496/24-25. RED PHONE KIOSK – PC01 PIER ROAD, GREENHITHE, DA9 9NS.

As per the request from the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation and Environment Committee meeting on the 19 March 2025, members considered the possibility of Adopting the Grade II listed Red Phone Kiosk in Pier Road, Greenhithe.

Officers updated members on the costs implications to cover the structure through the Town Councils Public Liability Insurance.

Members discussed the process, current condition, future management and potential community uses and it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed:

Recommended:

1. That the Town Council apply to adopt the important heritage asset (Grade II Listed) Red Phone Kiosk in Pier Road, Greenhithe, from BT.

2. That officers investigate the current condition of the Phone Kiosk and begin trying to source funding for repair to ensure it is safe and useable.

3. That Members consult further with the public on potential uses and consider the future management / maintenance of the Kiosk, including a potential Charitable Trust for Heritage Assets.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES

109/25-26. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2025.**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2025, be confirmed, and signed as a true record.

110/25-26. **RED PHONE KIOSK – PC01 PIER ROAD, GREENHITHE, DA9 9NS.**

Members considered the report detailing the funding requirements for bringing the kiosk back into safe use.

Members also considered the merits of maintaining the site via either charitable trust or a volunteer 'Friends of' group.

Recommended:

1. That the Town Council adopt the kiosk at a cost of £1.00.
2. That work continues to seek funding for the repair works, including making an approach to the Local History Group for support.
3. That the Town Council release a public consultation seeking views on potential future use whilst simultaneously seeking volunteers to help maintain the kiosk.

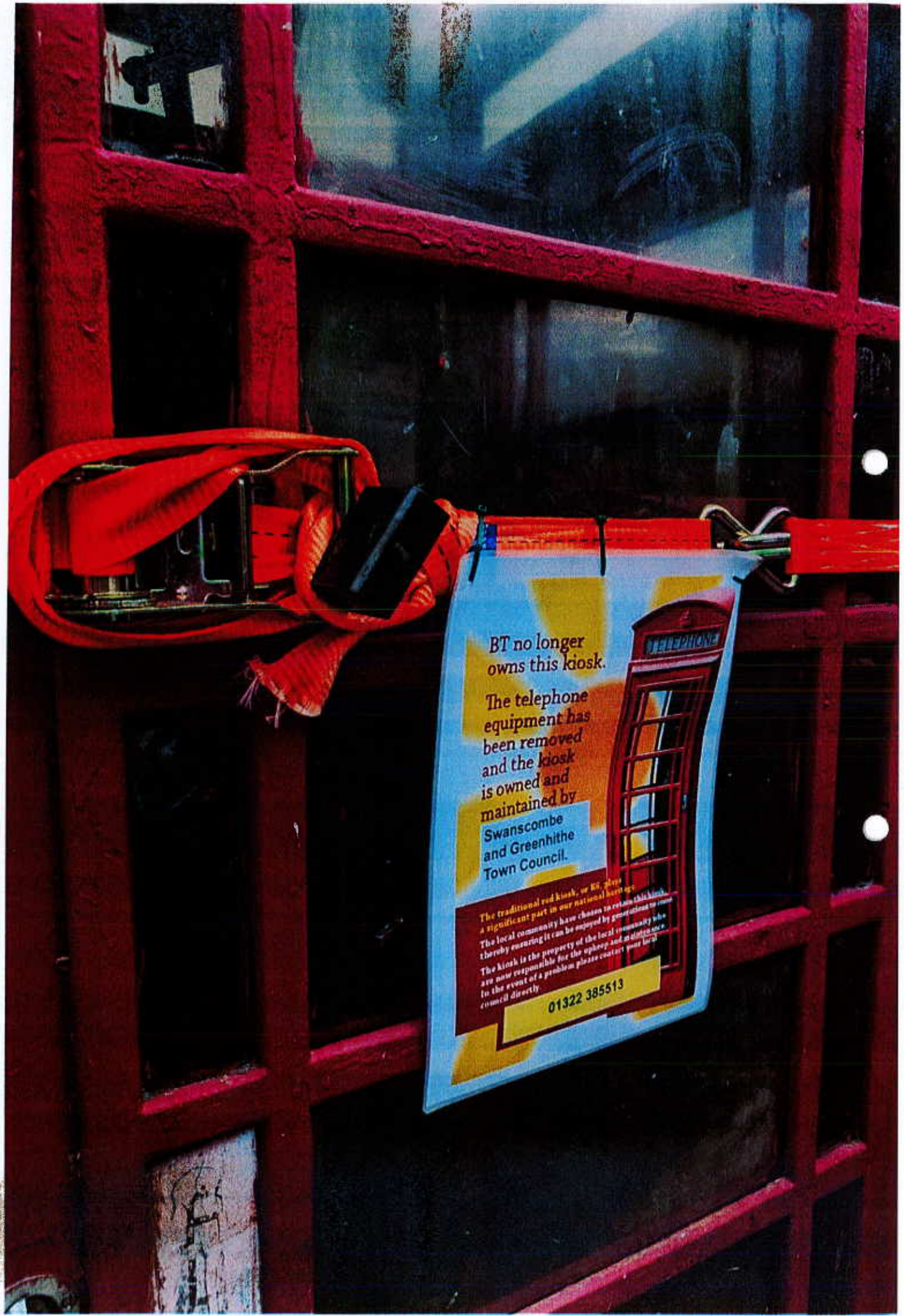
111/25-26. **CONTRACT FOR ADOPTION OF RED PHONE KIOSK – PC01 PIER ROAD, GREENHITHE, DA9 9NS**

Members considered the contract that had been received from BT.

Recommended; That the contract be signed, in accordance with Standing Order 21, at the earliest opportunity after this meeting.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 11.20 am.

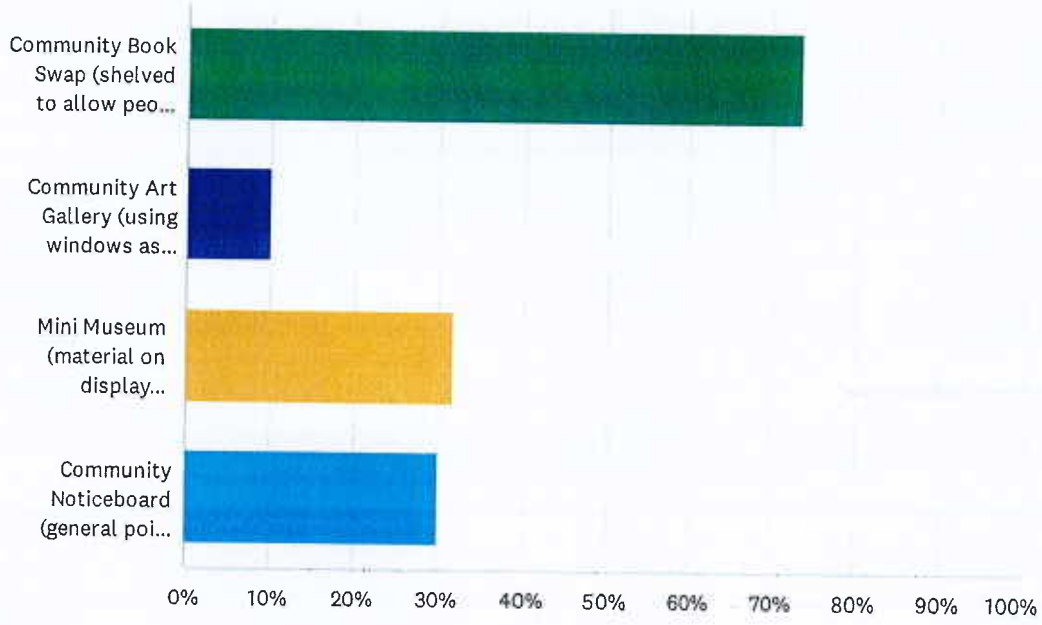
Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)


BT no longer owns this kiosk.
The telephone equipment has been removed and the kiosk is owned and maintained by Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council.
TELEPHONE
01322 385513

AGENDA ITEM 8
Heritage 23/9/25

Q1 Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council took the decision on the 3 July 2025 to adopt the former BT Telephone Kiosk in Pier Road, Greenhithe, to preserve the building as a community asset.The kiosk is Grade II listed, and the Town Council is arranging to have the site secured and the kiosk brought back into a good state of repair.We would like the public's help to decide what the site should be used for going forward. The unit will not have a telephone installed, but the space can be re-used for a multitude of options.To help us please select either one of the options below, or if you have another thought then add the details into the box provided:

Answered: 60 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community Book Swap (shelved to allow people to take and donate books)	73.33%	44
Community Art Gallery (using windows as display areas)	10.00%	6
Mini Museum (material on display showcasing local history)	31.67%	19
Community Noticeboard (general point of interest and events notices)	30.00%	18

Total Respondents: 60

Q2 Other (please specify)

Answered: 19 Skipped: 53

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	defibrillator Store	9/11/2025 8:10 PM
2	Please spend as little Town Council Budget as possible on the folly	8/12/2025 11:05 PM
3	Put a defribillator in there	7/25/2025 10:33 AM
4	Defibrilator	7/16/2025 3:02 PM
5	public toilet as there are no toilets open to the public free to use	7/13/2025 6:06 PM
6	Defibrillator for emergencies	7/12/2025 1:50 PM
7	All the above	7/10/2025 9:11 PM
8	Defibrilator	7/10/2025 5:52 PM
9	I live next to this phone box on Pier Road. As someone who has had to witnessed it being used as a place to do drugs/a toilet/a place to take out rage on I ask it's sealed and left alone. Trying to change it into anything is just going to cause me & all the others on this street a lot of stress. It will constantly be destroyed and we will be the ones left to clean it all up. Please, I absolute beg you seal it up or take it away for good.	7/10/2025 5:48 PM
10	Cpr machine especially for near the river	7/10/2025 5:46 PM
11	Defiberalator	7/10/2025 5:37 PM
12	Amy Pilcher	7/10/2025 4:53 PM
13	Defibrillator!	7/10/2025 4:30 PM
14	Put in an AED!	7/10/2025 4:22 PM
15	No drug use, no drug dealing, no anti social behaviour. Volunteer would need to be insured for exposure to drug residue and cleaning up the broken glass and urine	7/10/2025 3:56 PM
16	A free wi fi spot	7/10/2025 3:32 PM
17	A community defibrillator	7/10/2025 3:03 PM
18	Defibrilator	7/10/2025 2:28 PM
19	Toys swap for kids	7/10/2025 2:27 PM

Q3 In addition to deciding on what the kiosk will be used for the Town Council are also looking for community volunteers to help maintain it.This will involve:· Checking the kiosk is safe· Reporting any damage / defects· Assisting with cleaning and repainting as needed· Checking that equipment / displays inside are safe, secure and up to dateIf this could be you then please complete the following fields to register your interest:

Answered: 20 Skipped: 52

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	20
Address	100.00%	20
Contact Telephone Number	100.00%	20
Contact Email Address	100.00%	20

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136/23-24. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2020.**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2020, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

137/23-24. **HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS.**

Members considered the report that was issued with the Agenda.

It was confirmed that the trail cameras being considered for the site were designed to be as tamper proof as possible, and that opportunities were in place for the images created from the cameras to be both shared with the wider public, and logged for research purposes with resources such as the Citizens Science Platform.

