

Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2015 - 2019



Consultation

Draft

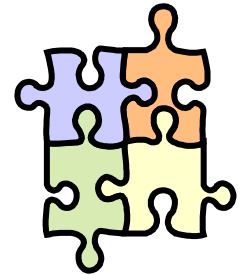


GUIDANCE NOTES

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 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 No.
Part 1 - <i>Where are we now?</i>	9
1.0 Introduction/ Background to Haysden Country Park The Role of the Management Plan Overall aim Policy Context	
2.0 A Welcoming Place	12
Location Entrances Land Use Accessibility Formal Recreation Informal Recreation Catering Toilets Seating	
3.0 Healthy, Safe and Secure	16
Health and Safety Risk Assessment Workplace Health and Safety Inspection Site Monitoring Site Staffing Water Safety Policy Children's Play Area Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) Tree Safety Inspections Civic Enforcement Officers	
4.0 Clean and Well Maintained	17
Grounds Maintenance Building Maintenance Equipment Maintenance Bridges Paths and Public Rights of Way Land Drainage and Flooding	
5.0 Sustainability	20
Corporate Policy Chemical Use	

	Page No.
Peat Use	
Green Waste	
Can Recycling	
Play Area Safety Surfaces	
Other Waste	
Paper	
Path Construction	
Timber	
Travel	
Energy Efficiency	
ISO 14001	
Air Quality and Noise	
Sewage Disposal	
6.0 Conservation and Heritage	23
Site History	
Habitat and Landscape Structure	
Bat Cave	
Topography Features and Soils	
7.0 Community Involvement	28
Customer Surveys	
Haysden Country Park User Panel	
Tonbridge Town Sailing Club	
Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society	
Volunteering	
Haysden Country Park Volunteers	
Volunteer Litter Wardens	
Thursday Action Group	
Volunteer Wildlife Recorders	
Kent Wildlife Trust	
Other Partnerships	
Local Educational Establishments	
Consultation on the Management Plan	
8.0 Marketing	33
Publications	
Interpretation	
Events	
9.0 Management	35
Management Structure	
Out of Hours	
Staff and Volunteer Training	
Stakeholders	

Country Park Budget

Page No.

Rules

Compartments 1-11

10.0 Constraints and SWOT Analysis	46
Conclusion	

Part 2 - *Where do we want to get to?*..... **47**

11.0 Management Plan Overall Aim	
Objectives	

Part 3 - *How will we get there?*..... **61**

12.0 Five Year Work Programme	
13.0 Annual Action Plans	

Part 4 - *How do we know when we have arrived?*..... **62**

14.0 Green Flag Award	
15.0 Monitoring Progress	
16.0 Annual Management Plan Review	
17.0 End of Plan Review	

Tables		Page No.
Table 1	- List of Policy Guidance	10
Table 2	- List of User Clubs	14
Table 3	- Grounds Maintenance	17
Table 4	- Key Habitats Present within the Park	26
Table 5	- Key Species and Habitats	26
Table 6	- Timetable for Consultation	32
Table 7	- Typical Annual Events	34
Table 8	- Stakeholders	37
Table 9	- Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats	46
Table 10	- Annual Action Plan	49

Appendices

Appendix 1	- Location Plan	
Appendix 2	- Land Ownership Map	
Appendix 3	- Master Plan	

- Appendix 4 - Access Audit
- Appendix 5 - Interpretation and Marketing Plan
- Appendix 6 - Example Risk Assessments
- Appendix 7 - Asset List
- Appendix 8 - Legal Aspects Map
- Appendix 9 - Chemicals used at the Park
- Appendix 10 - Country Park Species Lists
- Appendix 11 - Haysden Country Park Budget
- Appendix 12 - Annual Action Plan

Acknowledgements

Robert Styles, Director of Street Scene and Leisure BA (Hons)
 DMS M IMSPA
 Darren Lanes, Head of Leisure BSc (Hons) DMS
 Michael Harris, Leisure Services Manager BA (Hons) DML Tech IOSH
 Chris Fox, Leisure Services Officer BSc (Hons) MSc CMLI
 John Dicker, Senior Parks Officer
 Rachel Cantwell, Ranger

} TMBC

Alan Nicholl, Chairman, Tonbridge Sports Association
 Butterfly Conservation
 Haysden Country Park User Panel
 Tonbridge Historical Society
 Kent Wildlife Trust
 Gill Brooks - British Dragonfly Society
 And all others consulted about the plan.

Photographic credits:

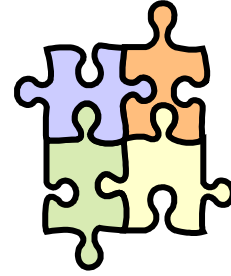
TMBC	Hugh Clark	Sport England
David Hodgkinson	Sustrans	Bill Milton

For further information please contact:

Leisure Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Council Offices,
 Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4LZ
 Tel. 01732 876166 Email: leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk Website:
www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP Copyright ©TMBC 2014 version consultation draft.

If the reader is using an internet enabled computer to view this document the document contains a number of website and email hyperlinks (words in blue text and underlined) which can be used to find out more about the subjects by linking to other documents or to email. The Council is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

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 advises on the current facilities and their management.

1.0 - Introduction/ Background to Haysden Country Park

Haysden Country Park covers an area of approximately 65 hectares (160 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 Plan **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, along with the Environment Agencies 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 two other landowners have property dissecting the park (see **Appendix 2**).

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' under Natural England's scheme from 2010. For more details see the website www.naturalengland.org.uk

The Role of the Management Plan

The Parks first management plan was implemented ten years ago in 2004, and so this plan will be the third five-year management plan for the park. This new plan starts in January 2015. 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.

Overall Aim

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

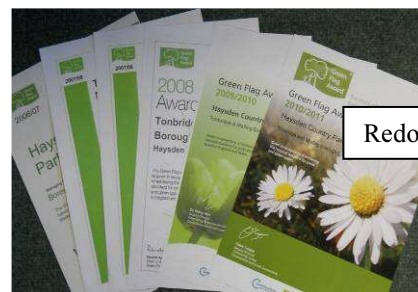
Policy Context

The plan has also been developed to take into account, where relevant, the local policy/guidance listed in **Table 1**. *This includes a number of council key priorities for 2014/15* are these are: “Continued delivery of priority services and a financially viable Council; A clean, smart, well maintained and sustainable Borough; Healthy living opportunities and community well-being; Children and young people who are safe, involved and able to access positive activities; Low levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime; A continuing supply of homes, including affordable housing to buy and rent, and prevention of homelessness; Sustainable regeneration of Tonbridge town centre and; economic development in communities across the Borough.”

Table 1: List of Policy Guidance

Policy or Guidance Documentation
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Local Development Framework
‘Key Issues’ within the Borough Leisure and Arts Strategy 2014 – 2018 (new - draft in preparation)
Councils Key Priorities
Outdoor Leisure Performance Plan
Standards of the Green Flag Award Scheme
Standards of the Country Park Accreditation Scheme
Tree Safety Strategy
Open Space Strategy
Local Play Strategy
Haysden Country Park Water Safety Strategy

The Green Flag Award is the national award scheme now organised by the Green Flag Award consortium setting high standards of quality for greenspaces 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
- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainable
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

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

Country Park Accreditation Scheme

Setup in 2009 by the government body 'Natural England', the scheme aims to 'identify and recognises 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 (the others are listed below); and so this plan has also been tailored to meet needs of the Scheme; this will also give us some new criteria to drive us forward, more details can be found their website www.naturalengland.gov.uk

- Area
- Accessibility
- Character
- Facilities
- Links to local communities and neighbourhoods
- Links to the wider Countryside
- Management
- Activities
- Information and interpretation

The evaluation overleaf considers 'where we are now', using the Green Flag Award criteria as headings, but as it is closely related also incorporates the criteria for the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme.

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 3**).

Land Use - Internal land use can be found within compartment descriptions (see section 9) or alternatively, on the Master Plan (see **Appendix 3**). Externally the site is surrounded predominantly by farmland with residential properties (Barden Park) located to the east.



