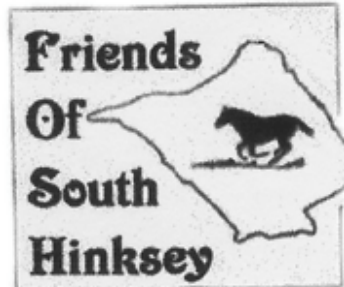


South Hinksey Parish Plan



*How changed is here each spot man makes or fills!
In the two Hinkseys nothing keeps the same;
The village street its haunted mansion lacks,
And from the sign is gone Sibylla's name,
And from the roofs the twisted chimney-stacks—
Are ye too changed, ye hills?
See, 'tis no foot of unfamiliar men
Tonight from Oxford up your pathway strays!
Here came I often, often, in old days—
Thyrsis and I; we still had Thyrsis then.*

From Thyrsis, Matthew Arnold, 1822-1888

SOUTH HINKSEY PARISH PLAN

**Parish Plan project team
of the Friends of South
Hinksey**

**Steering Committee for the
Parish Plan**

**Clive Briffett - Chairman
Linda Slater - Secretary
Brian Halcro - Treasurer
June Ellis
Barbara Jeffrey
Richard King
Peter Rawcliffe**

Nature survey participants

**Mary Hulin
Peter and Valerie Smythe
Valerie King
Mike Bayliss
Naomi Crawford - Northmoor Trust**

Representatives

**Church - Elizabeth Halcro
Village Hall - David Minns
Parish Council - David Wilkins**

February 2005



The village of South Hinksey



Hinksey Hill area of South Hinksey

INTRODUCTION

The name South Hinksey is Anglo-Saxon in origin and is thought to derive from Hengestesieg meaning 'Hengest's island' or the 'island of the stallion'.

South Hinksey village stands on a patch of gravel deposited by a mighty ice age Thames around 35,000 years ago. The underlying strata and the hill slopes above the village are Oxford Clay, which represents the muddy bed of a sea in the Jurassic Period. When this sea shallowed around 160 million years ago, sand banks accumulated on which coral mounds and shell-sands developed. These became the limestone used to build the village.

At the time of the Domesday survey, South Hinksey, together with the neighbouring parishes, was part of the Hundred of Horner and from the 11th century was in the possession of the Earl of Abingdon. At the Dissolution ownership passed to the Lord of the Manor of Cumnor. In the Enclosure Act of 1814 South Hinksey was still part of Cumnor. The current boundaries of the Parish of South Hinksey were demarcated in 1999 and border the parishes of Cumnor to the west, Sunningwell and Kennington to the south, North Hinksey to the north-west



St Laurence Church
and Oxford City incorporating New Hinksey to the north and east.

The present day village and surrounding meadowland adjoins Hinksey Stream, which regularly floods during the winter. Buildings in the parish range from medieval to modern and are used for residential, agricultural, industrial and business purposes. St Laurence Church is the oldest building in the village, dating back to the 13th century, and some of the original farm buildings and cottages have their origins in the 16th and 17th centuries. The parish is bisected by the A34, which divides the village from Hinksey Hill (the hill). On the hill, overlooking the village and the Oxford flood plain, is a mainly residential area built since Victorian times.



Village Hall

The parish is one mile south of the City of Oxford and five and a half miles north of Abingdon. It straddles the southern ring road (A34) north-west of the Hinksey Hill interchange. When the A34 was built in 1938 this was a two-lane highway from Hinksey to Botley nicknamed the 'road from nowhere to nowhere'. During the war it was closed at both ends and used for tank assembly. In 1973 the A34 was connected to the Abingdon by-pass and became a dual carriageway. Today it is a very busy through road which as well as being a designated Euroroute from the south coast to the Midlands forms part of the Oxford City ring road system.

