

## Stoke Park Improvements

Questions related to the Countryside Stewardship Funding, raised by the public since proposals were announced. Further information: [www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements)

Version V15 updated: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
1.	Conservation	What is the relationship between the landscaping proposals, the grazing and the Conservation Management Plan (CMP)?	<p>The Stoke Park Conservation Management Plan sets out what is important about the estate, its current condition and what we need to do to protect and enhance it for people, wildlife and our shared heritage. Priorities include the restoration of key features including open grassland, ancient and historic woodland, grazed wood pasture and key views, but these works need to be followed by a range of other works to enhance the park for everyone.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">View the Stoke Park Conservation Management Plan</a> (CMP) hosted at <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>.</p>
2.	Conservation	What are the aims of the CMP?	<p>Please <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">refer to the Conservation Management Plan for Stoke Park</a> (see <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>).</p> <p>The CMP is a comprehensive document that deals with a number of complex and inter-related issues, including taking account of the estate's historic significance and its current use, condition and value to wildlife.</p> <p>The CMP aims to identify the right priorities to restore and maintain its key features and through investment increase its use and enjoyment by people. Key priorities identified are:</p> <p><u>Priority 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start to bring the historic park back into a structured regime of woodland and grazing conservation management, seeking a balanced approach that conserves both the</li> </ul>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
			<p>ecological and the aesthetic values of the designed landscape, reopening views and progressively reintroducing seasonal grazing to areas where views and species-rich grassland interest are being lost, to prevent any further loss.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore one, primary, historic, accessible circuit, of high public value, to conservation standards, improving access to the park as a whole.</li> <li>• Protect the scheduled monument from further immediate damage.</li> <li>• Initiate a trial volunteer development programme, to identify capacity to deliver and other benefits.</li> </ul> <p><u>Priority 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the restoration of primary and secondary access circuits, so that significant parts of the park are accessible to all.</li> <li>• Restoring hedgerows and historic field boundaries in full for wildlife value and landscape restoration.</li> <li>• First, conserve the historic structures, and then, subject to funding, restore those of highest significance to the legibility of the designed landscape.</li> <li>• Provide visitor facilities and interpretation to benefit local users, but also to bring visitor revenue to improve the long term viability of the restored, accessible parkland.</li> <li>• Enhance and interpret conservation of Purdown Percy, the anti-aircraft battery.</li> </ul>
3.	Restoration	Why are you altering this lovely, local park?	<p>Stoke Park has many special features, but needs investment to address long-term neglect and decline. At this stage, we have funding from Natural England to help undertake the recommendations of the CMP. These include restoring the registered parkland landscape, protecting and enhancing species-rich grassland, and re-introduction of conservation grazing as a more sustainable way to manage the estate; each of these require the management of scrub that has developed over the past 20 years of neglect.</p>
4.	Restoration	The park was designed more than two centuries ago. In 2018 we use Stoke Park differently and Bristol has changed too. How can	<p>Stoke Park is a Grade II registered landscape and is currently on Historic England's 'at risk' register because of long term neglect and decline. Reflecting its historic significance we have a duty to protect and restore this nationally important site. We also have the opportunity to make the site more attractive for people today, the needs of which are very similar to those of two centuries ago, namely, great views; fresh air; a mixture of shady,</p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
		the landscaping proposals be justified?	sunny, dry and grassy walks for different seasons; somewhere to reflect on our place in the world and our inheritance; a place to see wildflowers, ancient trees and a diversity of nature.
5.	Restoration	The M32 cuts through Stoke Park, is noisy and ugly. How does that affect the landscaping and 'restoration of historic views'?	The M32 is indeed a significant presence. The intent is not to open up views to look at the M32. There are currently long views that are highly valued that do look over the motorway. The intent is to restore key views both within and into the wider landscape, and, subject to further funding, to improve immediate screening alongside the motorway.
6.	Scrub and young woodland work	What is scrub?	Scrub is a type of vegetation which describes a change in vegetation from open grassland (typically) to woodland. Scrub vegetation develops when management that maintains grassland is abandoned, such as stopping grazing or stopping mowing. The development of scrub is a natural process. Plants like bramble first colonise the ground followed by shrub and tree species such as hawthorn. Scrub can develop in patches and can, in just a few years, become so dense to shade out grasses and wild flowers. This is what has happened on large areas of Stoke Park when grazing ceased and steeper ground was no longer mown. Scrub will continue to develop over time; the hawthorn will increase in height and becomes denser and tree species, such as ash, will also start to colonise the land. Over a period of 20-40 years the once open grassland becomes more like woodland as scrub matures and becomes dominated by trees.
7.	Scrub and young woodland work	What is wood pasture?	The following text is adapted from information provided by the UK Wood Pasture and Parkland Network, see <a href="https://ptes.org/campaigns/wood-pasture-parkland/what-is-wpp/">https://ptes.org/campaigns/wood-pasture-parkland/what-is-wpp/</a> .  Wood pasture is type of habitat where animals, such as cattle, browse within either open woodland or under parkland trees. Wood pasture is distinct from grazing in grassland having no/very few trees and woodland which is not grazed. Wood pasture is an historic and traditional land use and remnant patches that survive to this day are characterised by big old trees growing in open pasture-land. These wood pasture sites may be derived from Royal forests, old wooded commons and medieval deer parks. Often they contain splendid

