

2025 - 2028



Conservation & Management Plans



Alexandra Park, St Helens Road, Hastings, East Sussex

Lat: 50° 51' 58'N, Long: 000°34'08'E

Alexandra Park



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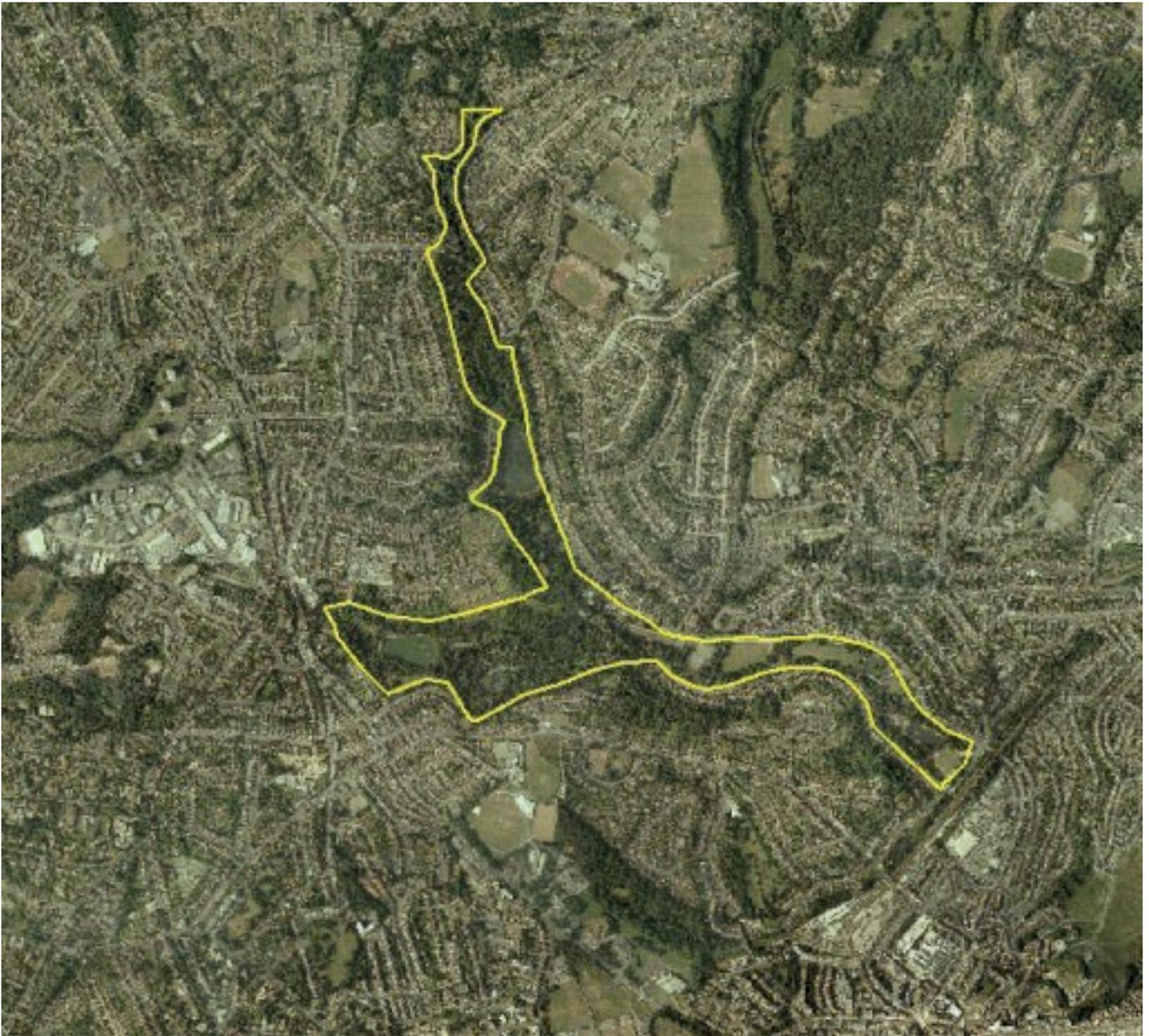
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Introduction

STRATEGY AND POLICY



LOCATION AND EXTENT OF ALEXANDRA PARK

Alexandra Park stretches from Bethune Way in the south to Old Roar Gill in the north, some 3 kilometres, alongside St Helens Road. It also reaches out to Bohemia and Silverhill in the West.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Alexandra Park is a fantastic resource, hugely valued by the community.

