

Malvern Hills Trust - compiled responses to the land management plan consultation

5.10.2020

All responses received have been compiled into one document.

The 8 questions are presented here with each question on a different page.

Answers have been tallied and ordered with highest first.

The percentage is the proportion of respondees who made that response.

Column B shows the Conservation Manager's initial response to each answer (categories below).

- Consider** - useful comment that could be discussed and added to the LMP
- Operation** - useful comment, but an immediate operational matter
- Unclear** - the statement is not clear
- Inapplicable** - the statement is either not factually correct, beyond MHT's remit or of limited use in furthering the LMP

Q1 Overall do you think MHT have done a good job of delivering public access and conservation of the landscape since April 2016?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 32	
Yes. 26 (81%)	Consider
Implementation of clear and effective signage needed. 2 (6%)	Consider
Historic England and the MHT have worked closely over many years to safeguard the designated heritages within their holding. Particular focus has been the repair of Herefordshire Beacon (British Camp) and the shire ditch which have subject to increasing pressures of mountain biking and erosion. The Trust has and is continuing to effectively develop initiatives and strategies to reduce impacts on heritage assets. 2 (6%)	Consider
Public signage is degrading landscape especially at Gullet Quarry. 2 (6%)	Consider
I don't know. 2 (6%)	Inapplicable
Yes, but needs more work and effort. 1 (3%)	Consider
An excellent job. 1 (3%)	Consider
There has been a very successful programme of site clearance at Geological sites which has produced excellent clear exposures suitable for visiting students and field trips enabling study of geodiversity features. There is more research needed as so much more can be discovered about the geological history of Malvern Hills going back over 1000 million years ago. It is good there are areas where rock surfaces can be seen. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes, although some of the hill's footpath's have caused walking difficulty for us older people. 1 (3%)	Consider
The Hills remain in good condition in regard of landscape conservation. The felling of some areas of trees has opened views from some of the hillside paths. 1 (3%)	Consider
Access is good in general with most paths in excellent condition. 1 (3%)	Consider
A difficulty remains with the actions of rogue cyclists on steep hillside paths. 1 (3%)	Consider
Their actions reduce the path surface to gravel on which it is not possible to walk without slipping on the steep slopes. 1 (3%)	Consider
Impact of mowing on insect population, protecting environment should have highest priority. A suggestion: proportion of land designated as grassland should be a minimum of 60% with 40% for amenity. It is not always clear how the term amenity is being used. Eg. the small area of common which joins the lower part of Moorlands Road has a 3m swathe of grass cut around the edge and it's hard to understand what type of amenity is being provided here. 1 (3%)	Consider
Generally, yes, however it is unfortunate that access to major quarries is increasingly being denied. These are valuable not only as geological sites but as potential areas for recreation if developed in a sensitive way. At the present time they serve no useful purpose. It is recognised that this would be a major undertaking, but that is all the more reason to think ahead. 1 (3%)	Consider
From a general perspective looking at the overall 'ticks in the boxes' it seems to have been largely delivered as planned. 1 (3%)	Consider
I have been dismayed at the uncontrolled growth of trees at some vertical distance below hillside paths. This means a severe reduction in opportunities for enjoying the views by persons of diminished physical capability or lack of time to visit the ridge. It may even be resulting in heavier wear of the higher level paths. 1 (3%)	Consider
Main concern is too much public access to the pathways and other walkways on the Malvern Hills for cyclists. This has led to an erosion and broadening of the slopes either side of the Peaks. Particularly around Sugarloaf and North Hill and The Worcestershire Beacon. Clearer notice is required of pathways prohibited for cyclists as well as cordoning off area for cyclists and walkers to enable recovery. 1 (3%)	Consider
Concern about safety and monitoring of Gullet Quarry. 1 (3%)	Operational
Tree felling is dismaying. 1 (3%)	Consider
No. 1 (3%)	Consider
lots more to do. 1 (3%)	Consider
Not controlling tree growth enough. 1 (3%)	Consider
Bit too driven by national priorities and not local ones. 1 (3%)	Inapplicable
Cyclists a problem. 1 (3%)	Consider