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
			<p>ancient trees and provide links with bygone landscapes that are home to many rare and threatened species. There are existing remnant patches of wood pasture at Ashton Court where deer graze to this day within a mix of ancient oaks. The area of wood pasture at Ashton Court was extended 10 years ago when secondary ash woodland was thinned more heavily to create the conditions for grazing by deer.</p> <p>Wood pasture is nationally rare, it is misunderstood and threatened. Historically, woodland in the UK would have been grazed by large herbivores; this would have created extensive areas of more open canopied woodland with a mosaic of habitats rich in wildlife, alongside dense woodland too. Wood pasture is a human intervention using domesticated animals to graze and replicates elements of the wildwoods that once covered much of Britain.</p> <p>Wood pasture is a mosaic habitat which can vary depending on historic and current management. The essential attributes of wood pasture are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Veteran and/or ancient trees.</b> There should be trees that have grown in an open habitat, which tend to show good lateral branch development or have sunlit areas of the trunk.</li> <li>• <b>An open ground layer</b>, such as grassland, heath-land and/or woodland floras. Ideally with grazing animals or a history of grazing.</li> <li>• <b>Grazing animals</b> – ideally present, or a history of grazing</li> <li>• <b>Wood decay and dead wood</b> in the tree canopies or on the ground, which support a variety of rare species</li> <li>• <b>Flowers and shrubs</b> which are allowed to flower/Nectar sources which provide food and shelter for insects</li> </ul> <p>The density and species of trees and scrub can vary, but the presence of veteran trees and an open ground layer are essential components. Where the site is in good condition there will be multiple generations of trees for future continuity, with at least some veteran trees or shrubs.</p> <p>The UK Wood Pasture and Parkland Network have produced a series of videos that offer an</p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
			introduction to wood pasture and parkland, see <a href="https://ptes.org/wppn/videos-links-downloads/">https://ptes.org/wppn/videos-links-downloads/</a> .
8.		Why are you creating wood pasture at Stoke Park?	<p>Wood pasture is described in the question above.</p> <p>Until recently the open downland at Stoke Park was grazed by cattle and at various times in the past by sheep and donkeys. Such animals would have grazed within a matrix of parkland trees of varying density. Many of Stoke Park's historic parkland trees have been lost, so we are replanting 70 new trees that will contribute to the landscape character and will be under-grazed by the cattle, alongside the remnant old trees. And we are opening up 2 hectares of secondary woodland (woodland that has developed over the past 40 years or so) by thinning the trees to around 70% canopy cover and then reintroducing grazing within these areas. We are re-introducing grazing to restore this link with the past and to provide a sustainable form of land management for the future. This will help restore elements of Stoke Park's lost open landscape character and provide a net gain in wildlife as wood pasture and parkland with grazing is a valuable and rich wildlife habitat. Cattle will graze different areas in a rotation and will be on the estate from Spring to late Autumn depending on weather and ground conditions. Recreating wood pasture from secondary woodland will take time to mature as the action of cattle will help develop a rich ground flora and older larger trees will attract a variety of other species. We believe that re-creating this mosaic of open down, parkland trees and wood pasture alongside ancient and historic woodland will provide a stunning and varied landscape rich in wildlife.</p>
9.	Scrub and young woodland work	Why is so much clearance happening at Stoke Park?	<p>Since grazing in Stoke Park was abandoned about 20 years ago, bramble and hawthorn scrub has progressively colonised the grassland. This grassland is nationally important, but is being harmed by scrub invasion as grasses and wild flowers are being shaded out. Clearing areas of scrub will provide the right conditions to restore species rich grassland as well as restore some of Stoke Parks more open landscape character.</p> <p>Around 10% of scrub will be retained, in the areas being worked, to provide continuing habitat for species more associated with scrub than open grassland, such as species of</p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
			<p>birds. Otherwise, wildlife inhabiting areas of scrub will have access to larger expanses of scrub habitat being retained at Stoke Park. Over 90% of species rich grassland in the UK has been lost since the 1960s and therefore restoring wild flower meadows and pasture grazing is considered to be ecologically a more important than leaving scrub to mature into woodland on areas of once species rich meadows.</p> <p>The restoration of around 7km of hedgerows will create linear scrub and tree habitat for a range of breeding birds, plants, mammals, reptiles, fungi and invertebrates.</p> <p>Alongside removal of scrub, we will thin out some areas of more recent dense young woodland and trees to provide more open pasture woodland areas which will be grazed by cattle. This will contribute to the restoration of a more open character landscape at Stoke Park and provide a nationally important wood pasture habitat.</p> <p>Please <u>see detailed information at our Stoke Park Improvements page</u>. (Main page: <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>).</p> <p>The works to restore species rich grassland are supported by Avon Wildlife Trust, alongside other partners, see <a href="http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/2018/01/16/avon-wildlife-trust-support-stoke-park-conservation-work">http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/2018/01/16/avon-wildlife-trust-support-stoke-park-conservation-work</a>.</p>
10.	Scrub and young woodland work	Are you replacing Stoke Park's woodland with grass? If so, won't this have a lasting impact on this asset for the people of Bristol?	<p>All of the estate's historic woodlands will be retained and protected, and gently brought back into sensitive management.</p> <p>We are not clear felling any areas of woodland. Nor will we be felling any mature trees (unless there are overriding safety reasons).</p> <p>From Autumn 2018 through to Spring 2019 in defined areas, young woodland will be thinned to achieve a 70% canopy. The areas being worked are shown on a map, see <a href="https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/32879/Stoke+Park+Parkland+Restoration+Works+September+2018/3ade50d2-02e0-0b99-df71-ec07a32a3493">https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/32879/Stoke+Park+Parkland+Restoration+Works+September+2018/3ade50d2-02e0-0b99-df71-ec07a32a3493</a></p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
			<p>Accompanying the map, the following description is given to describe the approach and reason for the differing treatments:</p> <p>Thinning of woodland to 70% canopy follows standard forestry practice for managing woodlands (see map for these areas). Thinning is designed to support the health and growth of the remaining trees by removing competition, giving them more light and space. By thinning you can select the best trees to sustain healthy woodland. It also provides more light to the ground which supports shrubs and plants at ground level. Woodland management practice is to re-thin on a regular cycle - depending on the speed of growth – clearly this hasn't been happening at Stoke Park recently so we want to re-establish this practice. What it means is that the canopy will re-close, typically over 5-10 years, when the thinning should be repeated.</p> <p>Thinning of woodland to 70% canopy (see map for these areas) together with cutting of the understorey will allow the re-introduction of grazing by cattle. In time, these areas will develop a wood pasture character restoring this important historic element in the Stoke Park landscape. Pockets of scrub and understorey are being retained within the wooded areas to provide a variety of habitats. As cattle continue to graze these wooded areas on a seasonal basis, the ground cover will take on a more grassy and species rich nature. Wood pasture is a priority habitat for the UK and is relatively rare. Such a habitat adds visual diversity as much as biodiversity.</p> <p>Within the estate, we will be planting a new orchard containing more than 200 trees, planting 70 new parkland trees and replanting two hectares of native woodland within one area of scrub overlooking the M32.</p> <p>Please see detailed information at our Stoke Park Improvements page, <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>.</p> <p>The works to restore species rich grassland are supported by Avon Wildlife Trust, alongside other partners, see <a href="http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/2018/01/16/avon-wildlife-trust-support-stoke-park-conservation-work">http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/2018/01/16/avon-wildlife-trust-support-stoke-park-conservation-work</a></p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
11.	Scrub and young woodland work	What areas of woodland are you clearing and are you replanting these areas?	We are not removing any woodland at Stoke Park and there is no requirement for compensatory planting where thinning woodland to around 70% canopy cover. We have approval to remove individual trees across a 2 hectare area, where these trees are damaging the Scheduled Monument Anti-aircraft Gun Battery. We are compensating for the loss of these trees by planting 70 parkland trees, planting 200 trees in an orchard and planting 2 hectares of woodland in 'New Wood' by enrichment planting with forest trees within areas of scrub.
12.	Scrub and young woodland work	How will you stop re-growth from the roots of scrub that is being cleared?	The reintroduction of carefully managed conservation grazing with appropriate cattle will assist hugely with this process in the longer term. In the more immediate future, the present works include the very careful use of herbicide only used directly on larger stumps to prevent regrowth, alongside an additional cut later in the year to help keep bramble at bay, and the use of native wildflower seed to encourage the return to grassland with species interest as soon as possible. Around 10% of scrub will be retained, in areas being worked, to provide habitat for birds and invertebrates in these areas. Scrub is also being retained in many areas across the whole estate.
13.	Scrub and young woodland work	Will the contractor remove rubbish and litter exposed by clearance works?	Yes, the contractor will be removing from site all rubbish and litter in the clearance areas, including all disused and derelict fences. We realise there have been recent issues with this and are working with the contractor to ensure that in future all rubbish and litter are removed quickly from site.
14.	Scrub and young woodland work	Why has concrete and brick rubble/material, revealed, following scrub clearance, located near the Purdown WWII Anti-Aircraft Battery and entrance to the BT tower, not been removed along with the other rubbish.	The material is thought to be associated with remains of the WWII Anti-Aircraft Battery, which is a Scheduled Monument, and therefore cannot be removed for legal reasons. Subject to agreement with Historic England It is intended this material will be buried safely in situ.

