

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Harnham Slope, including The Cliff and Old Blandford Road, extends to 9.09ha (22.46 acres). It is owned and managed by Salisbury City Council and Wiltshire Council with community assistance from **FOHS**, TCV, Alabare and Salisbury Wildlife Group. The western section is in private ownership.

The woodland lies within the residential area of Harnham, on the southern outskirts of Salisbury. It covers the steep chalk escarpment which forms the northern slope of Harnham Hill and overlooks the city and cathedral. The woodland has been designated a County Wildlife Site and the quarry at the western end is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for geological reasons.

Following consultations **FOHS** discovered that local residents value Harnham Slope for a variety of reasons:

- It is one of the few woodland sites in Salisbury
- It is good for walks and exercise
- It is peaceful and feels safe
- It provides a wildlife corridor
- It provides access for people – between urban areas and the countryside, and between housing and local services/amenities including the Infant and Junior Schools
- It has historical and cultural associations and has been used by successive generations of local people
- It provides part of the landscape setting and backdrop for Salisbury

EXISTING ASSETS

As one of only a few areas of woodland within the city limits, Harnham Slope is an important community asset. It is a valuable semi-natural open space for amenity, for recreation, for access and for wildlife.

The slope is an important east/west, north/south access corridor, connecting urban communities and these communities with the countryside. It is criss-crossed by footpaths including public rights of way.

The whole of Harnham Hill is a dominant landscape feature immediately south of the city centre and Cathedral Close and forms a distinctive backdrop to many views from within Salisbury. The trees also provide a useful screening effect and many are in community ownership or protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

The Slope provides important wildlife habitat for plants, birds, mammals, bats, butterflies, reptiles etc.

There is important archaeology (Iron Age Village and Anglo Saxon Burial Ground) and historical evidence of droving and pastoral use; chalk extraction and Cold War use.

Harnham Hill has important cultural associations with John Constable and local artist Edwin Young as well as Bishop Wordsworth and Henry Fawcett.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

To maintain and improve the woodland and associated habitats as an important semi-natural open space and resource for residents and visitors to Salisbury, for wildlife, and as a setting for the city

PLAN FOR HARNHAM SLOPE SALISBURY

The Plan for Harnham Slope is being prepared by local community group **FOHS** (Friends of Harnham Slope) in conjunction with Salisbury City Council, Wiltshire Council and other community partners including TCV (The Conservation Volunteers), Alabare and Salisbury Wildlife Group (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust)

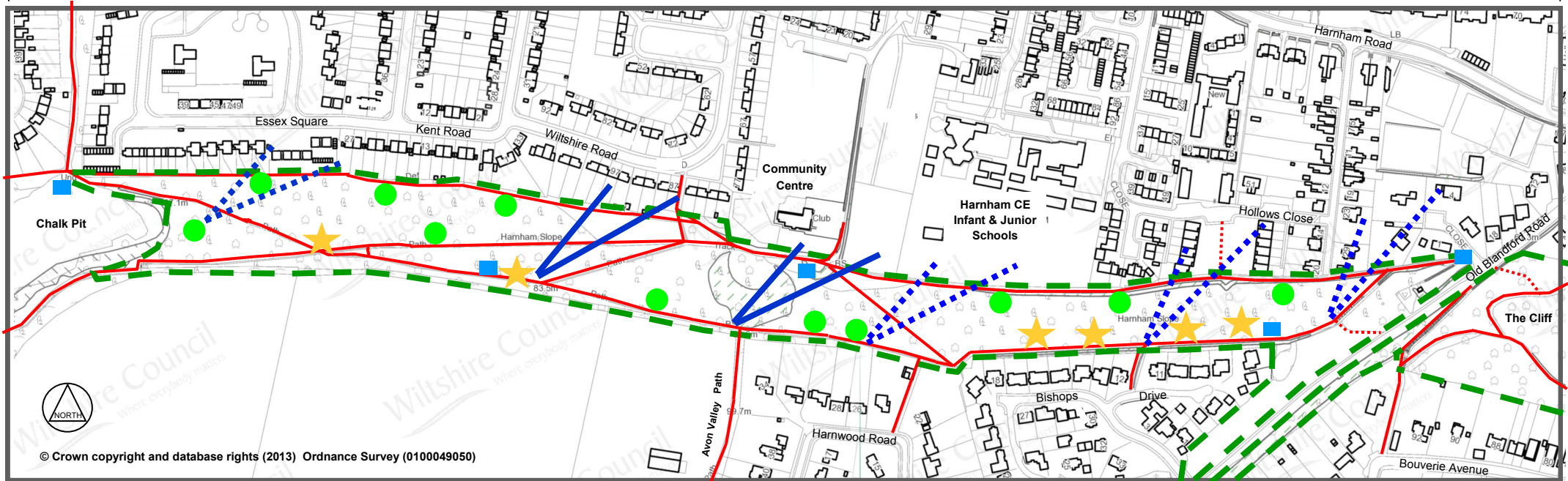


FOHS has been an active community group for ten years. To find out more or help with the project please contact **FOHS** via the website:









www.southwilts.com/site/harnhamslope/

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KEY

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|-----------------|---|---------------------|---|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Existing Glade |  | Existing Viewpoint |  | Existing Path |  | Possible Location for Information Boards |  |
| Potential Glade |  | Potential Viewpoint |  | Improved Footpath Links |  | Site Boundary |  |

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

The plan identifies the potential to retain and enhance the woodland character and habitat and increase opportunities for people to use, enjoy and understand the area through the development of:

- New glades or clearings
- New viewpoints
- Improved footpath connections and links with the surrounding area
- Improved information and educational aids eg. interpretation boards and leaflets
- New seats and bins

ONGOING WORK

Routine maintenance and management operations will continue to be carried out by the owners and partners including volunteers, and will include:

- Thinning and clearance to facilitate new planting to improve species diversity and interest
- New planting
- Mowing edges to footpaths
- Rotational coppicing
- Rotational cutting/clearance of glades
- Repairs to footpaths and steps to maintain access

- Litter removal and rubbish clearance
- Maintenance and renewal of nest boxes
- Maintenance of furniture

MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOHS is working with partners to develop the detailed management plan. This will ensure that work undertaken by owners, partners and volunteer groups is co-ordinated and focused on achieving the same objectives.