



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village of the Year 2025

15th July 2026

To: All White Colne Parish Councillors

You are hereby summoned to attend the **WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL** meeting, to be held at **White Colne Village Hall** on **Tuesday 21st July 2026** at **1930hrs** for the purpose of transacting the following business. Members of the public and press have a right and are cordially invited to be present at the meeting. There will be an opportunity to address the Council under Agenda item 4.

Jim Morris, Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To RECEIVE any apologies for absence.

2. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

To RECEIVE and CONSIDER any applications to fill the council's vacant seat.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

To RECEIVE any disclosure by members of interests in Agenda items.

4. PUBLIC SESSION

To RECEIVE questions and statements from members of the public.

5. MINUTES

To RECEIVE and SIGN as correct records the Minutes of the White Colne Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 (Appendix A).

6. MATTERS ARISING

To RECEIVE and CONSIDER the list of matters arising and ongoing since previous meetings (Appendix B).

7. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- i. Cllr George Courtauld & Cllr Gabrielle Spray, Braintree District - Colnes Ward.
- ii. Cllr Isi Rocha, Essex County - Halstead Division.

8. FINANCE

- i. To NOTE the schedule of payments made in 2026-27 Q1 (Appendix C).
- ii. To RECEIVE and CONSIDER Budget v Actual 2026-27 Q1 (Appendix D).
- iii. To RECEIVE and CONSIDER bank reconciliations for 2026-27 Q1 (to be tabled at meeting).
- iii. To RECEIVE and CONSIDER information from Cllr Rocha regarding the ECC Locality Fund (App E).
- iv. To RECEIVE and CONSIDER an application for grant funding from BASICS Essex (App F).

9. **PLANNING**

To RECEIVE and CONSIDER Planning Applications, Appeals or Consultations notified by Braintree District Council, Essex County Council, or any other relevant body, including any received between the date of the Agenda and the meeting.

i. Planning Applications:

a) Ref: [26/01128/OUT](#) (Appendix G).

Location: Land Adjacent, 35 Colne Park Road, White Colne, CO6 2PL.

Proposal: Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved (landscape) for erection of 1 No. self-build dwelling & detached double garage.

b) Ref: [26/01290/COUPA](#) (Appendix H).

Location: Hyfields, Bures Road, White Colne, Essex, CO6 2QF.

Proposal: Prior approval for the change of use of building on an agricultural unit or former agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development – Change of use to 2 no. residential dwelling.

c) Ref: [26/01545/VAR](#) (Appendix I).

Location: 35 Colne Park Road, White Colne, CO6 2PL.

Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) of approved application 25/01405/HH granted 11.08.2025 for: Proposed of 4-bay outbuilding for garage / workshop use. Amendment would allow a revised design.

ii. Planning Decisions:

a) Ref: [26/00649/FUL](#) (Appendix J).

Location: Land Adjacent to Millbrooks Farm, Mill Lane, Colne Engaine, Essex.

Proposal: Erection of stables, menage, access improvements and associated works.

iii. Planning Appeals:

a) Ref: [26/00649/FUL](#) (Appendix K).

Location: Land Adjacent to Millbrooks Farm, Mill Lane, Colne Engaine, Essex.

Proposal: Erection of stables, menage, access improvements and associated works.

iv. National Grid Rayleigh to Pelham upgrade (Appendix L).

10. **COMMUNITY LIAISON**

To RECEIVE and CONSIDER items relating to liaison with the community & outside bodies:

i. Grant applications – Warm Hub 2026-27 and 2027-28; Enover Trust grant application for play equipment; Anglian Water grant application Thriving Communities Fund.

ii. Press Release: *Essex Climate Action Commission saddened by withdrawal of support by Reform-led administration at Essex County Council* (Appendix M).

11. **LEISURE & FACILITIES**

To RECEIVE and CONSIDER items relating to parish council managed facilities:

i. Solar Energy Report (Appendix N).

ii. The Flourish Project (Appendix O).

iii. Salt Bag Partnership 2026-27 (Appendix P).

12. **GOVERNANCE**

i. Parish Council Action Plan 2026-27 (Appendix Q).

ii. Climate & Biodiversity Policy, including The Meadows Management Plan (Appendix R).

iii. Allotment Agreement 2026-27 (Appendix S).

iv. White Colne Emergency Plan (circulated with Agenda).

13. **ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING**

To RECEIVE from members any items for future consideration.

14. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To NOTE the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 15th September 2026.



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Village of the Year 2025

Minutes of the White Colne Parish Council Annual Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 19:30hrs.

Present: Cllr Paul Batchford
Cllr Paula Bull
Cllr Michael Field
Cllr Jason Pryke
Cllr Jane Taylor (Chairperson)
Cllr John Wilson
Jim Morris, Parish Clerk
Cllr Isi Rocha, Halstead Division
Four members of the public

001/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Jason Pryke, Colnes Ward Cllr George Courtauld, and Colnes Ward Cllr Gabrielle Spray.

002/26 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Taylor was nominated by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Batchford, and elected as Chairperson of White Colne Parish Council 2026-27. Cllr Taylor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairperson, witnessed by the Clerk.

003/26 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Bull was nominated by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Field, and elected as Vice-Chairperson of White Colne Parish Council 2026-27. Cllr Bull signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice-Chairperson, witnessed by the Clerk.

004/26 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Cllr Wilson declared an interest in any items regarding the Allotments; Cllr Wilson's spouse was an Allotment plot holder. Cllr Wilson was granted a dispensation, in accordance with Standing Order 13(e), to take part in discussions and any vote regarding Allotments during 2026-27.

005/26 PUBLIC SESSION

A parishioner raised concerns regarding Planning Application 26/00537/FUL: Chalkney Mill. It was noted that the site had begun operations and had constructed hard standings, extended car parking and pathways without planning permission. The proposals in the Application would have a significant risk of flooding: the build level being approximately 1.5ft lower than the adjacent driveway. The driveway was known to flood on a regular basis by at least one to two feet. The chicken units were reported to have been underwater in February. The land at the site was mostly clay, and the compaction caused by the development would worsen already poor drainage. Access and egress to the site was via a narrow, dangerous corner of the A1124; there was no space at the site and Heavy Goods Vehicles had to either reverse down the lane or onto the main road. In addition, it was noted that products being sold on site were not produced on the farm, and that retail planning permission had not been sought.

Other local residents noted that an unpleasant odour from the site was noticeable when using Public Rights of Way.

Response: The Chairperson thanked the resident for the information and encouraged them to submit a formal objection to Braintree District Council. The council confirmed it would consider the information when assessing Agenda item 13i. Members noted with concern that enforcement action did not appear to have been effective.

006/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the White Colne Parish Council Meeting held 17.03.2026 were approved as being a true and correct record by council and signed by the Chairperson.

007/26 MATTERS ARISING

Members considered the parish council's list of matters arising and ongoing (attached to record Minutes). A grant application for £18,533 had been entered to Enovert Trust; the Clerk had liaised with Cllr Rocha over outstanding items regarding highways; a letter to Allotment plot holders had been drafted, and the Allotment Agreement updated accordingly; a subscription to RCCE had been taken; earmarked reserves had been amended; the Colne Valley Parishes meeting had taken place on 14th April; White Colne's response to the Local Plan Consultation had been entered; the table tennis table had been collected, with a donation of £30 received; grant requests had been entered; a contractor had been appointed to carry out play equipment repairs; and 'Village Awards' had been presented. Other matters remained ongoing.

008/26 CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

No potential new councillors came forward.

009/26 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Colnes Ward Cllr Gabrielle Spray had provided a written report for the meeting to consider (attached at Footnote¹).

¹ REPORT FOR WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2026

LOCAL PLAN: The Regulation 18 consultation resulted in 1800 comments being submitted and these are currently being collated and scrutinised by officers of the Planning Policy team. The Local Plan Committee and all members of the District Council will have the opportunity to discuss the responses over the next few months before the draft Plan is presented to Full Council in September. Subject to Council's approval, there is a final consultation, Regulation 19, before the Plan goes to the Planning Inspectorate, the deadline for this is 31st December 2026. It is important that this deadline is met as failure to do so means the District will be without an approved Local Plan and under current national planning rules will be required to start again on producing a new Plan; this would take several years and, in the meantime, leave the District open to speculative planning applications being submitted. **WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE:** The new service starts on 1st June. Some additional information: All residents will receive a letter in May detailing clear dates of the first collection and what goes in which bin. Included will be a calendar of collection dates to May 2027. Food cans/food trays/drink cartons/yoghurt pots etc need to be fairly clean but don't have to be squeaky clean before going in the recycling bin! The team appreciates residents may have clear sacks left over but the items in the recycling bin must go in loose i.e. not inside a clear sack and then placed in the bin. Residents are able to arrange a special collection for Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) such as disposable nappies and continence products. These will go in grey sacks, provided by the Council, which will not be see-through and will be discreet i.e. no labels on sacks. They will be collected two out of every three weeks, once in the week before the grey bin is collected and again on grey bin week and ideally should be left by the side of the grey bin on collection day but can be put inside the bin if there's room. Residents must apply for the service if it is required; it is not provided automatically. The service is optional and households can continue to use their grey bin if they have sufficient capacity. Applications are made online through the Council website <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/ahpcollections>. If anyone is having difficulty in booking the service online please call Customer Services on 01376 552525. Shredded paper, which has previously not been able to be recycled as it was a problem for the recycling plant machinery, can now be recycled and goes in the red paper/card bin. Bulky Waste Collection Change: instead of a single charge for up to 6 items, there is now a separate charge per item making it more reasonable if you want to dispose of just one item. In addition to booking a collection by phone, an online booking system has been introduced. It is quick, easy to use and details are available on the BDC website. On Friday 15th May I was delighted to attend the formal opening of the new Halstead Surgery, Halstead Heights Clinic. This addition to the existing Elizabeth Courtauld Surgery is located at the top of the town within Halstead Hospital and will be a great asset to the town's medical facilities. The facility has been enabled in part by S106 money from developments in and around Halstead town. Best regards, Cllr Gabrielle Spray

Halstead Division Cllr Isi Rocha introduced herself as the new Essex County Councillor. She described her commitment to being active, visible, and accessible, and noted she had already engaged on local matters, including visiting Earls Colne to address a chainsaw incident. Cllr Rocha offered to put forward an objection to the Chalkney Mill planning application, and invited residents to share photos and evidence directly with her. She was attending induction sessions and awaiting access to further council systems but was already in contact with planning officers. She would be attending the forthcoming Community Café.

RESPONSE: Cllr Taylor thanked Cllr Rocha for the report.

010/26 FINANCE

i. Members reviewed three quotes received for Outdoor Gym supply & installation. Sunshine Gyms offer lacked hydraulic equipment. Kompan quote was excessive, and excluded installation. The successful contractor, at £14,995 including installation and hydraulics, was Caloo.

It was RESOLVED: that Caloo be approved as contractor for the project.

ii. Members received and considered the contractor's invoice of £14,995 for payment.

It was RESOLVED: that the invoice be approved.

iii. Members received and considered quotes from Caloo, Creative Play, and Outdoor Play Devon for play equipment supply & installation. Cllrs Bull and Taylor reported on the proposed new children's play equipment for the Meadows (for under-7s). Outdoor Play Devon's package comprised: a bespoke White Colne Express train and ticket office (with a heritage poster of local stations), an inclusive nest swing, and a four-seater bumblebee springer for the wildflower area. Total cost: £18,533. 10% in match funding had been met through contributions of £500 each from Cllrs Spray and Courtauld and £1,000 from Cadent. An application to Enover Community Trust had been submitted, with a decision expected after its meeting scheduled for 14th July 2026. The Chairperson expressed confidence in the application, noting positive feedback from the Enover grants officer regarding the heritage railway connection.

It was RESOLVED: that Outdoor Play Devon be approved as contractor for the project.

iv. Members noted the Street Scene Grant (£1,068 for 2026-27). Expenditure had been effective in 2025-26. Spend in 2026-27 would be deferred to autumn for leaf clearing. The condition of the defibrillator telephone box was flagged for future attention.

It was RESOLVED: that the Grant be noted.

v. The schedule of payments totalling £13,499.01 (net £13,094.21, VAT £404.80) (attached to record Minutes) for the period 1st January to 31st March 2026 was received and noted. Members confirmed no queries.

It was RESOLVED: that the schedule of payments be approved.

vi. The Clerk confirmed nil expenditure under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 in 2025-26.

It was RESOLVED: that the item be noted.

vii. Bank reconciliations for the quarter ending 31st March 2026 were tabled. Members confirmed the closing balances agreed with the bank statements.

It was RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliations be approved and signed as correct.

viii. Members received and considered the Internal Audit report for year-end 2025-26 (attached to record Minutes). The auditor awarded an overall positive outcome across all applicable areas. Observations included: a suggested amendment to Financial Regulation 6.7 to reflect the council's practices; a note that the council's website security certificate appeared invalid when accessed by the auditor's browser; and a query regarding insurance cover for fixed assets. The play area maintenance log, prepared by Cllr Bull, was specifically commended.

It was RESOLVED: that the Internal Audit Report be approved and actions arising undertaken.

ix. The completed Annual Internal Audit Report (attached to record Minutes) signed by Mrs Jan Stobart FCCA on 1st May 2026 was received. All applicable control objectives were confirmed as achieved.

It was RESOLVED: that the Internal Audit Report be approved.

x. The statutory notice (attached to record Minutes) confirming the public's right to inspect accounting records was considered.

It was RESOLVED: that the period for the Exercise of Public Rights be confirmed as Wednesday 3rd June 2026 to Tuesday 14th July 2026 (inclusive). The Notice of Public Rights to be published on the council's website on 19th May 2026.

011/26 ANNUAL RETURN – GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025-26

Members received and considered Section 1: Governance Statement of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31.03.2026 (attached to record Minutes), which had been prepared for the external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP as required by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

It was RESOLVED: that Section 1: Governance Statement of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31.03.2026 be approved. Section 1 was signed by the Chairperson and counter-signed by the Clerk.

012/26 ANNUAL RETURN – ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2025-26

Members received and considered Section 2: Accounting Statement of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31.03.2026 (attached to record Minutes), which had been prepared for the external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP as required by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

It was RESOLVED: that Section 2: Accounting Statement of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31.03.2026 be approved. Section 2 was signed by the Responsible Financial Officer and counter-signed by the Chairperson.

013/26 PLANNING

i. Applications

a) Ref: [260657](#) (attached to record Minutes).

Location: Land at Earls Colne Road, Great Tey.

Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 150 no. residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, a new vehicular access and all other associated works. All Matters Reserved, except access.

Response: White Colne Parish Council objects to Planning Application ref 260657. The site is proposed in the CCC Local Plan Preferred Options (November 2025) but is not allocated in the adopted Local Plan. This Application is therefore speculative. The proposal would result in further cumulative impact on local roads – particularly the A1124 corridor. It would cause additional pressure on medical services, schools, and community infrastructure; and further impact already-inadequate public transport provision.

b) Ref: [26/00537/FUL](#) (attached to record Minutes).

Location: Chalkney Mill, Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex, CO6 2PR.

Proposal: Part retrospective application for the construction of 17 no. poultry breeding and rearing units.

Response: White Colne Parish Council objects to Planning Application ref 26/00537/FUL. The site sits within Flood Zones 2 and 3, placing it in the highest category of flood risk as defined by the Environment Agency and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024). This is not a theoretical or occasional risk: the area floods severely and repeatedly every year, causing significant disruption and damage to land and property.

The applicant's Planning Statement acknowledges that the site lies within the floodplain and concedes that the structures are specifically designed to accommodate flooding. Rather than demonstrating flood safety, this confirms that inundation of the site is expected. Raising the buildings approximately 450mm above ground level is wholly insufficient for a Flood Zone 3 location. Flood events in the river valley regularly exceed such modest freeboard levels, and the buildings — along with the live poultry within them — remain acutely vulnerable.

Chapter 14 of the NPPF (paras. 170-182) and Local Plan Policy LPP 74 impose a clear sequential test: development should be directed away from areas of high flood risk wherever possible. The applicant has not demonstrated, through any independent flood risk assessment prepared by a qualified engineer, that the Sequential or Exception Tests have been properly applied and satisfied. A flood risk assessment prepared by or on behalf of a planning agent acting for the applicant cannot be considered impartial and would carry

limited weight. The Local Planning Authority requires an independent, professionally commissioned Sequential Test and Flood Risk Assessment before any determination is made.

Furthermore, the applicant's assertion that floodwater can simply pass beneath the raised structures without consequence understates the cumulative effect of 17 individual buildings and their associated enclosed runs, access hardstandings and fencing across a 6,200 sq. m site. This level of built form within an active floodplain will impede natural floodwater flow, alter drainage patterns, and displace flood water onto adjacent land and properties. No hydraulic modelling has been submitted to demonstrate otherwise.

The siting of live animals in a Flood Zone 3 location also raises serious animal welfare concerns. In the event of a significant flood event the applicant's suggestion that livestock can be "temporarily relocated to higher ground" is unrealistic for a large-scale poultry enterprise comprising 17 buildings. The consequences of a flood event for the birds, and the potential for significant contamination of floodwaters with agricultural waste, represent genuine risks to the local environment and watercourses.

In addition, the site lies within open countryside outside any defined development boundary, adjacent to the Grade II listed buildings of Chalkney Mill and Chalkney Mill House. The cumulative visual impact of 17 poultry sheds, enclosed mesh runs, hardstanding and fencing spread across agricultural land that forms the immediate rural setting of an historic mill complex is significant. The applicant describes the structures as "low-rise" and "modest", but the aggregate footprint of the development — comprising incubation sheds, brooder sheds, rearing units, finishing sheds, breeding sheds with runs and laying sheds — amounts to a substantial complex of industrial-scale poultry farming infrastructure. The applicant also argues that the development represents sustainable rural development under NPPF paragraphs 88–89. However, those provisions relate to the genuine expansion of agricultural and rural businesses.

Local Plan Policy LPP 1 requires that the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside be protected and enhanced. Policy LPP 57 requires that the significance of heritage assets and their settings be conserved. The rural setting of Chalkney Mill contributes directly to its designation and significance as a listed building. The introduction of a commercial poultry complex across its surrounding agricultural land causes harm to that setting that the applicant's Heritage Statement cannot credibly dismiss. The LPA should request an independent Heritage Impact Assessment.