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
15.	Scrub and young woodland work	How will the rutting/ground damage, caused by large cutting machines clearing the scrub on the western end of Stoke Park, be rectified?	The ruts are the result of having to undertake works in the winter. We've done this to avoid disruption to nesting birds but have also had to contend with wet weather. The contractor has now removed ruts and harrowed the land across the site and re-seeding the land with an appropriate grass and wildflower mix.
16.	Scrub and young woodland work	How will the Council ensure trees to be retained are not removed?	<p>Trees to be retained have been marked on site and works are being closely supervised to be in accordance with the works contract</p> <p>Trees (including historic hedgerow trees) with pink paint on them will be retained.</p> <p>Scrub to be retained in both in woodland and grassland areas will be pegged out.</p> <p>In heritage / ancient woodland, any trees to be thinned or coppiced or shrubs to be cleared will be marked with green paint.</p>
17.	Scrub and young woodland work	Why has the council removed the hedgerow along Sir John's Lane in proximity to the BT tower entrance and Anti-Aircraft Battery?	The works referred to did not involve removal of a hedgerow, as no hedgerow was present. No hedge is recorded on historic photographs or historic maps in this location. The works involved the replacement of a derelict and 20 <sup>th</sup> century fence, the removal of fly-tipped wastes and the removal of brambles, including scrub growing on a scheduled monument, causing it to be placed on Historic England's monuments at risk register. An 'important' hedge is generally one plotted on the 1840 tithe plans. There are several such hedges in the park which we are going to considerable lengths to restore after decades of neglect. A consultation is ongoing seeking reviews on whether it is right to plant a new hedge along the line of the fence.
18.	Scrub and young woodland work	How is the removed wood and other vegetation being reused, recycled and processed? Will it be used	The prescriptions of the Countryside Stewardship agreement, and our felling licence, require the smaller material arising from the cutting of scrub, and any felled trees e.g. brush/branches, to be chipped and now removed from site. The larger parts of the trees will be dried to produce wood fuel for use at Blaise Nursery wood fuel station. Any large

