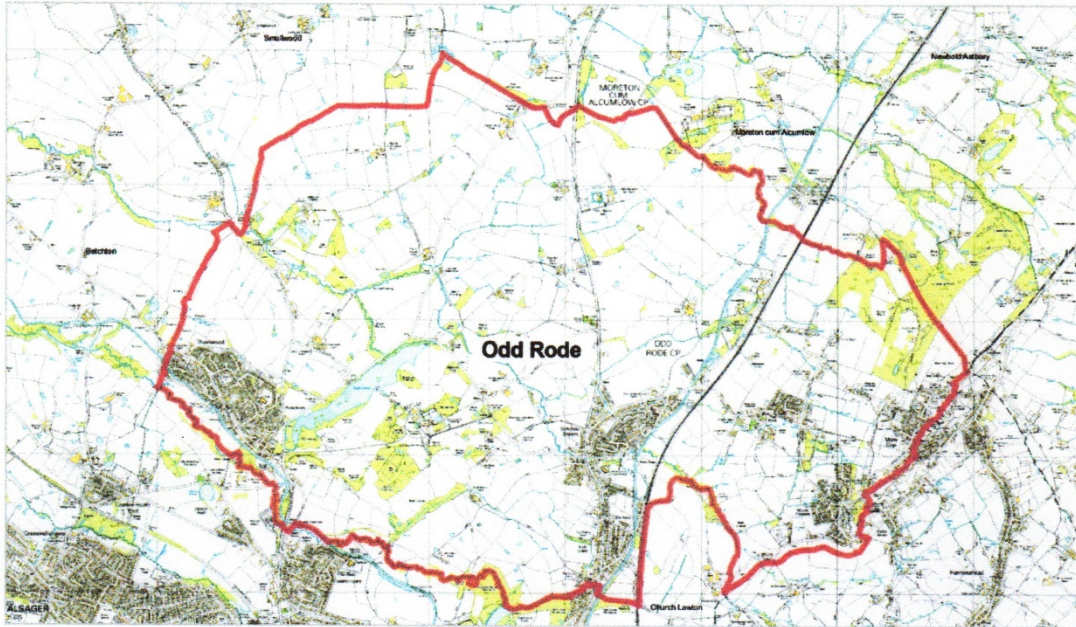


Odd Rode Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan



Household Questionnaire 2017

Draft Report and Analysis

Natural heritage

Summary

In part 6.0 of the questionnaire the Parish Council was seeking the residents' views on the natural environment of the area and in particular whether it needs protection and what role the Council might have in such an endeavour.

An overwhelming 90% of the respondents say that the wildlife within the parish is either 'Very valued' or 'Quite valued' and there is very little difference between the three parts of the parish in this respect. The number of respondents who say they only value wildlife 'a bit' or not at all is negligible, also with little difference between the areas.

On this background it is not surprising that a majority of around 80% of the respondents would support the commissioning of a survey of wildlife sites and the majority of this support is found among those who consider wildlife 'Very valued' or 'Quite valued'. However, a significant 12% across all areas do not wish to support such an endeavour.

A small proportion of the respondents suggests that the whole parish warrants a wildlife survey and maybe deserves extra protection (table 6.2, page 6). A larger number (54) points to woodlands and wooded areas as candidates in this regard and an even larger number (69) points to the canals, towing paths and surroundings.

'Farmland and fields', 'Greenfield and green belt' land are two other categories referred to in table 6.2. Their inclusion strengthen the impression that it is the open character of the area which the residents value most.

'The Rise' at Rode Heath is referred to by more respondents (40) than any other area followed by Mow Cop Castle and its surroundings (21) (table 6.3, page 7). 'Sludge Wood' is referred to by 5 respondents from Scholar Green while 7 respondents from Mt Pleasant area refer to the Village Green and the Village Hall and its extensive grounds.

Whether the importance of tree cover was realised when people responded to question 6.4 (page 77) may be open to debate, but the response nevertheless show an overwhelming 85% support for Tree Preservation Orders with little difference between the three areas of the parish (table 6.4). A small 5% gave no opinion in this regard while 10% expressly do not support TPOs.

An overwhelming majority of around 80% across the parish was in support of a survey of significant trees (table 6.5, page 8) which is slightly fewer than supported TPOs. Slightly more expressed no opinion or were actually against commissioning a survey.

