

# **Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan Version I**



## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Site Name:</b> | Blackheath Common |
|-------------------|-------------------|

|                           |                                                               |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Owners Name/s</b> | James Herbert- leased and managed by Waverley Borough Council |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                  |                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Location (with postcode if possible)</b> | Blackheath Common, Blackheath Lane, Womersley, Surrey, GU4 8RB |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Grid reference of location</b> | TQ037459 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|

|                                              |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Area in hectares covered by this plan</b> | 101ha |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Fire and Rescue Service</b> | Surrey Fire and Rescue Service |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

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# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## INTRODUCTION

Blackheath Common SSSI comprises of 143 hectares of heathland, scrub, acid grassland and woodland. The council manages 101 hectares, leased from James Herbert. Blackheath Common provides a varied, unique and relatively unspoilt heathland landscape for people to enjoy and experience wildlife.

The site lies approximately 5km South-East of Guildford, Surrey in the Parish of Wonersh. Blackheath Common is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. It lies within the Surrey Hills National Landscape and forms part of the Wealden Heaths National Nature Reserve.

This Wildfire Management Plan is valid for a period of 10 years with a regular review period of 5 years. It covers extensive areas of open heathland, woodland, scrub and other open habitats.

Blackheath Common lies within the Wealden Greensand National Character Area, an area that shares many familiar landscape characteristics such as the ubiquitous open heath. The Common is a mosaic of mature pine and birch woodland, with areas of gently undulating open heathland. There are also small areas of deciduous woodland along the southern and parts of the western edge, as well as around the village. The high point of the site is 116m above sea level where the war memorial is situated.



# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

Waverley Borough Council will continue to manage Blackheath Common and its nationally important ecology for wildlife conservation and with Wildfire management and understanding embedded in our management plans.

Waverley Borough Council sets out our Wildfire planning in this Wildfire management plan and will ensure the stated works are undertaken with the plan being a living document subject to revision as climate or other changes become apparent or as Surrey Fire and Rescue advise.

Whilst Waverley Borough Council commits to undertaking the continuing successful management of these vital habitats and village environs, all matters of residential property fire safety and Blackheath village becoming a Firewise Community will fall under Surrey Fire and Rescue for guidance and information.

## Important Documents:

- 1) Waverley Borough Council Wildfire Management Plan 2026 – 2036
- 2) [Surrey Fire and Rescue service - Safe and well checks for your home - Surrey County Council](#)
- 3) [Wildfires UK: Prepare and stay safe | British Red Cross](#)
- 4) [Wildfires - Prepare](#)
- 5) [Building wildfire resilience into forest management planning - Forest Research](#)
- 6) Wildfire Preparedness Leaflet – (Included in Wildfire management Plan)

We consider the wildfire safety of our community to be a partnership, and we will work with stakeholders to ensure Waverley Borough Council delivers our shared objectives.

We ask that Residents also play their part and ask that:

- Residents do not dump green waste onto the Common or stack dead wood alongside boundaries.
- Carefully consider locations and need of compost areas in gardens.
- Do not have BBQs or garden fires in high-risk summer months or in drought conditions.
- Consider their own boundaries including garden vegetation, fences and features.
- Consider their garden storage of flammable items such as fuel and gas cylinders.

All of these actions can assist in creating more resilient properties and reduce risks of fires spreading into gardens.

If residents see fire – Call 999 Immediately.

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## SCOPING

### Vegetation fire management aim and objectives

**Table 1 – Vegetation fire management objectives**

| Management objectives                      | Critical Success Factors                                | Comments |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Reduce likelihood of a wildfire starting   | Majority of ignition risks intercepted                  |          |
| Reduce fire severity                       | Areas affected by wildfire not to exceed 5ha            |          |
| Reduce impact of fire on habitats          | All compartments to retain current mix of habitat types |          |
| Increase opportunities to suppress fire    | Network of firebreaks maintained and extended           |          |
| Reduce impact of fire on protected species | Wildfire excluded from priority areas                   |          |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

### Key stakeholder feedback

**Table 2 – Shareholder feedback**

| Stakeholder                    | Date engaged       | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Surrey Fire and Rescue Service | Ongoing            | <p>Consulted and approved this document.</p> <p>Confirmation of all aspects included in the plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel and Fire breaks, Wildfire Management Zone size and placement</li> <li>• Fire access points existing and proposed</li> <li>• Hydrant locations</li> <li>• Lines of communication</li> </ul> |
| Albury Estate                  | July – August 2026 | <p>Overall supportive of the plan.</p> <p>Agreed creation of firebreak on their managed land to join WBC existing firebreak on the border between land managers to create a contiguous firebreak.</p>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| National Trust                 | July – August 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Wonersh Parish Council         | July – August 2026 | <p>Overall supportive of the plan.</p> <p>Concern over limited resources in the event of a wildfire.</p> <p>Concern over access points off Sample Oak lane and possibility of unauthorised encampments.</p>                                                                                                                                                             |
| St Martha's Parish Council     | July – August 2026 | <p>Overall supportive of the plan</p> <p>Concern over delays to emergency response due to the railway level crossing.</p> <p>Concern over low mains water pressure.</p> <p>Concern over access points off Sample Oak lane and possibility of unauthorised encampments.</p> <p>Education around wildfires is essential, i.e. through Duke of Edinburgh award.</p>        |
| Blackheath Village residents   | July – August 2026 | <p>Overall majority supportive of the plan</p> <p>Moorlands House proposed use of their lake as a water source during a wildfire event.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

Previous incidents on site or within the landscape

**Table 3 – Previous wildfire incidents**

| Date of incident | Location     | Size (ha)                | Duration (hrs/days) | Impact on social, economic and environmental assets | Further details ( <i>i.e. who attended the incident, if it was successful suppressed etc.</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15/08/2025       | TQ 0349 4658 | 2.5ha (WBC land)         | 10 days             | High quality mature heath lost.                     | Fire ignited on adjacent National Trust managed land, spread over to WBC managed land. Attended by SFRS and WBC Ranger Team. Suppressed by SFRS with SFRS contractor mowing additional firebreak on the heel of the fire. Follow up hot spot dowsing carried out by WBC Contractor. |
| 22/04/2026       | TQ 042 462   | 1ha (Albury Estate land) | 4 hours             | Woodland understory                                 | Fire ignited on adjacent Albury Estate managed land. Attended by SFRS via WBC access gates and firebreaks.                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                  |              |                          |                     |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                  |              |                          |                     |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                  |              |                          |                     |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

### Site and landscape scale considerations

**Table 4 – Site and Landscape Considerations**

|                      | Site Scale                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Landscape Scale                                                                                                                                                                        | Comments                                             |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Habitats</b>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                      |
| Lowland Dry Heath    | Extensive areas of Lowland Dry Heath exist across the site. This habitat is noted as a designated feature within the SSSI citation and is a Habitat of Principle importance. This habitat is key for the conservation of many protected species found on site including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species. See Appendix B. | The site forms part of a larger complex of heathland extending outwards to Blackheath Forest. The site forms part of the wider Wealden Heaths National Nature Reserve. See Appendix B. | High conservation value but with high wildfire risk. |
| Lowland Wet Heath    | There is no Lowland Wet Heath habitat on the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | There is an area of Lowland Wet Heath to the North of the site, managed by the National Trust. This forms part of the wider SSSI.                                                      |                                                      |
| Coniferous woodland  | Scattered stands of coniferous woodland exist across the site, with occasional extensive blocks, notably around the Blackheath Lane Car Park. See Appendix B.                                                                                                                                                                | Extensive Pine woodlands adjacent to the site, notably on the Eastern Boundary to the Albury Estate. See Appendix B.                                                                   |                                                      |
| Broadleaved woodland | Occasional blocks of mixed woodland across the site. See Appendix B.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                      |

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|                |                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acid grassland | Scattered areas of acid grassland, notably an area West of Sample Oak Lane.                                                                                                                   |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Reedbed        | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Bare ground    | Small patches of bare ground and exposed sand provide important habitat for invertebrate and reptile population. These patches are scattered across the site.                                 |  | Bare ground can act as a fuel break.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Open water     | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | Adjacent properties have bodies of water.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Species</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Heather        | Extensive open blocks of Heather exist across the site. This is generally managed via mowing with arising removed from site.                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Gorse          | Gorse exists as an essential part of the heathland mosaic. Managed with the aim of leaving small, scattered gorse throughout heathland compartments, trackside gorse prioritised for removal. |  | Common Gorse, <i>Ulex europea</i> , represents a very high fire risk profile however also supports a significant number of conservation interests. Management will aim to keep scattered gorse, away from track edges. |
| Grasses        | Mostly low, rabbit grazed sward however some small patches of                                                                                                                                 |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                                                        | Wavy Hair Grass West of Sample Oak Lane and on Derry's Hill.                                                                                                              |  |  |
| Bracken                                                                | Generally low abundance in open areas but with some extensive areas under woodland.                                                                                       |  |  |
| Scots pine                                                             | Generally scattered throughout open areas with some larger blocks. See Appendix B.                                                                                        |  |  |
| Silver Birch                                                           | Generally, scattered throughout open areas with some larger blocks in mixed woodland settings.                                                                            |  |  |
| <b>Existing prevention features (add or delete as appropriate)</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |
| <b>Fire breaks</b>                                                     | Mown annually. See Appendix D + Appendix E.                                                                                                                               |  |  |
| <b>Fuel breaks</b>                                                     | See Appendix D + Appendix E.                                                                                                                                              |  |  |
| <b>Fire belts</b>                                                      | Generally favoured around properties. See Appendix D + Appendix E.                                                                                                        |  |  |
| <b>Fuel load management</b>                                            | Heather sward managed through annual mowing programme. 2% of heather blocks mown per year in sinuous strips. Arisings removed from site or left in piles within woodland. |  |  |
| <b>Water sources (hydrant, open sources – river &amp; ponds, dams)</b> | For hydrant locations, see Wildfire response plan.                                                                                                                        |  |  |

