

*Please ask for:*

**Vicki Stone**

*Direct dial:*

**(023) 9254 5651**

*Fax:*

**(023) 9254 5587**

*E-mail:*

**Vicki.stone@gosport.gov.uk**

**4 September 2015**

## **S U M M O N S**

**MEETING:** Community Board  
**DATE:** 14 September 2015  
**TIME:** 6.00 pm  
**PLACE:** Council Chamber, Town Hall, Gosport  
**Democratic Services contact:** Vicki Stone

LINDA EDWARDS  
BOROUGH SOLICITOR

---

### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Mayor (Councillor Farr) (ex officio)  
Chairman of P&O Board (Councillor Hook) (ex officio)

Councillor Burgess (Chairman)  
Councillor Dickson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Bateman	Councillor Hylands
Councillor Edgar	Councillor Mrs Morgan
Councillor Foster-Reed	Councillor Murphy
Councillor Hazel	Councillor Mrs Searle
Councillor Mrs Hook	Councillor Wright

### **FIRE PRECAUTIONS**

(To be read by the Mayor if members of the public are present)

**In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the room immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

**NOTE:**

- i. Councillors are requested to note that, if any Councillor who is not a Member of the Board wishes to speak at the Board meeting, then the Borough Solicitor is required to receive not less than 24 hours prior notice in writing or electronically and such notice shall indicate the agenda item or items on which the member wishes to speak.
- ii. Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or on silent for the duration of the meeting.
- iii. This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.

**AGENDA**

**PART A ITEMS**

1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

*All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.*

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD  
HELD ON 22 JUNE 2015

4. DEPUTATIONS – STANDING ORDER 3.5

*(NOTE: The Board is required to receive a deputation(s) on a matter which is before the meeting of the Board provided that notice of the intended deputation and its object shall have been received by the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The total time for deputations in favour and against a proposal shall not exceed 10 minutes).*

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 3.6

*(NOTE: The Board is required to allow a total of 15 minutes for questions from Members of the public on matters within the terms of reference of the Board provided that notice of such Question(s) shall have been submitted to the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015).*

6. ALVER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

*To advise members of progress regarding a number of projects within the Alver Valley Country Park and seek approval of various proposals and actions. These proposals are included in the Council's Alver Valley Country Park Strategy approved in April 2014 with other projects identified in that document to be progressed at a later date.*

**Part II**  
Ian Lycett

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Which the Chairman determines should be considered, by reason of special circumstances, as a matter of urgency.*

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 22 JUNE 2015 AT 6PM**

The Mayor (Councillor Farr) (ex-officio) (P), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (P), Bateman (P), Burgess (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Foster-Reed (P), Hazel (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hylands (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Searle (P), Wright (P)

**7. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**8. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015 AND 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2015**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings of the Community Board held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

**9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- Councillor Hylands declared a personal interest in respect of item 6, Environmental Health (Commercial) Service Plan 2015/2016.

**10. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

**11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**12. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (COMMERCIAL) SERVICE PLAN 2015/2016**

**Councillor Hylands declared a personal interest in this item he remained in the meeting room and took part in the discussion and voting thereon.**

Consideration was given to a report by the Housing Services Manager which advised Members of the requirement of the Food Standards Agency and the Health and Safety Executive respectively and that the work undertaken in the fields of Food Safety and Health and Safety at work by and on behalf of the Council were adequately resourced and formally endorsed by the Council.

The report identified the work programme of the Environmental Health (Commercial) Team for the year 2015/2016 in relation to these services, to meet the above requirements and to satisfy agencies that adequate arrangements were in place at Gosport Borough Council.

A Member queried whether the Council had enough resources to fulfil their statutory requirements due to resource and staff reductions. It was explained that joint working with Fareham Borough Council meant that the partnership was working successfully in delivering quality of service.

In answer to a Member's question in relation to no sampling being planned in August and December 2015 it was advised that this was mainly due to busy periods in the Laboratory and staffing resources. The Head of Environmental Health confirmed that if sampling was required in these months, this would be carried out.

Following a Member's question in relation to how many food complaints had been received in comparison to last year, it was suggested that an email be circulated to Members with this information.

A Member sought clarification on premises that were repeat offenders of poor food hygiene scores and the Head of Environmental Health advised that although food outlets had been encouraged to display certificates and stickers showing food hygiene ratings there was currently no control under national legislation and no requirement for food businesses to display poor performance where consumers could easily view them. It was reported that food business ratings were published online.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Board approve:

- a) the Food Safety Service Plan 2015/16 as set out at Appendix A; and
- b) the Health and Safety Service Plan 2015/16 set out at Appendix B of the report.

### **13. PROJECT INTEGRA CONSTITUTION AND DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2015-2018**

Consideration was given to a report from the Chief Executive seeking approval for the adoption of the amended Project Integra Constitution and the Project Integra Draft Action Plan 2015-2018.

Members were advised that to implement the requirements of Hampshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) a draft action plan was prepared annually by Project Integra (PI) Strategy Officers and presented for agreement to the Project Integra Strategic Board (PISB), once approved by the PISB, the action plan would then be presented for approval by each authority.

It was reported that the Project Integra Constitution was proposed to be amended to allow for a draft action plan to be approved by the PISB and individual partner authorities only once in three years. Progress reports were still to be delivered annually, with amendments permitted to the Plan during the three year period.

A Member sought clarification to the withdrawal of a number of partner authorities from the Recycle for Hampshire promotional activities and it was advised that this had been due to budget issues.

A Member raised concerns with the proposed fines being implemented if recycling targets were not met and it was advised that Gosport continued to be stable and it was envisioned that targets would be successfully met. It was further reported that investigations were continuing for the introduction of a glass recycling collection service.

A Member raised concerns in relation to neighbouring Authorities not contributing to School Education and it was clarified by the Head of Streetscene that it was decided by each authority individually as to whether they wished to contribute.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Board approve the amendment to the Project Integra Constitution and the adoption of the Project Integra Draft Action Plan 2015/2018.

### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

### **15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

#### **16. TV AERIAL LEASE & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION/RENEWAL**

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Housing Services Manager to seek approval for the extension of an existing lease agreement incorporating reactive and planned maintenance to the Communal TV Aerial Installations serving approximately 1300 Council properties (including leasehold)

**RESOLVED:** That the Board:

- a) extend the existing contract for a period of four years, incorporating the raised terms set out in the report; and
- b) under Paragraph 3.1 of the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules, waive the requirements as set out in the Contract Procedure Rules Part 4, Schedule 13, Section 3, (8.1.1).

#### **17. CCTV MONITORING CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Chief Executive to advise to the Community Board of the procurement process outcomes for the CCTV Monitoring Contract.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board recommend to:

- a) accept the tender of Enigma Security Solutions Ltd for the CCTV Monitoring Contract; and
- b) approve the Borough Solicitor entering into a legal agreement with Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to meet their share of the costs of the contract.

The Meeting concluded at 6.22pm

CHAIRMAN

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 06

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	COMMUNITY BOARD
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 SEPTEMBER 2015
<b>Title:</b>	ALVER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK
<b>Author:</b>	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
<b>Status:</b>	FOR DECISION

### **Purpose**

To advise members of progress regarding a number of projects within the Alver Valley Country Park and seek approval of various proposals and actions. These proposals are included in the Council's Alver Valley Country Park Strategy approved in April 2014 with other projects identified in that document to be progressed at a later date.

### **Recommendation**

1. That the Board agrees the preferred Concept Plan for the Western Gateway (as set out in Appendix A) and notes that a planning application will be submitted with full details of the car park and access, and illustrative details of the other elements of the Gateway;
2. That the Board notes that a full planning application will be submitted for an extended car park and associated works at the Eastern Gateway;
3. That the Board agrees developer contributions secured for the Alver Valley and play areas will be used, with other secured funding, to provide the relevant facilities at the Western Gateway (play areas, toilets, landscaping) and Eastern Gateway (car parking and associated works);
4. That the car park management measures outlined in Paragraph 2.8 of this Report are agreed;
5. That the Board agrees the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park for public consultation purposes (see Appendix B);
6. That the Board agrees the Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy (Appendix C) for public consultation purposes;
7. That the Board adopts the Signage and Interpretation Strategy for the Alver Valley Country Park (see Appendix D);
8. That the Board notes other project updates contained within this Report.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Community Board considered a report on the Alver Valley Country Park on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The Board approved the Alver Valley Country Park Strategy and a number of actions designed to raise the profile of the Country Park. Subsequently a report to the Community Board on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 set out a number of updates to various projects.
- 1.2 The provision of a Country Park in the Alver Valley has been established in the emerging Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 and has been identified by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire as a green open space of sub-regional importance.
- 1.3 The Council has now received £205,000 from the Solent LEP for developing car parks and access improvements at key entry points to the Country Park known as the Eastern and Western Gateways which are detailed later in this Report. A key focus for obtaining this funding is to assist in deflecting recreation pressure generated by new residential development in the South Hampshire area from sensitive internationally protected habitats. Consequently the bid relating to the Alver Valley concentrated on improving access provision, in particular improving car parking arrangements.

## **2 Report**

### Western Gateway

- 2.1 The Alver Valley Country Park Strategy recognises the need to improve the gateways to the Country Park and the first of these to be identified for improvement is the entrance from Cheque Way (off the roundabout) known as the Western Gateway.
- 2.2 The key objectives for the Western Gateway are to:
  - provide an attractive and welcoming new visitor-focussed main entry area to the Alver Valley Country Park;
  - provide sufficient and safe car parking facilities to encourage usage from visitors within the Borough and elsewhere in the sub-region;
  - provide a range of facilities to a wider cross-section of residents than currently use the park including families and children, young adults and elderly residents. This includes the provision of:
    - An extensive high quality play area suitable for a range of age groups;
    - Picnic and seating areas;
    - Amenity grassland for informal recreation for uses such as kickabout, frisbee etc.



- provide facilities that meet the needs of visitors including toilet facilities, visitor information and interpretation, with the potential for a concession for food and drink facilities in the future.
  - ensure that all the proposals are well-designed, durable and appropriate for their setting.
- 2.3 In 2012, the Council obtained planning permission for a 45 space car park. This proposal is now being revised, albeit with the same number of spaces, to be designed as part of a comprehensive gateway including a major play area, amenity space and toilets. A concept plan of the Western Gateway is contained in Appendix A and identifies these elements.
- 2.4 Key features of the concept plan are:
- 45 space pay and display car park;
  - major play area incorporating a main and younger children's play area with a range of exciting, attractive and appropriately challenging equipment to suit all age groups from toddler upwards;
  - a natural landscaping scheme with picnic area;
  - toilet facilities;
  - amenity space for general kickabout and other informal recreation.
- 2.5 It is considered particularly important to design a major play area at the Western Gateway which suits the landscaping setting in order to encourage more families to the Country Park. The play area would therefore act as a way of encouraging repeat visits and provide a starting point for families who may wish to explore the wider Country Park.
- 2.6 Once the concept plan is approved it is intended to submit a planning application with full details for the car park and access; and illustrative details for the other aspects of the scheme (play area, toilets, wider landscaping).
- 2.7 Once the car park has received planning permission it is envisaged that the car park will be completed in January/February 2016 with other elements of the Western Gateway completed later in the summer.
- 2.8 The car parks will be included in the Council's car park order with the day to day management being undertaken by Streetscene. The charges will be the same as the Borough's seafront car parks. Provision will also be made for an annual Alver Valley Country Park permit which will be at the same price as the Seafront Car Park Permit. The charging hours will be between 10:00 to 18:00 (the same as the Seafront Car Parks) which will encourage dog walkers to continue to exercise their dogs in the mornings and

evenings. This will also help to encourage dog walkers to use the Alver Valley Country Park rather than the beach areas thus reducing the impact on the Solent Special Protection Area

### Eastern Gateway

- 2.9 The Alver Valley Country Park Strategy also makes provision for an improved visitor entrance off Grange Road utilising the existing car park adjacent the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC). Proposals include:
- significant environmental improvements to the quality and landscaping of the existing car park to make it more inviting and welcoming to visitors;
  - extension to the current car park (approximately 50 spaces) to 100 spaces to cater for increased visits from Gosport residents including those using the BMX track;
  - new landscaped cycle and pedestrian link from Grange Road to the Country Park;
  - the potential extension of the BMX track to ensure that it remains a track of national significance;
  - extension of the existing play area with a pump cycle track aimed at younger children;
  - improved landscaping and a picnic area; and
  - closure of the existing small car park on Grange Road for public use with the Council retaining controlled access to this site.
- 2.10 It is envisaged that the proposals for the Eastern Gateway will be subject to two separate planning applications and the work completed in several phases.
- 2.11 Firstly the car park, associated landscaping and pedestrian/cycle access route would be subject to a planning application to be submitted in September with work beginning early in 2016, to take full advantage of the Solent LEP funding, which needs to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The car park itself needs to be completed by June 2016.
- 2.12 The remaining features primarily the BMX track extension and extended play area with pump track will be subject to a separate application and these proposals will need to be designed and presented to a future Board meeting.
- 2.13 The BMX Club have ambitions to extend and improve the track in order that it can maintain its status as a nationally important track venue. The Club is seeking various external funding sources and the Council will assist with this process and to ensure that the existing extensive public access arrangements to the track are maintained.

- 2.14 The potential for an extended play area will need to be funded from developer contributions or the capital programme and will provide a wider range of challenging equipment as well as provision for younger children. This includes a pump track which in this case will be a mini BMX track with features geared towards younger children.

Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park

- 2.15 The Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park (see Appendix B) is one of the management documents which link to the overarching Alver Valley Country Park Strategy adopted by the Council in April 2014.
- 2.16 The purpose of the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs is to provide a comprehensive policy position for the management of dogs in the Alver Valley so that users of the Country Park are aware of the Council's policy and approach.
- 2.17 It is proposed that the document will be subject to public consultation for a six week period. Comments and issues arising from the consultation will be reported to this Board as well as any amendments to be agreed. Once adopted the document will be used for management purposes.
- 2.18 The key messages of the Strategy and Management Plan are:
- Dogs are very welcome in the Country Park and responsible owners are very much encouraged to come and visit and enjoy the varied landscape and numerous walks.
  - The Council wishes to encourage more dog walkers to the Country Park and wants to provide a range of additional facilities for dog walkers and their dogs to enjoy.
  - The Council's ambition for the Country Park is that it can be enjoyed by a wide variety of users of all ages with a range of abilities and needs.
  - In order to encourage more dog walkers and at the same time encourage other users to the Country Park it is necessary to provide a degree of management in common with most other successful country parks.
  - It is hoped that access management in the Country Park including that of dogs can be based on a common-sense approach and be supported by all users of the Country Park.

2.19 The Strategy includes the following elements:

- Measures to encourage dog walkers and their dog:
  - Dog-specific facilities
  - General facilities where dogs are welcomed
- Dog management measures and their implementation:
  - Access management and control
  - Dog fouling
  - Staffing: Maintenance, enforcement
  - Information dissemination, education and awareness

2.20 The measures to encourage dog walkers and their dogs are either geared towards dog walkers specifically (dog dips, dog watering facilities) or the general public which would also benefit dog walkers (improved routes and car parking).

2.21 The access management section summaries the existing measures available for the Council to deal with particular anti-social behaviour involving dogs and how the Council wishes to take a common-sense approach to manage access for dogs at particular times of the years.

2.22 This includes introducing access zones used in numerous other country parks based on a simple traffic light system: with green areas representing dogs welcome off-lead; amber areas representing that dogs are welcome on-leads; and red areas where dogs are not permitted. Such areas will be denoted by small coloured plaques appropriate to a country park setting and will be supported by a user-friendly leaflet and other material where appropriate. Such measures will assist Countryside Rangers and Streetscene Officers when advising visitors of the code of conduct and enforcement.

2.23 The red areas will be limited to areas where there is a need to restrict dogs such as the Wildgrounds and play areas.

2.24 In order to enhance biodiversity in the Alver Valley Country Park the Council is proposing to take a more pro-active approach of restricting dogs off-lead during the nesting season (normally between March and August). In such areas dog owners will be required to keep their dogs on-leads in order not to disturb ground nesting birds such as the Alver Valley's skylark population, which are protected by law. This is one of a number of key species in the Council's agreement with Natural England under the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Scheme for which the Council receives funding to manage areas of the Alver Valley for the benefit of nature, one of the features of the Country Park. This would include areas such as Junckett Hill and Sandhill on the western side of the Country Park. These restrictions are therefore seasonal and would revert back to

unrestricted dog access areas (green) for the rest of the year.

- 2.25 It is also proposed that through the year selected areas of the Alver Valley Country Park will be grazed by a small number of livestock for wildlife management purposes (as part of the HLS scheme). On such occasions the zoned area will be denoted 'amber- please keep dogs on a lead' or red in the case of Hilbury Meadow. Further details of the Grazing Strategy are set out later in this report.
- 2.26 Where breaches of the Council's code of conduct on access take place Council officers will remind visitors in a polite friendly manner of the Council's management measures. This would include explaining the Council's dog strategy leaflet.
- 2.27 However where necessary the Council needs to be able to use stronger measures to prevent breaches which are potentially affecting the enjoyment of other visitors or even their safety, as well as having a detrimental impact on important nature conservation interests in the Country Park. Examples could include:
- Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead in an amber zone or when directed to do so by an authorised officer;
  - Permitting a dog to enter land where dogs are excluded (red zone); and
  - Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. The Council already has a dog control order in place which restricts the number of dogs that can be taken on public land in the Borough by a person to six dogs.
- 2.28 The Council officers will have regard to the Council's Generic Enforcement Policy when deciding what, if any, enforcement is necessary and proportionate. There are three key measures that the Council can use to take stronger action against breaches in appropriate cases. These are:
- the enforcement of byelaws;
  - the enforcement of dog control orders<sup>1</sup>;
  - the application and enforcement of other anti-social behaviour tools including Criminal Behaviour Orders and the issue of Community Protection Notices (CPN).
- 2.29 The Strategy and Management Plan sets out the existing relevant byelaws and dog control orders already in place that the Council can use to deal with particular breaches. The section also

---

<sup>1</sup> By virtue of Part 4 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Council is required to review by 2017 the Dog Control Orders and if appropriate adopt for a further 3 years with or without variation as Public Space Protection Orders.

highlights the need to monitor whether these measures remain effective and whether further enforcement is required.

- 2.30 The dog fouling section of the Strategy and Management Plan outlines the risks accompanied with dog fouling and similarly the current measures available to tackle dog-fouling breaches. It recognises that it can be very difficult to identify irresponsible owners and that on-going monitoring is required to identify particular trouble spots where enforcement resources can be focussed or whether there is a need for any additional dog bins. It recognises the role of educating the public through appropriate publicity and encourages responsible dog owners to report incidences of fouling by other dogs.
- 2.31 In the light of the above issues a key role for the Council is to disseminate information and increase education and awareness of these matters. Information regarding the dog facilities and activities in the Country Park as well as access arrangements and code of conduct issues will be included in a leaflet. This leaflet will be produced following the public consultation.
- 2.32 The leaflet will be useful to explain the Council's management policy in relation to dogs in the Country Park and can help support the work of Officers when discussing issues with visitors. Appropriately trained Council staff would provide the owner with a code of conduct leaflet and discuss the issue further where appropriate. As mentioned above it may be necessary to take enforcement action for breaches in relation to dog control and access matters. All dog fouling observed will be addressed by enforcement of the relevant dog control order and if appropriate the application and enforcement of an anti-social behaviour remedy.
- 2.33 It is envisaged that in due course an Alver Valley Country Park website will be created and include a dog walker friendly section which highlights the facilities in the Country Park. The site will include the latest details of the access arrangements.
- 2.34 More traditional methods such as posters and notices on noticeboards within the Country Park will also be used to disseminate information. The Council wants to communicate these measures effectively without excessive coverage.
- 2.35 Once the Country Park is fully operational it is intended that a number of campaigns/events will take place as part of the Alver Valley Country Park programme of events during the course of a year including those with a dog-focus.
- 2.36 In conclusion it is considered that the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs will encourage increased dog use in the Alver Valley whilst ensuring there is appropriate management so that all users

of the Country Park can enjoy it. The Council will base its approach on a common-sense code of conduct method accepting that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible and will work with the Borough Council to achieve its overall objectives for the Country Park. This Strategy is also clear that where necessary stronger measures will be enforced and that the effectiveness of these mechanisms and their enforcement will be monitored. The Council's approach is based on the premise that everyone should be entitled to enjoy the Country Park provided they comply with its Code of Conduct.

