

Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2025-2029



Revision History		
Version	Date issued	Summary of changes
0		Consultation draft
1		Adopted copy

Foreword

Haysden Country Park is a flagship public open space and a valued asset for the town of Tonbridge and beyond. Opened to the public in 1988, the Park boasts a mature and diverse landscape, a wide variety of community involvement, high visitor numbers, and numerous established clubs.

The previous five-year Management Plan has been instrumental in guiding the site's development and securing external funding, the prestigious Green Flag Award, and Country Park Accreditation. Over the past five years, the park has seen over £328,000 in investments, including a new sewage system, upgraded play equipment, additional seating and tables, new fishing platforms, an educational area, and new plantings.

This fifth Management Plan comes at a time when the well-established valued park faces increased pressures and challenges from its varied and growing use. The Plan also considers environmental sustainability and will be implemented alongside the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council remains committed to preserving and enhancing this valued public asset, and I am confident this Plan will drive that forward successfully. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of the volunteers, clubs, and officials who make Haysden Country Park the wonderful resource it is for all to enjoy.

Councillor Des Keers
Cabinet Member for Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We have reviewed the previous Management Plan and developed this new comprehensive five-year Management Plan for Haysden Country Park. To inform this Plan, we have engaged with a variety of stakeholders, conducted a visitor survey, carried out an access audit, and finally presented a consultation draft to the public.

Haysden Country Park is one of the largest green spaces in the Borough, covering approximately 65 hectares (161 acres) to the west of Tonbridge town centre. The Park encompasses a range of natural habitats, including rivers, grassland, freshwater lakes, marshland, and woodland. The site has held Green Flag Award status since 2006, and is an Accredited Country Park, acknowledging the park as a high-quality green space.

The overarching aim of the five-year plan is to maintain Haysden Country Park as a premier public green space. Key objectives include establishing standards of good management, developing and improving the site, and recognising the hard work of staff and volunteers.

The Five-Year Action Plan (**Table 14, pages 55-78**) brings together a comprehensive site assessment, our vision, and specific projects. It covers both routine maintenance and targeted site improvements. The Master Plan map (**Appendix 2**) provides a visual summary of key elements.

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 plan. The headings in this plan are based on the CABI Space 'A guide to producing green space and park management plans' and 'Raising the standard: the Green Flag Award guidance manual'.

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 sportsground 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.

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Acknowledgements

All those consulted about this Plan.

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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 Website: www.tmbc.gov.uk

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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

Flora of Haysden Country Park Dr Alan Heyes

Market survey Haysden Country Park 2022

Water Safety Strategy Haysden Country Park

Part 1 – *Where are we now?*

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



Figure 1 Barden Lake

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 (River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976)), 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. On site catering is also very popular with visitors.

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

In 2006 Haysden was the first park in the Borough to achieve the Green Flag Award and has

retained the annual award ever since.

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

The role of the Management Plan

The park's first Management Plan was adopted twenty years ago in 2004, and so this Plan will be the fifth, five-year Management Plan for the park. This new Plan starts in 2025. The document 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 five-year management plan 2020-2024, has been very successful in delivering projects with over £328,000 of investments in the park. The management plan has been vital when applying for grant funding, achieving the Green Flag Award and Country Park Accreditation scheme, 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 11**.

Replacement sewage system for the toilets £130,000

Replacement Junior multi play unit and new safety surface under swings £28,000.

Musical instruments for play area £3000

Sponsored seats and picnic benches £27,000

Car park resurfacing and relining £5,300.

Planting schemes £2,300

Replacement of Sharps bridge by KCC £98,000

Replacement litter bins £3000

Replacement picnic benches £3000

Overall aim

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

Policy context

This plan has been developed to consider the local policy/guidance. This includes the Councils Vision and four Core Values, for example:

The Councils vision for the next five years 2023-2027 are:

Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective Council.

Sustaining a borough which cares for the environment.

Improve housing options for local people, whilst protecting our outdoor areas of importance.

Investing in our local economy to help support residents and businesses, fostering sustainable growth.

Table 1 lists other policy or guidance documents linked to this plan. The Council is currently developing some new policy areas such as the Tonbridge & Malling Local Plan and developing Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Green Infrastructure these initiatives will need to be taken into consideration in future revisions of this Plan.

Table 1: Policy and guidance documents

Green Infrastructure Strategy
Kent Biodiversity 2020 and beyond - A Strategy for the Natural Environment 2015 - 2025 - Kent Nature Partnership
Standards of the Green Flag Award scheme
Tonbridge & Malling Borough – Councils Communications Strategy 2022-2025
Tonbridge & Malling Borough - Councils Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030 Annual action plans
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councils - Digital Strategy 2023-2027
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Tree Safety Strategy
Tree Charter
Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-2025
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2023-2027
Tonbridge & Malling Open Spaces Equality Impact Assessment
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Local Development Framework/ Local Plan
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Open Space Strategy (under review)
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Savings and Transformation Strategy 2024-2025 2033-2034
Haysden Country Park Water Safety Strategy and Policy

Green Flag Award

This is the national and international award scheme now organised by the Green Flag Award consortium, setting the minimum standard for the quality for green spaces of

all types. To find out more see their website www.greenflagaward.co.uk. The Plan has been written using the Green Flag Award criteria which are used to judge the award.

Table 2 Green Flag Award judging criteria
A welcoming place
Healthy safe and secure
Well maintained and clean
Environmental management
Management of biodiversity, landscape, and heritage
Community engagement
Marketing & communication
Management (and a plan)



Figure 2 Green Flag Award logo

Country Park Accreditation Scheme



Figure 3 Country Park Accreditation logo

Set up in 2009 by the government body 'Natural England', the scheme aims to 'identify and recognise those sites that deliver the core facilities and services expected of Country Parks'. Haysden Country Park was entered in the first tranche and has achieved accreditation since that time. The judging criteria for this scheme are all evidence based and are similar to the Green Flag Award, one key element is having a Management Plan (there are others); and so this Plan has also been tailored to meet the needs of this Scheme; this will also give us some new criteria to drive us forward; more details can be found on the government website www.gov.uk/government/publications/accredited-country-parks-in-england

Local Nature Reserve

The park was designated as a Local Nature Reserve TM26/SE 26 in 2008 under the Councils' powers within S21 of the National Parks Access to Countryside Act 1949. The Natural England publication 'Local Nature Reserves in England: A guide to their selection and declaration' provides more details. As a Local Nature Reserve and as part of the agreement any new management plans need to be submitted to Natural England. Visitor standards for Local Nature Reserves are in some cases subdivided into themes with 'expected' and 'desirable' criteria, the main headings for the standard are listed in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Local Nature Reserve designation criteria

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

Local Wildlife Site (Site of Nature Conservation Interest)

The site called 'River Medway South of Leigh' covers part of the park. This was first notified in 1986. The site is Grade 1 according to the designation made by the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation as a Special Landscape Area, with scheduled species. Bird interest high, rare plant narrow leaved water dropwort, invertebrate interest high. This is a summary of the full citation.

Evaluation

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.

Some Green Flag Award criteria crossover and this should be considered when reading the document.

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)



Figure 4 Main entrance sign

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 by farmland with residential properties (Barden Park) located to the east.

Accessibility

The Councils 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 to visitors of the Borough. A site-specific access audit is conducted in the park every five years, the first of these was undertaken in 2003. As a result of these audits over the years we have made site improvements; and undertaking these audits has also improved our understanding of the needs of our visitors.

The most recent access audit was completed by an external consultant in 2024 (**Appendix 4**), and the following recommendations were made: Provide an easy access route map, provide more seats, undertake bridge improvements, carry out toilet improvements, Install a new path down the side of the driveway and mark out disabled car parking spaces. These recommendations will be implemented during the period of this Plan.

The park has disabled toilets, parking, lake viewing area, and fishing platforms. It is recognised that visitors will have a variety of access requirements and needs, and the Council continues to work towards ensuring that the park is accessible to as many visitors as possible.

Access by bus - Route 211 is an infrequent service that stops at Alders Meadow. This is

a short walk ($\frac{1}{8}$ mile) along a public footpath to the eastern entrance through Audley Rise car park; this bus service also stops in Brook Street about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the main entrance.

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

www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

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

Access by road - The main car park is situated just off Brook Street in Lower Haysden Lane, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Tonbridge town centre. Public car parking (for approximately 100 cars) is available from this main entrance. There is also limited parking for oversize vehicles outside the height barriers, at the main entrance and at Haysden Water car park. Height barriers are set at two metres in height. Roads are signposted from Railway



Figure 5 Highway sign

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**). The Council introduced car parking charges in July 2008 (with a Car Parking Order), with payment options of cash, pay by phone, or an annual season ticket. All income is offset against expenditure in the park (see **Appendix 11**). 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 from 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 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.tbmc.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.

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 several footpaths that lead out into the wider countryside and users are also encouraged to explore the footpaths on the public rights of way network.

One of the walks under the volunteer lead Walks for Wellbeing runs through the park. The park is connected to the town centre by an off-road cycle route and footpath along the River Medway to the adjoining Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground public open space.

Formal recreation

Table 4: Clubs and organisations

Clubs and organisations	Season of use
Nordic walking	Year round (weekly)
Parkrun	Year round (weekly)
Rootsies Ltd (caterer)	Year round (daily)
Saxons Orienteering Club (fixed routes)	Year round
Tonbridge and District Angling and Fish Preservation Society	Year round
Tonbridge Town Sailing Club	March to November
Tonbridge River Trips (passenger service)	Easter to September
Tri Swim	May to September (weekly)
Walks 4 Wellbeing	Year round
Underdogs fly ball training	Year round (weekly)

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



Figure 6 Cafe in the park



Figure 7 Runner

Informal recreation

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

- A large, well equipped children's play area for all ages and a variety of abilities.
- A variety of walking routes and surfaced paths.
- Orienteering course.
- Picnic areas.
- Opportunities to improve the understanding of the natural world.



Figure 8 Climbing rocks

Catering – A cafeteria service is contracted out to a commercial company. The cafeteria concession offers homemade hot and cold food and drinks and is one of the most popular attractions with visitors to the park.

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

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. Our volunteers have developed new walk routes around the park using the smartphone app called GoJaunty which are free for the public to use.

Orienteering – The Council worked with the local Saxons Orienteering Club to develop virtual orienteering courses around the park (see project in **Appendix 11**). This uses a smartphone app called MapRun 6 (which is free to download and use). There are some longer routes which include the adjacent River Medway path and town centre park. Printed copies of the map are available for sale should users wish to purchase them.

Seating – The park contains many seats and picnic benches (**Appendix 7**), most 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 or picnic bench 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 of 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, most of which are also accessible.



Figure 9 Picnic seat with disabled access



Figure 10 Seat

3.0 – Healthy, safe & secure

Health and safety

The Council complies with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and has an overall health and safety policy statement and policies are also sought from all major contractors working at the Haysden Country Park. Staff undertake regular training in health and safety. There are several other steps that are taken to comply with health and safety laws.

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 in **Appendix 6**).

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

Incident reporting – The Council's Incident Report Form IR1, is used by staff to record incidents and accidents. All staff are trained to record incidents, and senior staff are also trained to investigate incidents. 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, to control and remedy the situation depending on the urgency. The Health and Safety Officer would follow up by reporting incidents if necessary to the Health and Safety Executive (under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013, RIDDOR).

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

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

Site monitoring - As part of the management of contractors, Council officers monitor health and safety aspects routinely visiting the site to inspect work and the condition of the park. Officers have been trained (and qualified) and 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, enforces aspects such as dog and litter control, engages with the public, coordinates volunteers and runs event. The Ranger wears a uniform for easy identification by the public.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

This is issued to staff and supplied to volunteers as identified within risk assessments. Contractors must also supply PPE to their staff as identified within their own risk assessments; this aspect is also monitored by the Council.

Water Safety Policy

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

Children's play area

Safety inspections of all play equipment are conducted by contractors with the appropriate levels of the national recognised qualifications from the Registered Play Inspectors International (RPPI), see **Table 3** for details. The play equipment and impact absorbing surfaces provided, and layout conform to the current BS/EN Standards at the time it was installed.

Bridge inspections

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

The Police

The Council staff have developed links with the Police in order that they can help when they are available. The Police also carry out independent patrols of the site when resources allow.

Tree Safety Inspections

The Council's Tree Safety Strategy outlines the need for regular inspection of mature trees. Within the Grounds Maintenance Contract, mature trees have an Expert Tree Inspection with a report, by an arborist with a national recognised qualification every three years. Every other year, a Basic Tree Inspection with report are performed by Council staff with a national recognised qualification. Reports are prioritised for risk and action taken accordingly. Young trees are planted, inspected and maintained under the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

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 performed, 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 detail, however, many 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 Contract Manager, to review progress and plan for the week ahead, including variations to the work programme. The staff undertake and record inspections of the grounds maintenance contract and monitor all aspects.

Table 5: Grounds maintenance summary

Maintenance Area	Description of Operations	Who
Dog bins	Dog bins are emptied once a week.	Waste contractor
Dog control	Public Open Space Protection Orders (Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014) cover all the aspects previous covered under the Dog Control Orders. More details can be found elsewhere in the document Section 9.0.	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 is removed as soon as possible.	Council
Life buoys	Lifebuoy are inspected weekly and a written report made.	Council
Litter control	All litter bins are checked and emptied every day.	Grounds contractor
	Litter bins are washed monthly.	Grounds contractor

Table 5: Grounds maintenance summary continued		
Maintenance Area	Description of Operations	Who
Litter control (cont.)	Monthly litter pick below the A21 flyover Haysden Water.	Grounds contractor
	Additional litter picking as required. Clubs also litter pick as part of their agreements.	Ranger, HCPV clubs, MVRW
	Fines for littering can be issued by various staff under the Clean Neighbourhoods Environmental Act 2005.	Council
	Trade waste bins are emptied weekly.	Grounds contractor
Park furniture	All park benches, picnic seats and bins are checked and washed monthly, and picnic seats are re-painted annually if required.	Grounds contractor
	Surrounding overhanging vegetation is cleared and removed as required.	Grounds contractor
Pest control	A number of pest monitoring stations are located around the high usage areas of the park. A written report is made after inspections.	Contractor
	Leigh barrier rabbit control.	Contractor
Paths and bridleway route	Overhanging vegetation is cut back as required.	Grounds contractor
Playground	The playground equipment is inspected weekly, with a written report made by RPII appropriately qualified grounds staff.	Grounds contractor
	An annual independent inspection report is commissioned from another company using an appropriately qualified RPII Annual inspector.	Contractor
	Routine repairs are instructed as required	Council
	A funded programme of capital renewals for all play equipment is in place.	Council
Surface water drains	Cleaned annually if required.	Council

Building and asset management

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

Table 6: Building and asset management

Asset	Description of task	Who
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 rotation as required.	Council Technical Services
Car parking	Managed directly by the Council's car parking team. Machines checked daily in car parks.	Council Technical Services
	Car parking machine servicing and inspection.	Contractor
	Sweep surface and remove debris including along the drive, carried out twice, once in November and once in March.	Grounds contractor
	Herbicide application is carried out annually if required.	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. Surface repairs and re lining the car park bays is undertaken as necessary.	Council
Catering building	Inspected as part of the routine Food Hygiene Inspections. Food Hygiene standard certificates are awarded.	Council
	Recorded inspections undertaken biannually.	Council
	Building maintenance.	Catering contractor
Compound area	The store area is inspected for safety periodically.	Council

Table 6: Building and asset management continued

Asset	Description of task	Who
Dipping platform	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
Fishing platforms	These are inspected as part of the annual checks.	Council
Gates and barriers	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council
Interpretation signage	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
Public toilets and building	The toilets and building are cleaned, and consumables replaced twice a day during the school summer holidays and once a day at other times of year. Written inspections are made.	Contractor
Public toilets and building	Sanitary bin 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

Table 6: Building and asset management continued

Asset	Description of task	Who
Public toilets and building (cont.)	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
Sailing club buildings and compound	Periodic building inspections, as part of the Workplace Health and Safety Inspections.	Council
	Maintenance and building repairs.	Sailing club
Sewage treatment plant	Sewage tank emptying.	Sailing club
	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
Signs	Recorded inspections undertaken annually.	Council

Equipment maintenance

The ground's maintenance contractor owns machinery which 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 perform 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 several culverts under the railway line that are the responsibility of Network Rail; these should drain rainwater from the watershed on the northern side of the railway line into the River Medway.

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

Maintenance of habitats and landscape

The staff monitors these aspects. **Table 7** below notes this programme of works.

Table 7: Maintenance of habitats and landscape		
Task	Description of task	Who
Lakes and ponds	Cleared of litter and floating debris monthly.	Council
	Maintain the lakes and ponds to stop the water becoming fully overgrown with vegetation.	Volunteers and contractors if required
River, streams and ditches	Fishing swims checked monthly and keep culverts clear of vegetation, swims maintained by the Society.	Grounds contractor for checks and culverts Angling Society for swim maintenance
	Ditch vegetation maintained by removing vegetation and accumulation of leaves annually.	Council as when required
	Removing vegetation and silt from the ditch and river periodically to improve the flow of water.	Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board
	Cleared of litter and floating debris.	Council and volunteers
Grassland margins and scrub	Scrub trimmed back to prevent encroachment onto paths	Grounds contractor
Hedgerows	The hedges are cut twice a year; the timing of the cuts will be dependent on the plant species and the bird nesting season.	Grounds contractor
Hedgerows	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
Pathways	Paths and edges of paths are cut to prevent longer grass area blocking paths.	Grounds contractor

Table 7: Maintenance of habitats and landscape continued

Task	Description of task	Who
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
	Mown and cuttings removed once a year in September.	Grounds contractor
Water meadow	Scrub is to be periodically removed from all the meadow areas when it reaches no more than 10% cover.	Volunteers
	This area is cut once a year, in September.	Grounds contractor
Barden Lake grasslands	Most 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
Trees and woodland	Expert trees inspections undertaken of mature trees every 3 years.	Grounds contractor
Trees and woodland	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 will be brought back into coppice management 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

In 2019, the Council declared global climate change and biodiversity emergencies and adopted an aspiration for Tonbridge and Malling to be carbon neutral by 2030. Environmental management activities within this Plan contribute to the aims and objectives of the Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020 -2030 and its delivery through annual climate change action plans. The Climate Change Strategy has several themes and most of those are relevant to the park and actions are set out below.

These ideas will continue to evolve and develop as we go forward. Other relevant policies and documents are listed in Table 1.

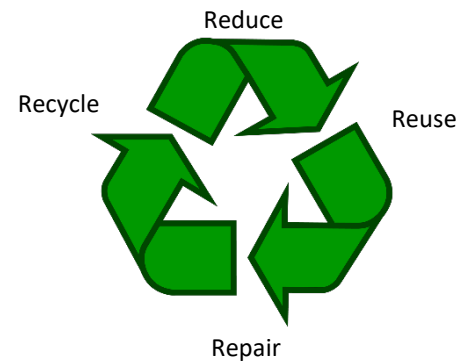


Figure 11 Recycle logo

Climate change and habitats - Protecting existing habitats and enhancing biodiversity within the park, alongside nature-based solutions can increase plant and animal resilience against the impacts of a changing climate. There are a number of projects within this plan that will create new habitats and increase biodiversity, therefore providing greater resilience and connectivity for a range species. We are continuing to work with KCC and others on Making Space for Nature, the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and Plan B (for bees). During heat waves green areas such as parks in town centres are about 6 degrees cooler than the surrounding streets where there are just buildings and vehicles. By providing local open spaces, people need to travel less distance and a can often walk or cycle, reducing transport emissions and supporting accessibility, health and well-being.

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 by operatives with a national recognised pesticide qualification, as is the case with disinfectants and graffiti removal. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health assessments and Risk Assessments are carried out and kept on file as necessary. All chemicals are stored in a locked and purpose built store, with all usage logged in a chemical application book. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Regulations 2002 Amended) assessments and Risk Assessments (under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999) are carried out and kept on file as necessary. 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. Any planting compost used on site is recycled green waste.

Sustainable/ active travel - We promote routes to walk, cycle and use public transport to travel to the park on our website, encouraging visitors to use sustainable and active method of travel. Forms of transport to travel to the park are monitored in our market

survey, including cycling to the park, which is used by 5% of visitors (a 1% decline on the last visitor survey) and by foot 21% (an increase of 6% from the last survey result of 15% of visitors). Within Tonbridge, finger posts indicate walking and wheeling routes to the park.

Minimising water and energy use - 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 and the urinals in our toilets are waterless. Hot air dryers are used for hand drying to reduce paper waste. 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. We will review of the energy efficiency rating of the building.

Waste minimisation - We have drinking water taps in the toilets to refill water bottles and reduce plastic waste. The café encourages the use of reusable mugs by providing customers with a 10% discount on hot drinks. We aim to keep assets in good order to extend their life, repairing where practical rather than replacing. We will continue to review and investigate ways that we can reduce, re-use and recycle waste within the park. We are using digital reporting for some records to reduce paper waste and our carbon footprint.

Green waste - All green waste is removed from site or, where possible recycled on site. Green waste from the meadows in the park is left on site to rot down. Deadwood is left on site to rot down where practical. 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. We reuse materials whenever we can and use materials grown on site like hazel and willow for projects.

Procurement - Our contractors are encouraged to procure materials and vehicles to offer the lowest impact on the environment. These are the use of electric vehicles, low noise and low sulphur fuels. Our main contractors have ISO 14001 environmental accreditation, and our current grounds maintenance contractor has set targets to reduce the environmental impact of their operations.

Air quality and carbon emissions - When we replace small tools we will change to electric powered machines where practical.

Timber - We consider the source of the timber that we use in the park when purchasing park furniture, our seats are made from European oak. This is 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.

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

Sewage disposal - The park is not connected to mains 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.

Sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS) - This greenspace forms a part of the floodplain which acts as a buffer allowing the river when in flood to slow down, spread out, and soak into the ground, so avoiding flood damage to residential and commercial properties in the town centre and elsewhere.