The council, supported by local community groups, has the privilege of looking after this “jewel in our crown”.

This Management and Development Plan seeks to ensure the quality of maintenance is upheld and continual improvements are delivered. It should be read in conjunction with the Conservation and Restoration Plan which sets the context for restoration and ongoing aims and objectives, subject to funding.

The park is large and diverse; its significance varies by area, and it faces some interesting challenges in terms of use. The park is now key in the provision of cleaner bathing water for the town with an extensive new natural filtration scheme throughout the waterways. It also provides perhaps less obvious environmental benefits, such as flood mitigation; all of which have to be managed together.

Fundamentally the plan seeks to ensure that management achieves the required standards of maintenance; that effective repairs are made and that materials utilised are sympathetic to the park’s heritage. The plan will highlight the essential details such as choice of plants, furniture, types of surfacing, paint colours, signage etc. to achieve this aim.



FOREWORD FROM THE LEAD MEMBER OF PARKS: COUNCILLOR JO WALKER, LEAD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WELLBEING

Alexandra Park is the beating green heart of Hastings, a space where nature, heritage and community come together.

From peaceful woodland walks to children playing, picnics on the lawn to local events and volunteering, it continues to enrich the daily lives of people across our town.

This Management Plan sets out how we will care for and improve the park for everyone who uses it. It recognises that Alexandra Park must be safe, welcoming and inclusive, a space that supports health and wellbeing, encourages biodiversity, and reflects the highest standards of maintenance, sustainability and access.

Since bringing our grounds maintenance service back in house, Hastings Borough Council has placed even greater emphasis on local stewardship and environmental care. Our dedicated staff, working in partnership with residents, schools and voluntary groups, are central to the park's ongoing success.

Alexandra Park is a space for everyone. It belongs to the people of Hastings, past, present and future.

We remain ambitious for what Alexandra Park can be, a place that protects wildlife, celebrates heritage, and meets the changing needs of our growing community. This plan will guide our work and ensure that the park continues to be a source of pride for Hastings and St Leonards.

I want to thank all those who give their time, energy and care to this much-loved place.



Background to the plan

The importance of Parks & Open Spaces in an urban environment was recognised by the Victorians in the late 19th Century; this is as true of Alexandra Park as anywhere else. The motivation for landscaping Alexandra Park was primarily to encourage housing development as part of the expansion of the town.

Public parks were created to enhance the health and wellbeing of the population and to give opportunities to socialise, thus enhancing the community spirit. It is perhaps not so surprising that today the value of Parks is recognised for those self-same reasons. Despite this importance Alexandra Park, like so many others, had been allowed to decline during the 1980s and '90s.

In 1997 an application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore Alexandra Park. The bid (project cost £3.46m) was successful and work commenced in 1999. The project was completed in 2005.

The full details of the restoration works can be found in Appendix B 'Conservation and Restoration Plan' and through the council's webpage: [Executive Summary](#)

Purpose of the plan

The vision for this plan is to protect and further enhance the park and conserve its heritage significance.

Specifically:

- The plan recognises the historic landscape significance, defined in the conservation plan, and aims to ensure that future management compliments/further protects this.
- The plan will ensure continuity of approach and ensure that its design, materials, and landscape remain consistent with conservation plan prescriptions.
- The plan is a working document, acting as a reference for future management.
- The plan is a fluid document that will be reviewed annually to include new information and amended management.
- The plan will provide policies for management and a maintenance schedule which will be summarised at the end of the document.

The Green Flag Standard

The Green Flag and Green Heritage Award were first achieved for the park in 2006 and continues to set the standard for future management. The criteria for the Green Flag Award align with the Council's Strategic Open and Play Space Assessment that supports the development of the Borough's Local Plan, which is a set of planning documents and maps, setting out the strategic vision, policies and site allocations for development in Hastings. The Strategic Open and Play Assessment and the Borough's Local Plan can be found through the council's website: [Hastings Strategic Open and Play Space Assessment, The Adopted Hastings Local Plan | Hastings Borough Council](#)

Green Flag Judges' recommendations are considered as part of the annual review of this plan and are presented separately. See page 121.