### Grazing Strategy

- 2.37 The Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy sets out an approach to establish grazing cattle within certain parts of the Alver Valley Country Park at certain times of the years. It is proposed to consult the public regarding the Strategy. Whilst there are numerous benefits as outlined in the Strategy there are also a number of issues relating to access and aesthetics (in terms of introducing fencing).
- 2.38 As mentioned previously the Council currently receives funding from Natural England through the Higher Level Stewardship Fund, for managing parts of the site for biodiversity purposes. The use of cattle in the Country Park would enhance the biodiversity features of the area as well as provide a potential attraction for visitors.
- 2.39 The use of cattle for nature conservation purposes is an established management technique and can create a species rich grassland habitat.
- 2.40 The Strategy outlines the financial, educational and in particular the ecological benefits of grazing and also highlights the potential issues arising from introducing new fenced areas, restrictions on allowing dogs off-lead when cattle are present, as well as particular land management issues.
- 2.41 It is proposed to undertake an education and awareness programme in relation to the roll-out of grazing on the site for people to understand the benefits of grazing for the Country Park. Further investigation is required regarding the most appropriate arrangements with graziers.
- 2.42 Importantly the Strategy has a focus on on-going monitoring. There will need to be an annual review to fully consider ecological management, public attitudes, incidences of dogs, management and health of cattle, and the arrangements with the grazer. This review and monitoring process together with an education and awareness programme will be critical to the overall success of the grazing in the Country Park.

## Signage and Interpretation Strategy

- 2.43 The Signage and Interpretation Strategy for the Alver Valley Country Park (Appendix D) links to the overarching Alver Valley Country Park Strategy adopted by the Council in April 2014.
- 2.44 This Strategy aims to set out the Council's approach to signage and interpretation in the Alver Valley Country Park with the following aims
- To provide consistent, complementary and clear signage and interpretation in the Country Park to improve the experience for visitors;
  - To ensure signage and interpretation remains relevant and as up-to-date as possible and is appropriately updated and maintained;
  - To avoid signage clutter, mixed messages and to ensure material that is no longer serving a useful function is removed.
- 2.45 It is considered that signage and other outdoor display material is an important element of the Country Park for a number of reasons including:
- They convey relevant information to the visitor both informative and instructive. They serve to educate visitors about their immediate environment and encourage visitors to explore and understand the Country Park's special qualities.
  - They advise visitors of what is expected of them in order that all visitors can enjoy the facilities and can be used to help to address any behaviour perceived as anti-social, nuisance or dangerous to other users.
  - They can help guide visitors around the Country Park.
  - The use of temporary notices will inform visitors of local events, guided walks and other seasonal points of interest.
  - They can contribute to the branding and image of the Country Park which can contribute towards repeat visits.
  - They provide a sense of customer care and an indication that the site is properly managed and cared for. Conversely poorly maintained signs can convey the opposite.
- 2.46 The Strategy sets out a typology of signs and other outdoor display material and provides some examples incorporating the new Alver Valley Country Park logo, which features a water vole, as voted for by the readers of the Council's Coastline Magazine. The designs are based on either: successful formats already included in the Country Park for example the orientation plans and interpretation boards (with updates where necessary); or successful formats used at other country parks in the area including the main Gateway signs used by Hampshire County Council for their country parks.



- 2.47 The Strategy sets out key details of how the signage and interpretation will be used. Importantly it requires other attractions in the Country Park such as the Grange Farm visitor facilities, the Seventeenth Century Village, the BMX Track and Fishing Lake to incorporate the Alver Valley Country Park in the branding of these facilities and details of how visitors can use the site or where appropriate become a member. It is important that this approach is taken as presently these facilities may not always appear to be part of the Country Park attraction.
- 2.48 The Strategy also sets out the importance of maintaining and updating signs and the removal of unsightly/damaged or out-of-date signs.
- 2.49 It also provides some guidance for the future Visitor Information Point at the Grange Farm Gateway as well as current plans for leaflets with some guidance on future leaflet designs.
- 2.50 The Strategy recognises the principle of the need to provide a dedicated Alver Valley Country Park webpage in the future as more facilities become available as well as the use of other digital media. It is recognised that further work outside of this Strategy will be required.

#### New path adjacent the River Alver

- 2.51 As identified in the previous Board Report (15th September 2014) the Council secured £50,000 from PUSH towards a new cycle/pedestrian route adjacent the eastern side of the River Alver between Apple Dumpling Bridge and Privett Road, together with surfacing improvements and the clearance of overgrown vegetation along the pedestrian route on the western side of the River Alver adjacent the Kingfisher Caravan Park. The total cost of the works was approximately £71,000 with additional funding from the Council's Capital Budget as part of the £28,000 agreed at the earlier Community Board (15/4/14). The remaining funds will be required for associated signage.
- 2.52 The path has now been completed and is a significant improvement creating an attractive path alongside the river, with visitors now being able to enjoy the view of the river and reedbeds at the southern end of the Country Park. The route itself also provides a clear and accessible route between the Country Park and Stokes Bay.
- 2.53 It is now proposed to brand a route between these two major recreational assets in the Borough as the 'Alver Way' with appropriately designed fingerposts together with a small entrance sign as identified in the Signage and Interpretation Strategy adjacent to Privett Road to mark a new welcoming entrance to the

## Country Park

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The funding for the Western Gateway Car Park, which is currently estimated to cost approximately £185,000, is partly from the Solent LEP Growth Fund (£135,000) as well as £50,000 from Hampshire County Council. The remaining Solent LEP funding will be used for the first phase of the Eastern Gateway Car Park.
- 3.2 Other elements of the Western Gateway scheme (landscaping, play area, paths and toilets) are estimated to cost up to £575,000 including approximately £220,000 on play equipment, £112,000 on a toilet block with the remainder on construction, hard and soft landscaping and associated costs. Part of the funding will be secured from developer contributions (approximately £340,000). As this is a strategic facility serving the whole Borough, it is therefore appropriate to use a number of children's play space funds from across the Borough. The remaining elements will need to be funded by the Council's Capital programme which currently identifies £162,000 for the Alver Valley Country Park of which £122,000 has been allocated to the Western Gateway (Community Board 15/9/14). Consequently an additional £113,000 is required which will need to be incorporated in the revised Capital Programme that will be submitted to Policy and Organisation Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.
- 3.3 The estimate for the Eastern Gateway Car Park and associated works is £200,000 but this is subject to change as the full details have yet to be designed. £70,000 has been secured from the remaining Solent LEP funding. The remaining £130,000 required for the car park and associated works will need to be incorporated in the revised Capital Programme. The BMX track improvements will be funded separately by funding secured by the BMX Club itself and costings for an extended play area and pump track will be included in a later report when more is known regarding the overall design proposals.
- 3.4 The Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs itself will have cost implications with regard to leaflets and signage. It may be necessary to review arrangements for enforcement within the Country Park as more areas and facilities are provided.
- 3.5 The implementation of the Signage and Interpretation Strategy will form part of any relevant capital project, while on-going maintenance will need to be considered as part of future revenue budgets for the Alver Valley.

### **4 Risk Assessment**

- 4.1 The Solent LEP funding from the Growth Fund bid of £205,000 is required to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The Solent LEP funds was part of a PUSH bid in which the Alver Valley and a separate HCC project were successful for year 1 funding amounting to a total of £590,000. The conditions of the funding were only made known in June 2015 which stipulate that the two car parks need be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 otherwise 15% of the total year 1 funding will be withheld. This represents £88,500 (i.e. 15% of the total £590,000). Consequently it is imperative that the delivery of the car parks are secured as soon as possible. Other aspects of each Gateway can utilise other funding which have less restrictive time constraints and/or funding which can be used more flexibly for other aspects of the Country Park rather than the specific car park and associated access works.
- 4.2 Risks associated with implementation will be minimised by normal contract procedures and requirements.
- 4.3 In relation to the implementation of the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs it is considered that this is necessary to reduce the risk of uncontrolled dog access and dog fouling within the Country Park through the enforcement of measures identified. An appropriate health and safety assessment will be required prior to the implementation of each proposal identified in the Grazing Strategy.
- 4.4 There are no known significant risk arising from the Signage and Interpretation Strategy.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 It is important that this Council continues to complete further infrastructure investments in the Alver Valley Country Park to encourage more visitors across a wide range of ages and abilities to enjoy different activities in the Country Park. These proposed facilities take advantage of external funding opportunities and the use of relevant developer contributions. These proposals are in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Alver Valley Country Park Strategy.
- 5.2 The strategies and management plans contained within this Report will form part of a comprehensive management plan for the Country Park. The implementation of the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in particular is considered an important element by providing a clear message regarding dog usage in the Alver Valley. Dog walking is strongly encouraged with recognition that certain controls are required so that the Country Park can be enjoyed by all visitors and that particular nature conservation interests are also protected. Consultation on the draft Strategy and

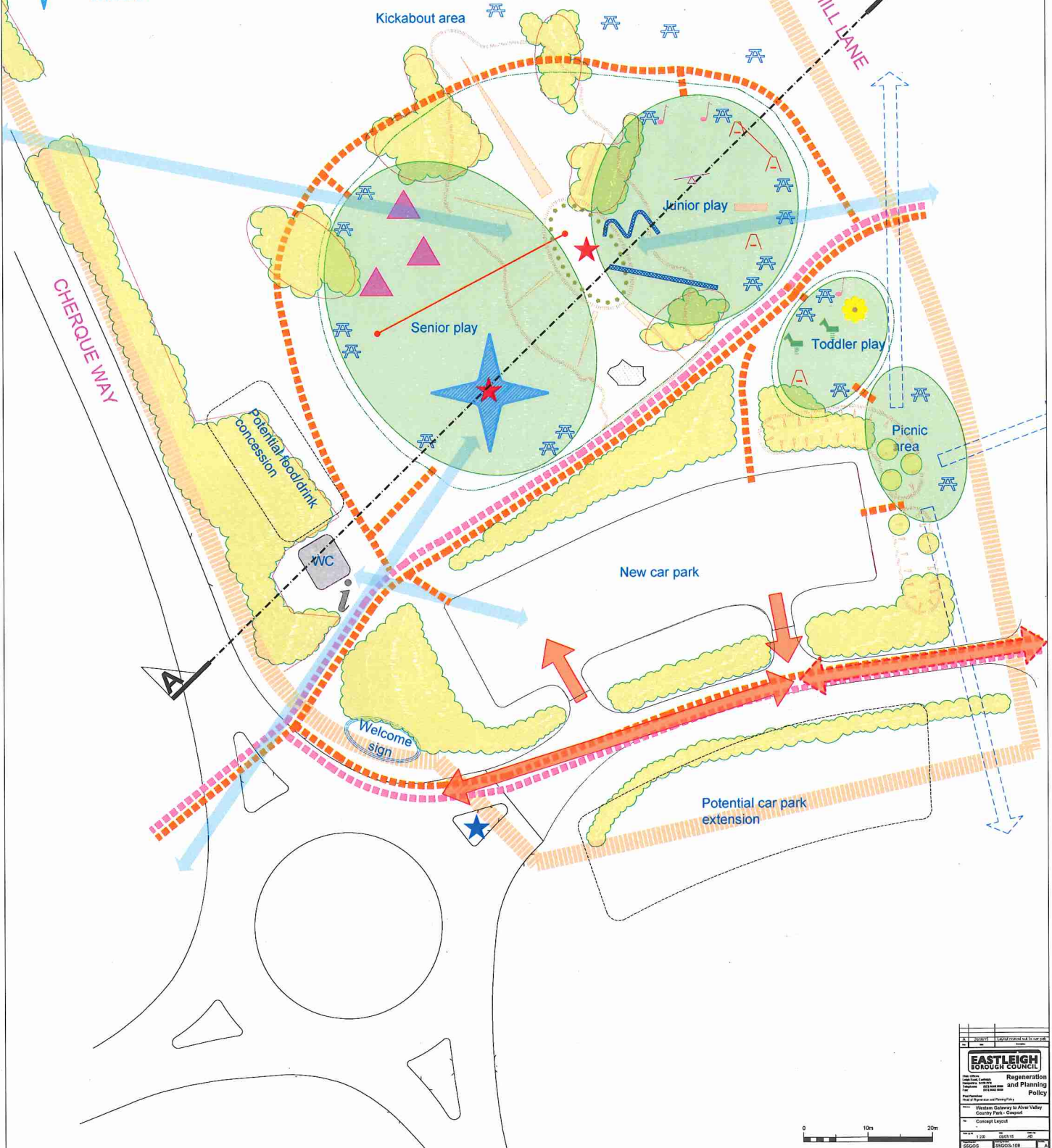
Management Plan for Dogs will give local residents an opportunity to comment on the measures proposed.

<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	See section 3 above
<b>Legal Services comments:</b>	The Council will need to review the existing Dog Control Orders before 2017 and as new activities and facilities are provided further reviews of byelaws and other mechanisms to address incidents of anti-social or nuisance behaviour are appropriate and enforceable.
<b>Crime and Disorder:</b>	The Country Park will provide opportunities for diversional activities. The Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs clarifies the Council's position on dog access, control and fouling.
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	The Country Park is being designed to ensure it is accessible and welcoming to everyone in the community.
<b>Service Improvement Plan implications:</b>	The projects within this report are within the Service Plan.
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The preparation of a development plan meets all the Corporate priorities.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	See Section 4
<b>Background papers:</b>	Alver Valley Country Park Strategy (Community Board 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2014) Previous Community Board Report (14 <sup>th</sup> September 2014)
<b>Appendices/Enclosures:</b>	
Appendix 'A'	Concept Plan for the Western Gateway
Appendix 'B'	Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park
Appendix 'C'	Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy
Appendix 'D'	Signage and Interpretation Strategy for the Alver Valley Country Park
<b>Report author/ Lead Officer:</b>	Ian Lycett, Chief Executive

# Appendix A Concept Plan for the Western Gateway

See dwg.S5GOS-109  
for Section A-A

- Key:**
- Zip wire
  - Slide
  - Seats/picnic benches
  - See-saw
  - Rubber walkway
  - Skynet or similar structure
  - Information board
  - Music item
  - Toddler multi-play
  - Spring animal
  - Agility area
  - Long swing
  - Swing
  - Hill fort
  - Pedestrian routes
  - Cycle route
  - Climbing boulder
  - Entrance feature
  - Key landmark feature
  - Dog-proof fence
  - Vehicular access
  - Attractive views out
  - Important visual connection
  - Native screen planting and slope





## Appendix B:

# Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park

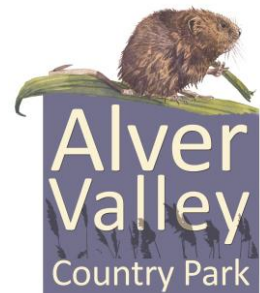


Part of the Alver Valley Country Park Management Plan

CONSULTATION DRAFT: SEPTEMBER 2015



**GOSPORT**  
Borough Council



## Contents Page:

<b>1: Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2: Key Messages</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3: Measures to encourage dog walkers and their dogs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4: Access management and dog control measures</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5: Dog Fouling</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6: Information dissemination, education and awareness</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7: Action Plan</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix 1: Extracts from Alver Valley SANG Study</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendix 2: The Alver Valley Code of Conduct: The Overarching Code</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Indicative Dog Access Zones Plans for the Alver Valley</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix 4: The Dogs Exclusion in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix 5: The Dogs (Specified Maximum) in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Appendix 6: The Fouling of Land by Dogs in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009</b>	<b>25</b>

## **Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park is one of a suite of management documents that comprise the Alver Valley Management Plan which link to the overarching Alver Valley Country Park Strategy adopted by the Council in April 2014.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Strategy and Management Plan is to provide a concise yet comprehensive policy position for the management of dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park so that users and service providers are aware of the Council's policy and approach.
- 1.3 This document was approved by the Council on [insert date once the document has been approved]. This document will be amended as and when it is deemed necessary to deal with changing circumstances subject to the appropriate Board and/or delegated approval.
- 1.4 This document includes the following elements:
  - A) Measures to encourage dog walkers and their dogs
    - Dog-specific facilities
    - General facilities where dogs are welcomed
  - B) Dog management measures and their implementation.
    - Access management and control
    - Dog fouling
    - Staffing: Maintenance, enforcement
    - Information dissemination, education and awareness
- 1.5 An Action Plan will be prepared to accompany the adopted Strategy and Management Plan and will be updated as facilities are provided and other actions are required.

### **2. Key messages**

- 2.1 The Council welcomes dogs and responsible dog owners to the Alver Valley Country Park. The Council is however aware that the management of any activity in a popular place can raise concerns and the Council would like to reassure users of the Country Park including walkers with dogs that it wishes to promote responsible behaviour by implementing a code of conduct for users and visitors to the Country Park. The Council's Countryside Officers and other Council staff will therefore remind visitors of the code of conduct where necessary.
- 2.2 This approach will be monitored over the coming months to assess how well it works. Information will be disseminated through the Countryside Officers and other Council staff through on-site contact, the Council's website, leaflets and posters.



2.3 The key messages of this Strategy and Management Plan are:

- Dogs are very welcome in the Alver Valley and their owners are very much encouraged to come and visit and enjoy the varied landscape and numerous walks.
- The Council wishes to encourage more dog walkers to the Country Park and wants to provide a range of additional facilities for dog walkers and their dogs to enjoy.
- The Council's ambition for the Country Park is that it can be enjoyed by a wide variety of users of all ages with a range of abilities and needs.
- In order to encourage more dog walkers and at the same time encourage other users to the Country Park it is necessary to provide a degree of management in common with most other successful country parks.
- It is hoped that access management in the Country Park including that of dogs can be based on common-sense approach and be supported by all users of the Country Park.
- The Council intends to manage all activities in the Country Park on a code of conduct basis and will continue to monitor each activity and take appropriate action to encourage responsible behaviour by all users of the Country Park.

**3. Measures to encourage dog walkers and their dogs**

3.1 The Council wishes to encourage dogs in the Alver Valley for a number of reasons including:

- On average in the UK around 1 in 5 households will contain a dog<sup>1</sup>. Taking this average for the number of households in Gosport Borough this represents some 7,000 households<sup>2</sup> in the Borough with a dog. Consequently the Council wishes all its residents to enjoy the superb facilities at the Country Park.
- Dogs provide comfort to many people and provide a reason for people to take regular exercise and thereby help improve people's mental and physical well-being.
- Similarly they give people opportunities to meet and socialise with other people including other dog owners.
- Dog walkers (and their dogs) will form a valuable and very regular component of the visitor market to the Country Park and thereby will potentially use future facilities such as the proposed café providing important income for the upkeep of the Country Park.
- As dog walkers will use the site throughout the day on a regular basis, their presence will provide natural surveillance throughout the day which can be useful to deter or report any anti-social behaviour.
- By encouraging dog walkers to the Alver Valley, the Country Park has the significant potential to deflect recreational pressure from internationally important habitats within the sub-region.

---

<sup>1</sup> Data from Pet Food Manufacturers' Association cited by Planning for Dog Ownership in New Development: Reducing Conflict-Adding Value (HCC et al March 2013)

<sup>2</sup> Census 2011- 35,430 household in Gosport Borough

- 3.2 As part of the Council's Alver Valley Country Park Strategy (April 2014) it is a key objective to encourage dog walking in the Alver Valley and it is proposed to provide a number of facilities for dogs. Its current overall usage is generally at a low level when compared with other Country Parks (as evidenced by the Council's ongoing visitor counter programme) as the Alver Valley Park has not yet been fully established. Therefore there is potential to attract further visitors but this requires a more attractive 'offer' including additional facilities. A number of improvements need to be made to the Alver Valley to enhance its status as a country park for local residents including dog walkers. Key features are outlined below. A recent survey of visitors to the Alver Valley<sup>3</sup> has confirmed the potential of many of these improvements to increase the frequency of visits by dog walkers (relevant extracts included in Appendix 1 of this report-p16).

*Range of footpaths and routes.*

- 3.3 Research as part of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP)<sup>4</sup> has shown that a range of routes is a key factor for choosing a site to walk a dog. 93% of dog-owning households cited attractive scenery as a reason for choosing a site for dog-walking. Many attributes preferred by dog walkers can be found within the Alver Valley including: sea views and attractive scenery; that dogs can be off-lead; the ability to walk a variety of routes (with different terrain, landscapes and habitats); car parking; and seating areas. Other research<sup>5</sup> identifies important attributes for dog-owning households such as a choice of open and enclosed landscapes, naturalistic path surfaces, access to water and circular routes. These elements are also found in the Alver Valley. Indeed the recent visitor survey in the Alver Valley<sup>6</sup> has confirmed that attributes such as being close to home, scenery and open space, presence of water/being close to the coast, and enabling dogs off-lead are important attributes for current dog walkers using the Country Park.
- 3.4 Ultimately the key attraction for walkers with dogs to the Alver Valley is the extensive network of trails and footpaths across the Alver Valley covering a mixture of terrain and habitat including riverside, hill top with coastal views of the Solent, amenity grasslands, longer grass swards and wooded areas. The myriad of potential walking routes including circular routes and riverside walks with a variety of scenery in a natural setting over an extensive area relatively close to residents' homes are therefore key attractions of the Alver Valley.
- 3.5 One of the key issues that need to be resolved is the regular flooding of the Apple Dumpling Bridge area caused by the blockage of the River Alver outfall at Stokes Bay. As this is the only bridging point in the Alver Valley it can restrict access across the Country Park at particular times. The Council is currently working with the Environment Agency and the East Solent Coastal Partnership to resolve this issue.