Q2 Is the LMP document satisfactory? Has it provided a comprehensive, readable text that explains why and how MHT undertakes practical work?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 29	
Yes. 22 (76%)	Consider
Too long, although key achievement page for 2016-2017 is too brief. 2 (7%)	Consider
Happy with format, comprehensive and assuring. More detail on MHT monitoring procedures needed. 1 (3%)	Consider
The 2016 LMP was a comprehensive survey of what needs to be done to keep hills and common under control. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes but too long, maybe it could be more readable? 1 (3%)	Consider
The LMP provides a clear documentation of the MHT estate, their management, vision and objectives. We note that the text refers to three scheduled monuments on their holding, however a fourth scheduled monument, Mid Summer Hill Camp extends over MHT land on the East slope of Midsummer Hill and will need to be considered. The scheduled area can be viewed at: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1003533 . 1 (3%)	Consider
In contrast to many pages of biodiversity and listing of species the LMP description of Geology mentions there are sites such as Ivy Scar Rock and quarries such as one at The Gullet but does not give any information about rock types. There is nothing about tectonic structure and geological history that has shaped this whole area. It is important to increase public awareness and knowledge which is lacking at the moment. This should be a priority for MHT as Geology is so important for creating all other features in area. There are many local geologists who would be happy to provide information. It is an important area with a need for more research which MHT could aid. A further 4 sites within the MHT area have been designated as local Geological sites by a panel of assessors: Broomhill Quarry, Dogleg/White Leafed Oak Roadside Quarry and the area of the Wyche Cutting. There was another nearby at Bronsil Roadside Bank. 1 (3%)	Inapplicable
The LMP provides a good operating baseline for the MHT. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes, it's very informative, long but clear and readable. 1 (3%)	Consider
Very useful read. 1 (3%)	Consider
In section 6.5 of the LMP dealing with the Malvern Link Common you state that the annual events include music festivals. I have lived next to the common for 15 years and can only recall 2 festivals happening in 2017 and 2018. In practice members of the public use the common for walking and exercising their dogs. I cannot see why expanding the area of grassland to 60% would offend anybody. Yes, it's very informative, long but clear and readable. 1 (3%)	Consider
It is certainly comprehensive and readable. Part 3 is particularly useful to understanding what is going on 'on the ground'. 1 (3%)	Consider
I have only read the summary. 1 (3%)	Inapplicable
Except for the near invisibility of the vital underlying features (gridlines, roads, paths, rivers, etc) your maps look very good. However, they provide no clue as to the tree height ("Tree-mosaic" seems to refer to the sparsely populated bird-nest-friendly and view-providing zone below the open hill moorland). 1 (3%)	Consider