The applicant's Planning Statement acknowledges that the enterprise includes a direct sales element operating from the site on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. While the agent characterises this as "ancillary" farm gate sales, the reality is that the business is open to the public on four days per week, selling eggs and live poultry to members of the public. This is a retail use by any reasonable definition. A retail business open four days per week, attracting individual private vehicles to a single-track rural access road in a Flood Zone 3 location, within the setting of listed buildings, is not a use appropriate to this countryside location. The applicant has provided neither traffic data, visitor count assessment, nor independent highway analysis.

The access is single-track, and there is no turning space at the site. This raises genuine highway safety concerns that have not been properly addressed. The Council requests that Essex County Council Highways be formally consulted and that an independent highway assessment be required before any grant of permission.

White Colne Parish Council submits that planning permission for agricultural / retail use in the open countryside, on a flood-prone site, requires justification against a higher bar than the applicant has attempted to meet. It is clear that the proposal cannot be approved, and the LPA is urged to refuse permission at the earliest opportunity.

c) Ref: [26/00649/FUL](#) (attached to record Minutes).

Location: Land Adjacent to Millbrooks Farm, Mill Lane, Colne Engaine, Essex, CO6 2HU.

Proposal: Erection of stables, menage, access improvements and associated works.

Response: White Colne Parish Council objects to Application ref 26/00649/FUL. The proposal would increase traffic on Colne Park Road, which is an unlit, narrow and steep lane with no pedestrian footway.

The parish council notes that the Highways Authority objected to the previous proposal for this site (26/00189/FUL), and supports its reasons. In addition, the site has no previous history of equestrian use, and any development including hardstanding would harm the setting of the Colne River Valley Landscape Area.

White Colne Parish Council requests that the Application be refused at the earliest opportunity.

d) Ref: [26/00909/OUT](#) (attached to record Minutes).

Location: Garden To The Woodshed, Broom Farm, Colne Park Road, White Colne, CO6 2QN.

Proposal: Outline planning application with all matters reserved, except access for the erection of one dwelling.

Response: White Colne Parish Council objects to Application ref 26/00909/OUT. The proposal would increase traffic on Colne Park Road, which is an unlit, narrow and steep lane with no pedestrian footway. The Local Plan, under review at time of writing, does not propose any alteration to the Development Boundary. The proposal is therefore not compliant with LPP 1. In addition, contrary to the Applicant's Planning Statement, the LPA can demonstrate a 5.32-year Housing Land Supply (Five-Year Housing Land Supply Position Statement 2024-2029, available at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/4132/five-year-housing-supply-position-statement-2024-2029>). White Colne Parish Council requests that the Application be refused at the earliest opportunity.

e) Ref: [26/01046/HH](#) (received after Agenda publication; attached to record Minutes).

Location: 2 Bart Hall Cottages, Bures Road, White Colne, Essex, CO6 2QB.

Details: Proposed detached cartlodge.

Response: White Colne Parish Council supports Planning Application ref 26/01046/HH, on the proviso that a Condition be attached to ensure that the cartlodge remains ancillary to the existing building.

ii. Decisions – none received.

iii. Appeals – none received.

iv. Braintree District Council Local Plan Review (attached to record Minutes). Members noted: White Colne Parish Council response, Colne Valley Parishes response, and correspondence: *Braintree District Local Plan Review update and next steps*. The Regulation 18 consultation closed on 17th April 2026, with over 1,800 responses received. BDC confirmed Regulation 19 is expected summer/autumn 2026 and all representations will be published in July.

It was RESOLVED: that the item be noted.

v. Correspondence: Bures N'hood Plan - Update and notice of new focused consultation (ends 29 May) (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

vi. Correspondence: *Finchingfield and Wethersfield Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16 Consultation* (received after Agenda publication; attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

014/26 COMMUNITY LIAISON

i. The notes of the Colne Valley parishes meeting, held at White Colne Village Hall on 14.04.26 (attached to record Minutes), were received. The meeting had focused on coordinating responses to the BDC Local Plan consultation. Discussion was held about whether the venue should rotate among parishes; the Chairperson agreed to raise this. The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for 9th July 2026.

It was RESOLVED: that the notes of the Colne Valley Parishes meeting of 14th April 2026 be noted.

015/26 LEISURE & FACILITIES

i. Village Hall – new member of staff. The Chairperson reported that the previous cleaner had moved on. Laura Bowles had been appointed as the new Village Hall cleaner. Samantha Mason would provide relief cover during Laura's forthcoming holiday.

It was RESOLVED: that the staffing update be noted.

ii. Solar Energy Report (tabled at meeting; attached to record Minutes). The council's net electricity usage for a year was approximately 2500kWh; a remarkable outcome given the extended Warm Hub operation. The Scottish Power export rate had reduced from 12p/kWh to 6p/kWh; no alternative export provider was available. The Chairperson noted that the income and production figures compared favourably with the previous year, despite more intensive use of the hall.

It was RESOLVED: that the Solar Energy Report be noted.

iii. The Meadows – Play Areas Maintenance Log (attached to record Minutes). The maintenance log prepared by Cllr Bull was received. Timber was being collected and works were expected imminently. A volunteer working party was to be arranged to assist the contractor.

It was RESOLVED: that the maintenance log be noted and works proceed as planned.

iv. Allotments – Correspondence: Perimeter Fence (attached to record Minutes). A complaint from a plot holder regarding rabbit damage caused by holes in the perimeter fence was noted.

It was RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

v. Allotments – proposed Boundary Fencing Policy (attached to record Minutes). Members considered the proposed Policy. One amendment was agreed: the statement that allotment facilities were 'subsidised by the wider parish precept' was removed as potentially inaccurate and misleading. The Policy set out the council's position that it would maintain the Allotments site safely, but is not under a general obligation to replace perimeter fencing solely for crop protection or tenant preference.

It was RESOLVED: that the Allotment Boundary Fencing Policy be adopted as amended.

016/26 GOVERNANCE

i. Parish Council Action Plan 2026-27 (attached to record Minutes). It was agreed the format be developed to show status and progress against each action, so that completed items would be retained as a record.

It was RESOLVED: that the Action Plan 2026-27 be noted and further developed to reflect progress against actions. The Action Plan to remain as a standing Agenda item.

017/26 REVIEW OF DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS

Members reviewed the Scheme of Delegation and delegation arrangements to Committees, Sub-Committees, staff and other Local Authorities (attached to record Minutes). It was agreed:

- Defibrillator: Cllr Pryke to remain as lead. A local volunteer (non-councillor) to be recruited to assist with key-holding and routine checks. The defibrillator sends a notification when used and requires checking after each deployment.
- Parish Tree Warden: A replacement to be sought.
- Village Green (inc. Christmas Lighting): Cllr Field
- Website (inc. IT & Social Media): The Chairperson and two further councillors to take this responsibility forward.
- Grant Funded Projects: Cllr Bull added alongside Cllr Taylor.
- Policies: Cllr Wilson to lead; support to be identified.

It was RESOLVED: that the Scheme of Delegation and Delegated Responsibilities 2026-27 be adopted, subject to the amendments discussed.

018/26 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

To APPOINT any new committees in accordance with White Colne Standing Order 4. Members confirmed that no committees were required.

It was RESOLVED: that no committees be appointed.

019/26 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members reviewed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations circulated with the Agenda. It was noted that Standing Order Chapter 5 had been structured to make the Annual Meeting workable, with substantive policy reviews distributed across the year per the Policy Review Schedule. An amendment to Financial Regulation 6.7 was agreed, as recommended by the internal auditor, to better reflect the council's invoice approval practice.

It was RESOLVED: that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be adopted, subject to the agreed amendment to FR 6.7.

020/26 REVIEW OF: ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NOT-FOR-PROFIT BODIES, & BUSINESSES; SUBSCRIPTIONS; & REPRESENTATION OR WORK WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

Members reviewed arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses; the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies; & representation on or work

with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back (attached to record Minutes). Some amendments were noted. The list was otherwise confirmed.

It was RESOLVED: that the arrangements schedule be noted and updated to reflect current arrangements.

021/26 REVIEW OF INVENTORY OF LAND & ASSETS

Members reviewed the inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment (attached to record Minutes) (grand total purchase value £185,918.39 / current value £199,006.34). it was noted that The Meadows (6 acres) was recorded at a current value of £36,000. Following the internal auditor's guidance, it was agreed that the current value of land should be recorded as nil, as land cannot be stolen and is not an insurable risk in the usual sense. The register to be updated. The Chairperson proposed a working session on the Meadows to allow councillors to physically verify the existence and condition of assets. The register would be reorganised from alphabetical order into logical location-based groupings.

It was RESOLVED: that the asset register be noted; that the current value of The Meadows (land) be amended to nil; and that a working session to review assets in situ be arranged.

022/26 REVIEW OF INSURANCE COVER

Members reviewed and confirmed arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks (circulated with Agenda). Insurance cover with Zurich was noted. Following the internal audit observation, it was agreed to seek Zurich's view on whether fixed location assets should move from Part C (All Risks) to Part A (Material Damage), and to clarify whether the solar panels on the Village Hall roof are covered under ECC's buildings insurance.

It was RESOLVED: that the insurance cover be noted. The Clerk to raise queries with Zurich following completion of the asset register review.

023/26 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Members confirmed the Policy Review Schedule (attached to record Minutes), distributing policy reviews across the year.

024/26 WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025-26

Council determined the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council (attached to record Minutes). Discussion was held as to whether meetings should move from the third to the second Tuesday of each month to avoid potential clashes with Earls Colne Parish Council meetings. It was noted that the third Tuesday provides a useful buffer around May local elections. It was agreed to retain the existing schedule, but to keep the question under review.

It was RESOLVED: that the schedule of meetings for 2026-27 be confirmed.

025/26 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING

Pedestrian access to the Meadows via the green corridor / former railway line was suggested. The council's Action Plan would be an ongoing Agenda item.

027/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of White Colne Parish Council was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 21st July 2026 at White Colne Village Hall at 1930hrs.

The meeting closed at 20:50hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village of the Year 2025

MATTERS ARISING & ONGOING

Minute Ref.	Action
072/25	Plan for Road Safety Week 2026.
073/25	Seek quotes for grass cutting.
079/25	Seek advice on installing a bin at the layby on Bures Road.
086/25	Write to owners of property adjacent to former railway line
087/25	Seek tree works quotes
108/25	Offer use of the Hall to Community Supermarket
	Apply for Warm Hub funding
	Appoint contractor to carry out noticeboard repairs
109/25	Seek quotes for new website
007/26	Cllr Rocha to follow up missing streetlight, SID pole location
010/26	Raise payment to contractor
011/26	Clerk to enter Annual Return
014/26	Clerk to liaise with Colne Valley Parishes over next meeting – 9 th July
019/26	Amend Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
020/26	Amend schedule of responsibilities
021/26	Arrange Fixed Asset Register site visit
022/26	Contact insurance provider with updated Fixed Asset register

Whitecolne Parish Council

14 July 2026 (2026-2027)

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
1	Office	01/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Starboard Systems Limited	S	23.00	4.60	27.60
2	Subscriptions	01/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Subscription	Rural Community Councils	S	53.00	10.60	63.60
3	Fees	07/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	PayPal	E	4.36		4.36
25	Fees	07/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	PayPal	E	6.91		6.91
4	Water	08/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Everflow	E	42.16		42.16
5	Cleaning	10/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Samantha Mason	E	197.25		197.25
7	Community Events	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Community Cafe	Black Horse Cafe	S	36.00	7.20	43.20
8	Community Events	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Community Cafe	Sainsbury's	E	92.02		92.02
13	Fees	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	TV Licensing	E	174.50		174.50
6	Grant Exp - Warm Hub	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grant Exp - Warm Hub	Sainsbury's	E	339.35		339.35
9	WCVH H&S	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	SWS London Trading Ltd	S	16.50	3.30	19.80
10	Banking Fees	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Card payments	LLoyds Multipay	E	6.00		6.00
11	Office	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	HP Inc UK Ltd	S	11.24	2.25	13.49
12	Office	16/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Adobe Software Systems	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
15	WCVH Staff	17/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Laura Bowles	X			
17	Cleaning	17/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Window cleaning	Gallen Windows	E	14.00		14.00
14	Grant Exp - Warm Hub	17/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grant Exp - Warm Hub	Black Horse Cafe	E	250.00		250.00
16	Insurance	17/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Insurance	Zurich Municipal	X	536.00		536.00
18	Fees	20/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	PayPal	E	4.08		4.08
19	Employee Pension	27/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Pension	Standard Life	X			
19	Employer Pension	27/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Pension	Standard Life	X			
21	Fees	27/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Stripe	E	10.03		10.03
20	Electricity	27/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Smartest Energy	L	40.36	2.02	42.38
22	Salary	30/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Jim Morris	X			
23	PAYE/NI	30/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		PAYE/NI	HMRC	X			
22	Work from Home Allowance	30/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Jim Morris	X			
24	Banking Fees	30/04/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Subscription	Unity Trust Bank	X	7.00		7.00
30	Meadows	01/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grasscutting	JPB Landscapes	S	104.14	20.83	124.97
29	Booking Secretary	01/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Jade Lock	E	171.24		171.24
30	Village Hall Open Spaces	01/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grasscutting	JPB Landscapes	S	20.82	4.16	24.98
26	Office	01/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Starboard Systems Limited	S	23.00	4.60	27.60
27	Subscriptions	01/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Subscription	Essex Association of Local	E	196.97		196.97
28	Office	01/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Suffolk Cloud	E	300.00		300.00
31	Subscriptions	01/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Subscription	Braintree Association of Lo	E	50.00		50.00

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
32	Fees	05/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	PayPal	E	4.48		4.48
33	Fees	05/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	SumUp	E	4.86		4.86
34	Water	07/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Everflow	E	72.83		72.83
36	WCVH Staff	11/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Laura Bowles	X			
35	Deposit	11/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	WCVH Hirer	E	50.00		50.00
38	Community Events	11/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Applause Rural Touring	E	441.00		441.00
59	Fees	11/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	PayPal	E	5.23		5.23
37	Audit	11/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Janet E Stobart FCCA	E	275.00		275.00
39	Electricity	18/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Smartest Energy	L	62.53	3.13	65.66
40	Community Events	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Expenses	Marks & Spencer	E	23.50		23.50
41	Community Events	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Expenses	Sainsbury's	E	79.79		79.79
42	Community Events	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Community Cafe	Black Horse Cafe	S	36.00	7.20	43.20
41	General Expenditure	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Expenses	Sainsbury's	E	108.90		108.90
43	General Expenditure	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Expenses	Timpson	E	20.00		20.00
44	General Expenditure	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Expenses	Amazon EU	S	6.32	1.27	7.59
45	General Expenditure	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Expenses	Oliver's Plants Ltd	E	10.00		10.00
46	General Expenditure	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Expenses	Argos Ltd	S	24.99	5.00	29.99
47	Banking Fees	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Card payments	LLoyds Multipay	E	6.00		6.00
48	Office	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	HP Inc UK Ltd	S	11.24	2.25	13.49
49	Office	19/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Adobe Software Systems	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
51	Meadows	21/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grasscutting	JPB Landscapes	S	208.28	41.66	249.94
51	Village Green	21/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grasscutting	JPB Landscapes	S	158.32	31.66	189.98
50	Deposit	21/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	WCVH Hirer	E	50.00		50.00
51	Village Hall Open Spaces	21/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grasscutting	JPB Landscapes	S	41.64	8.33	49.97
52	Employer Pension	27/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Pension	Standard Life	X			
52	Employee Pension	27/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Pension	Standard Life	X			
53	Fees	28/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Stripe	E	6.39		6.39
56	Salary	29/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Jim Morris	X			
55	PAYE/NI	29/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		PAYE/NI	HMRC	X			
56	Work from Home Allowance	29/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Jim Morris	X	26.00		26.00
57	Booking Secretary	29/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Jade Lock	E	128.43		128.43
54	Water	29/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Everflow	E	186.91		186.91
58	Banking Fees	31/05/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Subscription	Unity Trust Bank	E	7.00		7.00
60	Office	01/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Starboard Systems Limited	S	23.00	4.60	27.60
61	Community Events	02/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Open Spaces	Essex Graphic Design Ltd	S	45.83	9.17	55.00

PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
62	WCVH Staff	02/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Laura Bowles	X			
65	Community Events	02/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Open Spaces	Crown Hire Ltd	S	154.17	30.83	185.00
62	Cleaning	02/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Laura Bowles	E	11.45		11.45
63	Cleaning	02/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Gallen Windows	E	14.00		14.00
64	Grant Exp - Village Hall	02/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grant Exp - Village Hall	Caloo Ltd	S	14,995.00	2,999.00	17,994.00
66	Councillor Training	02/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Training	Essex Association of Local	S	315.00	63.00	378.00
67	Fees	03/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	SumUp	E	3.99		3.99
68	Fees	08/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	PayPal	E	6.17		6.17
69	Community Events	09/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Open Spaces	Paula Bull	E	33.00		33.00
70	Play Areas	09/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Open Spaces	Playsafety Ltd	S	174.00	34.80	208.80
71	Electricity	15/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Smartest Energy	L	39.40	1.97	41.37
79	Play Areas	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Open Spaces	Tutton Timber Ltd	S	208.00	41.60	249.60
80	Community Events	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Open Spaces	Rock Awnings	S	74.97	14.99	89.96
82	Community Events	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Open Spaces	Jane Taylor	E	660.00		660.00
72	Community Events	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Sainsbury's	E	74.29		74.29
73	Community Events	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Black Horse Cafe	S	43.00	8.60	51.60
74	Cleaning	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Amazon EU	S	16.24	3.26	19.50
75	Cleaning	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Rex Brown Ltd	S	19.99	4.00	23.99
76	Banking Fees	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Rex Brown Ltd	E	6.00		6.00
77	Office	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Adobe Software Systems	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
78	Office	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	HP Inc UK Ltd	S	11.24	2.25	13.49
81	Grant Exp - Warm Hub	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Grant Exp - Warm Hub	Jane Taylor	E	210.00		210.00
83	Office	16/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Geosphere Ltd	S	60.00	12.00	72.00
84	WCVH Staff	26/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Laura Bowles	X			
85	Employee Pension	29/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Pension	Standard Life	X			
85	Employer Pension	29/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Pension	Standard Life	X			
86	Fees	29/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Stripe	E	5.45		5.45
87	PAYE/NI	30/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		PAYE/NI	HMRC	X			
88	Salary	30/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Jim Morris	X			
88	Work from Home Allowance	30/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Jim Morris	X			
89	Members' Allowance	30/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Paula Bull	X			
90	Members' Allowance	30/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Staff salary	Paul Batchford	X			
91	Booking Secretary	30/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Village Hall	Jade Lock	E	171.24		171.24
92	Banking Fees	30/06/2026		Unity Trust Bank - Ci		Office	Unity Trust Bank	E	7.00		7.00

