

Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2020 - 2024



Version 4



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Revision History

Version	Date issued	Summary of changes
1	4 September 2020	Adopted version
2	December 2021	Updated part 3, annual action plan for 2021 created
3	January 2022	Updated part 3, and appendix 7 asset list, created annual action plan for 2022
4	November 2022	Updated Tables 2 and 10 changed outgoing concession Its all dog fun to Positive Paws and added Nordic walking a new concession this year. Amended title of Its all dog fun to Positive Paws in Part 1. Amended constraining factors list as above. Changed title User Panel to public engagement in content list amended, Part 1 changed to reflect the change and the newsletter. Added model boating to sailing club section in Part 1. Removed wording stating that all publications are available online to reflect new website and policy in Part 1. Amended staff structure to reflect transfer of Leybourne Lakes Country Park. In Part 1 Social media amended to include Facebook in the text. Part 1 compartment 8, removal of grass cuttings deleted as there is no long access for machinery to this area of land. Created annual action plan for 2023. Searched for incorrect dates in the plan as reported by the judge in the 2022 feedback report.

Foreword

Haysden Country Park is one of the council's 'flagship' open spaces, and is a great asset to the town of Tonbridge and beyond. The country park was opened to the public in 1988 and boasts, a mature and diverse landscape, a wide variety of community involvement, high visitor numbers and many established clubs.

The previous five-year management plan was vital in steering the direction of the sites development and key to successfully attracting external grant funding, achieving the prestigious Green Flag Award, and securing Country Park Accreditation. Over the past five years the park has seen over £195,000 of investment including, the Barden Lake improvements, enlargement of the children's play area, and a new car park extension.

Looking forward this will be the fourth consecutive management plan for the park and comes at a time when the park is well established, although faces increased pressures and challenges through its varied and increasing use. The plan also takes into consideration environmental sustainability and will need to be implemented alongside the Council's developing Climate Change Strategy.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is committed to preserving and developing this valued public asset, and I am confident that this plan will drive this forward.

I am extremely grateful to all the volunteers and officials who help make Haysden Country Park what it is today, for all our enjoyment.

Cllr Mark Rhodes

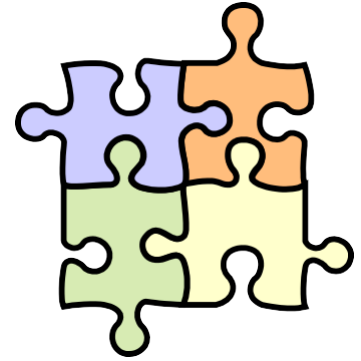
Cabinet Member for Community Services

GUIDANCE NOTES

The following notes have been prepared to help guide you through and understand the Management Plan. Section headings are highlighted below along with descriptions of their relevance within the overall plan.

Part 1 – *Where are we now?*

The first section describes the current situation, at the time the plan was written. It is an introduction and advises on the current facilities and their management.



Part 2 - *Where do we want to get to?*

This section of the plan describes our vision for the park and sets out our management aims and objectives.



Part 3 – *How will we get there?*

This section sets out how we are going to achieve our aims. A five-year Work Programme sets our long-term targets and Annual Action Plans, focusing on each year, will flow from this.



Part 4 – *How will we know when we have arrived?*

The final section of the plan looks at how we will track progress and how the plan might be updated.



CONTENTS

	Page
Part 1 - Where are we now?	
1.0 Introduction and background to Haysden Country Park.....	1
The role of the management plan	
Overall aim	
Policy context	
Green Flag Award	
Country Park Accreditation Scheme	
Local Nature Reserve	
2.0 A welcoming place.....	5
Location	
Entrances	
Land use	
Accessibility	
Links to the wider countryside	
Formal recreation	
Informal recreation	
3.0 Healthy, safe and secure.....	9
Health and safety	
Site staffing	
Personal Protective Equipment	
Water Safety Policy	
Children's play area	
Bridge inspections	
Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)	
Tree safety inspections	
Civil enforcement officers	
4.0 Well maintained and clean.....	11
Grounds maintenance	
Building and asset maintenance	
Equipment maintenance	
Land drainage and flooding	
Maintenance of habitats and landscape	
5.0 Environmental management	17
Corporate policy	
Procurement	
Timber	

CONTENTS

	Page
Renewable supply chains	
ISO 14001	
Green waste	
Soils and hardcore	
Sewage disposal	
Stainable urban drainage	
6.0 Management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage.....	19
Site History	
Habitat and landscape structure	
Habitats of importance	
Surveys	
Topography features and soils	
7.0 Community involvement.....	27
Visitor surveys	
Haysden Country Park User Panel	
Concessions and clubs	
Volunteering	
Consultation on the management plan	
8.0 Marketing and communication	33
Marketing strategy aim	
Publications	
Interpretation	
Country park webpage	
Social media	
Events	
9.0 Management	35
Management structure	
Out of hours	
Staff training	
Contractors	
Stakeholders	
Country park budget	
External funding	
Rules	
Public space protection orders	
Compartments	

CONTENTS

	Page
10.0 Constraint Factors and SWOT Analysis.....	43
Constraining factors	
Strengths weakness opportunities and threats (SWOT)	
Conclusion	

Part 2 - Where do you want to get to?

11.0 Management plan overall aim.....	49
The overall aim	
Objectives	

Part 3 - How will we get there?

12.0 Five Year Work Programme.....	51
13.0 Annual Action Plans.....	51

Part 4 - How will we know when we have arrived?

14.0 Monitoring progress.....	69
Accreditation	
Annual management plan review	
End of plan review	

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	- Location map
Appendix 2	- Master plan
Appendix 3	- Entrance accessibility
Appendix 4	- Access audit
Appendix 5	- Legal aspects map
Appendix 6	- Example risk assessment
Appendix 7	- Asset list
Appendix 8	- Chemicals used at the park
Appendix 9	- Habitat characteristics and species composition
Appendix 10	- Land tenure map
Appendix 11	- Country Park budget
Appendix 12	- Annual action plan (not present in this copy)
Appendix 13	- Interpretation and marketing plan

CONTENTS

TABLES

	Page
Table 1 - List of policy guidance	3
Table 2 - List of formal recreation	7
Table 3 - Grounds maintenance summary	11
Table 4 - Building and asset management	12
Table 5 - Maintenance of habitats and landscape	15
Table 6 - Key habitats present in the park	22
Table 7 - Key species present in the park	23
Table 8 - Timetable for consultation	30
Table 9 - Typical annual events and projects	34
Table 10 - List of stakeholders for the park	37
Table 11 - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats	46
Table 12 - Five Year Work Programme	55

Acknowledgements

All those consulted about this Plan.

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Other documents referred to in this plan

Market survey Haysden Country Park 2018, Water Safety Strategy Haysden Country Park, and Ranger led activities,

Part 1 Where are we now?

The first section of the plan describes the current situation at the time the plan was written. It is an introduction to Haysden Country Park and provides details on the current facilities, and their management.



1.0 – Introduction and background to Haysden Country Park



Haysden Country Park covers an area of approximately 65 hectares (161 acres) in the Medway Valley, to the west of Tonbridge, and encompasses a range of habitats including river, grassland, freshwater lakes, marshland and woodland (see Location map **Appendix 1**).

The park stretches from Barden Lake at its eastern end, westwards to Haysden Water, with the River Medway running along the northern extremes of the site. The park's most prominent features of interest are the two lakes, both former gravel workings, along with the Environment Agency's Leigh Flood Relief Barrier, that provides a crucial role in the protection of Tonbridge from the threat of flooding.

The park is well used by the local community for dog walking, picnics, watching wildlife and other informal recreational activities. Sailing by club members on Haysden Water and regulated fishing are also popular activities within the park.

The site is predominantly owned and managed by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, but Network Rail, the Highways Agency and the Environment Agency, all have property crossing the park. (see **Appendix 5**).

In 2006 Haysden was the first park in the Borough to achieve the Green Flag Award and has retained the annual award ever since.

The park also became an 'accredited country park' in 2010 under Natural England's scheme and retains this title.

The role of the management plan

The park's first management plan was adopted sixteen years ago in 2004, and so this plan will be the fourth, five-year management plan for the park. This new plan starts in January 2020. The plan has been created to give direction to the future management of the park for both the public and the Council. It is intended that this document is used as a management tool, and will provide the basis for the maintenance and development of the site. It will be used to guide current site management and play an integral role in future projects and decisions relating to the park.

The previous management plan 2015-2019, has been very successful in delivering projects with over £195,000 of investments in the park, over the 5 year life of the plan. The management plan has been vital when applying for grant funding, achieving the Green Flag Award and country park accreditation, attracting sponsorship, and setting out our intentions. Some projects are ongoing and have been included in this new plan. Some key investments that have been secured and delivered from the last plan are listed below, a full list of achievements can be found in **Appendix 11b**.

- 2016 Barden Lake near end improvements £50,000
- 2016 New play equipment and improvements to the play area £50,000
- Ongoing Barden Lake revetments and planting scheme so far £4,700
- 2018 Cycle route improvements £11,000
- 2018 Car park extension £28,000

Overall aim

To provide a country park that offers a welcoming place for recreational use that is compatible with its nature conservation features, ensuring the sites integrity is maintained for the benefit of the local community. A balance is to be achieved between all key elements and none shall, within reason, dominate others.

Policy context

The plan has also been developed to take into account where relevant, the local policy/guidance listed in **Table 1**. This includes the Council's Vision and Core Values, for example: The Council's vision for the next three years is: To be a financially sustainable Council that delivers good value services, provides strong and clear leadership and, with our partners, addresses the needs of our Borough. We will be guided in the delivery of the above vision by the following Core Values: Taking a business-like approach; Promoting fairness; Embracing effective partnership working; Valuing our environment and Encouraging sustainable growth. This is a summary of the core values, more details can be found in the Council's Corporate Strategy. The Council is currently developing a Climate Change Strategy, and these initiatives will need to be taken into consideration in future revisions of this plan.

Table 1: Policy Guidance Documents

Policy or Guidance Documentation
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Haysden Country Park - Water Safety Strategy and Policy
Kent Nature Partnership - Kent Biodiversity 2020 and beyond - A Strategy for the Natural Environment 2015 - 2025
Standards of the Green Flag Award Scheme
Standards of the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services - Departmental service delivery plan 2019-20 - 2023-2024
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Council's Corporate Strategy
Tonbridge and Malling Borough - Councils Climate Change Strategy
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils - Digital Strategy
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Tree Safety Strategy
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Savings and Transformation Strategy
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Open Space Strategy
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Open Spaces Equality Impact Assessment
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Local Development Framework/ Local Plan
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Sustainable Procurement Strategy
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - Procurement Strategy

Green Flag Award

This is the national and international award scheme now organised by the Green Flag Award consortium, setting the minimum standard for the quality for green spaces of all types. To find out more see their website www.greenflagaward.co.uk The plan has been written using the Green Flag Award criteria which are used to judge the award.

- A welcoming place
- Healthy safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Environmental management
- Management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing & communication
- Management



There is some crossover between the award criteria and this should be considered when reading the document.

Country Park Accreditation Scheme

Set up in 2009 by the government body 'Natural England', the scheme aims to 'identify and recognise those sites that deliver the core facilities and services expected of Country Parks'. Haysden Country Park was entered in the first tranche and has achieved accreditation since that time. The



judging criteria for this scheme are all evidence based and are similar to the Green Flag Award, one key element is having a management plan (there are others); and so this plan has also been tailored to meet the needs of this Scheme; this will also give us some new criteria to drive us forward, more details can be found on the government website www.gov.uk/government/publications/accredited-country-parks-in-england

Local Nature Reserve

The park was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2008. The Natural England publication 'Local Nature Reserves in England: A guide to their selection and declaration' provides more details. As a Local Nature Reserve and as part of the agreement any new management plans need to be submitted to Natural England. Visitor standards for Local Nature Reserves are in some cases subdivided into to themes with 'expected' and 'desirable' criteria. The main headings are listed below:

The evaluation overleaf considers 'where we are now', using the Green Flag Award criteria as main headings, but also covers criteria from the Country Parks Accreditation, and Local Nature Reserve designation as appropriate.

Location and size	Links to local communities and neighbourhoods
Accessibility	Management
Character	Activities
Facilities	Information and interpretation

2.0 – A welcoming place

Location

Haysden Country Park is located to the west of Tonbridge, in Kent (see **Appendix 1**).

Ordnance Survey National Grid reference TQ569459

Grid Reference Latitude 51.18697 Longitude 0.24355

Nearest postcode TN11 9BE (note there is no post box)



Entrances

All vehicular and pedestrian access points have been highlighted on the Master Plan (**Appendix 2**).

Land use

Internal land use can be found within compartment descriptions (Section 9) or alternatively, on the Master Plan (**Appendix 2**). Externally the site is surrounded predominantly by farmland with residential properties (Barden Park) located to the east.

Accessibility

The Council's Open Spaces Equality Impact Assessment, is a borough-wide assessment that sets down the principles that open spaces are safe and accessible for the local community and visitors of the Borough. A site specific access audit is carried out at the park every five years, the first of these was undertaken in 2003. Over the years a number of improvements have been implemented as a result of the audits; undertaking these audits has also improved our understanding of the needs of our visitors. Changes to the park include: providing an easy access route map, providing more seats, bridge, path, toilet building and car park improvements. The last audit was undertaken in 2019 (**Appendix 4**) and this will be implemented during the period of this plan. The park has disabled toilets, parking, lake viewing area, fishing platforms, and a 'Walks for All' easy access route is a walk map of the park which is available via the webpage.

Access by bus - Route 211 is an infrequent service that stops at Alders Meadow. This is a short walk ($\frac{1}{8}$ mile) along a public footpath to the eastern entrance through Audley Rise car park; this bus service also stops in Brook Street about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the main entrance.

Bus Routes 7 and 402 stop in Quarry Hill Road (Springwell Road), about one mile walk along the public footpath in Brook Street and then along the highway in Lower Haysden Lane. More details of bus stops and times can be found on the website www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

Access by rail – Haysden Country Park is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Tonbridge Station and this offers direct connections from London Charing Cross and Ashford.

Access by road - The main car park is situated just off Brook Street in Lower Haysden Lane, 1½ miles from Tonbridge town centre. Public car parking (for approximately 100 cars) is available from this main entrance. There is also limited parking for oversize vehicles outside the height barriers, at the main entrance and at Haysden Water car park. Height barriers are set at two metres in height. Roads are signposted from Railway Approach to the north and from the south via Quarry Hill Road. Smaller car parks serve the Sailing Club at Haysden Water (lake) and Audley Avenue. Car parks are highlighted on the Master Plan (**Appendix 2**). Car park charges were introduced in July 2008, with payment options of cash, pay by phone, or an annual season ticket.



The gates at the main vehicular entrance on Lower Haysden Lane are locked overnight. The gates are opened at 7.30am each morning and closed on a seasonal basis each evening, at no later than 9pm; there are signs indicating the closing times at the main entrance.

Access by foot – The park can be accessed on foot along a number of paths and roads. The road Audley Avenue has a footpath leading to the Barden Lake end of the park; but no footpath exists along the highway in Lower Haysden Lane, towards the main entrance.



Definitive Public Rights of Way - There are good connections to a number of designated footpaths that cross the park (MU25, MU26, MU26A, MU27, MU28, MU46, MU48 and MU5), along with three designated bridleways (MU47, MU51 and MU60). The promoted routes of The Eden Valley Walk, and Weald Way utilise existing footpaths within the park. For further details on Public Rights of Way see **Appendix 5**.

Access by bicycle – The mainly off-road cycle route (Regional Cycle Route 12) between Tonbridge Castle and Penshurst can be used to visit the park. The cycle path provides access from Tonbridge town centre, via Haysden Country Park, and continues to Penshurst Place. Information has been published about this route and is available on the website www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP



Cyclists can also visit the Country Park from Tonbridge town centre / railway station via Barden Road / Avebury Avenue through to the Audley Rise entrance. There is an alternative route visiting from south of Tonbridge, using the cycle path along Brook Street, and Lower Haysden Lane.

Cycle stands have been provided in the park by the toilets.

Part 1 Where are we now?

By boat - The park can be accessed by passenger boat which operates to and from the Big Bridge at Tonbridge Castle. For bookings and details of the service see their website <http://www.tonbridgerivertrips.co.uk/>

Links to the wider countryside

The park has a number of footpaths that lead out into the wider countryside and users are also encouraged to explore the footpaths on the public rights of way network.

One of the walks under the Health Walks Scheme runs from the park. The park is connected by a cycle and footpath along the river Medway to the adjoining Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground public open space.

Formal recreation

The park is used for a number of sports including sailing, running, horse riding, angling and triathlon swimming training (see the community involvement section for more details).

Table 2: List of formal recreation

	Concessions	Season of Use
	Nordic walking	Year round (weekly)
	Positive Paws (dog training)	Year round (weekly)
	parkrun	Year round (weekly)
	Tonbridge and District Angling and Fish Preservation Society	Year round
	Tonbridge Town Sailing Club	March to November
	Tonbridge River Trips (passenger service)	Easter to September
	Tri Swim	May to September (weekly)
	Underdogs fly ball training	Year round (weekly)
	Willards America Food company (caterer)	Year round (daily)



Informal recreation

The park is well used by the local community and has:

- Large equipped children's play area;
- Many surfaced paths for walking;
- Picnic areas and;
- Opportunities to improve the understanding of the natural world.



Catering – A cafeteria service is contracted to a commercial company. The cafeteria concession offers homemade hot and cold food and drink, and is very popular with visitors to the park.

Toilets – Separate male, female, and disabled toilets are located near the main car park. Baby changing is available in the disabled toilet so that it is accessible for use by both males and females, and as there is insufficient room to have these in both male and female toilets.

The Sailing Club has its own facilities for members only, at their clubhouse.

Paths – The park has an extensive path network around the site. The majority are surfaced, but there is also a network of unmade paths. The 'Walks for All' 'Easy Access Route' around Barden Lake has a map available for visitors. All paths are marked on the main leaflet, and some directional signage is present in the park but these routes are not graded or waymarked.

Seating – The park contains a large number of seats and picnic benches (**Appendix 7**), many of which are accessible (with backs and arms), and have been donated by members of the public. A leaflet has been published which advises the public on how to sponsor a seat and is available at the park, from the Council offices and from the Council's website. The style of seat illustrated here is now the preferred standard seat; this has arms and a back to assist less able people. We are now installing all new seats on concrete bases. Picnic tables are also provided at various locations around the park, many of these are also accessible. In the above mentioned sponsorship leaflet, picnic tables are also available to sponsor by the public. The style of picnic table illustrated here is the standard design we now prefer to install in the park.



3.0 – Healthy, safe & secure

Health and safety

The Council has an overall health and safety policy statement and policies are also sought from all major contractors working at the park.

Risk assessments - The Council also has a suite of generic risk assessments with specific assessments being sought from individual contractors and all event organisers. See example of a risk assessment in **Appendix 6**.

Code of practice - The park has a code of practice for health and safety which covers the responsibilities, emergency procedures, methods of working and procedures.

Incident reporting - The Incident Report Form IR1, is used by staff to record incidents and accidents. The completed forms are circulated upwards to the manager and signed off by the Council's Health and Safety Officer. Appropriate action is then taken, if necessary, depending on the type of incident and the urgency.

Workplace health and safety inspection -The park has routine inspections carried out by the Council's Health and Safety Officer to check on aspects of health and safety.

Public open space inspections - A health and safety site inspections are carried out in phases around the whole site by Council officers over the course of the year.

Site monitoring - As part of the management of contractors, Council officers monitor health and safety aspects routinely visiting the site to inspect work and the condition of the park. Officers are empowered to stop unsafe work, fence off areas and take other remedial actions to keep the public safe.

Site staffing

The Council's Leisure Services Officer monitors site maintenance and oversees the site management. A ranger patrols the site, oversees work and enforces aspects such as dog and litter control, liaising with the public and assisting with events. The rangers wear a uniform so that they can easily be identified by the public.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

This is issued to staff and supplied to volunteers as identified within risk assessments. Contractors must also supply PPE to their staff as identified within their own risk

assessments; this aspect is also monitored by Council staff.

Water safety policy

The Council has an overarching Water Safety Policy to address the issue of public safety around inland water bodies at outdoor leisure sites. A Water Safety Strategy was developed for the site; both the overall Policy and Strategy have been written in liaison with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Children's play area

Safety inspections of all play equipment are carried out by qualified Registered Play Inspectors, see **Table 3** for details.

Bridge inspections

Safety inspections of bridges are carried out by qualified engineers, only some bridges in the park, are the direct responsibility of the Council, see **Table 4**.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)

The Council staff have developed links with the Police and Police Community Support Officers in order that they can offer assistance when available. The PCSOs also carry out independent patrols of the site.

Tree safety inspections

The Council's Tree Safety Strategy outlines the need for regular inspection of mature trees see **Table 3**.

Civil and environmental enforcement officers

These officers patrol the car parks and can issue penalty notices for parking contraventions, littering and Public Space Protection Order offences.

4.0 – Well maintained and clean

Grounds maintenance

Maintenance tasks at the park are, with only a few exceptions are specified within the Council’s Ground Maintenance Contract. All activity conforms to the appropriate legislation through procurement, vetting of contractors and monitoring of contractors. The contract details all tasks that are to be carried out, highlighting both frequency and quality requirements. Due to the scale of the contract it would be inappropriate to incorporate this into this plan in any great detail, however, some of the key tasks have been summarised in **Table 3**, along with other maintenance tasks. Weekly meetings are held between the Parks Officers and the contractor’s foreman, to review progress and plan for the week ahead, including variations to the work programme. The staff undertake and record inspections of grounds maintenance contract and monitor all aspects.

Table 3: Grounds maintenance summary		
Maintenance Area	Description of Operations	Who
Litter control	All litter bins are checked and emptied twice a week.	Grounds contractor
	Litter bins are washed monthly.	
	The ranger carries out additional litter picking as required.	
	Fines for littering can be issued by various staff under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.	Council
	Trade waste bins are emptied weekly.	Grounds contractor
Fly tipping and posters	These are removed as soon as practical. Fines can be issued to offenders.	Council
Dog bins	Dog bins are emptied once a week.	Waste contractor
Dog control	Public Open Space Protection Order (Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014) cover all of the aspects previously covered under the Dog Control Orders. More details can be found in Section 9.	Council and Dog Warden
	Bag and flag days and responsible dog ownership days are held periodically to highlight to dog owners the need to bag up waste and to control their dogs.	Council
Graffiti control	Graffiti is controlled by prompt painting over or removal. The Council has set targets to remove offensive graffiti within 24 hours and other graffiti within 28 days.	Council
Park furniture	All park benches, picnic seats and bins are checked and washed monthly and re-painted annually if required.	Grounds contractor
	Surrounding overhanging vegetation is cleared and removed as required.	Grounds contractor

Part 1 Where are we now?

Life buoys	Lifebuoys are inspected weekly and a written report made.	Council
Surface water drains	Cleaned annually if required.	Council
Pest control	A number of pest monitoring stations are located around the high usage areas of the park. A written report is made.	Contractor
	Leigh barrier rabbit control.	Contractor
Playground	The playground equipment is inspected weekly by the grounds staff and a written report made.	Grounds contractor
	An annual independent inspection report	Contractor
	Routine repairs are instructed as required	Council
	A programme of capital renewals of all play equipment is in place.	Council
Paths and bridleway route	Overhanging vegetation is cut back as required.	Grounds contractor

Building and asset management

Table 4 lists the various buildings and assets and their management. The Council has a planned maintenance programme for building work that is implemented by the Council's Property Services department. This includes aspects like internal and external decoration, routine maintenance and urgent repairs. The only exception to this is the leased sailing club area. An asset list can be found at **Appendix 7**.

Table 4: Building and asset management

Asset	Description of task	Who
Public toilets and building	The toilets and building are cleaned, and consumables replaced twice a day during the school summer holidays and once a day at other times of year. Written inspections are made.	Contractor
	Sanitary bins emptying.	Contractor
	The cleanliness standards and replacement of consumables are inspected.	Council
	Electrical PAT testing is undertaken every 1-4 years depending on the appliance, and fixed wiring tests are undertaken every 5 years.	Council
	Water temperature checks are undertaken monthly.	Council
	The toilets are locked at night.	Gatekeeper
	Building repairs are reported as seen, and work ordered as necessary. An annual building condition inspection is undertaken when the Council's building repair plan is reviewed.	Council

Part 1 Where are we now?

Bridges and paths	All bridges and paths are inspected as part of regular health and safety inspections. Bridge defects if found by the Council and in the ownership of the Council, repaired as they arise, if not they are reported to the owner. Paths are regularly inspected and surface repairs carried out in rotation as required.	Council, or KCC for Public Rights of Way
Car parks and A21 area	Litter picking is carried out 12 times a year.	Grounds contractor
Gates and barriers	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
Signs	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
Interpretation signage	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
Dipping platform	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
Jetty at Barden Lake	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
Landing stage	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
	Cutting back of overhanging vegetation at all times.	Grounds contractor
	Sweeping steps	Council
Compound area	The store area is inspected for safety periodically.	Council
Sewage treatment plant	The sewage system is checked for operation monthly.	Council
	The tank is emptied 4 times a year and serviced or as required depending on demand.	Contractor
Shipping container store	Periodic checks for security and building repairs.	Rangers and volunteers
Car parks	Managed directly by the Council's car parking section. Machines checked daily, in the car parks.	Council & contractor
	Car parking machine servicing and inspection.	Contractor
	Sweep surface and remove debris including along the drive, carried out twice, once in November and once in March.	Grounds contractor
	Herbicide application is carried out annually	Grounds contractor
	Winter maintenance is carried out as needed.	Council

Car parks	The main entrance is opened and locked closed daily. Opening time 7.30am, closing times before dusk and vary but no later than 9pm. All car parks have height barriers. Restricted access to Haysden Water to sailing club members and authorised persons only.	Gatekeeper
	Entrances are inspected on a regular basis and as part of the car park inspections. Repairs are undertaken as necessary.	Council
Fishing platforms	These are inspected as part of the annual checks.	Council
Catering building	Inspected as part of the routine Food Hygiene inspections.	Council
	Recorded inspections undertaken bi annually. Food Hygiene standard certification issued.	Council
	Building maintenance.	Catering contractor
Sailing club buildings and compound	Periodic building inspections, as part of the Work Place Health and Safety Inspections.	Council
	Maintenance and building repairs.	Sailing club
	Sewage tank emptying.	Sailing club

Equipment maintenance

Most machinery is owned by the grounds maintenance contractor is maintained by them. All machinery has daily checks. All equipment conforms to health and safety standards and staff are fully trained in its operation. Council staff carry out ad-hoc inspections of ground maintenance operations.

Equipment owned by the Council and volunteers is inspected and maintained by them. The ranger also undertakes pre-use checks of equipment.

Land drainage and flooding

As the park is within the flood plain of the River Medway, and has a high water table, the management and maintenance of drainage channels and culverts are an important aspect of the parks management. There are a number of culverts under the railway line that are the responsibility of Network Rail; these should drain rainwater from the watershed on the northern side of the railway line into the River Medway.

Haysden Water (which is located behind the Leigh Flood Barrier) and the immediate surrounds are classed as a 'reservoir' and, at times when the river water levels are high, this area is used to impound (store) flood water for periods of time.

Maintenance of habitats and landscape

These aspects are monitored by the staff. **Table 5** below notes this programme of works.

Table 5: Maintenance of habitats and landscape		
Task	Description of task	Who
Lakes and ponds	Cleared of litter and floating debris monthly.	Council
	Maintain the lakes and ponds to stop the water becoming fully overgrown with vegetation.	Volunteers and contractors if required
River, streams and ditches	Fishing swims checked monthly and keep culverts clear of vegetation, swims maintained by the Society.	Grounds contractor for checks and culverts Angling Society for swim maintenance
	Ditch vegetation maintained by removing vegetation and accumulation of leaves annually.	Council as when required
	Removing vegetation and silt from the ditch and river periodically to improve the flow of water.	Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board
	Cleared of litter and floating debris.	Council and volunteers
Grassland margins and scrub	Scrub trimmed back to prevent encroachment onto paths	Grounds contractor
Hedgerows	The hedges are cut twice a year; the timing of the cuts will be dependant on plant species and the bird nesting season.	Grounds contractor
	Some boundaries have trees that were once hedgerows; these boundaries will be progressively reinstated using hedge laying and planting, as resources allow, to restore a continuous boundary.	Volunteers

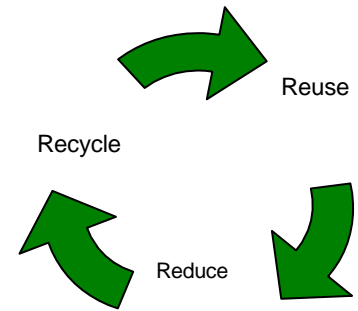
Part 1 Where are we now?

The Shallows Meadow, Kissing Gate and River Medway Meadows	Mown and cuttings removed twice a year, once in July and once in September.	Grounds contractor
Water meadow	Mown and cuttings removed once a year in September.	Grounds contractor
	Scrub is to be periodically removed from all of the meadow areas when it reaches no more than 10%.	Volunteers
Barden Lake grasslands	The majority of this area is cut twice a year, once in July and again in early September. (The near area is covered with the amenity mowing below.)	Grounds contractor
Amenity grass areas	Mow on 18 occasions a year, to maintain grass between the height of 50-100mm.	Grounds contractor
Stone Lock	Cut on three occasions a year, once in April, July and October.	Grounds contractor
Pathways	Paths and edges of paths are cut to prevent longer grass area blocking paths.	Grounds contractor
Trees and woodland	Expert trees inspections undertaken of mature trees every 3 years.	Grounds contractor
	Basic tree inspections of mature trees are undertaken in all other years.	Council
	Identified tree works carried out on a priority basis.	Council to order from a contractor
	A few areas are managed as a coppiced woodland, rotational cutting of trees to original stools every 5-7 years.	Council order works from contractor as required or undertake by volunteers
	Some woodland areas have been coppiced in the past and subject to resources maybe brought back into a coppice cycle if resources allow.	Council to arrange
Uncut meadow (River Medway)	Remove scrub to prevent ecological succession. No more than 1/3 of the area to be worked on in any one year.	Volunteers

5.0 – Environmental management

Corporate policy

The Council has a number of documents on sustainability including a Sustainable Procurement Policy; technical guidance and also takes into consideration the Council's biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The plan has been written in accordance with the Council's Corporate Purchasing Policy. The Council has a Climate Change Strategy.



Chemical use – Chemical use is vetted and usage is reduced or is kept to a minimum. Alternative methods of control including cultural controls are always considered and remain under annual review. A limited number of chemicals are used at the park by licensed operators to control pests and weeds, as disinfectants and for graffiti removal. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health assessments and Risk Assessments are carried out and kept on file as necessary. All chemicals are stored in a locked and purpose built store, with all usage logged in a chemical application book. A summary of the chemicals currently used in the park are listed in **Appendix 8**. European Union Black and Red Listed Chemicals are not used.

