



Malvern Hills Trust

**Meeting of the
Land Management Committee**

Thursday 1 December 2022 7.00 pm

The Gryphon Room,
Malvern College,
Thirlstane Road,
Malvern

Meeting of the Land Management Committee

The Gryphon Room, Malvern College, Thirlstane Road, Malvern WR14 3PL

Thursday 1 December 2022 at 7:00 pm

Members: Mr C Atkins, Mr D Baldwin, Mr R Bartholomew, Dr S Braim, Mr P Clayburn, Mr J Michael, Mrs C Palmer, Dr T Parsons, Mr C Rouse, Ms H Stace, Mrs M Turner.

Agenda

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Election of Chair | i - iv |
| 2. Election of Vice-Chair | v, vii |
| 3. Apologies for Absence | |
| 4. Declarations of Interest | |
| 5. Chairman's Communications | |
| 6. Public Comments | |
| 7. Wardens' report | |
| 8. Grazier's report | |
| 9. Operation Manager's report | |
| 10. Matters Arising (if any) from previous meetings | |
| 10.1 Update on erosion control | |
| 10.2 Clouds End easement surfacing | |
| 10.3 Stobbs and other vehicle management measures | |
| 11. To set the Land Management budget for 2022/23 | Paper A |
| 12. Bottom Shed progress | Paper B |
| 13. Mountain biking | Paper C |
| 14. Project progress report | Paper D |
| 15. Conservation Manager's report | Verbal update |
| 16. Outdoor visits 2023 | Verbal update |
| 17. Urgent business | |
| 18. Date of next meeting 13 April 2023 | |

Following the Government announcement 'Living with COVID-19', it remains the responsibility of employers and organisations to put arrangements in place to try to reduce the spread of infection at meetings and events. Malvern Hills Trust, having assessed the risks of face-to-face meetings, will continue to take measures to keep everyone as safe as possible. **If you or anyone in your household has experienced any Covid symptoms in the last 7 days, please do not attend this meeting unless you**

have a negative lateral flow test result on the day of the meeting. The most common symptoms for those who are fully vaccinated are now runny or blocked nose, sore throat, headache, fatigue, persistent cough and sneezing..

As Covid case numbers remain high, when attending meetings please:

- Continue to wear a face covering once inside unless you are exempt from doing so (or when speaking).
- Use the hand sanitiser provided when you enter and leave the building
- Seats will be placed socially distanced within the venue - please don't move the chairs closer to others unless you have checked that they are happy for you to do so



Nomination Form: Chair of Land Management Committee

To be completed by nominator and seconder

We, the undersigned wish to nominate....Stephen Braim.. as Chair of Land Management Committee for the year 2022/23. If the nominee is not elected as Chair, we ~~wish~~/do not wish* to nominate him/~~her~~* as Vice-Chair.

	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME
NOMINATED BY	Helen & Stace	Helen Stace
SECONDED BY	CM Atkins	CM ATKINS

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

I agree to be nominated for the role of Chair of Land Management Committee. I have read the role description. I understand the responsibilities of the role and have attached a statement in support of my nomination. If I am not elected as Chair, I agree/do not agree* to stand for election as Vice-Chair.

	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME
NOMINEE	SB	Stephen Braim

TO BE RETURNED BY 5PM THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2022

**Please delete as appropriate*

(i)

Statement in support of nomination to the role of Chair of Land Management Committee

Name: Stephen Braim

I have a keen and passionate interest in the management of the land owned by the MHT and believe that I can focus this enthusiasm by continuing to be the Chair of the Land Management Committee.

I have lived in the immediate area the Malvern Hills since moving here in 1978 and have resided at my current address in Upper Colwall since 1993, on the edge of MHT land. I retired in May 2015 and joined the MHT conservation volunteers soon thereafter. This regular volunteer work (which continues to the present day), together with frequent walking on the Malvern Hills & Commons led to me becoming interested in the workings of the MHT. I was elected as one of the Colwall trustees of the MHT in Nov 2015 and re-elected in Nov 2019. I have served on the Land Management and Governance committees from 2015 to date. I served as Vice-Chair of the Land Management Committee from Nov 2017 to Nov 2021 and as its Chair from Nov 2021 until Nov 2022

I strongly believe that the MHT Board should focus its energies more on the strategic management of its land, and by continuing as Chair of the LMC I will help to deliver this focus, within the framework of the 5-year Land Management Plan.