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
								Total	25,982.10	3,400.12	29,382.22

Appendix D

Q1 2026-27

Item	Year End 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Q1 2026-27	Budget 2027-28
1100 Precept	£ 12,652.00	£ 13,435.00	£ 6,718.00	£ -
1200 Allotment Fees	£ 377.75	£ 365.00	£ -	£ -
1201 Community Event Income (new)	£ 150.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
1300 WCVH Hire	£ 12,485.15	£ 11,500.00	£ 3,138.00	£ -
1301 WCVH Community Events	£ 2,612.13	£ 2,500.00	£ 914.00	£ -
1303 WCVH Other Income	£ 64.21	£ 75.00	£ -	£ -
1400 Misc Income	£ 767.15	£ 650.00	£ 30.00	£ -
1401 VAT126	£ 2,252.37	£ -	£ 404.00	£ -
1402 Bank Interest	£ 194.66	£ 120.00	£ 85.00	£ -
1500 Grant Income	£ 19,131.58	£ 999.00	£ 3,067.00	£ -
1600 Energy Income	£ 1,418.72	£ 1,750.00	£ 104.00	£ -
Total Income	£ 52,105.72	£ 31,394.00	£ 14,460.00	£ -

Item	Year End 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Q1 2026-27	Budget 2027-28	2026-27 EMR
4100 Salary	£ 11,890.11	£ 12,402.00		£ -	£ -
4101 PAYE/NI	£ 14.89	£ -		£ -	£ -
4102 Employee Pension	£ 459.43	£ 653.00		£ -	£ -
4103 Employer Pension	£ 294.10	£ 392.00		£ -	£ -
4105 Work from Home Allowance	£ 312.00	£ 312.00		£ 312.00	£ -
4106 Member Allowance		£ 1,790.00		£ 1,790.00	£ -
001 General Admin TOTAL Expenditure	£ 12,970.53	£ 15,549.00	£ 3,470.00	£ 2,102.00	£ -
4200 Allotments	£ 107.67	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4201 Meadows	£ 2,740.85	£ 2,150.00	£ 313.00	£ -	£ -
4202 Play Areas	£ 190.00	£ 750.00	£ 382.00	£ -	£ -
4203 Village Green	£ 1,112.44	£ 1,000.00	£ 159.00	£ -	£ -
4204 Defibrillator	£ 115.00	£ 125.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
4205 Christmas	£ 1,813.88	£ 100.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
4206 Outdoors Community Events (new)	£ 1,218.90	£ -	£ 968.00	£ -	£ 1,000.00
002 Leisure & Facilities TOTAL Expenditure	£ 7,298.74	£ 4,125.00	£ 1,822.00	£ -	£ 1,000.00
4300 WCVH Staff	£ -	£ -	£ 322.00	£ -	£ -
4301 WCVH Booking Secretary	£ 1,600.94	£ 1,500.00	£ 471.00	£ -	£ -
4302 Cleaning	£ 2,654.00	£ 2,750.00	£ 273.00	£ -	£ -
4303 Deposit	£ 916.00	£ 550.00	£ 100.00	£ -	£ -
4304 WCVH Open Spaces	£ 2,714.50	£ 275.00	£ 63.00	£ -	£ -
4305 Community Event Expenditure	£ 1,633.90	£ 1,320.00	£ 826.00	£ -	£ -
4306 Fees	£ 477.74	£ 475.00	£ 237.00	£ -	£ -
4307 Electricity	£ 1,584.97	£ 800.00	£ 143.00	£ -	£ -
4308 Water	£ 786.40	£ 750.00	£ 302.00	£ -	£ -
4309 WiFi	£ 13.32	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4310 WCVH H&S	£ 1,690.49	£ 400.00	£ 17.00	£ -	£ 2,300.00
003 WCVH TOTAL Expenditure	£ 14,072.26	£ 8,820.00	£ 2,754.00	£ -	£ 2,300.00
4400 Staff Training	£ 25.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4401 Councillor Training	£ 32.68	£ 500.00	£ 315.00	£ -	£ -
4402 General Maintenance	£ 28.70	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4403 General Expenditure	£ 200.62	£ 200.00	£ 171.00	£ -	£ -
4404 Subscriptions	£ 555.48	£ 325.00	£ 300.00	£ -	£ -
4405 Office	£ 1,560.24	£ 500.00	£ 513.00	£ -	£ -
4406 Audit	£ 680.00	£ 680.00	£ 275.00	£ -	£ -
4407 Insurance	£ 536.00	£ 540.00	£ 536.00	£ -	£ -
4408 Banking Fees	£ 642.14	£ 155.00	£ 39.00	£ -	£ -
004 Miscellaneous TOTAL Expenditure	£ 4,260.86	£ 2,900.00	£ 2,149.00	£ -	£ -
4500 Grant Exp Warm Hub EMR	£ 3,698.05	£ -	£ 800.00	£ -	£ -
4501 Grant Exp Warm Hub Staff Salary EMR	£ 6,403.98	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4502 Grant Exp WCVH	£ -	£ -	£ 12,727.00	£ -	£ -
4503 Grant Exp Projects	£ 1,661.71	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4504 Grant Exp Street Cleaning	£ 1,081.49	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4505 Grant Exp Summer Hub	£ 1,360.81	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4506 Grant Exp Summer Hub Salary	£ 1,193.99	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
4507 Grant Exp PAYE/NI	£ 360.60	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
005 Grants TOTAL Expenditure	£ 12,062.58	£ -	£ 13,527.00	£ -	£ -
Total Expenditure	£ 50,664.97	£ 31,394.00	£ 23,722.00	£ 2,102.00	£ 3,300.00
Income minus Expenditure	£ 1,440.75	£ -	£ 9,262.00	£ 2,102.00	£ 3,300.00

005 Grants TOTAL Expenditure not included in Total Expenditure (Budget)

1100 Precept	4.99% increase to a Band D property: £2.92
1500 Grant Income	Grants applied for as necessity or availability dictates
4206 Outdoors Community Events	EMR Budget for midsummer celebration
4310 WCVH H&S	EMR Budget for WCVH floor
EMR' is Earmarked Reserve	

ECC Locality Fund 2026/27 - £10,000 for Halstead Division - Expressions of interest invited with a deadline 27th November 2026. 13.06.2026 12:14

I am writing to let you know that Essex County Council's locality fund for 2026/2027 is now open for applications.

As your county councillor for Halstead Division, I have an allocation of £10,000 to support projects across the entire division. I want to ensure this funding is distributed equitably and in line with local needs, so I am inviting all town and parish councils in my division to submit an expression of interest.

What the funding can support

Funding may be used to:

- Provide a grant to a registered charity, parish council, or properly constituted community or voluntary organisation for a specific project or service within the division
- Purchase goods or services
- Commission services from Essex County Council

The minimum grant is £300. There is no upper limit per project, provided the **total** across all nominations remains within the £10,000 allocation. Funding can also be pooled with neighbouring divisions to support larger projects.

If you are considering a highways project

Please be aware that:

- Scheme design can be costly and may involve ongoing maintenance commitments not covered by this fund
- Early engagement with Essex highways is strongly advised to assess feasibility
- All necessary permissions must be secured before works can proceed
- ***Highways Authority licenses can take at least 8 weeks to obtain so please bear this in mind***

So, if you are considering a highways project, it would need to be planned and initiated very promptly so please factor this into your proposal.

Key dates

- The deadline to return your expressions of interest to me is **27th November 2026**

This gives me six weeks to review all submissions, ask and address any questions with you, and submit nominations to ECC ahead of their deadline of 8th January 2027. I aim to let you all know what funding I'm applying for by the end of December 2026, before submitting nominations to the ECC. Please note that all approved project expenditure and claims must then be completed by **20th March 2027 so do bear this in mind.**

Please note that while nominations are now open, officers cannot begin processing until the ECC call-in process has concluded. So, I would encourage you to use the coming months to identify potential projects, so you are ready to submit in good time.

How to apply

Please complete the expression of interest form I've created for this specific funding opportunity and return it to me at Cllr.Isi.Rocha@essex.gov.uk by 27th November 2026. If you have any supporting information such as quotes, estimates, or letters of support, please attach these alongside your completed form. I will then review all submissions and prioritise funding on the basis of local need, community benefit, and equitable distribution before making the formal submission to ECC on your behalf.

Please also note that once a nomination is submitted, I believe ECC will contact you directly to confirm acceptance of the fund's terms and conditions and to carry out eligibility checks. You should therefore ensure that the contact details put on the form are for someone with authority to respond on your behalf.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have questions in the meantime!

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Isi Rocha
County Councillor, Halstead Division

Re: ECC Locality Fund 2026/27 - £10,000 for Halstead Division - Expressions of interest invited with a deadline 27th November 2026. 13.06.2026 19:10

I wanted to drop you a quick follow-up to my earlier email about the Locality Fund.

I realised that I didn't make one thing clear enough and it's really important. This funding should be driven by you and your community, not be me. I'd love for you to decide what matters most locally and put that forward. You know your residents far better than I do, and that's exactly how it should work.

The expression of interest form is simply your way of telling me what your community has chosen to prioritise. My starting point will always be to support what local councils have decided, and I'll only need to come back to you for a conversation if the total requests across the division end up being more than my £10,000 allocation (in which case we'd work it out together).

I also wanted to give you a heads up that early next week I'll be posting something on my social media and community pages letting residents know about the fund and encouraging them to bring their ideas and thoughts to their local town or parish council. So you may start to hear from people in the community which can only be a good thing 😊

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

Cllr Isi. Rocha

ECC LOCALITY FUND 2026/27

Expression of Interest Form

Halstead Division – County Councillor: Isabel (Isi) Caetano da Rocha

Please return completed forms and supporting quotes etc to: Cllr.Isi.Rocha@Essex.gov.uk by **27 November 2026**

SECTION 1: Organisation Details

1. Organisation name

2. Organisation type

- ☐ Parish / Town Council
- ☐ Registered charity
- ☐ Constituted community / voluntary organisation
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

3. Contact name and role

This must be someone with authority to accept terms and conditions on behalf of your organisation, as ECC will contact them directly if the nomination is approved.

4. Contact email and telephone

SECTION 2: Project Details

5. Project / initiative title

6. Please describe the project and what it will achieve

Maximum 200 words.

7. Who will benefit, and how many people?

Please include any vulnerable or underserved groups.

8. Where will the project take place?

The project must be within Halstead Division, unless it is a youth service activity with a clear benefit to local young people.

SECTION 3: Funding
9. Amount requested from Locality Fund

£ _____

Minimum grant is £300.

10. Total project cost (if applicable)

£ _____

11. Are any other funding sources contributing?

If so, please list all sources and amounts.

SECTION 4: Delivery & Timescales
12. When does the project need to be completed?

Important: this fund requires that the project is fully delivered and all invoices paid by 20 March 2027. Please only propose projects that can realistically be completed and all expenditure settled within that timeframe. Projects that cannot meet this deadline will not be eligible.

13. Is this a highways project?

If yes, please confirm you have read the highways caveats in the covering email and outline what early engagement with Essex Highways you have already undertaken or plan to undertake. Note that Highways Authority licences can take at least 8 weeks to obtain.

☐ No

☐ Yes – please provide details below:

SECTION 5: Any Other Information

14. Is there anything else you would like me to know about your project or organisation?

Please note If you have any supporting information such as quotes, estimates, letters of support, or evidence of need, please attach these to your email alongside this form.

Thank you for completing this form. Please return it to **Cllr.Isi.Rocha@Essex.gov.uk** by 27 November 2026.



Funding request for consideration
by

The Parish Councils of Essex



Overview of Charity

Level of Response

BASICS Essex is a network of dedicated volunteer emergency doctors and paramedics who as a volunteer-led charity are dedicated to providing immediate access to Pre-hospital Critical Care to those who are seriously injured or critically ill across the county of Essex.

We play a critical role in saving lives as we are able to reach patients rapidly, often within minutes, regardless of the time of day or night. Our committed clinicians are available 24/7, frequently arriving first on scene whether it is at the roadside, in a field, or at a home emergency.

BASICS Essex clinicians respond to emergencies using their own vehicles or the scheme response car, at any time, in any location within Essex.

Our volunteer clinicians are equipped to deliver advanced medical care at the scene, exceeding the practice of standard paramedic Ambulance Service personnel.



www.basicsessex.org.uk

Our Impact in Essex

Our highly trained doctors and paramedics respond swiftly to medical emergencies, sometimes arriving before air ambulances. Owing to their advanced skills and continued availability, critically ill or seriously injured patients receive the highest standard of care, supported by the extensive specialist training our volunteers have undertaken.

Benefits to the community:

- Access to additional pain-relieving medications.
- Ability to safely sedate patients when required.
- Provision of resuscitative surgical interventions.
- Capability to administer pre-hospital anaesthesia.
- Ability to induce paralysis in patients to facilitate ventilation.
- Advanced patient assessment and clinical decision-making.
- Expertise in manipulating and realigning fractures.
- Advanced airway management.
- Performance of Pre-hospital Critical Care interventions.

The enhanced level of care provided by BASICS Essex volunteers is required in 7% to 10% of daily ambulance calls, these are situations where the expertise and experience of doctors and paramedics with advanced training are essential. Standard paramedic practice alone is not sufficient to deliver this level of safe and effective care.

**In 2025 BASICS Essex volunteer clinicians
gave over**

10,000

**Voluntary hours to provide a
Pre-hospital Critical Care service
to the communities of Essex.**

BASICS Essex Voluntarily responded to

352

Call Outs in 2025

Contents

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Contents Our Impact in Essex Case for Support	2 3/4
Facts and Statistics Cause of Demand Call Outs	5
Association Membership Responder List	6
Project Financial Breakdown Contact	7





Case for Support

Application to The Parish Councils of Essex For funding support towards BASICS Essex Central Base / Office

BASICS Essex is a volunteer-led Pre-hospital Critical Care charity providing emergency medical support to communities across the county of Essex.

During 2023, we were able to secure funding for the initial lease period of our first Central Base / Office. This has made a significant difference to our ability to operate effectively and has enabled us to achieve one of the charity's most important strategic goals.

Our Central Base / Office provides the following essential benefits to the charity and the communities we serve:

- A safe and conveniently located central base from which to coordinate our operations.
- Dedicated space for clinicians to train using advanced equipment and simulation resources.
- Secure storage for drugs, medical supplies and other essential consumables.
- A suitable environment for volunteer clinicians to meet, reflect and prepare while on duty.
- Workspace for fundraising, administration staff and volunteers to collaborate effectively.
- A professional base for meeting with partners and managing practical needs such as mail and deliveries.
- Facilities to welcome supporters, trusts and foundations so they can better understand the life-saving work they help make possible.
- An improved public profile, helping BASICS Essex present itself as a professional and sustainable charity.

However, the ongoing annual cost of maintaining this office base is challenging for BASICS Essex, as unrestricted funding for core running costs remains particularly difficult to secure.

We are therefore reaching out to parish councils across Essex to respectfully request consideration of a small contribution towards the cost of leasing our Central Base / Office. This facility enables us to manage the charity, equip our volunteer clinicians, and respond effectively in support of every parish and community we serve, delivering voluntary Pre-hospital Critical Care when it is needed most.

BASICS Essex do not receive any statutory funding and therefore relies entirely on public donations to continue delivering this vital, voluntary, life-saving service.



Our volunteer clinicians also give further time to help fundraise for BASICS Essex.

Can you help us to help people in your communities when they need it most!

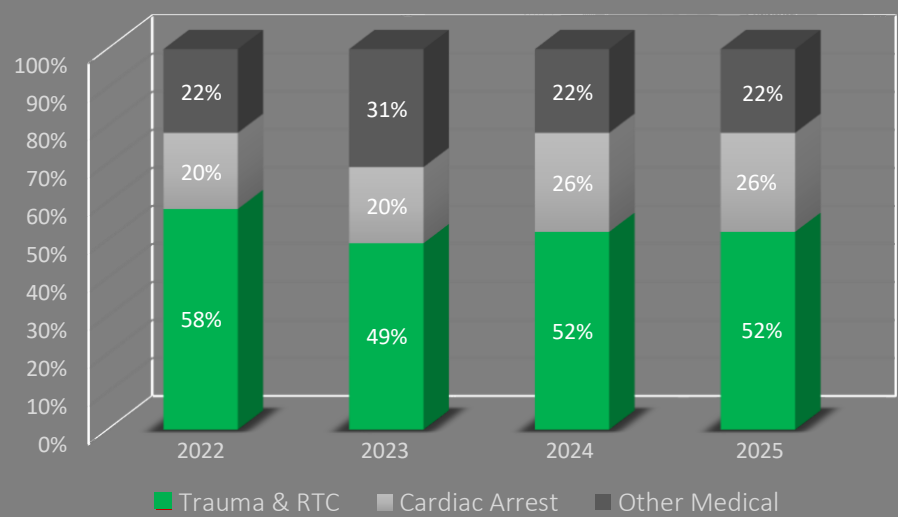
A contribution however small, will ultimately help save many more lives in the future.



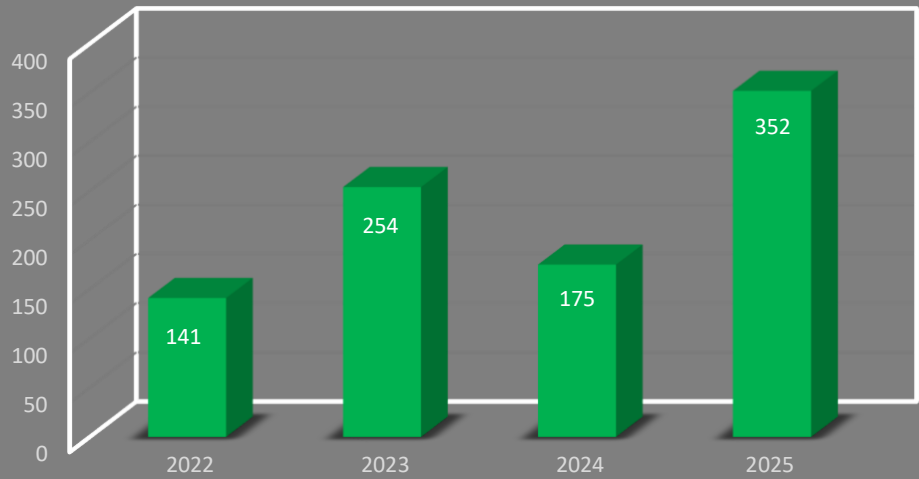
Facts and Statistics



Cause of Demand



Call Outs



Association Membership

All members of BASICS Essex scheme hold a membership to:
The British Association for Immediate Care.

