sunlight and flow of air to help dry out the path more quickly after wet weather.

Building and infrastructure maintenance. Although there are no set schedules for maintenance, decoration etc, the parish centre, grounds store and toilet block are well-maintained and in good condition. There are few potential locations for graffiti and this rarely occurs. Footpaths have been considered under the access headings, and other site infrastructure (fences, gates, benches etc) is in fair condition. Some older features will be in need of repair or replacement during the life of the plan, such as the fence outside the hedgerow on the Chapel Road boundary, which is probably no longer required and could be removed; and the footbridge and steps where the path from Hatch Grange into Megan Green crosses the stream. A site audit was carried out in 2011, and this should be repeated, with work identified used to create a repair and renewal programme for the life of the management plan.

Equipment maintenance. Procedures and schedules for maintenance of equipment used by staff and visitors have been referred to earlier (see 3.2, 3.4); where these have not been formalised, they should be written up into simple policy/procedure notes which can be referred to by staff and be added to this plan as appendices.

4.5 Environmental management.

Managing environmental impact. The Council's existing activity is set out in section 3.2, pp26-27, and when this plan was drafted its environmental policy had not been finalised, so this section should be reviewed once it is available. Scope for reducing impacts directly through site management are somewhat limited; existing policy on procurement should be tightened up so that only recycled or renewable materials are used for site furniture; and small woody green waste should be stacked on site as habitat piles or to be used for den-building by children instead of being processed by chipper, which generates CO₂.

Management and maintenance of the site accounts for a proportion of both grounds and office staff time and resources, so although not strictly within scope of the plan, reductions in the parish council's overall environmental impact would reduce the indirect impact of site management. Actions could include:

- Replacing petrol powered tools such as strimmers, blowers and hedge trimmers with electric (battery) powered equivalents;
- Replacing petrol/diesel powered vehicles with electric vehicles;
- Switching to a 100% renewable electricity supplier;
- Replacing the existing heating system at some point in the future.

Most of these would require capital investment, though some could be carried out as part of the normal equipment replacement cycle, but detailed evaluation is outside the scope of this plan, and should be the subject of a separate piece of work. However the collection of data on energy and water use should be introduced if not already in place, as this will provide a baseline to measure future changes against.

Waste minimisation. Recycling of all commonly recycled materials generated by the Hatch Café, parish office and grounds store should be introduced if not already in place. Recycling bins could be replaced in the car park once capacity has increased following construction of the new staff car park. Split recycling/general waste bins could be introduced as part of refurbishment of the play area if the checking and separation of recyclables for the waste stream can be carried out by council staff. However split bins would not be appropriate in the rest of the site because of the potential for contamination by dog waste, and the low level of recyclables likely to be disposed of further away from the parish centre.

Chemical use. Chemical use is already very limited, but ways to reduce this to zero should be investigated, and pesticide records held at the grounds store.

Peat use. No peat is used in managing the site, and care should be taken to ensure that suppliers of trees or shrubs bought for planting do not use peat in their production.

Climate change adaptation strategies. As a largely informal semi-natural site, opportunities for adaptation are limited. Tree planting should provide shade in locations where visitors are likely to spend longer amounts of time e.g. in/around the play area; and some benches should be positioned/repositioned in locations where they benefit from existing shade from midday to mid-afternoon. Surfacing of paths will also safeguard access against the likelihood of overall increased rainfall, though on slopes design will need to reduce the risk of erosion during heavy rain, e.g. by installation of cross-drains.

4.6 Biodiversity, landscape and heritage.

Management of natural features, wild fauna and flora. The grazing meadows are the feature of highest biodiversity value on the site, and they appear to be

responding positively to the current grazing regime which should continue. Grazing is not enough to prevent encroachment by bramble; this should be cleared manually in early spring to enable grazing to control the new growth, and would be a suitable task for volunteers. Planting seeds or plug plants is not appropriate within the SINC meadows. Replanting the hedge between the fields would have benefits for biodiversity as well as heritage benefits (see below); appropriate native species should be used, with fencing on both sides to protect the young plants.

Management of the planted woodlands as described in s4.4, p44 will encourage a better developed and more varied ground flora, insect and animal species. Further planting of woodland bulbs and other appropriate species would not be inappropriate, but any planting should be recorded so that it can be distinguished from natural colonisation which may occur if more light is allowed to enter by thinning.

The silting-up of the pond in compartment A1 of Hatch Grange will continue to occur as long as it remains fed and drained by the stream, which adds to the unavoidable problem of leaf-fall in this location. A review of the site by the Eastleigh BC Biodiversity Officer and a project officer from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) concluded that re-excavation was not worthwhile in the current circumstances. Restoration was suggested by two respondents to the visitor survey, but silting would recur unless work included disconnecting it from the pond and possibly rerouting the stream, and the problem of high volumes of leaf fall would remain. If pond restoration is to take place, only the northern end which receives more sunlight and less leaf-fall should be re-excavated, with spoil placed in the southern half and used to block the stream at the entry and exit points. This would restore a valuable habitat, and be less expensive than complete restoration, though with no guarantee of long-term success, so consideration needs to be given to the priority this would take.

Pond at Quob Green



Some renovation and then regular management of the balancing pond at Quob Green would provide good value for biodiversity and could be carried out by volunteers. Raising the height of the outflow would also increase the depth and extent of open water.

The site represents good badger foraging habitat, and as badgers are highly mobile animals known to reopen disused setts, it is possible that the two disused setts in Hatch Grange could be reoccupied. The sett adjacent to Firtree Gardens is relatively secluded, but the recently active entrance is visible and accessible from the path, so this should be obscured using brash produced from woodland management. The disused sett in the centre of the site is much more likely to be disturbed by dogs since the surrounding bamboo has reduced, so this should be protected by a more substantial “dead hedge” made from woody brash arising from maintenance work, secured with stakes, with small gaps to allow access by badgers.

Current policy and practice for management of larger trees and deadwood is sympathetic to biodiversity, though staff should ensure that trees to be felled or reduced for safety reasons are checked for potential bat roosts before work takes place, and roosts retained if possible, or replaced with suitable bat boxes, and work carried out in ways to prevent harm to bats in case they are present. Additional bat boxes and bird nesting boxes would be desirable, and could be made and possibly installed by volunteers.

Little is known about insects and other invertebrates on the site, so casual records from visitors should be encouraged, and more formal surveys carried out if possible. Maintaining grazing of the meadows will be of general benefit to invertebrates, as will thinning the newer woodlands. Creating strips of new rough grassland habitat by not mowing right up to the edges of the woodland blocks in the parkland in Hatch Grange and in Megan Green, would also indirectly benefit birds and in particular bats.

Conservation of landscape features. Much of the wooded landscape of the site, particularly on Hatch Grange, is the result of tree planting for a variety of reasons over the last 150 years as described in section 2.4, and also forms much of the heritage interest of the site. The main landscape elements and their historical and cultural associations have been described previously in the plan, and specific management proposals are included in the action plan. These focus on retaining historic and visually important trees, maintaining long views from the higher parts of the site, and restoring heritage features. Because of the importance of the landscape they are all brought together in appendix 9 with more general management considerations which should be taken into account when making other decisions.

Conservation of buildings and structures. No historic buildings or structures remain on the site; the site of Hatch Grange house is considered as a landscape feature.

4.7 Community involvement.

Community involvement in management and development. The long-standing FoHG provide eyes and ears for the parish council on the site, suggestions and a sounding board for management proposals, physical support through volunteer tasks and by co-ordinating other volunteer groups, and communication with the wider community via their Facebook page. The group reflects the make-up of site users quite well, but appears to lack younger members who might bring the views of the “play visitors” user group. Widening the membership to include this user group would also be beneficial in terms of the amount of support the group provides, but might require an active and focused recruitment drive. It may also be necessary for the FoHG to take a more active role in fundraising (e.g. grant applications) for site improvements in future.

Appropriate provision for the community. The visitor survey has provided valuable insight into the views of site users, and it is fair to say that they would like to see some significant improvements. Most of those suggested by more than one person are included in the action plan, but did not reveal any major gaps in provision for those users. However there were very few responses from non-users or very occasional visitors, so their views are not really known. A further survey of residents, particularly seeking views of non-users, might be able to remedy this, perhaps through distribution to a sample of properties. The draft plan was written during the Coronavirus lockdown period, which is likely to cause a delay in adoption and implementation, so advantage could be taken of this to carry out the further survey before significant work takes place.