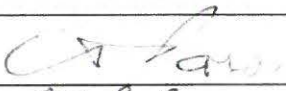
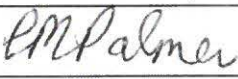
I am a keen advocate to a "hands-on" approach to looking after MHT land. I am a very regular volunteer with the MHT conservation working groups (typically one day every week or so), am a volunteer site warden (with my wife) for the Purlieu Fields and am also one of the MHT Access Project volunteers (clearing small trees & vegetation to improve the views from memorial seats and benches, undertaking path and boundary marker surveys and cleaning MHT marker signs). Separately, I am a volunteer Ranger for the National Trust at Brockhampton, which involves similar land management, conservation and maintenance work. I believe that by continuing as Chair of the LMC, I will be able to build on my "hands-on" expertise and use it to the benefit of the MHT, centred on the land-related challenges that lie ahead, especially in an era of climate change and increasing visitor erosion of the Malvern Hills and Commons



Nomination Form: Chair of Land Management Committee

To be completed by nominator and seconder

We, the undersigned wish to nominate CHRISTOPHER A ROWSE as Chair of Land Management Committee for the year 2022/23. If the nominee is not elected as Chair, we wish/~~do not wish~~* to nominate him/~~her~~* as Vice-Chair.

	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME
NOMINATED BY		TREVOR PARSONS
SECONDED BY		CYNTHIA PALMER

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

I agree to be nominated for the role of Chair of Land Management Committee. I have read the role description. I understand the responsibilities of the role and have attached a statement in support of my nomination. If I am not elected as Chair, I agree/do not agree* to stand for election as Vice-Chair.

	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME
NOMINEE		C A ROUSE

TO BE RETURNED BY **5PM THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2022**

*Please delete as appropriate

Statement in support of nomination to the role of Chair of Land Management Committee

Name:

I have lived in the area most of my life
Farming at croft farm grazing the hills with
my father and in my own right. I was
chairman of the land management committee
for a few years. I think the direction needs
changing to look after the hills and commons
more as written in the fine acts of Parliament.
Timing of jobs needs better organisation.
There should be more meetings + visits



Nomination form: Vice-Chair of Land Management Committee

To be completed by nominator and seconder

We, the undersigned wish to nominate.....RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW.....as Vice-Chair of Land Management Committee for the year 2021/22.

	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME
NOMINATED BY		C. Atkins
SECONDED BY		M. TURNER

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

I agree to be nominated for the role of Vice-Chair of Land Management Committee. I have read the role description. I understand the responsibilities of the role and have attached a statement in support of my nomination.

	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME
NOMINEE		RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW

TO BE RETURNED BY 5PM 17 NOVEMBER 2022

(v)

**Statement in support of nomination to the role of Vice-Chair of Land
Management Committee**

Name:

Since becoming a Malvern Hills Trustee for Malvern Link ward in 2015 I have become even more impressed by the efforts of our professional staff and volunteers in keeping the Hills & Commons open for the enjoyment of all who wish to wander over our estate.

This is the core of the business of the Trust and rightly is at the forefront of our work of which levy-payers along with day and regular visitors should be very proud.

I am not a land management specialist so am fully in the British tradition of enthusiastic amateur but I am keen to support the vital efforts of our small and hard-pressed staff to work to the objectives of the charity, namely to:

- Preserve the natural aspect
- Protect and manage trees, shrubs, turf and other vegetation
- Prevent unlawful digging and quarrying
- Keep the Hills open, unenclosed and unbuilt on as open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on its land.

Richard Bartholomew

Land Management Committee
Land Management budget 2023/24
1 December 2022

Background Papers

Land Management Plan 2021-2026

Land Management budget

This paper presents the draft land management budget for the next financial year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. It provides budgets relating to the General Fund and the Defra/Stewardship Funds.

The General Fund, and to a lesser extent, the Defra/Stewardship Funds provide finance for the regular, standard items that are ongoing, such as materials and tools for path maintenance. These figures are based on the planned land management work including items from the LMP.

Most items have been increased only by inflation at the time of writing - a figure of 10%.

The national rise in costs of many items continues to be a significant factor this year and is highly likely to continue throughout 2023. The big rises in the cost of materials and fuels are of particular note to the Trust. In the first six months of 2022 we spent £6,100 on fuel from a budget of £10,200. Although that would include the majority of the mowing season, we have increased the fuel budget accordingly.

The budget figures are presented in Appendix 1.

General Fund

Any items that are non-standard, and/or which will vary significantly from previous years are highlighted here:

- Works to the septic tank at British Camp toilets has been completed. From now on the tank will need to be emptied twice per year. For 2023/24 this will be £540.
- Fuel budget has been increased by £1300 to accommodate national price increases.
- Four items of the 2022/23 budget have not been delivered. It is proposed to carry these items over and designate the money separately for spending on those items only, in 2023/24. These items therefore do not appear in the 2023/24 LM budget.

