



Improving biodiversity and habitats locally

Mitchell's Field Management Plan 2026-2030





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1. Site Overview

Mitchell's Field is situated close to the centre of Hook, a large village in north Hampshire. The field lies along the southern boundary of Hook Junior School, with pedestrian access via St John's Close, Quince Tree Way, Wheeler's Hill and Ravenscroft. There is no associated parking, but the Community Centre car park is located 100m away in Ravenscroft. The grid reference centroid for the site is **SU 72868 54255**, What3Words: **speeded.highs.sublet**



Mitchell's Field is owned by Hook Parish Council who employ the services of Goslings Garden and Fencing Services Ltd to manage the site as an amenity park. Hook Parish Council have given permission to Wilder Hook to manage designated areas of the field to increase habitat connectivity and diversity for wildlife in the centre of the village. While the habitats in Mitchell's Field are listed in more detail in Section 3.1, two of the hedgerows on the site are included in this section due to their historical importance. The actual age of these hedgerows is not known, but the online mapping resources on the website of the National Library of Scotland show the northern field boundaries present on maps from the 1800's (see yellow highlight below on "OS six inch 1830s to 1880s county layers" overlay).



During the a Wilder Hook Bioblitz event at Mitchell's Field, the wildlife author, Paul Sterry, suggested that the above hedgerows and associated ditch were possibly an indicator that they were planted as part of the Inclosure Acts from the mid to late 1800's, or maybe even earlier.

Wilder Hook reached out to a local historian, Nick Maslen, to ask what historical evidence was available and he replied:

"The hedges you outline are definitely at least 200 years old and I suspect a lot older. The path and stream follow a line to what was Bell Pond, close to where Roman remains of a farmhouse were found in the back garden of 10 Church Close, so I suspect a path of sorts may even have been existence at that time, but of course the hedgerow is not that old!!

I attach a comparison of the 1871 OS maps and a coloured sketch of the 1840 Tithe map of the area (the railway had been constructed just one year before this, so clearly appears). Both maps show very clearly the field boundaries, implying the existence of the hedgerows that we see today. These boundaries would I believe have been in existence at the time of the enclosure acts possibly as early as the 1773 act. The colour denotes the 1840 owners of the fields, Yellow being Elizabeth Horns and Purple is Samuel Tyssen."



The historical heritage of the hedgerows identifies them as possible relic “species rich hedgerows”. Wilder Hook consider these as a potential reservoir for notable species of plants and animals, which have hopefully survived the urban growth of Hook following the construction of the M3 motorway in the 1970s.

###Add brief descr/relevance to local designated sites Ashwell copse and connectivity to wider network and species

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