As a starting point for a list of significant trees respondents were asked in question Q 6.6 to identify individual trees or areas where specimens could be found or where they may be at risk. However, nearly 90% of the returned questionnaires (736 out of 830) do not give any indication of the respondent's preference. The number of responses which do express a preference is therefore very small.

Among these a group state that all trees all over the parish are significant and should therefore presumably be listed.

Another group list 'Indigenous' species and species native to Britain as worthy of including in a list of significant trees.

Some respondents refer to the need for some maintenance eg where trees and their foliage obscure street lights and interfere with wires and generally needs cutting.

Apart from general locations alongside canals and roads respondents refer to trees on village greens and in church yards as worthy of listing and also several smaller areas of woodland in Rode Heath and elsewhere.

Where trees have deteriorated or even died or have been removed to make way for development replacement needs to be considered and it is seen from table 6.6 (page 10) that nearly 90% of respondents are in favour of replacement with little difference between the areas.

Protection of hedgerows as well as trees needs the support of the general public. Table 6.7, page 11, shows that over 90% of the respondents confirm their support. However, the table also shows that within Mow Cop/Mt Pleasant only 80% of the respondents would support a survey while in other parts of the parish the proportion would be even smaller.

While 90% of the respondents declare themselves in support of protecting hedgerows a similar percentage (92% ~ 758 out of 827) are unwilling or unable to point to any particular hedgerow that needs protecting. The broad locations referred to in table 6.9, page 12, are mostly the same as the locations of trees referred to previously.

One respondent comments that there are 'several' hedgerows of value to the Parish and that they may be at risk. The respondent urges the Parish Council to "review all of them and issue a report".

Among the local population there is a desire to protect dry stone walls as shown in the answers to question 6.11 as set out in table 6.10, page 13, as a significant feature of the landscape even though their practical value is diminishing. Nearly 86% of the respondents overall are in support of protecting existing walls with a lower percentage of the respondents from Scholar Green (84%) and the highest among respondents from Mow Cop-Mt Pleasant (89%).

Table 6.11, page 14, sets out the support for a survey of dry stone walls. As before it is seen that support for such a survey is somewhat less than might be expected given the support for protecting the walls. It is greatest among respondents from Mow Cop-Mt Pleasant at 78% and smallest among respondents from Scholar Green at 72% and for the parish as a whole stand at 74%.

Question 6.13, page 14, asks respondents to list "any dry stone walls you know of and consider to be of particular value, or that are at risk?"

In response they have listed almost every dry stone wall there is in the area of Mt Pleasant-Mow Cop.

Specific suggestions worthy of note are references to the area round the castle (which itself is actually within Staffordshire!) and references to the walls around churches and chapels.

The person who made the above comment on hedgerows repeat the comment here and also for dry stone walls urges the Parish Council to "review all of them and issue a report".

6.0 Natural Heritage

In part 6.0 of the questionnaire the Parish Council was seeking the residents' views on the natural environment of the area and in particular whether it needs protection and what role the Council might have in such an endeavour.

6.1 Sites of Biological Interest

Q 6.1 How much do you value the overall diversity of wildlife that is found in our parish?

- a) Very valued
- b) Quite valued
- c) Valued a bit
- d) Not at all valued

Q 6.2 Would you support the Parish Council to commission a survey of sites in the Parish with an aim of extending protection?

Yes No

The answers to the above questions on the value people attach to diversity of the wildlife in the parish and the associated question on a survey with a view to extended protection is summarised in table 6.1 shown overleaf, page 5.

It is seen that an overwhelming 90% of the respondents say that that the wildlife within the parish is either 'Very valued' or 'Quite valued' and there is very little difference between the three parts of the parish in this respect. The number of respondents who say they only value wildlife 'a bit' or not at all is negligible, also with little difference between the areas.

On the background of the answers to the first question it is not surprising that a majority of around 80% of the respondents would support the commissioning of a survey of wildlife sites with little difference between the areas. Obviously the majority of this support is found among those who consider wildlife 'Very valued' or 'Quite valued', but a significant 12% across all respondents do not wish to support such an endeavour.