Accessibility – The first Access Audit was carried out at the Country Park by a sub group of the Council's former 'Disability Working Party' in September 2003. In 2009 the Park won an Access Award from the Tonbridge & Malling Access Group. An audit was repeated in 2010 and 2014 (the latest Improvement Action Plan (**Appendix 4**) will be implemented during the period of this plan taking into account new legislation under the Equalities Act).



Access by Bus - Route 211 is an infrequent service that stops at Chestnut Walk. This is a short walk along a public footpath to the eastern entrance through Audley Rise and also has an infrequent service that stops at Molescroft Way not far from the main entrance. This is a short walk along the public footpath in Brook Street and then along the highway in Lower Haysden Lane.

Bus Routes 7, 215, 151, and 402 stop at Quarry Hill, a short walk along the public footpath in Brook Street and then along the highway in Lower Haysden Lane.

Access by Rail – Haysden Country Park is 1.3 miles from Tonbridge Station that 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 1.5 miles from Tonbridge town centre. Public car parking (for approximately 100 cars) is available from this main entrance. There is also limited parking for oversized vehicles outside the main entrance and at Haysden Water car park; overhead height barriers are set at two metres in height. Roads are sign posted 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 3**). Car park charges were introduced in July 2008, with payment options of cash, pay by phone or annual season ticket available for any regular users.

The gates at the main vehicular entrance on Lower Haysden Lane are locked overnight. The gates are opened at 7am each morning and closed each evening no later than 9pm; there are signs indicating the closing times at the main entrance.

Access by Foot - Definitive Public Rights of Way -There are 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 8**. The road Audley Rise has footpaths that lead to the Barden Lake end of the Park, but no footpath exists along Lower Haysden Lane road towards the main entrance.



Access by Bicycle - Cyclists can visit the Country Park from Tonbridge town centre / railway station via Barden Road / Avebury Avenue through to the Audley Rise entrance. Alternatively visiting from south of Tonbridge, via the existing cycle path along Brook Street, and Lower Haysden Lane. Cycle stands are provided in the Park by the toilets.

A mainly off-road cycle route (Regional Cycle Route 12) between Tonbridge and Penshurst, runs through the Country Park, providing off-road cycle path access from Tonbridge town centre and from Penshurst Place. A leaflet has been published about this route and is available on the website www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP

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 right of way network through one of our

One of the walks under the Healthy Walks Schemes 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, Angling and Triathlon swimming training (see the community Involvement section for more details).



Table 2: List of Concessions

Concession	Season of Use
It's all Dog Fun (dog training)	Year Round
Parkrun (run a circuit from Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground)	Year round - Saturday mornings
Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society for more details see the website http://www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk	Open year round apart from voluntary closed season for fish spawning
Tonbridge Town Sailing Club for more details see the website http://www.tonbridgesailing.org.uk	Easter to September
Sevenoaks Triathlon Club Triathlon swimming training)	May to September
Willards American Food Co (catering)	School Holidays and weekends subject to weather

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 understanding of the natural world.



Catering – A mobile cafeteria service is contracted to 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. This building also contains the Rangers' Office. The Sailing Club has its own facilities for members only at their clubhouse.



Seating – The Park contains a large number of seats and picnic benches (**Appendix 7**) many of which are accessible 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 councils website www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP.



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 and event organisers working at the Park. The Park has a Health and Safety Code of Practice for staff.

Risk Assessments - The Council has a suite of generic Risk Assessments applicable to Haysden Country Park and specific risk assessments are sought from individual contractors and event organisers. See examples in **Appendix 6**.

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.

Site Monitoring – As part of the management of contractors Council officers monitor health and safety aspects and routinely visit 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 – A Ranger patrols the site on a part-time basis to enforce aspects such as dog and litter control, liaise with the public and assist with events. This member of staff is uniformed so that they can easily be indentified by the public. The Council's Leisure Service Officer monitors site maintenance and oversees its management.

Personnel Protective Clothing (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 monitored by Council staff.

Water Safety Policy – The Council has an overarching Water Safety Policy and Risk Assessments to address the issue of public safety around inland water bodies adjacent to its outdoor leisure sites. From this a site specific Water Safety Strategy was developed for the park; both of these documents were written in liaison with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (R0SPA).

Children's Play Area – See **Table 3** for details.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) – The Ranger has developed links with the Police and PCSOs in order that they can offer assistance on demand and the Police also carry out independent patrols of the Park.

Tree Safety Inspections – See **Table 3** for details.

Civic Enforcement Officers – These officers patrol the car parks and can issue penalty notices for parking contraventions, littering and dog fouling.



4.0 - Clean and Well Maintained

Grounds Maintenance - Maintenance tasks at the Park are, with only a few exceptions, 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 council and the contractor's foreman, to review progress and plan for the week ahead, including variations to the work programme. A wide range of assets are found in the park and these are listed in **Appendix 7**.

Table 3: Grounds Maintenance

Maintenance Area	Description of Operations
Litter Control	All litter bins are checked and emptied twice a week and different parts of the site are cleared of litter daily. Litter bins are washed monthly. Enforcement fines for littering can be issued by various officers.
Public Toilets/ Rangers Office	The toilets are cleaned twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening, during the summer and once a day in Winter; consumables are replaced at this time. The building is locked every night. The Ranger and volunteers use the rear of the building as their base. The building is inspected for faults/ building repairs daily by the public convenience cleaners, Ranger and periodically by Property Services.
Dog Control	Dog bins are emptied once a week. Enforcement fines for fouling can be issued by various officers at anytime. The Dog Warden, Litter Warden, Civic Enforcement Officers and Rangers are all able to carry out enforcement. Clearance of fouling, 'responsible dog ownership' events – 'Bag & Flag Days' and 'enforcement days' are all regularly carried out in the Park.
Playground	The playground equipment is inspected weekly by the grounds staff and an annual independent inspection and report is also carried out – both produce a written report. Routine repairs are instructed as required. A programme for the renewal of all play equipment is also in place.
Fishing Platforms	Owned and maintained by the Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society apart from the disabled fishing platforms which are owned and maintained by the council. Annual inspections for stability and surface condition.
Park Furniture	All park benches and bins are checked and washed monthly, and re-painted annually if required.

Table 3: Grounds Maintenance (continued)

Bridges & Paths	All bridges and paths are inspected as part of regular health and safety inspections. Bridge defects if found by the Council are reported to the owner or if in the ownership of the Council repaired as they arise. Paths are regularly inspected and surface repairs carried out in rotation as required.
Road Barriers, and Overheight Barriers	The main public entrance road barrier is opened and closed daily by the gatekeeper. The road overheight barrier (two metres) is opened on request for disabled visitors, and is otherwise restricted access to key holding service contractors. Other barriers and overheight car park barriers (two metres) also restrict unauthorised access for the public but allow access for maintenance. Haysden Water lake access is restricted to sailing club members and approved contractors.
Grassland	Carried out at different frequencies depending on the location, for example the areas around the play area and building are cut more frequently than the meadows which are only cut and collected twice a year. In some areas, such as around Barden Lake, grass is kept short by wild geese grazing.
Trees & Woodland	Mature trees are surveyed and assessed on a regular basis, by independent and qualified arborists. Reports are prioritised for risk and action taken accordingly. Young trees are planted and maintained by volunteers. Several areas of woodland are maintained by coppicing in rotation, one area being cut each year.
Graffiti Control	Graffiti is controlled by prompt painting over or removal. The Council has targets to remove offensive graffiti within 48 hours and other graffiti within 28 days.
Fly Posting	Removed as seen during routine monitoring of the site. Enforcement letters sent out to offenders if required.
Fly Tipping	The councils Waste Services section has a telephone report line (01732 876147) for the public to call and report incidents. Removed and disposed of within a target time of 48 hours.
Abandoned Vehicles	The councils Waste Services section has a telephone report line (01732 876147) for the public to call and report incidents. The Council has set targets to remove and dispose abandoned vehicles within 24 hours if dangerous, seven days if not dangerous, longer times apply if the vehicle has a tax disc.

Building Maintenance - The Council has a programme for building maintenance carried by the Council's Property Services department. This includes aspects such as internal and external decoration, routine maintenance, servicing and urgent repairs. The Tonbridge Town Sailing Club is responsible for the maintenance of its own clubhouse building.