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|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wildfire Groups</b>                                                    | Surrey Wildfire Resilience Forum                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <b>Other (please add)</b>                                                 | Wonersh Parish Council                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <b>Property and Infrastructure at risk (add or delete as appropriate)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <b>Residential buildings</b>                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Adjoining properties on Blackheath Lane, TQ 0301 4614</p> <p>Adjoining properties on Littleford Lane, TQ 0325 4613</p> <p>The Hallams and Hallams Court, Littleford Lane, GU4 8QZ.</p> <p>Adjoining properties on Sample Oak Lane, TQ 03224640</p> <p>Tangleway Way and Beechwood, Sample Oak Lane, GU4 8QS</p> |  |
| <b>Commercial and industrial buildings</b>                                | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <b>Roads</b>                                                              | <p>Blackheath Lane is a key access road leading to a crossroads where all areas of the site can then be accessed.</p> <p>Littleford Lane provides access to Derry's Hill and the East of the site.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                                              | Sample Oak Lane provides access to the north of the site.                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| <b>Powerlines</b>                            | There are no high voltage powerlines across the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| <b>Water &amp; fuel pipes</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Low Pressure gas line on Blackheath lane</p> <p>Low pressure gas line on access track to Tangley Way, Sample Oak Lane</p> <p>Low pressure gas line on Littleford Lane up to Blatchfeld, Littleford Lane.</p> |  |
| <b>Archaeology, Landscape &amp; Heritage</b> | <p>St Martin's Church, GU4 8QT.</p> <p>St. Augustine's Abbey, GU4 8QR.</p> <p>There is a second World War Memorial at TQ0351 4645.</p> <p>There are historic boundary stones throughout the site.</p> <p>The entire site is registered Common land.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|                                                                      |                                                                           |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Social, community, recreation and leisure</b>                     | Blackheath Village Hall, GU4 8RA.<br><br>Blackheath Cricket Club, GU4 8RB |  |  |
| <b>Land Use asset</b>                                                | Farms surrounding livery yards/ stables                                   |  |  |
| <b><i>Other (please add)</i></b>                                     |                                                                           |  |  |
| <b>Natural Capital assets at risk (add or delete as appropriate)</b> |                                                                           |  |  |
| <b>Water Quality</b>                                                 | N/A                                                                       |  |  |
| <b>Carbon emissions</b>                                              |                                                                           |  |  |
| <b>Carbon sinks</b>                                                  |                                                                           |  |  |
| <b>Inland Flood retention</b>                                        | N/A                                                                       |  |  |
| <b><i>Other (please add)</i></b>                                     |                                                                           |  |  |

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## SURVEY

### Wildfire Risk Assessment outcomes

Table 5 – Wildfire Risk Assessment – See Appendix A for Likelihood, Severity and Risk Matrix

Site Name: Blackheath Common

Location:

| Reference Number | What are the wildfire hazards?                                                                         | Who/What might be harmed and how?                                                        | Present Control measure: <i>What are you already doing to manage risk?</i>                                                                                                              | Initial risk rating |          |      | Additional Control measure: <i>What else do you need to do?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                        | Revised risk rating |          |      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|------|
|                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         | Likelihood          | Severity | Risk |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Likelihood          | Severity | Risk |
|                  | Risk of fire spreading between compartments due to contiguous fuels causing a large wildfire incident. | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors<br><br>SSSI habitat and species | Firebreaks maintained through annual mowing to a width of no less than 3x height of path side vegetation.<br><br>2 yearly review of firebreak network<br><br>Removal of trackside gorse | 4                   | 4        | 16   | Use of Wildfire Management Zones to define risk areas and plan control measures.<br><br>Management of vegetation fuels within WMZ B to break up fuel continuity.<br><br>Use of control lines in depth to provide layers of potential fire suppression. | 3                   | 2        | 6    |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                            |   |   |    |                                                                                                                 |   |   |    |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
|  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          | prioritised for removal.<br><br>Ladder fuel identified and prioritised for removal.                                                                        |   |   |    | Active management of fuels within control lines to break up fuel continuity. See Appendix C and Appendix E.     |   |   |    |
|  | Risk of fire spreading from adjoining properties due to contiguous fuels causing a large wildfire incident                                                                          | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors<br><br>SSSI habitat and species                 | Regular dialogue maintained with neighbouring land owners and partners.<br><br>Active line of communication with SFRS allowing early warning of fire risk. | 4 | 4 | 16 | Investigate neighbouring land manager fire suppression capabilities<br><br>Use of WMZ. See Appendix C.          | 3 | 2 | 6  |
|  | Risk of fire spreading to adjoining properties due to contiguous fuels causing damage/ destruction to neighbouring properties, evacuation, disruption to people and infrastructure. | General public, residents, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors.<br><br>Property and infrastructure. | Existing network of firebreaks, see Appendix D.<br><br>Regular dialogue maintained with neighbouring land owners and partners.                             | 4 | 5 | 20 | Use of Wildfire Management Zones to define risk areas and plan control measures. See Appendix C and Appendix E. | 3 | 5 | 15 |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |   |   |    |                                                                                                                    |   |   |   |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  | Risk of wildfire breaching fire/fuel breaks and spreading into adjoining compartments causing a large wildfire incident                                                                       | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors.<br><br>SSSI habitat and species            | Firebreaks maintained through annual mowing to a width of no less than 3x height of path side vegetation<br><br>management of continuous path side gorse<br><br>Surrey FRS current wildfire response plan | 2 | 4 | 8  | Use of Wildfire Management Zones to define risk areas and plan control measures.<br>See Appendix C and Appendix E. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
|  | Risk of wildfire breaching fire/fuel breaks and spreading to adjoining properties causing damage/ destruction to neighbouring properties, evacuation, disruption to people and infrastructure | General public, residents, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors.<br><br>SSSI habitat and species | Firebreaks maintained through annual mowing to a width of no less than 3x height of path side vegetation<br><br>2 yearly review of firebreak network                                                      | 3 | 5 | 15 | Use of Wildfire Management Zones to define risk areas and plan control measures.<br>See Appendix C and Appendix E. | 1 | 5 | 5 |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   |   |    |                                                                                                                 |   |   |   |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                           | Removal of trackside gorse prioritised for removal.                                                                                                                                                                                                |   |   |    |                                                                                                                 |   |   |   |
|  |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                           | Ladder fuels identified and prioritised for removal.                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |   |    |                                                                                                                 |   |   |   |
|  | Risk of wildfire breaching fire/fuel breaks and spreading from adjoining properties causing a large wildfire incident | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors.<br><br>SSSI habitat and species | Firebreaks maintained through annual mowing to a width of no less than 3x height of path side vegetation<br><br>2 yearly review of firebreak network<br><br>Removal of trackside gorse prioritised for removal.<br><br>Ladder fuels identified and | 3 | 4 | 12 | Use of Wildfire Management Zones to define risk areas and plan control measures. See Appendix C and Appendix E. | 2 | 4 | 8 |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |   |   |   |                                                                        |   |   |   |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                | prioritised for removal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |   |   |   |                                                                        |   |   |   |
|  | Risk of disruption to adjoining properties, roads, local infrastructure etc. due to indirect effects of fire i.e. Smoke | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors<br><br>Property<br><br>Infrastructure | During a wildfire event, site managers liaise with SCC highways, Surrey Police and other partners to allow dynamic and informed decision making regarding road closures.<br><br>Comms team kept up to date with fire progress and regular updates to social media to keep local residents informed. | 2 | 2 | 4 |                                                                        |   |   |   |
|  | Risk of wildfire spreading into valuable timber plantations on adjoining properties                                     | Residents, General public, staff, contractors,                                                 | Ladder fuels cleared from high risk areas, particularly                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2 | 3 | 6 | Use of Wildfire Management Zones to define risk areas and plan control | 1 | 3 | 3 |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                  |                             |                                                                                                             |   |   |    |                                                                                                                 |   |   |    |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
|  |                                                                                  | emergency services          | where there is a risk of fire spreading to adjoining properties.                                            |   |   |    | measures. See Appendix C and Appendix E.                                                                        |   |   |    |
|  |                                                                                  | Property and infrastructure |                                                                                                             |   |   |    |                                                                                                                 |   |   |    |
|  | Risk of fire damaging vulnerable populations of threatened species               | SSSI habitat and species    | Areas of known occupancy of threatened species mapped and used to inform fire control zones; see Appendix C | 3 | 3 | 9  | Use of Wildfire Management Zones to define risk areas and plan control measures. See Appendix C and Appendix E. | 2 | 3 | 6  |
|  | Risk of fire damaging protected habitats                                         | SSSI species and habitat    | Areas of known occupancy of threatened species mapped and used to inform fire control zones; see Appendix C | 4 | 4 | 16 | Areas of known occupancy of threatened species mapped and used to inform fire control zones; see Appendix C     | 3 | 4 | 12 |
|  | Risk of wildfire or wildfire suppression activities degrading buried archaeology | Property and heritage.      | Known archaeological features mapped on fire response plan.<br><br>Site management to ensure incident       | 2 | 3 | 6  |                                                                                                                 |   |   |    |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                           |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |   |   |    |                                                                                                                                                                 |   |   |    |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
|  |                                                                           |                                                           | command are aware when planning suppression activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |   |   |    |                                                                                                                                                                 |   |   |    |
|  | Risk of extreme fire behaviour caused by wildfire in unmanaged vegetation | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors. | <p>Heather sward management to create mosaic of habitats with ~10% of heather within first 5 years of growth.</p> <p>Fire breaks mown annually to a width not less than 3x vegetation height.</p> <p>2 yearly review of firebreak network</p> <p>Removal of trackside gorse prioritised for removal.</p> | 4 | 4 | 16 | Use a 'Wildfire Management Zones' and 'Wildfire Response Plan' to manage risks. Implementation and maintenance of Control Lines. See Appendix C and Appendix E. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                           |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   |   |    |                                                                                                                |   |   |    |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
|  |                                                                                           |                                                           | Ladder fuels identified and prioritised for removal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |   |    |                                                                                                                |   |   |    |
|  | Risk of extreme fire behaviour caused by wildfire in areas of moderate/ high fuel loading | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors. | <p>Heather sward management to create mosaic of habitats with ~10% of heather within first 5 years of growth.</p> <p>Fire breaks mown annually to a width not less than 3x vegetation height.</p> <p>2 yearly review of firebreak network</p> <p>Removal of trackside gorse prioritised for removal.</p> <p>Ladder fuels identified and</p> | 4 | 4 | 16 | Use a 'Wildfire Management Zones' and 'Wildfire Response Plan' to manage risks. See Appendix C and Appendix G. | 3 | 4 | 12 |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                              |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                     |   |   |    |                                                                                                                |   |   |    |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
|  |                                                                              |                                                                               | prioritised for removal.                                                                                                                                                            |   |   |    |                                                                                                                |   |   |    |
|  | Risk of extreme fire behaviour caused by gradient and topology               | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors.<br><br>SSSI habitat | Topological features and areas of increased gradient noted in Fire Response plan                                                                                                    | 2 | 3 | 6  | Use a 'Wildfire Management Zones' and 'Wildfire Response Plan' to manage risks. See Appendix C and Appendix G. | 1 | 3 | 3  |
|  | Risk of increased levels of extreme fire behaviour caused by climate change  | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors.<br><br>SSSI habitat | None                                                                                                                                                                                | 4 | 4 | 16 | Climate change adaptation built into Wildfire Management Planning                                              | 3 | 4 | 12 |
|  | Risk of ground fires reigniting after wildfire suppression activities cease. | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors.<br><br>SSSI habitat | Regular checks undertaken by WBC staff to identify hotspots when fire suppression activity ceases.<br><br>Contractors employed to damp down hotspots at discretion of WBC and SFRS. | 3 | 3 | 9  | Deployment of remote ignition detection technology (subject to trial 2026)                                     | 2 | 3 | 6  |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                                          |                                                           |                                                                  |   |   |    |                                                                                                              |   |   |    |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
|  | Risk of injury/ death due to individuals being overcome by fire                                          | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors. | P Response plan<br>Access plan<br>Approved staff and contractors | 2 | 5 | 10 | Evacuation plan<br>Safe zones<br>Adherence to LACES principles                                               | 1 | 5 | 5  |
|  | Risk of injury/ death due to individuals being exposed to indirect effects of fire i.e. Smoke inhalation | General public, fire fighters, WBC staff and contractors  | Response plan<br>Access plan<br>Approved staff and contractors   | 2 | 5 | 10 | Evacuation plan<br>Safe zones<br>Adherence to LACES principles                                               | 1 | 5 | 5  |
|  | Risk of damage/ loss of vehicles/ equipment during wildfire or wildfire suppression activities           | General public, staff, contractors, emergency services    | Response plan<br>Access plan<br>Approved staff and contractors   | 2 | 4 | 8  | Evacuation plan<br>Safe zones<br>Adherence to LACES principles                                               | 1 | 4 | 4  |
|  | Risk of unauthorized campfire/ BBQ spreading into areas of high wildfire risk                            | General public, staff, contractors, emergency services    | Regular ranger patrols of high visitor pressure areas            | 4 | 4 | 16 | Trial of remote ignition detection technology to provide 24/7 coverage of high visitor pressure areas (2026) | 3 | 4 | 12 |
|  | Risk of emergency evacuation of residents and workers from adjoining properties                          | Residents, general public, staff,                         | Major wildfire events escalated within WBC via                   | 2 | 3 | 6  | Creation of WBC evacuation plan for local area and areas                                                     | 2 | 2 | 4  |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                |   |   |   |                                                                                                |   |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  |                                                                                                                                       | contractors,<br>emergency<br>services                                                                                  | Applied<br>Resilience.<br><br>WBC ILOs<br>activated                            |   |   |   | of high visitor<br>pressure.                                                                   |   |   |   |
|  | Risk of injury/ death due to<br>incitement of panic/ extreme<br>behaviour in livestock/ horses                                        | General public,<br>staff,<br>contractors,<br>emergency<br>services                                                     | None                                                                           | 2 | 2 | 4 | Engagement with<br>local livery yards and<br>equestrians on site.                              | 1 | 2 | 2 |
|  | Risk of necessary evacuation<br>of areas of high visitor<br>pressure causing congestion<br>on local roads impacting SFRS<br>response. | Residents,<br>general public,<br>staff,<br>contractors,<br>emergency<br>services<br><br>Property and<br>infrastructure | Major wildfire<br>events escalated<br>within WBC via<br>Applied<br>Resilience. | 3 | 3 | 9 | Creation of WBC<br>evacuation plan for<br>local area and areas<br>of high visitor<br>pressure. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
|  | Risk of crush injury/ traffic<br>accident/ death due to panic<br>during evacuation of areas of<br>high visitor pressure.              | Residents,<br>general public,<br>staff,<br>contractors,<br>emergency<br>services                                       | None                                                                           | 1 | 5 | 5 | Creation of WBC<br>evacuation plan for<br>local area and areas<br>of high visitor<br>pressure. | 1 | 5 | 5 |
|  | Risk of limited access to water<br>source for wildfire suppression<br>and the risk of congestion                                      | Residents,<br>general public,<br>staff,                                                                                | None                                                                           | 3 | 3 | 9 | Creation of WBC<br>evacuation plan for<br>local area and areas                                 | 2 | 3 | 6 |

Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|               |                                                                    |                                 |            |                 |            |  |                                                                  |  |  |  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|               | during residents evacuation and emergency services entry and exit. | contractors, emergency services |            |                 |            |  | of high visitor pressure with input from SFRS and Surrey Police. |  |  |  |
| Completed by: | Lucie Poole                                                        | Date of assessment:             | April 2026 | Date of review: | April 2027 |  |                                                                  |  |  |  |

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## Mapping fuel hazards (See Appendix B)

**Table 6 – Summary of Fuel Mapping (See Appendix B)**

| Map Reference | Fuel type               | Fuel loading<br>(Low / Medium / High / Very High) | Control measure              |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|               | Lowland heath           | High                                              | See Appendix B + Appendix E. |
|               | High risk woodland      | Medium                                            |                              |
|               | Low risk woodland       | Low                                               |                              |
|               | Contiguous Gorse cover  | Very High                                         |                              |
|               | Molinia                 | High                                              |                              |
|               | Extensive Bracken cover | High                                              |                              |

## High Priority Areas (See Appendix B)

**Table 7 – List of High Priority Areas (See Appendix B)**

| Location                                                                  | Feature                                                 | Reason                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| All of the site which has designations and citations                      | Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)              | Legal duty to protect and enhance SSSI |
| Locations of transport and wayleave infrastructure                        | Minor roads, over and underground pipelines and cables. | Ethical and responsible land manager   |
| Location of residential and commercial properties which surround the site | Adjacent residential and commercial properties          | Ethical and responsible land manager   |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

Areas for wildfire management (See Appendix C)

**Table 9 – Wildfire Management Zones features**

Red – Asset zone; Amber – Buffer zone; Green – Low risk zone; Black – Fire exclusion zone

| Feature                                                    | Reference | Control measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blackheath lane car park                                   | A1        | Maintain access features<br>Buffer zone B1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Littleford lane car park                                   | A2        | Maintain access features<br>Buffer zone B2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Fire Access points (See Appendix E.)                       | A3        | Maintain access features<br>Path side vegetation management to increase resilience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Strategic access routes across site                        | A4        | Maintain track to 10m wide<br>Path side vegetation management to increase resilience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| All residential properties adjoining along Blackheath lane | A5        | Firebreak<br>Greenbelt woodland<br>Target downhill of high risk habitats<br>Emergency firebreak cut into grassy area south of properties on Blackheath Lane when Fire Severity Index (FSI) reaches the Exceptional category<br>Encourage Firewise community<br>Future habitat management planned with wildfire prevention measures |
| All residential properties adjoining along Littleford lane | A6        | Existing firebreak to South East<br>Encourage Firewise community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| All residential properties adjoining along Sample Oak lane | A7        | Creation of new firebreak through high risk woodlands South East of access track to Aston House                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|                                                                    |     |                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Access track to Tangley Way and Beechwood                          | A8  | Greenbelt woodland<br>Provision of parking bollards to maintain access<br>Encourage Firewise community   |
| Access track to properties surrounding Aston House                 | A9  | Provision of parking bollards to maintain access<br>Encourage Firewise community                         |
| Properties surrounding Ampfield House                              | A10 | Buffer zone B3                                                                                           |
| The Hallams and The Hallams Court                                  | A11 | Greenbelt woodland<br>Encourage Firewise community                                                       |
| St Martins Church                                                  | A12 | Firebreak<br>Greenbelt woodland<br>Target downhill of high risk habitats<br>Encourage Firewise community |
| St Augustines Abbey                                                | A13 | Greenbelt woodland<br>Encourage Firewise community                                                       |
| WWII War Memorial                                                  | A14 | Buffer zone B5                                                                                           |
| Electrical Sub station                                             | A15 | Buffer zone B3/B4                                                                                        |
| Blackheath Cricket Ground and Pavilion                             | A16 | Encourage Firewise community                                                                             |
| Blackheath Lane car park                                           | B1  | Remove deadwood and brash from understory                                                                |
| Littleford lane car park                                           | B2  | Remove deadwood and brash from understory                                                                |
| Woodland adjacent to properties North of management compartment 13 | B3  | Remove deadwood and brash from understory                                                                |
| Electrical substation                                              | B4  | Remove deadwood and brash from understory                                                                |
| WWII War Memorial                                                  | B5  | 20m vegetation management to maintain low growth                                                         |
| Blackheath Common SSSI                                             |     | Increased vigilance                                                                                      |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|                      |    |                                                      |
|----------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------|
|                      |    | Use of wildfire detection devices following trial    |
| Key reptile habitats | D1 | New firebreak between management compartment 6 and 5 |

