

# Lammas Lands Visitor Survey 2016



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# **Summary**

An online visitor survey was carried out for the Lammas Lands, Godalming, between 15th December 2015 and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016. There were 219 usable responses. There were slightly more *female* respondents than *male* respondents, and the most common age category was *35-44 years*. Most respondents found out about the survey *via Facebook*, with a substantial minority finding out by a *letter* sent through the post.

The large majority (86%) of respondents lived within Godalming, with only 1% travelling more than 15km to the site. Most visit the site *2-3 times a week or more frequently*, although the most common individual frequency category was *2-3 times a month*. Three respondents had never visited the site.

Respondents were asked about their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands. *Walking* was the main activity of 46% of respondents, while 24% were *dog walking*. The remainder carried out a variety of main activities, of which the most frequent was *outing with the family*. Dog walkers formed the majority of daily visitors (64%), although most dog walkers visited *most days*. Most people carried out at least one other activity in addition to their main activity. The most frequently given additional activity was *walking*, followed by *outing with family* and *dog walking*. Twenty-nine people gave *dog walking* as an additional activity, meaning that in total 36% of respondents had one or more dogs with them on their last visit to the Lammas Lands, while thirty-eight percent were walking without a dog.

The majority of respondents (54.4%) spent between *half an hour and an hour* on their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands, while around 20% spent *less than half an hour* and *one to two hours* each, and a few spent *more than two hours* at the Lammas Lands. This pattern was fairly consistent between activity groups.

On their most recent visit, 67% of visitors arrived at the Lammas Lands *on foot*, although this varied markedly between activities. Unsurprisingly, most cyclists arrived by *bike*, while 40% of wildlife watchers arrived by *car/van*.

The most frequently given main reason for visiting the Lammas Lands was *scenery* (34.8%), followed by *rural feel* (19.6%). Other reasons were varied, and were each given by fewer than 10% of respondents. *Scenery* and *rural feel* were also the most frequently given additional reason for visiting, but *feels safe*, *close to local facilities* and *particular wildlife interest* were given more frequently as additional reasons than as main reasons.

Over 50% of respondents were positive about the potential management practices listed, and over 70% were positive about *ongoing management as a floodplain* and *continued habitat management. More tree planting* received the highest number of negative responses, while views were most polarised about *further cattle grazing*, although responses to both were positive overall.

Many respondents (34%) did not want to see any additional facilities or services, although around 20% each wanted to see *interpretation panels* or *additional signage*, and a variety of other suggestions were made.

Additional "free text" comments about the Lammas Lands were made by 48% of respondents. In many cases these reiterated the points made in answering the preceding questions. Points frequently made were about the importance of the site as a functioning floodplain and for its wildlife. Aesthetic appreciation of the site, and its significance for the town of Godalming, was also often indicated, and opinions were given on a variety of management practices.

Nineteen percent of respondents took an opportunity offered to comment on the Parks and Countryside Service of Waverley Borough Council. Comments were generally, but not exclusively, positive and supportive. A number of requests were made for specific actions.

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# Acknowledgements

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### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Lammas Lands are a complex of floodplain meadows along the River Wey located in the centre of Godalming and managed by Waverley Borough Council. The Lammas Lands have open access, and parts of the site are used extensively by the public. Waverley Borough Council requires more information about visitors to the Lammas Lands, including the activities they carry out and their opinions about the site, in order to inform management decisions about it. The Council therefore commissioned and publicised an online survey. The responses are analysed and summarised in this report.

# 2. Methods

- The visitor survey was carried out as an online survey using Snap software. It was publicised through 500 letters sent to properties located in the vicinity of the Lammas Lands, in the Waverley Borough Council website and through their Facebook account and on posters put up at six locations. Paper copies were also available on request. The survey was live from 15 December 2015 to 18 January 2016. In the survey, participants were asked to reply about their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands.
- 2.2 One response contained no data beyond the response "no" for "do you know where the Lammas Lands are located" and has been disregarded in the following analysis, leaving 229 usable surveys. In some cases respondents missed out a question; where this happened and the total number of responses was different, this is noted in the results for that question. Frequency of visit was changed from "never" to "don't know" for one respondent who had gone on to fill out the questionnaire with information about how they use the site.

# 3. Results

3.1 Between 15 December 2015 and 18 January 2016, 230 online questionnaires were submitted. All respondents knew where the Lammas Lands are located, and all but two were aware that the Lammas Lands are a floodplain.

# **About respondents**

- Just over half of respondents were female (130, 57%), and 87 (38%) male, while 12 (5%) declined to answer the question. Most respondents (219) considered themselves not to be disabled. Three considered themselves to be disabled. Seven respondents declined to answer the question.
- The most common age category was 35-44 years (35% of respondents) (see Figure 1).

  Categories 45-54 and 55-64 were similar, both accounting for about 16% of respondents, with smaller numbers in both older and younger age categories. Only one person under 18 responded to the questionnaire (but note that this does not necessarily reflect the number of children visiting the site, as children would be unlikely to complete a questionnaire).

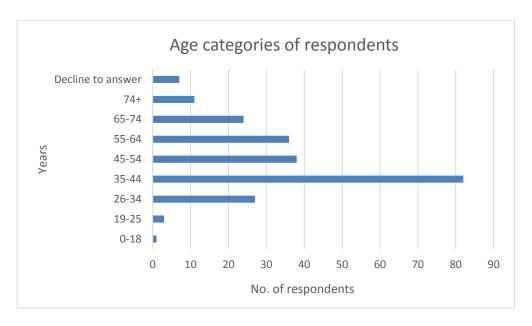


Figure 1: Age categories of respondents.

3.4 The majority of respondents found out about the survey via Facebook, and a substantial minority by invitation sent through the post (see Figure 2). We note that this may have influenced the age profile of respondents.

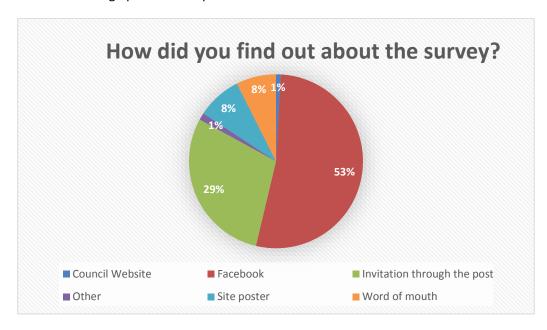


Figure 2: How respondents found out about the survey. *Other* included a neighbour passing on a letter, someone posting a photograph of the site poster online and via the Godalming Lions Club.

3.5 Ninety-two respondents (40%) said they might be interested in joining a friends group and 60 of these provided contact details (which have been passed on the Waverley Borough Council's Parks and Countryside Service). Two respondents added negative comments about the potential formation of a friends group.

3.6 Seventy-four (32%) respondents said they had an interest in birdwatching or other wildlife.

Of these, 23 gave contact details (which have been passed on the Waverley Borough

Council's Parks and Countryside Service).

# Where respondents came from

3.7 Of the 229 respondents, 228 provided full georeferenced postcodes. The locations of these postcodes are shown in Map 1. Ninety-nine percent of all respondents (225) lived within 15km of Godalming, of whom 196 (86% of the total) lived in the town. Other local urban areas with respondents were Milford, Witley and Bramley (three respondents from each), Elstead and Guildford (two respondents) and Norney (one respondent). Furthest respondent was from Portsmouth, followed by one from Crawley. Despite the relatively large distance both these respondents visited at least 2 or 3 times a month.

Farnham Guildfor Reigate Gatwick 6 New Alresford Horsham chester Southwater A/272 Billingshurst gh Petersfield Burger Hi' Midhurst st Hampshire Pulborough ampton Sussex Storrington Steyning Horndean Downs Fareham Havant Worthing Arundel Chichester Brighton Littlehampton Bognor Regis Portsmouth GODALMING Interviewees postcodes (note overlapping postcodes 3 km are offset in radius)

Map 1: Home postcodes of a) all respondents and b) respondents in the Godalming area.