- Contract Labour has been increased to include several fencing jobs including most of the Old Hollow land boundaries.
- The Materials and Tools budget has been increased by £2300 to permit extra works on ridgeline erosion repair works.
- In 2022/23, £20,000 was budgeted for the purchase of an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV). However, the decision was made not to purchase this and so this money has not been spent.
- Replacement of the Landini compact tractor is due as per the Vehicle Replacement Policy.
- The Business Plan highlighted the need to purchase several implements to enable MHT to properly repair badly damaged ground. These four are presented in the Fixed Assets Purchases.

Defra/Stewardship Funds

The finance relating to the Defra/Stewardship grants is presented in Appendix 2. The following points are of note:

- Basic Payment Scheme amounts continue to be reduced year after year as the Government winds down this scheme completely across the country.
- Chase End Hill Higher Level Stewardship agreement was due to end in February 2022. In collaboration with Bromesberrow Estate, we secured an extension of one year. Natural England has subsequently recommended the site for a further five-year extension. We await the offer and paperwork from the Rural Payment Agency. These estimated figures in *italic*.
- Increases in costs has meant two Stewardship schemes would be marginally in deficit. An internal transfer from the grazing reserve totalling £2000 is used to correct this.
- Old Hills Higher Level Stewardship agreement was due to end in February 2022. We secured an extension of one year and have now received an offer of a further five-year extension from the Rural Payment Agency. This offer however will no longer pay for the 16ha of woodland management at St Clouds meaning a loss of £1627pa.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee consider the proposed budget and recommend its approval to the Board.

Jonathan Bills
Conservation Manager

Cheryl Gentry
Finance and Administration Manager
8.11.2021

APPENDIX 1: draft Land Management Budget and Fixed Asset purchase 2023/24

Malvern Hills Trust				
Budget figures 2023/24 - detail on Land Management draft 1				
	2023/24 budget		2022/23 budget	
	£	£	£	£
Contract labour				
Shire Ditch restoration (LMP 11) Pink Cottage	0		1,000	carry over & designate
Swinyard Hill infrastructure (LMP 15)	0		2,000	carry over & designate
Ponds & Ditches	3,300		3,000	
Fencing - grazing & safety	3,850		3,500	
Fencing - other (inc LMP 17 Chase End Hill)	500		3,500	
Other	4,700		1,200	old hollow
Sub-total		12,350		14,200
Tracks and paths		10,600		6,000
				BP £4K Beacon Path
Drainage works				
Generic drainage works	1,870		1,700	
British Camp loos	540		2,500	2 empties p/a.
		2,410		4,200
Vehicle and equipment expenses				
Diesel and fuel for power tools	12,500		10,200	£6.1k 6m to 30.9.22
Servicing & maintenance	11,660		10,600	
Other	2,530		2,300	
Sub-total		26,690		23,100
Waste management				
Skip hire	6,600		6,000	
Fly tip waste disposal	1,500		1,300	
Green waste disposal	550		500	
Sub-total		8,650		7,800
Hire of plant and equipment				
Other	2,200		2,000	
Sub-total		2,200		2,000
Tree and Woodland management				
Tree safety - contract	19,250		17,500	
Tree safety - ad hoc	7,700		7,000	
Tree work - other	1,650		1,500	
Sub-total		28,600		26,000
Grass cutting				
Colwall Green (CPC)	1,100		1,100	
Old Hills, Bush Lane & Clevelode	880		800	
Hire of Robocut	3,135		2,000	5-6 days
Sub-total		5,115		3,900
Materials and tools				
Materials and tools	13,300		10,000	
Castlemorton Common car control (LMP 19)	0		3,000	carry over & designate
Bowling Green Meadow stobs (LMP 20)	0		1,000	carry over & designate
Tools > £500	1,100		1,000	
		14,400		15,000

Protective clothing			
PPE	1,210		1,100
Uniform	660		600
Sub-total		1,870	1,700
Field consultancies			
Tree safety consultancy	3,630		3,300
Other	1,760		1,600
		5,390	4,900
Evendine Spring			
Water testing	550		500
		550	500
Conservation volunteers			
Conservation volunteers	1,100		1,100
		1,100	1,100
Gardening			
Gardening	3,300	3,300	3,000
			3,000
Land management plan	0	0	0
		123,225	113,400

Fixed asset purchases			
Chain saws	2,000		2,000
Brush cutters	2,000		2,000
Field Staff vehicle	0		20,000
Tractor (replace landini compact)	25,000		0
Rotovator	2,250		5,000
6' roller	1,200		0
6' harrow	1,200		0
Spring tines	800		0
2.7 ton forwarding trailer (timber)	6,000		6,000
	40,450		35,000

see paper
see paper
BP repair ground
BP repair ground
BP repair ground
BP repair ground
b/f from 22/23