The parish is approximately 340 hectares in area. It is bordered to the north-east by Hinksey Stream, which runs parallel with the main railway line from Oxford to Didcot. The northern boundary is also formed by Hinksey Stream, flowing under the A34 from higher ground to the west through woodland. The south-west boundary is defined by established hedgerows that divide the arable farmland of Chilswell Farm outside the parish from the

Hinksey Heights golf course within the parish. To the west of the A34 the land rises onto the Corallian limestone ridge, which is deeply dissected by spring lines. These valleys are Chilswell Valley, a designated local nature reserve, Limekiln Copse and Harcourt Wood, all wooded, valley-stream courses. The fields are mainly a mix of arable and grassland but there are also areas of unimproved limestone grassland. The south-western edge of the parish is bordered by Boars Hill, a suburb of Oxford, with large houses and gardens surrounded by woodland belts with a strong sense of enclosure. In the extreme southern corner of the parish the boundary straddles house gardens fronting onto Foxcombe Road and Hinksey Hill and extends around the south-eastern perimeter of the residential developments of Badger Lane and Spring Copse. The eastern end of this boundary extends across the A34 and Oxford slip-roads, passing near Redbridge Hollow where there is a residential caravan park and nearby allotments, and then rejoins Hinksey Stream.



The flood plain and the City spires



The hills sloping down to the A34

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parish Plan

Our Parish Plan project looked at all aspects of parish life to see how it could be improved, or simply retained and preserved. It sets out a longer term strategic vision of what the community wants and this includes social, economic and environmental perspectives.

The objectives of making this Parish Plan were:

- To identify what people value most or least in the parish
- To reflect the views and opinions of all sections of the community
- To provide everybody with an opportunity to contribute
- To establish improved facilities and services
- To prepare a plan of action for future developments.

As the Plan is based on a thorough survey and distillation of parishioners' views it has a legitimacy which should be helpful in negotiating with other bodies, when seeking funds.

Background

South Hinksey Parish Council approved the preparation of a Parish Plan on the 7th July 2003. A reconstituted committee of the Friends of South Hinksey undertook to prepare the Plan following unanimous support expressed at the first public meeting of parishioners held on 22nd September 2003. Grants were obtained from the Countryside Agency, the Vale of White Horse District Council and South Hinksey Parish Council.

Monthly meetings of the steering committee were held throughout 2004.

Sub-groups headed by members of the steering committee, conducted baseline surveys on many topics. Other parish councils were consulted and organisations such as the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, Highways Agency, Environment Agency, and Sustrans were contacted.

Questionnaires

Every adult and young person received a questionnaire. The overall response rate was 80%.

It is clear that, although South Hinksey is generally considered to be a pleasant place to live, there are several important issues that need to be addressed.

Open Day

An Open Day was held on Saturday 5th June 2004 in the Village Hall to display the results of the questionnaire. This was well attended, by parishioners from the village and the hill and by representatives from the Oxfordshire Community Council, North Hinksey and Sunningwell Parish Councils, Oxford Green Belt Network and Councillors from the Vale of White Horse District Council.



Parish Plan Open Day

Community spirit

Many people mentioned the need to create more community spirit in the parish. While there is no simple way to achieve this several of the Plan proposals may help – for example, creating a parish website and providing a safe walking and cycling route from the hill to the village, at present not possible because of the A34.

Major roads

The A34 emerged as the issue which concerned more people than any other. It presents problems of safety, noise and pollution. Noise could be reduced by about 50% by resurfacing with a lower noise surface. Our stretch of the road was last surveyed in 2003 and showed the surface did not need renewing and is not included in the current 5-year programme. Thus it will not be done routinely before 2008. A 50 mph speed limit would not only make the main road and the slip-roads safer, but also substantially reduce noise from tyres on the surface, which increases rapidly with increasing speed. The Highways Agency argues that a limit is not appropriate as the area is 'too rural'. Campaigning might be effective based on the successful experience of North Hinksey and Botley residents in the past. Actions for reducing road noise and improving the safety of the slip-roads to the A34 are included in the Plan.

There was considerable concern about traffic speed on Hinksey Hill. It was felt that the best hope of reducing danger to residents lies in making sure that the 40 mph limit is enforced. Larger automatically illuminated signs might help. Actions are proposed for reducing traffic speed and improving the street lighting on the hill.