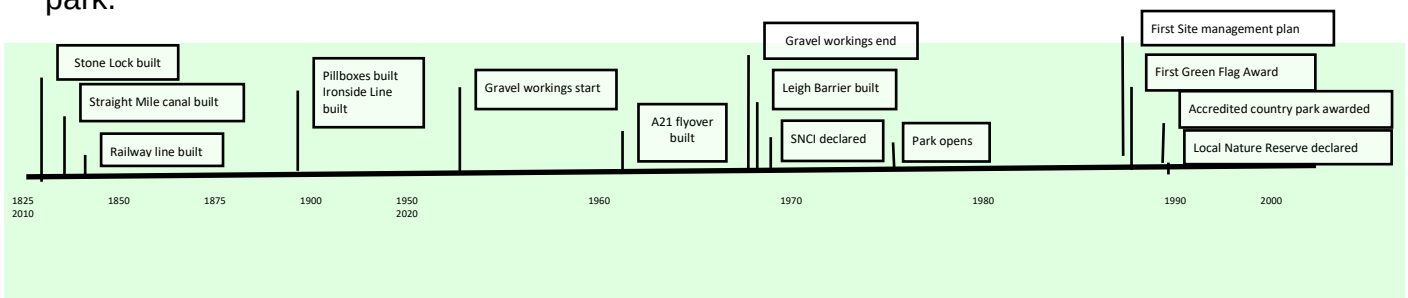
6.0 - Management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage

Context

The management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage within this Plan takes into consideration the Council's biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and the Council's evolving Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Site history

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



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

Railway - In 1842 the railway line was opened by the Southeastern 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.



Figure 12 Stone Lock

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

Leigh Barrier - Following major flooding of Tonbridge in 1968 the Leigh Flood Relief Barrier was built under the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976 and completed in 1981; along with the new river channel and this also created the 'Leigh flood storage area' (otherwise known as a reservoir, which is located behind the grass embankment of the barrier that is within the country park). Flood water is captured in this reservoir area during periods of intense flooding and then released via the barrier gates downstream in a controlled way. The new river channel was cut to bypass 'The Shallows' and to take the water directly from the flood control gates at the barrier. At this time the old weir (then in disrepair) known locally as 'Tonbridge Lido' or the 'Weir Pool' was removed and the area filled in. This area is now the woodland called Heusenstamm Friendship Woodland. The Shallows now remain as a meandering part of the original course of the River Medway, isolated by the redirection of the river.



Figure 13 Leigh barrier gates

Gravel extraction, using dragline excavators between 1960 and 1980 these works altered the landscape of the area and created the lakes at Barden and Haysden Water. The gravel and sand were processed at a plant, which was located at the Haysden Water end of the park.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council had 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 most 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 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 2**). Management objectives and actions (see **Section 9.0**) are focused on a compartment-based approach, the objectives for these are strongly influenced by the differences in nature, character and use of each compartment.

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



Figure 14 Barden Lake

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

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



Figure 14 River Medway meadow

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

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

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



Figure 14 A bat on a tree

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. Several 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) site number TM26 (now known as 'Local Wildlife Sites') indicate the species most likely to be found in the park. A Local Wildlife Site is a non-statutory designation, so they have no direct protection by law but they do indicate an area with 'substantive nature conservation value.'

Surveys

The surveying of species present in the park has been undertaken by many different groups, with some professional surveys, over the last thirty years. These historical records were used to prepare the full list of species recorded in the park which can be found at **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, breeding birds Surveys, pond surveys, and plant surveys. With the assistance of several Kent recording groups, national survey methods have been adapted for use within the park boundary.



Figure 15 Slow worm

The methods have been written down to ensure consistency of recording. The number of species recorded in the park that are now listed for protection in legislation has increased in the last 5 years and that shows the importance of our recording and building this knowledge into our management of the park. Of the species listed in **Appendix 9**, the species in **Table 9** have been identified as having particular importance within the park due to their conservation status and the frequency and likelihood of occurrence in the park. Many of the species in **Table 9** are noted for their importance 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 symbol † against bird species indicates a breeding bird. The park's statutory designations as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (now called a Local Wildlife Site) recognises this and offers an additional layer of legal protection to the park. Some areas of the park are sensitive to disturbance see **Appendix 10** and we have restricted public access to those areas. Where a protected species (Wildlife and Countryside Act, Badger Act) are being surveyed the individuals with the appropriate national licences are engaged as necessary and volunteers are briefed on the law to ensure that the law is not broken. 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 (**Appendix 2**) within the Management section in the compartment descriptions, and in the Five-Year Work Programme.

Topography, features and soils

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

Table 8: Key habitat types present in the park

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

(Based on the priority habitat types in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the 'Kent Biodiversity Action Plan' (1997))

Level of significance – High *** Medium ** Low * The protection and enhancement of these habitats have been incorporated within the objectives set out later in this Plan. Some ecological information can also be found on the Master Plan (**Appendix 2**).

Table 9: Key species present in the park

Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
BIRDS				
Bullfinch †	**	**		Woodland, scrub
Great crested grebe †	*			Lakes
Great spotted woodpecker †	**	*		Woodland
Kingfisher †	*			Lake, and river
Lesser white throat †	*			Mature hedges, woodland with dense undergrowth
Linnet †	*			Meadow, scrub
Reed bunting †	**	**		Marshy areas, scrub
Reed warbler †	*			Reed beds
Song thrush †	*			Woodland
Whitethroat †	*			Woodland edge, scrub
Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
MAMMALS				
Bandt's bat	***			Hedgerow, woodland edge
Brown long eared bat	***			Woods and farmland

Table 9: Key species present in the park continued

Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
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
Whiskered bat	***			Hedgerow, woodland edge
Weasel	**			Woodland, hedgerow, grassland, likely under recorded

Table 9: Key species present in the park continued

PLANTS				
Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
Common cudweed		*	BSBI	Open areas
Common Pepperwort		*	BSBI	Waste ground
Corn mint		*	BSBI rare spp.	Rough grass and woodlands
Crosswort		*	BSBI	Grasslands, woodland edges
Field peppergrass		*	BSBI	Grassland waste ground, open habitats
Fringed water lily		*	BSBI	Canals, ponds, slow moving water
Lesser spearwort		*	BSBI	Marshland and edges to water
Narrow leaved bitter cress		*	BSBI	Light shady woodland, rivers streams
Narrow leaved water dropwort		*	BSBI	Marshland, water's edge
Rough Mallow		*	BSBI	Edges to paths, hedgerows
Stingless Nettle		*	BSBI	Open land grassland
True fox sedge		***	BSBI	Wet, open, or shaded habitats, flooding in winter
Trailing tormentil		*	BSBI	Woodland edges, dry banks, heath
Wild strawberry		*	BSBI	Woodland edges, dry banks, heath

Table 9: Key species present in the park continued

FISH				
Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
Eel	**	**		Standing and running water
Pike	*			Standing and running water
Roach	*			Standing and running water
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES				
Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
Frog	***	*		Lakes and streams
Slow worm	*	*****		Scrub, hedgerows long grass
Toad	**	***		Wetland, grassland uses logs and stones for hibernation
INSECTS				
Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
Black tailed skimmer dragonfly	*	*		Likes lakes, slow rivers, ponds, ground.
Brown hawker dragonfly	*	*		Standing and running water
Cardinal beetle	*	*		Woodland and hedges
Cinnabar moth		**	*	Caterpillars feed on Common Ragwort. Grassland for adult

Common blue damselfly	*	*		Vegetated lakes and canals
Table 9: Key species present in the park continued				
Common name	International/ European	National	Regional/ Local	Habitat notes
Common darter dragonfly	*	*		Standing and running water
Emperor dragonfly	*	*		Standing and running water
Four spotted chaser dragonflies	*	*		Margins of shallow pools, open water emergent vegetation
Long horned bee		***	*	Grassland, feed on bramble, bugle, comfrey and pea family.
Migrant hawk dragonfly	*	*		Breeds standing water, feeds shelter wood and hedgerows
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 conducted in 1988, 1993, 2001, 2007, 2013 2018 and 2023. The objective is to profile visitors, provide information on customer satisfaction, facilities, and suggested improvements, which are then incorporate into this management plan.



Figure 18 Clipboard

Key results of the last survey:

402 face-to-face group interviews comprising of 1,406 individuals were completed with visitors to the park in the summer of 2023.

A summary of the findings is detailed below:

99% of visitor were satisfied with their visit overall.

The most important features of the park were identified

- Attractiveness of the park
- Overall cleanliness
- Refreshments facilities
- Play area.
- Balance of recreation and wildlife

as:



Figure 19 Word cloud map important features

Suggested improvements were:

- More wildlife and wildflowers
- A visitor centre/ café seating area and education facilities
- Exercise trail
- Rubbing trail
- Adventure zone



Figure 20 Word cloud map suggestions

Nearly half (48%) of the groups interviewed had not heard about the historic Stone Lock but of the 141 groups who made a choice most people were supportive of improvements to the Lock.

In the word clouds above larger the text the greater the response

Many positive comments were received, and a selection are highlighted below:

“We love it”.

“Lucky to have this on our doorstep”.

“Very good play area”

“The cafes amazing”

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

Public engagement

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

Concessions and clubs

Many concessions and clubs use the site:

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

Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society – The Society controls the fishing on 14 miles of river and nine lakes, much of which are based in the Tonbridge area and includes areas within Haysden Country Park. The Society was formed in 1875 and has around 900 members. In 2006, for the first time this licence 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

Kent Fire and Rescue Service water rescue training – Two Service 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Local educational establishments – Several nearby local educational establishments use the park as a recreational and educational resource. Schools use the park for cross country running geography and wildlife study. 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.

Volunteering

The Council has over the last twenty 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, walk leaders, the Volunteer River Wardens and the Action Group. The kind of projects and tasks undertaken by volunteers varies from one-off assistance on specific projects, to programmed work over the course of a year and running events.

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

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

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

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

Community Payback – The Council has worked with an organisation contracted to the Probation Service overseeing work in the park. These are minimal 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 gain experience new skills or gain qualifications. Each task is fully assessed and agreed before they proceed. The group has worked on projects to lay paths, cut back areas, clear litter, and plant trees.

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

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

Walks for Wellbeing – The Council coordinates volunteer walk leaders to run weekly led public walks around the borough, including those within this park. Anyone can sign up to take part for free or to train to become a walk leader. This is part of wider healthy living scheme run by the Council.

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:

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 2025, and was made available to view at the Council's offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle Gateway. The draft plan was also available on the Council's website at www.tmbc.gov.uk/HCP. A wide range of organisations and individuals commented on the plan, and these were considered by the Council's Communities and Housing Advisory Board. Amendments were then made as appropriate, before the plan was adopted by the Council and published.

Table 10: Timetable for consultation

Action	Timescale
Internal consultation	April 2024
Report with the consultation draft to the Councils Community and Environmental Scrutiny Select Committee	Feb 2025
Public consultation	Feb-Mar 2025
Report to the Council committee with the results of consultation	May 2025
Plan amended to reflect agreed changes	June 2025
Report to cabinet	July 2025
Publication of final Management Plan	Aug 2025

8.0 – Marketing and communication

Marketing strategy aim

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

Publications

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

Interpretation

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

Country Park webpage

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

Newsletters

The Council publishes e-newsletters for this park twice a year. These are available for the public and published on the Council's website.

Social media

The Council monitors social media to understand what our customers think about the Council's services. In common with most country parks the Council has a Facebook page and post on Facebook and send out Tweets to market activities and events. (According to the Visit Britain survey 2024, 92% of country parks use Facebook as their main form of digital communication.)

Events

A wide variety of events are run at the park each year, some are run by the Ranger, others by partnerships, local clubs and volunteers. Typical events held at the park are listed in **Table 11**. Events are extremely 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 are usually free of charge. We aim to time events to take place during national campaigns (Love Parks Week, Big Garden Bird Watch, Big Butterfly Count etc.), this is so that the public can attend a local event; we aim to run a variety of events each year aimed at different audiences. We and our partners use websites, posters, social media, and Eventbrite for bookings.

Table11: Examples of annual events and activities

Event/ Activity	Frequency
Bat walks in summer	1
Wildflower count in December (free)	1
National event in January Big Garden Bird Watch (free)	1
National Event in summer Love Parks (free)	1
National event in the summer Big Butterfly Count (free)	1
Easter self-led trail in Spring (free)	1
Haysden Country Park volunteer task days year-round (free)	154
Volunteer task days usually in summer (free)	2
Community organisations and company volunteer days (free)	2
Love Parks Week (free)	1
Halloween self-led trail in Autumn (free)	1
Walks 4 Wellbeing (free)	51
Christmas self-led trail in December (free)	1

9.0 – Management

Management structure

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

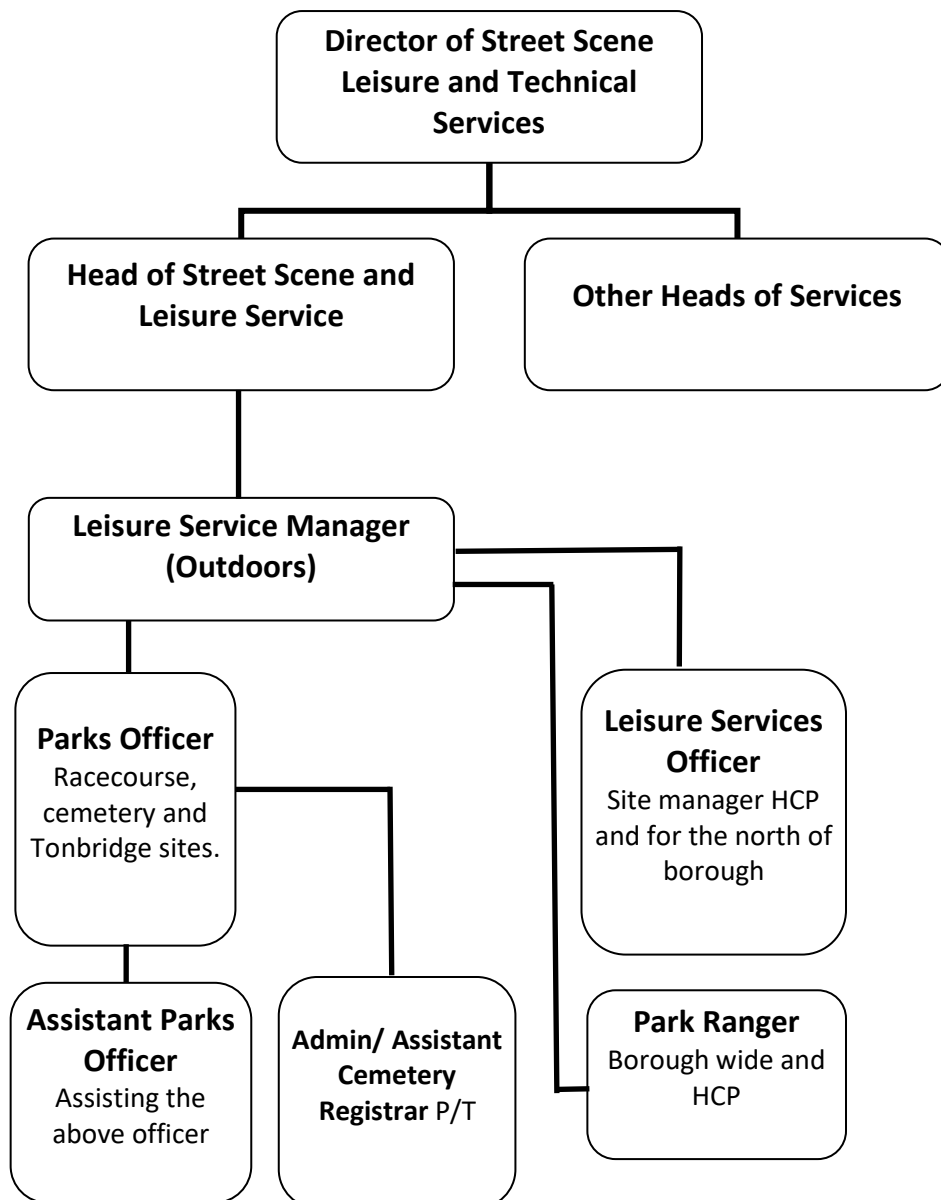


Figure 21 Management structure chart

Out of hours

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

Staff training

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

Contractors

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

- Cala Briparc Ltd – car parking machines and servicing borough wide
- Envirocure Ltd – borough wide legionella advisor
- Folly Wildlife Trust – wildlife rehabilitation
- Gatekeeper
- Lemon Drainage Services Ltd - servicing of plant and sewage disposal
- Landscape Services - grounds maintenance contract borough wide.
- OCS – pest controller borough wide
- Rentokil initial Ltd – sanitary bins
- The Swan Sanctuary – wildlife rehabilitation
- RSPCA – wildlife rescue
- Specialist Hygiene Services Ltd – toilet cleaning etc. borough wide
- Urbaser Ltd – dog bin emptying borough wide
- Ward Security - dog warden services borough wide

Stakeholders

Various groups have an interest in the site and have been consulted on the development and production of this Management Plan. These organisations will also be consulted on issues relating to the ongoing development on site and are listed in alphabetical order in **Table 12**.

Table 12: List of Stakeholders for the Haysden Country Park

Name of Organisation
Charities and disabled groups
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)

Table 12: List of Stakeholders for the Haysden Country Park continued

Kent Bat Group
Kent County Council – West Kent Area Office (Public Rights of Way)
Kent Fire and Rescue Service (use the Haysden Water Lake for training)
Kent Wildlife Trust (Local Wildlife Site designation)
Landscape Services (grounds contractor)
Local members
Local schools
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Natural England (Country Park Accreditation Scheme)
Network Rail
Nordic walking
parkrun
Penshurst Place Estate (cycle route 12)
Rootsies Ltd (caterer)
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

Country Park budget

The cost of running the park is around £203K per annum. The budget provides for grounds maintenance, running costs, repairs, staff, administration, and essential services. Income in the region of £93K offsets some of the expenditure, which is generated in the park from rights over water, the cafeteria, other concessions and car parking fees, (income recovers around 50% of the parks running costs). A breakdown of the budget (2024/25 are the baseline figures for this plan) can be found in **Appendix 11**.

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

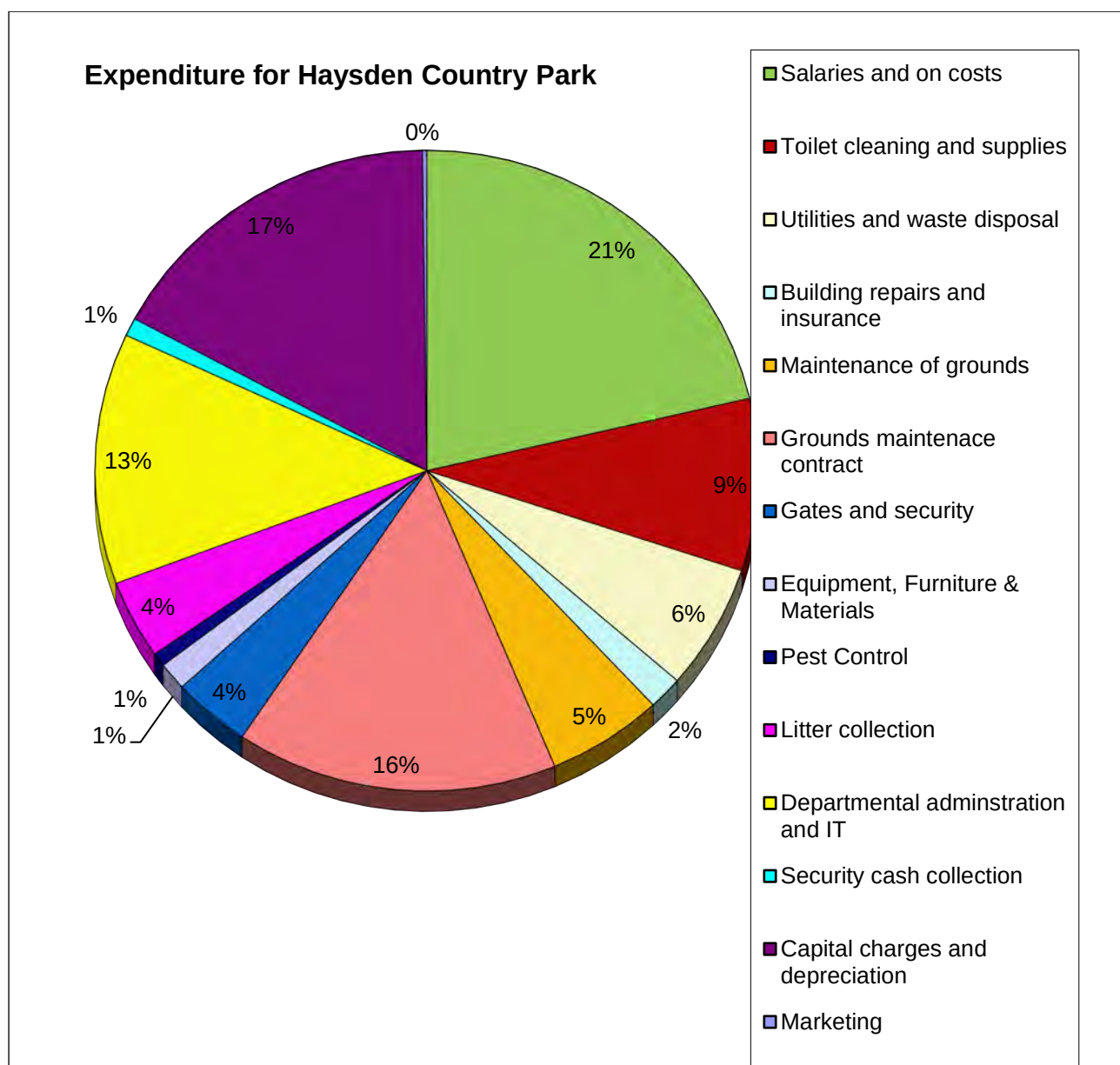


Figure 22 Pie chart of expenditure

Capital budget – Some larger value assets such as replacing children’s play equipment, are funded under the Council’s Capital Renewal Scheme. The Council also has a system of bidding for capital work to fund larger projects. The Council has invested in the park funding (in part or fully) projects like: car park surfacing (2022), play equipment replacement (2021), new sewage system (2020), new roof and redecoration of the building (2020), and new play equipment (2024).

External funding

Where practical funding will be sourced from outside the Council, and this can take the form of donations (seats), grant bids and developer contributions. In recent years, the Council have secured grants which paid in part for Barden Lake and play area improvements, and new paths around the play area. The Haysden Country Park Volunteers have also been successful in obtaining grants for projects like tree planting, improvements along The Shallows, and planting around Barden Lake. The Council has also negotiated and worked in

partnership with concessions and other stakeholders to make improvements to the park, such as the catering area, major public rights of way improvements and replacement of bridges by Kent County Council and projects to create new angling swims by the Angling Society. A list of the main projects and investments that have been undertaken in the 5-years prior to the start of this plan is included at **Appendix 11**.

Rules

We ask that park users observe some simple guidelines when visiting, to ensure that most people's enjoyment is not unduly affected 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 – Motorbikes are only permitted in the designated car parks but are not permitted in all other areas of the park.

Car parking - Cars and other vehicles (driven by the public) are restricted to parking in the designated car parks and are not permitted in other areas of the park without written consent. (There are exceptions to this rule, in a few signposted areas for disabled drivers.)