# **Frequency of visit**

3.8 A large proportion of respondents (103) said that they visit the Lammas Lands either every day, most days, or one to three times a week (see Figure 3), although the most frequent response was two to three times a month (51 respondents, 22%). Seventeen visit the site daily, while three respondents had never visited the site and three were not sure how often they visited.



Figure 3: How often respondents visit the Lammas Lands.

3.9 Map 2 shows frequency of visit according to postcode. Most respondents who live close by visit daily, while most interviewees who live further away visited infrequently. However, two interviewees who lived a reasonable distance from Godalming (Farnborough and Brookwood) visit quite regularly due to their place of work being in Godalming.

Legend Daily Most days o 1 to 3 times a week 2 to 3 times per month Once a month Less than once a month := Never Don't know 3 km

Map 2: Postcodes of interviewees in Godalming labelled by visit frequency.

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# **Activity**

3.10 Of those who visit the site, the largest group said that their main activity on their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands was *walking* (103, 46% of 224 responses) (see Figure 3). A substantial proportion gave *dog walking* (53, 24%), while smaller proportions gave *family outing, cycling* or *other* as their main reason for visiting (see Figure 1 and final column of Table 1). Other reasons were varied and are listed in Appendix I. Five respondents left the "main activity" box blank. Note that 29 people who had not given dog walking as their main activity noted it as an additional activity (see paragraph 3.13).

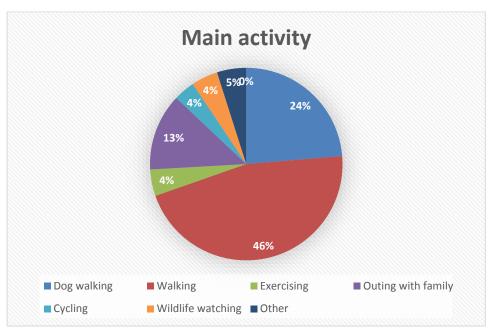


Figure 4: The main activities carried out by respondents on their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands (the chart is labelled with the percentage of respondents doing each activity). N = 224

3.11 Most walkers visited the site regularly (Table 1, Figure 5) (e.g. between 3 times a week and fortnightly), while most dog walkers visited either daily or up to three times a week.

Table 1: Main activity and frequency of visit (% is of frequency group). Shaded cells indicate the most common activity in each frequency group.

| Activity             | Daily      | Most days  | 1 to 3<br>times a<br>week | 2 to 3<br>times per<br>month | Once a month | Less than once a month | Don't<br>know | TOTAL |
|----------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Cycling              |            |            | 1 (2.1%)                  | 3 (5.8%)                     | 1 (2.9%)     | 3 (8.6%)               |               | 8     |
| Dog walking          | 10 (62.5%) | 14 (36.8%) | 12 (25.5%)                | 7 (13.7%)                    | 7 (20.6%)    | 3 (8.6%)               |               | 53    |
| Exercising           |            | 1 (2.6%)   | 2 (4.3%)                  | 5 (9.8%)                     |              | 1 (2.9%)               | 1 (33.3%)     | 10    |
| Other                |            | 1(2.6%)    | 1 (2.1%)                  | 4 (7.8%)                     | 2 (5.9%)     | 2 (5.7%)               | 1 (33.3%)     | 11    |
| Outing with family   |            | 4 (10.5%)  | 6 (12.8%)                 | 8 (15.7%)                    | 5 (14.7%)    | 6 (17.1%)              |               | 29    |
| Walking              | 6 (37.5%)  | 16 (42.1%) | 22 (46.8%)                | 23 (45.1%)                   | 16 (47.1)    | 19 (54.3%)             | 1 (33.3%)     | 103   |
| Wildlife<br>watching |            | 2 (5.2%)   | 3 (6.4%)                  | 1 (2.0%)                     | 3 (8.8)      | 1 (2.9%)               |               | 10    |

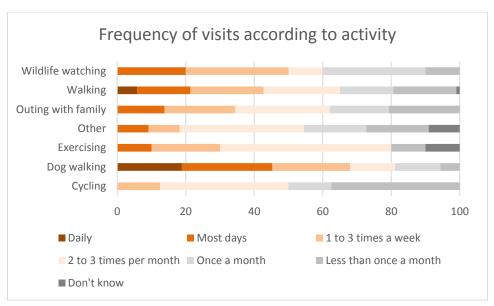


Figure 5: Frequency of visits according to main activity at the Lammas Lands.

3.12 Map 3 shows activity according to postcode. There was no apparent correlation between activity and postcode, with little clear difference between those within Godalming or further afield (including those not plotted on the map).

Legend Dog walking Walking Cycling Exercising Outing with family \*kleford Wildlife watching Other Not answered GODALMING 3 km

Map 3: Postcodes of interviewees in Godalming labelled by main activity.

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3.13 Most people (92%) carried out more than one activity on their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands. Large minorities gave up to four additional activities, while a handful gave up to seven (see Table 2). The most frequently given additional activity was walking, followed by outing with family and dog walking (see Table 3). A number of "other" activities were given, and are listed in Appendix II. Note that 29 respondents who did not give dog walking as their main activity gave dog walking as an additional activity (a further 19 people gave dog walking as both their main and additional activity). Most were walking, but several were undertaking other activities such as wildlife watching, out with family. This means that a total of 82 respondents (36%) had one or more dogs with them on their last visit to the Lammas Lands, although they did not necessarily consider dog walking as their main activity. Of those walking, eighty-four (34% of respondents) were walking without a dog (i.e. their main activity was walking and they did not give dog walking as an additional activity).

Table 2: The number of respondents who carried out activities in addition to their main activity at the Lammas Lands on their most recent visit.

| Extra activities | Number (%) of respondents |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1                | 77 (37%)                  |
| 2                | 49 (23%)                  |
| 3                | 50 (24%)                  |
| 4                | 24 (11%)                  |
| 5                | 7 (3%)                    |
| 6                | 2 (<1%)                   |
| 7                | 1 (<1%)                   |

Table 3: The number of respondents who carried out specific additional activities in addition to their main activity at the Lammas Lands on their most recent visit.

| Additional activities | No. of respondents |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Cycling               | 38                 |
| Dog walking           | 48                 |
| Exercising            | 69                 |
| Other                 | 26                 |
| Outing with family    | 86                 |
| Walking               | 123                |
| Wildlife watching     | 85                 |

### **Duration of visit**

The majority of respondents (54.4%) spent between half an hour and an hour on their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands. Roughly similar numbers spent less than half an hour (23.5%) or one to two hours (18.1), while a handful spent more time at the Lammas Lands, or did not know. This pattern was fairly consistent between activity groups, although it was most pronounced for those whose main activity was dog walking or an outing with family.

More respondents whose main activity was exercise or "other" tended to stay for less than half an hour.

Table 4: Duration of visit by main activity. Pale cells indicate the highest value in each row

| Main activity        | < 30<br>mins | 30<br>mins -<br>1 hour | 1-2<br>hours | 2-3<br>hours | > 3<br>hours | Don't<br>know | Total |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| Cycling              | 2            | 3                      | 2            | 1            |              |               | 8     |
| Dog walking          | 8            | 37                     | 8            |              |              |               | 53    |
| Exercising           | 4            | 3                      | 2            | 1            |              |               | 10    |
| Other                | 4            | 3                      |              |              | 2            | 2             | 11    |
| Outing with family   | 4            | 22                     | 3            |              |              |               | 29    |
| Walking              | 29           | 51                     | 22           |              | 1            |               | 103   |
| Wildlife<br>watching | 1            | 4                      | 4            | 1            |              |               | 10    |
| (Not answered)       | 1            |                        |              |              | 1            |               | 2     |
| Total                | 53           | 123                    | 41           | 3            | 4            | 5             | 226   |

# **Mode of transport**

3.15 Most people arrived at the Lammas Lands on foot (see Figure 6). The largest minority arrived by car/van, a few by bicycle and just a handful arriving by bus and train and also boat (which was specified by one respondent under "other"). Two respondents specified that they drove to work in Godalming, then walked from their workplace to the Lammas Lands.