Generic Management Policies for the Town's Parks

- Wider and better access for all and improved community cohesion.
- Enhancing existing greenspace rather than providing more.
- Providing a safe network of green links between the strategic greenspaces.
- Providing safer access to and within the park.
- Providing better promotion in support of the Town's regeneration and tourism commitment to maintaining the restored features and zero tolerance of anti-social behaviour, such as graffiti.
- Promotion of biodiversity and people's understanding of it.
- Helping the community towards a healthier lifestyle.
- To strive for more sustainable management techniques and focus on the environmental agenda (such as climate change).
- To further affective marketing of Alexandra Park to attract and inform users.

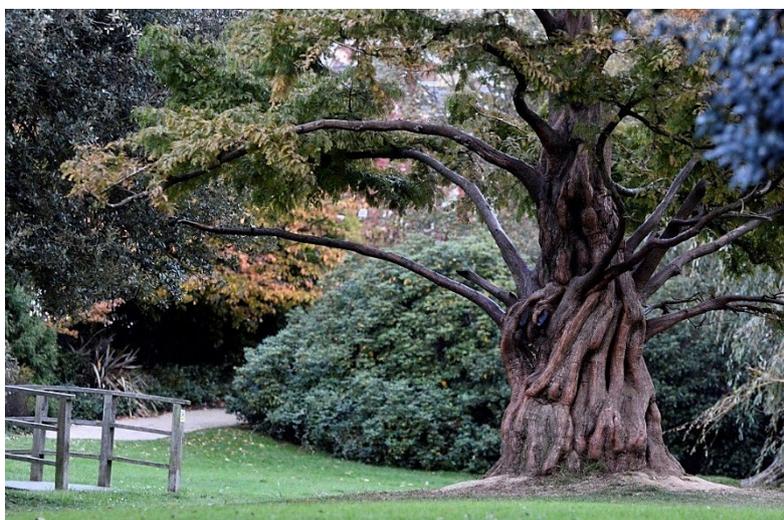
Policies for the sustained management of the park, post restoration, are outlined later in this plan.