---

<sup>3</sup> Alver Valley SANG Study ' (Footprint Ecology June 2015).

<sup>4</sup> Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project - Phase II Results of the Solent Household Survey  
[http://www.solentforum.org/forum/sub\\_groups/Natural\\_Environment\\_Group/Disturbance\\_and\\_Mitigation\\_Project/Report%20phase%20%20Household%20Survey%20and%20Visitor%20Model.pdf](http://www.solentforum.org/forum/sub_groups/Natural_Environment_Group/Disturbance_and_Mitigation_Project/Report%20phase%20%20Household%20Survey%20and%20Visitor%20Model.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Planning for Dog Ownership in New Developments-Reducing Conflict- Adding Value (HCC in association with East Hampshire District Council, the Kennel Club and Whitehill and Bordon Ecotown (March 2013)

<sup>6</sup> Alver Valley SANG Study ' (Footprint Ecology June 2015) –see Appendix 1 of this report for relevant extracts

- 3.6 The Council is currently considering improved routes in the Alver Valley. A riverside walk between Apple Dumpling Bridge and Stokes Bay, known as the Alver Way has been completed to enhance the visitor experience. There will be the potential for further trails and spaces for dogs to enjoy.

*Car parking and toilet facilities*

- 3.7 Whilst a significant number of visitors including those with dogs will regularly access the Alver Valley Country Park on-foot it is acknowledged from on-site experience that over recent years that there has been a growing number of visitors arriving by car as the awareness of the Alver Valley has grown, particularly since the completion of the Cherque Way Link Road.
- 3.8 As other facilities are proposed for the Country Park and it becomes more established it is acknowledged that additional and extended car parking facilities are required to cater for all visitors including those with dogs. The Council is therefore proposing extending car parking provision at three sites around the park and improving the visitor experience by making them more welcoming. The three sites are: the Western gateway off Cherque Way; the Eastern Gateway off Grange Road; and a new facility at Grange Farm. The provision of toilets at Grange Farm and the Western Gateway will also make the site more user-friendly.
- 3.9 The provision of improved facilities may attract walkers with dogs from a wider area on a regular basis and increase the frequency of current visitors. This will also assist in deflecting recreational pressure on internationally important habitats in the vicinity<sup>7</sup>.

*Grange Farm Café*

- 3.10 It is proposed that a forthcoming café as part of the Grange Farm garden centre proposals will have facilities for dogs.

*Dog water fountains/dog shower*

- 3.11 Dog water fountains/shower will be made available close to parking facilities. These facilities enable dogs to access water to drink and enable them to be washed.

*Dog-dip areas*

- 3.12 As part of the Alver Valley Country Park Strategy a number of dog-dipping areas have been provided. The current dog-dips are:
- Dip by the zig-zag bridge: this was completed in Spring 2014 following improvements to the bank which was eroding.
  - An area at Apple Dumpling Bridge: this has always been a very popular place for dogs to take a dip and a meeting/gathering area for dog owners.
  - Two new dipping areas along the new Alver Way path between Apple Dumpling Bridge and Privett Road have recently been completed.
- 3.13 There is also the potential to investigate other potential dog dipping areas such as a portion of the fishing lake.

---

<sup>7</sup> This would accord with the work being undertaken by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP).

- 3.14 These dog dipping areas are used at the owners own risk. Owners are encouraged to use designated areas to reduce environmental impact and erosion.

*Dog park/training area*

- 3.15 It is proposed to create a dedicated dog park area within the Country Park which will be used extensively for dogs to run around and can be used for owners to train their dogs. There is also the potential to include a dog agility course. It is envisaged that this area could be a focus for dog owners to meet and host dog-related events and gathering. Further research will be undertaken with dog owners relating to specific requirements.

*Dog events/dog club*

- 3.16 The Council has been hosting a successful programme of nature and countryside events for a number of years. The Council wish to extend its programme as the Country Park becomes established and the facilities at Grange Farm are developed. This includes events aimed at dog owners and their dogs. The nature of these events are yet to be determined and it is hoped that local residents may have ideas and organise particular events in liaison with the Countryside Officers.
- 3.17 The Council would also like to host events that may be initiated by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership in a similar way to those events organised by Dorset Dogs<sup>8</sup>. In this regard the Council will consider hosting an Autumn event in the Country Park after the bird nesting season has finished. The proposed event would showcase the facilities at the Alver Valley and encourage people to use it through the Autumn/Winter months. Such events could help deflect pressure from sensitive internationally important habitats on the Solent coast which support large populations of over-wintering birds that are prone to recreational disturbance.
- 3.18 Further liaison is required with the dog owner community on what they would like to see in the Country Park and this is likely to evolve over time. Some of the above proposals could provide opportunities for businesses and community groups with the Council's permission to offer a range of events in the Country Park.

#### **4 Access management and dog control measures.**

*Why is some form of access management required?*

- 4.1 Many successful country parks have some form of dog management strategy including a variable access approach as well as a code of conduct for different users (cyclists, dog walkers).
- 4.2 It is acknowledged that dog walkers currently form the largest user group in the Country Park and that many walkers have used the Alver Valley for a number of years. As stated above the Council welcomes dogs and their responsible owners and wishes more to come.

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.dorsetdogs.org.uk/>

- 4.3 So that everyone knows where they stand and that there is no uncertainty as to where dogs can go it is considered that a simple access management strategy incorporating access zones should be developed. This would be based on common sense principles and require that all users of the park respect each other's desire to enjoy the Country Park in an appropriate way. This would work in conjunction with the wider code of conduct for all users which is set out in Appendix 2.

*Access zones*

- 4.4 The Council is proposing a simple traffic light system so that everyone knows how the Country Park can be used by dogs. The details of each type of zone (Green, Amber and Red) are outlined below. Plans are included in Appendix 3 which shows the green, amber and red areas in different seasons. It is important to note that these plans will be subject to change depending on particular circumstances which could include:

- The provision of new facilities (for example additional play areas);
- feedback from visitors;
- particular environmental considerations.

- 4.5 It is proposed that the extent of each access zone will change over the year and that this will be advertised accordingly on posters (on notice boards in the main car parks, the website and other Country Park literature). There are certain areas of the Alver Valley which are not included on the Plan for example areas not within the Council's ownership (which may or may not have public access); and areas within the Council's ownership which do not have public access.

- 4.6 It is proposed to use small signs showing a red, amber or green paw print with a short message fixed to a wooden post or other similarly appropriate fixture. This approach is in common with other country parks in the area. It is also important that the small signs (approximately the size of a standard playing card) are placed in strategic locations but that the overall number and locations should not lead to a cluttered appearance which detracts from the environment.

- 4.7 **GREEN-Dogs welcome off-lead:** The Council wishes to maximise the dog run free areas across the Country Park. These are shown by the small green paw prints at strategic points across the Country Park and;

- owners will be encouraged to let their dogs run free as it is acknowledged that dogs need to run about and have exercise.
- owner will still be expected to have control over their dog and ensure that their dog is not running at, or interfering with other users (for example young children, disabled people, cyclists, runners and walkers), or animals (including wild animals, other dogs and cattle).

- 4.8 The majority of the Country Park will be a dog run free area out of the bird nesting season i.e. September to March. It is likely that in bird nesting season the areas will be reduced in order to protect ground nesting birds such as skylarks which are present in the Country Park in areas such as Junckett Hill. Nesting birds are

protected by law<sup>9</sup> and disturbance is a criminal offence. Such areas will be amber (i.e. dog on lead) for these months and then revert back to green after the nesting season.

- 4.9 Even during the nesting season there will still be huge areas of the Park which will be run free areas although dog owners will need to have control over their dogs.
- 4.10 **AMBER - Dogs welcome on-leads:** The main reasons for 'dogs on leads areas' is to ensure that owners have tighter control over their dog. They are identified mainly due to the presence of protected ground nesting birds such as the skylark. There may be other reasons for designation such as the presence of other particular sensitive species at a particular time of the year. In most cases these amber areas will revert to green at the end of the nesting season. There may be a limited number of areas where the designation remains throughout the year for example in car park areas or particular activity areas. The extent of such areas will be reviewed following feedback from all users of the Country Park.
- 4.11 It may also be necessary to identify additional areas of the Country Park as amber for limited periods of the year to enable cattle (or other animals) to graze parts of the Alver Valley. The key reason for grazing are for nature conservation purposes<sup>10</sup> which enables the Council to more effectively fulfil the biodiversity targets set out in the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England, which provides funding to the Council to manage land for habitat purposes.
- 4.12 The Council currently uses cattle to graze at Hilbury Meadow. The Council may require additional areas for grazing to fulfil its conservation objectives. Such areas would need to incorporate the appropriate stock-proof fencing and hedging as well as appropriate access for visitors. Once these areas are established it is anticipated that whilst there are cattle present the areas would be 'amber areas' and revert to green when the cattle are not there. Cattle would be moved between different areas within the Alver Valley on a rotational basis and thereby ensuring that significant areas remain as green zones within the Country Park. A grazing strategy will be produced by the Council and form part of the Alver Valley Country Park Management Plan.
- 4.13 **RED - Sorry no dogs in this area:** These are the most sensitive areas in the Alver Valley and have been identified for a number of reasons.
- To ensure children can play without the presence of dogs- Smaller children in particular can be intimidated by a dog that they are not used to. Consequently these red areas are play grounds and play facilities and their immediate vicinity. As play areas are added as part of the play trail the small areas around each play areas will need to be added to the latest dog zone maps.
  - The Oxstall Meadow will be developed as a family activities area and will remain an area without dogs, as it is at present.

---

<sup>9</sup> The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/conservationgrazing>

- Sensitive habitats including the Wildgrounds Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will remain an area where dogs are not permitted. This nationally important habitat is only accessible to visitors on a permit basis and has been long-established as a dog-free area.

#### *Dog Control measures*

- 4.14 Currently the Council has an all-encompassing Code of Conduct notice which includes a point relating to dog behaviour (Appendix 2). A copy of this code of conduct has been included on wooden posts at key entrance and junctions points within the Country Park. It is referred to by the Council's Countryside officers if they observe particular behaviour and they can advise visitors to have regard to the Code of Conduct.
- 4.15 The Council wants to maintain a common-sense approach to dog management in the Alver Valley. A dog-owner focussed leaflet will be produced for officers to use and visitors to read in order to communicate the dog access zones and a dog-specific code of conduct.
- 4.16 Where breaches of the code take place Council officers will remind visitors in a polite friendly manner of the code of conduct and the Council's management measures. This would include explaining the Council's dog strategy leaflet.
- 4.17 However where necessary the Council needs to be able to use stronger measures to prevent breaches which affect the enjoyment of other visitors or even their safety, as well as having a detrimental impact on important nature conservation interests in the Country Park. Examples could include:
- Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer;
  - Permitting a dog to enter land where dogs are excluded (red zone); and
  - Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.
- 4.18 The Council will have regard to its Generic Enforcement Policy when deciding what, if any, enforcement is necessary and proportionate.
- 4.19 There are three key measures that the Council can use to take stronger action against breaches in appropriate cases. These are:
- the enforcement of byelaws;
  - the enforcement of Dog Control Orders<sup>11</sup>;

---

<sup>11</sup> By virtue of Part 4 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Council is required to review in 2017 the Dog Control Orders and if appropriate adopt for a further 3 years with or without variation as Public Space Protection Orders.

- the application and enforcement of other anti-social behaviour tools including Criminal Behaviour Orders and the issue of Community Protection Notices (CPN)
- 4.20 A byelaw covering the south part of the Alver Valley Country Park already exists and dates from 1978. This includes Alver Meadow, Carters Copse, Sandhill and the West of the River Nature Reserve areas and includes a number of restrictions within this area.
- 4.21 In relation to dog access and control, Paragraph 12 of the Byelaw states, '*A person shall not cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the pleasure ground, unless such dog be and continue to be under proper control, and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person and from worrying or disturbing animal or waterfowl.*' *Contravention of this byelaw amounts to a criminal offence. The maximum penalty on conviction is a nominal fine.*
- 4.22 In addition the Council has made the Dogs Exclusion in the Borough of Gosport Order which came into force 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. A copy of the Order is included in Appendix 4. This makes it a criminal offence for a person in charge of a dog<sup>12</sup> to enter or to remain on any land referred to in the Order including:
- Any enclosed Children's play area in the Borough of Gosport;
  - Any area within the 'Wildgrounds' of the Alver Valley that is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest or where the Borough Council keep animals.
- 4.23 If a Dog Control Order is contravened an authorised officer of the Council may issue the person in charge of the dog with a fixed penalty notice. This gives the person an opportunity to pay a fixed penalty of £75 within 28 days (or a lesser sum that the Council may demand). If the penalty is paid in full within the prescribed period it discharges that person's liability to prosecution for the offence. If a person fails to pay a fixed penalty within the prescribed period the Council may prosecute them for the original offence – the maximum penalty for contravention of a Dog Control Order is a fine not exceeding £1000.
- 4.24 There is also a separate Dog Control Order known as, 'The Dogs (specified number) in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009' (see Appendix 5). This control order applies to any land in the Borough which is, '*open to the air on at least one side and to which the public have access with or without payment.*' This order applies to the Alver Valley Country Park and states that on this land the number of dogs which a person may take onto the land is six. It is a criminal offence for a person to exceed this number and a fixed penalty may be issued.
- 4.25 There are consequently significant legal provisions already in place to back up the code of conduct approach. For the time being the Council will monitor dog management issues and consider how effective the code of conduct approach is and whether the current Dog Control Orders are sufficiently robust to deal with matters

---

<sup>12</sup> There are a number of exceptions including those dogs that provide assistance to people who are blind, deaf or other specific disabilities. Details are set out in the Control Order in Appendix 4.



that arise. The Council will monitor feedback from users of the Country Park. If these measures are not effective in individual cases it may be necessary to consider whether application of an anti-social behaviour remedy may be effective in addressing the behaviour. Breach of anti-social behaviour remedy, if proven, amounts to a criminal offence or contempt of court for which in both cases a period of imprisonment can be imposed.

- 4.26 The Council as land owner may if a person contravenes any of the dog control measures seek an injunction enforcing the requirement. Breach of an injunction if proven amounts to contempt of court; the Court may impose a period of up to two years imprisonment for contempt.

*Staff resources for implementation and enforcement*

- 4.27 Consideration needs to be given on how the Code of Conduct and the Dog Access Zones are implemented and brought to visitors' attention. Similarly it will also be necessary to ensure Dog Control Orders and byelaws are enforced. Failure to implement these measures properly would undermine the code of conduct, the access management zones and the Dog Control Order.
- 4.28 The Countryside Officers are the most observable Council staff presence in the Alver Valley. The staff are based at Grange Farm and undertake a significant part of their work in the Alver Valley. The Countryside Officers will make regular foot/cycle patrols through the Country Park and be an approachable contact in relation to both enforcement and awareness matters relating to dog behaviour as well as other potential anti-social behaviour.
- 4.29 Staff training on implementing the Code of Conduct (in conjunction with the use of appropriate literature such as leaflets), the Access Management Zones and the use of the Dog Control Order will be essential. The training should stress the importance of the education and awareness approach (i.e. advising visitors of the code and requesting the visitor to follow the relevant part) and the circumstances when the use of other measures will be appropriate.
- 4.30 Regular officer meetings will take place to consider management issues in the Country Park including their observations, visitor feedback, complaints and other issues arising in relation to the management of the Country Park. This would cover not only dog behaviour issue but litter, fly-tipping, other anti-social behaviour as well as the management of assets (car parks), footpaths, habitats, events etc.

## **5 Dog fouling**

*The importance of addressing dog-fouling*

- 5.1 Dog fouling is a major issue in the Country Park. Owners not picking up their own dog's mess is irresponsible behaviour. Not only is it extremely unpleasant when someone else steps in it, or wheels a pushchair or wheelchair through it, it is

unsightly and most significantly it is unhygienic and can be an extremely dangerous health hazard. The Dogs Trust<sup>13</sup> charity states,

*‘Let’s not beat about the bush, dog mess is the unpleasant but unavoidable by-product of owning a companion dog. It is every owner’s moral duty and legal responsibility to clean up after their dog.’<sup>14</sup>*

5.2 The Dog Trust summarises the issue very well by the following statement,

*‘The disgust that dog mess causes to those who have stepped in it, sat by it or seen their local parks and beaches ruined by it through others’ laziness, is felt keenly enough by responsible dog owners who walk there every day. The offence and anger this fouling causes to the general public is so great that letters of complaint on the subject are received daily by MPs and councillors across the UK. While these complaints have sometimes resulted in more special bins being provided and awareness raising projects being funded, they have also led to campaigns and policies which punish not only the guilty, selfish owners and their dogs, but all of us. The result? You and your companion could be banned from your own local park.’*

5.3 Dog fouling can lead to toxocariasis in humans which can cause serious illness and even blindness. It usually affects children aged between one and four years but cases have been reported in people of all ages.<sup>15</sup> The Alver Valley is also being managed for wildlife and dog mess can cause ecological problems too. Dog fouling therefore effects the overall enjoyment of visitors and can potentially deter them from visiting.

#### *Availability of dog-bins and other related facilities*

5.4 There are no excuses for dog owners not picking up their dog’s mess as there are bins available. There are 9 dog bins and 4 dual bins (for litter and dog faeces) within the Country Park as well as a further 2 dog bins and 14 dual bins within 20 metres of the various exit points from the Country Park<sup>16</sup>. Further facilities will be provided within each of the new proposed Gateway Car Parks. These bins are checked and emptied out regularly.

5.5 On-going monitoring and liaison with dog owners by the Council’s Countryside Officers and other officers will ascertain whether these bins are in the right locations

---

<sup>13</sup> Founded in 1891, the Dogs Trust (formerly the National Canine Defence League) is the largest dog welfare charity in the UK. Its mission is to bring about the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

<sup>14</sup> This link includes a Dogs Trust publication entitled ‘Every Dog Owner’s Duty’ <http://kb.keepbritaintidy.org/dogs/publications/duty.pdf> (as at 30/7/15)

<sup>15</sup> The eggs of the Toxocara worm takes over two weeks to hatch and become active, there are no health risks from immediately clearing up after the dog. The risk comes if it is left. The eggs of the Toxocara worm can lie dormant for upto three years if conditions are right and are highly resilient to temperature changes and that chemical disinfectants have little effect on them.

<sup>16</sup> As at August 2014.

and whether there is any need for additional bins. However it is important not to over-urbanise the park with too many dog and litter bins.

*Dog-fouling breaches*

- 5.6 It is hoped that in the main dog owners will police the behaviour of other dog owners by providing natural surveillance, peer pressure and/or reporting incidences to the Countryside Rangers.
- 5.7 Importantly there is a Dog Control Order relating to dog fouling that covers the whole Borough, 'The Fouling of Land by Dogs in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009' (Appendix 6) and consequently if contravened amounts to a criminal offence. The Council has powers to issue a fixed penalty of £75 (or lesser amount as the Council may determine) to those that breach the Order and prosecute those that fail to pay the fixed penalty within the prescribed period. In this regard any breaches of the Dog Control Order observed in relation to dog fouling will be dealt with in accordance with that Order including the issue of a fixed penalty notice and ultimately a prosecution. If the enforcement of a Dog Control Order does not deter a person from further contraventions then the Council may consider the application of an anti-social behaviour tool to address the behaviour. Education of those committing the breaches is imperative in order to reduce incidences of dog fouling. A greater presence of Council staff in the Country Park and the use of a dog code of conduct leaflet can assist in this matter.
- 5.8 The situation will be regularly reviewed by the Council and it will consider the nature and number of complaints received. This may include requiring an increased enforcement presence in the Country Park with additional inspections within the Country Park by both Countryside Officers and Streetscene Enforcement Officers.

