

Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee - meeting 1st July 2021.

Estate Manager's Report for the period Oct. 2020 – June 2021.

1. HLS Scheme.

- A formal review of our management by Natural England (16/04/21).
- Chris Westcott has been replaced by Ellie MacConnachie.
- N.E. are particularly pleased with the steps we have taken to monitor the Scheme's progress.
- The ELM Scheme (Environmental Land Management) continues to make slow progress to its completion, but we still await direction as to its full introduction.

2. Grazing.

- The Dexters were on the hill April/May/mid June. They will return for August/Sept/Oct.
- All grazing is subject to a formal Grazing Licence.
- Nos. are still fewer than optimum as the grazier builds up his herd size.

3. Works.

- Contractor was busy in November with continued felling/thinning & stump treatment in compartments E1 & F. The timber was later removed at no cost by a local man when conditions allowed.
- Brush clearance on the ramparts in compartment E & A and on the citadel.
- At the end of May, chemical treatment of brush on the ramparts was started and will be ongoing.
- North Somerset's PROW will repair/upgrade the footpath entry stiles when time/funds permit.

4. Ash Dieback.

- Site meeting with a specialist contractor in November, who recommended:
 - No imminent danger
 - Await full leaf show this summer
 - Assess again – visit imminent
- Site meeting with Janet Dickson in April.
- Agenda Item 11 for full discussion.

5. Public participation.

- Continued high degree of usage during the Covid pandemic.
- Abuse has been conspicuous by its absence – just one reported barbecue incident; the Clerk used Facebook to remind parishioners of its illegality. Also problems with dogs being walked on North Somerset's land worrying sheep on adjacent farmland.

6. Water Trough.

- Formally inspected by Bristol Water on 12th Jan. Complies with the Water Regulations.

7. Councillors' Briefing.

- The visit arranged for last November was cancelled as a result of Covid regs. I did encourage councillors to make individual visits!!

CADBURY HILL JOINT ACCOUNT

Balance as at 30th May 2021 £9647.17

Predicted Income from 1st June to 31st Mar 2022

RPA 21/22 £ 1347.00

VAT to be refunded
Apr to Sept £ 168.00

£1515.00

Predicted Expenditure from 1st June 2021 to 31st Mar 2022

J Harris Salary + Travel £3000.00

Water – Aug 21 £ 30.00

Water – Feb 22 £ 30.00

Bramble Spraying £1512.00 (£840+VAT£168 = £1008.00 to be paid 30/6/2021)
(£420+VAT£84 = £504 invoiced on completion of work)

Lane Reserve £ 200.00

Contingency £1500.00

£6272.00

Balance at 30th May £9647.17

Projected Income £1515.00

£11162.17

Less Projected
Expenditure £6272.00

Projected Balance
Available **£4890.17**

CADBURY HILL JOINT ACCOUNT

Year to 31 March 2021

Balance per Cashbook 1.4.20 2633.23

RECEIPTS

RPA 2020	1347.00
Yatton Parish Council	3000.00
Congresbury Parish Council	3000.00
Refund VAT Qtrs 1-4 20/21	876.00
	<u>8223.00</u>

EXPENDITURE

			Net Cost	VAT
Green Mantle Ecosophy Ltd	chq 213	456.00	380.00	76.00
Water2Business	chq 214	29.68	29.68	
YPC J Harris Sal+Travel Apr-Sep20	chq 215	1408.08	1408.08	
Green Mantle Ecosophy Ltd	chq 216	4800.00	4000.00	800.00
YPC J Harris Sal+Travel Oct-Mar21	chq 217	1496.28	1496.28	
Water2Business	chq 219	19.02	19.02	
		<u>8209.06</u>	<u>7333.06</u>	<u>876.00</u>

Balance per Cash Book 31.3.21 13.94 2647.17

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Statement 31/03/21	2647.17
Unpresented	0.00
Balance Bank account 31/03/21	<u>2647.17</u>

P&L

Income	8223.00
Costs	8209.06
	<u>13.94</u>
Net Profit/Loss	<u>13.94</u>

Reserves	
Opening	2633.23
Movement	13.94
	<u>2647.17</u>

Split Reserve between Congresbury Council and Yatton Parish Council	<u>1323.59</u>
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VAT on payments	<u>-876.00</u>
Full year profit	<u>-862.06</u>

CADBURY HILL MANAGEMENT PLAN PHASE 2
2020-2022

Aims		Year 8 2021-2	Year 9 2021-2022	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	Performance indicators
To preserve Cadbury Hill, a nationally important archaeological site. To improve and maintain the biodiversity of the site. To enhance community awareness of Cadbury Hill.						
GRASSLAND		A systematic programme of scrub clearance.		£7350	JH	Less than 15% invasive trees & shrubs.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock grazing • Spot dressing at areas A,C,D,E,F • More aggressive clearance required to clear invasive growth at areas C & D • Also area B-(as this area is no longer attended to by YACWAG.) 		2,250	JH	The ramports are kept clear of bramble as above.
WOODLAND		Cattle spring/autumn 2021			JH GRAZIERS	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of selective thinning and felling 			JH Contractor	Protection of the archaeology. Better ground flora in woodland.
		Selective thinning area F	Selective thinning area E	2@750		
Ash Die Back		Monitor Ash Die Back in line with appendix 1		??	JH	Appropriate action is taken to limit the loss of these natural habitats & ensure public safety.