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
		for biomass fuel or similar?	deadwood from fallen trees will be left on site as there is habitat value in large-dimension deadwood. However, if the log material arising from ash tree felling was to be left on site, it would end up decaying and forming hazardous, slippery surfaces to walk on. So we remove the hazard.
19.	Scrub and young woodland work	Will the clearance of trees and scrub result in an increase of the visibility of the M32 to visitors?	The number of trees being felled as a result of thinning operations will not significantly increase visibility of M32. The extensive restoration of historic hedgerows - over time, as they grow up - will also help with screening the motorway in places. The motorway will be more visible in some areas, but this will also reopen some expansive and grand views of the city.
20.	Scrub and young woodland work	Have you undertaken any ecological surveys?	<p>The value of Stoke Park for wildlife has been reviewed during the process of writing the Stoke Park Conservation Management Plan. We have published an ecological statement and provided access to wildlife surveys, see <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>.</p> <p>In order to inform the works being carried out this Autumn protected species surveys have been undertaken and a mitigation plan produced to ensure that works are undertaken in a time and manner to avoid harm to protected species. The mitigation plan has been published, see <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>. As dictated by the mitigation plan, certain works are being overseen on-site by an ecologist.</p> <p>The location of badger setts have been mapped and will be avoided during works. Any trees with features that have the potential to be used by roosting bats will be retained. Such features were taken into account when the trees were marked up, and for any trees being removed, checks will also be made for any new features immediately before works proceed.</p>
21.	Financial	Which bodies are funding the proposals? What are the underlying principles? What are the funding requirements; i.e. to	The current programme of works is part funded by Natural England via its Countryside Stewardship grant. The Countryside Stewardship scheme has a broad range of objectives which fit well with the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan. A major part of this agreement is the restoration of the historic parkland so that it is no longer considered 'at risk' by Historic England. This will involve restoring specific historic features