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## ANALYSIS

### Evaluation of terrain

Table 10 – Evaluation of terrain

| Feature/s                            | Location                                                     | Risk                                                        | Opportunity                                                   | Control measure                                       |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>South/South East facing slope</b> | Aeroplane hill                                               | Depending on wind direction, fast moving uphill fire spread | Depending on wind direction, opportunity for fire suppression | Cutting of firebreaks to follow the base of the slope |
| <b>North West facing slope</b>       | Derry's Hill bordering properties on Blackheath Lane         |                                                             | Due to asset location, opportunity for fire suppression       |                                                       |
| <b>North West facing slope</b>       | Bordering properties along Blackheath lane and bridleway 301 |                                                             | Due to asset location, opportunity for fire suppression       |                                                       |
| <b>Hill formation</b>                | War memorial                                                 | Depending on wind direction, fast moving uphill fire spread |                                                               | Vegetation control zone around memorial               |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

### Constraints, Opportunities and Threats Matrix

**Table 11 – Constraint, Opportunities and Threat Matrix**

| Factor/s                              | Constraint                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Opportunity                                                                                                                                             | Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Public safety</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full public access across the site</li> <li>• WBC have limited options for controlling access to the site</li> </ul>                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased opportunities for fire detection</li> </ul>                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public bringing ignition on site with BBQs, campfires etc.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Property protection</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WBC responsible for undertaking wildfire preparedness measures within the site only.</li> <li>• Potentially limited communication with residents</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildfire resilient community</li> <li>• Increased dialogue between WBC and neighbouring communities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irresponsible infrastructure/vegetation management resulting in contiguous fuel sources</li> <li>• Increased risk of ignitions through the use of garden bonfires</li> <li>• Dumping of garden waste on site, increasing fuel loading</li> </ul> |
| <b>Infrastructure protection</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WBC not responsible for highways, wayleaves or utilities</li> <li>• WBC responsible for undertaking wildfire preparedness measures within the site only.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGR may bring managing organisations into closer alignment to better manage risks</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disruption to traffic using the lanes surrounding the site due to smoke during a wildfire event</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Habitat and species protection</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is host to many protected habitats and species which may</li> </ul>                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildfire resilience measures can be included in funding bids</li> </ul>                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention of certain habitat resources may</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | <p>require works under licence or with appropriate consent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to habitat management regimen must be undertaken in conjunction with management plans and must comply with stewardship scheme rules and funding obligations</li> </ul> | <p>and management plans with specific habitat management carried out to the benefit of both habitats and wildfire preparedness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many wildfire control features can also be used as part of a healthy species and habitat mosaic</li> </ul> | <p>pose an increased risk of wildfire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats and species can be threatened by extreme wildfire behaviour</li> </ul> |
| <b>Climate</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing climate may influence likelihood/severity of wildfire event</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of practices related to climate change mitigation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased likelihood/severity of wildfire events</li> </ul>                                                               |

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## SYNTHESIS

### Wildfire Prevention Measures

#### *Improving site design*

Table 12 – Improving site design planning

| Design feature                                                                            | Location/s                                 | Implementation and timescale                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maintaining firebreak network                                                             | See Appendix E.                            | Annual cut and bi-annual review                                                               |
| Creation of new fire break                                                                | Aston house track Management compartment 1 | Subject to felling licence and felling operations                                             |
| Diversifying fire suppression methods used by introducing fuel breaks at strategic points | See Appendix E.                            | 2028                                                                                          |
| Management of fuel loading in Wildfire Management Zone A                                  | See Appendix C.                            | Spring 2027                                                                                   |
| Management of fuel loading in Wildfire Management Zone B                                  | See Appendix C.                            | Spring 2027<br>Do not allow brash and deadwood piles in management zone B                     |
| Heather sward management across heathland compartments (Wildfire Management Zone C)       |                                            | 2% heathland compartment cut to allow for a mosaic of 10% pioneer heather over 5 year period. |
| Improving access points                                                                   | See Appendix E.                            |                                                                                               |
| Improving on site navigation by installing What 3 Words rondelle waymarkers               |                                            | Spring 2027                                                                                   |

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## *Selecting management system resilience*

**Table 13 – Selecting management system resilience**

| <b>Management practice</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>Vegetation and fuels targeted</b> | <b>Location</b>             | <b>Implementation and timescale</b>                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Heather sward management to provide 10% pioneer heath and patches of bare ground</b>                                                        | Heather                              | All heather across the site | As per Habitat Management Plan                                             |
| <b>Large blocks of Gorse broken up to provide smaller patches of Gorse within heathland blocks, away from paths and compartment boundaries</b> | Gorse                                | Across the site             | As per Habitat Management Plan                                             |
| <b>Thinning of conifer blocks to reduce fuel loads.</b>                                                                                        | Conifer woodland                     | Across the site             | Thinning of conifer blocks in line with existing Woodland Management Plan. |
| <b>Thinning of conifer blocks, retaining broadleaved species to leave mixed stands of woodland.</b>                                            | Conifer woodland/Mixed woodland      | Across the site             | Thinning of conifer blocks in line with existing Woodland Management Plan. |

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## *Creating new or managing existing fire and fuel breaks and fire belts*

**Table 14 – Managing fire & fuel break and belt prevention features**

| Type       | New | Existing | Location/s                                                                                                                                                   | Implementation and timescale                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------|-----|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fire break |     | x        | East West fire break in management compartment 14                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|            | X   |          | Extend existing firebreak to the West of management compartment 14 to join new emergency vehicle access gate.                                                | Spring 2027<br>Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|            | X   |          | East of track edge leading to Aston House on WBC land.                                                                                                       | 2028 – subject to felling licence and felling operations. Proposal for National Trust to continue the firebreak on their managed land to create a contiguous firebreak around the SSSI compartments. Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract |
|            |     | X        | Between management compartments 13 and 12                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|            |     | X        | Between WBC managed land and Albury Estate managed land                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|            | X   |          | Extend firebreak at the East of management compartment 12, bordering Albury Estate managed land, to join firebreak to the North of management compartment 11 | Spring 2027<br>Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|            |     | X        | North south through centre of the site                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |   |   |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |   | X | Between management compartment 9 and 10                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                |
|  |   | X | Running North East to South West through centre of management compartment 6                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
|  | X |   | Along existing footpath between management compartment 6 and 5                                                                               | 2028<br>Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract                                                             |
|  |   | X | Between management compartment 7 and 9                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                |
|  | X |   | Extend existing firebreak to the North East between management compartment 7 and 9.                                                          | Spring 2028 – Subject to felling licence and felling operations.<br>Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract |
|  | X |   | Extend existing between management compartments 7 and 8 to connect to break between 7 and 9                                                  | Spring 2027<br>Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract                                                      |
|  |   | X | Between management compartment 7 and 8, North through compartment 8 to Cricket Pitch, West to Littleford Lane emergency vehicle access point |                                                                                                                                |
|  |   | X | Through management compartment 2                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                |
|  | X |   | Join new emergency vehicle access gate, running North West through management compartment 3 to join existing in management compartment 2     | Spring 2028<br>Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract                                                      |
|  | x |   | Join new emergency vehicle access gate off Sample Oak Lane,                                                                                  | Spring 2028                                                                                                                    |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|            |   |  |                                                                                                             |                                                                           |
|------------|---|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            |   |  | running North West through management compartment 1 to join existing emergency access gate off access track | Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract                |
| Fuel break | x |  | North East of compartment 14 between WBC managed land and National Trust managed land                       | Spring 2028<br>Subsequently added to the annual firebreak mowing contract |
|            |   |  |                                                                                                             |                                                                           |
|            |   |  |                                                                                                             |                                                                           |
| Fire belt  |   |  |                                                                                                             |                                                                           |
|            |   |  |                                                                                                             |                                                                           |
|            |   |  |                                                                                                             |                                                                           |

### *Planning for people*

Table 15 – Planning for people

| Who                | Description                                                | Location/s                                         | Implementation and timescale                                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ranger team        | Install permanent and seasonal 'Wildfire risk' signs       | At main entrances to the site and across the site. | Summer 2026<br>Check signs are still in place quarterly                   |
|                    | Litter pick                                                | Main car parks and across the site                 | Monthly or when time allows                                               |
|                    | Patrol site                                                | Across the site                                    | When time allows                                                          |
| Residents          | Be part of the Fire wise community                         |                                                    | Awareness of wildfire risk and wildfire prevention within their property  |
| Emergency services | WBC coordinate with SFRS regarding any updates or concerns | Across the site                                    | When relevant                                                             |
|                    | Clearly marked emergency vehicle access points             | Across the site                                    | Check emergency vehicle access points in Winter to be prepared for Spring |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|                                |                                                                          |  |                                               |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Applied resilience</b>      | Ensure up to date contact details                                        |  | When relevant and at start of wildfire season |
| <b>Communications team WBC</b> | Update in event of a wildfire                                            |  | When relevant                                 |
|                                | Provide information for a social media post regarding Wildfire awareness |  | Spring and Summer                             |

### *Planning for an incident response*

**Table 16 – Planning for incident response**

| <b>Factors</b>                             | <b>Location/s</b>                                  | <b>Implementation and timescale</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Access onto site</b>                    | See Appendix E.                                    | 2 years                             |
| <b>Appropriate access through the site</b> | Along connected network of fire breaks/fuel breaks | 1 year                              |
| <b>Planned response with SFRS</b>          |                                                    | 6 months                            |
| <b>Access to fire hydrants</b>             |                                                    | 6 months                            |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

