

HOLLY HILL WOODLAND PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN
2018-2027



FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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PREAMBLE

Fareham Borough Council is a local authority located in the South of Hampshire and has a population of approximately 108,000. The majority of the Council's business is directed by a number of Committees of elected Members. This includes the Executive, five Review Panels, Licensing Panel, Planning Development Control Committee, Scrutiny Board and Standards Board.

Fareham Borough Council is committed to securing continuous improvement through the policies it pursues, the high standard of services it provides and its contribution towards making Fareham a cleaner, safer, more attractive place to live, work and do business. This commitment is emphasised by the Council's vision, which clearly demonstrates its overall ambition.

The Council's priorities are:

- Providing housing choices
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities
- Maintain and extend prosperity
- Leisure opportunities for health and fun
- Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Streetscene, within the Leisure and Community Division are responsible for the protection and conservation of Fareham's green spaces. These amount to approximately 336 hectares, including Holly Hill Woodland Park, Warsash Common, Seafield Park, Stubbington Park, Whiteley Woods, Portchester Park.

Purpose of the Holly Hill Woodland Park Management Plan 2018 - 2027

This management plan provides the essential texts and/or references required to place Holly Hill Woodland Park in its historical and cultural context and to understand site management requirements for the period 2018 - 2027. This plan period is sufficient to act as an outline for the current Countryside Team and may also act as a reference point for future generations of managers.

The Holly Hill Woodland Park management plan connects the council's vision and the delivery of that vision through the provision of high quality recreation for all and as such, fully reflects the needs of Fareham Borough Council's Leisure and Community Division. Therefore, each objective and consequential operational project has the primary aim of preserving, protecting and managing Holly Hill Woodland Park, recognising that this approach is fundamental to the site's ability to fulfil its key public access role.

It is our Vision that:

'Holly Hill Woodland Park should be conserved and protected as a sustainable, outstanding public open space and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation'.

The detailed work programme contained within this document clearly sets out the multitude of tasks required to achieve the objectives of the management plan. This work programme, perhaps better than any other part of the plan, reflects the complex relationship between recreation and conservation and the many challenges this provides. The plan also considers the resources required to achieve the work programme and highlights shortfalls in revenue and potential sources of income.

The management plan will be reviewed annually and amended accordingly to ensure that it reflects any changes in circumstance.

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

Site:	Holly Hill Woodland Park
Grid reference:	SU492074 (W); SU501079 (E)
Locality:	South Hampshire – 10 miles East of Southampton and 14 miles West of Portsmouth
Status:	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation Local Nature Reserve (2008)
Owned/Managed by:	Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7PU. Director of Street Scene– Mark Bowler. Countryside Service – Mark Trigwell/Helen Sosnowski
Contact details:	Tel: 01329 236100 Fax: 01329 821546
Area:	35 hectares
OS Maps:	1:50 000 Sheet 196 (Landranger series) 1:25 000 Sheet 119

Description:

Holly Hill Woodland Park is a good example of a nineteenth century villa landscape created to take advantage of the topography and setting close to the River Hamble. Of particular interest is the elaborate rock work, much of which is synthetic Pulhamite, located in and around a series of lakes and islands. The site has well developed semi-natural secondary woodland (Winnards & Cawtes Copse) some of which is ancient, and of prime nature conservation interest.

Aims & Objectives:

To conserve and protect Holly Hill Woodland Park as a sustainable, outstanding public open space and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. The following management objectives are not listed in any order of priority but form a vital role in the parks future:

1. To maintain, preserve and enhance wildlife habitats and their associated species.
2. To preserve and conserve the historical and cultural features of the site.
3. To engage the community in the management of the park and seek to develop an awareness through interaction and active participation.
4. To promote the sustainable use of the park for informal recreation and enjoyment of the public
5. To promote a greater awareness of the site's importance and its management.
6. To encourage the effective and sustainable use of our resources.
7. To regularly monitor and review management practices and update with any advances in land management and nature conservation practise.

Plan prepared by: Mark Trigwell, Countryside Officer and Helen Sosnowski, Countryside Ranger

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The 2008 – 2017 management was extremely comprehensive and all encompassing, with almost all of the objectives being met over the 10-year period. Any objectives that weren't met were to outstanding factors, such as deficiency in funds or a lack of collaboration with neighbouring sites. Holly Hill has become transformed in this time and has won many awards.

Due to the incredible turn-around that Holly Hill has undergone, this management plan has little to add other than to maintain the site to the high standards that are now applied. There is no need for any new paths to be created, lost habitats to be restored or original features to be unearthed.

Major projects:

- Desilting of the lakes and creation of silt traps
- Wrought iron bridges, gates and signs installed
- Major clearance of invasive species in numerous areas
- Sunken garden reclaimed from neglect
- Fernery created in the Grotto.
- Park maintained to 'Gold' standard for In Bloom for 7 years
- Restocking ornamental tree resource

Projects not completed in previous plan:

- Comprehensive Pulhamite Survey

STAGE 1: DESCRIPTION

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Holly Hill Woodland Park is situated between Sarisbury and Warsash, to the west of Fareham. The park runs in a north-east/south-west direction. It is dissected by a stream which drains into the Hamble estuary. The main entrance to the park lies off Barnes Lane in Sarisbury Green.

Summary description

Holly Hill Woodland Park is a 35-hectare site that follows a stream valley down to the River Hamble between Sarisbury and Warsash. Holly Hill consists of a landscaped park (Winnards Copse) with lakes, rockworks and islands, but also mixed native woodland (Cawtes Copse), some of which is ancient semi-natural woodland.

The landscaped garden is managed as an amenity and heritage area and so appropriate standards of maintenance are expected. Visual impact and historical integrity are the main factors in decisions made in most of Winnards Copse. The rockworks in this area are made from Pulhamite artificial stone and are of national significance.

The semi-natural woodland in Cawtes Copse is managed in the best interests of wildlife as it contains nine species listed in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Holly Hill's location between the heavily populated suburbs of Fareham and Southampton means that the site is well used for informal recreation. This is increased by its popularity as a tourist attraction. In the past, this recreational pressure has been damaging to the site and requires control.

The Countryside Service works closely with the community to encourage an understanding and appreciation of Holly Hill by those living closest to it. This involves voluntary help by local people and guided walks and activities for local groups. The Friends of Holly Hill have been instrumental in past achievements and continues to do so as a Council Volunteer Group. Close links have been established with local businesses and schools and the site hosts many events for families.

This management plan is based on the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) model and is the standardised format for the UK and covers a period of ten years.

Land Tenure

Holly Hill is owned almost entirely by Fareham Borough Council. To the west Wendleholme Nature Reserve abuts Holly Hill. Wendleholme Nature Reserve is owned and managed by Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service.

The north-western boundary of Holly Hill is defined by the stream running through Cawtes Copse. The north-eastern boundary of the site is also defined by a stream, running from the dip in the road on Barnes Lane towards the lakes as far as the pony track adjacent to the top pond.

Designations

Cawtes Copse and Winnards Copse are both designated Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Holy Hill became a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 2008

The coast between the Meon Foreshore and Hook Local Nature Reserve together with the River Hamble estuary is included in the Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest, which is internationally important for wading birds. The boundary of the SSSI stops just outside the boundary of Holly Hill.

The Hamble is designated as a Ramsar site and is part of a Special Protection Area under the European Birds Directive. It is also part of a Special Area for Conservation under the European Habitats Directive. The site is also classified as a Public Open Space.

The gardens are not registered on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. However, it is included in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Management Infrastructure and funding

Holly Hill is managed by the Council's Countryside Team with assistance from the volunteer group.

The Countryside Team has overall responsibility for the administration, management, strategic planning and protection of the site and the activities that are undertaken. The Countryside Team is also the main point of contact for the volunteer group as well as residents of the Borough and visitors to the site.

The volunteer group are a valuable asset and contribute around 150 additional days (30 weeks) work per year and are now very much involved in important aspects of the work undertaken at Holly Hill.

The Council's Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing Teams undertake routine works such as grass cutting around the lake areas, emptying of dog and litter bins, general litter picking and removal of fly tipping, shrub bed maintenance and road sweeping in main car park. The cleansing of the toilets is undertaken by a private cleansing contractor set up with the Council.

Map Coverage

Ordnance Survey maps cover the site:

- 1:50,000 sheet 196
- 1:25,000 sheet 1303 & 1204
- 1:2,500

Other Maps:

- Geological Survey 1:50,000. England and Wales sheet 315, 1987 (Soils of south-east England, Hamble 2 - no.6, 1983)

From Hampshire Records Office in Winchester:

- Titchfield Parish Estate Map 1610 (H.R.O.)
- Titchfield Parish Map 1803 Code: 11 M591E218079 (H.R.O.)

- Tithe Map 1838 (H.R.O.)
- Hampshire (Southern) O.S. sheet LXXIV .6 1859
- Hampshire O.S. sheet LXXIV .6 & 2 1865
- Hampshire O.S. 1867-81
- Hampshire O.S. 1897
- Hampshire O.S. sheet LXXIV .6 & 2 1898
- Hampshire O.S. sheet LXXIV .6 & 2 1910
- Hampshire O.S. sheet LXXIV .6 & 2 1931
- Hampshire O.S. sheet LXXIV NW (6") 1946

From Fareham Borough Council.

- Hogg Title Deed 1879
- Conveyance Hogg - Foster 23/10/1889
- Conveyance Foster Winn 2/2/1898

Photographic Coverage

Aerial

- 1948: Hampshire Records Office, ref no. 41/40 NE area photo
- 1990: 1:5,000 from Cambridge University Library
- 1991: 1:10,000 vertical colour photographs from Hampshire County Council
- June 1996: Hampshire Records Office, ref no. 16 141

There is a small collection of historic photos, including some of the sunken garden, the boathouse and the two mansions connected to Holly Hill gardens. The originals have been placed by Miss Winn's family in the Hampshire Records Office. There is apparently a collection of slides from the 1980s which has not been traced.

Services

Southern Water has a pumping station in Cawtes Copse with a large underwater pipe for sewage running under the site and across the stream. There is also a storm drain running from Winnards Park entrance straight into the stream. An upgrade to the outfall structure was undertaken in 2003 by Southern Water in order to suppress flow rate and minimise erosion.

There is an electricity sub-station in the woods between Holly Hill Mansion and Barnes Lane. There is a cable running under the Sunken Garden which used to serve the old storage containers which have been long removed. There are no gas mains within the site. There are various telecom facilities adjacent to the site.

Obligations

The successful management and safe guarding of the park will depend on compliance with following obligations:

Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974 (and amendments)

The council has a duty of care to ensure that, as far as reasonably practical, all employees, volunteers, contractors and visitors to the park are able to visit, work and enjoy the site in a safe and healthy environment. All operations undertaken within the park are done so qualified and trained individuals utilising methods and equipment which conforms to the Health & Safety regulations including the Council's own policies. Site risk assessments are annually reviewed and amended as necessary. Specific tasks on work days are risk assessed for the

specific nature of work required in conjunction with site safety considerations. Regular safety inspections of the site are undertaken and recorded.

Equalities Act, 2010

Fareham Borough Council are required, where practical, to ensure that members of the public are not discriminated against when visiting or using Holly Hill for recreation. Work will be undertaken where appropriate to tackle those physical elements which preclude access owing to disability.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

There is a requirement to ensure that the undertaking of operations in the park does not have a detrimental effect on any structure deemed an Ancient monument or of historical importance.

Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981

Requires that that no adverse management should take place which has a detrimental effect on wildlife provision.

Along with wildlife listed under this act, both badgers and bats are resident on the site and are legally protected. No management can occur in those areas where a sett or roost is known without consultation with Natural England.

Occupiers Liability Act, 1984

As owners of the site the Council has duty to ensure that every reasonable care is taken with regards the safety of persons who visit or come into the park. Regular inspections of the site are undertaken to enable problems or issues to be identified and resolved.

Environmental Protection Act

The Council has an obligation to ensure that the park is free from litter and refuse.

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994

These regulations require that management of woodlands and forestry operations in areas where protected species are found and which a set of procedures need to be undertaken. There is good practice guidance which assists in habitat management where protected species are both known to occur or have the potential to occur.

Safeguarding European Protected Species

In essence, it requires preliminary survey to ascertain information and the possible need for licence prior to works.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (CRoW act)

These regulations have relevance in relation to appropriate protection and management of habitats deemed of national importance (Section 74). Holly Hill has one such recognised habitat type – wet woodland. Management advice through Hampshire County Council (adjacent landowners) and from Entomological advice has identified management objectives which conform to the habitat action plan.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EVALUATION

1.2.1 Physical

Hydrology

Springs emerging in the grounds of the old Cold East Hospital grounds (now redeveloped into housing and social space) and the Bold Forester Public House (on the A27), supply the water for the stream running through Holly Hill. Another key source is that from a storm drain emerging from Barnes Lane car park which flows directly into the main stream

The upper reaches of the stream were dammed at various points in the late nineteenth century to produce a series of lakes around which a landscaped garden was designed in Winnards Copse. The stream then returns to its natural size as it enters Cawtes Copse. The land to the east in this area slopes fairly steeply down towards the stream and there are several rivulets flowing down this slope into the stream at the bottom. The stream itself widens out into an area of alder carr before reaching the south west edge of the site and flowing through reed beds into the River Hamble.

Geology

The site is underlain by Bracklesham Beds which consist of sands and gravels. The stream area is classified as Estuarine Alluvium. Within the Bracklesham Group Winnards Park is predominantly a deposit of Wittering Formation. Cawtes Copse consists of largely Earnley Sand deposits.

Soils/substrates

Due to the extensive landscaping carried out in the 19th century, the natural soil structure in Winnards Copse has been completely changed. However, in Cawtes Copse it has been less disturbed. The undisturbed soils are primarily clay and gravel.

Climate

Holly Hill has an oceanic climate, with warm summers and mild winters. The proximity of the sea reduces the extremes of temperature and ensures fairly high levels of humidity.