APPENDIX 2: DEFRA/stewardship grants draft budget 2023/24

Malvern Hills Trust
Stewardship budget 2023/24

	CS North & Central	CS Castlemor ton	CS Southern Hills	HLS Chase End (est)	HLS Old Hills	Grazing reserve	Basic Payment Scheme	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
4015 - Other grants	0		0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
4020 - Stewardship annual grants	76,000	51,700	18,567	3,144	3,549	0	0	152,960
4025 - Stewardship capital grants*	0	6,560	0	0	0	0	0	6,560
4310 - Land rentals	2,279	300	0	0	0	0	0	2,579
4325 - Licences	5,500	0	750	0	0	0	0	6,250
Total income	83,779	58,560	19,317	3,144	3,549	0	2,000	170,349
5000 - Contract labour	4,000	5,500	2,000	500	1,000	0	2,000	15,000
5100 - Graziers	62,400	47,000	15,000	0	1,382	0	0	125,782
5110 - Stewardship schemes direct costs	3,000	5,000	2,219	2,083	500	0	0	12,802
Total expenditure	69,400	57,500	19,219	2,583	2,882	0	2,000	153,584
Surplus/(deficit) for the period before transfers	14,379	1,060	98	561	667	0	0	16,765
4600 - Transfers from other funds	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	2,000
5105 - Transfer to general fund - stewardship staff time	0	0	0	(367)	(605)	0	0	(972)
8100 - Transfers to other funds	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Surplus/(deficit) for the period after transfers	14,379	1,060	1,098	1,194	62	(2,000)	0	19,793
Reserves brought forward	112,237	1,417	13,412	1,421	28,410	62,059	20,442	239,398
Reserves carried forward	126,616	2,477	14,510	2,615	28,472	60,059	20,442	259,191

*capital grants are to be spent in the first 2 years from Agreement start date.

Land Management Committee
Bottom Shed progress report
1 December 2022

Background Papers

Land Management Plan 2021-2026
Business Plan 2022-2027 Project 2.4.4

Project progress update

Following discussions between staff, the requirements for the form and function of the building have been refined and updated, and the brief is as follows:

To provide a replacement structure to the existing 13x6m wooden shed that will satisfy the following purposes –

- to provide a workshop for wardens and field staff to undertake maintenance work.
- to provide a hub location for conservation volunteers engaged on volunteer related practical tasks – ie small construction projects.
- to provide covered space and work area for use by small teams undertaking training.
- to provide dry storage facility for key materials.
- to include internal secure storage for tools.
- to be accessible to work vehicles (with trailers).
- for welfare purposes to include a toilet, wash facilities and kitchenette area.

To accommodate all the above the building should ideally be about 9 x 12m in size and include:

- 2 internal subrooms to provide welfare facilities
- Insulated roofs and walls to enable use by staff / vols in winter.
- Glazed roof panels for natural lighting.
- Roller shutter vehicle door – 3m x 3m .
- Double pedestrian doors.

It was also identified that the following functions are needed at the location, which would be best delivered outside the building:

- Secure lockable stores for fuel, gas canisters and chemicals – existing gas cage plus stand-alone bunded containers.
- Dry secure storage for low value materials – a 20 ft shipping container
- Transportable storage pallets and stillage for all weather material storage
- Bulk bays for storage of any recyclable items (tyres, metal etc)

The following project scoping matters have also been addressed:

- Onsite location and routes of services have been identified.
- Unwanted materials have been cleared from the site prior to carrying out surveys for planning purposes.
- Potential suppliers of suitable both wooden and steel buildings have been identified (with several in West Midlands).
- Provisional costings of a steel frame single storey, insulated building of suitable sizes have been sought from separate companies.
The cost of the building will be in the region of £25-35 k (excluding erection, internal partitions, electrics, plumbing, and fit out).
- Provisional costings have been sought for concrete pad base, and apron to front of the new shed – awaited.
- Provisional costing for the demolition and removal of the old shed are being obtained.
- Suitable external chemical storage identified (est £750-1000)
- Suitable external fuel storage identified (est £750-1000)

Overleaf is a diagram showing the suggested position of the new shed within the site compound, along with other external elements that need to be repositioned or accommodated.