**'The road from nowhere to nowhere' –
now the A34**

Environment

We live in a pleasant, rural area, within the Oxford Green Belt. Most people seemed to be happy with the landscape but concern was raised about high fences and trees obscuring views and the presence of pylons and overhead wires.

The questionnaire results revealed a good level of support for more nature trails, tree planting and a new nature reserve to be established in the parish. Proposals have therefore been made for creating a new woodland, a wetland nature reserve and extending the existing Chilswell Valley reserve. A nature conservation strategy plan and trail guide will be prepared to coordinate these proposals.

Flooding has been a problem in the village, but the Flood Group has already worked hard and made considerable progress. It is hoped that a bund is to be built around the village. Blocked ditches and waterways are being cleared. Arrangements for future maintenance need to be put in place.



Hinksey Stream, looking south

Pollution was identified as a problem from a number of sources. Air pollution comes from heavy traffic on the A34 and the hill: its nature and extent will be investigated.

Litter and fly-posting were deemed an eyesore on the hill, on land adjoining the A34 and in the village. Action will be taken with the Environmental Services Department of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Most respondents were satisfied with current protection measures for the built environment and the character of existing lighting, but would support putting overhead wires underground. This will be pursued with the utility companies.

Comments were also made on the usability and condition of roads, footpaths and pavements. These matters have been referred to the Parish Council.

Information and communication

Many people thought that notices on boards and telegraph poles were not an adequate way of advertising local events. Email was a popular alternative, which is being pursued, and many people were in favour of a parish

website. Almost everybody wanted to continue to receive the South Hinksey Echo, and there were useful suggestions of topics to be included in future editions. Proposals include creating an email information network, setting up a parish website and establishing an events group, which will help to organise and coordinate village activities.

Transport

Cycling was confirmed as a regular activity of many residents. Providing a safer cycling and walking connection between the hill and the village instead of using the Hinksey Hill interchange and creating circular routes were well supported. Proposals to extend the current Sustrans cycle route in Kennington, to connect to central Oxford via North Hinksey, and to improve existing bridges are also included.

Parking in the village was confirmed as a problem: proposals include creating new off-road parking spaces.

There are five main business locations in the parish, with professional offices sited on Hinksey Hill, recreational facilities at the Hinksey Heights golf course, a garden centre at Chilswell Path and a public house, farm and workshops in the village. There are no shops in the parish.

Health and disability

Access to medical services, shopping and other public facilities is difficult without a car as public transport is limited. A proposal to establish a Good Neighbours scheme is designed to help.

Parish organisations

The Parish Council meets every month at the Village Hall. There are five councilors, appointed for four-year

terms, and an experienced Parish Clerk. Matters dealt with include planning issues, burial ground management, roads and pavements, lighting, litter, land ownership issues and other matters referred by parishioners or government agencies.



Business offices at Bagley Croft, Hinksey Hill

Few parishioners attend meetings; some noted these could be made more user-friendly by letting the public air comments during, rather than at the end of, the meeting.

Other organizations in the parish include the Church community, the Village Hall committee, the Gardening Club and keep-fit groups. The Friends of South Hinksey work closely with the Parish Council in protecting the existing environment. The Council and the Friends have affiliations with other non-

parish groups including the Oxford Preservation Trust, the Oxford Green Belt Network and the Oxford Rural Community Council.

Other facilities

The parish has no public sports facilities for children, teenagers or adults. It is proposed to try and find an area of land for community use where such facilities can be provided and which can be used for other community events.

Publication and launch

The committee decided to publish the plan in two parts - this, the main document, and a Proposed Actions booklet designed to highlight the means by which each proposal could be pursued. A list of the twenty-one proposed actions is included in Appendix A.

The launching of the Plan was completed at an exhibition in the Village Hall in February 2005. This drop-in event was used to display photographs produced by the young people in the parish on the theme 'What I like about living here'.

