

# Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2020 - 2024



# Consultation draft

Version 0



[www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

Revision History

| Version | Date issued | Summary of changes |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|
|         |             |                    |
|         |             |                    |

## **Foreword**

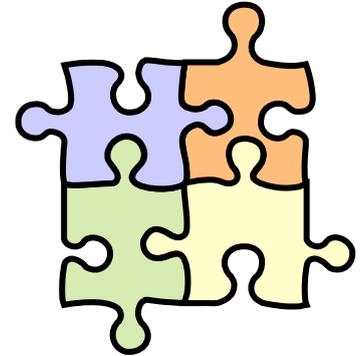
This page has been intentionally left blank

# GUIDANCE NOTES

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

## Part 1 – *Where are we now?*

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



## Part 2 – *Where do we want to get to?*

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



## Part 3 – *How will we get there?*

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



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

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



# CONTENTS

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

# CONTENTS

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

# CONTENTS

|   | Page      |
|---|-----------|
| <b>10.0 Constraint Factors and SWOT Analysis.....</b> | <b>43</b> |
| Constraining factors                                  |           |
| Strengths weakness opportunities and threats (SWOT)   |           |
| Conclusion  |           |

## Part 2 - Where do you want to get to?

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>11.0 Management plan overall aim.....</b> | <b>49</b> |
| The overall aim                              |           |
| Objectives                                   |           |

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>12.0 Five Year Work Programme.....</b> | <b>50</b> |
| <b>13.0 Annual Action Plans.....</b>      | <b>50</b> |

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

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>14.0 Monitoring progress.....</b> | <b>68</b> |
| Accreditation                        |           |
| Annual management plan review        |           |
| End of plan review                   |           |

## APPENDICES

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

# CONTENTS

## TABLES

|   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| Table 1 - List of policy guidance                         | 3           |
| Table 2 - List of formal recreation                       | 7           |
| Table 3 - Grounds maintenance summary                     | 11          |
| Table 4 - Building and asset management                   | 12          |
| Table 5 - Maintenance of habitats and landscape           | 15          |
| Table 6 - Key habitats present in the park                | 22          |
| Table 7 - Key species present in the park                 | 23          |
| Table 8 - Timetable for consultation                      | 30          |
| Table 9 - Typical annual events and projects              | 34          |
| Table 10 - List of stakeholders for the park              | 37          |
| Table 11 - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats | 46          |
| Table 12 - Five Year Work Programme                       | 50          |

### **Acknowledgements**

All those consulted about this Plan.

Photographic credits: Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC), David Hodgkinson, Bill Milton and Spaceman Creative.

### **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 844522 Email: [leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk) Website: [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

Copyright © TMBC 2019 Consultation draft

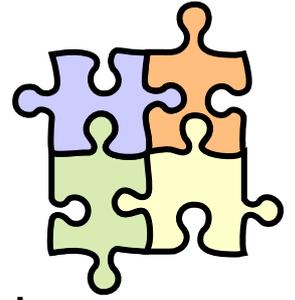
If the reader is using an internet enabled computer to view this document the document contains a number of website and email hyperlinks (words in blue text and underlined) which can be used to find out more about the subjects by linking to other documents or to email. The Council is not responsible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

### **Other documents referred to in this plan**

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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



### 1.0 – Introduction and background to Haysden Country Park



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

The previous management plan 2015-2019, has been very successful in delivering projects with over £195,000 of investments in the park, over the 5 year life of the plan. The management plan has been vital when applying for grant funding, achieving the Green Flag Award and country park accreditation, attracting sponsorship and setting out our intentions. Some projects are ongoing and have been included in this new plan. Some key investments that have been secured and delivered from the last plan are listed below, a full list of achievements can be found in **Appendix 10b**.

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

### Overall aim

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

### Policy context

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

**Table 1: Policy Guidance Documents**

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

## Green Flag Award

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

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



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

## Country Park Accreditation Scheme

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



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

### Local Nature Reserve

The park was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2008. Visitor standards for local nature reserves have the following headings; these are in some cases subdivided into to themes with 'expected' and 'desirable' criteria.

The Natural England publication 'Local Nature Reserves in England: A guide to their selection and declaration' provides more details. The site is a Local Nature Reserve and as part of the agreement any new management plans need to be submitted to Natural England. The headings are listed below:

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

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

### 2.0 – A welcoming place

#### Location

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

Ordnance Survey National Grid reference TQ569459

Grid Reference Latitude 51.18697 Longitude 0.24355

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



#### Entrances

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

#### Land use

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

#### Accessibility

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

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

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

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

**Access by road** - The main car park is situated just off Brook Street in Lower Haysden Lane, 1½ miles from Tonbridge town centre. Public car parking (for approximately 100 cars) is available from this main entrance.

There is also limited parking for oversized vehicles outside the main entrance and at Haysden Water car park; overhead height barriers are set at two metres in height. Roads are signposted from Railway Approach to the north and from the south via Quarry Hill Road. Smaller car parks serve the Sailing Club at Haysden Water (lake) and Audley Avenue. Car parks are highlighted on the Master Plan (**Appendix 2**). Car park charges were introduced in July 2008, with payment options of cash, pay by phone, or an annual season ticket is available.



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

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

### Links to the wider countryside

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

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

### Formal recreation

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

**Table 2: List of formal recreation**

| Concessions  | Season of Use             |
|--|---------------------------|
| Its All Dog Fun (dog training)                               | Year round (weekly)       |
| parkrun  | Year round (weekly)       |
| Tonbridge and District Angling and Fish Preservation Society | Year round                |
| Tonbridge Town Sailing Club                                  | March to October          |
| Tonbridge River Boats (passenger service)                    | Easter to September       |
| Tri Swim   | May to September (weekly) |
| Underdogs fly ball training                                  | Year round (weekly)       |
| Willards America Food company (caterer)                      | Year round (daily)        |



### Informal recreation

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



### 3.0 – Healthy, safe & secure

#### Health and safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Site monitoring** - As part of the management of contractors, Council officers monitor health and safety aspects 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

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

#### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

assessments; this aspect is also monitored by council staff.

### **Water safety policy**

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

### **Children's play area**

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

### **Bridge inspections**

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

### **Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)**

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

### **Tree safety inspections**

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

### **Civil and environmental enforcement officers**

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

### 4.0 – Well maintained and clean

#### Grounds maintenance

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

**Table 3: Grounds maintenance summary**

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

### Building and asset management

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

**Table 4: Building and asset management**

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

|                        |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Bridges and paths      | All bridges and paths are inspected as part of regular health and safety inspections. Bridge defects if found by the Council 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 | Council, or KCC for Public Rights of Way |
| Car parks and A21 area | Litter picking is carried out 12 times a year.   | Grounds contractor                       |
| Gates and barriers     | Recorded inspections undertaken annually.  | Council                                  |
| Signs                  | Recorded inspections undertaken annually.  | Council                                  |
| Interpretation signage | Recorded inspections undertaken annually.  | Council                                  |
| Dipping platform       | Recorded inspections undertaken annually.  | Council                                  |
| Jetty at Barden Lake   | Recorded inspections undertaken annually.  | Council                                  |
| Landing stage          | Recorded inspections undertaken annually.  | Council                                  |
|                        | Cutting back of overhanging vegetation at all times.   | Grounds contractor                       |
|                        | Sweeping steps   | Council                                  |

### Equipment maintenance

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

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

### Land drainage and flooding

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

|                                     |   |                        |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Compound area                       | The store area is inspected for safety periodically.  | Council                |
| Sewage treatment plant              | The sewage system is checked for operation monthly.   | Council                |
|                                     | The tank is emptied 4 times a year and serviced or as required depending on demand.   | Contractor             |
| Shipping container store            | Periodic checks for security and building repairs.  | Rangers and volunteers |
| Car parks                           | Managed directly by the Council's car parking section. Machines checked daily, in the car parks.  | Council & contractor   |
|                                     | Car parking machine servicing and inspection.   | Contractor             |
|                                     | Sweep surface and remove debris including along the drive, twice once in November and once in March.  | Grounds contractor     |
|                                     | Herbicide application is carried out annually   | Grounds contractor     |
|                                     | Winter maintenance is carried out as needed.  | Council                |
|                                     | The main entrance is opened and locked closed daily. Opening time 7.30am, closing times before dusk and vary but no later than 9pm. All car parks have height barriers. Restricted access to Haysden Water to sailing club members and authorised persons only. | Gatekeeper             |
|                                     | Entrances are inspected on a regular basis and as part of the car park inspections. Repairs are undertaken as necessary.  | Council                |
| Fishing platforms                   | These are inspected as part of the annual checks.   | Council                |
| Catering building                   | Inspected as part of the routine Food Hygiene inspections.  | Council                |
|                                     | Recorded inspections undertaken bi annually. Food Hygiene standard certification issued.  | Council                |
|                                     | Building maintenance.   | Catering contractor    |
| Sailing club buildings and compound | Periodic building inspections, as part of the Work Place Health and Safety Inspections.   | Council                |
|                                     | Maintenance and building repairs.   | Sailing club           |
|                                     | Sewage tank emptying.   | Sailing club           |

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

Hayden Water (which is located 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 periods of time.

### Maintenance of habitats and landscape

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

**Table 5: Maintenance of habitats and landscape**

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

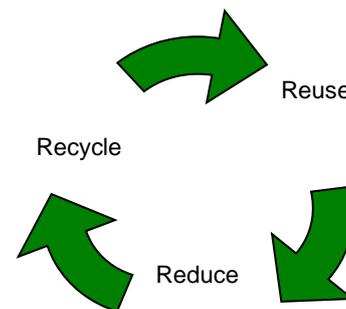
## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

### 5.0 – Environmental management

#### Corporate policy

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



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

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

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

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

**Waste minimisation** – Public recycling points are present in the car park.

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

### 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.

### Timber

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

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

### Renewable supply chains

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

### ISO 14001

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

### Green waste

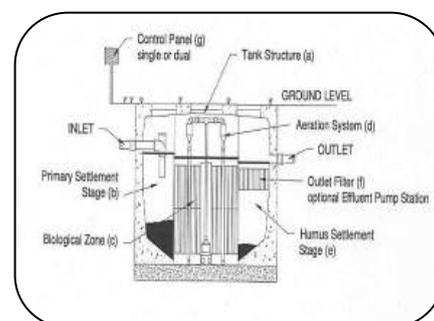
All green waste is removed from site or, where possible recycled on site. The grounds maintenance contractor (Landscape Services) collects waste and recycles this through its partnerships with other companies, 100% of the green waste generated on site is recycled.

### Soils and hard core

These materials are reused wherever possible.

### Sewage disposal

The park is not connected to 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.



### Stainable urban drainage system (SuDS)

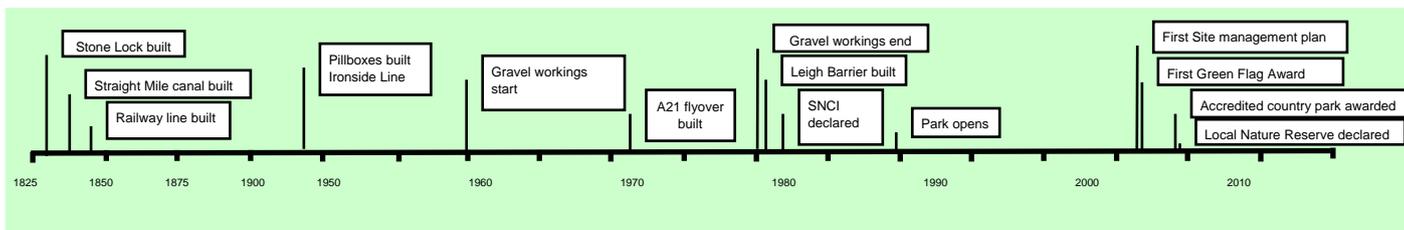
This greenspace forms a floodplain which acts as a buffer allowing the river when in flood to slow down, spread out, and soak into the ground, so avoiding flood damage to residential and commercial properties in the town centre and elsewhere.

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

### 6.0 – Management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage

#### Site history

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



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



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

**Barden Park** - An estate known as Barden Park was once present on the land near the now Barden Lake; pictures of the large Barden Park House can be found on historical postcards dating from 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 1968 the Leigh Flood Relief Barrier was built (photo) under an Act of Parliament and completed in 1981, along with the new 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’ was removed and the area filled in; it is now the woodland called Heusenstamm Friendship Woodland. 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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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 then located at the Haysden Water end of the Park.

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

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

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

### Habitat and landscape structure

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

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

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

**Hedgerows** – The historical hedgerows are mainly around the boundaries of the site, and comprise mainly of hawthorn and other typical hedgerow species of the southeast like elder and hazel. There are newer hedges, mainly hawthorn, around the car park and amenity areas.



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



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

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

**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 with the Haysden Country Park Volunteers made changes to the cave in 2005 to improve humidity and temperature. The public are not allowed to enter the bat cave as this could disturb this protected species. However several species of bat can be seen flying in the park at dusk in summer, and public bat walks are held at the park.



### Habitats of importance

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

### Surveys

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



## Part 1 - Where are we now?

of occurrence in the park. Many of the species in **Table 7** are noted as important within the United Kingdom. Given the wide range of species we know to exist in the park, and the fact that many are indicators of high quality habitats, the park is an important area for nature conservation within the Borough. The park's statutory designations as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (now called a Local Wildlife Site) recognises this and offers an additional layer of legal protection to the park. Some areas of the park are sensitive to disturbance **Appendix 10**.

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

### Topography, features and soils

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

**Table 6: Key habitats present in the park**

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

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?



Table 7: Key species present in the park

| Common name         | International / European | National | Regional/ Local | Habitat notes  |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|--|
| <b>BIRDS</b>        |                          |          |                 |  |
| Blackbird           | *                        |          |                 | Hedgerows and woodland                                     |
| Blackcap            | *                        |          |                 | Woodland and scrub – likely to be breeding                 |
| Chiffchaff          | *                        |          |                 | Woods and scrub - breeding                                 |
| Dunnock             | **                       |          |                 | Hedges and woodland  |
| Great tit           | **                       |          |                 | Woodland   |
| Goldfinch           | **                       |          |                 | Meadows  |
| Lesser white throat | *                        |          |                 | Mature hedges, woodland with dense undergrowth, - breeding |
| Long tailed tit     | *                        |          |                 | Woods heaths and hedgerows                                 |
| Nuthutch            | **                       |          |                 | Woodland nest in tree holes                                |
| Reed bunting        | **                       | **       |                 | Scrub for food, breeding in reeds                          |
| Song thrush         | *                        |          |                 | Grasslands   |
| Tree creeper        | **                       |          |                 | Mature trees for feeding and nesting and breeding          |
| Whitethroat         | *                        |          |                 | Scrub, hedgerows and heaths                                |

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

### 7.0 - Community involvement

#### Visitor surveys

These were carried out in 1988, 1993, 2001, 2007, 2013 and 2018; the objective is to: profile visitors, provide information on customer satisfaction, facilities and; suggested improvements. The 2018 findings have been incorporated into this plan.



#### Key results of the last survey:

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

A summary of the findings are detailed below:

99.5% of visitor were satisfied with their visit overall.

The most important features of the park were identified as:

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

Suggested improvements were:

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



The larger the text the greater the response

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

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

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

### 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, Haysden Country Park Volunteers; conservation organisations, sports clubs (who use 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.

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

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



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

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

**It's All Dog Fun** – A dog trainer has a licence to run once a week sessions, charging a fee to dog owners. This has the advantage of encouraging users to become responsible dog owners. Visit [www.itsalldogfun.co.uk](http://www.itsalldogfun.co.uk)



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

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

### Volunteering

The Council has over the last fifteen years encouraged the involvement of volunteers in the park, an initiative that has been keenly supported by the local community. Partnerships with other organisations/ groups complement our own resources and include the Haysden Country Park Volunteers, the Volunteer 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 formed in 2002 the group was led by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers under the Green Gym Programme, they are now a constituted self led volunteer group. Around thirty volunteers have been recruited and are on the membership list, and of these around twenty would normally attend each task day. The volunteers are involved in a wide range of projects throughout the park from fund raising, wildlife and wildflower monitoring, to conservation and habitat management and maintenance tasks. The volunteers receive training and learn new skills on the task days members have attended courses in leadership, first aid and tree/ pond warden. A leaflet is available to promote the group and recruitment of new members which is on the Council's website [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk), we also have a Volunteer Handbook offering more guidance and containing an application form.

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

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

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

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

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

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

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

**Local educational establishments** – Several nearby local educational establishments use the park as a recreational/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 here:

**Table 8: Timetable for Consultation**

| Action  | Timescale     |
|---|---------------|
| Internal consultation   | December 2019 |
| Public consultation – including all key stakeholders and News Release | January 2020  |
| Councils – Communities Board to adopt final Management Plan           | May 2020      |
| Plan amended to reflect consultation comments                         | May 2019      |
| Publication of final Management Plan                                  | June 2019     |

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

Copies of the Management Plan Consultation Draft were sent to:

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

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



### 8.0 – Marketing and communication

#### Marketing strategy aim

Encourage visitors to the country park from the local area using local press releases and articles and the park website page, park leaflets, advertisement through activities for young people, volunteers and events. All marketing must be duly considered to ensure it is not detrimental to the nature conservation interest of the site.

#### Publications

The Council markets the park as a local facility with the principal means of marketing being through: leaflets; the Council's website [www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP) (Haysden Country Park pages) photo calls, news releases, site notice boards, cross service publications, social media and event publications. All printed publications are available from Tonbridge Gateway at Tonbridge Castle, and on the Council's website [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://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 Interpretation and Marketing Plan for the park at **Appendix 13** covers: the theories of interpretation, an evaluation of where we are now and the way forward.

#### Country park webpage

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

#### Social media

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

#### Events

A wide variety of events are run at the park each year, some are run by the Rangers, others by partnerships, local clubs and community volunteers. Typical events held at the park are listed in **Table 9**. Events are very popular with visitors and we always give the public an opportunity to feedback, which we use to plan future events. Events have normally tended to have a countryside theme; and many are free of charge. We aim to time events to take place during national campaigns (Love parks week, national play day, big garden bird watch, big butterfly count etc.), so that the public can attend a local event; we run a variety of events aimed at different audiences.

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

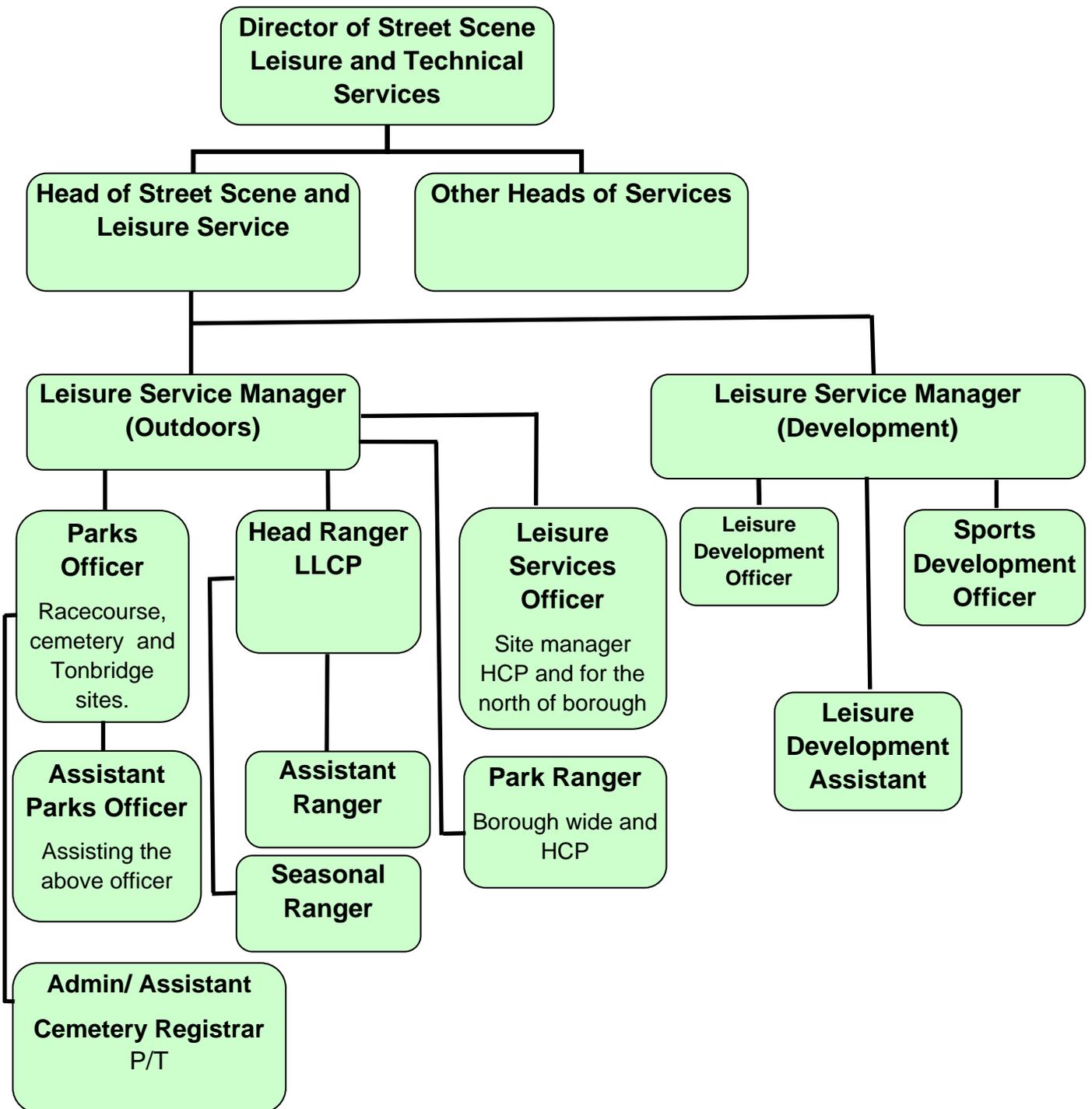
**Table 9: Typical annual events and projects**

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

**9.0 – Management**

**Management structure**

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



### Out of hours

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

### Staff 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, equality training (access for all, anti discrimination) and health and safety training.

### Contractors

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

Atac Solutions Ltd - service of plant and sewage disposal

Cala Briparc Ltd – car parking

Cannon Hygiene Ltd – Sanitary bins

Envirocure Ltd – borough wide legionella advisor

Folly Wildlife Trust – wildlife rehabilitation

Gatekeeper

Monitor Pest Control Ltd – pest control

The Swan Sanctuary – Wildlife rehabilitation

RSPCA – Wildlife rescue

Specialist Hygiene Services Ltd – Toilet cleaning etc.