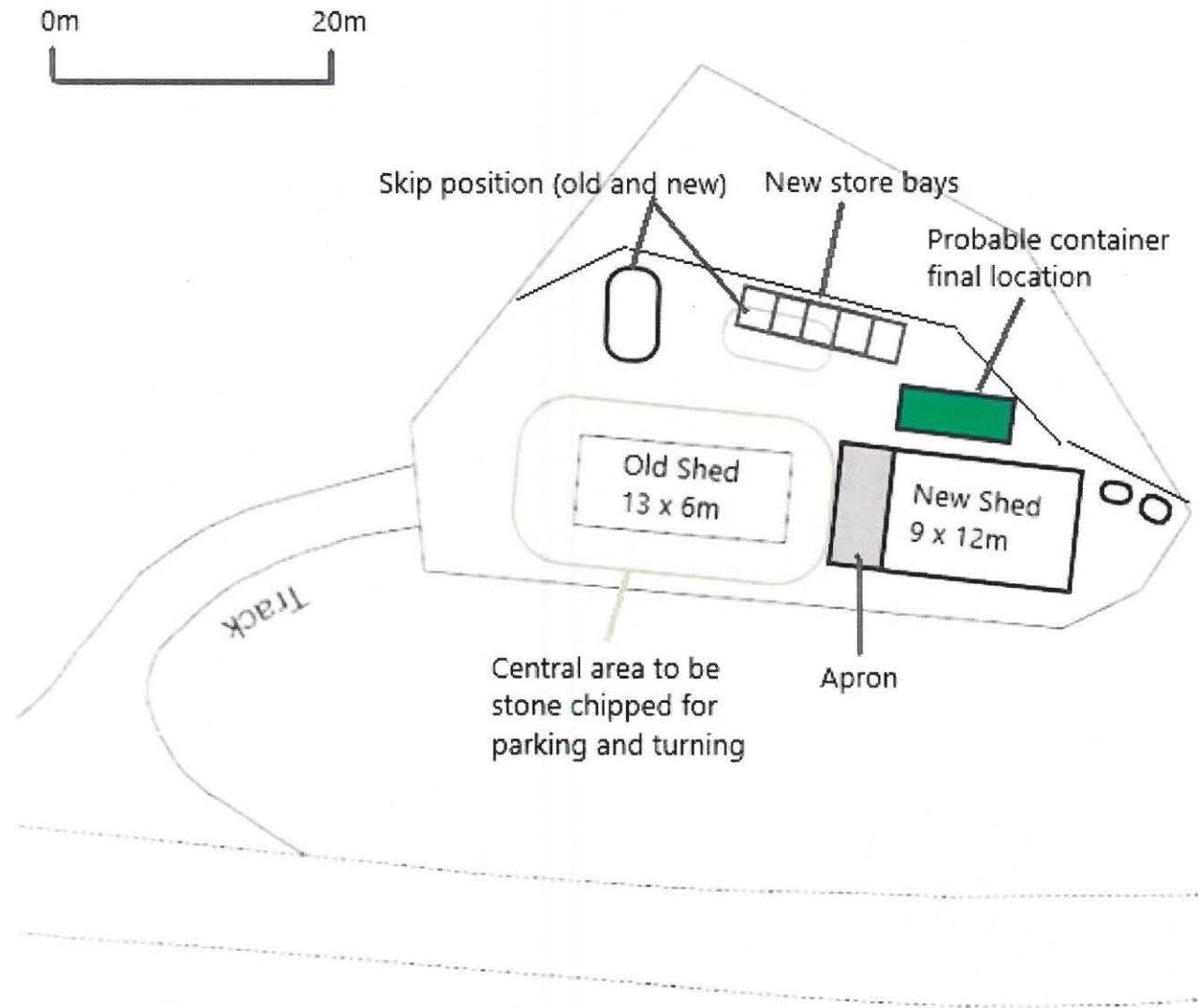
Next steps

The following still need to be undertaken before the project can be brought back to FAR with a more accurate estimate on final project costs.

- Take preapplication advice from District Council on the location, footprint, form and scale of a new building.
- Seek further cost estimates for ground works, external and internal elements
- Undertake further research into potential building providers and construction costs.
- Ascertain the fees for an architect to make the necessary planning application

Duncan Bridges
CEO
8.11.2021

Potential site layout for new shed



Examples of building types

SHIPLAP BOARDING



Land Management Committee

Title: An update on managing mountain biking on MHT land

Date: 01.12.2022

Background Papers

Land Management Plan 2021-2026

LMC paper 'Plans for a Mountain Biking Campaign', 9 April 2015

Managing Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a common pastime on the Malvern Hills that has increased in popularity in the last ten years. It provides a healthy and sustainable way to explore parts of the Hills and Commons and surrounding area. Cycling off-road, like all recreational activities, can also bring issues for other users, our land management and the landscape's important features.

The topic was reviewed thoroughly by staff and trustees in 2015, see accompanying Paper. At that meeting the Board agreed to dedicating new routes for mountain biking and to undertake a raft of measures to improve the conduct of those people cycling.