### IMPLEMENTATION

Table 17 – Implementation of wildfire management plan

| Date                         | Sub-Compartment or Compartment | Operation, Incident or Land Use Change                                      | Wildfire Management Zone |    |    |   | Comments                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|----|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              |                                |                                                                             | A                        | B  | C  | D |                                                                                                                                                      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 | Management compartment 14      | Wildfire incident covering 2.5ha, originating on neighbouring adjacent land |                          |    |    |   | Monitor vegetation regrowth.                                                                                                                         |
|                              | Management compartment 14      | Wildfire incident covering 2.5ha, originating on neighbouring adjacent land |                          | B4 |    |   | 20m vegetation management around WWII memorial to maintain low growth                                                                                |
|                              | Management compartment 14      | Fuel break creation                                                         |                          |    |    |   | Creation of a 10m wide fuel break between WBC managed land and adjacent National Trust managed land                                                  |
|                              | Across site                    | Maintaining existing firebreak network                                      | A4                       |    | C1 |   | Firebreaks maintained through annual mowing to a width of no less than 3x height of path side vegetation.                                            |
|                              | Across site                    | Connection of existing firebreak network                                    |                          |    | C1 |   | Connecting existing firebreak network to allow vehicular access and control measures at strategic points.                                            |
|                              | Across site                    | Firebreak widening                                                          | A4                       |    | C1 |   | Removal of path side vegetation to a width of no less than 3x height of path side vegetation<br>Removal of islands of vegetation in middle of tracks |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |                                |                                                                                                 |            |                |    |    |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Across site                    | Maintenance of vehicular access gates                                                           | A1, A2, A3 |                |    |    | Clearance of overhanging vegetation to allow vehicle access onto site                                                                                                   |
|  | Management compartment 14      | Creation of new firebreak through high risk woodlands South East of access track to Aston House | A9         |                |    |    | Creation of an 8m wide firebreak on South East of access track to Aston House                                                                                           |
|  | Management compartment 14      | Creation of new vehicular access point off Sample Oak lane                                      |            |                |    |    | New vehicle gate and access track off Sample Oak lane                                                                                                                   |
|  | Management compartment 3 and 2 | Creation of new vehicular access point off Littleford Lane                                      |            |                |    |    | New vehicle gate and access track off Littleford Lane onto Derry's Hill.                                                                                                |
|  | Management compartment 6 and 5 | Creation of new firebreak to surround high priority reptile habitat                             |            |                |    | D1 | New firebreak following footpath between compartment 5 and 6 to connect to existing firebreak network for wildfire preparedness prioritising high value reptile habitat |
|  | Across site                    | Buffer zone clearance                                                                           |            | B1, B2, B3, B4 |    |    | Remove deadwood and brash from understory                                                                                                                               |
|  | Across site                    | Heather mowing                                                                                  |            |                | C1 |    | Manage the fuel load through mowing 2% of heather blocks per year in sinuous strips.                                                                                    |
|  | Across site                    | Bare ground creation and maintenance                                                            |            |                | C1 |    | Manage the fuel load via bare ground creation and maintenance                                                                                                           |
|  | Across site                    | Scrub and Gorse control                                                                         |            |                | C1 |    | Manage the fuel load via large blocks of Gorse being broken up to provide                                                                                               |

## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

|  |             |                                   |  |  |    |  |                                                                                                                                |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|----|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |             |                                   |  |  |    |  | smaller patches of Gorse within heathland blocks, away from paths and compartment boundaries                                   |
|  | Across site | Thinning Conifer blocks           |  |  | C1 |  | Manage the fuel load via thinning conifer blocks in line with the existing Woodland Management Plan.                           |
|  | Across site | Thinning of mixed woodland blocks |  |  | C1 |  | Manage the fuel load via thinning of conifer within mixed woodland blocks, in line with the existing Woodland Management Plan. |

Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

MONITORING

Table 18 – Monitoring of the wildfire management plan

| Date of Monitoring | Undertaken by | Findings against Critical Success Factors in Wildfire Management Objective | Actions |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|                    |               |                                                                            |         |
|                    |               |                                                                            |         |
|                    |               |                                                                            |         |
|                    |               |                                                                            |         |
|                    |               |                                                                            |         |
|                    |               |                                                                            |         |
|                    |               |                                                                            |         |

Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

REVIEW

Table 19 – Reviewing the Wildfire Management Plan

| Review Date | Undertaken by | Performance of Critical Success Factors | Changes undertaken |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
|             |               |                                         |                    |
|             |               |                                         |                    |
|             |               |                                         |                    |
|             |               |                                         |                    |
|             |               |                                         |                    |
|             |               |                                         |                    |
|             |               |                                         |                    |

# Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

## APPENDIX A – SURVEY: WILDFIRE LIKELIHOOD, SEVERITY AND RISK MATRIX

### Likelihood of the hazard

| Scale | Likelihood    | Chance | Description                                       |
|-------|---------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Very unlikely | 0-20   | Event may occur only in exceptional circumstances |
| 2     | Unlikely      | 21-40  | Event could occur at some time                    |
| 3     | Moderate      | 41-60  | Event will occur at some time                     |
| 4     | Likely        | 61-80  | Event could occur in most circumstances           |
| 5     | Very likely   | 81-100 | Event will occur in most circumstances            |

### Severity of the hazard

| Scale | Likelihood | Chance | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------|------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Negligible | 0.005  | <b>Life:</b> Minor local first aid treatment (e.g. minor cuts/abrasions).<br><b>Property/business:</b> No financial loss or damage.<br><b>Environment:</b> Minor damage; habitats and species will recover in less than a year.           |
| 2     | Minor      | 0.05   | <b>Life:</b> Injury requiring first aid treatment.<br><b>Property/business:</b> Minor financial losses (up to 1% of profit), disruption or damage.<br><b>Environment:</b> Minor damage; habitats and species will recover in 1–5 years.   |
| 3     | Serious    | 0.5    | <b>Life:</b> Medical treatment required.<br><b>Property/business:</b> Serious financial losses (up to 5% of profit), disruption or damage.<br><b>Environment:</b> Serious damage; habitats and species will recover in 5–10 years.        |
| 4     | Major      | 5      | <b>Life:</b> Permanent or life-changing injuries.<br><b>Property/business:</b> Major financial losses (up to 10% of profit), disruption or damage.<br><b>Environment:</b> Major damage; habitats and species will recover in 10–20 years. |
| 5     | Fatalities | 50     | <b>Life:</b> Single or multiple deaths.<br><b>Property/business:</b> Destruction of the property (total loss) or business.<br><b>Environment:</b> Irreversible impact on habitats or species.                                             |

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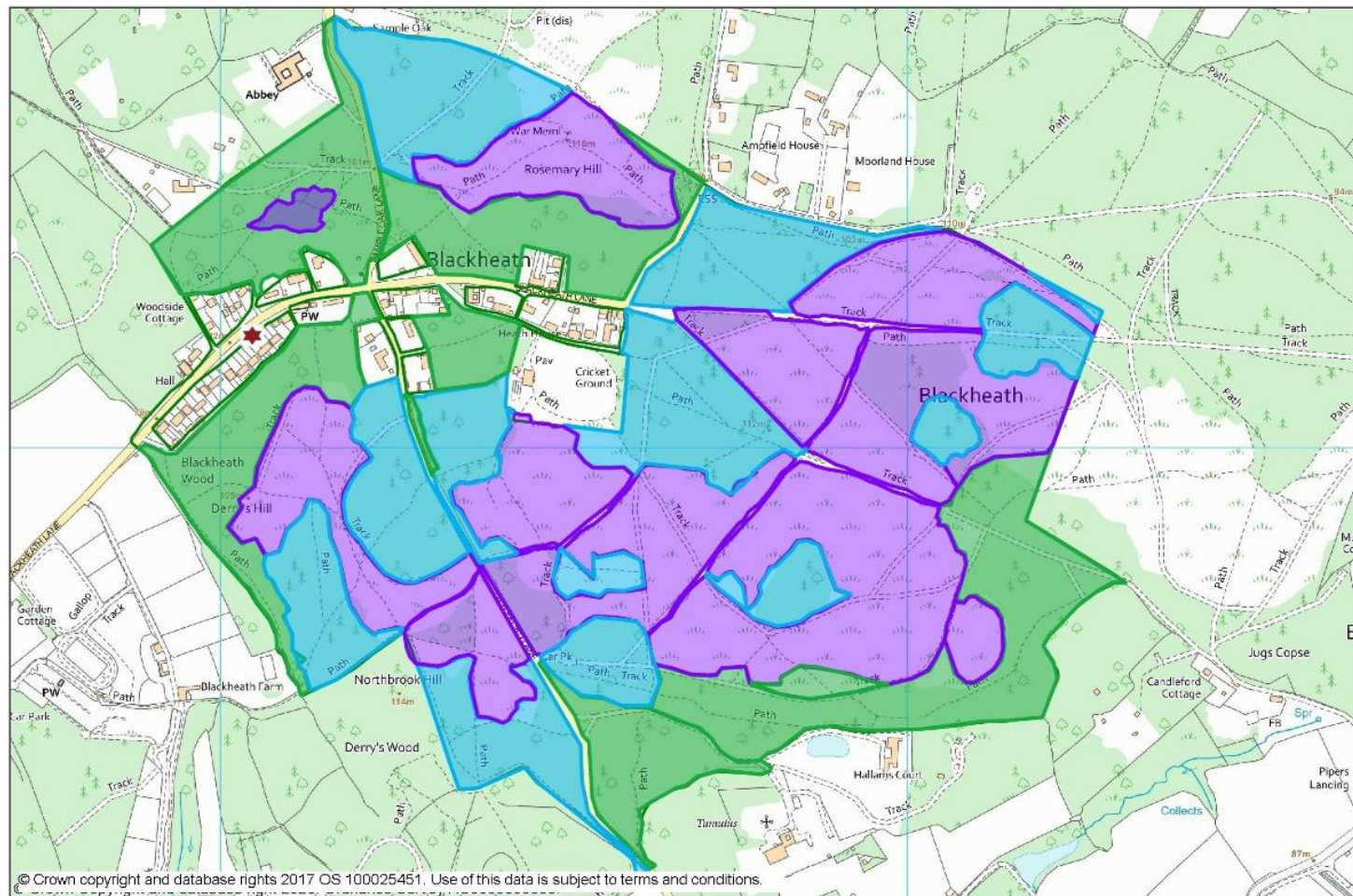
### Risk matrix

|          |   | Likelihood |    |    |    |    | Risk Rating                    |
|----------|---|------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------------------|
|          |   | 1          | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |                                |
| Severity | 1 | 1          | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 1-5 Low Risk Rating            |
|          | 2 | 2          | 4  | 6  | 8  | 10 | 6-10 Moderate Risk Rating      |
|          | 3 | 3          | 6  | 9  | 12 | 15 | 12-16 High Risk Rating         |
|          | 4 | 4          | 8  | 12 | 16 | 20 | 20-25 Unacceptable Risk Rating |
|          | 5 | 5          | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |                                |

