

**COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**COMMON**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**Revised edition 2014**



# COLESHILL COMMON

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This revised Management Plan was produced by the Common Management Committee at the request of the Parish Council. In 2013, Membership of the Management Committee consisted of:

Christopher Wege: Chairman  
Petrina Clackett  
Derek Higgins  
Terry Reilly  
Graham Thorne  
Penny Ware  
Patsy Wright-Warren

This Plan is based on information in the original Plan of 1994, which was in large part the work of Ann Trotman BSc (Lond.) assisted by John Chevenix-Trench, the local historian. Where necessary, the new Plan should be read in conjunction with the original one, as certain information has been left out in the interests of conciseness. In particular, the appendix of correspondence on the ownership of the Common has been omitted. The appendix containing the Byelaws that relate to the Common has been reduced to the main Byelaws only. The full text can be seen in the 1994 edition of the Plan. Special thanks are due to Derek Higgins for his invaluable help in preparing this document for publication.

Christopher Wege, Editor

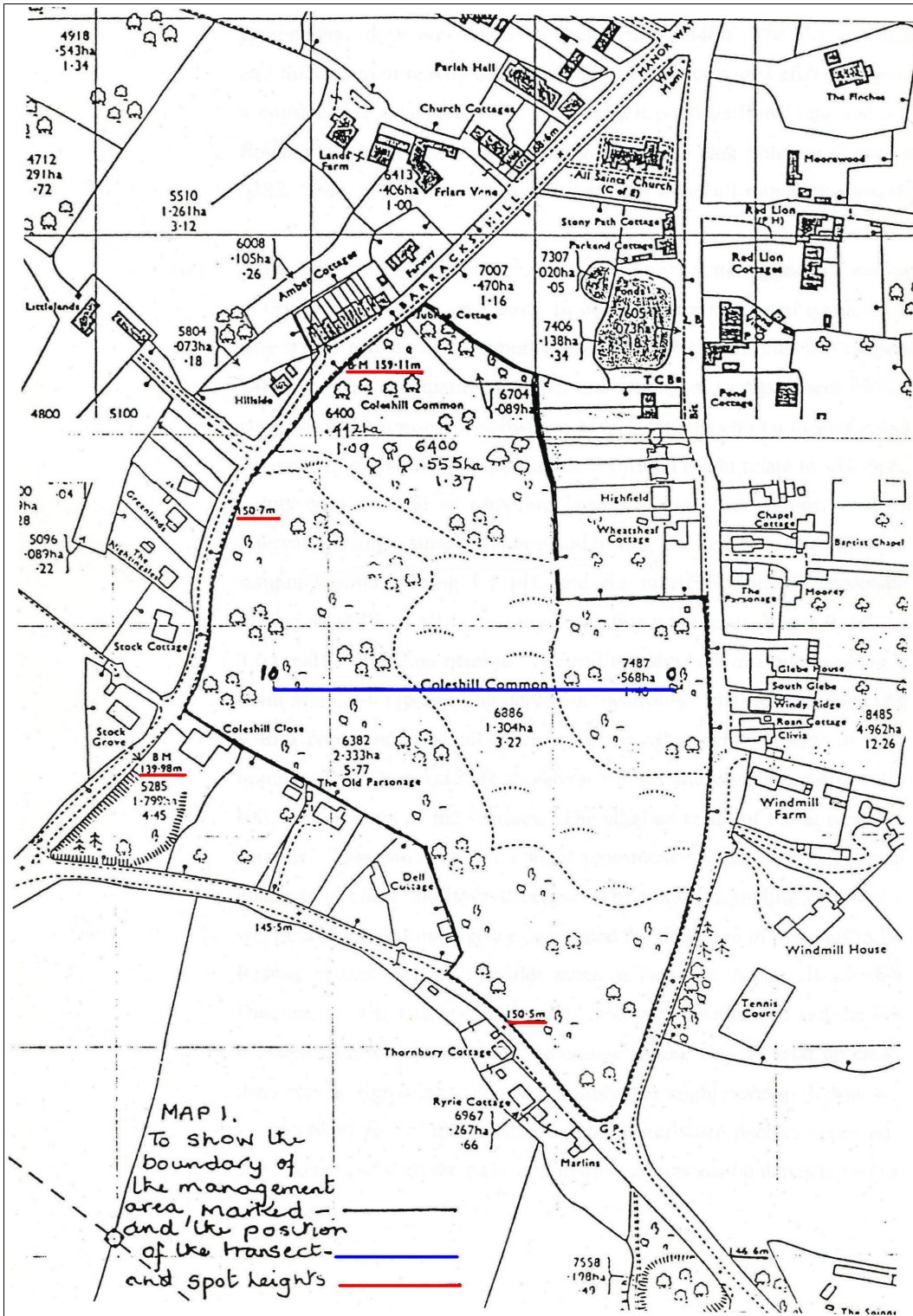
*February 2014*

## **PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

The following objectives were framed by the Common Management Committee and passed to the Coleshill Parish Council for approval on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1992. They were accepted and communicated to the villagers in the Village Newsletter:

“To protect and conserve the unenclosed character and naturalness of the site for the benefit of the flora, fauna and other wildlife and for its quiet enjoyment by the public on foot and for the enhancement of its natural beauty through positive and sensitive management.”

In 2013, the Management Committee, in revising the Plan, found no reason to change this main objective.



(1) Map of Coleshill Common  
Blue Line shows transect referred to in Section 1.3 (iv)

# PART 1 DESCRIPTION

## 1.1 General Information

- (i) **The Grid Reference** of the centre of the Common is 9490 9467.
- (ii) **Local Authorities.** Under Buckinghamshire County Council, the Common is within the area of the Chiltern District Council and of Coleshill Parish Council.
- (iii) **Status.** The area is not a registered common. It is marked on the Commons Register Map as an "exempt common". It was exempt under the Commons Registration Act 1965 on the basis that the land was already regulated under the Commons Act 1899, and that no rights of common had been exercised for 30 years. It is included in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is part of the Green Belt.
- (iv) **Areas.** The total area of the Common, including the Village Pond is 6.2ha. This is broken down into compartments as in Fig. 1, where the areas are given in Hectares. Because there have been changes since that map was published, a revised labelling system has been devised and can be seen on Fig. 10 (page 15). This new labelling of areas will be used in the following pages. The boundaries of the areas are described along with the habitat descriptions on pages 16 to 23.
- (v) **OS Map Coverage**
- SU 89/99 on:
- OS Landranger 175 1 :50,000 (11<sup>1/4</sup> inches to the mile)
  - OS Pathfinder 1138 1:25,000 (2<sup>1/2</sup> inches to the mile)
  - OS Largescale SU9495 - 9595
- In addition to those current maps, the development of the Common can be traced on the early OS 25 inches to the mile map and on the tithe map. Copies of these are in Appendix 3 as follows:
- Extract, Tithe map of 1840, photographed on an enhanced scale
  - Extract, OS 25" to the mile 1898: Extract, OS 25" to the mile 1914: XLIII 13.
- (vi) **Photographic Record.** A photographic record of the common, including aerial views, can be found on pages 10 to 13. Further pictures can be found on the Village website.
- (vii) **Ownership.** No records have been found to establish present ownership. Historical ownership was extensively investigated at the time of the first Management Plan of 1994 and the correspondence may be seen in the Appendix of that document. In 2007, Dick Ware, on behalf of the Parish Council, re-investigated the question of ownership without any greater success. His notes are in the Council Minutes of 2007.
- (viii) **Tenure.** Chiltern District Council has delegated the management of the Common to Coleshill Parish Council. Since ownership is unknown, no legal article of tenure exists.
- (ix) **Management.** Coleshill Parish Council is responsible for the management of the

Common, for which a Committee has been established. Membership of the Committee is drawn from villagers and there is power to invite outside expertise as needed.

(x) **Public Access.** Access by the public on foot is unrestricted. The regular riding of horses and bicycles on the Common is discouraged and vehicles are prohibited by the Byelaw. (See Appendix 2).

## **1.2 General Description**

Coleshill Common is a triangular area of land, with an apex to the north. It is bordered by roads and twelve private residences have been carved out of the southern and eastern borders. All Saints Church, the village pond and a private field now occupy the northern apex. The centre of the remaining area is grassland, and this is surrounded by scrub/woodland forming all the other compartments. There are relatively few mature trees due to the development from open grazing land. Several small ponds exist in the northern section, and a small streamlet outflows from one of these to run from north to south and ends in a sink hole. All these freshwater areas are subject to drying out.

## **1.3 Physical Information**

(i) **Geology and Topography** The Common lies between the 165m contour in the north and the 140m contour in the south west. The land also slopes from east to west, so that the lowest point is the south western corner. There is virtually no completely flat area. Spot heights are underlined on the map Fig. 1.

The topography is complicated by past quarrying giving many pockets and depressions in the woodland compartments. The geology is complex since the Common is capped by an outlier of the Reading Beds, which covers the chalk in varying depths with sand, gravel and clay. (Ref. "The Buckinghamshire Landscape" by Michael Reed; H-S 1979, where there is a special mention of Coleshill in Chapter 1, page 29).

(ii) **Climate** The tilt of the land towards the south west produces a warm south facing slope. Screened by trees, the Common is protected from wind on all sides and is therefore potentially warmer than the surrounding countryside, although no records of temperature and humidity are available.

(iii) **Hydrology.** The capping of Reading Beds in the form of gravel and clay has been extracted in the past, producing pits which give rise to the ponds of the present day. These are situated in Area C (Fig. 9, page 14). The clay retains water and the Common readily becomes sticky and waterlogged after rain and takes a considerable time to dry out. The largest pond outflows into a small south flowing stream which disappears into a sink hole in Area E. Ditches exist to collect and drain the water all round the Common. The one on the west side discharges into another sink hole.



**(iv) Soils.** The soil, as stated above, rapidly becomes waterlogged and conversely, in dry weather, bakes very hard. In order to investigate soil types in 1994, a transect was set up across the Common from east to West, starting in Area H, crossing Area A, and ending in Area E. The position of the transect is marked by the blue line on the map on page 2. It was chosen to give maximum coverage of slope and habitat, parameters which might relate to soil type. Ten points were marked as sampling positions along the transect, at 20 metre intervals. Using a simple Rapitest soil testing kit, four tests were made at each sampling point, testing for pH, and for nutrients Nitrate, Phosphate and Potassium (NPK). pH is measured on a five point scale from 8.0 (alkaline) to 4.0 (acid), 7pH being neutral. The soil nutrients are also measured on a five point scale, 0-4 representing depletion to surplus. The samples were obtained with a corer and were all taken from the same depth (10cm) to avoid the humus layer.

The results are shown in Table 1 and suggest a nutrient depleted soil, acid in eight of the samples. The alkaline result of 8.0 at point 6 was a surprise. This point was on a slight prominence so an extra soil profile was dug here to check the layer structure. The time of sampling followed a very wet period and this may have exaggerated the depletion of minerals in the soil. Results of the three soil profiles taken at Points 1, 6 and 10 are shown in Fig 3. The layering at 1 and 10 was very pronounced and the different horizons clearly demarcated. The orange/yellow clay showed up clearly but there was no sign of an iron pan. Possibly this might develop in drier weather.

In the lowest part of the profile, rounded water-worn pebbles appeared in the clay consistent with the river and marine origins of the deposits forming the Reading Beds.

The interpolation of a layer of browner clay between two yellow clay horizons at Point 1 may be due to past disturbance. (see Section 1.4).

The situation at Point 6, where a pH of 8.0 had been obtained was quite different. A deep layer of dark, fine gritty soil containing fine gravel/sand lay above the yellow clay, suggesting that this might have been dumped here, or possibly excavated from nearer the chalk level by moles.

Distance along the transect	pH	N	P	K
<b>Point 1</b> ↑East	5.5	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	1 (deficient)
<b>Point 2</b>	6.0	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	1 (deficient)
<b>Point 3</b>	6.0	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	1-2 (deficient-adequate)
<b>Point 4</b>	5.5	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	1 (deficient)
<b>Point 5</b>	6.0	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	1 (deficient)
<b>Point 6</b>	8.0	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)
<b>Point 7</b>	7.0	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	1 (deficient)
<b>Point 8</b>	6.0	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	2 (adequate)
<b>Point 9</b>	6.0	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	1 (deficient)
<b>Point 10</b> ↓West	5.5	0 (depleted)	0 (depleted)	2 (adequate)

*(2) Soil Sample Table - Soil Sampling along an 180 metre Transect from East to West on Coleshill Common - 15th April 1994*



(3) Diagram of Soil Profiles

## 1.4 Cultural Information

(i) **Archaeology.** There are a number of archaeological features on the Common (using the name in its widest sense). Of these the most significant is the pond, which, although not now a part of the land popularly known as the Common, is so closely bound up with the past of the Common proper that it cannot be ignored.

The pond is named in a document of C13 as "Clenemer". Later, this became "Claremore which developed to "Claymore" (in which form it the name still survives, though not in reference to the pond). The two forms are identical in meaning: the clear or clean pond; not, however, clear in the sense of pellucid (though within living memory it was so) but clear of vegetation: it was easy of access for cattle.

There is no evidence that it is artificial, apart from the small westward extension, though the natural mechanisms by which ponds form on hilltops are not well understood.

A narrow embanked strip of ground runs east from the west boundary. (Compartment 6704, now called Area B). It contains a substantial pond formed from old gravel and clay digging. Mature oaks grow on its banks, and they are not less than 150 years old. It is known as "Blind Batty", a name for which no explanation can be offered. Excavation might produce datable finds, but has never been undertaken.

Further onto the common are two more ponds, also formed from old gravel and clay diggings.

