

# Southampton Airport in the Community

## Autumn 2021

I #Love  
Southampton  
Airport



### Dear Councillor,

At Southampton Airport, we are proud to be part of the communities we serve. As a regional airport, we are deeply committed to being a responsible and supportive neighbour. To ensure our responsiveness to local views, our leadership reports regularly to the Southampton Airport Consultative Committee.

Our staff also maintain long-term relationships with local community groups and organisations across Eastleigh and Southampton, including at Bitterne Park School, where we maintain a long-term commitment to its governing board. We also help facilitate Southampton University's Open Days by opening our car parks for Uni Link buses.

We also support a number of events for the local community on our site, such as the Horrible Histories Car Park Panto, due to take place on Christmas Eve this year.

In this community newsletter, we thought you would like to see some of the ways in which Southampton Airport has supported your communities in recent months.

If you have any questions, or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us via [soufeedback@southamptonairport.com](mailto:soufeedback@southamptonairport.com).

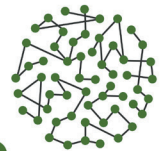


Airport staff supporting Youth Options

### Supporting Youth Options

This summer, Southampton Airport's team rolled up their sleeves to help Youth Options get their new Outdoor Learning Centre in Eastleigh ready for a formal opening in July.

Youth Options seeks to support young people grow in confidence, improve their wellbeing, and manage the stresses and anxiety of modern life by helping them connect and engage with nature. We were pleased to support the work they are doing, and you can find out more about them at [youthoptions.org.uk](http://youthoptions.org.uk).



## NAVIGATOR QUARTER

### Backing the Solent Freeport

Southampton Airport is playing a leading role in delivering the Solent Freeport vision. Having backed the original bid, AGS Airports (owner of Southampton Airport) has formed a partnership with Diageo Pension Trust and Network Rail to bring forward **Navigator Quarter**, a new industrial and employment zone to the north and north-east of the runway. Southampton Airport is essential to Navigator Quarter, as access would be gained via a new road around the northern perimeter of the airfield.

Navigator Quarter will be one of three designated Tax Sites within the Solent Freeport where businesses can benefit from tax reliefs to incentivise investment and boost employment. This is a fantastic opportunity, as it will support **significant new job creation in Eastleigh, with benefits felt across the wider Central South region.**

Sustainability is a core objective of Navigator Quarter, and a leading architect has been appointed to lead on a masterplan that puts this front-and-centre. A planning application seeking permission for the road infrastructure and outline consent for the site is expected in early 2022, with construction anticipated in 2023.

Site development will also present an opportunity to improve non-vehicular access between the centre of Eastleigh to Swaythling and potentially even directly to One Horton Heath following the railway.

### COVID-19 Response



Southampton Airport and its staff have also played an important role in our region's response to the worst pandemic in our lifetimes.

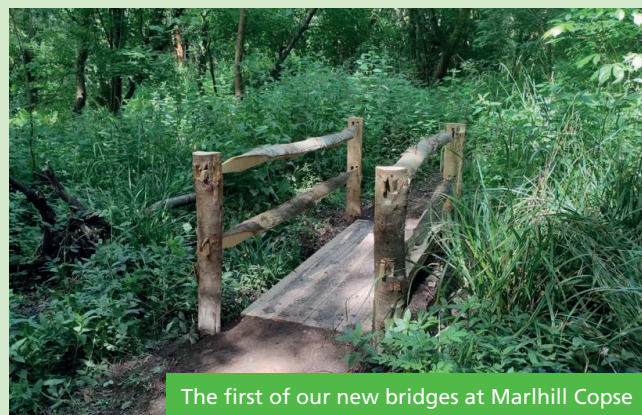
Despite all the difficulties faced, the airport remained open throughout the global crisis, supporting a number of critical operations, including lifeline flights to the Channel Islands.

Throughout the pandemic, our long-stay car park has been used as an NHS Covid Test Site for AntiGen and PCR testing.

## Working with the community at Marlhill Copse

Marlhill Copse is an impressive and much-loved part of Southampton's historic and natural environment. The 8.31-hectare copse in an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, a Registered Park and Garden, and a valued habitat site.

As stewards of this local treasure, we are **committed to enhancing community access throughout the woodland**. As part of this, in May 2021 we installed a locally designed and fabricated bridge over a running stream on the minor footpaths. This is the first of a series of small bridges that form part of a wider plan to encourage circular walking routes through and around the Copse.



The first of our new bridges at Marlhill Copse

## Marking World Environment Day

In June, Southampton Airport arranged a series of community events to mark World Environment Day 2021 – a United Nations' initiative to encourage biodiversity enhancements and promote ecosystem restoration.

### Woodland Walk

Working in partnership with Townhill Park Residents' Association (TPRA), SO18 Big Local, and local housing association Abri, Southampton Airport arranged a guided nature walk through Marlhill Copse, led by local woodland expert Hugh Milner.

Hugh offered residents a tour through the best habitat sites in the Copse. His talk focused on the importance of the UN's ambition for ecological and habitat restoration – and how this can be delivered locally.

### Nature photography competition

To celebrate the extraordinary biodiversity at Marlhill, we partnered with the local community groups to organise a photography competition to capture the best of nature in the Copse.

We received a wonderful range of pictures from local residents – with the winning entry submitted by Frances from Southampton for her photograph of Marlhill bluebells.

### Family Quiz

To help educate and engage local children about nature at Marlhill, we also organised a summer quiz this year, open to families across the area and advertised to the local community groups.

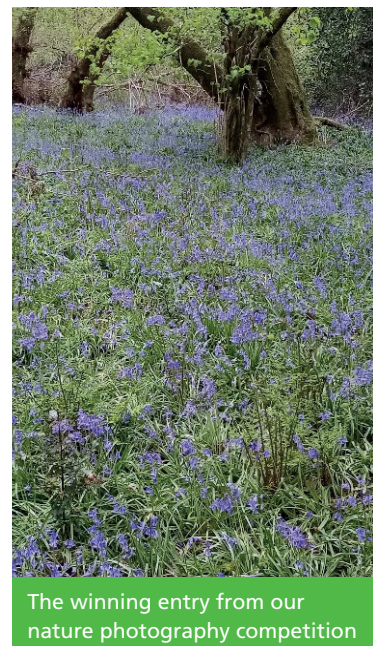
Five clues about wildlife and plant life in the Copse were placed around the woodland, with prizes given to successful entrants.



Local residents on our Woodland Walk



Marlhill Copse Family Quiz Summer 2021



The winning entry from our nature photography competition

If you would like more information on Southampton Airport's work in the local community, or would like to ask any questions, please contact our communications team via [soufeedback@southamptonairport.com](mailto:soufeedback@southamptonairport.com).

To find out more about Marlhill Copse, visit our website – [southamptonairport.com/marlhillcopse](https://southamptonairport.com/marlhillcopse) – or contact our project team via [marlhill@southamptonairport.com](mailto:marlhill@southamptonairport.com).