Geomorphology, Landscape Type and Character

The natural geomorphologic features of the site have been greatly modified by man over several centuries, but particularly in the last 150 years. The original stream valley is still a dominant feature, with mixed native deciduous woodland and landscaped gardens with lakes and islands. It opens out to views across the River Hamble over reed beds and a lagoon system. The fact that Cawtes Copse lies on one side only of a stream valley means that Holly Hill is mostly north facing. Most of the south facing slope is private gardens or part of Wendleholme Nature Reserve which is owned by Hampshire County Council. This forms a considerable area of woodland

1.2.2 Biological

Natural Habitats

Much of Holly Hill is classed as ancient semi-natural woodland and contains a number of ancient woodland indicator species. The site appears on the

Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands; the whole of the south side of the site is classified as ancient woodland on this map. By evidence on the ground, the area between the stream and the boundary bank in Cawtes Copse is ancient woodland; this includes all the alder coppice and part of the dry oak/hazel woodland, some of which is hazel coppice and some more typical of high forest. In Winnards Copse, the ancient woodland includes the slopes on the south side of the park of which the southernmost third still shows good botanical diversity but the northern part has been greatly affected by landscaping and spread of laurel and rhododendron. Therefore, the true ancient woodland component at Holly Hill is unclear.

In summary, the dry woodland is a mixture of ancient and secondary woodland. Its biological value stretches between relatively high in the southern part of Winnards Copse to relatively low in the sycamore stands in Cawtes Copse.

NVC Plant communities

A National Vegetation Classification Survey of the woodlands was undertaken by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre in 2004 with the following habitats recorded:

List of NVC Communities

W5c *Alnus glutinosa Carex paniculata* woodland, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* sub-community

W7a *Alnus glutinosa Fraxinus excelsior - Lysimachia nemonem* woodland, *Urtica dioica* sub-community

W7b *Alnus glutinosa Fraxinus excelsior - Lysimachia nemonem* woodland, *Carex remota, Cirsium palustre* sub-community

W10a *Quercus robur Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus* woodland, typical sub-community

W10c *Quercus robur Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus* woodland, *Hedera helix* sub-community.

Predominately W10 and associated sub communities form the main woodland type. These are actively managed and where glades and rides have been cleared, the vegetation is typical of cleared areas within this woodland type. Dependent on the age of the clearing, *Rubus fruticosus* (Bramble) is often abundant in older glades, along with *Lonicera periclymenum* (Honeysuckle), *Cirsium palustre* (Marsh Thistle), *Circaea lutetiana* (Enchanter's-nightshade) and *Geum urbanum* (Wood Aven) and numerous other occasional species, such as *Scrophularia nodosa* (Common Figwort), *Scutellaria galenculata* (Skullcap), *Senecio jacobea* (Common Ragwort) and *Glyceria fluitans*. (Floating Sweet-grass). More open glades have occasional Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), *Leontodon saxatilis* (Lesser Hawkbit), *Lotus pedunculatus* (Large Bird's-foot-trefoil) and *Crepes capillaris* (Smooth Hawk's-beard), and newly disturbed areas have *Fersicaria maculosa* (Redshank), *Sonchus asper* (Prickly Sow-thistle) and *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (Scentless Mayweed).

The dry woodland is dominated by *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak), *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech), *Acer platanoides* (Sycamore) and *Betula pendula* (Birch). The

beech appears to be genuinely native to the site. There are occasional *Prunus avium* (cherry), *Taxus baccata* (Yew) and *Acer campestre* (Field Maple) as well as a number of mature *Castanea sativa* (Sweet Chestnut). The understorey is mainly *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) and *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly). However, *Laurus lusitanica* (Laurel) and *Rhododendron ponticum* (Rhododendron) have spread throughout much of the habitat.

The south-eastern edge of Cawtes Copse is dominated by mature sycamore. By referring to historical maps it appears that much of this area used to be pasture and therefore this is presumably secondary woodland. The existing boundary bank appears to demarcate this division. Closer to the river the woodland is probably ancient woodland again and consists of tree species and ground flora much more typical of coppice woodland.

Holly Hill also has two woodland communities which are considered priority habitats and occur in the national Habitat Action Plans these are: Wet Woodland types W5 and W7.

Both these woodland types are of great ecological value and consist of marshy rivulets amongst old alder coppice and hazel and occasional ash and sweet chestnut stands. Floristically this habitat contains a rich diversity of plant species such as *Oenanthe crocata* (Hemlock Water Dropwort), *Caltha palustris* (Marsh Marigold), *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* (Golden Saxifrage), *Carex pendula* (Pendulous Sedge), *Carex remota* (Remote Sedge), *Valeriana officinalis* (Common Valerian), *Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow Flag Iris), *Lysimachia vulgaris*, (Yellow Loosestrife), *Lysimachia nemonem* (Yellow Pimpernel) and various fern species.

There are factors which potentially threaten this valuable habitat, namely the invasion by non-native species which has in places altered vegetation composition and lowered the conservation value of this woodland type. Large scale clearance of invasive bamboo and rhododendron has been carried out to change this.

The Alder coppice area on this side of the stream adjacent to Wendleholme Nature Reserve is not so extensive but forms a narrow belt of about 15m in width. It is notable for its invertebrate fauna

Landscaped Garden

Despite being formal, the landscaped garden does provide three distinct habitats. The lakes provide a series of wetland habitats. They have a large population of introduced fish and wildfowl, but flora, invertebrate and amphibian populations are very low. During the time period of the previous management plan, all the ornamental fish from the top series of lakes were moved to the main lower lake in order to increase biodiversity in those lakes. Fish stock volumes were also reduced, however, these are now likely back to previous volumes in both upper and lower lakes.

There are an additional series of man-made small ponds on the slope down to the lakes. These were opened up in 1997 and, due to the absence of fish, contain a variety of aquatic plants and animals.

The grassy glades provide a short sward which is suitable for earthworms and ground beetles, which in turn provide food for birds and mammals. These areas are good for spring bees and sun-loving flies.

Specimen Trees

There are a number of ornamental specimen trees on the site include *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coastal Redwood), *Taxodium distichum* (Swamp or Bald Cypress), *Platanus orientalis* (Oriental Plane) *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane), *Picea sitchensis* (Sitka Spruce), *Pinus maritima* (Maritime Pine), *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar), *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir), *Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock), *Aesculus x carnea* (Red Horse Chestnut) and *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse Chestnut) avenue. Some of these trees are the largest in the park and therefore provide an important habitat for bird and invertebrate species.

Plants

Botanical surveys were carried out on Holly Hill's woodland - in 1979 by APN House and in 1990 and 1994 by J Rowe. The latter found 41 ancient woodland indicator species on the site as a whole in 1990 and 38 in 1994.

Due to damp and shaded conditions in many parts of the site there are good numbers and varieties of lower plants such as *Blechnum spicant* (hard fern) and *Asplenium scolopendrium* (Hart's tongue), *Dyopteris carthusiana* (narrow buckler fern) and *Dyopteris pseudomas* (scaly male fern).

Animals

A good number of associated birds and mammals occur throughout the site.

Bird recording has been largely based on observation and it is likely that densities of breeding warblers, tits, finches and other woodland birds are reasonably high. There are a good number of regular occurrences of raptors such as Sparrowhawk and Buzzard (known to occasionally breed). The alder woodland helps to support roaming populations of redpolls and siskins in the winter. As the site is situated near the coast it is probable that a good range of migrant birds use it for feeding and shelter. Species recorded at Holly Hill which appear in the Biodiversity Action Plan (Hampshire) are:

- Lesser spotted woodpecker
- Nightingale
- Bullfinch
- Song thrush

The lakes and associated streams support a number of water associated species, besides wildfowl, grey wagtail and kingfisher are seen on a regular basis.

Although not on the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Hampshire the badger is a legally protected species. There is an extensive badger sett on a steep woodland bank to the west of the cemetery fence. From signs seen around the entrance holes, the sett is used on a regular basis by badgers. They are legally protected and therefore any essential management work near a sett must have relevant permission.

Bats are present at Holly Hill. Pipistrelle and Noctules (BAP species) have been identified using a bat detector.

There is evidence of a healthy roe deer population in Holly Hill with regular sightings right across the park.

Small mammal surveys in 1999 found yellow-necked mouse (BAP species) at Holly Hill as well as wood mouse, bank vole, field vole, common shrew and pygmy shrew. A few searches for hazelnuts have been made to investigate the presence of dormice; no evidence has yet been found.

Reptiles

There are relatively few records but sightings confirm that adder and grass snake do occur but in small numbers. Slow worms are frequently encountered along with Common Lizard; all British reptiles are now in the national BAP

Fish

There are considerable numbers of introduced fish in the lakes which are surviving and breeding. Ornamental species include:

- Golden Orf
- Koi Carp
- Mirror Carp
- Ghost Carp

Amphibians

Common and Palmate newts have been found in the small ponds leading down to the main lakes. There are numerous frogs and toads throughout the site within areas of wet woodland and naturally occurring wet flushes. There is a red necked terrapin living in the lakes.

Invertebrates

There had been no systematic recording of invertebrates other than from enthusiasts who submit the occasional record and those which come from guided walks. Therefore, a specialist entomological survey was carried out in the summer of 1999.

The 1999 survey concluded the following facts:

- Generally, the lake area is poor for invertebrate life but there are two small areas on the bank of the lower lake where a marshy edge allows the development of emergent vegetation, including *Lysimachia vulgaris* (Yellow Loosestrife). These stands support a population of the specialist wetland bee *Macropis europea* (Nationally Scarce).
- The lakes themselves, with their large population of fish and ducks, support very little invertebrate life. The small ponds on the north-facing slope near the lakes are much more diverse with considerable varieties of aquatic life.
- The dry woodland is generally too overgrown, especially with rhododendron and laurel, to have much invertebrate interest. Within the small openings several interesting species were recorded, including the Nationally Scarce bee *Andrena* and the old woodland associated hoverfly *Criorhina berberina*.

- The wet woodland supports some interesting craneflies of the *Limoniidae* group, both *Pseudolimnophila sepium* and *Phylidorea longicornis* are infrequently found species and *Pilaria fuscipennis* is nationally scarce. The coppice coupe made in the lower section has allowed light and warmth into the woodland, to its overall benefit. However, the dark shaded areas are also vitally important.

Pest Species

Rats are naturally present on the site but populations are exacerbated by the popular pastime of feeding the wildfowl. Rats frequent the lake margins and islands exploiting this bountiful food supply all year round. Issues arising from high numbers are erosion of banks, predation of ground nesting bird's eggs and potential health risks to humans from Weil's disease resulting from rats excreting the organism *Leptospira ictero-haemorrhagiae* in their urine. There were reports of mink in the lakes before 2001, but has no occurred since.

1.2.3 Cultural Impact

Archaeological Interest

Roman remains have been discovered in the vicinity but the oldest evidence of people in the area is a 30,000-year-old flint scraper found near Holly Hill Lane.

There are a number of boundary banks and ditches throughout the site. These represent the historic division of land between pasture and woodland or between different ownerships.

Despite numerous historical references, no other pre-Victorian remains have been discovered on the site.

Historical & Present Land Use

From the 1610 Titchfield Parish map, the area that is now Holly Hill appears to be mainly pasture, arable or common. There is little woodland shown in this area apart from a small triangle adjacent to the river. However, in the 1859 map, the lower half of Cawtes Copse and the southern slope of Winnards Copse were shown as woodland.

Cawtes Copse was presumably named after William Cawte who leased it from his brother according to the 1838 tithe map, at which point it was known as Brook Coppice. At this period Lord Henry Cholmondeley owned the land around Sarisbury Court down to the stream and Robert Hewitt leased the land then known as 'Winnards Wood' or half of what we now know as Winnards Copse.

Holly Hill House c1831 was the earliest known house on the land later to be replaced by Sarisbury Court c1880. The water gardens were developed after 1880 and seems likely that they were designed by Edward Milner or his son Henry Ernest Milner working with the Pulham brothers. Holly Hill is Hampshire's only known example of Pulham and Co's artificial stonework. Claude Hitching has researched the work of James Pulham and Son. Holly Hill features in his book and his website documents the range and extent of his research - Pulham.org.uk

It is uncertain which owner of Sarisbury Court commissioned the landscaping. However, research has put the two main periods of work on the lakes as during 1881 under Quintin Hogg and between 1889 and 1896 under Foster. Little work took place on the gardens after 1896, although a few changes were made in the early part of the twentieth century.

19th century

The gardens may have been designed as part of the “picturesque” or “gardenesque” movement which combined natural and ornamental features, or as an “American garden” with conifers, ferns and rhododendron. An old iron gate remains from the deer fence which surrounded the park in the 19th century. This is no longer used.

Planting of specimen trees took place from the 1860s. Trees which have survived from this period include Coastal Redwood, Swamp Cypress, London and Oriental Plane, Indian Horse Chestnut and Beech. An avenue of Horse Chestnuts exists, which was laid out in about 1890 and restocked in 1910, although it is not clear where it led to and from. It may have been intended as a formal approach to the new Court, but the entrance was never built and the importance of the avenue never materialised. One old oak stands adjacent to the top lakes; it would appear to be one of the few trees in this area to pre-date the landscaping of the gardens. It is uncertain which shrub species were planted at this period although some rhododendron probably dates from then. Most of the rhododendrons are in fact *Rhododendron ponticum*.

In 1881, a carriageway was created through the middle of the park over the main bridge and up to the lodge at Barnes Lane. The gardens were originally designed to be entered or viewed principally from the rocks above the grotto, giving the impression of descending into a valley.

The Pulhamite rockworks are very extensive. They include a series of eight dams, two of which are very elaborate and hold back large bodies of water. There is also a grotto at one end of the lakes and many “outcrops” of rock on dry ground. Initially they were believed to have been installed at the same period, but from dating felled trees growing on the grotto, these rocks were definitely in place before 1885. However, the Deed map of 1889 shows a different lake design to the 1896 map, suggesting that more rockworks were put in place during this period.

A report was commissioned in 1999 on the condition of the rockworks and carried out by Alan Baxter and Associates. This concluded that they are in reasonably good condition, but will need stabilisation works in the future. The Historic Landscape Architect for Hampshire County Council visited the site in 2000 and sent his comments to keep on record.

