



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

West Grinstead Old Station and Railway Carriage

MANAGEMENT PLAN

2013 – 18



***Louise Gandolfi
Sarah Quantrill***

MANAGEMENT PLAN – *West Grinstead Old Railway Station and Railway Carriage*

1: INTRODUCTION

2: POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

3: DESCRIPTION

3.1: GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1.1: Location & site boundaries

3.1.2: Land ownership/tenure

3.1.3: Legal status

3.1.4: Management/organisational infrastructure

3.1.5: Site infrastructure

3.1.6: Map coverage

3.1.7: Photographic coverage

3.2: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

3.2.1: Physical

3.2.1.1: Geology and soil

3.2.1.2: Topography

3.2.1.3: Hydrology

3.2.2: Biological

3.2.2.1: Habitats/communities

3.2.2.2: Flora

3.2.2.3: Fauna

3.2.2.4: Fungi

3.3: CULTURAL

3.3.1: Archaeology

3.3.2: Historical including past land use

3.3.3: Past management

3.3.4: Present use

3.4: PEOPLE

- 3.4.1: Stakeholders**
- 3.4.2: Access and tourism**
 - 3.4.2.1: Visitor numbers**
 - 3.4.2.2: Access to/within site**
- 3.4.3: Recreational use**
- 3.4.4: Interpretation**
- 3.4.5: Education**
- 3.4.6: Promotion**
- 3.4.7: Income**

3.5: LANDSCAPE

3.6: BIBLIOGRAPHY

4: FEATURES OF INTEREST

5: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

6: MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

7: FIVE YEAR WORK PROGRAMME

8: APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: West Grinstead Location Maps
- Appendix 2: West Grinstead boundary and Zone maps A, B and C
- Appendix 3: Carriage Pictures
- Appendix 4: West Grinstead FOI Map
- Appendix 5: West Grinstead Habitat Map
- Appendix 6: Historic Land use map. Sussex Series 1930-45
- Appendix 7: Central Low Weald Character

1. INTRODUCTION

West Grinstead Old Station and Railway Carriage in West Grinstead covers approximately 1.2 hectares and provides an enchanting resting place for those walking, cycling or riding along the Downs Link. The old platforms, signal, crane and railway carriage provide historic interest while the carriage acts as an information point on the old station, railway history, Downs Link, environment and West Sussex County Councils (WSCC) Ranger Service. A small car park provides parking for around 25 vehicles and makes the site particularly popular with dog walkers.

The site has several small scale habitats: grassland, mature trees, hedges, scrub, embankments and a pond. Individual features such as planters, blackthorn managed for brown hairstreak butterflies, old walls, dead hedges and a stag beetle loggery add to the site's attraction for wildlife. An information board and an old train carriage open on Sundays provide information on the Downs Link and events. Benches provide resting and picnic places for visitors. Bike racks are also present.

The vision for the site is to maintain and enhance the wildlife and historical value of the site, as well as encouraging its use as a car park and interpretation site adjacent to the Downs Link. The site maintains a rural and open space feel.

2. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

- Highways Act 1980 – tunnel under the A272.
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 – duty to keep clear of litter, nature conservation.
- WSCC Health and Safety Code of Practice – Railway Carriage.
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – Litter, vehicles, dog fouling (Repeals Dogs (Fouling of Land) 1996).
- Natural Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006 – Imposes a duty on local authorities to have regard for conservation of biodiversity in all their functions. This includes raising awareness of biodiversity with the public and enhancing biodiversity on local authority land.
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957 & 1984. The County Council is obliged to hold public liability insurance and has a duty to take reasonable steps to give warnings of known dangers or discouraging persons from incurring risks.
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 covers wildlife law and law relating to public rights of way.

- Dogs (Fouling of Land Act) 1996 - to make provision with respect to the fouling of land by dogs.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1: GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1.1: Location and site boundaries

Appendix 1: West Grinstead Location Map

Appendix 2: West Grinstead Boundary and Zone Maps

Situation

The site is located off the A272 in West Grinstead, approximately 1km east of the A272/A24 junction. The site is accessed via a driveway off the A272. The driveway is owned by WSCC and access is shared with the tenants of two railway cottages (also owned by WSCC) and the privately owned Station House.

