

YATELEY COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

JUNE 2025

Chris Gazzard, Managing Director. Report compiled Tuesday 24th June 2025

1. COMMON LAND EXCHANGE APPLICATION UPDATE

On 14th May 2025 we were elated to finally receive the approval from the Planning Inspectorate with respect to Application COM/3336312, an application to deregister approximately 35.3 acres of the active aerodrome from Yateley Common, and replace with 35.3 acres of land at Cottage Farm, Yateley.

There is now a 3-month period during which a Judicial Review might be requested, and so we wait with fingers crossed!

With respect to the Replacement Land (Cottage Farm), we have already commenced works to remove some of the internal fencing between the paddocks. New fencing will be erected in the coming weeks around the Cottage Farm buildings to screen the area from the common and ensure the security of the site once the fields are opened up to the public.

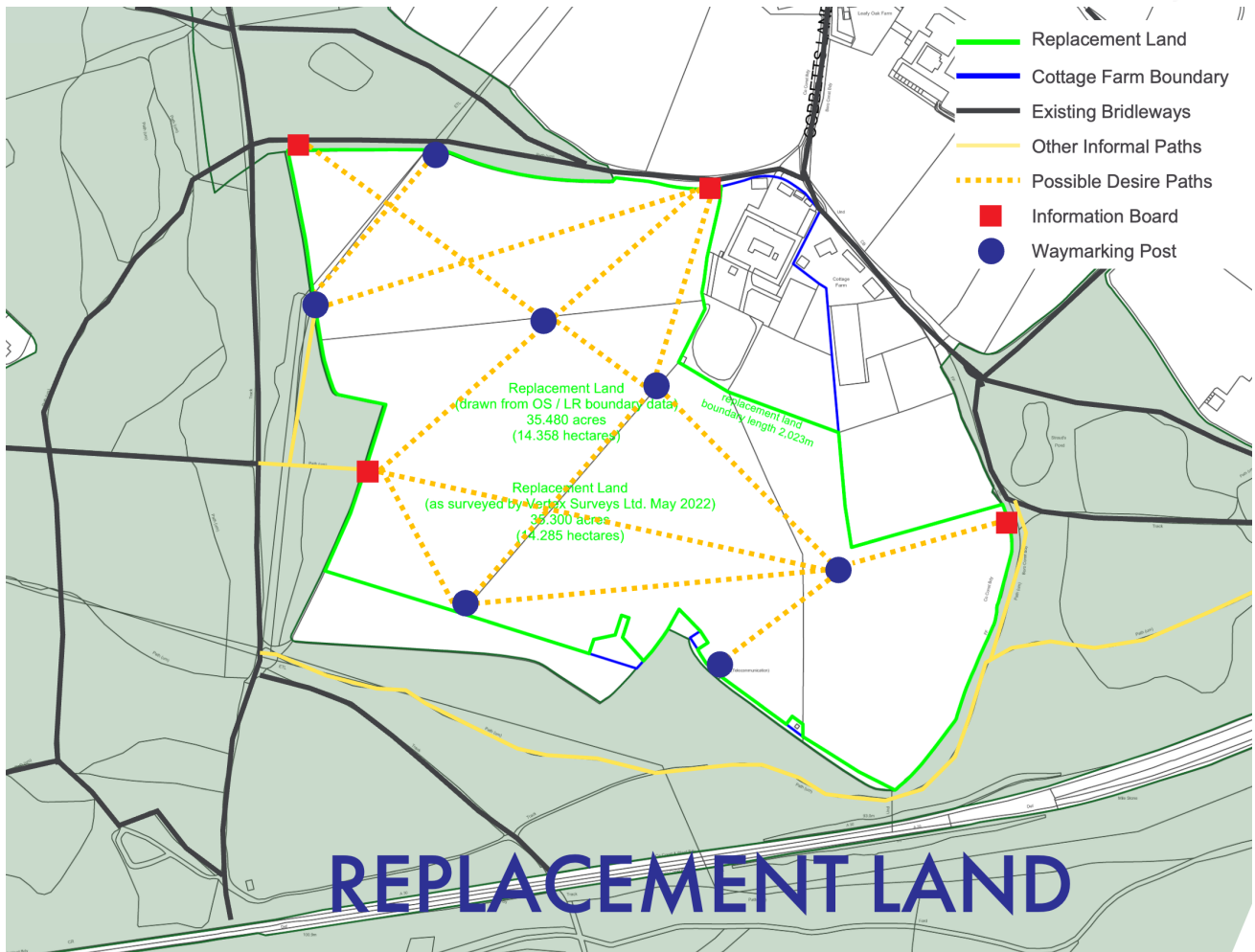
We've also lined up a contractor to remove the perimeter fences after the appeal period lapses in late August. We will be taking soil samples in accordance with our EMP to establish a base line.