Since then, MHT has:

- Delivered the 'Responsible Mountain Biking Campaign' as decided by Board in 2015.
- Formed a mountain biking working group to help with planning and implementation of the measures listed here.
- Produced a downloadable 'walking and cycling guide' that is available in many local venues, is distributed by wardens and is on the MHT website. This replaced the preceding 'code of conduct'.
- Worked with Halfords to promote the guide with every bike sold.
- Delineated several waymarked trails on the Hills to help people stick to the right routes.
- Attended many recreation and cycling events.
- Worked with local mountain bikers to maintain and restore bridleways on the Hills.
- Regularly produced articles in the newspaper and social media about responsible cycling on the MHT estate.
- Kept a log of complaints and incidents involving mountain bikers and investigate if necessary/possible.
- Wardened the Hills and spoken with cyclists. Liaised with the Police who also patrol the Hills by bike.
- Liaised with Cycling UK, Natural England and the Forestry Commission on best practice for managing off road cycling.
- Closed and dismantled several dangerous and/or damaging new cycling routes created.

There is lots of information on the MHT website. Extracts below.
<https://www.malvern hills.org.uk/visiting/cycling/>

CYCLING

With steep climbs and views across Herefordshire and Worcestershire the Hills are an exciting place to cycle both on road and off road.

Cyclists are welcome to explore the Malvern Hills and Commons on the bridleways that cross this landscape. With over 56km of bridleways there are hilltops, wooded slopes and open commons to get to know.

WALKING AND CYCLING MAP AND GUIDE

Grab hold of one of our free, walking and cycling map and guides for the Malvern Hills and Commons.

Bridleways that cross this iconic landscape are clearly shown to help cyclists plan their route and find their way.

Advice about enjoying this shared landscape in a responsible way is also provided on side one. Please help us to care for the precious heritage and sensitive wildlife of the Hills and Commons, and fellow visitors too.

The map and guide is available from our offices, local Tourist Information Centres, cafes, bike shops, and other visitor attractions.

Copies of the map and guide can also be downloaded below - please note that these files are large due to the detailed mapping within the guide.



SHORT ROUTE

As the name suggests, this is the shortest of our three signposted routes around the Malvern Hills.

Starting at North Quarry car park, this 5.6km route climbs quickly up to Lady Howard De Walden Drive. Ride along this sweeping path that circuits both North Hill and Table Hill offering fantastic views across Herefordshire and Worcestershire before a descent down to your start point.

You'll be racking up about 206m of climbing over this short route.

To accompany the green arrows along the signposted route we've put together a Route Card with directions (and where you might find refreshments...) and a GPX file for those who use a smartphone or bike computer.

[Download Short Route Card \(PDF\)](#)

[Download Short Route Map \(GPX\)](#)



MEDIUM ROUTE

The Medium Route takes in a circuit of the northern section of the Malvern

It is worth repeating the key information that cyclists have a legal right to ride on public bridleways. It is lawful to use an electric bike with pedals where an unpowered pedal cycle could be used, provided they generated less than 250 watts of power and the electrical assistance cut out at speeds of greater than 15mph. MHT cannot ban bikes from its land.

Cycling off route is a breach of MHT byelaw 8(b) (see paper from 2015 for full details). Cycling off route and cycling without due care to others continue to be serious issues on the Hills and probably always will be. Tackling the issue is difficult with the problem potentially occurring anywhere and at any time, including at night, and potentially only lasting a very short period.

Staff take this very seriously and will continue to allocate appropriate resources including the measures outlined above and seek new ways to improve the situation.

Jonathan Bills
Conservation Manager
18.11.2022

**LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TITLE: PLANS FOR A MOUNTAIN BIKING CAMPAIGN
DATE: 9TH APRIL 2015**

BACKGROUND

Whilst MHC Acts permit walkers and horse riders access across MHC land, cyclists are restricted, by the bylaws, to public bridleways. MHC byelaw 8(b) states that:

"No unauthorised person shall ride any cycle on the Hills except on a public bridleway or upon a path or part of the Hills where such cycling is permitted by the Conservators"

In addition to this the Countryside Act 1968 (Chapter 14) states that cyclist must give way to pedestrians and horse riders:

"Any member of the public shall have, as a right of way, the right to ride a bicycle, on any bridleway, but in exercising that right cyclists shall give way to pedestrians and persons on horseback"

In relation to cycling in a responsible manner, the Road Traffic Act 1972 (Chapter 20) states that:

"If a person rides a cycle, not being a motor vehicle, on a road recklessly or at a speed or in a manner which is dangerous to the public, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including the nature, condition and use of the road and the amount of traffic which is actually at the time, or which might reasonably be expected to be, on the road, he shall be guilty of an offence. In this section " road " includes a bridleway."

"If a person rides a cycle, not being a motor vehicle, on a road without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road, he shall be guilty of an offence. In this section " road " includes a bridleway."