4.8 Marketing and communications.

Marketing and promotion. Events are promoted and the council responds to issues which arise, but there is currently no marketing plan. As the site is intended for use by local residents and is well-used, there may be no need for marketing to increase visitors from elsewhere, but there is scope to be more proactive in communicating about site management and improvements, and building relationships with visitors. A simple plan should be prepared incorporating the sort of targets and improvements suggested below so that progress against these can be measured and monitored.

Appropriate information channels. The site is the largest open space in West End and well-used, but has a relatively low profile on the council’s website. This should be raised by adding the site’s page to the drop-down list of Parish Facilities, and adding more information about the site to the page. If possible, the number of hits to the page could be used as a measure of the success of these changes.

More active promotion and news appears on the Facebook page, but the number of posts is still relatively low, and there is scope to increase general posts about the site to raise its profile; sharing all the posts from FoHG would be an easy way of

starting to do this. Facebook could also be used to explain management operations e.g. the pollarding of a large beech tree in April 2020. Regular posts on the Hatch Café page would also raise its profile. It's logical for the parish to focus its social media efforts on Facebook, which has three times more followers than its Twitter account, but the latter shouldn't be neglected as users of the two platforms may be different, and there is scope to raise the site's profile by linking to wider and national issues and campaigns by using relevant hashtags. Simple targets, e.g. for the number of posts and tweets, and for increases in followers, could be incorporated into the marketing plan.

Significant news and events should continue to be publicised on noticeboards, because a significant proportion of residents and visitors won't be using social media.

Press releases should be issued for major events and improvements, as these will often be taken up for use on local news websites and sometimes local radio; this can also provide opportunities to build relationships with local reporters.

The site leaflet should continue to be made available at the parish centre and at other sites locally where tourist and outdoor attractions are promoted.

Appropriate educational and interpretation information. Hatch Grange already has good information/ interpretation signs, and no work is required in this area other than ensuring they remain accurate and current in light of any changes to management – the panel about the pond should be removed if the pond is not to be restored.

Hatch Grange Pond interpretation panel



4.9 Management

Management plan. The previous management plan was developed in preparation for a Green Flag Award application, and some of the proposed actions were carried out. However momentum was not maintained, perhaps due to the disappointment of not gaining the award, and management has become more reactive to opportunities which have arisen, e.g. the creation of the sculpture from the dead oak tree. This management plan has been written in consultation with staff, councillors and volunteers, to be a working document which reflects the priorities, aspirations and resources of the parish council. It is hoped that the tasks in the action plan have been timetabled realistically to reflect time needed for planning and to secure resources where necessary, but have also been prioritised so that where not all the resources are available, some tasks can be deferred to subsequent years. It is therefore important that the action plan is reviewed and updated annually, with tasks not completed rescheduled for future years.

If WEPC chooses not to apply for the Green Flag Award, mystery shopping can still be used as a way to assess the site, perhaps in exchange with another organisation, with the Green Flag Award criteria being used as the basis for assessment. Smaller-scale repeat visitor surveys can be used to assess user satisfaction during the life of the plan, particularly following major changes, but a more in-depth survey should be carried out prior to a full update of the plan in 2025.

5. Tasks and action plan

Note: Year 0 = 2020 Year 1 = 2021 Year 2 = 2022 Year 3 = 2023 Year 4 = 2024 Year 5 = 2025

<u>Visitor experience.</u> Aim: To provide the best possible experience for all visitors by ensuring the site is clean and safe to use, and improving the quality of access and facilities.									
<u>Objective</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Cost estimate</u>	<u>Progress</u>		
V1. Minimise litter and dog fouling									
	Install new mixed waste bins and relocate existing.	High	Head groundsman	1	Winter/spring	Staff time, £1000			
V2. Improve the condition of the footpath network within the site.	Work with dog owners and EBC Animal Welfare Officer on campaigns and awareness-raising to reduce fouling and “bag and throw”.	Low	WEPC Clerk	If issue worsens					
	Provide gravel surface to unsurfaced sections of main path in Megan Green (150m). Yearly in 20 Metre Lengths.	Med	WEPC Clerk/ Head Groundsman	1	Summer				
V3. Improve access for people with mobility difficulties.	Provide steps with handrail up slope from end of lime avenue towards parish centre/ Chapel Road.	Med			2				
	Remove kissing gate (leave posts in situ) and level surface at western High Street entrance and monitor use and visitor feedback.	Med	Head groundsman	1	Autumn	Staff time + £50	Worry over M/Bike use		
	Provide gravel ramp at Chapel Road entrance adjacent to play area.	Med	Head groundsman	3					
	If feasible, remove step from bridge into kissing gate at south-west entrance to grazing fields.	Med	Head groundsman	0	Autumn	Staff time			
		Med	Head groundsman	1	Spring	Staff time + £1000			

V4. Improve the provision and quality of visitor facilities/equipment and site infrastructure.	Install welcome signs at entrances where they are currently missing: Western High Street, Barbe Baker Avenue Chapel Close and Megan Road	High Medium Low	Head Groundsman Head Groundsman Head Groundsman	0 1 2	Autumn Autumn Autumn	Staff time + £400 Staff time + £400 Staff time + £200	
	Carry out major renovation or complete renewal of junior and senior play areas.	High	WEPC Clerk/ Head groundsman/ contractor	2	Spring/ Summer	Staff time + £30 – 50,000	
	Install picnic tables in areas of parkland with good informal supervision.	High	WEPC Head Groundsman	1	Spring	Staff time + £1500	
	Replace existing benches with a single design including arms and a backrest; relocate to improve access where necessary.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman	1,2,3,4,5, 1 bench per year.	Spring	Staff time + £700/ year	
	Other site infrastructure: Remove fence outside hedge on Chapel Road and replace sections where needed.	Medium	Head groundsman	0			
	Repair/ replace steps up from bridge over stream between Hatch Grange and Megan Green	Medium	Head Groundsman	1			
	Carry out site audit as basis for repair and renewal programme for other site infrastructure.	Medium	Head Groundsman	0			
Landscape and heritage. Aim: To maintain and where appropriate restore key landscape and heritage features.							
LH1. Retain and restore early 19th century	Maintain or allow trees and scrub to develop around boundary of grazing fields to minimise views of adjacent houses.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman	Ongoing			

landscape features within Hatch Grange.	Replant hedgerow on boundary between grazing fields.	High	WEPC Groundsman/ FoHG	1	Autumn	Staff & volunteer time + £1000	
	Retain and prolong life of veteran trees on tithe boundaries through surgery instead of felling for safety reasons.	High	WEPC Head Groundsman/ Contractor	Ongoing		Existing tree budget.	
	Plant new trees to establish replacements for veteran trees before they are lost.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman/ FoHG	3, 5	Autumn	Staff time + £50/year	
LH2. Retain and restore landscape features which formed the grounds of Hatch Grange House, and long views out of the site.	Retain and prolong life of visually important and specimen trees through surgery.	High	WEPC Head Groundsman/ contractor	Ongoing		Existing tree budget.	
	Prepare plan of timetable, locations & species for tree planting to maintain the landscape in the long term (also consider need for shade).	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman	2		Staff time	
	Plant new trees to establish replacements for visually important and specimen trees before they are lost.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman/ FoHG	3, 5	Autumn	Staff time + £50/year	
	Re-pollard the lime avenue approximately every ten years.	High		7	Autumn	Existing tree budget	
	Remove basal/ epicormic growth from the lime avenue annually.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman/ FoHG	1,2,3,4,5	Summer/ autumn	Staff & volunteer time	
	Review height of tree belt adjacent to Chapel Close properties annually and reduce height to maintain long view to Beacon Hill and South Downs.	High	WEPC Head Groundsman	Ongoing	Autumn	Staff time + existing tree budget when work required	
	Remove green waste from the end of the drive to Hatch Grange House to restore the former turning circle.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman	1	Any	Staff time	

LH3. Manage modern planting into mature woodland with good quality canopy trees and a well-developed understorey.	Thin Centenary Copse by approximately 20%, removing suppressed or poor quality trees to favour better specimens.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman/ FoHG	0,1,2,3,4,5	Autumn/ winter	Staff & volunteer time	
	Thin woodland planting in Megan Green: a) Along line of main woodland path in cpt B2; b) Throughout all compartments to favour best specimens and to create coppice understorey.	Medium	WEPC Head Groundsman	1,3,5	Autumn/ winter	Staff & volunteer time.	
Wildlife. Aim: To increase the range and quality of wildlife habitats on the site, and increase the range and knowledge of species present.							
W1. Increase the extent and diversity of semi-improved grassland in the grazing meadows.	Graze with small number of traditional breed cattle May – October depending on ground conditions.	High	WEPC Clerk	Annual	Summer	Staff time	
	Manually cut back brambles to enable better control by cattle browsing.	High	WEPC Head Groundsman/ FoHG	Annual	Early spring	Staff & volunteer time	
	Liaise with EBC ecologists to arrange for habitat survey by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.	High	WEPC Clerk	0, 5	Winter & summer	Staff time	
W2. Increase the extent and quality of aquatic habitats on the site.	Obtain costings for partial re-excavation of pond at Hatch Grange to inform decision on restoration.	High	WEPC Clerk/ Head Groundsman	0	Autumn	Staff time	
	Re-excavate part of pond at Hatch Grange, including embankment to block stream in- and outflows.	Medium	WEPC Clerk/ Head Groundsman	1	Late summer	TBC	
	Fell willows on south side of Hatch Grange pond (if renovation takes place.)	Medium	WEPC Head groundsman/ arb contractor	1	Late summer	£250	

	Initial management of Quob Green pond – reduce encroaching bramble, reduce reedmace and associated silt to increase open water.	High	WEPC Head Groundsman/ volunteers	1	Autumn	Volunteer time	
	Raise height of Quob Green Pond outflow to increase depth and area of open water.	Medium	WEPC Head groundsman	1	Summer	Staff time or £200	
	Annual management of Quob Green pond – clear ¼ to 1/3 of emergent vegetation each year.	High	WEPC Head groundsman/ volunteers	2,3,4,5	Autumn	Volunteer time	
<hr/>							
W3. Create new and improve other existing habitats where opportunities allow.	Ensure new hedgerow between grazing fields is planted with a range of species native to the local area and of particular benefit to wildlife.	High	WEPC head groundsman	See LH1.	See LH1.	See LH1.	
	Create rough grassland margins to woodland across whole site by not mowing beneath canopies of trees (not including specimen trees).	Medium	WEPC head groundsman	1 then ongoing	Spring - autumn	Nil	
W4. Protect and increase the number of breeding and roosting sites for specific species.	Protect badger sett at Firtree Gardens using brash from woodland management. (Block access from path in Firtree Gardens and from rear within Hatch Grange.)	High	WEPC Head groundsman/ volunteers	0	Any	Staff / volunteer time	
	Protect badger sett in Hatch Grange with dead-hedge using brash from woodland management. (Enclose all sett entrances including those inactive for a long time.)	Medium	WEPC Head groundsman/ volunteers	0	Any	Staff / volunteer time	
	Trees to be reduced or felled for safety reasons to be checked for potential bat roosting structures prior to work. Structures should be retained if possible, or bat boxes installed to replace them and work carried out using “soft felling” methods to prevent harm to bats which might be present.	High	WEPC Head Groundsman & Arb contractor	Ongoing		Staff time	
	Make and install new bird and bat boxes.	Medium	Head Groundsman/ FoHG	1,3,5	Autumn/ winter	Staff & volunteer	

						time + £100 materials	
W5. Increase knowledge of species found on the site.	Encourage visitors to submit records and photos of birds, animals and insects seen at the site, and maintain species lists.	Medium	Clerk, Head Groundsman, FoHG	Ongoing	Any	Staff time	
	Contact local naturalists groups with a view to volunteers carrying out organised surveys.	Medium	Clerk	1	Winter/ Spring	Staff time	
Community Engagement. Aim: To increase community engagement in site management and development, and satisfaction of all site users.							
CE1. Increase volunteer support through practical tasks.	Support FoHG in holding two volunteer tasks per year.	High	Head Groundsman	Ongoing	Spring & autumn	Staff time	
	Share FoHG Facebook posts about tasks and other activities to promote membership, and promote tasks on noticeboards.	High	Clerk	Ongoing		Staff time	
	Organise recruitment drive to increase and broaden FoHG membership.	Medium	FoHG	1			
	Continue to support requests to carry out volunteer tasks from other groups.	High	Head Groundsman/ FoHG	Ongoing			
CE2. Increase involvement of the community in decisions about management and improvement of the site.	Carry out survey of West End residents (not site users) before adoption and implementation of final management plan.	Medium	Clerk	0	Summer	Staff time or £600	
	Continue liaison between WEPC and FoHG regarding task selection, details of larger projects etc.	High	Head Groundsman/ FoHG	Ongoing			
	Consult specific user groups regarding changes to or provision of new facilities they have particular interest in, e.g. play area.	High	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	Yr 1 for play area, and as required			
	Carry out repeat visitor surveys every 3 years or after major changes.	Medium	Clerk	3, 5	Autumn		

CE3. Improve marketing and communication about the site for visitors and local residents.	Increase information on the Hatch Grange page on WEPC website, and add it to “Parish Facilities” drop-down list.	Medium	Clerk	0	Autumn		
	Facebook: a) Share all FoHG posts on WEPC page. b) Post at least twice a month on WEPC page focusing on wildlife, landscape and management operations. c) Post monthly on Hatch Café page.	High Medium Medium	Clerk Clerk Clerk	Ongoing		Staff time	
	Twitter: post at least monthly using same content as Facebook and link to appropriate hashtags.	Medium	Clerk	Ongoing		Staff time	
	Promote major events and site improvements on noticeboards	High	Clerk	Ongoing		Staff time	
	Make Hatch Grange leaflet available through other outlets in the local area.	Medium	Clerk	1	Spring	Staff time	
	Remove pond interpretation panel if restoration is not to be carried out.	Medium	Head Groundsman	0	Winter	Staff time	
	Promote the site to St James Primary School as location for outdoor learning.	Low	Clerk	1	Spring	Staff time	
	Management. Aim: To manage the site sustainably, efficiently, and to Green Flag Award standards.						
M1. Reduce CO2 emissions and other environmental impacts arising directly from site management.	Minimise chipping of green waste – stack on site as habitat piles and allow use by children for den building.	High	Head Groundsman	Ongoing		Staff time saving	
	Use only new site furniture made from recycled or sustainable materials if the option exists.	High	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	Ongoing			
	Include sustainability and environmental performance of suppliers as criteria when selecting new play equipment.	High	Clerk	1		Staff time	
M2. Reduce CO2 emissions and	Carry out detailed evaluation of the following and plan for implementation by 2030.	High	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	1	Autumn/ winter	Staff time + possible	

other environmental impacts arising indirectly from site management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing petrol powered tools such as strimmers, blowers and hedge trimmers with electric (battery) powered equivalents; Replacing petrol/ diesel powered vehicles with electric vehicles; Switching to a 100% renewable electricity supplier; Replacing the existing heating system at the parish centre with an air- or ground-source heat pump system; Collecting rainwater if required for use in watering/ irrigation. 						consultancy fees	
	Collect data on energy and water use in all WEPC operations.	High	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	0 & ongoing				
	Introduce collection of all commonly recycled materials from parish centre and grounds store.	High	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	0				
	Introduce split recycling/ general waste bins in and immediately around the parish centre and play area.	Medium	Head Groundsman	1	Spring			
	Improve management of green waste: create new composting/ storage area at Moorgreen Road allotment site & remove composting site from Hatch Grange.	Medium	Head Groundsman	1	Summer	Staff time + ?£		
	Ensure trees and shrubs purchased for planting are not grown in peat.	Medium	Head Groundsman	Ongoing				
M3. Make efficient use of financial and other resources, and if necessary seek additional	Where costs and staff time required in site management reduce, reinvest resources in other aspects of site management.	High	Clerk / Head Groundsman	Ongoing				
	Research sources of external funding to match WEPC resources.	High	Clerk/ FoHG	1 and ongoing				

external resources.							
M4. Manage the site to Green Flag Award standards.	Implement management plan, carry out annual review and update action plan.	High	Clerk/ Head groundsman	Annual	Winter	Staff time	
	Arrange for informal mystery shop and site assessment using Green Flag Award criteria.	Medium	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	1,3,5	Summer	Staff time	
	Apply for Green Flag Award	Medium	Clerk	1	Winter	Staff time + £350	
	Respond to GFA judging or mystery shop.	High	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	2 & ongoing if GFA achieved	Winter	Staff time	
	Prepare site-wide risk assessment for general risks to visitors not covered by other specific assessments.	Medium	Clerk/ Head Groundsman	1	Winter	Staff time	

6. Monitoring and review

Progress made against the adopted action plan should be reviewed annually, and the action plan for future years updated to take account of tasks which have not been completed, or to add new tasks required as a result of monitoring the effects of tasks which have been undertaken, new information, results of further surveys and unexpected events.