Responder List

Name	Pro	Level	Autonomous	Car Team Responder	Trainee
Gates	Consultant Paramedic	L2	Y	Y	N
Humphreys	Critical Care Paramedic	L2	Y	Y	N
Chatterjee	Doctor	L3	Y	Y	N
Wareham	Critical Care Paramedic	L2	Y	Y	N
Buckland-Hoby	Doctor	L2	Y	Y	N
Perry	Doctor	L2	Y	Y	N
Sillett	Critical Care Paramedic	L2	Y	Y	N
Samouelle	Critical Care Paramedic	L2	Y	Y	N
Hardy	Doctor	L2	Y	Y	N
Brown	Doctor	L3	Y	Y	N
Worley	Doctor	L2	Y	Y	Y
Aziz	Doctor	L2	Y	Y	Y
Booker	Doctor	L3	Y	Y	N
Campbell	Doctor	L3	N	Y	N
Noble	Doctor	L2	Training		Y
Horton	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N
Pilgrim	Doctor	L2	Training		Y
Alex Girling	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N
Anderson	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N
Findow	Critical Care Paramedic	L2	Y	Y	N
Studd	Doctor	L3	Y	Y	N
King	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N
Wareham	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N
Samouelle	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N
Burton	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N
Hockley	Paramedic	L1	N	Y	N

Project

Central Base / Office - Annual lease and associated Fees

Financial Breakdown

Project	Amount
Central Base – Annual Fee	£ 7,500.00
Central Base – Associated Costs (Electric, Water, Insurance)	£ 904.37
Total Project Cost pa:	£ 8,404.37



Registered Charity No. 1214023

Transferring from former registered charity No. 1142313

Contact



07910 018874



lisa.thomas@basicsessex.org.uk



Unit 10, Office 1, Highlands Farm, Rettendon, Chelmsford CM3 8EB



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village of the Year 2025

To: Planning Department
Braintree District Council

Date: 08/06/2026

Ref: 26/01128/OUT

Location: Land Adjacent, 35 Colne Park Road, White Colne, Essex.

Details: Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved (landscape) for erection of 1 No. self-build dwelling & detached double garage.

Response: White Colne Parish Council objects to Application ref 26/01128/OUT. Whilst the development site is not within White Colne parish, it is immediately adjacent to the parish boundary and should be considered contiguous with the village. The site is outside the White Colne Development Boundary, and as such is not in accordance with the Village Design statement. The proposal would increase traffic on Colne Park Road, which is an unlit, narrow and steep lane with no pedestrian footway. It is considered that the proposed development would extend the housing along Colne Park Road and as such would be an unacceptable encroachment of a rural area. White Colne Parish Council therefore recommends that the Application be refused.

Jim Morris
Parish Clerk
White Colne Parish Council

Email: clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Our ref: 26/01290/COUPA
Your Ref:
Direct Dial: 01376 312763
Ask for: Britney Lees
Date: 16.06.2026



Development Management
Causeway House Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB

Jim Morris
6 Abbeygate Street
Colchester
Essex
CO2 7HB

Dear Jim Morris

Parish / Town Council Consultation

APPLICATION NO : 26/01290/COUPA

DESCRIPTION : Prior approval for the change of use of building on an agricultural unit or former agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development - Change of use to 2 No. residential dwelling.

LOCATION : Hyfields Bures Road White Colne Essex CO6 2QF

I write to inform you, for information only, that a notification has been made to ascertain whether Prior Approval by the local planning authority is required before the development can proceed. Details of the notification are displayed on the Council's website.

Regulations require that a prior approval application must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to any development commencing. Under the Prior Approval process the Local Planning Authority is only able to consider a number of defined issues, namely; highways, transport and noise impacts, risks of contamination and flooding, location and siting of the building, and the design and external appearance of the building and to ensure that the change of use is not impractical or undesirable due to its particular siting and location.

If the Local Planning Authority considers the proposals to lead to significant impacts, a 'normal' full planning application can be required.

There is no statutory consultation requirement associated with this type of application. The purpose of this correspondence is simply to ensure that you are aware that a notification has been received for the above development. It is not seeking a consultation response from you but if you do choose to make any comments then they should be restricted to the issues / matters listed above.

Yours faithfully

Planning Admin Team



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village of the Year 2025

To: Planning Department

Braintree District Council

Date: 14/07/2026

Ref: 26/01545/VAR

Location: 35 Colne Park Road, White Colne, CO6 2PL.

Details: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) of approved application 25/01405/HH granted 11.08.2025 for: Proposed of 4-bay outbuilding for garage / workshop use. Amendment would allow a revised design.

White Colne Parish Council response:

Jim Morris

Parish Clerk

White Colne Parish Council

Email: clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Our ref: 26/00649/FUL
Your Ref:
Direct Dial: 01376 312739
Ask for: Harrison Lockwood
Date: 21.05.2026



Development Management
Causeway House Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB

The Occupier; White Colne Parish Council
Bures Road
White Colne
CO6 2QA

Dear Sir/Madam; White Colne Parish Council

APPLICATION NO : 26/00649/FUL

DESCRIPTION : Erection of stables, menage, access improvements and associated works

LOCATION : Land Adjacent To Millbrooks Farm Mill Lane Colne Engaine Essex

I refer to your representation(s) which was received in connection with the above numbered application, the contents of which were taken into account when determining the application.

I write to inform you that after due consideration the decision is "Application REFUSED". Please note that only the applicant has the right of appeal against the decision.

A copy of the decision notice and officer's delegated report / committee report (as relevant) can be viewed online at www.braintree.gov.uk/pa.

Yours faithfully

Harrison Lockwood
For Development Manager

DC/501/5

Our ref: 26/00025/REF
Your Ref:
Direct Dial: 01376 312739
Ask for: Harrison Lockwood
Date: 02.06.2026



Development Management
Causeway House Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB

Tel: 01376 552525
Email: appeals@braintree.gov.uk

White Colne Parish Council
Bures Road
White Colne
CO6 2QA

Dear Sir/Madam

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78**

Site Address: Land Adjacent To Millbrooks Farm Mill Lane Colne
Engaine Essex
Description of Development: Erection of stables, menage, access improvements and
associated works
Planning Application Ref: 26/00649/FUL
Appellant's Name: Mr M Hartley
Planning Inspectorate Ref: 6010289
Appeal Start Date: 2 June 2026

I refer to the above details. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State following Braintree District Council's refusal of the above application/s.

The appeal will be determined at **written representations**. The procedure to be followed is set out in Part 2 of The Town and Country Planning (Appeals) (Written Representations Procedure) (England) Regulations 2009, as amended.

We have forwarded all the representations made to us on the application to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. These will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.

If you wish to make comments, or modify/withdraw your previous representation, you can do so online at <https://appeal-planning-decision.service.gov.uk/comment-planning-appeal/enter-appeal-reference>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can send your comments to:

Team East 1
The Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

All representations must be received by 7 July 2026 and sent directly to the Planning Inspectorate. Any representations submitted after the deadline will not usually be considered and will be returned. The Planning Inspectorate does not acknowledge representations. **All representations must quote the appeal reference, 6010289.**

Please note that any representations you submit to the Planning Inspectorate will be copied to the appellant and this local planning authority and will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.

The appeal documents are available for inspection online at www.braintree.gov.uk/pa. Once online, click the **Appeals** button and then search for the reference number at the very top of this letter. If you do not have access to the internet you can visit the Council's office at Causeway House, Braintree or libraries at Halstead or Witham to view the details online. Please note, no paper copies of the application are available to view at the Council's office or libraries.

For further information on the appeals process, you can get a copy of one of the Planning Inspectorate's "Guide to taking part in planning appeals" booklets free of charge from GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/taking-part-in-a-planning-listed-building-or-enforcement-appeal>.

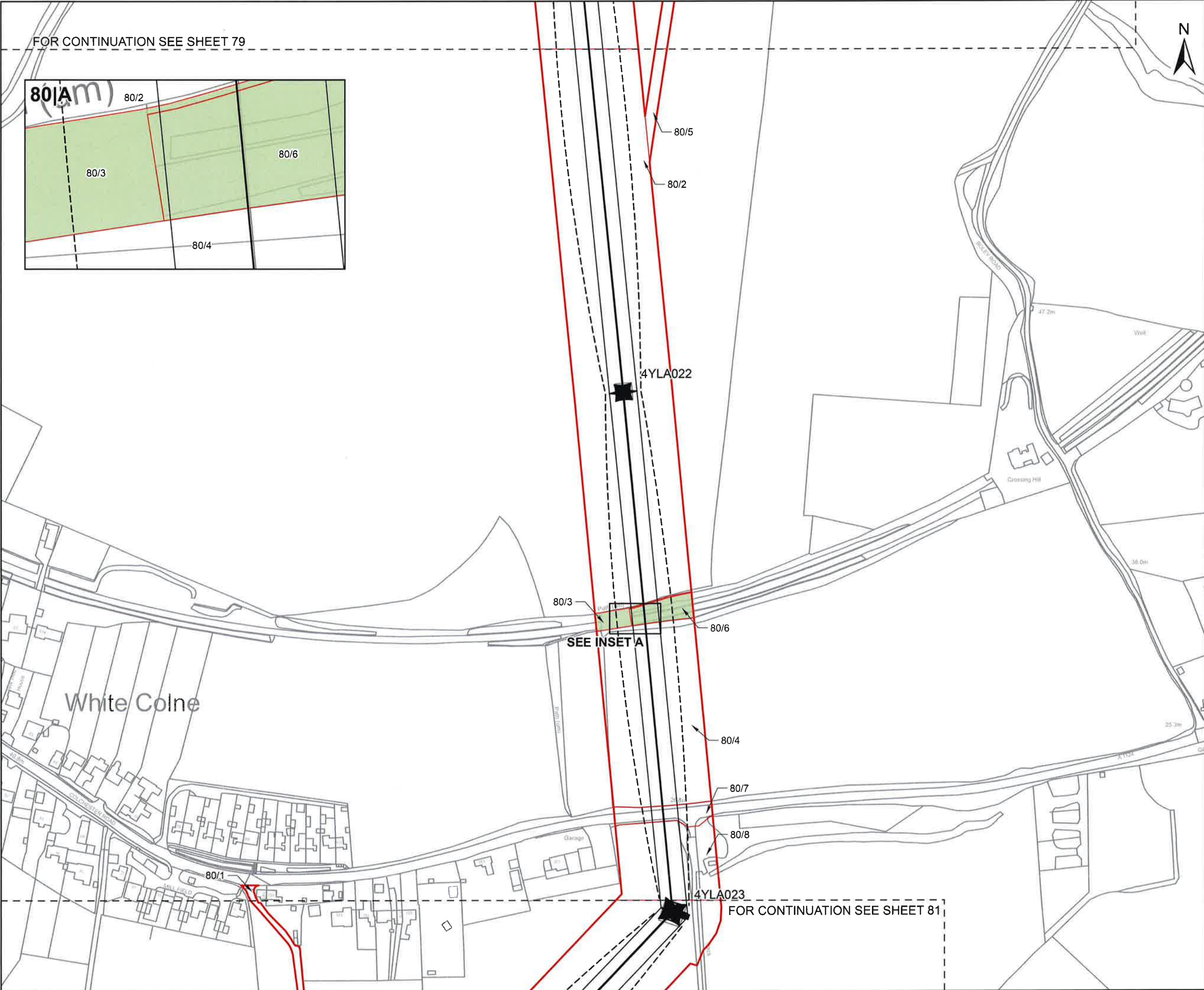
When made, the decision will be published online at <https://appeal-planning-decision.service.gov.uk/comment-planning-appeal/enter-appeal-reference>.

Yours faithfully

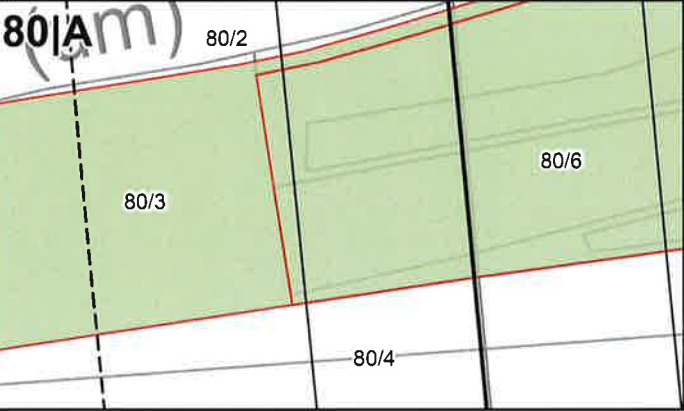
Harrison Lockwood
For Head of Planning

Revision: 0 Drawn: GC Checked: OB Approved: OB Date: 2026-05-15

Filename: C:\Users\geoff.chapman\AECOM\DE - 60766236 - BPRE - General\02_Maps\Land\Referencing\BPRE_CPO_Schedule_Plans\BPRE_CPO_Schedule_Plans.aprx



FOR CONTINUATION SEE SHEET 79



CLIENT

nationalgrid

PROJECT

Pelham to Rayleigh Overhead Line Reinforcement

FIGURE TITLE

Map referred to in The National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (Pelham to Rayleigh Overhead Line Reinforcement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2026.

ISSUE PURPOSE

CPO Submission - Sheet 80 of 152

CONSULTANT

AECOM Limited
Midpoint, Alencon Link
Basingstoke, Hampshire
RG21 7PP
www.aecom.com

AECOM
savills

LEGEND

Red Line Boundary

Common Land

Crown Land

Open Space

Open Space & Crown Land

Statutory Undertaker Land (Section 17(2))

Centreline

Conductor

Swing

Tower Point

0 50 100 m

1:2,500 @ A3

NOTES

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Ordnance Survey AC0000808122. Plan produced for National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) by AECOM Ltd.

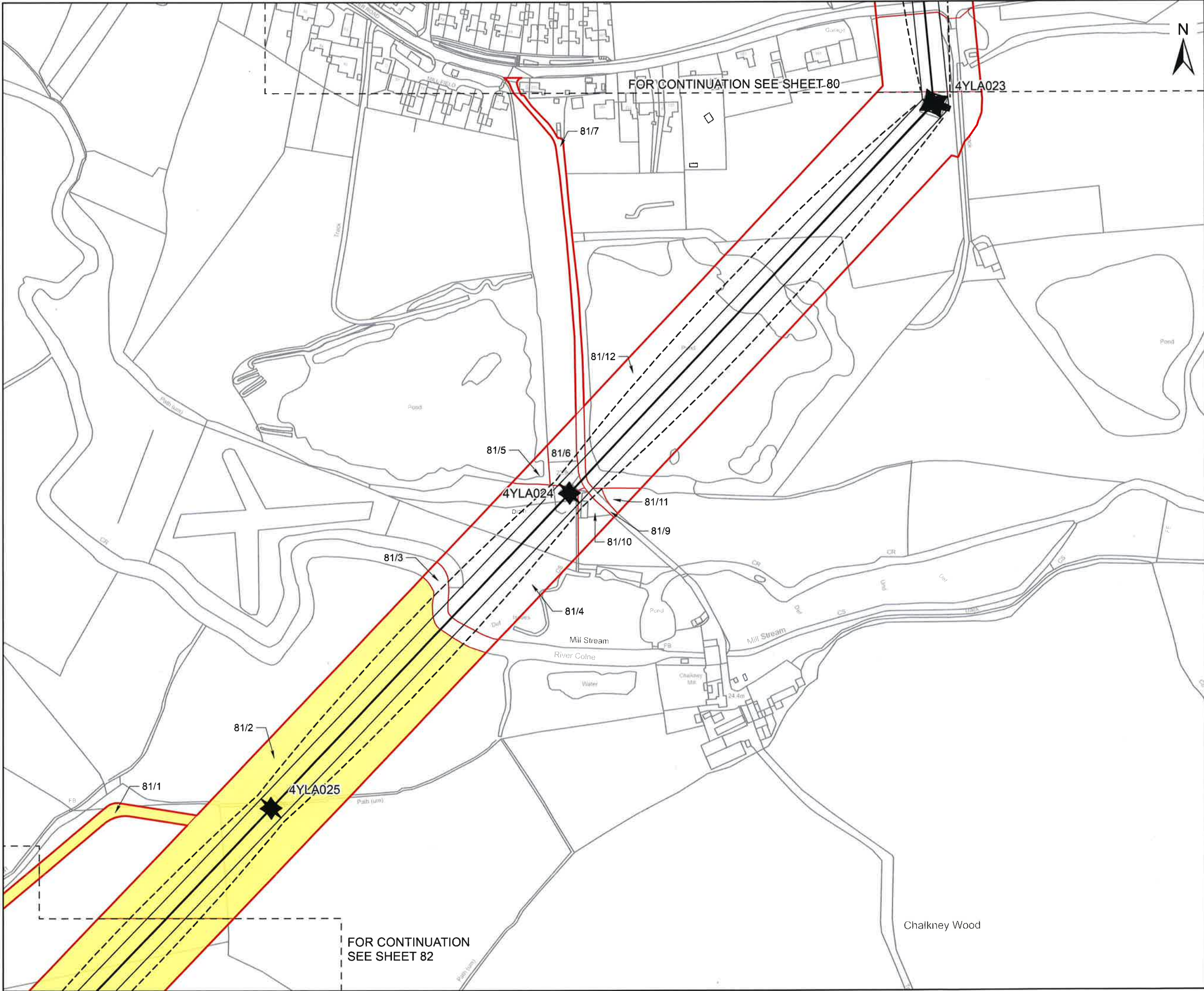
The common seal of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc was affixed on the 21 day of May 2026 in the presence of

[Signature]

(Member of the Board Sealing Committee and Authorised Signatory)

Dated 21 May 2026

DOCUMENT REFERENCE NGET 13919
BPRE-NGD-XXXX-XXXXX-DRW-LM-000184



CLIENT

nationalgrid

PROJECT

Pelham to Rayleigh Overhead Line Reinforcement

FIGURE TITLE

Map referred to in The National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (Pelham to Rayleigh Overhead Line Reinforcement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2026.

