

REPORT ON: UPDATE ON EVERGREEN TRUST ACTIVITY AND BRITWELL BIODIVERSITY OPPORTUNITY AREA (BOA).

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide information about the Evergreen Trust's yearly work programme and the Britwell BOA project showing where consultation with the LAF is included. The LAF can then decide on an appropriate course of action.

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 The Evergreen Trust

The Evergreen Trust's Alan Woodley presented to the last LAF meeting on 12th Jan 2010. He explained about how the group helps manage the public open space and council owned woodland that exists in north Britwell including, Cocksherd Wood, Lynch Hill Valley, Lammas Meadow, Bangles Spinney, Lynch Hill Spinney and other peripheral areas.

These public open and wooded areas have great potential to provide public enjoyment of the natural environment and to the south link with the Haymill Nature Reserve known as "the Millie". The Millie is managed by BBOWT (Berk, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust).

Evergreen Trust has a yearly work programme which they submit for approval to the Housing dept of Slough Borough Council as the landowner. Once approved Evergreen Trust proceed with the works dependent on what funding they are able to achieve.

They are currently applying for funding from the DEFRA aggregates levy fund and from Mars. No information is currently forthcoming about the Mars bid. The aggregates levy fund bid was successful last year though the money did not become available until August 09 which left limited time to organise works before financial yearend.

The Evergreen Trust's work programme specifically refers to LAF involvement as follows:

Of particular interest to Slough Borough Council are

- 1) the installation of a network of signs and waypoint markers (with the advice of the Slough Local Access Forum)**
- 2) installation of a flight of steps from Lynch Hill Valley at Long Furlong Drive (with the advice of the Slough Local Access Forum)**

3) installation of soakaway drainage at the Farnham Lane mini-roundabout footpath (with the advice of South Bucks District Council)

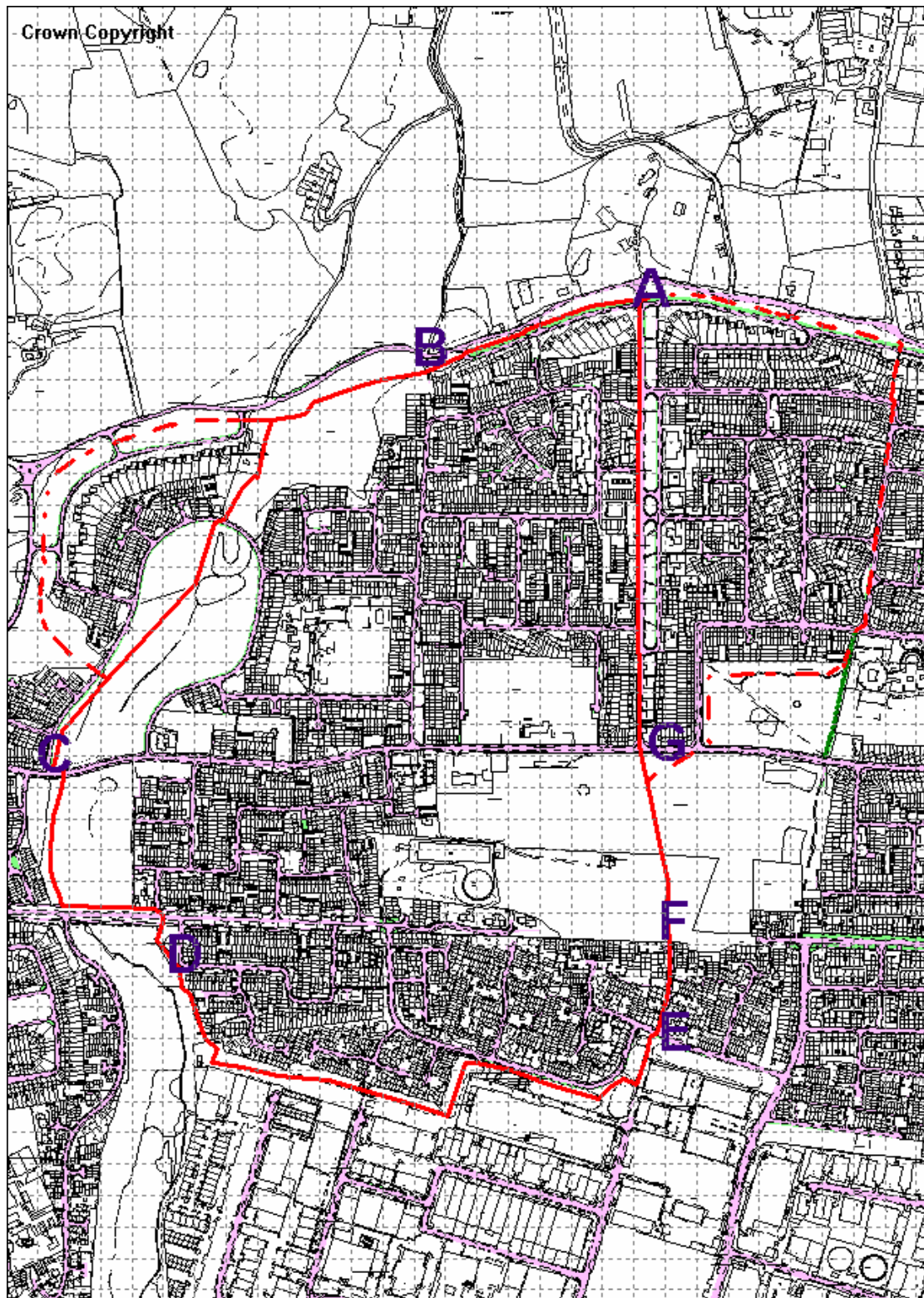
It is noted that:

1) - The Slough Local Access Forum would like to be consulted on locations and design of signage to be used in way marking the Britwell Loop and would also like to help in promotion of the Loop. In addition Slough Borough Council Traffic Section would need to be consulted on any signage proposed within the public highway.

2) – The steps need to be as accessible as possible. Nationally accepted guidelines from DfT can be found in publication “Inclusive Mobility – A Guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure”, 8.4 Changes in Level. <http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/peti/inclusivemobility?page=8#a1048>. This recommends tread depth of 300mm and riser height 150mm (170mm max acceptable) with no overhang.

Alan will shortly be starting to decide on what style of signs to use and where to put them and has indicated that he would be happy to meet with a sub group of the forum to put heads together on these issues. **Proposal: That a couple of members agree to arrange a sub group meeting with Alan to look at the map and perhaps walk the route.**

MAP OF THE BRITWELL LOOP (Showing public highway)



2.2 Britwell Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) Action Plan

The last meeting of the Britwell BOA was held on 29th April 2010. The main points discussed were;

The Hearing on the 14th June to be held at SMP for the Planning Inspector to approve the Site Allocations Development Plan Document which is part of Slough's Local Development Framework (LDF).

This proposes that Lynch Hill Valley, Lammas Meadow and Bangles Spinney are to be designated as non-statutory informal nature reserves.

The DPD also indicates what areas have been identified as possible future development sites. The plan doesn't protect sites from development necessarily but it puts forward the Council's intentions in terms of biodiversity amongst other things. Evergreen Trust members were concerned that Lynch Hill Spinney has been left vulnerable to future development and wanted it to be included in the DPD. However, it was too late for this piece of land to be included.

The consultation for the DPD had run from 06/11/09 to 18/12/09.

The BOA meeting agreed that continued community management of this piece of land together with its inclusion together with all the other public open/wooded spaces in the area would help reduce the chances of it being developed in the future.

There is going to be a Britwell Carnival on the 19th June from 10am. Evergreen Trust is attending as well as a representative from the BOA action group. **Proposal: That there is a LAF presence at the Britwell Carnival to help promote the LAF.**

The BOA Action Plan mentions consultation with the LAF for two reasons;

- Improvement of paths and disabled access.
- Improvement of directional signage.

It is hoped that these will be addressed through liaisons with Alan Woodley of the Evergreen Trust.