20th century

The current Holly Hill Mansion was built by Reginald Winn in 1905. The woodland nearby was already named Winnards Copse, which may even have attracted him to this site. He continued to develop the gardens. We know much of what he did from his daughter, the late Miss Katharine Winn, who had shared her memories and photos of the 1920s and 1930s at Holly Hill before her death.

Mr. Winn laid out the Sunken Garden adjacent to the Mansions. This was in the place of a sandpit which was modified to house a series of greenhouses and a boiler house to heat them. They were used for growing exotic plants and fruits. The existing camellias started their lives within these greenhouses. After the First World War, the lack of labour available led to the design being modified to its existing layout. It was not maintained between 1950 and 1996, but was restored to a design by Vikki Jordan (landscape consultant) based on Miss Winn's photos in 1999.

There is a series of small ponds leading down to the lakes which appear to date from about 1920.

Miss Winn has a photo of the boathouse next to the lake. This was of very ornate design and first appears on the 1933 OS map. However, there was originally a boathouse at the site of the grotto which was described in 1896 sale particulars as "old fashioned".

Recent history

Holly Hill was purchased in 1954 by Fareham Borough Council. Work began to restore the lakes and gardens and reinstate paths in the 1970s. Planting and restoration of the lakes was undertaken. There are anecdotes and some photographic evidence suggesting that much of the laurel was deliberately planted into the woodland in the 1970s. More recent planting includes tree ferns, palms and flowering hawthorns and cherries.

In 1991, a management plan was commissioned from Greenspace which dealt particularly with the nature conservation management of the site. In 1992, a plan was commissioned for the reconstruction of the lake islands. Both these plans are available at the civic offices.

In 1996, a partnership between Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council Countryside Service established a ranger service for Holly Hill. The site was managed in order to protect and improve its natural and historic conservation value and to provide a recreational resource for the public. Hence the activities which took place on the site included practical habitat management, conservation and restoration of historical landscape features and access improvements as well as guided walks, events and school visits.

Public Access

Since the 1950s there has been unrestricted permissive access to the site via a large number of pedestrian entrances and paths. The path around the lower lakes is reasonable for disabled access; however, due to the topography of the site, all the paths from the main entrances to the lakes are difficult due to steep slopes. The main entrance gate has a disabled access latch. The best entrance for wheelchair access however is the gate at Barnes Close, which is highlighted on the new leaflet and has parking spaces adjacent to it. An access report was produced in 1997 by the Fareham Access Group.

There is also a pony track which allows access through the length of the site for horse riders. A short section of this route near Barnes Close is along the footpath. Horse riders are not permitted in any other area of the site.

There is a public footpath at the south-western edge of the site leading from Brook Avenue to the Hamble viewpoint.

There is access by bridge and boardwalk over the stream to Wendleholme Nature Reserve which abuts part of Holly Hill to the North West. This path through Wendleholme leads you to the east bank of the River Hamble and allows access to the Solent Way.

The boundaries of the site are fenced in some places. Some fencing is in poor condition and has been erected by private land owners. Some original Victorian iron fencing still exists but the ownership of this is not known.

Recreation Activities & Facilities

Holly Hill is a heavily-used park. Many locals use the area for dog walking and family days out. People from further afield also visit the site. The lake area is particularly well used by families coming to see the ducks, picnic or visit the landscaped garden. Many of these people walk down through Cawtes Copse to the Hamble viewpoint.

Some people ride horses and bicycles through the park. There is a pony track running through the site to which riders are restricted. The bye-laws prohibit cycling within the park although this has not been strictly enforced except around the edge of the lakes.

Bird watchers also use the park, particularly visiting the Hamble Viewpoint.

Recreational facilities within the site include:

- Toilets, including facilities for disabled people. These are situated at the main car park and are provided and maintained by Fareham Borough Council.
- A large car park at Barnes Lane with 88 spaces, including 2 parking bays for disabled people close to the entrance. There is an Easy Access car park off Barnes Close with a number of disabled parking bays, which provides a level access to Holly Hill. Previously a gravelled area, it was tarmacked in 2017 to tackle pot holes.
- Numerous picnic tables and benches are provided in various locations around the site. More benches have been installed at viewpoints around the lakes with the potential for more to be installed in open areas around the site. A variety of styles have been used in the past but it is desirable that all furniture is of a single design and of robust construction.
- Dog and litter bins are also strategically placed at various locations beside paths and are emptied regularly by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team.
- There are two way-marked trails around the park. One is for Easy Access and the other a Horse Trail, which helps alleviate potential conflicts between horse riders and other users. There are various other way-marking around the site for all users.

As with all well used open space undesirable activities do sometimes take place such as attempts to fish in the ponds, failure for dog owners to clean up after their dogs, vandalism to park infrastructure and (very occasionally) access to the park by motorbikes.

Community Involvement

Prior to the creation of the Friends of Holly Hill by Hampshire County Council in 1996, then managed by FBC from 2000 onwards, there was little community involvement and most work was carried out by contractors.

Friends of Holly Hill were once a fully constituted group that carried out practical tasks such as chainsaw use, coppicing and hedge laying as well as more technical aspects such as photography, fund raising, research, species data recording and administration. At its height, the group had over 50 members, a website and a quarterly newsletter. The group regularly attended outside events to promote the site and led events at Holly Hill.

Unfortunately, over the years the number of the core members of the group that organised all such activities dwindled, and eventually became totally managed by the FBC. Although unable to maintain the research, fund raising and event attendance aspect of the Friends, the strong practical characteristic of the group remains and so conservation and park management continue to high levels of standard.

More recently, there has been an increased interest from major companies who encourage teams of employees to involve themselves in activities that are mutually beneficial to the environment, the employee's wellbeing as well as the companies themselves. Regular companies that apply for 'Community Payback' at Holly Hill are Lloyds Banking Group and ARCO Criminal Records, who come out several times a year for practical habitat management.

Young person groups also regularly attend in similar activities. These include community payback from local schools, local wildlife clubs and brownie, guides, cub and scout groups.

Holly Hill Woodland Park hosts a number of events on site over the year and varies year to year based on the popularity of such events over time. In previous years, guided walks on the wildlife and history of the site were common. However, the numbers of attendees declined and so were halted in favour of more family activity orientated events. These include the large and well-established Easter event, which caters to approximately 400 people, an Access All Areas (den-building, campfire, woodland crafts) event for 500 people, and a Conker event in autumn (numbers for this vary as it is a 'turn up and take part' event unlike the other two, which are ticketed events).

Marketing and promotion

The site has six interpretation panels in key locations across the site and a large welcome board at the entrance, which were installed around 2010. The welcome board has a map and a description of the site in general and gives general information about facilities, etc. The six interpretation panels cover the various points of interest of Holly Hill. These include the Sunken Garden, the Pulhamite Stone features and the two wooded areas.

A colour leaflet was produced in 2004 and again in 2015, which provides illustrations and information about the park and is available from the Council Offices and other local outlets.

The Council has good working relationships with both the local press offices for both 'The News' and 'The Echo' and press releases are always produced to encourage media coverage of events and activities.

The Council's Fareham Today magazine, which is produced every two months, is used to promote events at Holly Hill, as well as around the borough.

There are approximately 40 notice boards that are strategically located around the borough. When appropriate posters are placed here to ensure that coverage of activities undertaken at Holly Hill reach all areas of the borough.

In addition, to this the Council's website provides a good and very accessible platform to promote Holly Hill and provide a great deal of information about the park and its history and management. The website can be found at www.fareham.gov.uk/hollyhill.

Management Constraints

Holly Hill Woodland Park is currently funded through the Council's revenue budgets. However, the available funds relate to a number of countryside sites and there is no specific sum allocated each year to Holly Hill. The plan will however help to identify the necessary funding needed and will help with the budgeting process.

STAGE 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain, preserve and enhance wildlife habitats and their associated species.
2. To preserve and conserve the historical and cultural features of the site.
3. To engage the community in the management of the park and seek to develop an awareness through interaction and active participation.
4. To promote the sustainable use of the park for informal recreation and enjoyment of the public
5. To promote a greater awareness of the site's importance and its management.
6. To encourage the effective and sustainable use of our resources.
7. To regularly monitor and review management practices and update with any advances in land management and nature conservation practise.

2.2 RATIONALE AND OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

2.2.1 Objective 1

To maintain, preserve and enhance wildlife habitats and their associated species.

The Council will ensure that Holly Hill Woodland Park will continue to play a full part in maintaining biodiversity on a local, regional and national scale by linking management to relevant legislation and target criteria in regional and local biodiversity plans.

The term Biodiversity is taken to mean all living organisms which exist naturally on the site and management is not only interested in conserving specific groups of species but the variety of genetic differences, habitat diversity and the natural transitions which constitute the sites complexity. Management will ensure that operations are linked to a monitoring programme and conform to the overall aims of the objective and legal obligations relating to protected species.

Woodlands

A number of woodland types occur throughout and consist of oak woodland with hazel dominated under storey, oak and ash with dominant holly under storey and wet woodland with alder and willow or downy birch. The wet woodlands are of regional importance and its maintenance in a favourable condition is an essential part of management.

Distribution of wet woodland is reliant on sufficient water levels and occurs along stream margins or in wet flushes. Some species occurring in this woodland type

are of importance and are listed as red data book species, e.g. the crane fly *Pilaria fuscipennis* and hoverfly *Criorhina berberina*

Therefore, appropriate management of this unique area contributes to both local and national biodiversity action plans. Entomological advice has been sought and local partnerships with the County Council are in place.

Moreover, the habitats themselves have national Biodiversity Habitat Action Plans (HAPs). It is important that management prescriptions maintain existing areas and achieve favourable conditions. Sensitive management contributes to the national Action Plan.

Wet woodland and stream

The wet woodland which is situated in Cawtes Copse has alder as the dominant mature tree with oak, sweet chestnut and sycamore also present.

A raised boardwalk from the lower Hamble path to the Wendleholme crossing was constructed to discourage any adverse trampling over the area.

The wet woodland at Winnards Copse is in less favourable condition. Stands of invasive bamboo have formed the under storey, shrouding out light to the field layer resulting in an impoverished habitat. The bamboo has continually been cut and sprayed to reduce its impact. This area is considered a priority owing to its importance and its potential spread into neighbouring favourable wet woodland.

Oak / Beech / Hazel Woodland

The vast majority of woodland at Holly Hill is that of Oak, Beech, Ash, Hazel and Holly occurs throughout the centre of Cawtes Copse and all around the lakes in Winnards Copse. Some of the woodland in both Cawtes and Winnards Copse appears to have been woodland since at least 1803. However, part of the south-eastern edge of Cawtes and the north-western side of Winnards both appear to be have been pasture during the nineteenth century.

Management has been to tackle the encroachment of invasive exotic species such as laurel and rhododendron, which, in places has grown prolifically and will eradicate the natural habitat if left unchecked. Coupled with this control, thinning and removal of some standards has taken place with the removal of predominately sycamore to favour more natural species which in turn favour botanical, invertebrate and other wildlife interest.

Partly due to natural succession and the high number of mature sycamore in Holly Hill, the character of the woodland is gradually changing from oak to sycamore stands in some areas of Cawtes Copse. It is important that regenerating sycamore is controlled and that mature sycamore is removed to prevent them becoming dominant. Some non-intervention is appropriate in northern compartments in Cawtes Copse as this area has the character of high forest and is more robust. Generally, management should tackle invasive species control first and foremost as this has potentially the most damaging long-term effect on the woodland.

Another important aspect of management is to maintain existing and create additional small glades and rides to facilitate species mobility, much of this can be achieved along the existing paths within the site. Such areas provide significant

variance in microclimate enabling increased diversity. In order that these remain active management is required to keep them sufficiently open.

There is provision to undertake some small-scale coppicing within Cawtes Cope given adequate steps are taken to ensure stool protection from deer browsing. This work will be linked to Biodiversity Action Plan species which favour such conditions and our known to occur, along with surveys to steer future management.

It is essential that an adequate population of standing dead or dying trees is maintained throughout the woodlands to provide invertebrate and fungi habitats and nesting sites for birds and bats. These can either be left in woodland blocks away from paths and boundaries, or can be encouraged by the ring-barking of trees that would otherwise be felled, allowing them to stand dead.

Decaying wood habitats and their quantity should be reviewed regularly in certain woodland compartments. Subsequent management should where possible be creative e.g. by creating cavities in standing dead wood for bats and birds.

Management will keep abreast of habitat and species data and any amendments to legal operations which determine current best practice in order to maintain existing resources and a sustainable management methodology.

Climate change may in the future present the need for a review of woodland management techniques and will need to be redressed accordingly if and when the situation arises.

The whole of the site is a public open space requiring that within wooded areas management has to cater for Health & Safety issues, this may in some circumstances override management objectives but in the main is specific to paths and picnic areas within the woodland.

Aquatic habitats

There are a number of large open water bodies and smaller ponds though the main part of the site. Management aims to address the condition of these habitats into a more favourable condition for wildlife provision.

Whilst a management objective, adequate weighting must also be given to public health and safety and adherence to strict legislation.

A phased programme of desilting was successfully undertaken as a first measure to improve water quality, and to ensure the retention of the resource. This was supplemented with a reduction in overhanging vegetation to improve light levels.

Pest species such as rats and mink will be tackled with trapping in the case of the latter and public awareness of increased rat populations resulting from feeding of ducks and other animals. Management will aim to counter this popular pastime with interpretation with a further review if required.

Poisoning as a form of rat control is not considered a viable option as this is potentially dangerous to a variety of wildlife and does not address the causes of elevated population levels. However, alternative solutions will be investigated at if the issue presents itself as a problem.

Natural ponds which are predominately spring fed will be maintained on an annual basis to ensure their integrity and surveyed accordingly to ensure management objectives are achieved.

There are a number of small natural streams and wet flushes which occur throughout the site which require little management, albeit for annual clearance of flow blockages to ensure natural processes of ingress and inundation. These result in marginal vegetation communities of value for wildlife and are consequently of high conservation value.