ISSUE PURPOSE

CPO Submission - Sheet 81 of 152

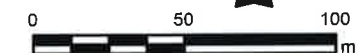
CONSULTANT

AECOM Limited
Midpoint, Alencon Link
Basingstoke, Hampshire
RG21 7PP
www.aecom.com



LEGEND

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Red Line Boundary | Statutory Undertaker Land (Section 17(2)) |
| Common Land | Centreline |
| Crown Land | Conductor |
| Open Space | Swing |
| Open Space & Crown Land | Tower Point |



1:2,500 @ A3

NOTES

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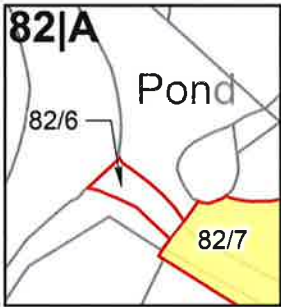
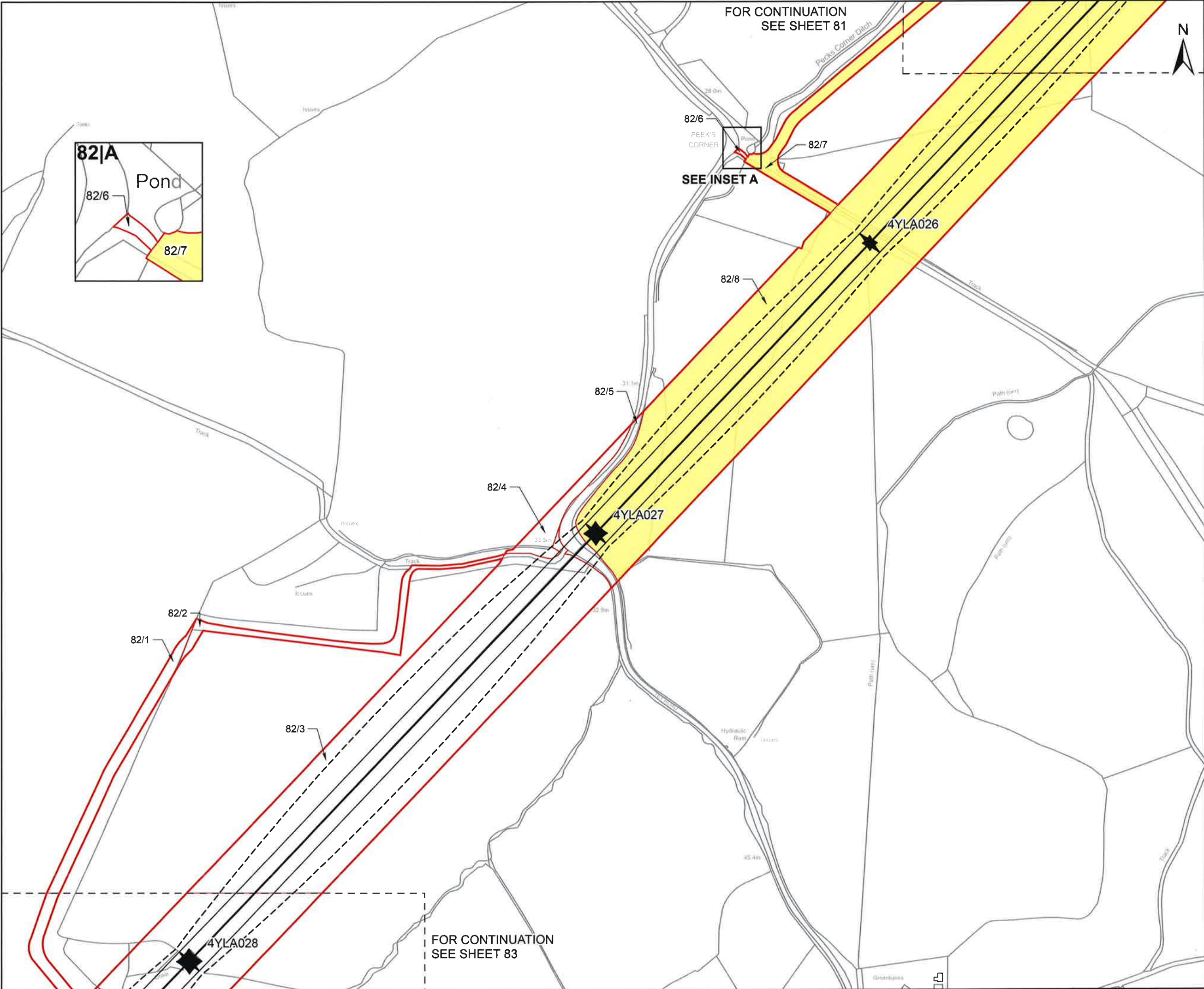
(Member of the Board Sealing Committee and Authorised Signatory)

Dated 21 May 2026



DOCUMENT REFERENCE NGET13919

BPPE-NGD-XXXX-XXXXX-DRW-LM-000185



CLIENT
nationalgrid

PROJECT
Pelham to Rayleigh Overhead Line Reinforcement

FIGURE TITLE
Map referred to in The National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (Pelham to Rayleigh Overhead Line Reinforcement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2026.

ISSUE PURPOSE
CPO Submission - Sheet 82 of 152

CONSULTANT
AECOM Limited
Midpoint, Alencon Link
Basingstoke, Hampshire
RG21 7PP
www.aecom.com

AECOM
savills

LEGEND

Red Line Boundary	Statutory Undertaker Land (Section 17(2))
Common Land	Centrelines
Crown Land	Conductor
Open Space	Swing
Open Space & Crown Land	Tower Point

0 50 100 m

1:2,500 @ A3

NOTES

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The common seal of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc was affixed on the 21 day of May 2026 in the presence of

[Signature]
(Member of the Board Sealing Committee and Authorised Signatory)

Dated 21 May 2026



DOCUMENT REFERENCE NGET13919
BPPE-NGD-XXXX-XXXXX-DRW-LM-000186

Essex Climate Action Commission saddened by withdrawal of support by Reform-led administration at Essex County Council. 08.05.2026 15:19

From the Chair of Commission (Professor Jules Pretty OBE DL) and 34 Commissioners

1. The leader of Essex County Council, Councillor Peter Harris and deputy leader, Councillor Russell Quirk, announced at the first Full Council Meeting they would be scrapping the council's net-zero policies, calling them "net stupid zero" and a "ridiculous endeavour."
2. The Reform-led administration published its 100-Day Plan in the first week of July, with detailed costings the subsequent week. This includes withdrawal of all secretariat and staff support to the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC), one of the most successful place-based action commissions in the UK that has been providing leadership and partnership to public bodies, businesses and the voluntary sector across Essex.
3. The Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) will not be closing. We will be keeping the door open to collaboration with communities, businesses and local authorities across Essex.
4. As Commissioners, we are saddened by this decision, as it could undermine the assets built by six years of work to develop climate resilience that improves the lives of people across the county. The ECAC has been focusing its work on nature and green infrastructure, energy transitions, waste, buildings and planning, water, transport, community engagement, and the transition to a circular economy.
5. What climate action brings is simply this: transitions to renewable and regenerative economies that lower household bills, create more jobs and stronger businesses, and bring more innovation to cultures and economies.
6. The World Economic Forum has called this moment a critical leadership frontier. Climate and nature loss is business loss, and nature-positive approaches are a frontier for new economic opportunities. The WEF estimates that zero-carbon transitions will have created by 2030 some US\$10 trillion of value worldwide alongside 400 million new jobs.
7. In the UK, a million British livelihoods now depend on the net zero economy. "It is clear," says Louise Hellem, Chief Economist at the CBI, "You can't have growth without green... Inaction is indisputably costlier than action. Long-term sustainable growth is unattainable without a future powered by clean, affordable, and secure energy."
8. We make comments below to a) summarise a short history of the ECAC; and b) point to the impacts of the Commission in its first six years. The Notes for Editors and Journalists contains quotes from Commissioners on the ECAC (A); observations from key external actors on the green transition for the economy (B). We reproduce the 12 Calls-To-Action published by the ECAC in 2026 (C); and provide links to online materials on the ECAC (D).

A Short History

1. The world's economies, societies, and cultures face unprecedented and connected crises of climate shocks and nature loss. Both are going to need coordinated and collective action at all levels of societies: local, regional, national, international. Interestingly, on climate at least, most people across the world are already acting.

2. A 2025 study of 130,000 people in 130 countries found that 89% of people now understand and agree that climate change is both real and caused by human action (primarily from the burning of fossil fuels). People say they want their national and local governments to take more action. And they want to know what to do themselves.
3. In the past decade, a group of novel intermediate institutions for climate action emerged in the UK as part of a successful global movement. These 26 independent city and county commissions are working with local communities, businesses, charities and the public sector to speed progress on local action for the climate and nature crises. The Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) is one.
4. The ECAC was set up by Essex County Council (ECC) in 2020, with 35 independent commissioners and a secretariat supported by the Council. The ECAC's first comprehensive report on making the county carbon neutral was published in 2021. It contained 100 recommendations addressing nature and green infrastructure, energy, waste, buildings and planning, water, transport, community engagement, and the transition to a just and greener economy. These proposed paths for change were deliberately wide, giving people of Essex many choices for action at any given place or time.
5. The ECAC recommendations were unanimously approved and supported by all political parties in Essex County Council in 2021. The Council's first comprehensive Climate Action Plan then followed. The Commission has just completed its first six years of work.

Impacts of the Essex Climate Action Commission and Climate Action

1. Essex has made substantial progress over the past six years on climate and nature action. The greater aim is removing carbon from our economies, in line with the priorities of the UK government and the UN International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
2. What climate action brings is simply this: transitions to renewable and regenerative economies that lower household bills, create more jobs and stronger businesses, and bring more innovation.
3. The ECAC has been guided by three key principles:
 - i. Universality: ensuring policies and innovations are relevant to all people of Essex.
 - ii. Many paths and options being offered for moving towards zero-carbon living and working, so that individuals and businesses can select those that suit them best.
 - iii. Ensuring new ideas and practices clearly improve people's lives and nature.
4. Across the world there is fast-growing support for new zero-carbon and nature-positive policies, institutions, and technologies. A total of 149 countries have set carbon-zero targets, covering some 90% of global GDP, greenhouse gas emissions, and global population. Additionally, some 11,000 of the largest businesses and cities have adopted the Race to Zero guidelines. Solar, wind, battery and other renewable technologies have become rapidly cheaper and more common, and sustainable practices in food, energy, and urban systems are increasingly widespread.
5. The World Economic Forum has called this moment a critical leadership frontier. It says that climate and nature loss is business loss, and nature-positive approaches are a frontier for new

economic opportunities. The WEF estimates that zero-carbon transitions could by 2030 have created US\$10 trillion of value worldwide alongside 400 million new jobs.

6. In the UK, a million British livelihoods now depend on the net zero economy. “It is clear,” says Louise Hellem, Chief Economist at the CBI, “You can’t have growth without green... Inaction is indisputably costlier than action. Long-term sustainable growth is unattainable without a future powered by clean, affordable, and secure energy.”
7. More abundant natural environments with cleaner water, less waste, and more nature recovery then release income into the national economy – by improving health, reducing pollution costs, and cutting fossil fuel payments.
8. We recently documented 64 significant impacts arising from the work of the Commission and its seven Special Interest Groups. There have been improvements to people’s lives, to nature, and to infrastructure. There have been significant new regional strategies on waste, water and transport that will be acting as collective platforms for more rapid and frictionless change in the coming years.
9. Some of these transformations have implications for national government. They show what an intermediate-level voluntary body, working with councils at county, unitary, district-city-town and parish levels, can do quickly.
10. The work of the Essex Climate Action Commission demonstrates that we can have nature and climate recovery and growth. Climate action benefits people and nature, and at the same time boosts growth of jobs and business success.

Appendix N

[illegible][illegible]

Total Income to date:	£ 1,636.99
------------------------------	-------------------



The Flourish Project

WELLBEING • CONNECTION • RENEWAL

Community Gift & Partnership Proposal

A fully resourced year-one community gift from The Underdog Crew CIC

White Colne Meadows, White Colne,
with wider benefit to Earls Colne, the Colnes and Halstead



Wellbeing



Connection



Renewal

The Underdog Crew CIC
working out of Underdog Crew Studios
Facebook: UnderdogCrewStudios





1. Project Overview

The Flourish Project is an outdoor wellbeing, digital detox and family reconnection programme offered by **The Underdog Crew CIC** as a fully resourced year-one community gift. Based at White Colne Meadows, the project will provide safe, supervised and uplifting experiences for children, young people and families, while supporting community connection and light-touch stewardship of a valued public open space.



At a Glance

- 📍 **Location:** White Colne Meadows, White Colne
- 🏢 **Lead organisation:** The Underdog Crew CIC
- 📍 **Base:** Underdog Crew Studios
- 📍 **Year-one model:** Fully resourced community gift
- 📍 **Core themes:** wellbeing, connection, renewal
- 📍 **Delivery style:** relationship-based, family-centred, nature-led
- 📍 **Wider reach:** White Colne, Earls Colne, the wider Colnes and Halstead



What Flourish Offers



Digital detox experiences



Family connection and camping opportunities



Outdoor games, movement and wellbeing activities



Shared food, hospitality and community participation



Youth mentorship and confidence-building



Nature connection and community stewardship

“

Young people do not just need somewhere to go. They need somewhere to belong, trusted adults who stay long enough to matter, and experiences that help them grow.



2. Local Need and Why This Matters

Flourish has been shaped by two years of evidence-based outdoor work showing that children, young people and families benefit deeply from time away from screens, pressure and isolation. In White Colne and across the surrounding area, many young people need more than short-term diversionary sessions. They need trusted relationships, healthy challenge, family reconnection, access to nature, and meaningful opportunities to build confidence and belonging.



Why young people need more

- ✓ Rising anxiety, disconnection and screen dependency
- ✓ Limited access to long-term, relationship-based support
- ✓ Need for safe, positive alternatives to isolation and risk



Why families benefit

- ✓ Shared outdoor experiences strengthen connection
- ✓ Time away from devices supports calmer communication
- ✓ Positive memories build trust, confidence and resilience



Why nature helps

- ✓ Outdoor environments reduce pressure and overstimulation
- ✓ Movement and play improve wellbeing
- ✓ Nature supports reflection, confidence and emotional reset

Not a box-ticking youth session

Flourish is designed as an immersive, relationship-led experience rather than a token activity. The mentoring happens naturally through shared meals, outdoor challenges, teamwork, conversation, responsibility and time together in a calm, supported setting.

3. What a Flourish Experience Includes

Flourish combines wellbeing, digital detox, family connection and practical participation in a safe and joyful outdoor setting.



1. Digital Detox

Structured phone-free periods that encourage real-world connection.



2. Family Connection

Shared time for parents, carers and children to play, talk and reconnect.



3. Camping Experiences

Supported overnight or short-stay outdoor experiences.



4. Community Food

Street food, shared meals and hospitality participation.



5. Outdoor Games

Tug-of-war, relays, meadow games and inclusive physical activity.



6. Nature Connection

Woodland walks, meadow time and calm reflection.



7. Youth Confidence

Responsibility, teamwork, mentorship and personal growth.



8. SENtrepeneur Skills

Food, hospitality and enterprise learning in a supportive environment.

Pilot activity

A

White Colne Midsummer Party

Community catering and street food support as a warm introduction to the project and its values.



B

Flourish Weekend Camp

A carefully managed pilot camp experience, subject to Parish Council agreement and operational planning.



4. White Colne Meadows and Community Partnership

Flourish is designed to work respectfully within White Colne Meadows, a valued public open space and community asset. The project will support children, young people and families while honouring the natural identity of the Meadows and the needs of existing users.



Key partnership principles



- White Colne comes first, as the host village and setting
- All activity is subject to Parish Council approval
- Delivery can be limited to an agreed number of uses each year
- The natural identity of the Meadows will be respected
- Events will be carefully supervised and responsibly managed
- Flourish is offered as a gesture of gratitude and community partnership



Stewardship and care



- ✓ Litter picking before and after events
- ✓ Leaving the site clean, tidy and respectful
- ✓ Bug hotels and bird boxes by agreement
- ✓ Clearing suitable dead wood to create dead hedges
- ✓ Light-touch seasonal stewardship tasks agreed in advance
- ✓ Painting or refreshing the shed or pavilion if requested
- ✓ Helping participants learn care, responsibility and respect for place

*Our aim is simple:
enjoy the Meadows, respect the Meadows,
and leave them better than we found them.*

5. Outcomes and Beneficiaries

Flourish is intended to create practical, emotional and social benefits for children, young people, families and the wider community.



1. Who Flourish supports

- Children and young people aged approximately 8–18
- SEND and neurodivergent young people
- Young people experiencing anxiety, isolation or low confidence
- Families seeking more connection and positive shared experiences
- Parents and carers needing supportive community space
- Young people with limited access to camping or outdoor opportunity
- Local residents and community participants
- Emerging young people interested in food, events or enterprise



2. Expected outcomes



Emotional Wellbeing

reduced pressure,
increased calm,
improved
confidence



Physical Activity

more movement
through games,
walking and
outdoor challenge



Family Connection

stronger
communication,
shared memory
and trust



Social Confidence

teamwork,
belonging and
positive peer
interaction



Community Belonging

pride in place,
contribution and
positive
participation

“ These are not small outcomes. They are the building blocks of resilience, identity, trust and belonging. ”

6. Safety, Toilets and Practical Arrangements

Flourish is designed to feel calm and welcoming for participants while remaining carefully managed, risk assessed and professionally delivered behind the scenes.



Core safety commitments

- Written risk assessments and clear operational planning
- Safeguarding procedures and DBS-checked adults where required
- Parent or carer consent, emergency details and sign-in procedures
- First aid provision and clear fire safety arrangements
- Water, woodland and boundary safety rules
- Food hygiene, welfare and supervision standards



Toilet and welfare provision

As there are no permanent toilets on site, appropriate temporary toilet provision will be arranged for longer sessions, family days or overnight activities. Portable facilities, hygiene arrangements and waste management will be planned in advance as part of the event management process.



Operational approach

- Agreed dates and carefully managed attendance
- Respectful arrival and departure arrangements
- Weather-aware planning and contingency options
- Clear site rules and digital detox agreements
- A strong emphasis on participant welfare and community respect

7. Year-One Resourcing, Sustainability and Contact

Flourish is being offered as a fully resourced year-one community gift from The Underdog Crew CIC, using the organisation's own infrastructure, equipment, experience and delivery capacity. Future funding would support sustainability, growth and wider reach rather than basic start-up delivery.