Peat use – No peat is used on site and purchases of nursery stock are normally as bare root plants. All planting compost used on site is recycled green waste.

Energy efficiency – The public are encouraged to visit the park by sustainable means either cycling (4% using the Tudor Trail) or on foot (15% people visited on foot in the last visitor survey, which is an increase of 13% since the last survey). We promote routes to walk, cycle and use public transport to travel to the park.

Within the toilets water use is kept to a minimum with taps that automatically switch off and any leaks are reported and repaired as soon as possible. Where possible, water saving devices have been installed to all toilet cisterns. Hot air dryers are used for hand drying. Meter readings for all electricity and water usage are taken manually on a regular basis and monitored, with any higher than normal usage investigated. All staff are aware of the importance of reducing energy usage and are regularly reminded of the need to ensure that energy usage is kept to a minimum and to turn off lights and taps.

Waste minimisation – The other waste generated by visitors is usually placed in the litter bins. This waste is very mixed and, as a result, is disposed of via the municipal waste stream and incinerated at the waste to energy site, (not on site).

Procurement

Our contractors are encouraged to procure materials and vehicles to offer the lowest impact on the environment. These are the use of electric vehicles, low noise and low sulphur fuels. Our current grounds maintenance contractor has set targets to reduce the environmental impact of their operations.

Timber

An extract from the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy statement -

“Where relevant, a contractor has stated commitment to using local sources of timber and wood products wherever possible. Any timber and wood products used should carry the Forestry Stewardship Council trademark, or equivalent internationally recognised certification of good forestry management.”

Renewable supply chains

Wherever practical, packaging and storage materials used by our contractors like wooden pallets are minimised, recycled or reused.

ISO 14001

The Grounds Maintenance contractor, Landscape Services, have achieved accreditation to the international standard ISO14001.

Green waste

All green waste is removed from site or, where possible recycled on site. The grounds maintenance contractor (Landscape Services) collects waste and recycles this through its partnerships with other companies, 100% of the green waste generated on site is recycled.

Soils and hard core

These materials are reused wherever possible.

Sewage disposal

The park is not connected to mains drainage; the toilets use packaged sewage treatment plant. This system uses natural bacteria to breakdown the waste into solids and clean water. It requires limited emptying - cutting down on road miles.

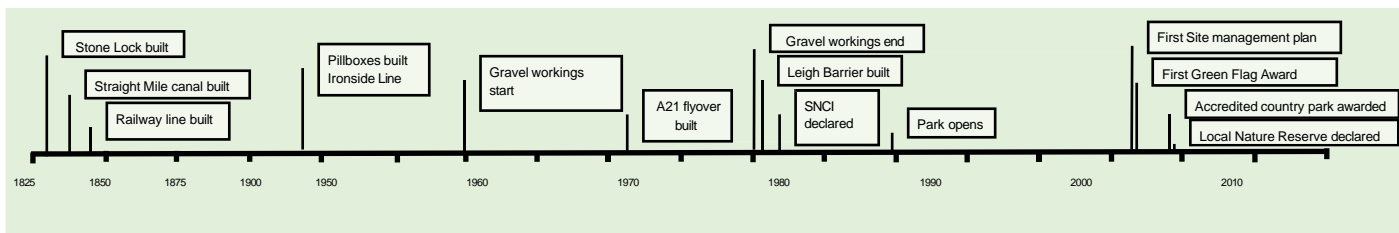
Sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS)

This greenspace forms a floodplain which acts as a buffer allowing the river when in flood to slow down, spread out, and soak into the ground, so avoiding flood damage to residential and commercial properties in the town centre and elsewhere.

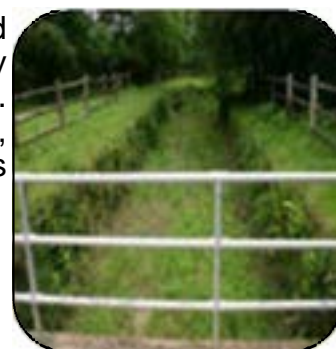
6.0 – Management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage

Site history

Haysden Country Park covers an area of former agricultural land within the River Medway Flood Plain. Its openness and proximity to water have encouraged two quite different transport and trade developments since 1800. The timeline below shows the history of the park.



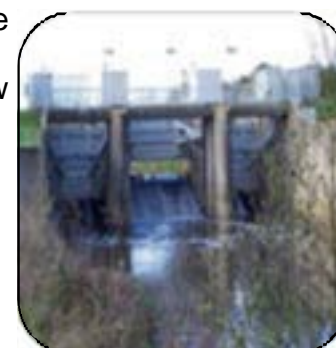
The Straight Mile - In 1829 James Christie and friends formed “The Penshurst Company” intending to extend the Medway navigation westwards to transport timber and agricultural goods. A legal injunction though, obtained by business competitors, brought work to a halt and the only remaining evidence of this project is the ‘Straight Mile’ canal and ‘Stone Lock’.



Railway - In 1842 the railway line was opened by the South Eastern Railway Company and this crosses the park. The line, running from Tonbridge to Redhill, was the first rail link with London and vital in the subsequent growth of Tonbridge.

Barden Park - An estate known as Barden Park was once present on the land near the now Barden Lake. Pictures of the large Barden Park House can be found on historical postcards dating from 1887; the name Barden Park still appears on some local maps. Barden Park house was demolished and nothing of the house now remains.

Leigh Barrier - Following major flooding of Tonbridge in 1968 the Leigh Flood Relief Barrier was built under an Act of Parliament and completed in 1981; long with the new river channel. The new river channel was cut to bypass ‘The Shallows’ and to take the water directly from the flood control gates at the barrier. At this time the old weir (then in disrepair) known locally as ‘Tonbridge Lido’ or the ‘Weir Pool’ was removed and the area filled in. This area is now the woodland called Heusenstamm Friendship Woodland. The Shallows now remain as a meandering part of the original course of the River Medway, isolated by the redirection of the river.



Gravel workings - The company Redland Gravel once mined the area for sand and gravel extraction, using dragline excavators between 1960 and 1980. These works altered the landscape of the area and created the lakes at Barden and Haysden Water. The gravel and sand was processed at a plant, which was then located at the Haysden Water end of the park.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has long held a legal interest in some of the land, and the public were using the site informally, even before full public ownership and development as a Country Park.

Once the gravel workings were completed, plans were developed to create a park for the benefit of local people. The park was officially opened as a Country Park in October 1988. The Country Park is known locally for its nature conservation interest and this is reflected in the fact that the majority of the site is designated a 'Site of Nature Conservation Interest' and the whole park was designated in 2008 as a Local Nature Reserve (**Appendix 8** shows the boundaries).

Since the site became a Country Park the local community has used the area for a wide range of activities including: fishing, sailing, canoeing, horse riding, running, walking, dog walking and most recently, for triathlon swimming training. The local community and other stakeholders also take a keen interest in the running of the park and are involved through the Haysden Country Park User Panel and the Haysden Country Park Volunteers. The park continues to evolve and develop for both wildlife and the general public.

Habitat and landscape structure

The park has a good variety of habitats and species, and the management of the park will aim to protect and enhance this established environment. The park also forms part of a wider wildlife corridor along the River Medway from the town of Tonbridge out into the countryside (for further details see **Appendix 3**). Management objectives and actions (**see Section 9.0**) are focused on a compartment-based approach, the objectives for these are strongly influenced by the differences in nature, character and use of each compartment.

Lakes and ponds – There are two large lakes at the park, Barden Lake and Haysden Water lake. Barden Lake has two islands and is the deepest lake. Over the last few years this lake has seen some significant changes to the margins, which were once bare and eroded and are being progressively changed to improve marginal vegetation.

River, streams and ditches – The park has a number of running water bodies, the most significant being the River Medway. This river is a deep channel but has good marginal vegetation cover. The Shallows are the meandering old course of the river and are more interesting ecologically.

Hedgerows – The historical hedgerows are mainly around the boundaries of the site, and comprise mainly of hawthorn, elder and hazel, which are typical hedgerow species of the southeast. There are newer hedges, mainly hawthorn, around the car



Part 1 Where are we now?

park and amenity areas.

Grasslands – A proportion of the site is managed as meadows. The meadows are called Kissing Gate, River Meadow, Water Meadow and The Shallows. The plant species composition varies between and within these meadows and can be found in the more detailed descriptions within **Appendix 10**. Barden Lake and other areas also have some areas where the grass is allowed to grow longer for part of the year. Grass is mown more frequently in areas where more public access is required.



Conservation areas – A few small areas of the park have no public access or restricted public access. These areas have been identified as important areas for breeding birds and to protect other species and habitats from disturbance by humans and their dogs.

Trees – a wide variety of mainly native trees grow in the park's woodland, with typical understory and ground flora species of the southeast.

Bat cave – An artificial bat cave was built in 1991 with the assistance of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Kent Bat Group. The cave consists of a series of two metre diameter concrete drainage pipe sections set into the ground and covered over with soil. The Kent Bat Group with the Haysden Country Park Volunteers made changes to the cave in 2005 to improve humidity and temperature. The public are not allowed to enter the bat cave as this could disturb this protected species. However several species of bat can be seen flying in the park at dusk in summer, and public bat walks are held at the park.



Habitats of importance

The habitats present in the park **Table 6** are managed in harmony with recreation and visitor management. A wide range of plants, birds, insects and animals associated with these habitats are known to exist in the park. A number of independent species surveys have been carried out, and both the 'Kent Phase 1 Habitat Survey' (1992) and the 'Site of Nature Conservation Interest' (SNCI) designation for 'River Medway, South of Leigh' (1987) (now known as 'Local Wildlife Sites') indicate the species most likely to be found in the park.

Surveys

The surveying of species present in the park has been undertaken by many different volunteers, with some professional surveys, for the last thirty years. These historical records were used to prepare the full list of species recorded in the park which can be found in **Appendix 9**. We continue to train volunteers and enlist their assistance to regularly record species in the park, including bat surveys, reptile and amphibian surveys, a Breeding Birds Survey, pond surveys, and plant surveys. Of the species listed in **Appendix 9**, the species in **Table 7**



have been identified as having particular importance within the park due to their conservation status and the frequency and likelihood of occurrence in the park. Many of the species in **Table 7** are noted as important within the United Kingdom. Given the wide range of species we know to exist in the park, and the fact that many are indicators of high quality habitats, the park is an important area for nature conservation within the Borough. † indicates a breeding bird. The park’s statutory designations as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (now called a Local Wildlife Site) recognises this and offers an additional layer of legal protection to the park. Some areas of the park are sensitive to disturbance see **Appendix 10**.

The protection and enhancement of the key habitats and the species (including species monitoring) associated with these habitats have been incorporated within the objectives set out in this plan. Some ecological information can also be found on the Master Plan (see **Appendix 3**) within the Management section in the compartment descriptions, and in the Five Year Work Programme.

Topography, features and soils

Haysden Country Park is at a height of around 24 metres above ‘Mean Sea Level’. The land is essentially flat and comprises part of the valley floor of the River Medway. The underlying geology of the site is described as Brick Earth, Alluvium and Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand (because of river deposition) and comprises a mixture of soils: loam, gravel, Tunbridge Wells Sand and Ashdown Sand. Much of the site was however disturbed by gravel extraction in the 1970s and so we can assume that the majority of sand and gravel will have been extracted and many of the soils on site will have been disturbed or moved. Due to the high water table within the gravel extraction areas these areas have flooded and formed Barden Lake and Haysden Water.

Table 6: Key habitats present in the park

Habitat type	<u>Importance</u>			
	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Approx. area of park
Hedgerows			*	<1%
Marsh			*	<1%
Neutral and marshy grassland			*	32%
Reed bed		**	*	<1%
Rivers and streams			*	4%
Standing water			*	30%
Woodland/ scrub (broadleaf)			*	33%
Wet woodland/ scrub (broadleaf)		*	*	<1%

(Tables 6 is based on the habitat types in the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan) Grading (for significance)) Highest priority *** Medium ** Low *

Part 1 Where are we now?



Table 7: Key species present in the park

Common name	International / European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
BIRDS				
Bullfinch †	**	**		Woodland, scrub
Great crested grebe †	*			Lakes
Great spotted woodpecker †	**	*		Woodland
Goosander duck	**			Lake
Kingfisher †	*			Lake, and river
Lesser white throat †	*			Mature hedges, woodland with dense undergrowth
Linnet †	*			Meadow, scrub
Little egret †	***			Lake
Reed bunting †	**	**		Marshy areas, scrub
Reed warbler †	*			Reed beds
Song thrush †	*			Woodland
Water rail †	**			Marshy areas
Whitethroat †	*			Woodland edge, scrub

Part 1 Where are we now?

Common name	International / European	National	Regional / Local	Habitat notes
MAMMALS				
Bandt's bat	***			Hedgerow, woodland edge
Brown long eared bat	***			Woods and farmland
Daubentons bat	***			Lakes, canals, woodland rides
Hedgehog	**			Hedgerow, woodland
Nathusius bat	***			Woodland
Natterer's bat	***			Woodland, and near water
Noctule bat	***			Woodland
Pipistrelle bat	***			Woodland and farmland
Serotine bat	***			Woodland rides
Shrew common	**			Hedgerows, meadows, marsh and woods.
Shrew pygmy	**			Hedgerows, woodland field boundaries
Stoat	**			Woodland, hedgerow, grassland, likely under recorded
Whiskered bat	***			Hedgerow, woodland edge
Weasel	**			Woodland, hedgerow, grassland, likely under recorded

Part 1 Where are we now?

Common name	International / European	National	Regional / Local	Habitat notes
PLANTS				
Bugle	**	*		Woodland rides and wood edge
Narrow leaved bitter cress			BSBI rare spp	Light shady woodland, rivers streams
Narrow leaved water dropwort			BSBI rare spp	Marshland, waters edge, frequency not recorded
True fox sedge		*	BSBI rare spp	Wet, open or shaded habitats, flooding in winter
Trailing tormentil			BSBI rare spp	Woodland edges, dry banks, heath
FISH				
Bream	*			Running water
Pike	*			Standing and running water
Roach	*			Standing and running water
Rudd	*			Lakes and rivers
Tench	*			Running water well vegetated and along edges in plants
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES				
Frog	***	*		Lakes and streams
Grass snake	**	** UK BAP	* Kent BAP	Rivers/ wet ditches, rough long grass
Slow worm	*	** UK BAP	* Kent BAP	Scrub, hedgerows long grass
Toad	**	* UK BAP	* Kent BAP	Wetland, grassland uses logs and stones for hibernation
INSECTS				
Banded damselfly	*			Clean streams waterside vegetation
Black tailed skimmer dragonfly	*			Likes lakes, slow rivers, ponds, ground.

Part 1 Where are we now?

Common name	International / European	National	Regional / Local	Habitat notes
INSECTS				
Brown hawker dragonfly	*			Standing and running water
Cinnabar moth		**	*	Caterpillars feed on Common Ragwort. Grassland for adult
Common blue damselfly	*			Vegetated lakes and canals
Common darter dragonfly	*			Standing an running water
Four spotted chaser dragonfly		*		Margins of shallow pools, open water emergent vegetation
Long horned bee			*	Grassland, feed on bramble, bugle, comfrey and pea family.
Migrant hawker dragonfly	*			Breeds standing water, feeds shelter wood and hedgerows
Painted nomad bee			*	Grasslands, parasites the nest of the Yellow legged mining bee <i>Andrena flavipes</i>
Rosey rustic moth		*	*	Marshy areas and waste ground
Scarlet malachite beetle			*	Meadows and hedgerows
Small blue butterfly			*	Grassland larval food is Kidney vetch,
Stage beetle	**	**	*	Deadwood for larva, woodland for food, may breed at the site
White legged damselfly	*			Slow flowing water sometimes in ponds. Uncommon strongholds in southern England

7.0 - Community involvement

Visitor surveys

These were carried out in 1988, 1993, 2001, 2007, 2013 and 2018. The objective is to: profile visitors, provide information on customer satisfaction, facilities and; suggested improvements, which are then incorporate into this management plan.



Key results of the last survey:

402 face-to-face interviews along with 294 on-line surveys were completed with visitors to the park in the summer of 2018.

A summary of the findings are detailed below:

99.5% of visitor were satisfied with their visit overall.

The most important features of the park were identified as:

- Enjoying the countryside
- Using the catering
- Watching the wildlife
- Using the play area

Suggested improvements were:

- Undercover seating area for the café
- More for children to do
- Improved footpaths
- More wildlife and wildflowers



The larger the text the greater the response

A large number of positive comments were received and a selection are highlighted below:

- “Its one of my favourite places to go...”
- “I love the park...”
- “A wonderful amenity and well managed”

Whilst the above survey gives an overall impression of visitor patterns, at present (like most parks) we cannot calculate accurately annual visitor numbers or establish daily usage patterns and trends in use.

Public engagement

We established a User Panel in July 2002 to enable the Council to meet and engage with users. As the park has been improved and evolved there has been less need and interest from public to meet. A newsletter was trailed during the covid pandemic in 2019, and after consulting users has now been adopted as our primary method of engagement. Our newsletter is published twice a year, and sent to our stakeholders, (anyone can sign up to be sent the newsletter) it is also available to the general public on our website. In addition our contact details are displayed on our website and on site and a ranger is on site most days for feedback. We also use feedback forms after events.

Concessions and clubs - A number of concessions and clubs use the site:

Tonbridge Town Sailing Club – Operating from a clubhouse at Haysden Water, the Club aims to encourage small boat sailing and model boating on the lake. The Club is Royal Yachting Association affiliated and has a membership of around 90 comprising of: individuals, families, students, cadets and youth organisations such as scouts, guides and sea cadets. As well as sailing, the Club has an active social scene that includes barn dances, talks, barbecues and treasure hunts. The Club leases land on which they have built and operate a clubhouse, boat slipway and have a boat storage area. They have a website at www.tonbridgesailing.org

Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society – The Society controls the fishing on 14 miles of river and nine lakes, much of which are based in the Tonbridge area and includes areas within Haysden Country Park. The Society was formed in 1875 and has around 900 members. A new licence agreed in 2006, for the first time this allowed night fishing at the park and for the Society to control its own closed season at a time to benefit the fish, such as during fish spawning. The Society supervises the angling by employing water bailiffs and charging for membership or for day tickets. Visit www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk

Fire Brigade water rescue training – Two Fire brigade units use the site to train their personnel in water rescue, this has the advantage that the personnel become familiar with our park, should a real rescue ever be necessary.

Positive Paws – A dog trainer has a licence to run once a week sessions, charging a fee to dog owners. This has the advantage of encouraging users to become responsible dog owners. Visit www.itsalldogfun.co.uk

Flyball team – Use Tile Barn field for training, they operate once a week.

Tonbridge River Trips – Operate a passenger boat service on demand from Tonbridge Castle to the landing stage at the park. This offers a sustainable way of visiting the park from Tonbridge.



Part 1 Where are we now?

Parkrun – This is a national scheme to encourage local people to run short distances each week. The concession is run by volunteers and there is no charge to take part. The runs are once a week and start at the nearby Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground along the river to the park and then return to the sportsground. They have a website at www.parkrun.org.uk/tonbridge

Volunteering

The Council has over the last fifteen years encouraged the involvement of volunteers in the park, an initiative that has been keenly supported by the local community. Partnerships with other organisations/ groups complement our own resources and include the Haysden Country Park Volunteers, the Volunteer River Wardens and the Action Group. The kind of projects and tasks undertaken by volunteers varies from one-off assistance on specific projects, to programmed work over the course of a year.



Haysden Country Park Volunteers – Originally formed in 2002 the group was led by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers under the Green Gym Programme, they are now a constituted self led volunteer group. Around thirty volunteers have been recruited and are on the membership list, and of these around twenty would normally attend each task day. The volunteers are involved in a wide range of projects throughout the park from fund raising, wildlife and wildflower monitoring, to conservation and habitat management and maintenance tasks. Some volunteers have receive training and all learn new skills on the task days. Members have attended training courses in: leadership, first aid and tree/ pond warden. A leaflet is available to promote the group and recruitment of new members which is on the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk , we also have a Volunteer Handbook offering more guidance and containing an application form.

Volunteer River Wardens – The Medway Valley Countryside Partnership co-ordinate these volunteers who work independently in the park (and around the River Medway) along the river banks collecting litter and recording wildlife, five people regularly walk the park. This activity is often supplemented by an annual spring clean event where the public help litter pick the park. A risk assessment has been carried out and task based training has been given by the Partnership.

Tuesday and Thursday Action Groups – Co-ordinated by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, this group has assisted by carrying out volunteer tasks on site including replacing the fishing platforms, construction of the dipping platform, Himalayan Balsam pulling and ragwort digging.

Volunteer wildlife recorders – A number of key individuals and groups have over the years assisted with regular recording at the site including – surveys of botany, birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles. Members of the Kent Bat Group have carried out bat surveys and another volunteer carries out the Breeding Bird Survey. The Orpington Field Club (part of the countywide Kent Field Club) has made a number of field trips to the site for a wide range of species including: insects, plants and birds. All biological recorders are encouraged to provide recording results to

the Site Manager and the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre.

Community Payback – The Council works with an organisation contracted to the Probation Service overseeing work in the park. These are low risk people selected to do unpaid work in the community by a court to repay the community for the offence. Placements give people an opportunity to learn new skills, or gain qualifications. Each task is fully assessed and agreed before they proceed. The group has worked on projects to lay paths, cut back areas, clear litter and plant trees.

Kent Wildlife Trust – Engaged as appropriate to advise on works where wildlife may be disturbed.

Heusenstamm Friendship Circle – The group is the twinning organisation between Tonbridge and Heusenstamm in Germany. The group provided funding in 1987 after the Great Storm) for the creation and planting of Heusenstamm Friendship Wood in the park, and has continued support this in more recent years funding a sculpture and bluebell planting. More details can found at <http://www.heusenstammfriendshipcircle.co.uk/>

Licensed specialists – Are employed by the Council to give advice as and when required, on species like bats and habitat management.

Other partnerships – There are other partnership such as the Police Community Support Officers, and the local community hold events at the Park.

Local educational establishments – Several nearby local educational establishments use the park as a recreational and educational resource. Schools use the park for cross country running, geography and wildlife study. A Ranger Led Activity Pack promotes the site for primary educational and youth groups. Higher and further educational establishments also use the site for a variety of assignments such as habitat management; surveying and levelling; leaflet writing; crime scene investigation and teaching risk assessments. All educational establishments using the site must book in advance and submit a risk assessment for approval.

Consultation on the management plan

Table 8: Timetable for Consultation	
Action	Timescale
Internal consultation	December 2019
Public consultation – including all key stakeholders and News Release	January 2020
Councils – Communities Board to adopt final Management Plan	July 2020
Plan amended to reflect consultation comments	July 2020
Publication of final Management Plan	September 2020

Involvement of external parties in the production of this document was essential and a programme for consultation was developed and is outlined here:

Copies of the Management Plan Consultation Draft were sent to:

- Stakeholders (see **Table 10**)
- All other interested persons

The draft of this Management Plan had a six week public consultation in 2020, and was made available to view at the Council's offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle Gateway. The draft plan was also available on the Council's website at www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP. A wide range of organisations and individuals commented on the plan, and these were considered by the Council's Communities and Housing Advisory Board. Amendments were then made as appropriate, before the plan was adopted by the Council and published.

8.0 – Marketing and communication

Marketing strategy aim

Encourage visitors to the Country Park from the local area using: press releases, articles, the park's webpage, leaflets, activities for young people, volunteers and events. All marketing must be duly considered to ensure it is not detrimental to the nature conservation interest of the site.

Publications

The Council markets the park as a local facility with the principal means of marketing being through: leaflets; the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP (Haysden Country Park pages) photo calls, news releases, site notice boards, cross service publications, social media and event publications. All printed publications are available from Tonbridge Gateway at Tonbridge Castle.

Interpretation

To manage the park effectively, there is a need to communicate to the public and the Council will continue to do this using a variety of methods. The Interpretation and Marketing Plan for the park at **Appendix 13** covers: the theories of interpretation, an evaluation of where we are now and the way forward.

Country park webpage

The park's webpage can be found at www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP. The web pages give details about the park's facilities and services including the sailing, fisheries and refreshments. There are sections about the park and what there is to do. There is also information on children's activities, events and water safety. Details about the park can also be found on other websites: Explore Kent, TripAdvisor and the Green Flag Award.

Social media

The Council monitors social media to understand what our customers think about the Council's services. We post on Facebook and send out Tweets to market activities and events.

Events

A wide variety of events are run at the park each year, some are run by the Rangers, others by partnerships, local clubs and community volunteers. Typical events held at the park are listed in **Table 9**. Events are very popular with visitors and we always give the public an opportunity to feedback, which we use to plan future events. Events have normally tended to have a countryside theme; and many are free of charge. We aim to time events to take place during national campaigns (Love Parks Week, National Play Day, Big Garden Bird Watch, Big Butterfly Count etc.), this is so that the public can attend a local event; we aim to run a variety of events for different audiences.

Part 1 Where are we now?

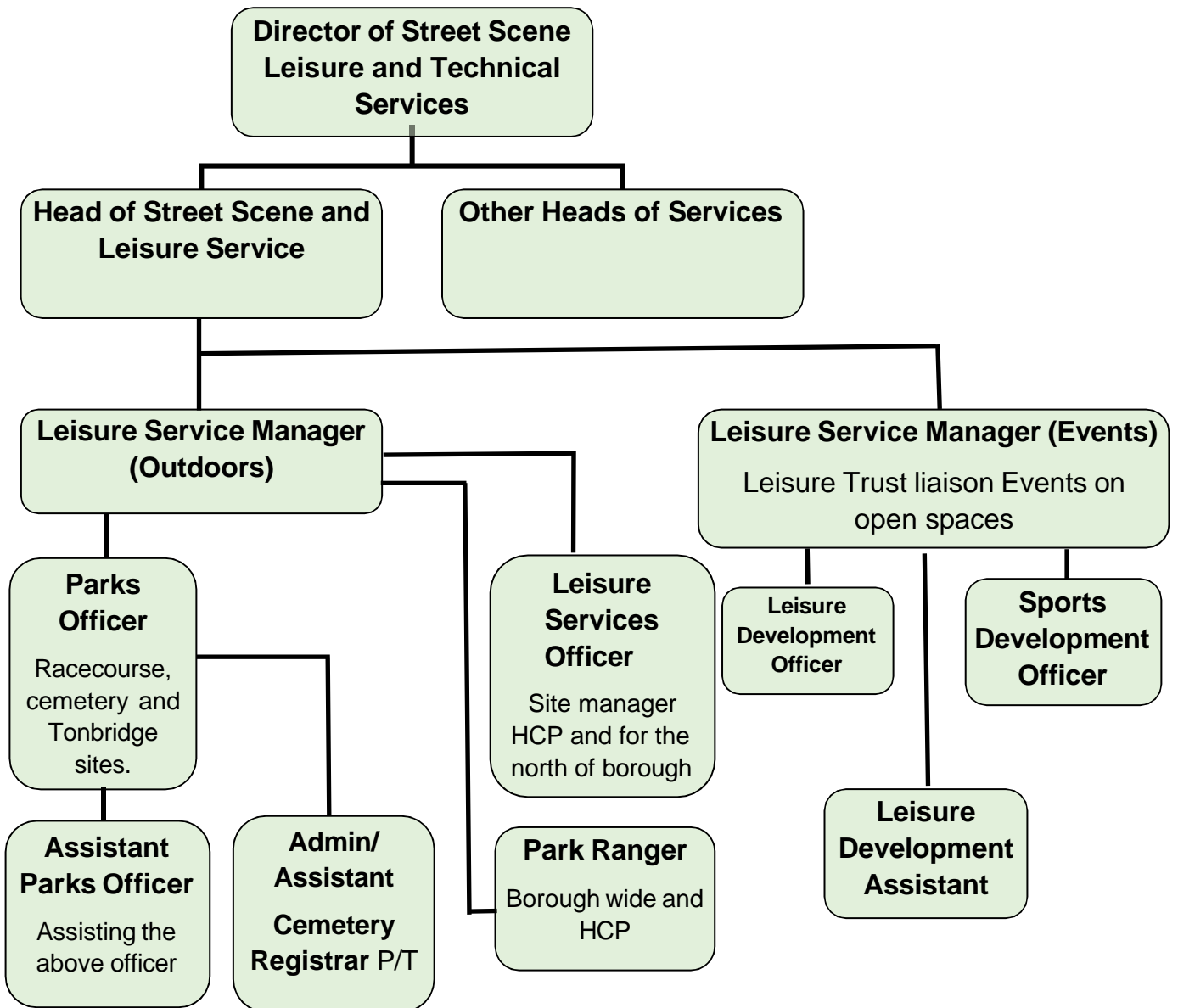
As part of the Council's borough-wide 'Holiday Activity Scheme' for 8-16 year olds and Y2 Crew, we run activities in the park during the Easter and summer holidays; typically these have a countryside theme like den building, cycling skills and forest skills.

Table 9: Typical annual events and projects	
Typical annual events	Average number of days per year
Activate events at Easter and summer holidays for ages 8-16 years	2
Bat walks	1
National events - Big Garden Bird Watch, Love Parks, Big Butterfly Count	3
Easter egg trail	1
Haysden Country Park volunteer task days	22
Volunteer task days	54
Community organisations and company volunteer days	4
Community Payback days	50
Guided walks	2
Y2 Crew activities	1
Story telling	1
School visits and other ranger led activities	2
Halloween	1
Health walks	51
Mini beast and pond dipping	3
Orienteering	2
Scavenger hunt	2
Sponsored walks	2
Sailing Club open day	1
Wildlife activity day	1

9.0 – Management

Management structure

Major policy issues will be determined by the Council through recommendations made by the Communities and Housing Board, then endorsed by the Council's Cabinet, these are implemented by the Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services Directorate, in the Outdoor Leisure Section. The Leisure Services' management structure is shown below:



Out of hours

The Council operates an 'out of hours' emergency call out system on the normal Council telephone number 01732 844522. The operator can answer some questions from a set script and in exceptional cases has a contact list for Council staff. For non-urgent items there is the Council's website with Report Forms at www.tmbc.gov.uk

Staff training

Training is identified through the annual performance appraisal for each member of staff. Individual and corporate training needs are part of the assessment process and the outcomes are recorded and signed off by both parties. Training needs can vary from year to year but typically they might include First Aid at Work, equality training (access for all, anti discrimination) and health and safety training.

Contractors

A range of commercial companies and local organisations already contribute to the management of the site. See **Section 4.0** for more information.