Urbaser Ltd – Dog bin emptying

Ward Security - Dog warden services

### Stakeholders

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

**Table 10: List of stakeholders for the park**

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

### Country park budget

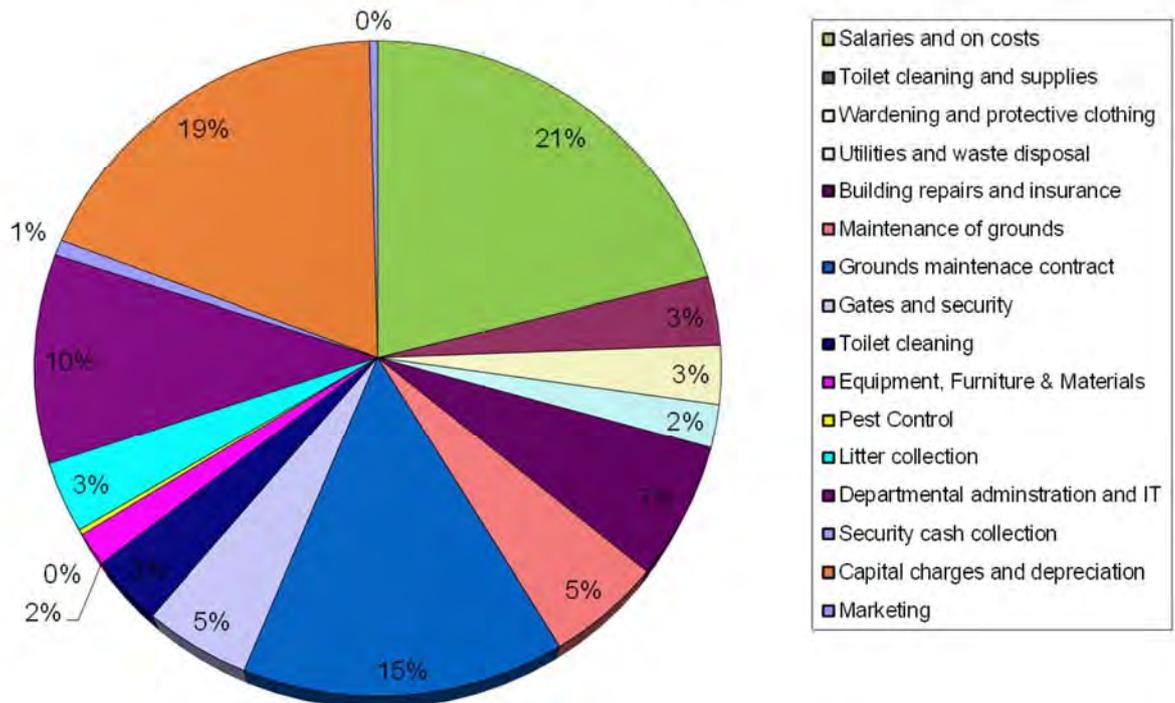
Maintenance of the Country Park is met through the Council's Revenue Budget and is around £174K per annum. The budget provides for ground maintenance, running costs, repairs, administration and essential services. An income in the region of £66K is generated from rights over water, the mobile cafeteria concession, fees from events, and car parking fees, (income recovers between 30-40% of the parks running

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

costs). A breakdown of the budget (2018/19 are the baseline figures for this plan) can be found in **Appendix 11a**.

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.

**Expenditure for Haysden Country Park**



**Capital budget** – Some larger value items such as replacing children’s play equipment, are funded under the Council’s Capital Renewal Scheme. The Council also has a system of bidding for capital work to fund larger projects, the Council has invested in the park funding (in part or fully) projects like the car park extension (2018), cycle route improvements (2018), Barden Lake improvements (2016), play area improvements (2016) and replacing the decking on The Shallows bridge (2012).

### External funding

Where practical funding will be sourced from outside the Council, and this can take the form of donations (seats), grant bids and developer contributions. In recent years the Council have secured grants which paid in part for Barden Lake and play area improvements, new paths around the play area. The Haysden Country Park Volunteers have also been successful in obtaining grants for projects like tree planting, improvements to The Shallows, and planting around Barden Lake. The Council has also negotiated and worked in partnership with concessions and other stakeholders to make improvements to the park such as the catering area, public rights of way improvements and angling swims. A list of main projects and investments that have been undertaken in the last 5-years is included at **Appendix 11b**.

### Rules

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

These rules are set out below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

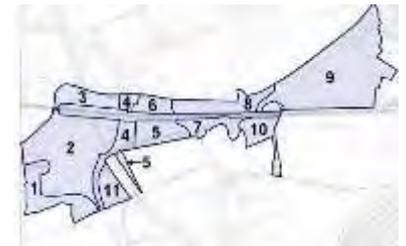
**No barbeques** — In line with all the Council's public open spaces and to both reduce the likelihood of fires and to avoid inconveniencing other users, barbeques are not allowed in the park.

**No unauthorised swimming, bathing or boating** – The public are not allowed to boat or launch small model boats on the lakes in the park. Authorised boating can take place through the Water Sports Centre and fishing club members may use a boat to retrieve snagged fishing line and a variety of other purposes.

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

### 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. For a more detailed map see **Appendix 2**.



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



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



**Compartment 3** – (Water Meadow) - This compartment is an example of a scarce UK habitat, containing a limited number of 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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

be guided by the need to preserve the existing habitat and the protection of identified species. Two mud scrapes, (shallow seasonal ponds) in the central area were created to increase biodiversity of this area. Requests for events should avoid this area of land.

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

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



**Compartment 6** – (Heusenstamm Friendship Woodland) - A mixed species broadleaved woodland which is still young circa 1987 but is establishing well, and now attracting dragonflies and butterflies. This woodland is located on the former site of the so called 'Tonbridge Lido' or 'Weir Pool', 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, except in times of flood. The area contains a variety of common flora and is an important site for invertebrates and feeding birds, as are the reed beds. A dipping platform for educational use is now located in this compartment. There is a conservation area with no public access to allow more sensitive wildlife and flora to thrive in the park. The area also contains some willow plantings, which will be managed as coppice stools to encourage young whippy growth suitable for wreath making and willow weaving events.



## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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

**Compartment 9** – (Barden Lake & Woodlands) - Dominated by Barden Lake the area is bordered by woodland (Barden Shaw and Audley Wood) and the railway line. The area has good access with numerous seats around the lake and a surfaced path. The remaining area around the lake is subject to a high level of public use for informal recreation and is popular for angling. A long term project to re-establishing marginal planting around the lake edge and carry out other planting in part to control the numbers of Canada Geese has taken place in the last five years with the assistance of our volunteer group and grants. The project at the near end of the lake which incorporated picnic seating, a new path, some play sculptures and wildflower planting was funded by a grant, this has transform that part of the lake. We are leaving the area in front of the disabled parking with an open view of the lake, this area is also occasionally used for events. Barden Shaw has been coppiced in phases in the last ten years. The woodlands of Audley Wood and the marsh area are the most sensitive, areas but have restricted public access. A bee rare for Kent has been found in the grassland the Long horned bee (*Eucera longicornis*).



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



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

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

#### Constraining factors

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

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



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

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

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

**Licence for triathlon swimming** – The club has a licence to carry out swimming training on Monday evenings in Haysden Water which runs for 4 years to 2016, subject to new contract.

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

**Licence for flyball dog training** – Licence to use Tile Barn Field for training. Renewed on an annual licence.

**Licence for dog training** – Use of the dog exercise area to train dogs. Renewed on an annual licence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

**Flooding (reservoir)** – The site is within the flood plain for the River Medway, with the natural fall of the land towards the park and River Medway. The Barden Lake end of the park periodically floods when the River Medway bursts its banks or flood and ground water from the catchment area flows downhill towards the river.

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**Table 11: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats**

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

## Part 1 - Where are we now?

### Conclusion

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



## Part 2 - Where do you want to get to?

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

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



### 11.0 Management plan aim & objectives

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

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

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

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

## Part 2 - Where do you want to get to?

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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



### 12.0 Five Year Work Programme

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

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

The Programme that follows indicates the compartments (**Appendix 2**) in which specific projects will be 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 will contain details of what exactly is to be done, when and by whom and will be included in later updates of this plan at **Appendix 12**.



**Table 12** Five-year Work Programme - Project List

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

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

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

**Table 12 : Five Year Work Programme**

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

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

Proposed year ●

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

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

|            |  |          |             |         | Year to implement |      |      |      |      |
|------------|--|----------|-------------|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Project No | Project  | Priority | Compartment | Funding | 2020              | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| 21         | <b>Renewal of play equipment</b> - Replace play equipment and impact absorbing surfaces as required and in accordance with the Councils Capital renewals fund. <i>Note consider inclusive provision when replacing equipment and surfacing.</i>  | 2        | 1           | C       | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 22         | <b>Improvements to the children's play area</b> - Consider improvements to the children's play area adding new features, equipment and inclusive play equipment if opportunities should arise.   | 4        | 1           | C, G    | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 23         | <b>Land drainage</b> - Keep land drainage systems in good working order by removal of blockages. Seasonal closure of the (summer period) land drain to Barden lake to prevent Zebra mussel entering the river.   | 1        | All         | N       | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 24         | <b>Carry out an environmental audit at the park</b> - Investigate climate change adaptation within the park, the types and impacts of waste generated in the park and the options to reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of wastes.   | 3        | All         | R       | ●                 |      |      |      |      |
| 25         | <b>Collect information on wildlife species</b> – Record species visiting and present in the park to establish connections between management of habitats and species presence. Report findings to the Site Manager and the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Continue the monitoring programme, using standard methods, paying particular attention to the distribution of any rare and protected species for Kent and the UK. Work with volunteers and other agencies like the Kent Bat Group, Kent Amphibian and Reptile Group, British Trust for | 2        | All         | K, R    | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

|            |  |          |             |         | Year to implement |      |      |      |      |
|------------|--|----------|-------------|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Project No | Project  | Priority | Compartment | Funding | 2020              | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|            | Ornithology and Kent Wildlife Trust and use this information to inform the management of the habitats in the park. Progress: New Breeding Bird Surveys started in 2016.  |          |             |         |                   |      |      |      |      |
| 26         | <b>Collect Information on plants</b> – Record the distribution within the park of rare or scarce species for Kent or the UK. Record the mixture of habitats present in the park to aid management decisions; submitting records to the Site Manager and the Kent and Medway Biological Records centre. Also establish by surveying, if the historical species recorded in the past, are still present in the park. | 2        | All         | K, R    | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 27         | <b>Control of pest species</b> - Monitor and consider control of invasive alien species (non-natives) those classed in law as 'pests' under control for example: Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Zebra Mussel, rabbits, ragwort (Ragwort Control Plan), Canada Geese, and rats.  | 2        | All         | K, R    | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 28         | <b>Circular walks</b> - Provide marked walks for differing abilities in various distances (from short easy to long in distance). Utilise the existing made and unmade paths in the park, implement only if funding allows.   | 4        | All         | G       |                   | ●    |      |      |      |
| 29         | <b>Seating provision</b> - Keep existing seating in good order and assess the need and provide additional seating as required. Continue to promote the Sponsored Seat scheme.  | 2        | All         | S       | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 30         | <b>Fees and charges</b> - Review fees and charges annually to maximise income and recover costs, where practical.  | 1        | All         | I       | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

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

## Part 3 - How will we get there?

| Project No | Project   | Priority | Compartment | Funding | Year to implement |      |      |      |      |
|------------|---|----------|-------------|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
|            |   |          |             |         | 2020              | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| 69         | <b>Hard surfacing car parks</b> - Investigate hard surfacing the two car parks at Haysden Water to enable year round access.  | 3        | 1           | C, K    | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 70         | <b>Review cycling provision within the park</b> - Consider the options and cycling restrictions though the park, but ensure that any changes do not negatively impact on the park and its other users. Also consider this as part of the wider KCC Kent Cycling Strategy when this is reviewed. | 4        | All         | C, G    |                   | ●    |      |      |      |
| 71         | <b>Dipping platform renewal</b> - Replace the dipping platform when it comes to the end of its useful life.   | 3        | 7           | R, G    |                   |      |      | ●    |      |
| 72         | <b>Extend jetty at Barden Lake</b> - Extend the length of the jetty to allow greater access to the view.  | 4        | 9           | G       |                   |      | ●    |      |      |
| 73         | <b>Improvements to the dog exercise area</b> - Consider making improvements to the dog exercise area including the addition of a adding a fixed dog agility course.   | 3        | 10          | C, G    |                   | ●    |      |      |      |
| 71         | <b>Expansion of the park</b> - Consider the expansion of the parks land area should opportunities arise, to increase capacity for visitors and give greater connectivity benefits for biodiversity.   | 4        | All         | C       | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 72         | <b>Developer contributions</b> - Investigate and pursue opportunities for investment in the site from developer contributions.  | 1        | All         | N       | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 73         | <b>End of year review</b> - At the end of each year review the plan and update it to ensure that the plan is still relevant.  | 1        | All         | N       | ●                 | ●    | ●    | ●    | ●    |
| 74         | <b>New management plan</b> - Carry out an end of plan review and produce the next park management plan for the period 2025 - 2029.  | 2        | All         | N       |                   |      |      |      | ●    |



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

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

It is important to realise that a Management Plan is only a 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.