Q3 How could the LMP document be improved?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 25	
Very happy as it is. 11 (44%)	Consider
Too long. 6 (24%)	Consider
Paperless difficult to comment. 1 (4%)	Inapplicable
Actions speak louder than words. 1 (4%)	Inapplicable
It doesn't need improving, just acting on. 1 (4%)	Consider
It could be more comprehensive and breakdown the management aims in more detail eg. Path maintenance, invasive scrub clearance, wildlife habitat enhancement etc. Make it shorter and more readable. 1 (4%)	Consider
It appears reasonably clear to view and access relevant parts. 1 (4%)	Consider
Maps in part three would benefit from greater clarity of the extent of the unit being presented. The overview maps referred to by the texts do not show the individual units and therefore it is not always possible to confirm whether Historic England has an interest in a specific unit. The MHT has done impressive work over the previous plan period to address scrub and erosion issues on heritage sites. We would encourage continuation of this excellent work with clearly defined and measurable targets for the conservation of the historic environment and would be available to advise further on this. In a former consultation there were only 1% of respondents who commented on Geology. This shows an important objective of MHT should be to increase public's knowledge and understanding of Geodiversity which is fundamental to the area. There could be a lot more in the LMP document to help the public. In the tables of the different areas near the end of the document, there is a tick to say if there is a Local Geological site but absolutely no information given at all about the geology. 1 (4%)	Consider
The LMP is lengthy and needs to have an executive summary from which busy readers can dig down into the detail where required. 1 (4%)	Consider
Not sure. 1 (4%)	Inapplicable
No specific suggestions. 1 (4%)	Inapplicable
Part 1, which is an excellent description of the character of the MHT, could be made free-standing and be revised 'as and when', which would make it more flexible. 1 (4%)	Consider
Some consideration should be given to the long term state of major quarries that are eroding fast and are closed to the public for safety reasons. This would need large scale investment and require imaginative planning to attract the necessary funds, while working within the remit of the trust. Note that emerging government policy in the form of Nature Recovery Networks is looking for large scale strategic projects satisfying multiple criteria, including geodiversity and bringing value to people (e.g. recreation and education) as well as biodiversity. The revised strategy should be looking for participation in such schemes. 1 (4%)	Consider
I am not sufficiently qualified to comment whether it could be improved from a content perspective. From a presentation perspective it's fine. 1 (4%)	Inapplicable
I think that maybe the document could be available to the public, in a leaflet. So more people understand what is trying to be achieved by MHT. 1 (4%)	Consider
My suggestion for the strip of land immediately below the downside of the hillside paths is: introduce a no-tree zone. Depending on the gradient, only the taller trees will then intrude on the views. The strip may need to be c.15 meters (measured horizontally) on modest slopes. Low gradients may not be practicable, other than for opening up more sunlight for flowers, butterflies and bees on both sides of the path. To me, the 2D nature of ground plans renders them incomplete without some reference to height related features. There needs to be cross sections. As for the upside of paths, there could be breaks at intervals (if not already adequate) both for human access and for flora (eg whinberry) and fauna flavoured open ground. I do realise that the over abundant sycamore must present a near unwinnable battle. 1 (4%)	Consider
doesn't look to the future enough including increases in visitor numbers and climate change. 1 (4%)	Consider
content needs updating. 1 (4%)	Consider
would benefit from interactive maps displaying the actions/policies for different areas. 1 (4%)	Consider
need to contextualise the Malverns into the bigger picture more. 1 (4%)	Consider
could it be made into a searchable HTML? 1 (4%)	Consider
you cant please all the people all the time! 1 (4%)	Inapplicable
could you include a section on what good value for money MHT is? 1 (4%)	Consider
failure to reduce illegal / dangerous mountain bike riding. 1 (4%)	Consider
maps are fuzzy. 1 (4%)	Consider
use a spell check. 1 (4%)	Inapplicable
what are the plans for the quarries? 1 (4%)	Inapplicable

Q4 Has the work that's been done delivered satisfactorily on MHT's duties relating to public access?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 30	
Yes. 23 (77%)	Consider
Colonisation of saplings and seeds is not properly controlled. 2 (7%)	Consider
Disruptions regarding tree felling. 1 (3%)	Unclear
There have been some improvements so far, but much more needed, ie. Bracken, brambles and thorn on CastleMorton Common. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes but I believe the electric fences and water bowsers has detracted from feeling of freedom on Hills. 1 (3%)	Consider
The MHT has balanced the right of public access to their land well with conservation objectives. It has and continues to address issues of increased mountain bike use away from legal routes available to these, which has been resulting in damage to designated heritage assets. It is likely that this pressure will increase with proposed increases in residential housing particularly within the Malvern area through the South Worcestershire Development Plan and any speculative site promotion. 1 (3%)	Consider
There is no public access to Gullet. There were fatalities in the main quarry but the fencing off of the Upper Quarry did not have the same necessity. This is a Geological Conservation Review Site within the SSSI with evidence of a Silurian shoreline and was an important site for educational visits. Alledged incident where someone threatened to commit suicide. There is a small gap in the fence which instead of being mended, the whole site has been fenced off. Glad MHT replied to request for access by installing padlocked gate because previously there wasn't access for geology students and the site has been used for years by universities. Main quarry continues to be used by families and on police have been called out when there have been large numbers - a solution would be either make an outlet for water to drain the lake or leave it partially fill it so water is shallow and would prevent drowning or cold shock. 1 (3%)	Operational
Yes. As can be witnessed by the large number of visitors over the summer. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes although I would like the MHT to have more involvement with the links to public footpaths with AONB. 1 (3%)	Consider
Those restrictions on public access of which I am aware have all been proportionate and well implemented. The particular difficulty in Gullet Quarry is unfortunate in that it necessarily restrains the activities of geologists and other naturalists. Nevertheless, It is good that MHT provides secure access to the critical, fenced parts of the quarry; this will be of use once the path inside the fence can be cleared. That is a matter of funding. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes. Clearly the main problem is managing the demand for access, and maybe more has to be done about traffic management and parking during periods of high demand, including ticketing. 1 (3%)	Consider
I believe so. 1 (3%)	Consider
The hills and commons have excellent access. 1 (3%)	Consider
Access should be managed more effectively with clearer signage and more vigilance patrol of the hills. 1 (3%)	Consider
Concerns that some areas have become inaccessible / 'forgotten' eg. Cider Mill, Mill Pond, number of historic tracks impenetrable, damage to common at Hollybed, farm use vs recreation. 1 (3%)	Consider
improvements to community woodland are wonderful. 1 (3%)	Consider
much more work needed. 1 (3%)	Consider
need monitoring or paths / erosion. 1 (3%)	Consider
too much focus on access not wildlife. 1 (3%)	Consider
top marks for bike/walking leaflets. 1 (3%)	Consider
bike/walking leaflets have failed, mountain bikes are out-of-control. 1 (3%)	Consider

