



The North West London Green Arc Steering Group

**SOUTH BUCKS HEATHS & COMMONS
AND THE COLNE VALLEY PARK
GREENSPACE SITE AUDITS**

Ownership and Public Transport Accessibility Audit

March 2007

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Environment Landscape Planning

The North West London Green Arc Steering Group

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Ownership and Public Transport Accessibility Audit

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The North West London Green Arc is a partnership-based, multi-stakeholder strategic environmental initiative, currently championed by Buckinghamshire County Council, which seeks to protect the Green Belt and increase opportunities for people to interact with the rural countryside in and around the north west of London. The aim of the North West London Green Arc initiative is to link existing open spaces such as parks, nature reserves, rivers and woodlands by a network of natural corridors to improve access and provide environmental improvements for people and wildlife.

1.1.2 The North West London Green Arc covers countryside from Watling Chase Forest in the east to the River Thames in the south and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the north. The North West London Green Arc partnership includes over 40 organisations and individuals, including Buckinghamshire County Council, the London Borough of Hillingdon, Natural England, Chilterns AONB, the City of London (owners of Burnham Beeches), Chilterns Society, Groundwork Trust and the GLA.

1.2 Developing the Evidence Base

1.2.1 The Green Arc is a new initiative. An early action for the Steering Group is to develop the evidence base to inform the identification of priorities, implementation mechanisms and a Framework Plan for taking forward the initiative.

1.2.2 The North West London Green Arc Steering Group has recently commissioned Groundwork's South East Regional Team to carry out strategic mapping of green infrastructure assets (including accessible greenspaces) throughout the Green Arc area. This study draws together existing datasets to provide a quantitative assessment of accessible greenspace provision in the Green Arc area. It has been recognised that this strategic overview needs to be supplemented by more detailed site-specific information about the quality of existing greenspace sites and their improvement needs, land ownership and details of public transport routes and links in order to identify priorities for investment in the North West London Green Arc Framework Plan.

1.2.3 On behalf of the North West London Green Arc Steering Group, Buckinghamshire County Council commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to carry out audits of selected

greenspace sites in the South Bucks Heaths & Commons and the Colne Valley Park areas. These are two of eight potential priority areas for investment and management in the short-medium term identified within the Green Arc area, the others being:

- Watling Chase Community Forest
- Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve
- Maidenhead
- Jubilee River
- Windsor Great Park
- Riparian corridors

1.2.4 The South Bucks Heaths & Commons and the Colne Valley Park Greenspace Site Audits work comprise two reports:

- Ownership and Public Transport Accessibility Audit (this report)
- Quality Audits (separate report)

1.3 The Ownership and Public Transport Accessibility Audit

1.3.1 The scope of work agreed with the Steering Group partners required the Ownership and Public Transport Accessibility Audit to focus on the following greenspace sites within the South Bucks Heaths & Commons and the Colne Valley Park areas:

- Black Park Country Park
- Stoke Common
- Burnham Beeches
- Littleworth Common

1.3.2 The findings of this desk-based ‘fact-finding’ audit are set out in this report. It identifies and maps ownership details¹ to supplement existing land ownership mapping information held by the Steering Group partners. The report also identifies and maps the existing public transport links (bus and rail) between the sites, including routes, links and broad frequencies and timings².

¹ The ownership details of the four sites are correct at the time of writing and show the full private ownership of the greenspaces, see Figure 1.

² The main forms of public transport in South Bucks District are taken to be bus and rail. All public transport routes, links and times are correct at the time of writing and have been sourced from the traveline website, trainline website and the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Transport Guide.

2.0 BLACK PARK COUNTRY PARK

2.1 Location

2.1.1 Black Park Country Park is situated between Slough and the M40 in South Bucks District within Buckinghamshire. It is approximately 2km southeast of Stoke Common and 1km west of Iver Heath (see Figure 1).

2.2 Ownership

2.2.1 Black Park Country Park is owned and managed by Buckinghamshire County Council (see Figure 1).

2.3 Public Transport Routes and Links

2.3.1 Black Park Country Park provides easy access for private cars and offers parking facilities, but has limited public transport services that directly serve the site. The routes of current public transport provision around the site are shown on Figure 2, and specific frequencies and timings of buses and trains are detailed in Appendices A and B respectively.

Bus Services

2.3.2 There are currently no bus services that provide direct access to Black Park Country Park. However, the number 58 service operated by 'First' provides a route from Uxbridge (10 mins), where the underground service into London resumes, and Slough (30 mins) to the 'British Legion' or 'Five Points' stops west of Iver Heath that are approximately 1km's walk from public footpaths within the Park's boundaries. This service does not operate on a Sunday. The 'Country Rider' number 182 service runs on a Saturday only and stops at West Square in Iver Heath, 1km walk from the public footpaths situated in the Park. It provides a route to Slough (15 mins), Denham (10 mins) and Windsor (30 mins).