Table 6.1: Value of wildlife and support for survey

		Support for Survey					
		Yes	No	Not stated	Total		
					No	%	
<u>Rode Heath</u>							
Very valued		233	15	7	255	73.91	
Quite valued		37	22	10	69	20.00	
Valued a bit		3	5	3	11	3.19	
Not valued			1		1	0.29	
Not stated				9	9	2.61	
Total	No	273	43	29	345	100	
	%	79.13	12.46	8.41	100		
<u>Scholar Green</u>							
Very valued		178	12	7	197	76.36	
Quite valued		27	10	6	43	16.67	
Valued a bit		1	5	1	7	2.71	
Not valued			3		3	1.16	
Not stated		1	1	6	8	3.10	
Total	No	207	31	20	258	100	
	%	80.23	12.02	7.75	100		
<u>Mow Cop/Mt Pleasant</u>							
Very valued		152	12	6	170	75.89	
Quite valued		23	13	5	41	18.30	
Valued a bit		1	1	1	3	1.34	
Not valued			1		1	0.45	
Not stated				9	9	4.02	
Total	No	176	27	21	224	100	
	%	78.57	12.05	9.38	100		
<u>Odd Rode</u>							
Very valued		563	39	20	622	75.21	
Quite valued		87	45	21	153	18.50	
Valued a bit		5	11	5	21	2.54	
Not valued		0	5	0	5	0.60	
Not stated		1	1	24	26	3.14	
Total	No	656	101	70	827	100	
	%	79.32	12.21	8.46	100		

Q 6.3 Which areas do you believe deserve extra protection?

The response to question 6.3 is given in the forms of some general suggestions and some specific named areas, but it is not always clear whether the suggestions are made because of their biological importance to the local flora and fauna, because of their historical importance or their importance as areas for leisure and recreational pursuits – especially walking.

It is also worth noting that nearly 2/3rds (513 out of 827) of the respondents have not stated any preference, table 6.2 below, page 6.

A small proportion of the respondents make the suggestion that the whole of the parish warrants a wildlife survey and maybe deserves extra protection. A larger number (54) points to woodlands and wooded areas all over the parish as candidates in this regard and an even larger number (69) points to the canals, their towing paths and immediate surroundings as candidates.

Table 6.2: No of respondents pointing to general areas for extra protection

	Odd Rode	Rode Heath	Scholar Green	Mow Cop/Mt Pleasant
Not stated	513	196	176	141
All area	26	21	1	4
Birdlife	1			1
Canals	69	37	30	2
Farmland & fields	12	1	5	6
Footpaths	2			2
Greenfield & greenbelt	12	4	3	5
Hedges	15	4	10	1
Lane verges	2		1	1
Meadows	1			1
Moorland	1			1
Natural beauty & recreational	2		2	
Ponds	3		1	2
Streams	3		1	2
Wild life areas	1			1
Woodland	54	22	15	17

'Farmland and fields', 'Greenfield and green belt' land are two other categories referred to in table 6.2. Their inclusion strengthen the impression that it is the open character of the area which the residents value most.

In terms of specific named areas 'The Rise' at Rode Heath is referred to by more respondents (40) than any other area followed by Mow Cop Castle and its surroundings (21) (table 6.3 below, page 7) each referred to by respondents from Rode Heath and Mow Cop-Mt Pleasant respectively.

'Sludge Wood' is referred to by 5 respondents from Scholar Green while 7 respondents (5+2) from Mt Pleasant area refer to the Village Green and the Village Hall and its extensive grounds.

Table 6.3: Specific areas that may deserve extra protection

<u>Rode Heath</u>		<u>Scholar Green</u>		<u>Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant</u>	
Rode Heath Rise	40	Sludge Wood	5	Castle & surrounds	21
Poolside	4	Cinderhill Lane	2	Village Hall & surrounds	5
Church Lane	2	Rode Hall & surrounds	2	Woodcock Lne/Station Rd	3
Rode Hall & surrounds	2	Others	3	Village Green	2
Wheelock Valley	2			Others	5
Others	6				

6.2 Trees

It is difficult to overstate the value of trees within built up areas as well as in the open countryside. Indeed in a comment to question 6.6 one respondent asks: “Aren’t all trees significant?”

They have a value by adding visual character to our environment as important landmarks, by their individual beauty and in groups, whether planted or they have grown spontaneously. However, they also have a value by providing raw material for joiners and carpenters and fuel for those who still heat their houses with open fires. Trees provide nest sites for birds and other wildlife, but perhaps their greatest value lies in their ability to transform the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere (one of the contributors to global warming) into oxygen for every living creature to breathe and carbon material for their own growth.