The western boundary, which follows the bank along the side of the car park, is shared with private landowners, and to the east with residential properties.

Grid Reference: TQ183 226

Parish: West Grinstead

District: Horsham

3.1.2: Land ownership/tenure

The site has been owned by WSCC since 1968 and is managed by WSCC Countryside Services Management Team.

3.1.3: Legal status

There are no formal designations on the site. The Downs Link, which runs through the site, is legally designated as a public bridleway.

3.1.4: Management / organisational infrastructure

West Grinstead Old Station and Railway Carriage is owned and managed by WSCC. Day to day management is the responsibility of WSCC Countryside Rangers, supported by a valued group of volunteers. WSCC Capital and Asset Management Team have responsibility for maintenance of the car park surface and the shared driveway to the height barrier. Works deemed to be site improvements are the responsibility of WSCC Countryside Management.

3.1.5: Site infrastructure

Appendix 3: West Grinstead Carriage Photo

Appendix 4: Features of Interest Map

Historical Features

The site includes a number of old railway features including an old style signal, a crane, renewed old railway fence, gradient marker, brick walls of old sidings and platforms.

Railway Carriage

The railway carriage provides a valuable resource for visitors offering information and interpretation on the history and wildlife of the old station and the Downs Link. The carriage is opened as and when staffing or volunteer resources allow. In 2013 the sale of small scale items has been introduced as part of a trial for the further use of the site for raising income.

Signs

There is a ladder board at the entrance of the site, and also a small directional sign near Station House warning of the upcoming height barrier. Both are owned and maintained by WSCC. There is an authentic running in board on the eastern platform which adds character to the station. The site also boasts an information board with a map of the Downs Link and up to date posters on wildlife, events and important notices.

Old Railway Platform

The old brick railway platforms are valuable historical features. WSCC owns the eastern platform and associated bank, and the majority of the western platform. The remainder of the western platform and the associated bank belongs to the owners of Station House. Works to maintain the platforms include removing vegetation to prevent damage to the brickwork.

The signal on the western platform is owned and maintained by WSCC. It was donated by Dr A Campbell in 1999 and is operated using a hand lever.

Railway Fence and Level Crossing Gate

An original style wooden railway fence was installed as part of works to replicate how the site would have looked when a working railway station. An original style level crossing gate, separating the car park from the Downs Link, was hand made by one of the railway carriage volunteers and installed in 2011.

Height Barrier

A 6ft 6 inches height barrier restricts access to vehicles below this height. The height barrier is inspected regularly by the rangers and is kept visible through warning signs on the approach, high vis paint and a height sign on the barrier. Concrete posts line the entrance drive on the right as the height barrier is approached.

Car Park

The car park can contain approximately 25 cars. In 2011 repairs following a leaking water main from Number 2 Railway Cottage altered the integrity of the car park surface. The car park is rural in its nature although resurfacing would be beneficial in the near future as there are a number of potholes. The car park is surrounded by dragon's teeth and bike racks are located in one corner.

Benches

The site has 5 picnic benches, 2 rustic benches with back support, 1 habitat log pile bench with back support and 6 benches without back support. These are regularly checked and maintained by the site staff and volunteers.

3.1.6: Map coverage

Ordnance survey sheets:

1:50,000: Landranger 198 Brighton and Hove

1:25,000: Explorer 134 Crawley and Horsham

3.1.7: Photographic coverage

Aerial photographs are held at the WSCC County Records Office. Ad hoc site photos, including historical, are held by WSCC Countryside Management Team.

3.2. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

3.2.1: Physical

The site covers 1.2 ha and consists of amenity grassland, small wildflower areas, woodland edge, scrub and a pond.

3.2.1.1: Geology and soil

The site is situated in the central Low Weald, an area of mixed geology and soil types including lower greensand and weald clay. The past use of the site as a railway and associated uses will have affected the soil/substrate found on this site. Much of the substrate of this site is rubble comprising of broken bricks and concrete. The extent is unknown and evidence is only uncovered when holes are dug.