Members were made aware that initial discussions had been held on possible locations for interpretation within the site. It was confirmed that the design and finalised location plan would be created in consultation with the Town Council. Temporary signage would be installed on site informing/updating the public of what works were being undertaken.

A discussion was held on how community volunteers could be engaged, and it was confirmed that publicity would be made available during 2024 to promote activities for the public to participate in alongside the volunteers from NWKCP.

Lucy Sawyer-Boyd from NWKCP updated the meeting that as well as the corporate volunteer date set for the 17 November 2023, an additional corporate event had been arranged for 24 October 2023, with Nat West Bank as the corporate partner. This event would involve meadow preparation works and grass clearance.

The proposed improvement works to the pond were hoped to be undertaken in the Autumn of 2023, but the contractor was still being engaged on a suitable initial water source for the pond once the lining work had taken place.

Recommended: That the work being done to implement the objectives set out in the Lower Thames Crossing funding award be noted.

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End of Project Report:

Swanscombe Heritage Park habitat improvements
Funded by Highways England

NWKCP received £28,550 of funding from Highways England, to carry out habitat improvements at Swanscombe Heritage Park, in partnership with the site owners, Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council (SGTC). The funding came from the Lower Thames Crossing Wider Green Infrastructure Enhancement Plan, and the project aimed to create and enhance varied wildlife habitats on site to increase biodiversity.

Project objectives:

1. Bring the site's pond back from poor to good condition through restoration.
2. Plantation of 0.35ha of wildflower meadow and install varied wildlife features and habitats.
3. Plant a native hedgerow measuring 30m
4. Plant wildflower plugs around the picnic area
5. Paths to be mown through wildflower meadow habitat to discourage trampling.
6. Leave a positive legacy for the local community through increased interpretation boards concerning chalk habitats.
7. Install trail cameras and nest box cameras to provide wildlife imagery and video for monitoring and public engagement purposes.
8. Carry out annual surveys to monitor the improvement in condition and to allow actions to be targeted as required
9. Prepare a five-year site management plan based on survey findings to inform future management.

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Pond (objective 1)

-The dry pond was re-lined by a contractor in October 2023.

The pond was dry due to repeated historic vandalism. Several attempts had previously been made to repair the damage, but the clay lining was not holding water. This clay was removed and replaced with a 3 layered system, which it was hoped would be resistant to vandalism in the future. The pond was re-lined with a traditional butyl pond liner, on top of this was placed a bentonite geotextile liner (designed to self-repair small punctures), and a thick layer of high quality puddling clay was laid on top to hide the liners and protect them from damage. The pond held water over the winter, and the restoration appeared to have been successful.

October 2023

November 2023

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-Aquatic and marginal plants were introduced by NWKCP vols, in May 2024. Pond edge seed mix was also sown around the banks.

Pond planting, May 2024

-A gravel beach was added, at one end of the pond, as part of the community volunteering day, in May 2024.

Community volunteers, May 2024

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May 2024

- Unfortunately, the water level began to drop after these works were completed. No obvious damage could be identified, and evaporation was suspected, but after monitoring the pond for a full year, it has become clear that the liner has failed, and the pond is no longer holding water. Further funding is now being sought, to make another attempt to restore the pond.

June 2024

March 2025

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Meadow Improvements (objective 2)

-An initial cut & collect was carried out with a group of volunteers from a local branch of NatWest Bank. This was done to reduce the nutrient level in the soil and prepare the site for the sowing of Yellow Rattle seed.

NatWest volunteers, October 2023

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-Yellow rattle seed was introduced by volunteers from MSK Waste Management. Patches of bare ground were created by turning over the turf. Then Yellow Rattle seed was sown onto the bare patches. Yellow Rattle parasitises grasses and reduces their growth, allowing more flowers to thrive and creating a more diverse meadow.

MSK volunteers, November 2023

-Unfortunately, the weather conditions were not favourable, and the Yellow Rattle does not seem to have germinated. It is recommended that a second attempt is made, using plug plants rather than seed, which may establish more successfully.

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Beetle banks / Hibernacula (objective 2a)

- Two wildlife mounds were created in the meadow, by a contractor. Wildlife mounds provide basking areas for reptiles and butterflies, as well as lots of underground hiding spaces for hibernation. The maze of protected nooks may also provide a home for small mammals and a wide range of invertebrates.

Wildlife Mound, November 2023

- Both of the wildlife mounds were seeded by a team of young volunteers from nearby education and training charity - Walk Tall.

Wildlife mound, May 2024

Walk Tall volunteers

Wildlife mounds, June 2025

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Vertical deadwood features (objective 2b)

- A deadwood habitat feature, designed for endangered Stag Beetles, was built by volunteers from Federated Hermes. This feature is now known as 'Stag Henge', and will provide a stable home for Stag Beetle larvae to develop. A variety of different sized holes were drilled into the logs, to provide additional habitat for solitary bees. The team enjoyed their day so much that they arranged another volunteering day 6 months later and returned to install more wildlife homes.

Federated Hermes volunteers, March 2024

'Stag Henge'

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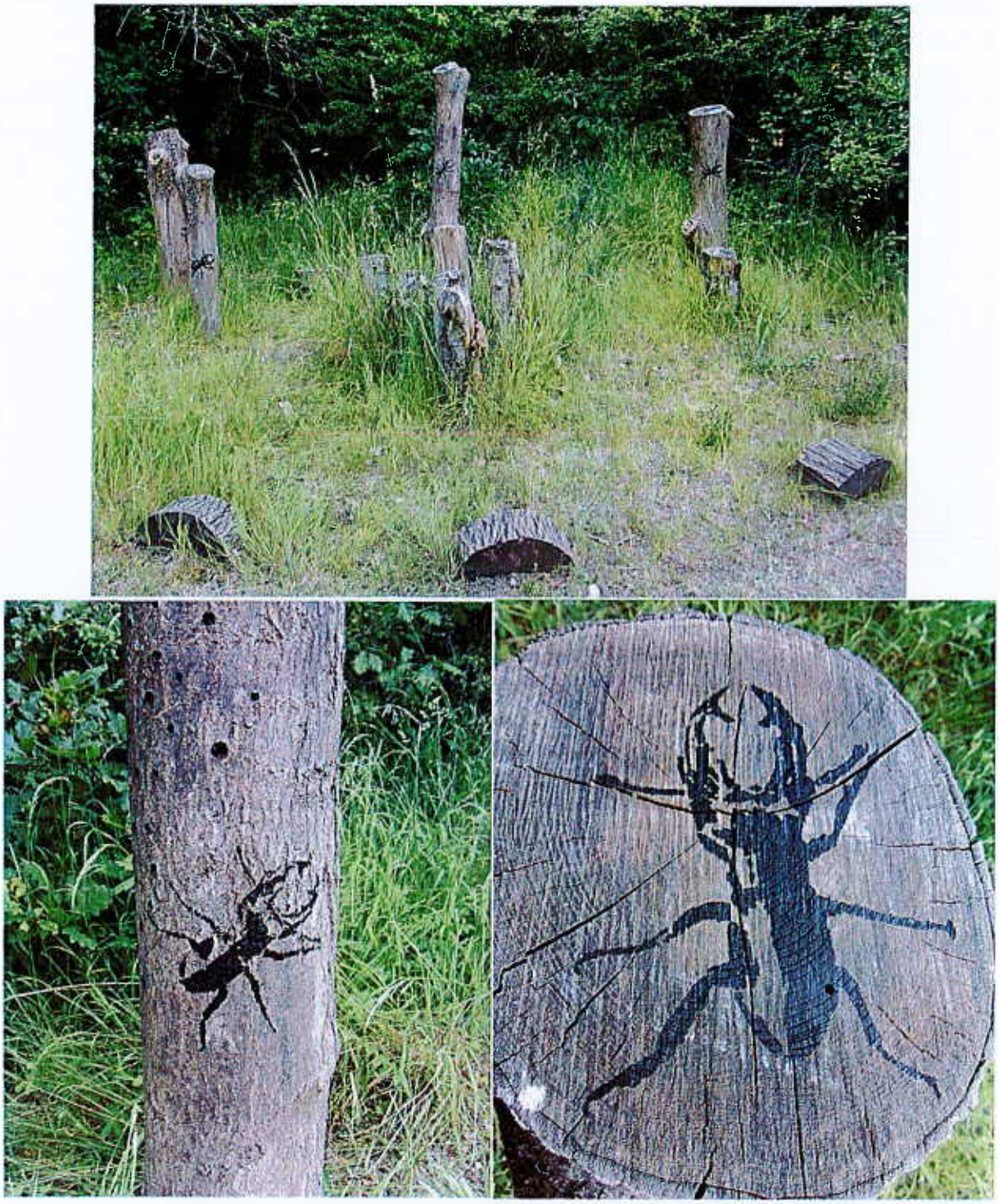

Stag Henge, June 2025

- SGTC received some funding for veteranisation works, so it was decided that these would replace the ring-barking work, planned as part of this project. This involved the creation of bat roosting cavities in trees, and mimicking storm damage in the woodland to create diverse habitat opportunities.

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Bird/bat boxes (objective 2c)

- Two large bat boxes were installed by NWKCP volunteers. These boxes are made from woodcrete, which should provide better insulation and predator protection than traditional wooden boxes.

Bat boxes

- Four Starling nest boxes were installed by NWKCP volunteers. These are made from the same woodcrete material as the bat boxes, so should provide a safer nest and last longer than traditional wooden nest boxes. They were installed in a cluster, as Starlings prefer to nest in colonies.

Starling nest boxes

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- The NWKCP volunteer team also installed four small bird nest boxes, with a 32mm hole to suit a variety of small woodland birds such as Sparrows, Nuthatches and Great Tits.

Nest boxes for small birds

- Unfortunately, some of the smaller nest boxes have been vandalised. The supplier has provided replacement fronts panels, and the boxes should last a long time if left alone.

Bee Posts (objective 2d)

-A concrete 'bee post' for solitary bees was installed in the meadow, by volunteers from Federated Hermes.

Federated Hermes volunteers, November 2024

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- A second concrete bee post was installed in the picnic area, by volunteers from Federated Hermes.

Federated Hermes Volunteers, November 2024

-It is hoped that these concrete posts will be resistant to vandalism, and remain in place to offer a home for solitary bees. Increased costs meant the project budget couldn't cover both posts, but Federated Hermes made a significant financial contribution, which meant we were able to purchase and install two posts as planned.

Hedgerow planting (objective 3)

- 30m of native hedgerow was planted by volunteers from Federated Hermes. The hedge was unfortunately vandalised soon after planting, and a very dry spring has meant challenging conditions for the surviving trees. The hedgerow is being monitored and remedial planting may be carried out next winter, if necessary.

Federated Hermes volunteers, November 2024

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Picnic area improvements (objective 4)

- 520 wildflower plug plants were planted in the picnic area, during a community volunteering day in May 2024. The plants were specially selected to be a good source of pollen and nectar to encourage bees, butterflies and moths, as well as essential foodplants for butterfly and moth larvae.

Species planted included: Agrimony, Autumn hawkbit, Basil, Betony, Bird's Foot trefoil, Cowslip, Dog Violet, Field scabious, Foxglove, Germander Speedwell, Hedge Woundwort, Kidney Vetch, Lady's Bedstraw, Lesser Knapweed, Marjoram, Meadow Buttercup, Red clover, Ribwort Plantain, Rock rose, Selfheal, Small Scabious, Sorrel, Tufted vetch, Quaking Grass, White Clover, Yarrow, Yellow Toadflax.