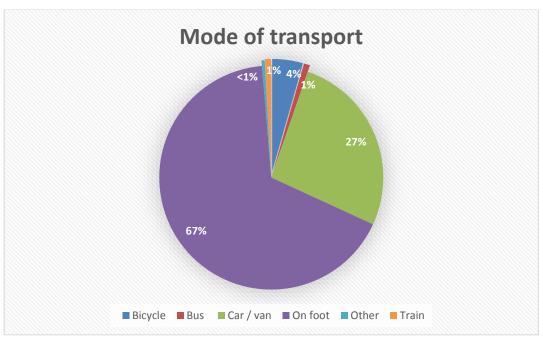


Figure 6: Mode of transport used by respondents on their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands

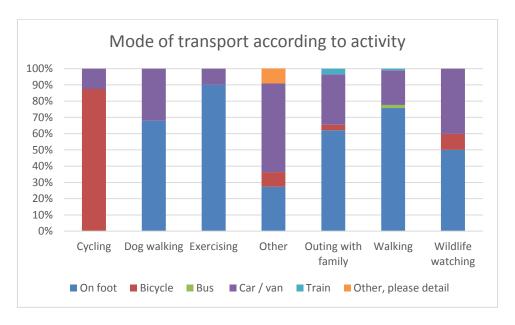


Figure 7: The proportion of respondents who used particular modes of transport to travel to the Lammas Lands on their most recent visit, shown according to main activity undertaken.

# **Reasons for visiting the Lammas Lands**

3.16 The most frequently given reason for visiting the Lammas Lands was *scenery* (34.8%), followed by *rural feel* (19.6%). Most other reasons were given by 5-10% of respondents, while *feels safe* and *good/easy parking* were given by fewer than five respondents. Other reasons (see Table 10 in Appendix II) included convenience in terms of location and for undertaking specific activities.

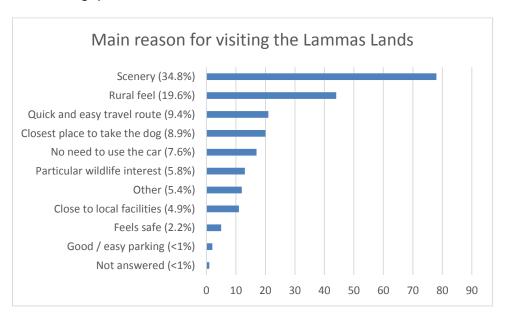


Figure 8: The main reason for respondents' most recent visit to the Lammas Lands.

3.17 Respondents were also given the opportunity to give additional reasons for their most recent visit to the Lammas Lands. *Rural feel* and *scenery* were again high on the list, but *feels safe*, *close to local facilities* and *particular wildlife interest* were notably higher up the list as additional reasons for visiting compared to main reason. Fifteen respondents also gave other additional reasons, which are listed in Table 11 in Appendix II. These other reasons are quite diverse but include three specific references to the Lammas Lands status as a floodplain.

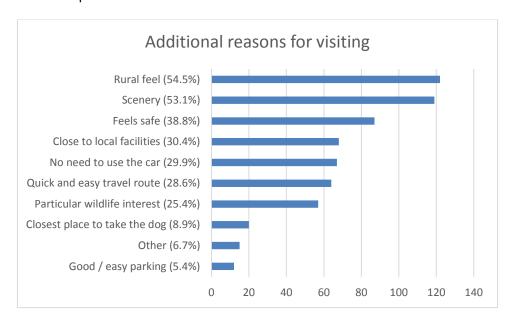


Figure 9: Additional reasons for respondents' most recent visit to the Lammas Lands (data from question 9, note that respondents were able to tick all categories. Percentages are the percentage of respondents who gave the reason).

### Views on management

3.18 Respondents were asked to rank possible management practices, plus the formation of a volunteer group, on a scale from one to six, where one represented like and six dislike. This is summarised in Figure 10 (data can be seen in Table 12 in Appendix II). Over 50% of respondents were positive (i.e. gave ranks of one or two) for each potential management practice, and over 70% gave ranks of one or two for *ongoing management as a floodplain* and *continued habitat management*. Respondents were slightly more ambivalent (i.e. gave ranks of three or four) or negative (i.e. gave ranks of five and six) about the remaining four categories although the majority were still positive in each case. The largest number of overall negative responses (ranks five and six together) were given for *more tree planting*, although the largest number of rank six responses was for *grazing*, indicating a minority (11%) with a strong dislike of this management practice.

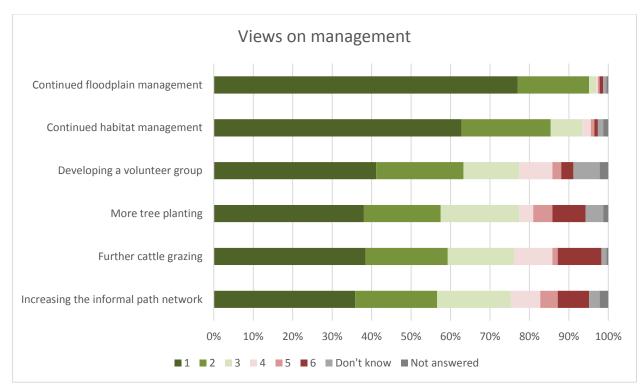


Figure 10: Responses to various potential management practices at the Lammas Lands on a scale from one (like) to 6 (dislike).

Table 5: The number of positive and negative responses (listed in order of no. of responses) to different management practices at the Lammas Lands.

| Management                           | No. of positive responses (1 & 2) | Management                           | No. of negative responses (5 & 6) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Continued floodplain management      | 215                               | More tree planting                   | 30                                |
| Continued habitat management         | 193                               | Increasing the informal path network | 28                                |
| Developing a volunteer group         | 143                               | Further cattle grazing               | 28                                |
| Further cattle grazing               | 134                               | Developing a volunteer group         | 12                                |
| More tree planting                   | 130                               | Continued habitat management         | 4                                 |
| Increasing the informal path network | 128                               | Continued floodplain management      | 3                                 |

# What other facilities or services would you like to see?

3.19 Respondents were asked whether they would like to see more signage, interpretation panels, volunteer opportunities, or no other facilities or services, and were given the opportunity to specify other facilities and services. The largest response was *none*, followed by *interpretation panels* and *more signage*. Twenty respondents (9%) specified facilities and services other than those listed. Several of these were reinforcing their previous preference. Of the remainder, most were requesting dog bins, improved paths, seating, or that dogs should be better controlled (see Table 6).

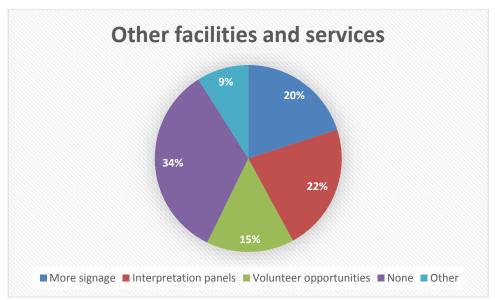


Figure 11: Other facilities and opportunities that respondents would like at the Lammas Lands.