Year-one resources already provided

- ✓ Project leadership and coordination
- ✓ Youth work and supervision capacity
- ✓ Catering and hospitality capability
- ✓ Core activity equipment and outdoor materials
- ✓ Creative planning and impact documentation
- ✓ Safeguarding systems and operational oversight
- ✓ Use of Underdog Crew Studios as the project base
- ✓ Community relationship-building and delivery time



Future sustainability opportunities

- Additional equipment and accessibility resources
- Transport support for families
- Additional staffing or specialist session leads
- Portable welfare and sanitation costs
- Expanded seasonal delivery across the year
- Evaluation, reporting and long-term partnership growth

Flourish is a community gift rooted in gratitude — a practical way for The Underdog Crew CIC to give something positive, beautiful and lasting back to White Colne and the surrounding area.

The Underdog Crew CIC
working out of Underdog Crew Studios
Facebook: UnderdogCrewStudios
Prepared for community partnership discussion

White Colne Parish Council

Draft Response to Flourish Project

(Subject to formal ratification by White Colne Parish Council on 21 July 2026)

The Parish Council is supportive in principle of the proposed Flourish Weekend, subject to the following agreed framework.

1. Proposed Dates. The Parish Council is prepared to consider use of the Meadows between 14–16 August 2026.

2. Number of Tents. Agreement is based on the proposal submitted, namely approximately 10–12 tents. Should a future event involve a significant increase in tent numbers, this should be discussed with the Parish Council beforehand.

3. Attendance. The Parish Council would be comfortable with a maximum of 60 overnight participants. Saturday daytime attendance should remain broadly in line with the numbers anticipated under the Temporary Event Notice (TEN). Should attendance at future events increase significantly, the arrangements should be reviewed with the Parish Council.

4. Allocation of Places. White Colne residents should, wherever reasonably practical, be given the first opportunity to book places before they are offered more widely.

5. Fires and Cooking Equipment. No open fires directly on the ground. Barbecues, fire pits and cooking equipment should be raised off the ground and used safely. Appropriate fire precautions should be maintained throughout the event.

6. Fire Safety. The organisers are responsible for providing appropriate fire safety arrangements. Suitable fire extinguishers should be available throughout the event. Parish Council fire extinguishers located in the Meadows may be made available if required

7. Music and Amplified Sound. Any required Temporary Event Notice (TEN) or other licences remain the responsibility of the organisers. Amplified music should finish by 10.00 pm. Organisers should take reasonable steps to minimise disturbance to neighbouring residents.

8. Vehicle Access and Parking. General vehicle access onto the Meadows is not permitted. Delivery and emergency vehicles may enter the site where necessary. Attendees should park in the Village Hall car park.

9. Toilets and Waste Portable toilets should be positioned in suitable agreed locations, preferably adjacent to the field boundary hedge where appropriate. All litter, waste and recycling should be removed from site by the organisers. The Meadows should be left clean and in good order.

10. Event Documentation The organisers should hold appropriate Public Liability Insurance. A written Event Plan and Risk Assessment should be provided to the Parish

Council before the event. Any licences or statutory permissions required for the event remain the responsibility of the organisers.

11. Site-Specific ConsiderationsCamping is not normally permitted on the Meadows and permission for this event should not be regarded as creating a precedent for future camping. The Parish Council may consider installing signage confirming that camping is only permitted with the express permission of the Parish Council.

It should be stressed that the allotment gardens that adjoin the meadows are not included in our agreement. The paths through the allotments together with the plots themselves must not be used or accessed by attendees to the Flourish Weekend and it is the responsibility of the organisers to ensure this is the case

In recognition that this is a charitable event being organised free of charge by the Underdog Crew, the Parish Council is willing for reasonable use to be made of the pavilion electricity supply and facilities without charge for this event. Should similar events become regular or commercial in future years, the Parish Council reserves the right to introduce an appropriate hire or service charge.

Future RelationshipThe Parish Council recognises and appreciates the experience, equipment and voluntary commitment that the Underdog Crew are contributing to this event. The Council hopes this will be the beginning of a positive working relationship that may benefit future community events in White Colne.

Salt Bag Partnership Scheme for Winter 2026/27 has been launched! Closing date is the **21st July 2026**

To support local communities to help themselves during periods of heavy snow and build on their community resilience, Essex County Council (ECC) would like to make available to each participating **Town** and **Parish Council** a one tonne wrapped pallet made up of individual 25kg bags for use by the community on the local highway. ECC is offering this free of charge again this year.

To improve the scheme and reduce costs, we will continue using an Online application form to log all the details and are asking if you:

1. would like to participate and require salt, or
2. participate but have enough salt left due to the mild winter, or
3. Won't be taking part

If you haven't yet applied please check your emails or **Please click on the link below (or right hand click 'open hyperlink' or copy the address below into your search engine i.e. Google etc.) to open the form:** <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/0674a0c0>

Delivery Information: If you are signing up and need salt, the delivery of the salt is programmed to arrive in September to early October to allow you time to allocate to your Volunteers. Please note we will not be making ad-hoc or additional re-stock deliveries throughout winter. The salt will be delivered by a large lorry (a bit bigger than a dustbin lorry) and the salt will be removed from the lorry via a tail lift and then moved on a trolley to its final destination. Please note that the trolley does not go over uneven or loose ground (grass, pebbles etc.) or steep inclines. The location you identify for delivery must be able to accommodate this.

About the Scheme: If you are new to the scheme and would like to know how to set up the scheme for your area, the following points should be considered:

- Identify the priority areas for your local community (these must be on the public highway and not for any other area such as private driveways) such as footpaths outside local shops, doctors, access routes to main bus stops etc which are not *already* salted by ECC. The salting network is mapped on our Website here: www.essexhighways.org/salting-routes
- Recruit volunteers in and around these areas – local businesses, nearby home owners, residents associations etc. Feedback indicates direct engagement is the most effective way to recruiting volunteers.
- Confirm that the volunteers are confident they are physically able to manually remove snow and then spread a thin layer of salt when required and provide them with Snow Clearance Guidance and Manual Handling information.
- Keep a record of these priority areas and the details of the volunteers who are nominated to clear snow/salt for each chosen location.
- Give each volunteer a bag/supply of salt to store in preparation for when it snows.

Free Support Pack: A free Support Pack is available to help you organise your scheme. The online form contains this pack and it is also available on our Website here: www.essexhighways.org/Salt-Bag-Partnership.

If it is your preference to produce your own you may, just simply run whatever version is decided upon through your insurers for Public and Employee Liability purposes. The pack contains:

- **A Volunteer Briefing Sheet – Snow Clearing Guidance** for your volunteers on how to clear snow and some things they should consider for their own safety and security.
- **A Winter Plan** – To set out details of your scheme, put on noticeboards or parish website (if you have one) and **A Risk Assessment form** - for the volunteer to complete with the Town or Parish Council.
- **Manual Handling information**

The Salt Bag Partnership Scheme Winter.Service@essexhighways.org

Winter 2026/27 Salt Bag Partnership Volunteer Briefing Sheet – Snow Clearing Guidance

Essex County Council (ECC) has provided parish, town councils and urban (non parished) areas who have signed up to the salt bag scheme, with 1 tonne of (25kg) bagged palletted salt to help local communities support themselves during periods of heavy snow. The salt is for use on the public highway only. If you require more salt, or wish to clear your private driveway then salt can be purchased from builder's merchants, DIY stores and some larger retail stores/supermarkets.

The following information outlines some of the key things to consider if you choose to undertake snow clearance and salt spreading.

Snow Clearance - Basic Principles

- ❖ The only effective way of removing snow is by hard graft and elbow grease.
- ❖ Undisturbed snow is easiest to remove - once walked on it becomes compacted and turns to ice.
- ❖ The cleared snow should be moved to the side of pavements or onto grassed areas. Avoid blocking accesses to properties and driveways or concealing a hazard, such as a low wall etc.
- ❖ Pre-salting an area prior to snow is useful in stopping the snow from sticking to the pavement surface (but it will not remove the snow or prevent it from settling).
- ❖ Once the area has been cleared of snow a very thin layer of salt can be spread to prevent any melt water from refreezing on the pavement which creates a risk of black ice.
- ❖ Do not be discouraged by lack of salt if you run out. Just clearing the snow exposes the pavement and the heat from any sunshine will warm the surface and evaporate any remaining snow or ice.

Avoiding negligent behaviour - See Gov.uk - <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>

Under common law a volunteer can only be considered negligent if they deliberately went out to create a hazard. Actions which could give rise to liability for negligence would be (a) the careless discharge of snow from the shovel, (b) the careless placing of snow which could conceal or create a hazard and (c) the use of water which actually increases the risk of slipping or skidding.

- ❖ Do not use water as this can refreeze and create black ice.
- ❖ Do not discharge snow from the shovel into the actual or potential path of vehicles or pedestrians
- ❖ Do not dump snow which could create or conceal a hazard

Suitable Tools

- ❖ Plastic light weight snow shovels or wide bladed shovels are best.
- ❖ A regular metal shovel is the next best alternative but not as efficient as the snow may stick to it.
- ❖ If the salt is fine enough, you could use a domestic grass spreader/lawn feeder to spread the salt (make sure you wash out any salt before using on grass unless you want to kill the grass!) or a small scoop/garden trowel to distribute the salt if doing it by hand (wear gloves to avoid directly handling salt).
- ❖ A wheel barrow to move tools, carry salt or move snow.

Looking after yourself

- ❖ The most important thing is to look after yourself. If at any point you don't feel confident to complete the task stop.

- ❖ Suitable clothing goes without saying, boots/wellies with a good grip and plenty of warm, waterproof clothing. 25% of your body heat is lost through your head and hands, so wear water resistant gloves that are warm and a hat. If you are working near the road you must be as visible as possible and wear a reflective vest/jacket.
- ❖ Clearing snow is hard physical work so if you volunteer make sure you can do it. Ensure you take plenty of breaks and know when to stop.
- ❖ If you are working alone make sure you have informed someone of where you are and how long you intend to be. Have a charged mobile phone with you and remain in contact every 1-2hrs and inform friends/family of any changes to location or estimated return time.
- ❖ Care should be taken when lifting the salt bags. They weigh 25kg (the industry standard size which you purchase from supermarkets/builders merchants etc) so if you are moving them you must ensure that you handle them correctly. You should consider using two people to jointly lift the bags. **The Manual Handling leaflet** will provide more details.

Salt – what does it actually do?

- ❖ Salt dissolves into moisture on the surface of the highway and reduces its freezing point
- ❖ Salt has no impact on removing snow or ice as they are solid matter and there is no moisture for the salt to dissolve into.
- ❖ Salt dissolved in water will not prevent freezing once temperatures drop to minus 6°C or below.
- ❖ The amount of salt required to treat an area is much less than you think. As a guide 20g/m² (about a handful) should be sufficient to clear and protect a 1m² (3ft) length of cleared surface.
- ❖ Spreading salt prevents any melted water that may run off the cleared snow, from re-freezing on the cleared pavement which creates a risk of black ice.
- ❖ Salt is a corrosive material. If your bags were to split after being stored for some time, it could compromise the surface condition it is stored on or other adjacent equipment, so carefully consider where you are going to store it.

Compacted snow and ice – what can be done?

- ❖ Once snow has been walked over it becomes compact and forms ice. This is hard to clear.
- ❖ Salt has no effect on snow or ice.
- ❖ If you cannot manually remove the ice, your main option is to purchase grit or sand to spread over the ice which can become embedded into it to provide some traction.
- ❖ The only drawback with grit and sand is the pavement will need sweeping once the thaw has taken place. Once swept up this sand can be saved and used again next year.

For more information over Winter:

You can visit the Essex Highways Winter pages – <https://www.essexhighways.org/winter-travel>

You can find information on;

- ❖ Clearing snow and ice yourself
- ❖ Salt bins + location map (which you can zoom into)
- ❖ Map of the salting route and what is included
- ❖ How to track the gritting lorries
- ❖ Q&A's and other Winter guidance that you may find useful over the season.

For Government guidance – www.Gov.uk

For weather information - www.metoffice.gov.uk

Winter Plan and Risk Assessment 2026/27

This plan has been prepared to set out how Parish / Town Council/ Urban Area will deliver a winter service.

The Council has chosen to take part in the salt bag partnership being offered by Essex County Council (ECC) where approximately one tonne of salt, made up of individual 25kg bags is provided which our Parish/Council/Ward will distribute to volunteers to target agreed areas (which would not be treated by ECC) that we feel are important to our local community and need to be accessed during periods of heavy snow and to build community resilience during bad weather.

These areas are known as 'priority sites' and are set out in the table below (page 3).

Volunteers

- ❖ For each priority site at least one volunteer has been identified who is confident they can clear snow from the priority area, that they have access to suitable equipment and are confident they are physically able to undertake the activity.
- ❖ Each volunteer has been allocated a volume of salt which they will store in a secure (and ideally dry) location per priority site they are responsible for. Remember that a small handful of salt (about 20g) is enough to cover a square meter of cleared surface.
- ❖ The volunteer has made the commitment to clear their identified priority area of snow and will make every effort to complete this task when required. When the snow comes it will be for the volunteer to decide if they feel able to undertake the activity safely and if so to attempt to clear the snow.
- ❖ The Parish, Town council/urban area acknowledges that whilst the volunteer will make suitable efforts to undertake snow clearance in their designated areas there may be reasons why this cannot be completed. It is not practical for the Parish, Town council/urban area to guarantee that all identified areas will be kept free from ice or snow, including those parts that have received treatment. The public using the cleared area must continue to take the necessary precautions suitable for travel in wintery conditions.
- ❖ ECC as the highway authority has the statutory duty as part of The Highway Act 1980 to keep the network clear of snow and ice as far as is reasonable and practical, and will remain primarily liable, even if the Parish, Town council/urban area and volunteers are willing to assist ECC in discharging this duty. If a volunteer decides not to clear snow after all, neither the volunteer nor the Parish, Town council/urban area will be under any liability for this decision.
- ❖ Each volunteer has been provided with; a **Volunteer Briefing Sheet - Snow Clearing Guidance** and **Manual Handling – Good Handling Technique** information produced by ECC. The volunteer will sign to confirm they have received and read this information and understand it.
- ❖ Under common law a volunteer can only be considered negligent if they deliberately went out to create a hazard. Actions which could give rise to liability for negligence would be (a) the careless discharge of snow from the shovel, (b) the careless placing of snow so as to conceal or create a hazard and (c) the use of water which actually increases the risk of slipping or skidding. In brief;
- ❖ Do not discharge snow from the shovel into the actual or potential path of vehicles or pedestrians
- ❖ Do not dump snow so as to create or conceal a hazard
- ❖ Do not use water as this can refreeze and create black ice.

For further Information:

Snow Clearance – The law and guidance

The Government publishes guidance about clearing snow outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces please see: <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>. The guidance says that there is no law stopping you from doing this.

The advice confirms that despite some media reports to the contrary, it is extremely unlikely that someone who has attempted to clear snow in a careful manner will be sued or held legally responsible if someone slips or falls on ice or snow at their property, or clearing snow from a public area as part of a voluntary role. People should not be deterred from performing a socially responsible act, such as clearing a path of snow, by the fear that someone may subsequently get injured slipping on the path.

Though the person clearing the snow does have responsibilities when doing the job, mainly to ensure that they are not making the area *more* dangerous, it is important to note that those walking on snow and ice have responsibilities themselves. A common sense approach is encouraged as is community involvement.

Health and safety advice and manual handling techniques

Further information from the Health and Safety Executive can be found here
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.pdf>

Essex Highways winter information

www.essexhighways.org/winter-travel

Our aim is to keep major roads salted and traffic moving during the winter months. We concentrate on a defined network of the most important routes to keep everyone moving, this equates to 40% of the network and includes A and B roads and those with a frequent bus service. We are unable to salt the majority of residential estate roads and rural lanes. You can find out more about:

- ❖ **Gov.uk** - www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway
- ❖ **Winter & Salt Bag Partnerships - Questions & Answers** - www.essexhighways.org/salting-FAQs
- ❖ **Salting Routes** - www.essexhighways.org/salting-routes
- ❖ **Tracking Gritters** - www.essexhighways.org/track-the-gritting-lorries
- ❖ **Salt Bins** - www.essexhighways.org/salt-bins **See map of all ECC salt bins**
- ❖ **Severe Weather Blog** - twitter.com/essexhighways
- ❖ **Met Office** - www.metoffice.gov.uk

Name of volunteer	Volunteer Address	Volunteer contact details (plus emergency contact number)	Location where snow is to be cleared from (inc start and end point) i.e. Priority Sites	Volume of salt provided/ number of bags.	Signature of volunteer to confirm they are willing, confident and physically able to take part in the scheme and they have read the Manual Handling Leaflet and Volunteer Briefing Sheet - Snow Clearance Guidance	Date of signature	Any alterations agreed during season (include date)

Priority Sites - Volunteer Log (to be maintained and kept by the Parish/Town Council/ Urban Area)

Risk Assessment for the Volunteer

As a volunteer it is important to review your priority site and consider the situation you will be in when the snow comes and you will be clearing snow. This risk assessment form is an opportunity to set out your thoughts on what could be potential hazards/ risks to you or others and what solutions (control measures) you have identified to minimise these risks.

Form completed by (print name):			
I declare that I know of no medical reason why I should not participate in this volunteering role and consider myself to be in good health. Signed _____ Date: _____			
Dates reviewed:			
Initials:			

Activity: • The movement and storage of bags of salt. Each bag weighs 25kgs so care should be taken if lifting (see Manual Handling information) • The manual removal of snow • The spreading of a thin layer of salt over the cleared pavement
Significant hazards / risks • Cold and wet weather • Slipping on ice or compacted snow • Vehicles losing control in the vicinity • Working in close proximity to roads / fast moving vehicles • Manual handling of salt and physical clearing of snow • The piled snow causing a blockage – blocking drainage channels preventing melt water to run off or blocking people's access to their property. • Skin irritation caused by salt • Working in poor visibility conditions
Who could be harmed? • The volunteer • Members of the public • Property (buildings, vehicles, gardens)
Competence Requirement: The most important thing is to look after yourself. If at any point you don't feel confident and physically fit to complete the task then you should not participate.
General control measures which should be in place: • Prior to snowfall, walk the route and identify where there is open space, grass verges, and front gardens into which snow can be deposited. • Ensure you wear suitable footwear (boots with a good grip). • Clearing snow is hard physical work so make sure as a volunteer you are up to it. If at any point you don't feel confident and physically fit to complete the task then you should stop. Ensure you take plenty of breaks. Suitable clothing goes without saying, boots or wellies and plenty of warm and waterproof clothing. 25% of your body heat is lost through your head and hands so wear gloves and a hat. When working, the body will build up a sweat so be prepared to shed layers as you work. • Make sure you are close to a suitable refuge (building or vehicle) so you can take shelter in case the weather turns bad or you get too cold. You can also use the refuge to take plenty of rests as the work is very physical. • Minimise the effort required by going out as early as possible so you can move the snow <i>before</i>

it becomes compacted by people walking over it.

