

HOGMOOR INCLOSURE Q&A



Q1) Are the trees and vegetation being removed to make way for the new road?

Works within the Hogmoor Inclosure are being carried out as part of the creation of the proposed Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). The trees being removed are predominantly plantation pine, a tree that is dark and acidic and has very little wildlife value. The area is being opened up to restore the habitats that previously existed on Hogmoor with the focus on re-establishing an important habitat for the area, heathland. On a global scale, Lowland heathland is rarer than Rainforest and this will benefit the range of species, including reptiles, invertebrates such as solitary bees, wasps and birds. Once the clearance works have been completed the ground will then be prepared for the introduction of additional heather seed and brash. There is an element of tree removal to make way for the relief road, but this is primarily taking place alongside the old railway line. Works will shortly start on the relief road which is being carried out by Hampshire County Council. Once completed there will be a safe crossing below the road for wildlife and replanting along the bank will commence.

Q2) Why does the land need to be changed at all?

The area was identified by EHDC at the earliest stage of the project as being ideally suited to provide the role of a SANG to mitigate the impact of development and reduce pressure on other areas of amenity space.

Q3) Why is the felling being carried out now?

In order to minimise disturbance to nesting birds the works are being carried out over the winter to avoid the peak bird nesting season.

Q4) Is anything being done to replace the lost plant life?

Foraging and commuting habitat for a range of wildlife will be enhanced through heathland restoration, creation of rough grassland and provision of scalloped woodland rides and glades. Planting of native fruit and flower bearing species is also proposed to increase botanical diversity and as a foraging resource for invertebrates and other fauna.

The SANG has been designed to be a naturalistic space with a variety of semi-natural habitats. Visual screening by established woodlands and new planting will give the interior of the SANG an enclosed, tranquil character. Tree planting will be undertaken within the SANG in order to provide vegetative screening at the SANG's northern and eastern boundaries, and to diversify the predominantly coniferous character of Hogmoor Inclosure with additional native broadleaf elements. To promote the successful establishment of new wooded habitat, and its consistency with the broader landscape, species selection will be informed by the composition of existing semi-natural scrub and woodland within the site and its vicinity, and will consequently favour base-poor lowland woodland associates, with a fringe of bushy ericaceous shrubs.

Please contact the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company office.
Speak to Naomi or Jemma on **01420 489060** or email
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Q5) What is the size of the area affected by the works?

The Hogmoor Inclosure totals 54.61 hectares which is formed predominantly of coniferous species (notably Scots Pine, with occasional Silver Birch and Oak) open areas and sandy tracks. The area affected by the works is approximately 4.5 hectares.

Q6) How is the wildlife being taken care of?

We have been working closely with ecologists to ensure the animal wildlife is protected at all stages and that provisions are put in place for their future wellbeing on the Inclosure. This has involved everything from the temporary rehousing of certain species, to a carefully timed construction timetable to fit in with bird nesting seasons and the inclusion of underground crossings below the new road. For full details please see the EPR signs around the site.

Q7) What other works will be happening within Hogmoor Inclosure?

In addition to habitat creation and improvement works for wildlife, over the next few years a range of features such as interpretation boards, way markers, benches and dog waste bins will be installed. A natural play area will also be provided.

Q8) Is it still safe to walk my dog on the footpaths?

Yes, areas of works will be marked out and warning signs erected to warn the public of harvesting operations within the site. We do suggest that owners keep close control of their dogs during the works.

Q9) Can we still use the Inclosure whilst the works are going on?

The works are confined to relatively small areas within the Hogmoor Inclosure and whilst these areas will be closed the majority of the area will remain open. Due to the dangerous nature of operating large machinery, we would ask those using the Inclosure to avoid using paths that have been temporarily closed.

Q10) How will fly-tipping be dealt with?

The management company will ensure that fly-tipping is appropriately controlled, with the warden implementing any actions. The District Council has a strict policy on littering and may hand out heavy fines to offenders.

Q11) Who will be able to make use of the Inclosure once it is completed?

One of the main objectives of the SANG is to encourage the public to use the Inclosure and enjoy the natural environment. We will be providing a range of features such as benches, waymarkers, interpretation panels and dog waste bins. See attached plan.

Q12) Will Hogmoor Inclosure be managed?

Yes, Hogmoor Inclosure will be managed to ensure the current habitats maintain their ecological value and the new habitats will develop into valuable resources for wildlife.

Q13) How will you keep the site secure during the works?

Through appropriately positioned and constructed working area demarcation fencing, supplemented with signage.

Q14) Who is consulting/advising on this project?

Ecology – EPR Ecology Specialists. Trees – Fabrik. Heathland creation and recreation facilities – Fabrik.

Q15) What is the timeline for the works?

Tree felling and root grubbing will be complete by end of May 2016; SANG creation works will be well advanced by late 2017.

Q16) Who to contact if you have any other queries?

Please contact Naomi or Jemma of WBRC on the details below.

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