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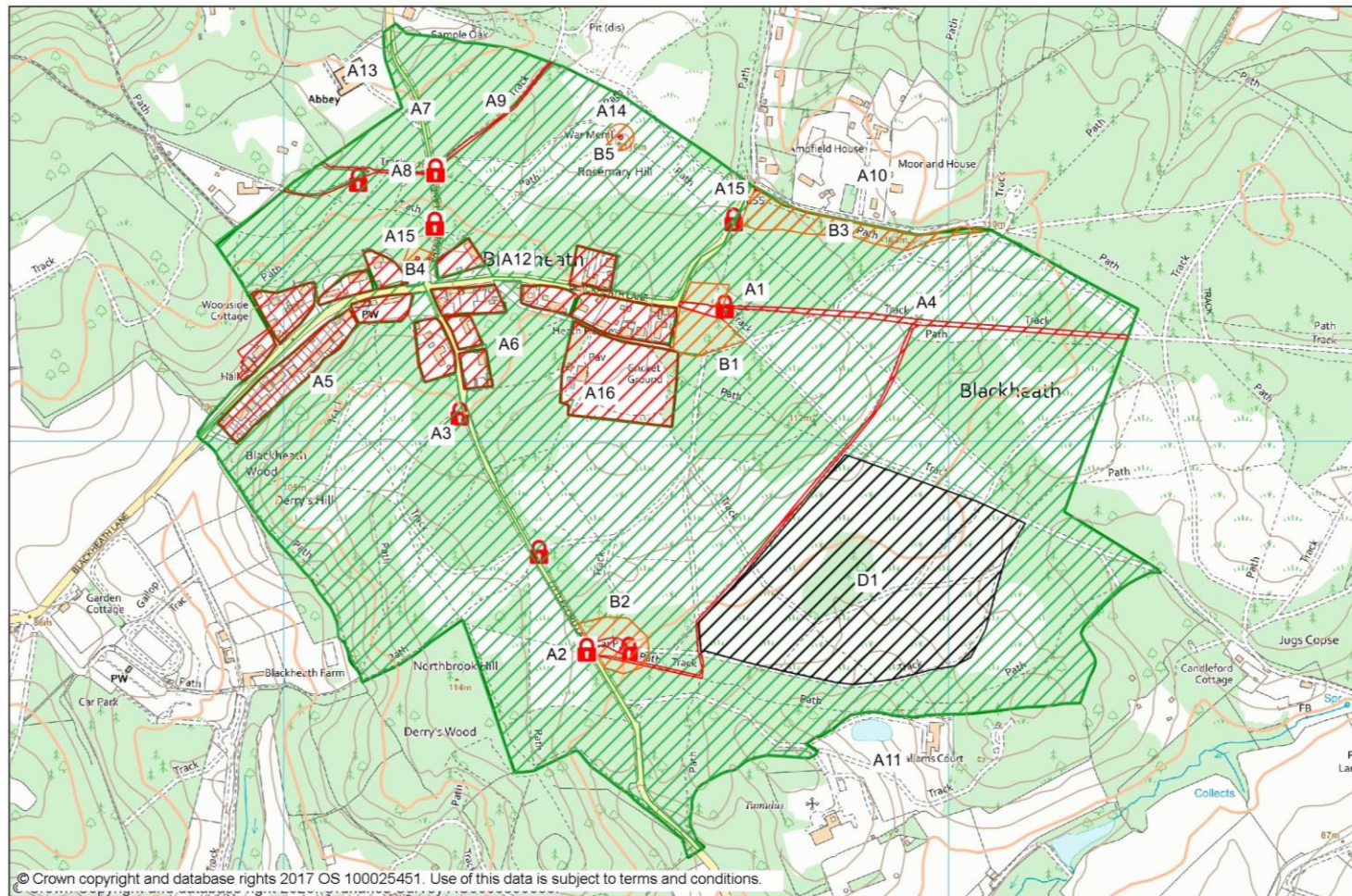
### APPENDIX B – SURVEY: MAP OF VEGETATION FUEL & HIGH/LOW RISK AREAS

Purple – Heathland (High risk); Blue – Conifer (High risk); Green – Mixed (Low risk)



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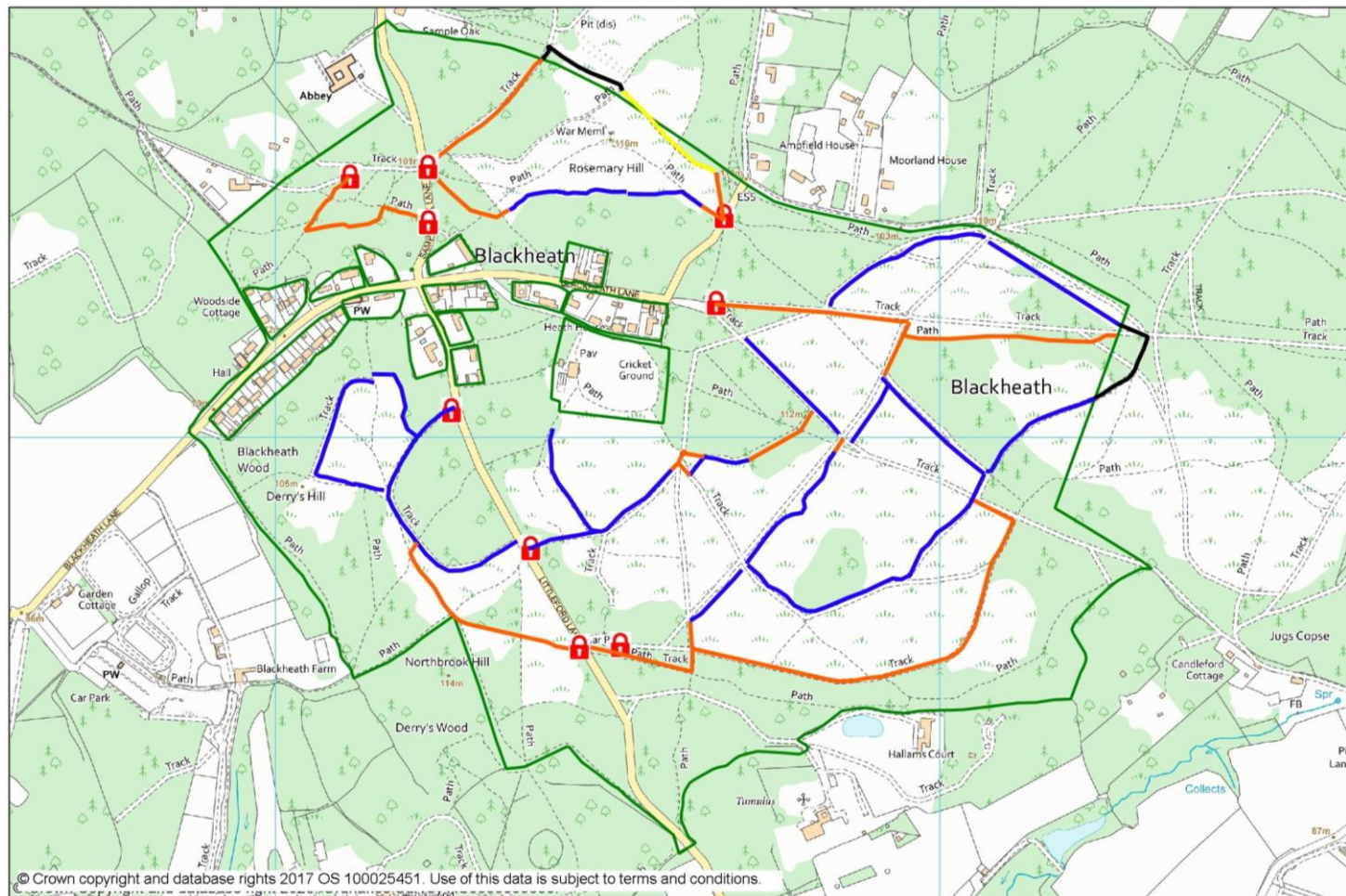
### APPENDIX C – SURVEY: MAP OF WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ZONES