Community volunteers, May 2024

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Interpretation (objective 6)

- New site map and information panel at main site entrance.

New panels installed on existing board

Site map

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Site information panel

- A new interpretation panel was installed in the meadow.

NWKCP volunteers, June 2025

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New interpretation panel in the meadow

Meadow panel

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- New interpretation panel for the pond (installation delayed until pond is fixed).

New pond panel

- 'no dogs' signage for pond with QR links to the Fresh Water Habitat Trust's information about dogs and wildlife ponds, featuring Buster & Molly (installation delayed until pond is fixed).

New signage for pond

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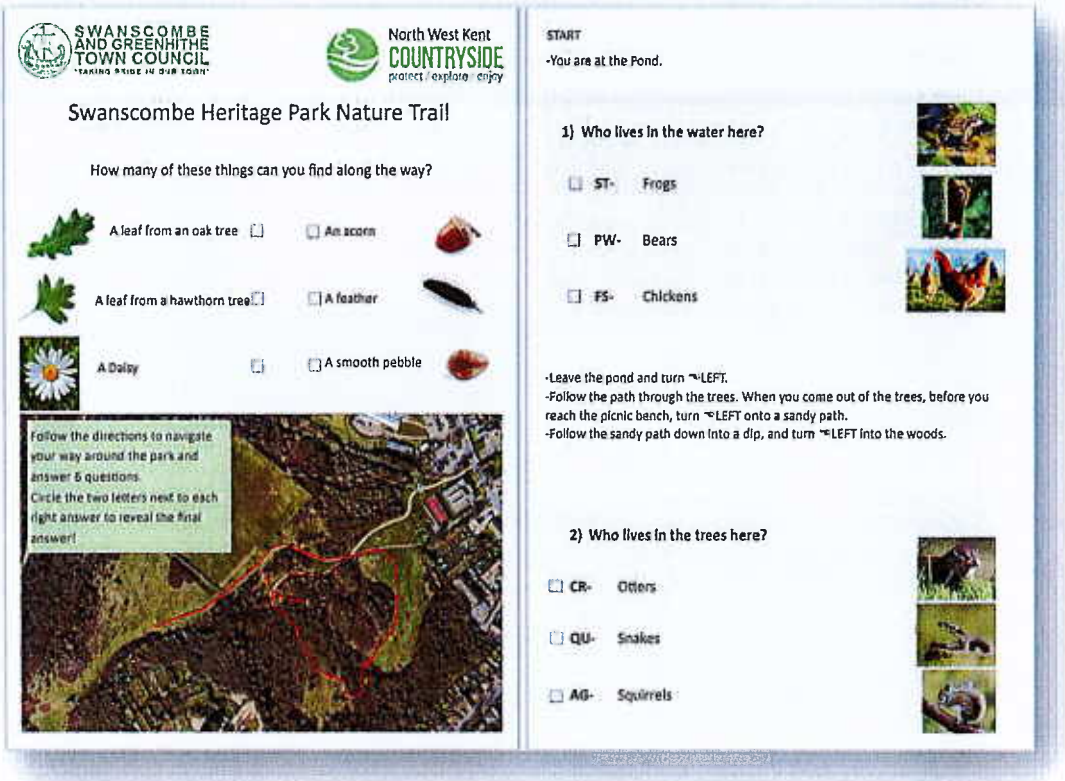
- QR code to online PDF nature trail

Nature trail start point



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-Follow the path downhill and round a bend to the ☜LEFT, then uphill and out of the woods.

3) As you walk up the hill, if it is sunny, you might see some brightly coloured insects flapping their large wings or feeding on the flowers. What are these insects called?



☐ HG- Spiders

☐ BE- Butterflies

☐ ZW- Beetles

-Keep going uphill into the picnic area, then turn ☜LEFT onto the path.
-Don't go back to the pond yet!
- At the fork, take the path on the RIGHT☞

4) Can you spot the bird box in a tree? What sort of birds do you think might use it?



☐ DS- Large birds like seagulls and crows

☐ AW- Ducks and swans

☐ ET- Small birds like blue tits and sparrows

-Keep following the path past the playing fields.
-Can you find the two large mounds?
We built these mounds with lots of small spaces inside, to give little creatures a safe place to hide and a warm place to sunbathe.
Read the sign to find out the answer to this question:

5) Who might make their home here?



☐ LE- Reptiles, small mammals and invertebrates

☐ YR- Badgers, hedgehogs and bats

☐ JU- Birds, squirrels and rabbits

-Now TURN AROUND and go back along the path.
-If you're feeling brave, you can take the shortcut down the steep, sandy path on your RIGHT☞
-Otherwise, stay on the path, go back past the bird box and turn RIGHT☞, then take the path on the ☜LEFT towards the pond.

Before you get back to the pond, you will see some large logs sticking out of the ground.
We put these here to create a home for an endangered species, but do you know which one?

6) Put all your letters together to find out who lives here...

_ST_ _CR_ /_HG_ _DS_ _LE_

FINISH

Cameras (objective 7)

- A Spypoint cellular trail camera was installed at the pond, but unfortunately it was very quickly vandalised and is no longer working.


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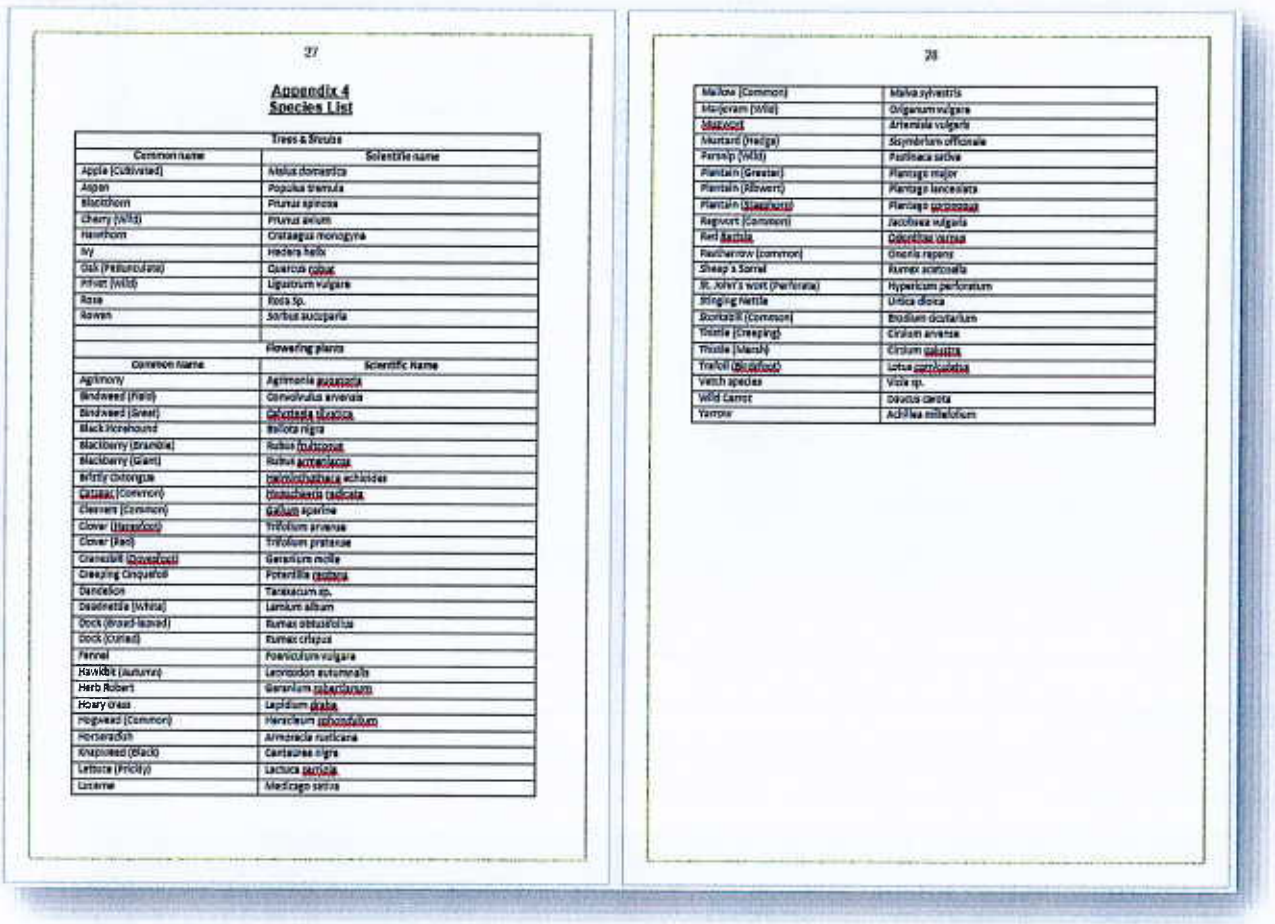
Surveys (objective 8)

- Botanical surveys were carried out in the grassland areas (Meadow and picnic area), to establish a baseline from which to measure improvements, and inform a management plan for the site.
- The resulting species list is included in appendix 4 of the site management plan.



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Appendix 4
Species List

Trees & Shrubs	
Common name	Scientific name
Apple (Cultivated)	Malus domestica
Aspen	Populus tremula
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa
Cherry (Wild)	Prunus avium
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
Ivy	Hedera helix
Oak (Pedunculate)	Quercus robur
Privet (Wild)	Ligustrum vulgare
Rose	Rosa Sp.
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia
Flowering plants	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Agrimony	Agrimonia eupatoria
Bindweed (Field)	Convolvulus arvensis
Bindweed (Great)	Calystegia sylvatica
Black Horehound	Ballota nigra
Blackberry (Bramble)	Rubus fruticosus
Blackberry (Giant)	Rubus armeniacus
Bristly Oxtongue	Helminthotheca echioides
Catsear (Common)	Hypochaeris radicata
Cleavers (Common)	Galium aparine
Clover (Hare's foot)	Trifolium arvense
Clover (Red)	Trifolium pratense
Cranesbill (Dovefoot)	Geranium molle
Creeping Cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans
Dandelion	Taraxacum sp.
Deadnettle (White)	Lamium album
Dock (Broad-leaved)	Rumex obtusifolius
Dock (Curled)	Rumex crispus
Fennel	Foeniculum vulgare
Hawkbit (Autumn)	Leontodon autumnalis
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum
Hoary Cress	Lepidium draba
Hogweed (Common)	Heracleum sphondylium
Horseradish	Armoracia rusticana
Knapweed (Black)	Centaurea nigra
Lettuce (Prickly)	Lactuca serriola
Lucerne	Medicago sativa

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Mallow (Common)	Malva sylvestris
Marjoram (Wild)	Origanum vulgare
Mugwort	Artemisia vulgaris
Mustard (Hedge)	Sisymbrium officinale
Parsnip (Wild)	Pastinaca sativa
Plantain (Greater)	Plantago major
Plantain (Ribwort)	Plantago lanceolata
Plantain (Stagshorn)	Plantago coronopus
Ragwort (Common)	Jacobaea vulgaris
Red Bartsia	Odontites vernus
Redthroat (common)	Oncnis repens
Sheep's Sorrel	Rumex acetosella
St. John's wort (Perforate)	Hypericum perforatum
Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica
Storksbill (Common)	Erodium cicutarium
Thistle (Creeping)	Cirsium arvense
Thistle (Marsh)	Cirsium palustre
Trefoil (Birdsfoot)	Lotus corniculatus
Vetch species	Vicia sp.
Wild Carrot	Daucus carota
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium

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5yr management plan (objective 9)

A management plan has been written and supplied to SGTC, to guide them in the management of the site for the next 5 years.