3.2.1.2: Topography

The site lies within the West Sussex Landscape Character Area – Central Low Weald. The area of the old track bed is relatively flat. Either side the site is undulating with steeper embankments on part of the eastern side.

3.2.1.3: Hydrology

There are no underground springs on site, however there is a man-made lined pond which is wet in the winter although it dries out in the summer months. The pond is fenced to prevent access by dogs and the general public.

There are original Victorian drains running from the notice board between the platforms southwards to beyond the tunnel. These are maintained as part of the Downs Link Management Plan.

A Klargester sewage treatment unit serving Station House, and 1 and 2 Railway Cottages is situated on the boundary of the south edge of the car park and the north end of the garden of number 2 Railway Cottages. Associated past and present underground tanks are present although the exact locations are unclear.

3.2.2: Biological

West Grinstead Old Station site consists of amenity grassland, small wildflower meadows, a pond and scrub. Woodland edge is also present along the edges of the Downs Link.

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) prepared a report for the West Grinstead Old Railway Station site in 2012. 10 EU protected species, 6 Red list bird species, 30 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species, 10 rare species and a number of invasive species have been recorded on site. WSCC staff and SxBRC hold the species records for the site, and all survey information for the site is sent to the SxBRC.

UK BAP species recorded on site include great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*, Brown Hairstreak Butterfly *Thecla betulae* and hedgehog *Erinaceinae*.

3.2.2.1: Habitats/communities

Appendix 5: West Grinstead Habitat Map

Pond

In April 2003 a new pond was created to replace an old pond which was not holding water. The new pond and surrounding vegetation including wildflowers, provides a valuable habitat for a variety of species including smooth *Lissotriton vulgaris*, palmate *Lissotriton helveticus* and great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* as well as dragonflies and damselflies including Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator* and Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*. Arisings from on-going pond management are placed into habitat piles at either end to provide cover for a variety of fauna.

Grassland

The site includes a variety of grassland. The majority of the site is amenity grassland which is regularly mown to provide good visitor access and an open space for picnicking.

In the middle of the site is a mound which is a relict from the infilling of the old pond using logs. The grassland on the mound is kept longer to add diversity to the grassland types around the site.

Scattered around the site are small areas of grassland managed for the benefit of wild flowers and for structural diversity. These areas are cut less frequently and benefit species such as teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* and fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*.

Woodland Edge and Scrub

Since the closure of the railway line in the 1960's native trees have self-sown on the embankment and have created a dense canopy cover where grassland would have once existed. The trees are now in competition so many of them are not good specimens and the area of open grassland has been largely lost. Some thinning and clearance has been undertaken to recreate open grassland and primroses thrive in these areas.

A number of old Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* are present on the top of the embankment near the tunnel. These are thought to have been planted but the reason why is not known.

A few silver birch *Betula pendula* are present near the old sidings and are of note as silver birch is relatively uncommon at the site and on the Downs Link.

Scrub includes Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*, and provides good cover and nesting habitat. Blackthorn is a particular feature of the site at the northern end and is managed to maintain suitable habitat for rare Brown Hairstreak butterflies.

Brown Hairstreak butterflies lay their eggs on blackthorn of 2-3 years old at a height of 1-2 metres. Eggs can also be found on new growth of mature blackthorn. To avoid removing Brown Hairstreak eggs, all blackthorn should be checked before any management is undertaken.

Gorse *Ulex europaeus* and Buddleia *Buddleja americana* are present but need to be controlled as they can be invasive.

Isolated trees

There are a number of isolated trees including Lime *Tilia*, Oak *Quercus* and Maple *Acer campestre* that were planted along the old track and throughout the site to create shade for users of the Downs Link and West Grinstead Old Station. Purple Hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus* have been recorded in the large maiden Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.

Hedges

Non-native hedge species such as Laurel *Laurus* were planted on the platform banks and tended by station staff. This is part of the railway heritage and as such should not be removed completely. Long-term management should aim to keep them under control so they resemble how they would have looked when they were 'gardened' by the railway staff.