No dogs in the lakes – It is recommended that dogs should not go into the lakes because Blue Green Alga is sometimes present; this can also cause 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**. (Powers under various Acts including the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2005, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (fix Penalty) Regulations 2016, Town and Country Planning Act. 1969 Bylaw (9))

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 Open Space Protection orders

Fix penalty notices and fines apply (powers under the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, enacted in under the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order 2023):

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 – No person may swim, bathe or operate any boat or craft in any lake within the Country Park unless specifically authorised in writing by the Council

No unauthorised drones - No person may operate a drone from any open space owned by the Borough Council without first obtaining authorisation from the Borough Council.

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

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 areas, as they can cause distress and alarm to young children.

Dogs on Leads at all times in designated areas – Dogs must be kept on leads at all times within the areas shown on the plans below. Broadly, these areas are the car parks and around the catering unit.

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 an authorised person.

Maximum number of dogs – The total number of dogs permitted that one person can take onto the park is six dogs and 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 requested 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.

Alcohol control – No person may drink alcohol in a public place if requested to stop by an authorised officer of the Council or Police Constable.

Use of drones – No person may operate a drone from any open space owned by the Borough Council without first obtaining authorisation from the Borough Council.

For the purposes of this measure, “drone” means any remote-controlled pilotless aircraft or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

Vehicles on public open spaces – No person may park a vehicle on any public open space within the borough, save in a designated vehicle parking space. For the purposes of this provision, ‘public open space’ shall mean any land laid out as a public garden or used for the purposes of public recreation.

Compartments

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

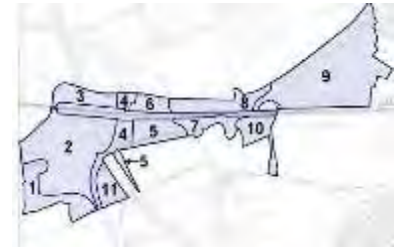


Figure 23 Site compartments

Compartment 1 – (Nature reserve sanctuary area) - This compartment consists of woodland and is part of the west bank of the Lake. 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 that this woodland reduces the wind speed which affects sailing. Coppicing of one section per year addresses this issue. Planted along the lake edge with a new reedbed to attract wildlife.



Figure 24 Compartment 1

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.



Figure 25 Compartment 2

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



Figure 26 Compartment 4

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

Compartment 5 – (Woodland and meadow) - An area demonstrating moderate visitor presence and consisting of 'The Straight Mile', meadow, marsh, and mixed woodland. This compartment comprises a variety of habitats and contributes strongly to the wildlife diversity and character of the park. Along 'The Straight Mile' (woodland ride) damselflies, dragonflies and butterflies are common; this area may also be attractive for bat species. As with the meadow below, a key project is to increase the biodiversity of the meadow area by removing grass clippings after cutting and opening 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 contain mature trees some of which have been coppiced in the past 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. The woodland was thinned a few years ago to allow the remaining trees space to mature. This woodland is located on the former site of the so called 'Tonbridge Lido' or 'Weir Pool', now filled in and removed. Planted with bluebells by the volunteers.

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

*Figure 27 Compartment 7*

Compartment 8 – (River Meadow) - Bordering the River Medway the area contains examples of wildflower meadow and old woodland and the remains of the old Stone Lock.

Key projects for this area are to increase the biodiversity of the meadow areas and opening up bare ground for natural regeneration. Threats to this area include erosion of the riverbanks and the loss land from land slips into the river. 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 has taken place in the last five years. Planting was in part to control the numbers of Canada Geese volunteer groups and grants assisted with this project. A major project to creating revetments around the lake edge was also completed in 2023. There is now a jetty, picnic area and marked numbered swims for fishing funded by a grant, this has transformed 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. Erosion of the riverbanks is a threat as in compartment 8. 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*). This plan includes a project to investigate the installation of a landscape feature at the far end of the lake.



Figure 28 Compartment 9

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, designated dog exercise area, event field (used for licenced activities) and where the mobile cafeteria service operates. There have been major investments in play area refurbishment. Hedgerows around the car park/ play area boundary are now well established. Hedge-laying 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.



Figure 29 Compartment 10

Compartment 11 – (Woodland and Car Park) Predominantly Haysden Water car park but also containing a small section of woodland and the constructed 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 15-year lease runs from April 2022 to March 2037 and includes break clauses.



Figure 30 Sailing club

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 – Rootsies Ltd now have the long-term licence to operate at the site. The current lease runs for 15 years from 2016 to 2031.

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

Licence for passenger boat service – This includes the use of the landing stage at the park. The licence expires in 2026.

Licence for flyball dog training – Licence to use Tile Barn Field for training. Licence runs annually.

Licence for Nordic walking – Annual licence.

Planning restrictions – The whole site falls within the Green Belt which restricts development beyond 'permitted development rights. In addition, there are two other designations covering parts of the park: the River Medway South of Leigh.

Local Wildlife Site – (designated an SNCI C1987) and the Haysden Local Nature Reserve. (See **Appendix 8**).

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

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

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

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

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

Public Rights of Way – Legal obligations regarding the Public Right of Way MU24 must always be adhered to. (Rights of Way Act 1990, Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, Public Rights of Way Act 2000 etc.) For the location of the footpath see **Appendix 5**. 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.



Figure 31 Walkers

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.

Leigh flood storage area (reservoir) and flooding –

Haysden Water end of the park is designated as reservoir behind the Leigh flood barrier and used as a flood storage area reservoir (**Appendix 5**) during periods of high rainfall and flooding. Being so close to the River Medway the rest of the park is also within the flood plain and has high risk of flooding.

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 flood storage area

‘Reservoir’ (these areas are designated Compartments -4). The area can hold water for several days (normally this is in the winter) before the water is released downstream. The area around the Leigh Flood 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; rabbit activity is monitored and maybe controlled to avoid damage to the structure of the barrier. The effects of flooding within the park are not just limited to Haysden Water. Barden Lake end of the park is prone to periodic flooding, which occurs when the Leigh Barrier gates are opened as the River Medway overflows its banks. During flood events, ground water from the surrounding catchment area flows downhill towards the river. The flooding also places other limitations on the activities and types of structures that can be built or installed with the reservoir area as they need to be able to withstand deep flooding and could reduce the flood capacity.



Figure 32 Haysden Water in use as a flood reservoir

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

Land Drainage – The drainage ditch (Denton Stream) near Barden Lake is under control of the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board control and must be kept in good order to avoid flooding. Land Drainage Consent is required for any works. The River Medway (including The Shallows) is under the control of the Environment Agency and drainage consent 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 area 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, Southeast 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 13 identifies the main strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats at the park.

Table 13: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Strengths	Weaknesses
• High level of site usage & customer satisfaction • Good range of concessions and relationships • Capital renewals funding for equipment. • Green Flag Award and Country Park Accreditation • Local Wildlife Reserve Designation • Health and safety procedures • Public Space Protection Orders • Strong community/ volunteer support • Ranger led activities. • Quality of provision • Water Safety Strategy • Café open all year round. • Public conveniences on site • Large children's play area • Car parking provision	• Increasing demand for services/ concessions • Increased wear and tear on park infrastructure • Seasonal flooding • Limited and aged-site interpretation at present • Anti-social behaviour • Control of dogs • Car park capacity low at peak times • Toilets unable to meet peak demand levels. • Pedestrian and cycle access to the park along Lower Haysden Lane • Leigh barrier reservoir restrictions • High flood risk • No undercover seating for café • Website content • Limited staff to expand and enhance Ranger led activities
Opportunities	Threats
• New demands for outdoor activities • Improvement projects linked to concessions or services. • Improve site interpretation. • External funding and income generation • Improvements arising from site audits. • Address antisocial behaviour working with partners. • Review staffing levels. • More volunteer field surveyors • Plant more vegetation around Barden Lake • Delivering children's activities and more events • Controlling invasive species • Climate change adaption and resilience • Environmental audit • Provide undercover seating for the café or a new building. • Improve cycling and pedestrian access along Lower Haysden Lane	• Financial reductions and constraints • Changing customer demands • Site capacity exceeded, increased wear and tear. • Declines in visitor satisfaction levels • Damage to the Leigh Flood Barrier banks • Lake and river edge erosion loss of amenity land • Changing legislative requirements • Climate change and declines in biodiversity • Land and water based invasive species. • Reductions in volunteering • Negative impact of increasing recreation on wildlife • Civil emergencies

Conclusion

The **Table 13** identifies several possible areas for improvement and where possible these have been taken forward in the sections that follow.

Part 2 - Where do we want to get to?

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

The Council 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 aims and objectives

The overall aim

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

Objectives

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

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

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

Part 3 – How will we get there?

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

12.0 Five Year Work Programme

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

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

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

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

13.0 Annual Action Plans

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

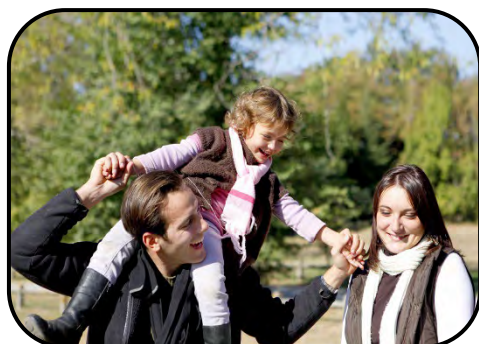


Table 14 Five-year Work Programme - Project List

Project No Description

1	Green Flag award application
2	Annual action plan
3	Budget control
4	Cost neutral park
5	Investigate new opportunities for partnerships and income streams
6	Facility improvements
7	Concessions
8	Visitor surveys
9	Community involvement
10	Grounds maintenance contract
11	Water Safety Strategy
12	Health and safety aspects
13	Site specific risk assessments
14	Basic tree inspections
15	Expert tree inspections
16	Access audit
17	New access audit
18	Bridge inspections
19	Path resurfacing and creation
20	Play area inspections
21	Renewal of play equipment
22	Improvements to the children's play area
23	Land drainage
24	Carry out an environmental audit at the park
25	Collect information on wildlife
26	Collect information on plants
27	Control of pest species
28	Circular walks
29	Seating provision

30	Fees and charges
31	Marketing and communication
32	Interpretation and marketing plan
33	Walks 4 Wellbeing
34	Lake marginal aquatic and emergent planting and bank protection
35	Replacement of the Shallows bridge
36	Tile Barn Field use
37	Mink control
38	Signage and wayfinding
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	Raise the level of the path along The Shallows
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	Commission a signage audit
59	Cycle track resurfacing
60	Machinery access to the cycle route

61	Footpath along Lower Haysden Lane
62	Feature for the far end of Barden Lake
63	Rubbing trail
64	Trim trail
65	Footpath signage from Leigh village
66	Barden Lake water control
67	Replace the disable fishing platform
68	Fixed point and aerial photography
69	Hard surfacing of car parks
70	Review cycling provision within the park
71	Dipping platform replacement
72	Extend jetty at Barden Lake
73	Improvements to dog exercise area
74	Green Flag Award 20th year celebration
75	Consider options to maintain the meadows
76	Information hub for visitors
77	Use of green hay
78	Expansion of the park
79	Shelter and shade
80	Automatic number plate recognition
81	Developer contributions
82	Key performance indicators
83	Review of Public Space Protection Orders
84	End of year review
85	New management plan

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	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
1	Green Flag Award application - Submit application for the award, which is judged annually against the criteria used as the objectives within this plan.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
2	Annual Action Plan - Review the plan and prepare a new Annual Action Plan for the forthcoming year.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
3	Budget control - Manage the site in line with the approved Revenue and Capital budgets. Prepare budget estimate projections based on estimated expenditure and income on an annual basis.	1	All	R, C	●	●	●	●	●
4	Cost neutral park - Explore opportunities within all new projects, and existing management of the park, to take a 'business-like approach' so that the site works towards becoming cost neutral in the future.	1	All	R, G	●	●	●	●	●
5	Investigate new opportunities for partnerships and income streams - Investigate	1	All	N, I, J	●	●	●	●	●

	opportunities to work with other organisations, and to generate new income to improve and develop the site and to make the site financially sustainable.								
6	Facility improvements - Investigate enhancements to provide better facilities for the public and increase income options include: undercover seating, catering and seating area and improved toilets.	2	1	C, J, G, I		●	●		
7	Concessions - Liaise and support the on-site concessions, including arranging regular meetings.	1	All	R, I	●	●	●	●	●
8	Visitor survey - Commission a new visitor survey and compare the results with the last survey from 2022.	1	All	R				●	
9	Community involvement - Continue to support the park's volunteers, User Panel and other community engagement.	1	All	R, K, G	●	●	●	●	●
10	Grounds maintenance and other contracts - Implement the work and monitor contracts as necessary and report progress and defects, including work in Tables 5, 6 and 7.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●

11	Water Safety Strategy - Implement the actions identified within the strategy. - Maintain a natural barrier protection along sections of the lakes and rivers - Consider signage as required	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
12	Health and safety aspects - Carry out an annual formal site inspection, and act on any findings within the report. Ensure that organisations using the site have current Public Liability insurance at an appropriate level. Carry out monthly checks.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
13	Site specific risk assessments - Continue to review and develop site specific risk assessments.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
14	Basic tree inspections - Carry out basic tree inspections in line with the Tree Safety Strategy and implement the findings	1	All	R	●	●		●	
15	Expert tree inspections - Carry out expert tree inspections in line with the Tree Safety Strategy and implement the findings.	1	All	R			●		
16	Access Audit - Progressively implement the actions within the Access Audit in accordance with the priorities recommended, as funding	2	All	R	●	●	●	●	●

	permits.								
17	New access audit - Commission a new access audit of the park, in preparation for the next management plan.	2	All	R				●	
18	Bridge inspections - Carry out regular formal inspections of bridges, and action the required works.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
19	Path resurfacing and creation - Carry out regular checks on paths to assess the need for re-surfacing. Resurface compacted stone paths as they become worn.	1	All	R	●		●		●
20	Play area inspections - Carry out regular inspections of the children's play area, and act on the findings as necessary and store the inspections.	1	1	R	●	●	●	●	●
21	Renewal of play equipment - Replace play equipment and impact absorbing surfaces as required and in accordance with the Councils Capital renewals fund. <i>Note consider inclusive provision when replacing equipment and surfacing.</i>	2	1	C	●	●	●	●	●

22	Improvements to the children's play area - Consider improvements to the children's play area adding new features, equipment and inclusive play equipment if opportunities should arise.	4	1	C, G	●	●	●	●	●
23	Land drainage - Keep land drainage systems in good working order by removal of blockages. Seasonal closure of the (summer period) land drain to Barden Lake to prevent Zebra mussel entering the river.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
24	Carry out an environmental audit at the park - Investigate climate change adaptation within the park, the types and impacts of waste generated in the park and the options to reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of wastes and consider an energy performance audit of the building.	3	All	R	●			●	
25	Collect information on wildlife species - Conduct wildlife surveys in the park, recording all observed species. Analyse the data to identify connections between habitat management practices and the presence/distribution of species, especially any rare or protected wildlife in Kent and the UK. Report your	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●

	findings to the Site Manager and the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Maintain an ongoing monitoring program using standard survey methods. Collaborate with local conservation groups like the Kent Bat Group, Amphibian and Reptile Group, Mammal Group, Ornithological Society, and Wildlife Trust to support the monitoring efforts. Use the insights gained to inform and optimise the management of habitats within the park.								
26	Collect information on plants - Survey the park to gather comprehensive information on plant species. Document the distribution of any rare or scarce species found, both within the local Kent region and across the UK. Additionally, record the variety of habitats present to inform future management decisions. Submit these findings to the Site Manager and the Kent and Medway Biological Records centre.	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●

27	Control of pest species - Monitor and consider control of invasive alien species (non-natives) those classed in law as 'pests' under control for example: Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Zebra Mussel, rabbits, ragwort (Ragwort Control Plan), Canada Geese, and rats.	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●
28	Circular walks - Provide marked walks for differing abilities in various distances (from short easy to long in distance). Utilise the existing made and unmade paths in the park, implement only if funding allows.	4	All	G		●			
29	Seating provision - Keep existing seating in good order and assess the need and provide additional seating as required. Continue to promote the Sponsored Seat scheme.	2	All	S	●	●	●	●	●
30	Fees and charges - Review fees and charges annually to maximise income and recover costs, where practical.	1	All	I	●	●	●	●	●

31	Marketing and communication - Ensure that the parks events and activities are well promoted through the use of press releases, social media, adverts, local posters, and the Councils publications. Review the ways in which the park is marketed and update marketing information before reprinting.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
32	Interpretation and Marketing Plan - Continue to implement projects within the Interpretation Plan Appendix 5 where funding allows. See also projects xx	2	All	I, C	●	●	●	●	●
33	Walks 4 Wellbeing - Support the year-round weekly walks, utilising trained volunteer walk leaders.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
34	Lake marginal aquatic and emergent planting and bank protection - Around Barden Lake and Haysden Water continue the project of planting to protect the banks from erosion and to diversify the habitat. Follow best practice to create a healthier lake eco system; for aesthetic reasons and; to attract a wider variety of animal species, and to creating fish refuge areas	2	2, 9	K, G, R	●	●			

	from predators.								
35	Replacement of the Shallows Bridge – Put forward a capital plan evaluation for the replacement of the bridge if required. Consider options like a wider bridge to enable machinery, disabled and double buggy access across this bridge.	2	10	C	● -				
36	Tile Barn Field use - Consider the opportunities for use of this land, to generate additional income.	3	10	I, J	●	●	●	●	●
37	Mink control - Monitor the number of mink at the site and consider taking action in liaison with adjacent landowners, with outside bodies including Natural England and Kent Wildlife Trust. (<i>Mink is an introduced pest species plus an aggressive species and a predator of fish.</i>) Apply for the consents as required.	2	AI	R	●	●	●	●	●
38	Signage and wayfinding - Consider placing new signs only where necessary, avoid excessive signage that would detract from the park's rural character, by providing short-term information on posters rather than permanent signs.		AI	R	●	●	●	●	●

39	Park furniture - Carry out regular inspections of all park furniture: gates, signs, seats, bins etc. Repaint, remove and replace items as required.	2	AI	R, K	●	●	●	●	●
40	Creation of suitable habitats – Volunteers to construct bird boxes and clear stream bank to provide nesting opportunities. Consider other nature-based solutions and 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	AI	K, R	●	●	●	●	●
41	Stone Lock improvements – Investigate options to make enhancements around the Lock, including new interpretation signage. Subject to grant aid funding or volunteer assistance. The public showed support for this in the last market survey.	4	5	G, K, C					●
42	Pond/ water course management and pond creation –Manage existing ponds and water courses to keep some areas of open water where opportunities exist to encourage animals like	2	2, 6, 7	R, K	●		●		●

	amphibians and insects. Work with the volunteers and other agencies.								
43	Water Meadow management – Continue the management of this part of the site as a series of 'ponds' at various stages of succession, with areas of bare mud scrapes (shallow seasonal ponds). Dig more ponds but retain some areas of open grassland. Adopt a maintenance regime that creates an open attractive meadow, but that restricts the growth of coarse 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	●	●	●	●	●
44	Raise the path level of The Shallows – Raise a small section path using decking above flood level in a low spot by the railway drainage pipe towards the Stone Lock. This would allow pedestrian access along The Shallows path	3	7	C, G			●		

	during flooding.								
45	Learning opportunities in the park – Consider options for the development and delivery of learning opportunities for young people and adults in the park. See project 71 Dipping Platform replacement and other events and information provided about the park.	2	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
46	Cut back path vegetation - Overhanging/encroaching vegetation to be cut back from paths.	1	All	R	●	●	●	●	●
47	Scrub clearance – Remove scrub from selective grassland areas of the park in rotation to keep a balance of grassland, scrub, woodland, open woodland rides and glades.	2	2, 3, 6 7	K	●	●	●	●	●
48	Hedgerow restoration - Restore declining hedgerows by laying these hedges or adding dead hedging and replanting to increase their density and suitability for wildlife, utilising the volunteers.	2	All	K, R	●	●	●	●	●

49	Plant more hedgerows – Take opportunities to replace existing fences and other boundaries with new hedges: marking boundaries; to divide the site up and; create new habitats.	2	All	R, K	●	●	●	●	●
50	Plant trees – Take opportunities to increase the tree cover in the park whilst still aiming to retain a diverse mosaic of different habitats (grassland, woodland and scrub) within the park.	4	All	K, G	●	●	●	●	●
51	Coppice rotations – Continue cutting designated areas in rotational cycles to create a habitat suitable for nesting birds. Prevent the full enclosure of the canopy. Ensure that advice on bats is sought prior to any felling. Leave standard trees where they are in good condition, and away from paths, and large dead wood logs to add to the diversity of the habitat. Coppice the area in the Nature Reserve for wildlife and to allow sailing.	2, 9	1, 5, 9	K, R	●	●	●	●	●
52	The Shallows coppicing - Coppice the willow trees within the fenced area along The Shallows. Treat this area as a wildlife refuge and keep dogs and the public out by retaining	3	7	K, R		●			

	boundary hedge/fencing around the area.								
53	CCTV for the main car park - Consider the feasibility of installing CCTV in the main car park.	4	10	C				●	
54	Re-apply Country Parks Accreditation Scheme - Natural England run this scheme. The park is currently accredited until 10/1/2026.	2	All	R	●				
55	Automated visitor counters - Investigate the feasibility of installing and rotating around the park, so that more accurate visitor numbers can be established.	3	All	R		●			
56	Monitor and increase plant species in the meadows – Carry out plant surveys to record existing vegetation and to monitor the effectiveness of this project. If there is a benefit, use established recognised methods to increase species numbers of wildflowers in the meadows. (Note only carry out in the part of Compartment 8 Medway Meadow nearest Stone Lock). Develop and write a methodology for recording.	2	3, 5, 8	K, G	●	●	●	●	●

57	The Shallows clear the channel – Investigate with key stakeholders the feasibility of clearing more of The Shallows the narrow channel from the dipping platform to the railway.	1	7	G, K	●			●	
58	Commission a signage audit – Conduct a site audit, determine the project scope, survey the site, consider signage types and styles, and establish phasing. For accessibility and to improve uniformity.	3		C	●				
59	Cycle track resurfacing - resurface the off-road sections of the track in phases where it goes round the park. Make access improvements to allow mechanised access for grounds maintenance, where necessary.	2	1, 9	C, G			●		
60	Machinery access to the cycle route - Provide maintenance access for machinery access to the Haysden Water section of the route. This would allow mechanical hedge cutting along this section of path (reducing long term maintenance costs). Improved access would also make volunteer tasks easier by allowing access to move materials and tools closer to tasks.	3	1	C, G					