Cala Briparc Ltd – car parking machines and servicing borough wide

Envirocure Ltd – borough wide legionella advisor

Folly Wildlife Trust – wildlife rehabilitation

Gatekeeper

Lemon Drainage Services Ltd - servicing of plant and sewage disposal

Landscape Services - grounds maintenance contract borough wide

Monitor Pest Control Ltd – pest controller borough wide

Rentokil initial Ltd – sanitary bins

The Swan Sanctuary – wildlife rehabilitation

RSPCA – wildlife rescue

Specialist Hygiene Services Ltd – toilet cleaning etc. borough wide

Urbaser Ltd – dog bin emptying borough wide

Ward Security - dog warden services borough wide

Stakeholders

Various groups have an interest in the site and have been consulted on the development and production of this Management Plan. These organisations will also be consulted on issues relating to the ongoing development on site and are listed in alphabetical order in **Table 10**.

Table 10: List of stakeholders for the park	
Name of Organisation	
Community Payback	
Emergency services	
Environment Agency	
Haysden Country Park User Panel (local residents councillors and clubs)	
Haysden Country Park Volunteers	
Heusenstamm Friendship Circle	
Highways Agency (the A21)	
Kent Bat Group	
Kent County Council – West Kent Area Office (Public Rights of Way)	
Kent Fire and Rescue Service (use the Haysden Water lake for training)	
Kent Wildlife Trust (Local wildlife site designation)	
Landscape Services (grounds contractor)	
Local members	
Local schools	
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership	
Natural England (Country Park Accreditation Scheme)	
Network Rail	
Nordic walking	
parkrun	
Penshurst Place Estate (cycle route 12)	
Sevenoaks District Council (the park has a boundary within this district)	
Positive Paws	
Tonbridge and District Angling and Fish Preservation Society	
Tri Swim	
Tonbridge River Trips	
Tonbridge Sports Association	
Tonbridge Town Sailing Club	
Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board	
Underdogs fly ball team	
Willards American Food Company	

Country park budget

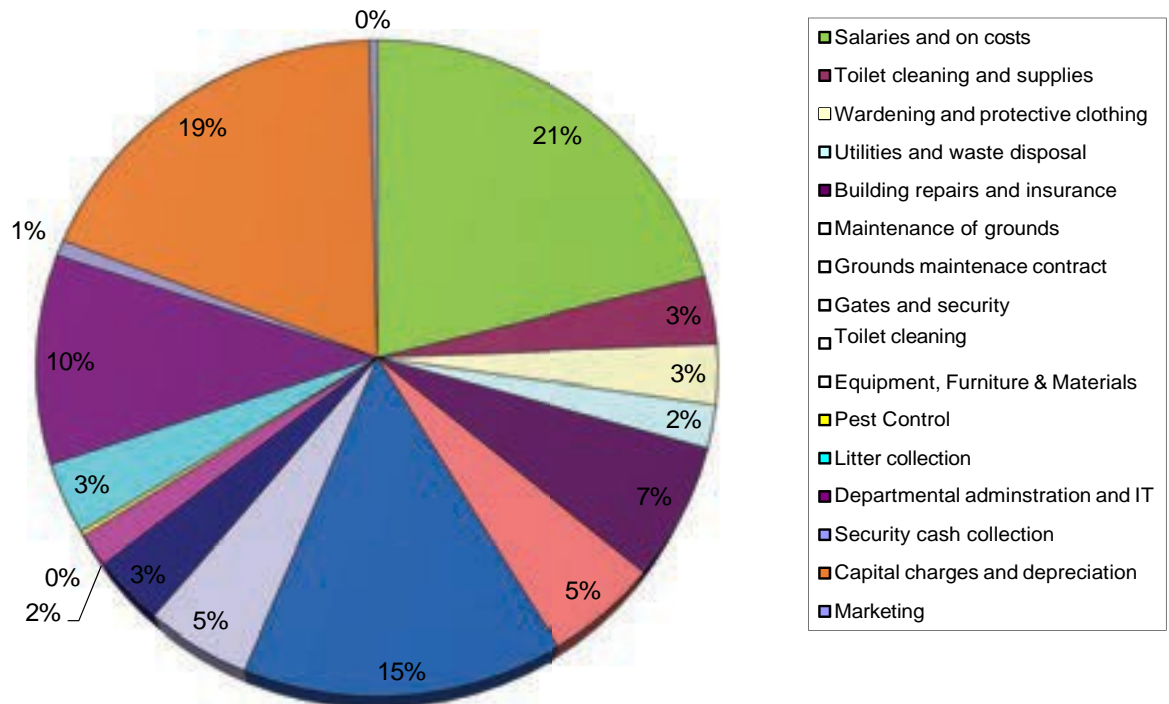
The cost of running the park is around £171K per annum. The budget provides for grounds maintenance, running costs, repairs, staff, administration and essential services. Income in the region of £109K off sets expenditure, this is generated in the park from rights over water, the cafeteria, other concessions and car parking fees,

Part 1 Where are we now?

(income recovers around 50% of the parks running costs). A breakdown of the budget (2018/19 are the baseline figures for this plan) can be found in **Appendix 11**.

The budget is reviewed annually and this needs to take into account any price increases in the contracts. As for all Council services, this country park competes for resources alongside other services provided by the Council.

Expenditure for Haysden Country Park



Capital budget – Some larger value items such as replacing children’s play equipment, are funded under the Council’s Capital Renewal Scheme. The Council also has a system of bidding for capital work to fund larger projects. The Council has invested in the park funding (in part or fully) projects like: car park surfacing (2022), new play equipment (2021), new sewage system (2020), new roof and redecoration of the building (2020), educational area (2019), car park extension (2018), cycle route improvements (2018), Barden Lake revetments, jetty, and seating (2016), play area extension in (2016) and replacing the decking on The Shallows bridge (2012).

External funding

Where practical funding will be sourced from outside the Council, and this can take the form of donations (seats), grant bids and developer contributions. In recent years the Council have secured grants which paid in part for Barden Lake and play area improvements, and new paths around the play area. The Haysden Country Park Volunteers have also been successful in obtaining grants for projects like tree planting, improvements along The Shallows, and planting around Barden Lake. The Council has also negotiated and worked in partnership with concessions and other stakeholders to make improvements to the park such as the catering area, public rights of way improvements (County Council) and for angling swims. A list of the main

projects and investments that have been undertaken in the 5-years prior to the start of this plan is included at **Appendix 11b**.

Rules

We ask that park users observe some simple guidelines when visiting, to ensure that the majority of peoples enjoyment is not unduly effected by a few.

These rules are set out below:

Commercial/ community activities - Any commercial/ community activities (commercial are those that make a profit) that are conducted at the park, must have the written permission of the Council, and will require an agreement or licence in place. It is at the Council's complete discretion which activities will be approved.

No motorbikes – Motor bikes are permitted in the designated car parks but are not permitted in all other areas of the park.

Car parking - Cars and other vehicles (driven by the public) are restricted to parking in the designated car parks and are not permitted in other areas of the park without written consent.

No dogs in the lakes – It is recommended that dogs should not go into the lakes because Blue Green Alga is sometimes present; this can also causes conflicts with angling, wildlife and bank erosion.

Anti-social behaviour – Aspects such as littering, fly posting, fly tipping and graffiti are covered in **Table 3**.

Water safety rules – After the Water Safety Policy was developed a number of site specific recommendations were made including publishing water safety information for users.

Public Space Protection orders (where £80 fix penalty notices and fines apply):

No Dog fouling - It is an offence for dog owners/ walkers to not clean up when their dog fouls in the park, and to not correctly dispose of this waste.

No dogs in the play area – Dogs are not permitted inside the fenced children's play area of the park, as they cause distress and alarm to young children.

Dogs on lead by direction – If a dog is causing a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to other people or to wildlife, dogs must be kept on a lead if the owner is instructed to do so by member of staff or other authorised person.

Maximum number of dogs – The total number of dogs permitted that one person can take onto the park is six dogs they must ensure that they have full control and do not allow them to cause alarm or distress to other people.

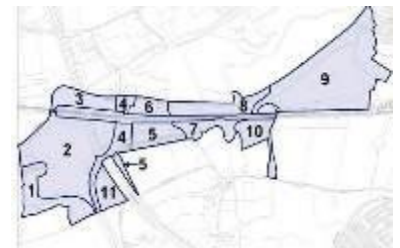
Controlled alcohol zone – It is an offence to fail to comply with a request by an authorised officer to cease drinking or surrender alcohol within the park.

Public urination/ defecation – It is an offence to urinate or defecate within the park. Toilets are provided.

No barbeques – In line with all the Council's public open spaces and to both reduce the likelihood of fires and to avoid inconveniencing other users, barbeques are not allowed in the park.

No unauthorised swimming, bathing or boating – The public are not allowed to boat or launch small model boats on the lakes in the park. Authorised boating can take place through the Sailing Club and fishing club members may use a boat to retrieve snagged fishing line and a variety of other purposes. Swimming is only permitted via Tri Swim.

No unauthorised camping – This activity is not allowed in the park.



Compartments

For the purposes of this plan, the site has been divided into eleven compartments to reflect their different management needs and uses. The compartment descriptions outline the current condition and features. For a more detailed map see **Appendix 2**.

Compartment 1 – (Nature reserve sanctuary area) - This compartment consists of woodland and is part of the west bank of Haysden Water. Public access is limited by vegetation growth and a locked gate to prevent access by the public and club users. The area offers a sanctuary for wildlife like waterfowl to nest with a management prescription of minimal-intervention. It must also be noted though that this woodland reduces the wind speed which has implications with regard to sailing. Coppicing of one section per year will be allowed to address this issue.



Compartment 2 – (Reservoir, grassland and woodland) - This area of the park has been identified with moderate visitor activity, consisting of: Haysden Water (a 'reservoir' flood storage area), the sailing club, car park and woodland. It is not possible to put litter or dog bins inside this area due to flooding. The area is also used for angling on the north and east banks of Haysden Water. Due to the location of the car park and the sports clubs currently operating in this area, management objectives will need to take recreation into consideration. The key projects for this area are removing scrub and keeping Botany Pond with some open areas.



Compartment 3 – (Water Meadow) - This compartment is an example of a scarce UK habitat, containing a limited number of the rare species *Oenanthe silaifolia* (Narrow-Leaved Water-Dropwort) around the river boundary. It is flanked on one boundary by trees and scrub, bats are also known to use the river corridor. Management will be guided by the need to preserve the existing habitat and the protection of identified species. Two mud scrapes, (shallow seasonal ponds) in the central area were created to increase biodiversity of this area. Requests for events should avoid this area of land.

Compartment 4 – (Reservoir embankment) - Compartment four comprises the Leigh Flood Relief Barrier embankment, a structure that impacts on management objectives throughout the park. This area of land is owned and managed by the Environment Agency (EA) and is maintained as close mown grass.

Compartment 5 – (Woodland and meadow) - An area demonstrating moderate visitor presence and consisting of 'The Straight Mile', meadow, marsh and mixed woodland. This compartment comprises a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the park. Along 'The Straight Mile' (woodland ride) damselflies, dragonflies and butterflies are common; this area may also be attractive for bat species. As with the meadow below, a key project is to increase the biodiversity of the meadow area by removing grass clippings after cutting and opening up bare ground for natural regeneration. The importance of The Straight Mile for wildlife is noted and a key project will be to ensure that vegetation does not enclose the ride which would reduce the sunlight and so insect and plant biodiversity of this area. The woodland areas are more sensitive and for this reason have restricted public access, this will allow more sensitive wildlife and plants to thrive.



Compartment 6 – (Heusenstamm Friendship Woodland) - A mixed species broadleaved woodland which is still young circa 1987 but is establishing well, and now attracting dragonflies and butterflies. This woodland is located on the former site of the so called 'Tonbridge Lido' or 'Weir Pool', now filled in and removed.

Compartment 7 – (The Shallows) - Flanked to the south by the original River Medway and still connected to the River Medway and Stone Lock, the river is now heavily silted through lack of water flow, except in times of flood. The area contains a variety of common flora and is an important site for invertebrates and feeding birds, as are the reed beds. A dipping platform for educational use is now located in this compartment. There is a sanctuary area with no public access to allow more sensitive wildlife and flora to thrive in the park. The area also contains some willow plantings, which will be managed as coppice stools to encourage young whippy growth suitable for wreath making and willow weaving events.



Compartment 8 – (River Meadow) - Bordering the River Medway the area contains examples of wildflower meadow and old woodland and the remains of the old Stone Lock. Key projects for this area are to increase the biodiversity of the meadow areas and opening up bare ground for natural regeneration. The future management of the Stone Lock is considered at end of the management plan (see Five Year Action Programme).

Compartment 9 – (Barden Lake & Woodlands) - Dominated by Barden Lake the area is bordered by woodland (Barden Shaw and Audley Wood) and the railway line. The area has good access with numerous seats around the lake and a surfaced path. The remaining area around the lake is subject to a high level of public use for informal recreation and is popular for angling. A long term project to re-establishing marginal planting around the lake edge and carry out other planting in part to control the numbers of Canada Geese has taken place in the last five years with the assistance of

our volunteer group and grants. The project at the near end of the lake which incorporated picnic seating, a new path, some play sculptures and wildflower planting was funded by a grant, this has transform that part of the lake. We are leaving the area in front of the disabled parking with an open view of the lake, this area is also occasionally used for events. Barden Shaw has been coppiced in phases in the last ten years. The woodlands of Audley Wood and the marsh area are the most sensitive, areas but have restricted public access. A bee rare for Kent has been found in the grassland the Long horned bee (*Eucera longicornis*).



Compartment 10 – (Main entrance area) - The area that is subject to the highest level of public use, consisting of: the main car park, toilet block, picnic areas, children's play area and designated dog exercise area and where the mobile cafeteria service operates. Hedgerows around the car park/ play area boundary are now well established. Hedgelaying to the rear of the play area has also been a great success. Establishing a new use for Tile Barn Field is one of the key projects to consider over the coming years.



Compartment 11 – (Woodland and Car Park) Predominantly Haysden Water car park but also containing a small section of woodland and the man-made Bat Cave. Brown Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) have roosted in the bat cave. Public access is restricted to avoid disturbing this protected species. Part of this area is reserved land used to store materials and can be used as compound for highway and barrier works.

10.0 – Constraining factors and strength, weaknesses, opportunities & threats analysis

Constraining factors

These are constraints on the management of the site and limitations to the services it can provide. The Council's parks Management Aim, ensuring the site is a suitable home for a wide range of wildlife as well as providing an open space for recreation, can limit the activities and development that can take place in the park. The following are worthy of note:-

Lease to Tonbridge Town Sailing Club – Tonbridge Town Sailing Club has a lease agreement for sailing on Haysden Water in Compartment 2. The current lease runs from 1992 to 2020 (28 years) and includes break clauses. Subject to new contract.



Angling – Any fishing operations, including the transferring of fish, drag netting and the use of electro fishing to catch predatory fish such as eels and pike will require the permission of the Environment Agency. Fishing on the River Medway and The Shallows is under the control of the Environment Agency and a separate close season applies. EA Rod Licences are required for all fishermen.

Licence for angling – Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society currently have a licence for the fishing rights to Barden Lake, stretches along the River Medway and designated areas on Haysden Water within the park. The current licence runs for 28 years from 2006 to 2034 and includes break clauses.

Licence for catering – Willards American Food Co have long term licence to operate at the site. The current lease runs for 15 years from 2016 to 2031.

Licence for triathlon swimming – The club has a licence to carry out swimming training on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings in Haysden Water which runs for 4 years expires in 2020, subject to new contract.

Licence for passenger boat service – This includes the use of the landing stage at the park. The licence expires in 2020. Subject to new contract.

Licence for flyball dog training – Licence to use Tile Barn Field for training. Licence runs from 2020 to January 2023.

Licence for dog training – Use of the Tile Barn Field to train dogs. Annual licence.

Licence for Nordic walking – Annual licence.

Planning restrictions – The whole site falls within the Green Belt which restricts development beyond 'permitted development rights'. In addition, there are two other designations covering parts of the park: the River Medway South of Leigh Local Wildlife Site (designated an SNCI C1987) and the Haysden Local Nature Reserve. (See **Appendix 8**).

Size and Shape of the Site – The linear shape of the site and the relatively small size limits the range of activities possible in the park.

Character of the Site – The variety of habitats and high level of open water limits the extent of land based activities that are able to take place within the park.

Access – Several transport routes transect the site (rail, road, rivers and streams). All of these, along with the Leigh Flood Relief Barrier, influence how, where and the type of access that takes place (main access routes are highlighted on the Master Plan, see **Appendix 2**). It should also be noted that the main road (Lower Haysden Lane) to the site is of limited width and has no footpath.

Easement – An easement exists in relation to the A21 trunk road affecting use of designated land around the road.

Noise – In parts of the site, the tranquillity of the countryside is interrupted by noise from vehicles travelling along the A21 trunk road and intermittently by trains travelling on the railway line.

Public Rights of Way – All public rights of way must remain open and free of obstruction. Any public rights of way that traverse the site cannot be blocked, diverted or re-aligned without the authorisation from Kent County Council (for designated Rights of Way see **Appendix 8**). No stiles, gates, bollards or any other barriers can be installed on Public Right of Ways (PRoW's) without prior authorisation of KCC.



Budget – The park has its own revenue budget that covers the basic maintenance of the site. Income is raised through concessions for angling, sailing and cafeteria services and car parking but this recovers only a small percentage of the total costs, (**Appendix 10**). Management, maintenance and development carried out within the park are therefore limited in relation to available funding and external grants.

Leigh Flood Relief Barrier – Any activities that affect the area behind the Leigh Flood Relief, compartments 1 - 4 (Haysden Water and surrounds), need consent from the Environment Agency, under the Water Resources Act 1991.

Flooding (reservoir) – The site is within the flood plain for the River Medway, with the natural fall of the land towards the park and River Medway. The Barden Lake end of the park periodically floods when the River Medway bursts

Part 1 Where are we now?

its banks or flood and ground water from the catchment area flows downhill towards the river.

Impoundment of water by the Environment Agency behind the Leigh Flood Relief Barrier at Haysden Water leads to occasional deliberate flooding to several metres in depth of this part of the park as a 'Reservoir' (Compartments 1-4 - these areas are designated). The area can hold water for a number of days (normally this is in winter) before being released downstream. The area around the barrier must remain in good condition. The Council works closely with the Environment Agency and access is strictly limited to mainly pedestrians in this area; rabbits are controlled to avoid damage to the structure of the barrier.



Flood Risk permit - A flood risk activity permit may be required for any proposed activities to watercourses classified as main river or near the flood barrier defence.

Land Drainage – The drainage ditch (Denton Stream) near Barden Lake is under control of the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board control and must be kept in good order to avoid flooding. Land Drainage Consent is required for any works. The River Medway (including The Shallows) is under the control of the Environment Agency and drainage consent may be needed for work in these areas that affects the banks of any watercourse or flooding.





Locations for dog and litter bins - There are a number of constraints on where we can locate these within the park because of restricted access for the collection of waste and higher costs and not being able to provide bins within the Leigh Reservoir part of the park due to flooding.

Wildlife Protection Legislation – There is numerous national wildlife protection legislation that affects animals and plants that occur in the park. Access to some small areas of the park have been restricted to prevent disturbance by humans and their dogs.

Statutory Undertakers – Any new electricity, gas, water or telephone supplies will require authorisation by UK Power Networks, EDF Energy. Other undertakers such as British Gas, Transco, South East Water, Southern Water Services and BT also have powers. The above companies also have a right to maintain their services which are on the land and gain access to the land. The Highways Agency also has rights to access and maintain the A21 flyover. The Environment Agency also have rights of access.

Ranger and staffing – Limited staff are available for patrolling at the site.

Table 11: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses </p>
<p>High levels of customer satisfaction</p> <p>High level of site usage</p> <p>Good range of concessions</p> <p>Good relationships with stakeholders</p> <p>Marketing Plan</p> <p>Capital renewals funding for equipment</p> <p>Green Flag Award and Country Park Accreditation</p> <p>Local Wildlife Reserve Designation</p> <p>Good access for less able visitors</p> <p>Health and safety procedures</p> <p>Public Space Protection Orders</p> <p>Local Wildlife Reserve Designation</p> <p>Strong community/ volunteer support</p> <p>Ranger led activities</p> <p>Café open all year round</p> <p>Public conveniences on site</p> <p>Large children's play area</p> <p>Car parking provision</p>	<p>Increasing demand for services/ concessions</p> <p>Increased wear and tear on park infrastructure</p> <p>Poor site interpretation at present</p> <p>Anti social behaviour</p> <p>Control of dogs</p> <p>Lack of vegetation around Barden Lake</p> <p>Pedestrian and cycle access to the park along Lower Haysden Lane</p> <p>Leigh Barrier reservoir restrictions</p> <p>Current capacity of the sewage system</p> <p>No undercover seating for café</p> <p>No CCTV in car parks</p> <p>Condition of toilet block building</p> <p>Website content</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats </p>
<p>New demands for outdoor activities</p> <p>Improvement projects linked to concessions or services</p> <p>Improve site interpretation</p> <p>External funding and income generation</p> <p>Improvements arising from site audits</p> <p>Increase sanctuary areas for wildlife</p> <p>Address antisocial behaviour</p> <p>Plant around Barden Lake</p> <p>Control of invasive species</p> <p>Environmental audit</p> <p>Digital Strategy initiatives</p> <p>Improve website</p> <p>Working with the Environment Agency</p> <p>Increase volunteering to allow greater capacity for projects</p> <p>Renewal of the sewage system</p> <p>Provide undercover seating for the café/ new building</p> <p>Install CCTV in main car park</p> <p>Expand opportunities for children's activities</p> <p>Improve cycling and pedestrian access along Lower Haysden Lane</p>	<p>Changing customer demands</p> <p>Site capacity exceeded</p> <p>Damage to the Leigh Flood Barrier banks</p> <p>Financial constraints</p> <p>Changing legislative requirements</p> <p>Lake edge erosion</p> <p>Land and water based invasive species</p> <p>Climate change and declines in biodiversity</p> <p>Site flooding</p> <p>Reductions in volunteering</p> <p>Negative impact of increasing recreation on wildlife</p> <p>Civil emergencies</p>

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) – Table 11 identifies the main strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats at the park.

Conclusion

The **Table 11** identifies a number of possible areas for improvement and where possible these have been taken forward in the sections that follow.

Part 2 - Where do you want to get to?

This section of the plan describes our vision for the park and sets out our management aims and objectives.

The Council intends managing the site in accordance with the Green Flag Award standards and as such our aims and objectives are reflective of the Award criteria.



11.0 Management plan aim & objectives

The overall aim

To provide a country park that offers a welcoming place for recreational use that is compatible with its nature conservation features, ensuring the sites integrity is maintained for the benefit of the local community. A balance is to be achieved between all key elements and none shall, within reason, dominate others.

Objectives

This Aim will be achieved through management focused on the following key objectives:

- A well managed park.
- A welcoming park.
- A healthy, safe and secure park.
- A well maintained and clean park.
- An environmentally managed park.
- A park that addresses biodiversity, landscape and heritage.
- A park that encourages community involvement.
- A park with good marketing and communication.

Each of these objectives may give rise to several projects, with tasks or actions within the Five Year Work Programme.

Part 3 - How will we get there?

This section sets out how we are going to achieve our aims and objectives. The Five Year Work Programme sets out long-term targets, and Annual Action Plans, focusing on each year, will flow from this.



12.0 Five Year Work Programme

Each objective will require a range of projects to achieve them and these are highlighted within the Five Year Work Programme at **Table 12**.

Projects are specific areas of work that may require investigation, costing, identification of funding and, in some cases, several tasks to complete them. The feasibility stage of this process will ultimately determine whether the project is implemented.

The Programme that follows indicates the compartments (**Appendix 2**), in which specific projects will be implemented and the estimated year of delivery. All projects have also been given a priority which is based around the Council's objectives; if funding is the limiting factor, these priorities will be used to determine which projects go ahead.

As highlighted at **4.0** – Grounds Maintenance, regular maintenance tasks are specified within the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract, and due to the scale of the documents it would be inappropriate to include this within this plan. It is, therefore, acknowledged that as part of the management of the park this contract will need to be implemented and monitored alongside this plan.

13.0 Annual Action Plans

More detailed one year Annual Action Plans will be drawn up on an annual basis and will be produced in accordance with the Five Year Work Programme. The Annual Action Plan will contain details of what exactly is to be done, when and by whom, and will be included in later updates of this plan at **Appendix 12**.



Table 12 Five-year Work Programme - Project List

Project No	Description
1	Green Flag award application
2	Annual action plan
3	Budget control
4	Cost neutral park
5	Investigate new opportunities for partnerships and income streams
6	Facility improvements
7	Concessions
8	Visitor surveys
9	Community involvement
10	Grounds maintenance contract
11	Water Safety Strategy
12	Health and safety aspects
13	Site specific risk assessments
14	Basic tree inspections
15	Expert tree inspections
16	Access audit
17	New access audit
18	Bridge inspections
19	Path resurfacing and creation
20	Play area inspections
21	Renewal of play equipment
22	Improvements to the children's play area
23	Land drainage
24	Carry out an environmental audit at the park
25	Collect information on wildlife
26	Collect information on plants
27	Control pest species
28	Circular walks
29	Seating provision
30	Fees and charges
31	Marketing and communication

Project No	Description
32	Interpretation and marketing plan
33	Health Walks Scheme
34	Lake marginal aquatic and emergent planting and bank protection
35	Reed bed creation
36	Tile Barn Field use
37	Mink control
38	Signage and direction to the park
39	Park furniture
40	Creation of suitable habitats
41	Stone Lock improvements
42	Pond/ water course management and pond creation
43	Water meadow management
44	Angling areas
45	Learning opportunities in the park
46	Cutting back path vegetation
47	Scrub clearance
48	Hedgerow restoration
49	Plant more hedgerows
50	Plant trees
51	Coppice rotations
52	The Shallows coppicing
53	CCTV for the main car park
54	Re-apply for the Country Parks Accreditation scheme
55	Automated visitor counters
56	Monitor and increase plant species in the meadows
57	The Shallows clear the channel
58	Outdoor classroom seating area
59	Fixed point orienteering course

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Description
60	Footpath along Lower Haysden Lane
61	Feature for the far end of Barden Lake
62	Rubbing trail
63	Trim trail
64	Sanctuary areas
65	Footpath signage from Leigh village
66	Install a new sewage system for the toilets
67	Disable access to the park
68	Fixed point and aerial photography
69	Hard surfacing of car parks
70	Review cycling provision within the park
71	Dipping platform renewal
72	Extend jetty at Barden Lake
73	Improvements to dog exercise area
74	Expansion of the park
75	Developer contributions
76	Review impacts of Covid 19
77	End of year review
78	New management plan

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Table 12 : Five Year Work Programme

Key: R= Revenue, C= Capital, G= Grant, J= Joint funding opportunity, N= No cost overheads only, S= Sponsorship (income), I= Income, K= in kind donation of time

Priorities : 1 high priority, 2, 3 to 4 lowest priority

Proposed year ●

Progress colours: completed = **green**, started but incomplete = **amber**, not started = **red**.

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Green Flag Award application - Submit application for the award, which is judged annually against the criteria used as the objectives within this plan.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
2	Annual Action Plan - Review the plan, and prepare a new Annual Action Plan for the forthcoming year.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
3	Budget control - Manage the site in line with the approved Revenue and Capital budgets. Prepare budget estimate projections based on estimated expenditure and income on an annual basis.	1	All	R, C	●	●	●	●	●
4	Cost neutral park - Explore opportunities within all new projects, and existing management of the park, to take a 'business like approach' so that the site works towards becoming cost neutral in the future.	1	All	R, G	●	●	●	●	●
5	Investigate new opportunities for partnerships and income streams - Investigate opportunities to work with other organisations, and to generate new income to improve and develop the site and in order to make the site financially sustainable.	1	All	N, I, J	●	●	●	●	●
6	Facility improvements - Investigate enhancements of catering and seating area. Options include: undercover seating, improved toilets, visitor centre and café to provide better services to the public and increase income.	2	1	C, J, G, I		●	●		

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
7	Concessions - Liaise and support the on-site concessions, including regular engagement.	1	All	R, I	●	●	●	●	●
8	Visitor survey - Commission visitor survey and compare the results with the last survey from 2018.	1	All	R				●	
9	Community involvement - Continue to support the park's volunteers, via community engagement.	1	All	R, K, G	●	●	●	●	●
10	Grounds maintenance and other contracts - Implement the work and monitor contracts as necessary and report progress and defects, including work in Tables 3, 4 and 5.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
11	Water Safety Strategy - Implement the actions identified within the strategy. - Maintain a natural barrier protection along sections of the lakes and rivers - Consider signage as required	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
12	Health and safety aspects - Carry out an annual formal site inspection with the Health and Safety Officer, and act on any findings within the report. Ensure that organisations using the site have current Public Liability insurance at an appropriate level. Carry out monthly checks.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
13	Site specific risk assessments - Continue to review and develop site specific risk assessments.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
14	Basic tree inspections - Carry out basic tree inspections in line with the Tree Safety Strategy and implement the findings	1	All	R	●		●	●	

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
15	Expert tree inspections - Carry out expert tree inspections in line with the Tree Safety Strategy and implement the findings.	1	All	R		●			●
16	Access Audit - Progressively implement the actions within the Access Audit in accordance with the priorities recommended, as funding permits.	2	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
17	New access audit - Commission a new access audit of the park, in preparation for the next management plan.	2	All	R				●	
18	Bridge inspections - Carry out regular formal inspections of bridges, and action the required works.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
19	Path resurfacing and creation - Carry out regular checks on paths to assess the need for re-surfacing. Resurface compacted stone paths as they become worn.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
20	Play area inspections - Carry out regular inspections of the children's play area, and act on the findings as necessary and store the inspections.	1	1	R	●	●	●	●	●
21	Renewal of play equipment - Replace play equipment and impact absorbing surfaces as required and in accordance with the Councils Capital renewals fund. <i>Note consider inclusive provision when replacing equipment and surfacing.</i>	2	1	C	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

					Year to implement				
Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
22	Improvements to the children's play area - Consider improvements to the children's play area adding new features, equipment and inclusive play equipment if opportunities should arise.	4	1	C, G	●	●	●	●	●
23	Land drainage - Keep land drainage systems in good working order by removal of blockages. Seasonal closure of the (summer period) land drain to Barden lake to prevent Zebra mussel entering the river.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
24	Carry out an environmental audit at the park - Investigate climate change adaptation within the park, the types and impacts of waste generated in the park and the options to reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of wastes.	3	All	R	●			●	
25	Collect information on wildlife species – Record species visiting and present in the park to establish connections between management of habitats and species presence. Report findings to the Site Manager and the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Continue the monitoring programme, using standard methods, paying particular attention to the distribution of any rare and protected species for Kent and the UK. Work with volunteers and other agencies like the Kent Bat Group, Kent Amphibian and Reptile Group, Kent Mammal Group, Kent Ornithological Society.	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Ornithology and Kent Wildlife Trust. Use this information to inform the management of the habitats in the park.								
26	Collect Information on plants – Record the distribution within the park of rare or scarce species for Kent or the UK. Record the mixture of habitats present in the park to aid management decisions; submitting records to the Site Manager and the Kent and Medway Biological Records centre. Also establish by surveying, if the historical species recorded in the past, are still present in the park.	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●
27	Control of pest species - Monitor and consider control of invasive alien species (non-natives) those classed in law as 'pests' under control for example: Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Zebra Mussel, rabbits, ragwort (Ragwort Control Plan), Canada Geese, and rats.	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●
28	Circular walks - Provide marked walks for differing abilities in various distances (from short easy to long in distance). Utilise the existing made and unmade paths in the park, implement only if funding allows.	4	All	G		●			
29	Seating provision - Keep existing seating in good order and assess the need and provide additional seating as required. Continue to promote the Sponsored Seat scheme.	2	All	S	●	●	●	●	●
30	Fees and charges - Review fees and charges annually to maximise income and recover costs, where practical.	1	All	I	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
31	Marketing and communication - Ensure that the parks events and activities are well promoted through the use of press releases, social media, adverts, local posters, and the Councils publications. Review the ways in which the park is marketed and update marketing information before reprinting.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
32	Interpretation and Marketing Plan - Continue to implement projects within the Interpretation Plan Appendix 5 where funding allows.	2	All	I, C	●	●	●	●	●
33	Health Walks Scheme - Support the year round weekly walks, utilising trained volunteer walk leaders.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
34	Lake marginal aquatic and emergent planting and bank protection - Around Barden Lake and Haysden Water continue the project of planting to protect the banks from erosion and to diversify the habitat. Follow best practice to create a more healthy lake eco system; for aesthetic reasons and; to attract a wider variety of animal species, and to creating fish refuge areas from predators.	2	2, 9	K, G, R	●	●	●		
35	Reed bed creation - Follow best practice to create a healthier lake eco system in liaison with the Town Sailing Club and Angling Society. Plant reeds in the shallow water near the coppiced woodland area of the Nature Reserve.	4	2	G, K		●	●		

Part 3 - How will we get there?