### 14.0 Monitoring progress

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



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

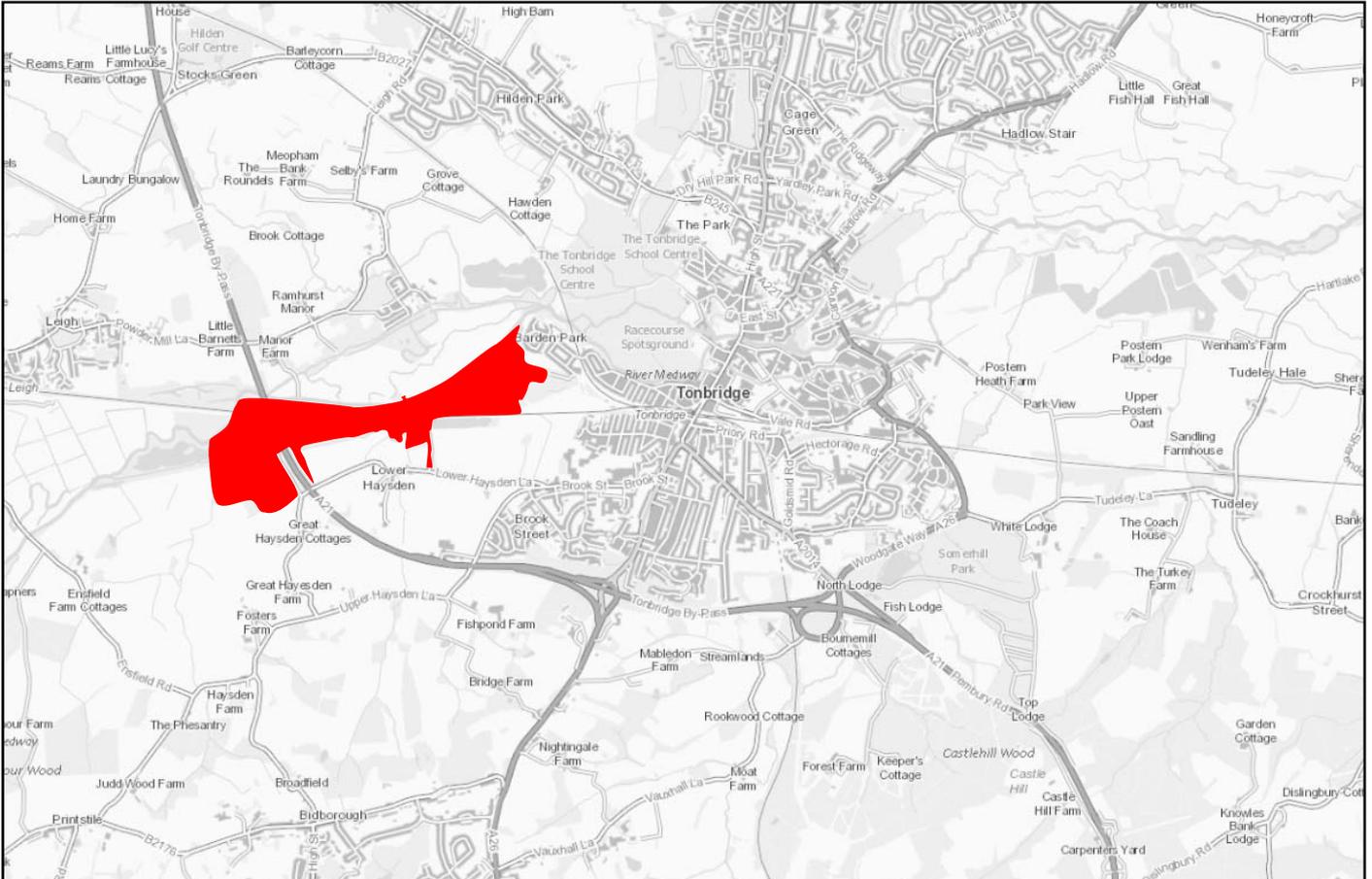
**Annual management plan review** – In order to keep the plan relevant, prior to the start of each year, an annual review will be carried out. Much of the site description, policy and aims are unlikely to change from year to year, but the final sections of the plan are more dynamic and the whole plan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

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

## APPENDICES

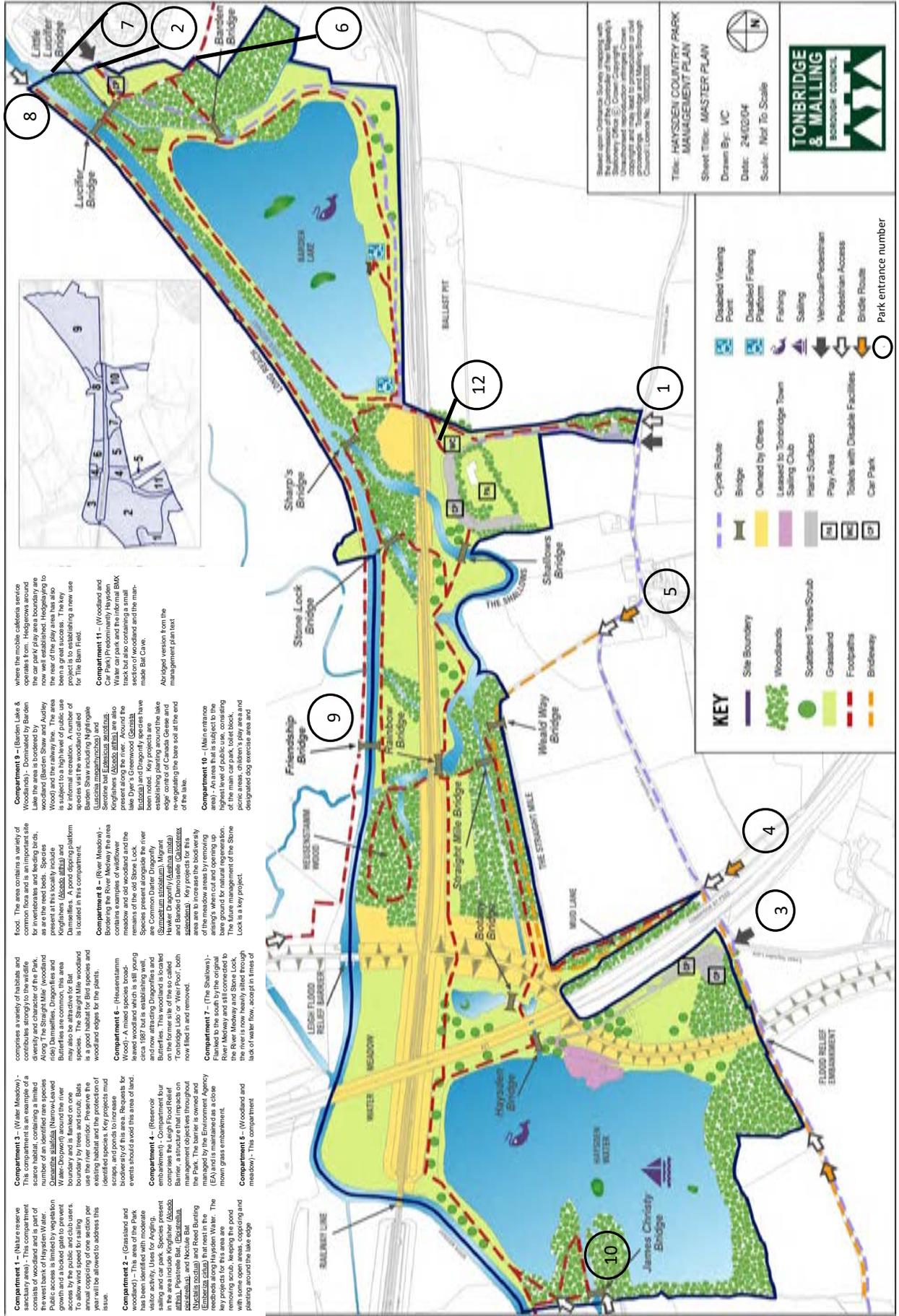
- Appendix 1 - Location plan
- Appendix 2 - Master plan
- Appendix 3 - Entrance accessibility
- Appendix 4 - Access Audit
- Appendix 5 - Legal aspects map
- Appendix 6 - Example risk assessment
- Appendix 7 - Asset list
- Appendix 8 - Chemicals used at the park
- Appendix 9 - Habitat characteristics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

Location plan



Location Map: Haysden Country Park,

Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Tonbridge and Malling BC Licence No. 100023300 2019



**Compartment 1 - (Native reserve sanctuary area)** - This compartment consists of woodland and is part of the west bank of Hayden Water. Key species include Brambling, Kingfisher, and Great Crested Newt. To allow wind speed for sailing, a fence will be allowed to address this issue.

**Compartment 2 - (Grassland and meadow)** - This compartment has been identified as moderate visitor activity. Uses for Angling, sailing and car park. Species present in this area include Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Badger (*Meles meles*), and Mink (*Mustela vison*). 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 Meekway)** - This compartment is an example of a species habitat, containing a limited number of identified rare species including Water Dogwort and Water Forget-me-not. Key projects include boundary by trees and scrub, bats and water level management, and the protection of existing habitat and the protection of identified species. Key projects must include:
 

- scrub, and ponds to increase biodiversity.
- planting native species for biodiversity.
- planting native species for biodiversity.

**Compartment 4 - (Reservoir embankment)** - Reservoir embankment - This compartment comprises the Leigh flood relief embankment. Key projects include:
 

- removal of trees and scrub.
- removal of trees and scrub.
- removal of trees and scrub.

**Compartment 5 - (Woodland and meadow)** - This compartment comprises a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the Park. Along The Straight Mile (woodland) and the meadow areas, species such as Kingfisher, Otter, and Badger may also be attractive for bat species. The Straight Mile woodland area is a key project.

**Compartment 6 - (Heathland and meadow)** - This compartment contains a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the Park. Along The Straight Mile (woodland) and the meadow areas, species such as Kingfisher, Otter, and Badger may also be attractive for bat species. The Straight Mile woodland area is a key project.

**Compartment 7 - (The Shallows)** - This compartment is located to the south of the original Hayden Water. Key projects include:
 

- removal of trees and scrub.
- removal of trees and scrub.
- removal of trees and scrub.

**Compartment 8 - (Woodland and meadow)** - This compartment contains a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the Park. Along The Straight Mile (woodland) and the meadow areas, species such as Kingfisher, Otter, and Badger may also be attractive for bat species. The Straight Mile woodland area is a key project.

**Compartment 9 - (Woodland and meadow)** - This compartment contains a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the Park. Along The Straight Mile (woodland) and the meadow areas, species such as Kingfisher, Otter, and Badger may also be attractive for bat species. The Straight Mile woodland area is a key project.

**Compartment 10 - (Main entrance)** - This compartment is 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

**Compartment 11 - (Woodland and meadow)** - This compartment contains a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the Park. Along The Straight Mile (woodland) and the meadow areas, species such as Kingfisher, Otter, and Badger may also be attractive for bat species. The Straight Mile woodland area is a key project.

**Compartment 12 - (Woodland and meadow)** - This compartment contains a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the Park. Along The Straight Mile (woodland) and the meadow areas, species such as Kingfisher, Otter, and Badger may also be attractive for bat species. The Straight Mile woodland area is a key project.

Sheets from Ordnance Survey maps with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Unauthorised reproduction without the Controller's permission is prohibited. Copyright © 2020. Hayden Country Park Management Plan. Council Licence No. 1000202000.