Train Services

2.3.3 The nearest train station to the site is Langley Station, approximately 4.5km to the south of the Park. From the station, the Colne Valley Trail promoted route can be accessed and is linked to the footpaths in the Park. Langley Station operates services provided by First Great Western to Reading (30 mins), Maidenhead (15 mins), Burnham (10 mins), Slough (5 mins),

Ealing Broadway (15 mins) and London Paddington (25 mins). Another nearby station is Uxbridge Underground station which can be accessed via bus stops near the park on service 58 and provides links to the City of London on the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines.

3.0 STOKE COMMON

3.1 Location

3.1.1 Stoke Common is situated approximately 2km northwest of Black Park Country Park adjacent to the villages of Stoke Poges and Fulmer (see Figure 1).

3.2 Ownership

3.2.1 Stoke Common is registered common land and also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The site is owned and managed by South Bucks District Council (see Figure 1).

3.3 Public Transport Routes and Links

3.3.1 Stoke Common does not offer car parking facilities, and has limited public transport services that directly serve the site. The routes of current public transport provision around the site are shown on Figure 2, and specific frequencies and timings of buses and trains are detailed in Appendices A and B respectively.

Bus Services

3.3.2 There are currently no bus services that provide direct access to Stoke Common. However, the number 335 service operated by 'First' provides access from Slough (15 mins) and Gerrards Cross (5 mins). The Fulmer village stop is approximately 1km North East of Stoke Common and the Beeches Way promoted route can be accessed and followed from the village to the site. The number 353 service operated by 'Arriva' stops on Vine Road 0.5km South West of Stoke Common and provides a route to Slough (10 mins), Gerrards Cross (20 mins), Chesham (60 mins) and Berkhamsted (90 mins). Neither service operates on a Sunday.

Train Services

3.3.3 The nearest train station to Stoke Common is Gerrards Cross and bus services 335 and 353 from the station stop near the site. Gerrards Cross station operates services provided by Chiltern Railways to nearby main stations London Marylebone (30 mins) and High Wycombe (15 mins). Slough station is also nearby (9km) with access to Stoke Common via bus services 335 and 353. The station is operated by First Great Western and provides

services to nearby main stations London Paddington (30 mins), Burnham (5 mins), Maidenhead (10 mins) and Reading (25 mins).

4.0 BURNHAM BEECHES

4.1 Location

4.1.1 Burnham Beeches is situated approximately 2.5km north of Slough, 2km southeast of Littleworth Common and is adjacent to the village of Farnham (see figure 1).

4.2 Ownership

4.2.1 Land within the Burnham Beeches site is owned by three organisations - the City of London Corporation (Burnham Beeches Nature Reserve), the National Trust and Portman Burtley Estates (see Figure 1).

4.3 Public Transport Routes and Links

4.3.1 Burnham Beeches is easily accessible by car, but is not currently directly accessible by bus or rail services. The routes of current public transport provision around the site are shown on Figure 2, and specific frequencies and timings of buses and trains are detailed in Appendices A and B respectively.

Bus Services

4.3.2 There are currently no bus services that provide direct access to Burnham Beeches. The number 74 service operated by both 'First' and 'Arriva' stops at Farnham 0.5km from the site adjacent to the Beeches Way promoted footpath route, which can be followed all the way to the site. The service provides a route from Slough (15 mins), Beaconsfield (10 mins) and High Wycombe (30 mins). 'Jason Tours' operates the number 40 service, which also provide routes to Farnham from Slough (10 mins) and Hedgerley (5 mins). The number 74 is the only service to operate on a Sunday.

Train Services

4.3.3 The nearest train station to the site is Burnham, however there are no connecting bus services from the train station to the site. Slough train station is also nearby (7.5km), from which bus services 74 and 40 connect to stops near the site. The station is operated by First Great Western and also provides services to nearby main train stations London Paddington (30 mins), Burnham (5 mins), Maidenhead (10 mins) and Reading (25 mins).

5.0 LITTLEWORTH COMMON

5.1 Location

5.1.1 Littleworth Common is situated 2km northwest of Burnham Beeches and 5km north of Burnham (see Figure 1).

5.2 Ownership

5.2.1 Littleworth Common is a SSSI, owned by Dropmore Holdings Ltd and leased to South Bucks District Council who is responsible for its management (see Figure 1).

5.3 Public Transport Routes and Links

5.3.1 Littleworth Common does not offer car parking facilities, and has limited public transport services that directly serve the site. The routes of current public transport provision around the site are shown on Figure 2, and specific frequencies and timings of buses and trains are detailed in Appendices A and B respectively.