The launch meeting also served to attract parishioners to become involved with the action groups set up to implement the proposed three year plan. Groups will be formed to pursue these actions. The Flood Group and the Nature Group are already up and running. Overall control and coordination will continue with the Steering Committee of the Friends of South Hinksey. Yearly reviews of progress will be conducted.

DATA COLLECTION

Questionnaires

The main source of data was questionnaires. Separate adult and young persons (aged 7-16) questionnaires were prepared and distributed to everyone in the parish. There was an 80% response rate for the adults (168/209), 75% for the young people (30/40), the combined figure being 80% (198/249). Questions covered all areas of parish life. The results are reviewed in the Executive Summary.

Parish Council records

An analysis has been made of matters raised with the Parish Council from January 1999 to December 2004 (see Appendix B). The main concerns were:

- The A34 highway because of noise, air pollution and safety issues
- The state of the roads, pavements and verges
- Flooding in the village
- Delivery and parking problems. These are less since the closure of the industrial site in the centre of the village but nevertheless parking is still a problem for Church Close.

Other sources

This includes feedback received from:

- Meetings and events in the parish over the year
- Church community
- Village Hall Committee
- Public house clientele
- Gardening Club members.

A photographic competition for young people was held during September 2004 to record the places and activities they

enjoyed in the parish. Meetings were held by various members of the committee with the Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council.

Several committee members attended Parish Plan workshops and planning days. We visited projects completed in other parishes to see what had been achieved and to gather ideas.

We thank the following who have told us of their experiences of preparing Parish Plans:

- Duns Tew - John Wilshaw
- Fencott and Murcott - Steve Taylor
- Henley-on-Thames - David Whitehead
- Lodsworth Parish - Kit Hayward
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council - Anton Nath
- Sandford-on-Thames - Mike Hills
- Sunningwell – Ruth MacDonald.

We are grateful to people outside the parish who have supplied information on surveys conducted within the parish or given advice based on activities taking place in their own parish. For example, Marion Hainge from North Hinksey provided useful advice on the campaign to mitigate adverse environmental impacts of the A34 on their parish.



Spring daffodils in a Hinksey garden

ACTIONS

The proposed actions cover issues that a good number of parishioners are concerned about. How such proposals can be implemented will be worked on by sub-groups. A separate Proposed Actions booklet contains initial ideas, contacts and possible sources of funding.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

ACTION 1

✓ Reduce A34 road noise

The most serious problem identified in the questionnaire survey was concern about the noise from traffic on the A34 road that runs near to the village and some of the hill residents. North Hinksey Parish also suffers from these problems and has, through lobbying, managed to get the highways authority to resurface the road with low-noise tarmac, erect acoustic noise barriers and introduce a 50 mph speed restriction. We will make similar representations to the authorities.

ACTION 2

✓ Improve safety at slip-roads onto the A34

Getting onto the A34 is widely felt to be difficult and dangerous. There is no alternative way for vehicles to leave the village. The slip-roads are too short to reach the necessary speed to pull out onto the main road. Possible remedies include reducing the main road traffic speed and redesigning the slip-roads.

ACTION 3

✓ Reduce traffic speed on Hinksey Hill

Most of the residents living on the hill who responded to the questionnaire mentioned the high speed of traffic. There is a 40 mph limit but drivers seem to ignore this. Amongst the remedial options suggested were reducing the speed limit to 30 mph, introducing humps or chicanes, or having a lighted pedestrian crossing, a speed camera, or illuminated speed limit signs such as those used in North Hinksey on the A34. The latter is favoured by most.