**6 Information dissemination, education and awareness**

- 6.1 Information regarding the dog facilities and activities in the park as well as access arrangements and code of conduct issues will be included in a user-friendly leaflet.
- 6.2 The leaflet will be useful to explain the Council's management policy in relation to dogs in the Alver Valley in an approachable and informative manner and can help support the work of Countryside Officers when discussing issues with visitors.
- 6.3 The leaflet will be available at the Country Park and given out by Countryside Rangers and other Council staff. It will also be available on the Council's website, at other GBC sites as well as facilities such as the Gosport Discovery Centre, local libraries and other appropriate attractions in the wider sub-region.
- 6.4 Staff will be friendly and approachable and if a dog owner is not respecting a particular access restriction the dog owner will be asked politely to either place the dog on a lead or ensure the dog leaves the particularly area (depending on the zone –amber or red respectively). The Countryside Officer or other council officer would provide the owner with a code of conduct leaflet and discuss the issue further where appropriate. As mentioned above it may be necessary to take enforcement action for breaches in relation to dog control and access matters. Any incident of dog fouling

observed will be addressed by enforcement of the relevant Dog Control Order and if appropriate the application and enforcement of an anti-social behaviour remedy.

- 6.5 An Alver Valley Country Park website will be created and include a dog walker friendly section which highlights the facilities in the Country Park and encourages owners to interact with each other through social media. The site will include the latest details of the access arrangements.
- 6.6 More traditional methods such as posters and notices on noticeboards within the Country Park will also be used to disseminate information. The Council wants to communicate these measures effectively without excessive coverage.
- 6.7 A number of campaigns/events will take place as part of the Alver Valley Country Park programme of events. An Autumn event could be linked to the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Partnership's work which aims to deflect recreational pressure from sensitive coastal habitats. The details of such events will be determined and will evolve depending on if they are successful and what elements work best.
- 6.8 It will be important to consider other initiatives which relate well with other projects arising from the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership, some of which may include education and awareness initiatives.

## **7 Action Plan**

- 7.1 The Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park will be accompanied by an Action Plan which outlines all required actions as a result of proposals outlined within this document.
- 7.2 It will be amended as and when facilities are provided and circumstances arise which require additional actions. The initial version will be set out in a separate companion document and will be updated as actions are completed and additional ones required.

## Appendix 1: Extracts from the Alver Valley SANG Study

As part of research for the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership a total of 113 visitors to the Alver Valley Country Park were interviewed in January/February 2015.

Of the interviewees, 92% were dog walking which reflects that currently dog walkers are by far the largest type of visitor. A number of questions were asked to visitors. Relevant extracts are included below.

### Current Site Choice

A large number of factors may influence a visitor's site choice and therefore interviewees were asked to provide their reasons for visiting the current site specifically for their current activity. Interviewees were asked to provide all reasons and then to select a single main reason. This gives a single "main reason" for each interviewee and a variable number of "other reasons".

**Table 11: Top three ranked main reasons and other reasons affecting the choice of the current site, shown per survey point. Main reasons were a single choice, but as other reasons were a multiple choice, each reason is weighted by the number of reasons given. Numbers show the percentage of interviewees giving the factor as a response at each site. Reasons given by less than 5% of interviewees at the site are not shown. Data from Q23.-Table only includes Alver Valley respondents**

Rank	Alver Valley: North West Car Park	Alver Valley: Apple Dumping Bridge
Main Reasons		
1	Close to home (34%)	Close to home (27%)
2	Good for dog/dog enjoys it (24%)	Sense of space (10%)
3	Scenery/variety of views (14%)	Closest place to let dog safely off lead (8%)
Other reasons		
1	Scenery/variety of views (17%)	Ability to let dog off lead (15%)
2	Good for dog/dog enjoys it (12%)	Good for dog/dog enjoys it (14%)
3	Particular wildlife interest (7%)	Closest place to let dog safely off lead (13%)

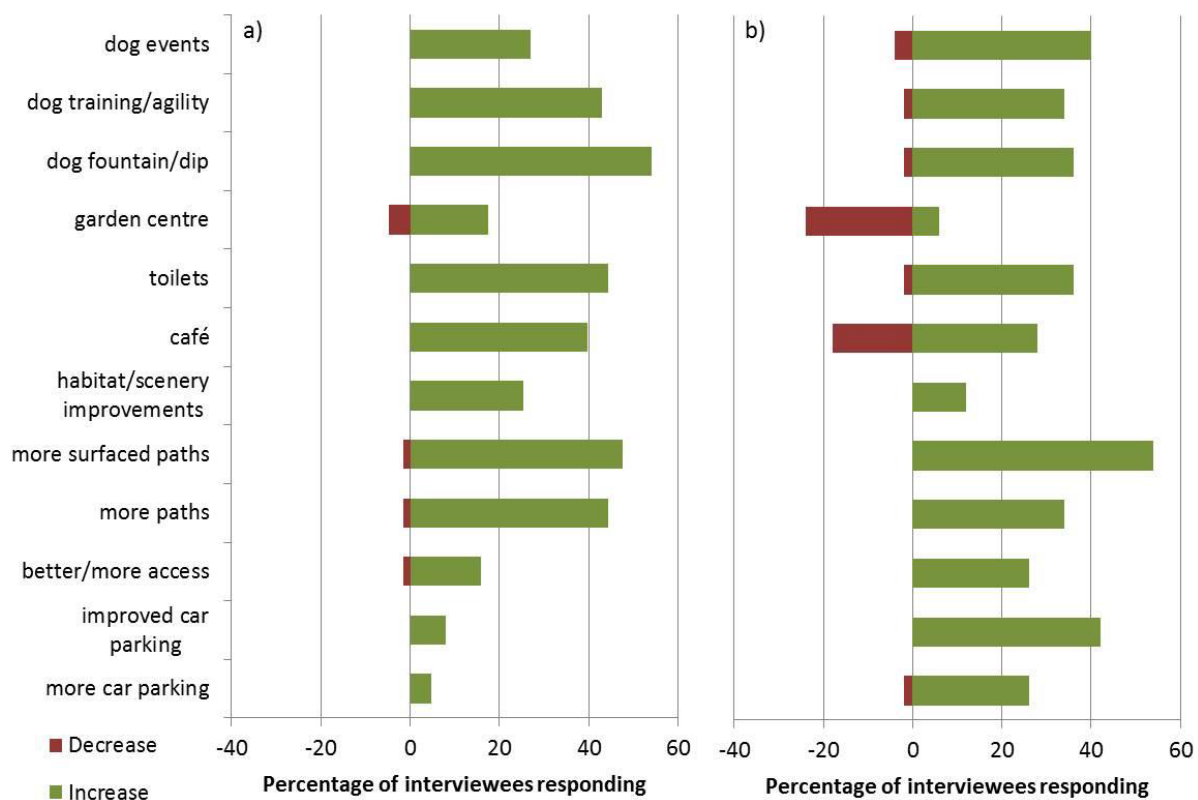
**Table 12: Top three ranked main reasons and affecting the choice of the current site, shown per survey point considering dog walkers only. Numbers show the percentage of interviewees giving the factor as a response at each site. Joint ranking reasons are italicised. Data from Q23. Table only includes Alver Valley respondents**

Rank	Alver Valley: North West Car Park	Alver Valley: Apple Dumping Bridge
Main Reasons		
1	Close to home (36%)	Close to home (25%)
2	Good for dog/dog enjoys it (24%)	Open space (11%)
3	Scenery/variety of views (16%)	Closest place to let dog safely off lead (9%)

### Alver Valley: Response to potential changes in site management

For this question, the surveyor provided a series of potential hypothetical site changes and interviewees were asked if they felt this would increase, decrease, or not change their number of visits to the Alver Valley.

**Figure 12: Interviewees suggest change in visit rates in response to potential site changes. The responses of interviewees are shown separately for a) survey point 5: North West Car Park and b) survey point 6: Apple Dumpling Bridge. Data from Q34.**



## Appendix 2: The Alver Valley Code of Conduct: The Overarching Code

A code of conduct is already used by the Council in the Alver Valley and is incorporated on key wayfinding posts at particular entrances and junctions within the Country Park. It is proposed to include an additional amendment to reflect the dog access zones as incorporated below.



**The Alver Valley Country Park is a valuable green space ideal for cycling, picnicking, exercising pets, walking and enjoying nature. Please do follow the countryside code when visiting and do take note of the following:**

**Vehicles and Parking.** Parking is permitted in the designated car parking areas. Authorised vehicles only are permitted to drive in the Country Park. All vehicles must operate their hazard lights, drive at an appropriate speed and give way to pedestrians whilst moving around the Country Park.

**Dogs.** Visitors with dogs should observe the green (*dogs welcome off leads*), amber (*dogs welcome on leads*) and red (*sorry no dogs in this area*) dog access zones displayed around the Country Park. Dogs must be under the control and effectively restrained by the owner, so that they do not interfere with other visitors and do not disturb wildlife or any other animal. Please pick up your dog's mess and place in the bins provided. It is an offence not to do so.

**Litter.** Visitors must take away their litter or place it in the litter bins provided throughout the Country Park.

**BBQ's and Fires.** Portable BBQ's are not permitted in the Country Park without the express written consent of the Council. Fires, fireworks and releasing Chinese lanterns in the Country Park grounds are not permitted.

**Watercourses and lakes.** Bathing or swimming is not permitted in any of the lakes or watercourses. There may be underwater obstacles or currents which can be dangerous. Canoeing or using other watercraft on water bodies is prohibited.

**Tents and Gazebos.** Tents and gazebos or any other structure must not be erected in the Country Park without prior written consent from the Council. No overnight camping is permitted.

**Wildlife/Plant material and timber.** Wildflowers, shrubs and any plant materials and timber must not be removed from the Country Park. Visitors must not disturb any wildlife, injure any egg, disturb any nests or participate in hunting, shooting, setting of traps or laying snares.

**In addition.**

Please consider other visitors and keep any noise to an acceptable level. No horse riding or horses permitted at the present time.

No riding of motor vehicles, motorcycles, motorised petrol or electric scooters.

No remote control model aircraft or other vehicles such as cars or watercraft are permitted.

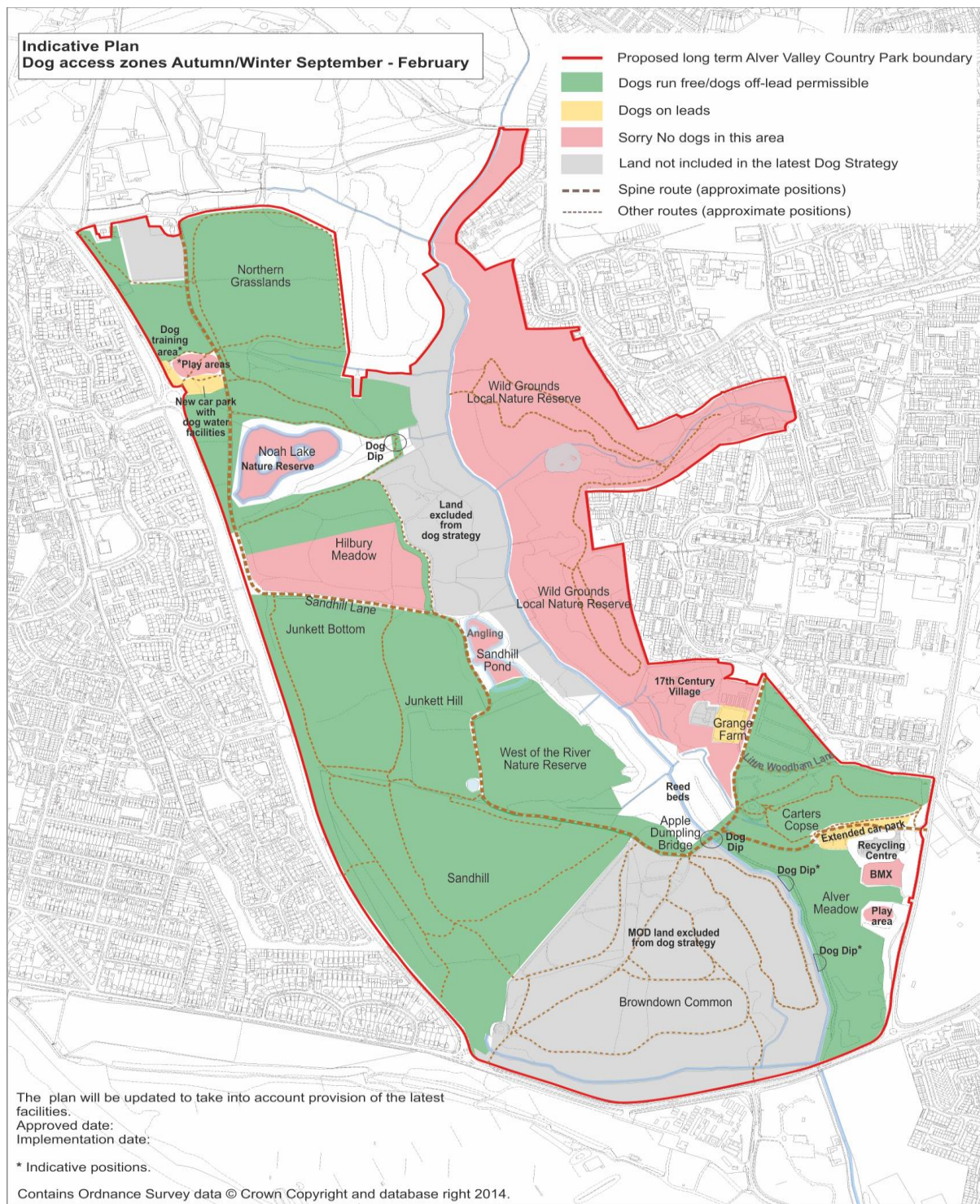
In case of accident or emergency call 999

For further information regarding the Alver Valley Country Park please contact the Countryside Section on 023 9258 8666 or email [countryside@gosport.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@gosport.gov.uk).  
For all other enquiries call the Council's Streetscene on 0800 198 598.



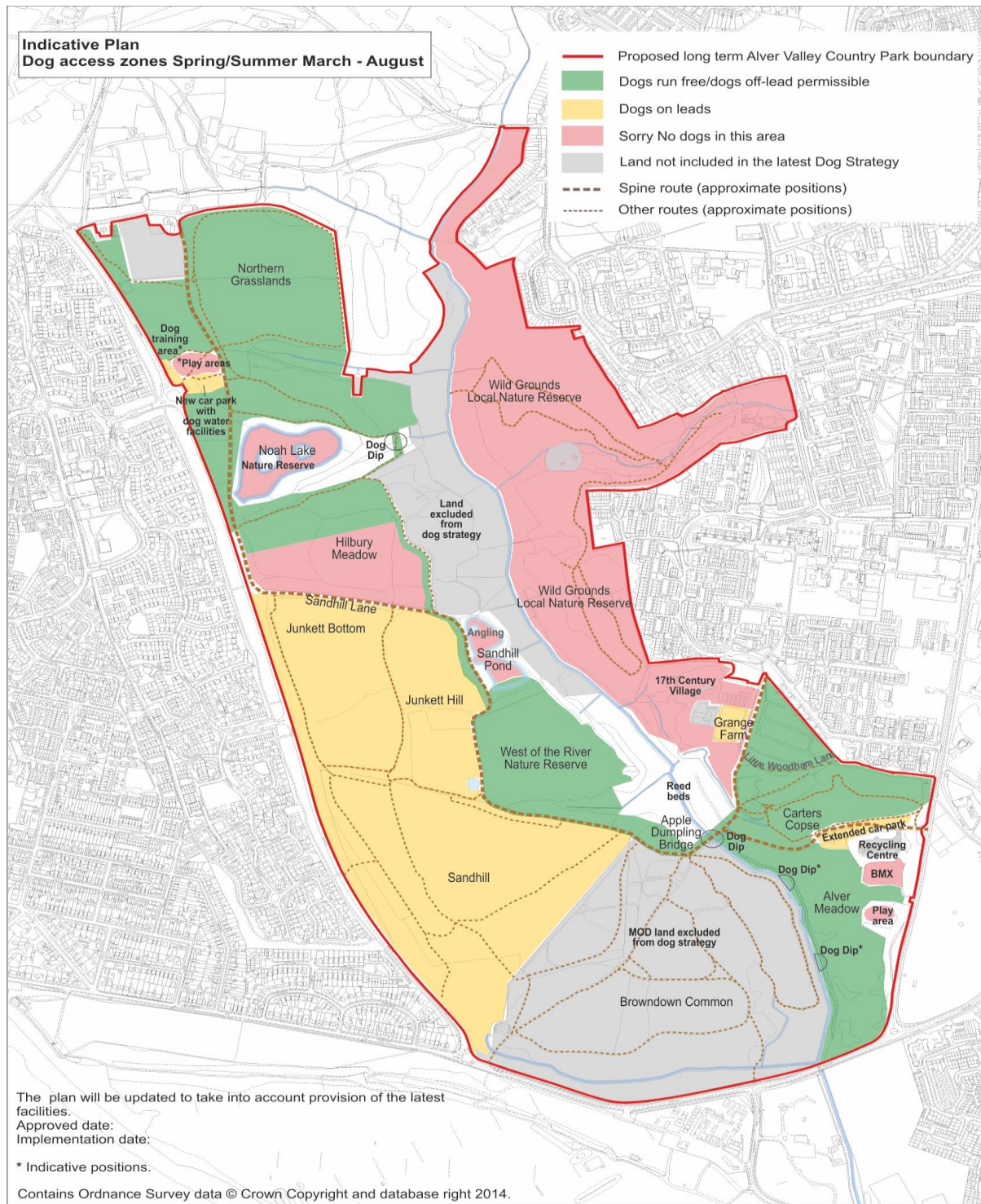


### Appendix 3: Indicative Dog Access Zones Plans for the Alver Valley





# Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park: Consultation Draft



## Appendix 4: The Dogs Exclusion in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009

The text of the order has been included in full here for completeness, however the two plans are not included as these relate to sites outside of the Alver Valley.

### The Dogs Exclusion in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009

Gosport Borough Council hereby makes the following Order: The Dogs Exclusion in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009 ("Order").

1. The Order comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
2. The Order applies to the land specified in the Schedule to the Order.

#### **Offence**

3. (1) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which the Order applies unless—
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his doing so.
- (2) Nothing in this article applies to a person who—
  - (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
  - (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or
  - (c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.
- (3) For the purposes of this article—
  - (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog; and
  - (b) each of the following is a "prescribed charity"—
    - (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454);
    - (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281);
    - (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680).

**Penalty**

4. A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Executed as a Deed by affixing the Common Seal of Gosport  
Borough Council in the presence of:



HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES



The Dogs Exclusion in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009

**SCHEDULE**

1. Between 1 May and 30 September inclusive in any year the following beach areas in the Borough of Gosport:

i). Any area of beach between the promenade and Low Water Mark of Medium Tides and contained between the points enclosed with notional lines extending from the easternmost part of the Swimming Baths to the easternmost end of that part of the promenade known as "The Esplanade" at Lee-on-the Solent Gosport in Hampshire which is shown hatched in black on the accompanying "Map Number 1".

ii). Any area of beach between the promenade and Low Water Mark of Medium Tides and contained between the points enclosed with notional lines extending from the westernmost part of the Sailing Club slipway to the easternmost point of the GAFIRS slipway at Stokes Bay Gosport in Hampshire which said area is hatched in black on the accompanying "Map Number 2".

2. Any Bowling Green in the Borough of Gosport.

3. Any enclosed Children's play area in the Borough of Gosport.

4. Any Sports pitch whilst in use for organised events;

5. Any area within 'The Wild Grounds' of the Alver Valley that is:

- i). designated as a Site for Special Scientific Interest ("SSSI")
- or;
- ii). where Gosport Borough Council keep animals.

## Appendix 5: The Dogs (Specified Maximum) in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009

### The Dogs (Specified Maximum) in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009

Gosport Borough Council hereby makes the following Order: The Dogs (Specified Maximum) in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009 ("Order").

1. The Order comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
2. The Order applies to any land within the Borough of Gosport which is open to the air on at least one side and to which the public have access with or without payment
3. On land to which the Order applies, the maximum number of dogs which a person may take onto that land is 6.

#### **Offence**

4. (1) A person in charge of more than one dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time he takes onto any land in respect of which the Order applies more than the maximum number of dogs specified in article 3 of the Order, unless—
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his doing so.
- (2) For the purposes of this article a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

#### **Penalty**

5. A person who is guilty of an offence under article 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Executed as a Deed by affixing the Common Seal of Gosport Borough Council in the presence of:



HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES



**Appendix 6: the Fouling of Land by Dogs in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009**

**The Fouling of Land by Dogs in the Borough of Gosport Order 2009**

Gosport Borough Council hereby makes the following Order:  
The Fouling of Land by Dogs in the Borough of Gosport  
Order 2009 ("Order").

1. The Order comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
2. The Order applies to any land in the Borough of Gosport which is open to the air on at least one side and to which the public have access with or without payment.

**Offence**

3. (1) If a dog defecates at any time on land to which the Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless—
  - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
  - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- (2) Nothing in this article applies to a person who—
  - (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
  - (b) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.
- (3) For the purposes of this article—
  - (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
  - (b) placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land;
  - (c) being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces;
  - (d) each of the following is a "prescribed charity"—

- (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454);
- (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281);
- (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680).