Grassland, Verges and Banks

The majority of grassland which occurs on site is of amenity value and of low conservation interest. However, it is important that gradations between grassland and woodland or scrub have structure with the retention of an interface between the two, i.e. a buffer of mown and un-mown areas as these are important refuges and foraging areas for certain species.

To ensure the preservation of the boundary banks and ditches, management should take the form of reducing the risk of tree roots pulling up the banks if trees fall. This must be balanced against the need to retain veteran trees in the park.

2.2.2 Objective 2

To preserve and conserve the historical and cultural features of the site.

There are no scheduled or ancient monuments located on the site but many of the sites features have a past history and form its character and will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

In the main, it is natural processes that threaten the future of the lakes, Pulhamite stone and planted ornamental trees. Erosion from water levels and undermining from tree roots are often key factors in potential loss. Measures will be implemented to ensure the key site features are maintained in a sustainable manner through monitoring and review.

Lakes/Ponds

Preserving the lakes and islands has presented and will continue to cause problems due to high levels of silt and water volumes entering the site. Siltation of the lakes left unchecked will in time compromise their integrity and historical character. In order to preserve the present features, it is imperative that remedial measures are put in place to counteract the effects of excessive silt inflow.

A massive desilting project, including the construction of a number of silt traps, took place during the last the management plan time. Despite regular emptying of silt traps, the upper lakes have silted up badly once again and so another desilting project will need to take place in this management plan timeframe.

Annual monitoring and maintenance will include:

- Silt trap maintenance
- Monitor water flow rates

- Vegetation control to banks, dams and islands
- Island bank erosion
- Dam integrity
- Public health & safety

The set of man-made ponds on the eastern side of the lakes needs are of historic interest and have been restored. They are a popular feature and are an important wetland habitat for wildlife. Annual vegetation maintenance is required to maintain their openness as a site feature and any repairs required to ensure water retention.

Pulhamite stone

Holly Hill is of regional, if not national, importance due to the presence of the Pulhamite stone rockworks. These are thought to date from the 1880s and are used to create dams between the lakes, landscape features on the banks and a grotto which links to the largest lake.

Public access to dams and the grotto have been fenced off to reduce damage to the stone work and for public's health and safety. Whilst by and large structurally sound, loosening of rocks and widening of existing cracks can occur and requires regular monitoring.

Trees are growing on some of the Pulhamite rocks on the banks of the lakes. In some places, it is clear that yew and plane trees have been planted deliberately on or close to the rockworks and this aspect of the original design needs to be respected as far as possible. Some have been removed in the past, however, this had to be done carefully since their roots can decay, causing collapse of the rocks. Any large trees still in place are monitored and will be removed if dangerous. Otherwise, any self-seeded trees are removed from the Pulhamite rocks to prevent further root penetration.

There are a number of factors which result in the deterioration and damage of this key feature of the site which management will address through periodic condition surveys. These are:

- Structural and localised cracking
- Defects in the render
- Erosion through weathering
- Vegetation damage
- Staining
- Vandalism

David Mason's guide to the Conservation and Repair of Pulhamite is a useful document for such management and is kept at the civic offices.

Ornamental trees & shrubs

A key aspect of the landscaped garden is its ornamental planting of a wide range of species which enhance the visual character of the site and frame its landscape and skyline. Reference to old photos, pictures and maps has guided some of our understanding and it would appear that it has been designed in the "American garden" style of conifers, rhododendrons and ferns in a "wild" landscape and been at its peak during the late 1800's. It is important that management is true to

this tradition and based on the plants already found at Holly Hill. The Garden History Society has no information relating to the site in which to assist management.

At the same time, the gardens must serve their modern purpose as a recreational area with due regard for health and safety and high visitor pressure.

Previous planting schemes have introduced trees such as *Taxodium distichum* (Swamp Cypress), *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coastal Redwood), *Pinus nigra var laricio* (Corsican Pine) and *Pinus nigra var austriaca* (Austrian Pine), *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane), *Aesculus indica* (Indian Horse Chestnut), and *Fagus purpurea* (Copper Beech). Many of these are at a mature stage and young trees should be planted to maintain the stock and the character of the site. This has already been started and needs to continue over the coming years. It is hoped that this work will form a large backdrop to the success of current management and give future generations pleasure. A feature such as the Chestnut Avenue has been replenished due to loss of a number of mature trees and this characterises the type of work which will continue.

Shrubs are another key feature with species such as rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and tree ferns. Annual maintenance is required and additional planting of appropriate species is occasionally required.

Hedging around the lakes act as a formal boundary to lake edges and should be maintained in such a way as to keep this function but not be allowed to impair views of the lakes and dams.

The grotto, which has plant pockets, has recently had a lot of work done as a number of different fern varieties have been donated to Holly Hill by a local fern expert. This work should continue and the grotto maintained as such in the future. More ferns are hoped to be acquired for some of the dams and rockwork.

Open lawns are a popular visitor attraction and will be maintained with regular mowing.

Annual monitoring and maintenance will include:

- Specimen tree monitoring
- Tree planting to offset natural losses
- Shrub and hedge maintenance
- Public health & safety

It will be necessary to take some decisions which are contrary to good nature conservation management in the interests of recreating a heritage landscape. It is important that some hinterland of the gardens remain between the formal aspects of the historic parkland and the surrounding woodlands, in order that the two blends naturally together but neither management objectives are compromised as a result.

Sunken Garden

The Sunken Garden is an entirely artificial creation and requires a maintenance commitment to ensure its current character and function. It has been modified

extensively since its creation (approx. 1905). Prior to its incarnation as a garden the area is marked on maps as a sandpit. Hampshire Garden Trust have been involved with the maintenance of the garden in the past and have helpful information for management.

Holly Hill Mansion is historically and inextricably linked with the garden and the park as a whole. Because of the proximity of the garden and the house it is particularly important to maintain a link between the two. Unfortunately, the mansion is currently being sold off by FBC. It is hoped that the new owners of the Mansion can be approached and the link maintained in some way.

Succession to scrub poses the biggest threat to the garden. The prevention of succession should be achieved through the regular maintenance of the garden. This will include the following:

- Mowing of lawn
- Weeding and plant maintenance of beds and borders. Replenishment of plant stock as required
- Path and step, and seating area maintenance
- Boundary hedge maintenance
- Treatment of invasive species
- Potentially maintain visual links to Holly Hill mansion

2.2.3 Objective 3

To engage the community in the management of the park and seek to develop an awareness through interaction and active participation.

It is believed that by involving the community and ensuring that they have an awareness and understanding of the issues and management at Holly Hill will result in increased support for proposed site actions and proposals. This objective therefore supports Objective 5 (to promote greater awareness of the sites importance and its management).

This objective will include:

- The involvement of the community and the Friends of Holly Hill to assist with the management of the site
- Providing support to the local community
- Building links with local businesses and other organisations
- Improved information services (see objective 5)

Friends of Holly Hill and other volunteers have provided many thousands of hours of labour and many operations undertaken in the park may not have happened if it hadn't have been for their commitment and enthusiasm. Such direct involvement has ensured a sense of ownership and pride in the site. The volunteer group require organisation in weekly work days and annually held events, training days and administrative needs. This requires considerable ranger time but is well worth the contribution that the volunteers make to the management of the Park that would otherwise have to performed by paid

contractors. Members of the group come and go for various reasons and so new members should be regularly recruited to keep the group at a decent size

Further encouragement of practical conservation projects for the business community and children groups will also promote community involvement.

Community involvement to date has included:

- Provision of walks and talks for local communities
- Events and site visits for school children.
- Weekly practical tasks for friends of Holly Hill and other volunteers
- Large scale events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, which has formed part of the Council's Parks events programme

The events that are currently held at Holly Hill are popular and always sell out (if ticketed). To ensure that this positive aspect of community involvement is continued, popularity of current events must be maintained and new events devised when trends change.

2.2.4 Objective 4

To promote the sustainable use of the park for informal recreation and enjoyment of the public

Holly Hill Woodland Park is essentially a wooded valley grading to historic parkland used as an open space facilitating public recreation and enjoyment. The management plan aims to ensure that this function continues in a sustainable manner in conjunction with its nature conservation value.

The sites geology and topography have resulted in the natural development of wet areas in woodland with associated flora and fauna. This has made some parts of the site difficult to access and whilst it was once common practice to drain areas in the interests of public access, this is no longer considered appropriate management as it alters its character and distinctiveness and mitigates against its conservation value.

There currently is a sufficient drainage and culvert system to maintain reasonable path conditions within the major path routes of the woodland and these will be maintained on an annual basis to keep the paths in a navigable condition.

Informal Recreational Activities

Many informal activities take place at Holly Hill and currently includes walking and dog walking, horse riding in designated areas, picnicking and nature study. Holly Hill is a very well used especially by families at weekends and during holidays and at attendance at events held on site. The area around the lakes is particularly popular and is generally the place people are most likely to visit. This is probably to be encouraged as this part of the park is the most accessible to the nearby facilities, such as the car parking and toilets, and in relation to conservation is considered less sensitive.

Generally, sensitive areas to visitor pressure, such as the wet woodlands or badger setts, will be managed by dissuading people from using such areas by naturally zoning or steering users to maintained footpaths. This can be supplemented with interpretation to help increase awareness. It is hoped that through the development of an understanding of the work undertaken the importance of the site and principles of sustainable management will encourage visitors to adopt a responsible attitude and care for Holly Hill.

General Site safety

Areas of the park are deliberately fenced to restrict access and to help ensure public safety; these include dam crossing points and areas with restricted access. Fencing material utilised has been oak which blends well with the character of the site.

There is an extensive path system throughout the site which is maintained on an annual basis. Since the lakes are situated in a valley, water runs down the slopes and where it crosses paths, they become muddy and uneven. There is a complicated system of drains, both old and new, which will be regularly cleaned out, renewed and extended. Improvements to all paths will be identified and prioritised over the lifetime of the management plan

Regular monitoring of trees and overhanging vegetation adjacent to paths is carried out on a monthly basis. Many of the large mature trees are programmed to be surveyed and plotted on dedicated land management software held at the Council's offices.

Dog Walking

There is a need to work with visitors to seek to modify the culture of dog walking in the park so that it may become a more sustainable activity. Large numbers of visitors to Holly Hill especially during the week days are in fact undertaking this particular activity. Generally, most visiting dog owners act responsibly, however there are others that do not. The small numbers of dogs that are not controlled pose a threat to wildlife and can sometimes intimidate visitors and the amount of dog excrement reduces the enjoyment of other site users and has a potential health and safety risk. Dog bins are currently provided in the park and are maintained by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team.

In recent years, dog ownership has increased, as has the rise in dog walking companies. Holly Hill is a popular place for this activity as there is free parking. The Council has Enforcement Officers who engage with offenders, however, they cannot be there all the time. This is a difficult challenge with regards to management as it is not possible to limit the number of dog walkers who use the park. The production of a dog policy will be considered for the park in the future.

Litter

In recent years litter has radically diminished largely owing to additional bins and regular patrols from staff and volunteers. In addition, it is believed that the sites popularity and overall visitor enjoyment has helped instil a sense of pride and ownership.

However, occasional abuse still occurs, particularly at weekends when visitor numbers are at their peak. Other parts of the site are prone to occasional fly-tipping. We will continue to collect and dispose of any fly tipping on a weekly

basis and monitor and identify further measures if the issue of litter should worsen.

Disabled Access

We will endeavour to provide where possible additional access opportunities for disabled visitors. Some constraints, such as the sites topography and aspect, preclude access to some visitors with certain disabilities.

Car parking

Holly Hill is fortunate in that it has a relatively large main car park with an additional smaller one nearby. At certain times of the day, especially daily school drops or when outdoor school sports events are taking place, the car park is often overflowing, but this is generally only for very short periods of the day.

The level access smaller car park was tarmacked in 2017, with number of disabled parking bays laid out.

Horse riding

There is a horse and pony trail which navigates a circular route around the sites perimeter, and is regularly used. There have been very few incidents of conflict from differing user groups and the existing trail fulfils its original purpose adequately. It is important that the trail remains well sign posted and maintained.

Park furniture

Seating and picnic table provision is provided, maintained and added to, where appropriate. Memorial benches are no longer commissioned due to the increase in requests. Memorial trees are now encouraged in their stead, which also assists in replacing old tree stock.

A commissioned wrought iron bridge and arch have been incorporated into the site and have become popular features of the park. If necessary, any future works of this nature of similar design.

Holly Hill has a number of chainsaw woodcarvings, including a dead standing trunk on an island and a log seat. Future work of this nature will be considered if appropriate and suitable.

2.2.5 Objective 5

To promote a greater awareness of the sites importance and its management.

The rangers will actively develop opportunities for those seeking information about how and why the site is managed.

The Management Plan

The management plan will be used as a guide and direct site management and explain the operational aspects to as many people as possible. There is also a summary plan which provides details of key themes and key activities.

Ranger Service and Volunteers

The rangers and members of the Friends of Holly Hill will endeavour to be available to visitors, neighbours and partners and where possible find ways of improving ways for future contact. The rangers will continue to provide a presence on site, with regular patrols acting as a deterrent to possible abuse.

Events

Currently, Holly Hill hosts 3 large and well attended events throughout the year. These are the Easter event, National Play Day and the Friends of Holly Hill run conker competition. These activities have proved very popular with the public and should be continued to keep the profile of the site high. If popularity of these events dwindles, as in the case of guided walks and talks, other such activities will be devised in their stead to maintain Holly Hill's profile.

Formal Education

The rangers will continue to work closely with local schools to encourage active participation. Approaches from individual schools will be supported. Working with schools ensures that opportunities are available to children to promote an understanding by local children of the site and its importance.

On site information

There is a need for continued development of a co-ordinated approach to providing on site information to assist visitors and to provide opportunities to increase awareness of the site's importance for wildlife and historic interest.

The welcome board and interpretation panels contain little information that will go out of date and so only need to be considered for alteration if vandalised or there are major changes to Council facilities/information. Review of the content is to be made for the next management plan.