Signage is being prepared in accordance with the Inspector's order. This has to be approved by Hampshire County Council, but will be similar in form to those seen elsewhere on the common.

We have asked the Yateley Society to provide some historical elements for the signage, with respect to the Loamer's Lane.

Suggested paths will be mown in across the land connecting onto adjacent bridleways and footpaths to encourage the use of the land. These will no doubt evolve over time as people use the land.

As a reminder this is the below plan for the waymarking posts, signage, and suggested paths.



2. EVENTS

Thames Basin Heaths Partnership will be running pop-ups on the disused runways throughout the year this year.

On Saturday 2nd August they will run their 'Secrets of the Common' event in the 'Paddock' opposite the Pathfinder Café.

Twilight Runway Challenge: Sat 20th September – with the route including the disused runways as usual.

3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We've had a couple of smaller fires, and one slightly larger one – which look to have been caused by campfires – likely by youths.

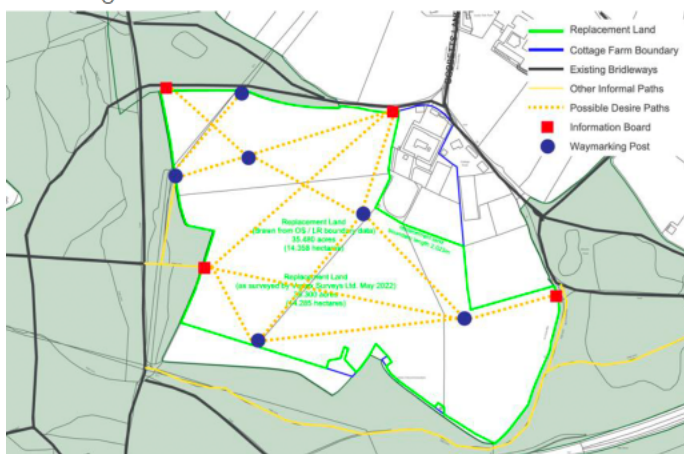
There is an ongoing problem with motorbikes on the common. We're grateful for all the visible work that Hampshire Constabulary and in particular PC Ben Blundell have been putting in to address this problem. We continue to report issues to 999, 101 as appropriate and to send our fire crew over to act as a deterrent.

First Draft of Signage:

Welcome to COTTAGE FARM *fields*

These fields were opened to the public in 2025 as part of a Common Land exchange with Blackbushe Airport.

The fields are managed by contractors on behalf of the owner, Cottage Farm Holding Ltd, and will be maintained in accordance with an initial 15-year Environmental Management Plan.



Ground nesting bird season is 1st March – 15th September. Please stick to the suggested paths to avoid disturbing them.



Please keep dogs on leads, and pick up after them.



It is an offence under Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to drive a motor vehicle on common land (including off-road vehicles such as motorbikes and quads).

www.cottagefarmyateley.com
Contact Blackbushe Admin: 01252 471 301 to report issues