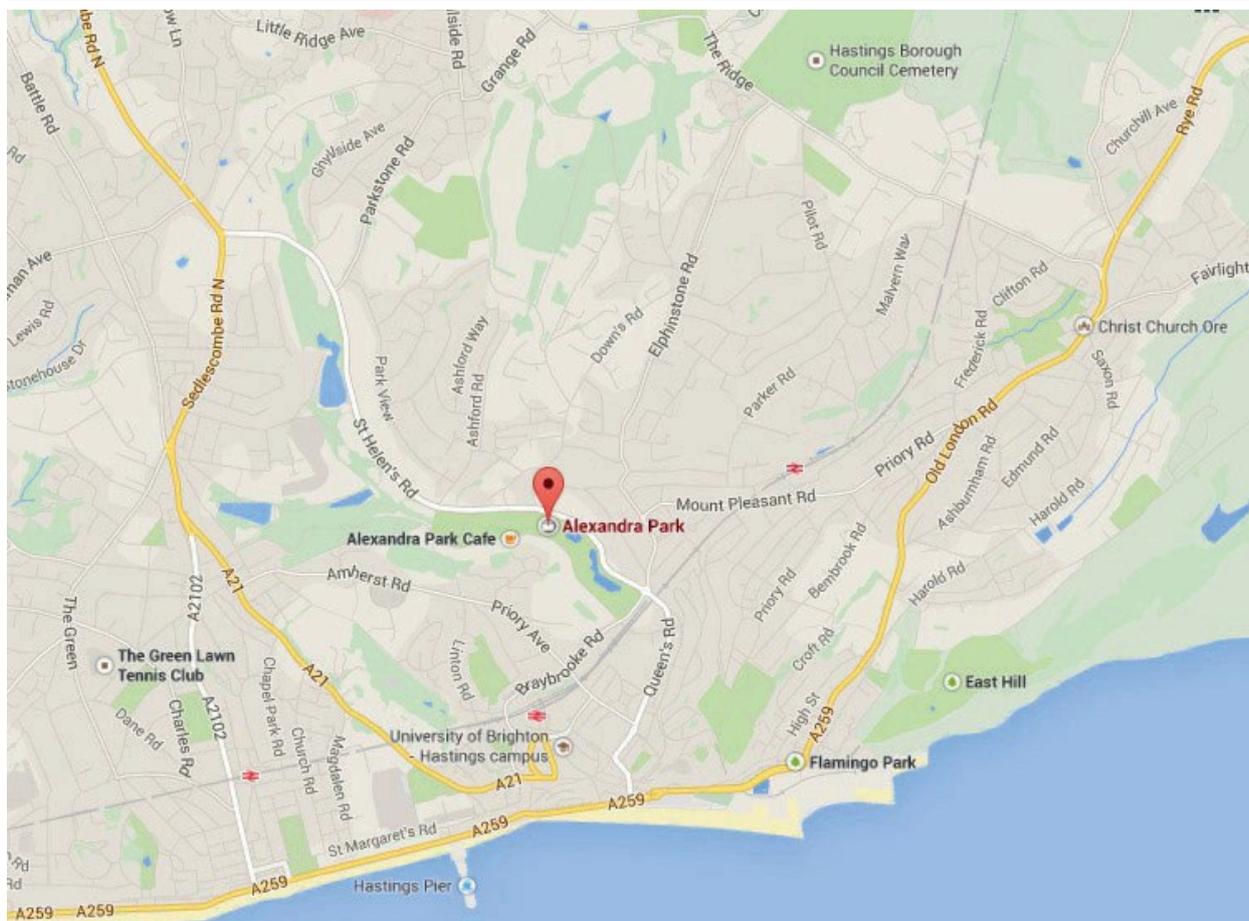
About the Park

The park was set out during the mid-19th Century by the notable horticulturalist and designer Robert Marnock (1800 – 1889, who also designed the gardens for The Royal Botanic Society in Regent's Park, and the grand Dunorlan Park in nearby Royal Tunbridge Wells. Please see link for Conservation Plan: [Executive Summary](#)

Alexandra Park lies within a valley and is a long and linear park stretching for 2.5 miles and covering approximately 44 hectares (109 acres). It is centrally located within the town giving access to a large percentage of the Town's population.

The park is incredibly diverse, ranging from formal areas nearer to the town centre, to natural landscapes of ancient woodland, gill streams and water areas in the more northern parts. Alexandra Park is famed for its arboretum (tree collection) and has one of the best collections of trees in Britain. Its linear nature also creates substantial green links between the town centre and several communities on the northern fringes of the town.





Management Prescriptions – Significance and Core Aims

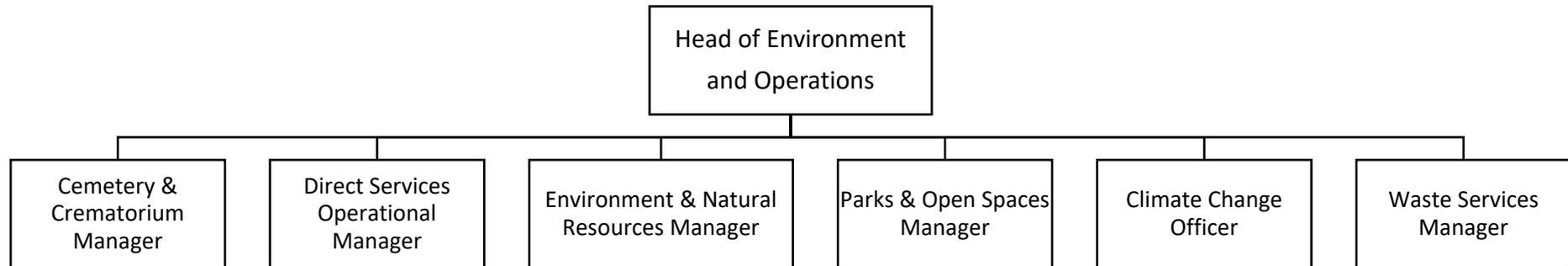
- **Lower/Upper Park:** to maintain the Park to Marnock’s original design but retaining early 20th century additions such as the buildings; and to ensure that the park is a high-quality recreational space while providing for a wide range of community needs.
- **Shornden Wood:** to retain Marnock’s design based on the natural landscape in an open woodland, natural setting. To retain vistas and encourage nature conservation, whilst also providing a good recreational space.
- **Coronation Wood/Old Roar Gill:** to provide improved access, whilst protecting the important flora and fauna and the unique habitat of the ancient woodland gill. The site will be managed in accordance with its Local Nature Reserve status and associated management plan.

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager is responsible for the overall management of Alexandra Park. The responsible officers work as a team to ensure a strategic and cohesive approach to all aspects of the park’s management; all of whom adopt this plan as a guide to future management.