A couple of dead hedges are situated on the site and are regularly maintained by inserting new material from arising's from site tasks.

Platforms and old siding walls

Vegetation including Ivy *Hedera helix* and occasional Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* grows up many of the walls of the platforms and provides good cover and nesting

sites for birds and small mammals. However roots growing into the mortar contribute to deterioration of the walls, ivy is annually removed from the walls in winter. Moss grows on the surface and does require removal from time to time.

Small brick walls from the old sidings are covered in scrub above the platforms. These are monitored and scrub is removed in winter if it affects the stability/safety of the walls.

Other habitats

Other smaller habitats include the compost bin, habitat pile, stag beetle loggery and raised beds. The latter provides a home for the protected great crested newt and stag beetles *Lucanidae cervus*.

3.2.2.2: Flora

Of particular significance are bee orchids *Ophrys apifera*, 2 wild service trees *Sorbus torminalis* and primroses *Primula vulgaris*. Invasive species include Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica* near one of the rustic benches and occasional ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris* across the site.

3.2.2.3: Fauna

It has been recorded that there is 10 EU protected species, 6 Red list bird species recorded, 30 BAP species and 10 rare species.

Sussex protected species recorded on site include Great Crested Newt, Slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and Grass snake *Natrix natrix*.

BAP species include Stag Beetle, Brown Hairstreak butterfly and Hedgehog

3.2.2.4: Fungi

There are no records of fungi found on site

3.3. CULTURAL

3.3.1: Archaeology

Prior to being used as a railway station no archaeological information is known about the site.

3.3.2: Historical including past land use

Appendix 6: Historic Land Use Map: Sussex Series 1930-45

West Grinstead was a railway station on the Steyning Line which served the parish of West Grinstead. It had a goods yard with a cattle loading bay and facilities for handling horse boxes. With the Crawley and Horsham hunt kennels and the National Stud based in the area, the station saw substantial horse traffic.

The station closed as a result of the Beeching Axe in 1966 and now forms part of the Downs Link bridleway. Although the main station buildings were demolished soon after closure, the station platforms have survived. The Downs Link was formerly part of the railway line from Shoreham-By-Sea to Guildford built in the 1860's. It was subsequently part of the closure of 4,000 miles of line following the Beeching Report in the 1960's.

The Downs Link was established in 1984 connecting the North and South Downs National Trails. See Downs Link Management Plan for further details.

3.3.3: Past management

The site has been owned and managed by WSCC since 1968 and maintained to provide access and enjoyment for the public while preserving its wildlife and cultural heritage. The site has been used in the past to hold community days including the popular Apple Day. In 1996 a train carriage was placed on the site to act as an information centre.

3.3.4: Present land use

West Grinstead Old Station and Railway Carriage provide a car park, info point and resting place for those walking, cycling or riding along the Downs Link. The site also acts as a useful starting point/location for events the rangers promote and run.

3.4. PEOPLE

3.4.1: Stakeholders

WSCC is the main stakeholder (Countryside Management and Capital and Asset Management.) Other key stakeholders include neighbours such as the tenants of 1 and 2 Railway Cottages, owners of Station House and the owners of The Orchard Restaurant. WSCC volunteers are also stakeholders as they have been involved in the site for many years.

For a full list of stakeholders for the Downs Link see the Downs Link Management Plan (2013-2018).

3.4.2: Access and tourism

The site is used by those passing along the Downs Link on foot, bike or horse, by dog walkers, families and railway enthusiasts. It is also used as a picnic site.

The site is one of six dedicated car parks along the West Sussex section of the Downs Link.

3.4.2.1: Visitor numbers

The Railway Carriage is staffed most Sundays during the year by volunteers. Visitor numbers to the Carriage (not the Downs Link) are recorded using a clicker. Weather conditions are usually noted and are known to impact on numbers.

Figures from April 2007 to March 2012 are shown in the table below.