## Blackheath Common SSSI Wildfire Management Plan

### APPENDIX D – PLANNED WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

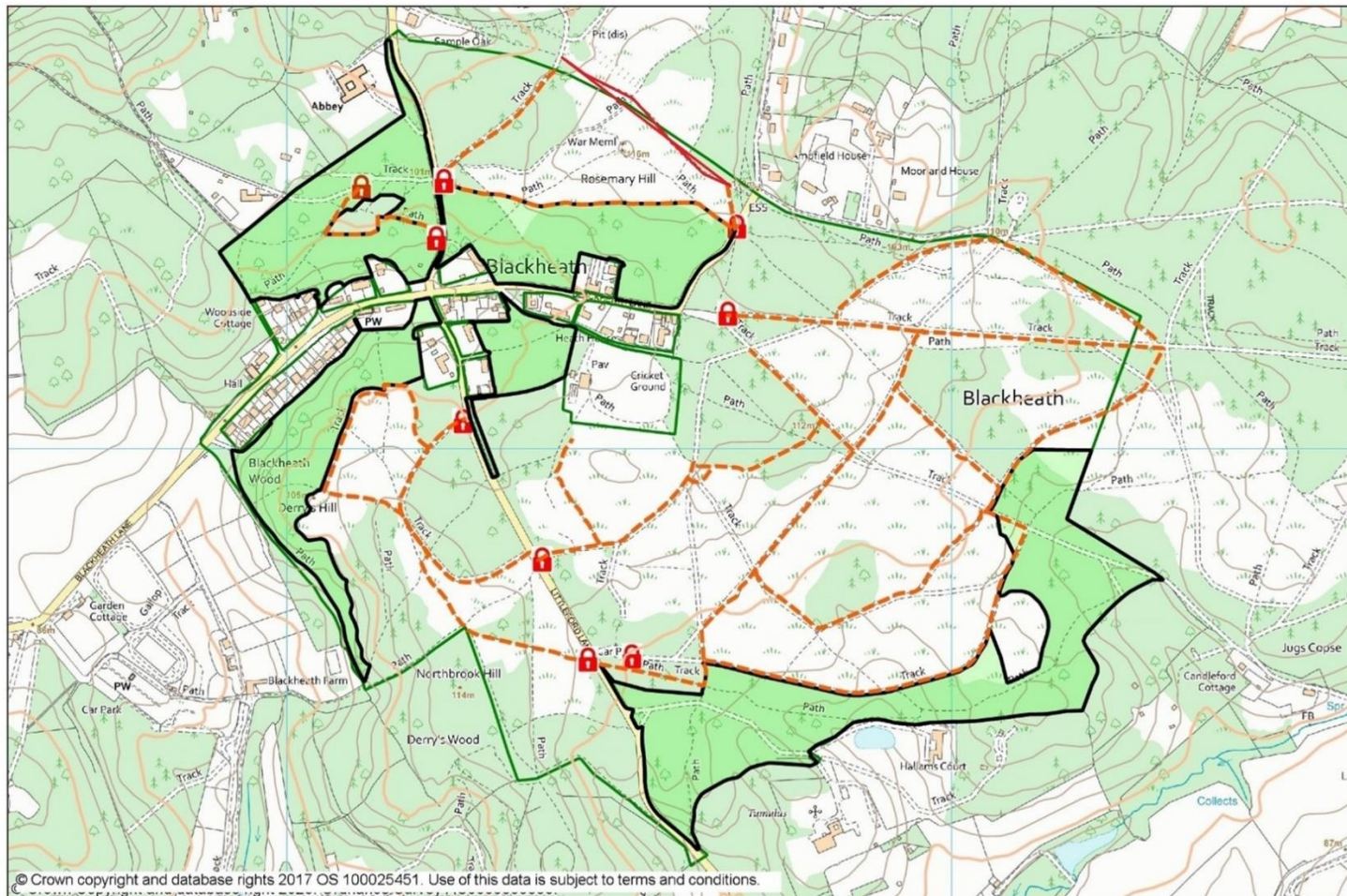
Green – Site boundary; Blue – Existing firebreaks; Orange – New firebreaks; Yellow – New Fuel break; Black – Proposed fire breaks on neighbouring land manager's land; Padlocks – Existing and proposed emergency access gate



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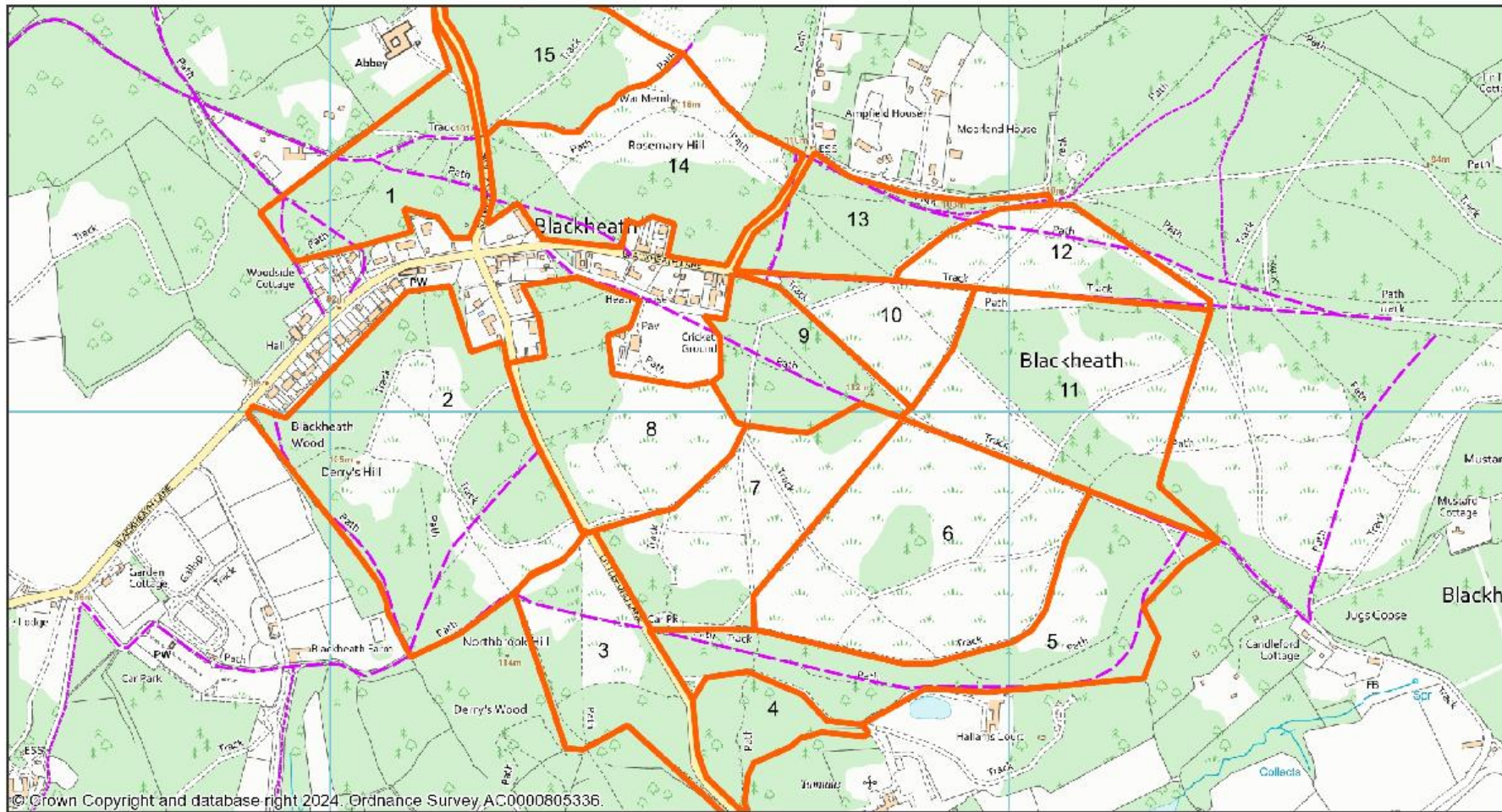
### APPENDIX E – WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

Green – Green Belts; Orange – Firebreaks; Padlock – Emergency access gate



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### APPENDIX F – MANAGEMENT COMPARTMENTS



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## APPENDIX G – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Wildfire** – Any uncontrolled vegetation fire which requires a decision or action regarding suppression.
- **Wildfire Management Zone (WMZ)** – Method of zoning sites according to the level of wildfire resilience required. Determined by proportionate use of prevention measures determined by location of assets and priority protection areas.
- **Asset Zone** – WMZ to protect human life and important assets and infrastructure.
- **Buffer Zone** – WMZ to create a buffer around an asset zone. The focus is on the use of wildfire preventative measures.
- **Low Risk Zone** – WMZ that has been identified as low to medium risk area, where normal land management activities can take place.
- **Fire Exclusion Zone** – WMZ to protect vulnerable habitats and species. Denotes areas not suitable for emergency control measures/ sacrificial burn.
- **Greenbelt Woodland** – Low fire risk woodland, considered to act as a buffer in wildfire event.
- **Fire Break** – Linear gaps in vegetation to split up areas of continuous fuel, slowing the spread of wildfire and allowing access for fire and rescue suppression.
- **Fuel Break** – Linear gaps in vegetation where surface litter and organic material is also removed, leaving bare ground. This splits up areas of continuous fuel, slowing the spread of wildfire and allowing access for fire and rescue suppression.
- **Fire Belt** – Strips of woodland composed of fire-resistant tree species, intended to prevent or reduce the spread of surface and crown fires. These may be established to separate more flammable trees in woodlands, or in open habitats to break up continuous shrub and grass fuels.
- **Ladder Fuels** - Live or dead vegetation that creates vertical continuity between the ground and higher canopy levels. This spatial arrangement allows a manageable surface fire to climb upward.
- **LACES** – Refers to an acronym for fire service's safe system of working. Lookouts, Awareness, Communications, Escape routes, Safety zones.
- **Firewise Community** - The focus is on ensuring that nearby properties take all reasonable and proportionate preventative measures that are within their control.

### APPENDIX H – SFRS WILDFIRE PREPARED LEAFLET

#### IN THE EVENT OF A WILDFIRE AND WHEN ACTION IS NEEDED

##### KEEP SAFE

Call 999 and ask for the Fire Service, giving location and nearest access point

- Pack your essentials into a bag or box
- Do not tackle the fire yourself
- Do not expose yourself to smoke
- Follow the advice and guidance from the emergency services or local authority
- If in doubt — GET OUT!