Table 6: Other facilities and services specified by respondents for the Lammas Lands.

| Other facilities or services specified         | No. (%) of respondents |
|--|------------------------|
| Dog bins                                       | 6 (17.6%)              |
| Improved paths                                 | 5 (14.7%)              |
| Seats  | 3 (8.8%)               |
| Better fencing                                 | 3 (8.8%)               |
| Litter bin                                     | 3 (8.8%)               |
| Access for town bonfire                        | 2 (5.9%)               |
| Dogs under better control/owners clear up mess | 3 (8.8%)               |
| More wildlife/work for wildlife                | 2 (5.9%)               |

3.20 Other facilities/services mentioned by just one respondent were better parking, a footbridge by Sainsbury's, a circular walk with exit by the chiropractic clinic, less signage, relocating the deer, and the potential for school groups to use the site. The full responses are listed in Table 13 in Appendix II.

### Other comments about the Lammas Lands

3.21 A total of 141 comments were made by 111 (48%) of respondents. The comments are illustrated in Figure 12 (common words such as and, the, such, etc. were removed, and similar words such as dog, dogs and Dog were combined, i.e. as dog.). Many of the comments reiterate points made elsewhere in the survey. They are summarised according to topic in Table 7.

Table 7: Other comments made by respondents about Lammas Lands (a small number of comments fall within more than one category)

| General point   | No. of times made |
|---|-------------------|
| Aesthetic appreciation of the Lammas Lands  | 27                |
| General appreciation of current management  | 4                 |
| Importance of site for different reasons:   | (59)              |
| Importance of function as floodplain  | 25                |
| Importance for general access, recreation and community events  | 8                 |
| Importance for dog walkers  | 9                 |
| Importance for wildlife   | 17                |
| Views on management:  | (46)              |
| No change wanted  | 7                 |
| Better infrastructure (surfaces around entrances, signs, benches etc.)  | 6                 |
| Keep rural feel (including not wanting more signs or paths)   | 4                 |
| Better management of dogs (dog bins, enforcing dogs on leads in bird breeding season policy, no commercial dog walkers) | 3                 |
| Keep or enhance trees and scrub   | 8                 |
| Graze with livestock (cattle mostly specified)  | 8                 |
| Don't graze/grazing with livestock may present problems for dog walkers and families                                    | 6                 |
| Dredge river/ditches or improve drainage  | 4                 |
| Do not allow any development on the Lammas Lands  | 13                |
| Make history of site more accessible  | 2                 |
| Not aware that it was possible to walk on the Lammas Lands  | 2                 |

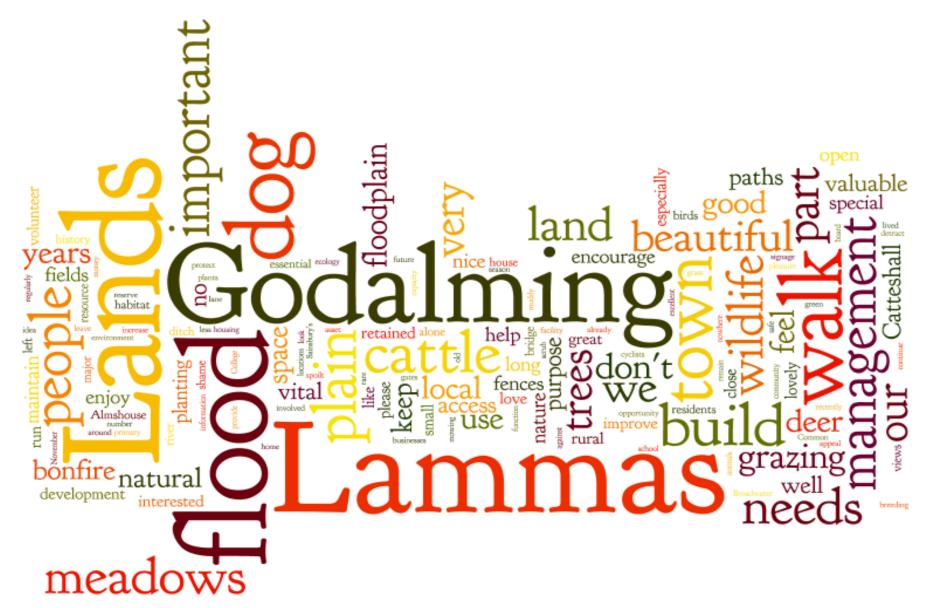


Figure 12: Word cloud illustrating comments made by respondents to the Lammas Lands online survey.

3.22 A large number of comments were made about the management of the site (59), a substantial minority of these concerned the floodplain function of the Lammas Lands. Under importance for general access etc., the annual town bonfire was specifically mentioned seven times. The next largest group of comments concerned the management of the site, with a fairly similar numbers of comments about most management practices or issues raised. Aesthetic appreciation was the next most common comment, with 27 responses. Of these, a large number mentioned the importance of the Lammas Lands to Godalming. Overall, respondents perceptions of the Lammas Lands were strongly linked to Godalming, which was mentioned 46 times (including references simply to "the town"), perhaps reflecting the importance of the Lammas Lands to the identity of the town. The full comments can be found in Table 14 in Appendix 11.

### Other comments about Parks and Countryside Service

3.23 Comments about the Parks and Countryside Service were given by 44 (19%) of respondents. Seventeen comments were positive (e.g. "They do a great job") while five were negative, either about the Parks and Countryside Service or their management of the Lammas Lands (e.g. "Fail to engage with locals or other agencies in relation to changes that have the potential to impact on flood water containment capacity..."). Seven comments were more neutral, including four by respondents who were not sure who the Parks and Countryside Service are. Eighteen were about specific changes that the respondents would like to see (e.g. "Keep the access entrances safe & clear of obstacles"). The full comments can be found in Table 15 in Appendix II.

# 4. Appendix I

# **Lammas Lands Visitor Survey**

This short survey is commissioned by Waverley Borough Council to find out more about who visits the area and will help inform the management plan being produced for the site.

Q1 Please provide your full postcode. This will be used to check we have a sample of responses from a wide geographical area and to compare responses grouped by geographical area. Postcodes generally represent several addresses, so we cannot identify your address from the post-code.

# Q2 Do you know where the Lammas Lands are located? Tick only one

Vρς

No, don't know

No, not aware of them

The Lammas Lands are located in Godalming.

Q3 Knowing this are you aware of the Lammas Lands?

Yes

Nο

# Q4 How often do you visit the Lammas Lands? Tick only one

Daily

Most days

1 to 3 times a week

2 to 3 times per month

Once a month

Less than once a month

Never

Don't know

# Q5 On your most recent visit to the Lammas Lands, what was the main activity you undertook? Tick only one

Dog walking

Walking

Exercising

Outing with family

Cycling

Wildlife watching

Other

Please detail

# Q6 And what other activities do you undertake? Tick as many other activities as apply.

Dog walking

Walking

Exercising

Outing with family

Cycling

Wildlife watching

None

Other

Please detail:

# Q7 Thinking about your most recent visit to the Lammas Lands, how long did you spend on the site? Tick only one

Less than 30 minutes

Between 30 minutes and 1 hour

1-2 hours

2-3 hours

More than 3 hours

Don't know

# Q8 Thinking about your most recent visit to the Lammas Lands, what mode of transport did you use to get there? Tick only one

Car / van

On foot

Bus

Train

Bicycle

Other, please detail

Further details:

# Q9 Thinking about your most recent visit, what was the main reason you chose to visit the Lammas Lands? Tick only one.

No need to use the car

Quick and easy travel route

Good / easy parking

Feels safe

Close to local facilities

Scenery

Rural feel

Particular wildlife interest

Closest place to take the dog

Other

Please detail

# Q10 And what were the other reasons why you chose the Lammas Lands? Tick as many answers as apply.

No need to use the car

Quick and easy travel route

Good / easy parking

Feels safe

Close to local facilities

Scenery

Rural feel

Particular wildlife interest

Closest place to take the dog

None

Other

Please detail:

# Q11 Did you know the Lammas Lands are a floodplain? Tick only one

Yes

No

Don't know

# Q12 Waverley Borough Council is committed to conserving this area. In line with this we are considering several options. On a scale of 1 (like) to dislike (6) please rate how you feel about the following management options:

Developing a volunteer group

More tree planting

Further cattle grazing

Continued habitat management

Increasing the informal path network

Continued floodplain management

# Q13 What other facilities or services would you like to see? Tick as many answers as apply

More signage

Interpretation panels

Volunteer opportunities

None

Other

Please specify

# Q14 Do you have any other comments about the Lammas Lands?

# Q15 Do you have any other comments about the Parks & Countryside Service?

# Q16 How did you find out about this survey? Tick only one

Invitation through the post

Site poster

Word of mouth

Facebook

Council Website

Other

Please detail

# Q17 Would you be interested in joining a 'friends of' group if one was created?

No

Yes

If yes, please supply an email address so we can contact you to discuss opportunities

# Q18 Do you have an interest in bird watching or other wildlife monitoring?

No

Yes

If yes, please supply an email address so we can contact you to discuss opportunities Q19 Do you consider yourself disabled?

Yes

No

Decline to answer

# Q20 In which age range do you belong?

0-18

19-25

26-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

74+

Decline to answer

# Q21 What is your gender?

Female

Male

Decline to answer

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The results will be used to shape the Management Plan for the site. Please monitor our website for further updates www.waverley.gov.uk/lammaslands

# 5. Appendix II

Table 8: Other main activities undertaken during questionnaire respondents' most recent visit to the Lammas Lands. (unedited)

| Other main activities  |
|--|
| Bird watching  |
| Boating  |
| Checking water quality, bank side tree growth, wildlife check.                                       |
| Dog walking and my narrowboat  |
| Exercise   |
| Fishing  |
| Had no idea that we are allowed to access Lammas lands, just thought it was an essential flood plain |
| Help with the bonfire  |
| Looking for wild life  |
| My wife and I walk into Godalming every day and on the riverside to Catteshall Road weekly           |
| Not able to do other than observe from car   |
| organising and building town bonfire and firework display with Godalming Lions Club                  |
| Passing by   |
| Rescuing a cow from the river  |
| Returning a terrified adult swan after finding it sitting in a puddle in the middle of the road      |
| Walk with the baby   |
| Walking past into town   |
| Walking to work across Catteshall Meadow   |

5.1 One respondent noted in this section that they were doing part of a 10km fitness walk around Godalming that they do at least once a week.

Table 9: Other additional activities undertaken during questionnaire respondents' most recent visit to the Lammas Lands. (unedited)

| Other additional activities   |
|---|
| Allotment holder  |
| As I live close by I go to check the river level                                      |
| Attending summer concerts   |
| Building Godalming & Villages Lions Town bonfire                                      |
| Canoe & Kayaking  |
| Checking river levels in relation to flood risk                                       |
| Commute   |
| Go on lunch break for a quite space with a lovely view                                |
| I am an angler  |
| My garden backs into the Lammas Lands so it is my main view from the back of my house |
| My narrowboat and dog walking   |
| Painting and photography  |
| Photography   |
| Simply admiring the 'Green View' in the middle of Godalming!                          |
| Sky watching (daytime) clouds and skies   |

### Other additional activities

**Swimming** 

Town fairs

Used to use to Walk our dog Do not now have a dog

Walking across to Godalming town from Catteshall, either towpath or meadow if dry enough

Watching the boats on canal and bonfire night

Watching the fireworks display in November

# Table 10: Other main reasons that respondents chose to visit the Lammas Lands on their most recent visit (unedited).

# Other main reasons

Exercise

Fishing trip

good place to see birds that frequent fresh water (kingfishers and egrets for example)

I am interested in wetland birds and would like to see the Lammas lands further developed

I live next to it

I love the views across the Lammas Land

It is ideal for dog walking as it is a secure very large field and we don't get in the way of bikes

It's peaceful

Meeting in Godalming with friends for coffee

Most local [place] for returning the petrified swan

My back garden backs onto the Lammas so I use it for dog walking and general walking

Near to home

On a walking route

Pleasant to walk through

Pleasant walk in dry weather away from main road

Quite often dear and buzzards to be seen like to take photos

Reviewing the path by Hell Ditch

Scenic and peaceful route along the canal; great views across Godalming and up to Frith Hill

Scenic Connection to the Downs Link from home in Westbrook Road

Took toddler to see the ducks

town bonfire event

Undertake canoeing and kayaking

Walking with children

With two young boys it's a safe place for them to run and release energy within a safe environment

Work

Table 11: Other additional reasons why respondents chose to visit the Lammas Lands on their most recent visit. (unedited)

| Other additional reasons  |
|---|
| Other additional reasons  |
| Beautiful area in which to spend moments of contemplation                                 |
| Because they are a flood plain and important local resource for property protection       |
| Canoe & Kayaking  |
| Convenience   |
| Exercising  |
| Free family activity  |
| I have no need of a car so walk this route frequently                                     |
| It's my community   |
| Makes a pleasant change from High Street to walk home after Sunday Lunch                  |
| Nice to be by the river   |
| This time of year we take a daily inventory of water levels after 2013 flooding to house  |
| To check flood water levels as Lammas Lands are the flood plains for Godalming            |
| To enjoy the river walk   |
| We always look for heron, pheasant and deer, and with work being carried out on scrubland |

Table 12: Respondents views about various management activities that Waverley Borough Council could carry out on the Lammas Lands.

|                 | Developing a volunteer group | More tree planting | Further cattle grazing | Continued habitat | Increasing the informal path | Continued floodplain |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
|                 |                              |                    |                        | management        | network                      | management           |
| Like 1          | 93 (41.2%)                   | 86 (38.1%)         | 87 (38.5%)             | 142 (62.8%)       | 81 (35.8%)                   | 174 (77%)            |
| 2               | 50 (22.1%)                   | 44 (19.5%)         | 47 (20.8%)             | 51 (22.6%)        | 47 (20.8%)                   | 41 (18.1%)           |
| 3               | 32 (14.2%)                   | 45 (19.9%)         | 38 (16.8%)             | 18 (8%)           | 42 (18.6%)                   | 4 (1.8%)             |
| 4               | 19 (8.4%)                    | 8 (3.5%)           | 22 (9.7%)              | 5 (2.2%)          | 17 (7.5%)                    | 1 (0.4%)             |
| 5               | 5 (2.2%)                     | 11 (4.9%)          | 3 (1.3%)               | 2 (0.9%)          | 10 (4.4%)                    | 1 (0.4%)             |
| Dislike 6       | 7 (3.1%)                     | 19 (8.4%)          | 25 (11.1%)             | 2 (0.9%)          | 18 (8%)                      | 2 (0.9%)             |
| Don't know      | 15 (6.6%)                    | 10 (4.4%)          | 3 (1.3%)               | 3 (1.3%)          | 6 (2.7%)                     | 2 (0.9%)             |
| Not<br>answered | 5 (2.2%)                     | 3 (1.3%)           | 1 (0.4%)               | 3 (1.3%)          | 5 (2.2%)                     | 1 (0.4%)             |

Table 13: Other facilities/services requested at the Lammas Lands by respondents. (unedited)

| Other facilities/services specified  |
|--|
| A few seats  |
| Access for holding town bonfire  |
| Better fencing around the Lammas Lands to stop cattle etc. escaping from end nearest Godalming church  |
| Better parking and foot bridge by Sainsburys   |
| Bins and Dog waste bins  |
| Continuing to host the local town bonfire as well as cater for wildlife                                |
| Development of a circular walk taking in both sides of the river, so exit needed near the chiropractor |

### Other facilities/services specified

Dog fouling bins so that more lazy dog owners don't have an excuse to not pick up their dogs poo

Dog Poo Bin at either end of gated access to Lammas between Godalming and Catteshall Rd

Dog poo bins

Dog waste and litter bins

Dogs on leads where wildlife are (Broadwater especially)

Don't spoil them by putting in more clutter

Easier walkways so they don't get so muddy/flooded

Fix the fencing that is rusted/broken/missing. More signage on how to get onto Lammas Lands

I don't use it enough to be able to comment

I don't want it to change too much. I have lived in Godalming most of my life and I love it as it is

I'd like to see other dog walkers taking responsibility and clearing up mess away from the path

Improve the area around the gates, maybe with boardwalk type of surface

Improved path

Interpretation panels-not too many, should be in keeping with the natural feel - see Nat Trust signs

Keep it simple, and clean. It's liked because it is a natural environment, unspoilt by modern things

Leave it alone!