					Year to implement				
Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	The reeds act as a filter for silt and nutrients coming into the lake, act as a fish refuge and provide another area for wildlife like nesting waterfowl and Reed Buntings. Seek external funding.								
36	Tile Barn Field - Consider the opportunities for use of this land, to generate additional income.	3	10	I, J	●	●	●	●	●
37	Mink control - Monitor the number of mink at the site and consider taking action in liaison with adjacent landowners, with outside bodies including Natural England and Kent Wildlife Trust. <i>(Mink is an introduced pest species plus an aggressive species and a predator of fish.) Apply for the consents as required.</i>	2	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
38	Signage and directions to the park - Consider new signs within the park where required, but aim to provide information on a temporary basis where information is short term. Avoid having too many signs which would detract from the rural nature of the park. Consider entrances and the connection of the park to other adjoining public open spaces or public rights of way. Also consider the 'chain of access', how the park is publicised, including maps, website and satellite navigation systems. A desirable criteria from the Country Park Accreditation Scheme.	3	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
39	Park furniture - Carry out regular inspections of all park furniture: gates, signs, seats, bins etc. Repaint, remove and replace items as required.	2	All	R, K	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
40	Creation of suitable habitats – Volunteers to construct bird boxes and clear stream bank to provide nesting opportunities. Consider other habitat creation work to give overwintering and feeding opportunities for wildlife. Gives the public an opportunity to have more contact with nature and study it more closely.	3	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●
41	Stone Lock improvements – Investigate options to make enhancements around the Lock, including new interpretation signage. Subject to grant aid funding or volunteer assistance.	4	5	G, K, C					●
42	Pond/ water course management and pond creation – Create new mini ponds within the old river channels and manage existing ponds and water courses to keep some areas of open water where opportunities exist to encourage animals like amphibians and insects. Work with the volunteers and other agencies.	2	2, 6, 7	R, K	●		●		●
43	Water Meadow management – Continue the management of this part of the site as a series of ‘ponds’ at various stages of succession, with areas of bare mud scrapes (shallow seasonal ponds). Dig more ponds, but retain some areas of open grassland. Adopt a maintenance regime that creates an open attractive meadow, but that restricts the growth of course grasses and herbs and removes woody scrub. This will encourage increases in numbers of the nationally scarce water meadow plants, including the Narrow Leaved Water Dropwort and the associated wildlife. (The area is already subject to periodic flooding and is within the ‘reservoir’ flood retention area for the Leigh Barrier).	3	3	K, G, R	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
44	Angling areas - Investigate opportunities to establish designated marked numbered 'angling swims' within the fishing areas in liaison with the Angling Society. Having agreed the areas to fish and taken steps to protect the banks as needed, this should also reduce bank erosion.	2	2, 3, 7, 8, 9	K, G	●				
45	Learning opportunities in the park – Aim to encourage and increase the number of young people who are given opportunities to learn in the park through the Ranger Led Activity Pack. Use of the Dipping Platform and other events and information provided about the park.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
46	Cut back path vegetation - Overhanging/encroaching vegetation to be cut back from paths.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
47	Scrub clearance – Remove scrub from selective grassland areas of the park in rotation to keep a balance of grassland, scrub, woodland, open woodland rides and glades.	2	2, 3, 6, 7	K	●	●	●	●	●
48	Hedgerow restoration - Restore declining hedgerows by laying these hedges or adding dead hedging and replanting to increase their density and suitability for wildlife, utilising the volunteers.	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●
49	Plant more hedgerows – Take opportunities to replace existing fences and other boundaries with new hedges: marking boundaries; to divide the site up and; create new habitats.	2	All	R, K	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
50	Plant trees – Take opportunities to increase the tree cover in the park whilst still aiming to retain a diverse mosaic of different habitats (grassland, woodland and scrub) within the park.	4	All	K, G	●	●	●	●	●
51	Coppice rotations – Continue cutting designated areas in rotational cycles to create a habitat suitable for nesting birds. Prevent the full enclosure of the canopy. Ensure that advice on bats is sought prior to any felling. Leave standard trees where they are in good condition, and away from paths, and large dead wood logs to add to the diversity of the habitat. Coppice the area in the Nature Reserve for wildlife and to allow sailing.	2	1, 5, 9	K, R	●		●		●
52	The Shallows coppicing - Coppice the willow trees within the fenced area along The Shallows. Treat this area as a wildlife refuge and keep dogs and the public out by retaining boundary hedge/fencing around the area.	3	7	K, R			●		
53	CCTV for the main car park - Consider the feasibility of installing CCTV in the main car park.	4	10	C				●	
54	Re-apply Country Parks Accreditation Scheme - Natural England run this scheme. Applied and reaccredited in 2022.	2	All	R			●		
55	Automated visitor counters - Investigate the feasibility of installing and rotating around the park, so that more accurate visitor numbers can be established.	3	All	R	●	●			

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
56	Monitor and increase plant species in the meadows – Carry out plant surveys to record existing vegetation and to monitor the effectiveness of this project. If there is a benefit, use established recognised methods to increase species numbers of wildflowers in the meadows. (Note only carry out in the part of Compartment 8 Medway Meadow nearest Stone Lock).	2	3, 5, 8	K, G	●	●	●	●	●
57	The Shallows clear the channel – Investigate with key stakeholders the feasibility of clearing more of The Shallows the narrow channel from the dipping platform to the railway.	1	7	G, K		●			
58	Outdoor classroom seating area - Provide a seating area for outdoor education in a suitable location.	3		G	●				
59	Fixed point orienteering course - Investigate opportunities to install a fixed point course at the park with a partner orienteering club.	4	All	G, K				●	
60	Footpath along Lower Haysden Lane - Investigate opportunities to provide a public footpath along the lane possibly with shared use with cyclists.	3		C, J	●	●	●	●	●
61	Feature for the far end of Barden Lake - Consider options for a landmark feature at the lake head (Audley Rise end). Ideas include a feature seat or sculpture.	3		G		●			
62	Rubbing trail - Investigate the feasibility of providing a rubbing trail of nature related plaques on posts around the park as something for children to do.	3	All	G					●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priorit	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
63	Trim Trail - Investigate the feasibility of providing a free to use trim exercise equipment for people to use.	4	9	G, C		●			
64	Sanctuary areas - A few areas of the park have no public access and are left for the benefit of wildlife. They enable wildlife to thrive so that the public can come into contact with more wildlife. These areas will be managed in a sensitive manner in order that wildlife has the opportunity to nest shelter and feed. Access for the public will be prevented to avoid disturbance.	1	All	K, R	●				
65	Footpath signage from Leigh village - Install a fingerpost sign to the park on the public right of way MU24 footpath entrance from Hunter Seal in Leigh, to encourage visitors from the north to visit the park.	4	9	R	●				
66	Install a new sewage system for toilets - In order to provide increased capacity to meet demand.	1	10	C	●				
67	Disabled access to the park - Investigate replacing the disabled fishing platforms, and provide hard surface access route to the viewing parking area and platforms from the car park.	2		C, G		●			
68	Fixed point and aerial photography - Establish and record the fixed locations and take annual photographs at these fixed vegetation cover over the years. Also utilise aerial photography available on Geographical Information Systems to compare the same areas. This will enable areas to be prioritised and selected for habitat management and scrub removal.	2	All	N	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
69	Hard surfacing car parks - Investigate hard surfacing the two car parks at Haysden Water to enable year round access.	3	1	C, K	●	●	●	●	●
70	Review cycling provision within the park - Consider the options and cycling restrictions though the park, but ensure that any changes do not negatively impact on the park and its other users. Also consider this as part of the wider KCC Kent Cycling Strategy when this is reviewed.	4	All	C, G		●			
71	Dipping platform renewal - Replace the dipping platform when it comes to the end of its useful life.	3	7	R, G				●	
72	Extend jetty at Barden Lake - Extend the length of the jetty to allow greater access to the view.	4	9	G					●
73	Improvements to the dog exercise area - Consider making improvements to the dog exercise area including the addition of adding a fixed dog agility course.	3	10	C, G		●			●
74	Expansion of the park - Consider the expansion of the parks land area should opportunities arise, to increase capacity for visitors and give greater connectivity benefits for biodiversity.	4	All	C	●	●	●	●	●
75	Developer contributions - Investigate and pursue opportunities for investment in the site from developer contributions.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
76	Review the Impact of covid 19 - Review the impact of covid 19 on the management of the site in both the short and long term.	2	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
76	End of year review - At the end of each year review the plan and update it to ensure that the plan is still relevant.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●

Part 3 - How will we get there?

Project No	Project	Priority	Compartment	Funding	Year to implement				
					2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
77	New management plan - Carry out an end of plan review and produce the next park management plan for the period 2025 - 2029.	2	All	N				●	●

Notes

2020

The covid 19 global pandemic, has restricted some of the projects we had for the park this year, with two UK national lockdowns. During these periods our concessions have closed down, and volunteering stopped and during the first lockdown the car park was closed. We did manage to install a new sewage system and replace the roof on the building when the lockdown eased early on the year. The Councils expenditure this year was restricted to essential expenditure only. We adapted the service and continue provide services with most Council staff working from home, among other things instead of face to face meetings with the user panel we wrote two newsletters for the public. We have continued to review risk assessments and implementing new working practices in light of the covid restrictions. The park was exceptionally busy this year with higher than usual visitor numbers.

2021

Another busy year adapting to the 'new normal' with more restrictions on the public early and latter in the year due to the ongoing impacts of covid. Over the summer the park was exceptionally busy with visitors and car parking income was good this year. Events have been restricted to self-led trails in part because of covid and also because we have no funding to bring in external organisers. With the funding allocated for covid recovery directed towards children's play and without other funding sources we have been unable to carry out a number of planned projects or to implement reinstatement of the areas damaged by high footfall in 2020. External funding is practically non existent at the present time and the Council has continued it's 'essential expenditure only'. But we did replace the junior multi play unit and the IAS and the IAS under the swings in November with funding from the covid recovery fund. We also manage to install new the new entrance signs that were in storage awaiting the volunteers help installing these, and the volunteers gained a small grant from the Waitrose Partners which was used to replace the bridge name signs and free tree seedlings were received and planted from the Woodland Trust. Demand for sponsored seats also continues to be higher than usual. We worked with Tonbridge School on volunteer day at the park where they funded materials for revetment work at Barden Lake. The Environment Agency have been working at Haysden Water end of the park, during most of this year on the Leigh Barrier, they served notice on the Council with a Statutory Order to take over all the parking areas and made a storage area here from March until December. The volunteers have worked hard this year, although this year we are still making up for lost time. We put forward some

Part 3 - How will we get there?

projects in the management plan for the Councils Climate change funding, and await the outcome.

2022

Expenditure has still been constrained to essential expenditure only, by the Council, this year. External funding has again also been difficult to obtain this year, with few grants open to us that has meant that some of the projects in the management plan have been postponed. This management plan was always going to be stretching and ambitious. The volunteers did secure some fund for small projects like small trees, a new leaflet rack from Waitrose Partners, and sponsored seats continue to be popular. Tonbridge School volunteered again this year and gave us funding to continue the revetment work around Barden Lake. We have also replaced litter and dog bins that came to the end of their life.

We have continued with some self-led events for the public this year and negotiated with the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to run some in person events by charging the public, so at no cost to the Council.

Sharps Bridge after delays with contractors should be replaced by the Public Rights of Way section of Kent County Council this winter.

A Council committee report this year, agreed the switch from the customer panel meetings to newsletters after we had successfully used newsletters for the two previous years.

Our volunteer botanist recorder has continued gathering records for new plants, a group from the Kent Field Club made visit to the site this year and added some more new plants to our site list.

The Environment Agencies contractors continued to work this summer on the Leigh Barrier embankment and closed access across the park over the summer. By the autumn they had finished the project inside the park, 1 year ahead of schedule. We now just have some fencing in place while the grass establishes on the embankment.

This winter we will be starting to prepare the new management plan for the park, aiming to commission in 2023 a new user survey and an Access Audit to update those parts of the plan.

Part 4 - How will we know when we have arrived?

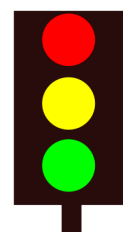
The final section looks at how we will track progress and how the Plan is updated.

It is important to realise that a Management Plan is only a snapshot in time, and may need periodic updating to keep it relevant. This may include alterations to reflect policy changes, new innovation, changes in resources, or feedback from users and others.



14.0 Monitoring progress

Progress will be monitored against the Five Year Work Programme and the Annual Action Plan, at contractor meetings and by the Parks Officers. To help keep track, the progress for both the Five Year Work Programme and the Annual Action Plans will be marked using the traffic light background colours, green for completed tasks/ projects, amber started but incomplete, and red not started.



Accreditation

This Plan has been written to meet the criteria for the Green Flag Award. Its appropriateness can be assessed against the outcome of any future applications for this and other awards.

Annual management plan review

In order to keep the plan relevant, prior to the start of each year, an annual review will be carried out. Much of the site description, policy and aims are unlikely to change from year to year, but the final sections of the plan are more dynamic, and the whole plan will need reviewing and updating where necessary. The most important part of the review will be to look at the Five Year Work Programme and from this draw up the one-year Annual Action Plan for the coming year.

End of plan review

Prior to the expiry of this Plan on 31 December 2024, a full review will be undertaken to develop a further Five-year Management Plan.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 - Location plan
- Appendix 2 - Master plan
- Appendix 3 - Entrance accessibility
- Appendix 4 - Access Audit
- Appendix 5 - Legal aspects map
- Appendix 6 - Example risk assessment
- Appendix 7 - Asset list
- Appendix 8 - Chemicals used at the park
- Appendix 9 - Habitat characteristics and species composition
- Appendix 10 - Land tenure map
- Appendix 11 - Country park budget
- Appendix 12 - Annual Action Plan (not present in this copy)
- Appendix 13 - Interpretation and marketing plan

Entrance accessibility

Entrance No.		Pedestrian	Cyclist	Horse riders	Wheelchair access	Public disabled vehicles	Public access	Restricted (no public vehicle)	Contractors vehicles	Anglers on foot
1a	Main road entrance	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
1b	Main entrance footpath	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
2	Audley Rise car park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
3a	Haysden Water access barrier	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
3b	Haysden water gates	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
4	Mud Lane	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Lower Haysden Lane	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
6	Barden allotments	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
7	Chestnut Walk	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
8	Tow path	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
9	Friendship bridge	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
10	James Christie bridge	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
11	Footpath from Leigh	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
12	Barrier by toilets	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

See Master Plan for the location of entrances

Access Audit

Haysden Country Park
Lower Haysden Lane
Tonbridge
Kent
TN11 9BE

A Report to: Chris Fox
Leisure Services
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Date: 05/04/2019

Written by: Duncan White BSc (Hons) C.BuildE MCABE

Issue No: 1

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**BUILDING CONTROL
PARTNERSHIP**



Contents

**BUILDING CONTROL
PARTNERSHIP**



<u>Introduction</u>	iii
<u>Scope</u>	iii
<u>Criteria for assessment</u>	iii
<u>Legislative Context</u>	iii
<u>The park</u>	v
<u>Audit Report</u>	vi
<u>Entering the site and car parking</u>	vi
<u>Toilet facilities</u>	vii
<u>Paths etc</u>	viii
<u>Picnic facilities, play areas and activity areas</u>	ix
<u>Seating</u>	xi
<u>Web access, leaflets and providing information</u>	xii
<u>Conclusion</u>	xiv
<u>Recommendation</u>	xv

Introduction

Scope

This access audit report has been prepared for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. It is to review the accessibility of the park and the facilities within it.

The audit will review the accessibility and the usability for occupiers and visitors. It will include issues that are considered to affect the convenience of all the occupants and visitors not just those with identifiable disabilities. An assessment of the online presence of the site was also carried out, as well as the leaflets available in the park.

This approach will promote the principle of inclusive design, to improve usability for all users regardless of age, ability or gender. It will also review the information available to people who intend to visit the site, as well as once they have arrived at the site.

Criteria for assessment

The criteria for the assessment are as follows:

To review the existing provision of access for disabled people to the park.

The financial and practical considerations of access improvements.

The Approved Document Part M, v.2015 of the Building Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Guidance in British Standard BS 8300:2009

The Equality Act 2010

A Market survey 2018 carried out for TMBC in 2018, by Blackwood Bayne.

Legislative Context.

The Equality Act 2010 places duties on the Council as follows:

As a service provider, and,

as a Public Body having a "Public Sector Equality Duty",

The general principles set out within the Equality Act is that anyone who has a protected characteristic must not be unlawfully discriminated against, harassed or victimised in accessing the premises or service, and reasonable adjustments must be made for disabled people. It is not acceptable to wait until a disabled person wants to use the service, provision must be made in advance.

Public sector organisations must have what the law calls 'due regard' to the need to eliminate the types of conduct which are prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.

It is important to note that it is the service or business that has to be compliant with the Act, not the building.

The Act is civil legislation and enforcement has to be actioned by the person who is feeling discriminated against.

The above is a very brief guide on the Act. Comprehensive guidance is available from the Equality and Human Rights Commission website:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/private-and-public-sector-guidance>

Where appropriate the guidance in the Approved Document or BS 8300 will be used for dimensional guidance.

This audit will identify areas where the park does not enable the service or business to comply.

The above is an informal opinion on the application of the Equality Act. Adherence to the advice contained in this report does not guarantee compliance with the Act or immunity from action by a disabled person.

The park



The 65 hectare park is in the Medway Valley, to the west of Tonbridge. It includes a range of habitats such as river, grassland, freshwater lakes, marshland and woodland. The park also includes part of the flood relief embankment for the Leigh flood barrier. The park is owned and managed by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

Adjacent to the main car park area accessible from Lower Haysden Lane; there is a Warden building which includes public toilets including a disabled WC facility. There is a café next to the Warden's building, with a number of picnic benches available. An enclosed children's play area is also provided adjacent to the car park.

There are three vehicular entrances, all of which are suitable for pedestrians and cyclists. There are an additional five pedestrian access points.

A number of Public Rights of Way cross the park, including the Wealdway and the Eden Valley Walk. Some of the paths are surfaced, and some of them are grass. A large number of seats have been provided adjacent to the paths. There are a number of bridges over the rivers. The bridges are of different sizes and gradients and where on the Public Rights of Way they are the responsibility of Kent County Council Highways Services.

A Regional Cycling Route (12) passes through the park. Fishing is permitted in certain locations, and sailing is permitted in one of the lakes through membership of the Sailing Club.

The Network Rail line between Tonbridge and Redhill also passes through the park and there are a number of bridges in the park. The A21 Tonbridge bypass also passes over part of the park on a viaduct.

Audit Report

Entering the site and car parking

The current situation	Recommendations
<p>Road Entrances</p> <p>The drive into the car park accessed from Lower Haysden Lane is tarmac with retro-fitted speed bumps. Whilst they reduce the speed of the traffic they can cause discomfort to disabled people arriving in cars. A separate path is provided alongside the drive for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>	<p>Consideration to be given to reducing the width of the sleeping policemen to allow a smoother drive for motorists.</p>
<p>Car Park surfaces</p> <p>The main car park accessed from Lower Haysden Lane is level and predominantly tarmacked. Individual parking spaces are marked out on the tarmac. An overspill car park is compacted road stone.</p> <p>The car park accessed from Audley Rise is tarmac. It provides level access into the park.</p> <p>The Haysden Water car park accessed from Lower Haysden Lane is compacted gravel and is not level.</p> <p>Height restriction barriers are provided to all the car parks but these are not considered a restriction on</p>	<p>The Haysden Water car park should be considered for an upgrade to provide a level firm surface suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. It would probably be reasonable to tarmac only an area of the car park to provide suitable access.</p>
<p>Disabled parking Spaces</p> <p>There are three marked designated disabled parking spaces in the Main car park, that are located close to the warden building which contains the toilets and are near the main pedestrian access to the park. The rest of the tarmacked part of the car park is marked into bays which vary in size, because of the curve of the car park which can give increased manoeuvring space. No markings provided where the car park surface is compacted stone.</p> <p>There are no marked bays in the Audley Rise car park which is tarmacked.</p> <p>The Haysden Water car park is not tarmacked and therefore not marked in anyway. The surface is compacted road stone and not level and not comfortable for wheelchair users.</p> <p>Access to Barden Lake is provided via a RADAR key access barrier and car parking spaces are available overlooking the lake. This entrance also allows access to the disabled fishing platforms.</p>	<p>The Audley Rise car park is not heavily used, but consideration should be given to providing marked up disabled parking bays. Wheelchair friendly spaces should be located nearest the exits from the car park to the park to limit the travel distances over rough terrain.</p> <p>A tarmacked surface for the Haysden Water car park should be marked out with wheelchair friendly spaces, in conjunction with suitable access into the park.</p>

<p>Pedestrian Access Points</p> <p>All the access points to the park, including those from the Main and Audley Rise car parks are level, and there are no significant width restrictions. The access from the Haysden Water car park is not level and has padlocked barriers across the paths. The path beyond the barrier is concrete and quite steep and could restrict access for most wheelchair users including those with friends who are prepared to push. This path goes over the flood defences.</p>	<p>Resources should be put towards making the Haysden Water car park and the paths from it accessible for all.</p> <p>As the path goes over the flood barrier the angle of the paths cannot be changed, however access could be improved by in liaison with the owner (the EA) the provision of a handrail on one or both sides.</p>
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Toilet facilities

The current situation	Recommendations
<p>There are toilets provided as part of the warden building adjacent to the main car park. Grab rails have been provided in the main toilets for the ambulant disabled.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>There is one toilet facility suitable for wheelchair users serving the whole park. It is accessed with a RADAR key.</p>	<p>Visitor numbers should be monitored to see if additional facilities are required.</p>

Paths etc.

The current situation	Recommendations
<p>Paths</p> <p>The main paths around the park are firm and suitable for wheelchairs and ambulant disabled. Not all the minor paths in the outlying areas of the park are suitable for wheelchairs.</p> <p>Some of the outlying areas of the park are not surfaced and rely on compacted earth.</p> <p>However the survey of users of the park reported that a number of the paths are uncomfortable to use because of the surface (road stone) having large stones. Paths were also referred to as “tricky”, “rough” and awkward.</p> <p>There is some wear and tear to the stone surface in some areas of the park, which would make for an uncomfortable ride for wheelchairs and pushchairs.</p> <p>The users also commented that more information about the suitability of the paths would be helpful.</p>	<p>A continuous programme of maintenance to the paths should ensure that the paths do not deteriorate to the point where they are not suitable for wheelchair users.</p> <p>The worst areas should be prioritised for improvement.</p> <p>Upgrades to paths should be considered to improve access.</p> <p>Improved information about which paths are accessible should be available. This should be available on the website and on site. At the moment the main leaflet refers to “grass” paths and “hard” paths. More clarity about the suitability of the paths and bridges should be provided online and at car park entrances to the park.</p>
<p>Heusenstamm Wood</p> <p>Access is through a path restrictor gate to prevent cyclists passing through. This restricts wheelchair users from entering the woods; there is a wooden gate adjacent to the restrictor but it is RADAR key padlocked closed. The path through the woods is not suitable for wheelchairs.</p>	<p>Wheelchair friendly access through the wood should be considered, taking into account the usability of the paths to get to the entrance to the woodland.</p>
<p>Bridges</p> <p>A number of the bridges do not comply with guidance in the British Standard. They have steep ramps or stepped access, and are narrow. The handrails leading to the bridges are not compliant and the surfaces are not always anti slip.</p>	<p>The bridges generally are the responsibility of Kent County Council, and making improvements would need to be organised through them.</p> <p>Where possible provisions should be made to assist users of the bridges; this could include handrails, non-slip surfaces etc.</p> <p>Information about each bridge and its accessibility/ usability should be available.</p>

Picnic facilities, play areas and activity areas

The current situation	Recommendations
<p>Picnic facilities</p> <p>The picnic facilities adjacent to Barden Lake are accessible and have picnic benches with extended tables to allow for a wheelchair user to sit at the table with friends and family.</p> <p>The path and areas around the benches is firm and suitable for wheelchairs, however there is some deterioration of the surface.</p> <p>The seated area adjacent to the café also has extended tables. The surface is tarmacked.</p> <p>One of the comments in the user survey was that there is no weather protection in the café area.</p> <p>This was not in specific relation to disabled users of the park, but would help disabled people who may take longer to get to existing shelters or their car.</p>	<p>Regular maintenance of the paths and hard surfaces should be carried out.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the provision of weather protection to certain areas of the picnic areas.</p>
<p>Play areas</p> <p>The enclosed play area next to the main car park is wheelchair friendly with access to virtually all the rides. There are soft landing surfaces around the main rides.</p> <p>There are limited rides specifically for disabled children and this was picked up in the survey.</p> <p>There is some sensory equipment within the play area and a Play Sculpture Trail through the main park which is accompanied by a children's quiz.</p>	<p>The provision of more play equipment designed specifically for the disabled should be considered.</p>
<p>Pond dipping</p> <p>The pond dipping platforms are user friendly and allow a wheelchair user to partake of the activity.</p> <p>Balustrading is kept to a minimum to allow plenty of access, there is a kick rail to prevent a wheelchair from slipping off the edge.</p> <p>See previous notes on paths regarding suitability of access to the platforms.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Sailing</p> <p>Access is limited because the main path is from the Haysden Water car park and the path is not suitable for wheelchairs. Access is allowed by car for club users to outside the compound to small drop off car park.</p>	<p>Encourage the Sailing Club to ensure that there is access for disabled people. Disabled club members would be able to drive to the club buildings, but this is not the case for visitors and spectators. See comments on paths.</p>
<p>Fishing</p> <p>Access to the fishing areas is via designated access. A fishing point set aside for disabled people has been set up, and a person can drive to a specified fishing point to allow for a disabled person to get out of the car, or accompany family members (access via RADAR key). The path from the vehicle area to the platform is steep and has no handrail.</p>	<p>There are no recommendations for the applicable standards for the numbers of fishing points or the design of suitable fishing points.</p> <p>The provision of the handrail to the designated fishing point helps access but handrails to both sides would be better.</p> <p>Measures to restrict access to disabled users could be considered as there is only one designated location in the park.</p>
<p>Café</p> <p>The café is run by a concession and the building and access to it are their responsibility. It should be noted however that the building is not accessible by wheelchair staff, should there be any, as the building is small with very limited working space. The height of the service counter is very high and would make using it almost impossible for wheelchair users and someone with restricted growth.</p>	<p>The concession should be encouraged to ensure that they can accommodate serving disabled people.</p>
<p>Dog walking area</p> <p>There is a secure area for dogs to be let off the lead. The gates impair access and there is no hard surface within the area.</p>	<p>Improve the accessibility to the area should be provided; the provision of a firm area for a wheelchair and for the infirm to stand on.</p>
<p>There are wardens on site who provide support to the running of the park and groups visiting the park.</p>	<p>A number of self-service activities are provided e.g. a nature trail, but more could be provided, and catering for a wider range of abilities.</p> <p>No information is available about any assistance skills that the wardens have.</p> <p>The Sensory Trust provides information on setting up activities within the countryside, including nationally agreed symbols that should be incorporated.</p>

Seating

The current situation	Recommendations
Seating is provided along most of the paths, the majority with backs and arms.	Provision of more seating in the more outlying areas should be considered even where there is currently no wheelchair access. New seating should be provided with a back and armrests, to help those with frailty and mobility issues to sit and get out of the seat, and a range of heights and styles should also be considered.
Some of the picnic benches near the café and overlooking Barden Lake have an extended end which allows a wheelchair user to sit at the bench with friends and family.	No action required.