- If you are working near a road wear a reflective vest/jacket and have a torch with you. Work towards the oncoming traffic so that you are facing the vehicles and can see if anything is out of control, giving you the opportunity to react to the situation. Do not work whilst listening to an MP3/iPod/other which will impair hearing.
- If you are working alone ensure you have informed someone of where you are and how long you intend to be. Have a charged mobile phone with you and remain in contact every 1-2hrs and inform friends/family of any changes to location or estimated return time.
- Do not use water to clear snow or ice as this can refreeze and create black ice.
- Be aware of pedestrians. Stop work if someone approaches.
- Consider how you are going to get salt to the area to be treated. Use a wheelbarrow or other suitable means i.e. decant a smaller amount into a smaller container that can be carried safely (see The **Manual Handling leaflet** for guidance)
- If you are touching the salt, wear gloves that will protect your hands.
- Where available use a domestic grass spreader/lawn feeder.
- On completion of the works ensure that all equipment is cleared and no trip hazards/obstructions are left behind.

Manual Handling - Ways of reducing the risk of injury;

- Use a lifting aid
- Reduce the amount of twisting and stooping
- Avoid lifting from floor level or above shoulder height.
- Reduce carrying distances
- Avoid repetitive handling
- Vary the work, allowing one set of muscles to rest while another is used.
- Push rather than pull

Locally identified risks and control measures that will be adopted:

Manual Handling

Good Handling Technique for Lifting

(from Getting to Grips with Manual Handling – HSE)

Think before lifting/handling. Plan the lift.

- Can handling aids be used, e.g. sack barrows?
- Where is the load going to be placed?
- Will help be needed with the load?
- Are there likely to be any obstructions on the route?
- For a long lift, consider resting the load midway on a table or bench to change grip.



Keep the load close to the waist. Keep the load close to the body for as long as possible while lifting. Keep the heaviest side of the load next to the body. If a close approach to the load is not possible, try to slide it towards the body before attempting to lift it.

Adopt a stable position. The feet should be apart with one leg slightly forward to maintain balance (alongside the load, if it is on the ground). Be prepared to move your feet during the lift to maintain your stability. Tight clothing or unsuitable footwear may make this difficult.

Get a good hold. Where possible the load should be hugged as close as possible to the body. This may be better than gripping it tightly with hands only.

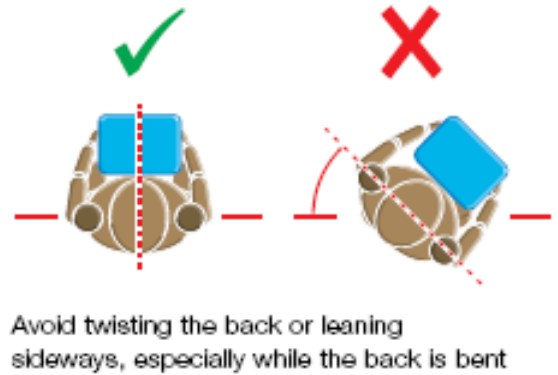
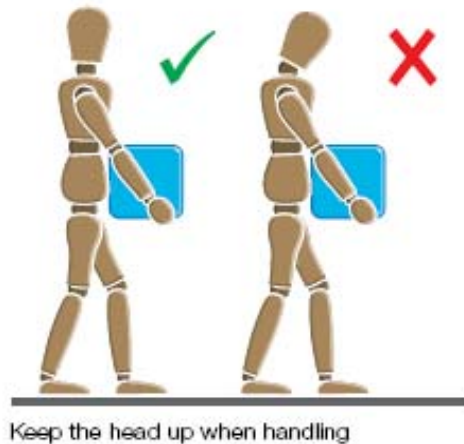
Start in a good posture. At the start of the lift, slight bending of the back, hips and knees is preferable to fully flexing the back (stooping) or fully flexing the hips and knees (squatting).

Don't flex the back any further while lifting. This can happen if the legs begin to straighten before starting to raise the load.

Avoid twisting the back or leaning sideways, especially while the back is bent. Shoulders should be kept level and facing in the same direction as the hips. Turning by moving the feet is better than twisting and lifting at the same time.



Manual Handling
Good Handling Technique for Lifting
(from Getting to Grips with Manual Handling – HSE)

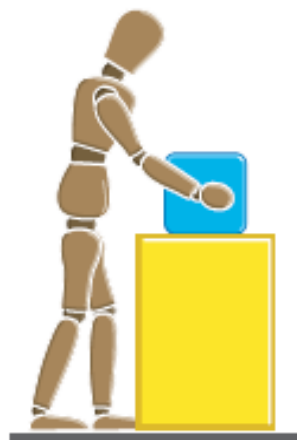


Keep the head up when handling. Look ahead, not down at the load, once it is being held securely.

Move smoothly. The load should not be jerked or snatched as this can make it harder to keep control and can increase the risk of injury.

Don't lift or handle more than can be easily managed. There is a difference between what people can lift and what they can safely lift. If in doubt, seek advice or get help.

Put down, then adjust. If precise positioning of the load is necessary, put it down first, and then slide it into the desired position.



Put down, then adjust



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

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Village of the Year 2025

Action Plan 2026-27

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
1	Environmental Sustainability & Energy Efficiency		
1.1	Continue optimizing the solar panels, battery storage, and air source heat pump at the Village Hall.		
1.2	Host renewable energy education events to support the progress of the Colne Valley Community Energy Project.		
1.3	Support biodiversity and habitat conservation throughout the village.		
1.4	Create Management Policies for parish council owned and/or managed land.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
2	Community Engagement & Volunteers		
2.1	Continue supporting the Stationmasters Café as a bi-weekly community hub.		
2.2	Ensure the successful reopening of the Community Warm Hub in November 2025.		
2.3	Empower the WO Helpers Group to organize events and support community initiatives.		
2.4	Support the introduction of the new mobile Social Supermarket at the village hall.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
3	Infrastructure & Facilities Development		
3.1	Promote the community garden and continue to engage with local groups, e.g. the Scouts, children's holiday club.		
3.2	Maximize the use of the upgraded village hall for community events.		
3.3	Research external funding opportunities to improve playground facilities.		
3.4	Aspire to install Village Gateways.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
4	Allotments: Fencing, Promotion & Community Involvement		
4.1	Explore funding for new fencing via budgeting, sponsorship, fundraising, or in-kind support.		
4.2	Encourage formation of an Allotment Society to: ○ Coordinate group buying for discounts ○ Sell surplus produce to raise funds ○ Assist with site maintenance and representation		
4.3	Promote available plots and the benefits of allotment gardening.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
5	Community Orchard Maintenance		
5.1	Engage local volunteers or groups for ongoing care and education.		
5.2	Host orchard-themed events.		
5.3	Create Management Policy for the Community Orchard.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
6	Governance & Financial Stewardship		
6.1	Manage council finances responsibly, keeping the precept stable if possible.		
6.2	Complete statutory audits and ensure public rights to view accounts.		
6.3	Review and update council policies regularly.		
6.4	Encourage all councillors to undertake relevant training to support their roles and improve the effectiveness of the council.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
7	Communication & Community Relations		
7.1	Keep the council website updated with relevant news and information.		
7.2	Ensure information leaflets are printed and delivered free to every household at least quarterly, maintaining this as a vital communication channel.		
7.3	Develop new ways for residents to provide feedback and ideas.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
8	Community Safety & Wellbeing		
8.1	Deploy the mobile SID (Speed Indicator Device) at various locations around the village to monitor vehicle speeds and collect data for sharing with the police.		
8.2	Continue to fund and maintain the village defibrillator, and to provide training for local volunteers in its use.		
8.3	Continue to report highway defects and maintenance issues to Essex County Council: Tell us - Essex County Council		
8.4	Attempt to find a new solution to the continued destruction of the pavement in Colneford Hill Identify and implement ways to keep pavements clear, signage clean, and public areas well-maintained to ensure a safe and accessible environment for all residents.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
9	Looking Ahead: Devolution and Local Empowerment		
9.1	Monitor developments in the Essex devolution programme and advocate for increased responsibilities and funding at the parish level.		
9.2	Continue to pursue the transfer of the village hall tenure via a community asset transfer, in line with the ongoing devolution programme.		
9.3	Prepare for potential new duties such as local highways maintenance, green space oversight, or small grants administration.		
9.4	Build partnerships with neighbouring parishes, Braintree District Council, and Essex County Council to demonstrate readiness and capacity for devolved responsibilities.		
9.5	Develop partnerships, where possible, with forthcoming Unitary Authority.		

Reviewed & Amended 16.09.2025

Reviewed & Amended 19.05.2026



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Village of the Year 2025

Climate & Biodiversity Policy, including The Meadows Management & Maintenance Plan 2026-2031

1. Introduction

1.1 *Climate Emergency Policy Statement*

White Colne Parish Council recognises that climate change is one of the most significant long-term challenges facing communities, public bodies, agriculture, wildlife, infrastructure, and future generations.

1.2 As a small rural parish council, White Colne Parish Council acknowledges that its direct influence is limited, but believes that local councils can, and must, make practical, proportionate, and financially responsible contributions toward reducing environmental impact and improving community resilience.

1.3 White Colne Parish Council therefore commits, where practical and affordable, to:

- consider climate impacts when making decisions and developing projects
- support energy efficiency and reduced energy consumption in Council buildings and facilities
- encourage sustainable transport, walking, cycling, and community initiatives where feasible
- support tree planting, habitat enhancement, and good land management where appropriate
- seek opportunities to reduce waste and unnecessary resource use in Council activities
- consider renewable energy and low-carbon technologies where suitable and financially viable
- support local resilience to extreme weather events including heat, flooding, and storms
- work constructively with residents, community groups, and partner organisations on practical environmental initiatives.

1.4 The Council recognises that climate action must be balanced with affordability, local priorities, and the needs of residents, and will therefore focus on realistic and achievable measures appropriate to the scale and resources of the parish.

1.5 This policy does not create legally binding obligations but provides a framework to guide the Council's future decision-making and community leadership.

2. Biodiversity

2.01 Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Government guidance clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity

- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration
 - act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives
- 2.02 Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but government guidance gives advice when considering what to do:
- Look at each of the council's functions.
 - Consider what actions the council can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity in each area.
 - Identify the areas where the council can best conserve and enhance biodiversity. The council can then focus on these areas when agreeing policies and objectives.
- 2.03 White Colne Parish Council is acting to conserve and enhance biodiversity around land it manages. as Further steps may include:
- reviewing what biodiversity or nature recovery plans are already in place from other local authorities, e.g. the potential for jointly supported wildlife corridors
 - making contact with local voluntary groups working on nature conservation
 - carrying out a biodiversity audit of council landholdings and/or the whole council area, potentially involving residents in a 'BioBlitz'
 - gathering expert advice on possible actions in support of biodiversity
 - drafting an action plan that covers action that the council will take itself as well as support for the actions of other local bodies.
- 2.04 White Colne Parish Council will ensure it addresses biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications, because of the requirement on developers to demonstrate Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).
- 2.05 *Biodiversity Policy*
- In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, White Colne Parish Council (*the council*), which has functions exercisable in relation to England, must from time to time consider what action it can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.
- 2.06 This duty also means that White Colne Parish Council can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.
- 2.07 *Definition:* Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.
- 2.08 Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value, but this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of ecosystems that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water, and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, purification of our water, and

pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

2.09 ***Aims and objectives***

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the council's area.

2.10 White Colne Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact, and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

2.11 The council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- considering the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications
- managing its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity
- supporting local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices
- encouraging and supporting other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind
- supporting residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity

2.12 ***Actions***

The council will:

- when commenting on planning applications, and generally influencing planning decisions, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity including through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats
- support the protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications, including any potential for adding unwanted further nutrients to waterways
- check that development proposals include proper drainage management of soils and hard surfaces to reduce the risk of local flooding
- consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain

The council will also:

- carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings
- consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work, paying attention to the government's [regulations for plant protection products](#)
- take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment
- source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the council's use
- consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings

The council will also:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including, for example, tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making

2.13 **Partners**

The council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote, and enhance biodiversity within White Colne. It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, and protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

3. **White Colne Meadows Management Plan**

3.1 **Purpose of the Plan**

This Management and Maintenance Plan provides a clear framework for the long-term stewardship of White Colne Meadows.

3.2 It has been prepared to:

- guide the management and maintenance of the site
- maintain a safe, attractive and accessible public open space
- protect and enhance biodiversity
- support community use and volunteering
- assist future planning and budgeting
- provide continuity for future Parish Councils

3.3 The Plan is intended to be a practical working document rather than a fixed statement of intent. Management practices may evolve over time as experience, legislation, funding opportunities and community needs change.

3.4 **About the Meadows**

White Colne Meadows comprises approximately six acres of public open space owned and managed by White Colne Parish Council. The adjacent White Colne Allotments are a separate site but are also owned and managed by the Parish Council. For simplicity, both sites are covered by this Management Plan.

3.5 Created in 2005, the Meadows was established to provide recreational opportunities while creating an attractive landscape and valuable wildlife habitat at the heart of the village. The site is held for public benefit under the terms associated with its original funding and continues to fulfil that purpose today.

3.6 Over the past two decades the Meadows has matured into a diverse landscape supporting recreation, biodiversity and community life. Woodland planting has become established, the community orchard has developed, the Memorial Cherry Avenue provides an attractive

commemorative feature, and the pond and associated habitats have become increasingly important for wildlife. Ecological assessment has identified the pond as having excellent habitat suitability for Great Crested Newts, reflecting the site's growing environmental value.

- 3.7 The Meadows also provides an important setting for children's play, informal recreation, community events, Allotment plots, volunteering and quiet enjoyment of the natural environment.

3.8 ***Vision***

The Parish Council's vision is: "To protect, enhance and enjoy White Colne Meadows as a welcoming community landscape that balances recreation, biodiversity and responsible stewardship for the benefit of present and future generations."

- 3.9 This vision recognises that the Meadows is both a public amenity and an important environmental asset. Successful management requires an appropriate balance between community use, conservation and the careful management of public resources.

4. **The Site**

4.1 ***Location***

White Colne Meadows is situated adjacent to White Colne Village Hall and occupies approximately six acres within the centre of the village.

- 4.2 The site is readily accessible on foot and is closely connected with other community facilities including the Village Hall and adjacent allotments. Together these facilities form an important focus for community activity within the parish.

4.3 ***Principal Features***

The Meadows comprises a variety of recreational, landscape and ecological features including:

- Open recreation grassland
- Children's play area
- Community pavilion and storage facilities
- Allotment Plots
- Woodland
- Wildflower areas
- Community orchard
- Memorial Cherry Avenue
- Pond and silt trap
- Mown pathways
- Seating and picnic areas
- Native hedgerows
- Wildlife features
- Areas managed primarily for biodiversity

4.4 **Ecological Value**

The variety of habitats across the Meadows supports a wide range of wildlife. Woodland, grassland, hedgerows, orchard and freshwater habitats provide valuable resources for birds, mammals, pollinating insects and amphibians. The pond and surrounding terrestrial habitats are recognised as having particular ecological importance and future management will seek to protect and enhance these habitats while maintaining their contribution to the overall function of the site.

4.5 Management of the Meadows aims to demonstrate that recreation and biodiversity can successfully coexist within a well-managed community landscape.

4.6 **Ownership and Management**

White Colne Meadows is owned and managed by White Colne Parish Council. The Parish Council is responsible for:

- setting management priorities
- approving budgets
- ensuring public safety
- commissioning specialist works
- maintaining assets
- monitoring the implementation of this Plan

Routine maintenance is undertaken through a combination of contractors and volunteers, with specialist advice obtained where appropriate.

5. **Stewardship Principles**

5.1 Management of the Meadows is guided by three simple principles.

Protect: Protect the landscape, wildlife, community assets and character of the Meadows through careful management and responsible maintenance

Enhance: Seek opportunities to improve biodiversity, accessibility, and community benefit where these are compatible with the character of the site, available resources, and the long-term objectives of this Plan.

Enjoy: Maintain the Meadows as a welcoming place where residents and visitors can walk, play, volunteer, celebrate community events and experience nature in a safe, attractive and well-managed environment.

These principles underpin every management decision contained within this Plan.

6. **Site Management Policies**

6.01 This section sets out the long-term management approach for each principal area of the Meadows. It establishes what each area is intended to achieve and how it will be managed to support recreation, biodiversity and public enjoyment.

6.02 Each management area is considered under three headings: Purpose, Management Objectives and Management Approach. Routine maintenance frequencies are set out separately in Section 7.

6.03 **Recreation Grassland**

Purpose: To provide an attractive, safe and resilient area for informal recreation, community events and everyday enjoyment.

Management Objectives:

- Maintain a high standard of presentation.
- Provide a safe surface for public use.
- Minimise wear where practical.
- Balance recreation with environmental considerations.

Management Approach:

- Grass will be cut as required during the growing season.
- Edges around paths, trees, benches and structures will be maintained.
- Areas damaged through wear or adverse weather will be repaired where necessary.
- Litter and debris will be removed as part of routine maintenance.

6.04 **Children's Play Area**

Purpose: To provide a safe, inclusive and enjoyable play environment.

Management Objectives

- Maintain compliance with recognised safety standards.
- Keep equipment clean, safe and serviceable.
- Address defects promptly.

Management Approach

- Routine inspections undertaken in accordance with the maintenance programme.
- Independent annual safety inspections will be commissioned.
- Defective equipment will be repaired or isolated until repairs are completed.
- Safety surfacing will be maintained in good condition.

6.05 **Pavilion and Infrastructure**

Purpose: To maintain buildings and site infrastructure in a safe, functional and presentable condition.

Management Objectives

- Maintain safe facilities.
- Protect Parish Council assets.
- Ensure infrastructure remains fit for purpose.

Management Approach

- Buildings will be inspected regularly.
- Repairs will be prioritised according to urgency.
- Benches, picnic tables, fencing, gates, signs and other infrastructure will be inspected and maintained as required.
- Opportunities to improve energy efficiency and sustainability will be considered where practical.

