

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

At the meeting of Oxford City Council on 25 January 2010, the following Motion was adopted by general assent:

‘The Council acknowledged the importance of Oxpens Meadow as a natural resource and recreational amenity in the City centre. Further, the anticipated increase of residential, working and student population in the West End area confirms the importance of the Meadow’s future role.

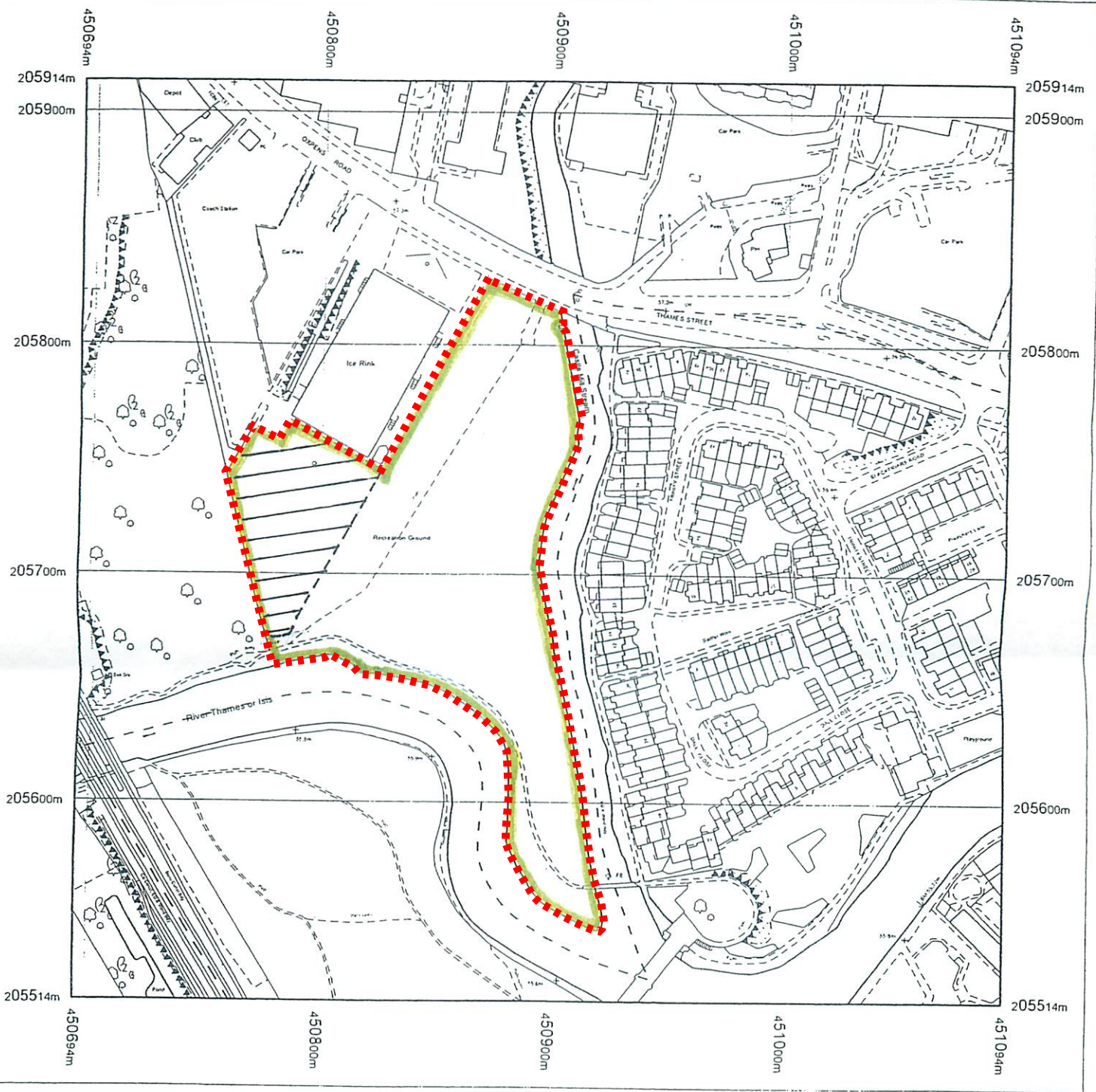
Council invites the City Executive Board to apply to the County Council to register the area shown in green on the Identified Sites Map at page 5 of Part 1 of the adopted West End Area Action Plan as a Town Green under the Commons Act 2006 as the best means of securing the long term protection of the Meadow from encroachment’.

The City Executive Board has stated that it ‘is sympathetic to the wishes of SENDRA and local residents and the expressed wishes of Council to see this land secured for the long term from encroachment’. The CEB would have moved to implement the Motion had it not been for the fact that Town Green status would preclude flood remediation works, an option the Council is keen to keep open for future consideration. SENDRA’s preferred objective remains Town Green status but it is willing to facilitate the search for an alternative mechanism that fulfils all the protection objectives whilst leaving flood remediation as a possibility.

The City Council and SENDRA wish to explore such mechanisms together and this Memorandum of Understanding is to serve as a foundation upon which this search will be conducted.

The City Council and SENDRA hereby confirm that:

1. Oxpens Meadow is the land covered by SENDRA’s Town Green application as shown in the attached Map A by the dotted line.
2. The City Council is resolved to protect Oxpens Meadow as an open green space for public recreation in perpetuity, minus a section to the south of the Ice Rink shown as the hatched section in the attached Map A. This area to be protected by the Council is henceforth referred to as “the Area”.
3. SENDRA believe that the best means of ensuring the long term protection of the Area from further encroachment would be through its designation as a Town Green.
4. It has been proposed that part of the Area might be used in the future to accommodate flood remediation works that would allow development of the land to the west of the Ice Rink and the car-park to regenerate the West End area of Oxford City.
5. It is understood that the flood remediation works would be impossible if the Area had been designated as a Town Green, so alternative means of protection are being examined.
6. Use of the Area for such flood remediation works would only be acceptable if, once completed, they did not preclude the use of that Area as a viable green recreation space. SENDRA would retain the freedom to examine critically other aspects of any proposed flood remediation works in the light of their implications for flood risk for adjacent properties.
7. Such flood remediation works will only be implemented after consultation with and approval from the Environment Agency (or their successor). It should be noted that such approval is unlikely to be achieved if the works increase the risk of flooding to other areas of Oxford.
8. If an alternative mechanism which leaves flood remediation as a possibility and which fulfils the protection objectives stated above cannot be implemented within a reasonable time frame, the City Council will pursue the Town Green Application in accordance with the resolution of Council in January 2010.
9. In the meantime, the City Council confirms that it will not propose or undertake changes to the Area which would alter its open green character and its recreational use.



MAP 'A'

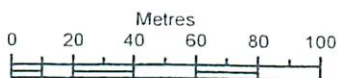
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Scale 1:2500

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Further information can be found on the OS Sitemap Information leaflet or the Ordnance Survey web site:  
[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

Oxpens Recreation Ground
Oxford