Web access, leaflets and providing information

The current situation	Recommendations
<p>Website</p> <p>The auditor is not familiar enough with W3C standards to carry out a comprehensive technical evaluation of the webpages and therefore has not done so.</p> <p>The web site is managed by TMBC and according to the website it is designed to conform to a minimum of Level AA of the Web Accessibility Initiative (http://www.w3.org/WAI/).</p>	<p>Guidance on the Accessibility Guidelines from W3C. WAI WCAG2.1 can be found at http://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/glance/ .</p> <p>As the website is managed by the Tonbridge & Malling Council's IT service, there should be regular accessibility audits, and reference should be made to those for compliance.</p>
<p>The quality of the information provided on the website is good with the following features identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible parking • accessible toilets • access/restricted accessibility routes • clear language which is easy to understand • easy to read, good sized text, simply laid out • a separate page is available detailing accessibility in the park 	<p>The map on the web page for parking was not functioning properly in that the map was not displayed although the car parks were.</p> <p>More information on accessible parts of the park would help people who are planning to visit, or if already at the park, find the best places to access the park, and which parts a wheelchair friendly. The Sensory Trust provides a lot of web based information on making inclusive and accessible outside spaces. Included in this is what they call "The Access Chain" which clearly sets out things to consider which may help visitors to a site, right from when they decide to visit to when their visit has finished. https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/information/factsheets/access-chain.html</p> <p>Easy Read symbols for people with learning difficulties should be used on leaflets and on web based information.</p>

<p>Leaflets</p> <p>A number of leaflets are available on site and by download as pdfs from the website. They are generally well set out with clear text. The main park leaflet “Park Guide & Map” has coloured background which does not affect contrast. The paper map is clear with a simple legend, however the colours used to identify the bridleway and the path are very similar and may lead to confusion. The quality of the image on the website is not clear with the text being fuzzy and the map is not interactive.</p>	<p>To assist web users the quality of the main leaflet image should be improved, and consideration should be given to making the map interactive. More information on accessible parts of the park would help people who are planning to visit find the best places to access the park, and which parts a wheelchair friendly. The leaflets are only available at the main car park. More information on accessibility around the park should be available in an accessible format at all the entrances.</p>
<p>Signage around the site</p> <p>There is a reasonable amount of signage around the site, although there are comments in the customer survey that more could be provided in the outlying parts of the park.</p> <p>Some of the signage has recessed text, some braille, and there are some pictorial signs, but they are in need of maintenance.</p>	<p>Clearer signing catering for all abilities should be provided through the site. Accessible routes at the entrances, with information about the path surfaces, bridges, etc. should be clearly identified.</p>

Conclusion

There is a good standard of access to the park and the facilities within the park, although there are some areas of concern.

Some of the seating is not accessible to wheelchair users.

The paths are starting to deteriorate. Not all the paths and bridges are user friendly, but some of this is beyond the control of the Council, i.e. Public Rights of Way.

Since the last Access Audit there has been a lot of work carried out to improve the park and accessibility.

Improving accessible paths and facilities should also be planned.

Web-based information has also improved since the last audit however the opportunity to further improve to cater for a wider variety of disabilities should not be missed.

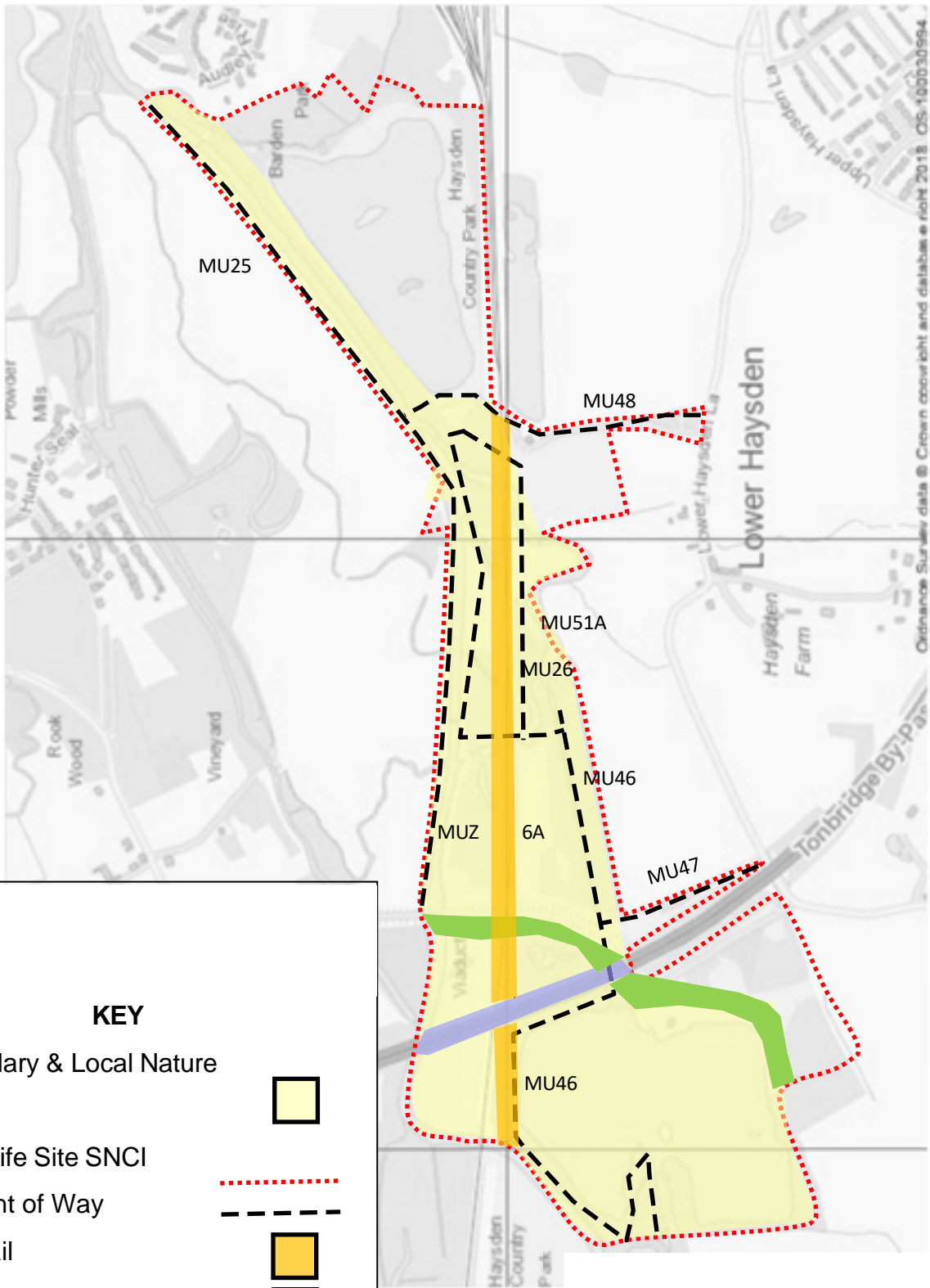
Recommendations

The good standard of provision should be maintained.

Improvements should be considered in the following areas:

1. Access to the dipping platform by the provision of a hard-wearing wheelchair friendly path. The path should be ramped at changes in level, and should be accompanied by shallow gradient steps. A kerb should be provided to the edge of the platforms.
2. Regular maintenance should be carried out to the paths to ensure good standards of accessibility. Smoothness of surface, cross-fall/camber, width of path are some of the considerations.
3. Provision of a wider variety of equipment facilities to accommodate varying disabilities.
4. It is recognised that the integrity of the principle of the “Country Park” should not be compromised. Accordingly changes and improvements will need to be carried out sympathetically.
5. Improvements to the whole visitor experience, from the moment that the decision to visit the park and research the site is made to the time they leave. How and what information is available on the council’s website, and the use of social media, to help prospective visitors make the decision to visit needs to be considered and improved, as well as the information available when they arrive on site.


Legal aspects map



KEY

- Site Boundary & Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site SNCI
- Public Right of Way
- Network rail
- Highways Agency
- Environment Agency

Example risk assessment

		RISK ASSESSMENT: Footpaths in the Park		RISK ASSESSOR/S:			
		RISK REF:	SEVERITY (S) X (L) LIKELIHOOD = (RR) RISK RATING	RISK ASSESSMENT DATE:	RISK REVIEW DATE:		
Description of Area/Activity/Process: Hayden Country Park has many footpaths within it boundary some these are designated public rights of ways					25/11/22 Jan 2024		
<u>Hazard / Activity / Risk</u>	Per-son(s) at Risk	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Grading	<u>Existing Control Measures in place</u>	<u>Additional Control Measures / Action Required</u>	Risk Grading After Actions Completed
Slippery Surfaces due to adverse weather wet and / or icy conditions	Public and staff	2	3	6	The Shallows Bridge, Rainbow Bridge, and Sharps bridge now all have anti slip surface. Use temporary signage 'warning ice' to be installed in extreme weather conditions	Use temporary signage 'warning ice' to be installed in extreme weather conditions.	2
Slip trip or fall on uneven ground	Public and staff	2	3	6	Footpaths monitored regularly by the Leisure Services Officer and any areas which are considered to be unsafe are reported. Restricted access by vehicles this will decrease the wear on the footpaths. Service and staff vehicles using the footpaths is to be kept to a minimum. Any uneven areas of footpath are to be signed as 'Uneven Ground' or to be fenced off until repairs can be carried out. Signs at hazards are on each entrance warning of possible hazards on the site e.g. on bridges Repairs carry out regular repairs	Regular monitoring	4

	Asset list	
	Supplier/ maker	Quantity
AED and cabinet	Wel Medical	1
Bat cave	Kent Bat Group	1
Baby changing unit wall mounted	Koala Kare	1
Boot wipers	Barricade fabrications and another	2
Bollards	Various	17
Bollards' drop type	Rhino and others	4
Bridges owned by TMBC	Sarum and others	3
Bridges owned by KCC		8
Bridge owned by EA (Friendship bridge)		1
Brindle route permissive (excludes the Public Right of Way brindle route)		637 LM
Catering unit		1
Car parks		4
Car park meters	Cala bripac	3
Car parking backboard signs	Royal British Legion Industries	9
Car parking spaces		100
Cycle stands - Sheffield type	Broxap	2
Disabled car parking spaces		3
Disabled fishing platforms		2
Disabled lakeside parking		4 spaces
Dipping platform	MVCP	1
Disabled view point parking area		1
Dog waste bins	Glasdon UK	21
Educational area seating and tables	Steve Pouchmouth	5 Units
Fences (does not included disused fences)		1300 LM
Flagpole folding type	Harrison External Display Systems	1
Fishing swims		22
Gates - barriers	Various manufacturers	5
Gates field 5 bar type	Various makes	10
Gates pedestrian	Various makes	9
Gates self closing (play area) - Mono hinge	Joseph Ash Company	2
Height barrier		3
High vehicle parking spaces		5
3 counties 'A' barrier	Fearn truck bodies	4

	Supplier/ maker	Quantity
Jetty	Valley Landscape	1
Landing stage for boat		1
Litter bins - Rustic 120 litre	Earth Anchors	12
Litter bins - frog shaped 140 litre	David Ogilvie	3
Litter bins lidded - 105 litre Textured Glass Fibre with wooden front and lid	Wybone Ltd	7
Litter bins - Cardiff all metal	Streetmaster	3
Life buoy stations	Glasdon	4
Multi use goal mouth	Wicksteed	1
Multi use goal mouth	Wicksteed	1
Notice boards		4
Paths unmade no surfacing (all)		3142 LM
Paths surfaced (all)		3600 LM
Public Right of Way designated as 'brindle route' (excludes the permissive path)		443 LM
Public rights of way designated as 'paths' (also included in paths surfaced and unsurfaced figures)		4161 LM
Paths National Cycle Route 12 within boundary of the park		2366 LM
Picnic tables all metal	Wybone, and Streetmaster	16
Picnic tables all metal with extension for disable access	Wybone,	6
Play areas		1
Play equipment items	SMP, Wicksteed, Inclusive play, Kompan	23
Play area Impact Absorbing Surfacing	PHS Group Ltd, Wicksteed Leisure and Hags SMP, Kompan	
Play sculptures	Broxap/ Hand made places	16
Roads		600 LM
Salt bin	Glasdon	1
Sailing club building and boat store		1
Sanitary bins	Initial washroom	3
Seats with backs	Tilford - Norbury Park Kensington - Streetmaster	49
Seat benches (no backs)		17
Stiles owned by others	N/A	2

	Supplier/ maker	Quantity
Sewage plant	Lemon Drainage	1
Signs metal owned by TMBC	Weddle and Co and RBLI	45
Signs - owned by others e.g. Environment Agency	N/A	4
Signs - interpretation	Weddle and Co	2
Signs directional	Signs Workshop	13
Signs - entrance	Elements made by Metro signs and Popi designs	7
Signs - cycle route finger signs	Sustrains and others	6
Signs - cycle route directional	Sustrains and others	7
Signs - play area	Weedle and Co	2
Trade waste bins (Council use only)	Veiolia	2
Steps sets of		3
Toilets and office building and compound		1
Toilets male cubical		1
Toilets urinals		2
Toilets female cubicles		2
Toilets disabled		1

Chemicals used in the park

Chemical Name	Active ingredients	Reason for use
Deadline	Bromadlolone.	Rodent control around litter bins.
Phostoxin	Aluminium phosphide, Phospine/ hydrogen phosphide. Used on the last occasion.	Rabbit control around flood barrier.
White spirit		Cleaning paint brushes.
Non-Porous Surface Graffiti remover Wipes (red top)	Sodium Hydroxide, Natrium Xylene, Sulphonate, Disodium Metasilicate, C9/C11 Fatty Alcohol, Ethoxylate, 2-(2-butoxyethoxy), Ethanol.	Removing graffiti.
Graf-Off wipes (blue top)	Gamma Butyrolactone, 2-Propanol, Benzylalcohol.	Removing graffiti.
Round-up Pro Active	Glyphosate.	Weedkiller used in the car park on hard surfaces and on the drive.

NB. The principle of using the least harmful chemical is applied. Alternative methods of control have been considered but are not viable at this time, but will remain under review.

Habitat characteristics and species composition

Habitat survey notes

A) Barden Lake

This is the deepest lake in the park estimated to be over 5 metres in depth on average. It contains some emergent plants and submerged plants like Canadian pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*). The lake regularly attracts waterfowl such as ducks, gulls, Coot, (*Fulica atra*) and Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), Greylag, (*Anser anser*) and Canada Geese, (*Branta Canadensis*). The marginal planting and bank reinstatement has increased the plant diversity around the lake edge. The two wooded islands are roosts for birds and nesting sites.

B) Barden Lake surrounds

This is grassland with occasional scrub thickets, with rushes growing on wet flush areas. Recent tree planting around the lake should add to the variety of habitats.

C) Barden Shaw

This is a mixed broad leaved woodland managed as a coppice woodland. A number of species visit this woodland including Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*), Serotine Bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*), and Soprano Pipistrelle Bats (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*). Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) are also present along the river. Dragonfly species have also been noted. Older records show that Dyer's Greenwood (*Genista tinctoria*) was once present near this location.

D) Audley Wood

This is a mixed broadleaved woodland which contains Hornbeam, (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and small amounts of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

E) Stone Lock

The Stone Lock remains date from 1830, consists of walls of stone blocks which occasionally in flood conditions hold water. A survey was undertaken in 2008, and four species of bat were recorded within proximity of the Stone Lock. The bats were: Pipistrelle 55 (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Pipistrelle 45 (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) and another *Myotis* species (considered to be a whiskered or a Brant's Bat).

The vegetation recorded in association with the Stone Lock (surveyed in 2008) strongly reflects the habitat and environmental conditions. Many of the plants and all of the bryophytes are characteristic of wet damp and humid conditions, mainly of wet woodlands and streams. These species include: Marsh Willowherb (*Epilobium palustre*), water forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Water Chickweed (*Myosoton aquaticum*), Wavey Bittercress (*Cardamine flexuosa*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). The moss (*Rhyzomnium punctatum*) and the liverwort (*Conocephalum conicum*) especially, demand much moisture and shade. These two bryophytes were

found in abundance on the vertical stone sides of the Lock (Lloyd Bore 2008).

F) River Medway Meadow

Species present alongside the river were Common Darter Dragonfly (*Sympetrum striolatum*), Migrant Hawker Dragonfly (*Aeshna mixta*) and Banded Damoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*). Some typical meadow plants were found, Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Yellow Rattle, (*Rhinanthus minor*), Goats Beard (*Troglodytes pratensis*). Our latest plant surveys indicate that the closest match for this area to the National Vegetation Classification is MG1/ MG1d, False Oat-grass grassland (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), but this is not a typical classification for a 'meadow'.

G) Friendship Meadow

This uncut meadow remains as grassland only by periodic intervention, the removal of young scrub mainly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), before they become established as trees. It is the only area of the park managed at this stage of succession, so important for the mosaic of habitats in the park. The ant hills present indicate that this has remain as open grassland for a number of years, there are also Slow Worms (*Anguis fragilis*) present, that prey on Ants. This is typical rough grassland with Catstail, (*Hypochaeris radicata*), and Yarrow, (*Achillea millefolium*).

H) Heusenstamm Wood

This woodland was planted after the Great Storm of 1987 with the following species: Small-leaved Lime, (*Tilia cordata*), Wild Cherry, (*Prunus avium*), Hornbeam, (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and English Oak (*Quercus robur*). Only a few species of common wildlife are attracted to this woodland as it has at present little understory growth.

The pond on the railway side is a remnant of the old Shallows river. It is mainly overgrown with Common Reed, (*Phragmites communis*), but does still contain some water.

I) The Shallows

Thickets of scrub are present along the paths typically Blackthorn, *Prunus spinosa* and this typifies this area of the park. Species present at this locality also include Kingfishers, (*Alcedo atthis*) and damselflies. Marginal aquatic plants that are common include: Gypsywort, (*Lycopus europeus*), Marsh Woundwort, (*Stachys palustris*), and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Himalayan Balsam, (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Common Hogweed, (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Bramble, (*Rubus* agg), Stinging Nettle, (*Urtica dioica*) and Hop, (*Humulus Lupulus*).

J) Straight Mile Wood

A former coppice woodland, consisting of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Oak (*Quercus robur*) as standards. There is a wet wood at the Leigh Barrier end, this is exclusively Sallow, (*Salix Caprea*). The woodland footpath along the bank of the Straight Mile is a good habitat for bird species; woodland butterflies Speckled Wood, (*Pararge aegeria*) and Banded Damoiselle, (*Calopteryx splendens*).

K) Kissing Gate Meadow

Typical plant species of this grassland are: the yellow flowered Crosswort, (*Cruciata laevipes*), and fine leaved bent grasses (*Agrostis spp.*). Other plants include: Lesser Stichwort, (*Stellaria graminea*), Goats Beard, (*Trogopogon pratensis*), Meadow Vetchling, (*Lathyrus pratensis*), and many others. Our latest plant surveys of the grassland, indicate that the closest match for this area to the National Vegetation Classification is MG1, *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland which is not a typical meadow grassland. The railway boundary is now an established planting with a wide variety of native dense scrub.

L) Haysden Water Lake

The lake has varying depths and is used for watersports, it has some emergent and submerged plants such as Canadian pondweed (*Elodea Canadensis*) and has a good diversity of marginal species mentioned below. Species present in the area include Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), and seven to eight bat species Pipistrelle Bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Nathusius Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Serotine Bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*) and Noctule Bat, (*Nyctalus noctule*), Brown Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), Whiskered/ Brandts Bat (*Myotis mystacinus* or *Myotis brandtii*). Reed Bunting (*Emberiza ciris*) commonly nest in the reed beds around the lake, and Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), are attracted by the fish in the lake and roost on trees on the islands.

M) Haysden Water environs

The areas around Haysden Water include land called 'the Island' at the far end, which is a woodland with a ground flora of Wild garlic or Ransoms, (*Allium ursinum*), (uncommon in all other areas of the park) and Dogs mercury, (*Mercurialis perennis*). The areas around the lake and under the A21 flyover mainly consists of scrub and trees, with small patches of grass and wide paths. The edge vegetation around the lake has a good patchwork of typical marginal aquatic and damp loving plant species such as Gypsywort, (*Lycopus europeus*), Common Reed, (*Phragmites communis*), with tree species like Sallow (*Salix caprea*). On the railway side vegetation consists mainly of scrub habitat, (*Rosa spp*); historical aerial photos show this scrub, has now taken over much of the bare ground once present here. The area still contains wide footpaths, and when the scrub is occasionally cut back, new species of plants can often emerge.

N) Nature reserve sanctuary area

This is a mixed broadleaved wet wood. Some areas consists exclusively of willow coppice (*Salix Caprea*), which is regularly cut as a coppice rotation. Other areas contain Alder, (*Alnus glutinosa*), another typical wet wood species. This is also a good area for nesting bird species, and it also attracts Mink (*Mustela vison*), which are less desirable.

O) Botany Pond

Created in 2003 this is a relatively new pond. Never the less it is now well established with plants. The fertile flood water that regularly inundates this area, allows the plants grow vigorously.

P) Mud Lane

Running parallel to the A21 this trackway is a permissive bridleway and footpath. The track contains an old hedgerow of Hawthorn, (*Crataegus monogyna*), along the field boundary, a with a few ancient Oaks (*Quercus rubur*).

Q) Water Meadow

Narrow-Leaved Water-Dropwort (*Oenanthe silaifolia*), was found some years ago in this area near to the river. The grassland contains stands of Common knapweed, (*Centaurea nigra*), Reed Canary Grass, (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Black-bent Grass, (*Agrostis gigantea*) and Meadowsweet, (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Meadow Vetchling, (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Meadow Buttercup, (*Ranunculus acris*, and Cocks-foot Grass, (*Dactylis glomerata*). Our latest plant surveys indicate that the closest match for this area to the National Vegetation Classification is MG4a, Meadow-foxtail - Great Burnet grassland, (*Alopecurus pratensis* - *Sanguisorba officinalis*). This is 'especially characteristic where traditional hay meadow treatment has been applied', and is typical of lowland grassland which is seasonally flooded.

Country park full species listsGeneral notes

In the full species list that follows, each asterisk indicates how many laws within the three categories (international/ European to regional/ local) apply to that species.

In the International columns where shown with an asterisk this indicates species protected by International or European Law. Examples are the Bern Convention, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Birds Directive, (the combine spreadsheet master list from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3408> was used to construct this list).

In the National columns, where shown with an asterisk this indicates those species covered by our national United Kingdom law, such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act, or Crow Act and in the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (as above Joint Nature Conservation Committee list was used).

In the Local/ Regional columns, the asterisk this indicates those species which are important in Kent, they are species that can act as an indicator for the broader health of the natural environment and biodiversity; species which Kent is a stronghold; species that would benefit from particular attention in Kent; species that would benefit from landscape scale conservation and species which data/monitoring is obtainable so targets can be measurable. These species come from list produced by the Kent Nature

Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2019 to 2024 which is currently at consultation stage <https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Kentbiodiversityconsultation/consultationHome> . Breeding birds (from our annual site surveys) have been indicated using the † symbol.

This information is correct at the time of going to print, but is subject to change from time to time, the latest information will always be available via the websites above.

BIRDS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Artic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	**		
Bar headed goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	*		
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>			
Barnacle goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	**	**	*
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			
Black necked grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>			
Black swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>			
Black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			
Blackbird †	<i>Turdus merula</i>	*		
Blackcap †	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	*		
Black-headed gull †	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>			
Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	*		
Blue tit †	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>			
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>			
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>			
Bullfinch †	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	**	**	
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			
Canada goose †	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			
Carrion crow †	<i>Corvus corone</i>			
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	*		
Chaffinch †	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			
Chiffchaff †	<i>Phyllocopus collybita</i>			

BIRDS Reptiles

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Coal tit	Parus ater			
Collared dove †	Streptopelia decaocto			
Common gull	Larus canus	*		
Common sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	*		
Common shelduck	Talorna tadorna			
Common tern	Sterna hirundo	**		
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	*		
Coot †	Fulica atra	*		
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	*	**	
Curlew	Numenius arquata	*	**	
Dunlin	Calidris alpine	**		
Dunnock †	Prunella modularis	**		
Egyptian goose †	Alopochen aegyptiacus			
Eurasian reed warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus			
Eurasian treecreeper	Certhia familiaris			
Eurasian wigeon	Anas penelope			
Feral pigeon †	Columba livia			

BIRDS

Common name	Species name in Latin	International/ European	Importance	
			National	Regional/ Local
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	*		
Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus			
Gadwall duck	Anas strepera	*		
Garden warbler †	Sylvia borin	*		
Gargany duck	Anas querquedula	*		
Goldcrest †	Regulus regulus	**		
Golden plover	Pluvialis apricaria	*		
Goldeneye duck	Bucephala clangula	*		
Goldfinch †	Carduelis carduelis	**		
Goosander duck	Mergus merganser	**		
Grasshopper warbler	Locustella naevia			
Graylag Goose	Locustella naevia			
Great Bittern	Botaurus stellaris			
Great black-backed gull	Larus marinus	*		
Great Crested Grebe †	Podiceps cristatus	*		
Great grey shrike	Lanius excubitor			
Great tit †	Parus major	**		
Great-spotted woodpecker †	Dendrocopus major	**	*	
Green sandpiper	Tringa ochropus			
Green woodpecker †	Picus viridus			
Greenfinch	Caruelis choloris			
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	*		
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea	*		
Grey partridge	Perdix perdix	*	**	
Grey wagtail †	Motacilla cinerea	**		

BIRDS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Greylag goose †	Anser anser	*	*	
Herring gull	Larus argentatus	*		
Hobby	Falco subbuteo	**		
Honey buzzard	Pernis apivorus	*		
House martin	Delichon urbica			
House sparrow †	Passer domesticus	*	**	
Jack Snipe	Lymnocyptes minimus			
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	*		
Jay †	Garrulus glandarius	*		
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	**		
Kingfisher †	Alcedo atthis	*		
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	*	**	
Lesser black-backed gull	Larus fuscus	*		
Lesser spotted woodpecker	Dendrocopus minor			
Lesser whitethroat †	Sylvia curruca	*		
Linnet †	Carduelis cannabina	*		
Little egret	Egretta garzetta	***		
Little gull	Larus minutus			
Little owl	Athene noctua	**		
Little ringed plover	Charadrius dubius	**		
Little tern	Sterna albifrons			
Long tailed tit †	Aegithalos caudatus	*		
Magpie †	Pica pica	*		
Mallard duck †	Anas platyrhynchos	*		
Mandarin duck	Aix galericulata			

BIRDS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Marsh harrier	Circus aeruginosus	**		
Marsh tit	Parus palustris			
Meadow pipit	Anthus pratensis	**		
Mediterranean gull	Larus melanocephalus	**		
Mistle thrush	Turdus viscivorus	*		
Moorhen †	Gallinula chloropus	*		
Mute swan †	Cygnus olor	*		
Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	**		
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta			
Nuthatch †	Sitta europaea	**		
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	*		
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	*		
Peregrine falcon	Falco peregrinus	**		
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus			
Pied wagtail	Motacilla alba yarellii			
Pintail duck	Anas acuta	*		
Pink footed goose	Anser brachyrhynchus	*		
Pochard duck	Aythya ferina	*		
Purple heron	Ardea purpurea	*		
Red breasted goose	Branta ruficollis	*		
Red kite	Milvus milvus	*		
Red legged partridge	Alectoris rifa			
Red throated diver	Gavia stellata	**		
Red-crested procard duck	Aythya farina			
Redpoll mealy	Carduelis flammea			

BIRDS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Redshank	Tringa totanus	*		
Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus			
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	*		
Reed bunting †	Emberiza schoeniclus	**	**	
Reed warbler †	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	*		
Ring ouzel	Turdus torquatus	*		
Ring plover	Charadrius hiaticula	**		
Robin †	Erithacus rubecula			
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	*		
Ruddy shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	*		
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax			
Sand martin	Riparia riparia	**		
Sandwich tern	Sterna sandvichensis			
Scaup duck	Aythya marila	*	**	
Sedge warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	*		
Shoveler duck	Anas clypeata	*		
Siskin	Carduelis spinus			
Skylark	Alauda arvensis			
Smew duck	Mergellus albellus	**		
Snip	Gallinago gallinago	*		
Snow goose	Anser caerulescens			
Song thrush †	Turdus philomelos	*		
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	*		
Spotted flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	**	**	
Spotted redshank	Tringa erythropus			

BIRDS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Starling †	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	*		
Stock dove †	<i>Columba oenas</i>			
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	**		
Swift †	<i>Apus apus</i>			
Tawny owl	<i>Strix alluco</i>	*		
Teal duck	<i>Anas crecca</i>	*		
Treecreeper †	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	**		
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	*	**	
Tufted duck †	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	*		
Turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			
Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	**		
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	**		
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	**		
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	*		
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	**		
White fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	*		
Whitethroat †	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	*		
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	**		
Wigeon duck	<i>Anser penelope</i>	*		
Willow tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>			
Willow warbler	<i>Phyllocopus trochilus</i>	*		
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	*		
Woodpigeon †	<i>Columba livia</i>	*		

BIRDS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Wren †	Troglodytes troglodytes			
Yellow wagtail	Motacilla flava	**		
Yellowhammer †	Emberiza citrinella	**	**	

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Agrimony	Agrimonia eupatoria			
Alder	Alnus glutinosa	*		
American willowherb	Epilobium ciliatum			
Annual meadow grass	Poa annua			
Annual mercury	Mercurialis annua			
Apple	Malus domestica			
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior			
Autumn hawkbit	Leontodon autumnalis			
Beaked hawk's beard	Crepis vesicaria			
Bearded couch	Elymus caninus			
Bee orchid	Ophrys apifera		**	
Betony	Stachys officinalis			
Bittersweet	Solannum dulcamara			
Black horehound	Ballota nigra			
Black knapweed	Centaurea nigra			
Black medick	Medicago lupulina			
Black mustard	Brassica nigra			
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa			
Blue Green Alga	Microcystis aeruginose			
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Bramble	Rubus fruticosus			
Branched bur-reed	Sparganium erectum			
Bristly oxtongue	Picris echioides			
Broad leaved dock	Rumex obtusifolia			
Broadleaved pond weed	Potamogeton natans			
Brooklime	Veronica beccabunga			
Broom	Sarothamnus scoparius			
Bucks-horn plantain	Plantago coronopus			
Buckthorn	Rhamnus catharticus			
Buddleja	Buddleja davidii			
Bugle	Ajuga reptans	**	*	
Bulbous buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus			
Bulrush	Typha latifolia			
Burdock	Arctium lappa			
Burnet saxifrage	Pimpinella saxifraga			
Bush vetch	Vicia sepium			
Buttercup	Ranunculus spp			
Canadian waterweed	Elodea spp.			
Celery leaved buttercup	Ranunculus scleratus			
Changing forget-me-not	Myosotis discolor			
Charlock	Sinapis arvensis			
Cocksfoot	Dactylis glomerata			
Coltsfoot	Tussilago farfara			
Common bent	Agrostis capillaris			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Common birds-foot trefoil	Lotus corniculatus			
Common cats ear	Hypochoeris radicata			
Common centaury	Centaurium erythraea			
Common chickweed	Stellaria media			
Common comfrey	Symphytum officinale			
Common couch	Elymus repens			
Common cudweed	Filago vulgaris			
Common dog violet	Viola riviniana			
Common duckweed	Lemna minor			
Common figwort	Scrophularia nodosa			
Common fleabane	Pulicaria dysenterica			
Common gorse	Ulex europaeus			
Common mallow	Malva sylvestris			
Common mouse ear	Cerastium fontanum			
Common pepperwort	Lepidium campestre			
Common ragwort	Senecio jacobaea			
Common reedmace	Typha latifolia			
Common sorrel	Rumex acetosa			
Common spike-rush	Eleocharis palustris			
Common spotted orchid	Dactylorhiza fuchsii			
Common stork's-bill	Erodium cicutarum			
Common toadflax	Linaria vulgaris			
Common valerian	Valeriana officinalis			
Common vetch	Vicia sativa			
Common water-starwort	Callitriche stagnalis			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Corn mint	Mentha arvensis			
Cornsalad	Valeriana locusta			
Cow parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris			
Crack willow	Salix fragilis			
Creeping buttercup	Ranunculus repens			
Creeping cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans			
Creeping Jenny	Lysimachia nummularia			
Creeping thistle	Cirsium arvense			
Creeping yellow cress	Rorippa sylvestris			
Crested dogstail	Cynosurus cristatus			
Cross wort	Cruciata laevipes			
Cuckoo pint	Arum maculatum			
Curled dock	Rumex crispus			
Curved pondweed	Potamogeton crispus			
Cut leaved cranesbill	Geranium dissectum			
Daisy	Bellis perennis			
Dames violet	Hesperis matronalis			
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale			
Dock	Rumex obtusifolius			
Dog rose	Rosa canina			
Dog wood	Cornus sanguinea			
Dogs mercury	Mercurialis perennis			
Doves foot cranes bill	Geranium molle			
Dryads saddle	Polyporus squamosus			
Duck potato	Sangtoilia latifolia			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Dyers Greenweed	Genista tinctoria			
Ear fungus	Hirneola auricula judae			
Early dog violet	Viola reichenbachiana			
Early scurvy-grass	Cochlearia danica			
Elder	Sambucus nigra			
Enchanter's-nightshade	Circaea lutetiana			
English elm	Ulmus procera			
False fox sedge	Carex otrubae			
False oat grass	Arrhenatherum elatius			
Fat duckweed	Lema gibba			
Fat hen	Chenopodium album			
Fennel pondweed	Potamogeton pectinatus			
Fern grass	Catapodium rigidum			
Field bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis			
Field maple	Acer campestre			
Field pepperwort	Lepidium campestre			
Field rose	Rosa arvensis			
Field wood rush	Luzula campestris			
Flax	Linum usitatissimum			
Fleecy milkcap fungus	Lactarius vellereus			
Floating sweet grass	Glyceria fluitan			
Flowering rush	Butomus umbellatus			
Fly agaric fungus	Amanita muscaria			
Fools water cress	Apium nodiforum			
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Fringed water lily	Nymphoides peltata			
Giant hogweed	Heracleum mantegazzianum			
Garlic mustard	Alliaria petiolata			
Germander speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys			
Gipsywort	Lycopus europaeus			
Goat willow	Salix caprea			
Goats beard	Tragopogon pratensis			
Goats rue	Galega officinalis			
Goldilocks buttercup	Ranunculus auricomus			
Grass vetchling	Lathyrus nissoila			
Great burdock	Arctium lappa			
Great lettuce	Lactuca virosa			
Great water dock	Rumex hydrolapathum			
Great willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum			
Great yellow cress	Rorippa amphibia			
Greater birds-foot trefoil	Lotus pedunculatus			
Greater plantain	Plantago major			
Greater stitchwort	Stellaria holostea			
Grey willow	Salix cineria ssp oleifolia			
Ground ivy	Glechoma hederacea			
Groundsel	Senecio vulgaris			
Guelder rose	Viburnum opulus			
Gypsywort	Lycopus europaeus			
Hairy bittercress	Cardamine hirsuta			
Hairy buttercup	Ranunculus sardous			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name	Species name in Latin	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local
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Hairy sedge	Carex hirta			
Hairy St. Johns wort	Hypericum hirsutum			
Hairy tare	Vicia hirsuta			
Halberd leaved orach	Atriplex hastata			
Hard rush	Juncus inflexus			
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna			
Hazel	Corylus avellana			
Hedge bedstraw	Galium mollugo			
Hedge bindweed	Calystegia sepium			
Hedge mustard	Sisymbrium officinale			
Hedge woundwort	Stachys sylvatica			
Hedgerow cranesbill	Geranium pyrenaicum			
Hemlock	Conium maculatum			
Hemlock water dropwort	Oenanthe crocata			
Hemp agimony	Eupatorium cannabinum			
Hemp nettle	Galeopsis tetrahit			
Herb robert	Geranium robertianum			
Hoary cress	Lepidium draba			
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium			
Holly	Ilex aquifolium			
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum			
Hop	Humulus lupulus			
Hop trefoil	Trifolium campestre			
Indian balsam	Impatiens glandulifera			
Italian poplar	Populus x canadensis			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Ivy	Hedera helix			
Ivy leaved speedwell	Veronica hederifolia			
Jack-by-the hedge	Alliaria petiolata			
Jointed rush	Juncus articulatus			
Kidney vetch	Anthyllis vulneraria			
Knotgrass	Polygonum aviculare			
Ladies smock	Cardamine pratensis			
Large flowered evening primrose	Oenothera glazioviana			
Lesser burdock	Arctium minus			
Lesser celandine	Ranunculus ficaria			
Lesser spearwort	Ranunculus flammula			
Lesser stitchwort	Stellaria graminea			
Lesser swine grass	Coronopus didymus			
Lesser Trefoil	Trifolium dubium			
Little Robin	Geranium purpureum			
Lords and Ladies	Arum maculatum			
Lupinus arboreus	Tree lupin			
Many flowered rose	Rosa multiflora			
Many zoned polypore fungus	Trametes versicolor			
Many-seeded goosefoot	Chenopodium polyspermum			
Marsh bedstraw	Galium palustre			
Marsh cudweed	Gnaphalium uliginosom			
Marsh foxtail	Alopecurus geniculatus			
Marsh woundwort	Stachys palustris			
Meadow Barley	Hordeum secalinum			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Meadow brome	<i>Bromus biebersteinii</i>			
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>			
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>			
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>			
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>			
Midland hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>			
Monkey flower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>			
Mouse ear chickweed	<i>Cerastium vulgatum</i>			
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>			
Musk Mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>			
Narrow leaved bitter cress	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>			
Narrow leaved water dropwort	<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>			
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>			
Nodding bur-marigold	<i>Bidens cernua</i>			
Nuttall's waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttalli</i>			
Oakmoss lichen	<i>Evernia prunastri</i>			
Olive brown panellus fungus	<i>Panellus serotines</i>			
Orange balsam	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>			
Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>			
Oval sedge	<i>Carex ovalis</i>			
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>			
Oxford ragwort	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>			
Pale persicaria	<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>			
Parsley piert	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>			
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Perennial rye grass	Lolium perenne			
Perennial sow thistle	Sonchus arvensis			
Perforate St. Johns wort	Hypericum perforatum			
Pineapple weed	Matricaria matricariodes			
Prickly lettuce	Lactuca serriola			
Prickly sow thistle	Sonchus asper			
Primrose	Primula vulgaris			
Procumbent pearlwort	Sagina procumbens			
Purple jelly fungus	Ascocoryne sarcoides			
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria			
Ragged Robin	Lychnis flos-cuculi			
Ramsons	Allium ursinum			
Red bartsia	Odontites verna			
Red Champion	Silene dioica			
Red clover	Trifolium pratense			
Red dead-nettle	Lamium purpureum			
Red fescue	Festuca rubra			
Redshank	Persicaria maculata			
Reed canary grass	Phalaris arundinacea			
Reed sweet grass	Glyceria maxima			
Reedmace	Typha latifolia			
Ribwort plantain	Plantago lanceolata			
Rigid hornwort	Ceratophyllum demersum			
Rosebay willowherb	Chamerion draba			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Rough leaved meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>			
Russian comfrey	<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>			
Sand spurrey	<i>Spergularia rubra</i>			
Scarlet elf's cap fungus	<i>Sarcoscypha coccinea</i>			
Scarlet pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>			
Scented mayweed	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>			
Scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>			
Scottish thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>			
Sea beet	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> spp <i>maritima</i>			
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>			
Shaggy parasol mushroom	<i>Chlorophyllum rhacodes</i>			
Sharp-flowered rush	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>			
Sheeps sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>			
Shepherd's-purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>			
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>			
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>			
Smooth hawk's beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>			
Smooth sow thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>			
Smooth tare	<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>			
Soft brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>			
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>			
Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>			
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>			
Spiked water-milfoil	<i>Myostis spicatum</i>			
Spotted medic	<i>Medicago arabica</i>			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Spring field cap fungus	Agrocybe praecox			
Square stalked willowherb	Epilobium tetragonum			
St Johns wort	Hypericum perforatum			
Sterile Brome	Bromus sterilis			
Sticky mouse ear	Cerastium glomeratum			
Stinging nettle	Urtica dioica			
Stinking chamomile	Anthemis cotula			
Stone parsley	Sison amomum			
Stump puffball fungus	Lycoperdon pyriforme			
Sulphur polypore fungus	Laetiporus sulphureus			
Sulphur tuft fungus	Hypholoma fasciculare			
Sweet briar	Rosa rubiginosa			
Sweet vernal grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum			
Sweet violet	Viola odorata			
Tansy	Tanacetum vulgare			
Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum			
Thyme leaved speedwell	Veronica serpyllifolia			
Timothy	Phleum pratense			
Toad rush	Juncus bufonius			
Tormentil	Potentilla tormentilla			
Trailing tormentil	Potentilla anglica			
True fox sedge	Carex vulpina		*	
Trifid bur-marigold	Bidens tripartita			
Tufted hair-grass	Deschampsia cespitosa			
Tufted vetch	Vicia cracca			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Turfted forget-me-not	Myosotis laxa			
Unbranched but-reed	Sparganium emersom			
Upright hedge parsley	Torilis japonica			
Vipers Bugloss	Echium vulgare			
Wall barley	Hordeum murinum		*	
Wall Speedwell	Veronica arvensis			
Water chickweed	Myosoton aquaticum			
Water figwort	Scrophularia auriculata			
Water forget-me-not	Mysotis scorpiodes			
Water mint	Mentha aquatica			
Water pepper	Persicaria hydriopiper			
Water plantain	Alisma plantago aquatica			
Wavy bittercress	Cardamine flexuosa			
Weld	Reseda luteola			
White campion	Silene latifolia			
White clover	Trifolium repens			
White dead-nettle	Lamium album			
White melilot	Melilotus alba			
White water lily	Nymphaea alba			
White willow	Salix alba			
Wild angelica	Angelica sylvestris			
Wild carrot	Daucus carota			
Wild letuce	Lactuca virosa			
Wild mignonette	Reseda lutea			
Wild radish	Raphanis raphanistrum			

PLANTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Winter cress	Barbarea vulgaris			
Wood anemone	Anemone nemorosa			
Wood avens	Geum urbanum			
Wood club rush	Scirpus sylvaticus			
Wood dock	Rumex sanguineus			
Wood false brome	Brachypodium sylvaticum			
Wood forget-me-not	Mysotis sylvatica			
Wood speedwell	Veronica montana			
Woody nightshade	solanum dulcamara			
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium			
Yellow archangel	Lamiaeum galeobdolon			
Yellow iris	Iris pseudacorus			
Yellow loosestrife	Lysimachia vulgaris			
Yellow water lily	Nuphar lutea			
Yorkshire fog	Holcus lanatus			

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

7 spotted ladybird	Oedemera nobilis			
7-punctata	Coccinella			
a gall mite	Eriophid sp			
Adonis blue butterfly	Polyommatus bellargus			
Amber snails	Succinea putris			
Artichoke gall wasp	Andricus fecundator			
Azure Damselfly	Coenagrion puella			
Beetle	Acupelpus exiguus			
Beetle	Anthracus consputus			
Beetle	Aupous carboniaus			
Beetle	Acupalpus exiguous			
Beetle	Lebia chloroecephala			
Beetle	Mantura rustica			
Beetle	Platyderus depressus			
Banded damselfly	Calopteryx splendens	*		
Beautiful damselfly	Calopteryx virgo			
Bee beetle	Trichius fasciatus			
Bee fly	Bombylius major			
Beetle	Silis ruficollis			
Black tailed skimmer dragonfly	Orthetrum cancellatum	*		
Blue dragonfly	Anax imperator			
Blue tailed Damselfly	Ishnura elegans			
Brassica bug	Eurydema oleraceaand			
Bright-line Brown-eye moth	Lacanobia oleracea			
Brimstone butterfly	Gonepteryx rhamni			

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Brimstone Moth	Opisthograptis luteolata			
Broad bodied chaser dragonfly	Libellula depressa			
Brown Argus butterfly	Aricia agestis			
Brown China-mark moth	Elophila nymphaeata			
Brown Hawker Dragonfly	Aeshna grandis	*		
Brown-veined Wainscot moth	Archanara dissolute			
Bud Moth	Spilonota ocellana			
Bug brassica	Eurydema oleraceaand			
Buff-tip moth	Phalera bucephala			
Burnet companion	Euclidia glyphica			
Burnished Brass moth	Diachrysia chrysitis			
Butterfly Orange tip	Anthocharis cardamines			
Caddis fly	Phryganea grandis			
Carbionine wasp	Crossocerus distinguendus			
Cardinal beetle	Pyrochroa serraticornis			
Cherry gall wasp	Cynip quercusfilii			
Cinnabar Moth	Tyria jacobaeae		**	*
Cloaked Minor moth	Mesoligia furuncula			
Clover blunthorn bee	Melitta leporina			
Clouded yellow butterfly	Colias crocea			
Comb-footed spider	Anelosimus vittatus			
Comma butterfly	Polygonia c-album			
Common blue damselfly	Enallagma cyathigerum	*		
Common blue butterfly	Polymmoatus icarus			
Common Blue Damselfly	Enallagma cyathigerum			

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Common carder bee	Bombus pascuorum			
Common carpet moth	Epirrhoe alternata			
Common darter dragonfly	Sympetrum striolatum	*		
Common green grasshopper	Omocestus viridulus			
Common Rustic moth	Mesapamea secalis			
Crane fly	Tipula paludosa			
Cucumber green spider	Araniella cucurbitina			
Dark bush cricket	Pholidoptera griseoptera			
Drepressed (or compressed) river mussel	Pseudanodonta complanta			
Ear moss beetle	Ochthebius auriculatus			
Earwig	Lathrobium pallidipenne			
Elephant hawk moth	Dielephila elpenor			
Emperor Dragonfly	Anax imperator			
Fish leech	Piscicola geimetra			
Five spotted burnet moth	Zygaena trifolii			
Flame Shoulder moth	Ochropleura plecta			
Forest bug shield bug	Pentatoma rufipes			
Four spotted chaser dragonfly	Libellula quadrimaculata		*	
Fresh water shrimp	Gammarus pulex			
Frog hopper	Cercopis vulnerata			
Fruit fly	Tachina fera			
Garden snail	Helix aspersa			
Garden spider	Araneus diadematus			
Gatekeeper butterfly	Pyronia tithonus			

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

German wasp	Vespula germanica			
Glow Worms	Lampyris noctiluca		*	
Great diving beetle	Dytiscus marginalis			
Greater water boatman	Notonecta glauca			
Green bottle	Lucilia caesar			
Green Carpet moth	Colostygia pectinataria			
Green veined white butterfly	Artogeia napi			
Hawthorn shieldbug	Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale			
Herald moth	Scoliopteryx libatrix			
Holly blue butterfly	Celastrina argiolus			
Hornets	Vespa crabro			
Hover fly	Episyrphus balteatus			
Hover fly	Volucella inanis			
Hover fly	Eristalis tenex			
Hoverfly	Eristalis horticola			
Iron Prominent moth	Notodonta dromedarius			
Kleptoparastic wasp	Nysson trimaculatus			
Knopper gall wasp	Andricus quercusalicis			
Large meadow mining bee	Andrena (Holandrena) labialis			
Large red damselfly	Pyrrhosoma nymphula			
Large skipper butterfly	Ochlodes venata			
Large white butterfly	Pieris brassicae			
Large Yellow Underwing moth	Noctua pronuba			
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing moth	Noctua janthe			

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Lesser water boatman	Corixa punctata			
Lesser Yellow Underwing moth	Noctua comes			
Little black wasp	Pemphredon lethifera			
Lime-speck Pug moth	Eupithecia centaureata			
Lobe spinned furrow bee	Lasioglossum pauxillum			
Long horned bee	Eucera longicornis			*
Long winged cone head cricket	Conocephalus dorsalis			
Mayfly	Ephemera danica			
Meadow brown butterfly	Maniola jurtina			
Meadow grasshopper	Chorthippus parallelus			
Migrant hawkler dragonfly	Aeshna mixta	*		
Mirid bug	Stenotus binotatus			
Moth	Ypsolopha sylvella			
Moth	Agapeta hamana			
Moth	Acleris forsskaleana			
Moth	Celypha lacunana			
Moth	Cydia fagiglandana			
Moth	Cydia splendana			
Moth	Agriphila straminella			
Moth	Eudonia mercurella			
Moth	Pyrausta purpuralis			
Moth	Endotricha flammealis			
Moth	Acrobasis consociella			
Moth	Phycita roborella			

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Mother of Pearl moth	Pleuroptya ruralis			
Mother shipton moth	Callistege mi			
Musk beetle	Aromia moschata			
Oak Eggar moth	Lasiocampa quercus			
Orange Swift moth	Hepialus sylvina			
Orange tip butterfly	Anthocharis cardamines			
Painted lady butterfly	Vanessa cardui			
Painted nomad bee	Nomda fucata			*
Peacock butterfly	Inachis io			
Pond Skater	Gerris lacustris			
Purple Bar moth	Cosmorhoe ocellata			
Ramshorn snail	Planorbidae species			
Red admiral butterfly	Vanessa atalanta			
Red tailed bumblebee	Bombus lapidarius			
Red-eyed Damselfy	Erythromma najas			
Ringlet butterfly	Aphantopus hyperantus			
Robins pincushion gall wasp	Diplolepis rosae			
Roesel's bush cricket	Metrioptera roeselii			
Rosy Rustic moth	Hydraecia micacea		*	*
Ruddy Darter Dragonfly	Sympetrum sanguineum			
Scarlet malachite beetle	Malachius aeneus			*
Sharp collared furrow bee	Lasioglossum malachurum			
Shield bug	Heteroptera order			
Shield bug	Elasmucha grisea			
Small blue butterfly	Cupido minimus			*

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Small copper butterfly	Lycaena phlaeas			
Small heath butterfly	Coenonympha pamphilis			
Small red-eyed Damselfly	Erythromma viridulum			
Small Rivulet moth	Perizoma alchemillata			
Small skipper butterfly	Thymelicus sylvestris			
Small tortoiseshell butterfly	Aglais urticae			
Small white butterfly	Artogeia rapae			
Snail	Arianta arbustorum			
Snout moth	Hypena proboscidalis			
Soldier beetle	Cantharis livida			
Soldier beetle	Rhagonycha fulva			
Speckled bush cricket	Leptophyes punctatissima			
Speckled wood butterfly	Pararge aegeria			
Spider	Argiopidae Family			
Spotted longhorn beetle	Strangalia maculata			
St Marks fly	Bilbo marci			
Stage beetle	Lucanus cervus	**	**	*
Strangalia maculata	Strangalia maculata			
Straw dot moth	Rivula sericealis			
Straw Underwing moth	Thalpophila matura			
Swan mussel	Anodonta cygnea			
Swollen river mussel	Unio tumidus			
Thick-Legged Flower Beetle	Oedemera nobilis			
Two spotted ladybird	Anodonta cygnea			
Wasp	Pemphredon morio			

INSECTS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Water boatman	Notonecta glauca			
Water scorpion	Nepa cinerea			
Water snail	Nepa cinerea			
Water stick insect	Ranatra linearis			
White butterfly	Pieris brassicae			
White Legged damselfly	Platycnemis pennipes	*		
White lipped snail	Cepaea hortensis			
White plume moth	Pterophorus pentadactyla			
White tailed bumblebee	Bombus lucorum			
Willugbys leafcutter bee	Megachile (delomegechile) Willughbiella			
Wood Carpet moth	Epirrhoe rivata			
Wood carving leafcutter bee	Megachile (Megachile) ligniseca			
Yellow Shell moth	Camptogramma bilineata			
Zebra mussel	Dreissena polymorpha			
Zebra spider	Salticus scenicus			

Note: There maybe a greater number of Dragonfly, Damselfly, Moth, Beetle and Hoverfly species present at the site which are under recorded. The Site of Nature Conservation Interest record (TM 26/SE 26) indicates that: banded dragonfly (*Agrion splendons*), has occurred within the boundary of the Site of Nature Conservation Interest, but there are no other records for the Park.

FISH

Importance

Common name	Species name in Latin	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local
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Bream	Alburnus alburnus	*		
Carp	Cyprinus carpio			
Gudgeon	Gobio gobio			
Perch	Perca fluviatilis			
Pike	Esox lucius	*		
Roach	Rutilus rutilus	*		
Rudd	Scardinius erythrophthalmus	*		
Tench	Trinca tinca	*		

MAMMALS

Importance

Common name	Species name in Latin	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local
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Badgers	Meles meles	**		
Brandt's bat	Myotis brandtii	***		
Brown long eared bat	Plecotus auritus	***	*	*
Brown rat	Rattus norvegicus			
Daubentons bat	Myotis daubentonii	***		
Field Mice	Apodemus sylvaticus	*		
Fox	Vulpes vulpes			
Grey squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis			
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	**	**	*
Mink	Mustela vison			
Mole	Talpa europaea	*		
Nathusius pipistrelle bat	Pipistrellus nathusii	***		
Natterer's Bat	Myotis nattereri	***		
Noctule bat	Nyctalus noctula	***		*
Pipistrelle bat 45kHz	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	***		

MAMMALS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Pipistrelle bat 55kHz	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	***		
Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus			
Roe deer	Capreolus capreolus	**		
Serotine bat	Eptesecus serotinus	***		
Shrew common	Sorex araneus	**		
Shrew pygmy	Sorex minutes	**		
Shrew water	Neomy fodiens			
Stoat	Mustela erminea	**		
Vole bank	Clethrionomys glarrolus			
Whiskered or Brandt's bat	Myotis mystacinus or Myotis brandtii	***		
Weasel	Mustela nivalis	**		

Reptiles

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**

Common smooth newt	Triturus vulgaris			
Common lizard	Lacerta vivipara			
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	**	**	*
Slow worm	Anguis fragilis	*	**	*
Terrapin				

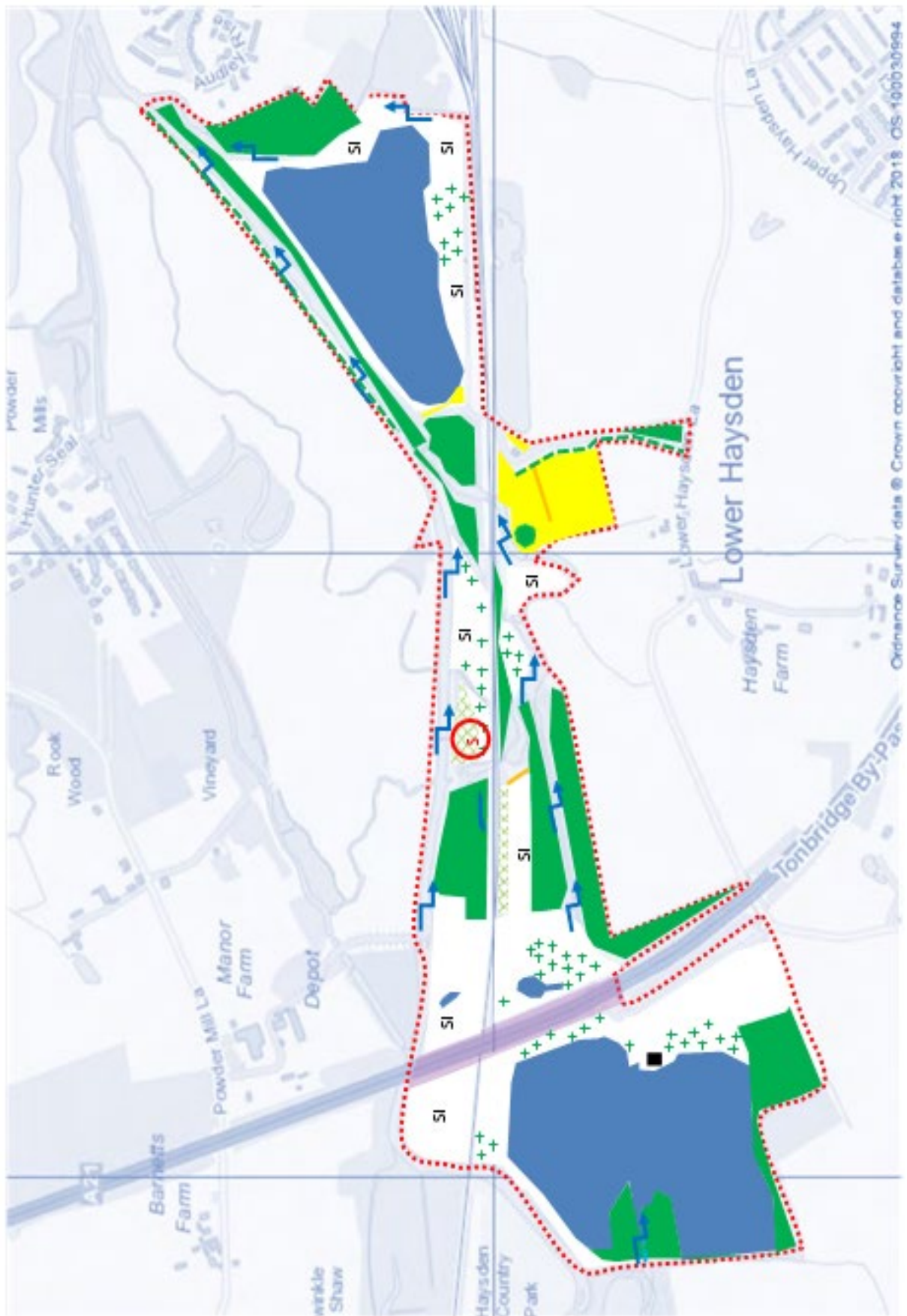
AMPHIBIANS

Importance

Common name **Species name in Latin** **International/
European** **National** **Regional/ Local**












Common smooth newt	Triturus vulgaris			
Frog	Rana temporaria	***		
Toad	Bufo bufo	**	*	*




Phase 1 habitat survey



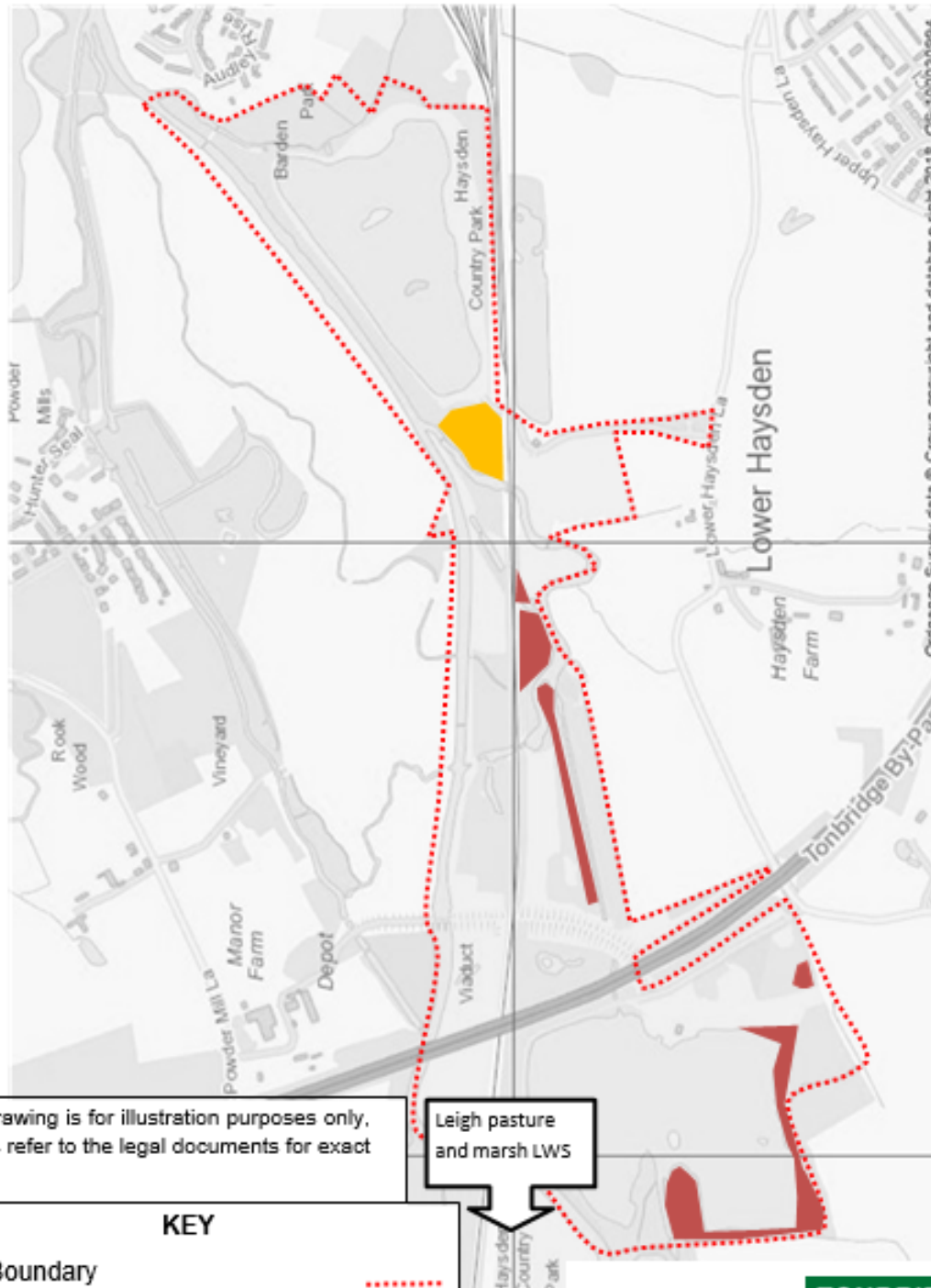
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Key to the phase 1 habitat survey of Haydsden Country Park

Woodland - semi natural	
Scrub - continuous	
Scrub - scattered	
Water	
Swamp vegetation	
Zunning water	
Amenity grassland	
Grassland semi improved	SI
Introduced shrub	
Hedge - native species rich	
Intact hedge - species poor	
Defunct hedge - species poor	

Hedge and trees - species poor	
Dry ditch	
Target notes (for some key species found)	
Grass snake	Around running water
Bats	Along the river
Slow worms	

Land tenure map



This drawing is for illustration purposes only, always refer to the legal documents for exact areas.