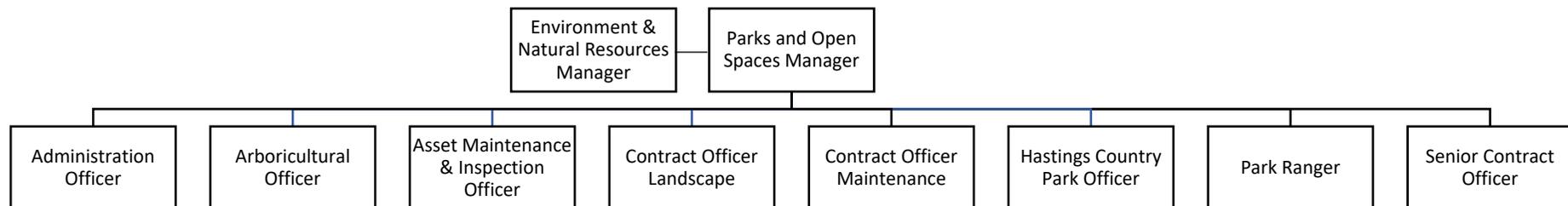
The Management Plan for Alexandra Park can be found on the corporate website:

https://www.hastings.gov.uk/parks_gardens_allotments/parkmanagement/parksmanagementplans/

Organisational Structure of Hastings Borough Council Environment & Place Management Team



Parks and Open Spaces Team



SECTION 1: A Welcoming Place

1.1. Welcome

Being centrally located within the Borough of Hastings, Alexandra Park is within one mile of an estimated 56,000 people of the town's population.

Reaching the park on foot is achievable by many people; the linear nature of the park means it links many communities and draws people towards the main shopping area at its southern extremity. Increased awareness of the park and the pedestrian links to it will encourage more people to access/use the park in this way.



There are regular buses serving the eastern border of Alexandra Park along St Helens Road and link Hastings Railway Station with Alexandra Park. Promoting the links between bus and train will help community access while opening possibilities for more visitors to access the many attractions the Park provides.

The park is situated within 500 metres of the main railway station. The Station Plaza plan, including the Hastings College, links the railway station to the park via a section of the 'Greenway'.

Cycling to the park and all council buildings is encouraged. The Greenway route at the southern end of the park links Bethune Way to the Town Centre. The council's Walking and Cycling strategy places the park firmly between suggested route 2 and 3, see following link to the strategy: [Hastings Walking and Cycling Strategy](#)

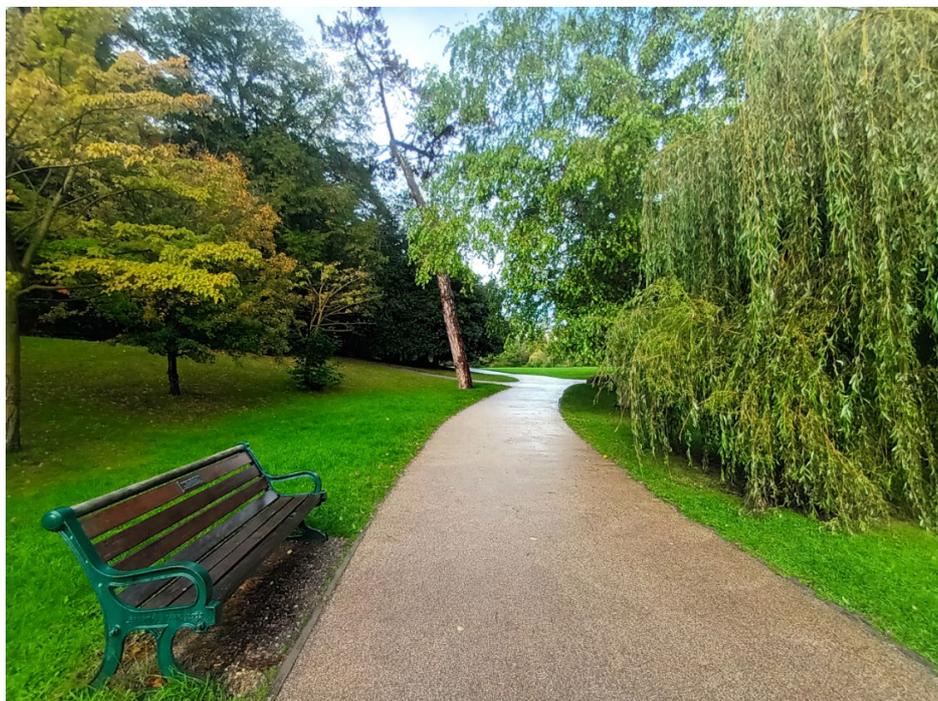
The council is in the process of updating its Local Plan. The draft new Local Plan will cover a period from 2019 – 2039. The plan sets out to shape a greener, thriving and heritage-rich future for Hastings. It aims to conserve and enhance the natural environment, protecting its historic identity. [New Local Plan introduction](#).