**Penalty**

4. A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Executed as a Deed by affixing the Common Seal of Gosport Borough Council in the presence of:



HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES





# Appendix C:

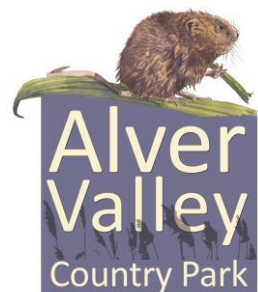
## Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy



Part of the Alver Valley Country Park Management Plan  
CONSULTATION DRAFT: SEPTEMBER 2015



**GOSPORT**  
Borough Council





## Contents Page:

<b>Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1: Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
Habitat	3
Current management	4
Grazing as a management strategy	4
Nature Conservation obligations	4
Benefits of grazing	6
Key issues to consider	7
Key messages	8
<b>2: Implementation Issues</b>	<b>9</b>
Overview	9
Public Access	9
Site Facilities	11
Fencing	11
Use of Grazier	11
Stock Selection	12
Breed Selection	12
Stock Movements	12
<b>2: Key proposals</b>	<b>13</b>
North Field	14
Sandhill	15
Junkett Hill	16
Hilbury Meadow	17
Proposed timetable	18
<b>4: Monitoring</b>	<b>19</b>
Public Support	19
Incident Monitoring	19
Fencing	19
Livestock Welfare Checks	19
Breeding Bird Surveys	19
Butterfly Surveys	19
Phase 2 Surveys	19
Sward Monitoring	20
<b>5: Financial Implications</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6: Conclusions</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Cost estimates for management</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Potential Wildlife Trust package</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>25</b>

## **Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy**

### **Summary**

This strategy aims to provide advice on the reasons why it is beneficial ecologically, financially and socially to establish grazing as a tool for habitat management across the Alver Valley and potentially other sites in Gosport. It will highlight the benefits and possible complications with this form of management and produce a cost effective and long lasting plan for increasing the biodiversity whilst minimizing detrimental effects on the visitor experience of one of Gosport's largest green spaces.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy is one of a suite of management documents that comprise the Alver Valley Management Plan which link to the overarching Alver Valley Country Park Strategy adopted by the Council in April 2014.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Strategy is to set out a framework to implement grazing on parts of the Country Park primarily for ecological benefits but also for a number of other potential social and financial benefits. The remainder of this section provides an introduction to the benefits of grazing and key issues associated with it both generally and specially to the Country Park. Section 2 outlines key implementation issues whilst Section 3 sets out the main proposals for the Country Park. Section 4 recognises the importance of both ongoing monitoring and an annual review to ensure that grazing is effective and is compatible with other activities in the Country Park. Section 5 outlines some broad financial considerations with an overall conclusion set out in Section 6. A Glossary is included to assist with technical terms.

### **Habitat**

- 1.3 A large proportion of the Alver Valley Country Park was used for sand and gravel extraction and landfill. As part of its restoration these areas were clay capped and seeded. Consequently much of these areas have a grassland habitat (classified as MG6 and MK1 by the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) system) which has steadily become rank and dominated by tussock forming grasses. Key feature are set out in Table 1.

**Table 1: Compartments with NVC classification and notable plant species**

Junkett	MG6, <i>Lolium perenne</i> – <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> grassland
North field	MG1 <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> Grassland
Sandhill	MG1a <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> : <i>Festuca rubra</i> subcommunity MG5a <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> – <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland
Hilbury	Meadows – MG6 <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i> Sainfoin – grassland indicator <i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> – Wood Small reed <i>Lathyrus nissolia</i> – Grass Vetchling <i>Senecio erucifolius</i> Hoary Ragwort <i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i> – Corky-Fruited Water – Dropwort <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> – Annual Beard Grass (Nationally rare)

### **Current Management**

- 1.4 The grassland on Sandhill has been occasionally cut in late summer. A small section was cut and collected in August/September 2013 and roughly one third was cut and collected during August/September 2014. The majority of the cut material was left in piles on site and a large area was removed via a container. Due to the undulating nature and areas of softer ground this was a considerable undertaking for a small team.
- 1.5 Hilbury Meadow was grazed throughout the Autumn 2014 and into early winter. This has been completed through the use of a local grazier and takes place in late autumn through to early winter. The rest of the site has undergone no management of the grassland.

### **Grazing as a management strategy**

- 1.6 Grazing is considered a vital tool in modern conservation management, where cutting alone does not provide the species richness of a grazed meadow through processes such as bare earth creation and a variable structure (Crofts & Jefferson, 1999). It is widely used in the management and restoration of grassland, a nationally important habitat. The use of grazing will stop succession, maintaining the grassland at a certain level but will also add structural and species heterogeneity to the sward. This provides a number of niches that support different species, resulting in a more species rich habitat. It is a management practice supported and promoted by many conservation bodies such as Natural England and utilised locally by other organisations such as Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hampshire County Council to promote conservation interest on grassland.

### **Nature Conservation Obligations**

#### **Higher Level Stewardship agreement**

- 1.7 Over half (126.36ha) of the 200ha Alver Valley Country Park has been under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England since 2011, which states that suitable management should be established on the site to maintain the habitat in

favourable condition. This agreement will continue until 2021, and most of the area on which the new grazing regime is proposed are managed under this agreement and outlined in Table 2

**Table 2: HLS land relevant to the Grazing Strategy**

<b>Sandhill</b> (RLR parcel number SZ57998292)	23.31 ha of this parcel is managed under 'Restoration of Grassland for Target Features' with an additional supplement for 'Difficult Sites Supplement.'
<b>Junkett Hill</b> (RLR parcel number SU7006440)	18.12ha of this parcel is managed under 'Restoration of Grassland for Target Features'.
<b>Hilbury Meadow</b> (RLR parcel number SU57005377)	6.00 ha of this parcel was fenced in 2013 as part of the HLS Capital Works Plan. These are managed under 'Restoration of Grassland for Target Features' with an additional supplement for 'Difficult Sites Supplement'.
<b>North Field</b>	This parcel is not included in the HLS agreement and is not presently registered with the Rural Land Registry (RLR)

- 1.8 The HLS agreement recognises that additional work is required on land covered by the HLS including most of the areas identified in Table 2. This includes engaging with the local community to reduce the incidence of vandalism and to educate dog walkers (as well as other users) about the key habitats and species present on the site, in particular the ground nesting birds which are easily disturbed by dogs.
- 1.9 The present Natural England Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement makes annual payments and capital payments in return for targeted management that needs to be achieved. If an inspection should arise and the management is failing then it is possible that a penalty and repayment could arise.
- 1.10 Under this agreement with Natural England satisfactory management of the grassland must be undertaken annually. Currently the site is mown with a target of two thirds per year to be cut and removed from site. This has not been effectively undertaken as there are a number of constraints on staff time, weather and logistics on this form of management. After the initial establishment the time required with grazing is less, as even though cattle need checking everyday this can be achieved through the use of volunteers, a method that is widely used on conservation sites.

#### Other considerations

- 1.11 The HLS agreement has to be balanced with other local strategies for the site such as the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's Interim Mitigation Strategy. This identifies the Alver Valley as a potential site to deflect recreational pressure generated by new residential development, away from internationally protected coastal habitats including the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA). Whilst primarily aimed to alleviate pressure on the SPA, the use of off-site mitigation such as Alver Valley also has benefits for the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as well as a number of SSSI's and Ramsar Sites in the Borough and the neighbouring Boroughs.

- 1.12 The site is identified as an important recreation resource in the Council's Local Plan and the PUSH Green infrastructure Strategy (PUSH, 2012) and consequently the Council's priorities for encouraging visitors to the site must be considered as part of the Grazing Strategy.
- 1.13 Other local strategies such as the Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (King, 2012) should also be considered with the management of the site. There will therefore need to be a balance between conservation management and the use of the site as a recreational area for members of the public.

### **Benefits of grazing**

#### **Ecological Benefits**

- 1.14 Grazing has been used as an effective management tool for most types of grassland for many years. When utilised appropriately it is especially effective to restore rank grassland such as that present at Alver Valley to a more species-rich sward and then maintain it. Grazing is more efficient at sward development than other forms of management. The other most common form is cut and collect. Cutting is a more sudden and less selective approach that fails to create the structural and species heterogeneity that comes from grazing (Crofts & Jefferson 1999). Cutting can have a particularly detrimental effect on reptile and invertebrate assemblages (Kirby, 2001). The variable sward height is important for many species to escape pressures from the grassland management. Grazing is slow and selective, leaving longer areas for reptiles and invertebrates to escape to.
- 1.15 Grazing also ensures development of a species-rich sward by limiting the ability of competitive and less desirable species to become too frequent within the sward (Crofts & Jefferson, 1999).

#### **Economic benefits**

- 1.16 Cost, both economically and that of staff time, is considerable when dealing with cutting and collecting large areas of grassland. The cut material needs to be disposed of which can pose both a financial and logistical problem. After the initial cost for the infrastructure of the site, grazing can prove a much cheaper option in the long term with running maintenance covered by the HLS. The annual payments from the HLS agreement bring in over £15k to GBC, and much of Hilbury Meadow was fenced as part of the HLS Capital Works plan in 2013 which also included installation of a water supply.

#### **Community benefits**

- 1.17 Having livestock on the site can be a draw for many visitors. It is common for visitors, especially with families, to come to visit the cattle. Similar grazing arrangements are in place on many other publically accessible amenity sites (nationally and locally) without causing issues to visitors through public education initiatives and the installation of fencing. The community can also be engaged with the use of trained volunteers to complete livestock checks. Public education will be necessary to help

engage people who may oppose fencing and stricter controls on access. This can be further complimented with guided walks and talks about what is happening and how this benefits the site. The use of social media in this area will be a beneficial asset.

- 1.18 The proposed start of the strategy (2016) should incorporate an event to educate the public on the use of livestock and the appropriate behaviour necessary around livestock. This can be specifically targeted at schools and families so as to draw more people to use the site but should also include regular visitors.

#### Dog Control

- 1.19 Dog control and the effect that this has on the ecology of the Country Park, primarily on ground nesting birds, can be an issue. The Government's UK Biodiversity Action Plan identifies ground nesting birds such as Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) as a priority species. Such species are present within the Alver Valley Country Park and the recreational impact on these species can be significant (Mallord et al 2007) as well as other priority one species such as Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*). Introducing and developing a grazing regime will give greater flexibility to impose dog control during the breeding season. As stock will be present on site, access to these fields by the public will be permitted, however to avoid impacts upon livestock, dogs will need to be kept under control. This will have the additional benefit of reducing the recreational impact upon breeding birds by reducing the presence of dogs off leads in these areas. This can then be enforced on site, especially when worked in conjunction with the Council's, 'Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park'.

#### **Key issues to consider**

- 1.20 As well as the benefits that have been identified above there are also a number of issues associated with grazing which are summarised below and considered further in Section 3 relating to Implementation.

**Table 3: Potential issues associated with grazing**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Possibility of conflict due to fences and perceived constraints on access.	There may be adverse feeling to erection of fencing on site. This should be managed through good public relations, use of interpretation and social media.
Reliable use of grazier, removal of livestock when needed	The locating and management of graziers is potentially difficult. Use of local groups such as the Wildlife Trust may be useful in this. An appropriate contract therefore must be established and the need to remain flexible acknowledged.
Negative effects on habitat through poaching (i.e. trampling of the ground leading to disturbed soil structure) or overgrazing.	In particularly wet conditions considerable damage can be done to the sward and soil structure. Continuous monitoring is necessary.

Possible negative impacts on breeding birds and target species	Over grazing can have adverse effects on the target species. This must be monitored throughout the year.
Reptiles can respond negatively to heavy grazing.	Areas must be left where tussock forming grassland can develop (Gent&Gibson, 2003) to accommodate the reptile populations found on the Alver Valley.
Implementation of infrastructure	Erection of adequate fencing and provision of water will potentially prove difficult on some areas of the site.

### Key Messages

1.21 Key messages of the Alver Valley Country Park Grazing Strategy are set out below:

- Grazing is an important tool for the conservation of grassland.
- Grazing is preferential over other methods due to the resulting varied structure that it gives the grassland and the efficiency over mechanical methods.
- The suggested programme is the preferred method but will need to remain flexible so as to accommodate graziers, livestock welfare and public views.
- The suggested programme of grazing will be gradually introduced with ongoing monitoring both of biodiversity and public feeling. This will be started with a launch event so as to educate and nurture good public relations.
- Great focus will be on public involvement and establishing good relationships with the country park users.
- The grazing will be implemented in conjunction with the Dog Strategy.
- The grazing on site will work with public access. No restrictions on access shall be applied (other than Hilbury). Dogs will be required to be on a lead in the particular parcel of land which is being grazed by cattle.

## **2. Implementation Issues**

### **Overview**

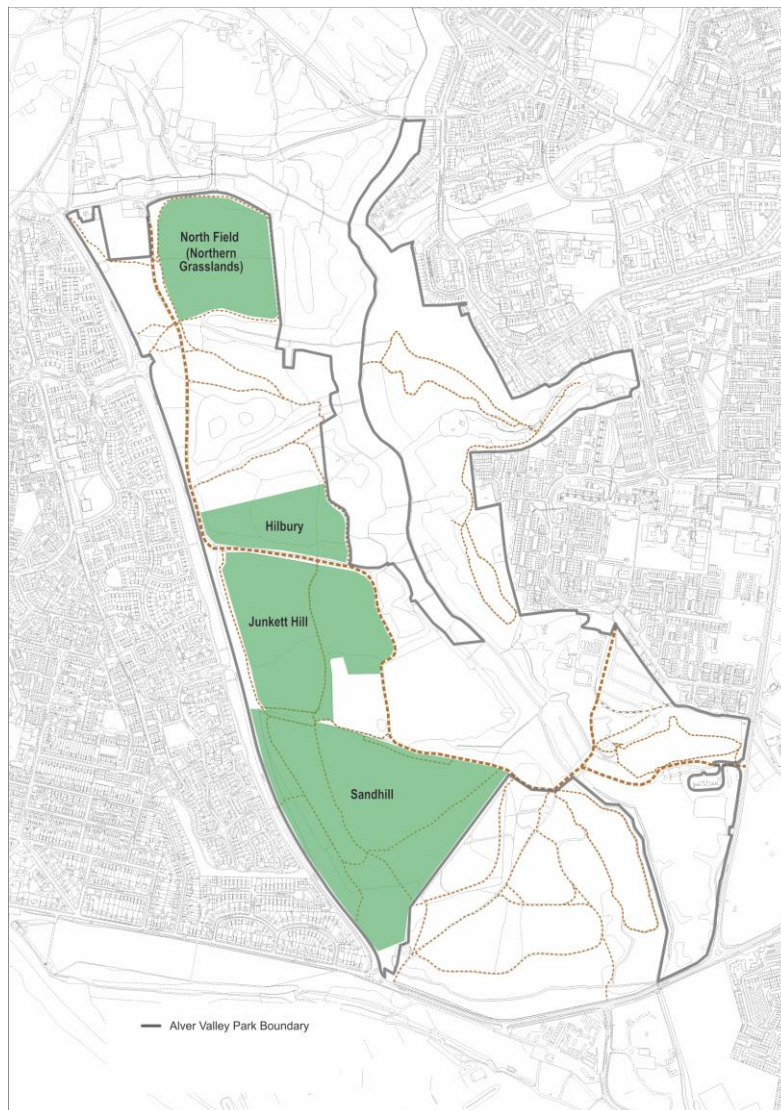
- 2.1 The proposed implementation set out in this Strategy represents 'a best case scenario', however it is necessary to maintain a flexible approach to ensure that the grazing objectives remain compatible with the use of the site as a Country Park, particularly with regard to maintaining public accessibility and enjoyment of the Alver Valley by visitors. Implementation will need to take place over a number of years with ongoing review and monitoring. There will need to be an annual review of the effectiveness of the grazing to monitoring issues set out in Section 4 of this Strategy.
- 2.2 It is proposed that grazing will take place in grassed areas on the western side of the Country Park (representing a maximum area of 45 Ha. in total). Importantly once all the relevant areas are being grazed this will be undertaken in rotation leaving the majority of the areas without grazing animals at any one time.
- 2.3 The identification of such areas will be decided in conjunction with the Council's '*Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park*', to ensure ample space for dog walkers.
- 2.4 The suggested fields are Sandhill, Junkett, Hilbury and the North Field (see Plan 1). Further details of required actions relating to these areas are set out in Section 3. The suggested grazing regime is a low density of livestock from late May – early June until August. Keeping stocking densities below 0.3 livestock units (lu)/ha has little effect on breeding birds (Pavel, 2003). This will also help with dog control and will also help restore the sward. The grazing will need to be intensified from late August until October where the livestock are moved through each compartment. This must not exceed the stocking density of 2.5 lu/ha as outlined by Natural England in the HLS agreement. This will reduce the sward significantly but is after the breeding bird season so will avoid any detrimental effects on ground nesting birds as well as reducing the impact on reptiles and invertebrates but still having a significant effect on the vegetation.
- 2.5 This regime will vary the grazing both temporarily and spatially across the site, providing a diverse sward both structurally and ecologically. An estimated total number of 10-15 adult cattle would serve the whole site. The grazing regime will need to be flexible to take into account of issues such as prior commitments by graziers and stock movements.

### **Public Access**

- 2.6 Public access should not be inhibited within the grazed areas and efforts must be made for appropriate pathways to be maintained. Access into fields with livestock must be considered to ensure safety for both the public and the animals.



**Plan 1: Proposed areas of grazing. NB: This shows broad areas rather than precise boundaries**



- 2.7 Potential for confrontation between cattle and members of the public is a possibility. It has become common place in many countryside sites across the UK for public access to be allowed through fields containing livestock with minimal negative impacts on either party. The use of interpretation including display panel adjacent the relevant field may assist in educating the public regarding the benefits of grazing. Notices explaining safe protocol around the livestock will be appropriate in relevant locations where livestock are on the site. This should cover issues such as not feeding the animals and how to behave around them.
- 2.8 It is therefore proposed that public access will be maintained in all grazed areas except Hilbury, which is currently not used by the public. Dogs on leads will be able to use all the public areas that are being grazed. It proposed that requiring dogs on leads in parcels of land with livestock should be enforced, a common practice in many areas and recommended in the countryside code (Natural England 2012). This will also help reduce negative impacts on nesting birds during breeding season.

- 2.9 Secure footpaths should be available across the site that allows people to walk across the Country Park without having to go into fields with livestock. Access arrangements must comply with the Disability and Discrimination Act 1995, especially when considering gates.
- 2.10 It will be necessary to make judgements on the cattle and time their placement in the proposed secured fields at the necessary times of year. Use of cattle with calves and bulls will be avoided, following advice set out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE, 2012). Cattle to be used will generally be acclimatised to public and dogs.

### **Site Facilities**

- 2.11 Appropriate facilities for cattle must be incorporated into the infrastructure of the site. Water must be considered in areas where mains water supply cannot reach. Troughs filled through tractor mounted bowsers are used effectively on many sites through the UK and a good option. This also means that these smaller troughs can be periodically relocated so as to avoid areas of intense poaching which will destroy the soil structure. There must also be handling facilities on site through the use of corrals so as the cattle can be safely manoeuvred on and off the site. Long term use will need to see the provision of more specialist facilities such as a crush.
- 2.12 Allowing public access through gates into the fields will be necessary so these will need to be installed. Disabled access will need to be considered through strategic use of self-closing gates.

### **Fencing**

- 2.13 The large amount of fencing that will be required will take on the form of standard net stock fencing. It is proposed that along the western road boundary this is topped with barbed wire so as to greatly reduce the risk of escape. Throughout the rest of the site where people have greater access to the fence line, a standard un-barbed wire can be used.

### **Use of Grazier**

- 2.14 Outsourcing grazing to an external grazier is advised in the initial stages of grazing of the site. An agreement should be created, where removal of the cattle can be undertaken if weather conditions deteriorate. Cattle would need to be in through the summer in very low stocking densities and then rotated through the compartments in higher densities through autumn. The livestock will be removed in winter to avoid damage to the soil structure.
- 2.15 Use of organisations such as the Wildlife Trust can be useful in this respect due to local expertise they possess, the packages they offer which are conservation orientated and that they give a level of credibility to the project as it shows a positive and necessary conservation effort. It also becomes both cost and time effective (see Appendix 1) as the package involves the majority of the work being undertaken by the Wildlife Trust, stock movement etc. Appendix 2 gives a list of items that the Wildlife Trust provides through their grazing programme.

- 2.16 Once all compartments have been established the long term objective would be to have a small herd that can be rotated across all of the sites. This would give more control over grazing periods although additional demands on staff would need to be fully considered.