FLOODING

ACTION 4

✓ Reduce the risk of flooding

In 2000 and 2003 severe flooding problems were experienced by village residents causing not only the roads to be flooded but also many houses. Not surprisingly this issue was particularly highlighted for action in the questionnaire returns. The Flood Group is already dealing with the authorities on several possible alleviation schemes. These have included clearance of channels and drains near the railway at Redbridge and Kennington by the rail authority and the proposed construction of a protective bund around the village being considered by the Environment Agency. A longer-term strategy for the flood plain west of Oxford may include the creation of a concrete channel running from Binsey in West Oxford through our parish down to Kennington. This would have knock-on effects on ecology, especially on Port Meadow. It is still being investigated. It may prove to be very expensive and is unlikely to

be completed for at least ten years, if ever. We plan to continue negotiations on completing short to medium term alleviation measures; principally maintenance of culverts and ditches, the widening of the channel at Towles Mill sluice beside the Abingdon Road and the building of a bund if this proves feasible.



Flooded railway line in 2003

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are two distinct residential areas in the parish; one in the village to the east of the A34 on low-lying meadowland and the other to the west on Hinksey Hill. There are more isolated buildings at Hinksey Heights golf course, at the end of the access track to Chilswell Nature Reserve and around the garden centre to the end of Chilswell Path. Some of the larger houses such as Bagley Croft and Wayside on Hinksey Hill have been converted to business offices. There are industrial and commercial premises at Manor Farm in the village, along Chilswell Path and at Hinksey Heights. A former commercial premises in the centre of the village is likely to be redeveloped as housing.

Since 1975 the entire parish has been included in the Green Belt to Oxford City and there are severe restrictions on new building other than reasonably sized extensions to existing properties. Within

a village area envelope defined in the Local Plan other developments may be permitted subject to the views of the local community and the Parish Council.



Hinksey Heights Golf Club



Wyevale Garden Centre



Manor Farm industrial outbuildings

ACTION 5

✓ Improve and repair roads, pavements and footpaths

Many complaints have been received over the years by the Parish Council, and through the questionnaire, on the poor condition and design of the existing roads, pavements and footpaths. Hinksey Hill is of particular concern since the excessive speed of the traffic threatens pedestrians using the pavement, which is too narrow, in poor condition and often covered with leaves and obstructed by overhanging shrubs. Pedestrians have difficulty trying to get across the main road due to the absence of a formal crossing. In the village the condition of the road and pavements is often poor.

As there is no pavement between Church Close and the church access gate, and there are many parked cars, this is a potentially unsafe area for pedestrians. Consideration will be given to a new pavement here, possibly extending round to the burial ground entrance in Parker Road.

Public footpaths are often poorly demarcated and signposted and stiles are in poor condition.



ACTION 6

✓ Improve parking in the village

The questionnaire and subsequent discussions revealed difficulties with car parking in the centre of the village, particularly for the residents of Church Close and the adjacent part of St Lawrence Road. Part of an area of land between the close and the church could be used for off-street car parking by building a new retaining wall further back from the existing pavement and creating a deeper parking area for up to six cars.

Alternatively a car park could be created on land currently owned by Oxford City Council adjoining the burial ground, with access from Parker Road, or on part of the field abutting the junction of St Lawrence Road and John Piers Lane.



Cars parked in St Lawrence Road

ACTION 7

- ✓ **Upgrade bridge to New Hinksey to improve cycle access**

The Devil's Backbone leads to a bridge (known locally as Jacob's Ladder) over the railway that has steep flights of steps making it difficult for cyclists and pushchair users. The possibility of constructing a ramp on either side will be investigated further.



Jacob's Ladder

ACTION 8

- ✓ **Create new cycling and walking routes in the parish**

In the adjoining parish of Kennington an existing cycleway has recently been completed as part of the National Cycle Network scheme run by Sustrans. This cycleway is part of the Hanson Way that connects Oxford to Abingdon and Didcot. We propose to extend this cycleway from Redbridge to the permissive pathway to North Hinksey and to connect up to the village and Hinksey Hill via the existing bridge over the A34. A new footpath and cycle track from Betty Lane to the garden centre is needed to link Hinksey Hill to the golf course trails and the village.



Stile to the permissive footpath

ACTION 9

- ✓ **Provide more street lighting for Hinksey Hill and Betty Lane**

Questionnaire returns confirmed residents' concern about the lack of adequate street lighting in the Hinksey Hill area although some also expressed the need to avoid light pollution. Oxfordshire County Council will be consulted.