Leaflets and printed information

A leaflet has been produced for the site which gives people basic information and a map to help them find their way round. Leaflets are available from Holly Hill Leisure Centre on Barnes Lane.

Events at Holly Hill are advertised in Fareham Today (although printed copies now have to be requested).

Website

Holly Hill's website can be found www.fareham.gov.uk/hollyhill. The site contains general information about Holly Hill, including facilities and getting there. Information about the volunteers, flora and fauna and the management plan are also available.

Holly Hill events are published in Fareham Today, which can be found at www.fareham.gov.uk/farehamtoday. These are published every two months and the events are also uploaded onto social media including Facebook and Twitter.

Equal Opportunities and Disability Discrimination Act

All literature and site events will be provided in a number of formats in order to ensure that they are available regardless of physical ability and cultural background.

Management of information

There is a lot of information regarding Holly Hill in relation to its history and past management. This is available in a variety of forms: i.e. hard cover, photos, slides and electronic format. This resource will be maintained and conserved and effectively stored for the future. Where possible all information will be stored electronic in the future.

2.2.6 Objective 6

To encourage the effective and sustainable use of our resources.

Sustainable use of open space resources.

We will encourage the effective and long term sustainable use of all our resources .

This is an issue that touches every operational aspect of site management. It should be an integral part of all activities and we must strive for constant improvement wherever it is required. Resources may be taken to mean, financial, human, environmental and time. 'Sustainable management' will bring tangible benefits to the site.

Sustainable management must also examine the level and source of operational funding. Funding must be provided and maintained at a level sufficient to support the effective management of the site. It is the role of the Managers of the department to ensure that revenue funds are maintained at the required level. However, there are other financial opportunities that could be explored in order to support current revenue budgets. These may include applications for woodland grants, lottery funding, seeking developer contributions, and increasing income generated by site activities as well as providing greater opportunities for individuals, visitors and organisations to make financial donations or through the provision of their time.

Partnership.

We aim to foster a partnership approach to protect the Holly Hill and its surroundings.

Partnership with other organisations will play an important role in the implementation of sustainable principles. Holly Hill Woodland is closely linked with Wendleholme which is owned by Hampshire County Council. It also linked with large area of open space at Coldeast currently in private ownership. The greater the Council's sphere of influence, the greater the potential benefits to Holly Hill, the wider environment and social and economic fabric of the area. The partnership approach may also be appropriate with some site users and when seeking to protect land where the Council cannot directly acquire it. Where land acquisition is considered to be an option then the sustainable approach must ensure that adequate resources are available to manage that land without detriment to the existing ownership.

Measurement and Review.

We will monitor and review our practices and policies to ensure that they are effective.

The principle of sustainability is not always simple to achieve and it will be necessary to review operational activities on a regular basis. To demonstrate the benefits of the sustainable approach we will need to improve how we measure

and record its effectiveness in terms of environmental gain. Firstly, we should concentrate on the obvious areas such as measuring and recording reductions in fuel consumption, carbon dioxide production and providing demonstrable improvements to recycling processes, procurement and time management.

The responsibility to apply the principles of sustainability in the management of resources is clear at a national, corporate, departmental and local level.

2.2.7 Objective 7

To regularly monitor and review management practices and update with any advances in land management and nature conservation practice.

It is vital that there are periodic appraisals of practices and updates of information relating to conservation work and the provision of recreation, education. This appraisal will also help to assess our performance in meeting site objectives.

Nature conservation

This largely will relate to habitat and species management and helping to ensure objectives/targets are being met and providing additional baseline data to build on. These will include:

- Undertake specific species surveys related to biodiversity action plans and red data book
- Undertake periodic taxonomic surveys of existing known groups and those less recorded, or little known e.g. lichens
- Consult with Council Ecologist and Natural England on issues relating to habitat and species data.
- Monitor tree and vegetation health in relation to effects of climate change or pollution
- Continue to keep abreast of nature conservation legislation and changes in best practice

Much of this work will require consultancy work from specialised individuals/organisations. Specialised training for staff will also assist in aspects of this work. It is envisaged that there will ample opportunities for individuals, volunteers and students to also assist in biological data collection.

STAGE 3 PESCRIPTIONS

3.1 SCHEDULED WORK IN COMPARTMENTS

This section of the plan gives a brief description of works planned for each compartment, along with a description of habitats and associated species. Only specific projects are listed, not routine management. Maps of compartments can be found in Appendix B

The overall management aim is to maintain and enhance existing habitats and associated wildlife. In some instances, priority is given to those habitats and species which are vulnerable or in decline. Where minimum intervention is cited, no specific project is planned other than routine maintenance. For specific timescales, refer to the work program section of the plan.

The lakes and their margins (compartments 2a – 2d) are the central visitor attraction, a series of man-made structures with elaborate Pulhamite rock forming the interface between the differing levels of water cascade. Work in the previous plan has been to maintain and further open the canopy to create vistas and enhance the character of the landscape. Silt accumulation has been a major factor in their potential longevity along with ageing of the Pulhamite interface. Recent management has been very successful in preserving this resource and will form the basis for continual management.

Winnards Copse (compartments 1, 3, 4, 5, 6) forms the central northern part of the site and is a mixture of even-aged woodland. In certain areas, an understorey of laurel and rhododendron has invaded and impoverished the field layer and its ability to naturally regenerate. This, in time, will result in the loss of the woodland completely. Work in the previous plan has been very successful and this work will continue throughout Winnards Copse, tackling the invasive species where these occur; with priority given to those woodland types which are more locally scarce or are richer in biodiversity value.

Cawtes Copse (compartments 8 -12) to the south west is a good example of previously managed secondary woodland, areas of hazel coppice and associated flora thrive and this woodland complex is considered of prime nature conservation value particularly in relation to the surrounding landscape. It has various woodland types which grade into one other owing to its valley aspect which leads to the River Hamble. A number of glades and rides were created to facilitate species mobility and increase mosaics within the vegetation structure. Further work is required to reduce sycamore dominance in the drier woodlands.

3.2.1 Compartment 1

Consists of the locally scarce wet woodland types:

- W5c *Alnus glutinosa*- *Carex paniculata* woodland, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* sub- community
- W7b *Alnus glutinosa* - *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Lysimachia nemonem* woodland, *Carex remota* *Cirsium palustre* sub-community

These two woodland types form an integral component of the sites biodiversity value and as such require sensitive management. The W7b classification is where large scale invasive species control is needed and this will be given priority

in the first five years of the plan. Matted Bamboo roots have impoverished the field layer which left unmanaged will result in the complete loss of the habitat and the surrounds.

Works:

- phased restoration of woodland type W7b via removal and treatment of invasive species.

4.2.2 Compartment 2a

This section of the lake complex is the intersection between the historic park and the woodland (Cawtes Copse). As such it forms an entrance from the south of the site to the more formal aspects of open parkland. The area has an extensive amount of Pulhamite rock work which forms the dams and the grotto.

This small pond network has extensive leaking occurring around and under the dams. The grotto has been formally closed to entry but remains a key visible feature.

Works:

- Seek financial grant or capital project funding to repair dam leaks.
- Investigate and consider renovation feasibility for restoration of the grotto.

4.2.3 Compartment 2b

This contains the largest of the lakes which has six islands. The aims in this section are to ensure the integrity of the banks and maintain the islands with the long-term view of the expanding their size in conjunction with desilting the lake. This will require significant funding but will remain an objective for the duration of the plan. The lake supports the ornamental fish stock which requires significant reduction to minimise potential stress and health conditions of the fish population.

Works:

- Seek financial grant or capital project funding for desilting and island expansion. Identify potential donor for fish stock reduction and instigate stock analysis and removal.

4.2.4 Compartment 2c

Despite a significant desilting project taking place in the last management plan timeframe, the upper lake system is now almost completely silted up once again. See Compartment 2b for works.

4.2.5 Compartment 2d

A small-scale construction project took place in 2016 on the path around the upper lake. Invasive laurel was cleared in the area and used as a dead hedge to create a boundary hedge to a number of private properties that had members of the public regularly wandering onto their residences. This replaced an inappropriate Heras fence erected by one such resident. The path was widened and drainage from the run-off from the horse track was improved and diverted. The upper lake is now essentially a silt trap, however, this work may be able to assist in improving the amount of silt that builds up here.

See Compartment 2b for works.

4.2.6 Compartments 3a

This woodland compartment forms the entrance point from Holly Hill Lane and comprises part of the circular horse trail. Invasive species control is required, but done sensitively as some provides cover of private properties.

Works:

- Laurel clearance and monitor regeneration
- Donated trees (if suitable) can be planted here.

4.2.7 Compartment 3b

This strip is locally referred to as the chestnut avenue, a double line of even-aged planted horse chestnut trees (planted c1890) possibly created to form a new entrance to the lodge on Barnes Lane. Natural loss and disease has occurred and the main objective is to maintain this feature with replacement trees as and when required and to continue monitoring existing trees. There is some laurel invasion.

Works:

- Manage old chestnuts and maintain new replacements.
- Invasive laurel clearance

4.2.8 Compartment 4a

This area comprises of part of the horse trail and secondary woodland. Laurel still dominates some areas (large scale clearance took place in the past management plan period), and clearance should continue.

Works:

- Invasive laurel clearance and monitor regeneration.

4.2.9 Compartment 4b

This area grades from formal recreation picnic areas to wooded scrub margin with a high density of laying dead wood. The open nature of this compartment has largely been achieved but it will be necessary to ensure that secondary woodland does not encroach any further than the existing line. This area is particularly rich in invertebrate life with its southern aspect. The area has close by a number of native mature trees such as Oak, Horse Chestnut and Beech. Notable species which are frequently encountered are Stag Beetle, Purple Hairstreak and White Admiral, it is important to maintain the existing structure to support the above and other supported species.

Works:

- Maintain existing picnic areas and amenity grassland, maintain existing vegetation structure interface with surrounding woodland.

4.2.10 Compartment 5a

This area has had major invasive species clearance in recent years and a dead hedge created to delineate a from the lake path. A large, standing dead beech dominates the area and it is now used for the major National Play Day event. The standing beech provides an opportunity for a chainsaw sculpture and possibilities should be researched.

Works:

- Laurel regeneration managed
- Potential chainsaw sculpture installed on standing dead beech.

4.2.11 Compartment 5b

Compartment 5b is secondary woodland and is of particularly value to large mammals, such as fox and badgers, as it the driest woodland component of the site and the least frequented by the public. Paths are deliberately kept to a minimum.

Works:

- removal and treatment of invasive species and maintain limited access. Retain existing horse trail.

4.2.12 Compartment 6

The main area of interest in this area is the small series of ponds thought to be constructed in the Edwardian period. Work in the previous plan led to them being restored with their dams restored. The pond is spring fed and is rich in amphibian and invertebrate life. It is important that surrounding vegetation is maintained at current levels to maximise light levels. Annual management of emergent pond vegetation will take place to ensure a 50% openness of the main water bodies. The area has an easy access trail and bridge running through it.

Works:

- Annual removal of silt and aquatic plants to ensure water flow and 50% openness of water in main ponds.
- Maintain surrounding vegetation and trees to retain existing light levels to area.
- Maintain trail and bridge.

4.2.13 Compartment 7a

The main entrance point to the park from Barnes Lane is very important as it helps form first impressions in the visitor and their subsequent enjoyment of the site. Expansion of Holly Hill cemetery adjacent to the site is taking place and incorporates part of the horse trail. This is will need to be addressed once the development is complete.

Works:

- Maintain open welcoming aspect,
- Ensure up to date information is displayed and signage is clear. Minimise negative byelaw notification, whilst providing supplementary information on the sites value for the local community, their involvement opportunities and its importance for nature conservation and the need for continual sustainable management.
- Design and construct and new horse trail.

4.2.14 Compartment 7b

This area relates to the formal open garden, known as the sunken garden. Created as part of the garden to Holly Hill mansion, this area has at its core semi-circular herbaceous beds and borders leading to lawn and specimen camellias. It is very popular with visitors and is easily accessed from the main entrance in Barnes Lane and Barnes close. FBC is currently selling off the mansion, which

may affect how the sunken garden is managed. However, once the new owners are established, they will be approached and hopefully a new collaboration may occur.

Works:

- maintain existing garden – plants, borders, paths, lawn and access on a monthly basis in the summer and bi-monthly in the winter. Replenish plants as required.
- Establish connection with the new owners of Holly Hill Mansion.

4.2.15 Compartments 8

The northern part of Cawtes Copse has a high forest character and is best suited for minimal intervention. Some work is required to remove laurel and rhododendron which is still persisting in small pockets. Sycamore saplings need annual pulling and our most prevalent on path and boundary margins and in previously worked areas. There is ample opportunity to increase dead wood biomass through ring barking of mature sycamore as this compartment has limited access. All ring barked work should be followed with surgery work to reduce canopy weight. Created glades/scallops on the northern boundary of the compartment will be maintained as a permanent feature. The ride which dissects this and compartment 9 (by the pumping station) will also be kept open.

Works:

- Retain high forest character, ring bark selective mature trees to increase standing wood biomass
- Clear invasive species
- Sycamore sapling removal.
- Maintain created rides and glades.

4.2.16 Compartment 9

This compartment has a similar character to that of compartment 8, but with several wet flushes particularly on plateaus and at the bottom of the valley. The areas character should largely be retained although invasive sycamore in drier parts should be dealt with. Deadwood is a key component especially around wet areas and this should be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. Some ring barking (with crown reduction) of Sycamore will provide a standing deadwood component and good habitat for a variety of interior woodland species. The picnic area on the southern boundary should be retained for recreation

Works:

- Retain existing character of high forest, enhance deadwood component both lying and standing. Deadwood should also be a sited close to woodland wet flushes.
- Clear invasive species
- Sycamore sapling removal.

4.2.17 Compartment 10a

This is a substantial woodland block which ends at the reed beds and salt marsh of Bunny Meadow SSSI. A popular viewing area of the River Hamble is located here and it is important that it be maintained as such. The woodland has a considerable amount of hazel understorey with an extensive bluebell field layer. This section should be maintained with selective coppicing to create mosaics rather than a rotational program. Both Song Thrush and Bullfinch (BAP species)

are frequently seen in the vicinity of this area and both species favour a dense understorey. It is important that a survey for dormice presence is conducted prior to any works. Some initial opening of the canopy will be required and this should involve in the first instance sycamore or turkey oak standards. Coppice work will be mapped and individual stools protected from deer browsing. Owing to density of hazel stools it is important that periodic nut hunts take place to determine possible presence of dormouse.

This area also houses the sites operational compound which has a significant amount of equipment owned by the Council and Friends of Holly Hill. It is vital this be maintained adequately to safeguard the sites equipment and material stock. The picnic area on the southern boundary should be retained for recreation

Works:

- Undertake selective coppicing after initial canopy reduction.
- Maintain view and viewpoint boardwalk of the River Hamble

4.2.18 Compartment 10b

The southern-most part of the site is a section of even aged woodland with a dominant hazel understorey and is largely maintained with minimum intervention. Some natural depressions occur which could be developed at a later stage as a specific pond project. The compartment is also a key pedestrian and Horse trail entry point from Brook Avenue which requires yearly management.

Works:

- minimum intervention with routine access maintenance

4.2.19 Compartments 11a-c

This section consists of the following woodland type

- W7b *Alnus glutinosa* - *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Lysimachia nemorum* woodland, *Urtica dioica* sub-community

This stand of wet woodland forms a winding linear strip on alluvial soils; alder is the dominant species and has in the past been coppiced which has assisted in the present day character. The stand is relatively small and falls on both the Wendleholme and Holly Hill boundaries. The area is notable for its high number of invertebrate species including some notable craneflies and hoverflies. It is important to maintain some areas of openness in the form of a permanent glade, but elements of shade should remain. A dead wet wood component should also remain present and silt accumulation on the stream margins should be kept.

4.2.20 Compartments 12a, 12b

A linear strip of woodland which flanks the southern boundary of Cawtes Copse. Sycamore dominance has resulted in limited regeneration of former species associated with the woodland type. Management will phase a work programme to reduce this dominance during the period of the plan. Part of the circular horse trail navigates through this section and needs to be maintained.

Works:

- 20% reduction of sycamore in first 5 years, followed by a further 20% in latter part of the plan

STAGE 5: WORK PROGRAMME 2018 – 2027

Year I

Operations 2018/19	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control by lower lake/path to R. Hamble	1, 8	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Conduct silt extraction feasibility study	2 a,b,c,d	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Littler clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Upgrade and maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	

Operations 2018/19	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 2

Operations 2019/20	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	

Operations 2019/20	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Littler clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Upgrade and maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 3

Operations 2020/21	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	

Operations 2020/21	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Littler clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and Interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	

Operations 2020/21	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 4

Operations 2021/22	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Littler clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	

Operations 2021/22	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 5

Operations 2022/23	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	

Operations 2022/23	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Littler clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 6

Operations 2023/24	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Littler clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and Interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	

Operations 2023/24	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 7

Operations 2024/25	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				

Operations 2024/25	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Little clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 8

Operations 2025/26	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	

Operations 2025/26	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Litter clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Undertake structural survey of bridges and boardwalks	Site	Staff/Contractors	When arranged	
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				

Operations 2025/26	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 9

Operations 2026/27	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Little clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	

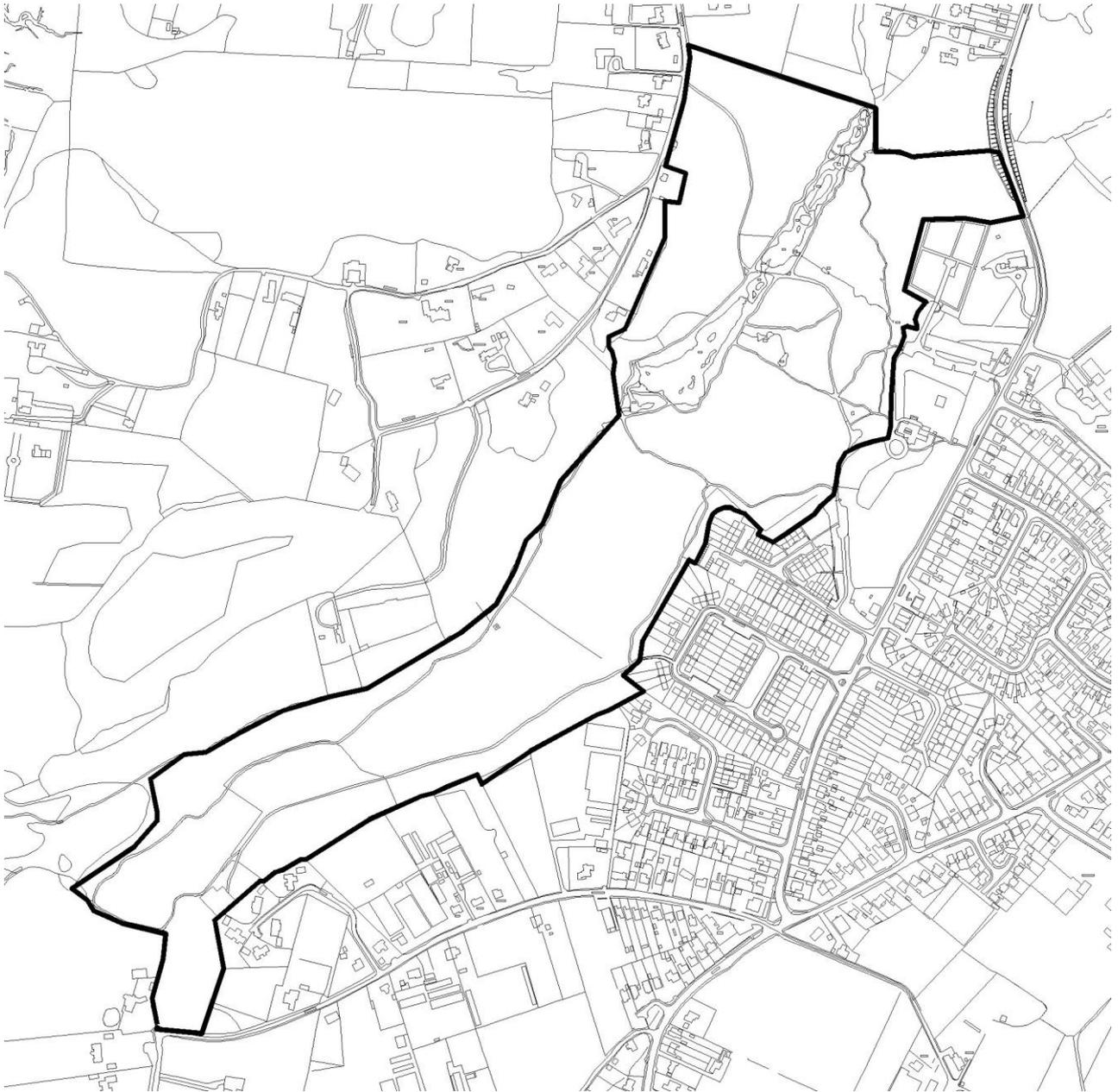
Operations 2026/27	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

Year 10

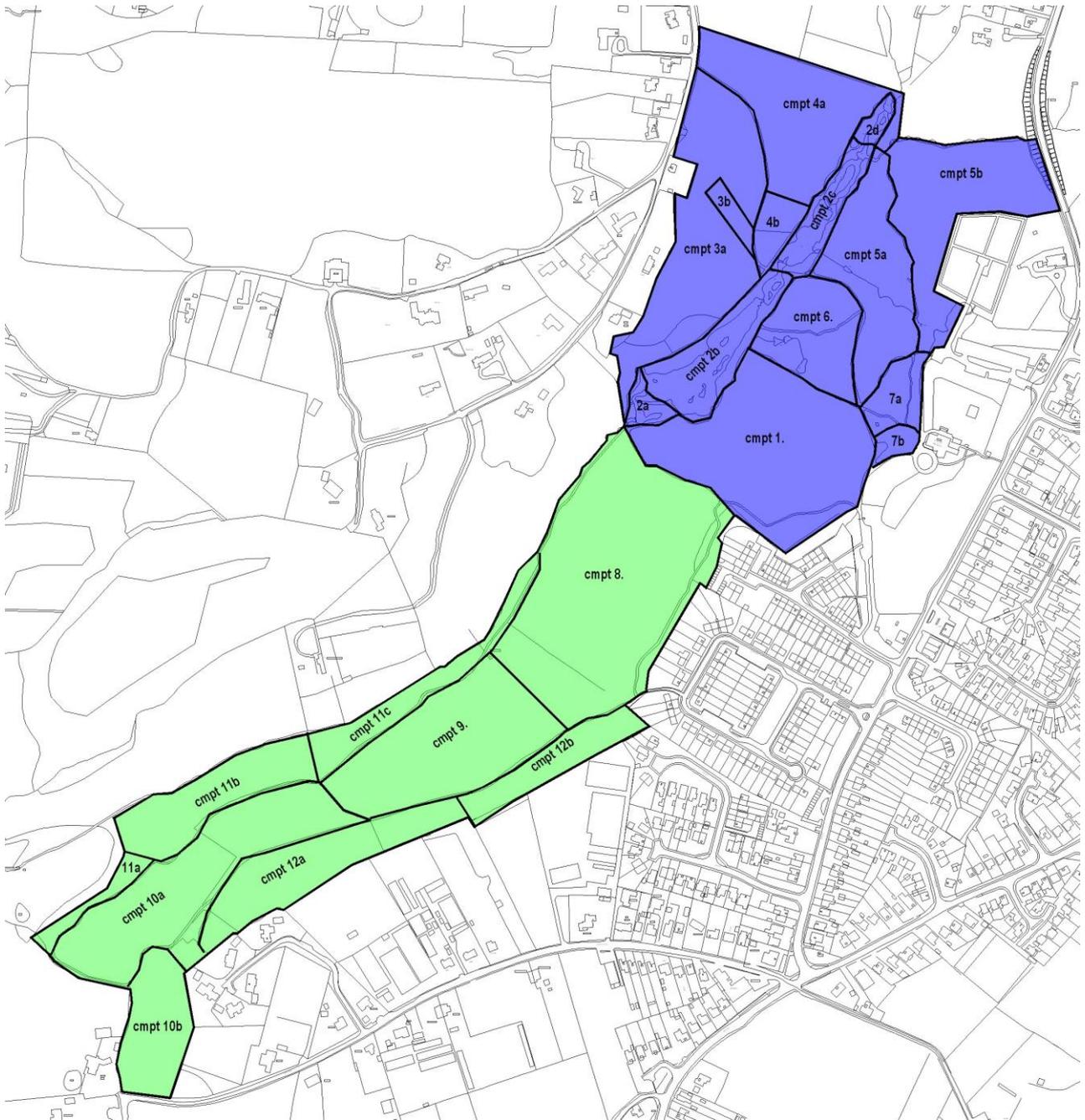
Operations 2027/28	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 1 – Nature Conservation				
Liaise with statutory organisations and other interested parties		Staff	Ongoing	
Liaise with FBC depts. involved with management		Staff	Ongoing	
Woodland Management – invasive species control	Site	Staff/Vols	Jan - Mar	
Herbicide control of Japanese Knotweed	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Herbicide control of Bamboo	1	Staff	Mar/Sept	
Maintain small pond vegetation	6	Staff/Vols	Oct	
Objective 2 – Historical Landscape				
Maintain Lakes & Islands as landscape features	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain shrubs & replenish (as required)	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Sunken Garden	7b	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain rock features – vegetation control	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Empty silt traps	2 a,b,c,d	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	

Operations 2027/28	Cmpt.	Resources	Timescale	Achieved? Comments
Objective 3 – Community Engagement				
Maintain the Friends of Holly Hill volunteer group		Staff	Ongoing	
Manage FoHH weekly tasks		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain and develop other volunteering opportunities		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 4 – Sustainable Recreation Provision				
Littler clearance / bin emptying	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Mowing open areas/glades and sunken garden lawn	Site	FBC SS	Ongoing	
Monthly site safety checks: paths, trees, furniture, lifebuoys, car parks, horse trail etc.	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain Paths and surfacing as required	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Maintain Way-marking	Site	Staff	July - Sept	
Maintain boundary verges (external roads)	Site	Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain drains and culverts	Site	Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Apply for Green Flag Award		Staff	Jan	
Undertake Tree condition surveys near paths, open spaces.	Site	FBC Tree Team	Ongoing	
Objective 5 – Education and interpretation				
Undertake public events, walks, talks		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Encourage school visits & site activities		Staff	Ongoing	
Maintain site noticeboard and update regularly		Staff	Ongoing	
Provide posters on work undertaken to educate visitors		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 6 – Resource Management				
Maintain operational equipment in good working order		Staff/Vols	Ongoing	
Equipment audit/update		Staff	Sept	
Investigate & seek grant initiatives to aid management resources		Staff	Ongoing	
Objective 7 – Monitoring and Review				
Annual Management Plan Review and update		Staff	Feb	
Annual review/update of site risk assessment		Staff	Feb	