**Stock selection**

- 2.17 Cattle are generally considered best for conservation grazing due to their feeding behaviour (Vallentine 2001, Crofts 1999). They provide a more structured sward and hardier breeds can support themselves on rough fodder. Considering the public nature of the site and presence of dogs, cattle are more suitable. Sheep and many pony breeds are more susceptible to dog attacks.

**Breed selection**

- 2.18 There must be some consideration into breed selection for the site. A hardy species is preferable where feeding strategies cope with the large quantities of woody plant material and low nutrient content of the sward during the autumn. Certain cattle breeds are often considered better when public are on site, especially with dogs so careful consideration must be taken. Dairy breeds for instance are not appropriate due to high maintenance needs and more aggressive nature. Belted Galloways are a good selection (Grazing Animal Project, 2001). This will be dependent on what is available from the grazier.

**Stock Movement**

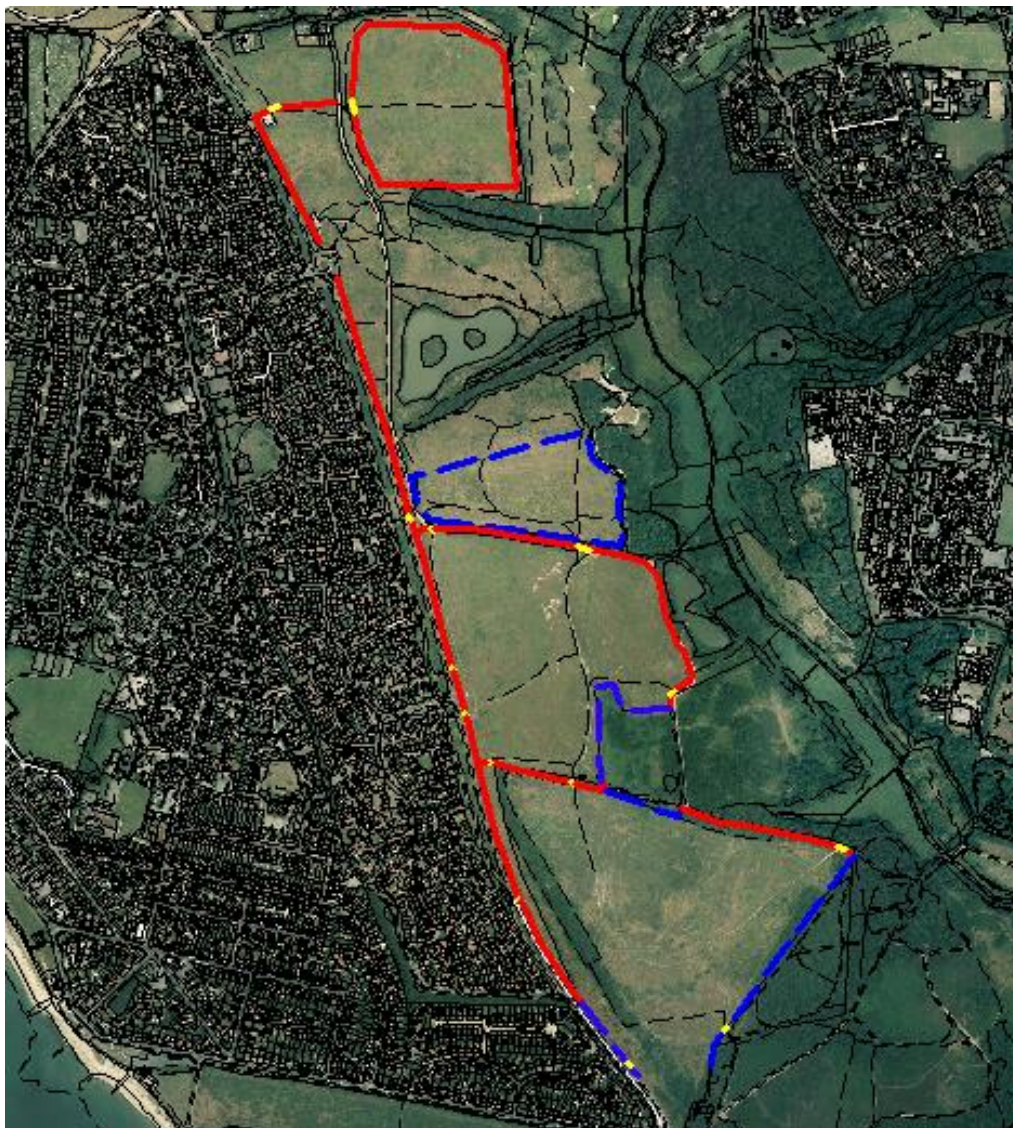
- 2.19 All terms set out by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must be adhered to with regards to movement of livestock. This will cover areas such as records of movement and stock passports.

### 3. Key proposals

- 3.1 This section outlines the key areas that are proposed to be grazed together with key actions followed by an overall suggested timetable. As highlighted previously there will be ongoing monitoring and an annual review of the grazing programme and consideration whether further areas should be grazed. The proposed sites are outlined in the tables below. Plan 2 identifies the potential fencing requirements if all four areas were to be used for grazing purposes.

#### **Plan 2: The Alver Valley Country Park with suggested fencing.**

Red – New fencing  
Blue – Existing fencing/barriers  
Yellow – Suggested gates





**Table 4: Hilbury**

Objective	To maintain current grazing regime to enhance biodiversity.
Description (Plan 3)	This site is north of Junkett and was fenced in 2013 and grazed throughout the autumn that year. This site has been closed off to the public for this time and should remain so with the autumn grazing regime maintained. Large areas of Spear Thistle will be topped in July prior to seeding but must be surveyed for ground nesting birds.
Target	To arrange agreement with grazier by year 1 for autumn grazing.
Action	The current grazing regime should be maintained with grazier. This allows for five cattle to be on the compartment for a period between September until December

**Plan 3: Hilbury**

Red – New fencing  
 Blue – Existing fencing/barriers  
 Yellow – Suggested gates

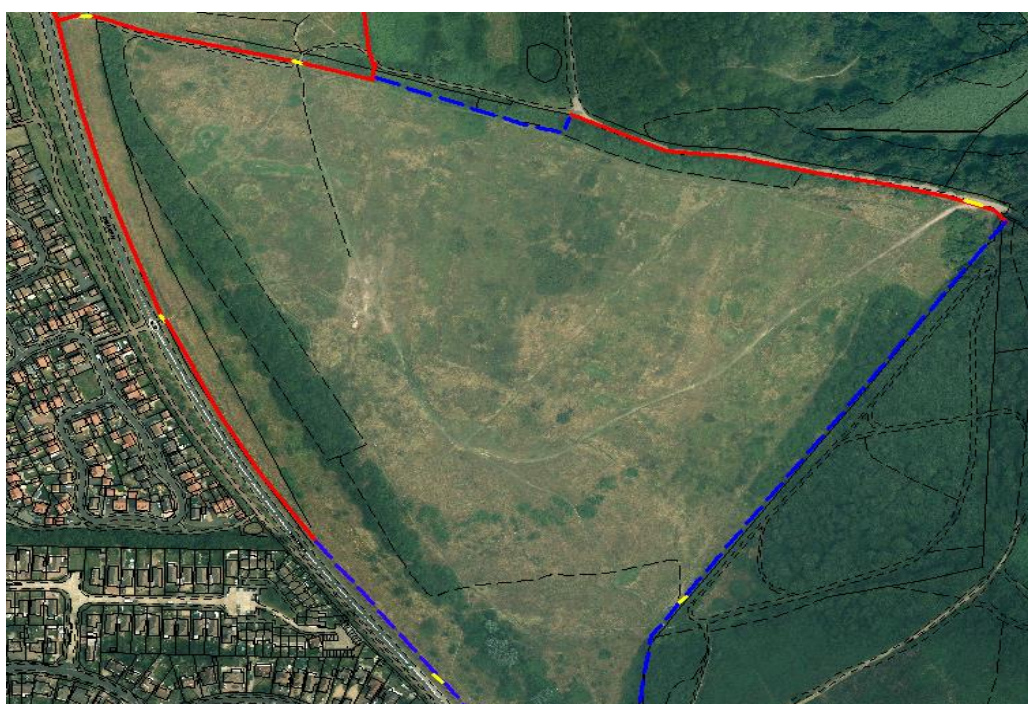


**Table 5: Sandhill**

Objective	Increase the biodiversity of the site through management of the sward.
Description (Plan 4)	<p>This area has been grassland since the 1980's. Formerly a gravel extraction quarry it has since been landfill with household waste and clay capped. The sward shows a significant bias to taller grass species due to lack of management. In line with the Higher Level Stewardship agreement grazing should be implemented on this part of the site.</p> <p>The primary target species on this part of the site are Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>), Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) and Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>). Reptiles also form an important component, especially a large population of Adders (<i>Vipera berus</i>), an important species in decline and very sensitive to genetic isolation (Madsen 1996). Skylarks show a habitat preference towards open grassland with little scrub and structural heterogeneity providing long sward for nesting and short for foraging (Donald, 2001b) whereas areas of scrub of varying age on an interface with structured grassland is important for Dartford warbler (Catchpole 1992, Berg 2001). Management of the site has to therefore find a balance between these.</p>
Target	To implement grazing by year 2.
Action	Stock proof perimeter fencing needs to be established around the compartment (see map 2). Care should be taken as the site is former land fill and penetrating the clay cap should be avoided. Therefore fencing should be erected down the edge of Cherque Way, where a small section already exists. This can be carried on up the whole site to act as a secondary safety measure and also prevent unwanted vehicle entry. Gates will also need to be installed as well as a corral for transportation of livestock. There is a significant barrier between Sandhill and Browndown North with vegetation and a fence already in place. This will need some repair work.

**Plan 4: Sandhill**

Red – New fencing; Blue – Existing fencing/barriers; Yellow – Suggested gates.





**Table 6: Junkett Hill**

Red – New fencing; Blue – Existing fencing/barriers; Yellow – Suggested gates.

Objective	Increase the biodiversity of the site through management of the sward
Description (Plan 5)	<p>This forms the area to the north of Sandhill and is a former gravel extraction site but has been filled with inert content. The sward here is shorter and newer than on Sandhill with scrub present. This forms one of the most important areas on the site for Skylarks, with four pairs breeding annually. Grazing is to be established on this site in the same manner as Sandhill</p> <p>The southern and eastern side of the field forms steep slopes that should be enhanced for reptiles with provision of hibernacula and protection from intense grazing. Structured Gorse thickets will be developed on these areas to benefit Dartford Warbler.</p>
Target	To implement grazing by year 3.
Action	<p>Stock proof perimeter fencing needs to be established, joining Sandhill. The western edge will be an extension of the Cherque Way fencing. This forms the largest unit of fencing as no barriers are currently present. The fence should follow the road around the edge of the field. Styles, gates and a loading pen would need to be added, with gated access to Sandhill via the south western end, aiding stock movement.</p> <p>Water troughs on this area will need to be filled with a bowser unless a water source can be located from Cherque Way.</p>

**Plan 5: Junkett Hill**

Red – New fencing; Blue – Existing fencing/barriers; Yellow – Suggested gates.



**Table 7: North Field**

Objective	Increase the biodiversity of the site through management of the sward
Description (Plan 6)	This area of approximately four hectares of rough grassland was cleared in 2007 and the site was left to regenerate back to grassland. The sward is rank, mainly consisting tough grasses and is succumbing to succession. This has meant the site has become good for small mammals which has benefitted higher species such as Barn Owl and Kestrel. The site also provides nesting places for Linnet, Dartford warbler and Whitethroat. The current state of succession will be maintained, with an aimed improvement of the sward diversity.
Target	To implement grazing by year 4
Action	This compartment see's relatively less traffic from the public due to its location at the north of the site. The footpath runs around the perimeter of it so this compartment can be fenced with very little impact to the public. The later successional phase of grassland can be maintained as such to give variety to the site. The grazing regime will reflect this by having low numbers of cattle in through Autumn. The site can be closed off so there is no need for light summer grazing. A large gate and corral will need to be situated off the road on the west side. Water troughs from a mains outlet is possible here with the water source found on Cherque Way.

**Plan 6: North Field**

Red – New fencing; Blue – Existing fencing/barriers; Yellow – Suggested gates.





**Proposed Timetable**

- 3.2 The proposed timetable for the proposals outlined for the four parcels of land are set out below, but as previously mentioned this would be subject to detailed monitoring and review with a thorough consideration of how effective and publically acceptable grazing has been each year before further grazing has been undertaken.

**Table 8: Indicative Timetable**

<b>Year 1 Autumn 2016</b>	Hilbury Meadow to be grazed using approximately 6 cattle, running from late August through until October allowing a launch event to take place partly in school holidays and then school visits thereafter. The focus in year one will be to nurture public feeling towards wider grazing and education on behaviour.
<b>Year 2 – 2017</b>	Sandhill to be fenced and lightly grazed in conjunction with Hilbury Meadow from June through until August. Then from late August until October all cattle will be on Sandhill. This will remain flexible with continual monitoring of the grassland. At the end of the grazing season a full review will take place to analyse the effect on both the grassland and on the public.
<b>Year 3-5 – 2018-2020</b>	After assessment of year two a strategy of ongoing management will be decided and if the project is well-received additional compartments will be fenced over successive years.

#### **4. Monitoring**

- 4.1 Monitoring of the site will need to take place from year 1 so detrimental effects can be identified as well as areas in need of more extensive grazing. This should be achieved by staff and volunteers though occasional work by consultants may be necessary. Suggested monitoring work is outlined below.

##### **Public Support**

- 4.2 Public support for the project will need to be accessed throughout the course of the programme, especially in the initial stages. The strategy may need to be adjusted to accommodate all parties within the Country Park.

##### **Incident Monitoring**

- 4.3 Any incidents with the public and livestock must be monitored closely so as to prevent dangerous interactions.

##### **Fence Checks**

- 4.4 Fence lines should be regularly checked for damage. This will need to be done on a weekly basis and can be factored in to site checks and welfare checks. This can be achieved through staff and the use of volunteers.

##### **Livestock Health Checks**

- 4.5 These should be daily checks and can be done by both staff and volunteers, creating an excellent opportunity to engage the local community. Training will need to be given that can be completed by countryside staff.

##### **Breeding Bird Surveys**

- 4.6 A number of transects should be completed annually through the breeding season and encompass the whole site. Special consideration should be given to the Skylark and Dartford Warbler populations as these are a target species. Birds are a good indicator species and so will reflect habitat richness and diversity. This can be achieved through staff and volunteer support.

##### **Butterfly Surveys**

- 4.7 Transects should be completed across the whole site as a number of target species are butterflies and they are a good indicator of sward suitability. This can be achieved through staff and volunteer support.

##### **Vegetation 'phase 2' Surveys**

- 4.8 Detailed vegetation surveys should be done on each of the compartments on a rolling 5 year rotation. This could be modified and undertaken yearly as a number of random sample plots using quadrats. This should be undertaken by adequately trained staff or volunteers or a consultant due to the specialist nature.

### **Sward monitoring**

- 4.9 The sward must be monitored the whole time livestock are present to identify excess poaching or overgrazing. This will be completed using countryside staff.

## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1 It is acknowledged that more detailed work will be required regarding the costs of implementation particularly in relation to the cost of fencing, gates and associated infrastructure. The estimated cost of fencing and installation of water supply is £20,000 spread over 4 years. Whilst part of this initial outlay could be provided by the HLS funding (see Table 8) it is likely that some capital funding would be required. Details of which would need to be reported to the relevant Council Board.
- 5.2 It is considered that the HLS funding will be used for the on-going costs of keeping the livestock and repair to infrastructure. Annual maintenance would be necessary at a minimal cost, estimated at £1000 per annum for fencing supplies and other associated costs.
- 5.3 It is considered that the use of a grazier, such as described earlier, would be preferable and the Wildlife Trust have offered assistance with cattle. These come at a cost of £10/lu/week and therefore would need to be funded through the HLS agreement. Each compartmental budget for the HLS would cover this.

**Table 8 – Annual income from HLS per parcel.**

<b>Parcel</b>	<b>Option</b>	<b>Size (ha)</b>	<b>Annual payment rate per ha (£)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sandhill</b> SZ57998292	HK16	23.31	130	3030.3
	HR7	23.31	50	1165.5
<b>Junkett Hill</b> SU7006440	HK16	18.12	130	2355.6
<b>Hilbury Meadow</b> SU57005377	HK16	6	130	780
	HR7	6	50	300
<b>Total annual HLS income from above parcels</b>				<b>£7,631.4</b>

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 The process of grazing on the Alver Valley will be both complicated and potentially controversial but the benefits and net gain of grazing, both in ecology and time management, will be far greater. It should bring a beneficial rural feel to and increasingly urban area, giving people in a densely populated borough an important countryside experience where they can learn how to behave around and appreciate livestock.
- 6.2 It is important with the strategy to remain flexible. The outline here is the preferred strategy to get the greatest benefit for wildlife on the site. This will however have to change with grazer preference and public demand over time. A staged approach, both for financial reasons and public relations should be adopted

## Glossary

Corrals	Small fenced areas in which cattle can be kept prior to travel
Crush	A strongly built stall or cage for holding livestock safely while they are examined, marked, or given veterinary treatment
Grazier	Outside stock owner brought in to graze sites.
Heterogeneity	The quality of being diverse.
Poaching	The process of livestock trampling the ground and leading to disturbed soil structure.
Rank	In reference to grass sward – where sward has become long and dominated by tough grasses.
Succession	The process by which the structure of a biological community evolves over time.
Sward	Turf that is covered predominately by grasses

## Appendix 1 – Cost estimates for management

Method	Contactor	Estimate	Additional cost	Estimated Cost in first year	Estimated 5 year cost	Estimated 10 year cost	Comment
Grazing	The Wildlife Trust	£10/lu/week= £2520	initial fencing - approximately £5/m = £4000 + £1000 for troughs and repairs	£7,520	£32,600	£45,200	Based on 12 cattle for 21 weeks. 5 year costing includes all fencing for all compartments and provision of furniture.
Cut & Collect	In House Contractor	£130 / Ha	0	£5,642	£28,210	£56,420	Estimated cost of all compartments
Cut & Collect	External Contractor	£2000 / week	0	£6,000 - £8,000	£30,000 - £40,000	£60,000 - £ 80,000	Estimated cost of all compartments based on 3-4 week completion.

## Appendix 2: Potential Wildlife Trust package

The Wildlife Trust conservation grazing service offers:

- Set dates for cattle arrival (once agreed between ourselves)
- A 24 hour emergency response member of staff for the cattle
- We will fulfil our cattle's welfare requirements, including all TB testing
- We will keep all cattle records
- We will be able to provide you with the grazing figures you require for any NVZ data you may be required to keep.
- We will establish and maintain the lookers online recording system (blog) which you will also have access and control over
- We can offer advice on how to train your volunteer lookers/stock checkers.

The Wildlife trust will not:

- be responsible for fences, gates or infrastructure
- be responsible for lookers, recruitment, training, supervision, risk assessments or volunteer insurance
- cut the meadow areas for hay

Current grazing fees are £10/cattle/week. This is how much it costs for us to run and staff grazing operation and does not include any surplus. This will be reviewed annually to ensure it fits with operational costs. The Alver Valley is quite remote from our main grazing area but development of a set of geographically close sites which can work together to ensure reliable grazing provision to them all will hopefully be established.