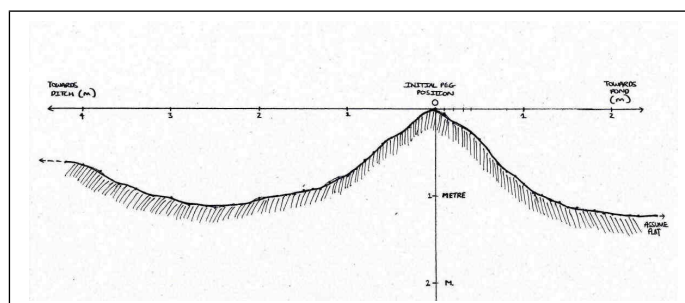
The more northerly of the two was used as a rubbish dump in the past and contains domestic glass, china and metal. These deposits have been disturbed by recent bottle hunters. At the entrance on Village Road adjacent to the electricity sub-station, there is apparently a former dumping area for pottery shards. These probably originated from the former pottery which is recorded as occupying land on the other side of the road, immediately opposite the substation.

A number of small declivities, many now filled with water, are scattered over the western part of the Common. These are the traces of clay or gravel extraction. (See "Land Use").

A steep bank, resembling a lynchett, flanks the road on the east side of the Common. It existed in 1897 when the Parish Council asked for it to be fenced, but it may have become accentuated by the bull-dozing of the 1950's.

### **Banks and ditches**

Blind Batty has a boundary bank along the south side of the enclosure. This boundary is shown on the Tithe Map of 1844. The profile is shown below.



*(4) Profile of Ditch and Bank*

There are drainage ditches on three sides of the common, possibly dug when the roads were given more attention in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a further ditch running diagonally across the slope below the houses on Village Road and ending close to Pond 1. In July 1902 the Council's Medical Officer referred to the house next to Wheatsheaf Cottage as having a 'Bad supply of Water; 2 dilapidated and filthy privies draining into large pond'. Thankfully this ditch is now dry!

### **Jacob's Well**

This well and the adjacent hand pump provided the main (though not only) source of drinking water for the village, prior to mains water arriving around 1912. It was still being used by a few inhabitants between the two wars. It was given a special access for the villagers when the Enclosures were enforced and is shown on the Enclosure maps. At some time after WW2 the then owner of Wheatsheaf Cottage enclosed the area around the well and added it to his garden. It still exists, but is no longer accessible to the public.

### **(ii) Geology.**

Part of the overlying Reading Beds can be seen exposed at Blind Batty and also below Windmill Hill when the vegetation dies back in winter.

**(iii) Oral history.**

There is anecdotal evidence of the use of the common by the owner of the (then) Fleur-de-Lis pub for grazing his geese during the 1940's .

Several elderly residents have spoken of playing as children on the common – playing hide and seek and building camps. Two children made a small fire, to pretend to cook lunch, and were promptly shouted at from a distance because they were thought to be smoking cigarettes. In the 1960's the Pusey boys, who were a lively lot, were suspected of being behind the gorse fires that occurred, especially around Guy Fawkes Day.

Bert Aldridge who lived on Barracks Hill, worked as a young man for a builder in Winchmore Hill. He was often sent over to Coleshill with a horse and cart, to dig a load of gravel from the common for a job in hand.



An elderly resident told me that Mr Albert Bates, who lived in Thornbury Cottage on Chalk Hill, used to walk across the common each day to Jacob's Well and bring back two pails of water on his yoke. That would have been in the 1920's.

It was this Albert Bates who first pruned the Mushroom Tree at the southern edge of the common. This is a hawthorn which has been trimmed to the shape of a mushroom for more than 70 years. Albert and his wife Ada adopted the tree which was opposite their cottage. The couple regularly trimmed the tree and cut the surrounding grass and on warm summer days sat beneath the tree to watch the world go by. Ada would spread her sheets on the short grass to dry on wash-day. After Albert and his wife died, the tree started to revert to a more natural shape. Then, in 2003, the Parish Council decided that it should be reshaped annually in order that a local landmark was not lost.

**(iv) Land Use** Coleshill, with Winchmore Hill, was once part of an extensive tract of forest grazing, extending from Chalfont St. Giles to Hughenden and Wendover. It was exploited by all the townships bordering on the hills, and its western end survived into C19 under the name of Wycombe Heath. Its use as forest grazing probably began in the Iron Age, and in the case of Coleshill continued until the late Saxon period. Its pond made Coleshill a very desirable asset for the community that had the use of its land. Grazing without water is of limited value; and it was certainly this that attracted the first permanent settlers in C10. They laid out common arable fields to the south, west and east of the Common, but kept the Common itself as common grazing, and the pond as a common watering place. This pastoral past is preserved in local toponymy: Barrack Hill is properly Parrock Hill, a form of paddock, and Park End

Cottage preserves its French form "parc". It was also remembered in the obsolete name for what is now Village Road: "Moor Street" ("Moor" means rough grazing).

So matters continued until 1816, when the parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament. Grazing rights on the Common were extinguished; freeholders (the only people who enjoyed such rights) were compensated by the grant of small pieces of the Common.

Many of these were to the east of "Village Road"; the Common then extended almost to the doors of the old houses there. Others were "The Bit" and the land on which Wheatsheaf Cottage now stands. The Lion's share, however, went to Thomas Tyrwitt- Drake as Lord of the Manor. He leased it to a Winchmore Hill potter, William Slade, expressly to dig clay.

It seems certain, however, that grazing continued: nothing else can account for the fact that the Common remained open until World War II. The photographs below show the common in 1901, and 1960, with aerial views in 1942 and 1980. So the Enclosure Act probably caused little immediate change. That came in the late forties, when someone thought it would be a good idea to turn the Common into a sports field by way of a War Memorial. Bulldozers were brought in and pushed all the topsoil down the slope to the edge of the wooded area on the west; they also created the steep bank on the west of Windmill Hill. The resulting mess of raw clay was then left to grow docks and rushes, but gorse soon established itself. Further years of neglect followed, during which there emerged the dense cover of willow and bramble which the Common Management Committee is now tackling. Birch also arrived, followed by Oak. Meanwhile a topsoil of sorts formed. In the middle fifties, there was another episode of bulldozing; with what object and on whose initiative is not known. Once again, nothing came of it.



*(5) The Common in 1901. Looking towards Amber Cottages.*



*(6) Two views of the Common in 1960. Looking towards Chalk Pit House (above) and towards the Mushroom Tree (below). (Bucks County Council photos).*





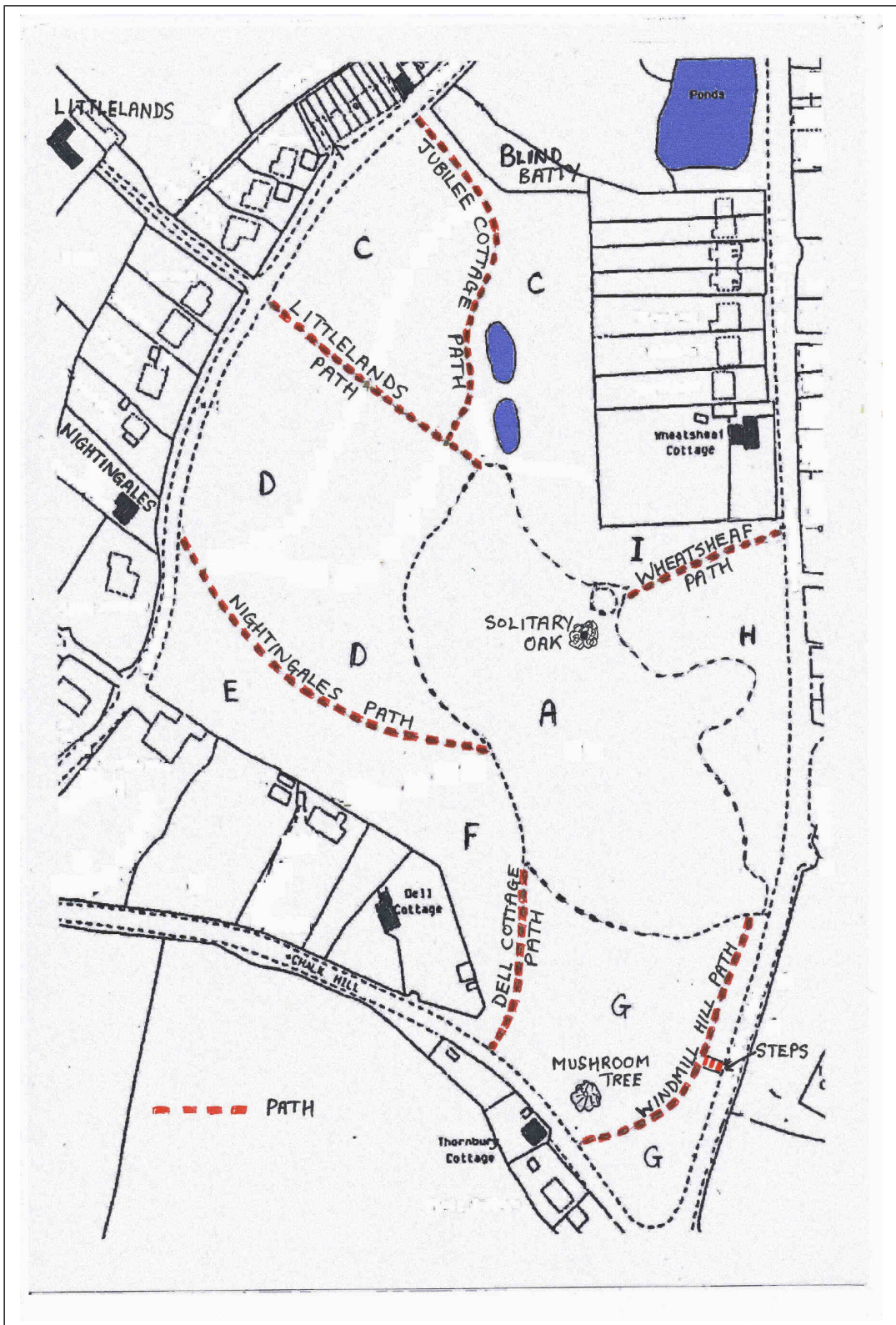
*(7) Aerial view of Common. Taken by the RAF in 1942.*



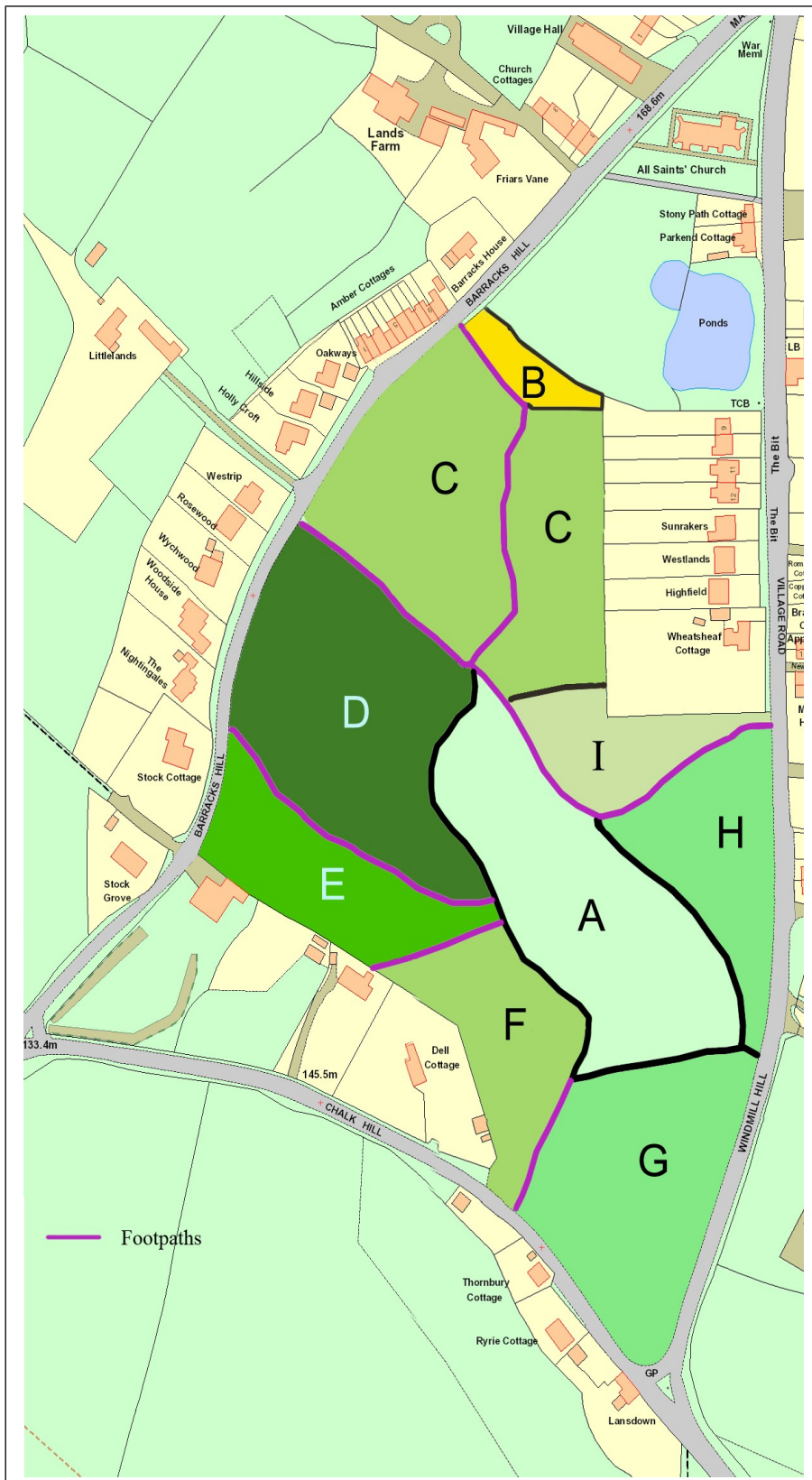
*(8) Aerial view of the Common. Taken around 1980.*

**(v) Past Management.** Nothing that can be called “management” was done until after this further application of machinery, when the son of the then Clerk to the Parish Council undertook some clearance of overgrown paths. Soon afterwards a resident of one of the houses facing the Common took it upon himself to coppice an area of willow. Gorse soon reappeared, or made itself visible – perhaps it had never totally disappeared. The present Management Committee was set up by the Parish Council in 1992 and some of the work undertaken since then is described in the Management Plan of 1994.