Recorded Numbers (clicker) - mainly Sundays

Year	Numbers	Comments
2011/12	1,751	No Apple Day
2010/11	2,070	
2009/10	2,476	Includes 700 for Apple Day
2008/9	1,750	
2007/8	2,047	

3.4.2.2: Access to/within site

Access to the site is from the Downs Link bridleway or from the A272 passing under a height barrier (6' 6"). The car park is undulating and has several small pot holes. Resurfacing may be required in the near future.

There is fairly level access from the car park and various benches are placed around the site. The site is suitable for wheelchair users and there is easy access to the Downs Link from the car park. There is also a way marked footpath leading from the car park of The Orchard restaurant to the site.

There are no toilet facilities on site.

3.4.3: Recreational use

The site is visited by those passing along the Downs Link and as an access point to the Downs Link. Information gained through the WSCC staff and their knowledge of the site suggest the visitor demographics can be summarised as

- Regular visitors use the car park as a starting point for using the site or the Downs Link.
- Regular visitors/users of the Downs Link stop at the site to rest and visit the carriage.
- Families are regular users, doing return cycle/walk taking in/from Southwater Country Park.
- Walking groups mainly use the site on week days.
- Sponsored events including cycle and walking events, increasingly use the Downs Link, and may stop off/start at West Grinstead.

3.4.4: Interpretation

The railway carriage is a valuable resource for interpretation and information material covering wildlife, conservation, and history as well as providing information on other WSCC countryside sites. There is also a small scale model of the site on display. The materials are provided by WSCC, and maintained and updated by volunteers.

The site has a notice board that is updated regularly by the rangers. It holds information about events, nature and the site.

Ad hoc signs are used as required to highlight particular events, upcoming works or for campaigns such as clearing up after dogs.

3.4.5: Education

At the time of writing the site is not promoted for use for formal education. However informal education is provided through interpretation materials. The site is visited by and provides a base for school groups. Railway enthusiasts are frequent users of the site.

Scouts and beavers have used the site regularly and health walks are run by outside organisations from the site.

3.4.6: Promotion

Currently the promotion of the site is inclusion in the Downs Link leaflet and Route Guide (see Downs Link Management Plan for more info). Information is also available on the WSCC website and WSCC sites leaflets. The rangers promote the site through regular updates with local magazines and events run from the site.

3.4.7: Income

In 2012 a small range of items for sale such as drinks and chocolate were introduced in the Railway Carriage as a trial. The results of this will be considered as part of the WSCC Countryside Services Income Generation Plan which will include addressing issues such as feasibility, security and product range.

Donations are taken by the railway volunteers in order to help maintain the railway carriage.

3.5. LANDSCAPE

Appendix 7: Central Low Weald Character

The site lies within the West Sussex Landscape Character Area – Central Low Weald. This large Character Area is in the centre of the county stretching from Slinfold to West Grinstead. It is a mainly pastoral landscape with a well-wooded character.

3.6: BIBLIOGRAPHY

West Sussex County Council, 2013, Downs Link Management Plan, West Sussex, UK

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, 2012, Report regarding West Grinstead Railway Station, Henfield, UK

4: FEATURES OF INTEREST

Appendix 4: FOI Map

Appendix 5: Habitat Map

Pond

The pond provides a valuable habitat and supports a range of species including the legally protected great crested newt, as well as Emperor Dragonfly, Common blue damselfly, frogs and toads.

The pond can get overgrown in summer and requires regular maintenance to retain a balance of marginal vegetation and open water. The pond also dries out in summer. Surveying and monitoring of the water levels should be carried out to help determine the long-term viability of the pond, and measures required if the pond is to retain water all year round or be kept as a seasonal pond.

The pond is fenced to minimise disturbance by the general public and dogs.

Amenity grassland

The areas of amenity grassland are important for allowing good access and areas for visitors to picnic. Areas of amenity grassland are mown regularly.

Wild flower areas

These areas are managed for the benefit of grassland species and the associated wildlife this supports. Bee orchids are sporadic in appearance are noted and protected from mowing and/or picking, as required.

Woodland edge, scrub, isolated trees and hedges

The woodland edge, scrub, isolated trees and hedgerows provide a valuable habitat for a range of species. Of particular note are the areas of blackthorn that support Brown-Hairstreak Butterflies.