61	Footpath along Lower Haysden Lane - to provide a public footpath along the lane possibly with shared use with cyclists.	3		C, J	●				
62	Feature for the far end of Barden Lake - Consider options for a landmark feature at the lake head (Audley Rise end). Ideas include a feature seat or a sculpture.	3		G		●			
63	Rubbing trail - Investigate the feasibility of providing a rubbing trail of nature related plaques on posts around the park as something for children to do.	3	All	G					●
64	Trim Trail - Investigate the feasibility of providing a free to use trim exercise equipment for people to use. Implement subject to funding.	4	9	G, C		●			
65	Footpath signage from Leigh village - Install a fingerpost sign to the park on the public right of way MU24 footpath entrance from Hunter Seal in Leigh, to encourage visitors from the north to visit the park.	4	9	R	●				
66	Barden Lake water control - The existing sluice is now unable to cope with discharging flood water from the lake leading	1	9	C		●			

	to long periods of flooded of paths impeding public access and causing damage to paths. Investigate and apply for consent to install a larger outlet and sluices to control peaks in water flow. Subject to funding.							
67	Replace the disable fishing platforms - Investigate options to replace the aging disabled fishing platforms. Implement subject to funding.	2		C, G		●		
68	Fixed point and aerial photography - Establish and record the fixed locations and take annual photographs at these fixed-point showing 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	●	●	●	●
69	Hard surfacing car parks - Investigate hard surfacing the two car parks at Haysden Water to enable year round access.	3	1	C, K	●	●	●	●
70	Review cycling provision within the park consider the options and cycling	4	All	C, G		●		

	restrictions though the park but ensure that any changes do not impact on the park or other users. This is also being considered in the wider KCC Kent Cycling Strategy and Active travel.							
71	Dipping platform replacement – Provide a new dipping platform at the park for use during educational activities subject to funding.	3	7	R, G	●			
72	Extend jetty at Barden Lake - Extend the length of the jetty to allow greater access to the view. A low priority project implement subjected to funding.	4	9	G				●
73	Improvements to the dog exercise area - Consider making improvements to the dog exercise area including the addition of adding a fixed dog agility course.	3	10	C, G		●		●
74	Green Flag Award 20th year celebration - if we achieve the award in 20th year consider ways to celebration this occasion.	1	N/A	R	●			
75	Consider the options to manage the meadows - investigate options to enhance our management of meadows to increase biodiversity.	2	3, 5, 8	R		●		

76	Information hub for visitors - consider suitable locations to display more information about the park.	3	10	G			●		
77	Use of green hay – Use some of the cut green hay from the meadows on site on suitable receptor sites to increase the floral diversity of other meadows on this site and on other sites to improve diversity.	2	-	R	●	●	●	●	●
78	Expansion of the park - If opportunities arise, consider expanding the parks' land area to increase visitor capacity, enhance connectivity for biodiversity, and accommodate more activities.	3	All	C	●	●	●	●	●
79	Shelter and shade - consider options for the catering picnic area.	3	10	C, G			●		
80	Automated number plate recognition – Consider this site as one of sites for car park charging.	1	10	C	●				
81	Developer contributions - Investigate and pursue opportunities for investment in the site from developer contributions.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
82	Key Performance indicators - Consider the developing of a set of Key Performance Indicators – to measure the performance of the park, monitor	2	All	N	●				

	progress and inform decision making.								
83	Review of Public Space Protection Orders – Review of the Orders applicable to all parks and open spaces.	1	All	R		●			
84	End of year review - At the end of each year review the plan and update it to ensure that the plan is still relevant.	1	All	N	●	●	●	●	●
85	New management plan - Carry out an end of plan review and produce the next park management plan for the period 2030 - 2034.	2	All	N				●	●

Summary notes

Annual updates

Examples - illustrations for projects



Way marking



Rubbing trail



An example of the fencing style suggested for the Stone Lock

Trim trail equipment for adults



Parallel bars



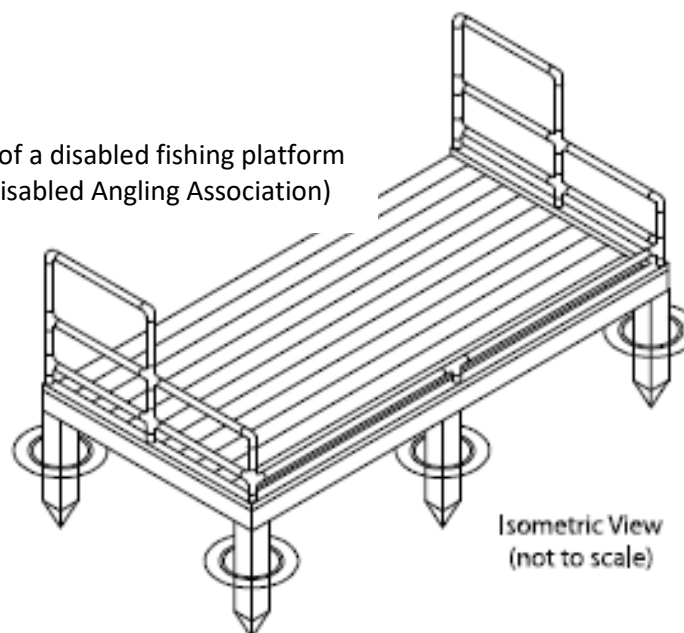
Overhead ladder



Two examples of dog agility equipment



Example of a disabled fishing platform (British Disabled Angling Association)



Some examples of accessible play equipment suitable for unsupervised children's play areas



Giant spider



Babel drum



Dragonfly bells



Samba drums



Spinning disc



Mushroom bells



Distorted mirrors



Hedgehog carving



Low level access spinner



Giant story telling chair



Tactile tree

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

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

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

14.0 Monitoring progress

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

Accreditation

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

Annual management plan review

To keep the plan relevant, prior to the start of each year, an annual review will take place. 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

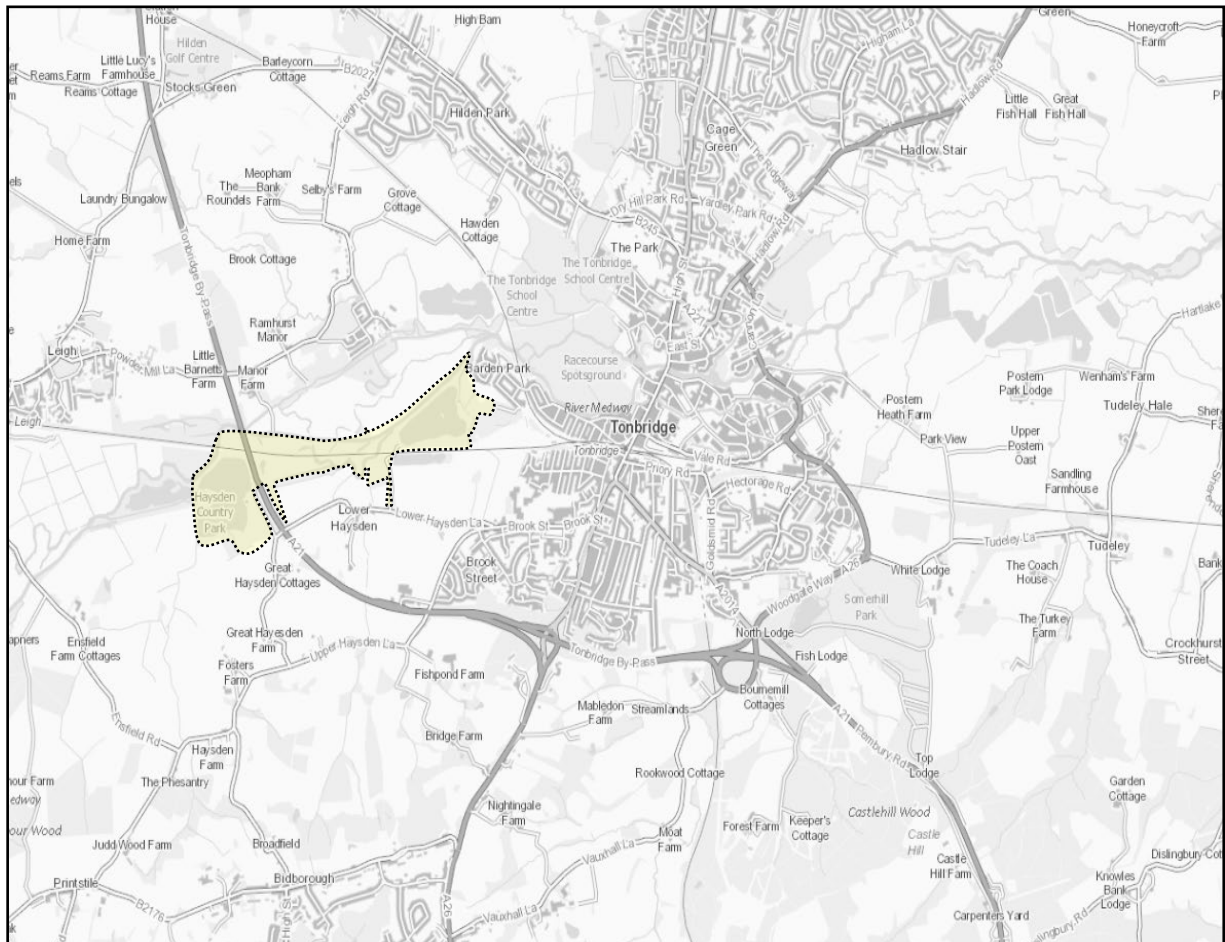
Prior to the expiry of this Plan on 31 December 2029, a full review will be undertaken to develop a further Five-year Management Plan.

APPENDICES

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

Appendix 1

Location map

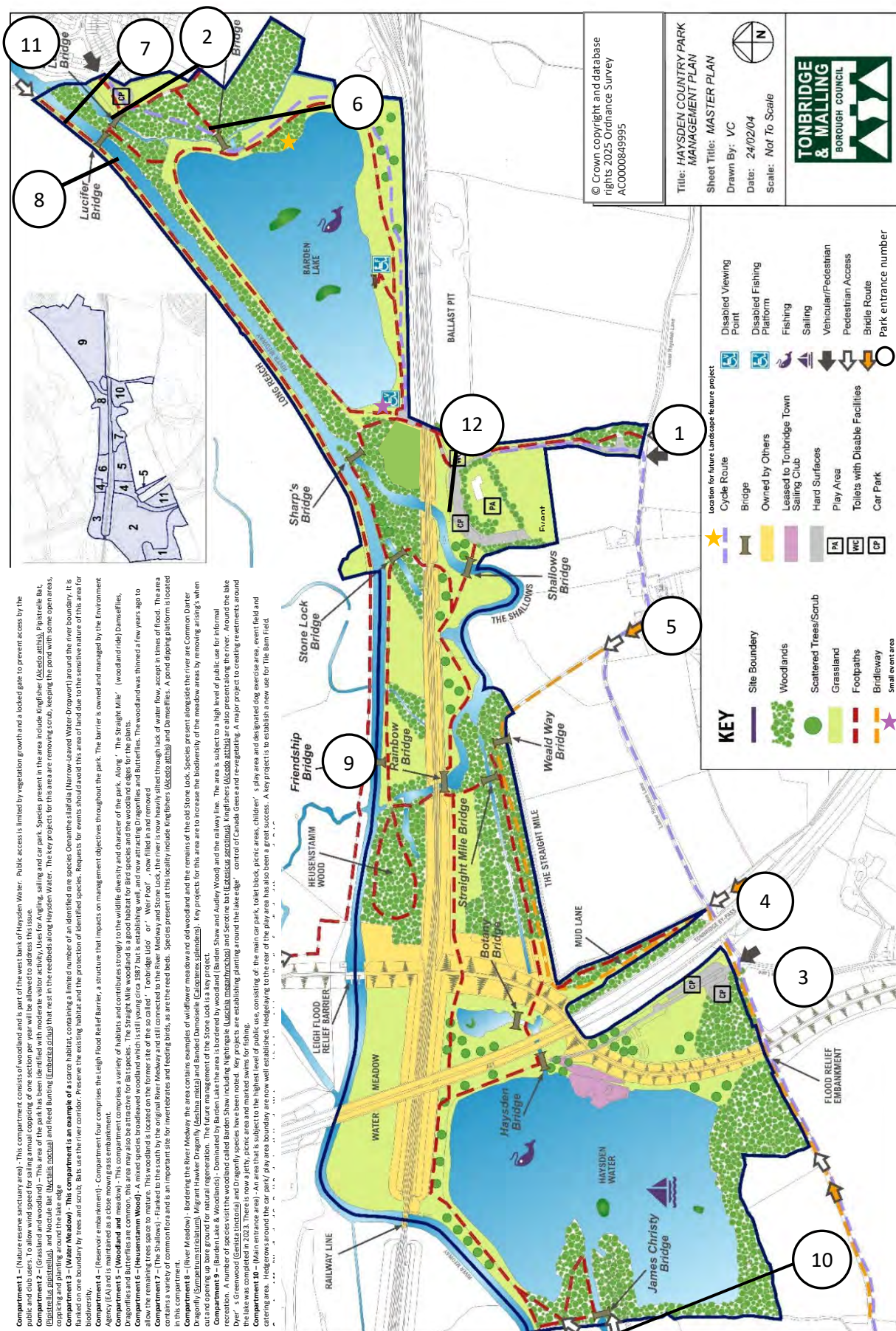


Location Map: Haysden Country Park,
Tonbridge, Kent

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Ordnance Survey AC0000849995

Master plan

Appendix 2



Appendix 3

Entrance accessibility

Entrance number	Description	Pedestrians	Cyclists	Horse	Wheelchair access	Public access disabled	Public vehicles	Restricted access	Contractor vehicles	Anglers on foot
1a	Main road entrance	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒
1b	Main entrance footpath	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒
2	Audley Rise car park	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒
3a	Haysden Water access barrier	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒
3b	Haysden water gates	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒
4	Mud Lane	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒
5	Lower Haysden Lane	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☒
6	Barden allotments	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
7	Chestnut Walk	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
8	Tow path	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
9	Friendship bridge	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒
10	James Christie bridge	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
11	Footpath from Leigh	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
12	Barrier by toilets	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒

The numbers above, refer to the locations shown in the Master Plan

Appendix 4

Access Audit Executive Summary

An inclusive access audit was carried out by an experienced consultant to support the revised Haysden Country Park Management Plan (2025) and in response to the 2023 market survey, in which improvements for people with disabilities were a priority for visitors.

Haysden Country Park is a natural setting. As such, it is not possible to make all areas completely accessible to everyone, but the aspiration is for as many people as possible to enjoy the park. The recommendations are ambitious, and many cannot be implemented without significant investment, and certainly not within the timeframe of the five-year management plan. They set out a long-term aim for the future, whilst also including improvements which can be made in the short to medium term.

Overall, Haysden Country Park has the potential to support a good level of inclusive access. The site is mainly level and there are good facilities with car parking, toilets, a catering kiosk and play area. Provision of benches around Barden Lake is excellent, with good provision in most other places, with most seats (70%) having backs and arms. Signage is clear, well-placed and where it is needed. The low-level wooden signs with high contrast lettering are particularly easy to read and the naming of bridges helps with wayfinding. Path vegetation maintenance is excellent, and the site is clean and well-maintained.

Main Hub Area

This includes the main car park, catering kiosk, play area, the southwestern corner of Barden Lake and the inclusive fishing swims. This should be the priority area for inclusive access. Many of the improvements are small, although some require investment and are more long-term.

Additional disabled spaces are needed in the car park to meet Department of Transport recommendations. The bays are not long enough to accommodate the loading length of wheelchair accessible vehicles. The narrow car park, with two-way traffic and pedestrians, creates a busy shared space with no demarking lines. The width limits options for improvement. Traffic calming and signing to slow cars when passing the disabled bays would improve safety in the short term. In the longer-term options to reconfigure the car park and vehicle access could create space for larger bays. This may require a new entrance, one-way system and pedestrian route. There are land constraints, and the cost would be significant.

Access to the disabled toilet could also be improved. The toilet is locked, but many visitors would benefit from access, e.g. elderly visitors. This is also the only location of baby changing facilities. Asking for the key at the café will deter some people, especially those with hidden disabilities. Consideration should be made to unlocking the toilet when staff are present. Signing should be improved. The toilet facilities themselves should be updated to current accessibility standards. In the longer term a Changing Places toilet would be the most inclusive option but would require a new toilet block as the cubicle is too small.

There is some inclusive play equipment. A formalised path to the sensory equipment would enable disabled children to access this more easily. Some equipment is old and the designs

at the time of installing them were less inclusive. When introducing new equipment, inclusive play equipment should be considered. More seating and disabled picnic benches are needed in the play area, which could be achieved through Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's sponsored seat scheme.

The gates into the catering kiosk could be removed and the small step rectified. The café counter is high - out of reach for wheelchair users. A lower section could be provided. In the short-term information and training for café staff would help to accommodate wheelchair users.

The path to the inclusive fishing area from the Barden Lake parking bay needs to be resurfaced, the inclusive fishing swims replaced, and the seating improved. Signing to demark the pedestrian route and the cycling route needs to be improved in this area.

Other Improvements

- Least restrictive access should be adopted throughout the park. In some areas restrictions are needed for security, but this should be justified and balanced with the need for access.
- The bridge naming text could be improved through greater colour contrast of the lettering.
- Consider disabled bays in Audley Rise Car Park to prevent blocking in by cars.
- Signing to demark the cycle and pedestrian routes is needed on the east side of Barden Lake.
- When replacing picnic benches, continue to install disabled picnic benches, with good access to them.
- Continue the policy of installing benches with arms and backs, ensuring that any concrete plinths are level to the ground and there is space alongside where possible.
- When the information boards are replaced improve the design to increase the font size, install at a lower level and improve colour contrast.
- Install more benches in the western part of the park and, if routes are upgraded, ensure there are benches within 100m of each other.
- Some improvements to the website's pages and downloadable materials.

Barriers

Several barriers limit access: some which it is not possible to resolve and others which would be extremely costly. The Leigh Barrier, an Environment Agency structure, is a major barrier as it has a very steep gradient. This in effect cuts off the east and the west of the park. Engagement with the Environment Agency needs to continue to improve and maintain access.

The underpass under the railway to the north of Rainbow Bridge forms another barrier.

Improving this would require significant work to widen the path across part of the water channel. The structure is owned by Network Rail and would need their consent to change. However, the route to the car park would still be severely restricted by Rainbow Bridge and resolving both issues would be a very large project with significant financial investment.

There are 14 bridges. Many are on public rights of way and are Kent County Council (KCC) structures. Most bridges are of an inclusive standard; those which are not form barriers. Those which do not meet inclusive standards, and the reasons, are:

- Rainbow Bridge (KCC) – gradients and access. This bridge forms a significant barrier.
- Shallows Bridge – width and decking running parallel to the span and not across the span.
- Straight Mile Bridge (KCC) – gradient in approach to the bridge.
- Weald Way Bridge (KCC) – width and steps onto bridge.
- James Christy Bridge (KCC) – access onto bridge.

Longer-term Improvements

In the longer-term, it may be possible to improve other areas. However, this would need considerable investment in path surfacing and, in some cases, bridge replacement (several not within the control of TMBC). It may not be possible to reach this level of inclusive access, but the suggestions are included as an ambition.

Barden Lake Circuit: The Barden Lake path is poor for wheelchair access. The surface is bumpy with loose stones and pronounced hollows. There is a severe camber on the northern side. Although visitors with wheelchairs do use this route, the path condition means it is not suitable to be promoted for wheelchair use. Partial improvement would create 'there and back' routes. In the southeastern corner a dip with a steep gradient may require that the path is relocated to achieve inclusive standards.

Sharp's Bridge, Shallows Bridge, Stone Lock Circuit: Sharp's Bridge and Stone Lock Bridge are accessible and the path along the River Medway is unsurfaced but level. There is a path with old surfacing leading to Shallows Bridge which would require widening or passing places. Additional benches would be beneficial. Shallows Bridge is narrow, but has passing places, but the decking runs parallel to the bridge (there may be solutions to address this).

Sailing Club Car Park to Haysden Water: This route cannot be fully accessible due to the gradient of the Leigh Barrier. The area is also a flood storage reservoir with limitations on surfacing and infrastructure. However, this is the most accessible route across the barrier, it is wide and surfaced and improvements would be low-cost. It would improve access for more ambulant visitors to the quieter side of the park. Any improvements need to be in partnership and with the agreement of the Environment Agency. All of the following need to be implemented together: level bunding on northern edge of Sailing Club car park, additional seating on route alongside sloped sections and surfacing around the pedestrian gate to make it more level (gate needs to remain to prevent ingress of motorbikes and cycles, which would damage the flood bank).

Shallows Bridge to Café via Dog Exercise Area: This could provide a safer pedestrian route from the car park but would impinge on the dog exercise area. A new gate is needed, and the path surfaced.