(9) Map showing Footpaths and Landmarks. As used in the text.



(10) Map showing Ecological Areas. As used in the text.

## **1.5 BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

### **BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION - FLORA**

The habitat areas fall into three main types: grassland, scrub/woodland and freshwater. Since the 1994 Plan was written the vegetation and extent of the grassland has changed, so that the OS compartments used in the original Plan are no longer reliable for reference. The boundaries of the new habitat areas are described below and shown in Fig 10. Separately, Fig 9 shows some landmarks and the names used for the principal paths on the common, which are used for reference in the text.

#### **(i) Grassland Areas**

##### **Area A:**

The centre of the Common is occupied by grassland and is bounded by the ditch from Pond 1 at the NW side and the bordering trees on all other sides. The species list dates from 1994 (updated in 2013) and is included in Appendix 1. Some of the plants included in this list are ephemeral invasions from surrounding fields, and may not occur every year.

The main grasses are those of acidic nutrient-deficient grassland; Bents, Fescues, Sweet Vernal, Yorkshire Fog and Heath Grass. In the wettest areas rushes are frequent and there are stands of Reed Canary Grass, (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

There is a good variety of herb species. The most frequent are listed below:

Tormentil	Birds-foot Trefoil	Silverweed
Sheeps Sorrel	Meadow Buttercup	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Heath Bedstraw	Creeping Buttercup	Bugle
Common Nettle	Creeping Thistle	Sorrel
Common Violet		

A group of Yellow Iris and a patch of Devils Bit Scabious are species to be considered when planning conservation. Some large clumps of Comfrey occur in several places. Formerly Harebell, Cuckoo Flower, Cowslip and occasional Common Spotted Orchid were found. Historically, Ling grew on this Common but the disturbances of past years appear to have eliminated it from the flora. There are numerous ant-hills present which need consideration during mowing.



(11) Devils' Bit Scabious near the Solitary Oak

**(ii) Scrub/Woodland Areas.**

The remaining compartments comprise scrub/woodland of varied structure. The 1994 tree species list will be found in Appendix 1. Since there are few fully mature trees, there is little closed canopy and bramble is very invasive.

Oak is the main tree species, and in places is becoming mature enough to be dominant. The structure of the woodland compartments is given below. They need to be subdivided for this purpose and are marked B to I in Fig 10. They are lettered from the north down the western side to the south and finish up on the eastern side.

***Area B:***

'Blind Batty'. This small compartment is partly occupied by a winter pond in what had been gravel or clay diggings. It is bordered on one side by land belonging to Friars Vane and on the other side by an earthen boundary bank on which grow mature Oak, Holly and Hawthorn. The floor of the pit grows Bramble and Nettles and has been one of the main sites of Himalayan Balsam invasion. Ragged Robin has been found. Moorhens have nested in wet years. The pit has a quarry face to the north which shows the local geology of sandy gravel. There is some argument about the name: either 'Blind Batty' or 'Blind Betty'. The older inhabitants have mainly called it Blind Batty. The origin of the name is not known.

**Management** should aim to keep the floor area clear of growth in order to maintain the historical appearance of the pit, the only named one in the village. The Balsam has been controlled in recent years and efforts should be continued to eradicate it. The surrounding tree and shrub growth should be prevented from encroaching.

### Area C:

Woodland area bounded by Barracks Hill to the West, the Littlelands path to the South and the gardens of The Bit to the East.

This area consists of semi-mature woodland growing on what was historically open common.

There are a few mature Oaks surrounded by mainly Hawthorn which have grown tall and spindly and are nearing the end of their life span. There is also some Cherry, Yew, Ash and an apple tree. The area bordering Barracks Hill contains more Willows, some of which have collapsed. Balsam invasion affects this zone. A central clearing has developed due to the loss of two large oak boughs and an adjacent large Willow. There is a marginal ditch along Barracks Hill, and the area close to the ditch has been kept strimmed in recent years and this cleared area forms a deeper bay opposite Jubilee Cottage, where several Hazel trees have been planted.

The understorey is of Elder, Bramble, Dog Rose and Honeysuckle.

The field layer consists chiefly of Ivy and Nettles, most of the other herbs occurring along the path verges.

**Management.** Apart from the strimming of the road margin, which should continue, Area C has had practically no maintenance interference since 1992. The intention is to keep this area untouched as far as possible. Fallen trees should be left in situ. The clearing should be monitored for natural regeneration. Balsam eradication should continue. The pathway from Barracks Hill (opposite Littlelands) should be gradually widened to produce a ride, bordered by Bramble and scrub, with the aim of encouraging insect, butterfly and bird life.

### Area D:

Woodland area bounded by Barracks Hill to the West, the Littlelands path to the North, the path from Nightingales to the large oak to the South, and grassland to the East. This is semi-mature woodland on previously open common and consists of Hawthorn which is being over-shaded by semi-mature Oaks. There are several large Birch, Field Maple and Ash trees, and a stand of mature Cherry lower down the slope. Many of these cherries are dying and several have fallen in recent years. On the course of the drainage ditch from Pond 1 there is an area of mixed Willow and Hawthorn. Along the southern boundary of the Area are some Sycamore trees and a few very large Ash close to the largest sink hole. The southern part of the area, adjacent to the grassland contains a number of large cherries.

The understorey is Holly and Elder and the field flora includes Bluebell, Wild Arum, Dogs Mercury, Common Violet, Male and Buckler Ferns.

**Management.** A few years ago a clearing was created, adjoining the Littlelands path. Some mixed planting was done here to give some lower growth as a counterbalance to the ageing thorn trees and bare woodland floor. There is a noticeable number of fallen trees in area D and fallen deadwood. Some of the deadwood should be collected and stacked to keep the area looking acceptable. Some of the dead or dying Hawthorn trees could be harvested for firewood. Some individual trees of value as specimens should be haloed. Field maple, ash and apple could be considered for this.

The two sink holes at the lowest part of the Area should be kept clear of debris. The larger hole has been used as a garden dump and further dumping should be discouraged as far as possible.

#### **Area E:**

Semi-mature woodland consisting of Hawthorn dominated by Sycamore. There are a few Field Maple and Cherry. The understorey is Elder and Holly and the field layer is of Dogs Mercury, Wild Arum and Ivy.

**Management.** Some Sycamore has been felled in this area and a few have been ring-barked. This was done to let more light in to the area which had a particularly bare floor. The gradual reduction of the domination by the sycamores should include further thinning or coppicing. The proximity of houses to the south means that interference should not occur too close to that boundary. The largest and best-looking specimen of oak lies on the margin of the grassland. This oak has recently been haloed, and this area should be kept clear.

#### **Area F:**

Woodland. A varied area of woodland, comprising Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Cherry, Sallow, Oak and Hornbeam (one clump close to the road). The understorey includes Dog Rose, Bramble and Elder. Formerly Broom was recorded, but is not now found. There is a Raspberry patch on the grassland boundary.

**Management.** The resident living at Dell Cottage wishes to maintain his privacy and security by having a dense stand of trees and undergrowth around his boundary. The interior of this woodland block has not been touched in recent years, but is maturing and becoming more open under taller trees. Opportunities should be sought to do limited coppicing to give more low growth but without opening up the area. The Sallow on the grassland boundary will need to be cut back at intervals.

#### **Area G:**

Mixed woodland and Scrub. The trees present are Oak, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Hazel and Sallow. The understorey consists of Bramble, Dog Rose and Honeysuckle. The Hazel trees were planted to form a border along the ride joining the Mushroom Tree area to the central Grassland. It had been hoped that their presence might encourage Dormice to return, but this has not happened. The area around the Mushroom Tree was cleared of bramble and bracken a few years ago. This more open area is bordered by Bracken.

**Management.** The sallow bordering the grassland should be cut back rotationally to prevent encroachment onto the grass. The bracken needs to be kept in check to avoid it re-colonising the Mushroom Tree area, though a marginal stand has been kept for diversity and this should be maintained. The Hazel trees should be coppiced in turn when considered ready. The ride needs to be kept well cleared at the edges to allow growth of grass – thus linking the Mushroom Tree grass to the main grassland area. Bramble and Hawthorn is growing where the ride joins the central grassland and should be controlled to maintain the grass link mentioned above and to give an inviting open appearance when walking up the path.

### *Area H:*

This area is composed chiefly of Sallow with a few young Oaks and Silver Birch, with an understorey of Bramble and Elder. The centre of the area has been cleared of bramble over the past few years resulting in a small area of grass, linked to the main grassland. This area was historically mainly Gorse. At the southern end of the area there is a stand of young Elms, many of which have died, some having been felled in the past. The Area has several Blackthorn trees.

**Management.** This part of the common has been the target of a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supervised by the Chilterns Conservation Board. The aim has been to open out the view of the grassland from the road and to widen the main access path to give a more inviting vista. The clearance that has been done should be maintained by clearance or coppicing. The central cleared area (or 'bay') has been the site of recent Gorse planting (of on-site plants) and the protection of other gorse seedlings. The intention is to keep this area partly grass but bordered by Gorse and Bramble to give a habitat of scrub suitable for bird and insect life. Sallow has been coppiced over a period and this cycle should be maintained. In the Elm area the plan should be to retain some standing dead-wood but to encourage new growth by coppicing some of the living trees. Some dead elm-wood should be left in situ for insect and fungal life. The 'Gorse' area would be suitable for installing a bench seat or creating a picnic spot and consideration should be given to this way of encouraging use of the common by the public.

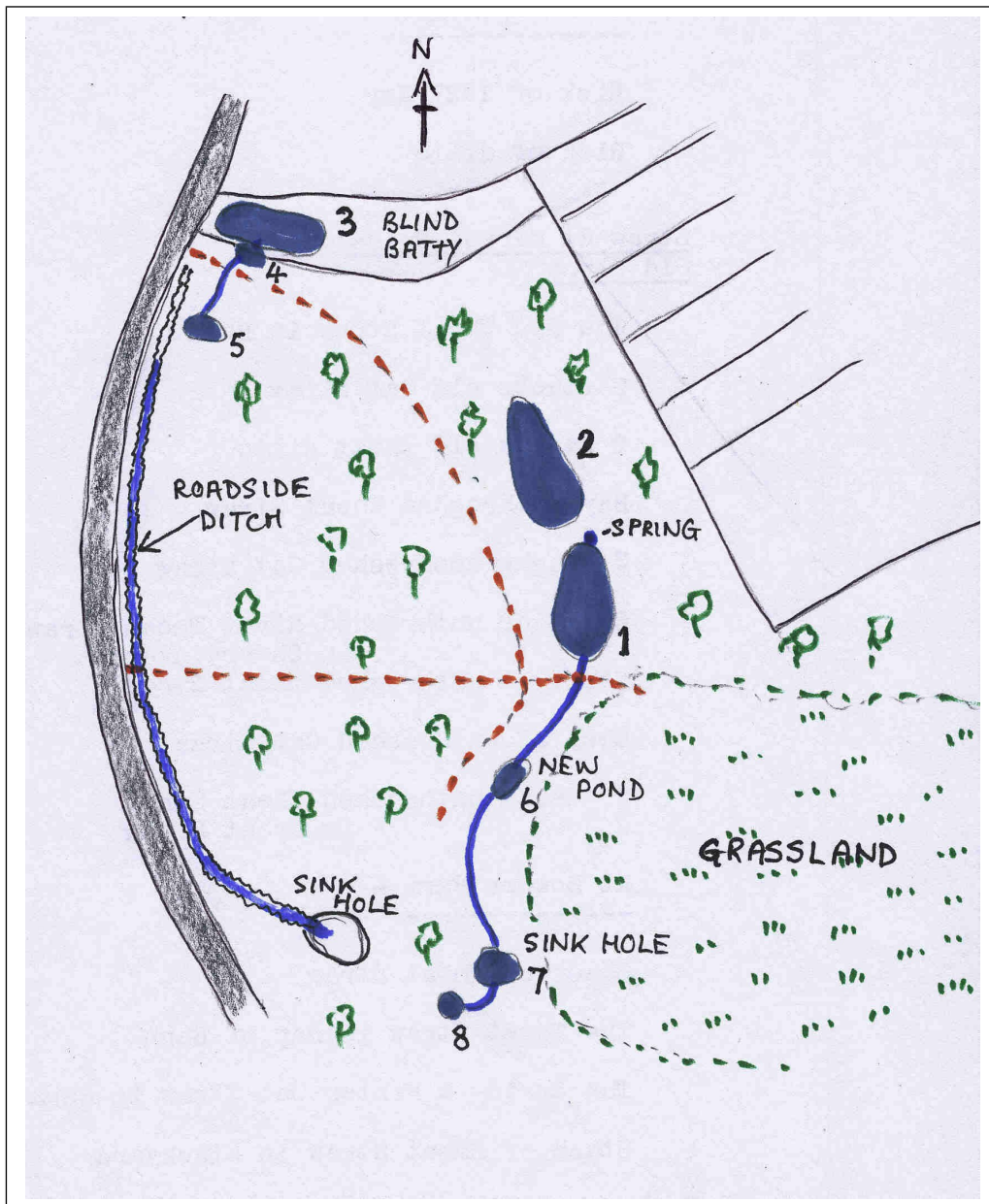
### *Area I:*

An area of immature woodland of Sallow, Hawthorn and Blackthorn with a few immature Oaks, bordered by Bramble along the grassland edge. The trees grow right down to the bank of Pond 1. Along the gardens boundary there are some more mature Oak trees and one Hornbeam.

**Management.** This area has been left largely untouched except at the edges apart from the removal of Balsam. This regime should be continued to keep the area as inaccessible as possible to favour wildlife. The trees and any shrub growth on this margin of Pond 1, should be left and encouraged to provide shelter.