Equipment Maintenance - Most machinery is owned and maintained by the grounds maintenance contractor. The contractor undertakes servicing, and daily checks on machinery to ensure that it is in good working order and safe to use. Detailed maintenance programmes are beyond the scope of this plan. Hand tools are maintained by the Ranger and Volunteers. Tools are stored in racks in a purpose made store. Tools are sharpened and blades replaced if they become worn.

Bridges - Each bridge is individually named for identification. The majority of bridges at the Park are the responsibility of Kent County Council as they form part of the Public Right of Way network. Three bridges are owned and maintained by the Borough Council.

Paths and Public Rights of Way – The Park is dissected by a number of Public Rights of Way (see **Appendix 8**) these are the responsibility of Kent County Council to maintain. The remaining paths, some of which are surfaced, are maintained by the Borough Council (see **Table 3**).

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.

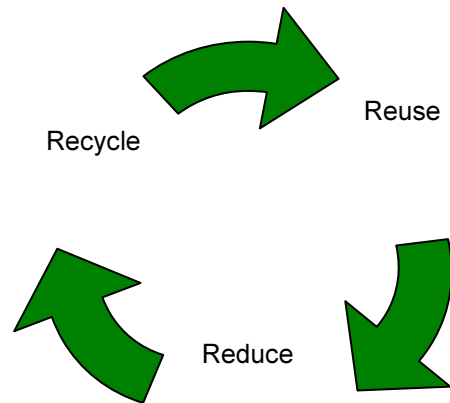
Haysden Water (which is behind the Leigh Flood Barrier) and the immediate surrounds are classed as a 'reservoir' and, at times when river water levels are high this area is used to impound (store) flood water for short periods of time.



5.0 - Sustainability

Corporate Policy – The plan has been written in accordance with the Council's [Climate Change Strategy](#) and [Corporate Purchasing Policy](#) and also takes into consideration the Council's biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Climate Change Officer Study Group meets on a regular basis and feedback to services on possible changes. When new projects are proposed sustainability is always a consideration.

Chemical Use – Chemical use is vetted and usage is reduced or is kept to a minimum. Alternative methods of are always considered and remain under annual review. A limited number of chemicals are used at the Park by licensed pesticide operators for weeds; as disinfectants and; for graffiti removal. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health assessments and Risk Assessments are carried out and kept on file as necessary. All pesticides are stored in a locked and purpose built store off site, with all usage logged in a chemical application book. A summary of the chemicals currently used in the Park are listed in **Appendix 9**.



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.

Green Waste - Grass cuttings from the meadow are collected and taken off site for composting. 100% of the green waste generated on site is recycled. As the park is in a flood plain it not possible to compost on site.

Can Recycling - The Council has introduced a segregated waste collection service for tin and drink cans.

Play Area Safety Surfaces – Where possible play equipment is surfaced using rubber crumb surfacing.

Other Waste – Waste generated by visitors is usually placed in the bins. This waste is very mixed and may contain sharps, needles and dog faeces and would present a hazard to grounds staff if they were asked to separate it for recycling. As a result, this waste and other litter is disposed of via the municipal waste stream and incinerated to create energy off site.

Paper - Reducing paper use, by making information about the park available via the Council's website. Air hand-driers are used in the toilets.

Path Construction - The crushed limestone used in path construction, is sourced from local quarries in order to minimise transport costs and laid by local contractors.

Timber – From the Council’s Sustainable Procurement Policy - Any timber and wood products used should carry the Forestry Stewardship Council trademark, or equivalent internationally recognised certification of good forestry management.

Timber used in the seats is for example sourced locally from a sustainable Forestry Stewardship Scheme (FSC) source. Timber used to repair the fishing platforms was re-used timber left over from the A21 bridge works.

Travel - Within the main leaflet and website the public are encouraged to visit the park by cycling, by bus or on foot. In the 2013 visitor survey 1 in 5 visitors cycled (22%) to the park, and this figure is double the amount in the last survey in 2010.

Energy Efficiency - Water use is minimal with taps that switch off automatically and any leaks reported as soon as practical. Water saving devices have been installed to all toilet cisterns and urinals. Meter readings for all electricity and water 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 consumption and are regularly reminded of the need to ensure that energy usage is kept to a minimum and to turn off lights and taps. Where possible, all lights within the building will be changed for low energy bulbs during the life of this plan.



EMS 574 900

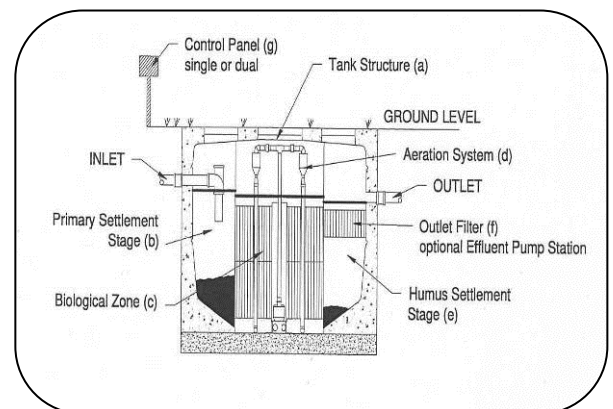
ISO 14001 - The main grounds maintenance contractor Kent County Council, have achieved the standard ISO 14001, the contractor uses low sulphur fuel and some electric vehicles.

Air Quality and Noise - The mobile cafeteria service whilst at the park now run their generator from the on site electricity supply, this cuts down on air pollution and noise.

Renewable supply chains – Wherever practical packaging and storage materials used by our contractors like wooden pallets are minimised, recycled or reused

Sewage Disposal - The Park is not connected to main drainage; the toilets use a 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.

Diagram of sewage system



Soils and hard core – These materials are reused wherever possible.

Procurement – Our contractors are encouraged to procure materials and vehicles to offer the lowest impact on the environment. 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.

6.0 - Conservation and Heritage

Site History – Haysden Country Park covers an area of former agricultural land on the Medway Flood Plain. Its openness and proximity to water have encouraged two quite different transport and trade developments since 1800.

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’ and ‘Stone Lock’.



Railway

In 1842 the railway line was opened by the South Eastern Railway Company and this dissects 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 the 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 the 1968 the Leigh Flood Relief Barrier was built under an Act of Parliament and completed in 1981, along with the new Medway River Channel that was cut to bypass ‘The Shallows’ and take 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’ (photography on left) was removed and the area filled in, it is now the woodland called Heusenstamm Wood. The Shallows now remain as a meandering part of the original course of the 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 1960s and 1980. These works altered the landscape of the area and created such features as Barden and Haysden Water Lakes. The gravel and sand was

processed at a plant, which was 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, 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 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 6.0**) are focused on a compartment-based approach, as objectives will be strongly influenced by the nature, character and use of each compartment.



The Shallows in early summer

Bat Cave – An artificial bat cave was built with the assistance of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Kent Bat Group in 1991. 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 made changes to the cave in 2005 to improve humidity and temperature.



Building the bat cave in 1991



Brown long eared bat Hugh Clark BCT

Entry to the bat cave by the public could disturb this protected and so this is restricted. However several species of bat can be seen flying in the Park at dusk in summer, and bat walks are a popular public event.

The habitats present in the park are managed in harmony with recreation and visitor management **Table 4**. 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.



A full list of species recorded in the Park can be found in **Appendix 10**. During the period of the last management plan we determined with an independent expert, which species should be regularly recorded in the Park and trained volunteers to undertake some surveys and the number of new species found in the Park continues to grow. These new species have been added to **Appendix 10**. Of the species listed in **Appendix 10**, the species in **Table 5** have been identified as having particular importance within the Park.

(The birds noted in **Appendix 10** as rare as breeding birds, are all infrequent visitors to the Park.) Many of the species in **Table 5** are noted as important within the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan. 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. The Park's statutory designations as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (now called a Local Wildlife Site), offers an additional layer of legal protection to the Park.