6.06 **Allotments**

Purpose: To provide Allotment plots available to parishioners and those within the defined catchment area. White Colne Parish Council recognises the value of allotments to the community and seeks to maintain the allotment site to a reasonable and safe standard within available budgets. The Council notes:

- Allotment rents provide only limited annual income.
- Allotment facilities are subsidised by the wider parish precept.
- Perimeter fencing replacement would represent a significant capital expense.

Management Objectives

- Maintain allotment land in a reasonably safe condition as landowner.

Management Approach

- Individual plots are managed by the tenant.
- The Council will consider repairs to fencing where necessary for public safety, prevention of dangerous access, protection of Council assets, or prevention of significant deterioration.
- The Council is not under a general obligation to provide or fully replace perimeter fencing solely for crop protection, wildlife exclusion, or tenant preference.
- Full fencing replacement will normally only be considered where either external funding is available, sufficient Council budget exists, or a clear safety or security need is demonstrated.
- The Council encourages allotment tenants to work collectively through an allotment association where possible, particularly in relation to improvement projects, fundraising, and grant applications.
- This policy shall be reviewed periodically alongside the Council's allotment budget and asset management priorities.

6.07 **Woodland**

Purpose: To maintain a healthy woodland that contributes to biodiversity, landscape character and public enjoyment.

Management Objectives

- Maintain a diverse woodland structure.
- Ensure public safety.
- Encourage natural regeneration where appropriate.
- Increase habitat value over time.

Management Approach

- Trees will be inspected periodically by suitably qualified persons.
- Deadwood will be retained, where safe and beneficial to wildlife.
- Hazardous trees or branches will be dealt with promptly.
- Replacement planting will be undertaken where appropriate.

- Invasive species will be controlled where necessary.

6.08 **Wildflower Areas**

Purpose: To provide species-rich habitat for pollinators and other wildlife while adding seasonal interest to the Meadows.

Management Objectives

- Encourage native wildflower diversity.
- Support pollinating insects.
- Maintain a sustainable management regime.

Management Approach

- Areas will be managed using an annual cut-and-collect regime where appropriate.
- Cutting times will allow flowering and seed dispersal.
- Invasive species will be monitored and controlled where necessary.
- Management techniques will be reviewed as habitats develop.

6.09 **Community Orchard**

Purpose: To maintain a healthy orchard that provides wildlife habitat, seasonal interest and community benefit.

Management Objectives

- Maintain healthy fruit trees.
- Encourage community involvement.
- Replace trees where necessary.
- Protect the orchard's long-term future.

Management Approach

- Trees will be inspected annually.
- Pruning will be undertaken as required.
- Young trees will receive additional care during establishment.
- Replacement planting will use suitable traditional fruit varieties where practical.

6.10 **Memorial Cherry Avenue**

Purpose: To preserve the Memorial Cherry Avenue as an attractive landscape feature and place of remembrance.

Management Objectives

- Maintain healthy trees.
- Preserve the character of the avenue.
- Ensure long-term continuity.

Management Approach

- Tree health will be reviewed annually.
- Young trees will be protected from damage.
- Failed trees will be replaced where appropriate.
- Pruning will normally be limited to essential arboricultural works.

6.11 ***Pond and Silt Trap***

Purpose: To maintain the pond as an important wildlife habitat while continuing to perform its drainage function.

Management Objectives

- Protect aquatic and marginal habitats.
- Support biodiversity.
- Maintain water quality where practical.
- Monitor the condition of the silt trap.

Management Approach

- The pond and silt trap will be inspected annually.
- Marginal vegetation will be managed sensitively.
- Major clearance or desilting will only be undertaken where operationally necessary and, where appropriate, following ecological advice.
- Habitat surrounding the pond will be managed to support amphibians and other wildlife.

6.12 ***Mown pathways***

Purpose: To maintain pathways as access points while managing unmown areas for biodiversity.

Management Objectives

- Provide access.
- Support biodiversity elsewhere.

Management Approach

- Pathways mown according to maintenance schedule.

6.13 ***Seating and picnic areas***

Purpose: To maintain areas and infrastructure for recreational use.

Management Objectives:

- Keep equipment clean, safe and serviceable.
- Address defects promptly.

Management Approach:

- Routine inspections undertaken in accordance with the maintenance programme.

6.14 ***Hedgerows***

Purpose: To maintain healthy native hedgerows that define boundaries and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Management Objectives

- Maintain healthy hedgerows.
- Encourage flowering and berry production.
- Improve habitat connectivity.

Management Approach

- Hedgerows will be managed on a rotational basis.
- Gap planting will be undertaken where required.
- Native species will be retained and encouraged.
- Invasive growth will be controlled where necessary.

6.15 **Wildlife Features**

Purpose: To provide additional nesting, roosting and shelter opportunities for wildlife.

Management Objectives

- Maintain existing habitat features.
- Increase biodiversity where appropriate.
- Monitor the effectiveness of installed features.

Management Approach

- Bird, bat, owl and hedgehog boxes will be inspected periodically where appropriate.
- Damaged habitat features will be repaired or replaced.
- Additional habitat features may be installed where they support the objectives of this Plan and can be maintained effectively.

6.16 **Biodiversity & General Management**

Throughout the Meadows, management decisions will seek to balance recreation, biodiversity, accessibility and financial sustainability. Wherever practical, maintenance activities will be planned to minimise disturbance to wildlife while ensuring the site remains safe, welcoming and well cared for.

- 6.17 As opportunities arise, the Parish Council will seek to protect, enhance and enjoy the Meadows through careful stewardship, partnership working and responsible investment.

7. **Community & Environmental Stewardship**

- 7.1 The Meadows is managed to provide lasting benefits for both the community and the natural environment. Recreation, biodiversity and public enjoyment are complementary objectives and should be supported wherever they are compatible with the safe and sustainable management of the site.

7.2 **Community Use**

The Meadows is intended to remain an open and welcoming public space supporting:

- Informal recreation
- Children's play
- Community events
- Walking and quiet enjoyment
- Environmental education
- Health and wellbeing activities
- Volunteering

Requests for organised activities will be considered on their individual merits, taking account of public safety, environmental impact and compatibility with the wider use of the site.

7.3 **Volunteers**

Volunteers make an important contribution to the stewardship of the Meadows. Volunteer activities may include:

- Tree and hedge planting
- Orchard maintenance
- Habitat management
- Wildlife monitoring
- Litter picking
- Community improvement projects

Volunteer activity should complement, rather than replace, planned maintenance undertaken by contractors.

7.4 **Biodiversity**

The Parish Council will seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity through practical management. This includes:

- Protecting existing habitats
- Managing woodland and wildflower areas appropriately
- Protecting the pond and associated habitats
- Maintaining habitat features for birds, bats and other wildlife
- Seeking ecological advice before significant habitat works where appropriate
- Supporting opportunities to increase biodiversity where practical

7.5 **Education and Community Projects**

The Meadows provides opportunities for environmental education, volunteering and community learning.

The Parish Council will support projects that encourage responsible enjoyment of the site and increase understanding of the natural environment.

Where compatible with the objectives of this Plan, opportunities may also be explored for wellbeing, environmental and community initiatives, including projects such as *Flourish*.

7.6 **Partnerships**

Where appropriate, the Parish Council will work with local organisations, schools, community groups and environmental organisations to support the long-term stewardship of the Meadows.

7.7 External funding opportunities will be explored where they assist delivery of this Plan.

8. **Maintenance Programme**

8.1 Routine Maintenance is carried out through planned programmes of work, supported by regular inspections and periodic specialist advice.

Activity	Frequency	Responsibility
Recreation grass cutting	As required during growing season	Contractor
Wildflower management	Annual programme	Contractor
Path edge maintenance	As required	Contractor
Litter collection	Routine	Contractor / Volunteers
Play area inspections	Weekly visual / Monthly recorded / Annual RoSPA	Parish Council / Contractor
Tree inspections	Periodic and following significant storm events	Qualified Arborist
Woodland management	As required	Contractor
Orchard inspection	Annual	Parish Council
Orchard pruning	As required	Contractor / Volunteers
Memorial Cherry Avenue inspection	Annual	Parish Council
Pond inspection	Annual	Parish Council
Silt trap inspection	Annual	Parish Council
Hedgerow management	Rotational programme	Contractor
Benches, picnic tables and furniture	Periodic inspection	Parish Council
Pavilion and storage buildings	Routine inspection	Parish Council
Signs and noticeboards	Periodic inspection	Parish Council
Wildlife boxes and habitat features	Periodic inspection where appropriate	Parish Council / Volunteers

8.2 Seasonal Work Programme

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Inspect trees following winter weather	Continue grass cutting	Orchard inspection	Tree works where required
Inspect play area	Water young trees during dry periods	Orchard pruning	Woodland management
Review pond condition	Maintain paths and edges	Wildflower cut and collect	Infrastructure repairs
Wildflower monitoring	Support community events	Hedge planting and gap filling	Budget and work planning
Review young tree establishment	Control invasive weeds if required	Habitat management	Review Action Plan

9. Five-Year Action Plan (2026-2031)

- 9.1 The Action Plan identifies projects that support the long-term stewardship of the Meadows. It will be reviewed annually by the Parish Council and updated as actions are completed or new priorities emerge.

Ref	Action	Target Year	Lead	Funding
M1	Review this Management and Maintenance Plan and update the Action Plan.	Annual	Parish Council	Existing
M2	Review the condition of the pond, silt trap and surrounding habitats.	2026	Parish Council	Existing
M3	Prepare a long-term woodland succession plan.	2027	Parish Council	Existing
M4	Review the health of the community orchard and undertake replacement planting where required.	Annual	Parish Council	Existing
M5	Review the Memorial Cherry Avenue and replace failed trees where appropriate.	Annual	Parish Council	Existing
M6	Review the condition of paths, seating and site infrastructure.	2027	Parish Council	Existing

Ref	Action	Target Year	Lead	Funding
M7	Identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity that are compatible with the management objectives of the Meadows.	Ongoing	Parish Council	Existing / Grants
M8	Seek ecological advice or specialist surveys where required to inform future management decisions.	As Required	Parish Council	Grants
M9	Support appropriate community and wellbeing initiatives that are compatible with the purpose of the Meadows, including projects such as Flourish where approved by the Parish Council.	Ongoing	Parish Council	Various
M10	Review external funding opportunities for environmental, biodiversity and community improvements.	Annual	Parish Council	N/A
M11	Undertake a full review of this Plan and prepare the next five-year edition.	2031	Parish Council	Existing
M12	Review opportunities to improve accessibility where practical and where funding permits.	Ongoing	Parish Council	Existing / Grants

9.2 Progress against each action should be tracked at the Parish Council's discretion, using a simple status of Not Started, In Progress, Completed or Ongoing.

9.3 **Annual Review**

The Parish Council should review this Plan each year as part of its routine management of the Meadows.

The review should consider:

- Progress against the Action Plan
- Routine maintenance undertaken
- Condition of site infrastructure
- Tree and habitat management
- Biodiversity enhancements
- Community use and feedback
- Funding opportunities
- Any amendments required to this Plan

- 9.4 A full review and replacement of this Management and Maintenance Plan will be undertaken in 2031.

Adopted: 21.07.2026; Minute ref: 0xx/26

Next review: July 2027



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Village of the Year 2025

Allotment Agreement 2026-27

An Agreement made on the 1st day of October 2026, between:

1. White Colne Parish Council ("the Council") and
2. _____ ("the Tenant")

Telephone No:

Email:

WHEREBY IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. Agreement to let

The Council agrees to let and the Tenant agrees to take on a yearly tenancy from the 1st October 2026 of the allotment garden numbered **x** ("the Allotment") in the register of allotment gardens kept by the Council at the yearly rent of **£00.00** payable yearly in advance and at a proportionate rent for any part of a year over which the tenancy may extend or such higher yearly rent of which notice shall have been given to the Tenant in accordance with Clause 4 hereof.

2. Tenant's agreements

The Tenant agrees with the Council:

- 2.1 Rent:** To pay the rent agreed in advance and without deduction otherwise than allowed by statute on the 29th day of September in each year.
- 2.2 Use of land:** The Tenant shall use the plot as an Allotment Garden only (that is to say wholly or mainly for the production of vegetables, flowers or fruit crops for consumption by the tenant and family) and for no other purpose, unless for the benefit of an official White Colne allotment society.
- 2.3 Cultivation:**
 - 2.3.1** To keep the Allotment clean, free from weeds and otherwise maintain it in a good state of cultivation and fertility and good condition, so as to not allow the allotment to be in neglect;

2.3.2 To keep any pathway included in or abutting on the Allotment reasonably free of weeds and equipment, and not restricted by fencing, so as to allow allotment holders and other valid parties free access to different parts of the site;

2.3.3 In light of the climate emergency, it is hoped that tenants will take positive steps towards water conservation, biodiversity (no use of chemicals or pesticides), and drought tolerant plants;

2.3.4 Hosepipes should only be used to fill water butts (if sufficient water has not been collected). No sprinklers are allowed.

2.4 Nuisance

2.4.1 Not to cause or permit any nuisance or annoyance whatsoever to the occupier of any other allotments or obstruct or encroach on any path or roadway set out by the Council for the use of the occupiers of the allotments and all other persons using the Council's land adjoining the Allotment Field of which the allotments form's part ("the Allotment Field").

2.4.2 Not to park any vehicle or trailer on any path, hardened surface or roadway situated on the Council's land adjoining the Allotment Field, nor on the Meadows, without the Council's consent.

2.4.3 Bonfires must not cause any disturbance to users of adjacent land including the allotment field and the Meadows. Not at any time to leave unattended any bonfire on the Allotment, and to ensure that any bonfire is completely extinguished before leaving the Allotment.

2.5 Restriction on assignment: Not to underlet, assign or part with possession of the Allotment or any part of it to another including friends or family, without written consent from the Council.

2.6 Trees and mineral extraction: Not without the written consent of the Council to plant, cut or prune any timber or other trees, save for the purposes of maintaining fruit-bearing trees, or to take, sell or carry away any mineral, gravel, sand, earth, or clay.

2.7 Fences and gates: To keep in repair any fences and any gates on the Allotment and to use their best endeavors to protect any other fence or gates in the Allotment Field and any notice board which has been or may at any time during the tenancy be erected by the Council upon the Allotment or the Allotment Field. Entrance points must not be constructed or altered without consent from the Council.

2.8 Buildings: Not without the written consent of the Council to erect any building on the Allotment provided that consent shall not be refused under this clause to the erection of any building reasonably necessary for the purpose of keeping hens or rabbits or be unreasonably withheld to the erection of a garden shed. Any building permitted by the Council should be sited so as not to interfere with any adjacent allotment, interference to include obstructing rainfall, light or access. No large greenhouses in either glass or poly to be erected.

2.9 Barbed wire: Not to use barbed or razor wire for a fence or any other purpose whatsoever.

- 2.9.1 Netting:** Not to use netting which may cause harm or distress to any wildlife.
- 2.10 Depositing of refuse:** Not to deposit or allow other persons to deposit on the Allotment any waste products, building materials or any decaying matter (except manure or compost in such quantities that may reasonably be required for the use in cultivation) or place such matter in the Allotment Field or on the Council's adjoining land.
- 2.11 Dogs:** Not to bring or cause to be brought into the Allotment Field any dog, unless the dog is on a leash and under control, without consent from the Council. In this respect either a fenced plot or leash is considered to be satisfactory.
- 2.12 Restrictions on keeping animals or livestock:** Not to keep any animals or livestock of any kind on the Allotment except hens or rabbits to the extent permitted by the Allotments Act 1950 Section 12.
Only one beehive is permitted on the whole allotment site at any one time, and the allotment holder is to produce annually a copy of the beekeeping insurance held.
- 2.13 Prohibition of notices:** Not to erect any notice or advertisement on the Allotment.
- 2.14 Restrictions to admittance to the Allotment:** That the Council shall have the right to refuse admittance to any person other than the Tenant or a member of their immediate family to the Allotment unless accompanied by the Tenant or a member of their immediate family.
- 2.15 Dispute between occupiers:** That any cause of dispute between the Tenant and other occupier of any other allotment in the Allotment Field shall be referred in writing to the Council whose decision shall be final.
- 2.16 Information of change of address:** That the Tenant shall inform the Council immediately of any change of their address.
- 2.17 Yielding up:** That the Tenant shall yield up the Allotment at the termination of the tenancy created by this agreement in such conditions as shall be in compliance with the terms contained in this agreement and in a state of good order.
- 2.18 Inspection:** That any officer or agent of the Council shall be entitled at any time when so directed by the Council to enter and inspect the Allotment.
- 2.19 Special conditions:** That the tenant shall observe and perform any other special condition which the Council considers necessary to preserve the Allotment from deterioration and of which notice shall be given to the Tenant in accordance with Clause 5.

3. Termination of the tenancy

- 3.1** This tenancy shall terminate on the first rent day following the death of the Tenant.
- 3.2** This tenancy may also be terminated in any of the following ways:
- i. By the Council giving to the tenant 12 months' notice in writing expiring on or before the 29th September in any year;
 - ii. If the rent, or any part of it, is in arrears for a period exceeding 42 days, whether the arrears has been legally demanded or not;

- iii. If it appears to the Council that there has been a breach of the conditions and agreements on the part of the tenant contained in this Agreement and provided that if such breach is of the conditions or rules affecting the cultivation of the allotment garden;
- iv. If 3 months or more has lapsed since the commencement of the tenancy and the allotment has stood empty or fallen into disrepair;
- v. If the allotment is not maintained regularly and falls into disrepair over a period of 3 months or more;
- vi. If the tenant changes address to one outside the Parish of White Colne or the area of benefit. Termination to be on the first rent day after the move.

3.3 Succession: Following the death of the tenant there will be a single right of succession from spouse to spouse or civil partner once only.

4. Rent increases

The Council may from time to time increase the yearly rent referred to in Clause 1. Such an increase will be done with 12 months' notice on the Tenant in accordance with Clause 5. Such rent increase shall commence from the 29th day of September following the expiry of the 12-month notice period.

5. Notices

Any notice required to be given by the Council to the Tenant may be signed on behalf of the Council by the council Clerk and may be served on the Tenant either personally, by email, or by leaving it at his/her last known address or letter sent by the recorded delivery service addressed to him/her there or by fixing the same in some conspicuous manner on the Allotment comprised in this agreement. Any notice required to be given by the Tenant to the Council shall be sufficiently given if signed by the Tenant and sent by email or in a prepaid First-Class post letter to the Clerk to the Council.

Signed **Jim Morris** Clerk to White Colne Parish Council

Witness **Jane Taylor** Chairperson – White Colne Parish Council

Signed Tenant

Witness