**(iii) Freshwater Sites.**

These all occur in Area B ('Blind Batty') and in Areas C and D. The ponds have been numbered 1 to 7 on the Map below.



(12) Map showing Freshwater Sites

**Pond 1:**

This is partly fed from a spring at its northern end. It is the only pond to receive enough light to support a plant community and is 'permanent' in some years. Prior to main drainage reaching the village in the 1980's, there was probably seepage of sewage into Ponds 1 and 2, from nearby houses. There is a thriving colony of Water Starwort (*Callitriche* sp) and in the shallow, muddy margin it is hoped to promote the rare Starfruit (*Damasonium alisma*) which is in the village pond. Marginal plants include Yellow Iris, Bittersweet, Great Hairy Willowherb, Water Mint, Watercress and Rushes. These must not be allowed to encroach further onto the water area.





*(13) Pond 1 in 2012*

**Pond 2:**

This pond is adjacent to Pond 1, and was overgrown with Sallow at the time of the 1994 Plan, but these were removed by contractors some years ago. It dries out earlier than Pond 1 and is usually completely dry for part of the year

**Ponds 6, 7, 8:**

The outflow stream from Pond 1 is not permanent enough to develop its own flora. A small pond (Pond 6) was created in 2007 by damming lower down the course of the outlet stream, but this is ephemeral. The seasonal flow in this ditch forms a small pond with a sink hole (Pond 7), lower still down the slope. There is a further small dip acting as an overflow pond below the sink-hole which fills in times of prolonged rain (Pond 8).

**Pond 3:**

Known as ‘Blind Batty’, this seasonal pond is heavily shaded by trees and does not support any plant life. It holds water for most of the year.

**Ponds 4 and 5:**

These are part of the overflow from Blind Batty and this water eventually reaches the roadside ditch on Barracks Hill. This ditch flows seasonally and discharges into a dell with a sink-hole, near the southern edge of the common. This dell was cleared of garden debris in 2013. The sink hole is still functional.

## **BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION - FAUNA**

### **(i) Invertebrates**

No systematic work has been done on this group. A few butterfly and moth records exist and are included in Appendix 1.2, sections 7 and 8.

### **(ii) Amphibia**

In 1994, Pond 1 was a breeding ground for the Common Frog. Toads were also found. Neither was present in 2012.

### **(iii) Mammals**

Writing in 1994, Ann Trotman said that no trapping survey had been carried out on the population of small mammals. However, a Harvest Mouse nest was discovered during conservation work in Area A in 1992 and these mice were seen elsewhere in the village. Cats had brought in Red Dormice to a house on Windmill Hill overlooking the Common, although there was no proof that they had been caught on the Common.

Of the larger mammals, Reeves Muntjac Deer bred regularly on the Common at that time and Fox cubs had been observed playing there.

Of the insectivores, a dead Common Shrew had been found and Moles occasionally produced runs and heaps, although the nature of the soil made this infrequent.

Grey Squirrels were present, particularly at the fruiting seasons and there are a number of dreys in the Woodland Compartments. Rabbits were frequent. No bat survey had been carried out at that date.

In 2012 the mammals seen are restricted to Grey Squirrels, Rabbits and occasional Fox and Muntjac Deer. Badger foot-prints have been observed.

### **(iv) Birds**

The Common was a sample area for the British Trust for Ornithology's Common Breeding Bird Census which was carried out for a number of years from 1976 by Mr. John Ogle of Chesham Bois. This shows a remarkably species rich and dense population and the Census results, from the start of sampling, are included in Appendix 1.2, section 2.

Writing in 1994, Ann Trotman felt that there was no doubt that the varied habitat and food supply, and the relatively undisturbed nature of the Common had contributed to the high population and were a major factor in planning conservation policy. No bird surveys have been carried out in recent years.

The trend towards mature woodland and the increased disturbance from dog walking, may have affected both the mammal and the bird populations.

## **1.6 Public Interest**

(i) **Recreation.** The Common has unrestricted access, although at the moment this is confined to six points, due to the private gardens and the denser marginal growth. No rights of way or bridle paths exist but access on foot is by common usage. Due to the clay soil and small area, horse and bicycle riding is discouraged. They both have deleterious effects on the footpaths. A locked barrier and ditches round the edge of the Common help to control access by vehicles. Shooting is prohibited.

(ii) **Interpretation** No on-site information exists at present. Communication by the Management Committee via the Parish Council is by publication in the quarterly Village Newsletter and on rare occasion by public meeting. As part of the Heritage Lottery Fund Project it is intended to provide an Interpretation Board at the main entrance to the Common from Village Road.

## **PART 2 EVALUATION, CONSTRAINTS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Summary of Objectives**

The following objectives, set out on page 1, are repeated as they form the basis for the whole Management Plan:

"To protect and conserve the unenclosed character and naturalness of the site for the benefit of the flora, fauna and other wildlife and for its quiet enjoyment by the public on foot and for the enhancement of its natural beauty through positive and sensitive management".

### **2.2 Evaluation**

The division of evaluation into separate categories is artificial since they are all inextricably linked. However, for purposes of conformity an attempt has been made to do this.

(i) **Physical Evaluation.** The position of the Common, ringed by roads, creates a self contained unit which, apart from established houses has not been encroached upon recently. It is effectually cut off from surrounding agricultural practices, so there is little chance of spray drift or fertiliser seepage. Apart from the cultural activities mentioned in Part 1, there was little interference until conservation work started in 1992.

The water retention derived from the clay soil provides wet areas which are slow to dry out, and introduces an extra ecological dimension. It also supports the ponds which are an important feature of the Common, both for freshwater flora and fauna and as sources of drinking water for birds and mammals. The sheltered nature of the grassland combined with the south westerly aspect of the Common provides a relatively mild climate. This is an important factor in conservation and needs to be considered when plans to open up the Common are discussed.

(ii) **Cultural Evaluation.** The quarrying of gravel and clay in the past, which produced pits in Area C (mainly), is an undoubted asset in the present day. Although usually ephemeral, water is retained in ponds 1 and 3 for most of the year and in the other ponds in wet seasons. The ditches dug around the periphery of the Common in the past are an important part of the drainage system as well as forming a constraint to unwelcome access. The affect of stripping all the top soil from the grassland has doubtless increased the tendency to water-logging and further impoverished the soil. Previous to this there are reports of more prolific flora, including Ling, Orchids and Cowslips.

(iii) **Biological Evaluation.** As mentioned in Part 1, the value of the Common biologically lies in the variety of habitats created by physical factors and management. The varied plant communities, with a minimum of dominance in the tree layer, create the rich diversity responsible for the range and density of the bird species, both resident and visiting, and also for the mammal population. This is influenced also by the presence of open water.

a. **The Grassland Community** is typical of wet, acid, "unimproved" grassland and conservation policy should aim to keep it so. The individual species to consider in this Area A, are the formerly found Common Spotted Orchids (*Orchis Fuschsii*) and the now

flourishing Devils Bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*). It is hoped the Orchids may re-establish. Since these two plants have very widely separated flowering times, (May/June and August/October) it is necessary to plan a mowing or grazing regime that takes this into account. Alternatively, sensitive species can be roped off at mowing time as has been done recently. Devils Bit Scabious is not only worth conserving as a relatively scarce plant in the Chilterns, but also as a much sought after source of late nectar for insects, including butterflies. Grazing was carried out for the first time in 2011 and it is hoped that this will continue to replace the former mowing regime. Electric fencing enclosures can be sited to avoid chosen areas. If mowing, the height of the set of the mower blades needs careful adjustment according to the season and weather conditions. A very low cut in a dry spell can ruin the grassland flora for a whole season. Low cuts should be reserved for the autumn/early spring when it can be beneficial to break up the mat of spent grass without damaging the plants. Mowing is also potentially damaging to the numerous ant hills. The prevention of encroachment by scrub around the margins of the grass is a continuing need.



*(14) The Dexters grazing in 2011.*

**b. The Woodland/Scrub Areas.**

In 1994 the old closed canopy Hawthorn in Areas C and D was described as providing the only woodland site of sufficient shade to promote a true woodland flora. Bluebells are spreading in this area and sufficient humus has developed to give them the depth of soil they need. In 2013 Bluebells are also appearing in Areas E and F.

Further down the slope, Dogs Mercury and Ivy form the ground cover. This canopy should not be opened without good reason. The Willow in various areas is a valuable food plant for a variety of insects, and hence the insectivorous birds. However, many of the trees have become old and are in the process of die back. In order to retain stands of different ages and to renew the stock, a policy of rotational coppicing has been initiated and should be continued. It is important to retain some older Willow to maintain the continuity of the food supply.

**c. The Freshwater Communities** can be improved by conservation. The lack of light incident on the ponds has been a limiting factor, but since Pond 1 has been exposed by the clearance of some of the surrounding scrub and trees, interesting developments have taken place and freshwater plants are establishing. Of the valuable individual species, the one of national importance would be the Starfruit (*Damasonium alisma*) and conservation of Pond 1 should be planned to promote this species. Incidentally, the propensity of the pond to dry out coupled with the trampling effects of birds and animals coming to drink, has probably already improved conditions for this plant. It is desirable to keep some of the ponds shaded and undisturbed to give water birds such as Mallard and Moorhen secluded nesting sites. These have bred on Ponds 1 and 2 in the past.

**d. The Bird Community** is worth conserving per se, especially since it has been the subject of the British Trust for Ornithology's Common Breeding Bird Census for 18 years. We are privileged to have records going back that far. In 1994, Ann Trotman wrote: 'Warblers, Blackcap, Yellowhammer and many of the commoner species all rely on scrub for nesting, and undue clearance could affect the numbers. Garden Warbler, Blackcap and Turtledoves all nested in the coppiced Willow in 1993 and it remains to be seen how this will affect the numbers in 1994. At the moment the number of territories is well above 200 for all species, a steady rise since 1976. The number of species has stayed relatively steady only fluctuating between 34 and 42 over the 18 years. In times of wholesale habitat destruction and decline in song bird populations, this is an achievement and very sensitive planning is needed if it is to remain at this high level. In the same way the now scarce Harvest Mouse (*Mus minimus*), and the Red Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) if it is proved to be present, require dense scrub for nesting. Rosebay Willowherb and Honeysuckle are both important for these two species.'

#### **(iv) Public Interest - Evaluation.**

Again Ann Trotman writes: 'The Common has for many years been used for walking by villagers who have come to understand and appreciate its wildlife value. Some have played on it as children and their memories have contributed to the richness of the records, and understanding of its biological successions.

There are others who regard the Common as an element in a familiar landscape which they do not want changed. Their interests are perhaps more scenic than ecological, akin to those of people living on the edge of one of the London parks who desire no more than that their views should remain unaltered from year to year.

At first glance, it might be thought that this equally laudable viewpoint is inimical with positive management such as this Plan recommends. In fact, traditional conservation measures and maintenance of scenic beauty invariably go hand-in-hand. Left to itself, any previously managed area would revert quickly to impenetrable scrub dominated by the stronger species. In this way, what was diverse and rich becomes bland and uninteresting and the original

beauty is lost. The Common had gone far down this road when the Parish Council first decided to take its management in hand. Even to keep it looking as it is calls for constant effort in order to promote desirable species, to rejuvenate decaying sections and to control growth if it is too vigorous, so that conditions are created that produce species diversity. By controlling the Common in this way, the scenic beauty will be preserved and enhanced.'

## 2.3 Constraints

(i) **Natural Trends.** The natural succession in all parts of the Common is toward Oak woodland. This can be controlled in the grassland by mowing. In the woodland, regeneration is slow because of the understorey of Bramble which develops wherever sufficient light allows, smothering other growth. The Bramble is therefore slowing up natural succession here. In time, the Oaks that are already in the canopy or above Bramble level would shade the Bramble out, and with it many of the less competitive trees, reducing the present species diversity.

In the south western corner of the Common (Area D), where Sycamore has gained a hold, the succession is proceeding faster into a Sycamore spinney with Elder understorey. In the southern part of the grassland around the Mushroom Tree, Bracken is encroaching and would spread fast unless controlled. In 1994, there was concern about Ground Elder spreading in from the western border of the common but this does not appear to have advanced further.

(ii) **Man Induced Trends.** Four trends can be identified: firstly, the pressure on footpaths aggravated by bicycles and horses; secondly, the adoption of part of the Common as a garden extension by houses facing it and the planting of garden flowers extending several metres from the edge; thirdly, the dumping of garden waste, especially in the sink holes in the south western corner of Area C, allowing unwanted garden flowers to seed and establish themselves; fourthly the increase in dog walking with the concomitant disturbance of wildlife and pollution from faeces.

(iii) **External Factors and Potential Threats.** Development and soil erosion do not pose any problems. As mentioned above, access other than on foot has, on occasions, caused damage. The Management Committee moved in the past to prevent car dumping and traveller camping by introducing a locked barrier and deepening peripheral ditches, but denseness of vegetation is the best check to this problem.

(iv) **Obligations and Legal Constraints.** In the absence of any firm knowledge about the ownership of the Common (see paragraph 1.1 vii), Chiltern District Council expect Coleshill Parish Council to manage and care for it and provide a sum of money each year to cover the cost of this. The bid for 1994/5 was £450 and in 2012 it was £700. There are three sets of standard Byelaws pertaining to the Common made by the then Amersham Rural District Council and approved by the appropriate Minister. The "Scheme for the Regulation of Coleshill Common" was dated 28th November 1950. The "Byelaws with respect to Coleshill Common" are dated 11th March 1953 and the "Supplementary Byelaws" are dated 24th July 1964.

(v) **Resources.** As stated above, the Parish Council makes a bid to the District Council each year for funds to pay for work on the Common. A volunteer workforce drawn from the village has achieved most of the conservation work to date with the exception of the mowing which was contracted out, but this proved unsatisfactory because the timing and height of the cut could not be controlled. In 2011 grazing by a contracting farmer was introduced. Occasional tree surgery by a contractor is necessary.