Repeat ecological surveys of the grazing meadows should be carried out every 5 years, and are included in the action plan.

Appendix 1. Summary of 2008 HBIC survey of grazing meadows (cpts A1 & A2)

Survey Summary

Hatch Grange Meadows 10/07/2008

Site Details

Grid Reference :	SU46601490	File Reference :	41-0164
Total Area :	1.92 ha		
Civil Parish :	West End		
District :	Eastleigh		
Vice-County :	11, South Hampshire		

Survey Details

Survey Type :	Phase II
Survey Date :	10/07/2008
Survey Time on Site :	7 (hrs)
Data Owned By :	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership
Data Recorded By :	Joel Miller, HBIC

Site Summary

The site is located on the residential edge of West End and comprises two fields and a strip of woodland. The fields support mostly marshy grassland which ranges from improved to semi-improved. There is a fair species diversity within the sward and 1 acid/neutral grassland indicator was noted. The woodland is not ancient, though much of it is wet woodland. The species diversity in the wood is not high and 9 ancient woodland indicators were found.

Site Designations

Designation

Public Authority

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Features

Type	Description
Geology	Bracklesham Beds
Invasive Species	Parrot's Feather
Management	Grazing - Cattle
Usage	Public Access

BAP Habitats

BAP Priority Habitats

Wet woodland

Purple moor grass and rush pasture

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Area

BAP/Notable Species

Taxon Name	Common Name	Status
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	WACA Sch 8 Nationally Important

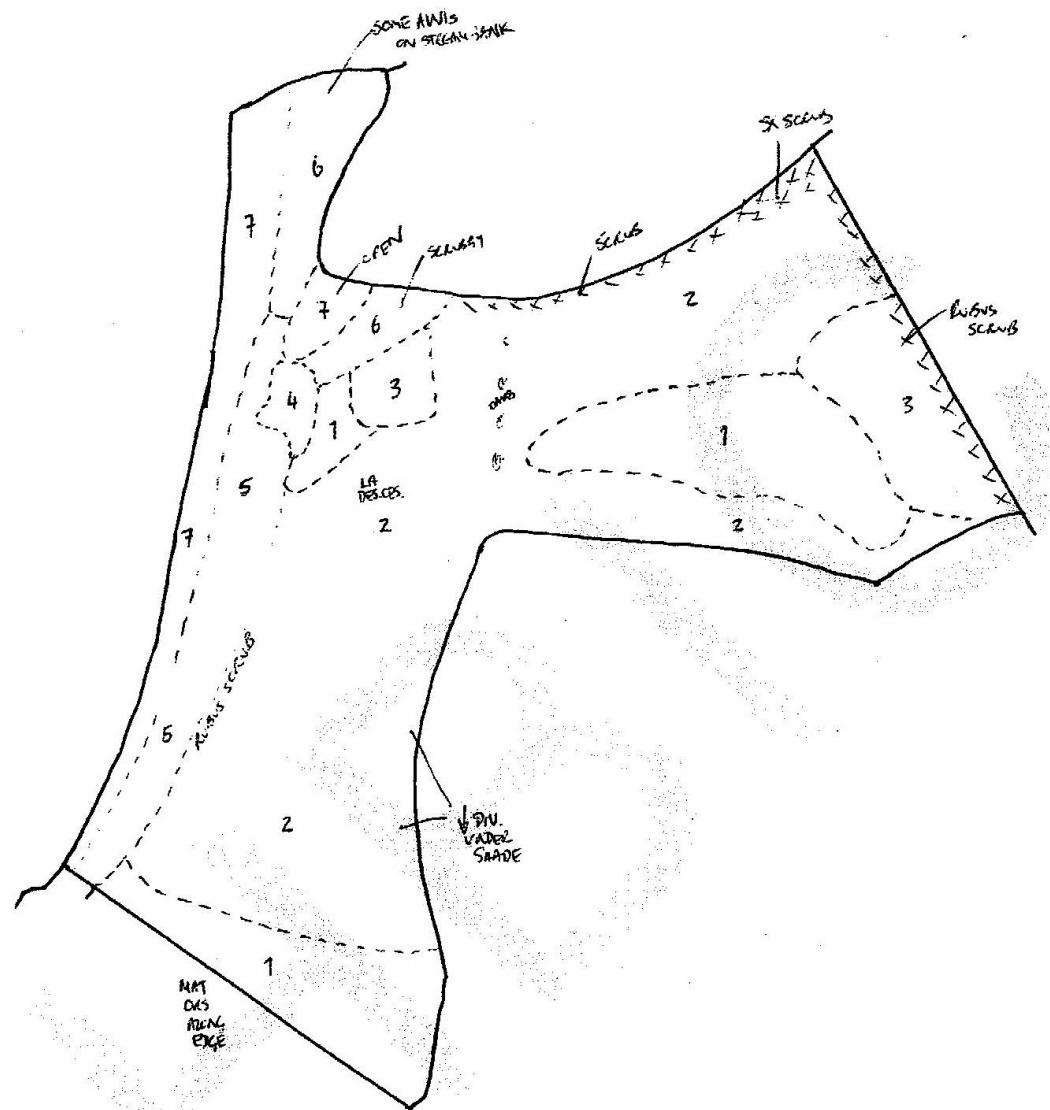
HATCH GRANGE MEADOWS

SU46601490

10/07/08

AN

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre



AREA 1 - MULCHED GRASSLAND

AREA 2 - MULCHED RUSH PASTURE

AREA 3 - MULCHED RUSH PASTURE

AREA 4 - POND

AREA 5 - WILD WOODLAND

AREA 6 - WILD WOODLAND

AREA 7 - WILD WOODLAND

1:1,500



Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Hatch Grange Meadows SU 4660 1490

Site description

The site is located on the residential edge of West End and comprises two fields and a strip of woodland. The fields support mostly marshy grassland which ranges from improved to semi-improved. There is a fair species diversity within the sward and 1 acid/neutral grassland indicator was noted. The woodland is not ancient, though much of it is wet woodland. The species diversity in the wood is not high and 9 ancient woodland indicators were found.

Management

The previous survey in 2002 found the site inappropriately grazed in the spring and then subsequently overgrazed. Since then the site is grazed from June to late September by cattle. The grassland has already shown benefits from the change in management. The overall diversity of grassland species has increased to the levels of the 1988 survey, though the number of acid/neutral grassland indicator is still low. Continuation of this grazing regime should help maintain this improvement in diversity.

The pond has abundant parrot's feather, an invasive, non-native aquatic which will need controlling. The site is open to the public and is used for dog-walking.

Subsite description

Grassland and pond sub-sample

Area 1 – MG6a *Lolium perenne*-*Cynosurus cristatus* grassland, typical sub-community (IHS GI0.GM11)

The sward is short and improved. The main species are yorkshire fog, bents, rye grass, creeping buttercup, sorrel, rough meadow-grass, clovers and creeping cinquefoil.

Area 2 – MG10a *Holcus lanatus*-*Juncus effusus* rush-pasture, typical sub-community (IHS GNZ.GM11)

The grassland is marshy and has a fair species diversity. Soft rush and yorkshire fog are the most abundant species. There is also much creeping buttercup, greater bird'sfoot trefoil, sweet vernal grass, sorrel, meadow foxtail, tufted hair-grass, bents, docks and hairy sedge. Marsh thistle, rough meadow-grass, lesser stitchwort, silverweed, redshank, bird'sfoot trefoil, mouse-ear and angelica also occur.