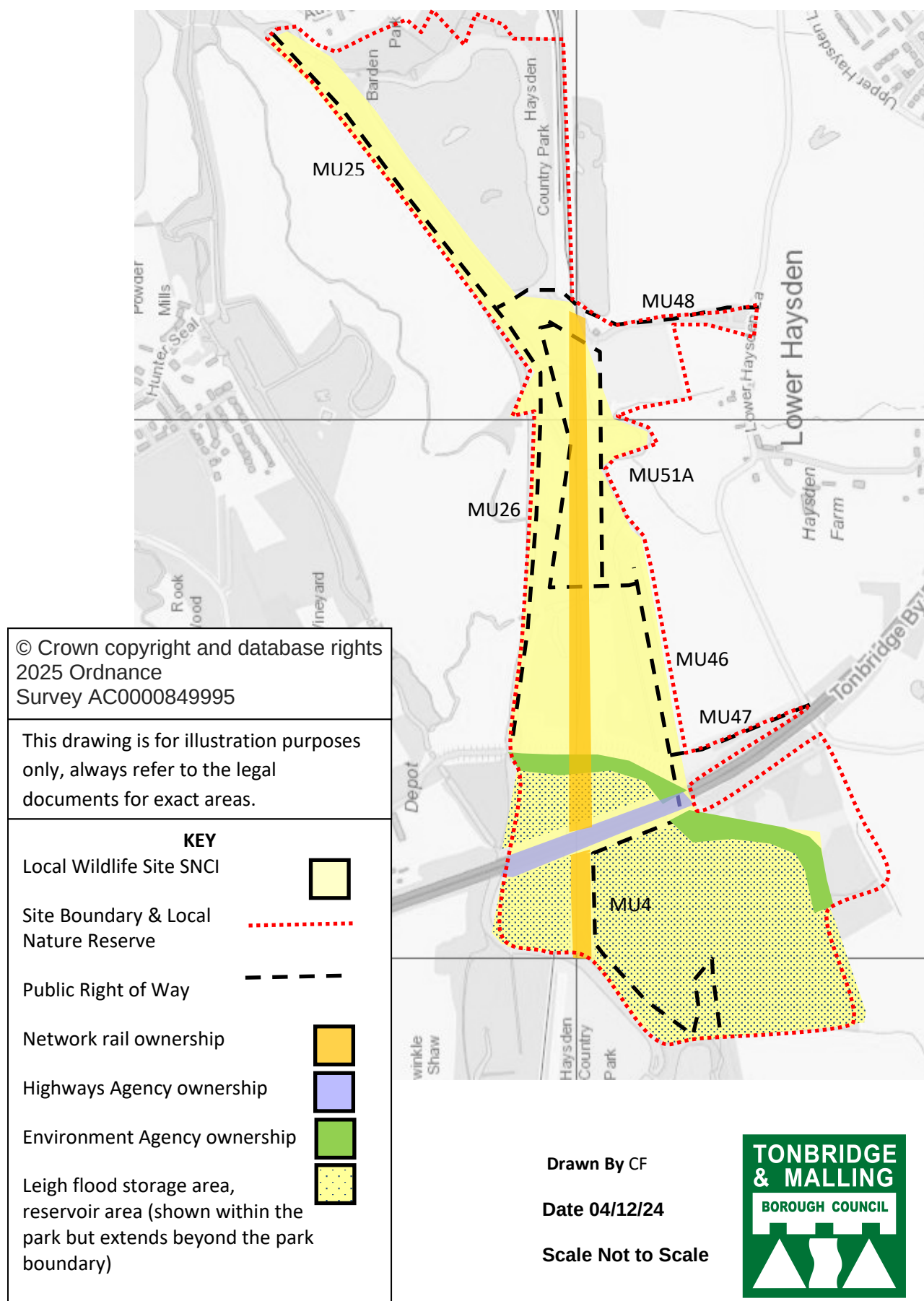
Stone Lock to Shallows Bridge Circuit: This circuit is the most aspirational as it is blocked by the railway underpass and Rainbow Bridge - the responsibility of Network Rail and KCC. However, the northern section to Heusenstamm Wood, parallel to the river, is already fairly accessible with many benches. Improved surfacing would create a 'there and back' route.

Audley Rise car park to Barden Lake: Improving this route would enable visitors to access Barden Lake but unless the Barden Lake circuit is improved this does not provide much benefit at the present time.

This is only a summary with much more detail provided within the main document.

Legal aspects map

Appendix 5



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

Example risk assessment

Appendix 6

Appendix 7

Asset list

Asset	Supplier	Quantity
AED and cabinet	Wel Medical	1
Bat cave	Kent Bat Group	1
Baby changing unit wall mounted KB	Koala Kare	1
Boot wipers	Barricade fabrications and another	3
Bollards	Various manufacturers	17
Bollards' drop type	Rhino and others	5
Bridges owned by TMBC	Sarum and others	3
Bridges owned by KCC		8
Bridge owned by EA (Friendship bridge)		1
Brindle route permissive (excludes the Public Right of Way brindle route)		637 LM
Catering unit		1
Car parks		4
Car park meters	Cala bripac	3
Car parking backboard signs	Royal British Legion Industries	9
Car parking spaces		100
Cycle stands - Sheffield type	Broxap	2
Disabled car parking spaces		5
Disabled fishing platforms		2
Disabled lakeside parking		4 spaces
Dipping platform	MVCP	1
Disabled view point parking area		1
Dog waste bins	Glasdon UK	21
Educational area seating and tables	Steve Pouchmouth	5 Units
Fences (does not included disused fences)		1300 LM
Flagpole folding type	Harrison External Display Systems	1
Fishing swims		22
Gates - barriers	Various manufacturers	5
Gates field 5 bar type	Various makes	10
Gates pedestrian	Various makes	9
Gates self closing (play area) - Mono hinge	Joseph Ash Company	2
Height barriers		3
High vehicle parking spaces		3
3 counties 'A' barrier	Fearn truck bodies	4
Jetty	Designed and built by Valley Landscape	1
Landing stage for boat		1
Litter bins - Rustic 120 litre	Earth Anchors	6
Litter bins - frog shaped 140 litre	David Ogilvie	3

Litter bins lidded - 105 litre Textured Glass Fibre with wooden front and lid	Wybone Ltd	19
Litter bins - Cardiff all metal	Streetmaster	3
Life buoy stations	Glasdon	4
Multi use goal mouth	Wicksteed	1
Mess room - sinks		2
Multi use goal mouth	Wicksteed	1
Notice boards		4
Paths unmade no surfacing (all)		3142 LM
Paths surfaced (all)		3600 LM
Paths surfaced National Cycle Route 12 within boundary of the park		2366 LM
Picnic tables all metal	Wybone, and Streetmaster	16
Picnic tables all metal with extension for disable access	Wybone,	6
Play areas		1
Play equipment items	SMP, Wicksteed, Inclusive play, Kompan, Percussion play	25
Play area Impact Absorbing Surfacing	PHS Group Ltd, Wicksteed Leisure and Hags SMP, Kompan	
Play sculptures	Broxap/ Hand made places	16
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 figure)		4161 LM
Roads		600 LM
Salt bin	Glasdon	1
Sailing club building and boat store		1
Sanitary bins	Initial washroom	3
Seats with backs	Tilford - Norbury Park	6
Seats with backs	Kensington - Streetmaster	49
Seats benches (no backs)		17
Stiles owned by others	N/A	2
Sewage plant	Lemon Drainage	1
Signs metal owned by TMBC	Weddle and Co and RBLI	45
Signs - owned by others e.g. Environment Agency	N/A	4
Signs - interpretation	Weddle and Co	2
Signs directional	Signs Workshop	13
Signs - entrance	Elements made by Metro signs and Popi designs	7
Signs - cycle route finger signs	Sustrains and others	6
Signs - cycle route directional	Sustrains and others	7
Signs - play area	Weddle and Co	2
Trade waste bins (Council use only)	Veiolia	2
Steps		3

Toilets and office building and compound		1
Toilets male cubical		1
Toilets female cubicles		2
Toilets urinals		2
Toilets sinks		2
Toilets disabled toilets		1

Appendix 8

Chemicals used in the park

Chemical Group	Examples	Reason for use
Dusts	Postcrete, cement	Repairs and maintenance installing new signs and posts
Glues and solvents	Glue	Repairs and maintenance
Oils and petrol	White spirit, petrol, oils and lubricants	Cleaning paint brushes. Lubrication for power tools truck and play equipment
Paints	Gloss and emulsion paints, stains, hummerite types, spray paint	Repairs and maintenance, to street furniture, and building maintenance, marking work areas and trees for work
Pesticide	Deadline, Phostoxin, Round-up Pro Active	Rodent control around litter bins and catering. Rabbit control around Leigh barrier, weedkiller in car park areas all as when required
Others	Non-Porous Surface Graffiti remover Wipes (red top) Graf-Off wipes (blue top) and other chemicals	Removing graffiti.

Appendix 9

Habitat characteristics and species composition

Habitat survey notes

A) Barden Lake

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

B) Barden Lake surrounds

This is grassland with occasional scrub thickets, with rushes growing on wet flush areas. The grass around most of the lake is left to grow long all summer. We have some shelter belts of scrub, and one area of grassland is managed by the volunteers as a wildflower meadow.

C) Barden Shaw

This is a mixed broad-leaved woodland managed as a coppice woodland. Several 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. The area does contain Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) but these are dying as they have become infected with Ash dieback fungi and are gradually being removed for public safety. Some deadwood has been left on the ground, especially as habitat for small fungi.

Dragonfly species have also been noted. Historical records show that Dyer's Greenwood (*Genista tinctoria*) was once present near this location.

D) Audley Wood

This is a mixed broadleaved woodland which contains Hornbeam, (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and small amounts of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The Ash trees are dying of Ash dieback and are being removed. We are trying to control Himalayan balsam and Giant hogweed (occasional plants) in this area. Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) are frequently seen in this area along with damsel and dragonflies.

E) Stone Lock

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

The vegetation recorded in association with the Stone Lock (surveyed in 2008) strongly reflects the habitat and environmental conditions. Many of the plants and all of the bryophytes and ferns are characteristic of wet damp and humid conditions, mainly of wet woodlands and streams. These species include: Marsh Willowherb (*Epilobium palustre*), water forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Water Chickweed (*Myosoton aquaticum*), Wavey Bittercress (*Cardamine flexuosa*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). The moss (*Rhizomnium 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). Numerous other Bryophyte species have also been found in recent surveys.

F) River Medway Meadow

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

G) Friendship Meadow

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

H) Heusenstamm Wood

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

The pond on the railway side is a remnant of the old Shallows River. This contains: Common Reed, (*Phragmites australis*) and Wood Club-rush (*Scirpus sylvaticus*).

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 also 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 glandulifera*), Common Hogweed, (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Bramble, (*Rubus agg.*), Stinging Nettle, (*Urtica dioica*) and Hop, (*Humulus Lupulus*). Less desirable plants are Himalayan Balsam which we are trying to control.

J) Straight Mile Wood

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

K) Kissing Gate Meadow

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

L) Haysden Water Lake

The lake has varying depths and is used for watersports, it has some emergent and submerged plants such as Nuttall's Waterweed, (*Elodea nuttallii*) and has a good diversity of marginal species mentioned below. Species present in the area include Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), and seven to eight bat species Pipistrelle Bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Nathusius Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Serotine Bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*) and Noctule Bat, (*Nyctulis 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 the lake, and Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), are attracted by the fish in the lake and roost on trees on the islands.

M) Haysden Water environs

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

N) Nature reserve sanctuary area

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

O) Botany Pond

Created in 2003 this is a relatively new pond. Never the less it is now well established with plants including the tall native grass Tufted Hair-grass, (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and the non-native , Duck-potato, (*Sagittaria latifolia*). The fertile flood water that regularly inundates this area, allows the plants grow vigorously.

P) Mud Lane

Running parallel to the A21 this old trackway is a permissive bridleway and footpath. The track contains an old hedgerow of Hawthorn, (*Crategus monogyna*), along the field boundary, a with a few ancient Oaks (*Quercus rubur*). Recent tree planting has taken place at one end.

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*). This is 'especially characteristic where traditional hay meadow treatment has been applied ,and is typical of lowland grassland which is seasonally flooded.

Country Park full species lists general notes

The full species list that follows, has an importance column, each asterisk indicates how many laws within the three categories (international/ European, national to regional/ local) apply to that species.

The International column 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](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3408) was used to complete the importance column).

The National column, indicates those species covered by our national United Kingdom law, such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act, or Crow Act and in the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (as above Joint Nature Conservation Committee list was used).

The Local/ Regional column, shows 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 are measurable. These species come from list

produced by the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2019 to 2024 which is currently at consultation stage

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Kentbiodiversityconsultation/consultationHome> .

Breeding birds (from our annual site surveys from 2023 and 2024) have been indicated using the † symbol. The words 'BSBI' indicates plants that are listed in the Kent Rare Plants Register produced by the Kent Botanical Recording Group (which is part of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) and available online.

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.

ALGA AND FUNGUS

IMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name European	International/ National	Regional/ Local
Artists Bracket	Ganoderma applanatum		
Bark Bonnet	Phloeomana speira		
Bay Polypore	Polyporus durus		
Big Sheath			
Mushroom	Volvopluteus gloiocephalus		
Birch Mazegill	Lenzites betulina		
Black Cup Fungi	Sclerencoelia fraxinicola		
Black Witches'	Exidia glandulosa		
Butter			
Blushing Bracket	Daedaleopsis confragosa		
Blushing Rosette	Abortiporous biennis		
Bracket Fungus	Daedaleopsis tricolor		
Branched Oyster	Pleurotus cornucopiae		
Brown Cup	Peziza micropus		
Brown Roll-rim	Paxillus involutus		
Burgundydrop	Mycena haematopus		
Bonnet			
Candlesnuff fungus	Xylaria hypoxylon		
Chaga	Inonotus obliquus		
Chemical knight	Cortinarius triumphans		
Chicken in the wood	Laetiporus sulphureus		

Clouded Funnel	Clitocybe nebularis
Common Bird's Nest	Crucibulum leave
Common Bonnet	Mycena galericulata
Common Earthball	Scleroderma citrinum
Common inkcap	Coprinopsis atramentaria
Common Jelly Spot	Dacrymyces stillatus
Common Puffball	Lycoperdon perlatum
Conifer Tuft	Hypholoma capnoides
Coppery Pax	Paxillus cuprinus
Coral Spot	Nectria cinnabarina
Crested Coral	Clavulina coralloides
Crimped Gill	Plicaturopsis crispa
Crowded parchment	Stereum complicatum
Crystal Brain	Cushion bracket
Daedaleopsis	
Tricolor	Daedaleopsis tricolor
Dark Honey	Armillaria ostoyae
Mushroom	
Dead Moll's Fingers	Xylaria longipes
Dog Sick	Fuligo gyrosa
Dryads Saddle	Polyporus squamosus
Ear fungus	Hirneola auricula judae
Enoki	Flammulina velutipes
Fairy Inkcap	Coprinellus disseminates
Fairy Parachutes	Marasmiellus candidus
Fairy Ring	Marasmius oreades
False Turkey Tail	Stereum hirsutum
Fatal Dapperling	Lepiota subincarnata
Field Mushroom	Agaricus campestris
Flat Oysterling	Crepidotus applantus
Fleecy Milk Cap	

fungus	Lactarius vellereus
Fluted Bird's Nest	Cyathus striatus
Fly Agaric Fungus	Amanita muscaria
Giant Puffball	Calvatia gigantea
Goblet	Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis
Golden Conecap	Concybe aurea
Golden Milk-cap	Lactarius alnicola
Golden-gilled	Ganoderma tsugae
Gymnopilus	
Hairy Curtain Crust	Stereum hirstum
Harefoot Mushroom	Coprinopsis lagopus
Hemlock Varnish	Ganoderma tsugae
Shelf	
Honey Fungus	Armillaria mellea
Jelly Drops	Ascocoryne sarcoides
King Alfred's Cake	Daldinia concentrica
Later Fall Oyster	Panellus serotinus
Mushroom	
Laughing Gym	Ganoderma tsugae
Leafy Brain	Phaeotremella foliacea
Lilac Bonnet	Mycena pura
Lumpy Bracket	Trametes gibbosa
Luxury Caps	Gymnopus luxurians
Magenta Rustgill	Ganoderma tsugae
Many Zoned	
Polypore Fungus	Trametes versicolor
Mauve Bonnet	Mycena melligena
Meadow Mushroom	Agaricus campestris
Meadow Waxcup	Cuphophyllus pratensis
Mealy Oyster	Ossicaulis lignatilis
Mica Cap	Coprinellus micaceus

Milk cup	Lactarius controversus	
Milk-white Brittlegill	Russula ssp	
Milk-white Toothed	Irpex lacteus	
Polypore		
Milky Conecap	Conocybe apala	
Nirous Bonnet	Mycena leptocephaia	
Oak Curtain Crust	Ganoderma tsugae	
Oakmoss Lichen	Evernia prunastri	*
Oak Curtain Crust	Ganoderma tsugae	
Oak-loving Collybia	Gymnopus dryophilus	
Ochre Bracket	Trametes ochracea	
Olive Brown	Panellus serotines	
Panellus Fungus	Crepidotus cesatii	
Osterling		
Oyster Mushroom	Pleurotus ostreatus	
Pale Brittlestem	Psathyrella candolleana	
Parasol Mushroom	Macrolepiota procera	
Pear-shaped Puffball	Lycoperdon pyriforme	
Peeling Oysterling	Crepidotus mollis	
Pinwheel Mushroom	Marasmius rotula	
Pleated Inkcap	Parasola plicatilis	
Pointed Club	Clavaria acuta	
Purplepore bracket	Trichaptum abietinum	
Purple Jelly Fungus	Ascocoryne sarcoides	
Red Belt Conk-	Fomitopsis pinicola	
bracket Polypore		
Red Cracking bolete	Xerocomellus chrysenteron	
Red Edge	Psathyrella corrugis	
Brittlestem		
Red edge brittlestem	Psathyrella corrugis	
Redlead Roundhead	Leratiomyces ceres	

Ruby Bolete	Hortiboletus rubellus
Russula	Russula sppScarlet
Scarlet Elf's Cap	Sarcoscypha coccinea
Fungus	
Scalycap	Pholiota tuberculosa
Scotch Bonnet	Marasmius oreades
Scurvy Twiglet	Tubaria fururacea
Shaggy Mane	Coprinus comatus
Shaggy Parasol	Chlorophyllum rhacodes
Mushroom	
Sheathed Woodtuft	Kuehneromyces mutabilis
Silverleaf Fungus	Chondrostereum purpureum
Slender Parasol	Macrolepiota mastoidea
Slime Mold	Badhamia utricularis
Small Stagshorn	Calocera comea
Snowy Waxcap	Cuphophyllus virgineus
St.George's	Calocybe gambosa
Mushroom	
Spring Field Cap	Agrocybe praecox
Fungus	
Stump puffball	Lycoperdon pyriforme
fungus	
Sulphur polypore	Laetiporus sulphureus
fungus	
Sulphur tuft fungus	Hypholoma fasciculare
Tall Psathyrella	Psathyrella longipes
Trembling Merulius	Phlebia tremellosa
Turkey Tail	Trametes versicolor
Upright Coral	Ramaria stricta
White Fibercap	Inocybe geophylla
White Cheese	Tyromyces chioneus

Polypore

White Dapperling	Leucoagaricus leucothites
White Fibercap	Inocype geophylla
White Knight	Tricholoma album
White Saddle	Ganoderma tsugae
White Spindles	Clavaria fragilis
Witches' Butter	Tremella mesenterica
Witch's Hat	Hygrocybe conica
Wolf's Milk Slime mold	Lycogala epidendrum
Wood Blewit	Lepista nuda
Wood Cauliflower	Sparassis Crispa
Wrinkled crust	Phiebia Radiata
Wrinkled Fieldcap	Agrocybe rivulosa
Yellow Fairy Cups	Bisporella Citrina
Yellow Fieldcap	Bolbitius Titubans
Yellow Stainer	Agarcus Xanthodermus

AMPHIBIANS

IMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name	International/			Regional/
		European	National	Local	
Common smooth newt	Lissotriton vulgaris	**	*		
Frog	Rana temporaria	***	*		
Toad	Bufo bufo	**	***		

BIRDS

IMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name	International/			Regional/
		European	National	Local	
Artic tern	Sterna paradisaea	***	**		
Bar headed goose	Anser indicus				

Barn Owl	Tyto alba	*	**
Barnacle goose	Branta leucopsis	***	*
Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	***	****
Black kite	Milvus migrans	***	
Black necked grebe	Podiceps nigricollis		
Black redstart	Phoenicurus ochrurus		
Black swan	Cygnus atratus		
Black tern	Chlidonias niger	***	**
Blackbird †	Turdus merula	*	*
Blackcap †	Sylvia atricapilla		*
Black-headed gull	Larus ridibundus		
Black-tailed godwit	Limosa limosa	**	**
Blue tit †	Parus caeruleus		
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla		**
Brent Goose	Branta bernicla	**	*
Bullfinch †	Pyrrhula pyrrhula		*
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	**	*
Canada goose †	Branta canadensis	**	
Carrion crow †	Corvus corone	*	*
Cetti's warbler †	Cettia cetti		**
Chiffchaff †	Phylloscopus collybita		
Coal tit	Parus ater		
Collared dove †	Streptopelia decaocto		
Common gull	Larus canus	**	*
Common sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	*	*
Common shelduck	Talorna tadorna		
Common tern	Sterna hirundo	***	*
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	*	*
Coot †	Fulica atra	**	*
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus		***
Curlew	Numenius arquata	**	***

Dunlin	Calidris alpine		
Dunnoek †	Prunella modularis	*	*
Egyptian goose †	Alopochen aegyptiacus		
Eurasian reed warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus		
Eurasian treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	*	*
Eurasian wigeon	Anas penelope		
Feral pigeon †	Columba livia	**	*
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	*	**
Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus		
Gadwall duck	Anas strepera	*	
Garden warbler †	Sylvia borin		*
Gargany duck	Anas querquedula		
Goldcrest †	Regulus regulus	*	*
Golden plover	Pluvialis apricaria	**	*
Goldeneye duck	Bucephala clangula	**	*
Goldfinch †	Carduelis carduelis	*	*
Goosander duck	Mergus merganser	**	*
Grasshopper warbler	Locustella naevia		***
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	Carduelis chloris		
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	**	*
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea	*	*
Greylag Goose †	Locustella naevia		***
Grey partridge	Perdix perdix		***
Grey wagtail †	Motacilla cinerea	*	*
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	*	
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 rufa		
Red throated diver	Gavia stellata	***	**
Red-crested pochard			
duck	Aythya ferina		
Redpoll mealy	Carduelis flammea		
Redshank	Tringa totanus	**	*

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

Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		*
Tawny owl	<i>Strix alluco</i>	*	
Teal duck	<i>Anas crecca</i>	***	*
Treecreeper †	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	**	
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		***
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	**	*
Turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		
Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	**	*
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	*	*
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	*	*
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	**	**
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	*	*
White fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	**	*
Whitethroat †	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	***	**
Wigeon duck	<i>Anser penelope</i>		
Willow tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>		
Willow warbler	<i>Phyllocopus trochilus</i>		
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	***	**
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	**	*
Woodpigeon †	<i>Columba livia</i>	**	*
Wren †	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	*	*
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	*	***

BRYROPHYTESIMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name	International/ European	Regional/ National	Local
Bifid Crestwort	<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>		*	
Bird's-claw Beard-	<i>Barbula unguiculata</i>			
Moss			*	

Capillary Thread-Moss	<i>Bryum capillare</i>	*
Creeping Feather-Moss	<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	*
Crescent-cup	<i>Lunularia cruciate</i>	*
Common Feather-Moss	<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	*
Cylindric Beard-Moss	<i>Didymodon insulanus</i>	*
Dilated Scalewort	<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	*
Dotted Thyme moss	<i>Rhizomnium punctatum</i>	*
Dusky Beard-moss	<i>Didymodon luridus</i>	*
Elegant Bristle-moss	<i>Orthotrichum pulchellum</i>	*
Endive Pellia	<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i>	*
Fairy Beads	<i>Microlejeunea ulicina</i>	*
Forked Veilwort	<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	*
Frizzled Pincushion	<i>Plenogemma [Ulota]</i>	
	<i>Phyllantha</i>	*
Great Scented Liverwort	<i>Conocephalum conicum</i>	*
	agg.	
Hart's tongue Thyme -moss	<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	*
Kneiff's Hook-moss	<i>Drepanocladus aduncus</i>	*
Lateral Cryphaea	<i>Cryphaea heteromalla</i>	*
Lyell's Bristle-moss	<i>Pulviger [Orthotrichum]</i>	
	<i>Lyellii</i>	*
Many-fruited Leskea	<i>Leskea polycarpa</i>	*
Marble Screw-moss	<i>Syntrichia papillosa</i>	*
Moss River Feather-moss	<i>Brachythecium rivulare</i>	*
Pointed Lattice-	<i>Dialtrichia mucronata</i>	

moss

Pale Scalewort *Radula complanata* *

Rusty Feather-moss *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum* *

Shaw's Bristle-moss Lewinska [Orthotrichum]