Table 4: Key Habitats Present within 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%
Reedbed		**	*	<1%
Rivers and streams			*	4%
Standing water			*	30%
Woodland/ scrub (broadleaf)			*	33%
Wet woodland/ scrub (broadleaf)		*	*	<1%

(Based on the habitat types in the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan Grading (for significance) High *** Medium ** Low *

Table 5: Key Species and Habitats

Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
BIRDS				
Blackcap	*			Woodland and scrub – likely to be breeding
Bullfinch	**			Woodland – likely to be breeding
Goldfinch	**			Scrub - large flocks
Goosander duck	**			Lakes – likely to be breeding
Great crested grebe	*			Lakes – likely to be breeding
Kingfisher	**	*		Running water – breeding in banks
Reed-Bunting	***			Scrub for food, breeding in reed beds
Tufted duck	***	* KENT BAP		Lakes – large flocks in winter
Yellow hammer		* UK BAP		Woodland, scrub and hedgerows – large flocks

PLANTS				
Fringed water lily		** Nationally rare		Ponds, standing water frequency not recorded
Narrow leaved water dropwort		* Nationally scarce		Marshland, water edge, frequency not recorded
INVERTEBRATES				
Brown hawkler dragonfly	*			Standing and running water.
Common darter dragonfly with fourteen other species occurring less frequently	*	*	* KENT BAP	As above
Glow worms		*		Grassland, woodland edge – likely to breed at site, nocturnal so likely to be under recorded
Soldier beetles - two species recorded	*			Flowering plants, trees and shrubs the group is likely to be under recorded
Stag beetle	***	* UK BAP	* KENT BAP	Deadwood for larva, woodland for food, may breed at site, maybe under recorded
MAMMALS				
Daubentons bat	**	**		Woodland, rivers, bat cave. Roost at site some could be breeding. Maybe under recorded.
Natterer's Bat	***	*		As above
Pipistrella bat		*		As above
Serotine bat	**	*	* KENT BAP	As Daubentons bat
Stoat	**			Woodland, hedgerow, grassland. Likely to be under recorded to date

Wessel	**			Woodland, hedgerow, grassland. Likely to be under recorded to date
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES				
Common lizard		* UK BAP		Short grass
Frog	***	*		Lakes, streams
Grass snake		* UK BAP	*	Rivers/ wet ditches, Rough grassland
Slow worm		* UK BAP		Scrub, hedgerows, woodland edge, long grass
Toad		* UK BAP		Wetland, grassland, uses logs and stones for hibernation
FISH				
Pike	*			Standing and running water
Roach	*			Standing and running water

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. Priority Species and Habitat Action Plans can be found on the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan website at www.kentbap.org.uk and should be referred to when managing the Park. 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, Tonbridge Wells Sand and Ashdown Sand. Much of the site was however disturbed by gravel extraction in the 1970s and so we can assume that 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 the two lakes Barden and Haysden Water.

7.0 - Community Involvement

Customer Surveys – These were carried out in 1988, 1993, 2001, 2007 and 2013; the objective is to profile visitors and provide information on customer satisfaction, facilities and suggested improvements. (Haysden is surveyed in rotation with other principle parks and sportsgrounds owned by the Council)



Key results of the last survey:

400 face-to-face interviews were completed with users of the Park in the summer of 2013. This includes Club members utilising the site. A summary of the findings is detailed below:

- 97% of users were satisfied with their visit overall

The most important features of the Park were identified as:

- Areas for walking the dog
- Using the play area
- For a long walk

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

- “Tonbridge’s little paradise”
- “One of my favourite places”
- “Everything here is marvellous, thank you”
- “As a family we call this the quiet Park because it is so nice and peaceful here; don’t change it” (family from Portsmouth who visit 4 to 5 times a year)

Haysden Country Park User Panel - The Panel was established in July 2002 to enable Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to consult users and stakeholders on day-to-day management issues within the Park. The Panel comprises of local park users, Borough Councillors (Ward Members and the Cabinet Member), conservation organisations, sports clubs (who utilise the site), maintenance contractors and other interested parties who may wish to attend. The Panel meets on a regular basis and members are informed on recent operational management; consulted on future projects and ideas; and encouraged to discuss any relevant issues regarding the management of the park.

Tonbridge Town Sailing Club - Operating from a clubhouse at Haysden Water the Club aim to encourage small boat sailing on the lake. At present the Club has a membership of around 140 comprising of individuals, families, students, cadets and

educational establishments 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 lease 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 control the fishing on 14 miles of river and nine lakes, much of which are based in the Tonbridge area and includes designated areas within Haysden Country Park. The Society was formed in 1875 and has around 2,000 members. A new licence agreed in 2006 for the first time allowed night fishing at the park and for the Society to control their own closed season at a time to benefit the fish such as during fish spawning. The Society supervises the angling by employing water bailiffs, charging for membership or for day tickets. They have a website at www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk/



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

It's All Dog Fun - A dog trainer has 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. They have a website at www.itsalldogfun.co.uk

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 ten 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 Litter Wardens and the Thursday 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 started in 2002 the group was led by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers under the Green Gym Programme, they are now constituted group. Around 30 volunteers have been recruited and are on the membership list, and of these around nine people would normally attend each task day; on some weekends numbers are boosted by the attendance of students from Hadlow College (Rangers also attend on most occasions). Typical tasks are: pond surveys; pond clearance; hedgelaying; coppicing; planting and scrub clearance. The volunteers receive training and learn new skills on the task days; members have attended courses in leadership, first aid, and tree/ pond wardening. A leaflet is available to promote the group and recruit new members and is available from the Group and on the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk we also have a Volunteer Handbook offering more guidance with an application form.





Volunteer Litter 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; five people regularly walk the site. 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.

Thursday Action Group - Also co-ordinated by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, this group have assisted by carrying out volunteer tasks on site including repairing the fishing platforms, construction of the dipping platform, and ragwort digging.



Volunteer Wildlife Recorders – A number of organisations and key individuals assist with regular wildlife recording at the site including – the Kent Bat Group (recording bats in the Park and within the bat cave), Peter Lloyd (bird recording monthly) and Sue Buckingham (botanical recording). The Orpington Field Club (part of the countywide Kent Field Club) has made field trips to the site to carry out recording 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.

Kent Wildlife Trust - Engaged as appropriate to advise on works where wildlife maybe disturbed.

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

Other Partnerships - Other partnerships currently exist for example with the Police Community Support Officers, and the local community hold events at the Park.

Local Educational Establishments - Several nearby educational establishments use the Park as a recreational/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 - Involvement of external parties in the production of this document was essential, and a programme for consultation was developed and is outlined below:

Table 6: Timetable for Consultation

Action	Timescale
TMBC – Leisure & Arts Advisory Board to approve Consultation Draft	10 June 2014
Public Consultation – including all key stakeholders	Summer 2014
TMBC – Leisure & Arts Advisory Board to approve final Management Plan	December 2014
Publication of the Final Management Plan	January 2015

Copies of the Management Plan Consultation Draft were sent to:

- Stakeholders (see **Table 8**)
- All other interested persons

During the consultation period in 2014, this Management Plan was made available to view at the Council's offices at Kings Hill, Tonbridge Castle and at Tonbridge Library (Reference section). The plan was also available on the Council's website at www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP. All comments about the Consultation Draft Plan of this plan were considered by the Council and amendments made as required. Amendments were fed back to the consultees who made comments before the final version of this plan was adopted by the Council.

8.0 – Interpretation and Marketing

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



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 theories of interpretation; an evaluation of where we are now and; the way forward, are covered in more detail in **Appendix 5**, the Interpretation and Marketing Plan for the park.

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 7**. Events are very popular with visitors and we always give the public an opportunity to feedback, which we use to plan future event. Events have normally tended to have a countryside theme; and many are free of charge. We try to time these to take place during national campaigns (national play day, big butterfly count etc.), so that the public can attend an event locally; we run a variety of events aim at different audiences.



As part of the Councils borough-wide Activate Scheme for 8-16 year olds, we run activities in the Park, typically these have a countryside theme like building nest boxes, but we have also offered other activities like: cycling skills, and art.



