

**APPENDIX 5**

**MONITORING THE IMPACT OF FARNHAM PARK AS A SANG**

Footprint Ecology were asked by Waverley Countryside to advise on the sort of monitoring that could be carried out in order:-

- 1) To confirm that the SANG is effective, and
- 2) That existing wildlife interest is being maintained if visitor numbers increase.

Monitoring will assist in identifying trends and changes in visitor use and its impacts. Initial surveys will establish a baseline, however it will take some years before trends can be identified.

Monitoring in Farnham Park will be complemented by the wider SPA/SANG monitoring that will be carried out by the Natural England's, Access Management and Monitoring Project to be set up in 2009.

Monitoring Recommendations	Assessment	Action to be implemented	Timescale
<p><b>Monitoring visitor numbers and trends</b></p> <p>Continuous counting at 4/5 points to measure trends in visitor numbers using remote sensors.</p>	<p>Sensors must be located at access points where path narrows to ensure visitors pass over the remote sensor. Counts will identify changes in visitor use &amp; trends, they do not provide total numbers of visitors – They will be used in conjunction with user profile data from the visitor surveys.</p>	<p>Trail counters installed &amp; visitor use monitored .</p>	<p>Summer 09 and ongoing</p>

<p><b>Car park counts</b></p> <p>Monitor (4/6 times a year) the trend in the use of cars, car park capacity. Also opportunity to observe ratio of dogs to users.</p>	<p>Counts will give an indication of car park use &amp; capacity. Only one car park gives direct access to the SANG, others serve more than one use. Target at periods of high use &amp; sensitivity (bird nesting season on SPA). Observations of dogs per person will only relate to those coming by car (31%).</p>	<p>Ad-hoc counts in the car parks are already taking place. Supplement with some targeted counts &amp; observations. Use volunteers and staff.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Visitor Surveys</b></p> <p>To identify where visitors come from, how they arrive, why do they come &amp; how often, how long do they stay, how often they visit &amp; where they go.</p>	<p>Provides a baseline to measure trends &amp; visitor profile. Cannot accurately provide figures for total number of users. Raw data can be further analysed if required &amp; survey can be extended to answer specific management issues.</p>	<p>Visitor survey carried out in May 2007 using Natural England methodology to provide baseline &amp; repeated in May/June 2009.</p>	<p>Repeat survey in 2014 &amp; at 5 yearly intervals.</p>
<p><b>Household surveys</b></p> <p>To identify where people go within the Thames Basin Heaths area &amp; what proportion visit SPA, SANG &amp;</p>	<p>Postal survey across the Thames basin Heaths to be carried out by the Natural England's Access</p>	<p>It is not recommended that Waverley carry out a separate survey. Liaise with Access Management &amp;</p>	<p>When project set up in 09/10</p>

other open spaces.	Management & Monitoring Project.	Monitoring Project staff.
<p><b>Monitoring incidents &amp; management changes</b></p> <p>Record incidents &amp; management that may affect visiting Farnham Park.</p>	<p>This will assist in explaining trends &amp; changes in visitor use &amp; the effectiveness of on-site measures.</p>	<p>Incident/event recording already taking place. Include significant management changes.</p> <p>On going</p>
<p><b>Wildlife monitoring</b></p> <p>Identify if the wildlife of Farnham Park is being affected by increasing visitor numbers.</p>	<p>The biodiversity importance of Farnham Park is its veteran trees &amp; great crested newts, which are unlikely to be affected by increased visitor use. Monitoring of scrub breeding birds is suggested. Damage to chalk grassland is not considered significant. Mown paths are used as a management tool to reduce damage to grassland biodiversity &amp; path trampling is not significant.</p>	<p>Regular monitoring of great crested newts is already carried out &amp; key ponds are fenced to stop access.</p> <p>Seek volunteers to carry out scrub breeding birds' surveys.</p> <p>On going annually</p> <p>09/10</p>

