

**Haysden Country Park Management Plan
Summary of Consultation Comments**

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Action
1. Natural England	We welcome the document and its commitment (in section 6) to the “protection and enhancement of the key habitats and the species (including species monitoring) associated with these habitats”, for the links to the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), and for the opportunities presented by the Park to provide for people to come into contact with nature.	<i>Noted - no change.</i>
2. User Panel member	A very good management plan.	<i>Noted – no change.</i>
3. User Panel member	Suggests that some of the photographs need updating as they were used in the previous plan.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment</i> – photographs will be replaced where appropriate.
4. Volunteer bird recorder and User Panel member	Felt we already had a wide range of habitats in the park, but recognised the need to balance the needs of several user groups and therefore should not expect a ‘bird nature reserve’ standard.	<i>Noted – no change.</i>
5. User Panel member	Page 6 - list of appendices should have page number quoted.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>

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6. Volunteer and User Panel member	Page 11 - felt that 'access by bus' paragraph stating that it is 'a short walk from the bus stops' was misleading as this is relative to whether you are used to walking, or whether you are pushing a child in buggy.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment</i> – amend the wording to include the approximate distance from the bus stops to the park.
7. User Panel member	Page 12 - opening time is 7.30am, and closing time states no later than 9pm, suggest add the words 'on a seasonal basis'	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
8. User Panel member	Page 12 - 'The road Audley Rise' suggest the wording to read 'The road Audley Avenue has a footpath leading to the Barden Lake end of the park'.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
9. Volunteer and User Panel member	Page 12 - felt that access to the park by bicycle, the safest route, should be promoted more, using Cycle Route 12.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment</i> – rearrange paragraphs to put cycling first.
10. Tonbridge Town Sailing Club (TTSC)	Page 13 Table 2 - TTSC Season can be more accurately described as "March to October"	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
11. User Panel member	Page 18 - instead of the wording 'three bridges are owned by the borough council' better to name the bridges.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
12. User Panel member	Page 21 - the solar powered car parking machines are not mentioned	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
13. Volunteer and User Panel member	Page 23 -You should mention cycling and running in paragraph 3.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment</i> – add running, although cycling is not allowed in the park apart from along cycle route 12 and not applicable to this section.

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14. User Panel member	Page 24 – reviewer stated that there was no mention of the country park as Kent Wildlife Trust local wildlife site LWS26	No change – This is stated on page 24 paragraph 2
15. Medway Valley Countryside Partnership	Page 25 Table 4 and Project 55 - found the plan easy to read. Noted that less than 1% of the park is hedgerow (in Table 4). Offered to assist with the Thursday Action Group volunteers with Project 55 Plant more hedgerows.	Noted – no change.
16. User Panel member	Page 25 Table 4 - There is no mention of the grassland meadows in Table 4.	No change - Table 4 is set out using the habitat types within the original UK Biodiversity Action Plan, grassland is included within the class neutral and marshy grassland.
17. User Panel member	Page 25 Table 5 - Suggested changes to the bird species of importance within Table 5 removal of Goosander Duck as not a breeding species, addition [of Kent BAP/ UK BAP species] Linnets, Water Rail, Snipe and Song Thrush. Also felt that the Park was an important staging post for some migratory species like Swift, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, and nesting for Swallow, Willow Warbler, Reed Warbler, Cuckoo, and Nightingale.	Proposed Plan Amendment – Swift to be added, Goosander to be removed from Table 5. No change - Linnets are not listed in the UK BAP nor listed in the latest list relating to the Kent BAP. No change – currently there is no substantial evidence that the Park is an important staging post for birds.
18. Volunteer bird recorder and User Panel member	Table 5 - Goosander duck and Yellow Hammer birds should be removed from the table as they do not breed at the park.	Proposed Plan Amendment – remove Yellow Hammer and Goosander Duck from Table 5 as they are not frequent visitors to the park.

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19. Volunteer bird recorder and User Panel Member	Table 5 - Does not feel that the park was an important staging post. Table 5 suggest we add the following to Chiffchaff (breeding), Little Egret (roost), Marsh Tit (breeding), Nuthatch, Garden and Willow Warbler (breeding), White Throat and Lesser White Throat (breeding), Long Tailed Tit (breeding), Water Rail, Gadwall Duck, Pochard Duck, Shoveler Duck, Starling, Tree Creeper (breeding), Swallow, Swift, Teal Duck, and Nightingale (breeding).	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
20. Volunteer bird recorder and two User Panel members	Table 5 – not sure what Kent BAP and UK BAP is, can we explain this in the plan.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment</i> – add a description of these abbreviations BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) and UK BAP (United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan) into text below Table 5.
21. User Panel member	Table 5 and Project 27 - ‘The list of other key species are also weak in terms of groups particular the invertebrates, with little mention of key butterfly, cricket and grasshopper and bee species. This may reflect the lack of recognition of grassland/ meadow as a key habitat. I support the planned programme to increase awareness of these groups through surveys etc.’	<i>Noted – no change</i>
22. Kent Bat Group	Table 5 and Appendix 10 - sent a list of bats found in the park as some were not listed in the plan and also those found in each compartment. Brown long-eared bat is the only species that has been found in the bat cave.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment</i> – Appendix 10 Species Lists to be updated, Table 5 and compartment details also to be updated.