ACTION 10

- ✓ **Put telephone and electrical wires underground**

Many people expressed concern about the unsightly proliferation of overhead wires including high voltage lines and pylons in the parish. For example, wires across the meadows close to Hinksey Stream, the overhead domestic electrical and telephone wire supplies and associated posts to all properties in the Hinksey Hill area, the village, along the full length of Harcourt Wood, across the golf course and over farmland sloping down from the Chilswell area.

Discussions are proposed with the relevant statutory authorities to reduce wires where possible.



Overhead wires and pylons

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

ACTION 11

- ✓ **Investigate air quality**

The proximity of the busy, and increasingly heavily used, main trunk road, the A34, has created concern about possible air pollution. It is proposed to measure the levels and spread of air pollutants from traffic.

ACTION 12

- ✓ **Reduce litter and fly-posting**

The amount of litter, particularly near the A34, the Hinksey Hill interchange and approach roads and around the village has increased in recent years. Efforts will be made to improve litter clearance either by Council contractors or, where appropriate, by volunteers. Fly-posting is particularly apparent at Hinksey Hill interchange where adverts are tied to traffic signposts. Since this is illegal it is intended to look at how culprits can be discouraged.



The top of Hinksey Hill

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Despite being quite small the Parish of South Hinksey contains a wide range of habitats attracting good numbers of wildlife. There are open areas of arable and meadowland, several woodlands along steeply sloping valleys, and wetlands, including fast-flowing stream courses, ponds and low-lying open fields which act as a flood plain. Fenland habitat has grown in the pond areas of the wooded valleys and there are areas of chalk downland. There are both large and small gardens and a good network of hedges and grassy road verges. Whilst much of the farmland is intensively cultivated there are other areas of unimproved and semi-improved grassland grazed by sheep. There is parkland on the golf course, which has recently been planted out with many new trees and native shrubs.



Fenland at Harcourt Wood



Badger sett entrance

ACTION 13

✓ Create a new wetland nature reserve

Consideration has already been given to the possible creation of a new wetland bird reserve close to the north side of the Devil's Backbone pathway by the landowners (Oxford City Council), the tenant farmer, the Environment Agency, DEFRA and the Ponds Conservation Trust.



Hinksey Stream, looking north

During 2004 several pairs of lapwing nested here. It will be necessary to make boreholes to find out how well water will be retained and to design a scheme that includes making a small lake, planting reeds, sedges and other water-loving species and possibly hedging to enclose the site. Facilities for access such as boardwalks, a hide and signboards could be included.

ACTION 14

- ✓ **Extend existing nature reserve in Chilswell Valley**

A triangular area of land between the existing public footpath to Chilswell

Nature Reserve and the grounds of Chilswell Lodge is owned by the Parish Council and has been leased to a tenant farmer in recent years. The land forms the lower slopes of the valley and adjoins the nature reserve. It would provide a natural extension to the reserve. A stream, which forms the southern boundary to the area, could be partially diverted into the area to create an extended wetland area suited to the growing of reeds. This would increase the existing fenland habitat, relatively rare in Oxfordshire, within the reserve. A hedge could be planted along the north boundary adjoining the existing footpath, in which a hide could be placed to view the wildlife.



Land adjoining Chilswell Lodge

ACTION 15

- ✓ **Prepare a nature conservation strategy and trail guide**

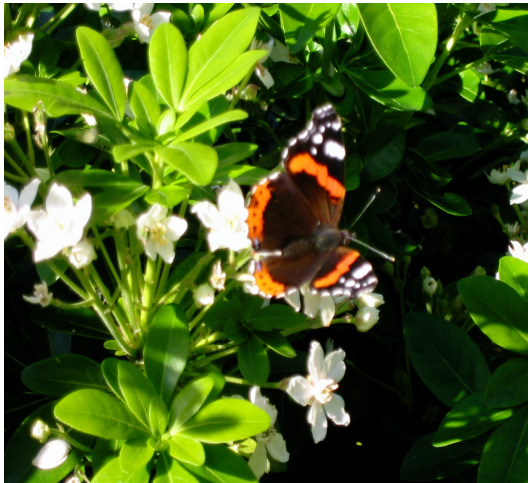
The Biodiversity Action Plans being prepared by local authorities throughout the UK encourage local environmental groups to compile detailed information on the current status of plants and wildlife in their areas, so that schemes for the better protection of existing species and habitats can be devised.