Swanscombe Heritage Park Management Plan 2025-2029

North West Kent Countryside Partnership
2025

This management plan and accompanying habitat improvements have been produced thanks to funding from Highways England

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Conclusions

This project engaged over 70 volunteers, during 8 volunteer task days.
Volunteers from 3 local employers took part: MSK Waste Management; Federated Hermes; and NatWest, as well as NWKCP volunteers, students from Walk Tall, SGTC councillors, and individuals from the local community.

Project Outcomes:

-Increased habitat opportunities for birds, bats and a wide range of invertebrates.

-Improved visitor engagement through interpretation panels and nature trail.

-Increased community engagement through volunteer days.

- A formal plan has been developed for the management of the site over the next five years.

SGTC are committed to continuing to improve the site for people and wildlife, and engaging the local community. Further habitat works and path surfacing are planned, and on-going engagement may help to combat anti-social behaviour in the future.

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Swanscombe Heritage Park Management Plan 2025-2029

North West Kent Countryside Partnership
2025

This management plan and accompanying habitat improvements have been produced thanks to funding from Highways England

Contents

Introduction

Swanscombe Heritage Park is owned and managed by Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council. The 23Ha site includes amenity areas as well as being a National Nature Reserve. Its most notable feature is the 'Skull site', a SSSI designated archaeological site.

There is a children's play area and a picnic area, near the main entrance. Surfaced paths lead to the Skull Site and also to the sports field, but there are no fully accessible circular routes. There are no public rights of way within the park, but public footpaths run along the south western and north eastern boundaries of the park.

There is an area of grassland next to the sports field, known as 'the meadow', and a wildlife pond area near the end of the surfaced path to the skull site. The rest of the site is mostly woodland, with some further grassland and scrub.

Antisocial behaviour is a major concern, vandalism and off-road motorcycles are frequent problems on this site.

This management plan sets out the vision, objectives, and actions required to conserve natural habitats, enhance visitor experience, and ensure the sustainable use of Swanscombe Heritage Park resources. This plan should be viewed as a working document, updated regularly and adapted as needed.

Part One – General information

1.1 **Site Information**

i) **Name of site**: Swanscombe Heritage Park

ii) **Designations**: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
National Nature Reserve (NNR)

iii) **Location:** Between Swanscombe to the east and Greenhithe to the west. 1km south of the Swanscombe peninsula and 1.5km north-east of Bluewater retail park.
See appendix a.

Address: Swanscombe Heritage Park,
Craylands Lane,
Swanscombe,
DA9 9HN

iv) **Grid Reference**: TQ598743

v) **Area**: Approximately 23 ha (57 acres)

vi) **Access**:. The main access to the site is via vehicle and pedestrian gates off Craylands lane. There is a free car park at TQ 59963 74537, which is used for the park and the adjacent leisure centre. There are two footpaths bordering the park to the south west and north east. Inside the park there are permissive paths, but no public rights of way. The main surfaced path ends at the entrance to the skull site.

vii) **Maps**: OS Explorer 162 Greenwich & Gravesend, OS Landranger 177 East London

viii **Ownership:** Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council

The Town Council Offices
The Grove
Swanscombe
Kent
DA10 0GA

ix) **Information**: Information from desktop surveys (biological records, mapping etc.), site visits and biological surveys has been used in preparing this management plan.

x) **Boundaries**: To the south, the site borders allotments and private gardens. To the north there is a surfaced public footpath with a primary school on the other side, Knockhall recreation ground and a few private gardens. See appendix a.

xi) **External factors**:

No underground utilities

Possible Constraints to works:
Restrictions on works on Skull site SSSI, including no digging. This doesn't cover the whole park.
See appendix b.

Other factors:
The site is open to the public, used by local residents as amenity space for dog walking, exercise and play. Wildlife disturbance, dog waste, litter, vandalism and antisocial behaviour have been recorded. However, the presence of the public may also help to deter antisocial behaviour.

1.2 History

Swanscombe heritage Park lies in a former gravel quarry, known as Barnfield Pit.

Barnfield Pit opened between 1862 and 1899, the exact date is unknown. The pit supplied gravel and then chalk to the main Swanscombe Cement works to the north-east. It formed an extension to the Claylands Pit which lay between the railway line and London Road to which it was linked via a tunnel extending below Craylands Lane and the railway. During the 1920's two tramlines were built along the western edge of the quarry which later linked the pit to other pits opened to the south, via a pair of tunnels extending below the southerly footpath crossing the pit and the Alkerden Road. Another footpath to the north and running along the top of a ridge of spoil linking Craylands Lane to Knockhall Road was also added during the 1920's. At this point a cast-iron footbridge was also added to span the gap between the quarry edge and the footpath causeway, needed to allow the western tramway to pass.

The main part of the quarry was backfilled in the 1950's and 1960's using Thanet Sand. This buried industrial features such as the engine and pump houses, and lower tramways. The backfilling created a linear ravine, the Craylands Gorge, following the course of the western tramway. The Gorge remains relatively undisturbed and the bed of the tramway can be recognised for most of its length. The footbridge in Craylands Gorge was declared unsafe for use following the demolition of the old condemned bridge. It has now been replaced by a new "land bridge" connecting Swanscombe heritage park to Greenhithe, which opened in 2021.

Swanscombe Skull Site (also known as Barnfield Pit):
grid reference: TQ 597 742

At this site, three parts of the same skull (The Swanscombe Skull) were found separately in 1935, 1936 and 1955.

The area was already known for the finds of numerous Palaeolithic-era handaxes, some as much as 400,000 years old—when in 1935/1936 work at Barnfield Pit uncovered two fossilised skull fragments. The skull fragments were found in the lower middle terrace gravels at a depth of almost 8 metres (26 ft). They were found by Alvan T. Marston, an amateur archaeologist who visited the pit between quarrying operations to search for flint tools. A third fragment from the same skull was found in 1955 by Bertram and John Wymer. Swanscombe is one of only two sites in Britain that have yielded Lower Paleolithic human fossils.
These fragments came to be known as the remains of 'Swanscombe Man' but were later found to have belonged to a young woman. The Swanscombe skull has been identified an ancient form of human called Homo heidelbergensis, dating to around 380,000 years old. This is the oldest skull found in Britain.

Further excavations, carried out between 1968 and 1972 by Dr John d'Arcy Waechter, uncovered more animal bone and flint tools and established the extent of the former shoreline on which the bones were found. In addition to the skull >6000 handaxes, >250 cores, >500 flake-tools and nearly 15,000 pieces of debitage have been found together with a wide range of vertebrate fossils and mollusc remains. Animals found at the site include the straight-tusked elephant (*Palaeoloxodon antiquus*), Irish elk (*Megaloceros giganteus*), fallow deer *(Dama dama),* red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), aurochs (*Bos primigenius*), Merck's rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus kirchbergensis*), and the narrow-nosed rhinoceros *(Stephanorhinus hemitoechus*), Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*), as well as the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). A small number (6, representing 1.3% of the total) of the bones found at Swanscombe show evidence of butchery by hominins.

Most of the bone finds are now in the Natural History Museum in London, with the stone finds at the British Museum.

The site is designated a site of special scientific interest, which means restrictions have been placed on the activities and operations that can be carried out.
See appendix b for operational restrictions.

Part Two: Description

2.1 Physical

i) **Topography:**
The site is low lying, at around 30m above sea level.
The lowest point is at approximately 27m and the highest point is at approximately 35m.
The Meadow area is approximately 5m higher than the pond area, with a steep sandy slope between them. The site is otherwise mostly flat.
See appendix a.

ii) **Climate:**
The site lies in the South East of England where summer temperatures are generally higher and rainfall lower than in other parts of the country. Nearby Gravesend receives, on average about 609 mm/ 24.0 inch of precipitation per year. The average annual temperature is 10.3 °C. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 3°C to 22°C and is rarely below -2°C or above 27°C.

iii) **Geology and soils:**
Most of the site is on chalk bedrock, with superficial deposits of sand, gravel and silt.
A small part of the site at the southern boundary sits on the edge of an area of sandstone.
See appendix a.

iv) **Hydrology:**
The only wetland feature on the site is a lined wildlife pond (grid ref: TQ 59786 74367.
See appendix a.

2.2 Biological

i) **Habitats:**
The site is predominately mixed deciduous woodland and neutral grassland with small areas of scrub and bramble.
See appendix a.

Habitat	Description	Current condition
Broadleaved woodland	Mixed native species including Oak, Ash, Maple, Hawthorn, Some non-native species present, such as Snowberry and Cotoneaster.	Good mix of native species. Mostly young trees, with a few more mature individuals scattered around the site. Ground flora varies -areas of bramble and ivy, nettles are dominant in some areas. Standing and fallen dead wood present in less disturbed areas.
Grassland	Sunny and well drained. Low sward height in amenity areas, higher and more varied in Meadow and skull site. Native grassland species and a few garden escapees.	Grazed by rabbits. Significant encroachment by scrub Approx 4 species per m^2 Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition.
Scrub	Mostly Hawthorn and bramble.	Dense, but becoming more open underneath. Lacks age diversity

ii) **Flora and Fauna:**
Botanical surveys were carried out in 2023. Records for the site were researched, anecdotal records and sightings during site visits were also considered.
See appendix c.

Protected/notable species present on site:

-The site is used by several species of common birds and it is likely that many of these are breeding on site.

-Several of the more mature trees on the site have naturally high bat roost potential.

-There are anecdotal records of Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*) in the meadow.

-Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*) grows in the area marked on the site plan as 'orchid bank' (TQ 59771 74396).

-There is a colony of Ivy Bees (*Colletes hederae)* present on the sandy slope between the pond and the meadow (TQ 59753 74393).

- Ivy Broomrape (*Orobanche hederae) has been recorded at TQ 59927 74276.*

-Some non-native plants, such as Cotoneaster are present. The site is at risk of further introduction of invasive non-native species from neighbouring gardens.

-Oak Processionary moth *(Thaumetopoea processionea)* has been recorded on site (TQ598742). Caterpillars of this non-native moth damage oak trees and can present a health hazard for humans. Future sightings should be reported at https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/

Part Three – Site Evaluation

3.1 Site Evaluation

This site has a significant historical heritage and provides a valuable oasis of green space for people and wildlife. However, connectivity is lacking, and wildlife value is diminished through disturbance and antisocial behaviour. The more mature trees on site provide potential roosting opportunities for bats, while scrub and woodland provide nesting opportunities for birds. The grassland areas provide foraging for pollinators.

3.2 Reasons for management

Management should aim to conserve and where possible, enhance the biodiversity of the site.
Maintaining and improving public access to the site could make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of the local community. However, access should not be expanded, as keeping some areas inaccessible will increase their value for wildlife through decreased disturbance.
The impact of visitors to the site can be mitigated through appropriate management.