The Council has received three Environmental Grants from Buckinghamshire County Council. In 1991 the grant was £625 to provide a dedicated water supply to the village pond. The other half of the cost was kindly donated by three villagers. In 1992 a grant of £600 paid for a petrol trimmer and protective clothing. In 1993 £500 was spent on hand tools acquired through BTCV. Some volunteers have brought their own trimmers and chain saws and have on occasions used these at their own risk. This practice has now stopped as it was not covered by the insurance policy. In 2013 a heavy duty brush-cutter was purchased with money from the Parish and District Councils. During the years 2011 to 2013 funds have been granted to the Management Committee by the Chilterns Conservation Board as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund initiative. The projects undertaken with this money are still ongoing.

## **2.4 Rationale**

The achievement of the objectives set out in paragraph 2.1 depends on several factors:

- (i) the acceptance of the management plan by all villagers with an interest in the Common;
- (ii) the prescription needing to be feasible within the constraints of available manpower;
- (iii) finding a formula for the grassland compartment which cannot be conserved with the manpower at present available. It will be necessary to establish a more reliable mowing regime or to arrange grazing by suitable animals. Cutting or grazing must take into account the flowering times of the more sensitive plants. Any contractor needs to be sympathetic with the objectives of the management and must liaise with the Committee about the grass control.

## **2.5 Summary of Operational Objectives**

- All objectives to be discussed and agreed by the Management Committee, on site visits and by delineating working areas on the ground before work starts.
- To maintain and improve the diversity of the grassland community in Area A.
- To maintain and improve the diversity of the scrub/woodland communities: including Willow scrub, especially open canopy scrub and maximum edge; rotational coppicing; closed canopy Hawthorn and Sycamore.
- To control the encroachment of scrub and Bracken into the established grassland.



- To maintain and improve the ponds to increase the diversity of flora and fauna.
- To maintain and where necessary improve the established pathways.
- To promote sympathetic attitudes in owners of all adjoining properties.
- To inform the workforce and villagers of the management work to be undertaken and the reasons for it.
- To promote research and study into the ecology of the area.
- To monitor the ecology of the area to detect changes brought about by management, using the expertise of any agencies that can help.

**Practical considerations during maintenance work.**

- **Work** on the Common should be timed to cause minimum disturbance to wildlife.
- The **paths** across the Common should be kept clear of encroaching bramble and scrub to allow easy access by the public, and trees adjacent to the paths must be regularly checked for potential dangers. Where possible, brambles should be retained for wildlife and blackberry picking.
- **Dead wood** should be left in situ or collected into piles for wildlife habitats.
- Where cutting takes place it may sometimes be necessary to burn some of the brash to prevent an unsightly accumulation.
- **Logs** from felled trees should be piled and left for villagers to take away.
- Where **views** onto the Common exist, they should be maintained by the appropriate clearance of scrub.
- The condition of plank **bridges and steps** must be monitored and maintained.

\*\*\*\*\*

The management work envisaged during the next few years to achieve the Operational Objectives, is set out following the description of each habitat area, in the section on Biological Information on pages 16 - 20.

\*\*\*\*\*

## APPENDIX 1 – SPECIES LISTS

### 1.1 SPECIES LISTS – FLORA

#### 1 Grassland – Herbs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Present in	
		1994	2013
Autumnal Hawkweed	Leontodon autumnalis	✓	
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	✓	✓
Hairy Birdsfoot Trefoil	Lotus subliflorus ?		✓
Black Medick	Medicago lupulina	✓	
Broad-Leaved Dock	Rumex obtusifolius	✓	✓
Bugle	Ajuga reptans	✓	✓
Bulbous Buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus	✓	
Burnet Saxifrage	Pimpinella saxifraga	✓	
Bush Vetch	Vicia sepium	✓	✓
Comfrey	Symphytum officinale	✓	✓
Common Catsear	Hypochoeris radicata	✓	
Common Milkwort	Polygala vulgaris	✓	
Common Mouse-ear	Cerastium fontanum *		✓
Common Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea		✓
Common Spotted Orchid	Orchis fuchsii	✓	
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	✓	✓
Common Violet	Viola riviniana	✓	✓
Cowslip	Primula veris	✓	
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	✓	✓
Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvensis	✓	✓
Cuckoo Flower	Cardamine pratense	✓	✓
Daisy	Bellis perennis	✓	✓
Devilsbit Scabious	Succisa pratensis	✓	✓
Field Forget-me-not	Myosotis arvensis		✓
Harebell	Campanula rotundifolia	✓	
Heath Bedstraw	Galium saxatile	✓	✓
Heath Speedwell	Veronica officinalis	✓	✓
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	✓	✓
Lesser Knapweed	Centaurea nigra	✓	
Lesser Stitchwort	Stellaria graminea	✓	✓
Marsh Thistle	Cirsium palustre	✓	✓
Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris	✓	✓
Meadow Vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis	✓	
Moon Daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	✓	
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Hieracium pilosella	✓	
Mouse-ear Chickweed	Cerastium holostoeides *	✓	
Narrow-leaved Vetch	Vicia angustifolia	✓	
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	✓	✓
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	✓	✓
Rough Hawkbit	Leontodon hispidus	✓	
Sheeps Sorrel	Rumex acolosella agg		✓
Silverweed	Potentilla anserina		✓
Wild Carrot	Daucus carota	✓	
Yellow Iris	Iris pseudacorus	✓	✓

\* New nomenclature.

## 2 Grassland - Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

Listed in 1992 and 2013. Column 1 gives Plate No. in 'Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns' by Francis Rose

Plate Rose	Common Name	Scientific Name	Present in:	
			1992	2013
18	Common Bent-grass	Agrostis capillaris	✓	✓
8	Crested Dogstail	Cynosurus cristatus	✓	✓
21	Heath Grass	Danthonia decumbens	✓	
20	Meadow Foxtail	Alopecurus pratensis	✓	✓
2	Perennial Rye-grass	Lolium perenne	✓	✓
21	Reed Canary-grass	Phalaris arundinacea	✓	✓
5	Rough Meadow-grass	Poa trivialis	✓	✓
1	Sheep's Fescue	Festuca ovina	✓	✓
5	Smooth Meadow-grass	Poa pratensis	✓	✓
16	Sweet Vernal-grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum	✓	✓
1	Tall Fescue	Festuca arundinacea	✓	✓
14	False Oat-grass	Arrhenatherum elatius	✓	
19	Smaller Cat's-tail	Phleum pratense ssp Bertolonii	✓	
15	Tufted Hair-grass	Deschampsia cespitosa	✓	
16	Yorkshire Fog	Holcus lanatus	✓	✓
11	Common Couch	Elymus (Agropyren) repens		✓
10	Meadow Brome	Bromus commutatus		✓
9	Hairy Brome	Bromus ramosus		✓
9	Barren Brome	Bromus sterilis		✓
10	False Brome	Brachypodium sylvaticum		✓
32	Remote Sedge	Carex remota		✓
35	Hairy Sedge	Carex hirta	✓	✓
32	Oval Sedge	Carex ovalis	✓	✓
37	Cyperus Sedge	Carex pseudocyperus		✓
46	Compact Rush	Juncus conglomerata	✓	✓
50	Field Wood-rush	Luzula campestris (?)	✓	
50	Heath Wood-rush	Luzula multiflora (?)		✓
47	Jointed Rush	Juncus articulatus	✓	✓
46	Soft Rush	Juncus effusus		✓
47	Sharp-flowered Rush	Juncus acutiflorus		✓

## 3 Grassland -Ferns

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

#### 4. Scrub/Woodland – Trees, shrubs and climbers

Common Name	Scientific Name	1994	2013
Apple	Malus sp	✓	✓
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	✓	✓
Aspen	Populus tremulns	✓	✓
Black Bryony	Tamus communis	✓	✓
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	✓	✓
Bramble	Rubus fruticosus	✓	✓
Broom	Sarothamnus scoparius	✓	
Common Oak	Quercus robur	✓	✓
Dewberry	Rubus caesius	✓	
Dog rose	Rosa canina	✓	✓
Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea	✓	
Elder	Sambucus nigra	✓	✓
Elm	Ulmus procera	✓	✓
Field Maple	Acer campestre	✓	✓
Field Rose	Rosa arvensis	✓	✓
Goat Willow	Salix caprea		✓
Gooseberry	Ribes uva-crispa	✓	
Gorse	Ulex europaeus	✓	✓
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	✓	✓
Hazel	Corylus avellana	✓	✓
Holly	Ilex aquifolium	✓	✓
Honeysuckle	Lonicera penicylmenum	✓	✓
Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus	✓	✓
Raspberry Sallow	Rubus idaeus	✓	
Sessile Oak	Quercus petrae	✓	
Sallow	Salix atrocineria	✓	✓
Silver Birch	Betula pendula	✓	✓
Small-leaved Lime	Tilia cordata		✓
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus	✓	✓
Wild Cherry	Prunus avium	✓	✓
Yew	Taxus baccata	✓	✓

## 5 Scrub/Woodland – Herbs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Present in	
		1994	2013
<b>Bluebell</b>	<b>Endymion non-scriptus</b>	✓	✓
Borage (naturalised)	Symphytum orientale	✓	✓
Broad-leaved Willow Herb	Epilobium montana	✓	✓
Butterbur	Petasites hybridus		✓
Cleavers	Galium aparine	✓	✓
Common Violet	Viola riviniana	✓	✓
Daffodil (naturalised)	Narcissus sp.	✓	
Dogs Mercury	Mercurialis perennis	✓	✓
Enchanters Nightshade	Circaea lutetiana	✓	✓
Forget-me-not	Myosotis arvensis	✓	✓
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea	✓	
Germander Speedwell	Veronica chamaedris		✓
Ground Ivy	Glechoma hederacea	✓	✓
Hedge Woundwort	Stachys sylvatica	✓	✓
Herb Robert	Geranium Robertianum	✓	✓
Ivy	Hedera helix	✓	✓
Lesser Celandine	Ranunculus ficaria	✓	✓
Perforate St John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum		✓
Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica	✓	✓
Wild Arum	Arum maculatum	✓	✓
Wood Avens	Geum urbane	✓	✓
Wood Sanicle	Sanicula europaea	✓	

## 6 Scrub/Woodland - Ferns and Horsetails – 1994

Broad Buckler Fern	Dryopteris dilatata
Common Horsetail	Equisetum arvense
Male Fern	Dryopteris filix-mas

## 7 Pathways and Roadside edges - Herbs

Common Name	Scientific Name	1994	2013
Agrimony	Agromonia eupatoria	✓	
Autumn Hawkbit	Leontodon autumnalis	✓	
Barren Strawberry	Potentilla sterilis	✓	
Black Nightshade	Solanum nigrum	✓	
Bladder Campion	Silene vulgaris	✓	
Broad-leaved Willowherb	Epilobium montanum	✓	✓
Chickweed	Stellaria media	✓	
Coltsfoot	Tussilago farfara	✓	✓
Common Sorrel	Rumex acetosa	✓	✓
Common Knapweed	Centaurea nigra		✓
Cow Parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris	✓	✓
Creeping Jenny	Lysmachia nummularia	✓	✓
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale	✓	✓
Field Convolvulus	Convolvulus arvensis	✓	
Garlic Mustard	Alliaria petiolata	✓	✓
Germander Speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys	✓	✓
Great Hairy Willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum	✓	✓
Greater Stitchwort	Stellaria holostea	✓	✓
Green Alkanet	Pentaglottis sempervirans		✓
Ground Elder	Aegopodium podagraria	✓	✓
Hairy Bittercress	Cardamine hirsuta		✓
Hedge Bedstraw	Galium mollugo		✓
Hedge Bindweed	Calystegia sepium		✓
Hedge Woundwort	Stachys sylvatica		✓
Hemp nettle	Galeopsis tetrahit	✓	
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	✓	✓
Knotgrass	Illecebrum verticillatum	✓	
Lesser Burdock	Arctium minus		✓
Lesser Celandine	Ranunculus ficaria		✓
Lesser Spearwort	Ranunculus flammula		✓
Many-seeded Goosefoot	Chenopodium polyspermum	✓	
Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris	✓	
Nipplewort	Lapsana communis	✓	✓
Policeman's Helmet	Impatiens glandulifera	✓	
Prickly Sowthistle	Sonchus asper	✓	✓
Red Hemp-nettle	Galeopsis angustifolia		✓
Scentsless Mayweed	Tripleurospermum	✓	
maritimum			
Shepherds Purse	Capsella bursa-pastoris	✓	
Spear Thistle	Carduus lanceolatus	✓	✓
Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum	✓	✓
Tufted Vetch	Vicia cracca	✓	✓
White Bryony	Bryonia dioica	✓	✓
Wild Carrot	Daucus carota	✓	
White Deadnettle	Lamium album		✓
Woodruff	Galium odoratum		✓
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	✓	
Yellow Vetch	Vicia lutea		✓

**8 Ponds (excluding Village Pond) - Herbs**  
**Pond 1 in 1992 and 2013**

Pl	Common Name	Scientific Name	Present in:	
			1992	2013
61	Bittersweet	Solanum dulcerara	✓	✓
15	Bog Stitchwort	Stellaria alsine	✓	
45	Bur marigold	Bidens tripartita	✓	
35	Gt Hairy Willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum	✓	✓
88	Lesser duckweed	Lemna minor	✓	✓
3	Lesser spearwort	Ranunculus flammula	✓	
20	Policeman's helmet	Impatiens glandulifera	✓	
67	Water mint	Mentha aquatica	✓	✓
34	Water starwort	Callitriche sp.	✓	✓
83	Yellow Iris	Iris pseudoacorus	✓	✓
7	Watercress	Nastursium officinale	✓	✓