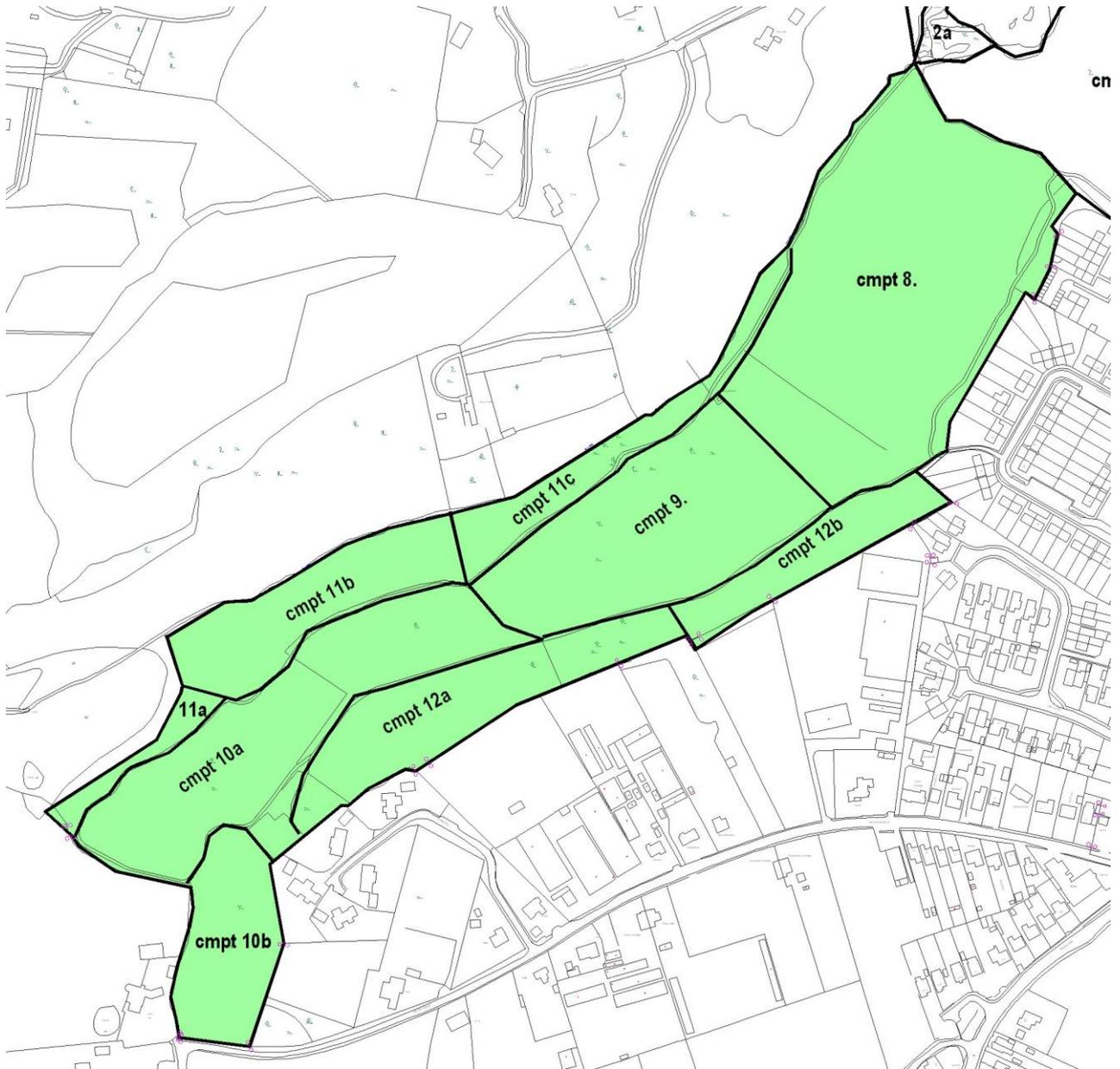
Plan showing outline of Holly Hill Woodland Park



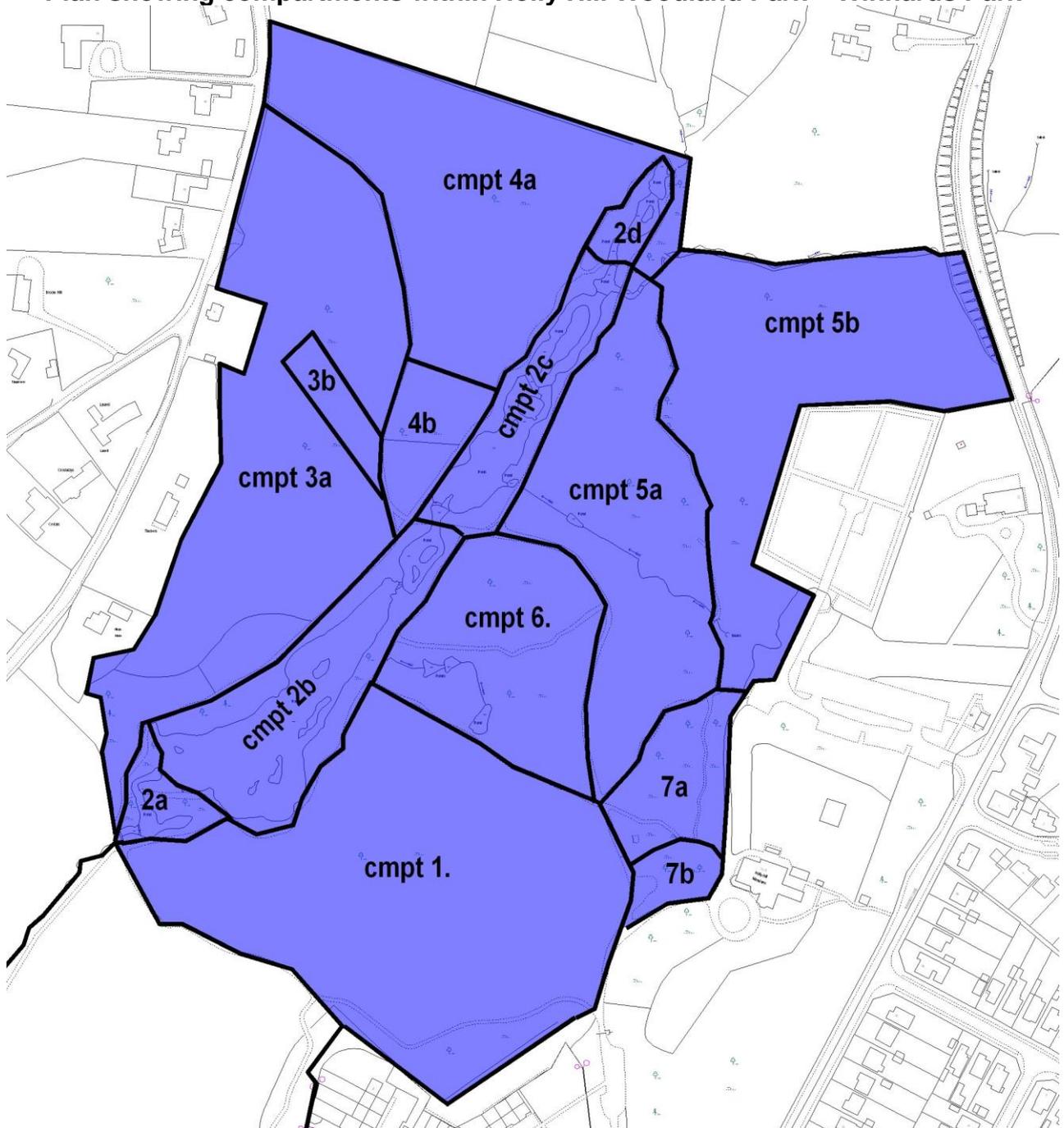
Plans showing compartments within Holly Hill Woodland Park



Plan showing compartments within Holly Hill Woodland Park – Cawtes Copse



Plan showing compartments within Holly Hill Woodland Park – Winnards Park



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Fareham Borough Council 100019110

RISK ASSESSMENTS (EXAMPLES)

RISK ASSESSMENT – GENERAL (Part I)

For Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS
Ensure appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) is available and worn
Ensure fully functioning mobile phone is available
Ensure suitable first aid kit is available and a qualified first aider is present
Ensure detailed risk assessment (Parts II &/or III) is completed prior to undertaking task

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable **DO NOT** undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

HAZARD (POTENTIAL FOR HARM)	STANDARD PRECAUTIONS	ASSESSMENT OF USUAL RISK LEVEL (F X L = RL)
Vehicle use	<p>Ensure vehicle is suitable for task and properly maintained</p> <p>Check tyres, lights, windows etc.</p> <p>Ensure passengers are seated appropriately & wearing seatbelts.</p> <p>Load all tools and materials in appropriate manner ensuring loads are evenly distributed and secured appropriately.</p> <p>Wear PPE as appropriate when loading vehicle.</p> <p>Do not exceed maximum load capacity (see vehicle manufacturers guidelines).</p>	8x4=32 TOLERABLE
Trailer use	<p>Trailers must only be used by qualified drivers.</p> <p>Ensure trailers are hitched correctly, security chain is attached.</p> <p>Check tyres, lights, registration plate.</p> <p>Load all tools and materials in appropriate manor ensuring loads are evenly distributed and secured appropriately.</p>	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Dogs	<p>Dogs are only allowed on site with prior consent of team leader.</p> <p>Dogs should be transported in cargo area of vehicle or with suitable seatbelt restraints.</p> <p>Ensure dogs are kept under strict control at all times.</p> <p>When working dogs should be in suitable vehicle or tethered securely.</p> <p>Dog mess should be cleared and disposed of appropriately.</p> <p>Owners are totally liable for dogs and are responsible for their welfare.</p>	4x4=16 TOLERABLE
Illness/ disease	<p>Ensure hand wash is available.</p> <p>Wash hands thoroughly before eating.</p> <p>Ensure any open wounds are covered with waterproof dressing.</p>	8x4=32 TOLERABLE

HAZARD (POTENTIAL FOR HARM)	STANDARD PRECAUTIONS	ASSESSMENT OF USUAL RISK LEVEL (F X L = RL)
	<p>Ensure team is aware of any allergies. Keep Tetanus and Hepatitis inoculations up to date. Be aware of Weils disease. Avoid unnecessary contact with animals.</p>	
Hazardous plants and animals	<p><i>Where hazardous plants are identified notify others.</i> Wear appropriate PPE. Be aware of areas where adders may be basking and avoid if possible.</p>	4x4=16 TOLERABLE
Extreme weather	<p><i>Training to ensure recognition of sunburn, hypothermia etc.</i> Provide sun block and encourage the use of sun hats. Take regular breaks and provide shade/shelter. Wear warm, waterproof clothing. Have access to hot/cold drinks. If weather is too extreme cease task and return to base.</p>	8x6=48 MODERATE
Members of public	<p><i>Where appropriate ensure area is cordoned off, and/or display warning signs.</i> Stop working to allow people to pass. Stop all power tools to allow horse riders to pass and avoid sudden movements.</p>	10x6=60 MODERATE
Use of hand tools	<p>Do not wear gloves when swinging wooden handled tools. Ensure a firm, stable stance. Advise of correct tools and safe working distances for each job. Keep guards on tools when not in use. Store tools in an accessible place which all are aware of to avoid a trip hazard. Ensure appropriate tool is used for task. Ensure users are fully trained in use and transport of tools. Ensure tool is well maintained and sharpened. Ensure First Aid kit is available on site.</p>	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Manual Handling	<p>Ensure proper training in lifting, handling and weight limitations is given. Plan work in advance to avoid unnecessary lifting/handling of heavy items. Cut timber to manageable size. Keep work site tidy & clear of tripping hazards. Where necessary use lifting/carrying aids, e.g. wheelbarrow.</p>	4x6=24 TOLERABLE
Roadside working	<p>Brightly coloured clothing, preferably 'visivests', must be worn. Site to be coned/cordoned off with enough space to move people, tools & materials safely inside and suitable warning signs in place. If sections of the lane of the road require closing, consult Area Highway Manager for details of requirements.</p>	10x4=40 MODERATE

RISK ASSESSMENT – SPECIFIC (Part II)

Activities assessed for Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

Activity: **LONE WORKING**

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable

DO NOT undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

Hazard (potential for harm)	<i>Standard precautions</i>	Assessment of Risk Level (F x L = RL)
Physical attack	Carry a mobile phone at all times. If approached, stay calm; avoid aggressive language and body posture. Arrange an emergency alert system and ensure it is known by others in the office. Avoid one to one meetings with individuals believed to be potentially aggressive.	8x6=48 MODERATE
General safety	Inform colleagues of where you are going and what time you are expected to return. If going straight home from site, call colleagues to tell them. Never work alone if using power tools, climbing ladders or trees or in confined spaces.	8x6=48 MODERATE

RISK ASSESSMENT – SPECIFIC (Part II)

Activities assessed for Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

Activity: **FIRES ON SITE**
Contact Area Fire Control 01329 221228

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable

DO NOT undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

HAZARD (POTENTIAL FOR HARM)	<i>STANDARD PRECAUTIONS</i>	ASSESSMENT OF RISK LEVEL (F X L = RL)
Spread of fire	Do not light fires directly over peat soil. Do not light fires in very dry or drought conditions. Ensure one person is attending the fire at all times. Fire should not be lit where it may spread to (or damage) nearby trees or other vegetation. Flammable objects must be removed from the area. Fire must be turned in, covered with soil or doused with water where possible at the end of the day.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Members of the public	Where appropriate, ensure area is cordoned off and display warning signs.	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Burning embers and flying debris	Those working near the fire should wear hats or caps, long sleeves and trousers. Long hair must be tied back and loose clothing tucked in. Where practical hot embers should be doused prior to leaving site. Ensure fire-site is chosen carefully The fire must be kept as small as possible to do the job. Sort material before adding it to the fire to exclude dangerous items such as aerosols and treated wood.	6x8=48 MODERATE
Ignition of flammable liquids	Keep vehicles and any flammable liquid or gas in any form of container at least 30 metres from the fire. Non-approved flammable liquids must not be used to light or increase the fire.	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Inhalation of smoke	Do not allow work in significant smoke. Set the fire as far as it is practical from where people are working and down-wind from working party.	4x6=24 TOLERABLE
Smoke obscuring other hazards	Fires should not be lit near roads or occupied buildings. If very strong/gusty winds, postpone fire. Where significant numbers or size of fire is planned, inform Fire Brigade in advance. If a fire is near highway ensure that the smoke blows away from the carriageway	8x6=48 MODERATE

RISK ASSESSMENT – SPECIFIC (Part II)

Activities assessed for Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

Activity: **WETLAND WORK INC. PONDS, STREAMS AND RIVERS**

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable **DO NOT** undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