Q 6.4 Do you support the protection of significant trees in the parish, through Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)?

Yes No

Table 6.4: Support for tree preservation orders

	Rode Heath		Scholar Green		Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant		Odd Rode	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Not stated	15	4.35	13.00	5.04	14.00	6.25	42	5.08
Yes	290	84.06	220.00	85.27	192.00	85.71	702	84.89
No	40	11.59	25.00	9.69	18.00	8.04	83	10.04
Total	345	100	258	100	224	100	827	100

Whether this was realised by everybody when people responded to question 6.4 (above, page 7) may be open to debate, but the response nevertheless show an overwhelming 85% support for Tree Preservation Orders with little difference between the three areas of the parish (table 6.4). A small 5% gave no opinion in this regard while 10% expressly do not support TPOs.

Q 6.5 Would you support the Parish Council to commission a tree survey, to identify trees of significance in the Parish?

Yes No

Table 6.5: Support for Parish Council tree survey

	Rode Heath		Scholar Green		Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant		Odd Rode	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Not stated	20	5.80	18	6.98	17	7.59	55	6.65
Yes	276	80.00	203	78.68	183	81.70	662	80.05
No	49	14.20	37	14.34	24	10.71	110	13.30
Total	345	100	258	100	224	100	827	100

Further support for trees is expressed in the response to question 6.5 above on the value of a survey of significant trees.

An overwhelming majority of around 80% across the parish was in support of such an undertaking albeit slightly fewer than supported TPOs.

It follows that slightly more had expressed no opinion or were actually against commissioning a survey.

Q 6.6 Are there any trees in the Parish that you consider worthy of being included in any list of significant trees, or are there any significant trees that you consider to be at risk?

A survey of the trees and woodlands within the parish would serve to identify trees that may be included in a list of significant specimens so as a starting point respondents were asked in question Q 6.6 to identify individual trees or areas where such could be found or where they may be at risk. A summary of the responses is found in table 6.6 below, page 9.

There are three types of responses: Some are concerned with the general location of trees; some are concerned with the type of trees deemed significant; and some are concerned with individual trees that are found to be significant because of their age, size, visual attractiveness and situation which make them important markers in the local landscape.

Table 6.6: General tree types and locations respondents have indicated as significant.

<u>Rode Heath</u>		<u>Scholar Green</u>	
Not stated & None	294	Not stated & None	232
All	9	All trees	5
Indigenous species	1	Along canals & roads	4
Oak trees	6	Native British trees	1
Trees subject of TPOs	1	Large trees	1
Maintenance needed	7	Oak and Ash	1
Other	27	Trees on farms cut down for logs	1
Total	345	Maintenance needed	2
		Other	12
		Total	259
<u>Mow Cop- Mt Pleasant</u>		<u>Odd Rode</u>	
Not stated & None	210	Not stated & None	736
All	2	All	16
Road side trees	1	Along canals & roads	5
Ash Oak	2	Indigenous species	2
		Large trees	1
		Oak and ash trees	9
Maintenance	1	Trees subject of TPOs	1
Other	10	Trees on farms cut down for logs	1
Total	226	Maintenance needed	10
		Other	49
		Total	830

It is unfortunate that nearly 90% of the returned questionnaires (736 out of 830) do not give any indication of the respondent's preference in this regard. The number of responses which do express a preference is therefore very small.

Among these a group state that all trees all over the parish are significant and should therefore presumably be listed.

Another group list 'Indigenous' species and species native to Britain as worthy of including in a list of significant trees and this group may be in agreement with those who list ash, oak and 'large trees'.

Respondents from Rode Heath refer to a number of cases where trees and especially their foliage are obscuring street lights and interfering with wires and generally needs cutting.

From Scholar Green respondents note that a number of trees especially along Church Lane are in danger of being strangulated by ivy.

One respondent refer to "two big trees diseased in Woodcock church yard".

Apart from general locations alongside canals and roads respondents refer to trees on village greens and in church yards as worthy of listing and also several smaller areas of

woodland for example by Woodland Road in Rode Heath, around St Luke’s Church in Mt Pleasant and behind The Spinney in Scholar Green.

Among individual trees referred to are the beech tree by the ‘Good Shepherd’ church in Rode Heath and the so-called ‘monkey puzzle tree’ in Cinderhill Lane by the former Doctor surgery.