Table 7: Typical Annual Events

Event name	Approx number per year
Activate events at Easter and Summer holidays for age 8-16 years	2
Angling Society Fishing is Fun Days	1
Bat Walks	1
National events - Big Garden Bird Watch (RSPB) and Big Butterfly Count (Butterfly Conservation)	2
Dog fun day	1
Easter Egg Hunt	1
Feed the birds	1
Guided walks	2
Halloween Event	1
Healthy Walks	24
Mini beast hunt and pond dipping	2
Orienteering	1
Scavenger hunt	1
Sponsored Walks	1
Sailing Club Open Day and Taster Sessions	3



Halloween – Spooky Creatures

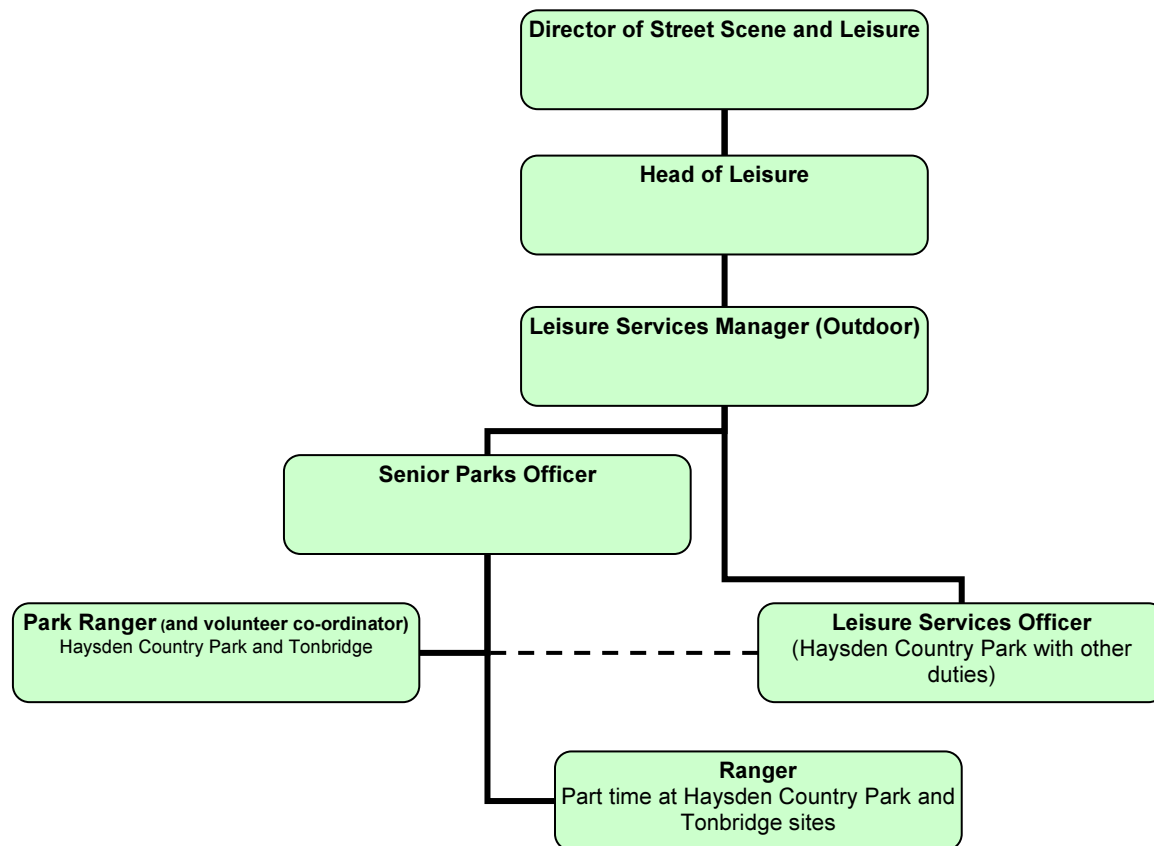


Feed the birds – making bird feeders

9.0 - Management

Management Structure – Major policy issues will be determined by the Council through recommendations made by the Leisure & Arts Advisory Board, then endorsed by the Council's Cabinet. Implementation will be undertaken by Leisure Services.

The Council's officer management structure relating to the park is shown below:



Leisure Services Officer - Day-to-day site management at the Park, overseeing: contract procurement; management; (grounds, pest control, mobile cafeteria, public toilet, foul drainage, gatekeeper and engages other contractors and specialists as required) act as budget holder; health and safety; implement capital projects; marketing; events; customer care; overseeing Haysden Country Park Volunteers and club contacts; chairman of the Haysden User Panel; and covers for the Ranger when this person is off duty.

Park Ranger – The Park Ranger post was created in 2006, working across the Borough to enable on site community contact; enforcement of dog fouling and littering regulations; events; health and safety checks; monitoring of site cleanliness; updates of the notice board and; carries out repairs and some basic grounds maintenance tasks like graffiti removal and litter picking. The Park Ranger took on the role of volunteer co-

ordinator in 2011. The post was made full-time (37 hours) in 2012 with additional duties outside Haysden Country Park.

Ranger– This part-time post supports the Park Ranger in Tonbridge, working not only in Haysden Country Park but also in the many other open spaces in Tonbridge.

Gatekeeper – Duties include the daily opening and closing of the toilets and main drive gates, putting out leaflets, checking car park meters and the pump system for the toilets, during the working week, in the absence of the ranger, the Leisure Services Officer and/or Gate Keeper attend the site to deal with any issues that may arise.

Out of Hours - The Council operates an 'out of hours' emergency call out system on the normal council telephone number 01732 874522. 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/HCP Minicom 01732 874958, or SMS (text) 07781 482959.

Staff & Volunteer Training - This 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; diversity training and; health and safety training. The Council has also embraced e-learning to deliver a wide range of training for staff.

Contractors are assessed on staff training and competence as part of the tender evaluation process. Only contractors of sufficient competence are employed. Future training needs are discussed with contractors on an ongoing basis.

Volunteers also have opportunities to attend training courses typically these have been on Risk Assessments, Pond Wardening and Tree Wardening. Volunteer groups are also trained/ supervised for new tasks by contractors or Council staff.

The following companies contribute to the management of the site:

- *Kent County Council - Landscape Services*
- *Cleanaway Limited - Dog Bin Maintenance Contractor.*
- *Cleansing Service Group – Drain Cleaning and Sewage Removal*
- *Monitor Pest Control Ltd*
- *SHS and Cannon Hygiene - Public Conveniences Contracts*
- *Willow Pumps – service the pumping station*

Stakeholders - Various groups have an interest in the site and have been consulted on the development and production of this Management Plan. These groups will also be consulted on issues relating to the ongoing development on site and are listed in alphabetical order in **Table 8**:

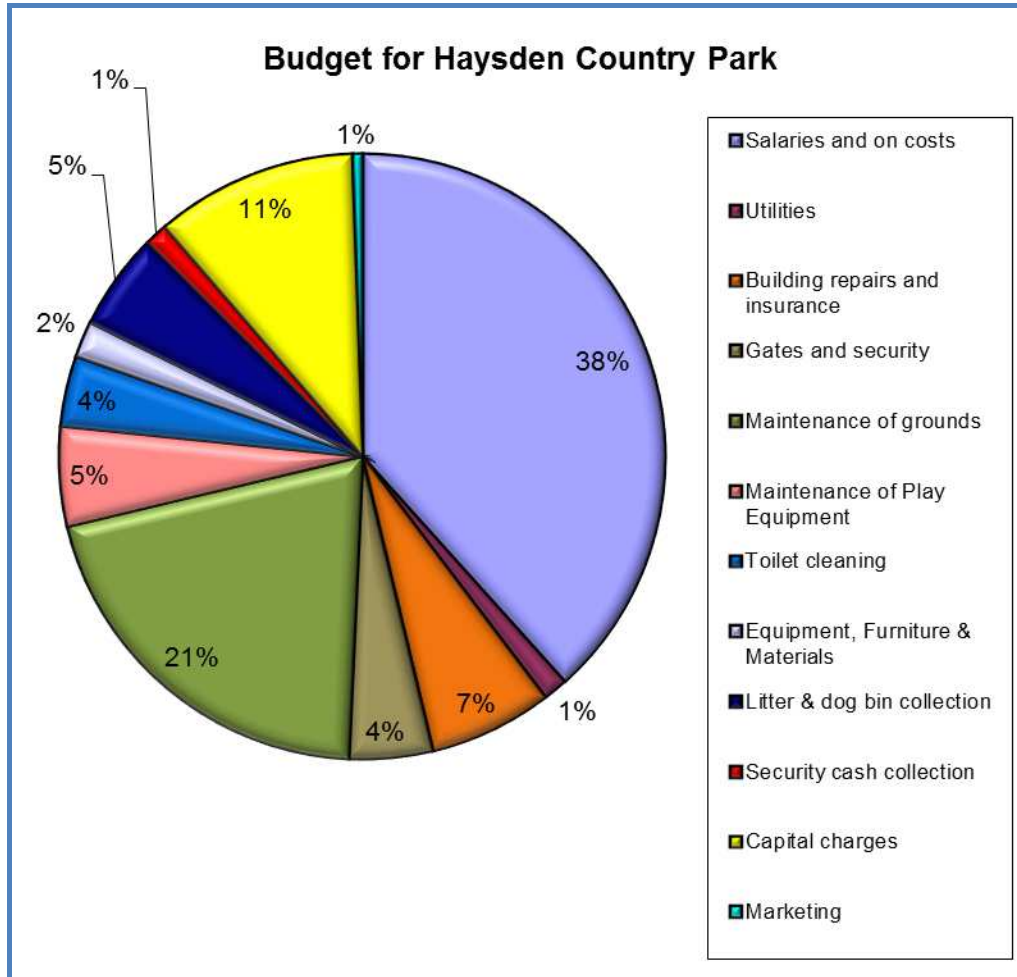
Table 8: Stakeholders

Stakeholders
Emergency Services (Fire & Rescue, Police and Ambulance services)
Environment Agency (EA) Leigh Barrier
Haysden Park User Panel (local residents, local councillors, conservation organisations, contractors, resident angling club)
Haysden Country Park Volunteers
It's all dog fun (licence for dog training)
Kent Bat Group
Kent County Council – Countryside Access (formerly Public Rights of Way)
Grounds maintenance contractor
Kent Wildlife Trust
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Natural England (because the Park is a Local Nature Reserve and a Accredited Country Park)
Neighbouring Landowners
Network Rail
Park Run
Penshurst Place (Cycle Route 12)
Sevenoaks Triathlon Club
Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society
Tonbridge Sports Association for the resident clubs
Tonbridge Town Sailing Club
Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board
Willards American Food Company – mobile cafeteria

Country Park Budget - Maintenance of the Country Park is met through the Council's Revenue Budget and is around £150, 900 per annum. The budget provides for ground maintenance, running costs, repairs, administration and essential services. An income in the region of £37,000 is generated from rights over water, and the mobile cafeteria concession, fees from events, and car parking fees, (income recovers between 20-27% of the Parks running costs). A breakdown of the budget for 2014/15 (the first year and baseline figures for this plan) can be found in **Appendix 10**.

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

A typical breakdown of annual revenue expenditure:



Capital budget - Some larger value items such as replacing children’s play equipment, is funded under the Capital Renewal Scheme. The Council also has a system of bidding for capital work to fund larger projects, for example the funding for projects like the sewage system replacement (2008) and replacing 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. Examples of where this type of funding has been used in the park are the Disabled Fishing Platforms which were sponsored, the dipping platform which was grant funded, and the bridge name signs funded by donations from the public. The Haysden Country Park Volunteers have also been successful in obtaining funds for projects like tree planting and improvements to The Shallows.

Rules – We ask that Park users abide by a few rules because the Park is used by a large number of people this ensures that a few people do not affect the enjoyment of everyone else using the Park, these rules are set out below:

Water Safety Rules - After the site specific Water Safety Strategy was developed a number of site specific recommendations were made including publishing water safety to users, and installing warning signs.

No Swimming – For their own safety the public are not allowed to swim in the lakes. The lakes can be very cold; are of variable depth, may contain underwater obstructions; there are no lifeguards and Blue Green Alga can sometimes be present. The only exception is the Sevenoaks Triathlon Club members who have a licence to swim in Haysden Water at set times.

No Boating – The public are not allowed to boat or launch small model boats on the lakes in the Park. The Sailing Club is allowed to sail as club members at Haysden Water and the Angling Society are permitted to use a boat to retrieve fishing line from the islands.

No dogs in the lakes – it is recommended that dogs are not allowed into the lakes because Blue Green Alga is sometimes present; it also causes conflict with angling, and wildlife and bank erosion.

No Barbecues - In line with all the Councils' public open spaces, and to both reduce the likelihood of fires and for the convenience of other users, barbecues are not allowed in the park.

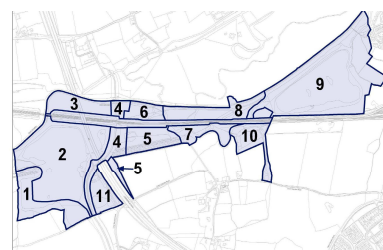
No Camping – The public are not allowed to camp in the Park. The only exception to this is for night fishing, where it is allowed for Angling Society members.

No Motorbikes – Motor bikes are permitted in the designated car parks but are not permitted in any other areas of the Park.

Anti-social behaviour – Aspects such as littering, dog fouling, fly posting, fly tipping and graffiti have already been covered in **Table 3**.

No Cycling – Cycling is only permitted along the marked route for Cycle Route 12.

Compartments – For the purpose 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. The Master Plan shows more details for the compartment areas in **Appendix 3**.



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 – (Grassland and woodland) – This area of the Park has been identified with moderate visitor activity, consisting of: Haysden Water (reservoir a flood storage area), the sailing club, car park, and woodland. The area is also used by Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society which utilises 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. Species present in the area include Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis), Pipistrelle Bat, (Pipistrellus pipistrellus), and Noctule Bat (Nyctalis noctua) and Reed Bunting (Emberiza cirrus) that nest in the reedbeds along Haysden Water. The key projects for this area are removing scrub, keeping the pond with some open areas, coppicing and planting around the lake edge.

Compartment 3 – (Water Meadow) - This compartment is an example of a scarce habitat, containing a limited number of an identified rare species Oenanthe silaifolia (Narrow-Leaved Water-Dropwort) around the river boundary and 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 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, 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 a close mown grass embankment.

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. The Straight Mile woodland is a good habitat for Bird species and woodland edges for the plant Dyers Greenweed (Genista tinctoria). As with the meadow below a key project is to increase the biodiversity of the meadow area by removing arisings when cut 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.



Compartment 6 – (Heusenstamm Wood) - 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', both 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, accept 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 reedbeds. Species present at this locality include Kingfishers (Alcedo atthis) and Damselflies. A dipping platform for educational use is now located in this compartment.



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. Species present alongside the river are Common Darter Dragonfly (Sympetrum striolatum), Migrant Hawker Dragonfly (Aeshna mixta) and Banded Damoiselle (Calopteryx splendens). Key projects for this area are to increase the biodiversity of the meadow areas by removing arisings when cut 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 is subject to a high level of public use for informal recreation. A number of species visit the woodland called Barden Shaw including Nightingale (Luscinia megarhynchos) and Serotine bat Eptesicus serotinus. Kingfishers (Alcedo atthis) are also present along the river. Around the lake Dyer’s Greenwood (Genista tinctoria) and Dragonfly species have been noted. Establishing

planting around the lake edge’ control of Canada Geese and re-planting the bare soil at the end of the lake are key projects for this area.

Compartment 10 – (Main entrance area) - An 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 from. 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 for users to consider over the coming years.

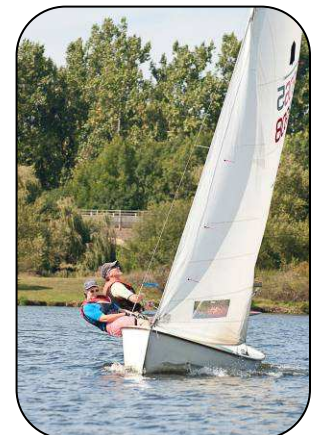


Compartment 11 – (Woodland and Car Park) Predominantly Haysden Water car park and the informal BMX track but also containing a small section of woodland and the man-made Bat Cave.

10.0 Constraints & SWOT analysis

Limiting factors – Every facility has constraints on the management of the site and limitations to the services it can provide. The Councils 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, fundamentally limits the activities and development that can take place in the Park. The Park also has the following constraints and limitations.