Liverwort striatum *

Slender Bristle-moss *Orthotrichum tenellum* *

Cliff Scalewort *Porella cordaeana* *

Small Hairy Screw- *Syntrichia laevipila*

Moss *

Wall Scalewort *Porella platypyhlla*

White-tipped Bristle- *Orthotrichum diaphanum* *

moss

Wood Bristle-moss Lewinskya [Orthotrichum]
affine

FISH

IMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name	International/		Regional/
	European	National	Local	

Bream *Albramis brama*

Carp Cyprinus carpio

Gudgeon Gobio gobio

Eel	Anguilla Anguilla	**	**
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Perch Perca flaviatilis

Pike *Esox lucius* *

Roach Rutilus rutilus *

Rudd Scardinius
erythrophthalmus

9 Spotted *Pungitius pungitius*

Stickleback

Tench Trinca tinca

INSECTS

IMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name	International/	Regional/
	European	National	Local
7 spotted Ladybird	Oedemera noblis		
7-punctata	Coccinella		
aa 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	Calopterex 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	Ishnura elegans		
Damselfly			
Brassica Bug	Eurydema oleraceaand		
Bright-line Brown-eye			
Moth	Lacanobia oleracea		

Brimstone Butterfly	Gonepteryx rhamni	*	*
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	Melitta leporina		
Bee			
Clouded Yellow			
Butterfly	Colias crocea		
Comb-footed Spider	Anelosimus vittatus		*
Comma Butterfly	Polygonia c-album		*

Common Blue

Damselfly	Enallagma cyathigerum	*	*
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Common Blue

Butterfly	Polymmoatus icarus		
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Common Blue

Damselfly	Enallagma cyathigerum		
	*	*	

Common Carder Bee	Bombus pascuorum		
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Common Carpet Moth	Epirrhoe alternata		
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Common Darter

Dragonfly	Sympetrum striolatum	*	*
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Common Green

Grasshopper	Omocestus viridulus		*
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Common Rustic

Moth	Mesapamea secalis		
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Cranefly	Tipula paludosa		
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Cucumber Green

Spider	Araniella cucurbitina		*
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Dark Bush Cricket	Pholidoptera griseoaptera		*
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Drepressed

(or compressed)

River Mussel	Pseudanodonta complanta		
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Diving beetle	Agabus bipustulatus		
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Ear Moss Beetle	Ochthebius auriculatus	*	
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Earwig	Lathrobium pallidipenne	*	
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Elephant Hawk Moth	Dielephila elpenor		
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Emperor Dragonfly	Anax imperator	*	*
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Fish Leech	Piscicola geimetra		
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Five Spotted Burnet

moth	Zygaena trifolii		
Flame Shoulder			
Moth	Ochropleura plecta		
Forest Bug Shield			
Bug	Pentatoma rufipes		*
Four Spotted Chaser			
Dragonfly	Libellula quadrimaculata	*	*
Fresh Water Shrimp	Gammarus pulex		
Froghopper	Cercopis vulnerata		
Fruit Fly	Tachina fera		
Garden Snail	Helix aspersa		
Garden Spider	Araneus diadematus		*
Gatekeeper Butterfly	Pyronia tithonus		*
German Wasp	Vespula germanica		
Glow Worms	Lampyris noctiluca		*
Great Diving Beetle	Dytiscus marginalis		
Greater Water			
Boatman	Notonecta glauca		
Green Bottle	Lucilia caesar		
Green Carpet Moth	Colostygia pectinataria		
Green Veined White			
Butterfly	Artogeia napi		
Hawthorn Shield Bug	Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale		*
Herald Moth	Scoliopteryx libatrix		
Holly Blue Butterfly	Celastrina argiolus		*
Hornets	Vespa crabro		
Hoverfly	Episyrphus balteatus		
HoverFly	Volucella inanis		
HoverFly	Eristalis tenex		
Hoverfly	Eristalis horticola		
Iron Prominent Moth	Notodonta dromedarius		

Kleptoparasitic 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 Yellow			
Underwing Moth	Noctua pronuba		
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow	Noctua janthe		
Underwing Moth			
Large Meadow			
Mining Bee	Andrena (Holandrena) labialis		
Lesser Water			
Boatman	Corixa punctata	*	
Lesser Yellow			
Underwing Moth	Noctua comes		
Little Black Wasp	Pemphredon lethifera		
Lime-speck Pug			
Moth	Eupithecia centaureata		
Lobe Spurred 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		
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 Damselfly	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	****
Small Copper		
Butterfly	Lycaena phlaeas	*
Small Heath Butterfly	Coenonympha pamphilus	
Small Red-eyed		
Damselfly	Erythromma viridulum	
Small Rivulet Moth	Perizoma alchemilla	
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 *

Water Boatman Notonecta glauca

Water Scorpion Nepa cinerea *

Water Stick Insect Ranatra linearis

White Legged

Damselfly Platycnemis pennipes * *

White Lipped Snail Cepaea hortensis

White Plume Moth Pterophorus pentadactyla

White Tailed

Bumblebee Bombus lucorum

Willugbys Leafcutter

Bee	Mageachile (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 is likely to be a greater number of insects present on the site than we have recorded here. 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.

PLANTS

IMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name	International/ Regional/		
		European	National	Local
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>		*	
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	*	*	
Alder buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>		*	
Alexanders	<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>		*	
American skunk cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>			
Almond Willow	<i>Salix triandra</i>	*		
American Willowherb	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>			
Annual Beard-grass	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>		*	
Annual meadow- grass	<i>Poa annua</i>		*	
Annual pearlwort	<i>Sagina apetala</i>		*	
Apple	<i>Malus pumila</i>			
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		*	
Aspen common	<i>Populus tremula</i>		*	
Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzonoides autumnalis</i>			

Balkan spurge	Euphorbia oblongata	
Barren brome	Anisantha sterilis	
Barren strawberry	Potentilla sterilis	*
Bastard cabbage	Rapistrum rugosum	
Beaked hawk's-beard	Crepis vesicaria	
Bearded Couch	Elymus caninus	*
Bearded grass	Polypogon monspeliensis	*
Bee orchid	Ophrys apifera	
Beech	Fagus sylvatica	*
Betony	Betonica officinalis	
Bifid Hemp-nettle	Galeopsis bifida	*
Bird Cherry	Prunus padus	*
Bird's foot Clover	Trifolium ornithopodioides	*
Bittersweet	Solannum dulcamara	
Black Bent	Agrostis gigantea	*
Black bryony	Tamus communis	
Black Currant	Ribes nigrum	
Black horehound	Ballota nigra	*
Common knapweed	Centaurea nigra	*
Black medic	Medicago lupulina	*
Black mustard	Brassica nigra	*
Black nightshade	Solanum nigrum	*
Black Spleenwort	Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	*
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	*
Blue Green Alga	Microcystis aeruginose	
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	**
Bog Stitchwort	Stellaria alsine	
Borrer's Scaly		
Male-fern	Dryopteris borreri	
Bracken	Pteridium aquilinum	*

Bramble	Rubus fruticosus agg	
Branched bur-reed	Sparganium erectum	*
Bread wheat	Triticum aestivum	
Bristly oxtongue	Helminthotheca echioides	*
Broad bean	Vicia faba	
Broad buckler fern	Dryopteris dilatata	*
Broad leaved dock	Rumex obtusifolius	
Broad leaved helleborine	Epipactis helleborine	*
Broadleaved Pond weed	Potamogeton natans	
Broadl-leaved willowherb	Epilobium montanum	*
Brooklime	Veronica beccabunga	*
Broom	Cytisus scoparius	*
Bucks-horn Plantain	Plantago coronopus	
Buckthorn	Rhamnus catharticus	
Bugle	Ajuga reptans	*
Buddleja	Buddleja davidii	
Bulbous buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus	*
Bulrush	Typha latifolia	*
Burdock, Greater	Arctium lappa	*
Burdock, Lesser	Arctium minus	*
Bur chervil	Anthriscus caucalis	*
Burnet-saxifrage	Pimpinella saxifraga	*
Bush Vetch	Vicia sepium	*
Californian poppy	Eschscholzia californica	*
Canadian Fleabane	Erigeron canadensis	*
Caper spurge	Euphorbia lathyris	
Cats ear	Hypochaeris radicata	
Celery leaved		

Buttercup	Ranunculus sceleratus	*	
Changing forget-me-not	Myosotis discolor	*	
Charlock	Sinapis arvensis	*	
Cherry Laurel	Prunus laurocerasus		
Cherry Plum	Prunus cerasifera		
Chicory	Cichorium intybus ssp foliosum		
Chusan Palm	Trachycarpus fortunei		
Cleavers	Galium aparine	*	
Clustered dock	Rumex conglomeratus	*	
Cocks foot	Dactylis glomerata	*	
Cockspur	Echinochloa crus-galli		
Cockspurthorn	Crataegus crus-galli		
Coltsfoot	Tussilago farfara	*	
Columbine	Aquilegia vulgaris	*	
Common Bent	Agrostis capillaris	*	
Common birds-foot			
Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	*	
Common Centaury	Centaureum erythraea	*	
Common Chickweed	Stellaria media	*	
Common club-rush	Schoenoplectus lacustris	*	
Common Comfrey	Symphytum officinale	*	
Common Corncockle	Agrostemma githago	*	BSBI
Common Couch	Elymus repens		
Common Cudweed	Filago vulgaris	*	BSBI
Common Dog Violet	Viola reichenbachiana	*	
Common Duckweed	Lemna minor	*	
Common Field			
Speedwell	Veronica persica		
Common Figwort	Scrophularia nodosa	*	
Common Fleabane	Pulicaria dysenterica		

Common fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	*	
Common gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>		
Common Hemp-			
Nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	*	
Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	*	
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i> agg.		
Common laburnum	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>		
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	*	
Common Marsh-			
Bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>		
Common Mouse ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	*	
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	*	
Common Orache	<i>Atriplex patula</i>	*	
Common			
Pepperwort	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	*	BSBI
Common Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	*	
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>		
Common Rampion			
Fumitory	<i>Fumaria muralis</i> subsp. <i>boraei</i>	*	
Common Millet	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>		
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>		
Common spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	*	
Common Spotted-			
orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	*	
Common stork's-bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>		
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	*	
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	*	
Common Whitlow			
grass	<i>Erophila verna</i>	*	
Compact rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	*	
Corky-fruited water-			

Dropwort	Oenathera pimpinelloides		
Corn marigold	Glebionis segetum	*	BSBI
Corn mint	Mentha arvensis	*	BSBI
Cornflower	Centaurea cyanus		
Cow parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris	*	
Cowslip	Primula veris	*	
Crab apple	Malus sylvestris sens.lat.		
Crack willow	Salix fragilis		
Creeping bent	Agrostis stolonifera	*	
Creeping buttercup	Ranunculus repens	*	
Creeping cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans	*	
Creeping Jenny	Lysimachia nummularia	*	
Creeping Soft-			
grass	Holcus mollis	*	
Creeping thistle	Cirsium arvense	*	
Creeping woodsorrel	Oxalis corniculata		
Creeping yellow			
cress	Rorippa sylvestris	*	
Crested Dog's-tail	Cynosurus cristatus	*	
Crosswort	Cruciata laevipes	*	BSBI
Curled dock	Rumex crispus	*	
Curled dock hybrid	Rumex x pratensis		
Curled dock hybrid	Rumex x sagorskii		
Curled dock hybrid	Rumex x schulzei		
Curved pondweed	Potamogeton crispus	*	
Cut leaved			
Cranesbill	Geranium dissectum	*	
Cut-leaved dead-			
nettle	Lamium hybridum	*	
Cyperus sedge	Carex pseudocyperus	*	
Daisy	Bellis perennis	*	

Dames Violet	Hesperis matronalis		
Dandelion	Taraxacum agg		
Danish scurvygrass	Cochlearia danica	*	
Dark Mullein	Verbascum nigrum	*	
Devil's-bit Scabious	Succisa pratensis	*	BSBI
Dewberry	Rubus caesius	*	
Dog-rose hybrid	Rosa canina group Pubescentes		
Dog-rose hybrid	Rosa canina group Dumales		
Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea	*	
Dogs Mercury	Mercurialis perennis	*	
Dotted Loosestrife	Lysimachia punctata		
Doves foot Cranes-			
bill	Geranium molle	*	
Downy Birch	Betula pubescens	*	
Dryads saddle	Polyporus squamosus		
Duck potato	Sangtoilia latifolia		
Dwarf mallow	Malva neglecta	*	
Dyers greenweed	Genista tinctoria	*	BSBI
Early Dog Violet	Viola riviniana	*	
		*	
Eastern rocket	Sisymbrium orientale		
Elder	Sambucus nigra	*	
Elmleaf blackberry	Rubus ulmifolius		
Enchanter's-			
nightshade	Circaea lutetiana	*	
English elm	Ulmus spp		
Evergreen			
Spindle	Euonymus fortunei		
European lime	Tillia x europea		
False brome	Brachypodium sylvaticum	*	
False fox Sedge	Carex otrubae	*	

False Oat-grass	Arrhenatherum elatius	*	
Fat hen	Chenopodium album	*	
Fennel Pondweed	Stuckenia pectinata		
Fern-grass	Catapodium rigidum	*	
Feverfew	Tanacetum parthenium	*	
Field Bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis	*	
Field forget me-not	Myosotis arvensis	*	
Field Horsetail	Equisetum arvense	*	
Field Madder	Sherardia arvensis	*	
Field Maple	Acer campestre	*	
Field Pansy	Viola arvensis	*	
Field peppergrass	Lepidium campestre	*	BSBI
Field rose	Rosa arvensis	*	
Field scabious	Knautia arvensis	*	BSBI
Field Wood-rush	Luzula campestris	*	
Fine-leaved			
Sheep's-fescue	Fescue filiformis		
Flattened meadow-			
grass	Poa compressa	*	
Flax	Linum usitatissimum		
Floating sweet grass	Glyceria fluitans		
Flowering-rush	Butomus umbellatus	*	
Fodder Vetch	Vicia villosa		
Foliage Beet	Beta vulgaris Ssp cicla		
Fools water cress	Helosciadium nodiflorum		
Fortune's Holly-fern	Cyrtomium fortunei		
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea	*	
Fringed willowherb	Epilobium ciliatum		
Fringed water lily	Nymphoides peltata	*	BSBI
Fritillary	Fritillaria meleagris		
Garden Grape-			

hyacinth	Muscari armeniacum	
Garden Solomon's		
Seal	Polygonatum x hybridum	
Garlic Mustard	Alliaria petiolata	
Germander		
Speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys	*
Giant Fescue	Schedonorus giganteus	
Giant Hogweed	Heracleum mantegazzianum	
		*
Gipsywort	Lycopus europaeus	*
Goat willow	Salix caprea	*
Goats-beard	Tragopogon pratensis Ssp minor	
Goat's-beard hybrid	Tragopogon x mirabilis	
Goats-rue	Galega officinalis	
Goldilocks buttercup	Ranunculus auricomus	*
Gooseberry	Ribes uva-crispa	
Goosefoot	Lipandra polysperma	
Gorse	Ulex europaeus	*
Grass vetchling	Lathyrus nissolia	
Great Burnet	Sanguisorba officinalis	*
Greater burdock	Arctium lappa	*
Great Lettuce	Lactuca virosa	*
Great Mullein	Verbascum thapsus	*
Great Willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum	*
Great Yellow cress	Rorippa amphibia	*
Greater birds-foot-		
trefoil	Lotus pedunculatus	*
Greater celandine	Chelidonium majus	*
Greater duckweed	Spirodela polyrhiza	*
Greater periwinkle	Vinca major	

Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	*
Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	*
Greek dock	<i>Rumex cristatus</i>	
Green alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	
Green Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	
Green Bristle-grass	<i>Setaria viridis</i>	
Green Field- speedwell	<i>Veronica agrestis</i>	*
Grey Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>	
Grey field-speedwell	<i>Veronica polita</i>	
Grey Poplar	<i>Populus x canescens</i>	
Grey Sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i>	*
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cineria ssp oleifolia</i>	
Ground Elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	*
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	*
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	*
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	*
Guernsey fleabane	<i>Erigerons sumatrensis</i>	
Gypsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	*
Hairy bittercress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	*
Hairy buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>	*
Hairy Dog-rose	<i>Rosa corymbifera</i>	
Hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	*
Hairy St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	*
Hairy tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	*
Hairy-brome	<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	*
Halberd leaved orache	<i>Atriplex hastata</i>	
Hard Rush	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	*
Hard Shield-fern	<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	*
Hard-grass	<i>Parapholis strigosa</i>	*

Hart's Tongue	Asplenium scolopendrium	
Hawkweed		
Oxtongue	Picris hieracioides	*
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	*
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	
spp		
Hazel	Corylus avellana	*
Hedge Bedstraw	Galium album	
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-agrimony	Eupatorium cannabinum	*
Herb robert	Geranium robertianum	*
Himalayan balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	
Himalayan Giant	Rubus armeniacus	
Hoary Cress	Lepidium draba	
Hoary Mustard	Hirschfeldia incana	
Hoary Ragwort	Jacobaea erucifolia	*
Hoary Willowherb	Epilobium parviflorum	*
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	*
Holly	Ilex aquifolium	*
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum	
Hop	Humulus lupulus	*
Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus	*
Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	
Hop trefoil	Trifolium campestre	*
Hybrid black popular	Populus x canadensis	

Hybrid Bluebell	Hyacinthoides x massartiana	
Hybrid Campion	Silene x hampeana	
Hybrid Willow	Salix. Caprea x viminalis	
Hybrid Crack-Willow	Salix x fragilis sens lat.	
Hybrid D.		
carthusiana	Dryopteris x deweveri	
Hybrid Goat Willow	Salix x reichardii	
Intermediate		
Polypody	Polypodium interjectum	*
Italian lords-and-		
ladies	Arum italicum	*
Ivy-leaved cyclamen	Cyclamen hederifolium	*
Ivy leaved speedwell	Veronica hederifolia	*
Japanese		
honeysuckle	Lonicera japonica	
Japanese		
Knotweed	Reynoutria japonica	
Jersey cudweed	Helichrysum luteoalbum	
Jointed Rush	Juncus articulatus	*
Keel-fruited		
Cornsalad	Valerianella carinata	*
Knotgrass	Polygonum aviculare	*
Knotted Hedge-		
parsley	Torilis nodosa	*
Lady-fern	Athyrium filix-femina	*
Lady's bedstraw	Galium verum	*
Large bindweed	Calystegia silvatica	
Large bitter-cress	Cardamine amara	*
Large-flowered		
Evening Primrose	Oenothera glazioviana	

*

Lesser celandine	Fiscaria verna		
Lesser Hawkbit	Leontodon saxatilis	*	
Lesser Periwinkle	Vinca minor	*	
Lesser Sea-spurrey	Spergularia marina	*	
Lesser Spearwort	Ranunculus flammula	*	BSBI
Lesser Stichwort	Stellaria graminea	*	
Lesser Swine-cress	Coronopus didymus		
Lesser trefoil	Trifolium dubium	*	
Little Robin	Geranium purpureum	*	
Lords and Ladies	Arum maculatum	*	
Love-in-a-mist	Nigella damscena		
Maidenhair			
Spleenwort	Asplenium trichomanes	*	
Maize	Zea mays		
Male fern	Dryopteris filix-mas	*	
Many flowered rose	Rosa multiflora		
Many-seeded			
goosefoot	Chenopodium polyspermum	*	
Marsh cudweed	Gnaphalium uliginosom		
Marsh foxtail	Alopecurus geniculatus	*	
Marsh Horsetail	Equisetum palustre	*	
Marsh-marigold	Caltha palustris	*	
Marsh Yellow-cress	Rorippa palustre		
Marsh thistle	Cirsium palustre	*	
Marsh woundwort	Stachys palustris	*	
Meadow Barley	Hordeum secalinum	*	
Meadow brome	Bromus commutatus	*	
Meadow buttercup	Ranunculus acris	*	
Meadow Crane's-bill	Geranium pratense	*	
Meadow Fescue	Schedonorus pratensis		
Meadow Foxtail	Alopecurus pratensis	*	

Meadow vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis	*	
Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria	*	
Michaelmas-daisies	Aster novi-belgii agg		
Midland hawthorn	Crataegus laevigata	*	
Midland hawthorn			
hybrid	Crataegus laevigata x media		
Moschatel	Adoxa moschatellina	*	
Mouse ear-			
hawkweed	Pilosella officinarum	*	
Mugwort	Artemisia vulgaris	*	
Musk Mallow	Malva moschata	*	
Musk Stork's-bill	Erodium moschatum	*	
Narrow Buckler-			
fern	Dryopteris caudata		
Narrow leaved			
bitter cress	Cardamine impatiens	*	BSBI
Narrow leaved water			
dropwort	Oenanthe silaifolia	*	BSBI
Narrow-leaved			
Water-plantain	Alisma lanceolatum	*	
Nettle-leaved			
Bellflower	Campanula trachelium	*	
New Zealand			
Pigmyweed	Crassula helmsii		
Niger	Guizotia abyssinica		
Nipplewort	Lapsana communis	*	
Norway maple	Acer plantanoides		
Norway spruce	Picea abies		
Nuttall's waterweed	Elodea nuttalli		
Oat	Avena sativa		