**1.2 SPECIES LISTS – FAUNA**

**1. Birds (including Village Pond and Gardens forming part of the Common)**

**Birds Recorded 1989/90**

Black Headed Gull	Heron	Robin
Blackbird *	House Martin	Rook
Blackcap *	House Sparrow *	Starling *
Blue Tit *	Jackdaw *	Spotted Flycatcher*
Chaffinch*	Kestrel	Song Thrush *
Chiff Chaff *	Lesser Black Backed Gull	Sparrow Hawk
Collared Dove*	Linnet *	Swift
Cuckoo *	Lesser Whitethroat *	Skylark
Cole Tit *	Longtailed Tit *	Swallow
Carrion Crow *	Mistle thrush *	Tawny Owl *
Common Gull	Mallard *	Turtle Dove *
Dunnock *	Moorhen *	Tree Creeper *
Fieldfare	Mandarin Duck	Woodpigeon *
Goldfinch *	Marsh Tit	Wren *
Greenfinch *	Magpie *	Willow Warbler *
Great Tit *	Nuthatch	Willow Tit *
Green Woodpecker *	Pheasant	Yellowhammer
Garden Warbler *	Pied Wagtail	
Goldcrest *	Redwing	* denotes breeding record
Herring Gull		

**Other Species Recorded 1975 - 1988**

Canada Goose	Reed Bunting	Woodcock
Meadow Pipit	Whitethroat	Little Grebe
Tree Sparrow	Herring Gull	Sand Martin
Hawfinch	Redpoll	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

**Bird List compiled by David Bell, 31-10-13.**

BIRD	Since 2008	Before 2008	BIRD	Since 2008	Before 2008
Grey Heron	*		Lesser Whitethroat	*	*
Mallard	*		Garden Warbler	*	*
Red Kite	*		Blackcap	*	
Sparrowhawk	*		Chiffchaff	*	
Buzzard	*		Willow Warbler	*	
Kestrel	*		Goldcrest	*	
Red-legged Partridge	*		Spotted Flycatcher	*	
Pheasant	*		Long-tailed Tit	*	
Moorhen	*		Marsh Tit	*	
Black-headed Gull	*		Willow Tit	*	*
Woodpigeon	*		Coal Tit	*	
Collared Dove	*		Blue Tit	*	
Turtle Dove	*	*	Great Tit	*	
Tawny Owl	*		Nuthatch	*	
Swift	*	*	Treecreeper	*	
Wryneck	*	3-9-81	Jay	*	
Green Woodpecker	*		Magpie	*	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*		Jackdaw	*	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*	*	Rook	*	
Skylark	*		Carrion Crow	*	
Swallow	*		Raven	*	
House martin	*	*	Starling	*	
Pied Wagtail	*		House Sparrow	*	
Wren	*		Tree Sparrow	*	*
Duncock	*		Chaffinch	*	
Robin	*		Greenfinch	*	
Redstart	*	1-5-76	Goldfinch	*	
Wheatear	*	25-4-04	Linnet	*	*
Blackbird	*		Redpoll	*	*
Fieldfare	*		Bullfinch	*	
Song Thrush	*		Hawfinch	*	*
Redwing	*		Yellowhammer	*	*
Mistle Thrush	*				

65  
Species

Where the bird has not been seen since 2008, an asterix is placed in column 3 or a date if known. Of the 65 Species, 15 have not been seen since 2008.



## **2. BTO Common Birds Census**

**Carried out by Dr John Ogle between 1976 and 1993**

*Dr Ogle wrote:*

The defined aim of the census, which is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology and funded by the Nature Conservancy Council is to monitor populations of breeding birds by means of detailed censuses on a nationwide scatter of sample plots. In 1976 the BTO accepted Coleshill Common as one of the sample plots and ADOS accepted the responsibility to conduct the censuses annually, and to a satisfactory standard.

The CBC is conducted using a mapping technique in which a series of 10 visits (each lasting about 3 hours) are made to the common between late March and mid- June, and on each visit the positions of all the birds seen and/or heard are plotted on a large scale map. A separate map - the visit map - is used on each occasion. Later each registration of a particular species is copied across onto a 'species map' which summarises all the information obtained for that particular species that year. On these species maps one finds that the records are not evenly distributed, but are concentrated into distinct groups each of which represents a breeding territory occupied by a pair of birds, or possibly in the case of communally nesting birds such as greenfinches, linnets or house martins, a colony.

The common has an area of about 12 acres and is situated on a south facing slope at an altitude of about 500 feet. It is surrounded on all sides by low density housing, and beyond the houses there is open farmland. Natural springs feed a small pond and several pools and only in a very dry spring does the ground really dry out. The vegetation is dominated by gorse, goat-willow and hawthorn and there are relatively few mature trees. This type of habitat in which there is dense vegetation immediately adjacent to houses and mature gardens (a source of food in both summer and winter) , and to water is invariably associated with high breeding bird densities and the common has lived up to expectations in this respect. Throughout the 10 years of the census breeding territories have averaged over 15 to the acre.

Throughout this time there have been no major changes to the habitat on the common, and, with the exception of song thrush, no major and consistent L trends in any of the major bird populations. It is not at all apparent why the thrushes have declined from 18 pairs to 5 or 6 in this time. A total of 57 species have been registered as having breeding territories on, or over, the common and a further 19 have been recorded there of which undoubtedly the most exciting have been wryneck, firecrest and nightingale .

So what of 1985? I suppose it was a bit disappointing really, but that was primarily because the poor spring meant that few of the visits were really enjoyable, it was cold, or wet, or both, too often. The total of 193 established territories was about the average, as was the number of species seen (50), although the number of species breeding (34) was the lowest we have yet recorded. This was primarily due to the loss of both yellow-hammer and tree sparrow, both of which had been present for each of the previous 9 yrs.

A pair of Canada geese which were present on the pond one morning provided a new record for the census log, but they did not stay on to breed. If only we had started a week earlier there would have been a most exotic record - that of American wood duck, but 'if only' is the story of most bird watchers' lives.

Note, in the following table a '+' indicates presence but not a sufficient number of visitors to warrant a breeding record. An 'N' in a column indicates a nest count.

	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
Mallard	7	4	5	8	6	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	5	5	3
Sparrowhawk			+	+		+		1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	
Kestrel	1	+	1	1	+	+	+		+					+				
Pheasant		1				+		1				+	+	+	+	2	2	2
Moorhen	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	2
Wood pigeon	1	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	6	6	8	7	5	12	9	7	10
Collared dove	5	4	8	5	6	4	5	6	6	6	7	11	6	6	4	4	4	3
Turtle dove	4	2	4	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1		1		2	2	1	1
Cuckoo	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2
Swift	4	2	2	2	+	2	+	4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	
Green Woodpecker			+	1	+			4		+	+	+	+	+	1	1	+	1
Great spotted woodpecker	4	4	+			4	1		1	+	1	1	+	+		1	+	
Lesser spotted woodpecker			+						+									
Swallow	3	1	4	4	3	2	4	2	1	1	+	+	2	+	+	+	2	2
House martin	3	6	7	1	14	7	2	3	+	4	4	7	8	5N	8N	2N	2	2
Pied wagtail	1	+	2	+	1	1	+	+		+		1	+	+	+	+		1
Wren	13	14	22	8	17	18	15	23	16	20	15	12	22	23	26	25	25	23
Dunnock	11	12	15	15	11	10	10	9	8	14	15	15	12	11	12	12	11	10
Robin	17	14	20	19	24	23	16	29	26	18	24	16	25	24	17	18	17	25
Blackbird	18	23	17	22	19	35	18	24	18	17	18	22	25	26	25	18	22	24
Song thrush	18	16	12	11	12	9	9	8	5	7	7	6	8	7	13	8	11	5
Mistle thrush	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
Lesser whitethroat	4		1	+	+	1	1	1	1	+	+	1	+	+	+	+		1
Whitethroat	1	3	1	1	1	+	1	+					+					
Garden warbler	+	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	5	3	5	3	2	2	2	1	+	4
Blackcap	4	2	2	3	5	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	5	6	6	5	4	6
Chiff chaff	+	1	4	4	1	3	3		1	1	1	+	2	5	5	2	4	2
Willow warbler	4	6	5	3	6	5	6	7	6	6	2	3	4	2	3	4	1	+
Goldcrest	3	1	2		1	1	1	4	3	5		2	3	5	8	6	3	3
Spotted flycatcher	1	+	1	1			+	1	4	4	+	+	+	+	1	+	+	+
Long tailed tit	1	2	2	1	+	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	+	2	3	2	1	1
Woodcock													+					
Mandarin													+					
Lapwing																+		
Willow tit	+	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	+	1	1	1		
Coal tit	2	1	2	1	1	2	+	1	3	1	3	1	3	4	5	5	7	1
Blue tit	12	19	12	15	12	14	13	15	19	20	16	15	18	15	16	19	16	15
Great tit	6	5	8	8	6	8	7	9	10	10	9	13	8	10	9	10	9	11
Nuthatch					+	+	1	1			1	1	1	+		1	+	+

	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	
Jay	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	+	1	4	1	1	1	2	
Magpie	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	5	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	
Carrion crow	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	3	1	
Starling	1	4	5	7	5	6	7	9	12	9	13	15	10	10	7	9	8	10	
House sparrow	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+(11)	+(10)	+(4)	9	12	10	6	7	6	6	6	
Tree sparrow	3	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	1										
Chaffinch	9	13	10	10	12	11	13	11	15	11	15	22	14	19	12	16	14	19	
Greenfinch	6	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	8	8	8	9	12	8	10	
Goldfinch	+	1	+	+	+		1		+	1	+	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	
Linnet	7	10	11	6	7	7	2	3	4	1	1	+	1	2	2	2	1	5	
Redpoll	+	+	+		1		1		1	+	1		+			1	+		
Bullfinch	5	6	2	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	
Hawfinch	+	+	+			1													
Yellowhammer	5	5	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	+	1	2	3	+		1		1	
Reed bunting	1	+	+	+														+	
Canada goose													+	+			+		
Black headed gull													+						
Skylark													2	2	1	+		+	1
Marsh tit													+		1	+	1	+	
Tree creeper													1	1	+	1	1	1	2
Lesser black backed gull													+		+		+		
Common Gull													+		+	+	+	+	+
Sand martin													+						
Jackdaw													+	1		1	1	1	+
Rook													+	+	+		+	+	+
Little grebe													+						
Grey Heron															+	+	+	+	1
No. of species breeding	35	39	41	39	37	39	40	39	33	34	35	36	38	34	37	42	37	56	
No. of territories	179	139	218	187	202	189	175	208	189	193	204	219	226	215	234	266	209	227	

### 3. Mammals

#### Species listed in 1992

Common Shrew  
Grey Squirrel \*  
Harvest Mouse \*  
Mole  
Rabbit \*  
Red Fox  
Red Dormouse (to be confirmed)  
Reeves Muntjac \*  
Wood Mouse

#### Seen since 1992

Roe deer  
Weasel

\* Denotes breeding record

### 4 Small Mammals Survey – 1995

In pursuit of our aim to record species of animals on the Common, a trapping survey was undertaken by Graham Thorne and Ann Trotman in September/October 1995. "Longworth" live traps, loaned by Ian Saunders of the Middle Thames Mammal Group, were used.

It was decided to survey two areas: first the grassland borders where the vegetation is tall enough to conceal the traps and provide cover for small mammals, and second the wooded parts of the Common,

The twelve traps were arranged in three groups starting with the grassland border area. The traps were pre-baited (ie prepared with bait and bedding) and positioned without being set to spring when the animals entered. This gave the opportunity for them to become familiar with the traps and enter and leave them freely to get food. The bait used was parrot food, a mixture of seeds, chiefly sunflower, and "gentles" or "casters" (fly larvae and pupae used as bait by fishermen).

The pre-baited traps were positioned on September 25th. They were then set on the evening of September 27th and examined at 9am the next morning. The animals were identified and freed. The traps were re-set for a daytime trap and examined at 5pm.

The results are given in Tables 1 and 2.

The traps were set for the second area in the woodland on October 1st and examined at 9am on 2nd. They were immediately re-set for a daytime trap and examined at 5pm.

The results are given in Tables 3 and 4.

Group 1 Compartment 7487 Coppiced Willow	Group 2 Compartment 6886 Rosebay & Bramble	Group 3 Compartment 6382 Rosebay, Umbrella tree
1. Male bank vole	5. Dead juv. common shrew	
2. Empty	6. Bank vole	10. Dead juv. Common shrew
3. Woodmouse	7. Bank vole	11. Empty
4. Empty	8. Empty	12. Empty
	9. Empty	

*Table 1 - Traps in grassland edges examined at 9am on September 28th.*

1. Empty	5. Bank vole	10. Bank vole
2. Empty	6. Juv. common shrew	11. Empty
3. Empty	7. Empty	12. Empty
4. Bank vole	8. Empty	
	9. Empty	

*Table 2 - The same traps examined at 5pm on September 28th.*

Group 1 Compartment 6400 Area C Pond i & bramble	Group 2 Compartment 6382 Area D Woodland	Group 3 Compartment 6382 Area F Woodland
1. Empty	5. Empty	9. Empty
2. Common shrew adult	6. Juv woodmouse c tick	10. Empty
3. Empty	7. Empty	11. Empty
4. Empty	8. Sub-adult woodmouse	12. Dead shrew

*Table 3 - Traps in woodland areas examined at 9am on 2nd October.*

1. Empty	5. Empty	9. Empty
2. Common shrew adult	6. Empty	10. Bank vole
3. Empty	7. Empty	11. Empty
4. Empty	8. Empty	12. Empty

*Table 4 - The same traps examined at 5pm on October 2nd.*

Results. Not many conclusions can be drawn from this single trapping survey. We have established:

- that three species of small mammal are present;
- that common shrews are in good numbers at this time of year;
- that woodmice tend to enter the traps more readily at night and are in greater numbers in woodland.