3.3 Management history

Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council manage the site as a public amenity, but would like to make the site more valuable for wildlife.
The picnic area is mown several times a year as needed, other maintenance work is carried out by SGTC staff on an ad-hoc basis.

Hard surfaced paths have been laid from the main entrance to the sports field next to the meadow, and the entrance to the skull site. These are maintained as needed by SGTC staff and/or contractors.

The hard surfaced path forms an accessible heritage trail with various interpretation materials about the neolithic history and geology of the site. New site information panels were installed in 2025, with funding from Highways England.
See appendix d.

In 2024, Veteranisation works were carried out on six trees, creating bat roost cavities and future veteran features. See Appendix e for details.

During 2024, habitat improvement works were carried out, with funding from Highways England, including:

- -The creation of two hibernacula mounds in the meadow.
- -Meadow cutting and raking to lower nutrient level.
- -Attempted introduction of Yellow Rattle *(Rhinanthus minor)* to reduce dominant grasses in the Meadow.
- -The creation of a dead wood habitat feature for Stag Beetles (*Dorcus parallelipipedus* and *Lucanus cervus)* and is characterized, near the wildlife pond.
- -Installation of two concrete bee posts, in the meadow and the picnic area.

-Installation of various bird nesting boxes.
-Installation of two large bat boxes.
-Pond restoration works.
-50m of native hedge planted.
-520 wildflower plugs planted in the picnic area.

See appendix f.

3.4 **Site Potential**

Although there is a significant problem with antisocial behaviour, Swanscombe Heritage Park can still be a valuable resource for people and wildlife. The site could provide continued access to green space and increased educational opportunities. Despite a lack of connectivity at ground level, the site could be a useful stopover for migrating birds following the river Thames, and a stronghold for winged invertebrates such as stag beetles, bumblebees, butterflies and moths.

i) **Woodland & scrub:**

-Bat roost potential could be increased through further creation of artificial hollows in younger trees.
-Increasing the availability of dead wood here could benefit a wide range of species through an increased and more diverse invertebrate populations for larger creatures to feed on.

ii) **Meadow:**

-This area could, with increased floristic diversity, provide even better resources for pollinators and other beneficial invertebrates.
-The Shrill Carder Bee *(Bombus sylvarum)* has been recorded on the nearby Swanscombe Peninsula. A long term goal should be to create habitat suitable for this extremely rare bee. If, in the future, pollinator corridors can be established, the Meadow at Swanscombe Heritage Park could potentially be colonised and encourage the existing population to spread

iii) **Picnic Area:**

-This area provides a valuable recreational resource for the local community. With increased floristic diversity, it could also provide a significant source of nectar and pollen for beneficial invertebrates such as bees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths.

iv) **Skull Site:**

-This is an important heritage site which could provide increased educational opportunities for the local community, through collaboration with schools and other community groups.
-The sward of the grassland here is naturally shorter than in the meadow. Maintaining this variety of habitats could potentially benefit biodiversity, providing basking opportunities for invertebrates and reptiles.

v) **Scrub/grassland:**

-The creation of butterfly glades and scalloped edges in larger bramble and

scrub patches could increase the site's value for invertebrates, particularly winged species such as butterflies and moths.
-The creation of areas of rough grassland could benefit owls and raptors by increasing the small mammal population.

vi) **Pond:**
-If the pond can be successfully restored, it would provide a valuable resource for wildlife, as accessible water sources are scarce in this area, due to the porous chalk geology.
-The pond has been used by breeding frogs and newts in the past and, if restored, could again be a valuable breeding site for amphibians.

See appendix g.

3.5 Aims and objectives

i) **Aims:**

-To conserve and where appropriate enhance the ecological interest of the existing habitats

-To maintain public access.

-To conserve features of historical and cultural interest.

-Contribute to national data by submitting records of species on site.

ii) **Objectives:**

-Increase Floristic diversity of the meadow area.

-Manage scrub to provide diversity of age/structure.

-Create scalloped edges to scrub and woodland to provide sheltered butterfly glades.

-Increase standing dead wood habitat by ring-barking and 'veteranisation' of younger trees.

-Create rough grassland.

-Create further artificial cavities for bats/birds.

-Maintain path network and extend surfaced paths.

-Clear encroaching scrub from skull site.

-Carry out regular surveys and submit records to appropriate organisations.

Part Four – Prescription and Action

4.1 General Guidelines

i) **Public access and paths:**
Maintain the paths, so they are accessible to all users. Cut back encroaching vegetation as needed.

ii) **Litter:**
Litter and fly-tipping should be removed as quickly as possible. Weekly site checks by SGTC staff are recommended.

iii) **Heritage features:**
The Skull Site should be managed according to the conditions set out by Natural England. Avoid "Operations likely to damage the special interest". If these are required, special consent from Natural England is essential.
See appendix b.

iv) **Arisings:**
Any vegetative material produced by work such as meadow management, path trimming, or scrub clearance, should be used to create dead hedges and habitat piles.
Dead hedges can be used to block access to sensitive areas and prevent the formation of new pathways.
Habitat piles should be stacked so that they are stable and reasonably tidy. They should be placed in both sunny and shady locations, and wherever possible, be hidden out of view.

v) **Relevant legislation:**
Nesting birds -
-The site is used by several species of common birds and it is likely that many of these are breeding on site.
Breeding birds are protected under section 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. For this reason and as a matter of responsible land management cutting of trees and scrub and any other dense vegetation should be avoided wherever possible during the bird nesting season (March to August) unless required for health and safety or access reasons, in which case a nest search should be undertaken before starting work to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

Bats -
Several of the more mature trees on the site have naturally high bat roost potential. Artificial bat roosts have been created and traditional bat boxes have been installed around the site. All UK bat species and their roosts are protected by European and UK legislation: the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and amendments and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.Therefore care must be taken not to disturb any potential bat roosts without appropriate licenses. If it is suspected that bats

may be using a tree a bat survey by a suitably qualified surveyor should be carried out before commencing felling or other tree work.

Reptiles -
-There are anecdotal records of Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*) in the meadow. Common lizard, slow-worm, grass snake and adder are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They are listed as a Schedule 5 species therefore part of Section 9(1) and section 9(5) apply.

vi) **Other ecological considerations:**

To allow plants to flower and set seed, path verges and grassy areas should generally be left uncut over the summer except where some cutting is required to keep the path clear and accessible, or where prescribed in the management plan.

vii) **Invasive species, pests and diseases:**
The site should be monitored for the presence of invasive species. If they are found they should be reported and action taken to remove them. In particular, Japanese Knotweed *(Fallopia japonica),* Giant Hogweed *(Heracleum mantegazzianum)* Buddleia (*Buddleja davidii),* and Rhododendron (*ponticum Rhododendron).*
If any invasive non-native species are found to be present, they should be reported via http://www.nonnativespecies.org, further information on invasive non-native species, including ID sheets and management advice, is also available from the above website.

Cotoneaster is present in some areas of the site. Although this may not be a high priority for removal, it should be monitored. Natural Resources Wales has produced a guidance document which may be helpful- https://www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/OGN-239-Controlling-cotoneaster.pdf

Oak Processionary moth *(Thaumetopoea processionea)* has been recorded on site (TQ598742). Caterpillars of this non-native moth damage oak trees and can present a health hazard for humans. Future sightings should be reported at https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/

Ash trees should be monitored for signs of Ash dieback. Guidance can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-ash-dieback-in-england

viii) **Chemicals:**
As far as possible the use of herbicides and pesticides should be avoided. Non-chemical methods should be used to manage vegetation growth. However, if use of chemicals is absolutely necessary (eg. for the management of an invasive species), the product and usage should comply with current legislation and guidelines.

ix) **Recording:**
All works and management activities carried out on site should be recorded and the records kept and added to the management plan as appropriate. All biodiversity surveys and notable sightings should be recorded via the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre- https://www.kmbrc.org.uk/ and the species lists for the site should be updated periodically.

x) **Review of management plan:**
The management plan should be reviewed annually, and the work programme updated. A full revision of the plan should take place every five years.

4.2 Management Zones – Objectives

Habitat types have been used to divide the site into the following management zones
See appendix g.

Zone	Description	Objectives
Woodland & scrub	Mostly young and intermediate aged native trees.	-Increase diversity of structure, without opening new access. -Increase availability of cavities and dead wood.
Meadow	Low species diversity	-Increase floristic diversity. -Reduce dominant grasses.
Picnic Area	Mown area with picnic benches.	-Maintain access to picnic benches. -Increase floristic diversity. -Create further solitary bee habitats.
Skull Site	Low-lying, sandy area with sparse patches of scrub.	-Maintain public access. -Protect from further erosion.
Scrub/grassland	Open areas of rough grassland and patches of bramble.	-Increase diversity of structure in scrub patches. -Where possible, create butterfly glades in denser bramble patches. -Restrict encroachment onto grassland.
Orchid Bank	Grassland with encroaching scrub.	-Reduce encroachment of scrub species, particularly Dogwood. -Maintain suitable conditions for common spotted and pyramidal orchids.
Pond	Currently dry, due to failed liner.	-Restore pond so that it holds water again.
Play Area	Fenced area of amenity grass, with play equipment.	-Maintain a safe environment for play.

4.3 Management Prescriptions

The prescriptions below are summarised in the schedule of works in appendix h, for site plan showing management zones, see appendix g.

Zone	Prescriptions
Woodland & scrub	-Seek professional advice on the feasibility of further veteranisation works. -Where possible, without opening new access or creating future hazardous trees: create standing dead wood by ring barking; create glades by felling and leaving fallen trees in place to mimic storm damage; create cavities for roosting bats and nesting birds. Where these techniques cannot be employed, install a variety of bird and bat boxes. -Cut scalloped edges into blocks of woodland and scrub to create sheltered areas for invertebrates.
Meadow	-Increase floristic diversity with wildflower plugs and/or seed mix. -Introduce Yellow Rattle (Rhinanthus minor,) reduce dominant grasses. This would be best done with plug plants, as a previous attempt using seed failed. -Annual cut and collect in autumn. Rotate cutting between compartments A & B to leave half the meadow uncut over winter each year to provide shelter for invertebrates. Remove arisings -Control vegetation on the south-facing sides of the hibernacula mounds, to maintain basking areas for reptiles and butterflies. This can be done by cutting and/or hand-pulling the larger tussocks as necessary. Care must be taken not to disturb basking reptiles if this is done in spring/summer. -Establish mown paths through the meadow area to avoid trampling.
Picnic Area	-Maintain access to picnic benches, by mowing as often as necessary. Cut 'scallops' into edges around mown area. -Leave margins uncut during spring and summer. -Cut margins on rotation – half each year in autumn and remove arisings. -Cut scalloped edges into bramble patch. -Increase floristic diversity with further plug plants. -Create further solitary bee habitats. These could be wooden or concrete posts, similar to the existing concrete bee post, or containers filled with compacted sand with holes drilled for access.
Skull Site	-Maintain public access by keeping paths open. -Remove encroaching scrub, by uprooting where possible, otherwise cutting. -Protect from erosion, by discouraging illegal motorcycles as much as possible.