It is proposed to prepare a conservation strategy that identifies how existing habitats and species in the parish can best be managed to maximize biodiversity.

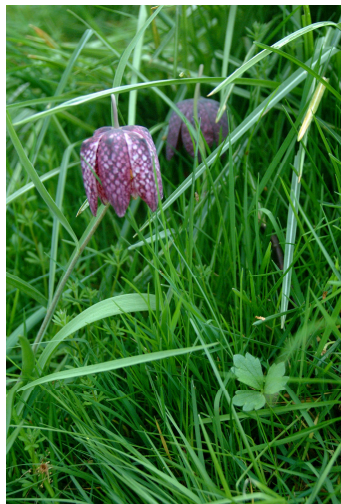
Some work has already been undertaken on areas abutting the golf course with the approval of the Oxford County Ecologist and on farmland near Hinksey Stream through the Country Stewardship Scheme. Whilst some survey work has been completed, more needs to be done.

There are already some good nature trails in the parish. For example the Hinksey Heights Nature Trail, which starts from Chilswell Path and extends through the golf club and Harcourt Wood. A second public footpath from Chilswell Path gives access to the Chilswell Nature Reserve and extends to Chilswell Farm.

Residents and visiting nature groups and individuals use the trails. At the golf club there is a nature education programme for school children, run by the Northmoor Trust.



Red Admiral butterfly



Snake's Head Fritillary



Roe deer in a Hinksey Hill garden

It is proposed to produce a nature guide to help people to identify natural features, plants and animals on the trails and to suggest viewpoints.

ACTION 16

- ✓ **Plant new woodland adjacent to Chilswell Path**

The A34 highway divides the area into two, preventing easy migration of wildlife. Many animals are killed trying to cross the road. Reconnecting these habitats, separated by the highway, could only be achieved using specially designed landscape bridges or tunnels and these might be prohibitively expensive.



Wayfaring Tree berries

Reconnections across agricultural land and even the golf course, using newly planted woodland or hedgerows, may be more practical. An opportunity exists to convert agricultural land belonging to the parish into woodland, connecting hedgerows bordering the Hinksey Heights trail with the Chilswell Nature Reserve access path.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

ACTION 17

- ✓ **Improve communications within the parish**

Half the people who replied felt that notices on boards and telegraph poles alone were not an adequate way of keeping parishioners informed. 85% of those questioned were on the internet or planned to be within a year. Acting on these data, an email system (South Hinksey Information - SHINFO) has been set up to disseminate information to parishioners who want to be included.

Over 90% of those questioned wanted to go on receiving the local newsletter, the South Hinksey Echo. Almost everyone was happy with the present three issues a year. Enough people would prefer to receive an electronic version to make this worth pursuing.

ACTION 18

- ✓ **Set up a parish website**

There was majority support for establishing and running a website and several people offered to help. It is proposed that a website be established for regular dispersal of news such as Parish Council minutes and minutes of other societies and groups within the parish. It could also contain Information such as the names of people to contact for joining groups, and the advertising of regular community events and activities.

ACTION 19

- ✓ **Consider a Good Neighbours scheme**

Owing to the lack of health services and shops in the parish and the poor provision of public transport, elderly and

infirm residents have difficulty in getting to surgeries and shops. Neighbours help already but a volunteer transport service might help further.

ACTION 20

- ✓ **Establish an events group**

Many people had suggestions for community events and no less than twenty-six different ideas were received. It is proposed that a group be formed to coordinate such events, liaising with the Church, Village Hall, public house and the Friends of South Hinksey.