**5 Muntjac Survey – 1994**

THAMES VALLEY MAMMAL GROUP  
MUNTJAC DISTRIBUTION SURVEY FORM

RECORDERS NAMES ANN TROTMAN MERCY WILLIAMSON  
GEORGE PLUMRIDGE

ADDRESSES LAWYERS COTTAGE, MAGPIE LANE, AND COTTAGE, MAGPIE  
COLESHILL, AMERSHAM, POSTCODE HP7 0LU

27.2.94 25.5.94 1.7.94  
6.3.94 5.6.94 12.7.94  
DATES OF RECORDS 15.4.94 NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE 9490-9467

Site of Record COLESHILL COMMON  
(Name of wood, field, road etc. if known, as shown on OS maps.)

Parish, closest town or village COLESHILL (PARISH OF AMERSHAM WITH COLESHILL)

Habitat type GRASSLAND, SURROUNDED BY SCRUB/WOODLAND, THICK BRAMBLE UNDERSTOREY

WHAT YOU FOUND (please tick where applicable)

Sighting of deer    Alive     Dead    Numbers seen ONE on each of the following dates: -  
6.3.94, 25.5.94, 1.7.94. Two (doe + fawn) dates not recorded

What was it doing? 12.7.94

Barking heard    Time of day.....

Track marks or other signs    Details Slofs on (27.2.94, 15.4.94, 20.4.94, with bank stripping  
{ 5.6.94

Have you seen muntjac here before?    Yes     No

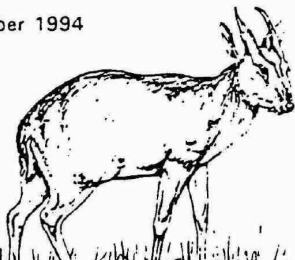
Are sightings of muntjac regular here?    Yes     No Breeding frequent

Are you aware of complaints about muntjac from local farmers, foresters, market gardeners and gardeners?    Yes    No

Other comments or information  
Muntjac eat garden plants in several gardens surrounding the Common, but are tolerated.

Please supply a map of the site if possible, and return by end of December 1994

Please return to :    Thames Valley Mammal Group  
P.O.Box 367  
Reading Berks.  
[ Copy sent.    RG6 2QN ]



## **6. Amphibia and Reptiles - 1992**

Common Frog \*

Common Toad

Grass Snake

Common Newt

## **7. Lepidoptera - Butterflies and Moths - 1992**

Brimstone Butterfly

Comma

Common Blue

Green-Veined White

Hedge Brown (Gate Keeper)

Large White

Magpie Moth

Meadow Brown

Peacock

Ringlet

Small Copper

Small Tortoiseshell

Small White

Speckled Wood

Brown Argus

Red Admiral

\* Denotes breeding record

## 8 Lepidoptera - MothSurvey-1998

	09/07/98	19/06/98	24/07/98	30/0598	Grand Total
Angle Shades				1	1
Barred Yellow		1		1	2
Beautiful Golden Y		1			1
Birds Wing	1	1			2
Bordered White				1	1
Bright Line Brown Eye		1			1
Brimstone	1		1		2
Broad-Barred White	1	1	1	1	4
Broken Barred Carpet	1				1
Brown Line Bright Eye		1	1	1	3
Buff Arches			1		1
Burnished Brass	1	1	1		3
Chinese Character	1	1			2
Clay			1		1
Clay Triple Lines			1		1
Clouded Border		1			1
Clouded Silver	1	1	1	1	4
Common Carpet	1	1	1	1	4
Common Emerald				1	1
Common Footman	1				1
Common Marbled Carpet			1		1
Common Pug		1		1	2
Common Rustic				1	1
Common Swift			1		1
Common Wave				1	1
Common White Wave	1			1	2
Coxcomb Prominent	1	1		1	3
Dark Arches			1	1	2
Dark Dagger	1	1	1		3
Dingy Footman			1		1
Dot			1		1
Double Square Spot	1		1		2
Double Striped Pug	1		1		2
Drinker	1				1
Dunbar	1				1
Dwarf Pug	1		1		2
Early Thorn				1	1
Elephant Hawk			1		1
Engrailed	1	1	1	1	4
Fanfoot	1		1		2
Flame	1	1	1		3
Flame Shoulder	1	1	1		3
Foxglove Pug	1	1	1	1	4
Garden Carpet	1	1		1	3
Green Carpet	1	1		1	3
Green Pug			1		1
Grey Dagger	1	1	1		3
Grey Pug			1		1
Heart And Club		1		1	2
Heart And Dart	1	1			2
Ingrailed Clay	1	1	1		3
Iron Prominent		1			1
July Highflyer				1	1
Large Nutmeg	1		1		2
Large Twin Spot Carpet		1			1
Large Yellow Underwing	1				1
Lesser Broad Border		1			1
Light Arches			1		1
Light Brocade	1				1
Light Emerald		1			1
Lime Hawk	1	1	1		3
Lime Speck Pug		1			1
Little Emerald		1		1	2
Lobster		1			1
Maple Prominent		1			1
Marbled Brown	1	1			2
Marbled Minor				1	1
Middle Barred Minor		1		1	2
Minor Shoulder Knot		1		1	2
Mottled Beauty	1				1



	09/07/98	19/06/98	24/07/98	30/0598	Grand Total
Mottled Pug	1	1	1		3
Mottled Rustic				1	1
Nut Tree Tussock	1				1
Oak Hook Tip			1		1
Pale Oak Beauty				1	1
Pale Prominent		1		1	2
Pale Shouldered Brocade				1	1
Pale Tussock		1			1
Peach Blossom				1	1
Pebble Hook Tip	1	1			2
Pebble Prominent				1	1
Peppered	1	1		1	3
Pine Hawk	1	1	1	1	4
Plain Golden Y			1		1
Poplar Grey		1			1
Poplar Hawk		1	1		2
Pretty Chalk Carpet			1		1
Purple Bar	1				1
Purple Clay	1				1
Red Twin Spot Carpet		1			1
Riband Wave		1	1		2
Rufous Minor	1		1		2
Scalloped Oak			1		1
Scarce Footman			1		1
Scorched Wing	1		1		2
Setaceous Hebrew Character	1			1	2
Shaded Pug		1			1
Shears	1				1
Short Cloaked				1	1
Silver Ground Carpet			1		1
Silver Y		1		1	2
Single Dotted Wave		1			1
Slender Pug			1		1
Small Angleshades	1		1		2
Small Bloodvein	1				1
Small Dotted Buff	1				1
Small Elephant Hawk			1		1
Small Fan Footed Wave				1	1
Small Fanfoot	1		1		2
Small Phoenix	1	1	1		3
Small Rivulet			1	1	2
Small Seraphim	1		1		2
Small Waved Umber		1		1	2
Small Yellow Wave		1			1
Smoky Wainscot		1			1
Snout	1	1	1		3
Sycamore	1		1		2
Treble Lines			1		1
Twin Spot Carpet		1		1	2
V Pug	1				1
White Pinion Spotted	1				1
White Spotted Pug		1		1	2
Willow Beauty				1	1
Wormwood Pug	1		1		2
Yellowshell	1				1
Yellowtail			1		1

Mother Shipton Moth. 1 Day flying. D.C.Wege. 25/5/13

## 9 Lepidoptera - Insects

April 2013

Extract from data supplied by Martin Harvey.

**Insects recorded at Coleshill Common, April 2013, by Martin Harvey**

Records held on the MapMate database by Martin C. Harvey

Data retrieved: 5 May 2013

This spreadsheet supplied to Chris Wege and Rachel Saunders, 5 May 2013

For any enquiries relating to this data please contact:

Martin Harvey, Evermor, Bridge Street, Great Kimble, Aylesbury, HP17 9TN

email: kitenetter@googlemail.com; phone: 07816 963576

<https://sites.google.com/site/kitenetter/>

Group	Family	Taxon	English name
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Andrena clarkella	a mining bee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Andrena fulva	a mining bee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Andrena minutula	a mining bee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Andrena synadelpha	a mining bee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Apis mellifera	Honey Bee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Bombus hypnorum	a bumblebee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Bombus hypnorum	a bumblebee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Bombus terrestris	Buff-tailed Bumble Bee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Bombus terrestris	Buff-tailed Bumble Bee
<b>Insects: ants, bees, wasps</b>	Apidae	Osmia rufa	Red Mason Bee
<b>Insects: beetles</b>	Carabidae	Amara communis	a ground beetle
<b>Insects: beetles</b>	Staphylinidae	Stenus fulvicornis	a rove beetle
<b>Insects: beetles</b>	Chrysomelidae	Aphthona nonstriata	a flea beetle
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Pediciidae	Tricyphona immaculata	a crane fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Limoniidae	Ormosia lineata	a crane fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Bombyliidae	Bombylius major	Dark-edged Bee-fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Bombyliidae	Bombylius major	Dark-edged Bee-fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Dolichopodidae	Campsicnemus curvipes	a dolichopodid fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Sepsidae	Sepsis punctum	a sepsid fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Ephydriidae	Parydra coarctata	a shore fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Scathophagidae	Norellia spinipes	Daffodil Fly
<b>Insects: flies</b>	Tachinidae	Gonia picea	a parasitic fly
<b>Insects: Lepidoptera: butterflies</b>	Pieridae	Gonepteryx rhamni	Brimstone
<b>Insects: Lepidoptera: butterflies</b>	Pieridae	Pieris napi	Green-veined White
<b>Insects: Lepidoptera: butterflies</b>	Nymphalidae	Inachis io	Peacock
<b>Insects: Lepidoptera: butterflies</b>	Nymphalidae	Inachis io	Peacock

## 1.3 SPECIES LISTS – FUNGI

### 1 Bucks Fungus Group: 06-May-2004, Coleshill Common

	Substrate	Association	Identifier
<i>Ascomycota</i>			
<i>Crocireas cyathoideum</i>	dead stem	Nettle	DJS
<i>Diatrype disciformis</i>	stick	Hawthorn	PC
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Branch, attached, dead	Hazel	PC
<i>Leptosphaeria acuta</i>	dead stem	Nettle	PC
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	dead leaf	Sycamore	PC
<i>Verpa conica</i>	undergrowth	garden waste	DJS
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	stick	Hardwood	PC
<i>Basidiomycota</i>			
<i>Auicularia auricula-judae</i>	Branch, attached,	Elde	PC
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Branch, attached,	Field Maple	DJS
<i>Auricularia mesentetica</i>	Branch	Hardwood	DJS
<i>Bolbitius vitellinus</i>	Grass	Grass	DJS
<i>Calocybe gambosa</i>	Undergrowth	Soil	PC
<i>Coprinus leiocephalus</i>	grassy path edge	Soil	DJS
<i>Coprlnus micaceus</i>	Stump	willow	DJS
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	bare wet wood	Hardwood	PC
<i>Daedal copsis confragosa</i>	fallen branch	Walnut	PC
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	stick	Hardwood	PC
<i>Hebeloma gigaspermum</i>	Under tree	Willow	PC
<i>Hyphodontia sambuci</i>	trunk	Elder	PC
<i>Hypholoma f asciculare</i>	Stump	Willow	DJS
<i>Kuehneola uredinis</i>	living stem	Bramble	PC
<i>Mycena abramsii</i>	moss on wood	Hardwood	PC
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Trunk	Hawthorn	PC
<i>Phaeomarasmius erinaceus</i>	Branch	Willow	DJS
<i>Phellinus ferreus</i>	Fallen branch	willow	DJS
<i>Phdlinus pomaccus</i>	Branch, attached, dead	Blackthorn	DJS
<i>Pholiota gummosa</i>	damp log	Willow	PC
<i>Psathyrella spadiceogrisea</i>	grassy soil		PC
<i>Psilocybe inquilina</i>	Grass	Grass	PC
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Branch, attached, dead	Cherry	PC
<i>Stereum rugosum</i>	Branch, attached, dead	Willow	DJS
<i>Strobilurus tenacellus</i>	submerged cone	Pine	PC
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Branch, attached, dead	Willow	dJS
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Branch	Oak	DJS
<i>Myxomycota</i>			
<i>Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa</i>	damp log	Elm	PC

Number of records for site: 35

Number of species for site: 34

## 2 Bucks Fungus Group: Site Summary for Coleshill Common - updated 7.09.04

	06.05	05.07	07.09
Ascomycota			
Crocicreas cyathoideum	✓		
Diatrype discifonnis	✓		✓
Hypoxylon fuscum	✓		
Leptosphaeria acuta	✓		
Rhytisma acerinum	✓		
Verpa conica	✓		
Xylaria hypoxylon	✓		
Basidiomycota			
Amanita fiilva	✓		
Amanita rubescens	✓		
Auricularia auricula-judae	✓		
Auricularia mesenterica	✓		
Basidioradulum radula	✓		
Bolbitius vitellinus	✓		
Calocybe gambosa	✓		
Clavulinopsis helvola	✓		
Coprinus leiocephalus	✓		
Coprinus micaceus	✓		✓
Coprinus plicatilis	✓		
Cortinarius caninus	✓		
Dacrymyces stillatus	✓		
Daedaleopsis confragosa	✓		✓
Entoloma rhodopolium	✓	✓	
Exidia glandulosa	✓		
Geastrum triplex	✓		
Collybia confluens	✓		
Hebeloma gigaspermum	✓		
Hebeloma sinapizans	✓		
Hyphodontia sambuci	✓		
Hypholoma fasciculare	✓		
Inocybe flavella	✓		
Inocybe flocculosa	✓		
Kuehneola uredinis	✓		
Kuehneromyces mutabilis	✓		
Laccaria amethystina	✓		
Laccaria laccata			✓
Lacrymaria velutina			✓
Lactarius quietus			✓
Lactarius subumbonatus		✓	
Lactarius tabidus			✓
Lactarius turpis			✓
Lycoperdon nigresceiis			✓
Lycoperdon pyriforme			✓
Macrolepiota rhacodes			✓
Mycena abramsii	✓		
Mycena galericulata	✓		
Mycena pura var. rosea		✓	
Panaeolus fitnicola			✓
Paxillus involutus			✓
Peniophora quercina			✓
Phaeomarasmius erinaceus	✓		
Phellinus feireus	✓		
Phellinus pomaceus	✓		
Pholiota gummosa	✓		✓

	06.05	05.07	07.09
Pluteus cervinus			
Psathyrella candolleana		✓	
Psathyrella spadiceogrisea	✓		
Psilocybe inquilina	✓		
Ramaria stricta			✓
Russula amoenolens			✓
Russula anthracina		✓	
Russula atropurpurea			✓
Russula heterophylla			✓
Russula mairei			✓
Russula ochroleuca			✓
Russula parazurea			✓
Russula subfoetens	✓		
Stereum hirsutum	✓	✓	✓
Stereum rugosum	✓		
Strobilurus tenacellus	✓		
Trametes versicolor	✓	✓	✓
Tremella mesenterica	✓		
Xerocomus chrysenteron			✓
Xerocomus communis			✓
Xerocomus porosporus		✓	✓
Xerula radicata			✓
Myxomycota			
Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa	✓		
RUNNING TOTAL 78			
Penny Cullington			

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## APPENDIX 2. BYELAWS

Facsimile versions of the Bylaws and Supplementary Bylaws can be found in the Management Plan of 1994.