Ornamental species including the laurel hedge provide a visual link to the past history of the site as do the Scots pine.

Elsewhere the presence of broad-leaved self-sown trees are welcome although on the embankments selected thinning may allow more light to reach the ground and promote ground flora growth especially primroses. The maiden Ash tree is important habitat for the Purple Hairstreak Butterfly.

Railway related structures including the carriage, platforms, sign, signal, gate and crane

The site is of historical importance and significance having several interesting original railway features including old platforms. Other features have been reintroduced to the site including replica running in board on the platform, crane,

signal and authentic level crossing gate in order to create a visual interpretation of the sites past use. The old railway carriage is part of this although it is likely to require continued maintenance and investment to maintain it to as a safe, accessible feature.

Raised beds and bug barn

There are 2 raised beds and a bug barn on the site. They are valuable to wildlife such as bees, great crested newts and stag beetles that use them as a hibernaculum.

Access and informal recreation

The site provides easy access to the Downs Link through the car park. It provides a place to stop and rest and also a point of interest with the railway carriage acting as an interpretation centre.

5. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain and improve the site for wildlife.
2. To develop and promote the sites access and informal recreation opportunities for public enjoyment by maintaining safe and suitable access, making available appropriate interpretation and information, and developing the retail opportunities.
3. To conserve and maintain all historical features to a historically accurate standard as appropriate to the site.
4. To develop and maintain good communication and working relationships with all stakeholders including neighbouring landowners and tenants, local community and users.
5. To ensure that all legal and health and safety obligations are fulfilled and carried out in accordance with agreements and best practices.

6. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

6.1 To maintain and improve the site for wildlife

6.1.1 Pond Management

6.1.1.1. Remove plant material as necessary

- Remove up to 2/3 of pond vegetation in autumn, leave the arising's piled on site near the pond.

- Remove all tree saplings from water's edge in autumn.
- Remove pond weed and leave by the water edge if it covers the pond during the summer/winter.

6.1.1.2. Establish and implement simple water level monitoring.

6.1.2 Grassland Management

6.1.2.1 Implement mowing regime.

- Mow amenity grassland, as required between March & October.
- Cut and collect wildflower areas in September. Pile the arising's behind the Bug barn.
- Mow one mower-width between Downs Link and between platforms as necessary during the growing season.
- Include bays on east side, 1m width between platforms and 1m width along Downs Link in the summer verge cut contract.

6.1.2.2. Strim/brushcut and rake car park banks and site entrance as required between March and October. Keep vegetation clear around concrete bollards near height barrier, dragon's teeth and bike racks.

6.1.2.3. Maintain access to all benches and tables by regularly strimming around all benches and picnic tables as required.

6.1.2.4. Annually remove invasive species by pulling ragwort and digging up Spanish bluebell before they flower. Dispose of arising appropriately and monitor regrowth.

6.1.2.5. Routinely control weed growth on paths, including use of herbicide when appropriate.

6.1.3. Woodland Management

6.1.3.1. Copse 1:

- Keep cut back from path for ease of access and maintain good visibility to the site.

6.1.3.2. Copse 2:

- Keep trees cut back at edges so as not to infringe on the site.
- Crown-lift shade trees to minimum clear primary trunk height of 12 feet

6.1.3.3. Copse 3:

- Keep the trees cut back from the woodland path that runs through it.
- Maintain tunnel like vista through the path.
- Take note of the Silver birch trees as they are rare on the site and the Downs Link.
- Thin trees if necessary for light or if they damage the walls.

6.1.3.4. Copse 4:

- Manage as little/no intervention. Cut back/crown lift trees when necessary to maintain Health and safety and a clear path

6.1.3.5. Copse 5:

- Selectively thin trees on the wooded embankments in the winter to promote ground vegetation growth and to remove over stood trees.
- Annually scallop the woodland edge opposite the carriage to benefit primroses and grasses. Cut it in the autumn and remove the cuttings.
- Remove and control non-native species such as Sycamore. Cut down in winter and treat stumps with herbicide.