Area 3 – M23a *Juncus effusus*-*acutiflorus*-*Galium palustre* rush-pasture, *Juncus acutiflorus* sub-community (IHS EM4Z.GM11)

The sward here is marshy and semi-improved. The most frequent species are sharp-flowered rush, soft rush, yorkshire fog, bents, greater bird'sfoot trefoil, creeping buttercup and sweet vernal grass. There is also some marsh thistle, hard rush, bird'sfoot trefoil, hairy sedge, lesser stitchwort, tufted hair-grass, sorrel and bird'sfoot trefoil. Other species noted include lesser spearwort, marsh bedstraw, ragged robin, black knapweed and devil's-bit scabious.

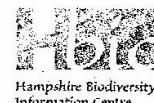
Area 4 – Pond

There is a small pond on the edge of the wood. The pond has abundant parrot's feather. There is also some yellow flag, white water-lily, water-pepper, water mint, water forget-me-not and reed canary-grass.

Woodland sub-sample

Area 5 – W6b *Alnus glutinosa*-*Urtica dioica* woodland, *Salix fragilis* sub-community (IHS WB341.WF11.WM7)

sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife
The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.



Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

The canopy is formed of white willow and crack willow. The field layer has much bramble, stinging-nettle, cleavers, ivy, ferns, reed canary-grass, hemlock water-dropwort and reed.

Area 6 – W6d *Alnus glutinosa-Urtica dioica* woodland, *Sambucus nigra* sub-community (IHS WB341.WF11.WM7)

Alder is the main tree species. The stand is scrubby in places. The ground flora is formed of stinging-nettle, ivy, cleavers and enchanter's nightshade. There are some ancient woodland indicators along the stream bank.

Area 7 – W8d *Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre-Mercurialis perennis* woodland, *Hedera helix* sub-community (IHS WB36.WF11.WM7)

The edge of the woodland is dryer and has a canopy of oak and sycamore. The understorey has some hazel, hawthorn, holly, sycamore and ash. The ground flora is low in diversity. Ivy, bramble and stinging-nettle are abundant.

Appendix 2 – Bird species recorded at Hatch Grange, Megan Green and Quob Green

Species recorded during preparation of management plan

<u>Hatch Grange</u>	<u>Megan Green</u>	<u>Quob Green</u>
Woodpigeon	Woodpigeon	Woodpigeon
Stock Dove	Blue Tit	Jay
Kestrel	Chiffchaff	Blackcap
Magpie	Blackcap	Wren
Carrion Crow	Wren	Blackbird
Blue Tit	Blackbird	Song thrush
Great Tit	Goldfinch	
Long-tailed tit		
Chiffchaff		
Blackcap		
Wren		
Nuthatch		
Treecreeper		
Blackbird		
Song thrush		
Redwing		
Robin		
House sparrow		
Dunnock		
Chaffinch		
Bullfinch		

Species recorded previously, thought likely to still be present

Tawny owl

Appendix 3. WEPC Health & Safety policy statement

West End Parish Council HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

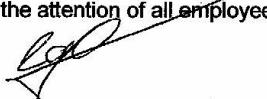
West End Parish Council recognises that it has a legal duty of care towards protecting the health and safety of its employees and others who may be affected by the company's activities, and that managing health and safety is a business critical function.

In order to discharge its responsibilities the council will:

- bring this Policy Statement to the attention of all employees
- carry out and regularly review risk assessments to identify proportionate and pragmatic solutions to reducing risk
- communicate and consult with our employees on matters affecting their health and safety
- comply fully with all relevant legal requirements, codes of practice and regulations at International, National and Local levels
- eliminate risks to health and safety, where possible, through selection and design of materials, buildings, facilities, equipment and processes
- encourage staff to identify and report hazards so that we can all contribute towards improving safety
- ensure that emergency procedures are in place at all locations for dealing with health and safety issues
- maintain our premises, provide and maintain safe plant and equipment
- only engage contractors who are able to demonstrate due regard to health & safety matters
- provide adequate resources to control the health and safety risks arising from our work activities
- provide adequate training and ensure that all employees are competent to do their tasks
- provide an organisational structure that defines the responsibilities for health and safety
- provide information, instruction and supervision for employees
- regularly monitor performance and revise policies and procedures to pursue a programme of continuous improvement

This Health and Safety Policy will be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary to reflect changes to the business activities and any changes to legislation. Any changes to the Policy will be brought to the attention of all employees.

Signed:



Name: R. MACDONALD

Dated:

8th MAY 2019

Position: Chairman of the Parish Council



Appendix 4. WEPC Policy for Trees on Public Land

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY FOR TREES ON PUBLIC LAND

1. The Council is committed to planting, protecting, improving and developing the Parish Council's tree stock in public places. This will be achieved in two main ways:
 - a. through the adoption of a continuous programme of tree survey and maintenance; and
 - b. through seeking a continuous improvement in the quality and quantity of trees on public land. A range of species will be selected for new and replacement planting taking into account their suitability to each site. Preference to be given to native species.
2. The Council's priority in the management of the Parish Council's trees will be that of public safety. Where a tree constitutes a demonstrable hazard to people or property, then the appropriate works will be carried out as a matter of urgency to render the tree safe by a qualified tree surgeon.
3. The Council is committed to maintaining the health and longevity of trees through appropriate management. Appropriate works will be undertaken on unhealthy trees where they are threatened by disease or instability.
4. Trees on public land will be encouraged to develop as well balanced individuals of a natural form characteristic of their particular species. Works on such trees will be carried out to the highest standards of Arboricultural practice and in accordance with all relevant health and safety legislation. All tree works will be carried out to at least BS 3998, 1989 standards, either by a suitable Arboricultural contractor or in house, if appropriate
5. The Council will not, unless legally obliged to do so, undertake works to otherwise healthy and well-formed trees for reasons of:
 - o branches overhanging adjacent property
 - o size
 - o shedding of leaf, seed, twig or flower litter
 - o shading of daylight
 - o interference with transmitted signals
 - o honeydew exudation
 - o reduced security by virtue of concealment or
 - o alleged root damage to property

It should be noted that landowners have the right to prune back any part of a tree which overhangs their own property as far as their boundary. The Council can supply a list of suitable contractors for this type of work. It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that a tree is not covered by a tree preservation order before carrying out or authorising such works.

6. The Council will ensure that trees on public land are retained wherever possible and are given appropriate protection from the effects of development and construction activities including the installation of underground utilities.
7. The Council will ensure that all woodlands on public land are managed appropriately in accordance with accepted forestry practices and traditional methods of woodland management and with respect for their value as important landscape features, wildlife habitats and recreational amenities.
8. The Council will notify local residents in advance where major tree works are required. A clear explanation will be given as to why such works are necessary.
9. The Council will market all usable healthy timber which arises from tree works where it is cost effective to do so.

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

TREE POLICY

West End Parish is committed to protecting its arboricultural heritage through positive tree management on land owned or managed by the Parish Council.

The Council has adopted 'Policy for trees on public land' and accepts its duty of care to manage these trees. The Parish Council's Groundstaff visually inspect trees every week.