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
		undertake specific kinds of work/activity?	such as walls, hedgerows, parkland trees and recreating a lost orchard, as well as opening up areas lost to neglect. Additional objectives are to restore the Scheduled Monument of the anti-aircraft battery; look to protect and enhance rare species-rich grassland; and ensure that the site can be maintained into the future by supporting the infrastructure needed to reintroduce grazing to the site. The works are detailed and specifically grant funded and we need to deliver the agreed programme of works to claim grant from Natural England.
22.	Trees	How many/what proportion of trees will be felled?	<p>Different works are taking place in different places. <a href="#">A detailed map</a> and <a href="#">an accompanying explanation</a> are available at the Stoke Park Improvements page: <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>.</p> <p>Where scrub is being removed, we will retain around 10% for nature conservation reasons. Where trees are being thinned we will retain 70% canopy cover.</p>
23.	Trees	How are trees/saplings/growth defined in terms of size?	Scrub typically includes bramble and hawthorn and is generally from ground to around 3 metres tall, although some taller hawthorns are present. When thinning, we will be removing trees that open up the canopy.
24.	Trees	There seems to be some flexibility around how many trees are felled - how will this be decided in practice?	Following public feedback and agreement with Natural England, Historic England and in consultation with the Stoke Park Partnership Group fewer trees are being removed so that secondary woodland areas will be thinned to achieve a 70% canopy cover.
25.	Trees	Is it just the trees marked pink (or red) that are being retained or are there some areas of unmarked woodland that will also be protected?	<p>Please <a href="#">see the detailed map</a> and <a href="#">accompanying explanation</a> (at <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>) which sets out what works are proposed in which areas.</p> <p>The trees with pink paint on them will be retained: these have been marked because they are important trees to be retained in areas to be worked</p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
26.	Trees	What woodland works are being carried out in the Heritage Woodlands	<p>We are carrying out the following Countryside Stewardship woodland improvement works in Stoke park Heritage woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veteran trees will be released from competition by the removal of scrub and trees growing within 3m radius of each candidate veteran tree crown. This will improve the vigour and longevity of the candidate veterans;</li> <li>• Some rides / paths to be managed by cutting back scrub and bramble by 2m to increase the diversity of woodland flora, and</li> <li>• Historic open space (including the 'great saloon' and rotunda) are to be restored by clearing young trees, scrub and bramble.</li> </ul> <p>We are also planning to undertake woodland works not funded by the Countryside Stewardship agreement, including respacing of natural regeneration and thinning, but these works have not been finalised. The intention is to consult the local community to get feedback on the proposals.</p>
27.	Information	Please can you provide an indoor community event to talk through the plans, and can this also be attended by a representative of the contractors?	<p>We have provided a number of drop-in sessions which have been attended by a number of people. Reflecting low numbers of people attending, we are not currently planning to run any more drop in sessions.</p> <p>Two public meeting have now been held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The landscape restoration works have been amended as a result.</p>
28.	Information	Can we see an artist's impression of how the woodland will look after tree thinning?	<p>We will provide photographs from other places where similar work has been undertaken and become established.</p> <p>We have produced a video. Please visit the Bristol City Council YouTube channel to watch '<a href="#"><b>Stoke Park Restoration</b></a>', featuring comments from the main project partners and showing other sites where dense woodland has been opened up for grazing.</p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
29.	Information	Please can we see a video about what will happen to Stoke Park?	We have produced a video. Please visit the Bristol City Council YouTube channel to watch ' <b><u>Stoke Park Restoration</u></b> ', featuring comments from the main project partners.
30.	Information	When are the next walks-and-talks planned?	Walks and talks are detailed on our webpage and social media. Always check our information at <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>
31.	Information	How will park users and residents be updated about the phases of construction work and location of grazing?	Please visit <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a> for more information. Notices are also on site alongside notices along main paths into the working areas and we are running a series of walks and talks. We have run several drop-in sessions and walks and talks.
32.	Information	Can I read people's responses to the 2016 Stoke Park consultation on this project?	We have published the report to the 2017 consultation at: <a href="http://bristol.citizenspace.com/neighbourhoods/stoke-park-future-plans">bristol.citizenspace.com/neighbourhoods/stoke-park-future-plans</a> ( <a href="https://bristol.citizenspace.com/neighbourhoods/stoke-park-future-plans/results/final-stoke-park-cmp-consultation-2017-report.pdf">https://bristol.citizenspace.com/neighbourhoods/stoke-park-future-plans/results/final-stoke-park-cmp-consultation-2017-report.pdf</a> )
33.	Timeline	What is the timeframe for the proposals and their outcomes?	The Countryside Stewardship agreement, providing much of the funding, requires the completion of the majority of the programme of works by 31 December 2019. The outcomes are that we will have restored key elements of the landscape and see grazing by cattle introduced to the estate.
34.	Volunteering	What input will local park users and volunteers have into the project? Can volunteers and other groups engage and help in other ways?	We welcome people and groups who want to get involved. If you are interested in getting involved with restoration projects at Stoke Park email: <a href="mailto:stoke.park@bristol.gov.uk">stoke.park@bristol.gov.uk</a> .  Our contractor, EcoVigour, has organised 44 volunteering half days for local people to get involved in some of the restoration work at Stoke Park.  The volunteer tasks will be split into half day sessions, you're welcome to come along for