6.1.3.6. Individual trees

- Conserve Medlar by pruning as needed and removing weeds at base.
- Monitor wild service trees, water if necessary in the summer.
- Inspect the Scots pine trees and monitor ivy growth. If the Ivy growth is compromising tree safety/health then cut it off in the winter.

6.1.4 Scrub Management

6.1.4.1. Manage blackthorn for brown hairstreak.

- Map all blackthorn on site and introduce coppice by rotation to maintain young shoots at 1- 1.5m height.
- Monitor brown hairstreak by annual egg count in winter.

6.1.5 Hedge Management

6.1.5.1. Manage hedgerows for wildlife benefit, barriers and interest.

- Regularly trim the hedges as required to enable easy access from the car park to the rest of site and the Downs Link, and to retain views over whole site.
- Annually cut all hedges to reduce summer growth to retain views of the Downs Link and ensure hedges are manageable in future
- Annually maintain the dead hedges including replacing stakes and gapping up as required.
- Annually cut hedge around the ladder board at the entrance, as part of Downs Link winter flail contract.

6.1.6 Raised Beds

6.1.6.1. Manage raised beds for wildlife benefit and visual interest

- Remove weeds and control growth of gorse and buddleia by cutting with secateurs.
- Check safety of sleepers and undertake repair as required ensuring precautions taken to ensure no impact on great crested newts and stag beetles.
- Check with Natural England prior to work regarding necessity for a license to undertake the work.

6.1.7 Bug Barn, Stag Beetle Loggery and Bird Boxes

6.1.7.1. Maintain for wildlife benefit and education

- Regularly check as part of routine visits.
- Carry out repairs and enhancements as required.

- Remove litter from compost area include fruit peel to discourage other people.
- Carry out repairs to the bird boxes at appropriate times of the year and repair/replace them when needed.

6.1.8 Surveys and monitoring

6.1.8.1. Establish and implement a survey and monitoring programme including for

- key wild flowers including bee orchids (map and count)
- brown hairstreak
- general butterflies
- stag beetles
- smooth, palmate and great crested newts
- slow worms
- grass snakes

Consider use of volunteers to assist and ensure necessary consents gained for great crested newt surveys from Natural England.

6.1.8.2. Review butterfly transect in 2014 and decide if appropriate to continue. Implement as deemed appropriate.

6.1.8.3. Liaise with the local Sussex Butterfly Group and obtain relevant data from the annual Brown Hairstreak egg survey.

6.1.8.4. Send all survey records to SXBRC.

6.2. To develop and promote the sites access and informal recreation opportunities for public enjoyment by maintaining safe and suitable access, making available appropriate interpretation and information, and developing the retail opportunities.

6.2.1. Complete weekly litter picks as part of general site visits, removing all litter in a safe manner and recycling it where possible.

6.2.2. Maintain safe access to the site by

- Reviewing signage at site entrance and from road.
- Maintaining access barrier to required safety standard including regular maintenance, cleaning and renewal of hazard tape.
- Inspecting, greasing and repairing access barrier gate as required.
- Strimming of drive side vegetation on approach to height barrier.
- Strimming of bankside vegetation at car park entrance to maintain good sight lines.

6.2.3. Maintain access within site by mowing paths, around benches and tables as necessary. Top paths with finings as required and spray weed growth.

6.2.4. Regularly inspect and maintain all signs and waymarkers by

- Removing surrounding or overhanging vegetation
- Repairing as required

6.2.5. Maintain the surface of the car park to a safe and accessible standard including identification of suitable resurfacing, keeping in character with its rural surroundings.

6.2.6. Review location of bike storage facilities including relocation to area nearer picnic tables or benches.

6.2.7. Develop a long-term costed plan for the development and maintenance of the Railway Carriage, including review of stock, storage and sales.

6.2.8. Ensure stock and sales are managed in accordance with any audit requirements including monthly stock takes and safe and appropriate collection/banking of money.