Staff at MHC continue to receive verbal and written comments and complaints from users of the Hills that a number of mountain bikers are not riding responsibly on the Hills and Commons.

During last year's public consultation for the new Land Management Plan, the public identified mountain bikers as the top issue on the Hills and Commons. Out of the 1122 comments relating to issues, mountain bikers were listed as an issue 172 times, accounting for 15% of the responses.

Ongoing comments include that bikes are being ridden too quickly down slopes and mountain bikers are not giving way to pedestrians which have a legal priority over cycles. Walkers have reported near collisions and times when they have been forced off paths by cyclists. A number of cyclists also fail to use bells or alert walkers

PAPER A FOR DECISION

that they are oncoming. There have been instances where walkers have reported that they received abuse when trying to confront riders.

Conflicts have also been reported with horse riders where speeding mountain bikers have upset horses which is dangerous for both the rider and for other Hills users.

There is evidence that mountain bikes are not keeping to the bridleways and are being ridden illegally on footpaths. This is resulting in the erosion of the footpaths, nationally protected archaeology and habitats, and conflicts with other users.

At the most recent Recreation Advisory Panel, members explained how despite clear signage, some mountain bikers were still riding on the path adjacent to Jubilee Drive and other footpaths.

Mountain bikers are also creating new paths, notably on Westminster Bank and Swinyard Hill which is against MHC byelaws.

The concern is that, as landowners, MHC would be liable if there were to be a collision on the Hills or Commons between a mountain biker and a walker if MHC hadn't done enough to manage this risk.

PLAN FOR THE MOUNTAIN BIKING CAMPAIGN

Enforcing existing byelaws relating to mountain biking on the Hills and Commons is difficult. MHC wardens are unable to physically stop cyclists on the Hills and those who choose to dismiss the wardens' warnings and cycle on regardless are impossible to follow up. Therefore, enforcing the existing byelaws by the wardens is an unrealistic option.

Previous discussions relating to mountain bikers have also identified solutions which would not be possible on the Hills and Commons.

Banning bikes – Under the Countryside Act 1968, cyclists have a legal right to cycle on bridleways therefore banning cyclists on bridleways on MHC land would not be legal.

Installing calming measures – The Hills and Commons are an open landscape and installing calming measures would reduce the feeling of openness. Calming measures which require disturbing the ground would damage the SSSI and could damage other important features including archaeology and geology. If any measures were considered, they would need to allow open and unrestricted access for other users including walkers, horse riders, wheelchair users, other mobility vehicle users and families with pushchairs.

There is also a concern that these measures will force bikers from the paths and onto the open areas of the Hills and Commons which would be incredibly damaging and more dangerous.

Segregating bikes from other visitors – The area of the Hills and Commons is small, relative to the large number of visitors. MHC Acts state that we must keep the Hills

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and Commons open to all and therefore we cannot restrict access to an area for a particular user group.

Below is an action plan for MHC to help resolve some of the above issues.

Short term:

- New design of 'Code of Conduct cards' – distribution to local biking stores/outlets, Kiosk at British Camp car park.
- Awareness raised on site by wardens providing information and distributing cards.
- Meeting with cycling groups to provide them with cards to distribute to members.
- Promote awareness on the MHC website and social media, including Facebook and Twitter.
- Continue to discuss ideas and information with the Recreation Advisory Panel. Use their expertise and contacts to raise awareness and promote responsible cycling.

Medium Term (in addition to the above):

- Wardens, staff and Conservators will identify key points at which mountain bikers are illegally accessing the Hills and Commons on footpaths. Signage will be installed to clearly identify that access is not permitted at those points.
- Where appropriate, place large obstacles such as boulders and wood materials to restrict access for cyclists.
- CCO to contact magazines and other publications and websites to encourage them to remove cycling routes which are deemed illegal.
- CCO to seek funding for a new mountain biking and walking guide and launch event, which could include sponsorship from local cycling businesses and cycling clubs.
- Promote the development of the mountain biking and walking guide involving local groups and cycling organisations.

Long Term – before 2016 (in addition to the above):

- To hold workshops and meetings with the Recreation Advisory Panel, local mountain bikers, Wardens, Sustrans and other organisations to develop a comprehensive and easy to use map and guide for mountain bikers and walkers which clearly identifies bridleways
- Organise an event to launch the biking guide.
- Invite local cycle clubs and groups and cycle businesses to attend and share stories and ideas and work together to cycle responsibly.
- Mountain bikers will be encouraged to attend and talk to walkers and other users of the Hills on how they cycle responsibly.
- Invite famous mountain bikers from the area to support our work and the launch event.
- MHC staff and local experts in archaeology, geology and biodiversity to attend meetings of local biking clubs to ensure the relationship between bikers and MHC is continued and that each party are aware of the issues.