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
			<p>half or whole days.</p> <p>To register call: 08448 400 401, text: 07983 705 077 or email: <a href="mailto:stokepark@ecovigour.com">stokepark@ecovigour.com</a>.</p> <p>For more details see <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a></p>
35.	Learning & training	<p>What learning/ training opportunities will the community have as part of this conservation project?</p> <p>How can it help young people from an urban area learn more about countryside stewardship?</p>	<p>We wish to see Stoke Park used more for education and learning, but the grant we have to progress the current works from Natural England does not specifically fund the education programmes that we would like. We intend to re-submit to the Heritage Lottery Fund which will include proposal to engage local schools and the community in learning more about Stoke Park and using it as an educational resource. That said there is already good use of the estate by students from UWE and through activities via the Friends of Stoke Park.</p>
36.	Dogs	<p>How will dogs be controlled around the cattle?</p>	<p>Dog owners will need to continue to control their dogs across the park, including in fields grazed by cattle where they will need to be kept on a short lead. The area where cattle will be grazing will be a relatively small proportion (20% or so) of Stoke Park overall, as we will have only around 40 cattle at any one time, grazing each field area in turn, in rotation. All fields will be fenced to protect the historic hedgerows, and gated access will be provided.</p>
37.	Grazing	<p>How will dog walkers be affected by the grazing timetable?</p>	<p>Grazing will take place over nine months of the year, as the cattle will need to be moved off the land in winter. Signs will be provided to say when cattle are grazing in any one field, so that people who are nervous about cattle can divert onto paths across un-grazed areas.</p>
38.	Grazing/Dogs	<p>What measures are in place to assure the safety of the animals?</p>	<p>The animals will be the responsibility of the farmer, which will be Elm Tree Farm, who already manage a herd including one area within Stoke Park. The cattle will be contained within defined areas by secure fencing along historic hedgerows, and the herd would be inspected daily. Water troughs are being provided across the estate.</p>