**TITLE: HAYSDEN COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**SHEET TITLE: MASTER PLAN**  
 Drawn By: VC  
 Date: 24/02/04  
 Scale: Not To Scale

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- Woodlands
- Scattered Trees/Scrub
- Grassland
- Footpaths
- Bridleway
- Cycle Route
- Bridge
- Owned by Others
- Leased to Tonbridge Town Sailing Club
- Hard Surfaces
- Play Area
- Toilets with Disabled Facilities
- Car Park
- Disabled Viewing Point
- Disabled Fishing Platform
- Fishing
- Sailing
- Venue/Picnic Area
- Pedestrian Access
- Bridle Route

Park entrance number

### Entrance accessibility

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

See Master Plan for the location of entrances

## Access Audit

Haysden Country Park  
Lower Haysden Lane  
Tonbridge  
Kent  
TN11 9BE

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

**Date:** 05/04/2019

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

**Issue No:** 1

P.O Box 561, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 9QZ  
Email: [building.control@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@sevenoaks.gov.uk) [building.control@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@tmbc.gov.uk)  
[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk) [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

**BUILDING CONTROL**  
PARTNERSHIP



[www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

## Contents

**BUILDING CONTROL  
PARTNERSHIP**



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

### Introduction

#### Scope

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

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

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

#### Criteria for assessment

The criteria for the assessment are as follows:

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

The financial and practical considerations of access improvements.

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

Guidance in British Standard BS 8300:2009

The Equality Act 2010

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

#### Legislative Context.

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

As a service provider, and,

as a Public Body having a “Public Sector Equality Duty”,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The park



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

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

There are 3 vehicular entrances, all of which are suitable for pedestrians and cyclists. There are an additional 5 pedestrian access points.

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

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

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

## Audit Report

### Entering the site and car parking

| The current situation   | Recommendations  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Road Entrances</b></p> <p>The drive in to the car park accessed from Lower Haysden Lane is tarmac with retro-fitted speed bumps. Whilst they reduce the speed of the traffic they can cause discomfort to disabled people arriving in cars. A separate path is provided alongside the drive for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>   | <p>Consideration to be given to reducing the width of the sleeping policemen to allow a smoother drive for motorists.</p>  |
| <p><b>Car Park surfaces</b></p> <p>The main car park accessed from Lower Haysden Lane is level and predominantly tarmacked. Individual spaces are marked out on the tarmac. An overspill car park which is compacted road stone.</p> <p>The car park accessed from Audley Rise is tarmac. It provides level access into the park.</p> <p>The Haysden Water car park accessed from Lower Haysden Lane is compacted gravel and is not level.</p> <p>Height restriction barriers are provided to all the car parks but these are not considered a restriction on access.</p>   | <p>The Haysden Water car park should be considered for an upgrade to provide a level firm surface suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. It would probably be reasonable to tarmac only an area of the car park to provide suitable access.</p>  |
| <p><b>Disabled parking Spaces</b></p> <p>There are 3 marked designated disabled parking spaces in the Main car park, that are located close to the warden building which contains the toilets and are near the main pedestrian access to the park. The rest of the tarmacked part of the car park is marked into bays which vary in size because of the curve of the car park which can give increased manoeuvring space. No markings provided where the car park surface is compacted stone.</p> <p>There are no marked bays in the Audley Rise which is tarmacked.</p> <p>The Haysden Water car park is not tarmacked and therefore not marked in anyway. The surface is compacted road stone and not level and not comfortable for wheelchair users.</p> <p>Access to Barden Lake is provided via a RADAR key access barrier and car parking spaces are available overlooking the lake. This entrance also allows access to the disable fishing platforms.</p> | <p>The Audley Rise car park is not heavily used, but consideration should be given to providing marked up disabled parking bays. Wheelchair friendly spaces should be located nearest the exits from the car park to the park to limit the travel distances over rough terrain.</p> <p>A tarmacked surface for the Haysden Water car park should be marked out with wheelchair friendly spaces, in conjunction with suitable access into the park.</p> |

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

Toilet facilities

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

Paths etc.

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

Picnic facilities, play areas and activity areas

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

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

Seating

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

Web access, leaflets and providing information

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

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

### Conclusion

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

Some of the seating is not accessible to wheelchair users.

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

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

Improving accessible paths and facilities should also be planned.

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

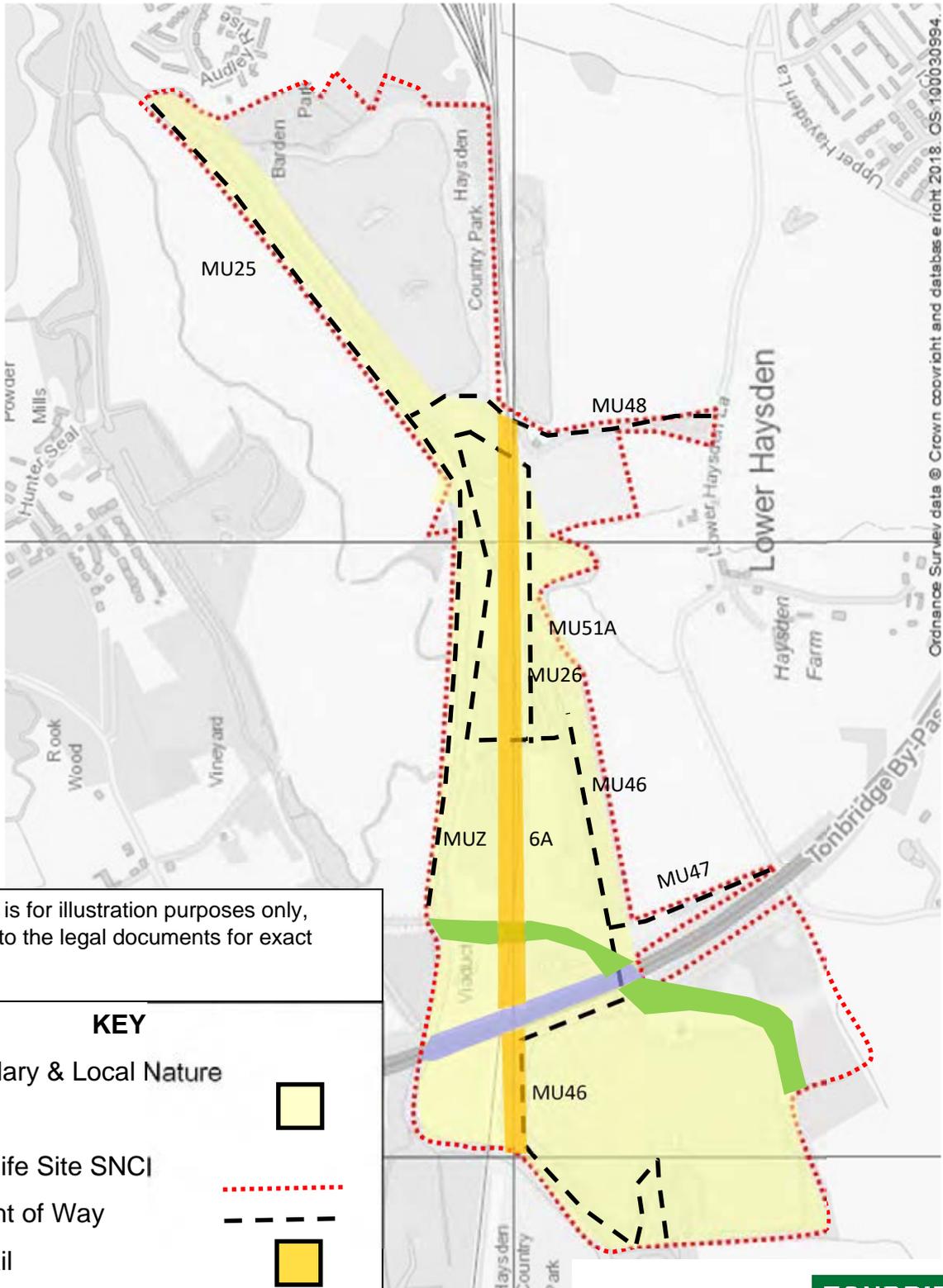
## Recommendations

The good standard of provision should be maintained.

Improvements should be considered in the following areas:

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

Legal aspects map



Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018. OS 100030994.

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

**KEY**

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

**Drawn By** CF

Date 18/10/18

**Scale** Not to Scale



## Example risk assessment

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

|   |                                   | Asset list |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|
|   | Supplier/ maker                   | Quantity   |
| AED and cabinet   | Wel Medical                       | 1          |
| Bat cave  | Kent Bat Group                    | 1          |
| Baby changing unit  |                                   | 1          |
| Boot scraper  | Barricade fabrications            | 1          |
| Bollards  |                                   | 17         |
| Bridges owned by TMBC   | Sarum and others                  | 3          |
| Bridges owned by KCC  |                                   | 8          |
| Bridges owned by EA (Friendship bridge)                                   |                                   | 1          |
| Brindle route permissive (excludes the Public Right of Way brindle route) |                                   | 637 LM     |
| Catering unit   |                                   | 1          |
| Car parks   |                                   | 4          |
| Car park meters   | Cala bripac                       | 3          |
| Car parking signs   | Royal British Legion Industries   | 9          |
| Car parking spaces  |                                   | 100        |
| Cycle stands - Sheffield type   | Broxap                            | 2          |
| Disabled car parking spaces   |                                   | 3          |
| Disabled fishing platforms  |                                   | 2          |
| Disabled lakeside parking   |                                   | 4 spaces   |
| Dipping platform  |                                   | 1          |
| Disabled view point parking area  |                                   | 1          |
| Dog waste bins  | Glasdon UK                        | 21         |
| Fences (does not included disused fences)                                 |                                   | 1300 LM    |
| Flagpole folding type   | Harrison External Display Systems | 1          |
| Fishing swims   |                                   | 22         |
| Gates - barriers  |                                   | 5          |
| Gates field type  |                                   | 10         |
| Gates pedestrian  |                                   | 8          |
| Gates self closing (play area) - Mono hinge                               |                                   | 2          |
| Height barrier  |                                   | 3          |
| High vehicle parking spaces   |                                   | 2          |
| 3 counties barrier  | Fearn truck bodies                | 4          |
| Jetty   |                                   | 1          |
| Landing stage for boat  |                                   | 1          |

|   | Supplier/ maker                                     | Quantity |
|---|---|----------|
| Litter bins - Rustic 120 litre  | Earth Anchors                                       | 23       |
| Litter bins - frog shaped 140 litre   | David Ogilvie                                       | 3        |
| Litter bins lidded - 105 litre Textured Glass Fibre with wooden front and lid                       | Wybone Ltd  | 2        |
| Life buoy stations  | Glasdon   | 4        |
| Multi use goal mouth  | Wicksteed   | 1        |
| Notice boards   |   | 4        |
| Multi use goal mouth  | Wicksteed   | 1        |
| Notice boards   |   | 4        |
| Paths unmade no surfacing (all)   |   | 3142 LM  |
| Paths surfaced (all)  |   | 3600 LM  |
| Public Right of Way designated as 'brindle route' (excludes the permissive path)                    |   | 443 LM   |
| Public rights of way designated as 'paths' (also included in paths surfaced and unsurfaced figures) |   | 4161 LM  |
| Paths National Cycle Route 12 within boundary of the park   |   | 2366 LM  |
| Picnic tables all metal   | Wybone, and Streetmaster                            | 14       |
| Picnic tables all metal with extension for disable access   | Wybone,   | 6        |
| Play areas  |   | 1        |
| Play equipment items  | SMP, Wicksteed, Inclusive play                      | 23       |
| Play area surfacing   | PHS Group Ltd, Wicksteed Leisure and Hags SMP       |          |
| Play sculptures   | Broxap/ Hand made places                            | 15       |
| Recycling bin for cans  |   | 1        |
| Roads   |   | 600 LM   |
| Salt bin  | Glasdon   | 1        |
| Sailing club building and boat store  |   | 1        |
| Sanitary bins   | Cannon Hygiene                                      | 3        |
| Seats with backs  | Tilford - Norbury Park<br>Kensington - Streetmaster | 41       |
| Seat benches (no backs)   |   | 22       |
| Steps (on footpaths)  |   | 1 set    |
| Stiles owned by others  | N/A   | 2        |

|   | <b>Supplier/ maker</b> | <b>Quantity</b> |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| Sewage plant                                    | Condor                 | 1               |
| Signs metal owned by TMBC                       | Weddle and Co and RBLI | 45              |
| Signs - owned by others e.g. Environment Agency | N/A                    | 4               |
| Signs - interpretation                          | Weddle and Co          | 2               |
| Signs directional                               | Signs Workshop         | 13              |
| Signs - entrance                                | Weddle and Co          | 1               |
| Signs - cycle route finger signs                | Sustrains and others   | 6               |
| Signs - cycle route directional                 | Sustrains and others   | 7               |
| Sleeping policemen (speed ramps)                |                        | 2               |
| Trade waste bins (Council use only)             |                        | 2               |
| Toilets and office building and compound        |                        | 1               |
| Toilets male                                    |                        | 1               |
| Toilets urinals                                 |                        | 2               |
| Toilets female cubicles                         |                        | 2               |
| Toilets disabled                                |                        | 1               |

## Chemicals used in the park

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

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

## Habitat characteristics and species composition

### Habitat survey notes

#### A) Barden Lake

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

#### B) Barden Lake surrounds

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

#### C) Barden Shaw

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

#### D) Audley Wood

This is a mixed broadleaved woodland which contains Hornbeam, Ash and small amounts of Bluebell.