Q5 Has the work that's been done improved the state of Hills & Commons heritage features (archaeology, wildlife, geology, landscape)?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 29	
Yes. 11 (38%)	Consider
The practical and financial support by MHT toward the maintenance of important geological sites by the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust Has been invaluable to our work. Many such sites on MHT land are now regained for educational and scientific work and more are anticipated in coming years. The formal designation of suitable sites as Local Geological Sites is important and four new sites have recently been approved for this status. These are additional to the several geological sites of the SSSI citation for the Hills. 3 (10%)	Consider
destruction of the hills by mountain bikers. 2 (7%)	Consider
Wildlife and landscape - 'yes'. I don't know about archaeology or geology. 1 (3%)	Consider
Herptiles (amphibians and reptiles) are not catered enough for. 1 (3%)	Consider
Some areas have improved whilst some have continued to decline. More staff needed? 1 (3%)	Consider
Felling trees is a real disappointment and damages the environment, healthy trees should be retained to combat climate change, it would be good to see more planting of native species. 1 (3%)	Consider
Unauthorised mountain biking. 1 (3%)	Unclear
A little but not significantly. 1 (3%)	Consider
Conflict between managing the hills as wildlife habitat and clearing vegetation from archaeological sites and improving access. Too much emphasis on latter. Cutting down mature hawthorn and hazel reduces the wildlife habitat value of the hills. 1 (3%)	Consider
I believe the Hills speak for themselves, it's better to let them go wilder than to groom them too much. 1 (3%)	Unclear
yes, judging by the apparent increase in footfall, especially on the Northern and central hills in recent years. 1 (3%)	Unclear
The MHT has done a large amount of work over recent years to improve the state of the archaeology of their land including the repair of sections of the Shire Ditch and Herefordshire Beacon Camp, the reduction in scrub and trees both on and in close proximity to the monuments and developing up options to address pressures on monuments by mountain biking. This effort will need to be continued over the coming plan period with strategies to address erosion pressures of increasing recreational use, continuing to improve the condition of the heritage assets and create buffers to scrub encroachment and taking care to avoid inadvertant disturbance through management by ensuring that temporary fencing/feed/water troughs are not sited on or immediately adjacent the monument without consent as this can lead to disturbance from livestock. 1 (3%)	Consider
It is good that geological sites are included in programmes, all work done should consider geological importance of the site. There is the Castlemorton Common Local Geodiversity Action Plan and site management plans for many geological sites in the area. EHT would be happy to provide information about geological features at sites. The original copy of the Castlemorton LGAP seems to have been mislaid., electronic version should be with MHT - are MHT aware of this? Is there an up to date list of Geoconservation Review sites within the SSSI and Local Geological Sites held by the MHT? Published volumes containing detailed information on GCR sites were purchased by EHT so information can be found there. Archaeological features are also being protected from erosion by vast numbers of visitors. One good result of the fencing of the Upper Quarry at the Gullet was that it prevented mountain bikers descending the slope next to geological unconformity. There is a much-sheared shale band above the unconformity which was being drastically eroded and bikes can no longer access this steep slope. 1 (3%)	Consider
Unsure. 1 (3%)	Inapplicable
Regarding the geology, the work on clearing sites and the systematic approach to this task have definitely resulted in improvements to the benefit of all visitors interested in the geology. Such visitors are likely to increase in the future as a local group from the U3A are working on a new geological guide to be published by the Geologists Association and marketed nationally. the previous guide, some decades old, has been out of print for some time. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes. Certainly the geological features are in a better state, and this level of activity needs to be sustained to keep up with the inexorable deterioration of such features by vegetation growth and natural erosion subject of course to the requirements of biodiversity. 1 (3%)	Consider
Yes, but it appears that some of the areas for reducing tree lines in the Northern Woodlands have not been completed? 1 (3%)	Operational
Yes, invasive scrub and trees are being reduced. 1 (3%)	Consider