CADBURY HILL MANAGEMENT PLAN PHASE 2
2020-2022

	Encourage above to lead walks/talks on the hill.			
	Education/liase with local youth groups			

Review 2020- 2021

The Hill became an important community asset during the lockdowns of 2020-21 and was enjoyed by a great many people; far more than just the regular dog walkers! It was pleasing to see so many out and about or even meeting in groups for a picnic. Thankfully, given the very hot, dry weather, there was very little damage done or evidence of littering. Regular inspections have been carried out with nothing to report except that the two boards at the Henley lane car park have been incised with a grid! (No action is required at the moment.)

JD.

The Hill became an important community asset during the Covid pandemic lockdowns of 2020-21 for recreation and mental well-being, and continues to be so into the spring and summer recovery. Despite the odd barbecue fire, the vandalism has thankfully been conspicuous by its absence. As shown above, the bulk of the contractor expenditure this year will be on spraying, concentrating on controlling re-growth from previous physical clearance works. Tree thinning will continue on the ramparts as part of the archaeological safeguarding remit. As per the HLS agreement, the cattle will be removed during the high summer. Ongoing monitoring and professional surveys of the numerous ash trees will dictate actions to be taken to ensure public safety.

JPH.

ASH DIE BACK REPORT

Ash dieback is a highly destructive fungal disease affecting ash trees. It causes leaf loss and canopy decline and in some cases causes the trees to die. The disease was first officially recorded in the UK in 2012 and is now widespread across England, Wales and Scotland.

Ash trees are the third most common tree in Britain, present in woodland, hedgerows, parks and gardens across the country and have much cultural significance in our urban and rural landscapes. They are also valuable habitats

Anyone with an ash tree on their land has a responsibility to ensure that risk posed by the tree is kept within appropriate limits.

How quickly will an infected tree die?

Whilst it is not possible to predict how long it will take for a specific tree to decline. Isolated trees, trees growing in open areas or those in hedges appear to be far less affected than those in a forest environment.

Your responsibilities

Under both the civil law and criminal law, an owner of land on which a tree stands has responsibilities for the health and safety of those on or near the land and has potential liabilities arising from the falling of a tree or branch.

Risk management of trees

Managing the risk from trees is the responsibility of the owners and managers of the land on which they grow. If your ash tree or one of its branches falls on someone or someone else's property, you may be liable.

Following official guidance

To help landowners understand the risk of harm posed by their trees and to manage such risk in a reasonable, balanced and proportionate way, national guidance has been produced by the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) which should be followed by all tree owners.

NTSG's approach follows five key principles:

- Trees provide a wide variety of benefits to society
 - Trees are living organisms that naturally lose branches or fall
 - The overall risk to human safety is extremely low
 - Tree owners have a legal duty of care
 - Tree owners should take a balanced and proportionate approach to tree safety
- Management

Reasonable public safety must be the top priority when assessing what action to take on the trees you own. Levels of risk will range from low to high.

Examples of locations where trees may present high levels of risks are: roads, car parks, railways, well-used public spaces, playgrounds, school grounds and public right of ways.

Where ash trees pose a low safety risk, for example trees in hedges between two fields with no public access, they should be left to decline naturally so they can continue to contribute benefits to the environment

Options for managing affected ash trees?

To decide which management option is most suitable for your ash trees, consider:

- Roughly what percentage of the crown has died?
- What risk does that tree pose to humans, animals or property?
- Can you mitigate the risk by means other than pruning or felling the tree
- Is the tree old, or does it have a rich history worthy of preservation (ancient and veteran trees possess special cultural and ecological attributes)?
- Is the tree showing signs of tolerance to the disease?

MANAGEMENT POSSIBILITIES

There are a range of tree management options that can be considered for trees affected by ash dieback.

These include:

- Retain the tree with no work – provided the risk level is acceptable
- Deadwood removal – prune dead wood and branches showing marked symptoms of dieback to reduce the risk from falling branches
- Pollarding/topping: if the tree is posing an unacceptable risk to people or property,
- Reduce its height by removing all the upper branches and allowing it to re-grow
- Coppicing – cut the tree to the base and allow it to re-grow
- Felling – fell the tree and prevent re-growth.

The larger the trees, the more likely the wood will be of habitat value. Where possible, the felled wood should be left in situ in as large pieces as possible.

Each of these options carries different benefits and challenges.

To decide which management option is most suitable, consider:

- Which option manages the risks most effectively?
- What is your purpose in taking action?
- Do you want to retain trees where possible, or remove all risk? (The National Trust appears to have adopted this policy at King Wood.)

Information taken from **the tree council** document June 2020.
Ash Die back Disease A guide for tree owners