HAZARD (POTENTIAL FOR HARM)	<i>STANDARD PRECAUTIONS</i>	ASSESSMENT OF RISK LEVEL (F X L = RL)
Chest waders	Instruct users on the safe use of waders. Do not use waders when working alone. Wader wearer should be secured by rope to shore.	8x4=32 TOLERABLE
Contact with micro-organisms e.g. Leptospirosis	Advise people to have Tetanus and Hepatitis B inoculations. Do not drink stream or pond water. Wash hands thoroughly with antibacterial hand wash before eating, drinking or smoking. The wearing of rubber gloves advised. Cover all cuts with waterproof plasters. Advise of the risks of Weil's disease. Avoid contact with dead animals.	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Deep or fast flowing water	Wear waders when working in water above Wellington boot height. Never work in water above waist height or fast flowing water above knee height. Never work alone. Make sure there is somebody on the bank in case of emergency. Wear a life jacket. Have a supply of ropes, poles and throw lines available.	8x6=48 MODERATE
Exposure to harmful substances	If water quality looks as though it may contain hazardous substances, inform the Environment Agency and postpone the task. Do not work where sewage is present.	2x4=24 TOLERABLE
Slips trips and falls	Do not rush. Move slowly in the water. Use safe access points to the water. Wear Wellingtons/waders with good grip.	8x6=24 MODERATE
Submerged hazards	Assess the water for sudden drops, submerged objects and soft spots and notify the relevant people.	8x6=48 MODERATE
Boat Use	Never operate boat alone Always inspect boat for damage, prior to use and conform to specified weight loads Only those familiar with the vessel should operate Ensure that no more than two individuals are in boat at any one time. Life jackets should be provided and worn at all times. Refrain from putting tools in boat or any other potential tripping hazard	8x4=32 TOLERABLE

RISK ASSESSMENT – SPECIFIC (Part II)

Activities assessed for Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

Activity: **TREE & OTHER PLANTING TASKS**

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable

DO NOT undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

Hazard (potential for harm)	<i>Standard precautions</i>	Assessment of Risk Level (F x L = RL)
Contact with branches and twigs	Advise of risk to eyes from twigs, especially from blackthorns which infect easily.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Contact with soil- borne micro organisms	Wash hands before eating, drinking and smoking. Participants should be advised to have a Tetanus inoculation. Cover any broken skin before work. Any cut received must be promptly washed and covered. Use tools/feet, not hands to move and firm soil. Wear leather or PVC gloves to prevent contact with soil.	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Muscle strains from heavy digging	Instruct in and ensure safe and correct digging and lifting techniques. Rotate work to avoid injuries.	4x6=24 TOLERABLE
Staking of trees	Any stake/post being driven in should be held securely with an appropriate device. If another person has to hold the stake they must wear a hard hat and gloves.	4x4=16 TOLERABLE
Use of fertilizers and pesticides	A COSHH assessment must be done to determine the risks and controls required for the specific product. All guidance on the product to be followed – Material Safety Data Sheet must be obtained to inform assessment. Washing facilities must be available.	4x4=16 TOLERABLE

RISK ASSESSMENT – SPECIFIC (Part II)

Activities assessed for Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

Activity: **TREE FELLING (INC. HEDGE-LAYING, SCRUB BASHING & PATH CLEARANCE)**

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable **DO NOT** undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

HAZARD (POTENTIAL FOR HARM)	<i>STANDARD PRECAUTIONS</i>	ASSESSMENT OF RISK LEVEL (F X L = RL)
Falling trees /branches	Be aware of dangerous or dead/dying trees (especially deadwood caught in tree canopies). Use warning signs and cordon off area before starting work. Wear appropriate PPE at all times. Take note of safe working distances. Keep work site tidy. Cease working in high winds. Use appropriate felling techniques.	8x6=48 MODERATE
Hung up trees	Must be dealt with by a competent person using an approved method.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Repetitive swinging movements	Everyone should take regular rest breaks and vary repetitive actions.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Contact with overhead power lines	Do not undertake felling work within 2 tree lengths of overhead lines without consultation with electricity company. In the event that a tree does touch an electricity cable, do not touch it and call the electricity company immediately, ensuring area is cordoned off.	8x4=32 TOLERABLE
Thorn injuries	Clear ground of hazardous material before kneeling. Wear protective gloves. Where appropriate wear protective goggles/glasses. Remove any blackthorns immediately and warn of danger of infection.	4x6=24 TOLERABLE
Use of winch	Follow instructions for use and ensure appropriate training is given. Ensure machinery is well maintained and in good working order. Ensure bystanders are a safe distance away from cable. Wear gloves when handling cable. Keep fingers well away from moving parts.	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Use of ropes and strops	Ensure all ropes have been checked and are in a suitable condition. Rope must be of a suitable type and thickness, Rope must be long enough to ensure those using it are clear of felling area.	6x4=24 TOLERABLE

RISK ASSESSMENT – SPECIFIC (Part II)

Activities assessed for Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

Activity: **SURFACING & DRAINAGE**

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable

DO NOT undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

HAZARD (POTENTIAL FOR HARM)	<i>STANDARD PRECAUTIONS</i>	ASSESSMENT OF RISK LEVEL (F X L = RL)
Airborne particles	Wear impact resistant goggles if cutting or trimming stone. Work with back to wind. Wear a dust mask.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Cement, concrete and mortar use	Mix concrete and mortar away from others on site. Mix down wind of workers and person mixing to stand upwind when adding cement. Goggles to be worn to prevent dust in eyes. Cover exposed skin and wash off any dust or wet mortar immediately. For prolonged use a COSHH assessment must be done, including the Material Safety Data Sheet.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Contact with micro-organisms	Advise participants to have Tetanus inoculation. Advise of symptoms of Leptospirosis, Hepatitis A and others. Follow good hygiene practice, ensuring hands are washed before eating, drinking or smoking.	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Slips, trips and falls	Cover any unattended dug holes or cross ditches to prevent falls. Leave site clear of or cordon off materials or debris at all times when it is unattended. Cordon off work area, divert path users and provide signs and barrier tape to warn path users of work in progress.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Contact with pre-treated timber	Only use air-dried, pre-treated timber. Recommend wearing protective gloves when handling treated timber. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking. Do not burn treated wood, dispose of waste in appropriate facility.	4x4=16 TOLERABLE
Use of plant and machinery	Only persons with suitable qualifications can operate machinery and plant. Ensure unauthorised persons keep at least 10 metres from machinery when in operation. Ensure machinery is locked/stored securely when unattended. Ensure fuel is stored in a suitable location well away from any fires. Fuel must not be left on site unattended.	10x4=40 MODERATE

RISK ASSESSMENT - SUPPLEMENTARY (Part III)

Activities assessed for Fareham Borough Council staff, trainees and volunteers.

Activity: **USE OF PETROL POWER TOOLS**

NOTE: Levels of risk are measured as Trivial, Tolerable, Moderate, Substantial and Intolerable. If the Final Risk Level (RL) (when all precautions are in place) is either substantial or intolerable

DO NOT undertake the task and consult manager immediately.

HAZARD (POTENTIAL FOR HARM)	STANDARD PRECAUTIONS	ASSESSMENT OF RISK LEVEL (F X L = RL)
All petrol power tools (Chainsaws, strimmers, hedgecutters, etc)	<p><i>Only fully trained persons should operate power tools.</i></p> <p>Where necessary the appropriate certificate of competence must be held. All recommended PPE must be worn whenever power tool is in operation. Others should be kept a safe distance away from tool. People assisting operators must be fully instructed by operator and wear PPE. Operators must not operate chainsaws if they are working alone. Lone use of other power tools must be authorised by your manager. A first aid kit must be within easy access at all times. Tools must be regularly maintained and serviced using correct parts.</p>	8x6=48 MODERATE
Contact with moving blade	<p>Ensure safe working distances are adhered to. If there is a risk of the public approaching unknowingly, post a lookout able to halt work or hazard warning and no entry signs should be displayed at entrances to worksite. Engine must be stopped before any cleaning/ maintenance is done Wear close-fitting clothing that will not obstruct or get entangled.</p>	6x4=24 TOLERABLE
Exhaust fumes	<p>Do not run engine indoors. Ensure equipment is in good condition and maintained according to manufacturers instructions. Ensure correct fuel mix is used.</p>	4x4=16 TOLERABLE
Fatigue & vibration	<p>Adjust harness & handles for comfortable use before beginning work. Ensure maintenance as above, including frequent checks of anti-vibration mountings. Take a break after every tank of fuel used; take a long break after 3 consecutive tanks.</p>	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Fire	<p>Do not smoke or use naked flame near fuel or equipment. Allow machine to cool down before refuelling.</p>	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Flying debris (Strimmers)	<p>Cuts must be made from right to left & away from feet. Long trousers, sturdy footwear, impact resistant goggles & gloves should be worn. Clear ground of obvious debris before beginning work. Ensure all machine guards are properly fitted & in good condition. Exclude others from working zone.</p>	6x6=36 TOLERABLE

Noise	For prolonged use a noise assessment should be undertaken. Where required operator and assistants must wear suitable ear defenders whilst machine is in use.	6x6=36 TOLERABLE
Occupational dermatitis	Avoid skin/eye contact with sap & other plant materials by wearing clothing as above. Wear protective gloves when mixing/filling with petrol/oil & when cleaning machines. Wash skin/irrigate eyes with clean water thoroughly without delay if contact does occur.	4x6=24 TOLERABLE
Burning hands/arm on hot exhaust	Do not work on, or do maintenance to, engine until exhaust has been allowed to cool.	4x6=24 TOLERABLE

PESTICIDES STATEMENT

This Policy outlines the Countryside Service's use of Pesticides on Council owned land and control

The primary objective is to minimise pesticide use throughout countryside land and only treat where this is the only option. All pesticide application will be used in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

Background

Pesticides are primarily chemical substances prepared or used to destroy harmful pests. By their very nature, pesticides pose a potential hazard to the user; others in the area during and after use and can have a detrimental effect on the environment if used incorrectly. The actual risk can be reduced by the careful choice of pesticide, the time and methods of use, weather conditions and the knowledge of the person using the pesticide.

The Council does not have currently a corporate policy in place covering the control and application of pesticides however its contractual obligations under Woodland and Stewardship schemes has identified the need to adopt small-scale pesticide application to treat invasive species on several sites.

The Local Agenda 21 initiative recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in order to protect and improve existing habitats and species. As part of this initiative a national reduction in the use of pesticides has been targeted as a means of establishing a more environmentally sustainable and ecologically acceptable way forward in the maintenance of landscape. The council is mindful of this initiative and will engage in minimizing its own impact on the environment by monitoring the environmental effects of its practices

The use of chemicals and pesticides is controlled by legislation such as the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Act 1988. These regulations:

Cover the supply, sale, storage and use of pesticides
 Ensure staff have appropriate training and, where necessary, a certificate of competence
 Prohibit unauthorised use
 Require that a detailed usage log be kept
 Require the use of protective equipment.

Pesticides Policy Statement

Where resources allow, the Council will make use of non-chemical weed treatments such as mulching and manual control.

The continued use of pesticides will be reviewed on an annual basis and in the light of current best practice.

All specific chemicals used will be regularly reviewed to ensure they continue to provide the most effective results with the least possible environmental impact. To date we only use glyphosate on our sites

The Council will use appropriate application methods, such as controlled droplet application, which minimise spray drift and uses the smallest possible amount of chemical to produce effective results.

Application of pesticides will only take place under appropriate weather conditions.

All Council operatives applying pesticides will be properly trained (NPTC PA1 and PA6 Certificates of Competence in Pesticide Use) and will use appropriate personal protective equipment. C.O.S.H.H. sheets for all chemicals used will be kept updated and Risk Assessments for pesticide application will be completed annually. Appropriate training and information will be provided when new chemicals or processes are introduced. Currently no Countryside staff holds these qualifications and any works are currently sub-contracted to approved contractors who need to produce the above documents.

The transportation, application and disposal of pesticides will be strictly controlled to minimise the risk of leakage or contamination. Pesticides shall be stored in a locked chemical store.

The use of pesticides in certain environmentally sensitive areas, such as Local Nature Reserves, will be strictly controlled and only permitted under certain circumstances and following an assessment of their impact.

The Council will be sensitive to public opinion over pesticide usage and will provide proper justification wherever this is required.

In order to ensure best practice is followed, the Council will discuss pesticide usage and related matters with other relevant organisations through forums such as the Outdoor Amenities Management Group.

The three main aims of this policy are as follows:

- To reduce to a minimum pesticide usage whilst maintaining control of pests;
- To adopt, where possible, non-chemical alternatives to pesticides;
- To use the appropriate herbicides on hard landscaped areas

Considerations and Procedures

When considering the use of pesticides the following points should be taken into consideration:

Changing environmental conditions, for example cleaning up or preventing damp etc. Is there a way to deal with the pest without using a pesticide, for example manually removing it? Always identify the pest before any treatment is applied. Chemical pesticides may often kill beneficial organisms which help to keep pests under control.

When considering the use of pesticides the following factors need to be taken into consideration:

Pesticide sprays based on fatty acids are effective, relatively safe and environmentally friendly.

Pesticides based on synthetic pyrethroids are generally less toxic than many others.

Pesticides containing organophosphorous chemicals are potentially hazardous because of their effect on the nervous system and are to be avoided where possible.

Water based wood preservatives are a good choice when animals occupy the adjoining area or plants are growing nearby.

3.3 The following procedures should be followed when using pesticides•

- Always read the label when selecting a pesticide
- Always read the label before using a pesticide •
- Always follow the instructions exactly
- Always wear appropriate PPE when using pesticides and wash your hands and face immediately after use
- Always wash off splashes as soon as they occur
- Always store pesticides in a safe place, out of reach of children, and always keep in their original container
- Never use a pesticide in wet and windy conditions and avoid spray drifting off the target area
- Never eat, drink or smoke when handling a pesticide
- Never use pesticides in a confined space
- Never use pesticides near food and food preparation
- All chemical mixing must be undertaken at an approved chemical storage area and only a diluted concentrate taken to site