To assist with routine management and to regularise inspections, the Council will categorise trees as follows :

LOW RISK	No regular routine inspection of trees
MEDIUM RISK	Those trees such as those which are located close to informal paths, will be inspected every three years
HIGH RISK	Those trees such as those which overhang residential neighbours' properties, a play area or well-frequented paths, will be inspected annually

LOW RISK AREAS

All open space areas in West End are Medium or High Risk

MEDIUM RISK AREAS

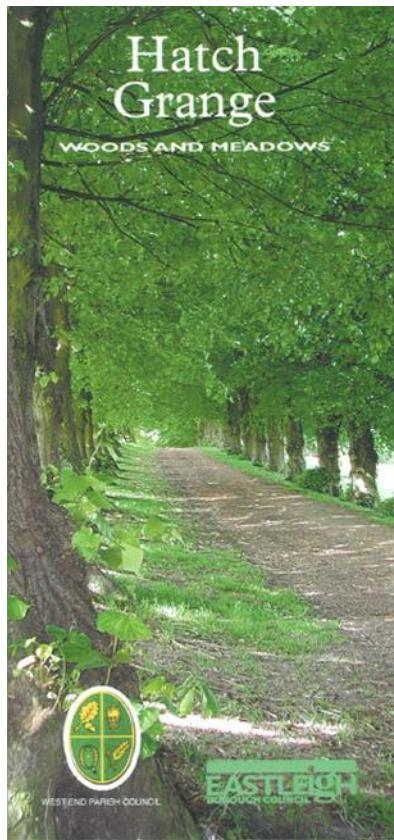
Barnsland, Upmill, Carpathia, Townhill Play area, Allotment site, Moorgreen, Chartwell Green

HIGH RISK AREAS

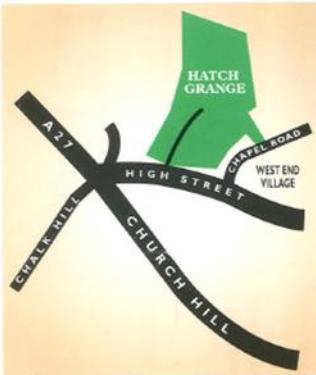
Hatch Grange, Cemetery, Burial Ground, Megan Green, Quob Green, Cutbush Lane football facility, Chartwell Copse, West End Copse

Amended August 2012

Appendix 5. Leaflet: Hatch Grange – Woods and Meadows



HOW TO GET THERE



For details of bus services to West End contact Solent Blue Line

For further information please contact:

West End Parish Council,
The Parish Centre,
Chapel Road, West End,
Southampton SO30 3FE

Tel: 023 8046 2371

Email: clerk@weparish.co.uk



Printed on recycled paper

WELCOME TO Hatch Grange

Welcome to Hatch Grange, 27 acres of woods and meadows in a parkland setting. This leaflet has been designed to introduce the visitor to the delights of this wildlife haven. Please enjoy your walk.



The history of Hatch Grange

Hatch Grange is recorded as the home of John de Hache in 1320. Almost all the area was then open fields.

The site has a more recent history as a large manor house with parkland and farm attached. In the 19th century it was the seat of Mr Warnford Fletcher. He was responsible for planting the avenue of limes and much of the woodland.

Part of the wood has a much deeper history. An ancient boundary bank runs the breadth of the site and supports some colossal oaks. They now appear to stand on legs, where the earth has been eroded. An open path alongside this feature is thought to be a former drovers road, used to take cattle to market.

Prior to the Second World War, the land was purchased by West End Parish Council as a permanent open space for the benefit of villagers. The old house was destroyed by fire in 1938.

Development of the adjoining fields commenced in 1989, leaving Hatch Grange as a reminder of West End's past.



The wildlife of Hatch Grange

Hatch Grange is an important refuge for wildlife - a green oasis surrounded by houses.

The meadows have mostly escaped the use of chemicals and are therefore rich in wildflowers, butterflies and insects. Among the more interesting sights to be seen are

flocks of starlings raiding the long grass for leather jackets, offspring of the crane fly (daddy long-legs).

The woodland, although mostly ornamental offers a contrasting habitat. The rides and glades resound with birdsong and on a sunny day attract butterflies such as speckled wood. The specimen cedars, sweet gum, giant redwoods and other conifers give the site a majestic quality and are worthy of inspection.

Much of what lives in the Hatch may appear to be commonplace and is therefore vulnerable to neglect. Many of our formerly common species have become quite rare and in danger of extinction. How many villagers can remember the times when the nightingale sang locally?



Work is ongoing at Hatch Grange to conserve the site for future generations to enjoy. Please respect its wildlife and enjoy your walk.

The future of Hatch Grange

Hatch Grange is owned by West End Parish Council. Improvements by 'The Friends of Hatch Grange' are ongoing to benefit wildlife and provide an attractive area where local people can walk.

The Friends of Hatch Grange organise practical workdays, guided walks and other events. Members have played an important part in the preparation of this leaflet with assistance from Eastleigh Borough Council's, Itchen Hamble Countryside Project.

The Conservation Foundation, West End Parish Council and Eastleigh Borough Council have funded the production of this leaflet.





1. The Beacon

To communicate the sighting of the Armada, beacons were lit in a chain around the coast. The actual beacon lit at the time is in Telegraph Wood 1.5 km away. This one was erected on the 400th anniversary of the sighting. To the north is a circle of fir trees planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. From the seats here you can enjoy the views over Botley to Beacon Hill.

2. Centenary Copse

Planted to commemorate the 100 years of West End Parish in 1994, a mixture of native deciduous trees and shrubs.

3. Lime Avenue

This avenue of lime trees flanked the driveway to the fine house, which once stood at Hatch Grange.

4. The Liquidambar *styraciflua* (sweet gum)

This is reputed to be the finest specimen of its kind in the country. Most only grow to 30-35 feet, ours is over 40 feet high. Best seen in autumn just before shedding its leaves.



The Liquidambar in autumn

5. Humphrey's Seat

This was erected in memory of a bullock that used to graze in the pasture opposite. People were so moved by his sad demise donations were made, not just from the local community but also from afar to pay for the 'memorial seat'.



On the other side of the drive from here a lime tree blown over in a storm in 1990 was removed by sculptor Ian Brennan who created an 8 foot high eagle which is now on display in the foyer of the Eagle Star Insurance Company in London.

When the weight of the trunk was cut off the remaining stump sprang back to its original position and is now growing again. The smaller shoots need to be cut off to maintain the growth of the largest to add to the avenue once more.

6. Hatch Grange House

Hatch Grange House once stood in this position, notice the large bay tree and raspberry canes (home of the glow worm) indicating the former kitchen garden.

7. The Meadows

The Meadows have been grassed for many centuries mostly untouched by fertilisers and weed killer. Wild flowers are encouraged to grow here including 'maids-a-milking' (cuckoo flower), food plant for the orange tip butterfly and ragged robin.

8. The Pond

The pond has been created here with a dipping platform to study the wildlife and a seat to admire the fauna. Heron have been seen here 'admiring' the fish. Moorhens regularly raise their families here and ducks come to visit.



Willows have been coppiced to let light into the pond. Willow as a species dates back to the days of coal forests. Our ancestors used the bark to cure headaches. Today aspirin is extracted from the coal formed from willows.

N

KEY

- Permissive Footpaths
- - - Permissive Entrance
- - - Public Footpaths
- Car Parking

Hatch Grange

This leaflet has been prepared to introduce you to the delights of this haven for wildlife. Please enjoy your walk and "take nothing but photographs and leave only footprints and memories of your walk on the wild side"



Yellow flag iris in the pond

9. The Meadows II

In this field and the previous one cattle sometimes graze to maintain the grass length and promote wild flowers. Activities of moles are evident here indicating soil rich enough to support a large worm population. Folklore has it that male moles make a straight track whilst females wander in all directions.



10. Hedge Laying

The hedge here has been laid in the traditional style to promote vigorous growth. This ancient craft has mostly been forgotten with the invention of modern fencing materials.

11. The Stream
The stream is wide and shallow at this point. Many birds come to bathe and drink. A large clump of horsetail grows in the muddy swamp. This simple plant is a living fossil - a survivor of the primeval era.

13. The Drovers Road

This path is thought to be part of an historic drove road. Its sheltered but sunny condition is ideal for butterflies including the speckled wood. Large fallen boughs are found here and elsewhere in the wood deliberately left to rot for the benefit of insects and fungi.

14. The Bank

The oaks and beeches on this ancient bank appear to be on tiptoe. The bank is thought to have been planted as a tithing boundary. Look at the size and age of the oaks on this bank and for signs of woodpeckers feeding above the fire damage on one.

15. The Highest Oak
From here look up the open parkland, the largest oak was reputed by the late Mr Wardaugh, village postman and beekeeper, as being where bees would congregate at midday.

16. The Millennium Capsule Seat
Here is a seat to rest your weary legs from your walk; beneath you lies the Millennium Capsule buried in April 2000 with reminders of activities in the village in the previous 100 years.



View towards the Highest Oak

Appendix 6: Visitor Survey responses – all users

Q1: How often do you visit Hatch Grange and Megan Green?