Scrub/grassland	-Increase diversity of structure in scrub patches by rotational coppicing. -Where possible, cut scalloped edges and/or butterfly glades in denser bramble patches. -Employ rotational cutting of grassland areas to ensure any given section is left uncut for at least two years to allow a litter layer to develop, creating rough grassland habitat.
Orchid Bank	-Cut & collect in march and October. Remove arisings. -Reduce scrub growth by cutting as frequently as possible outside orchid flowering season (May-Sept) -Target Dogwood by cutting stems back to ground level in late winter or early spring, before new growth starts. -Install bee posts.
Pond	-Re-line pond so that it holds water again. -Introduce appropriate aquatic and marginal plants.
Play Area	-Regular safety inspections of play equipment and fencing should include a check for harmful plants. -Grass should only be mown as often as necessary to allow low-growing plants such as Common Daisy (*Bellis perennis)* to flower.

Part Five - References

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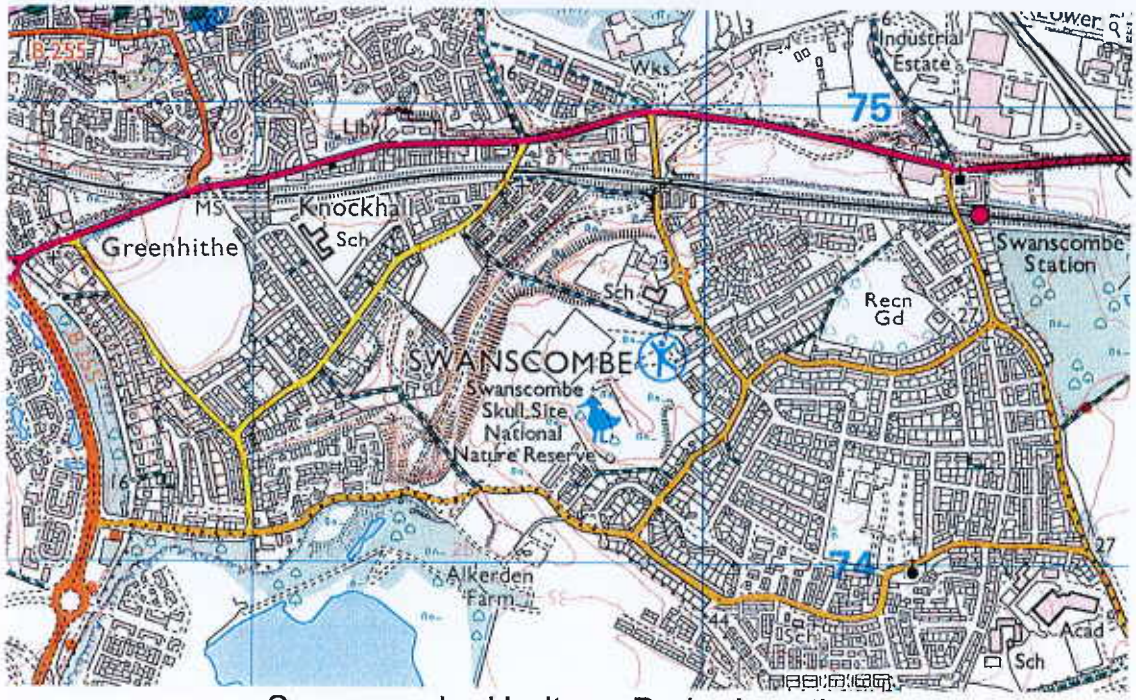
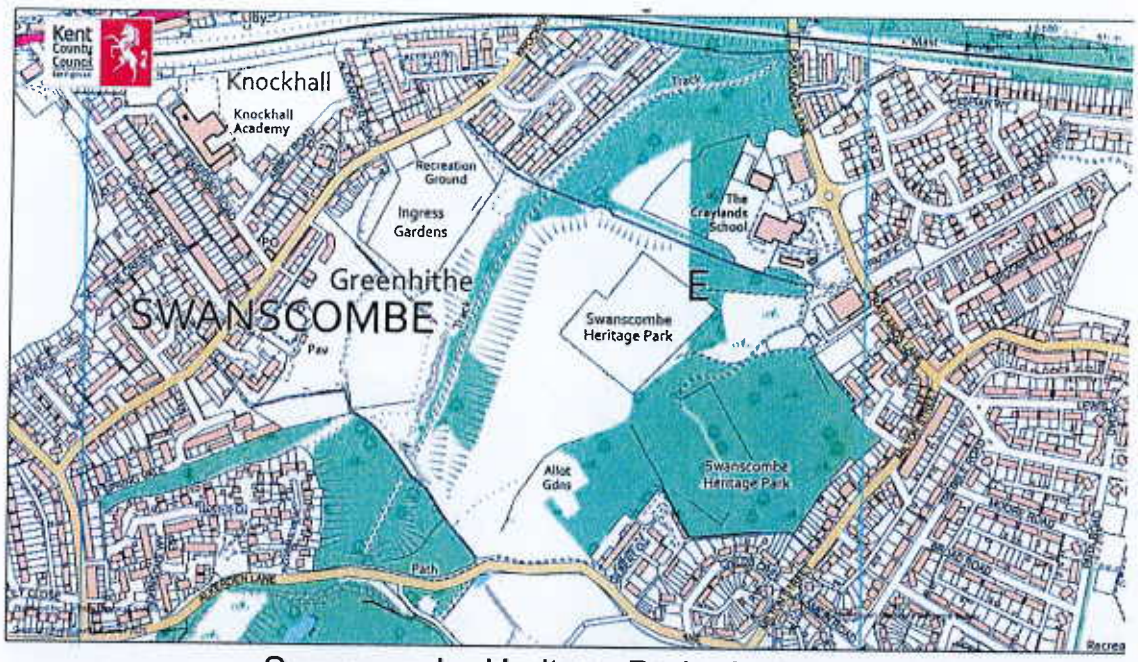
Appendix a
Maps