Q6 Have the topics/areas that quoted in the particular achievements above seen improvement and were they the correct ones?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 26	
Yes. 21 (81%)	Consider
More tree intervention to retain and improve views and prompt removal of saplings in non-woodland areas. 2 (8%)	Consider
Mountain biking not controlled. 2 (8%)	Consider
Less tree felling especially just for views. 1 (4%)	Consider
More trees planted please. 1 (4%)	Consider
No. 1 (4%)	Consider
These have been the easiest and most obvious areas for the attention of visitors but many other areas have been neglected. 1 (4%)	Unclear
Generally speaking yes, however the "clearing of secondary woodland to create views" has a detrimental effect on important habitats for nesting birds and I don't think anyone visiting the hills would say they were short on views . Also creating a cycle network is one thing but more needs to be done to stop irresponsible mountain bikers from going wherever they choose, creating new paths and creating serious erosion of the hills. 1 (4%)	Consider
I've been using the hills for 35 years and think they are still in good shape. 1 (4%)	Consider
Butterfly data show a diverse range of species on acidic grasslands sites including The Grayling, the rarest butterfly species in Worcestershire on the most remote inland site in the UK. Three new butterfly transect routes have been introduced since 2015 directly related to their habitat management, Poolbrook Common, Pinnacle Hill, Swinyard Hill and Hangman's Hill. 1 (4%)	Consider
The MHT has carried out a range of management tasks that have been to benefit and improved condition of the designated heritage assets on their land. These tasks are necessary and have avoided these assets deteriorating to a condition that may result in them being defined at high risk. We support these actions and recommend continued efforts to sustain the benefits achieved. 1 (4%)	Consider
Where geologists were involved in planning or carrying out site clearance work, the results have been very good. An example is given below of work which was done which was not good for geodiversity. The LMP mentions that the area of the Local Geological Site on Castlemorton Common is meant to be open habitat. I was dismayed a few prevent the active geomorphological processes for which the site is designated. The Local Geodiversity Action Plan for Castlemorton Common was agreed with Ian Rowat who was then the director of the Conservators. The plan for the site was to clear undergrowth so that meanders incised different levels of river terraces could continue to migrate. No one at MHT appeared to know of the existence of the LGAP document or the Local Geological Site. It is very disappointing that in the ensuing years, only one poplar from the lowest stream terrace has been moved. The others on lower and higher stream terraces and in an abandoned meander scar remain and are well established now and will prevent the active processes from continuing. This site has been used in the past for educational purposes by what is now Worcester University. It shows the features of the stream with incised meanders and the stages of its down cutting to a lower level in a small compact area which is perfect for pointing out these features to students. It is good that general clearance work of this section of the stream valley has been carried out by MHT, which enables the meanders and scar of the abandoned meander to be seen more clearly at present. But, at the very least, as the trees grow, they will obscure the view. 1 (4%)	Consider
An impressive set of achievements. I walk frequently on Malvern Common and was unaware of its new SSSI status. One or two small signs by the main footpaths simply to advertise this fact would be good. 1 (4%)	Consider
Yes, but it is important to revise them in the light of changing circumstances. 1 (4%)	Consider
Yes in my opinion, however somethings have changed during the 2016-2021 period. A dramatic increase in Mountain Bike activity and more people / cars visiting the hills. Hence more needs to be done to ensure appropriate protection of the environment. 1 (4%)	Consider
Yes, the reduction of trees and scrub, is benefiting all of the above. 1 (4%)	Consider
Livestock are a good part of the hills. 1 (4%)	Consider
MHT doesn't get the recognition that it deserves. 1 (4%)	Consider

