

TORBAY COUNCIL

Report No: 11/2005

Title: Designation of Local Nature Reserves

To: Executive on 22nd February 2005

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek a declaration from the Executive that Ocombe Farm and Scadson Woods be designated as Local Nature Reserves

2. **Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 2.1 One of the main themes within Torbay's Community Plan is that of valuing our environment which includes the priority to protect and improve the built, natural and marine environment and this proposal will help to deliver that aim.

3. **Recommendation(s)**

- 3.1 That Ocombe Farm and Scadson Woods be designated as Local Nature Reserves.

4. **Reason for Recommendation(s)**

- 4.1 Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust has requested that Ocombe Farm and Scadson Woods (as shown at Appendices 1 and 2) be designated as Local Nature Reserves. These will then complement the nearby Ocombe Woods Local Nature Reserve which was so designated in 2003. The designations would not add any additional conservation burden on the Council and the Trust would remain entirely responsible for their management. The designations would, in the longer-term, allow it to attract further funding for work in these areas.

5. **Key Risks associated with the Recommendation(s)**

- 5.1 No specific risks have been identified as a result of this recommendation. The Ocombe Farm site is already leased to the Trust and both sites are managed by the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust whose initiative in seeking the designations has the support of English Nature. The Trust has prepared Management Plans for each of these sites that have been endorsed by English Nature. Clearly, the extent to which these Management Plans can be implemented will depend, to some extent, on the funding that the Trust is able to attract.

Likelihood	6	6	12	18	24
	5	5	10	15	20
	4	4	8	12	16
	3	3	6	9	12
	2	2	4	6	8
	1	X	2	3	4
		1	2	3	4
		Impact			

 Low risk  Intermediate risk  High risk

The "x" in the above matrix denotes where the author has assessed the level of final risk to fall

6. Alternative Options (if any)

- 6.1 Members could decide not to support this recommendation and in that situation the sites would not be designated as Local Nature Reserves.

7. Background

- 7.1 Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust was established in 1999 with one of its aims being to safeguard and enhance areas of natural beauty and importance within Torbay. As part of this work Ocombe Valley Woods was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 2003 and the Trust are now seeking a similar declaration for Ocombe Farm and Scadson Woods.

Michael J Yeo
Strategic Director for Environment

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IMPLICATIONS, CONSULTATION AND OTHER INFORMATION

Part 1

These sections may have been completed by the Report author but must have been agreed by the named officers in the Legal, Finance, Human Resources and Property Divisions.

Does the proposal have implications for the following issues? If "Yes" - give details. <i>delete as appropriate</i>		Name of responsible officer
Legal	Yes – Legal documentation required	Tony Chidlow
Financial – Revenue	No	Adrian O'Rourke
Financial – Capital Plan	No	Lynette Royce
Human resources	No	Sue Draper
Property	No	Sam Partridge

Part 2

The author of the report must complete these sections.

Could this proposal realistically be achieved in a manner that would more effectively: <i>delete as appropriate</i>		
(i)	promote environmental sustainability?	No
(ii)	reduce crime and disorder?	No
(iii)	promote good community relations?	No
(iv)	promote equality of opportunity on grounds of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief?	No
(v)	reduce (or eliminate) unlawful discrimination (including indirect discrimination)?	No

If the answer to any of the above questions is "Yes" the author must have addressed the relevant issue/s in the main report and have included a full justification and, where appropriate, an impact assessment.

Part 3

The author of the report must complete this section.

	<i>delete as appropriate</i>	If "Yes", give details
Does the proposal have implications for any other Directorates?	Yes	The Assistant Director, Cultural Services, also has a role in this area and she has been consulted and has confirmed her support for the recommendation.

Part 4

Is this proposal in accordance with (i.e. not contrary to) the Council's budget or its Policy Framework?		<i>delete as appropriate</i>
		Yes
1.	If "No" - give details of the nature and extent of consultation with stakeholders and the relevant overview and scrutiny body.	
2.	If "Yes" - details and outcome of consultation, if appropriate.	

Part 5

Is the proposal a Key Decision in relation to an Executive function?	<i>delete as appropriate</i>	If "Yes" - give Reference Number
	No	

Part 6

Wards

Preston

Cockington with Chelston

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Occombe Farm

Appendix 2 - Scadson Woods

Documents available in Members' Room

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report: