



**Management and Risk Assessment Policy: The Springs (SG7 5LL)**

**Re site/premises owned and/or managed by the Parish Council**

**Purpose - to identify responsibilities with outline details of actions taken/to be taken and key dates.**

**See Springs Management Plan (SMP) for further, more comprehensive, details.**

| <b>Responsibility</b>                                                                         | <b>Actions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Notes/Key dates</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Natural England (NE)</b><br>re the site as a SSSI<br>(Site of Special Scientific Interest) | NE/Herts. NE is responsible for initiating and undertaking regular site assessments re the SSSI status. Any actions identified in NE reports/communications are responded to by APC. APC has a line of communication established with NE if any ad hoc queries arise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Latest formal NE site assessment report received September 2026                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Environment Agency (EA)</b> re the water ie, springs and river                             | EA/Brampton office. The EA is responsible for regular monitoring of the ecological and water quality status and flow rates in relation to the SSSI and to ensure that water abstraction under licences granted do not adversely affect these. APC has a line of communication established with EA's Brampton Office if any ad hoc queries arise. APC receives flow rate data from them monthly and requests information if they drop below the agreed level (0.03 cubic metres per second over their flume): <a href="#">Link to Environment Agency - River Rhee</a> ( <i>Wendy US</i> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Flow data received monthly.<br>No issues since last policy review.                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Ashwell Parish Council (APC)</b>                                                           | The Springs Management Plan (SMP) is reviewed by APC at least annually and updated as required; it includes detailed information on how the site is managed.<br>Regular risk assessments are undertaken by APC officers and a professional report commissioned annually.<br>APC is responsible for site maintenance. This is covered by a combination of input by officers, contractors and volunteer working parties. The latter have been co-ordinated by Greening Ashwell, an independent village group, since April 2022 (see Memorandum of Understanding) with guidance from APC.<br>APC insurance includes volunteer cover and public liability.<br>All contractors are required to adhere to relevant rules re the SSSI and working on a public site; this includes appropriate liability insurance.<br>A professional tree survey is commissioned at recommended intervals and actions followed.<br>On-site signage informs visitors re the SSSI and gives other guidance and information.<br>(see SMP for details of all the above). | Latest update of the SMP is pending formal approval.<br>Last RoSPA report Oct 2025.<br>Next report due Nov. 2026.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Autumn/winter 2025 (when trees are not in leaf).<br>Autumn/winter 2026 |

**Date last review: August 2024**      **Next scheduled review: Latest October 2026**