Q7 What topics/areas should receive new or continued special effort in the next 5 years and how?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 30	
Destruction of hills / better control of mountain biking. 7 (23%)	Consider
more signage / info for the public. 4 (13%)	Consider
Bracken, bramble, and uncontrolled tree seeding that results in destroying open grassland areas. 2 (7%)	Consider
Continued habitat restoration work from secondary woodland and grayling work. More forward planning with visitor numbers and climate change in mind. 2 (7%)	Consider
Woodland management, sapling and seed control to preserve views and promote plant life. 2 (7%)	Consider
1. Access for buggies and disabled people need further enhancement. There is still very limited access for even tramper-type vehicles. 2. Clearance of secondary woodland, eg of the birch scrub type north of Gardiner's quarry. 2 (7%)	Consider
long-term solutions for livestock grazing including cattle grids. 2 (7%)	Consider
reduced grass cutting. 2 (7%)	Consider
Malvern Hills to become National Park, building of eco-homes, allotment, sustainable food and drink business trailers. 1 (3%)	Inapplicable
Better access on foot for people of all ages. 1 (3%)	Consider
The reintroduction of the endangered Pearl-bordered Fritillary on Swinard Hill as part of The Malvern Hills Lost Fritillary Project. The continued habitat management for Grayling on North Hill and the support for the translocation from another site to prevent extinction of this fragile population. To maintain sheep grazing introduced 2019-2020 on the steepest Eastern Slopes of North Hill to maintain the grassland habitat for Grayling. To remove trees overshadowing rocky ridges, especially Ivy Scar, to improve habitat for the Grayling Butterfly. 1 (3%)	Consider
We recommend that the following areas received new or continued special effort: 1. consideration of the impact of future housing growth in the catchment area of the Malvern Hills leading to unsustainable management of heritage assets and a deterioration in their condition. This may involve the encouragement for alternative destination sites in the developing green infrastructure of development plans to assist with managing this pressure. 2. Continued management of scrub on and in the vicinity of scheduled monuments to maintain and improve their condition with development of deeper adjacent buffer areas managed as grasslands to reduce the risk of encroachment or new scrub development 3. Continued efforts to manage mountain biking activity through alternative route promotion and clear signage to discourage activity. This initiative has gained much momentum in the last 2 years and will over time assist this potentially harmful activity on scheduled monuments 4. Development of clear management objectives for all scheduled monuments that are measurable and achievable within the plan period 5. Improved knowledge of non-designated heritage assets on MHT land and the management actions to conserve them as appropriate. 1 (3%)	Consider
Greater involvement in the rejection of the Housing Developments that impinge on the AONB. As a specific, the sale of Hornyold Wood and its adjacent field to a developer is of great concern. Such an area should be protected and MHT would have been an excellent guardian and manager of this type of area. There is a danger that other agricultural land will be bought up by developers which will ruin the exceptional environment of The Hills and surrounding countryside. 1 (3%)	Consider
Continue MHT's support for geological work as in recent years, with attempts to gain additional finance from Natural England for professional input on the large, difficult and expensive areas of work. 1 (3%)	Consider
Continued special effort on geological sites should be aimed at maintaining a steady state for the most important sites so that the key features are visible/accessible in any given year. A more pernicious issue for the medium term is the stability of the former quarry faces. The way in which these were abandoned decades ago would not be regarded as good practice nowadays and there is a possibility of rock failure. At the Trust, we have been briefed on this issue by a local retired geologist with experience in the extractive industry (Peter Bridges) who suggests that there should be a professional evaluation of the risks and opportunities. One specific opportunity relates to the possibility of reducing the amount of rock cliff at Gullet quarry, but using material to partially infill the lake reducing the hazard there. 1 (3%)	Consider
The Malvern Hills area provides valuable open space for walking and recreation and some special habitats, but it is the rocks and geological formations that make it really special. It is very important that these should remain accessible to the public as far as possible and that information about them should be shared with the interested public. 1 (3%)	Consider
Reducing wear and tear on the hill paths by stopping the promotion of tourism, in particular cycling which is leading to serious erosion of many paths. 1 (3%)	Consider
SIGNAGE: I think MHT should invest in more widespread and aesthetically appropriate signage (for example wooden rather than metal signs) advising members of the public on the following: - Not to drop litter - No fires and BBQ's on the hills Protect our wildlife (in all car parks / key paths) - No motorbikes Noise pollution - No excess noise to protect wildlife (in recent months) there has been a greater incident of loud music played on or around the hills). 1 (3%)	Consider
BINS: With more visitors, more provision should be made for bins. Most of the bins this year appear to be overflowing despite regular emptying. More bins, in key places hopefully means less litter. I think more signs and bins are required in the West of England Car Park areas. 1 (3%)	Consider
MOUNTAIN BIKING I personally think more needs to be done to keep mountain bikers separate from walkers by having specially designated 'Mountain Bikes Only' routes. think it is only a matter of time before there is serious accident on hills having seen the speed that some bikers are going at. Perhaps a separate consultation with a knowledgeable group of mountain bikers might improve things with better signage and a wider variety of colour coded routes. However the quid pro quo would be that these are the ONLY areas mountain bikers are allowed to cycle. 1 (3%)	Inapplicable