Less signage - don't spoil the natural / scenic look of this rural area!

Litter bins at entrances & better control of dogs

Maybe boards by the gates they get very deep puddles there.

More seating

More seats (because it is not National Trust policy to put seats along the towpath. That's daft)

More wildlife friendly work - bird boxes and ensuring there is plenty of cover left for wildlife

More wildlife

One sign on Town Bridge by United Church to towpath "Guildford 4 miles" to encourage walkers.

Personally, I'd be grateful if the deer could be relocated as my dog is always on the lookout.

Raised walkway parallel to Bridge Street to provide a pleasant walking route in to Godalming

Restrictions on any development

They have been here since the time of the doomsday book - lets preserve them for future generations

Volunteering already available:-) it could be used by local schools for geography field studies

Waste bins at main entrances for dog waste

Table 14: Free text comments about the Lammas Lands made by respondents (unedited).

# A few loads of ballast at the ends of the path alongside the Hell Ditch to get rid of the mud patches A rare survival. Please keep up the positive management. A valuable part of our community Although tree planting is generally a good thing, the Lammas Lands are characterised by the wide open space and flood plain so more trees would seem unnatural. Also it would seem a shame to increase the number of (even informal) paths and therefore see more people walking on it from the other side of the river. It is lovely as it is. Annual bonfire site should remain.

### **Comments about the Lammas Lands** 6. As it belongs to the people of Godalming it should be for and used by the people i.e. bonfire night, funfair fetes etc. as well as grazing cattle and sheep of local people 7. Beautiful, please conserve them 8. Benches would be lovely. 9. Better management of the grass lands on both sides of the small steam, by the use of grazing animals. Dredging of both rivers would be a good idea to sustain the river depth, but this is and always has been a flood plain, so needs to be kept as such and not developed. The area should be managed by natural means, so as to enhance the image of the area. 10. Can Sainsbury's switch off the lights, or get window blinds, on the new second storey. The light pollution disturbs the whole experience and is further creeping urbanisation. 11. Clearer signage and access to Lammas Lands as I suspect I'm among many who didn't know it was open to the public. 12. Could do with a footbridge of sorts either by Sainsbury's or onto Catteshall lane somewhere!! 13. Could Hell's Ditch be dredged to make it deeper so that it holds more water? The very wet and muddy areas by the gates need improving, a short board walk would be a good way of doing that. 14. Definitely not suitable for any house building to be put on it. 15. Don't develop on the floodplain! 16. Don't ever build on it! Don't mow all the grass at once - it leaves nowhere for wildlife to hide. 17. Erect a sign for Overgone Meadow to match those for Catteshall and Almshouse meadows - or else the old name will be lost soon 18. For it to continue as the site for the Town Fireworks and Bonfire in November as long as this is managed sensitively. 19. For maximum bird interest, the existing trees (especially alder and willow) and scrub borders are valuable (especially for nesting); further loss would be regrettable. It is unfortunate that the area dries out too early in the season to provide breeding habitat for wetland species. The attempts to improve drainage by clearance along Hell Ditch are counterintuitive for a flood meadow. Grazing is very valuable, as is autumn mowing, but summer mowing on Catteshall Meadow has merely extended the area disturbed by dog-walkers. The reference on the web page about keeping dogs on leads during the breeding season is completely ignored; until there is some attempt to guide dog walkers to a more limited area, the value of the site will be compromised. 20. From what I have read about flood management, planting trees is a major part of flood prevention. I think there is so much space that planting trees would not detract from the feeling of open space. 21. Great place! 22. Have lived in Godalming nearly all my long life & am no longer able to get out much but it is a part of Godalming & would like to see it well managed 23. I wasn't aware you could walk on it. Can you?! 24. I do not think people walk over Lammas Lands opposite the Burys due to it being very boggy terrain from flooding, even in summer. Dog walkers seem to use Lammas lands behind fire station, probably less wet? Also, it's used for town bonfire etc. 25. I don't wish to see buildings here in the future 26. I love the views across the Lammas Lands. It is special because it has not changed too much over the years. 27. I love this area of Godalming - it's an oasis of peace and contributes to making our town special 28. I recently visited wetland reserve in Merstham that has been developed for the local residents to enjoy and feel the Lammas Lands could be similarly enhanced. Dog walkers, cyclists and those who just enjoy being in a nice environment will all benefit from a major asset that few towns have on their doorstep. I am an active volunteer for Surrey wildlife trust and would welcome the opportunity to get involved in a project like this close to home. 29. I reiterate what I've said already about their long long history and feel very strongly that this land we have inherited is cared for in the 21st century with great respect

| Comments about the Lammas Lands |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 30.                             | I think the Lammas Lands need to be kept as flood plains and grazing as they have been for many  |  |
| 30.                             | y ears   |  |
| 31.                             | If the Lammas Lands are built on or the land is altered in any way, this will result in more flooding in Godalming as happened in 1968   |  |
| 32.                             | I'm unsure exactly what the purpose behind this survey is but I think the Lammas Lands are one of the most special places to walk in Godalming, please don't do anything that would take away from that. They are part of what makes Godalming such a special place to live, the fact they are kept clear of house building and left to be what they were intended for, flood plains, is common sense. A fact which doesn't stop some other councils allowing builders to build on them. |  |
| 33.                             | It is a pleasure when passing to see cattle grazing and various other wildlife frequenting the area  |  |
| 34.                             | It is beautiful just the way it is for all to enjoy. After the flooding a few years back, it shows how important as a flood plain it is.   |  |
| 35.                             | It is essential it remains a floodplain, and the developers are kept well away! Our small town has been a building site for too long.  |  |
| 36.                             | It is good to have a continued and committed plan for the Lammas Lands as they are a big part of the community.  |  |
| 37.                             | It is lovely that the dogs can run free and enjoy themselves. I am very concerned that if cattle are re introduced which is seems likely that the dogs will have to be kept on the lead and I won't be able to take children on the walk with me. A lot of people have said the same.  |  |
| 38.                             | It is most important as a flood plain and should remain as such.   |  |
| 39.                             | It is perfectly fine as it is. When there are so many other things and places that need attention, the Lammas is a flood plain that really should be left alone for the deer, pheasants and all manner of insect, birds and beasties and plants-except ragwort! Stop searching for things to waste money on when there are legitimate needs elsewhere  |  |
| 40.                             | It is vital that they are kept as flood plain with natural elements encouraged and public access maintained  |  |
| 41.                             | It would be good if the entrances were managed slightly, as they can get quite muddy, which makes it hard to go in in normal shoes.  |  |
| 42.                             | It would be nice to give the deer a safer area to protect them from being chased by dogs within the Lammas lands e.g. opposite Sainsbury's, the vegetation could be allowed to grow.   |  |
| 43.                             | It's a beautiful area  |  |
| 44.                             | It's a beautiful part of our town when it's not flooded. It makes you feel close to nature to have this so close to the town and freely accessible. It must help prevent flooding in other locations by the very nature that it floods Rather there than people's home or businesses.  |  |
| 45.                             | It's a great wildlife habitat and a tranquil environment.  |  |
| 46.                             | It's beautiful as it is and is an important expanse of land that frames Godalming as a picturesque rural town  |  |
| 47.                             | It's there for the people to enjoy whatever activities local groups arrange to hold.   |  |
| 48.                             | Keep the cows.   |  |
| 49.                             | LEAVE IT ALONE. STOP CHOPPING DOWN TREES AND PUTTING UP FENCES.  |  |
| 50.                             | Let it be  |  |
| 51.                             | Live with Lammas Lands for 40+ years, it is very much about our love of Godalming. We walk to town using it and walk the dog to Guildford.   |  |
| 52.                             | Lots of trees seem to have been cut down in this whole area recently spoiling the scenic look of the whole area - does not seem any obvious reason why this is needed.  Improvement/replacement of boundary fencing would be good. The old metal railing along bridge street is an eye sore - surely more than a lick of point could be afforded i.e. replace with a more pleasing looking fence. Also smaller and less signage would help look of whole area.                           |  |
| 53.                             | Lovely facility think it would be a shame to put cattle on it as many people would not be able to walk dogs there.   |  |
| 54.                             | Make it drain more quickly once flooded if capacity in river is available.   |  |