Opium Poppy	Papaver somniferum	*
Opposite-leaved		
golden-saxifrage	Chrysosplenium oppositifolium	*
Orange Balsam	Impatiens capensis	
Oregano	Origanum vulgare	*
Orpine	Hylotelephium telephium	
Osier	Salix viminalis	*
Oval sedge	Carex ovalis	
Oxeye Daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	*
Oxford Ragwort	Senecio squalidus	
Pale Persicaria	Persicaria lapathifolia	*
Parsley-piert	Aphanes arvensis	*
Peach	Prunus persica	
Pedunculate oak	Quercus robur	*
Pellitory-of-the-wall	Parietaria judaica	*
Pendulous Sedge	Carex pendula	*
Perennial rye grass	Lolium perenne	*
Perennial Sow thistle	Sonchus arvensis	*
Perforate St. Johns-		
wort	Hypericum perforatum	*
Petty Spurge	Euphorbia peplus	*
Pineapple weed	Matricaria matricariodes	
Pink-sorrel	Oxalis articulata	
Prickly lettuce	Lactuca serriola	*
Prickly Sow thistle	Sonchus asper	*
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	*
Procumbent		
pearlwort	Sagina procumbens	*
Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	*
Purple Toadflax	Linaria purpurea	
Pyramidal Orchid	Anacamptis pyramidalis	*

Ragged Robin	Lychnis flos-cuculi	
Ramsons	Allium ursinum	*
Raspberry	Rubus idaeus	*
Rar's-tail Fescue	Vulpia myros	
Red Bartsia	Odontites vernus	*
Red Campion	Silene dioica	*
Red clover	Trifolium pratense	*
Red Dead-nettle	Lamium purpureum	*
Red fescue	Festuca rubra	
Red goosefoot	Chenopodium rubrum	*
Red Oak	Quercus rubra	
Red Valerian	Centranthus ruber	
Red Currant	Ribes rubrum	*
Redshank	Persicaria maculata	
Reed Canary-grass	Phalaris arundinacea	*
Reed Ssweet-grass	Glyceria maxima	*
Reflexed Saltmarsh- grass	Puccinellia distans	
Remote Sedge	Carex remota	
Ribbed Melilot	Melilotus officinalis	
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	*
Rose caesia x canina	Rosa x dumalis	
Rock crane's-bill	Geranium macrorrhizum	
Rosebay willowherb	Chamaenerion angustifolium	
Rose-of-Sharon	Hypericum calycinum	
Rough Hawkbit	Leontodon hispidus	*
Rough Hawk's-beard	Crepis biennis	*
Rough Mallow	Malva setigera	*
Rough meadow- grass	Poa trivialis	*

BSBI

Round-leaved

Crane's-bill	Geranium rotundifolium	*
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia	*
Russian comfrey	Symphytum x uplandicum	
Salad burnet	Poterium sanguisorba	*
Scarlet pimpernel	Anagallis arvensis	*
Scented mayweed	Matricaria recutita	
Scentless mayweed	Tripleurospermum inodorum	*
Sea Beet	Beta vulgaris spp maritime	
Sea Club-rush	Bolboschoenus maritimus	*
Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris	*
Sharp-flowered rush	Juncus acutiflorus	*

Sharp-leaved

Fluellen	Kickxia elatine	*
Sheep's fescue	Festuca ovina	*
Sheeps sorrel	Rumex acetosella	*
Shepherd's-purse	Capsella bursa-pastoris	*
Shining crane's-bill	Geranium lucidum	*
Short-fruited		
Willowherb	Epilobium obscurum	*
Silver birch	Betula pendula	*
Silverweed	Potentilla anserina	*
Slender Speedwell	Veronica filiformis	
Slender rush	Juncus tenuis	
Slender Trefoil	Trifolium micranthum	*
Smaller cat's-tail	Phleum bertolonii	
Small-flowered		
crane's-bill	Geranium pusillum	*
Small-leaved lime	Tillia cordata	
Smooth Brome	Bromus racemosus	*

Smooth hawk's-

Beard	Crepis capillaris	
Smooth meadow		
Grass	Poa pratensis sens.lat.	
Smooth sow-thistle	Sonchus oleraceus	
Smooth tare	Ervum tetraspermum	
Sneezewort	Achillea ptarmica	*
Snowdrop	Galanthus species	
Summer Snowflake	Leucojum aestivum subsp pulchellum	
Soft brome	Bromus hordeaceus	*
Soft rush	Juncus effusus	*
Soft Shield Fern	Polystichum setiferum	*
Sorrel	Rumex acetosa	
Smooth hawk's		
beard	Crepis capillaris	*
Spear thistle	Cirsium vulgare	*
Spear-leaved		
orache	Atriplex prostrata	*
Spiked sedge	Carex spicata	*
Spindle	Euonymus europaeus	*
Spotted medick	Medicago arabica	*
Spring starflower	Ipheion uniflorum	
Spiked water-milfoil	Myosotis silvaticum	
Square stalked		
willowherb	Epilobium tetragonum	*
Squirrel tail Fescue	Vulpia bromoides	*
St Johns wort	Hypericum perforatum	*
Sticky Mouse-ear	Cerastium glomeratum	*
Stingless Nettle	Urtica ssp galeopsifolia	BSBI
Stinking chamomile	Anthemis cotula	*
Stinking iris	Iris foetidissima	*
Stone Parsley	Sison amomum	*

Stonewort	Chara ssp.		
Striped weeping			
sedge	Carex oshimenensis		
Subterranean clover	Trifolium subterraneum	*	
Sun Spurge	Euphorbia helioscopia	*	
Sunflower	Helianthus annus		
Sweet Chestnut	Castanea sativa	*	
Sweet-briar	Rosa rubiginosa	*	
Sweet vernal grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum	*	
Sweet violet	Viola odorata	*	
Sweet violet hybrid	Viola odorata alba		
Swine-cress	Lepidium coronopus		
Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum		
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus		
Tall Fescue	Schedonorus arundinaceus		
Tansy	Tanacetum vulgare	*	
Thale cress	Arabidopsis thaliana	*	
Three-nerved			
sandwort	Moehringia trinervia	*	
Thyme leaved			
Speedwell	Veronica serpyllifolia		
Timothy	Phleum pratense	*	
Toad Rush	Juncus bufonius	*	
Tomato	Solanum lycopersicum		
Trailing St.John's-			
wort	Hypericum humifusum	*	
Trailing Tormentil	Potentilla anglica	*	BSBI
Traveller's-joy	Clematis vitalba	*	
Trifid Bur-marigold	Bidens tripartita	*	
True fox sedge	Carex vulpina	***	BSBI
Tuberous Comfrey	Symphytum tuberosum		

Turfed forget-me-not	Myosotis laxa	*
Tufted Hair-grass	Deschampsia cespitosa	*
Tufted Vetch	Vicia cracca	*
Turnip	Brassica rapa	*
Tutsan	Hypericum androsaemum	*
Unbranched Bur-reed	Sparganium emersom	
Upright Hedge parsley	Torilis japonica	*
Vervain	Verbena officinalis	*
Vipers Bugloss	Echium vulgare	*
Wall barley	Hordeum murinum	*
Wall Speedwell	Veronica arvensis	*
Wall-rue	Asplenium ruta-muraria	*
Walnut	Juglans regia	
Water bent	Polypogon viridis	
Water Chickweed	Stellaria aquatica	
Water Dock	Rumex hydrolapathum	*
Water Fern	Azolla filiculoides	
Water figwort	Scrophularia auriculata	*
Water forget-me-not	Mysotis scorpiodes	
Water Mint	Mentha aquatica	*
Watercress	Nasturtium microphyllum	
Water-pepper	Persicaria hydropiper	
Water plantain	Alisma plantago aquatica	
Water-starwort	Callitriche stagnalis	*
Wavy bittercress	Cardamine flexuosa	*
Wayfaring tree	Viburnum lantana	*
Weeping willow	Salix babylonica	
Weld	Reseda luteola	*
White Campion	Silene latifolia	*

White Clover	Trifolium repens	*	
White Dead-Nettle	Lamium album	*	
White Mallow	Malva moschata alba		
White Poplar	Populus alba		
White Water-lily	Nymphaea alba	*	
White melilot	Melilotus alba		
White Water lily	Nymphaea alba	*	
White Willow	Salix alba	*	
Wild angelica	Angelica sylvestris	*	
Wild Carrot	Daucus carota	*	
Wild Cherry	Prunus avium	*	
Wild mignonette	Reseda lutea	*	
Wild Onion	Allium vineale	*	
Wild Plum	Prunus domestica		
Wild Privet	Ligustrum vulgare	*	
Wild Strawberry	Fragaria vesca	*	BSBI
Wild Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum	*	
Winter-cress	Barbarea vulgaris	*	
Wood Anemone	Anemone nemorosa	*	
Wood Avens	Geum urbanum	*	
Wood Club-rush	Scirpus sylvaticus	*	
Wood Dock	Rumex sanguineous		
Wood Forget-me -not	Myosotis sylvatica	*	
Wood meadow grass	Poa nemoralis	*	
Wood Sage	Teucrium scorodonia	*	
Wood-sedge	Carex sylvatica	*	
Wood Speedwell	Veronica montana	*	
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	*	

Yellow archangel	Lamiastrum galeobdolon	*	
Yellow archangel			
variegated	Lamiastrum galeobdolon spp		
Yellow iris	Iris pseudacorus	*	
Yellow loosestrife	Lysimachia vulgaris	*	
Yellow-rattle	Rhinanthus minor	*	
Yellow Water-lily	Nuphar lutea	*	
Yew	Taxus baccata	*	*
Yorkshire-fog	Holcus lanatus	*	]

MAMMALS**IMPORTANCE**

Common name	Scientific name	International/			Regional/
		European	National	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	****	**		
Pipistrelle Bat 55kHz	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	***	***	*	

Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	*	**
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	*	*
Serotine Bat	Eptesicus serotinus	***	***
Shrew Common	Sorex araneus	*	*
Shrew Pygmy	Sorex minutes		
Shrew Water	Neomy fodiens		
Stoat	Mustela erminea	*	*
Vole Bank	Clethrionomys glareolus		
Whiskered or			
Brandt's Bat	Myotis mystacinus or		
	Myotis brandtii	***	***
Weasel	Mustela nivalis	*	*

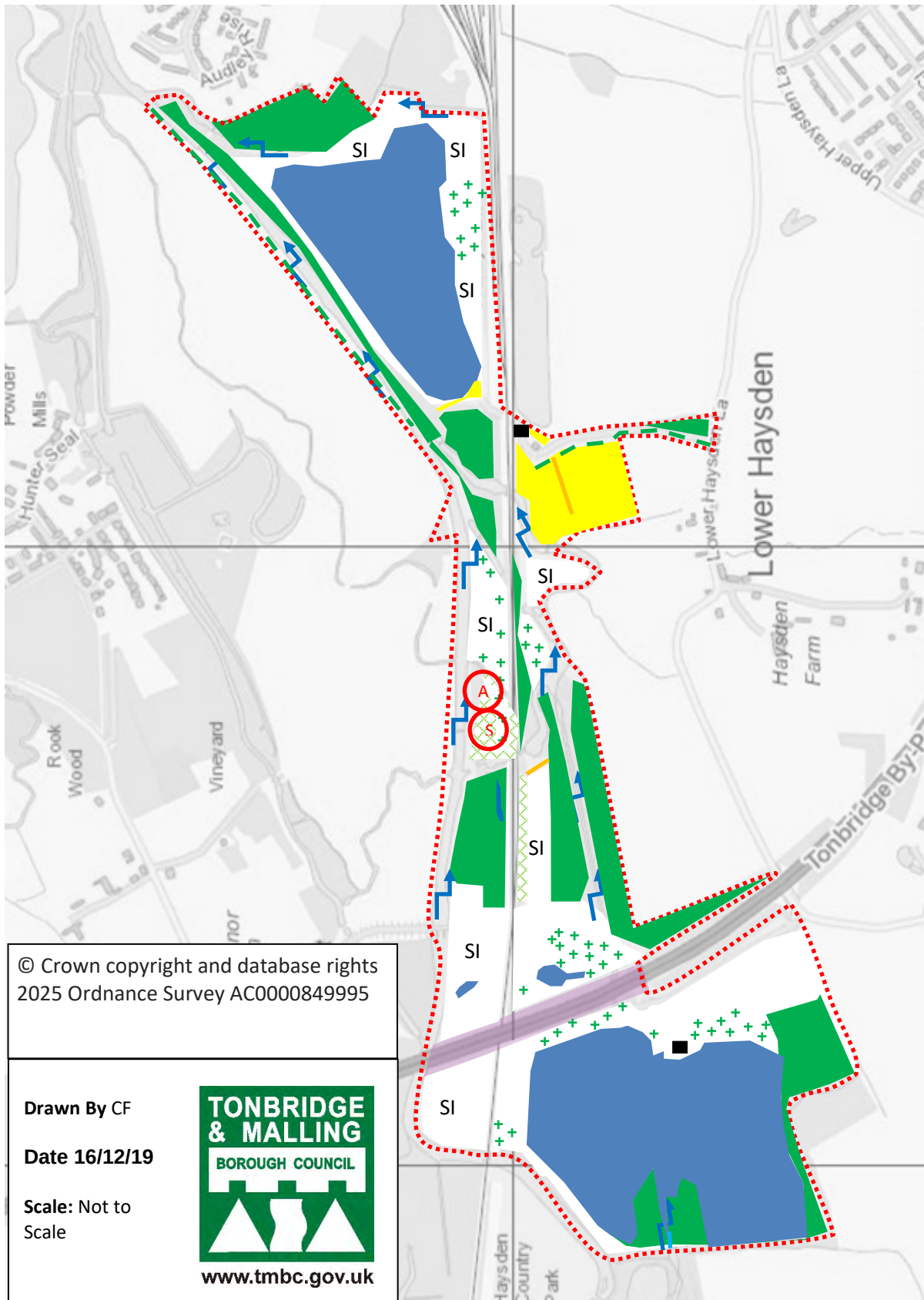
REPTILES

IMPORTANCE

Common name	Scientific name	International/			Regional/	
		European	National		Local	
Common Lizard	Zootoca vivipara	*	***		*	
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix					
Slow Worm	Anguis fragilis	*	****			

Appendix 9

Phase 1 Habitat survey

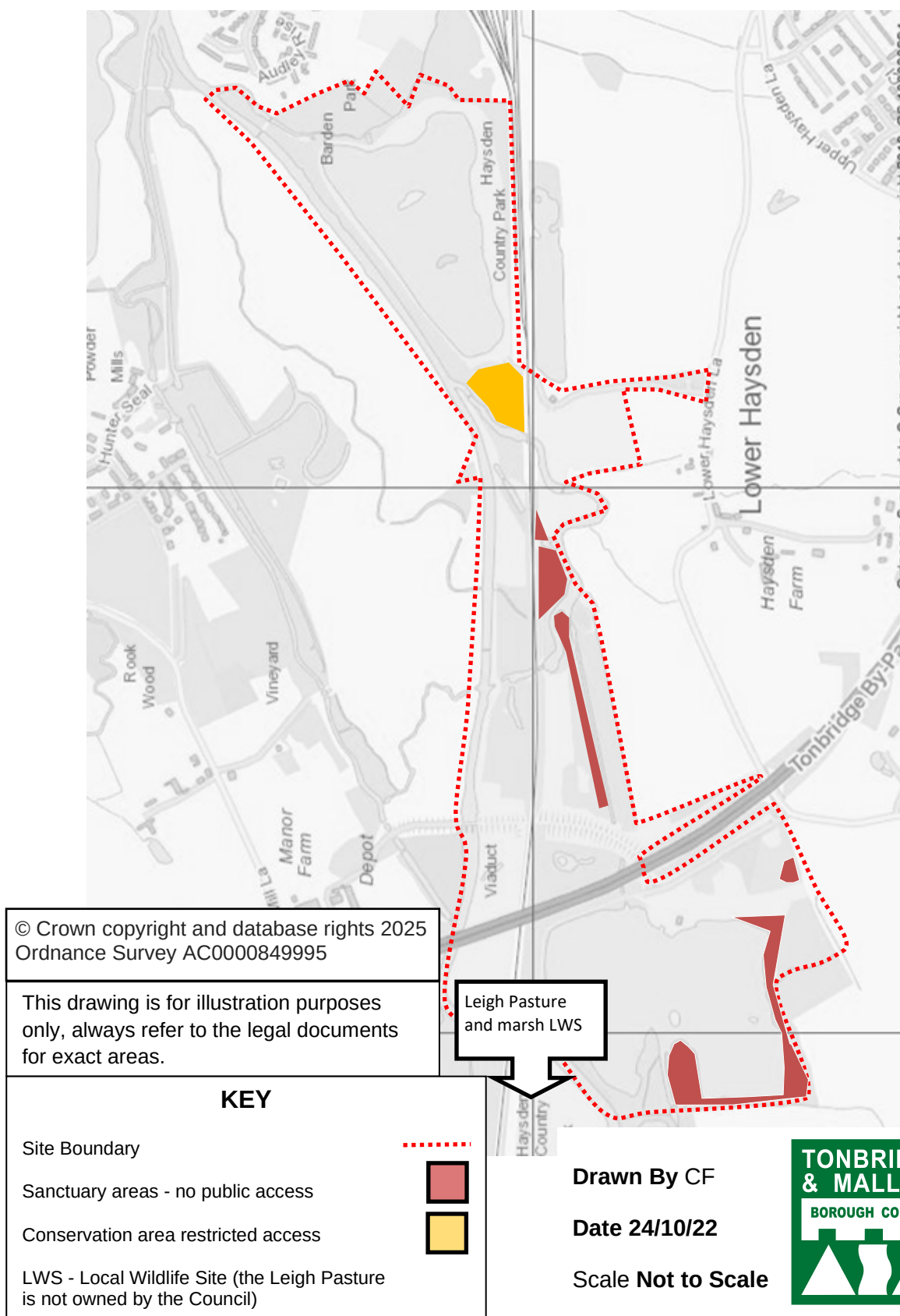


Key to the phase 1 habitat survey of Haysden Country Park

Woodland - semi natural			Hedge and trees - species poor	
Scrub - continuous			Dry ditch	
Scrub - scattered				
Water				
Swamp vegetation			Target notes (for some key species found)	
Running water			Grass snake	Around running water
Amenity grassland			Bats	Along the river
Grassland semi improved	SI		Slow worms	
Introduced shrub			Ant hills	
Hedge - native species rich				
Intact hedge - species poor				
Defunct hedge - species poor				

Appendix 10

Land tenure map



Statutory legal Acts

Within the plan we have indicate where specific legal requirements apply. There are a diverse range of laws that can be applied to the management of public open spaces and below are some of the more typical statutory powers that may be applied when providing public services. As a local authority the Council also has numerous legal powers under various Local Government Acts of parliament and so this list is not intended to be exhaustive but shows the general scope of laws that may be applied.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, under which Powers we created The Public Space Protection Orders

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Environment Act 2005

Countryside Acts 1968, 1981

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002 Amended

Dangerous Dogs Act 2023

Dogs Protection of Livestock Act 1953

Equities Act 2010

Environmental Protection Act 1990

Environmental Improvement Plan Act 2023

Food Safety Act 1990

Food Standards Act 1999

Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAW) 1974 Etc.

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 etc

Data Protection Act 2018

Dangerous Dogs Acts1991 Amended 1997

Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) 1986

The Care Act 2014

The Children's Act 1989

The Control of Dogs Order 1992

The Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997

The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (Previously 1992)

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Pests Act 1954

Personnel Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992

Public Health Act 1936

Litter Act 1983

Local Government Acts

National Parks Access to the Countryside Act 1949

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

Occupiers Liability Acts 1999 Etc

Open Spaces Act 1906

Procurement Act 2023

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Ragwort Control Act 2003 created the guidance Code of Practice on Ragwort Control

River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013

Ragwort Control Act 2003

Town and Country Planning Acts

Weeds Act 1959

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 etc.

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Note: This authority is not the Highway Authority for the district that duty falls to Kent County Council so powers relating to Public Rights of Way where they exist in the park can only be applied by Kent County Council.

Appendix 11

Park budget		
	Estimate based on 2024/25	Notes
EXPENDITURE	£	
Salaries & on-costs	43,450	Officer time
Building repairs expenditure	3,200	Toilet block.
Maintenance of grounds	8,950	Non-contractual grounds maintenance, fencing repairs, tree work, spare parts, tools, servicing, water sampling, path and other site repairs.
Electricity charges	6,500	
Water charges	3,700	
Sewerage disposal etc.	2,650	Tank emptying
Toilet cleaning & domestic supplies	17,650	Toilet cleaning
Premises insurance	200	
Purchases - Equipment, furniture & materials	2,850	All other expenditure
Maintenance general	2,500	
Protective clothing	50	
Security services - cash collection	1,850	
Trade refuse charges	800	Litter disposal
Dog bin emptying	400	
Gates and security	7,750	Gate, toilet opening and closing & related duties
Events	300	Fees for admin
Pest control	1,400	Rabbit and rodent control.