Consider creating an evacuation plan. Make a list of essentials each family member would need. These may include;

|           |              |            |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Valuables | Passport     | Medication |
| Money     | Mobile phone | Clothing   |
| Food      | Keys         | Pets       |

Photograph important documents and passports (including policy numbers) and note important phone numbers. Keep the list handy and make sure everyone knows where it is.

The best way to prevent damage to your home due to wildfire is to reduce or remove areas of high fuel close to your home that could feed a wildfire. Check for dense areas of vegetation, hedges, timber fences, sheds, dry undergrowth etc. that will allow a fire to spread from open space and into your garden and to your home.

#### WHAT IS WILDFIRE PREPARED?

Wildfire Prepared is an initiative which aims to encourage individuals and the wider community to assess, take action and maintain their preparedness for a wildfire event in their locality. It looks to empower neighbours and communities to build a community spirit, resolve and willingness to take responsibility and work together to reduce their risk from wildfire.

Wildfire Prepared takes its principle messages from a long established communities programme run in the USA called Firewise.

By taking action and being prepared, you can greatly reduce the risk to your family, property and the local community.

If you think you and your community would benefit from being Wildfire Prepared please contact Surrey Fire and Rescue's Wildfire and Rural Affairs team for further information.



[SFRS.WILDFIRE@SURREYCC.GOV.UK](mailto:SFRS.WILDFIRE@SURREYCC.GOV.UK)

#BEWILDFIREAWARE



#### WILDFIRE PREPARED

How to prepare and protect  
your home from wildfire



In partnership with NFPA & Firewise USA

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### HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

SIMPLE STEPS FROM THE ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

- ⇒ Prevent embers from entering your roof space by repairing/replacing loose or broken tiles
- ⇒ Identify ember traps around your home—places where dead leaves collect naturally (gutters/roof valleys). Clear regularly
- ⇒ Identify any gaps in soffits/cladding around the roof area and screen using wire mesh to retain ventilation and prevent embers getting in. Advice must be sought if bats are present.
- ⇒ Move any flammable material away from external house walls. Leaves, compost heaps, log piles etc.
- ⇒ Ensure your house name/number is clearly visible from the road
- ⇒ Avoid parking on or near any fire hydrants



| Immediate Zone 0 to 5 feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Intermediate Zone 5 to 30 feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Extended Zone 30 to 100 feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The home and the area up to 5 feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home. This area is defined as a non-combustible area. This is the most important zone to take immediate action on as it is the most vulnerable to embers. Start with the house itself to identify gaps in cladding or missing tiles where embers could enter. Move flammable materials out of this area. | The area 5 - 30 feet from the furthest exterior point of the home. Trim back shrubs or trees that are close to or touching the house. Consider removing any plants which contain oil or resin alternatively, plant in movable pots. During hot spells ensure the garden is regularly maintained. Use caution when having BBQ's or bon-fires in this area. | The area 30-100 feet out from home. The focus in this zone is on landscaping. The goal is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt the fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.<br><br>If the property backs onto or is close to open space, the land manager should be responsible for managing the risk to that land. |

## APPENDIX I – SFRS RESPONSE TO INITIAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

### **Firewise Communities:**

As part of being a Firewise Community, the emphasis is on ensuring that nearby properties take all reasonable and proportionate preventative measures that are within their control. For concerns relating to individual residential properties, residents should be directed to the *Wildfire Preparedness Leaflet*, which I have attached. Physical copies were previously provided to Patricia and, should additional copies be required, please let me know as these can be made available for distribution via local noticeboards and other community channels.

Unfortunately, SFRS do not have the ability to undertake visits to individual properties or provide property specific wildfire risk assessments, as requested within some of the consultation feedback. For any concerns or enquiries relating to fire safety in the home, please refer to the following link for more information on our safe and well home safety visits- [Surrey Fire and Rescue service - Safe and well checks for your home - Surrey County Council](#). Should a crew attend, further support relating to wildfires could be offered at this time.

Waverley Borough Council have confirmed that beaters will not be purchased, a decision which SFRS fully supports. The suitability of beaters depends on several factors, including fire type, fire behaviour, weather conditions, and the training and experience of those using them. If used incorrectly, beaters can exacerbate fire spread and place individuals at increased risk. Avoiding unnecessary risk to members of the public remains a key priority.

At this time, I do not consider it necessary for local residents, despite their willingness to assist, to undertake responsibilities comparable to those of trained firefighters. During an incident, the most effective support residents can provide is to follow official safety advice, remain informed through SFRS communications, and monitor incident updates shared through our social media channels. Should local stakeholders wish to explore additional community communication methods to support information sharing, this could be considered independently; however, SFRS would not be responsible for establishing or managing such arrangements. We have also produced *After a Wildfire* guidance, which provides information and support for those affected by incidents occurring in close proximity to their homes.

### **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Resourcing:**

SFRS is well equipped to respond to wildfire incidents. Where necessary, we can request support from neighbouring fire and rescue services, such as Berkshire and Hampshire, which is standard practice during larger or more complex incidents. This can also include the use of

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cross-border resources, including water supplies where appropriate. Our Control Room will continue to make informed decisions regarding the resources mobilised to incidents while balancing operational demand across Surrey and neighbouring counties.

## **Collaboration:**

SFRS and Waverley Borough Council maintain a close working relationship throughout the year, not solely during periods of heightened wildfire risk. Relevant contact details are regularly shared to ensure the appropriate ranger or land manager can be notified of any incidents. Site-specific maps have also been produced and shared with land managers, identifying access points, known hazards, suitable vehicle tracks, and other operationally relevant information to support an effective emergency response.

## **Firebreaks:**

The perceived lack of firebreaks has been raised on several occasions throughout the consultation feedback. In response, I would refer to the wildfire incident at Blackheath last year, where existing firebreaks successfully compartmentalised the fire, enabling crews to suppress and contain the incident more effectively. The management plan developed for the site has carefully considered nearby residential properties and incorporates measures intended to reduce risk whilst balancing broader land management objectives.

In addition, all accessible tracks across the site have been identified and mapped for operational use. An increased network of firebreaks not only assists in slowing and containing fire spread, but can also improve access across the site for firefighting resources, allowing crews to reach affected areas more effectively and implement firefighting tactics safely and efficiently. Additional access gates identified in the plan have been noted from an SFRS perspective, and operational crews will be made aware of these when installed. Ensuring that appropriate contacts are maintained and that crews have access to the necessary keys and access arrangements remains a vital aspect of our ongoing partnership working.

Any proposed wildfire mitigation works must be balanced against available funding, operational capacity, environmental considerations, conservation requirements, and the needs of the land itself. These measures require a collaborative approach between all relevant stakeholders. It is also important to recognise that firebreaks are only effective if they are properly maintained over time, which carries ongoing resource implications.

## **Community Safety and education :**

Our Education Teams regularly visit schools across all key stages to promote fire safety, including wildfire awareness during periods when this messaging is most relevant and impactful. Alongside this, targeted social media campaigns can be directed towards specific

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communities, particularly around key seasonal risk periods. Examples include awareness campaigns surrounding campfires, outdoor activities, and other common ignition sources.

Waverley Borough Council have recently installed wildfire awareness signage within site car parks to highlight key risks and safety messages. These signs may be removed or replaced at certain times of the year to ensure that the information remains relevant and proportionate to seasonal conditions.

## **Informing of incidents:**

During significant incidents, updates are also shared through our social media channels, enabling partners, stakeholders, and local groups to further disseminate important information. Following the incidents experienced at Blackheath last year, SFRS has engaged with a number of parish councils and has provided guidance on community resilience planning, including the development of local emergency plans and emergency hub arrangements. Should the evacuation of an area become necessary, this would be undertaken in collaboration with Surrey Police and other partner agencies through established multi-agency emergency response procedures and would align with any relevant community emergency plans already in place.

## **Reducing the risk:**

Residents are reminded not to dispose of garden waste by throwing it over fences into adjacent open areas. This is particularly important where a firebreak has been established nearby. Firebreaks are created to reduce the risk of fire spread by removing combustible vegetation and other fuels from the area. By depositing garden waste into these locations, residents are effectively reintroducing fuel into the firebreak, undermining its purpose and increasing the potential fire risk. Garden waste such as grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, branches, and other vegetation can dry out and become highly combustible, providing a source of fuel that may assist the ignition and spread of fire. Residents are therefore encouraged to dispose of garden waste responsibly through appropriate garden waste collection services, composting, or designated disposal facilities. Overall, maintaining clear firebreaks is an important part of protecting local communities, property, wildlife, and open spaces from the risk of fire

## **Clearance burnings:**

Should any controlled burning associated with site clearance or vegetation management take place, land managers and contractors are strongly encouraged to notify our Control Room in advance with relevant details. Individuals undertaking such work should remain on site at all times whilst burning activities are taking place and should never leave fires unattended. Comprehensive risk assessments should be undertaken beforehand, with careful consideration given to weather conditions, ground fuel conditions, available

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resources, and the timing of the activity to ensure it can be conducted safely and responsibly.

### **Going forward:**

SFRS will continue to work closely with Waverley Borough Council and other key stakeholders in relation to Blackheath and remains fully engaged with the ongoing management plan works. The management plan has been shared with SFRS from the outset, and regular site visits, discussions, consultation, and ongoing engagement have continued throughout its development and implementation.

Following significant wildfire incidents across the UK this year, together with government alerts and temporary restrictions of disposable bbqs, fire and rescue services nationwide will continue to review opportunities to strengthen wildfire resilience and prevention measures. Whilst the enforcement of any restrictions or bans does not fall within the remit of SFRS, initiatives which help reduce the likelihood of wildfires are welcomed and supported.