

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Mount Edgcumbe Environmental Stewardship Agreement

Committee: Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Date: 28 November 2014

Joint Chair: Councillor Peter Smith, Plymouth City Council/
Councillor Mrs Hannaford, Cornwall Council

Cabinet Members: Councillor Smith Plymouth City Council/
Councillor Mrs Hannaford Cornwall Council

CMT Member: Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place

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Ref: ME

Key Decision: No

Part: I

Executive Summary:

This is an update on the Environmental Stewardship Agreement that the park entered into on the 1 October 2013 and which will last 10 year.

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Mount Edgcumbe Corporate Plan 2011-2014:

Plymouth City Council.

This report links to delivering the priorities within the Councils Corporate Plan particularly with regard to raising aspirations and providing value to communities

Cornwall Council

Business Plan Immediate Priorities: Use of resources and performance management

Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate Plan priorities:

- i) Creating a Green Cornwall
- ii) Creating a better place to live
- iii) Delivering excellent service

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

N/A

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, etc

N/A

Recommendations & Reasons for Recommended Action:

- i) That members note the report.

Alternative Options Considered & Reasons for Recommended Action:

N/A

Background Papers:

- i) N/A

Sign Off

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|--|--|-----|--|------------|--|----|-----|--------|-----|----|-----|---------------|-----|
| Fin | | Leg | | Mon Off | | HR | n/a | Assets | n/a | IT | n/a | Strat Proc | n/a |
| Originating SMT Member: David Draffan | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Mount Edgcumbe Country Park has entered into an Environmental Stewardship Agreement which will last for the next 10yrs as of 1st October 2013 and which is administered by Natural England. The aim of this agreement is to maintain and improve the landscape and woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and to help protect landscape features and structures.

2. Capital Works

- 2.1 Part of the agreement is to carry out capital works across the site including –

- 4260m of replacement fencing
- 125 bird/bat boxes to be erected
- 265 cubic meters of tree removal in Penlee Woods
- 7 hectares of scrub and bracken control
- 8 new field gates
- 5 new water troughs

- 2.2 All the works carry a capital works payment grant which will cover the cost of the materials.

We have so far –

- Erected 1685 m of fencing
- Placed around the site 125 bird and bat boxes
- Erected 4 new field gates
- Felled 100 cubic meters of trees
- Cleared 5 Hectares of scrub

3. Historical and Archaeological Feature Protection Management Plan

- 3.1 This scheme has recently funded £39,500 to commission a comprehensive survey which will-
- inform and guide day-to-day maintenance and management;
 - inform and manage a programme of restoration and repair;
 - present a programme of work (both land management options and capital items) required to achieve the restoration objectives through a Higher Level Stewardship agreement;
 - inform future interpretation and use of the park.

The completed survey is expected to be available by end of February 2015.

4. The Main Aims of the Plan

- 4.1 The main aims of this plan are –

- a. To assess the previous archaeological reports undertaken at Mount Edgcumbe and consider the historical development, design and landscape features of land that has not been previously assessed. Update previous surveys undertaken.
- b. Identify the critical non domestic components of the landscape within the Country Park registered parkland.
- c. Consider options and feasibility for landscape scale restoration of the priority critical components within the HLS agreement land based on the historic and archaeological evidence.
- d. Carry out structural surveys of the critical non domestic structures within the HLA agreement land, using existing surveys where appropriate to avoid duplication of work.
- e. Write works specification for the stage two capital works
- f. Undertake consolidation/restoration works on the critical structures identified.
- g. The total grant funding for this report and restoration/consolidation works is £400,000.

5. Annual Payment

- 5.1 As part of the scheme the park will be able to claim an annual payment £26,000 per year for the next 10yrs for carrying out land management around the site. This includes –

- Grazing of grassland areas by Cattle or Dartmoor Ponies.
- Restoration of successional areas of scrub
- Restoration of species rich, semi natural grassland
- Restoration of woodland
- Control of invasive species
- Bracken control

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That members note the report.