Swanscombe Heritage Park - Location



Swanscombe Heritage Park - Location

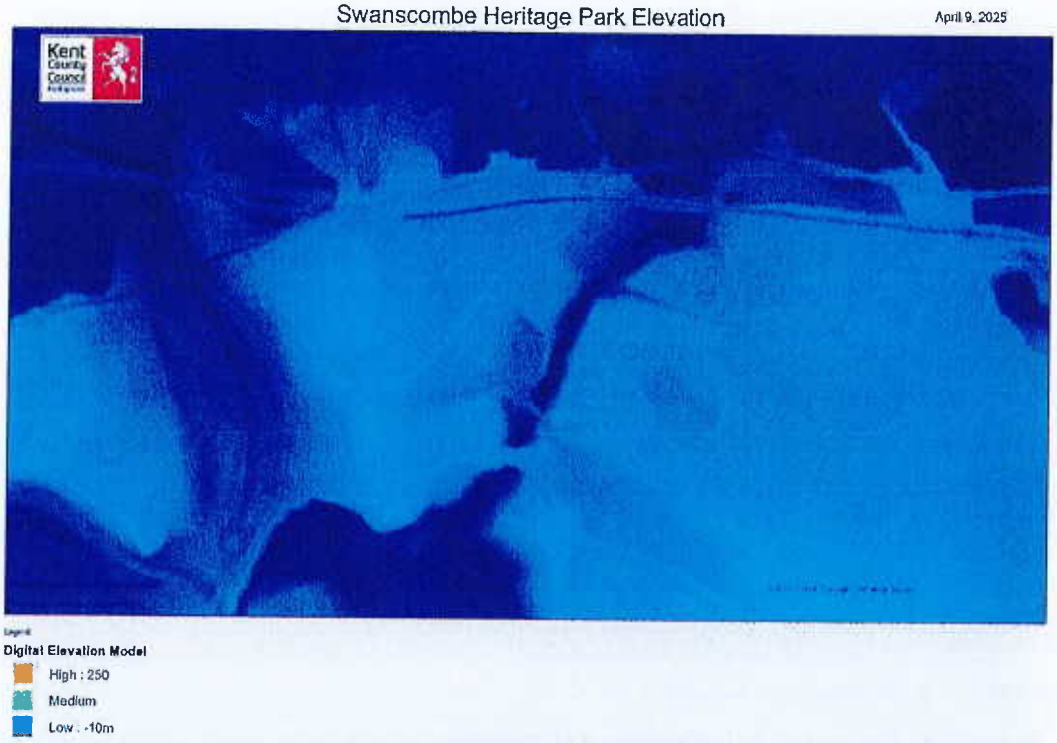


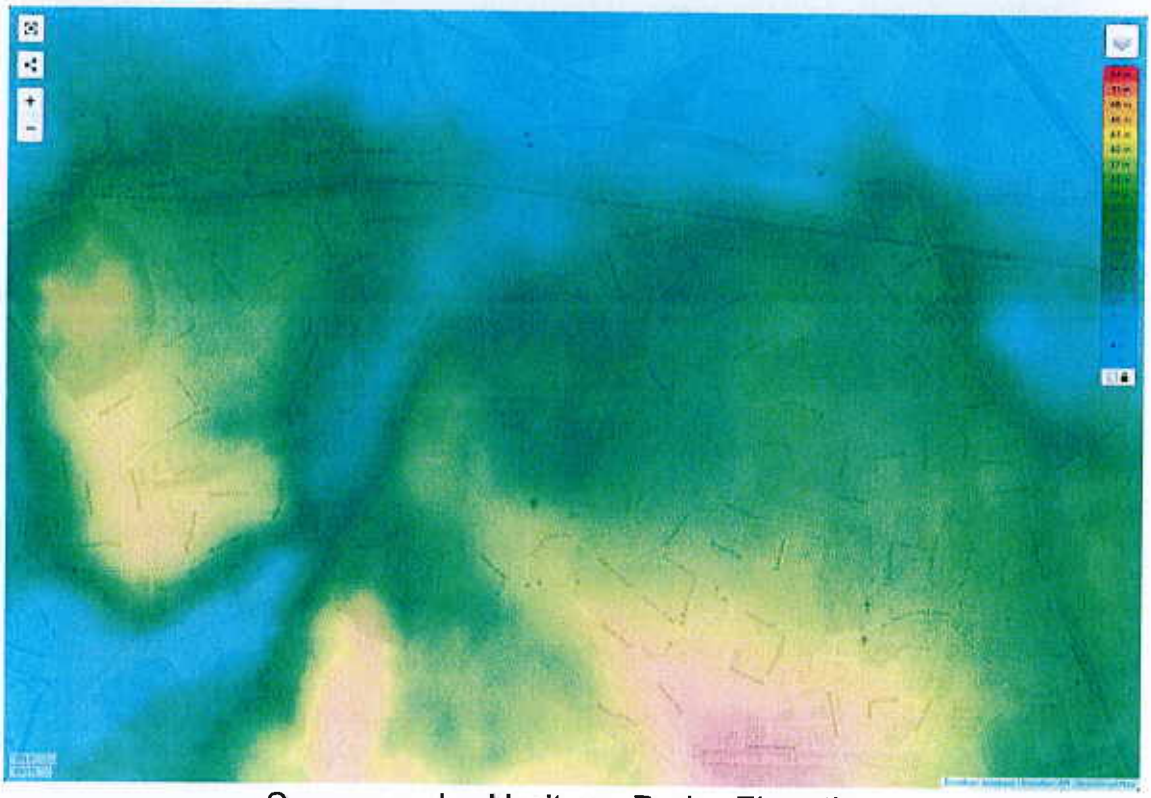
Swanscombe Heritage Park - Location

Swanscombe Heritage Park- Site Boundary

Swanscombe Heritage Park Elevation

April 9, 2025

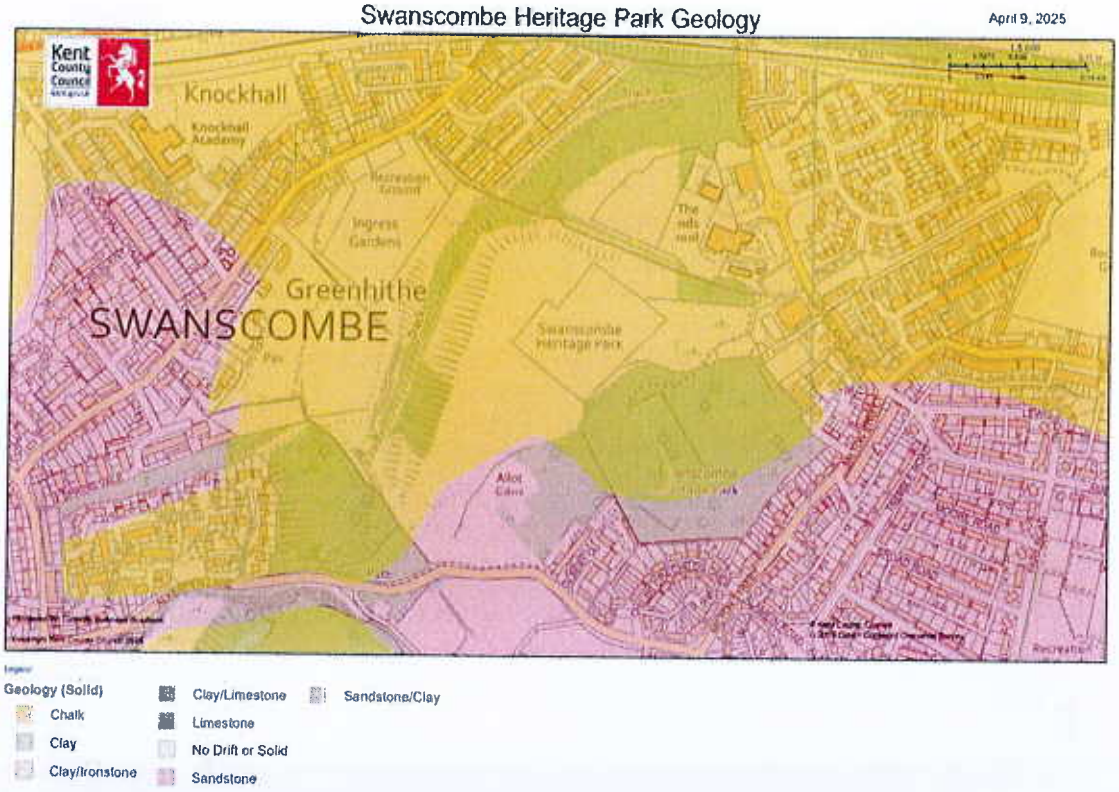




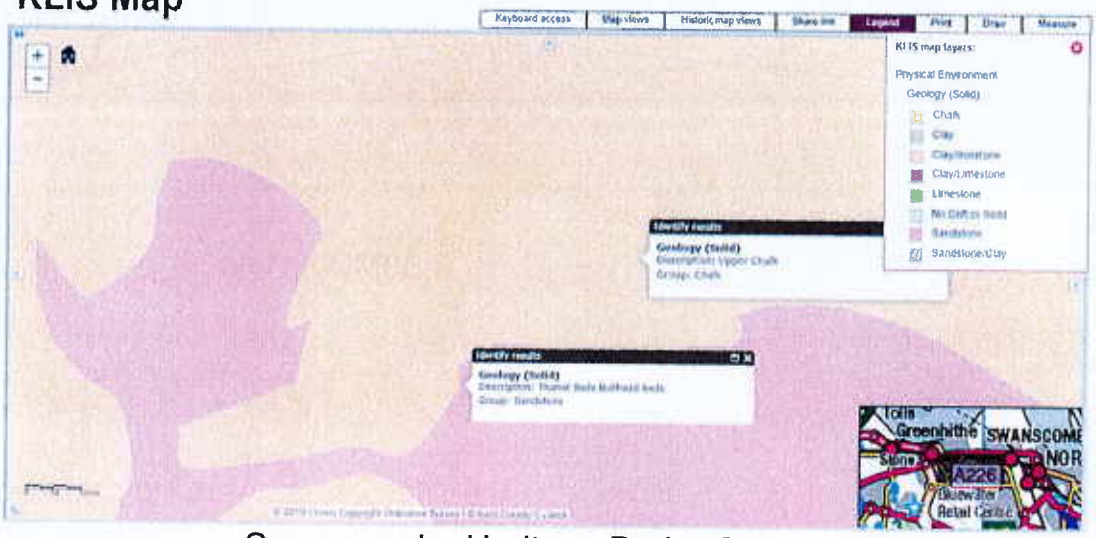
Swanscombe Heritage Park - Elevation

Swanscombe Heritage Park Geology

April 9, 2025



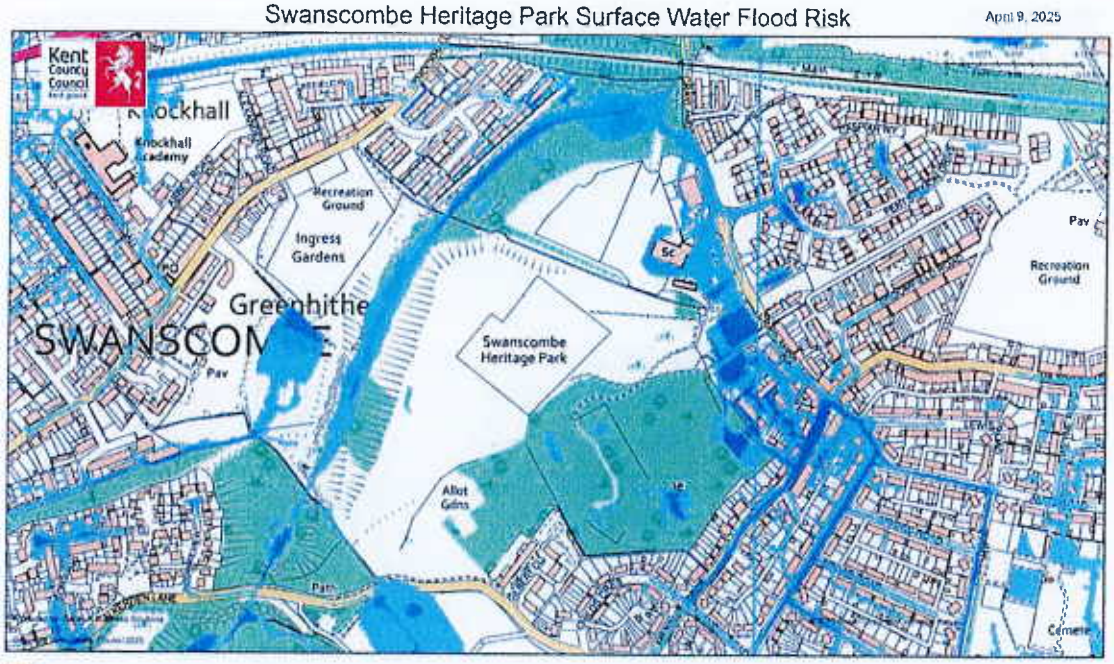
KLIS Map



Swanscombe Heritage Park - Geology

Swanscombe Heritage Park Surface Water Flood Risk

April 9, 2025

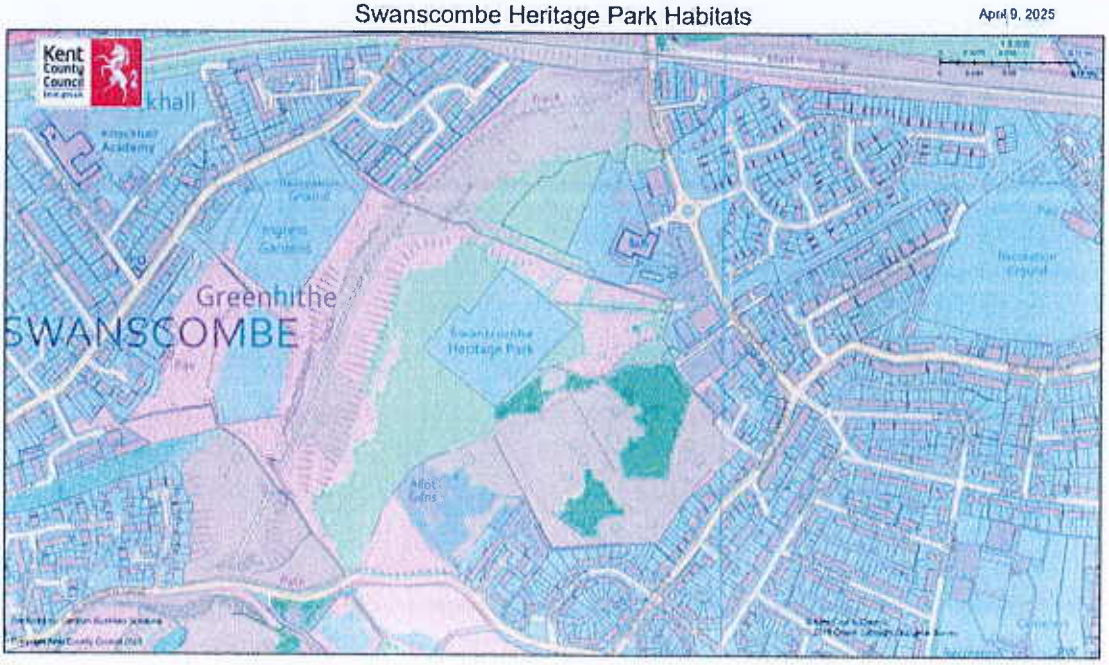


Env Agency Surface Flooding

- Low
- Medium
- High

Swanscombe Heritage Park Habitats

April 9, 2025



Kent Habitat Survey 2012

- Acid grassland
- Arable and horticulture
- Boundary and linear features
- Bracken
- Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland
- Built-up areas
- Calcareous grassland
- Coniferous woodland
- European dry heaths
- Fen, marsh and swamp
- Improved grassland
- Inland rock/Quarry
- Littoral Rock
- Littoral Sediment
- Maritime grassland
- Neutral grassland
- Rivers and streams
- Standing open water and canals
- Supralittoral Rock
- Supralittoral Sediment
- Traditional orchard
- Unknown terrestrial vegetation

Swanscombe Heritage Park- onsite map

Appendix b
SSSI restrictions

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Swanscombe Skull Site, Kent

OLD1003665

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
12	The introduction of tree or woodland management.
20	Extraction of minerals, including sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, and spoil.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials on, or against pit faces, or on pit floor.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24	Modification of natural or man-made features, clearance of loose rock, scree or spoil and battering, buttressing, grading or seeding rock-faces, outcrops or cuttings, infilling of pits and quarries.
25	Removal of geological specimens, including rock samples, minerals and fossils.
26	Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27	Recreational activities including motor-cycle scrambling, likely to damage pit faces.