KEY

- Site Boundary
- Sanctuary areas - no public access
- Conservation area restricted access
- LWS - Local Wildlife Site (the Leigh pasture is not owned by the Council)

Leigh pasture and marsh LWS

Drawn By CF
Date 24/10/22
Scale Not to Scale



Park budget

	Estimate based on 2019/20	Notes
EXPENDITURE	£	
Salaries & on-costs	36,600	Officer time
Site wardening	5,000	Officer time
Building repairs expenditure	11,500	Toilet block.
Maintenance of grounds	9,250	Grounds maintenance, path and other site repairs.
Electricity charges	2,000	
Water charges	50	
Sewerage disposal etc.	900	Tank emptying
Toilet cleaning & domestic supplies	5,850	Toilet cleaning
Premises insurance	100	
Purchases - Equipment, furniture & materials	2,850	All other expenditure
Maintenance general	1,750	
Protective clothing	50	
Security services - cash collection	1,350	
Trade refuse charges	650	Litter disposal.
Dog bin emptying	650	
Gates and security	9,500	Gate & toilet opening & related duties
Pest control	450	Rabbit and rodent control.
Litter collection	6,050	Litter bin emptying, litter picking, fly tipping removal and abandoned car
Advertising	700	Leaflet printing, and advert costs.
Grounds maintenance contract	25,700	
Information technology	1,700	Central office costs allocated over all Council facilities.
Central salaries & administration	2,450	
Departmental administration	16,250	
Capital programme revenue expenses	4,000	
Non current asset depreciation	28,600	
Total	£173,950	
INCOME		
Car parking fees (pay and display)	(50,000)	
Car park season tickets	(3,100)	
Rights over water	(5,200)	Sailing, fishing, triathlon swimming.
Miscellaneous	(8,000)	Mobile refreshment service, and educational visits
Total Income	£ (66,300)	
Net expenditure	107,650	

Main projects and investments (2015-2019)

Year	Project	Donor or funder	Value of funding
2015	New sculpture commemorating the anniversary of the Heusenstamm Friendship Group	Council Twinning Committee	£1000
2015	Extensive tree and shrub planting scheme around Barden Lake	DEFRA	Estimated value £2000
2015	Donation of 840 tree whips	Woodland Trust	Unknown
2015	The Shallows desilting and removing weed growth, and recreating meanders	Environment Agency	Unknown
2015	Sponsored seats donated	One private donor	£1054
2015	Donation of 200 bare whips	Conservation volunteers	Unknown
2016	New play equipment and improvements to play area	Suez Environmental Trust and the Council	£50,000
2016	Inclusive piece of play equipment funded	Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Trust	£500
2016	Donation of 840 tree whips	Woodland Trust	Unknown
2016	Prize of new mini goal football, basketball, and wicket and targets for play area	Wicksteed Leisure	£3800
2016	Donation of 200 bare whips	Conservation volunteers	Unknown
2016	Barden Lake near end improvements phase 1 - revetment, jetty, picnic seats, and play sculptures	Cory Trust Britain and the Council	£50,000
2016	New land drain installed to prevent flooding of car park and building	Council	£7000
2016	Sponsored seats donated	Two private donors	£2144
2016	Refurbishment of Rainbow bridge	Kent County Council	Unknown
2016	Refurbishment of Straight Mile bridge	Kent County Council	Unknown
2016	Refurbishment of Sharp's bridge	Kent County Council	Unknown
2016	New building for catering	Willards American Food Co	Unknown
2016	Barden Lake improvements phase 4 — volunteers applied supported by the Council	Greggs Foundation	£2000
2017	Barden Lake improvements phase 3 — volunteers applied supported by the Council	Postcode Lottery grant to HCPV	£2100
2017	Planting and landscaping at Barden Lake - HCPV applied under community matters scheme	Waitrose	£340

2017	Sponsored seats donated	Two private donors	£2515
2017	New shingle pathway around Haysden Water constructed	Environment Agency	Unknown
2017	Surfacing on embankment for play area slide	Council	£2900
2017	Hard surfacing in catering area	Council	£5000
2017	Donation of 840 tree whips	Woodland Trust	Unknown
2017	Donation of 100 bare whips	The Conservation volunteers	Unknown
2017	Purchase of materials and construction of	HCPV	£690
2018	bird, bat and raptor boxes		
2018	Barden lake planting scheme	HCPV	£670
2018	Car park extension built	Council	£28,000
2018	Barden Lake improvements phase 5	Council	£600
2018	Resurfacing path sections around Barden Lake	Council	£3344
2018	Removal of old fishing platforms and replacement by the Angling Society	Council & Society	Unknown
2018	Cycle route improvements built track alongside the main drive	Council	£11,000
2018	Paths around play area connecting play equipment surfaces	Tescos Bags of Help	£2000
2018	Path to dipping platform at The Shallows	Council	£1000
2018	Sponsored seats donated	Five private donors	£5236
2018	Donation of 100 bare whips	The Conservation Volunteers	Unknown
2018	Surfacing around play tunnel mound	Council	£3000
2018	New play sculptures install in the park	Council	£2000
2018	100 trees donated and planted by volunteers	Trees Love of Love	Unknown
2019	Defibrillator device and cabinet	Council	£1500
2019	Play mound surfaced with wetpour	Council	£1600
2019	New path in Friendship Wood constructed by Payback, materials donated	Council, Community Payback and (donor) Environment Agency	Unknown
2019	Transport of materials for new path in Friendship Wood for Payback to use	HCPV	£300
2019	Sponsored picnic seat	Private donor	£1400
2019	Bluebell bulb planting fund for Heusenstamm Friendship Wood by the HCPV	Crowd funded	£713
		Total	£195,376

Hayden Country Park

Annual Action Plan Year 4 (2023)

In accordance with the Hayden Country Park Management Plan 2020/24– this document outlines the various tasks that are expected to take place over the 12 month period. Like all working documents it must be recognised that weather, seasonal changes and other factors can all have an impact on the programme.

The Green Flag Criteria are:

- 1 A Welcoming Place
- 2 Healthy Safe and Secure
- 3 Well Maintained and Clean
- 4 Environmental Management
- 5 Management of Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- 6 Community Involvement
- 7 Marketing and communication
- 8 Management

Key

Proposed month • Secondary period ○
 Progress background colours: **green** = complete, **amber** = started but incomplete
Red = not started or done

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month

Cross reference to the Five Year Work Programme

Project name from the Five Year Work Programme

Detailed description of actions to be carried out during the current year, including what and where. If more than one for a project sub-divide into boxes.

Initials of the lead office first and then any others involved

Timeframe for the work
 J=January

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month												
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
1	Green Flag Award	Apply for the Green Flag Award and prepare for the park to be judged.	CF		•											
		Accompany the Green Flag Award judges around the site if required. - Not required this year.	CF/MH						•							
2	Annual Action Plan	Draw up the next Annual Action Plan to incorporate all key actions identified for the relevant year.	CF													•
3	Budget control	Prepare budget estimates for the next financial year and monitor expenditure.	MH/ MCL											•		
		Monitor budget expenditure against budget heads.	CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4	Cost neutral park	Explore opportunities along with the existing management of the park to take a business like approach so that the park becomes cost neutral within five years.	MH/DL/ CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
5	Investigate new opportunities for partnerships and income streams	Investigate opportunities to work with other organisations, and generate new income to improve and develop the site, with the long term goal of becoming financially stable.	MH/DL	•	•	•	•									
7	Concessions	Liaise and support concessions including asking for updates and sending out the newsletter to them.	CF				•							•		
8	Visitor survey	Commission a visitor survey of the park.	CF				•									
9	Community involvement	Lead the weekly and monthly volunteer group task days and support the volunteer rangers as required.	HCPV/ JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Agree the annual work programme with the volunteer leaders.	HCPV/ SH/JB/ CF/MH				•						•			

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month													
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
	Community involvement Cont.	Prepare the six monthly newsletters.	CF				•							•			
10	Grounds maintenance and other contracts	Empty litter bins on Mondays and Fridays.	GMC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
		Litter pick under the A21 one a month.	GMC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Litter pick around the park.	River wardens, JB,HCPV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Empty trade waste bins on Mondays.	GMC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Pest controller to attend site once a month.	Monitor	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Fly tip removals as necessary.	CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Dog bins emptied weekly on Fridays.	Urbasa	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Graffiti control as necessary.	JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Repainting benches and site signage.	JB							•	•	•					
		Gate and toilet open and closing daily and updating closing time signs.	Gate keeper	•	•	•		•				•	•	•			•
		Inspection of public conveniences.	CF/JB/SH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Public conveniences daily cleaning and replacing consumables. Twice a day during summer.	SHS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Servicing and emptying of the sewage plant.	Lemon											•			

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month												
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	Grounds maintenance Cont.	Daily checks of car parking machines and replacing consumables.	Gate-keeper	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Servicing of car parking machines	Cale						•							
		Sweep entrance drive and main car park.	GMC			•							•			
		Keep grass cut around main car park drive, picnic area, play area and near end of Barden Lake.	GMC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Cut and clear Kissing gate meadow twice a year.	GMC							•			•			
		Cut and clear water meadow once a year.	GMC										•			
		Cut vegetation in Stone Lock, trail marker posts and Landing Stage.	GMC					•		•		•				
		Cut back vegetation in Haysden water car parks.	GMC						•	○		•				
		Cut Barden Lake area (except near end).	GMC						•							
		Path maintenance, cutting back vegetation.	GMC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Cut hedge east side of main drive.	GMC	•	○											
		Cut hedges main drive and main car park.	GMC	•	○					•						
		Cut hedge boundary along Barden Shaw remove arisings.	GMC	•												
	Keep car parks clear of weed at all times.	GMC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month											
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	Grounds maintenance (cont.)	Sweep and clear leaves from main car park	GMC			•								•	
		Sweep and clear leaves from Audley Rise car park, and verges around main car park.	JB											•	•
		Visual check of lakes and stream for pollution.	JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
11	Water Safety Strategy– implement the actions from action plan.	Maintain natural barriers (hedge laying/ tree planting)	JB			•	•	•					•	•	
12	Health and safety aspects	Bi-annual health and safety inspection for the site carried out by the TM H&S officer and site manager.	CFSR										•		
		Legionella - monthly water temperature checks.	JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Legionella - flush little used outlets monthly.	JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Take monthly samples for Bath Water quality tests from Haysden Water lake.	JB				•	•	•	•	•	•			
		Carry out monthly fire extinguisher checks.	JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Annual fire extinguisher test	SE									•			
		Take water sample from sewage tank annually.	AY						•						
		Check first aid boxes monthly and a report used/ missing items for replacement.	JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Ladder inspections annually and record.	CF											•	
		Ladder inspections prior to each use and record.	JB/ HCPV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AED checks daily.	Gate keeper	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month														
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D			
24	Carry out an environmental audit of the park	Investigate climate change adaptation within the park and write a report. Seek funding for an advisor.	CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
25	Collect information on wildlife	Train volunteers to carry out wildlife and wildflower monitoring and recording and using standard survey methods (see below).	CF/ HCPV			•	•											
		Volunteers to programme recording of amphibians egg searches and netting report results via MVCP to Kent Biological Records Centre (KBRC).	HCVP/ JB				•	•	•									
		Carry out breeding bird survey	Volunteer /CF			•	•	•	•	•	•							
		Investigate the use of the BTO wetland birds survey count method and carrying this out using a volunteer, implement if feasible	CF/ Volunteer	•	•	•										•	•	
		Volunteers to programme PSYM survey for plants and invertebrates at Botany Pond and the scrapes in the Water Meadow report results via MVCP to Kent Biological Records Centre (KBRC).	HCPV/JB									•						
		Volunteers to programme recording of Bats a 'fixed plot survey' and 'fixed transect survey' report results via MVCP to KBRC. Training to be carried out as needed.	HCVP/JB					•	•			•			•			
		Volunteers to programme monthly survey for reptiles with volunteers at the 'fixed point refuges' in scrub and marginal vegetation and habitat search, report results and to KBRC.	HCVP/JB				•	•	•	•	•	•	•					

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month														
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D			
26	Collect information on plants	Volunteers to carry out a small mammal survey in the park if resources allow.	HCVP/JB	•	•	•	•											
		Record species present in the three meadows, River Medway, Kissing gate and Water meadow.	HCVP/JB/CF				•	•	•	•	•	•						
		Carry out other ad-hoc plant surveys as time allows, focus on rare or scarce species for Kent or the UK. Also look at historical plant species to determine if they are still present in the park.	HCPV/JB/CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
27	Control of pest species	Monitor and consider control of invasive alien species.	JB/CF						•	•	•							
28	Circular walks	Provide and install markers for circular walks around the park	JB/HCPV		•	•												
29	Seat provision	Continue to promote and implement the sponsored seat scheme as enquiries arise.	CF															
		Keep existing seats in good order.	CF/JB				•	•	•									
30	Fees and charges	Review fees and charges annually.	MH/MCL														•	
31	Marketing and communication	Review marketing material before reprinting.						•	•	•	•	•						
		Continue to use Eventbrite to promote and book events.	CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Promote events via the websites, Green Flag Award, Councils website, and onsite.	CF/JB	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
		Organise the Big Garden Bird Watch at the park.	CF/JB	•														
		Organise the Big Butterfly Count event at the park.	CF/JB						•	•								

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month													
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
31	Marketing and communication	Organise other events if resources and conditions allow.	CF							•	•	•					
		Organise and run an event for Easter at the park.	CF/JB	•		•											
		Organise and run holiday activities at the park for children ages 8-16 if conditions allow	CF/JR/ JB			•	•				•	•					•
		Organise and run a Halloween event at the park.	CF/JB							•			•				
		Organise and run Christmas events at the park.	JB/CF/ HCPV								•					•	•
32	Interpretation and marketing plan	Implement projects within this plan as funding allows.	CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
		Gather information as time allows on the natural, human history, and management issues relevant to the park.	CF/JB								•	•					
33	Health walks scheme	TM Healthy Living Officer/ Volunteer walk leaders to organise weekly Ramblers Health Walks (Government Healthy Lifestyles initiative) from Tonbridge to the park around Barden Lake; for the public throughout the year.	CP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month												
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
34	Lake marginal aquatic and marginal planting and bank protection	Volunteers to continue protecting the banks from erosion in medium/ low erosion areas around Barden lake. Follow best practice to create a more healthy lake eco system; for aesthetic reasons, and to create fish refuge areas. In liaison with the TDAFPS, EA and HCPV.	HCPV				•	•	•	•	•	•				
		Use the prepared project plan to seek funding for possible implementation subject to partnership opportunities or grant aid funding.	HCPV/CF	•	•				•							
35	Reed bed creation	Volunteers to create a new reed bed at Haysden Water subject to funding being approved.	HCPV						•	•						
36	Tile Barn field use	Consider and explore uses for the field, relating to income generation.	MH/CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
37	Mink control	Monitor the level of mink presence or absence at the site and consider taking action in liaison with adjacent landowners in the River Medway catchment, subject to funding.	HCPV/CF/MVCP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
38	Signage and directions to the park	Consider new signs within the park where required, but aim to provide information on a temporary basis where information is short term.	CF/JB													
		Contact Satnav companies and add the park to their data set for customer maps.	CF	•												
40	Creation of suitable habitats	Provide suitable habitats to give opportunities for overwintering and nesting. Build bird boxes and bat boxes.	HCPV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month													
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
		Cut back scrub, under the A21 and around the Haysden Water lake, in sections in rotation every few years.	CF	•													
42	Pond and water course management and creation	Create new mini ponds within the old river channels	HCPV							•							
43	Water meadow management	Clear ponds to prevent undergrowth taking over ponds.	HCPV												•	•	
		Carry out 'improvements' to the meadow to increase plant diversity subject to funding.	CF		•	•	•										
44	Angling areas	Continue to create new swims Angling Society to lead on this project.	TDAFS /CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
45	Learning opportunities in the park	Re-write the educational marketing material, subject to funding.	CF	•	•	•											
		Launch the new marketing material.	CF				•	•	•								
47	Scrub clearance	Remove scrub from selective grassland areas.	JB/ HCPV											•	•		

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month												
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
48	Hedgerow restoration	Lay hedges or adding dead hedging and replanting.	JB/ HCPV	•	•									•	•	•
49	Plant more hedgerows	Replace existing fences and other boundaries with new hedges.	CF/JB/ HCPV	•	•									•	•	•
50	Plant trees	Increase the tree cover in the park although still aim to retain a diverse mosaic of different habitats.	CF/JB/ HCPV	•	•											
51	Coppice rotations	Cut designated woodland areas in rotational cycles.	CF/JB	•	•										•	•
53	CCTV	Review the need for CCTV subject to funding.	AY/ DL	•												
54	Country Park national accreditation	Reapply for Country Park accreditation	CF	•												
56	Monitor and increase plant species in the meadows	Carry out plant surveys to record existing vegetation	CF/JB/ HCPV						•	•	•					
57	The Shallows clear the channel	Investigate the feasibility of undertaking this.	CF											•		
65	Footpath signage from Leigh village	Provide a footpath sign from Hunt Seal direction in Leigh.	CF/ PRoW		•											
67	Disable fishing platform replacement	Apply for grant and implement construction subject to funding.	CF				•									
68	Fixed point photography	Establish locations and mark these on a plan.	CF	•												
		Take photos from these points, compare and store them for future reference.	CF	•												
70	Review of cycling provision within the park	Consider options for cycling in the park. (KCC are carrying out a review in Kent and Borough will follow.)	LPA CF/MH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Project No	Project	Specific tasks	Who	Month												
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
71	Dipping platform renewal	Replace the dipping platform now that it has come to the end of its life and if funding allows.	CF/MH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
74	Expansion of the park	Consider the expansion of the parks land area should opportunities arise.	CF/MH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
75	Developer contributions	Investigate and pursue opportunities for investment in the site from developer contributions.	MH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
76	Review the impact of covid 19	Both the short and long term impacts.	CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
77	End of year review	Annual review of the plan and update the plan.	CF												•	•
	New management plan	Start to create the next management plan for the park which starts in January 2025. (Update content and all appendices, P8 Visitor survey and P17 Access Audit listed above to be commissioned)	CF	•	•										•	•

Interpretation and marketing Plan

Interpretation and Marketing Plan

Contents

Page no

1.0 Introduction

This section introduces the park, introduces the Interpretation and Marketing Plan and looks at our market.

iv



2.0 Principles of interpretation

This section explains and illustrates the established principles of interpretation.

viii



3.0 Methods of interpretation

This section explains the methods of interpretation available to us.

ix






4.0 Where are we now?

This section describes the current situation,

xvii



	Page	
5.0 Where do we want to get to?	xxi	
This section explains our vision for the park.		
6.0 How will we get there?	xxiii	
This section sets out how we are going to achieve our aims and objectives.		
7.0 How will we know when we have arrived?	xxv	
The final section of the plan looks at how we will track progress and how the Plan might be updated.		
Annexes		
Annex 1 - Inventory of resources related	xxvi	
Annex 2 - Themes	xxix	
Annex 3 – Project Concept Design MP3	xxxii	
Annex 4 - Questions to consider when evaluating interpretation exhibits for the	xxxiii	
Annex 5 - Style guide for park furniture	xxxiv	
Bibliography	xxxvii	

1.0 Introduction

Interpretation is the process of communicating ideas and information to people, and follows established principles used throughout the world. Planning is the foundation of all good interpretation, which is why many people start their interpretation project with an Interpretation Plan. It establishes why you are doing your project, who you are doing it for, what you are going to interpret and how you manage and review progress. Marketing is about how you tell people about your facilities, and so is closely related to interpretation.



Background

Haysden Country Park is a well used park, located on the outskirts of Tonbridge, consisting of a wide range of different wildlife habitats; it is both a Local Nature Reserve, and Site of Nature Conservation Interest. The park is used by the public for a variety of activities, including: dog walking, walking in the countryside, playing in the children's play area, sailing, fishing etc.

The park holds the national Green Flag Award and is an Accredited Country Park under Natural England's scheme. It was recommended by the Green Flag Award judges in 2008 that the park needed an Interpretation Plan 'to improve access to information and the way this is provided'. This recommendation was put forward as Project 17 of the Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2010-2014 and this document is the result. (Interpretation is also a criterion in the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme.)

Marketing

Marketing is made up of product, placement, and price. Our product in this case is the Country Park and this has been described at the beginning of this document.

Market placement

Haysden Country Park is the only country park, and one of the largest public open spaces in the area of Tonbridge (the nearest large open space being Tonbridge Racecourse Sportground which caters for a different market). The park's market position therefore attracts visitors, not only from Tonbridge but from the surrounding area, including some from outside the Borough boundary.

Branding - The Council's logo must be included on the bottom right-hand side on all printed material including signage. The Green Flag Award logo and Country Parks Accreditation logo should also be included, where practical, on printed material and entrance signs, as this shows the high quality of the facility. Further guidance on sizes, layout and colour palettes are available in the Council's Communications Strategy, from the organisers of the Green Flag Award, and from Natural England for the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme. The country park does not have a logo.



The style and presentation of park's layout and park furniture (signage, seats, bins etc.) also plays a part in the way that the park is presented and perceived by the public. A unified style of park furniture presents an orderly approach which gives a brand to the park, and aids the maintenance and management of the furniture. There are many benefits of having a style guide for the park, but we must also consider that there will be new products coming onto the market that maybe of benefit to the public using the park, and we must therefore be careful to balance the desire for branding with the need for future innovation. The style guide will therefore need to be reviewed every few years to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. **Annex 5** gives some guidelines on our approach.

Public relations

The Councils Media and Communications Team issues news releases and photo calls to the media about the park as the need arises.

Market surveys

The Council carries out market surveys every five years, the last was in 2018 and the next is due in 2023. Whilst a survey of 400 users is adequate for analytical purposes it is no more than a snapshot of users (in terms of patterns of use) on the days and times of the interview. Surveys at Haysden Country Park have customarily been conducted in the school summer holidays so comparison with previous surveys can be made where questions are identically framed.



The survey results indicate who our visitors are, and some areas for improvement. At present little is known about patterns of use because market surveys are carried out too infrequently. Information on usage, all be it limited, is available on car park ticket sales for the main car park. This will indicate the number cars using the car park. Project 55 of this management plan would also investigate the feasibility of

installing visitor counters which could determine patterns of visitor use.

Visitor profile

The primary audience for the park is local people, but the fact also needs to be recognised that people are travelling from further afield to visit the park. The 2018 market survey indicated that 38% of people travelled five miles or more to the park.

The gender mix from market surveys also indicated were roughly 65:35, female: male. The age of users: it is more difficult to establish the age groups of users, although the age group under 16 was the highest in the survey at 29%.

In terms of ethnic diversity the survey at the park indicated that the majority of visitors were white British.

Disabled visitors

The park provides some specific disabled facilities like a toilet; fishing platforms and; access to a viewing area for Barden Lake. A rising number of visitors (8% in 2018) said they had a disability limiting their health. Access Audits have been carried out in the park in 2003 and repeated in 2010, 2014 and 2018. These included a site visit, and cover marketing materials, interpretation and other topics (see **Appendix 4**).



Potential future visitor profile

The main trend looking at the last four market surveys from Haysden is that a high percentage of people are travelling greater than 5 miles to visit the park. There is potentially a very wide audience for interpretation information from: young people, less able users; regular users and club users. We need to target some of these and different types of messages will be needed for different groups of users.

Price - Facilities are provided free of charge at the point of use for the general public with the exceptions of car parking and activity charges. Charges are also made for commercial events, and for licensing/lease arrangements. All charges are market tested and felt to be competitive in the market place; income raised is offset against expenditure in the park.



Marketing segmentation






The market surveys and Management Plan for the site have helped identify and define the potential audience for the interpretation of the park and by understanding our visitors needs we can tailor the interpretation to meet these. The park's market segmentation is shown on the next page.

<p>1. Local People</p> <p>Living within Tonbridge and surrounds</p> <p>Landowners and managers</p> <p>Regular repeat visitors</p> <p>Local businesses (accommodation providers, tourism businesses owners)</p>	<p>2. Visitors</p> <p>Day visitors</p> <p>Longer holiday visitors</p> <p>Families with young children</p> <p>People staying with friends of relatives</p> <p>People using local hotels, B&Bs etc.</p> <p>Overseas visitors</p>
<p>3. Education and young people</p> <p>Undergraduates</p> <p>'A' level students</p> <p>Primary and secondary school students</p>	<p>4. Visitors with special needs</p> <p>Visitors with mobility, sight, hearing, communication and learning impairments</p>
<p>5. Special interest visitors</p> <p>Research students</p> <p>Wildlife groups</p> <p>Event organisers</p>	<p>6. Activity visitors</p> <p>Dog walkers</p> <p>Sailing club members and visitors</p> <p>Angling Society members and visitors</p> <p>Horse riders, cyclists, canoeists, walkers</p>

2.0 Principles of interpretation

Because interpretation is a much misunderstood subject, the next section explains and illustrates the principles of interpretation. These were established in the National Parks Service in the United States of America, but are now acknowledged and well established throughout the world. The basis of all good interpretation is good factual information, but interpretation is not about just providing facts, information must be presented in a memorable and pleasurable way. It should encourage visitors to identify with the topic, mean something to them, and leave them wanting to find out more. The overriding aim of interpretation is to present the whole picture, a proven effective way of presenting interpretation is to use the formula Provoke, Relate, and Reveal.




	<p>The core and acknowledged principles (Tilden 1977 et al) of interpretative communication are three- fold:</p>
	<p>Provoke - Essentially this is what makes interpretation different from just ‘information’ is that it should provoke thought, new ideas, curiosity, interest and even discussion. Your interpretation also needs to provoke people’s attention to ensure they read your panel, attend your guided walk or pick up your leaflet</p>
	<p>Relate - If your message or story does not relate to the everyday lives of the audience, it will be meaningless. To be effective, interpretation must be meaningful i.e. speaking the same language as your audience and be personal, linking it to visitor’s own lives.</p>
	<p>Reveal - It’s the revelation that separates interpretation from other communication. Interpretation should reveal a new insight into what makes a place or object special, so that your audience walks away thinking ‘ah, I never knew that’, or ‘now I understand’.</p>
<p>It is also usual for interpretation to convey a message following a theme.</p>	
	<p>A theme organises ideas and makes sure that visitors remember the facts, similar to the way a musical score brings together notes into a song. Research shows for communication to be effective it should be enjoyable, relevant, organised and if we want it to be interpretive, it must convey a message or theme.</p>


3.0 Methods of interpretation

There are many different ways of achieving interpretation, and in this section the following common methods are explained with their advantages and disadvantages.



- **Personnel interpretation**
- **Printed interpretation**
- **Interpretation panels**
- **Creative on-site Interpretation**
- **Digital interpretation**
- **Visitor Centre/ Interpretation Centre**

<p>Personal Interpretation - This is when visitors ‘see’ or ‘meet’ someone face-to-face like a ranger giving a talk. Examples of personal interpretation include guided walks, story telling, costumed actor interpreters, events and activities and ‘street’ theatre.</p>	
<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the most effective form of interpretation very effective for orientating visitors · brings history to life · can be tailored to a specific audience or age group · on the spot answers to questions · forms a memorable experience 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · needs skilled interpreters · expensive to run - staff time · weather dependant · needs good advertising · needs forward planning 

<p>Printed Interpretation - This aspect includes leaflets, publications, trail guides, indoor and outdoor panels and exhibitions. Published material must be written in Plain English (aim at the age group 9-12 years for easy reading) and have a contrasting background colour to aid those visually impaired. For more guidance see the Council Communication Policy, and information from the Sensory Trust, Fieldfare Trust and the BT Access for All Guide. The Council’s Access Officer should be consulted at the design feasibility stage for new printed material.</p>	
<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · relatively cheap to produce · no specialist equipment needed · mobile makes it easier for visitors to carry and find their way around the site · ease of distribution · can be readily available to visitors both on and off site 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · needs good design to be eye catching · leaflets can become litter · visitors only retain 30% of what they read · some people may have reading difficulties 

Interpretation panels – These can be used to orientate visitors by using maps and could include tactile elements, Braille writing or textures. The written element should be short and to the point. These panels can be installed as a lectern; or upright; cut into shapes; and mounted in various ways. People tend to read signs very quickly taking in only the bare facts. They must therefore be: attractive, brief and clear.

Advantages

- can located panel where the topic needs discussing
- good for providing drawings/ photos

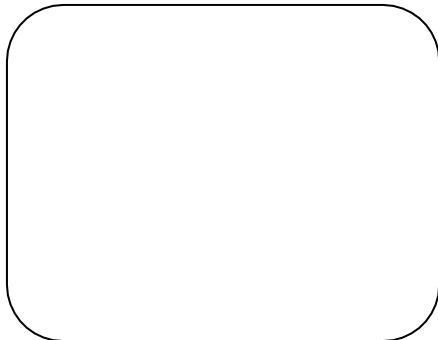


Leybourne Lakes Country Park

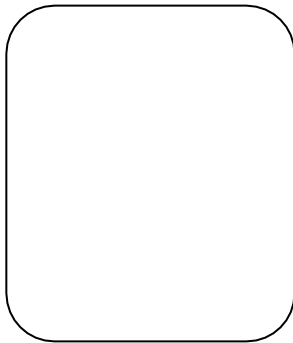
Disadvantages

- expensive to produce
- can go out of date, cannot update
- can be intrusive in the landscape
- some messages are seasonal
- maps maybe difficult for the public to follow
- vulnerable to vandalism
- only one shot at explaining the topic

Interactive Interpretation - Includes two and 3D installations such as seating, sculpture and specially designed waymarking, and hands-on displays. Can incorporate creative use of the arts such as design and sculpture.



National Wildflower Centre



Kew Gardens

Advantages

- can improve the appearance of site and bring a topic to life
- can use local or natural materials
- can add tactile and visual elements
- increases the sensory richness of site
- temporary displays are possible using recycled materials
- can involve the user in problem solving

Disadvantages

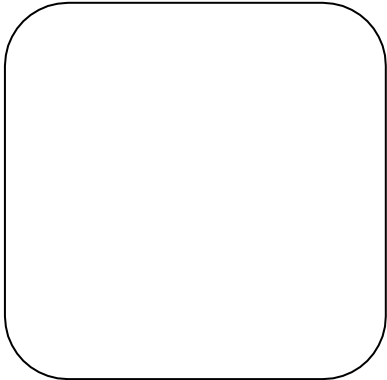
- can be vulnerable to vandalism
- could be intrusive in the landscape

Digital audio interpretation - This covers devices like mobile phones and audio based material including: audio guides, iPods (MP3 and iPod formats See **Annex 3**), these are usually downloaded using a computer in advance of the visit via the internet. They can be used to display location based: images, video, (smartphones only) for storytelling, and sound effects.



Advantages

- mobile systems like MP3, iPod and smartphones, can be carried around the site to where the topic needs interpreting
- should appeal to a younger audience
- should appeal to the visually impaired
- the MP3 medium is becoming more widely used in outdoor and indoor facilities for trails
- can be less intrusive in the landscape than signs
- on some devices can use voices, and sound effects, photographs, and video to help tell a memorable story
- ownership of technology is increasing
- MP3, or sound posts do not involve reading
- brings the interpretation into the 21st century
- the most expensive element cannot be damaged
- headphones are used so not intrusive to other users



Disadvantages

- audio recording is expensive to produce
- audio recording needs a skilled professional to record and setup
- you only get the one shot at recording the audio
- can quickly go out of date
- users need to be confident with the technology
- users need access to a computer to view and download
mobile phone signal maybe poor



Digital quick response code interpretation - Quick response (QR) codes are like a bar code. By scanning the code the content from the website is displayed on a smartphone. The trail can contain fascinating facts (audio), still images and recordings of wildlife and sound tracks which can be listened to during the walk.