Q 6.7 Would you favour a policy to encourage the replacement of amenity trees when they are diseased, damaged or have reached the end of their natural life?

Yes No

Some trees deteriorate over time and eventually die. Others are removed to make way for new developments. In both cases replacement needs to be considered.

It is seen from table 6.6 below that nearly 90% of respondents are in favour of replacement with little difference between the areas.

Table 6.6: Encourage replacement of amenity trees

	Rode Heath		Scholar Green		Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant		Odd Rode	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Not stated	21	6.09	18	6.98	15	6.70	54	6.53
Yes	302	87.54	228	88.37	200	89.29	730	88.27
No	22	6.38	12	4.65	9	4.02	43	5.20
Total	345	100	258	100	224	100	827	100

6.3 Hedgerows

Q 6.8 Do you support the protection of existing hedgerows in the parish?

Yes No

Hedgerows like trees are important parts of the landscape of our parish visually and in other ways. Hedgerows generally are listed as Priority Habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan

which will offer those within our Parish some protection if they can be shown to match the relevant definition including trees which are deemed to be part of a particular row.

Table 6.7: Support for protection of existing hedgerows.

	Rode Heath		Scholar Green		Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant		Odd Rode	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Not stated	16	4.64	7	2.71	8	3.57	31	3.75
Yes	312	90.43	239	92.64	211	94.20	762	92.14
No	17	4.93	12	4.65	5	2.23	34	4.11
Total	345	100	258	100	224	100	827	100

However, the protection of hedgerows as well as trees needs the support of the general public. It is seen (table 6.7) that in response to question 6.8 above, page 10, over 90% of the respondents confirm their support.

Q 6.9 Would you support the Parish Council to commission a survey of the significant hedgerows in the Parish?

Yes

No

Table 6.8: Support for the Parish Council commissioning a hedgerow survey.

	Rode Heath		Scholar Green		Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant		Odd Rode	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Not stated	26	7.54	20	7.75	19	8.48	65	7.86
Yes	261	75.65	204	79.07	180	80.36	645	77.99
No	58	16.81	34	13.18	25	11.16	117	14.15
Total	345	100	258	100	224	100	827	100

While respondents appear to be inclined to support the principle of protecting hedgerows they are decidedly less enthusiastic about the idea of commissioning a survey of hedgerows.

Table 6.8 above shows that within Mow Cop/Mt Pleasant only 80% of the respondents would support a survey while in other parts of the parish the proportion would be even smaller.

6.10 Are there any hedgerows that you know of and consider to be of particular value to the Parish, or that are at risk?

Table 6.9: Hedgerows of value or at risk

<u>Rode Heath</u>		<u>Scholar Green</u>	
None/No	311	None/No	233
All	10	All farmland hedgerows	1
		All roadside hedges	1
Canals & roadside Maintenance	9	Canalside	6
Millmead	3	Church Lane	4
Sandbach Rd	5	Cinderhill Lane	5
Other	11	Other	9
Total	354	Total	259
<u>Mow Cop- Mt Pleasant</u>		<u>Odd Rode</u>	
None/No	214	None/No	758
All	1	All	13
		Canals & roadside	15
		Maintenance	3
		Church Lane	4
		Cinderhill Lane	6
		Millmead	5
		Sandbach Road	5
Other	9	Other	29
Total	224	Total	838

As shown above a large 90% of the respondents declare themselves in support of protecting hedgerows a similar percentage (92% ~ 758 out of 827) are unwilling or unable to point to any particular hedgerow that needs protecting. The broad locations referred to in table 6.9 above are mostly the same as the location of trees referred to in table 6.6. However, two comments do need to be highlighted.

The first comment by a respondent from Scholar Green relates to the undeveloped area east of the newly created street, Elbourne Drive: "Ancient hedgerow, predating enclosure act, behind Elbourne Drive."

The comment seems to suggest this hedgerow is of historic significance and is at risk, but the writer cannot guarantee the veracity of either statement.

However, the comment neatly supports another comment from Rode Heath that there are 'several' hedgerows of value to the Parish and that they may be at risk. The respondent urges the Parish Council to "review all of them and issue a report".

6.4 Dry Stone Walls

Dry stone walls are a prominent feature of the landscape in some parts of the parish notably around Mow Cop and on the slopes leading down to Mt Pleasant and The Bank Village. Their function as fencing between paddocks separating land ownerships and different flocks of livestock is diminishing and landowners are failing to maintain the walls.