## References

- Berg, L.J.L. Bullock, J.M. Clarke, R.T. Langston, R.H.W. Rose, R.J. 2001 *Territory selection by the Dartford warbler (Sylvia undata) in Dorset, England: the role of vegetation type, habitat fragmentation and population size*. Biological Conservation. 101: 217-228
- Catchpole, C.K. Phillips, J.F. 1992. *Territory quality and reproductive success in the Dartford warbler Sylvia undata in Dorset, England*. Biological Conservation 63: 209-215
- Crofts, A. Jefferson, R.G. (1999) *The lowland grassland management Handbook* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Nature
- Donald, P.F., Evans, A.D., Muirhead, L.B., Buckingham, D.L., Muirhead, L.B., & Wilson, J.D. (2001b). *Factors affecting the territory distribution of Skylarks Alauda arvensis breeding on lowland farmland*. – Bird Study 48: 271-278.
- Gent, T. Gibson, S. (2003) *Herpetofauna Workers Manual*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
- Grazing Animal Project, (2001) *The Breed Profiles Handbook*. Natural England
- Health and Safety Executive (2012) *Cattle and Public Access in England and Wales Advice for Farmers, Landowners and other Livestock Keepers*, Agriculture Information Sheet No 17EW(rev1)
- King, D. (2010) *Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2010*. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
- Kirby, P. (2001). *Habitat Management for Invertebrates: A Practical Handbook*. RSPB, Sandy
- Madsen, T. Stille, B. Shine, R. (1996) *Inbreeding depression in an isolated population of Adders Vipera berus*. Biological Conservation 76:113-118
- Mallord, J.W. Dolman, P.M. Brown, A.F. Sutherland, W.J. (2007) *Linking recreational disturbance to population size in ground nesting passerine*. *Journal of applied ecology* 44: 185-195
- Natural England, (2012) *The Countryside Code*
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (2012) *PUSH Green Infrastructure Implementation Framework*
- Pavel, V. 2004 *The impact of grazing on nesting success of grassland passerines in farmland and natural habitats: a field experiment*. Folia Zool. 52:171-178
- Stillman, R. A., Cox, J., Liley, D., Ravenscroft, N., Sharp, J. Wells, M. (2009) *Solent disturbance and mitigation project: Phase I report*. Report to the Solent Forum
- Vallentine, J.F. (2001) *Grazing Management*. Academic Press



## Sources of Information

### UK BAP information :

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2007) *UK BAP priority species*. [online] [Accessed on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014] <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2007) *UK BAP priority habitats*. [online] [Accessed on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014] <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>

## Acknowledgements

| Josie Allen & Ian Stone – Natural England

Laura Fairs - Hampshire and isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

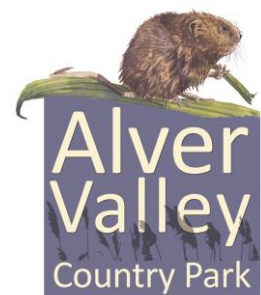
## Appendix D: Signage and Interpretation Strategy for the Alver Valley Country Park



Part of the Alver Valley Country Park Management Plan  
SEPTEMBER 2015



**GOSPORT**  
Borough Council



## Contents Page:

<b>1: Introduction</b>	3
<b>2: Logo</b>	3
<b>3: Signage and outdoor display material in the Alver Valley Country Park</b>	4
- Purpose of signs and outdoor material	4
- Proposed typology of signs	4
- Welcome/Entrance/Orientation Signs	6
- Facility Signs	10
- Wayfinding Signs/Fingerposts/Waymarkers	12
- Interpretation Panels	15
- Notice Boards	17
- Conduct Signs (Specific for Alver Valley)	18
- Standard signs (with no Alver Valley branding)	21
<b>4: Mounting</b>	23
<b>5: Maintenance and Removal of Signs</b>	23
<b>6: Visitor Information Point at Grange Farm Gateway</b>	24
<b>7: Leaflets</b>	24
<b>8: Website and use of other digital media</b>	24
<b>9: Other matters</b>	25
- Fishing Lake	25
- Browndown Common	25
<b>10: Action Plan</b>	26

## **Signage and Interpretation Strategy for the Alver Valley Country Park**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This document aims to set out the Council's approach to signage and interpretation. It firstly sets out the logo for the Country Park and then focusses particularly on outdoor signage and other outdoor display material within the Alver Valley Country Park (Sections 3-5). It also includes related guidance for other interpretation and information material including the proposed visitor information point (Section 6), leaflets (Section 7), and website and other digital formats (Section 8). The approach to other signage related issues in the Country Park is included in Section 9.
- 1.2 In relation to signage and other outdoor display material within the Alver Valley Country Park this strategy has the following aims:
- To provide consistent, complementary and clear signage and interpretation in the Alver Valley to improve the experience for visitors;
  - To ensure signage and interpretation remains relevant and up-to-date as possible and is appropriately updated and maintained;
  - To avoid signage clutter, mixed messages and to ensure material that is no longer serving a useful function is removed.
- 1.3 The Signage and Interpretation Strategy for the Alver Valley Country Park is one of a suite of management documents which link to the overarching Alver Valley Country Park Strategy adopted by the Council in April 2014.
- 1.4 This document will be amended as and when it is deemed necessary to deal with changing circumstances subject to the appropriate Board and/or delegated approval. An Action Plan will be prepared to accompany this Strategy and will be updated as facilities are provided and other actions are required.

### **2 Alver Valley Country Park Logo**

- 2.1 In the summer of 2014 a selection of designs were put together by wildlife artists, Dan and Rosemary Powell. These were put out for public consultation and a public vote through the Council's Coastline magazine. The resulting clear winner was the design incorporating a water vole. It was subsequently decided that this water vole design would be the new official logo for the Alver Valley Country Park (See Figure below)



- 2.2 The logo and chosen species is particularly relevant to the Alver Valley. Water Voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) have been an important resident of the river and wetland areas in the past and after a short period of extinction probably due to the presence of mink (now removed) have been successfully reintroduced. They are now thriving within the wetlands of the Alver Valley.
- 2.3 The logo of the water vole with reeds is in a format which can be adjusted to suit the purposes it is being used for and consequently is flexible to be incorporated within different types of signs, leaflets and other publications as well as other Country Park purposes.
- 2.4 The logo will need to be used on all Alver Valley Country Park literature, signs, interpretation and related Country Park communications, together with the GBC logo.

### **3. Signage and outdoor display material in the Alver Valley Country Park**

#### **Purpose of signs and outdoor display material**

- 3.1 It is considered that signage and other outdoor display material is an important element of the Country Park for a number of reasons including:
- They convey relevant information to the visitor both informative and instructive. They serve to educate visitors about their immediate environment and encourage visitors to explore and understand the Country Park's special qualities.
  - They advise visitors of what is expected of them in order that all visitors can enjoy the facilities and can be used to help to address any behaviour perceived as anti-social, a nuisance or dangerous to other users.
  - They can help guide visitors around the Country Park.
  - Provide temporary notices that will inform visitors of local events, guided walks and other seasonal points of interest.
  - They can contribute to the branding and image of the Country Park which can contribute towards repeat visits.
  - They provide a sense of customer care and an indication that the site is properly managed and cared for. Conversely poorly maintained signs can convey the opposite.
- 3.2 Signage in the Country Park will aim to create an easily legible system to guide visitors around the site.

#### **Proposed typology of signs**

- 3.3 The types of signs required for the Country Park are set out in Table 1 and explained in further detail below. It will be important to meet the overall objectives set out in Paragraph 1.2. There are two main types of signs:
- Alver Valley Country Park signs (S1-S6 in Table 1 below)
  - Standard type signs (S7 Table 1 below)
- 3.4 All the main Country Park signs will contain the 'Water Vole' logo and accompanying design (colour scheme and reeds) as well as the Gosport Borough Council logo in a

format to suit the sign. The standard signs are not branded and will not include the Country Park logo. These will convey standard corporate and regulatory information.

- 3.5 The tables for each type of signs which follow and their suggested locations relate to the short and medium term taking into account the establishment of the Western, Eastern and Grange Farm Gateways. It is recognised that other signage and interpretation requirements may be required as circumstances change. The principles set out in this Strategy will still be applicable in most circumstances.

**Table 1: Summary of proposed types of signs**

<b>Specific Alver Country Park Sign Signs</b>
<b>S1: Welcome/Entrance/Orientation Signs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S1A- Main Gateway sign with ladder boards</li> <li>- S1B- Smaller Key Entrance sign</li> <li>- S1C- 'You Are Here' Plans</li> <li>- S1D- Entrance plaques</li> </ul>
<b>S2: Facility Signs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S2A- Large Facility Sign (with or without ladder boards)</li> <li>- S2B- Small Facility Sign</li> </ul>
<b>S3: Wayfinding Signs/Fingerposts/Waymarkers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S3A Branded Routes- Finger Posts</li> <li>- S3B Branded Routes- Waymarker</li> <li>- S3C Other Routes- Waymarker</li> <li>- S3D Facility Fingerposts</li> </ul>
<b>S4: Interpretation Panels</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S4A Main Interpretation Panels (with or without plans)</li> <li>- S4B Small Interpretation Panels</li> </ul>
<b>S5: Notice Boards</b>
<b>S6: Conduct Signs (Specific for Alver Valley)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S6A Code of Conduct Sign</li> <li>- S6B Dog Zone Plaque</li> <li>- S6C Dog Code Sign</li> </ul>
<b>Standard signs</b>
<b>S7: Standard signs (with no Alver Valley branding)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S7A Brown Visitor Road Signs</li> <li>- S7B Blue Strategic cycle/pedestrian route signs</li> <li>- S7C Parking Signs</li> <li>- S7D Safety Advisory Signs</li> <li>- S7E Rules and Regulations (excluding Alver Valley specific signs –see S6)</li> </ul>

**Specific Alver Country Park Sign Signs**

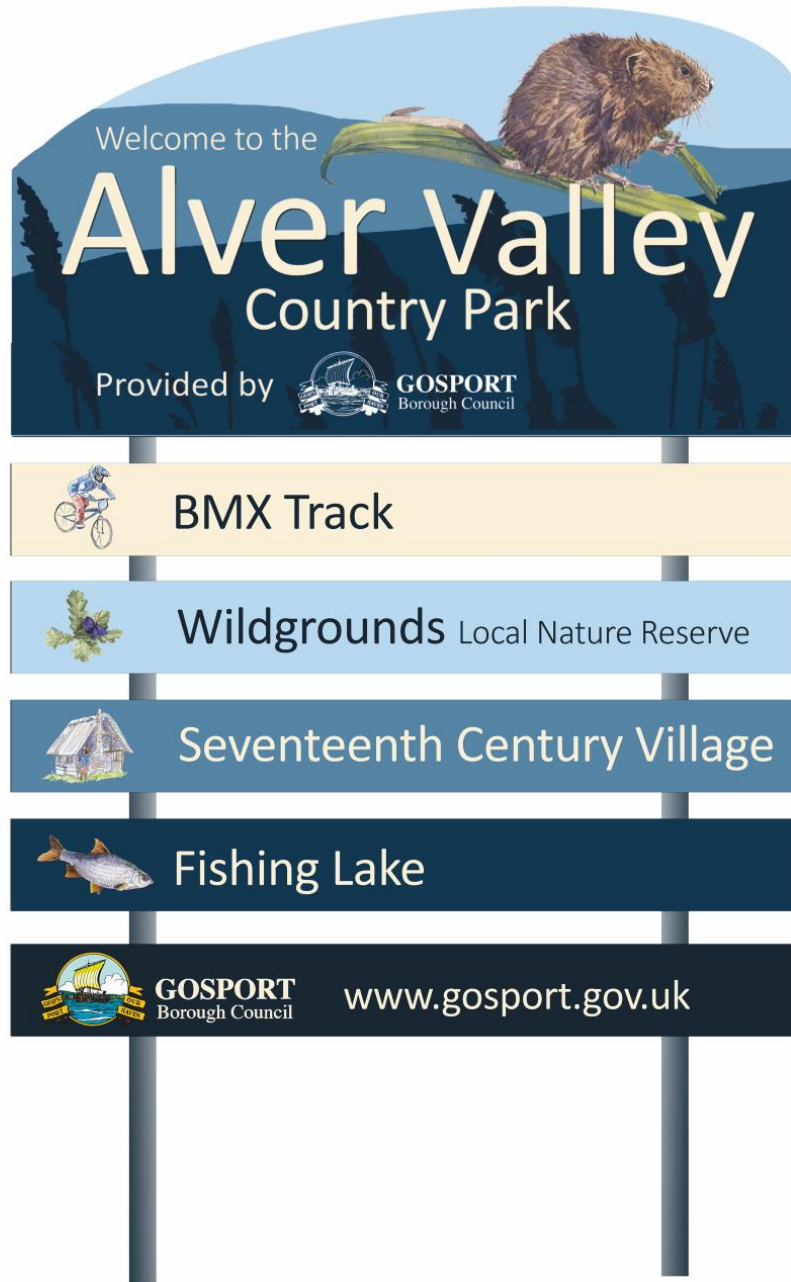
- 3.6 This Strategy particularly focusses on the specifically designed signs and outdoor display material used in the Alver Valley Country Park in order to provide a consistent approach within the Country Park which is clearly recognised by visitors and provides clear and useful information. The tables below and associated text provide guidance on the types of signs proposed for the Alver Valley Country Park.

**S1: Welcome/Entrance/Orientation Signs**


- 3.7 This group of signs are essential to provide a welcome to visitors and convey a message that the Country Park is established and well-managed. In addition the orientation plans help guide visitors around the Country Park and allow them to help understand the extensive site.


Sign Type	S1A- Main Gateway signs with ladder boards
Comments	<p>These are large roadside signs which aim to attract the attention of drivers and will be located at the main entrances into the Country Park.</p> <p>They are based on the format used for other Country Parks in Hampshire in order to provide familiarity to potential visitors and will incorporate the Alver Valley Country Park name and logo.</p> <p>It will incorporate a ladder board format where key standard information and forthcoming events can be shown and amended as appropriate. An advantage of using a ladder system is that the information can be altered and updated without replacing the whole sign.</p> <p>Each board will need to incorporate the name of the particular gateway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'West Car Park' at the Western Gateway</li> <li>• 'East Car Park' at the Eastern Gateway</li> <li>• 'Grange Farm'</li> </ul>
Suggested locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two at Western Gateway on Cherque Way</li> <li>• Two at Eastern Gateway off Grange Road</li> <li>• One at entrance of Eastern Gateway Car Park (just past Household Waste Recovery Centre site) to help draw visitors into the Country Park Car Park and avoid confusion with the HWRC entrance.</li> <li>• Two at new Grange Farm access (off Howe Road)</li> </ul>
Dimensions	The ladder board is designed to be able to be seen clearly from the road 1500mm wide and 1200mm high with a shaped panel
Mounting	Stand-alone sign
Note on indicative appearance below	The indicative illustration below highlights the Gateway Sign with examples of how a ladder board could work. Please note each Gateway sign would include the most relevant ladder boards for its location and therefore would not include all those shown below.


Indicative  
appearance






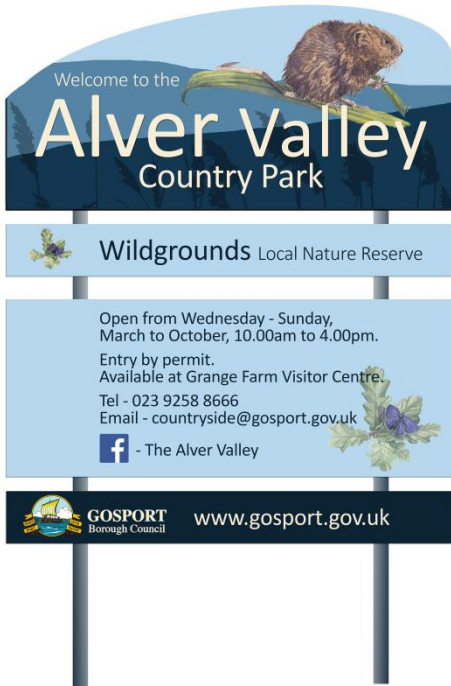
Sign Type	S1B- Smaller Key Entrance sign
Comments	<p>This is based on a similar format to Sign S1A but is smaller and is to be located at key pedestrian and cycle entrance points to the site. These will only be in a limited locations often associated with a main cycle route into the site.</p> <p>This sign includes 'Alver Valley Country Park', Country Park logo and GBC logo(no ladder boards)</p>
Suggested locations	Locations include the Privett Road entrance of the 'Alver Way' and new main access points at the northern end of the Country Park
Dimensions	Approx. 700 mm wide and 500 high in same shape and format as S1A
Mounting	Stand-alone sign
Indicative appearance	

Sign Type	S1C- 'You Are Here' Plans
Comments	<p>These signs will be based on the type already present in the Alver Valley but will be refreshed to include: the Northern Grasslands/Corner Shoot Area, greater prominence will be given to key routes; key facilities will be shown (BMX track, play area, new car parks); and the logo and Alver Valley Country Park Name will be included.</p> <p>These signs will need to be refreshed at appropriate intervals as new facilities become available particularly when the Grange Farm facilities become established.</p> <p>These signs function as an orientation plan and a welcome to the site.</p>
Suggested locations	As shown by red dots on indicative plan below. This will be reviewed as facilities are completed. They may need to be included at additional locations as the Country Park is established with additional routes and facilities.
Dimensions	Oval shaped 292mm long by 205mm wide
Mounting	Large wooden orientation posts (see Section 4)
Indicative appearance	<p>The picture below shows a current working example This will need to be updated to include new facilities associated with the Eastern and Western Gateway and eventually facilities relating to Grange Farm.</p> <p>The Plan shows all the 'You Are Here' Locations. Each individual plan would obviously only have one 'You Are Here' dot specific to its location.</p> 

Sign Type	S1D- Entrance plaques
Comments	<p>These are small plaques aimed at identifying to the visitor that they are entering the Alver Valley Country Park.</p> <p>These will be displayed at the entrance of the numerous minor informal entrance points to the site to raise awareness that the person is entering the Country Park.</p> <p>The signs will include the name 'Alver Valley Country Park' and the 'logo'</p>
Suggested locations	Minor entrance points as identified in the Alver Valley Country park Strategy.
Dimensions	100mm (length) in proportions shown in illustration below
Mounting	They will be displayed on post or other appropriate structure at the boundary of the Alver Valley Country Park
Indicative appearance	

## **S2: Facility Signs**

Sign Type	S2A- Large Facility Sign (with or without ladder boards)
Comments	<p>There will only be a small number of these signs in the Alver Valley and associated with a special particular attraction.</p> <p>These signs will be the same format as S1B and can incorporate ladder boards to give opening information, entry fees and forthcoming events.</p> <p>Specific design in the 'headboard' including the name of the attraction and a pictorial design depicting the attraction, with the Alver Valley Country Park name and logo as part of the ladder board;</p> <p>The ladder board will include relevant contact details and relevant details relating to the attraction- e.g. Opening hours, how to become a member, where to buy ticket etc.</p>
Suggested locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seventeenth Century Village :Ladder Board providing detail of opening times etc.- where to get tickets</li> <li>Wildgrounds Local Nature Reserve: Ladder Board providing detail of opening times - where to get permits etc.</li> <li>BMX Track with ladder board detailing public opening times, club contact etc.</li> <li>Fishing Lake- How to become a member, forthcoming public events etc.</li> </ul> <p>Other sites may arise as facilities are progressed</p>
Dimensions	Approx. 700 mm wide and 500 high in same shape and size as S1B

Mounting	Stand-alone sign (or mounted on structure if considered appropriate)
Note on indicative appearance below	Two examples of signs at specific attractions are outlined below- BMX Track and the Wildgrounds. Text shown on pictures below is for illustrative purposes only and actual wording will need to be agreed as appropriate.
Indicative appearance	 

Sign Type	S2B- Small Facility Sign
Comments	<p>These are small plaques of varying size to suit the site giving a name to an attraction or feature.</p> <p>They will include the name of the feature and the Country Park and GBC logos. They would be same colour as the S1 signs but shape and size could vary.</p>
Suggested locations	These would be placed where further details of a facility are required. None identified at present
Dimensions	Various to suit facility Min. 100mm by 100 mm
Mounting	On a post or appropriate structure
Indicative appearance	This would be a similar format to the Entrance Plaques (S1D) above with the name of the facility instead of the 'Alver Valley Country Park' label. However in certain instances it may be appropriate to combine with a directional element.


**Wayfinding Signs/Fingerposts/Waymarkers**

- 3.8 Waymarker posts guide the visitor through the Country Park and assist orientation to places of interest.