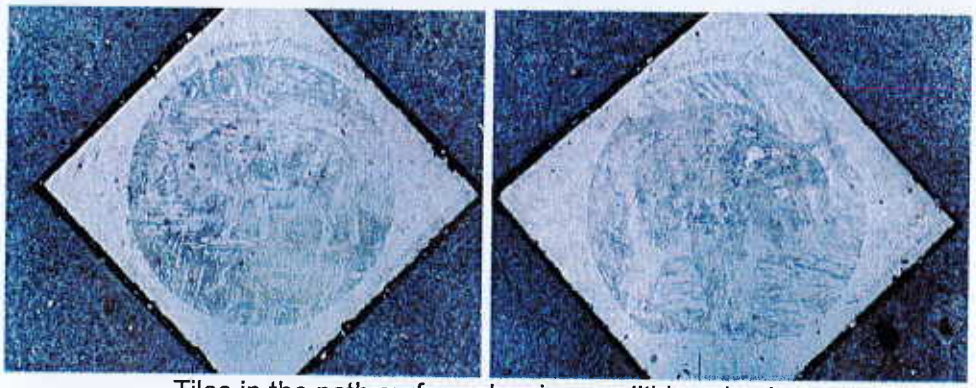
Appendix c
Species List

Trees & Shrubs	
Common name	**Scientific name**
Apple (Cultivated)	Malus domestica
Aspen	Populus tremula
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa
Cherry (Wild)	Prunus avium
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
Ivy	Hedera helix
Oak (Pedunculate)	Quercus robur
Privet (Wild)	Ligustrum vulgare
Rose	Rosa Sp.
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia
Flowering plants	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Agrimony	Agrimonia eupatoria
Bindweed (Field)	Convolvulus arvensis
Bindweed (Great)	Calystegia silvatica
Black Horehound	Ballota nigra
Blackberry (Bramble)	Rubus fruitcosus
Blackberry (Giant)	Rubus armeniacus
Bristly Oxtongue	Helminthotheca echioides
Catsear (Common)	Hypochaeris radicata
Cleavers (Common)	Galium aparine
Clover (Haresfoot)	Trifolium arvense
Clover (Red)	Trifolium pratense
Cranesbill (Dovesfoot)	Geranium molle
Creeping Cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans
Dandelion	Taraxacum sp.
Deadnettle (White)	Lamium album
Dock (Broad-leaved)	Rumex obtusifolius
Dock (Curled)	Rumex crispus
Fennel	Foeniculum vulgare
Hawkbit (Autumn)	Leontodon autumnalis
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum
Hoary cress	Lepidium draba
Hogweed (Common)	Heracleum sphondylium
Horseradish	Armoracia rusticana
Knapweed (Black)	Centaurea nigra
Lettuce (Prickly)	Lactuca serriola
Lucerne	Medicago sativa

Mallow (Common)	Malva sylvestris
Marjoram (Wild)	Origanum vulgare
Mugwort	Artemisia vulgaris
Mustard (Hedge)	Sisymbrium officinale
Parsnip (Wild)	Pastinaca sativa
Plantain (Greater)	Plantago major
Plantain (Ribwort)	Plantago lanceolata
Plantain (Stagshorn)	Plantago coronopus
Ragwort (Common)	Jacobaea vulgaris
Red Bartsia	Odontites vernus
Restharrow (common)	Ononis repens
Sheep`s Sorrel	Rumex acetosella
St. John's wort (Perforate)	Hypericum perforatum
Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica
Storksbill (Common)	Erodium cicutarium
Thistle (Creeping)	Cirsium arvense
Thistle (Marsh)	Cirsium palustre
Trefoil (Birdsfoot)	Lotus corniculatus
Vetch species	Vicia sp.
Wild Carrot	Daucus carota
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium

Appendix d
Interpretation

The hard surfaced path forms an accessible heritage trail with various interpretation materials about the neolithic history and geology of the site.



Tiles in the path surface showing neolithic animals.

Information etched into panels mounted in large granite blocks.

Large neolithic hand axe sculpture at the main entrance to the site.

A series of metal panels represents the layers of geology on the site and the depth at which the Swanscombe Skull was discovered.

New site map and information panel at the main entrance (2025).

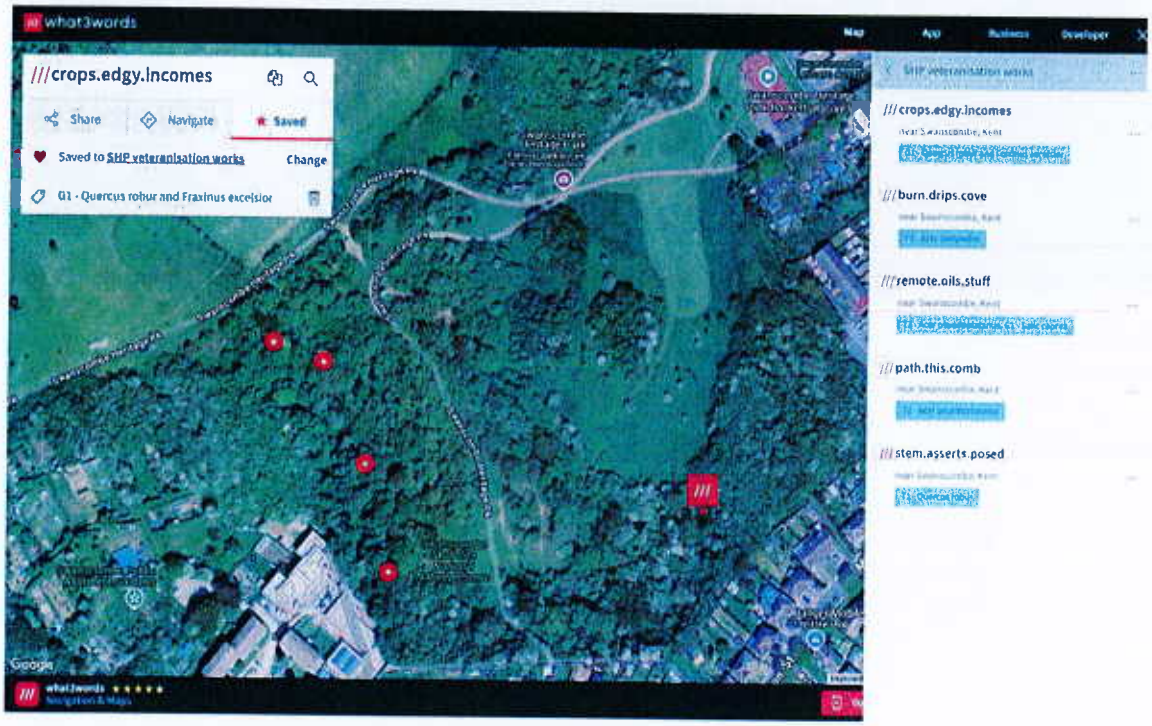
New information panel about archaeology and wildlife at the main entrance (2025).

New information panel in the meadow (2025)

Appendix e
Veteranisation records

Each tree is marked with a number on the trunk, so the development of veteran features can be monitored.

T1 - Quercus robur - ///stem.asserts.posed - bat roost in stem at 6m on north side
T2 - Acer psuedoplatanus - ///path.this.comb - bat roost in stem at 6m on north side
T3 - Acer psuedoplatanus - ///remote.oils.stuff -several bat roosts in rotating columnar fashion in stem from ground level to 6m on north side
G1 - Salic caprea - ///remote.oils.stuff - pull remaining stems to imitate current failure leaving all stems attached creating fractures
T1 - Acer campastre - ///burn.drips.cove - ring bark all species within 3m of main stem - monolith at 6m to create potential tight re growth and provide smaller bird nesting sites.
G1 - Quercus robur and Fraxinus excelsior - ///crops.edgy.incomes - cut bat roost in stem at 6m on north side - coronet cuts on one or more apical leading stems - ring bark several stems in varying angles to create stag heads and dead wood



Appendix f
Photos

Stag Beetle Henge, March 2024

Stag Beetle Henge, June 2025

Hibernaculum mound, November 2023

Hibernaculum mound, June 2025

SHP wildlife pond May 2024

SHP wildlife pond March 2025

Bird nesting boxes

bat box

Heritage trail and play area

Appendix g
Site Plan (management zones)

Woodland and scrub
Meadow
Picnic Area
Skull Site
Scrub/grassland
Orchid bank
Pond
Play Area
Site Boundary

Appendix h

Recommended Work Schedules

2025												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Re-line pond									■	■	■	■
Meadow cut & collect compartment A										■	■	
Picnic area margins cut & collect										■	■	
Picnic area Mow as needed				■	■	■	■	■	■			
Meadow Mow paths as needed					■	■	■	■				
Orchid bank- Cut & collect			■							■		
Scrub/grassland- Cut grass in compartment C (do not remove arisings)									■	■		

2026												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pond- Introduce aquatic & marginal plants												
Meadow - cut & collect compartment B												
Meadow- scarify and sow wildflower seed												
Picnic area margins- cut & collect												
Picnic area- Mow as needed												
Picnic area- Cut scalloped edges into bramble patch.												
Meadow Mow paths as needed												
Orchid bank- Cut & collect												
Mounds- Control vegetation on south facing banks												
Skull site- Scrub control												
Scrub/grassland- coppice scrub in compartment C												
Scrub/grassland-Cut grass in compartment D (do not remove arisings)												

	2027											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Meadow cut & collect compartment A												
Meadow- Yellow Rattle Plugs												
Picnic area margins cut & collect												
Picnic area- Maintain scallops in bramble edge												
Meadow Mow paths as needed												
Picnic area Mow as needed												
Picnic area Install solitary bee homes												
Orchid bank- Cut & collect												
Woodland & scrub cut scallops into edges												
Skull site- Scrub control												
Scrub/grassland- coppice scrub in compartment D												
Scrub/grassland- Cut grass in compartment E (do not remove arisings)												

2028												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Meadow cut & collect compartment B												
Meadow Mow paths as needed												
Picnic area margins cut & collect												
Picnic area- Maintain scallops in bramble edge												
Picnic area Mow as needed												
Orchid bank- Cut & collect												
Orchid Bank- Install bee posts												
Mounds- Control vegetation on south facing banks												
Skull site- Scrub control												
Scrub/grassland- coppice scrub in compartment E												
Scrub/grassland- Cut grass in compartment F (do not remove arisings)												

2029												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Meadow cut & collect compartment A												
Meadow Mow paths as needed												
Picnic area- Add wildflower plugs												
Picnic area margins cut & collect												
Picnic area- Maintain scallops in bramble edge												
Picnic area Mow as needed												
Orchid bank- Cut & collect												
Woodland & scrub cut scallops into edges												
Skull site- Scrub control												
Scrub/grassland- coppice scrub in compartment F												
Scrub/grassland- cut grass in compartment C (do not remove arisings)												

Appendix i
Resources for further information

Scrub management:
https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/farming-advice/scrub-management-advisory-sheet-england_tcm9-207551-2.pdf

Yellow Rattle:
Understanding Yellow Rattle: Nature's Grass Control for a Thriving Mea – Meadowmania UK

Non-native invasive species:
http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm

Protected species:
https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/uk-wildlife-law

Oak Processionary Moth:
https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/oak-processionary-moth-thaumetopoea-processionea/

Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981)
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents

Ivy Bees:
https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/learn-about-bumblebees/solitarybees/ivy-bee/