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- Increase the amount of staff time spent on championing the new guide and talking to cyclists.

The medium and long term plans are initial ideas for the Malvern Hills which have been discussed. Research on ways in which other organisations are will be undertaken throughout this campaign. It is important that we use best practice for any of the work we're doing. Following this, the plans listed above may change to reflect the results of the ongoing research.

The funding for this project will come from a combination of sponsorship and funding from external bodies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Land Management Committee resolves to support the actions outlined above.

Beck Baker
Community and Conservation Officer
24/03/2015

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1st December 2022

Project Progress update

Project	Ref Code	Budget Actual Cost					Update	Status
			1	2	3	4		
Bridleway Link Common	BP 1.2.3	£2,500 (General)					Now anticipated autumn 2023	Delayed
Improve Access Community Woodland	BP 1.2.3	£4,360 (Gift fund)					Main works completed. Benches delivered and awaiting installation by FS.	Part Complete
Marking Boundaries	BP 4.2.1	£1,250 (General)					Volunteer surveys are carried out winter months. Work suspended due to lack of availability of wardens.	Delayed.
Restore Shire Ditch	BP 1.1.5	£3,000 (General)					Plans drawn up and currently seeking Scheduled Monument consent. Survey work deferred to 2023	Delayed
Pond Restore Castlemorton	BP 1.1.8 LMP #18	Gift/grant						Completed
Gullet Lake vegetation scheme	BP 1.1.8 LMP #13	Est £2,000					Put back to 2023	Delayed.
Lower Shed Review	BP 2.4.4	Pt 1 £5,000					See paper LMC 01/12/22	Ongoing
Donkey Shed Restoration	BP 1.1.5 LMP #8	£26,000 Grants (Civic Society £5k plus £1800 for interpretation signage. FIPL £14k.) balance from Gift Fund					Completed save for installation of railings and information board	Ongoing
BC sewage system	BP 2.4.5	Est £40-50K (Parl Fund)						Completed
Guarford Trough Restoration	BP 1.1.5.	Est £11k						Completed
St Anns Bowl restoration	BP 1.1.5	Est					Listed building consent received. Stonemasons now looking at starting Jan / Feb	Ongoing
Brockhill Road building improvements	BP 2.4.4	Est£ 5,000					See Paper E meeting October 2022. Hardstanding upgrade approved, consideration of building improvements deferred to 2023	Ongoing
Snookes Croft Building	BP 2.4.4	Est £50,000					To replace existing barn structure with new. Design stage. Delayed pending project costings.	Put Back to 2023/4
Car Parks - repainting lines	BP 1.2.2	£1,000 (Parl)						

Black Hill Car Park improvements	BP 1.2..2	£6,000					See paper D meeting October 2022.	Ongoing
Vehicle Control	BP 1.2.6 LMP #19	£3,000					See paper C October 2022. Design of stobs approved	Ongoing
Update Interpretation Boards	BP 3.1.4	£15,000 p/a (Gift Fund)					Blackhill and Gardner's complete and installed. Earnslaw ongoing. Beacon Road to do.	Ongoing
Update location signage	BP 3.1.4	£7,000					Swinyard and West of England completed.	Completed
Replace old access signs	BP 3.1.4	£2,500					Recommended. New batch of signs delivered and installation in progress.	Ongoing
Install new location identification signage.	LMP #1	Est £25,000 over two years.					Project to develop site markers to all separate land parcels and popular parking areas. Design work ongoing.	Ongoing
Research visitor usage and ways to tackle erosion.	BP 1.2.7 LMP #35	Est £2000 2 Year					Project to research visitor numbers and erosion impacts. Survey undertaken by specialist in upland access paths and reported to last LMC meeting.	Ongoing
Install people counters	BP 1.2.7	Est £2000 2 Year					Counters to provide data to support above project.	
CAPITAL ITEMS								
4x4 ATV vehicle to replace LR or Pickup	BP 2.3.2	£20,000					Trials identified limitations in usage, as compared to pickup and Landrover.	Rescheduled
Timber Trailer	BP 2.3.2	£6,000						Put Back to 2023/4
Small side arm flail	BP 2.3.2	£6,000 (£6,800)					Brought forward from 2023/24. Ordered	Ongoing
5 or 8 ton trailer	BP 2.3.2	£3,000					Models and sources being scoped.	Ongoing
Plant Trailer	BP 2.3.2	£3,500 (£2,950)						Completed
Replacement Van - Wardens	BP 2.3.1	£24,000					Options under consideration and trials being organised	Ongoing

BP = Adopted Business Plan 2022-2027. LMP = Adopted Land Management Plan 2021-2026