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### APPENDIX - BYELAWS

#### AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL BYELAWS

Under Section 1 (1) of the Commons Act 1899

1. Throughout these byelaws the expression “the Council” means the Rural District Council of Amersham and the expression “the Common” means the piece of land with the ponds, streams, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as “Coleshill Common”, situate in the Parish of Coleshill in the County of Buckingham and referred to as “the Common” in the Scheme approved under the Commons Act, 1899, on the 28th day of November, 1950, by order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the expression “the Scheme” means the aforesaid Scheme.
2. An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the Common by an Officer of the Council or by any person or servant of any person employed by the Council shall not be deemed an offence against these byelaws.
3. A person shall not, without lawful authority, place or deposit and leave on the Common any road sand, materials for repair of roads, or any wood so as to create or tend to create a litter.
4. A person shall not, without lawful authority, dig, cut or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the Common or cut, fell or injure any gorse, heather, timber or other tree, shrub, brushwood or other plant growing on the Common.
5. A person who, in the exercise of any right of common or any other right over the Common, shall dig, cut or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance or shall cut, fell or take trees or underwood shall not
  - (a) Commit any unnecessary damage to the Common or the turf, trees, shrubs, brushwood, gorse, heather, ferns or other natural products thereon.
  - (b) do so on any part of the Common which is enclosed temporarily for the revival of turf, trees, shrubs, or plants or set aside for games or for the parking of motor or other vehicles if similar substances as aforesaid can conveniently be dug or taken or cut, felled or taken from some other part of the Common.
6. A person shall not carelessly or negligently injure, deface or remove any seat, shelter, pavilion, drinking fountain, fence, rubbish receptacle or any works erected or maintained by the Council on the Common.
7. A person shall not, without lawful authority, catch birds, set traps or nets or lay snares for birds or other animals or take birds’ eggs or nests or shoot or chase game or other animals on the Common.
8. A person shall not, except in the case of a fair lawfully held or with the consent of the Council, place on the Common any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout or other like thing.
9. A person shall not, without lawful authority, fire or discharge firearms on the Common.
10. Where the Council set apart any such part of the Common as may be fixed by the Council and described in a notice board affixed or set up in some conspicuous position on the Common for the purpose of any game specified in the notice board which, by reason of the rules or manner of playing or for the prevention of damage, danger or discomfort to any person on the Common, may necessitate, at any time during the continuance of the game, the exclusive use by the player or players of any space in such part of the Common—a person shall not in any space elsewhere on the Common play or take part in any game so specified in such a manner as to exclude persons not playing or taking part in the game from the use of such space.
11. A person shall not— (a) without lawful authority break in any horse on the Common; - (b) to the danger of any other person, drive or exercise any horse on the Common.
12. A person shall not, without lawful authority, turn out to graze or permit to graze on the Common any cattle, sheep or other animals.
13. A person shall not on any part of the Common, wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt or annoy any person in the proper use of the Common.

14. A person shall not hinder nor obstruct any Officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under the Scheme or under any of the foregoing byelaws.
15. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Two pounds.
16. It shall be lawful for any Officer of the Council, after due warning has been given, to remove from the Common any vehicle or animal drawn, driven or placed thereon in contravention of any of the foregoing byelaws or to exclude from the Common any person who within his view commits or whom he reasonably suspects of committing an offence against any such byelaws or against the Vagrancy Acts.
17. The foregoing byelaws shall not be deemed to apply in any case where an offence is committed against the provisions of the Malicious Damage Act, 1861, Section 14 of the Criminal Justice Administration Act, 1914, Section 193 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, or against any limitation or condition imposed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under that Section, or the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880-1939, or any other order made thereunder.

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the Council  
To take effect on 1st May 1953. Countersigned by Sec. of State, 11th March 1953.

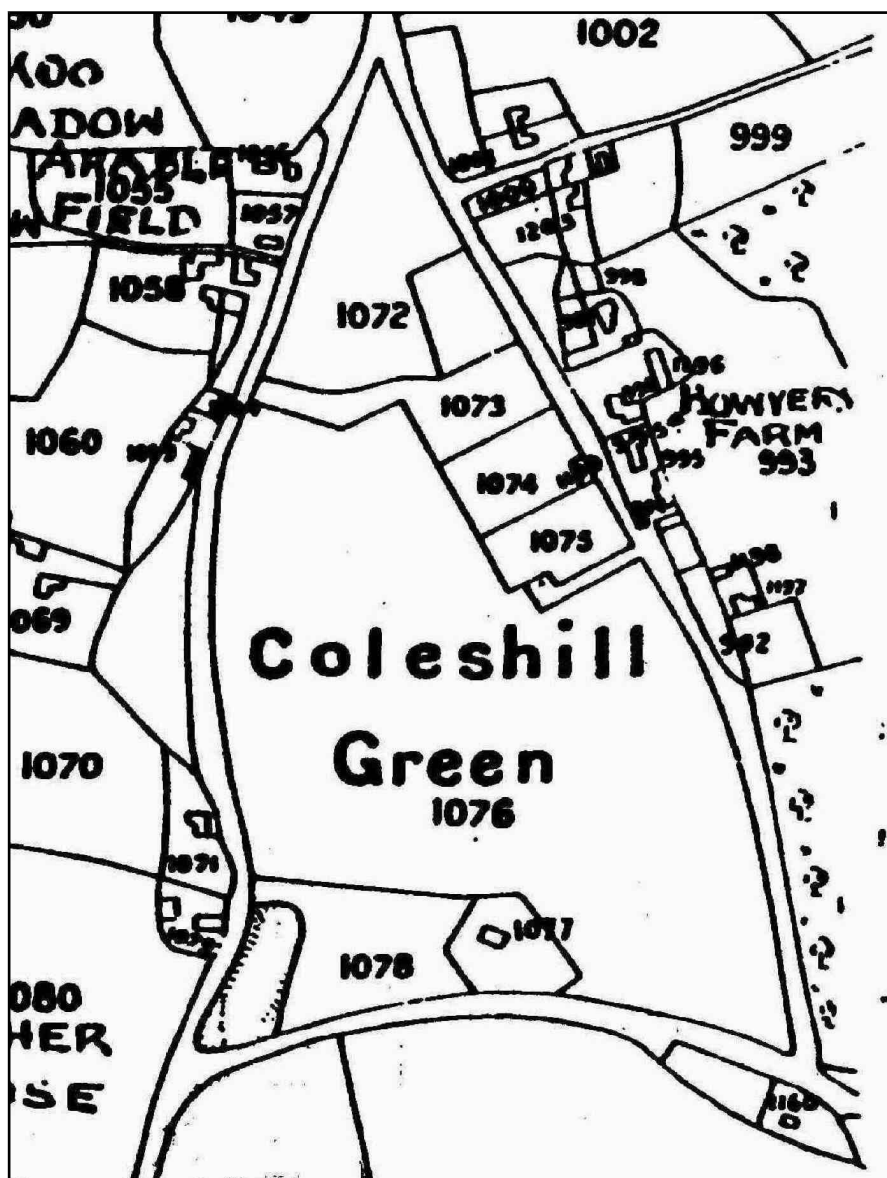
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SUPPLEMENTARY BYELAWS  
MADE BY THE AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
UNDER SECTION 1 (1) OF THE COMMONS ACT, 1899.

- I. Throughout these byelaws the expression “the Council” means the Rural District Council of Amersham and the expression “the Common” means the piece of land with the ponds, streams, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as “Coleshill Common,” situate in the Parish of Coleshill in the County of Buckingham and referred to as “the Common” in the scheme approved under the Commons Act, 1899, on the 28th day of November, 1950, by order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the expression “the Scheme” means the aforesaid Scheme.
2. A person shall not, without lawful authority, draw, drive or place upon the Common any carriage, cart, caravan, truck, motor cycle or other vehicle or any aircraft (except in the case of accident or other sufficient cause).
  3. A person shall not camp on the Common.
  4. A person shall not, without lawful authority, light any fire upon the Common or do any act which may cause, or be likely to cause, damage by fire to any grass, gorse, furze, heather, timber or other tree, shrub, brushwood, plant or other natural or artificial object on any part of the Common.
  5. A person shall not, without lawful authority, affix or cause to be affixed, any bill, placard, advertisement or notice on any noticeboard on the Common.
  6. A person shall not hinder or obstruct any officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under the Scheme or under any of the foregoing byelaws.
  7. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two pounds.
  8. It shall be lawful for any officer of the Council, after due warning has been given, to remove from the Common any vehicle or aircraft drawn, driven or placed thereon in contravention of the foregoing byelaw No. 2 or to remove or exclude from the Common any person who within his view infringes any of the foregoing byelaws or any provision of the Vagrancy Acts.

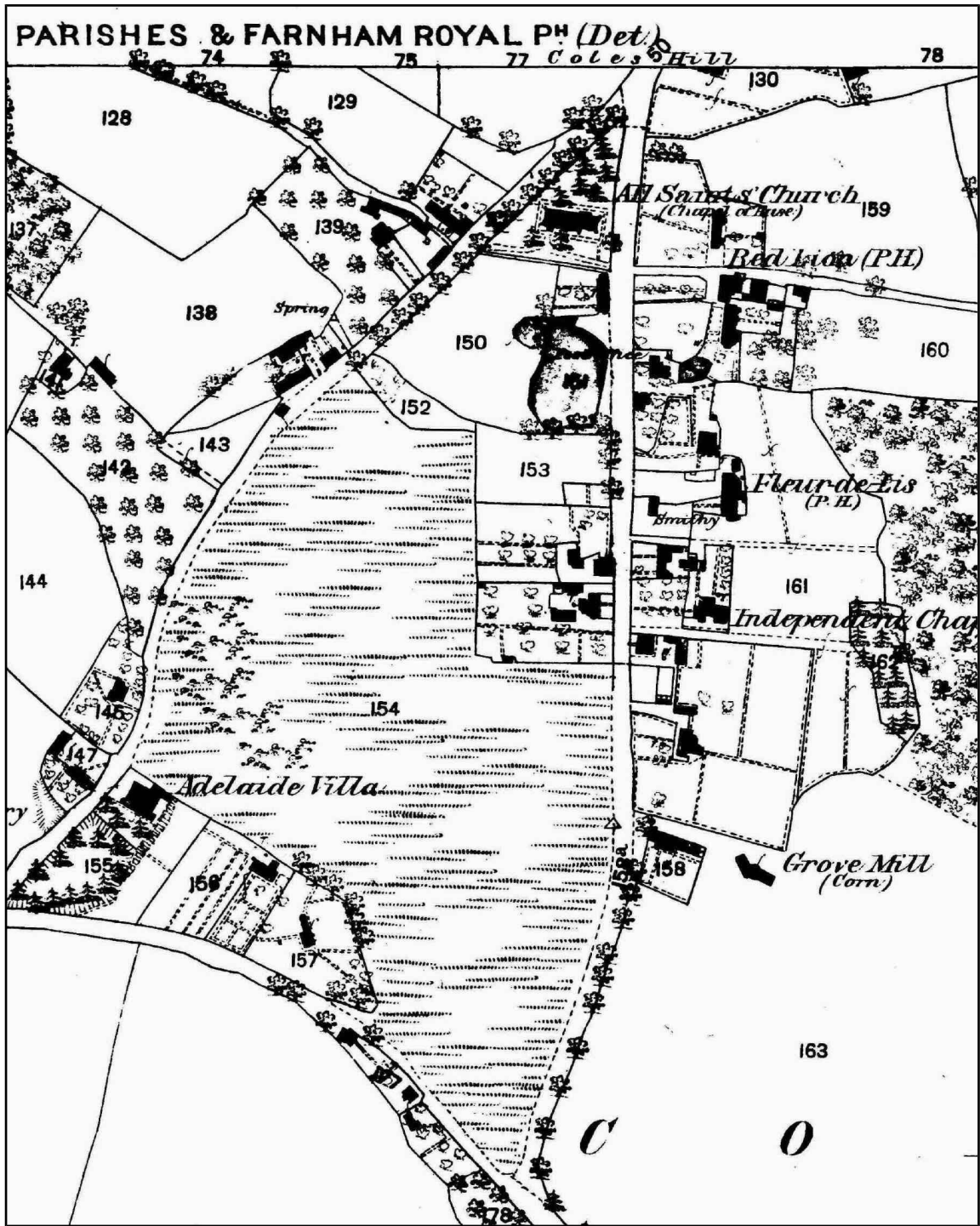
Signed by Chairman and Clerk of Amersham RDC on 5th June 1964, and by the Sec. of State on 24th July 1964.

APPENDIX 3 – HISTORICAL MAPS



*Tithe Map of 1840 showing land apportionments on the Common and also beyond the bordering roads. Each enclosure is numbered and described in a Schedule of Enclosures.*





O.S. Map of 1876