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	42.57%	43
2 - 3 times a week	22.77%	23
About once a week	7.92%	8
2 - 3 times a month	10.89%	11
Once a month	8.91%	9
Less than once a month	6.93%	7
I never visit Hatch Grange or Megan Green	0.00%	0
TOTAL		101

Q2: If you never visit Hatch Grange or Megan Green, please say why, then move on to question 9.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 93

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I just never have.	12.50%	1
I didn't know it was there.	0.00%	0
There's not enough for me to do there.	37.50%	3
I don't like it because (please give reason in comments below)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		8

RESPONSES (4) WORD CLOUD TAGS (0) SENTIMENT: OFF

Add tags ▾ Filter by tag ▾ Search responses ?

Showing 4 responses

N/a 3/14/2020 8:28 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags ▾](#)

To walk my dog 3/10/2020 4:54 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags ▾](#)

I used to go every day but too many large dogs off lead and too many owners stood talking and not watching their dogs, making it an unsafe place to visit now 3/10/2020 3:19 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags ▾](#)

Too many dogs off their leads 3/10/2020 2:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags ▾](#)

Q3: What is the main reason you visit Hatch Grange & Megan Green?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To walk my dog(s)	58.16%	57
For a walk by myself (without a dog)	10.20%	10
For a walk with family (without a dog)	15.31%	15
To play / bring children to play, picnic etc	12.24%	12
To watch wildlife	2.04%	2
To exercise (jogging, use the trim trail etc)	0.00%	0
As a shortcut/ part of a route to somewhere else	2.04%	2
To attend events	0.00%	0
TOTAL		98

Q4: How do you normally get to Hatch Grange & Megan Green

Answered: 100 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	92.00%	92
Cycle	1.00%	1
Drive	7.00%	7
Bus	0.00%	0
TOTAL		100

Q5: What do you like about Hatch Grange and Megan Green? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 100 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I will meet friends/ people I know	53.00%	53
I feel safe there	60.00%	60
It's an attractive place	82.00%	82
I enjoy the nature and wildlife	72.00%	72
It's close to where I live.	87.00%	87
There are public toilets.	23.00%	23
There is a cafe.	24.00%	24
Other (please specify)	12.00%	12
Total Respondents: 100		

Q6: Which of these facilities do you normally use? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 78 Skipped: 23

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Play area		51.28%	40
Benches		66.67%	52
Trim trail		14.10%	11
Cafe		32.05%	25
Public toilets		20.51%	16
Information panels		32.05%	25
Total Respondents: 78			

Q7: How would you describe the following facilities?

Answered: 100 Skipped: 1

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Cafe	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8.47% 5	47.46% 28	44.07% 26	59	4.36
Public toilets	0.00% 0	1.75% 1	14.04% 9	50.88% 29	33.33% 19	57	4.16
Information panels	0.00% 0	2.67% 2	14.67% 11	60.00% 45	22.67% 17	75	4.03
Benches	1.10% 1	5.49% 5	26.37% 24	52.75% 48	14.29% 13	91	3.74
Waste bins	3.23% 3	4.30% 4	22.58% 21	58.06% 54	11.83% 11	93	3.71
Footpaths	5.10% 5	13.27% 13	27.55% 27	43.88% 43	10.20% 10	98	3.41
Play area	0.00% 0	10.29% 7	26.47% 18	50.00% 34	13.24% 9	68	3.66

Q8: Please rate the following aspects of the site.

Answered: 100 Skipped: 1

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Dog fouling	3.06% 3	16.33% 16	37.76% 37	29.59% 29	6.12% 6	7.14% 7	98	3.21
Landscape	0.00% 0	1.01% 1	6.06% 6	46.46% 46	46.46% 46	0.00% 0	99	4.38
Litter	0.00% 0	1.00% 1	17.00% 17	58.00% 58	22.00% 22	2.00% 2	100	4.03
Nature and wildlife	0.00% 0	2.00% 2	5.00% 5	50.00% 50	42.00% 42	1.00% 1	100	4.33
Personal safety/antisocial behaviour	0.00% 0	1.00% 1	12.00% 12	48.00% 48	35.00% 35	4.00% 4	100	4.22

Q9. What changes do you think would make Hatch Grange and Megan Green better, and encourage you to visit more often?

Answered: 75

Skipped: 26

Responses

- 1 Surface paths in wetter areas, particularly Megan Green.

Play equipment is looking increasingly tired, and safety surfacing is becoming dangerously smooth - the whole area needs to be completely renewed/ overhauled.

- 2 Best park in the area to walk in with excellent facilities and lovely friendly cafe and staff.

- 3 None - I'm very happy with it. Re dog fouling, I always pick up after my dog but many don't. I don't know what the solution is.

- 4 I don't think anything should change. It is such a lovely space, it should be left.

- 5 More bird habitat - owls, jackdaws, woodpeckers etc.

A list of tree/shrub species, perhaps a diagram of each variety.

A series of shallow dams on a stretch of the eastern Chapel stream so as always to retain an amount of water for frogs etc, maybe even sticklebacks during drought periods. I am aware of the safety aspect of this where children are concerned.

- 6 Make proper pathway between bridge (Hatch Grange) on to Megan Green.

- 7 Nothing. Visit every day.

- 8 I love it how it is, but a trail for kids to follow is always fun

- 9 There is nothing more as we feel that the area is well looked after and is very pleasant. The only time we don't use Megan Green is in the winter, because it gets very boggy and not ideal to walk through. The ground staff have tried several times to lay clippings but unless there can be a board walk, then can not see how this can be rectified.

- 10 Need to improve the parks for the children, I opened those when I was in year 2-3, I'm now 22 and it's not been revamped since

- 11 None!

- 12 More gravel paths i.e. across the very muddy part of Megan Green.

- 13 Better path maintenance in winter, PLEASE

- 14 I very much value the park. It would be good to encourage more wildflowers

- 15 I visit the area almost every day to walk my dog. In summer, everything is fine. However, in autumn/winter/spring, certain areas are virtually impossible to use because of flooding and mud. This is particularly bad in Megan Green between the entrance on Quob Lane through to the bridge entering into Hatch Grange. It is 19 March today and I haven't used that area since autumn of last year because it is such a mess. If you were to install some gravel or tarmac paths in this area (similar to those in the new housing development that was previously known as the "horse fields"), Megan Green could be used all year round. Please note that the paths made of wood chip are okay for a few months, but they are not a sustainable solution.

- 16 It would help if there was a more robust path through Megan Green as in the winter it is impassable due to it being extremely muddy/sloppy. Cutting down trees to chip and then lay down is not a good solution - trees drink the water removing leaves more water in/on the ground. This only works for the very short term and each year it's awful and really spoils the enjoyment/beauty of the place. It would be good to have a few more rubbish bins as there are not enough around except at a couple of entrances and one on the Grange - this encourages people to litter the area as they are too lazy to walk to find a bin that's right across the other side of the park.

- 17 Improve the paths.

- 18 woodland pathways better drained & less wet
- 19 better footpaths to avoid how muddy to gets, bigger stream area for dogs to get to water, the pond in the cow field might be good for nature but a disaster if your dog gets in there
- 20 No change, keep it as it is. The entrances could do with cementing a little as it does cause big puddles in the winter
- 21 Better park for the older kids
- 22 Improve the rubbish issue especially in the summer
- 23 I wish the dog bins could be stood on stones, only when it rains it's like a slippery mud bath round them.
- 24 better foot paths
- 25 Proper pathways and better drainage in Megan green
- 26 Walkways in winter could be mulched so they would be easier to access
- 27 Not to change it too much or make it too formal.
- 28 No changes - keep it as it is - for people and wildlife to enjoy
- 29 Better play area and more benches
- 30 A litter bin near the bench that is by the entrance off Barbe Baker Avenue
- 31 Updating the play area not enough equipment for the children where the estate parks are better but get vandalised
- 32 More bio diversity. More flowering plants, shrubs. Make pond more of a feature. Improve drainage on pathways. Invest in play park.
- 33 Few more rubbish bins. Better path way through Megan Green-realise we have had really bad weather but it is a bog through there
- 34 The childrens play area is quite basic compared to other local ones such as Wellstead. It needs redeveloping. Myself and others who visit have been saying this for years.
- 35 More dog poo bins. Due to the horrendous weather the place is very boggy/muddy so I'm not sure how that can be overcome? Better path maybe?
- 36 Drier footpaths. Find a way to stop some of them getting so muddy.
- 37 More management aimed at increasing biodiversity
- 38 A proper gravel path through Megan Green. The stream cleared too
- 39 Megan Green requires a hard core path all the way through because it gets too muddy
- 40 Bit more control of dogs, our dog was attacked there so now reluctant to walk him when I'm just with my daughter and not my husband too.
- 41 More useable paths as they can be very muddy.
- 42 Just need more time
- 43 Tea/ice cream hut in the summer
- 44 Playground not being slimy and wet in winter due to big tree with pigeons in
- 45 Gravel path along Megan Green to the Grange. Gravel path Lime Avenue to Chapel Close.
- 46 I visit every day and sometimes twice a day I would like to see more dog waste bins
- 47 It's lovely as it is and doesn't need changing
- 48 Drainage is poor in the winter, this keeps me away, especially from Megan Green
- 49 Paths not so muddy
- 50 A path between the lime avenue and the parish centre. The grass on the hill gets very slippery.
- 51 Nothing... it's fine as it is... better foot paths and litter collecting
- 52 I go as often as I can mainly to walk the dog. Ground staff fo a very good job

