



**PROPOSED DECLARATION OF
8 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
OWNED SITES AS LOCAL NATURE RESERVES**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN GUILDFORD
26 May 2005**

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

A report will go to the County Council's Executive on 5 July as to whether the County Council should declare 8 Local Nature Reserves on land it owns. The Local Committee is invited to make comments and has the opportunity to welcome the proposals prior to the Executive making the decision.

- Broadstreet & Backside Commons, Stringer's Common, Littlefield Common and Chitty's Common (part of the Worplesdon Group of Commons)
- Wisley Common & Ockham & Chatley Heath
- Sheepleas
- Shere Woodlands
- Rodborough Common
- Hill Park, Tatsfield
- Chinthurst Hill
- Bisley & West End Commons

BUSINESS CASE:

LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

- 1 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are designated by local authorities. These are locally important sites managed according to a management plan agreed with English Nature. English Nature defines LNRs as: "for both local people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife and geographical features that are of special interest locally, which give people special opportunities to study and learn about them or enjoy and have contact with nature." There are 29 LNRs in Surrey, 24 designated by borough or district councils and 5 designated by the County Council: Hackhurst Downs (owned by the County Council and the National Trust), Staffhurst Wood (owned by the County Council), Nore Hill

(privately owned and leased to the County Council), Whitmoor & Rickford Commons (owned by the County Council and leased to Surrey Wildlife Trust) and Sayers Croft (Sayers Croft Environmental Education Trust). An emphasis of the management of LNRs is to promote the interest and enjoyment of local people. English Nature is keen to promote the designation of further appropriate areas as LNRs and makes grants available to assist with management costs.

CONSULTATION

- 2 Consultation has been undertaken with the Executive Members for Environment and the Members for Worplesdon, Chobham & Bisley, Horsleys, Shere, Waverley East, Shalford, Warlingham and Waverley West.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 3 It is now proposed that the County Council should declare a number of further sites as Local Nature Reserves and that designation procedures be completed to declare the following as Local Nature Reserves. Members are invited to comment on the proposal. Details of the sites are set out in

ANNEXE A. These are:

Guildford:

- Broadstreet & Backside Commons, Stringer's Common, Littlefield Common and Chitty's Common (all part of the Worplesdon Group of Commons)
- Wisley Common & Ockham & Chatley Heath (part in Elmbridge)
- Sheepleas
- Shere Woodlands
- Chinthurst Hill (part in Waverley)

Waverley Borough:

- Rodborough Common

Tandridge:

- Hill Park, Tatsfield

Surrey Heath:

- Bisley & West End Commons

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 4 All of the sites listed meet the English Nature criteria for being declared Local Nature Reserves and the recommendations would allow the formal procedures to be completed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 5 English Nature has been consulted and has agreed that all of the sites listed above satisfy the criteria to be LNRs and could be designated. The designation of all areas would be notified in local newspapers and maps of the areas would be made publicly available. English Nature would be formally notified. The designation could be revoked in the future but there would need to be a substantive reason for such a revocation.

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Background papers: “Local Nature Reserves in England: A Guide to their Selection and Declaration”, English Nature, 1999.