FIRE MARSHALS : I think the trust should create a network of local Volunteer Fire Marshals who can actively monitor/ walk the hills during periods of high visitor activity and/or drought, to minimise the risk of fire - particularly from portable BBQ's. The Fire Marshals could wear red t-shirts to make their role and status quite clear and transparent to the public. In doing so they can then request members of the public to extinguish fires. During the drought I had to request no less than 14 groups of people on the hills to put out their Barbeques. Virtually everyone cooperated, once I had explained the reasons why and our need to protect habitat. Many people visiting from urban areas have not heard of 'the country code' This is about courtesy and education rather than the MHT being 'robust'. Suffice to say I'd happily volunteer for fire marshal duties. Fire marshals could also have a more formal line of communication with the local emergency services. And therefore carry some low key but legitimate authority in keeping people safe and bye laws correctly adhered to. 1 (3%)	Consider
Bracken and gorse control. The livestock won't eat either, so more mechanised control is required. 1 (3%)	Consider
Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty is becoming hazardous due to increased volume of cyclists coming down slopes at increasingly fast speeds. 1 (3%)	Consider
Wildlife - balancing access for the public and protecting wildlife. 1 (3%)	Consider
Parking area at Swinyard is not working, needs re thinking. 1 (3%)	Operational
Undertake work on assessment of natural capital and Nature Recovery Network. 1 (3%)	Consider
Tree cover should increase elsewhere in the country as acid grassland is priority here. 1 (3%)	Consider
Multiple issues need tackling for herptiles (disturbance, pheasants, habitat loss). 1 (3%)	Consider
Health benefits of the hills. 1 (3%)	Consider
Provision of areas for free-running dogs. 1 (3%)	Consider
Scrub and Bracken, Drainage and ditches, Ragwort, condition of livestock on commons. 1 (3%)	Consider
It is important that there should be an increase in public awareness of the geological features which shape the MHT area. These underpin the spectacular scenery, determine the soils which will develop and which biological species will thrive and the use that can be made of the land. There is a general lack of knowledge of the geodiversity. I have offered to take MHT staff to see special sites in the area but a date has not yet been arranged. There are many other geologists living in the area who would be only too happy to help with information. Any work which is carried out should consider the geology and geomorphology. I would like to see all information panels containing geological information. The panel at Tank Quarry which had good geological information was replaced. The new panel had a date which had bad mistakes. A sticker has been attached to cover this with a more accurate date. Last year the sticker came off or was removed. It has been replaced again, but a more permanent solution is needed. The panel and rock specimens show the show the geology of the Malvern Hills in general, with no information about what can be seen at Tank Quarry, describing things which occur many miles away on the hills. Tank Quarry has a 'Champion' from the days of the Community Earth Heritage Champions Project, who could help with providing relevant information. This would help the public to understand the geology much better. The information panel with good clear geological information at Gardiners Quarry was erected with funding provided as part of the Community Earth Heritage Champions Project. This information was removed sometime before summer 2019. I asked the reason and was told that it was no longer suitable and would be replaced. No explanation was given. It has still not been replaced. Surely the original excellent panel could have remained in place until another was produced. ??? I hope that a geologist will be consulted so that there is geological information which is correct. Bit haseen a long time without geological information at this site. There was an information panel by the car park at British Camp which had a description of ancient volcanoes. Many people commented that the Malvern rocks had been intruded deep in the earth's crust which is true in most places but not in the area of Broad Down, Tinkers Hill and Hangman's Hill. The information panel did not explain this. It has now been replaced leaving out the geological information. Such a lost opportunity. 1 (3%)	Consider