| Comments about the Lammas Lands |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 55.                             | More obvious access to a beautiful local nature site.   |  |
| 56.                             | More use by cattle on the Upper Common Meadows is an excellent idea and should be encouraged. But not definitely not horses. Use hay from the Lower Common Meadows is also an excellent use and should again be encouraged, as should maybe the creation of a wild flower meadow opposite the Farncombe Boathouse   |  |
| 57.                             | My wife and I having lived in Godalming for almost eighty years, we have seen certain signs of improvement in last 12 months. Certainly improvement on fencing, so that cattle can safely graze. This beings part of rural England to our county  |  |
| 58.                             | Needs higher quality cycle path. Too sandy at present.  |  |
| 59.                             | Needs to be run by a formal contract not just a volunteer service. Money saving in this area will be a real risk. If the flood plain is not managed efficiently it risks the town becoming flooded and damaging local businesses and housing. This is not an area to save money by switching to volunteer run services. It needs professionals running it.  |  |
| 60.                             | No development, including the surrounding areas as the flood plane is already over stretched  |  |
| 61.                             | No, but let's preserve them, they are very valuable.  |  |
| 62.                             | One of Godalming's greatest assets.   |  |
| 63.                             | Only that they must continue to be used as a flood plain as originally intended and never built on.   |  |
| 64.                             | Only to say how important it is as a flood plain and as such needs protecting.  |  |
| 65.                             | Only to say that they should never be built on, but should be retained as they are.   |  |
| 66.                             | Other than continuing to be a flood plain. I feel it should be an open space for the pleasure of the people of Godalming.   |  |
| 67.                             | Please consider the residents of Bridge Road that back into the Lammas Lands in your proposals as we are often forgotten about.   |  |
| 68.                             | Please do not build on the Lammas Lands under any circumstances. Please leave bush and low trees and shrubs for wildlife.   |  |
| 69.                             | Please do not build on them!  |  |
| 70.                             | Please do not put grazing cattle on the Lammas lands. It's a lovely place to walk and many do not feel safe walking through a cattle field, with or without a dog.  |  |
| 71.                             | Please don't use the fields for cattle grazing. Everyone I've met there is against it as it is an essential local dog walking location. And 99% of people I meet there have dogs so we aren't disrupting anyone else there. There aren't many such locations of them within easy travel from Farncombe so that you can get a walk done before/after work. There are lots of dog walkers around and we'd all have to just use the tow path. I think this would cause unrest amongst pedestrians and cyclists. Scout loves the loop we do through the Lammas Lands and then on the tow path. It is essential for us as she can get off lead and is then able to run and burn off a lot of energy. |  |
| 72.                             | Please don't forget that this is an area owned by the townsfolk of Godalming and as such, ALL should have equal access to the area. Please remember events such as fairs / annual town bonfire as well as the wildlife!   |  |
| 73.                             | Please ensure no one is allowed to encroach on the land for building, and leave the land to do its job in preventing flooding   |  |
| 74.                             | Please keep it how it is  |  |
| 75.                             | Please keep the entry/exit fences as it makes the Lammas Lands safe when dog walking  |  |
| 76.                             | Please keep this very important local asset as natural as possible, minimum interference or intrusion. A true meadow would be preferable to the "scrub" we have now (Almshouse Meadow especially). I would welcome cattle grazing in Almshouse, as we had some years ago, and restrict dog walking to Catteshall Meadow only (and they do also have the towpath). I see heron, egret, kingfisher, mallards, moorhens swans regularly. Have yet to see the deer in these meadows.  |  |
| 77.                             | Remove the cattle. Put in dog bins and prosecute well known regular dog walkers who let their animals toilet and don't clear it up and let their dogs chase the deer. Don't allow professional dog walkers with more than 2 dogs. Am a dog owner and am ashamed at the behaviour of others.   |  |

| Comments about the Lammas Lands |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 78.                             | Spaced planting of trees could be interesting but the open feel must be retained. The removal of daffodils from the area was an act of vandalism by wildlife purists not interested in the majority who like to see flowers even if they may not be "natural" just because they were not there 5m years ago.  |  |
| 79.                             | Such a rare and beautiful area  |  |
| 80.                             | The beauty of Godalming as you come past the Lammas Lands looking towards the parish church with cattle in the fields MAKES GODALMING. I wouldn't like to see it change.  |  |
| 81.                             | The green space is vital to the amenity of the town. It provides a link to nature and protects the population from flooding. I am pleased Waverley is looking to protect the Lammas Lands.  |  |
| 82.                             | The jewel in Godalming's crown  |  |
| 83.                             | The Lammas Lands are a key feature of Godalming whose habitat should be managed in order to maintain the current ecology of the site. It might be good to provide some information about the land e.g. an information board near to the bandstand with details of the site, its history, its wildlife, its geographical footprinti.e. what is covered on the website. Also, it could be good for school field studies, for pupils from Broadwater, Rodborough or Godalming College. I grew up and went to school in Godalming (Meadow, Broadwater and Godalming College) but never had this opportunity.                              |  |
| 84.                             | The Lammas Lands are a natural beauty in our town and invaluable flood plains and wildlife area.  |  |
| 85.                             | The Lammas Lands are a vital part of the ecology of Godalming & I think it is extremely important that people realise how important the flood plain is to Godalming so that any move to build on it in the future can be met with an informed rejection.  |  |
| 86.                             | TheLammas Lands are a vital resource for Godalming and should be treated accordingly.   |  |
| 87.                             | The Lammas Lands make Godalming unique. Would love to be involved in any volunteer work to help maintain them It would be nice to see the cattle back in the Meadrow Flood plain. Enjoy seeing the deer there.  |  |
| 88.                             | The Lammas Lands not only form an important ecological site, but give the town a special character. They are an important floodplain, the 1968 floods are still in many people's memory. Although flooding causes damage to the plants and wildlife, the flooded Lammas Lands are a beautiful sight. Cattle grazing seems to increase the number of bats in the area. Any plans to build roads, car parks, housing etc. will be fiercely fought.  |  |
| 89.                             | The Lammas should be managed as natural flood plain & not turned into a version of a park with council signage and paths. Their appeal is in their rural, 'wild' feel. I understand grazing helps to keep down invasive plants & I support this. There is considerable littering on the Bridge Road side of the Lammas, especially at the roundabout & end of chalk road. This is depressing to see and Waverley should make more effort to litter pick regularly. The Lammas give Godalming its visual identity and should be cherished. In an increasingly urbanised town, they are also a haven for deer, birds and small mammals. |  |
| 90.                             | The land should always be retained as a nature reserve and never(!) built on.   |  |
| 91.                             | The primary function of the Lammas Lands is as flood plain for Godalming. It is vital that any changes no matter how minor are measured against this function.  |  |
| 92.                             | The primary purpose of the Lammas Lands is as a flood plain. Nothing should be done to detract from that purpose. As an area of natural open space they are an important recreational resource but their management needs to improve their water holding capacity.  |  |
| 93.                             | The questions asked in this survey seem odd for a green field flood plain. There is no need for parking on the Lammas Lands.  |  |
| 94.                             | The use for the Town Bonfire is also an attraction  |  |
| 95.                             | They are a valuable part of Godalming. From flood management to beautiful views to a great space to take kids. Please maintain and keep them.   |  |
| 96.                             | They are an important part of Godalming providing flood plain and interesting walks, wildlife and recreation.   |  |
| 97.                             | They are beautiful and well managed. Thank you  |  |
| 98.                             | They are very important to Godalming, and of great historical importance so should definitely be  |  |