6.2.9. Develop and implement safe working practice to achieve 6.2.8 ensuring compliance by staff and volunteers alike.

6.2.10. Review how carriage donations are used, advertising how the money is used.

6.2.11. Review and develop interpretation on site, including provision of new information in the carriage, on site and in existing notice boards. Ensure information about opening times of the carriage is easily accessible to site users.

6.2.12. Ensure information on the WSCC web pages is correct and regularly updated.

6.2.13. Review provision of events and opportunities for educational and recreational activities as appropriate to the site issues and logistics, designations and location. Provide events and educational opportunities dependent on outcome of review.

6.2.14. Investigate installation of visitor counters as part of Countryside Services Visitor counter review.

6.2.15. Undertake visitor surveys to inform future management and development of site.

6.2.16. Complete inspection of drains and subsequent maintenance as part of the Downs Link management plan.

6.3 To conserve and maintain all historical features to an historically accurate standard as appropriate to the site.

6.3.1. Map all the features of historical interest.

6.3.2. Develop and implement a weekly infrastructure checks list.

6.3.3. Develop and implement a monthly inspection list for the railway carriage including

- External inspection of railway carriage. Paint when needed using Dulux Trade Weathershield exterior gloss colour Buckingham. Silver Hammarite metal paint for window surrounds.
- Clearance of vegetation from underneath carriage, side of carriage and rail tracks as required.
- Removal of scrub on the wooden ramp to the carriage when necessary.
- Clearance of weeds, moss and tall vegetation on walls.
- Maintenance to doors, windows and other associated mechanism, greasing/silicone when required and undertake other works as noted and required.
- Routine internal tidying to ensure safe and accessible use of carriage by staff, volunteers and visitors alike.

6.3.4. Maintain platforms by

- Inspecting monthly.
- Action any work as required.
- Leaf blow annually in winter.
- Remove vegetation that may compromise the brick works stability.

6.3.5. Maintain running-in board by

- Inspecting monthly.
- Clean annually.
- Repair, repaint, replace as required.

6.3.6. Maintain railway gate by

- Inspecting monthly.
- Grease when necessary.
- Clean and repaint when necessary.

6.3.7. Maintain signal by

- Inspecting regularly.
- Routinely greasing lever mechanism.
- Keep clear of vegetation and maintain sight line from bridleway from both directions.
- Repair and repaint when needed by using a high ab or specialist contractors to take it down, sandblast and re paint.
- Checking the planks on the ladder are secure, to prevent people climbing it. Fix and replace when needed.

6.3.8. Maintain crane by

- Washing annually.
- Treating rust and repainting when needed.

- Regular clearance of vegetation around the base.

6.3.9. Maintain boundary fence by

- Carrying out review of boundary fence and repair/replace where needed.

6.4. To develop and maintain good communication and working relationships with all stakeholders including neighbouring landowners, local community, and users.

6.4.1. Maintain good communications and working relationships with adjacent landowners and tenants, delivering management plan objectives in a timely and professional manner.

6.4.2. Inform relevant parties of progress and actions on site as required. Provide advance warning where appropriate.

6.4.3. Manage a well-trained and supported volunteer team in accordance with WSCC Volunteer Policy. Ensure volunteer rota in place and hours recorded and monitored.

6.5. To ensure that all legal and health and safety obligations are fulfilled and carried out in accordance with agreements and best practices.

6.5.1. Deliver management plan and carry out all activities in accordance with agreements and designations, ensuring all required consents received in advance.

6.5.2. Annually review management plan and work programmes.

6.5.3. Working with WSCC Legal team establish the western boundary along the platform and associated bank with owners of Station House, in accordance with sale particulare. Ensure appropriate demarcation.

6.5.4 Complete all works in compliance with WSCC Rights of Way and Countryside Services Health and Safety guidelines.

6.5.5. Ensure routine site inspections completed, recorded and actioned as required. Liaise internally and externally as required to ensure completion and relevant consents. To include PAT testing, annual fire extinguisher checks and others as required

6.5.6. Maintain trees in accordance with WSCC Tree Policy, completing visual tree assessments and undertaking work as required.

6.5.7. Carry out work as identified in 6.5.5. above, aswell as any emergency tree work required.