Q7 continued

Any other comments on MHT land management?	Conservation Manager's view
Number of respondees: 14	
No. 2 (15%)	
The need to prevent further spread of trees and saplings etc (loss of views). 1 (7%)	Inapplicable
Unite with other organisations and charities, restrict dogs from entering areas where livestock are grazing. 1 (7%)	Consider
A half-hearted start on the 2016 LMP, more effort, more maintenance staff and more practical commitment needed - less time on money wasted on PR surveys etc. 1 (7%)	Inapplicable
Proactive creation of wild-flower meadows on the lower hills and commons would be a positive contribution to the greater provision of this nationally scarce resource. 1 (7%)	Consider
You and nature have kept us sane during lockdown for which many thanks. I observe that many more people are using the Hills. I have walked, run and ridden for 36 years. They are the best cure for physical ailments. We need to keep access open and let nature do the talking. 1 (7%)	Consider
I am always impressed by the hard work and dedication to wildlife conservation by MHT staff and the volunteers who work very hard in all weathers on so many different wildlife sites, including 8 butterfly transect sites. Thank you on behalf of WMBC and the Malvern Butterfly group. 1 (7%)	Consider
Please consider geological information before any land management. It is not just the solid rock. The commons are there because there is thin soil over a layer of Malvern gravels produced under periglacial conditions in the Ice Age and sluiced down over the lowlands to merge with river terraces in the Severn Valley. The major East Malvern Fault line has moved more than 2,500m over geological time and the Dudley earthquake several years ago was a slight movement on this same line of weakness in the Earth's crust. Major earth movements have taken place again and again. The passes over the hills are along geological faults British Camp / Herefordshire Beacon has been thrust to the west out of line with the northern hills. There are so many interesting stories to be told to the public. Please do consult geologists who would be happy to contribute to the knowledge held by MHT about geology, which is such an interesting subject so well displayed in the Malverns area. 1 (7%)	Operational
Not directly land management, but I learn that there is now a significant charge for access to MHT's library. I understand the need for some supervision of this but the charge is generally too great generally too great for volunteers working for non-commercial, non-profit-making organisations (e.g. the Malvern U3A geology group). These people are often doing work the results of which should be of interest/relevance and perhaps even use to MHT. MHT should support, not hinder, their efforts. 1 (7%)	Inapplicable
MHT is funded primarily by local taxpayers, and its focus should be on conservation of the landscape and ecology while facilitating access. It should not be seeking to promote the hills to tourists. Visitors should be welcome and basic facilities provided to ensure they enjoy their visit, but this does not mean actively encouraging visitors by publicising cycle trails and online promotion of the hills. In some areas the path surface has been reduced to rubble, and is no longer an attractive landscape, quite apart from damage to the ecology. 1 (7%)	Inapplicable
NORTHERN WOODLANDS. From my looking at P 91 and the map, the existing tree line on the south West of the Norther Section (IE. West of the Beacon and The Summer Hill) has not been cleared. Are there any plans for this to happen in the near future? And if there are can any local residents be actively consulted? I have a concern that with drought conditions predicted in future years and increased visitor numbers , there is an increasing fire risk in the area. Personally speaking I think it would be a shame to lose all the trees, but there is a need for fire breaks to be put into the existing woodland regardless to minimise wild fire risk, I'd be very interested to hear back from the trust on this issue. 1 (7%)	Operation
I'm very impressed with the balance achieved with high visitor numbers and the protection of vulnerable wildlife. Thank you. 1 (7%)	Consider
Ragwort and condition of livestock at Castlemorton common. 1 (7%)	Operational
Natural England will support MHT. 1 (7%)	Consider
Pixie steps need repair. 1 (7%)	Operational
more woodland managemet needed including horse-logging. 1 (7%)	Consider
livestock exclusion zones around springs should be investigated. 1 (7%)	Consider
Retain and manage water bodies. 1 (7%)	Inapplicable
Excellent work on invasive species and land purchases. 1 (7%)	Consider
Glad that MHT exists. 1 (7%)	Consider
The team are doing a very good job. 1 (7%)	Consider