#### E) Stone Lock

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

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

**F) River Medway Meadow**

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

**G) Friendship Meadow**

This uncut meadow has remained as grassland by periodic intervention removing young scrub mainly Hawthorn before they become trees. It is the only area of the park managed at this stage of succession so important for the mosaic of habitats in the park. The ant hills present indicate that this has remain as open grassland for a number of years. We also have Slow worms present that prey on Ants. Typical rough grassland Catstail, (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Yarrow, (*Achillea millefolium*).

**H) Heusenstamm Wood**

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

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

**I) The Shallows**

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

**J) Straight Mile Wood**

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

**K) Kissing Gate Meadow**

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

**L) Haysden Water Lake**

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

**M) Haysden Water environs**

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

**N) Nature reserve sanctuary area**

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

**O) Botany Pond**

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

plants grow vigorously.

### **P) Mud Lane**

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

### **Q) Water Meadow**

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

## **Country park full species lists**

### General notes

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

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

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

In the Local/ Regional columns, the asterisk this indicates those species which are important in Kent, they are species that can act as an indicator for the broader health of the natural environment and biodiversity; species which Kent is a stronghold; species that would benefit from particular attention in Kent; species that would benefit from landscape scale conservation and species which data/monitoring is obtainable so targets can be measureable. These species comes from Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2019 to 2024 which is currently at consultation stage <https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Kentbiodiversityconsultation/consultationHome>

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

BIRDS

Importance

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

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

BIRDS Reptiles

Importance

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

| Common name           | Species name in Latin           | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Barnacle goose        | <i>Branta leucopsis</i>         | **                         |          |                 |
| Bittern               | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>       | **                         | **       |                 |
| Brambling             | <i>Frangilla montifringilla</i> | *                          |          |                 |
| Brent goose           | <i>Branta bernicia</i>          | *                          | **       |                 |
| Black tern            | <i>Chlidonias niger</i>         | **                         |          |                 |
| Bullfinch             | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>        | *                          |          |                 |
| Carrion crow          | <i>Corvus corone</i>            | *                          |          |                 |
| Chaffinch             | <i>Frangilla coelebs</i>        | *                          |          |                 |
| Coal tit              | <i>Parus ater</i>               |                            |          |                 |
| Collared dove         | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>    |                            |          |                 |
| Common gull           | <i>Larus canus</i>              | *                          |          |                 |
| Common sandpiper      | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>       | *                          |          |                 |
| Common shelduck       | <i>Talorna tadorna</i>          |                            |          |                 |
| Common tern           | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>           | **                         |          |                 |
| Cormorant             | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>      | *                          |          |                 |
| Coot                  | <i>Fulica atra</i>              | *                          |          |                 |
| Cuckoo                | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>          | *                          | **       |                 |
| Curlew                | <i>Numenius arquata</i>         | *                          | **       |                 |
| Dunlin                | <i>Calidris alpina</i>          | **                         |          |                 |
| Dunlin                | <i>Prunella modularis</i>       | **                         |          |                 |
| Egyptian goose        | <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>    |                            |          |                 |
| Eurasian reed warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>  |                            |          |                 |
| Eurasian treecreeper  | <i>Certhia familiaris</i>       |                            |          |                 |
| Eurasian wigeon       | <i>Anas penelope</i>            |                            |          |                 |
| Feral pigeon          | <i>Columba livia</i>            |                            |          |                 |

**BIRDS**

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

**BIRDS**

**Importance**

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

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

BIRDS

Importance

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

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

BIRDS

Importance

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

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

**BIRDS**

**Importance**

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

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

BIRDS

| Common name    | Species name in Latin   | Importance                 |          |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|                |                         | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
| Wren           | Troglodytes troglodytes |                            |          |                 |
| Yellow wagtail | Motacilla flava         | **                         |          |                 |
| Yellowhammer   | Emberiza citrinella     | **                         | **       |                 |

PLANTS

| Common name         | Species name in Latin     | Importance                 |          |                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|                     |                           | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
| Agrimony            | Agrimonia eupatoria       |                            |          |                 |
| Alder               | Alnus glutinosa           | *                          |          |                 |
| American willowherb | Epilobium ciliatum        |                            |          |                 |
| Annual meadow grass | Poa annua                 |                            |          |                 |
| Annual mercury      | Mercurialis annua         |                            |          |                 |
| Apple               | Malus domestica           |                            |          |                 |
| Ash                 | Fraxinus excelsior        |                            |          |                 |
| Autumn hawkbit      | Leontodon autumnalis      |                            |          |                 |
| Beaked hawk's beard | Crepis vesicaria          |                            |          |                 |
| Bearded couch       | Elymus caninus            |                            |          |                 |
| Betony              | Stachys officinalis       |                            |          |                 |
| Bittersweet         | Solannum dulcamara        |                            |          |                 |
| Black horehound     | Ballota nigra             |                            |          |                 |
| Black knapweed      | Centaurea nigra           |                            |          |                 |
| Black medick        | Medicago lupulina         |                            |          |                 |
| Black mustard       | Brassica nigra            |                            |          |                 |
| Blackthorn          | Prunus spinosa            |                            |          |                 |
| Blue Green Alga     | Microcystis aeruginose    |                            |          |                 |
| Bluebell            | Hyacinthoides non-scripta |                            |          |                 |

PLANTS

Importance

| Common name | Species name in Latin | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|

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

PLANTS

Importance

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

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

## PLANTS

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

PLANTS

Importance

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

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

PLANTS

Importance

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

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

PLANTS

Importance

| Common name | Species name in Latin | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|

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

PLANTS

Importance

| Common name | Species name in Latin | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|

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

PLANTS

Importance

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

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

PLANTS

Importance

| Common name | Species name in Latin | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|

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

PLANTS

Importance

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

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

PLANTS

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

PLANTS

Importance

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

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

## PLANTS

Importance

Common name

Species name in Latin

International/  
European

National

Regional/ Local

| Common name        | Species name in Latin      | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Winter cress       | Barbarea vulgaris          |                            |          |                 |
| Wood anemone       | Anemone nemorosa           |                            |          |                 |
| Wood avens         | Geum urbanum               |                            |          |                 |
| Wood club rush     | Scirpus sylvaticus         |                            |          |                 |
| Wood dock          | Rumex sanguineus           |                            |          |                 |
| Wood false brome   | Brachypodium<br>sylvaticum |                            |          |                 |
| Wood forget-me-not | Mysotis sylvatica          |                            |          |                 |
| Wood speedwell     | Veronica montana           |                            |          |                 |
| Woody nightshade   | solanum dulcamara          |                            |          |                 |
| Yarrow             | Achillea millefolium       |                            |          |                 |
| Yellow archangel   | Lamium<br>galeobdolon      |                            |          |                 |
| Yellow iris        | Iris pseudacorus           |                            |          |                 |
| Yellow loosestrife | Lysimachia vulgaris        |                            |          |                 |
| Yellow water lily  | Nuphar lutea               |                            |          |                 |
| Yorkshire fog      | Holcus lanatus             |                            |          |                 |

INSECTS

Importance

| Common name | Species name in Latin | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|

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

INSECTS

Importance

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

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

INSECTS

Importance

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

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

## INSECTS

Importance

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

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

## INSECTS

Importance

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

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

INSECTS

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

## INSECTS

Importance

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

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

INSECTS

Importance

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

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

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

## FISH

### Importance

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

|         |                   |   |  |  |
|---------|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Bream   | Alburnus alburnus | * |  |  |
| Carp    | Cyprinus carpio   |   |  |  |
| Gudgeon | Gobio gobio       |   |  |  |
| Perch   | Perca fluviatilis |   |  |  |
| Pike    | Esox lucius       | * |  |  |
| Roach   | Rutilus rutilus   | * |  |  |
| Rudd    | Scardinius        | * |  |  |
| Tench   | Trinca tinca      | * |  |  |

## MAMMALS

### Importance

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

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

MAMMALS

| Common name | Species name in Latin | <u>Importance</u>          |          |                 |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|             |                       | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |

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

Reptiles

| Common name | Species name in Latin | <u>Importance</u>          |          |                 |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
|             |                       | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |

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

REPTILES

Importance

Common name

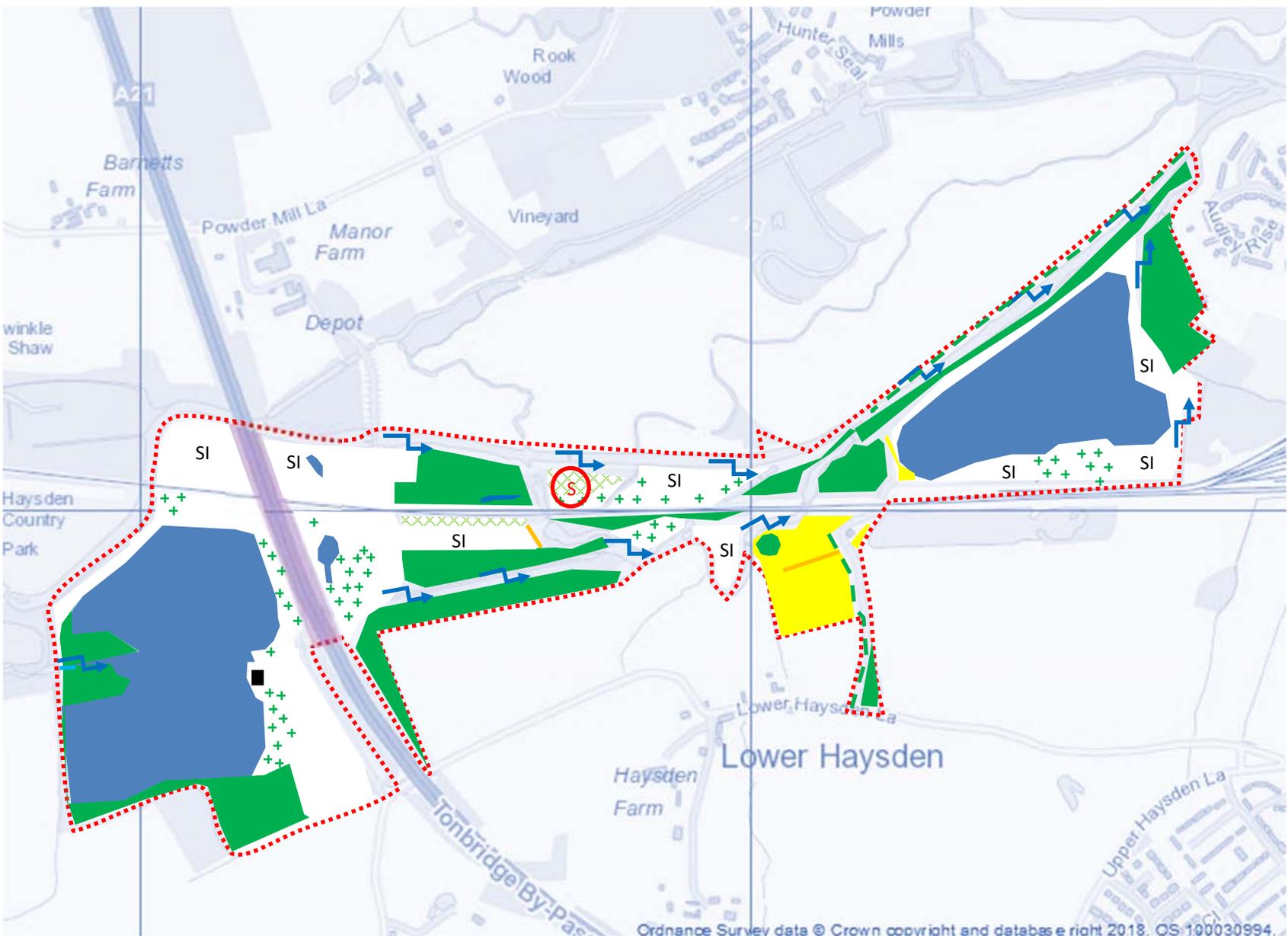
Species name in Latin

International/  
European

National

Regional/ Local

| Common name        | Species name in Latin | International/<br>European | National | Regional/ Local |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Common smooth newt | Triturus vulgaris     |                            |          |                 |
| Common lizard      | Lacerta vivipara      |                            |          |                 |
| Frog               | Rana temporaria       | ***                        |          |                 |
| Grass Snake        | Natrix natrix         |                            |          |                 |
| Slow worm          | Anguis fragilis       |                            |          |                 |
| Toad               | Bufo bufo             | **                         | *        | *               |



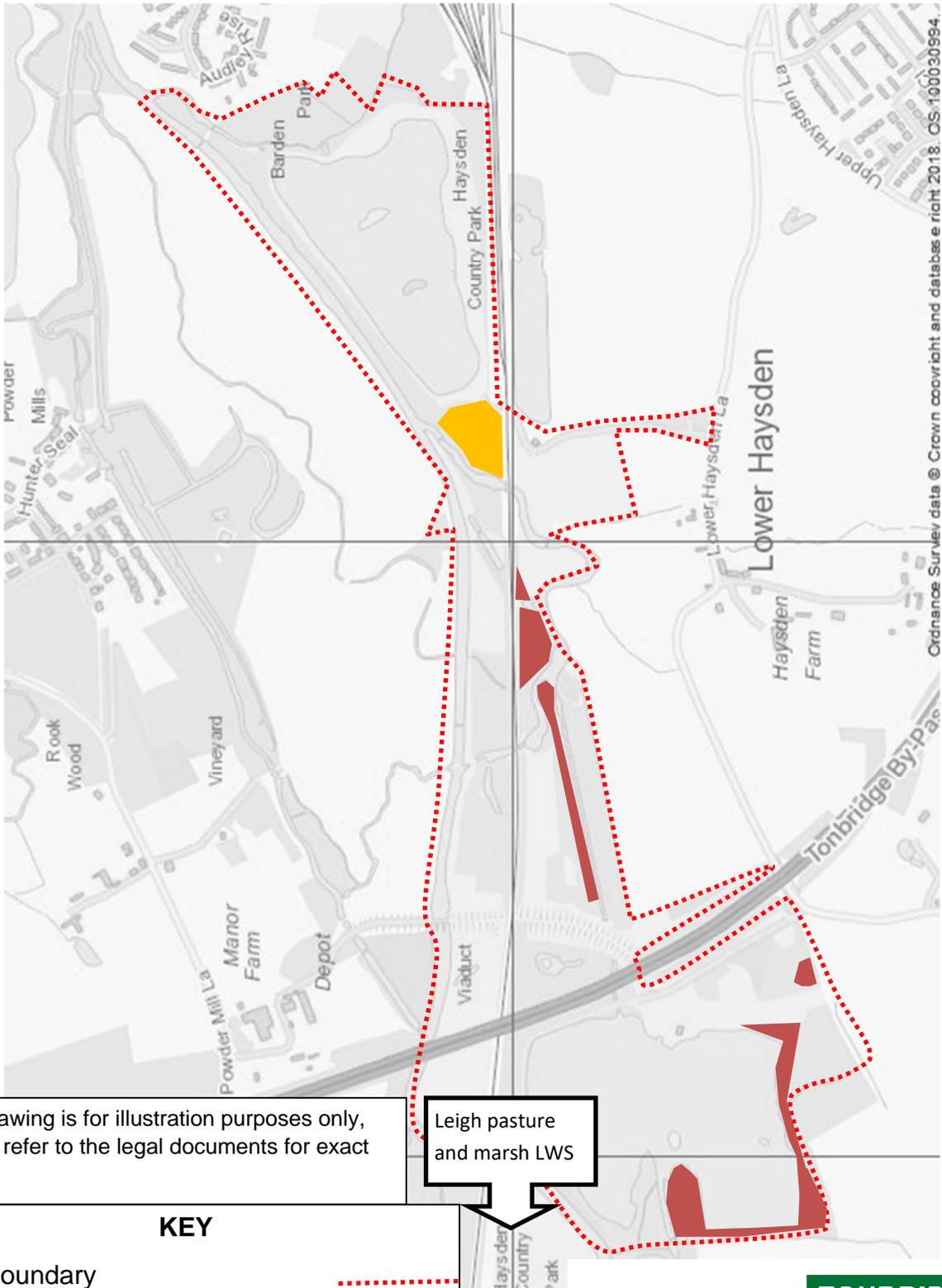
This page has been intentionally left blank

## Key to the phase 1 habitat survey of Haysden Country Park

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

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

Land tenure map



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

Leigh pasture and marsh LWS

**KEY**

Site Boundary

Sanctuary areas - no public access

Conservation area restricted access

LWS - Local Wildlife Site (not owned by the Council)



**Drawn By** CF

Date 18/10/18

**Scale** Not to Scale



## Park budget

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

## Main projects and investments (in last five years)

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

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

## Annual Action Plan

This page has been intentionally left blank

## Interpretation and marketing Plan

# Interpretation and Marketing Plan

## Contents

### Page no

#### 1.0 Introduction

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

iv



#### 2.0 Principles of interpretation

This section explains and illustrates the established principles of interpretation.

viii



#### 3.0 Methods of interpretation

This section explains the methods of interpretation available to us.

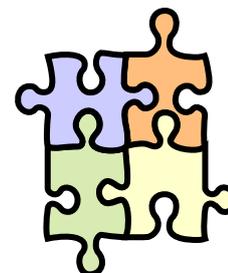
ix



#### 4.0 Where are we now?

This section describes the current situation, at the time the plan was written.

xvii



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



## 1.0 Introduction

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



### Background

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

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

### Marketing

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

### Market placement

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

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



[www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)



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

### Public relations

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

### Market surveys

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



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

park. Project 55 of this management plan also would also investigate the feasibility of installing visitor counters which would determine patterns of visitor use.

### Visitor profile

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

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

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

### Disabled visitors

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



### Potential future visitor profile

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

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



### Marketing segmentation

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

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

## 2.0 Principles of interpretation

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



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

### 3.0 Methods of interpretation

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



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

**Personal Interpretation** - This is when visitors 'see' or 'meet' someone face-to-face like a ranger giving a talk. Examples of personal interpretation include guided walks, story telling, costumed actor interpreters, events and activities and 'street' theatre.

**Advantages**

- the most effective form of interpretation very effective for orientating visitors
- brings history to life
- can be tailored to a specific audience or age group
- on the spot answers to questions
- forms a memorable experience

**Disadvantages**

- needs skilled interpreters
- expensive to run - staff time
- weather dependant
- needs good advertising
- needs forward planning



**Printed Interpretation** - This aspect includes leaflets, publications, trail guides, indoor and outdoor panels and exhibitions. Published material must be written in Plain English (aim at the age group 9-12 years for easy reading) and have a contrasting background colour to aid those visually impaired. For more guidance see the Council Communication Policy, information from the Sensory Trust, Fieldfare Trust and the BT Access for All Guide. The Council's Access Officer should be consulted at the design feasibility stage of new printed material.

**Advantages**

- relatively cheap to produce
- no specialist equipment needed
- mobile makes it easier for visitors to find their way around the site
- ease of distribution
- can be readily available to visitors both on and off site

**Disadvantages**

- needs good design to be eye catching
- leaflets can become litter
- visitors only retain 30% of what they read
- some people may have reading difficulties



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

**Advantages**

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



Leybourne Lakes Country Park

**Disadvantages**

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

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



National Wildflower Centre



Kew Gardens

**Advantages**

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

**Disadvantages**

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

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



#### Advantages

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



#### Disadvantages

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



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



Quick Response code example

**Advantages**

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



**Disadvantages**

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



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



### Advantages

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

### Disadvantages

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



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



**Advantages**

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

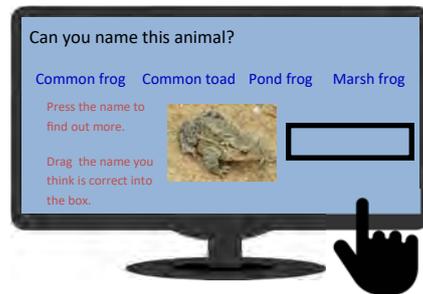


Audio post example

**Disadvantages**

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

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



### Advantages

- Should appeal to a younger audience
- May drive visitor numbers upwards
- Can create a memorable story
- Allows visitors to interact with the story
- Allows visitors to discover and explore the story
- Brings interpretation into the 21st century
- Equipment can be reused for another presentation

### Disadvantages

- Can be damaged
- You only get one shot at setting this up
- Expensive to produce
- The story can go out of date

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

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

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



Reculver Country Park, Kent

**Advantages**

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

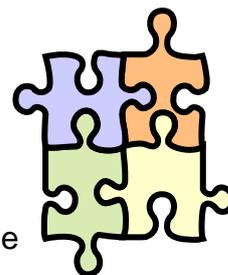
**Disadvantages**

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



## 4.0 Where are we now?

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



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

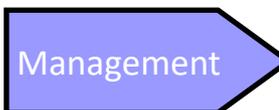
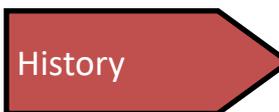
### Themes



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

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

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



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



**Educational Activities** –

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



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



|               |  |   |  |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| <b>THEME:</b> | Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|--|---|--|

**Printed Interpretation**

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



|               |  |   |  |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| <b>THEME:</b> | Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|--|---|--|

**Interpretation panels** – There are three map-based interpretation panel signs, one at the entrance by the building, one at Barden Lake and another at Friendship Wood. The one on the main sign near the car park anecdotal evidence which suggests it is well used. Usage of the panels at Barden Lake is more difficult to evaluate. Panels illustrating other themes such as nature conservation and history could be purchased.



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



|               |  |   |  |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| <b>THEME:</b> | Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|--|---|--|

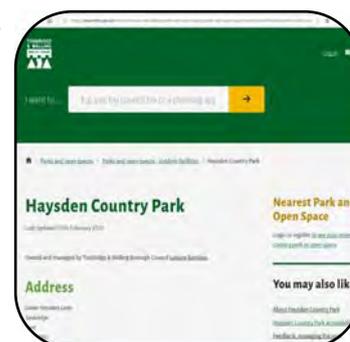
**Creative on-site Interpretation** - We have experimented with less conventional interpretation in the park. Two large sculptures have been commissioned and installed in the park. One is a carved obelisk located at the start of the river walk. The other commemorates the towns Twinning with Heusenstamm, and is located in the wood of the same name.