Lease to Tonbridge Town Sailing Club - At present 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.

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 will apply. Rod Licences are required for all fishermen. 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 to Sevenoaks Triathlon Club – The club have a licence to carry out swimming training on Monday evening in Haysden Water which runs for 6 years 2012 to 2016.

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

Designations - The whole site is identified in the Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan as being within the Green Belt. Currently three other designations cover the Park and these are Local Nature Reserve (designated in 2009), Local Wildlife Site (designated an SNCI C1987) and Special Landscape Area (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 3**). 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 effecting 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, see **Appendix 11**. Management, maintenance and development carried out within the Park are therefore limited in relation to available funding.

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.



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 (Compartments 1-4 - these areas are designated as a 'Reservoir'). The area can hold water (normally this is in winter) for a number of days before being released downstream. The area around the barrier must remain in good condition, The Council work closely with the Environment Agency and access is strictly limited to mainly pedestrians in this area, and rabbits are controlled to avoid damage to the structure of the barrier.

Land Drainage - The drainage ditch 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 maybe needed for work in these areas that affects the banks of any watercourse or flooding.




The site has a planning designated as Green Belt which would restrict development beyond those which are 'permitted development rights'.

Wildlife Protection Legislation – There is numerous wildlife protection legislation that affect animals and plants that occur in the park.

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

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats – Table 9 identifies the main strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats at Haysden Country Park.

Table 9: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Strengths 	Weaknesses 
Opportunities 	Threats 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Flag Award • Community involvement • Wildlife value/ records • Customer satisfaction • Regional Cycle Route 12 • High level of usage • Good relationship with stakeholders • Good catering facilities • Children’s play area • Public toilets • Marketing • Ranger service • Disability Access • Ranger Led Activity Pack • Water Safety Strategy • Low level of anti social behaviour • Local Nature Reserve • ‘Dog Control Orders’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise from the roads and railway • Landing stage unused • Lack of aquatic vegetation around lake edges • Angling areas mainly not marked • No bylaws • Blue Green Alga • Dog Control disturbance of wildlife • No CCTV in car parks • Tile Barn Field – no public access • Leigh Barrier land constraints • Scrub growth in grassland • More car parking spaces required at busy times
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the play area • Stone Lock improvements • Increase opportunities to study wildlife • Habitat creation in Water Meadow • Landing Stage use • Access for activities like canoeing • Investigate Bylaws • Enhancement of refreshment service • Improve the appearance of the picnic area • Review of Access Audit • Uses for Tile Barn Field • Install CCTV in main car park • External funding • Scrub clearance • Use hedges and scrub to stop access to sensitive areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding & lake edge erosion • Increased frequency of flooding including raising the height of the Leigh Flood barrier • Increasing numbers of geese • Increase in Mink • Increase in rabbits (damage to Leigh Barrier) • Increase in cormorants • Scrub encroachment on grassland • Financial constraints • Staffing levels • Anti-social behaviour

Conclusion - The above table identifies a number of possible areas for improvement and where possible these have been taken forward in the sections that follow within the aims, objectives, and projects for the site.

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.



The Council would like to retain the Green Flag Award and the Country Park Accreditation and our aim and objectives are reflective of these criteria.

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

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 Clean and Well Maintained Park
- A Sustainable Park
- A Park that Addresses Conservation and Heritage
- A Park that Encourages Community Involvement
- A Well Marketed and Promoted Park

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. A 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 10**.

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 if the project is implemented.

The Programme indicates the Compartment (as shown on the Master Plan **Appendix 3**) in which specific projects will be applied and the estimated year they will be implemented. All projects have also been given year/s for implementation and a priority which is based around the Council's objectives, and where 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 contains details of what exactly is to be done, when and by whom, and will be included in later versions of this plan at **Appendix 12**.

Table 10: 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

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY								
Proposed	1							
Completed								
1. Green Flag Award – Make an annual application for the award, which is judged annually against the criteria used as the objectives within this plan.	1	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
2. Annual Action Plan – review the plan, and prepare an Annual Action Plan for the forthcoming year prior to January each year.	1	All	N	1	1	1	1	1
3. Budget Control - Manage the expenditure in line with the agreed budget for the site. Prepare budget estimates based on estimated expenditure and income on an annual basis.	1	All	N	1	1	1	1	1
4. Grounds Maintenance and Other Contracts – Implement and monitor the contracts and report on progress and defects.	1	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
5. Programme of Activities and Events – Run events at the park that: engage the public; encourage healthy living; promote environmental awareness and, interpretation of the park. Also encourage and support applications for appropriate events from recognised organisations and clubs. <i>Note: ensure that public liability insurance risk assessments are in place before appropriate events.</i>	2	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
6. Customer Survey - Commission and compare the results with those from the 2013 survey, in preparation for the review and re-write of the next management plan for this park.	1	All	R				1	

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY Proposed 1 Completed								
7. Community Involvement – Continue to support and encourage the User Panel and Volunteer involvement at the Park, support the Summer Play Scheme off site and consider any new approaches to the Council for community involvement at the Park.	1	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
8. Ranger – Review the level of site based staff (Ranger).	2	All	R		1			
9. Health and Safety – Carry out an annual formal site inspection and an annual review of risk assessments (including all clubs). Ensure that organisations using the site have current public liability insurance cover at an appropriate level. Act on any findings within the Report.	1	All	N	1	1	1	1	1
10. Basic Tree Surveys - Carry out a Basic Tree Survey, record results and implement actions arising, as appropriate.	1	All	R	1	1		1	1
Expert Tree Surveys – Carry out by an external company, an Expert Tree Survey, record results and implement actions arising, as appropriate.	1	All	R			1		
11. Bridge Maintenance – Carry out regular inspections of bridges and repair as required or pass on information to the owners (KCC) as appropriate.	1	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
12. Bylaws – Investigate, bylaws to cover the Park.	2	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
13. 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	1	1	1	1	1
14. Play Equipment Replacement - Replace play equipment and impact absorbing surfaces before they come to the end of their life, as required. <i>Note: consider the Equality when replacing equipment and surfacing.</i>	1	10	C	1				

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY								
Proposed 1								
Completed								
15. Play Area Improvements – Improve the play area by adding more play features subject to grant aid funding.	2	10	G,C	1	1	1		
16. Marketing of the Park - Review the ways in which the Park is marketed and update marketing information before reprinting.	1	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
17. Interpretation and Marketing Plan – Continue to implement projects within the Interpretation Plan Appendix 5 if and where funding allows as necessary.	3	All	I, C	1	1	1	1	1
18. Access Audit 2014 – Implement actions within the access audit progressively in accordance with the programmed priorities within the audit . where funding permits.	1	All	N	1	1	1	1	1
19. New Access Audit – Undertake new access audit of the park utilising the Councils Access Officer.	1	All	N					1
20. Land Drainage – Keep the land drainage system in good working order by removing dead trees and fallen branches from the water courses, and keeping culvert drains unblocked under the railway line. Seasonal closing (summer) and winter opening of Barden Lake overflow pipe to prevent Zebra Mussels entering the river.	1	All	R	1		1	1	1
21. Healthy Walks Programme - Support the year round walks run once per week on average, 1-2 hours in duration, utilising trained volunteer walk leaders.	1	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
22. Lake Marginal Aquatic and Emergent Planting and Bank Protection - Around Barden Lake and Haysden Water continue the project of planting to	2	2, 9	K,R		1	1	1	1

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY								
Proposed 1								
Completed								
protect the banks from erosion and to diversify the habitat. Follow best practice to create a more healthy lake eco system; for aesthetic reasons; to attract a wider variety of animal species and to create fish refuge areas from predators.								
23. Reed Bed Creation – Follow best practice to create a healthier lake eco system in liaison with the sailing club and Angling Society the opportunity to plant reeds in the shallow water near the coppiced woodland area of the Nature Reserve. The reeds would 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. If agreed, seek funding for this project.	3	2	R, G, K		1	1		
24. Tile Barn Field Use – Consider the opportunities for use of this land, (grazed by livestock occasionally at present) such as in part for car parking, opening up public access for events or consider other uses like, planting woodland, creating meadow walks etc.	3	10	R, I				1	1
25. Landing Stage – Investigate options to use this area including offers to restart the licensed passenger boat service (as has run previously), or alternative uses for the landing stage.	2	8	R, I				1	1
26. Collect Information on Wildlife Species – Record species visiting and present in the Park to establish connections between management of habitats and species presence and report the findings to the Site Manager and, the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Continue the monitoring programme, paying particular attention to the distribution of any	2	All	R,K	1	1	1	1	1