Litter collection	6,900	Litter bin emptying, litter picking, fly tipping removal and abandoned car disposal.
Advertising	450	Leaflet printing, or Green Flag Award fee.
Grounds maintenance contract	31,900	
Information technology	1,750	Central office costs allocated over all Council facilities.
Central salaries & administration	2,950	
Departmental administration	20,750	
Non-current asset depreciation	34,400	
Total	203,300	
INCOME		
Car parking fees (pay and display and RINGO)	(82,500)	
Car park season tickets	(11,000)	
Rights over water	(6,800)	Sailing, fishing, triathlon swimming
Miscellaneous	(9,900)	Mobile refreshment service, educational visits, Nordic walking, flyball.
Total Income	(110,200)	
Net expenditure	93,100	

Appendix 11

Past projects and investments (2020 - 2024)			
Year	Project	Donor or funder	Value of funding
2020	Sponsored seat	Private donor	£1,400
2020	Replacement sewage system plant for the toilets	Council	£130,000
2020	Replacement roof for the building and internal decoration	Council	£5600
2020	Replacement angling swim construction, and removal of old platforms phase 1	TD Angling Society	In kind
2020	Donation of 480 trees	Woodland Trust	Free of charge
2020	8 New pedestrian entrance signs materials only made by the rangers	Council	£600
2021	Repair of car parks	Council	£2,300
2021	Revetment work at Barden Lake	HCPV, Tonbridge School volunteer day	£1000
2021	7 Sponsored seats and one rabbit totem	Private donors	£11,400
2021	Replacement of junior multi play unit and surfacing and swing surfacing	Community funding covid recovery	£28,000
2021	Donation of 374 trees	Woodland Trust	Free of charge
2021	Replacement of bridge sign	Waitrose Partners via the HCPV	£750
2021	Replaced signage on cycle	Council	£500

	route		
2021	Replacement angling swim construction, and removal of old platforms phase 2 Barden Lake	TD Angling & Fish Preservation Society	In kind
2021	Security upgrades at the park	Council	£4,600
2021	Handrail for The Shallows bridge	Council	£3000
2021	Surface water drain for far end of the main car park to reduce flooding	Council	£3,500
2021	10 Replacement litter bins	Council	£2,300
2022	Replacement leaflet holder on main noticeboard	Waitrose Partners via the HCPV	£750
2022	Revetment work at Barden Lake	HCPV, Tonbridge School volunteer day	£1000
2022	5 Sponsored seats	Private donors	£7,700
2022	Car park surfacing	Council	£3,100
2022	Find my Way virtual orienteering courses, using the smartphone app MapRun6	Sports England via British Orienteering delivered by Dartford and Saxons Orienteering Clubs	In kind
2023	Sharpe's bridge replacement	Kent County Council - a Public Rights of Way asset	£98,000
2023	Botany pond wildlife survey and clearance of vegetation around the pond	Environment Agency Biodiversity offset for the Leigh Barrier scheme	Unknown

2023	Tree planting around the bat cave	As above Biodiversity offset for the Leigh Barrier scheme	Unknown
2023	Donation of 210 seedling trees	Woodland Trust	Free of charge
2023	Beattie bank wildflower seed	HCPV	£100
2023	Revetment work at Barden Lake to protect the bank	HCPV, Tonbridge School volunteer day	£1000
2023	Great crest newt pond survey	Kent Reptile and Amphibian and Group	In kind
2023	Reed bed planting Haysden Water nature reserve	Council Climate change funding	£1000
2023	Car park relining out bays and drive markings	Council	£1,200
2023	External painting of toilet block front	Council	£650
2023	2 Water saving urinals replacements fitting in men's toilets	Council	£1,200
2023	2 Sponsored seats	Private donors	£3,700
2023	Go Jaunty app free walks setup by volunteers	HCPV	In kind
2023	Independent market survey of visitors	Council	£3,700
2023	Replacement angling swim construction, and removal of old platforms phase 1 Haysden water Lake	TD Angling & Fish Preservation Society	In kind
2020-2024	Annual botanical surveys of the park	HCPV, Kent Botanical recording group	In kind
2020-2024	Annual Breeding Birds	HCPV	In kind

	Survey		
2020-2024	Bat Surveys of the park and Bat Cave	HCPV, Kent Bat Group	In kind
2024	3 Replacement picnic tables	Council	£3,200
2024	4 Replacement litter bins	Council	£1,260
2024	Xylophone and rainmaker musical instruments accessible play equipment	Council	£3000
2024	Independent access audit of the park	Council	£2,400
2024	Planting lake edge and fence protection around Barden Lake	Tonbridge School, HCPV and Council	£1,200
2024	1 Sponsored seats	Private donor	£2,800
2024	Replacement angling swim construction, and removal of old platforms phase 2 Haysden water Lake	TD Angling & Fish Preservation Society	In kind
		TOTAL	£328,710.00

Appendix 12

Annual Action Plan

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Appendix 13

Interpretation and marketing Plan

Interpretation and Marketing Plan

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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 first added to Haysden Country Park Management Plan in 2010-2014 and has since remained part of the Plan. (Interpretation is also a criterion in the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme.)

Marketing

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

Market placement

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

Branding

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



The style and presentation of park's layout and park furniture (signage, seats, bins etc.) also plays a part in the way that the park is presented and perceived by the public. A unified style of park furniture presents an orderly approach which gives a brand to the park and aids the maintenance and management of the furniture. There are many benefits of having a style guide for the park, but we must also consider that there will be new products coming onto the market that may be 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 Council's 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 2023 and the next is due in 2028. Whilst a survey of 400 users is adequate for analytical purposes it is no more than a snapshot of users (in terms of patterns of use) on the days and times of the interview. Surveys at Haysden Country Park have customarily been conducted in the school summer holidays so comparison with previous surveys can be made where questions are identically framed.



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

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

Visitor profile

The primary audience for the park is local people, but the fact also needs to be recognised that people are travelling from further afield to visit the park. The 2023 market survey indicated that 42% lived within 2 miles of the park.

The gender mix from market surveys also indicated 68% female 32% male. The age of users: it is more difficult to establish the age groups of users, although the age group under sixteen was the highest in the survey at 37%. 62% of visitors had children in the group. In terms of ethnic diversity, the survey at the park indicated that most 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. 5% said they had a disability limiting their health. Access Audits have been carried out in the park in 2003 and repeated in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2024. These included a site visit, and cover marketing materials, interpretation and other topics (see **Appendix 4**).

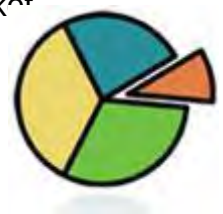


Potential future visitor profile

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 marketplace; income raised is offset against expenditure in the park.



Marketing segmentation

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

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

2.0 Principles of interpretation

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

	The core and acknowledged principles (Tilden 1977 et al) of interpretative communication are three-fold:
	Provoke - 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
	Relate - 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. If your message or story does not relate to the everyday lives of your audience, it will be meaningless to them.
	Reveal - It is 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'.
It is also usual for interpretation to convey a message following a theme.	
	A theme organises ideas and makes sure that visitors remember the facts, like the way a musical score that brings together notes into a tune. 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.

3.0 Methods of interpretation

There are many 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 to give a talk. Examples of personal interpretation include guided walks, storytelling, 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 dependent
- 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, and information from the Sensory Trust, Fieldfare Trust and the BT Access for All Guide. The accessibility of the printed interpretation such as colour contrast should be taken into consideration at an early stage.

Advantages

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

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, clear and accessible.

Advantages

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



Leybourne Lakes Country Park

Disadvantages

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

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



National Wildflower Centre



Stag beetle

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.
- can be intrusive in the landscape.

Digital audio interpretation – This covers devices like mobile phones and audio based material including: audio guides, iPods (MP3 and iPod formats See **Annex 3**), these are usually downloaded using a computer in advance of the visit via the internet. They can be used to display location based: images, video, (smartphones only) for storytelling, and sound effects. 12% of country parks are now using mobile apps (Visit Britain survey 2024)



Advantages

- mobile systems like MP3, iPod and smartphone apps, can be carried around the site to where the topic needs interpreting.
- should appeal to a younger audience.
- should appeal to the visually impaired.
- the MP3 medium using apps 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.
- sound posts do not involve reading.
- brings the interpretation into the 21st century.
- the most expensive element cannot be damaged.
- headphones are used so not intrusive to other users

Disadvantages

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



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

Quick Response code example



Advantages

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



Disadvantages

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



Digital and augmented reality interpretation – This section Covers smartphone apps, for augmented reality games, GPS quizzes, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, and immersive education. The activities are led by the app and triggered when you arrive at a particular geographical location. They can be walks, orienteering, text, video, audio or still images. An app is downloaded in advance of a visit onto your smartphone via a computer from a website. The use of mobile apps is becoming more common with 12% of country parks now using this medium according to The Visit Britain visitor attraction survey 2024.



Advantages

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

Disadvantages

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



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



Advantages

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

Audio post example

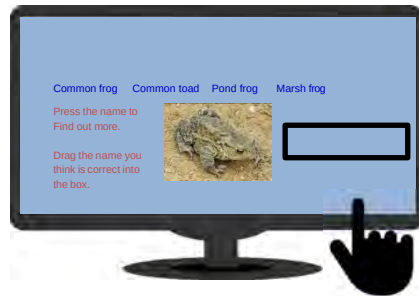


Disadvantages

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

Digital visual displays – Display screens linked to computer programs can both play video, or act as interactive touch screens can lead visitors through a story.

Can you name this animal?



Advantages

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

Disadvantages

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

Visitor Centre/ Interpretation Centre – Most visitors have now come to expect a visitor centre in country parks, to tell the story of the place and develop an understanding and appreciation of that place. Leaders in the UK field like National Parks and the National Trust now offer these at most sites. Locally there are many examples where Kent County Council has built visitor centers 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 center was less desirable.

In terms of interpretation and educational use, a visitor center is the typical solution. Ideally, to take full advantage of this facility, an educational officer would also be employed. The visitor center 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 centers 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 centers 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 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 is 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 this covers.

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, like the way a musical score brings together notes into a tune. Research shows for communication to be effective it should be enjoyable, relevant, organised and if we want it to be interpretive, it must convey a message or theme.

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

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

Nature

History

Management



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 extremely popular with the public; there has been a year-on-year increasing number of participants.



Educational Activities – An Educational Activity Pack available from 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 as '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, have in the past been arranged as part of the national, Heritage Open Days.



THEME:	Nature ☒	History ☒	Management ☒
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Printed Interpretation

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



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



Notice Boards – There are notice boards around all the main entrance and at 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 the public about management issues.



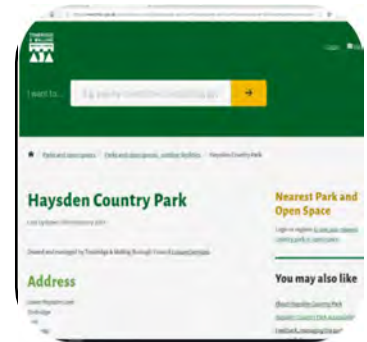
THEME:	Nature	☒	History	☒	Management	☒
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Creative on-site Interpretation – We have experimented with less conventional interpretation in the park. Two large sculptures have been commissioned and installed in the park. One is a carved obelisk located at the start of the river walk. The other commemorates the towns Twinning with Heusenstamm, and is located in the wood of the same name. There are also a number of play sculptures in the shape of insects and animals are spread around the park for children to find. The play sculpture trail is based around these.



THEME:	Nature	☒	History	☒	Management	☒
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Digital interpretation – Since the launch of the Council's website the Haysden Country Park pages have proved to be some the most popular on the Council website. There are also several other subpages also being well used; these pages provide more detailed information with: Park events, management plan; there are also links to leaflets and forms. The park is also listed on several external websites, including the Green Flag Award, except for this website, the Council is not responsible for the content of external websites. The park also features on several other websites such as Explore Kent, and the Country Parks Accreditation Scheme. Council has a Facebook page and other pages for Haysden Country Park are known to exist, but these are not run by the Council. The Haysden Country Park Volunteers have their own Facebook page. According to the 2024 Visit Britain Visitor annual attraction survey Facebook is the most used digital media, with 92% of UK country parks using this. YouTube videos are being used by 12% with e-newsletters used by 50%



THEME:	Nature	☒	History	☒	Management	☒
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Funding - No additional revenue or capital funding has been identified from the Council to fund projects arising from this Interpretation and marketing 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.

4.0 Where do we want to get to?

Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats

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

Strengths	Opportunities
• Green Flag Award • Accredited Country Park • Some interpretation material already exists. • Regular events since 2007 • Demand and positive feedback from past events. • Some limited funding available specifically for advertising • Past customer surveys to compare results. • Website pages are well used. • Sculptures add new tactile sensory experiences. • Run site walks for specialist groups. • Have a 'sightings' board for wildlife with photos. • Ranger Led Activities Pack (for Primary Schools) in print. • Established partnerships with clubs and private organisers already run some events. • 'Events on open spaces form' and procedures already in place • TMBC website is a popular means of accessing information. • Explore Kent partnerships for advertising	• TM Digital Strategy - Smart Parks • Any bids for other funding could include an interpretation element. • New technology for MP3/ iPod digital recordings may reduce cost. • Develop socially inclusive interpretation. • Staff and volunteers running events. • Reduce costs by piggyback on advertising for national events like Love Parks Week • Local drama group in period dress and function as interpreters for a day • Posters can provide a cost effective themed messages. • Use leaflets and posters produced by others RSPCA, Keep Britain Tidy, Environmental Health dept where these matches our needs. • Write a secondary Schools Educational Activity Pack • Have a list available of useful Projects for college students. • Webpage for volunteers • Web blog for wildlife spotted. • Replace older style signage. • Incorporate inside improved cafeteria and inside seating area and toilets in a visitor centre. • Quick Response codes mean smartphone users can find out more. • used more social media. • Adopt a standard style of signage for the park.

Weaknesses	Threats
• Funding • On-going maintenance of static interpretation panels • Design and printing of full colour leaflets is expensive. • Static panels have some out-of-date information. • Some older style signage has negative messages • Outside seating for the catering • No standard style of signage	• Rising cost of static interpretation panels • Staff costs • Apathy: some people do not want change and feel we are already providing what they want

The Role of the Interpretation and Marketing Plan Overall

Aim

To improve all forms of interpretation within Haysden Country Park.

This Plan has several objectives:

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

6.0 How will we get there?

This section sets out how we are going to achieve our aims and objectives. The Programme of Work sets out long term targets, these actions will be carried forward into specific actions within the Annual Action within the Haysden Country Park Management Plan 2025-2029.

Annex 1 indicates some cost-effective resources that could be used to gather more information on the Themes.

Annex 2 lists some ideas for interpreting the site and looks at the themes in more detail.

The Programme below outlines some feasible options for interpreting and marketing the park but is not intended to be too prescriptive. In order

to achieve maximum impact with limited resources, only some of the opportunities identified in the SWOT can be implemented.

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

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

Projects	Theme			Cost range comments	Importance
	N	H	M		
13. Replace old negative directional signage with up-to-date interpretation signage of standard style.			✓	£70-150 per sign	2
14. Lead guided tours of the park on demand.			✓	Overheads	2
15. 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
16. 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 A possible small scale income generator if a charge is made for downloads	2
17. Period dressed actors (as interpreters) in to act out historical periods like 'defending the Ironside Line' and or 'James Christy at the Stone Lock' trial as in the 2015 as part of the annual Heritage Open Days.		✓		Overheads researching talk, but could be cost neutral, if volunteers are used.	2
18. 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
19. Investigate installing a television screen linked to a computer to display a PowerPoint slide show of current seasonal notices.	✓	✓	✓	Revenue budget	3
20. 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
21. Investigate the feasibility of building a visitor center/ educational center in the park.	✓	✓	✓	£500,000 approximately. Income could be generated from secondary hire of the facility for other uses.	4

7.0 How will we know when we have arrived?

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

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

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

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

Country Park Accreditation – The award criteria include information on interpretation. Any feedback from Natural England will also be used to judge success.

Annex 1

Inventory of Resources related to topics at Haysden Country Park

General

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

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

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

Human History

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

Bannister N Historical *Landscape survey of the Penshurst Estate*

Canal and River Trust www.canalrivertrustwaterfront.org.uk

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

Defense area 16 Penshurst available at website 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 savior* 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*

Heritage C (2010) *Ancestors at large* Family History magazine

October 2010 pp20-24 Hilton J (1977) *A History of the Medway*

Navigation Company

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

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

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

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

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

Tonbridge Historical Society 1842: The coming of the railway available as a website page at

[http:// www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk/events/the-coming-of-the-railway.htm](http://www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk/events/the-coming-of-the-railway.htm)

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

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

of resources Livingstone H (1999) Travel guide: Weald Way, Kent County

Council

Maidstone Journal reports 1830-1840 (Penshurst Canal Company)

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

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

Ordnance Survey map dated 1866/69.

Vine PAL (1989) *Kent and Sussex Waterways*

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

Waterfront *Who were the navvies Canal* and River Trust available online at
[canalrivertrustwaterfront.org.uk/history/ who-were-the-navvies/online](http://canalrivertrustwaterfront.org.uk/history/who-were-the-navvies/online) on 7/4/20

Wilkes S (2011) *Tracing your canal ancestors A guide for family historians* Pen
and Sword Family History

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

Natural History

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

Bat Conservation Trust website www.bats.org.uk

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

British Dragonfly Society website www.dragonflysoc.org.uk

British Trust for Ornithology website www.bto.org

Buglife website www.buglife.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation - Kent butterflies website www.kentbutterflies.org

Butterfly Conservation – Kent Moths website www.kentmoths.org

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

Kent Amphibian and Reptile Group website www.kentarg.org

Kent Bat Group website www.kentbatgroup.org.uk

Kent Field Club website www.kentfieldclub.org.uk

Kent Mammal Group website www.kentmammalgroup.org.uk

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

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

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

Kent Ornithological Society website www.kentos.org.uk

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

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership website www.medwayvalley.org

Natural England website www.naturalengland.org.uk

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

Orpington Field Club website

www.orpingtonfieldclub.org.uk Pan Species

Listing website www.brc.ac.uk/psl

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

Plantlife International website plantlife.org.uk/international

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

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

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

Management

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

DEFRA website <http://www2.defra.gov.uk/>

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

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

Corporate membership of the Keep Britain Tidy Network, involvement with national and local campaigns Environmental initiatives - talks at local schools, litter picks and tidy up campaigns.

Greenspace & Greenspace Southeast work to improve parks and green spaces by raising

awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals.

Natural England (2010) *Local Nature Reserves in England: A guide to their selection and designation*, HMSO Naturenet good for general outdoor topics available at the

website <http://www.naturenet.net/index.php>

Non-Native Species Secretariat information available at website

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/home/index.cfm>

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

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

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

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

Visit Britain annual visitor attraction survey results website at [UK Tourism Industry Statistics & Research | VisitBritain.org](http://www.visitbritain.org/UK-Tourism-Industry-Statistics-&-Research)

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 measurable outcomes and can be 'learning', 'behavioral' or 'emotional'; all the themes have been written using the principles of interpretation.

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

Theme 1: HISTORY – The influence of past land uses and the way they have changed the landscape. At Haysden Country Park humans have had many influences on the landscape that you can still see today.	
Key year/s and Topics	Objectives
1830's – River transport; what were the choices and who built the Straight Mile?	- To feel a sense of connection with James Christy - Visitors go away knowing what life was like in the 1830's. - To understand what the Stone Lock was for - To appreciate the huge endeavor of building the Straight Mile - To understand what the Stone Lock once looked like. - To appreciate why canal was built and what it was intended to be used for.
1940's - The secrets of The Ironside Line	- To appreciate that there was a real threat of an invasion of England during WW2 - To intrigue visitors with details about the <i>Secret</i> Ironside Line of defense
1970's - How gravel extraction has had a big impact on the park	- To appreciate why gravel was extracted in the past from the site. - To appreciate how the gravel extraction has changed the landscape
18th & 19th centuries - The roles played by canal, railway and road in shaping this landscape	- To appreciate what is manufactured and what is natural in the landscape. - To appreciate how transport systems have changed the landscape

- 1980's Leigh Flood Barrier built

- Appreciate modern man-made flood mitigation.
- To understand how the barrier changed the park

Theme 2: NATURE – a wealth of wildlife and wildflowers are present in park, look at its importance, and the way land is managed, to help people value and care about the park.

Theme Topics	Objectives
Find out why wild plants are important	- To be able to identify at least three common wildflowers - What is the difference between a wildflower and a weed? - To feel motivated to find out more - To raise awareness of the connections between humans, plants, and animals
- Coppicing is a good way of managing trees for wildlife, what does a coppiced tree look like, and which animals. - depend on them?	- To be able to identify what a coppiced tree looks like - To know at least three animals or plants that are dependent on coppicing
Ponds and water bodies are alive with animals, which ones live in the park?	- To be able to identify at least three plants and animals that live in water in the park. - To feel intrigued that such tiny creatures live in water. - To understand a life cycle of one or more insects - To be able to draw a simple web of life - To know what body adaptations are used to cope with this environment. - To foster understanding and appreciation of the park
Woodlands are full of life that I never knew existed	- To name at least three plants or animals that live in our woods. - To understand the connection between living things
Bats live in this park, which ones can be found?	- To feel intrigued at seeing a bat - To know how big a bat is - To know what bats feed on
Dragonflies are among the most ancient of living creatures, come and see these fascinating insects that live in the park	- To feel intrigued about seeing these insects - To understand their lifecycle - To find out how we know that dragonflies lived millions of years ago. - Recognise the links between plants and animals
Reptiles and amphibians are cold blooded animals that live in the park	- To be intrigued to see a reptile or amphibian - To understand their basic lifecycle - To understand which snakes are dangerous

Theme 3: MANAGEMENT ISSUES – the park is a managed landscape with public access, and this brings with it some Challenges

Theme Topics	Objectives
It's dangerous to swim in the Lakes	- To appreciate the risks of swimming in the water bodies - To know what to do if someone has fallen into the water
Exploring the Park	- To give visitors the confidence to visit less well used parts of the park - To know the different types of path surfaces present - To know how long it will take to walk around a given path
Food fit for ducks	- To appreciate the effects of feeding the waterfowl - To appreciate which foods are good and bad for them
The banks are eroding around Barden Lake	- To appreciate why erosion of the lake edge is occurring. - To understand the options available to improve the appearance and encourage more wildlife
We can all do something about litter in the park	- Most visitors do not drop litter in the park. - To appreciate the negative impacts on wildlife and the environment - More members of the public will be willing to take part in litter picks
Not a work of art	- Most visitors will appreciate the park and do not graffiti. - Young people feel an affinity with the park and want to care for it
Don't let fly tipping turn the park into a dump	- Most visitors feel an affinity with the park and don't fly. - tip - Visitors understand how much it costs to clear up fly tipping the negative impacts for wildlife

My dog's fine, what's the problem?	- Dog owners are aware of the dog control rules that apply in the park. - Most dog owners feel an affinity with the park and will not break the dog control rules in the park. Example wording <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> <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>
Dog Fouling	Example wording <i>"All of our responsible dog walkers pick up after their dogs, please join in",</i> <i>"What makes you special? Please pick up after your dog"</i>
Saving native wildflowers and animals	To appreciate the impact of alien species in park and the need to control some of them
'A line to remember'	Fishermen appreciate the hazard that fishing line left on site can cause to wildlife

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

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

Department of Conservation New Zealand

Annex 4

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 robust quality, durable, park furniture.
- To encourage positive behavior

Signage

Entrance signs

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



Directional signage

A countryside style of signage will be used whenever practical for directional signage. These are routed wooden signs, using large Ariel text with white lettering, on walnut brown background.

Tonal contrast between the background and letter colour is important for the visually impaired and has been considered.

Interpretation signs

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



Health and safety and regulatory signage

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



Park furniture

Seats

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



Picnic seats

An all-metal picnic seat painted in gloss black paint is our preferred style. All seats are provided on concrete bases. Where possible seats with disabled access will be provided when seats come to the end of their lifespan and are due for replacement.



Litter bins

The glass fiber lidded bin shown to the right has been used throughout most of the park. This bin was chosen to be modern and to lidded to prevent animals from removing the waste. There are a few exceptions to this in the children's play area where the frog themed bins are installed, to encourage positive behavior by young people and in more remote parts of the site where we use the more robust Cardiff style bin (at present a few Rustic style older bins also remain on site and will be phased out).



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 behavior, being highly visible to dog walkers.

We attach signage about the Public Space Protection Orders rules, that are applicable to dog walkers to these bins.



Bollards

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

Security gates and barriers

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

Fencing

Our preferred style of fencing is the Sussex style clefted post a three-rail fencing which is rustic in appearance. This made from locally sourced Chestnut. The exception being around the children's play area where bow top metal fencing is used.

Bridges

Wooden bridges are our preferred style within the park.

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Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