Bus Services

5.3.2 There are no direct or nearby bus routes to Littleworth Common. Bus services 74 and 40 provide access to Burnham Beeches (2km south-east) from which Littleworth Common can be reached by foot on the Beeches Way promoted footpath. The number 74 is the only service to operate on a Sunday.

Train Services

5.3.3 The nearest train station is Burnham (5km), however Slough Station provides access to the number 74 and 40 bus routes which stop near the site close to Burnham Beeches. The train station is operated by First Great Western and provides services to nearby main stations London Paddington (30 mins), Burnham (5 mins), Maidenhead (10 mins) and Reading (25 mins).

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 This audit has identified and mapped ownership in relation to the greenspace sites of Black Park Country Park, Stoke Common, Burnham Beeches and Littleworth Common within the South Bucks Heaths & Commons and the Colne Valley Park areas. The ownership mapping is shown on Figure 1.

6.1.2 The audit has also identified and mapped public transport accessibility around the sites (see Figure 2), and provided specific frequencies and timings of buses and trains (see Appendices A and B respectively). In summary, this aspect of the audit has found that there are no direct bus routes to any of the four sites, however there are at least two bus services that stop within 1km of Black Park Country Park, Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. There are no bus services that provide convenient access to Littleworth Common. Stoke Common and Black Park Country Park can be accessed via two or more railway stations. All of the greenspace sites are serviced by Slough train station, which provides good bus connections to the sites. Currently, only Burnham Beeches and Littleworth Common can be accessed by bus on a Sunday (via the number 74 service). Black Park Country Park can be accessed on Sundays via the Langley train station, but Stoke Common cannot be accessed by any form of public transport on a Sunday.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 This report provides a contribution to developing the evidence base for the North West London Green Arc initiative. It is recommended that the Steering Group gives consideration to building on this work by carrying out further audits to identify the ownership of existing greenspace sites and details of public transport routes and links for the other six priority areas identified within the Green Arc area (as listed in paragraph 1.2.3). This information would provide a consistent basis for identifying spatial priorities for investment in the North West London Green Arc Framework Plan.

APPENDIX A - BUS FREQUENCIES AND TIMINGS

FREQUENCY			
Provider	No.	Route	Frequency
Jason Tours	40	Langley - Slough - Hedgerley	Mon - Fri 4 a day, Sat 3 a day, Sun no service
First	58	Britwell - Slough - Uxbridge	Mon-Fri 20 mins, Sat 30 mins, Sun no service
Arriva/First	74	High Wycombe - Slough	Mon-Fri 30 mins, Sat 30 mins, Sun 60 mins
Country Rider	182	Denham - Iver - Slough - Windsor	Mon-Fri no service, Sat once a day, Sun no service
First	335	Newland Park Campus - Slough	Mon-Sat Irregular - longest wait 125 mins, Sun no service
Arriva	353	Slough - Gerrards Cross - Amersham - Chesham - Berkhamsted	Mon-Sat 60 mins, Sun no service
TIMINGS			
Provider	No.	Route	Commencement of route
Jason Tours	40	Langley - Slough - Hedgerley	Mon-Fri 0910,1110,1340,1527; Sat 0910-1340
First	58	Britwell - Slough - Uxbridge	Mon-Fri 0600-1842; Sat 0754-1754
Arriva/First	74	High Wycombe - Slough	Mon-Fri 0615-2015; Sat 0645-2015; Sun1000-2000
Country Rider	182	Denham - Iver - Slough - Windsor	Sat 1033
First	335	Newland Park Campus - Slough	Mon-Fri 0835-1821; Sat 0915-1745
Arriva	353	Slough - Gerrards Cross - Amersham - Chesham - Berkhamsted	Mon-Fri 0750-1630; Sat 0850-1550

APPENDIX B - RAIL FREQUENCIES AND TIMINGS

Station From	Station to	Provider	Frequency
Gerrards Cross	London Marylebone	Chiltern Railways	Mon-Sun 4 an hour
Gerrards Cross	High Wycombe	Chiltern Railways	Mon-Sat 3 an hour, Sun 2 an hour
Langley	Slough	First Great Western	Mon-Sun 2 an hour
Langley	Maidenhead	First Great Western	Mon-Sun 2 an hour
Langley	Burnham	First Great Western	Mon-Sun 2 an hour
Langley	Ealing Broadway	First Great Western	Mon-Sun 2 an hour
Langley	London Paddington	First Great Western	Mon-Sun 2 an hour
Slough	London Paddington	First Great Western	Mon-Sat 6 an hour, Sun 3 an hour
Slough	Burnham	First Great Western	Mon-Sat 2 an hour, Sun hourly
Slough	Maidenhead	First Great Western	Mon-Fri 5 an hour, Sat 4 an hour, Sun 2 an hour
Slough	Reading	First Great Western	Mon-Fri 5 an hour, Sat 6 an hour, Sun 3 an hour