Local folk group on the Parish Plan Open Day

ACTION 21

- ✓ **Establish an area for community events and recreation**

The parish lacks any public open space suitable for recreation and community activities. There are more than 60 children and young people (below the age of 17) in the parish. Questionnaire returns showed that people were keen to have a children's playground, a small football field, a garden with seats and a multi-use area for fetes, fairs, sales and other community events. Possible sites include land off Parker Road, land off

Barleycott Lane and land behind the Village Hall.



Land off Parker Road



Land off Barleycott Lane



Land behind the Village Hall

CONCLUSION

We were encouraged by the excellent response to the questionnaires and the discussion it generated, and the high attendance and obvious interest shown by many parishioners at the Open Day in June 2004.

The proposed actions are listed in Appendix A and are described in detail in the separate Proposed Actions booklet. We are confident that we have a programme of worthwhile improvements based on a thorough survey of the views of parishioners.

The Plan is intended to be implemented (as far as that proves possible) over the next three years. Progress will be reviewed in January 2006 and in January 2007. During 2005 a Nature Conservation Strategy will be published to coordinate the proposals made under the natural environment section.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the Plan and will want to get involved.



The natural environment - Hinksey Stream

APPENDICES

Appendix A

PROPOSED ACTIONS

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Action 1
Reduce A34 road noise

Action 2
Improve safety at slip-roads onto the A34

Action 3
Reduce traffic speed on Hinksey Hill

FLOODING

Action 4
Reduce the risk of flooding

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Action 5
Improve and repair roads, pavements and footpaths

Action 6
Improve parking in the village

Action 7
Upgrade bridge to New Hinksey to improve cycle access

Action 8
Create new cycling and walking routes in the parish

Action 9
Provide more street lighting for Hinksey Hill and Betty Lane

Action 10
Put telephone and electrical wires underground

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Action 11
Investigate air quality

Action 12
Reduce litter and fly-posting

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Action 13
Create a new wetland nature reserve

Action 14
Extend existing nature reserve at Chilswell Valley

Action 15
Prepare a nature conservation strategy and trail guide

Action 16
Plant new woodland adjacent to Chilswell Path

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Action 17
Improve communications in the parish

Action 18
Set up a parish website

Action 19
Consider a Good Neighbours scheme

Action 20
Establish an events group

Action 21
Establish an area for community events and recreation

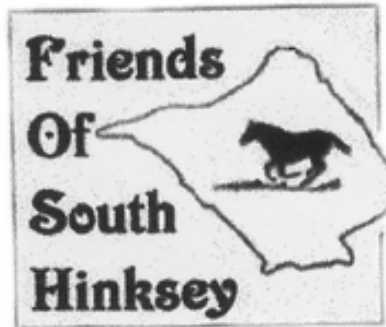
Appendix B

Issues raised with the Parish Council, 1999-2004

Issue \ Year	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Village roads, verges and pavements	1	1	1	4	9	5
Hinksey Hill roads, verges and pavements	1	0	1	4	0	1
Ditches and Hinksey Stream	1	1	0	6	5	1
Delivery/parking	1	1	0	3	4	2
A34: noise, access and litter	1	3	0	1	2	2
Devil's Backbone path	3	3	0	1	2	2
Hinksey Hill litter	2	1	2	1	0	0
Village litter	1	0	1	2	2	1
Air pollution	1	3	0	0	0	0
Theft, security	0	0	1	1	3	2
Dog fouling and waste bins	1	0	1	1	2	0
Flooding	2	1	0	1	1	0
Manor Farm industrial site	2	0	0	0	3	3
Street lighting	1	0	0	0	4	0
Chilswell Farm	1	1	0	0	1	0
Bourgein's works	0	0	0	0	2	2
Dangers to children	0	0	1	0	0	2
Hedges	1	1	0	0	0	1
Parish Council matters	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hinksey railway sidings	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hinksey Heights golf club	1	0	0	0	1	1
Other (3)						

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