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23. Tonbridge Town Sailing Club	Page 28-29 - Please include TTSC as “RYA Affiliated”. TTSC Membership is also “approximately 90” (not 140 as stated).	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
24. Volunteer and User Panel member	Page 30 - around 20 volunteers (not 30) attend the Haysden Country Park Volunteers on each task day. Also some factual information was incorrect.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
25. Volunteer and User Panel member	Page 36 - the car parking income revenue was agreed to be fed back into the park the plan should confirm this commitment made to the User Panel.	<i>No change – already shown in Appendix 11 to Plan.</i>
26. User Panel member	Page 38 Rules - could we add dogs kept under control or on a lead and possible dogs kept on a lead around Barden Lake?	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – add reference to Dog Control Orders.</i>
27. Tonbridge Town Sailing Club	Page 42 - Details of Triathlon Club Licence should read “4 years to 2016”.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.</i>
28. User Panel member	Page 45 Table 9 - in the strengths, weakness, opportunities threats - scrub growth on ‘grassland’ is listed as weakness, this was felt to be misleading, as it is really the transition from grassland, to scrub that is weakness.	<i>Proposed Plan Amendment – reword weakness to read ‘Grassland becoming overgrown with scrub and trees’.</i>

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29. Tonbridge Town Sailing Club	Page 45 Table 9 - SWOT Analysis TTSC would suggest adding “possible invasive weed at Haysden Lake” as a Threat – we did have an issue in 2013, which we did notify to TMBC, and we had to put a large manual resource into clearing the parts of the lake affected to enable sailing to continue. We have seen little evidence of its appearance this year, luckily. If it did recur in future years it has the potential of making the lake unusable for sailing, or probably any other activity.	Proposed Plan Amendment – add to Table 9 SWOT threats addition of generic item to threats ‘Land and water based invasive species’.
30. User Panel member	Project 14 - many of the seats around the park are in a poor state of repair some have been removed and not replaced.	Noted - No Change - Conditions of seating are monitored and Project 14 highlights the need to keep them in good condition. Additional seats to be considered.
31. Volunteer and User Panel member	Project 15 – does not understand the last sentence ‘Note consider the Equality when replacing play equipment’.	Proposed Plan Amendment – amend wording to read ‘Note: consideration must be given to equality of access when choosing replacement play equipment and re-designing the play area.’
32. User Panel member	Project 16 - additional play area would be welcome.	Noted - No Change
33. User Panel member	Project 25 - Tile Barn Field should be considered as soon as financially possible.	Noted - No Change
34. User Panel member	Project 27 - supports to increase awareness of invertebrate species.	Noted - No Change
35. User Panel member	Project 29 - not aware of single instance of Japanese Knotweed in the park why is it mentioned?	No Change – Japanese Knotweed has been present in the park in small isolated areas.

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36. User Panel member	Project 35 - the Stone Lock improvement and pond creation would be high on my agenda.	Noted - No Change
37. User Panel member	Project 31 - mink control should be high on the agenda for action 2017/18 to avoid Kingfisher and other wildlife risks.	Proposed Plan Amendment – bring forward the investigation to 2015 -17.
38. Volunteer	Project 35 (and Appendix 5 Project 18) - would like us to have the new interpretation sign for the Stone Lock sooner in 2015 instead of 2017.	Proposed Plan Amendment – Bring forward signage element for Stone Lock to 2015 within the Five year Programme.
39. User Panel member	Project 45 Plant more trees – questions the value of planting more trees given the number of trees already in the park. Recognised the value of coppicing, but given the key species in the park planting more trees may have a negative effect on those species.	Noted – a balanced approach to planting will be taken, alongside key species surveys to help us understand the species present before changes are made.
40. Bird recorder and User Panel member	Project 54 - supported enriching the meadows with wildflowers, good for birds as well as flowers and insects.	Noted – no change.
41. User Panel member	Project 57 - the Heart of the Community award suggests the wording ‘The Haysden Country Park Volunteers have won a ‘Heart of the Community Award’ from the Courier Newspaper Group’.	Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.

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42. Bird recorder and User Panel member	Table 10 - suggested including a new Project, a scrape and allowing scrub to increase in density on part of the land under the railway bridge, as this was a quiet area that could attract feeding and nesting birds.	Proposed Plan Amendment – add a new project to Table 10 for this small part of compartment 9. ‘Investigate creating a scrape (a shallow pond), removing annual vegetation to create bare ground, and allow shrub vegetation to increase in density in part of this area for bird nesting.’ ‘Work with the volunteers and other agencies.’ Year 2015-2017
43. User Panel member	Appendix 4 Access Audit - footpaths and bridges section, states that ‘the majority of the park is accessible’, felt this over optimistic as the majority of the park has unmade paths and narrow bridges and is therefore not accessible.	Proposed Plan Amendment – amend wording to read ‘Generally footpaths are all in good condition although the whole site is not accessible by wheelchair users, the key areas are accessible.’
44. User Panel member	Appendix 4 Access Audit - seats section, states there is ‘a good variety of seats’ should this not say ‘there are good number seats’?	Proposed Plan Amendment – amend as requested.
45. Volunteer	Appendix 5 Marketing and interpretation plan and Project 10 - suggested considering a smart phone app linked with interactive map content, instead of an audio trail.	Proposed Plan Amendment – update Project 10 to consider the feasibility of both options.
46. Heusenstamm Friendship Circle	Appendix 5 - suggest that an interpretation panel is needed for Heusenstamm Friendship Wood as at present there no name sign at the woodland entrance; there is very limited information explaining the history of the woodland.	Proposed Plan Amendment – add to Appendix 5 Marketing and interpretation plan.
47. Upper and Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board	A very good document	Noted – No Change