

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BRANCASTER PARISH  
COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL TRUST REGARDING THE VILLAGE GREEN  
INCLUDING THE HARD,  
BRANCASTER STAITHE

*“This is a non-binding, non-exclusive, mutually beneficial agreement. The parties wish to record the basis on which they will collaborate with each other on land management matters at the Village Green. This MoU sets out the intended objectives of the work, the principles of collaboration and the parties’ respective responsibilities and activities. It will provide a reference point for its duration.*

*This MoU does not imply any legal partnership, joint venture, or contract, nor does it affect each party’s ability to work with other parties. Neither party shall hold itself out as agent for the other party and neither party shall have authority to enter into any agreement or incur any liability or obligations on behalf of the other party at any time.”*

This replaces a former document dated September 2021, as a collaborative approach to the management of the Village Green, bringing clarity to the management and division of responsibilities.

The National Trust [NT] is the registered owner of the land. The NT operates with its own bye-laws and national policies and is responsible for all legal matters.

Agreed principles for the Village Green, based upon DEFRA guidance:

- Both NT & Brancaster PC would like to see improvements to the management of the area;
- Village Green is for use or enjoyment as a place of lawful exercise and recreation free of charge;
- Donations can be sought to contribute to maintain the Green;
- No major structures to be erected on the Village Green;
- No further deterioration of the Village Green to take place;
- Plan and undertake a joint project to improve the land on the east of Harbour Way;
- Ensure that no boats remain abandoned on the Green;
- People can drive over or park on the Green with lawful permission of the landowner;
- Additional parking should be provided if possible;
- The National Trust has to issue licences and ensure all safeguards are in place; Income generated will be used to offset costs for managing the Village Green for all users;
- Historic licences should be continued where possible, but licence fees will need to be tendered to reflect the market over the coming years.

- Organisation of the boats on the chain & other areas rolled-out from Summer 2023 & will be fully introduced in 2024 with a fee of £50 plus vat for non-parishioners to store a boat and/or trolley on NT land. Parishioners will not pay a fee but are encouraged to give a voluntary donation.

Management responsibilities:

The NT will:

- Provide toilets & arrange cleaning thereof;
- Repair chains and posts on the grass triangle;
- Organise legal processes for abandoned boats;
- Receive donations for maintenance of the area;
- Provide signage and Harbour leaflets;
- Report incidents if necessary to other agencies, e.g. Anglian Water;
- Arrange litter-picking and path weeding;
- Provide information for visitors primarily via onsite signage and maps and occasional staff on site;
- License third party operators;
- Undertake precautionary measures e.g. relating to surge tides;
- Organise and carry out repairs to the Hard and Gallows as needed;
- Request launching donations;
- Introduce and manage a new process for boats stored on NT land;
- Manage development that has the potential to impact the village green from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties and inform Parish Council clerk.
- Liaise with the Parish over maintenance and project plans, seeking feedback and gaining support from the Parish for works.

It should be noted that the NT provide staff who operate within the area.

Brancaster Parish Council undertakes to:

- Own and maintain the existing bench;
- Arrange grass cutting of the triangle;
- Provide and manage one dog waste bin;
- Supply and maintain tree guard, plaque and circular bench around Coronation tree;
- Supply and light a Christmas tree with solar lighting/ leisure battery and ensure tree is secure and safe.
- Maintain Village sign and associated planting.

Jointly NT and BPC will:

- Continue a dialogue on joint aspirations for the Green.

- After donations, boat storage fees & income from 3rd party licensees on the Hard is deducted, share the remaining outstanding cost of repairs to the Hard and the Gallows at a split to be agreed.

Future changes:

- Any significant changes will be discussed between the two organisations;
- NT representatives will be welcome to give a report to Council on request;
- This MoU will last until November 1st, 2026, and will be reviewed annually thereafter.

This MoU does not cover anything related to Common land adjacent to the Hard hence does not cover the water-covered harbour. Brancaster Parish Council are represented on the Brancaster Commons Committee.

The MoU covers VGs 47 & 63 as outlined on the attached map.

Signed on behalf of the National Trust:

Name

Role

Signed on behalf of Brancaster Parish Council (agreed at meetings on )

Name

Role Parish Clerk Date

Annex 1 — map