| Comments about the Lammas Lands |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
|                                 | retained and made more accessible.  |  |
| 99.                             | They play a vital role as a flood plain. This purpose must be maintained.   |  |
| 100.                            | They're a very valuable local resource.   |  |
| 101.                            | This area is a MAJOR facility for our residents and visitors, and one of our Town's well-loved attractions. Please do not contemplate its use for any other purpose? So many other things have intruded in our wonderful, small town - and why do we need SUBWAY in the High Street, for goodness' sake - this could be the slippery slope? |  |
| 102.                            | This land needs to be left alone and its importance be recognised. Land around Catteshall was built on years ago and this had always been considered flood land yet still got planning consent! Lammas land also helps to ensures Godalming stays a pretty little town.   |  |
| 103.                            | Very nice area, keep it up  |  |
| 104.                            | Views from the Lammas are being spoilt by loss of trees and over development in Catteshall lane. This is an iconic place and yet it is being spoilt   |  |
| 105.                            | We really appreciate them as we overlook them from our house so admire them from a distance every day   |  |
| 106.                            | What happened to the deer?  |  |
| 107.                            | What is the purpose of the barbed wire fencing- there seems nowhere for deer to escape.  Nesting boxes and feeders to encourage hedgerow birds. All dogs should be kept on leads. Think you would encourage more older walkers if you replaced the stiles with kissing gates.   |  |
| 108.                            | Will the land still be available Lion bonfire each November?  |  |
| 109.                            | Would be nice for the history of the site to be more accessible   |  |
| 110.                            | Would be a shame to spoil the rural feel of the area. Cattle management may pose difficulties for dog walkers/local families.   |  |

Table 15: Free text comments about the Parks and Countryside Service made by respondents (unedited, although one inappropriate comment removed).

| _     |   |
|-------|---|
| Comme | nts about the Parks and Countryside Service   |
| 1.    | All doing a great job   |
| 2.    | Broadwater Park is a credit to Waverley   |
| 3.    | Can we start to make Godalming more cycle friendly. Cycling on Meadow is a death wish.  |
| 4.    | Carry on the good work and keep open spaces available for residents and visitors.   |
| 5.    | Conserving our countryside is very important, whether that be large spaces or verges and hedges.  |
| 6.    | Don't know much about them  |
| 7.    | Don't know much about what they do - so no comment  |
| 8.    | Don't like the fences   |
| 9.    | Fail to engage with locals or other agencies in relation to changes that have the potential to impact on flood water containment capacity. E.g. wasted money on new fences and installing cattle troughs. No farmer would put cattle on field riddled with dog mess and out of control dogs. The Lammas Lands are fast becoming the town's dog park changing the rural character of the area.   |
| 10.   | Generally good provisions in this area  |
| 11.   | I hope they are not cut and their good work reduced   |
| 12.   | I reported a damaged bench last year and was informed that a replacement would be manufactured from local timber and would on completion would be located on the hill side overlooking Binscombe and Farncombe. Upon a further request for an update I was then informed that funding for this needed to be raised. I feel that sufficient time has lapsed since the first request and hope to see a replacement in the very near future. |
| 13.   | I THINK IT DOES A GOOD JOB.   |

- 14. I'm not fully aware of which areas they manage but everywhere around Godalming looks to be kept in great shape, so they must be doing a good job
- 15. It is lovely to have them around
- 16. Just look at what you have and appreciate it? This questionnaire should really NOT BE NECESSARY...?
- 17. Keep the access entrances safe & clear of obstacles
- 18. Keep up the good work
- 19. Keep up the good work.
- 20. Leave the trees. Plant more ASAP.
- 21. Living near-by, it's noticeable that land nearest Meadrow end beside Hells Ditch is not kept cut back often, i.e. rubbish accumulates and nettles as high as hedges opposite Meadrow junction. Can this be considered?
- 22. Maintenance is vital so the wonderful amenities we have do not disappear thro lack of care or "short "term (relative to the age of the Lammas Lands) changes of use
- 23. More benches would be nice.
- 24. More promotion of the beauty and wildlife of the Waverly area to encourage visitors and usage.
- 25. No other comments except disband them if all they want to do is ruin the simple pleasure of seeing spring bulbs etc.
- 26. No, don't know who they are
- 27. Not easy to contact
- 28. Plant more trees, not just in parks but throughout Godalming to make up for tree felling elsewhere. Replace worn pavements. Make sure Phillips Park is spotlessly clean.
- 29. Please buy a broom and shovel- blowers are very noisy (operative wear ear muffs) and pointless. Not sure what Countryside service does?
- 30. Please keep the rural feel
- 31. Priority given to keeping all areas litter free.
- 32. Seems as though recent "management" has been too zealous we have lost a lot of habitat and wildlife from the area, the wild margins have been lost
- 33. Sometimes it's safe to visit the sites where there are no parks etc. as a lot of glass and unwanted rubbish is being regularly littered around the parks. I have one 5 1/2 year old and a nearly 2 year old and every visit we have to various parks around Godalming and Farncombe result in me removing glass from where they are playing.
- 34. Thank you for doing a great job.
- 35. The area between the butts field and the river Wey could be better kept with the grass being shorter so as the area could be used more by families and children. Could be improved by cutting grass paths through the area.
- 36. The burst are well maintained and always look good. I note that work has been carried out along the river towards Catteshall lock.
- 37. The country side is one place, parks are another-don't confuse the two. The Lammas and its inhabitants have been minding their own business quite happily for years and will continue to do so with minimal of attention. Yes, dangerous or dying trees should get attention, ragwort should be pulled and other invasive non-native plants need to be sprayed but as for signage etc. It really isn't necessary at all.
- 38. They are doing a very difficult job extremely well under the circumstances they face, with reduced funding and dealing with the different interest groups that may have their own, different agendas.
- 39. They do a great job
- 40. They do a wonderful job of preserving the lands and surrounding parks keeping it clean and maintaining them despite some local yobs who contribute to the area by littering and smashing bottles all over the place usually on a Friday night. Well done to the park and countryside service.

- 41. They do their best, but with vandals about (such as bins at Broadwater lake last week) fight a losing battle. We need a warden to patrol. The wild flower meadow where old swimming pool was, coming along a treat.
- 42. Volunteer opportunities could be better managed across the estate, e.g. including Blackheath
- 43. We are lucky in Surrey to have wonderful areas of nature
- 44. We need a secure field to walk dogs off lead all the parks that have gates are no dogs allowed