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
39.	Grazing	Who will monitor the potential damage to the paths from cattle?	The Council will work closely with Elm Tree Farm to make sure that the cattle are not unduly damaging the land. We intend to have 'conservation grazing' which means relatively few animals on the land at any one time; typically no more than a herd of 50 animals across the estate.
40.	Grazing	Dog walkers and cyclists use the park now so how can this work safely with cattle grazing?	There is no intention to prevent walkers and cyclists accessing fields where cattle are grazing. Through a combination of measures, we believe that the two can mix safely. Relatively few cattle will be in any one area at any time giving plenty of space and time for people to move through fields with cattle grazing. There will be no bulls or young calves, which can make cows more defensive. And the farmer will select a more docile and well-handled herd of cattle. Dog owners will need to continue to control their dogs across the park, including in fields grazed by cattle where they will need to be on a short lead.
41.	Grazing	How will the cattle be managed/how many will there be/where will they be permitted to graze?	We estimate a herd size of up to 50 cattle. They will graze on a rotational basis moving cattle from one field to another.
42.	Grazing	How is grazing going to help biodiversity?	Conservation grazing will ensure that the important species rich grassland is sustainably managed. Such grazing favours wild flowers and grasses and prevents encroachment by trees and scrub. In addition, we will continue to cut hay in July, and we will be over-sowing large areas with wildflowers to encourage more invertebrates and pollinator species such as bees. This will benefit the whole food chain as we expect to see more birds and bats attracted to the area.
43.	Grazing	How will cattle grazing affect flowering plants?	The extensive cattle grazing of Stoke Park between April and November will not have a significant effect on flowering plants as the livestock density will be low, i.e. less than 1 cow per hectare. Plus, to avoid damaging the ground, cattle will be removed from the site between December and March - or when ground conditions are not suitable for grazing.

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
44.	Cycle route	Where will the new cycle route go and how will this relate to the proposals?	The decision on where any new cycle route will go has not been made and is not part of this programme of works. However, any such proposals will be tested against the proposals in the Conservation Management Plan and planning policies. We would like to restore the historic drive route linked to Sir John's Lane, to improve access for all without harming the quality of the landscape.
45.	Management	Will the work be supervised by BCC and conservation experts?	Yes. The works are being overseen by a specialist conservation consultant. In addition, the contractors undertaking the works, EcoVigour, have also appointed specialist ecologists on their team who will also be overseeing the works. We are required to report to Natural England on the progress of works and that we have achieved the conservation objectives set out in the Countryside Stewardship grant.
46.	Management	Can you provide a clear understanding around the level of contractor supervision during the felling process, and tell us about the contractor's credentials?	<p>The contractor was appointed on the basis that they met key quality standards in terms of their familiarity and approach to the work. The contractor is being monitored by our own appointed specialist conservation consultant in conjunction with key staff within the parks department. The contractor is arboricultural specialist for Monmouthshire County and has recently completed works at Stonehenge.</p> <p>Trees that are due to be removed will be clearly marked for the contractor ahead of works [please note: we have already marked certain key trees for <u>retention</u> in pink paint], for greater detail on tree work see <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements">www.bristol.gov.uk/stokeparkimprovements</a>.</p>
47.	Management	Who will be doing the woodland management work, what experience do they have in protection of wildlife habitats?	The tree works will be undertaken by EcoVigour our appointed contractor. In addition, we intend that volunteers will be able to assist in bring the historic woodlands gently back into sensitive management. An aim of this Countryside Stewardship funded programme is to restore the sensitive grassland and parkland habitats. EcoVigour employs licensed wildlife specialists, including licensed bat, badger and dormouse workers.
48.	Monuments	Who will lock and unlock	Initially, the Purdown Percy gates will be unlocked as it is a public right of way. We will

Q#	Subject area	Question	Comments and advice
		the gate around the gun battery and how often will it be open?	consider seasonal night-time closure, if it proves to be necessary to protect the Scheduled Monument in future.
49.	Future Management	Will a ranger be employed at some point in the future to sustain the Park's management?	It is our ambition to appoint a Stoke Park Ranger and we included doing this in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Our first bid was rejected in what was a very competitive process, but we have been encouraged to re-apply.
50.	Future Funding	How will revenue be raised for future maintenance?	We need to cover as much of the costs to maintain Stoke Park as possible and we intend to raise revenue from a variety of sources. We have secured £184,000 revenue from Natural England's Countryside Stewardship fund to be paid over 10-years. We can reduce the cost of mechanical cutting of meadows as we move to grazing. We can claim agricultural Basic Payment Scheme grants for managing the land. We are looking at other sources of revenue including the possibility of a café and car park and appropriate events but these are not part of the current programme of works.

Bristol City Council, January 2018

[Version V15 - updated 5 October 2018]