- 53 Less muddy. Due to putting wood cuttings down to make paths . In the winter this has absorbed the water and has created about 4/5 very muddy areas that were never muddy before this work
- 54 Splash park, bigger play park, more dog poo bins. Picnic benches
- 55 Provide a footpath suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters
- 56 None it's good the way it is
- 57 Maintaining the play areas, fixing broken play equipment promptly, replacing play equipment with equivalent value equipment (rather than cheaper alternatives, or not replacing equipment at all ie picnic area in young children's play area). I appreciate that this would require financial investment, but local families really value these play areas as a safe place for kids to play and grown-ups to meet.
- 58 fix the swings
- 59 Dog wash/ hose. Water fountains for children in summer. Clean drinking water for dogs although it's better now thanks to the kind staff. Compliments to the diligent staff at Hatch Grange
- 60 include vending machines withfood and drinks
- 61 Enclosed dog area for safe exercise and more benches and perhaps a few picnic tables
- 62 A permanent and mud free footpath from quob lane to the woods and from Megan road to barbebaker Avenue. If the path could be raised in the problematic areas of the woods it would help.
- 63 The sheer volume of mud makes walking difficult, particularly on Megan Green and parts of Hatch Grange, such as near the pedestrian entrance by Hatch Mead. I know there has been unprecedented amounts of rain, but the council policy of piling mulch on top of the wet ground has only succeeded in making the mud deeper and more difficult to walk through. Creation of some gravelled paths in these very highly used areas would be by far the best improvement that could be made.
- 64 Make a more permanent path over Megan Green which is raised out of the mud.
- 65 I'd love the pond to be improved, it would be great to see dragonflys etc that could be encouraged.
- 66 I like it as it is. It's well maintained, and I go there as often as I can. I don't like dogs very much, but most owners are quite responsible.
- 67 Make the paths bit more as they get quite boggy (add more gravel stuff) few more poo bins for the dog poo, the park can get a bit slippery due to the tree I think there also needs to be a path where you cross the road from bar baker into hatch grange as that is getting really muddy and dangerous
- 68 Better dog control
- 69 I'm quite happy with it as it is
- 70 Nothing really. It's an attractive space as it is, and with a young child there's a limit to how much extra I could visit it.
- 71 Larger dog waste bins
- 72 Address the mud on Megan green in the winter, have a structured path to the three exits
- 73 No cows! Makes it unusable for me all summer.
- 74 Good cycle access through to Barnsland
- 75 A better play area for young children.

Q10: How old are you?

Answered: 101 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	2.97%	3
18-24	0.99%	1
25-34	7.92%	8
35-44	11.88%	12
45-54	25.74%	26
55-64	23.76%	24
65+	25.74%	26
TOTAL		101

Appendix 7. Net satisfaction scores for facilities by user group

	All users	User group			
		Dog Walkers	Lone walkers	Children & play	Family walkers
Café					
% Good/ excellent	92	90	75	86	100
% poor/ very poor	0	0	0	0	0
Net satisfaction	92	90	75	86	100
Rank	1	1	1	1	1
Public Toilets					
% Good/ excellent	84	87	75	66	89
% poor/ very poor	2	3	0	0	0
Net satisfaction	82	84	75	66	89
Rank	2	2	1	2	3
Information Panels					
% Good/ excellent	83	83	60	57	100
% poor/ very poor	3	4	0	0	0
Net satisfaction	80	79	60	57	100
Rank	3	3	3	3	1
Waste bins					
% Good/ excellent	70	79	33	33	66
% poor/ very poor	8	7	33	17	0
Net satisfaction	62	72	0	16	66
Rank	4	4	7	4	5
Benches					
% Good/ excellent	67	75	50	33	66
% poor/ very poor	7	6	13	17	0
Net satisfaction	60	69	37	16	66
Rank	5	5	4	4	5
Play area					
% Good/ excellent	63	71	25	33	77
% poor/ very poor	10	6	0	42	0
Net satisfaction	53	65	25	-9	77
Rank	6	6	5	7	4
Footpaths					
% Good/ excellent	54	57	30	36	66
% poor/ very poor	18	20	20	25	7
Net satisfaction	36	37	10	11	59
Rank	7	7	6	6	7

Appendix 8. Net satisfaction scores for other aspects of site, by user group

	All users	User group			
		Dog Walkers	Lone walkers	Play visitors	Family walkers
Dog fouling					
% Good/ excellent	38	56	0	9	36
% poor/ very poor	21	11	33	36	36
Net satisfaction	17	45	-33	-27	0
Rank					
Landscape					
% Good/ excellent	94	96	80	83	93
% poor/ very poor	1	2	0	0	0
Net satisfaction	93	94	80	83	93
Rank					
Litter					
% Good/ excellent	82	89	70	66	71
% poor/ very poor	1	2	0	0	0
Net satisfaction	81	87	70	66	71
Rank					
Nature and wildlife					
% Good/ excellent	93	100	70	100	73
% poor/ very poor	2	0	20	0	0
Net satisfaction	91	100	50	100	73
Rank					
Personal safety/ antisocial behaviour					
% Good/ excellent	86	91	80	58	100
% poor/ very poor	1	0	10	0	0
Net satisfaction	85	91	70	58	100
Rank					

Appendix 9. Landscape and Heritage statement

<u>Landscape element</u>	<u>Cultural/ historic associations</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Actions to take</u>	<u>Actions to avoid</u>
Surviving elements of the early 19 th century farmed landscape.	A remnant of the landscape of Hatch Farm and the “Manor of Hatch” perhaps unchanged since the 16 th century.	The small enclosed grazing fields (cpt A2). Large mature or over-mature trees often on banks marking tithe boundaries.	Maintain or allow trees and scrub to develop around boundary to minimise views of adjacent houses. Replant hedgerow between grazing fields. Retain over-mature trees for as long as possible; reduce rather than fell if safety issues arise. Plant new trees on boundaries to establish replacements for old trees before they are lost.	Unnecessary erosion of ancient banks by recreational use e.g. informal paths or use by BMX bikes.
Late 19 th century structural tree planting and other features.	The parkland setting for Hatch Grange House. Indirect associations with the use of beacons to warn on invasion.	Native and non-native trees around the site of Hatch Grange House. Belts of trees on the southern boundary of the park. The pine tree “Jubilee Circle”. The lime avenue and driveway to the site of the house.	Retain visually important and specimen trees for as long as possible; reduce rather than fell if safety issues arise. Plant new trees to establish replacements for old trees before they are lost. Re-pollard limes every 10 years; remove basal/ epicormic growth annually. Clear green waste from turning area in front of site of Hatch Grange House.	

		Open parkland with scattered trees and long views.	Prepare plan of timetable, locations & species for planting to maintain trees in the landscape in the long term.	Planting which will block long views as trees grow.
Blocks/ groups of trees planted late 20 th century	Planting commemorating Richard St Barbe Baker, and 100 th anniversary of West End Parish Council.	Group of trees extending the woodland around Hatch Grange House into the park (Cpt A5d).	Allow to develop naturally into open woodland.	
		Centenary Copse (Cpt A5c)	Thin to encourage better specimens and ground flora (see 4.4 p32).	Coppicing hazel without canopy thinning.
		Woodland blocks in Megan Green		