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY Proposed 1 Completed								
rare and protected species. Work with volunteers and other agencies like the Kent Bat Group, Kent Amphibian and Reptile Group, British Trust for Ornithology and Kent Wildlife Trust and use this information to inform the management of the habitats in the Park.								
27. Collect Information on Plants – in particular the distribution within the park of rare or scarce species for Kent or the UK and also for the mixture of habitats present in the Park as above to aid management decisions; submitting records to the Site Manager and, the Kent and Medway Biological Records centre. Key species at the Park are Narrow leaved water dropwort, and Dyers Greenwood.	2	All	R, K	1	1	1	1	1
28. Control of Pest Species - Keep invasive alien species (non natives) and those classed in law as ‘pests’ under control for example: Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Zebra Mussel, rabbits, ragwort (Ragwort Control Plan), and rats.	1	All	R, K	1	1	1	1	1
29. Canada Geese Control - Consider humane controls to reduce the number of Canada Geese. The geese are an aggressive pest species and now the dominant species on the lake growing in number each year, and so reducing the variety of other bird species using the lakes and flora present. Controlling these geese would be subject to obtaining an appropriate license.	2	2, 9	R		1	1	1	1
30. Mink Control - Monitor the level of mink present at the site and consider taking action in liaison with and adjacent landowners in the River Medway catchment, and with outside bodies including Natural England, and the Kent	2	2	R			1	1	1

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY								
Proposed 1								
Completed								
Wildlife Trust. (<i>Mink is an introduced pest species plus an aggressive species and a predator of fish.</i>) Apply for any consents required.								
31. Signage Provision – 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 the connection of the Park to other adjoining public open spaces or public rights of way. A desirable criteria from the Country Park Accreditation Scheme. Also consider how well the Park is marked on Maps, and satellite navigation systems.	3	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
32. Build Bird Boxes and Other Habitats – Volunteers to construct these to give nesting, overwintering and feeding opportunities for wildlife. Gives the public an opportunity to think about nature and study it more closely. Some nest boxes to be used in the Park to increase nesting shelter opportunities.	3	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
33. Remove Scrub from Kingfisher Nesting Sites – Remove bank vegetation from identified potential Kingfisher nesting sites such as along the western bank of The Shallows.	2		K	1			1	
34. The Stone Lock Improvements – Investigate options to make enhancements around the Lock, subject to grant aid funding.	2	8	G, C			1		1
35. 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	1	1	1	1	

PROJECT KEY	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
Proposed 1 Completed								
36. Water Meadow – Continue the management of this part of the site as a series of ‘ponds’ at various stages of succession, with areas of mud scrapes (shallow seasonal ponds) and by digging some new deeper ponds. Adopt an appropriate maintenance regime in the Water Meadow to retain open grassland, and discourage woody scrub development and encourage increased numbers of the nationally scarce Narrow Leaved Water Dropwort. (The area is already subject to periodic flooding and is within the ‘reservoir’ flood retention area for the Leigh Barrier).	3	3	K, R		1	1		
37. 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	R			1	1	
38. Learning Opportunities in the Park – Aim to encourage and increase the number of young people and given opportunities for learning 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	1	1	1	1	1
39. Path Resurfacing and Creation – Resurface compacted stone paths as they become worn. New compacted stone paths are not to be created unless absolutely necessary due the high initial cost and long term maintenance costs, and because we want to keep the more remote areas of the Park more rural in nature.	1	All	R	1	1	1	1	1
40. Cut Back Path Vegetation - Overhanging/encroaching vegetation to be cut back from paths.	1	All	N, K	1	1	1	1	1

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY								
Proposed 1								
Completed								
41. 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	1	1	1	1	1
42. Hedgerow Restoration – Restore 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	1	1	1	1	
43. Plant more Hedgerows – Take opportunities to replace existing fences and other boundaries with new hedges: mark boundaries; to divide the site up and; create new habitats.	2	All	R, K	1	1	1	1	1
44. Planting more Trees – Take opportunities to increase the tree cover in the Park although still aim to retain mosaic of different habitats (grassland, woodland, and scrub) within the Park.	3	All	R, K, G	1	1	1		1
45. Coppice Rotations – Continue cutting designated areas in rotational cycles to create a habitat suitable for nesting birds etc. and to 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 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	R, K	1	1	1	1	1
46. 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 fencing around the area. Include area in future coppicing rotations.	3	7	R, K		1	1		
47. Facility Improvements – Investigate the feasibility of improved provision of	3	10	I,	1	1	1	1	1

PROJECT	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
KEY								
Proposed 1								
Completed								
refreshments and toilets, alongside improved ranger and volunteer facilities. Progress with Projects as appropriate linked to demand and availability of funding.			C, G, J					
48. Canoe Use – Consider the feasibility of allowing canoe users better access to the river.	4	10	I	1				
49. CCTV for the Main Car Park - Consider the feasibility of installing this in the main car park.	4	10	C, G					1
50. 30th Anniversary of the Parks Opening – Consider special event/s and event branding for the public to celebrate this.	3	1	R				1	
51. Green Transport Plan for the Park – Write this plan to consider ways that visitors can access the Park and staff that could reduce carbon omissions. This is a Desirable criteria for the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme.	4	1	R,G	1	1	1	1	1
52. Re-apply Country Parks Accreditation Scheme - Natural England run this scheme	2	All	N		1			
53. Monitor and Increase Plant Species Richness 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 richness within meadows. (Note only carry out in the part of Compartment 8 meadow nearest Stone Lock)	2	3, 5, 8	R, G	1	1	1	1	1
54. Triathlon Swimming Licence – Consider with the Licensee a new agreement	1	2	I	1				
55. Triathlon Swimming New Access Platform – consider proposals for Haysden Water access to the lake for tri club swimming with the	3	2	N	1				

PROJECT KEY Proposed 1 Completed	Priority	Compartment	Expenditure/ Income	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019
Environment Agency and Clubs if brought forward by the Licensee								
56. Rainbow pond increase connectivity to the river and planting – Investigate with key stakeholders the feasibility of clearing a narrow channel from the pond to The Shallows and planting around the pond. A small grant has been received from Courier Newspaper Group to the Haysden Country Park Volunteers	1	7	G	1				
57. Tudor Trail Cycle Route – Consider partnership opportunities, and establish maintenance responsibilities and implement as required.	3	3	R	1	1	1	1	1
58. Investigate New Partnership Opportunities – Investigate opportunities to work with other organisations, to improve and develop the site.	All	3	I/S	1	1	1	1	1
59. New Management Plan – Produce the next management plan for the Park for the period 2020-2025	1	-	N					1

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

This 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 snap shot 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.



Green Flag Award – The plan has been written to meet the criteria for the Green Flag Award and form part of a successful application. Its appropriateness can be assessed against the outcome of the application and the feedback report received from the judges.

Country Park Accreditation - The plan will also form part of our Country Park Accreditation application and can be judged against the outcome of this application.

Monitoring Progress – Progress will be monitored against the Annual Action Plan (included in later versions of the plan), at contractor and staff progress meetings.

Annual Management Plan Review – In order to keep the plan relevant, each year, and prior to the start of the year, an annual review will be carried out. Much of the site description, policy and aims are likely to remain unchanged 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, drawing 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 2019, a full review and rewrite will be carried out to develop the next Five Year Management Plan.

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Location Plan
- Appendix 2 - Land Ownership Map
- Appendix 3 - Master Plan
- Appendix 4 - Access Audit
- Appendix 5 - Interpretation and Marketing Plan
- Appendix 6 - Example Risk Assessments
- Appendix 7 - Asset List
- Appendix 8 - Legal Aspects Map
- Appendix 9 - Chemicals used at the Park
- Appendix 10 - Country Park Species Lists
- Appendix 11 - Haysden Country Park Budget
- Appendix 12 - Annual Action Plan