However, among the local population generally there is still a desire to protect dry stone walls as shown in the answers to question 6.11 as set out in table 6.10.

Q 6.11 Do you support the protection of existing dry stone walls in the parish?

Yes No

Table 6.10: Support for the protection of existing dry stone walls.

	Rode Heath		Scholar Green		Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant		Odd Rode	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Not stated	27	7.83	25	9.69	17	7.59	69	8.34
Yes	292	84.63	216	83.72	200	89.28	708	85.61
No	26	7.54	17	6.59	7	3.13	50	6.05
Total	345	100	258	100	224	100	827	100

It is noted that nearly 86% of the respondents overall are in support of protecting existing walls with a lower percentage of the respondents from Scholar Green (84%) and the highest among respondents from Mow Cop-Mt Pleasant (89%).

With sufficient support from the local residents the Parish Council may wish to commission a survey of all dry stone walls within our area alongside surveys of trees and hedgerows.

6.12 Would you support the Parish Council to commission a survey of the dry stone walls in the Parish?

Yes No

The answers to this question is set out in table 6.11 below and as before it is seen that support for such a survey is somewhat less than might be expected given the support for protecting these walls.

The support is greatest among respondents from Mow Cop-Mt Pleasant at 78% and smallest among respondents from Scholar Green at 72% and for the parish as a whole stand at 74%.

Table 6.11: Support for the Parish Council to commission a survey of dry stone walls

	Rode Heath		Scholar Green		Mow Cop/ Mt Pleasant		Odd Rode	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Not stated	38	11.01	37	14.34	27	12.05	102	12.33
Yes	252	73.05	187	72.48	175	78.13	614	74.24
No	55	15.94	34	13.18	22	9.82	111	13.42
Total	345	100	258	100	224	100	827	100

Q 6.13 Are there any dry stone walls that you know of and consider to be of particular value to the Parish, or that are at risk?

Table 6.9 (above page 12) shows there to be few specific suggestions from respondents in Mt Pleasant-Mow Cop of hedgerows of value or at risk since there is actually very few hedgerows within that part of the parish. However, the reverse is the case when it comes to suggestions of dry stone walls. These are plentiful within the Mt Pleasant-Mow Cop area, on the slopes leading up to the castle.

In answer to question 6.13, above, respondents have therefore seemingly listed every dry stone wall there is in that area and these suggestions by Mt Pleasant-Mow Cop residents are supported by residents from Scholar Green.

Specific suggestions worthy of note are references to the area round the castle (which itself is actually within Staffordshire!) and references to the walls around churches and chapels.

Many dry stone walls especially those in private fields are in a very poor condition and in need of attention if they are to be preserved and the person who made this suggestion for hedgerows (above page 12) also for dry stone walls urges the Parish Council to “review all of them and issue a report”.

Table 6.12: Dry stone walls of value or at risk.

<u>Rode Heath</u>		<u>Scholar Green</u>	
None/No	334	None/No	245
All	5	All	1
Canals	1	Canal bridges	2
		Canal towpaths	1
		Cinderhill Lane	3
		The Hollows	1
Mow Cop area	2	Mow Cop, top	1
		Sludge Wood	1
Old Knutsford Rd	1	Station Road-Spring Bank	1
		Walls round churches	4
Don't know	2	Woodcock Lane	1
		Maintenance	2
Total	345	Total	263
<u>Mow Cop-Mt Pleasant</u>		<u>Odd Rode Parish</u>	
None/No	191	None/No	770
All	2	All	8
		Canal bridges	3
		Canal towpaths	1
		Cinderhill Lane	3
The Hollow	3	The Hollows	4
Most dry stone walls	3	Most dry stone walls	3
Mow Cop, top	1	Mow Cop area	6
Mow Cop village	2	Sludge Wood	1
Station Road-Spring Bank	2	Station Road-Spring Bank	3
Stone bridge nr Moorson Ave	1	Stone bridge nr Moorson Ave	1
		Old Knutsford Rd	1
Walls round churches	8	Walls round churches	12
Woodcock Lane	4	Woodcock Lane	5
Woodcock Well School	3	Woodcock Well School	3
Maintenance	3	Maintenance	5
Other	3	Other	5
Total	226	Total	834