Sign Type	S3A Branded Routes
Comments	<p>There will be a small number of branded routes which will link key areas to the Country Park. These routes will therefore be partly in the Country Park and partly outside.</p> <p>There may also be a branded route entirely within the Country Park.</p> <p>These routes therefore need to be branded separately but complementary to the Alver Valley Country Park.</p>
Suggested locations	<p>The Alver Way will link Stokes Bay – Apple Dumpling Bridge in the Alver Valley Country Park.</p> <p>This sign will include a post showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of route 'Alver Way'</li> <li>• Destination (i.e. Stokes Bay or Alver Valley country Park depending on direction) and distance to destination</li> </ul> <p>Other routes will need to be explored include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A link between the Alver Valley and Lee-on-the Solent seafront</li> <li>• A northern link connected to Shoot Lane</li> <li>• A route along the spine route possibly linking Alver Village with Daedalus</li> <li>• Extension of the Alver Way northwards from Apple Dumpling Bridge (current land ownership constraints)</li> </ul> <p>These additional routes would follow a similar format</p>
Dimensions	HCC standard outside of Country Park. Inside Country Park the standard size for the Alver Valley finger posts will be used (see S3D).
Mounting	Finger board on its own post or on suitable structure already present
Indicative appearance	Similar type design as finger boards shown in S3D
Sign Type	S3B Branded Routes- Waymarker
Comments	On long routes and/or at particular junction a small way marker plaque may be required to guide the visitor.
Suggested locations	To be established as the detail of each route is established identified under S3A is established
Dimensions	Approx. 75mm (diameter) by 75mm (or square) showing direction and name of route. Consistent colour and shape for each route
Mounting	Appropriate fence posts/gatepost or in some cases on the Large Wooden Orientation Posts (see Section 4)

Indicative appearance		
-----------------------	---	--

Sign Type	S3C Other Routes- Waymarker
Comments	There are other smaller trails in the Country Park often associated with a particular activity (jogging) or facility (The Wildgrounds).
Suggested locations	Wildgrounds- two existing routes associated with the Wildgrounds leaflet.  Others routes could include coloured arrows (linked to routes shown on a leaflet or plan) with the name of the relevant route
Dimensions	Approx. min. 75mm (diameter) by 75mm (or square) showing direction of route. Consistent colour and shape for each route
Mounting	Posts
Indicative appearance	Standard arrows (with or without symbol

Sign Type	S3D Facility Fingerposts
Comments	<p>Finger posts showing direction of key facilities in the park at limited selected locations. These posts will include finger boards showing facilities such as toilets, café, named car parks and main attractions.</p> <p>The finger boards will need to include distances on them.</p> <p>The post system will need to be adaptable to add attractions when they become available.</p>
Suggested locations	To be determined
Dimensions	To be advised
Mounting	Self-standing
Indicative appearance	<p>Fingerposts designs will need to be incorporated into a standard signpost system. Possible designs of fingerposts are included below but further consideration will be required over detailed design.</p> 




#### **S4: Interpretation Panel**

- 3.9 A high quality interpretation panel in both appearance and content can add significant value to a visitor's experience enabling them to gain a better understanding of the area's particular characteristics (natural, historical, social, economic). It provides a starting point for visitors to explore and interpret what's around them. Often interpretation needs to convey information at a variety of levels depending on how much some one wishes to view them (cursory- detailed) and include a mix of text and illustration. It is necessary for the text to be large enough to be read and not be too wordy.
- 3.10 It is considered that the most recent form of interpretation panels used in the Country Park form an appropriate template to design the new interpretation panels.
- 3.11 An audit of existing interpretation boards has been undertaken and its findings will form part of the Action Plan for signage and outdoor display material. There are three key actions:
- Existing panels to be replaced with panels showing the same information but incorporating the Alver Valley logo (and Alver Valley Plan if necessary or space available);
  - Existing panels to be replaced with panels showing refreshed text and/reformatted design and incorporating the Alver Valley logo (and Alver Valley Plan if necessary or space available);
  - New panels with new subject matter and logo to be incorporated (and Alver Valley Plan if necessary or space available).
- 3.12 All existing interpretation boards will need to be eventually replaced to include the water vole logo. Those that contain plans will need to be replaced to take into account the completion of Western and Eastern Gateways in 2016 and new site plans showing the Western and Eastern gateway facilities, the Alver Way and the relevant hierarchy of main routes.
- 3.13 There will need to be further updates from time to time to take account of major changes, most notably when the Grange Farm facilities become available to use.

Sign Type	S4A Main Interpretation Boards (with or without plans)
Comments	<p>The Council has recently commissioned a small number of interpretation panel (S4A) relating to key habitats.</p> <p>These provide an appropriate template for future panels and the refresh of existing ones to update text, update any plans and the inclusion of the Alver Valley Country Park name and logo as well as the GBC logo and any relevant partner organisation which contributed to the Panel.</p> <p>Not all of the panels will require a site plan on them.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands (existing to be updated)</li> <li>• Woodlands (existing to be updated)</li> <li>• Grasslands (existing to be updated)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noah Lake (redesigned to new format)</li> <li>• Brent Goose Life Cycle (Alver Meadow) (refurbished)</li> <li>• Mott and Bailey (Carter's Copse) (refurbished)</li> <li>• Apple Dumpling Bridge (redesigned to new format)</li> <li>• Wildgrounds: General overview and plan-to be located near new Southern Entrance- (new)</li> <li>• Alver Valley Reedbeds (new)</li> <li>• The View from Sandhill (new). There may be the potential for a more artistic interpretative feature which identifies key locations that can be viewed from this point for example a pseudo-trig point with a panel inserted into the top showing key features of the view.</li> <li>• West of the River Local Nature Reserve(new)</li> </ul> <p>Smaller interpretation panels may be more appropriate in certain locations (see S4B).</p>
Suggested locations	Existing locations and those identified above
Dimensions	<p>Indicative dimensions:</p> <p>Board approx. 840mm by 600mm and angled</p> <p>Posts cut at an angle -lower height 1600mm from ground level higher height 1700mm from ground level. Posts 140mm by 240 mm</p>
Mounting	<p>Mainly stand-alone (see picture) with two thick wooden posts.</p> <p>In certain locations an interpretation board can be mounted an alternative suitable structure e.g. the existing podium adjacent the reedbeds (reedbed interpretation panel).</p>
Indicative appearance	<p>This is an example of the Interpretation panel format. This particular one will need to be updated to include the Country Park logo and a refreshed plan.</p> 

Sign Type	S4B Small Interpretation Boards
Comments	<p>In certain locations it may be more appropriate to include a small interpretation panel in a similar format (style logo etc.) to S4B</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildgrounds: Old Oaks (redesigned to new format)</li> <li>• Wildgrounds: Butterfly Meadow (redesigned to new format)</li> <li>• Wildgrounds: Military past (new)</li> </ul>
Suggested locations	Sites within the Wildgrounds
Dimensions	Variable but 500mm by 300mm may often be the most appropriate.
Mounting	One wooden post and plinth
Indicative appearance	Smaller version of S4A mounted on a single wooden post with plinth

### **Notice Boards**

- 3.14 Notice Boards can be a useful way for the Council to convey messages to visitors such as current issues in the park (behavioural/safety matters), seasonal points of interest, forthcoming events in the Alver Valley Country Park and raise awareness of certain matters (e.g. the Council's Alver Valley Country Park webpages/digital media sites).
- 3.15 Their success largely relates to the relevance, readability and content of the information, the quality of its presentation and the upkeep of the notice board itself. A neglected board is likely to be ignored. The notice board will need to be checked and updated on a regular basis by the Countryside Rangers. The content will need to be informed by relevant GBC officers and will need to complement the Council's Alver Valley webpage.

Sign Type	S5: Notice Boards
Comments	<p>The first noticeboards used in the Alver Valley were commissioned by Groundwork Solent and installed in 2004. The design of these all enamelled steel construction notice boards started to show flaws within an eight year life span and now after ten years have been removed due to failure of the frame from corrosion.</p> <p>It is proposed to investigate recycled plastic or galvanised steel as a replacement in future. One recycled plastic noticeboard has been purchased for the Hermitage Wildlife Garden (02 April 2015) and will be assessed for its suitability in other areas of the Borough including the Alver Valley.</p>
Suggested locations	It is recognised that there are three points within the Alver Valley that would be good sites for disseminating information, all with good flows of pedestrian traffic visiting the Country Park. These would be at each main car park, one on the Eastern Gateway, the Western Gateway and one at Grange Farm
Dimensions	To be confirmed
Mounting	Stand alone
Indicative appearance	Standard and appropriate country park type notice board from catalogue

**Conduct Signs (Specific for Alver Valley)**

- 3.16 After a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour ranging from camping, motorcycling and galloping with horses on the open space, a need was identified to inform the visiting public of a code of conduct. A code was designed based on the national Countryside Code and signage produced. This code of conduct has been affixed to and displayed on the large wooden orientation posts at appropriate points throughout the Country Park. This has appeared to have reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour and has given countryside staff a reference point if required should such an occurrence take place.

Sign Type	S6A Code of Conduct Sign
Comments	<p>The Code of Conduct signs have been operation for a number of years and are included with the 'You Are Here' Plans (S1C) on the Large Wooden Orientation Posts (LWOPs) (see Section 4).</p> <p>It is proposed to continue to use these Code of Conduct signs on the LWOPs but not on all of them; instead a refreshed Dog Code sign will be placed in the same position on the Posts.</p> <p>These Code of Conduct signs will be updated to reflect the latest elements as outlined in the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in The Alver Valley Country Park.</p>
Suggested locations	See Plan S1C
Dimensions	A4
Mounting	Large Wooden Orientation Posts. Amended text
Amended Text (see below)	



**The Alver Valley Country Park is a valuable green space ideal for cycling, picnicking, exercising pets, walking and enjoying nature. Please do follow the countryside code when visiting and do take note of the following:**

**Vehicles and Parking.** Parking is permitted in the designated car parking areas. Authorised vehicles only are permitted to drive in the Country Park. All vehicles must operate their hazard lights, drive at an appropriate speed and give way to pedestrians whilst moving around the Country Park.

**Dogs.** Visitors with dogs should observe the green (*dogs welcome off leads*), amber (*dogs welcome on leads*) and red (*sorry no dogs in this area*) dog access zones displayed around the Country Park. Dogs must be under the control and effectively restrained by the owner, so that they do not interfere with other visitors and do not disturb wildlife or any other animal. Please pick up your dog's mess and place in the bins provided. It is an offence not to do so.

**Litter.** Visitors must take away their litter or place it in the litter bins provided throughout the Country Park.

**BBQ's and Fires.** Portable BBQ's are not permitted in the Country Park without the express written consent of the Council. Fires, fireworks and releasing Chinese lanterns in the Country Park grounds are not permitted.

**Watercourses and lakes.** Bathing or swimming is not permitted in any of the lakes or watercourses. There may be underwater obstacles or currents which can be dangerous. Canoeing or using other watercraft on water bodies is prohibited.

**Tents and Gazebos.** Tents and gazebos or any other structure must not be erected in the Country Park without prior written consent from the Council. No overnight camping is permitted.

**Wildlife/Plant material and timber.** Wildflowers, shrubs and any plant materials and timber must not be removed from the Country Park. Visitors must not disturb any wildlife, injure any egg, disturb any nests or participate in hunting, shooting, setting of traps or laying snares.

**In addition.**



Please consider other visitors and keep any noise to an acceptable level. No horse riding or horses permitted at the present time.  
No riding of motor vehicles, motorcycles, motorised petrol or electric scooters.  
No remote control model aircraft or other vehicles such as cars or watercraft are permitted.

In case of accident or emergency call 999

For further information regarding the Alver Valley Country Park please contact the Countryside Section on 023 9258 8666 or email [countryside@gosport.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@gosport.gov.uk).  
For all other enquiries call the Council's Streetscene on 0800 198 598.




Sign Type	S6B Dog Zone Plaque
Comments	<p>These plaques reflect the various zones outlined in the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in The Alver Valley Country Park. These small plaques include a coloured paw print and the relevant phrase. 'No Dogs Please' (red), 'Dogs Welcome on leads' (Amber) and 'Dogs Welcome off-lead' (green).</p> <p>As part of the management of the Country Park some areas of the Alver Valley will change during the year (normally between green and amber).</p>
Suggested locations	At relevant posts at each zone boundary and a number of posts within each area (but avoiding using too many that would lead to a cluttered appearance)
Dimensions	100mm by 100 mm
Mounting	Large Wooden Orientation Posts or relevant fence /gate post where appropriate

Sign Type	S6C Dog Code Signs
Comments	The Dog Code signs will be used in place of the Code of Conduct Signs (S6A) at particular locations and will be updated where necessary with other conduct messages from time to time.
Suggested locations	Variable locations on Large Wooden Orientation Posts
Dimensions	A4
Mounting	Large Wooden Orientation Posts.
Text (font would be larger size on sign)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Dog Code</b></p> <p>We love dogs in the Alver Valley but we also love wildlife as well, so here are a few things that you could do to help the wonderful animals that live here and everybody else that uses it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keeping in sight</b> – Some people are scared of dogs so keep them close so you can retrieve them if necessary.</li> <li>• <b>Keep to the footpaths</b> – Late February – August we have lots of birds nesting on the ground. If you keep to the paths around Sand Hill and Junkett they will be able to rear their chicks in peace.</li> <li>• <b>Bin It!</b> – Pick up your dog mess.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>GOSPORT</b> Borough Council</p> </div>  </div>

### **Standard signs**

- 3.17 These signs use formats which are currently used by the Council and/or Hampshire County Council (as the Highways Authority) across the Borough. These will be used to convey important messages to the visitor in a format which they are already familiar with.

Sign Type	S7A Brown Visitor Road Signs
Comments	These are the familiar 'brown' visitor attraction signs to notify primarily car users the location of a specific attraction. Sign would include the standard national symbol for 'Country Park' not the specific Alver Valley Country park logo
Suggested locations	<p>It is considered that the roll-out of the Brown signs will be in two separate phases:</p> <p>Phase1- When the Western and Eastern Gateway car parks are established brown signs will be used at the respective entrance points at Cherque Way and Grange Road to direct visitors to the car parks.</p> <p>Phase 2: Once Grange Farm Gateway has been established there will be signs to the Grange Farm site as well as a more extensive roll-out to junction further from the site to guide visitors from further afield.</p>
Dimensions	Standard road sign
Mounting	Standard road post
Indicative appearance	



Sign Type	S7B Blue Strategic cycle/pedestrian route signs
Comments	<p>These are the familiar blue cycle and pedestrian pointer signs to notify pedestrians and cyclist of key routes and destination points.</p> <p>These are generally to be located outside of the Country Park guiding visitors to it.</p> <p>In certain case outside the Country Park such as the Alver Way, an alternative branded route approach will be used, similarly a specific Alver Valley branded approach will be used within the Country Park</p>
Suggested locations	To be discussed with HCC as the three Gateways are established.
Dimensions	Standard sign
Mounting	Standard post

Sign Type	S7C Parking Signs
Comments	<p>A number of standard parking signs will be required in each car park. These are listed below:</p> <p>S7B-1: Key sign setting out opening hours, charges, relevant regulations including information on Country Park annual permits.</p> <p>S7B-2: 'Pay Here'</p> <p>S7B-3: 'Have You Paid and Displayed</p> <p>S7B-4: 'Disabled Badge Holders only'</p>
Suggested locations	Three Gateway Car Parks
Dimensions	Standard
Mounting	Standard

Sign Type	S7D Safety Advisory Signs
Comments	To be included as and when deemed necessary to provide appropriate safety advice.

Sign Type	S7E Rules and Regulations (excluding Alver Valley specific signs –see S6)
Comments	To be included as and when deemed necessary to provide appropriate safety advice.

## **4 Mounting**

- 4.1 As mentioned above there basically three types of mounting: stand alone, Large Wooden Orientation Post (LWOP) and appropriate structure in the locality (often a fence or gatepost). The first and third of these are self-explanatory. The LWOPs require some comment.

### **Large wooden orientation posts**

- 4.2 These posts are approximately 1700mm in height. Most of the posts are already in place although a small number of additional locations will need to be considered as part of the forthcoming Action Plan. The original posts, together with a number of interpretation panels were provided through funding from Veolia via Lee on the Solent Residents' Association successful bid in 2012.
- 4.3 These posts are extremely robust, prominent yet very appropriate for their setting. These will continue to be the main method for displaying key signs across the Country Park at appropriate entrance points and junctions. The posts are very resilient to vandalism and the signs on them are also robust and easily replaceable if damaged or the content needs updating.
- 4.4 They will show the following information:
- The latest 'You Are Here Map' with Country Park Name and Logo (seeS1C)
  - The latest 'Code of Conduct' Notice (S6A) or a 'Dog Code sign (S6C).
  - Relevant small plaque (up to 4 same sized plaques in a 2x2 grid –) Information could include the relevant Dog Zone plaque or a way marker plaque- but there may not always be a requirement for a plaque.

## **5 Maintenance and removal of signs**

- 5.1 It is important that the signage and outdoor display material remains of a high quality and the content is relevant. The appearance of the signage and outdoor display material will be checked on a regular basis by Countryside Rangers and reports of damage acted upon.
- 5.2 The presence of damaged and vandalised signs and panels can give the impression that the site is not well-cared for and can encourage further damage to facilities. It is important that visitors can use the display material to find their way in the Country Park and enjoy their visit by viewing the interpretation panels.
- 5.3 It is important that the content of material is up-to-date and where material has become out-of-date or is no longer serving a purpose, it is removed to avoid clutter.
- 5.4 Material on notice boards needs to be updated on a regular basis to ensure that they remain topical and of interest to the visitor.



## **6 Visitor Information Point at Grange Farm Gateway**

- 6.1 The Grange Farm Gateway will include a café, garden centre and toilet facilities as well as a main car and entry points to the Seventeenth Century Village and the Wildgrounds.
- 6.2 The signage of this area will need to reflect the principles and typology set out in this document. In addition it is proposed that the café area will include a dedicated space for visitor information.
- 6.3 This area will provide an opportunity to display:
- interpretive material about important features of the Country Park as part of a rolling programme;
  - topical information about the Country Park;
  - updates from the Countryside Rangers (informative notes (e.g. –species in the Park) as well as notices regarding any particular issues arising (flooding/ conduct issues etc.)
  - programme of Country Park events
- 6.4 Such information will need to be included with the Country Park name and logo and be shown on display panels.
- 6.5 The Visitor Information Point will also need to include sufficient space for the area to be staffed at particular times such as special events. A space for a table and associated circulating spaces for visitors would therefore be required.
- 6.6 Details of the visitor information point will need to be considered further as part of the marketing and development of the proposals at Grange Farm. The project and marketing brief for these facilities will need to ensure that there is a dedicated space for visitor information.

## **7 Leaflets**

- 7.1 There is an existing leaflet covering the layout, management and places of interest within the Alver Valley. It is in a format shared with the Wildgrounds SSSI leaflet. Both leaflets will require an update to incorporate new facilities within the Country Park.
- 7.2 An additional leaflet aimed at dog walkers as identified in the Strategy and Management Plan for Dogs in the Alver Valley Country Park will also be produced incorporating the Alver Valley Country Park logo and will include guidance regarding the dog zones.
- 7.3 Other leaflets will be produced from time to time incorporating the logo including a programme of events.

## **8 Website and use of other digital media**

- 8.1 A dedicated Alver Valley Country Park web page will be created incorporating the Alver Valley Country Park name and logo. It will include details of its key characteristics, visitor facilities, recreation opportunities, wildlife and habitat features, and forthcoming events. Key pages are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Potential key pages of the Alver Valley Country Park website

Home page describing key characteristics, contact and getting there information, location and site plan and links to sub-pages covering key features				
Grange Farm Visitor Hub with sub pages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access and parking * café * garden centre * toilets etc.</li> </ul>				
BMX	Cycle trails	Dogs Welcome	Events	Fishing
Running/Exercise Routes	Parking	Picnic	Play children for	Seventeenth Century Village
Stokes Bay and the Alver Way	Walks	Wildgrounds	Wildlife	

- 8.2 In addition the Country Park already has its own dedicated Facebook page which is regularly updated by the Countryside Rangers. Its focus is and shall remain a wildlife-orientated feature highlighting seasonal things of interest in the Country Park. The content will need to be managed by the relevant GBC officers.

## 9 Other matters

### Fishing Lake

- 9.1 The Fishing Lake within the Alver Valley Country Park is currently leased by the Council to the Portsmouth and District Angling Club. It was noted from an audit of signage that there was a high density of signs in the vicinity of the lake erected by the Angling Club. In order to reduce the clutter of these signs, improve the appearance of this area, and highlight that the site forms part of the Country Park it is proposed to regularise the signage in this area. There needs to be a more inclusive element to the signs encouraging interested individuals to join the Angling Club.

- 9.2 It is therefore proposed the following arrangements are made:

- Removal of all existing Portsmouth and District Angling Club signs
- The inclusion of a Large Facility Zone (S2A) with a ladder board and incorporation of Alver Valley Country Park name and logo with boards setting out that the site is for Members only; web details of how to become a member and parking arrangements. The use of the clubs logo can be incorporated within this sign
- The inclusion of a small facility sign to be mounted on the gate and metal container.

### Browndown Common

- 9.3 This part of the Alver Valley is owned by the Ministry of Defence and whilst not part of the formal Alver Valley Country Park it is used by the public in connection with the adjoining Country Park site (except when being used for military training purposes).
- 9.4 There are three main entry points between the Country Park and the Browndown Common site as well as two entry points from Privett Road to Browndown Common which can be used to access the Country Park to the north.

- 9.5 Due to the military use of the site there are understandably yellow warning notices advising visitors using the site.

**10 Action Plan**

- 10.1 The Signage and Interpretation Strategy and Management Plan for the Alver Valley Country Park will be accompanied by an Action Plan which outlines all required actions as a result of proposals outlined within this document. This will include the removal of obsolete signs, refurbishment of poor quality ones and the installation of new signs particularly in relation to each of the Gateways as each are completed.
- 10.2 The Action Plan will be amended as and when facilities are provided and as circumstances arise which require additional actions.