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



|               |  |   |  |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| <b>THEME:</b> | Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|--|---|--|

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



|               |  |   |  |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| <b>THEME:</b> | Nature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|--|---|--|

**Funding** - No additional revenue or capital funding has been identified from the Council to fund projects arising from this Plan. Funding from outside sources may be available, and it will be the role of the Site Manager to identify any potential sources and apply for fund where available.

## 5.0 Where do we want to get to?

### Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats

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



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

## The Role of the Interpretation and Marketing Plan

### Overall Aim

To improve all forms of interpretation within Haysden Country Park.



### This Plan has several objectives:

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

## 6.0 How will we get there?

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



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

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

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

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

## 7.0 How will we know when we have arrived?

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

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

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

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

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



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

Association of Heritage interpretation website [www.ahi.org.uk/](http://www.ahi.org.uk/)

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (2010) *Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2015-2019* available from the website [www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP)

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

**Human History**

BBC (2010) *The German threat to Britain in World War 2* available at website [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/invasion\\_ww2\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/invasion_ww2_01.shtml)

Bannister N *Historical Landscape survey of the Penshurst Estate*

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

*Defence area 16 Penshurst* available at website [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-455-1/dissemination/pdf/Text\\_Reports/DA16\\_TEXT\\_-\\_PENSURST.pdf](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-455-1/dissemination/pdf/Text_Reports/DA16_TEXT_-_PENSURST.pdf)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maidstone Journal reports 1830-1840 (Penshurst Canal Company)

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

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

Ordnance Survey map dated 1866/69

Vine PAL (1989) *Kent and Sussex Waterways*

**Natural History**

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation website [www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)

Bat Conservation Trust website [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

Botanical Society of the British Isles website [www.bsbi.org.uk/kent.html](http://www.bsbi.org.uk/kent.html)

British Dragonfly Society website [www.dragonflysoc.org.uk](http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk)

British Trust for Ornithology website [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

Buglife website [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)

Butterfly Conservation - Kent butterflies website [www.kentbutterflies.org](http://www.kentbutterflies.org)

Butterfly Conservation – Kent Moths website [www.kentmoths.org](http://www.kentmoths.org)

Field Studies Council publications website [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)

Kent Amphibian and Reptile Group website [www.kentarg.org](http://www.kentarg.org)

Kent Bat Group website [www.kentbatgroup.org.uk](http://www.kentbatgroup.org.uk)

Kent Field Club website [www.kentfieldclub.org.uk](http://www.kentfieldclub.org.uk)

Kent Mammal Group website [www.kentmammalgroup.org.uk](http://www.kentmammalgroup.org.uk)

Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre website [www.kmbrc.org.uk](http://www.kmbrc.org.uk)

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

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation website [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Kent Ornithological Society website [www.kentos.org.uk](http://www.kentos.org.uk)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds website [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership website [www.medwayvalley.org](http://www.medwayvalley.org)

Natural England website [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Opal citizen's surveys run by The Natural History Museum website [www.opalexplornature.org](http://www.opalexplornature.org)

Orpington Field Club website [www.orpingtonfieldclub.org.uk](http://www.orpingtonfieldclub.org.uk)

Pan Species Listing website [www.brc.ac.uk/psl](http://www.brc.ac.uk/psl)

People Trust for Endangered Species, surveys and information website [www.ptes.org](http://www.ptes.org)

Plantlife International website [plantlife.org.uk/international](http://plantlife.org.uk/international)

Pondlife information on pond related matters website [www.pond-life.me.uk](http://www.pond-life.me.uk)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds website [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

Species records from various sources (1980-to date) *Country Park Species Lists* of plants and animals see Appendix 10

of this management plan website [www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP)

### ***Management***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council *Water safety* information available at website <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/home/index.cfm>

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

## Themes

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

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

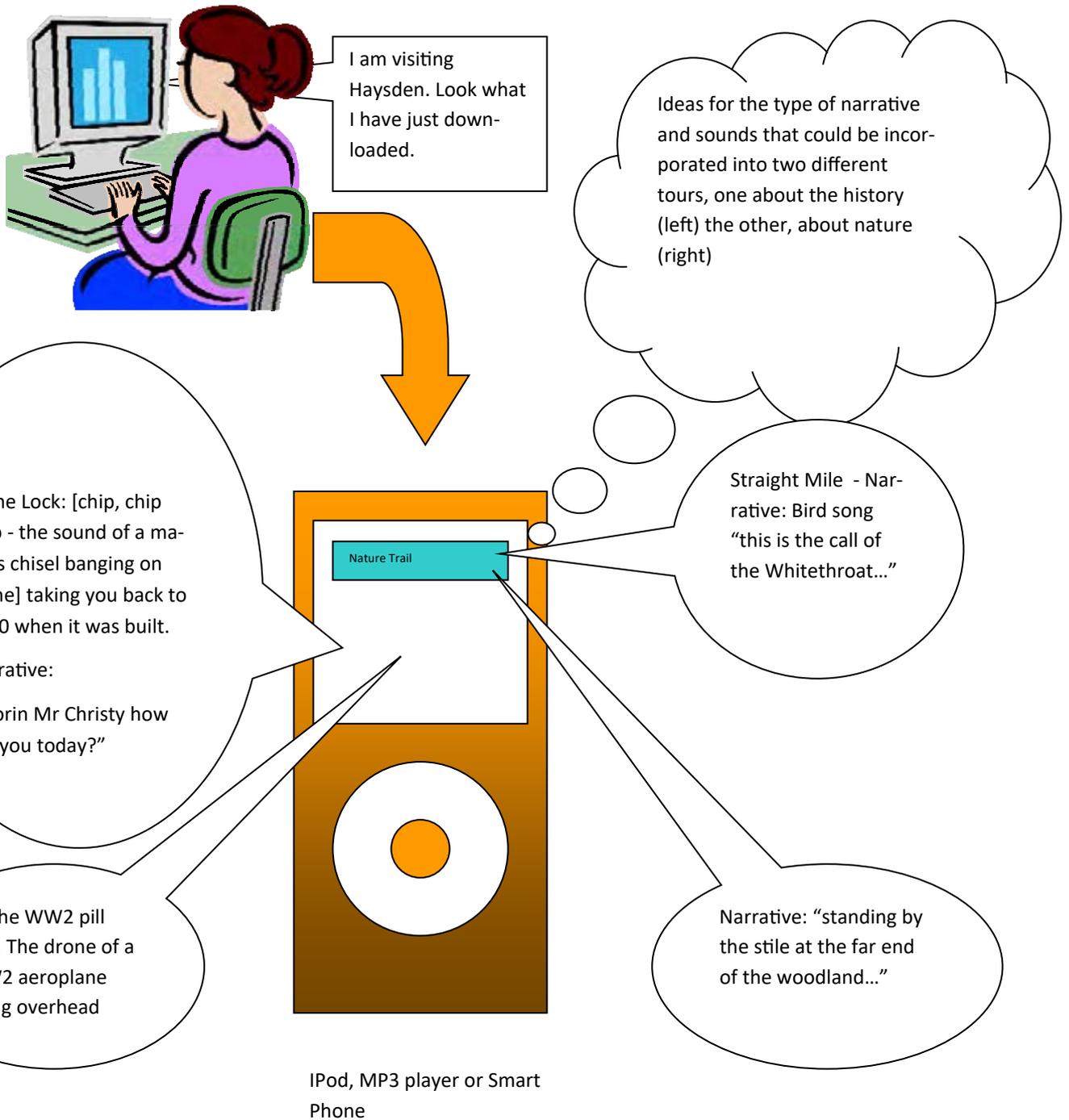
Objectives must ideally be SMART: Specific: be clear about what is intended. Measurable: so you can monitor and report on performance. They must be Appropriate: to the site and audience, and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council goals, Realistic: Achievable, Timely: when it should happen.

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

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

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

# Project Concept Design: Audio Tour



**Questions to consider when evaluating interpretation exhibits for the visitor audience**

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

Department of Conservation New Zealand

## Style guide for park furniture

The reasons for having a style guide are

### Branding

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

### Signage

#### Entrance signs

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



#### Directional signage

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



#### Interpretation signs

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



**Health and safety and regulatory signage**

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



**Seats**

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



**Picnic seats**

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



**Litter bins**

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



**Dog bins**

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



**Bollards**

Pyramid topped square wooden bollards are our preferred style. Older styles will be phased out as they come to the end of their lifespan.

**Security gates and barriers**

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

**Fencing**

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

**Bridges**

Wooden bridges are our preferred style within the park.

## Bibliography

- Attract Marketing Ltd (2010) *Interpretation Plan: Defence of the Realm* (Pembrookshire) available from the website <http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/upload/resourcepool/Defence%20of%20the%20Realm%20Interpretation%20Plan7807.pdf>
- Beacon Beacons National Park (2010) *Local Walks Interpretation Toolkit*.
- Bomar Mary, Freeman Tilden and R. Bruce Craig (2008) *Interpreting our Heritage, the University of North Carolina Press USA*
- British Telecom and Fieldfare Trust (1997) *BT Countryside Access for all: Standards and guidelines*
- Cater J & Scottish Natural Heritage (2004) *Communication, not conflict: using communication to encourage considerate shared recreational use of the outdoors* available from the website <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=102> SNH Press
- Carter, James (ed.) (1997) *A Sense of Place: An Interpretive Planning Handbook*. Inverness: Tourism and Environment Initiative available from the website <http://www.snh.org.uk/ww/interpretation/pdf/planning.pdf> SNH Press
- Cornell Joseph, *Sharing nature with children* (1998) Dawn Publications USA
- Countryside Agency (2005) *By all reasonable means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people*
- Countryside Recreation Network (2009) *Dogs in parks and the countryside*
- Department of Conservation (New Zealand) (2005) *Interpretation Handbook and Standard* available from the website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/role/policies-and-plans/interpretation-handbook-complete.pdf>
- Department for Education and Skills (2006) *Learning Outside the Classroom. Manifesto*. London: DfES, available from the website [www.lotc.org.uk/getmedia/fe5e8f73-a53c-4310-84af-c5e8c3b32435/Manifesto.aspx](http://www.lotc.org.uk/getmedia/fe5e8f73-a53c-4310-84af-c5e8c3b32435/Manifesto.aspx)
- Dogs Trust & Keep Britain Tidy (2017) Report *The Big Scoop*
- English Heritage (2009) *Thinking about interpretation* available from website <https://www.hlf.org.uk/interpretation-guidance>
- English Nature (2005) *Dogs, access and nature conservation English Nature Research Reports report 649*
- Ham SH (1992) *Environmental interpretation: A practical guide for people with big ideas and small budgets*, North American Press
- Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag Award details available online at <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>
- Keep Britain Tidy (2016) *Raising the standard: The Green Flag Award guidance manual*

Keep Britain Tidy (2014) Report called *Keeping an eye on it: A social experiment to combat dog fouling*

Keep Britain Tidy (2016) Policy position on litter monitoring available online at [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org)

NESTA (2016) Learning to rethink parks

Nottingham County Council (2009) *Bestwood Winding Engine House interpretation plan*

Tilden Freeman (Arthurs Craig Brice and Dickson Russel E) (2009), *Interpreting Our Heritage*, The University of North Carolina Press USA; 4th edition

Scottish Natural Heritage (1997) *Provoke, Relate, Reveal* available from the website <http://www.snh.org.uk/wwc/Interpretation/pdf/PRR.PDF> SNH Press

Scottish Natural Heritage (2015) *Taking the lead: Managing access with dogs to reduce impacts on land management*

The Sensory Trust 2001 *Making connections: A guide to accessible greenspace*

University of Portsmouth (2006) *Understanding the Psychology of Walkers with Dogs: new approaches to better management*

Veverka, J. A. (1994) *Interpretation Master Planning*, Falcon Press

Visitor safety in the countryside group (2011) *Managing visitor safety in the countryside: principles and practice*