Appendix E

BRAMLEY PARISH TREES, WOODLANDS, HEDGEROWS & LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Written by the Bramley Parish Design Group
Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows in Bramley

Within any rural area there are trees, woodlands and hedgerows. Bramley is fortunate to have a mixture of all adding to the rural atmosphere. Besides protected trees there are an abundant number of trees in and around the parish.

The village of Bramley is adjoined at its southern side by enclosed MOD land used as a training area. This covers approximately 375 Ha of which 229 Ha lie within the Parish of Bramley. This is a relatively undisturbed area of deciduous woodland and scrub. As such it is an important home to wildlife and includes several Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC).

To the north west of the village lies 42 Ha of ancient deciduous woodland (Frith Wood and Davenage Copse) This woodland is being "hollowed out" by the National Grid who operate a power distribution centre at the site. Close by lies 3.4 Ha of Withy Copse and Little Holdens Copse. These are also designated SINC. These woods and the waterways surrounding them are an important wildlife refuge. Roe Deer, foxes, badgers and rabbits are regularly observed together with dormice, harvest mice, voles, shrews and bats. The many seasonal ponds in the area are spawning sites for amphibians. For many years the site included a nature study centre used by local schools. This was closed during the last expansion of the National Grid facility.

To the south east of the village lies the wooded area of Bullsdown Iron age fort. This is a scheduled Ancient Monument and is also designated SINC.

All the above are mixed woodland including Oak, Ash, Willow, Sycamore, Chestnut, Hazel, Silver Birch and Holly.

One other area designated SINC. lies to the west of the cinder path and north of Beckett Gardens. This is mainly Silver Birch and brambles. Oddly about half of this was cleared in order to install a play area when the German Road site was developed against the wishes of the village and Basingstoke and Deane.

There are numerous protected trees within the village shown on Map 6e(i) and 6e(ii). The map 6e(iii) is an expanded map of the village. It should be noted that all trees within the Conservation Areas with a trunk exceeding 7.5 cm diameter measured 1.5 metres from the ground are also protected.

The local authorities are currently engaged in a tree planting scheme throughout the village.

The numerous ancient hedgerows in the Parish provide important habitat for wildlife. They also provide links between the various wooded areas. The railway line running north/south with wooded fringes is another haven for wildlife. The hedgerows, whilst not maintained to a high standard, deserve to be preserved. They are mainly Ash, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Willow, Sycamore, Oak and Hazel with significant bramble undergrowth. Numerous Oak, Ash, Sycamore and Willow have matured in the hedgerows as in the photographs. Elm trees are also present but rarely exceed 6 metres before succumbing to Dutch Elm disease once again.

Trees and woodlands are important in maintaining the rural atmosphere. The photographs show important trees highlighted in illustration 6f. Illustration 6f(i) is an expanded map showing the position of trees in more detail.
Illustration 6f
Important trees
in Bramley Parish
Illustration 6f(i): Important trees in Bramley
Illustrations
Views associated to Key Map
GREEN AREAS

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

The open spaces within the Bramley neighbourhood are one of the key aspects of its character, providing a green haven within the surrounding built up areas. These open spaces are well used by the community, meeting a range of social, environmental and health benefits as well as making areas more attractive.

Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve our physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. With the houses not densely populated and with the Open Green spaces, then Bramley is able to maintain its rural, village atmosphere whilst development continues in a sustainable manner.

The Local Green Spaces are areas that are not to be developed or affected by any type of development. The open character of these areas are important to Bramley.
LOCAL GREEN SPACES

1. Bramley
2. Recreation Ground
3. Tennis Court
4. Play Area

Key:
- Green: Local Green Space
- Black: Boundary

Scale: 1:2,000

© Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey LA 100019356

Scale: 1:1,500

© Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey LA 100019356
LOCAL GREEN SPACE

National Policy Framework: - Local Green Area Designation
  * When Green space is in close proximity to the community it serves
  * Where it is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance
  * Where the area is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

Areas within and near the areas below meet the criteria.

Area 1: The enclosed area at Moat Close is amenity green space, an informal recreation area. A play area is close by in Bromelia Close. The school nearby has playing fields within the grounds of the school.

Areas 2: This is Clift Meadow Park, the name given to the field next to the Bramley Inn, just to the West of the Railway crossing. The field was left to the Village in 1998 by John & William Clift, two local farmers for recreational use (cricket pitch, outside gymnasium, tennis courts, outside basketball area, kick about area).

Area 3: This is a large amenity green space through which runs Lane End and Bramley Green Road. This area is designated as “Bramley Green” and is mentioned in the Conservation Area Appraisal document for Bramley.

Area 4: This is a large Accessible Natural Green space to the north of Deerfield Park that borders the C32. The amenity green space contains a large number of mature trees that considerably add to the rural character of the area with play area suitably placed within this area.

Area 5: This area is a large amenity green space that separates Campbell Road from Bramley Green Road. It is easily accessible to residents of Bramley Green Road and the residents in Deerfield Park Estate.

Area 6: This is a large open green space available to residents of Farriers Close, Lane End and communities close by. It is an amenity green space with a large enclosed children’s play area in the south corner.

Area 7: This area is designated as the Village Green

Area 8: This area is the Parish Football Ground used by Bramley Football club, a community car boot sale being held regularly during the summer months on the recreation ground.

Within the different estates there are other small green areas that give the atmosphere of openness, and include small play areas for the local community.
Hedgerows and woodlands

Hedgerows can prevent soil erosion, capture pollutants such as fertilisers and pesticides running off fields, store carbon to help combat climate change, and provide homes for predators of many pest species. They also provide vital links across the countryside for wildlife, helping it to move about freely and keeping populations healthy. The parish also has small pockets of woodland throughout the parish providing rural breaks between separate developments.

Bordering the Strawberry Fields road is a small woodland area with also pathway connecting a back access to the Primary School, providing a safe route for children to school away from the busy C32 road.

The footpath linking Pond Road to the other side of Bramley Green Road is through a small striped woodland area.
The Campbell Road Estate has a number of bordering woodland areas, connecting into the Green Open spaces.

Folly Lane and Mill Lane are connected by a Rights of Way which is part of the Hampshire Brenda Parker Way, a long distance path across north Hampshire. The path is bordered by mature hedgerows all the way along the path.