Quick Response code example

Advantages

- information can be readily and easily updated so is not fixed like a sign
- should appeal to a younger audience
- can be less intrusive in the landscape than signs
- can have a piece of writing, and picture on site that grabs attention and more information available online
- encourages users to interact and enable them to find out more if they want to
- not expensive to replace if damaged
- headphones are worn so not intrusive to other visitors
- the least expensive option
- Information on the website can easily be updated



Disadvantages

- can go out of date
- users need to be confident with the technology
- users need access to a smartphone
- mobile phone signal maybe poor



Digital augmented reality interpretation - This section Covers smartphone apps, for augmented reality games, GPS quizzes, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, and immersive education. The activities are led by the app and triggered when you arrive at a particular geographical location. They can be text, video, audio or still images. The app is downloaded in advance of a visit onto your smartphone via a computer from a website.



Advantages

- smart phones, can be carried around the site to where the topic needs interpretation
- should appeal to a younger audience
- augmented reality medium is becoming more widely used in outdoor and indoor facilities for trails
- may drive visitor numbers upwards
- can be less intrusive in the landscape than signs
- can use voices, and sound effects, photographs and video to help tell a memorable story
- ownership of technology is increasing
- brings the interpretation into the 21st century
- cannot be damaged as no infrastructure on site
- Some apps once downloaded don't need a signal to operate

Disadvantages

- setting up the apps needs a skilled professional to record and setup
- you only get the one shot at recording the audio
- can go out of date
- users need to be confident with the technology
- expensive to produce
- users need access to a computer to view and download
- mobile phone signal maybe poor



Digital audio posts interpretation - This covers providing an audio post or seat at fixed points around a site. These have pre-recorded audio on them that playback as a visitor goes near them or presses a button. They can be used for oral history, storytelling and sound effects.



Advantages

- should appeal to a younger audience
- can be less intrusive in the landscape than signs
- can use voices, and sound effects to help tell a memorable story
- brings the interpretation into the 21st century
- can be self powered by solar energy

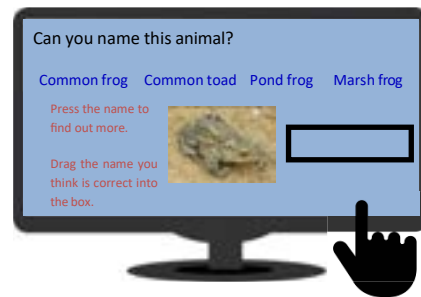


Audio post example

Disadvantages

- you only get the one shot at recording the audio
- can go out of date
- can easily be damaged and vandalised
- costly if electricity is needed to power them
- can be noisy for other users

Digital visual displays - Display screens linked to computer programmes can both play video, or interactive touch screens can lead visitors through a story.



Advantages

- should appeal to a younger audience
- may drive visitor numbers upwards
- can create a memorable story
- allows visitors to interact with the story
- allows visitors to discover and explore the story
- brings interpretation into the 21st century
- equipment can be reused for another presentation

Disadvantages

- can be damaged
- you only get one shot at setting this up
- expensive to produce
- the story can go out of date

Visitor Centre/ Interpretation Centre – Most visitors have now come to expect a visitor centre in country parks, to tell the story of the place and develop an understanding and appreciation of that place. Leaders in the UK field like National Parks and the National Trust now offer these at most sites. Locally there are many examples where Kent County Council has built visitor centres at many of their country parks in Kent. The latest Market Survey at the park indicates that visitors wanted an undercover area of seating for the café but that a visitor centre was less desirable.

In terms of interpretation and educational use, a visitor centre is the typical solution. Ideally, to take full advantage of this facility, an educational officer would also be employed. The visitor centre opens up opportunities to display exhibitions of material not practical outside, give talks, slide shows and films; telling the story of the park and countryside, which could also be achieved with illustrations, models, artefacts and fixed exhibits. Successful centres have a range of media and interactive displays, to engage the visitor and influence their actions, but also have proactive staff involvement with the visitors. The majority of visitor centres also include toilets and undercover seating for refreshments, which also encourages year round visits. Many are also exemplars of good building practice, with sustainable living features such as solar power and log burning heating.

If the building was designed as a flexible space with few fixed internal walls, the space could also be put to a variety of other uses including: temporary and permanent exhibits; to hold programmes of education and other activities for young people and adults; and as a meeting room to hold talks but also for public hire for other events.



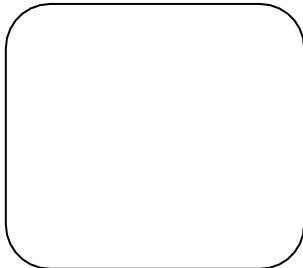
Reculver Country Park, Kent

Advantages

- increases opportunities for educational visits from schools
- year round visits practical
- opens up opportunities to display interactive hands-on exhibitions
- practical to show slides and films
- can meet the needs of a wider variety of audiences
- less-able visitors can still appreciate the park (equality of access)
- provides shelter from the weather
- a sustainable building could be used as an exemplar for sustainable building a multi - functional building
- could include toilets, and year round catering with undercover seating for refreshments

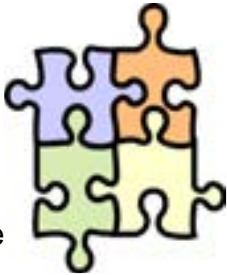
Disadvantages

- expensive to provide a building
- increased costs of overheads and utilities
- fitting out the building, can also be expensive
- Planning Permission would be required
- can become the main attraction




4.0 Where are we now?

This section of the Plan describes the current situation at Haysden Country Park at the time the plan was written. It sets out where we are now and indicates which themes these cover.



As stated earlier it is normal to identify themes which are then used as the basis for interpretation.

Themes



A theme organises ideas and makes sure that visitors remember the facts, similar to the way a musical score brings together notes into a song. Research shows for communication to be effective it should be enjoyable, relevant, organised and if we want it to be interpretive, it must convey a message or theme.

The interpretation around Haysden Country Park can be broken down into three main themes: nature, history and management.



In the tables that follow the three themes have been ticked where they are currently being applied.



Personal Interpretation – The Rangers and Medway Valley Countryside Partnership have since 2007 run a programme of organised events: bat and bird watching walks, welly walks, pond dipping and Halloween events. Most have proved very popular with the public; there has been a year-on-year increasing number of participants.



Educational Activities –

An Educational Activity Pack was launched in 2008 (aimed at school children aged 5-11 years) and, coupled with the dipping platform (built in 2009), these are the main resources used for the educational activities in the park. Since this time there has been a growing interest from schools and clubs for ranger-led activities to reflect this. The Educational Pack was re-written in 2010 and rebranded and is now called ‘Ranger-led Activities’.



Specialist Interest Groups – We have arranged site walks on demand with various groups including for Land Use Management students, local bed & breakfast accommodation owners, and wildlife groups. These fulfil a specialist niche in demand. Historical site walks with the public have also been arranged as part of the national, Heritage Open Days.



THEME:	Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Printed Interpretation

Leaflets – There are five key coloured leaflets, (one main leaflet, a volunteer leaflet, and one each for the self-guided trails covering Historical, Nature and Play). In the past few years we have worked with the assistance of a number of partners: the Tonbridge Historical Society, Kent County Council and Kent Wildlife Trust etc. All leaflets are widely available as pre-visit information and on the Council’s website as downloads. The main leaflet includes a map and acts as a general orientation leaflet. This has proved very popular since its introduction in 2005. The Nature and Historical trail leaflets underwent a major rewrite in 2009; these are still popular with visitors. The park also forms part of the ‘Walks for All series’ these maps are produced in conjunction with Kent County Council and are targeted at less able users of the park.



THEME:	Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Interpretation panels – There is one map-based interpretation panel at the entrance by the building, and another at interpretation panel by Friendship Wood. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these are well used. Panels illustrating other themes such as nature conservation and history could be purchased.



Notice Boards - There are notice boards around all the main entrance and at Hayden Water and Audley Rise entrance. These are used to display posters to promote events, list wildlife sightings, display awards and to warn and advise the public about management issues.



THEME:	Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Creative on-site Interpretation - We have experimented with less conventional interpretation in the park. Two large sculptures have been commissioned and installed in the park. One is a carved obelisk located at the start of the river walk. The other commemorates the towns Twinning with Heusenstamm, and is located in the wood of the same name.

There are also a number of play sculptures in the shape of insects and animals are spread around the park for children to find. The play sculpture trail is based around these.



THEME:	Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Digital interpretation - Since the launch of the Council's website the Haysden Country Park pages have proved to be some the most popular on the Council website. There are also a number of other sub pages also being well used; these pages provide more detailed information with: Park events, management plan; there are also links to leaflets and forms. The park is also listed on a number of external websites, including the Green Flag Award, with the exception of this website, the Council is not responsible for the content of external internet sites. The park also features on several other websites such as Explore Kent, and the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme. Facebook pages for Haysden Country Park are known to exist, but these are not run by the Council. The Haysden Country Park Volunteers have their own Facebook page.



THEME:	Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Funding - No additional revenue or capital funding has been identified from the Council to fund projects arising from this Plan. Funding from outside sources may be available, and it will be the role of the Site Manager to identify any potential sources and apply for fund where available.

5.0 Where do we want to get to?

Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats

Summarising the information so far, the table below identifies the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) to interpreting and marketing Haysden Country Park.



Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Green Flag Award · Accredited Country Park · Some interpretation material already exists · Regular events since 2007 · Demand and positive feedback from past events · Some limited funding available specifically for advertising · Past customer surveys to draw on · Website pages are well used · Sculptures add new tactile sensory experiences · Run site walks for specialist groups · Have a 'sightings' board for wildlife with photos · Ranger Led Activities Pack (for Primary Schools) in print · Established partnerships with clubs and private organisers already run some events · 'Events on open spaces form' and procedures already in place · TMBC website is a popular means of accessing information · Explore Kent partnerships for advertising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · TM Digital Strategy - Smart Parks · Any bids for other funding could include an interpretation element · New technology for MP3/ iPod digital recordings may reduce cost · Develop socially inclusive interpretation · Staff and volunteers running events · Reduce costs by piggyback on advertising for national events like Love Parks Week · Local drama group in period dress and act as interpreters for a day · Posters can provide a cost effective themed message · Use leaflets and posters produced by others RSPCA, Keep Britain Tidy, Environmental Health dept where these match our needs · Write a secondary Schools Educational Activity Pack · Have a list available of useful Projects for college students · Webpage for volunteers · Web blog for wildlife spotted · Replace old style signage · Incorporate inside improved cafeteria and inside seating area and toilets in a visitor centre · Quick Response codes mean smartphone users can find out more · used more social media · Adopt a standard style of signage for the park
Weaknesses	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Funding · On-going maintenance of static interpretation panels · Design and printing of full colour leaflets is expensive · Static panels have some out of date information · Some old style signage has very negative messages · Outside seating for the catering · No standard style of signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Rising cost of static interpretation panels · Staff costs · Apathy: some people don't want change and feel we are already providing what they want

The Role of the Interpretation and Marketing Plan

Overall Aim

To improve all forms of interpretation within Haysden Country Park.



This Plan has several objectives:

- To act as a framework that will identify, guide and co-ordinate efforts;
- To improve the quality and effectiveness of interpretation;
- To improve the image and identity of the country park;
- To ensure accessibility of interpretation materials;
- To help orientate visitors and raise awareness;
- To influence behaviour, promote safety;
- To improve the public's understanding and appreciation of the park.



6.0 How will we get there?

This section sets out how we are going to achieve our aims and objectives. The Programme of Work sets out long term targets, these actions will be drawn forward into specific actions within the Annual Action within the Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2020-2024. **Annex 1** indicates some cost effective resources that could be used to gather more information on the Themes. **Annex 2** lists some possible ideas for interpreting the site and looks at the themes in more detail. The Programme below outlines some possible options for interpreting and marketing the park, but is not intended to be too prescriptive. In order to achieve maximum impact with limited resources, only some of the opportunities identified in the SWOT can be implemented.

Themes key (ticked): N= Nature, H = History, M = Management

Importance High = 1, medium= 2, low= 3-4

Projects	Theme			Cost range comments	Importance
	N	H	M		
1. Staff training on interpretation techniques and methods	Ü	Ü	Ü	Revenue budget	1
2. Continue the events programme in the park.	Ü	Ü		£600 per annum	1
3. Continue to keep in print the main coloured leaflet.	Ü	Ü	Ü	£800 approximately per 5000 leaflets, plus £50 per hour design fees	1
4. Continue to keep in print leaflets aimed at young people.	Ü			Overheads, apply interpretation approach	1
5. Continue to keep in print the Historical Trail leaflet		Ü		As above, apply interpretation approach	1
6. News Releases and Photo Calls to be issued about events, and activities.	Ü		Ü	Overheads	1
7. Litter awareness campaign to continue, with community litter picks, and posters to highlight issues.			Ü	Overheads	1
8. Water safety campaign to be continued.	Ü		Ü	Overheads	1
9. Continue to promote the issues associate with fishing line being left in the park.			Ü	Overheads	1
10. Continue to enter for the Green Flag Award and apply for the Country Park Accreditation at the park, as a promotional tools for the public and to retain high standards.	Ü	Ü	Ü	£350 per annum	1
11. Use Explore Kent website to promote the park to a wider audience.			Ü	Budgeted for under borough wide promotion.	1

Projects	Theme			Cost range comments	Importance
	N	H	M		
12. Replace old negative directional signage with up to date interpretation signage of standard style.			Ü	£70-150 per sign	2
13. Lead guided tours of the park on demand.			Ü	Overheads	2
14. Temporary posters to continue to be prepared or obtained and displayed covering topical seasonal issues but using the principles of interpretation set out within this Plan.			Ü	Overheads	2
15. Investigate the feasibility of providing an audio version of the Nature and Historical Trails, investigate the feasibility of smart phone apps, MP3/iPod downloads from the internet or on CD to bring to life this subject. Could charge a small fee to cover costs. Consider the marketing and links on the website and CDs on sale from Tonbridge Gateway Council offices - Annex 3.	Ü	Ü		£2-3K per tour A possible small scale income generator if a charge is made for downloads	2
16. Period dressed actors (as interpreters) in to act out historical periods like 'defending the Ironside Line' and or 'James Christy at the Stone Lock' trial as in the 2015 as part of the annual Heritage Open Days.		Ü		Overheads researching talk, but could be cost neutral, if volunteers are used.	2
17. Continue to research and gather facts and information about the natural, human history, and management issues relevant to the park, as time allows for future interpretation programmes.	Ü	Ü		Overheads	3
18. Investigate installing a television screen linked to a computer to display a PowerPoint slide show of current seasonal notices.	Ü	Ü	Ü	Revenue budget	3
19. Consider the feasibility of alternative ways of interpreting the park, including the use of augmented reality, and QR codes. Look at the feasibility of a small scale trial of a technology led approach, to determine if there is any demand from visitors, and how this might be funded.	Ü	Ü	Ü	Grant or revenue budget.	3
20. Investigate the feasibility of building a visitor centre/ educational centre in the park.	Ü	Ü	Ü	£150,000 approximately. Income could be generated from secondary hire of the facility for other uses.	4

7.0 How will we know when we have arrived?

Feedback - Feedback from visitors after events and during the year will tell us how well we are doing and help us to make changes to improve our visitors understanding.



Market surveys - Regular market surveys will also help us understand our customer's needs and we can then alter the way we interpret the park to reflect this feedback.

Monitoring progress – Progress will be monitored against the Programme in this document and the Annual Action within the Management Plan.

Green Flag Award – judges feedback reports include the criteria: A welcoming place and marketing. The judges comments will help us assess how successful we have been in interpreting and marketing the site, and may offer suggestions on other items of interpretation and how best to accomplish this.

Country Park Accreditation – The award criteria includes information on interpretation. The Natural England's feedback will be used to judge our success.

Inventory of Resources related to topics at Haysden Country Park**General**

Association of Heritage interpretation website www.ahi.org.uk/

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (2010) *Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2020-2024* available from the website www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP

Green Flag Award website <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

Human History

BBC (2010) *The German threat to Britain in World War 2* available at website http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/invasion_ww2_01.shtml

Bannister N Historical *Landscape survey of the Penshurst Estate*

Canal and River Trust www.canalrivertrustwaterfront.org.uk

Chapman F and Oast M (1988) *Information for Haysden Park leaflet* unpublished

Defence area 16 Penshurst available at website http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-455-1/dissemination/pdf/Text_Reports/DA16_TEXT_-_PENSHURST.pdf

Environment Agency (undated) *Leigh Barrier: the silent saviour* booklet available at website <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31716.aspx>

Hadfield C (1955) *The Canals of Southern England*

Hadfield C (1969) *The Canals of South and South-East England*

Hilton J (1977) *A History of the Medway Navigation Company*

Kent County Council (1991) *Eden Valley Walk*, Kent County Council

Kent Life (2010) *Front Line Kent* available at website <http://kent.greatbritishlife.co.uk/article/frontline-kent-20068/>

Tonbridge Historical Society website <http://www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk>

Tonbridge Historical Society postcard pictures of Barden Park etc available on the website <http://www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk/photos/the-river-medway/index2.html>

Tonbridge Historical Society 1829: James Christy and the Stone Lock available as a website page at <http://www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk/events/penshurst-canal.htm>

Tonbridge Historical Society 1842: The coming of the railway available as a website page at <http://www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk/events/the-coming-of-the-railway.htm>

The Morning Post (1830) *Law Intelligence - Court of Chancery*

Trueman M (2007) *Medway Heritage Audit* private research unpublished table of resources

Livingstone H (1999) *Travel guide: Weald Way*, Kent County Council

Maidstone Journal reports 1830-1840 (Penshurst Canal Company)

Newspaper articles (undated) about the Haysden Country Park in the Kent Messenger and Tonbridge Courier

Newspaper Group

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Leisure Services collection of photographs and slides dated 1980-to date mainly unpublished

Ordnance Survey map dated 1866/69

Vine PAL (1989) *Kent and Sussex Waterways*

Extract Leominster's history - The navvies who built the canal available online at <https://leominster1941.tumblr.com/post/50662996920/navvies-who-built-the-canal> on 7/4/20

Waterfront Who were the navvies Canal and River Trust available online at canalrivertrustwaterfront.org.uk/history/who-were-the-navvies/online on 7/4/20

Wilson A ed. (2015) *Tonbridge through the centuries*, Tonbridge Historical Society

Natural History

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation website www.arc-trust.org

Bat Conservation Trust website www.bats.org.uk

Botanical Society of the British Isles website www.bsbi.org.uk/kent.html

British Dragonfly Society website www.dragonflysoc.org.uk

British Trust for Ornithology website www.bto.org

Buglife website www.buglife.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation - Kent butterflies website www.kentbutterflies.org

Butterfly Conservation – Kent Moths website www.kentmoths.org

Field Studies Council publications website www.field-studies-council.org

Kent Amphibian and Reptile Group website www.kentarg.org

Kent Bat Group website www.kentbatgroup.org.uk

Kent Field Club website www.kentfieldclub.org.uk

Kent Mammal Group website www.kentmammalgroup.org.uk

Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre website www.kmbrc.org.uk

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation (2002) *Site of Nature Conservation Interest site designation document for River Medway etc. South of Leigh*

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation website www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Kent Ornithological Society website www.kentos.org.uk

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds website www.rspb.org.uk

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership website www.medwayvalley.org

Natural England website www.naturalengland.org.uk

Opal citizen's surveys run by The Natural History Museum website www.opalexplornature.org

Orpington Field Club website www.orpingtonfieldclub.org.uk

Pan Species Listing website www.brc.ac.uk/psl

People Trust for Endangered Species, surveys and information website www.ptes.org

Plantlife International website plantlife.org.uk/international

Pondlife information on pond related matters website www.pond-life.me.uk

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds website www.rspb.org.uk

Species records from various sources (1980-to date) *Country Park Species Lists* of plants and animals see Appendix 10 of this management plan website www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP

Management

CABE Space (former) research publications into park related issues available from the website www.cabe.org.uk

DEFRA website <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/>

Keep Britain Tidy (litter and dog control) website <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org.uk/>

Country Park Accreditation Scheme website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-accreditation-for-your-country-park>

Corporate membership of the Keep Britain Tidy Network, involvement with national and local campaigns

Environmental initiatives - talks at local schools, litter picks and tidy up campaigns

Greenspace & Greenspace Southeast work to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals.

Natural England (2010) *Local Nature Reserves in England: A guide to their selection and designation*, HMSO

Naturenet good for general outdoor topics available at the website <http://www.naturenet.net/index.php>

Non Native Species Secretariat information available at website <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/home/index.cfm>

Parkforce see website <http://www.cabe.org.uk/public-space/parkforce>

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents see website <http://www.rospa.com/>

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Invasive plants and weeds available at <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk>

The River Restoration Centre (2002) *Manual of River Restoration Techniques* available at <http://www.therrc.co.uk/manual-river-restoration-techniques>

Themes

The tables below list some possible ideas for interpreting the park and are linked together with topics and themes.

'Themes' link together related information into bite size pieces, sometimes these can be used to tell a story, and 'Topics' are more specific. 'Objectives' are measureable outcomes and can be 'learning', 'behavioural' or 'emotional'; all the themes have been written using the principles of interpretation.

Objectives must ideally be SMART: Specific: be clear about what is intended. Measurable: so you can monitor and report on performance. They must be Appropriate: to the site and audience, and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council goals, Realistic: Achievable, Timely: when it should happen.

Theme 1: HISTORY – The influence of past land uses and the way they have changed the landscape. At Haysden Country Park humans have had many influences on the landscape that you can still see today.	
Key year/s and Topics	Objectives
1830's – River transport; what were the choices and who built the Straight Mile?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To feel a sense of connection with James Christy • Visitors go away knowing what life was like in the 1830's • To understand what the Stone Lock was for • To appreciate the huge endeavour of building the Straight Mile • To understand what the Stone Lock once looked like • To appreciate why canal transport was built and used
1940's - The secrets of The Ironside Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appreciate that there was a real threat of an invasion of England during WW2 • To intrigue visitors with details about the <i>Secret</i> Ironside Line of defence
1970's - How gravel extraction has had a big impact on the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appreciate why gravel was extracted • To appreciate how the gravel extraction has changed the landscape
18 th & 19 th centuries - The roles played by canal, railway and road in shaping this landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appreciate what is manmade and what is natural in the landscape • To appreciate how transport systems have changed the landscape
1980's Leigh Flood Barrier built	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate modern man made flood mitigation • To understand how the barrier changed the park

Theme 2: NATURE – a wealth of wildlife and wildflowers are present in park, look at its importance, and the way land is managed, in order to help people value and care about the park.	
Theme Topics	Objectives
Find out why wild plants are important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to identify at least three common wildflowers • What’s the difference between a wildflower and a weed? • To feel motivated to find out more • To raise awareness of the connections between humans, plants and animals
Coppicing is a good way of managing trees for wildlife, what does a coppiced tree look like, and which animals depend on them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to identify what a coppiced tree looks like • To know at least three animals or plants that are dependent on coppicing
Ponds and water bodies are alive with animals, which ones live in the park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to identify at least three plants and animals that live in water in the park • To feel intrigued that such tiny creatures live in water • To understand a life cycle of one or more insects • To be able to draw a simple web of life • To know what body adaptations are used to cope with this environment • To foster understanding and appreciation of the park
Woodlands are full of life that I never knew existed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To name at least three plants or animals that live in our woods • To understand the connection between living things
Bats live in this park, which ones can be found?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To feel intrigued at seeing a bat • To know how big a bat is • To know what bats feed on
Dragonflies are among the most ancient of living creatures, come and see these fascinating insects that live in the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To feel intrigued about seeing these insects • To understand their lifecycle • To find out how we know that dragonflies lived millions of years ago • Recognise the links between plants and animals
Reptiles and amphibians are cold blooded animals that live in the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be intrigued to see a reptile or amphibian • To understand their basic lifecycle • To understand which snakes are dangerous

Theme 3: MANAGEMENT ISSUES – the park is a managed landscape with public access and this brings with it some challenges	
Theme Topics	Objectives
It's dangerous to swim in the Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To appreciate the risks of swimming in the water bodies To know what to do if someone has fallen into the water
Exploring the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give visitors the confidence to visit less well used parts of the park To know the different types of path surfaces present To know how long it will take to walk around a given path
Food fit for ducks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To appreciate the effects of feeding the waterfowl To appreciate which foods are good and bad for them
The banks are eroding around Barden Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To appreciate why erosion of the lake edge is occurring To understand the options available to improve the appearance and encourage more wildlife
We can all do something about litter in the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of visitors do not drop litter in the park To appreciate the negative impacts on wildlife and the environment More members of the public will be willing to take part in litter picks
Not a work of art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of visitors will appreciate the park and do not graffiti Young people feel an affinity with the park and want to care for it
Don't let fly tipping turn the park into a dump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of visitors feel an affinity with the park and don't fly tip Visitors understand how much it costs to clear up fly tipping the negative impacts for wildlife
My dog's fine, what's the problem ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog owners are aware of the dog control rules that apply in the park The majority of dog owners feel an affinity with the park and will not break the dog control rules in the park <p>Example wording</p> <p><i>"Your dog can still enjoy this walk whilst on a lead. Try to vary your pace and keep your dog engaged by talking to it."</i></p> <p><i>"Birds are breeding and need to stay quietly with their young. Allowing YOUR dog to run off the path here will disturb them. Please help your dog to help the birds"</i></p>
Dog Fouling	<p>Example wording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"All of our responsible dog walkers pick up after their dogs, please join in",</i> <i>"What makes you special? Please pick up after your dog"</i>
Saving native wildflowers and animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To appreciate the impact of alien species in park and the need to control some of them
'A line to remember'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishermen appreciate the hazard that fishing line left on site can cause to wildlife

Project Concept Design: Audio Tour

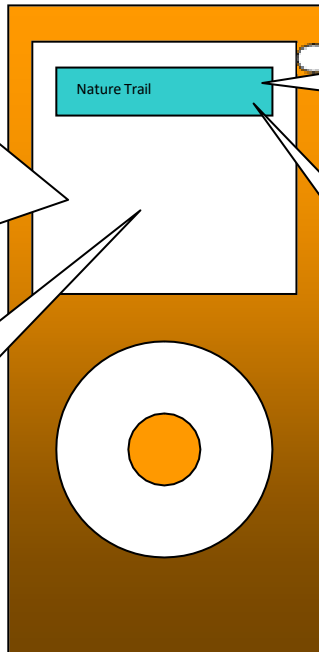


I am visiting Haysden. Look what I have just downloaded.

Ideas for the type of narrative and sounds that could be incorporated into two different tours, one about the history (left) the other, about nature (right)

Stone Lock: [chip, chip chip - the sound of a masons chisel banging on stone] taking you back to 1830 when it was built.
Narrative:
"Morin Mr Christy how are you today?"

By the WW2 pill box. The drone of a WW2 aeroplane flying overhead



Straight Mile - Narrative: Bird song "this is the call of the Whitethroat..."

Narrative: "standing by the stile at the far end of the woodland..."

iPod, MP3 player or Smart Phone

Questions to consider when evaluating interpretation exhibits for the visitor audience

- Is it easy to understand, and key messages understood?
- Are the messages clear?
- What messages can visitors identify?
- What are visitors learning or doing as a result of the interpretation?
- Is attention being held and for how long?
- How enjoyable is it?
- What is most and least interesting?
- Is it well organised and easy to navigate?
- Does it have a clear structure?
- Was there enough or too little information, or images?
- Are there connections or references to other interpretation sources or further information ?
- Are common questions still being asked by visitors?
- How much time is spent by visitors at individual exhibits/places and has this changed?
- Are visitors able to easily find interpretation on-site?
- What could be improved?

Department of Conservation New Zealand

Style guide for park furniture

The reasons for having a style guide are

Branding

- To aid the selection of street furniture
- To give a consistent approach
- Co-ordinate styles and colours
- Strengthen the 'countryside' character of the place
- Provide good quality durable park furniture
- To encourage positive behaviour

Signage

Entrance signs

Our preferred style for the park is a wooden framed information signs finished in walnut coloured paint. The main entrance sign will display limited information as this is intended for road users. Entrance signs with more details (such as your location marked on a map) will be provided at pedestrian entrances and those for cyclists. The latter will be introduced on a phased basis. Where needed maps will be added with a white background using a full palette of colours to aid navigation. Where information is of a temporary nature, black and green frame style signs are also suitable choices.



Directional signage

A countryside style of signage will be used whenever practical for directional signage. These are routed wooden signs, using large Ariel text with white lettering, on walnut brown background. Tonal contrast between the background and letter colour is important for the visually impaired, and has been considered.



Interpretation signs

At present we have very little interpretation signage but what we have, is in a variety of styles; we do not therefore have an adopted style for interpretation signage. This is something that will be developed and added here in the future as and when funding for this becomes available.



Health and safety and regulatory signage

Metal signs, which follow the Health and (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996, and Highway Act with the recommended logos and designs. These have colours with set meanings (red - prohibition, blue - mandatory, yellow - warning, and hazard, green - safe environment). Highway style road signs are used around the roads and car parks and along the cycle route.



Seats

Our preferred style of new seats for the park will be the all wooden Kensington style bench, made of oak. All new sponsored seats will be installed on concrete bases. Exceptions to this style maybe made for feature seats at key locations. The older Tilford seats and bench seats will be phased out and removed as they come to the end of their lifespan.



Picnic seats

An all metal picnic seat painted in gloss black paint is our preferred style. All seats are provided on concrete bases. Where possible seats with disable access shall be provided.



Litter bins

The rustic style bin shown to the right has been used throughout the park. We are presently trialling a lidded style bin which, if it proves successful, may replace this on a phased basis. The other exception to this will be in the children's play area where the frog themed bins are being used, to encourage positive behaviour by young people.



Dog bins

Metal red painted dog bins shown here are our adopted style of bin within the Borough. The red colour is deliberate, as it encourages positive behaviour, being highly visible to dog walkers.



Bollards

Square wooden bollards with a pyramid top, are our preferred style. Older style bollards will be phased out as they come to the end of their lifespan.

Security gates and barriers

All metal steel furniture finished in gloss black paint. Hazard markings and signage added to prevent accidents.

Fencing

Our preferred style of fencing is post a three rail fencing which is rustic in appearance. The exception being around the children's play area where bowtop metal fencing is used.

Bridges

Wooden bridges are our preferred style within the park.

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