Good and Safe Access

Good access is one of Alexandra Park's key strengths. Although some ramps into the park are steeper than the recommended 12:1 gradient, many accessible entrances exist. Where full DDA compliance cannot be achieved, then the least most restrictive option is provided. The Disability Reference Group was consulted prior to access changes being implemented.

For users with restricted mobility there are several access points which lend themselves to easier access.

In general, the path network throughout the park is sound and appropriate to its purpose. We have introduced stricter vehicular control and designated vehicle routes for authorised traffic to further improve the safety and usability of the path network. In 2009 provision was made for disabled anglers.



1.3. Signage

There are welcome signs at the main key entrance points which include a map of the park showing the main features.

There are finger posts throughout the park indicating direction and distance of amenities.

An information point is located within the shelter, near to the cluster of ponds to the east side of the park. Notice boards at various locations help park users navigate around the park and offer information on wildlife, champion trees and history.

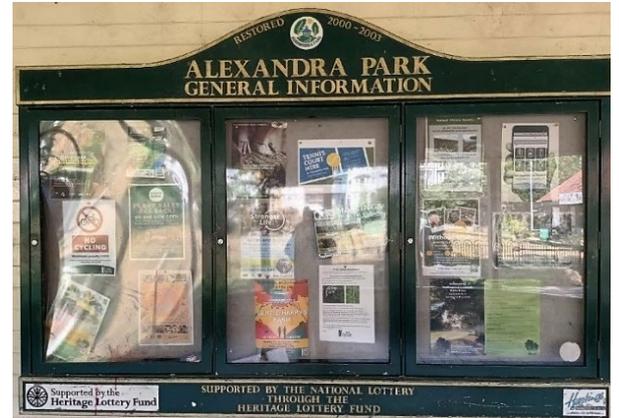
Notices are updated to provide information on upcoming events, volunteering or activities happening in the park.



Welcome sign and interpretative map at key entrance points



Information point, located within the Information Shelter



Noticeboard sited along a main footpath



Directional finger posts with distance

1.4. Equal Access for All

Car parking and provision for people with disabilities:

- Free car parking is available in Dordrecht Way and Lower Park Road, which also allows for disabled access into the park.
- The Tennis Pavilion and Café are within easy reach, with disabled toilet facilities available.
- Off road parking is available (daytime only) at Harmer's Lane. This allows easy access to upper park areas, including Harmer's Reservoir for fishing.
- Further parking is available in St Helens Road north of Dordrecht Way.
- Limited parking for blue badge holders is provided (by arrangement) within the park by the Queens Lodge.
- The council allows access for minibuses into the park (by arrangement) to assist people with mobility difficulties.
- Safe road crossing points are available in St Helens Road and Bethune Way, linking adjacent residential areas and pedestrian routes.

Excessive vehicle use of the park has in the past caused damage to paths not designed for heavier use and caused damage to adjoining grass areas.

Controls have been introduced to limit numbers of vehicles (including contractors) and the route they can take when using the park. These include:

- Designated vehicle route with one way direction and speed limit.
- Bollards to prevent access to any pedestrian route.
- Strategically placed obstacles to prevent damage to grass areas.
- Use of less intrusive maintenance vehicles and equipment.

The council is committed to ensure equality underpins all that we do with our values and intentions set out in the Corporate Plan [Hastings Borough Council Corporate Plan 2025-2030](#).

The Plan is built around 5 principles, with associated themes and ambitions.

These are to ensure that Hastings:

- Has a financially stable council that delivers high quality, responsive services in co-operation with local people.
- Is tackling homelessness and ensuring good-quality housing.
- Is tackling poverty and inequality.
- Takes action to tackle the climate and nature crisis; and
- Encourages and supports pride of place in our town.

Details on the council's equalities can be found at: [Equalities in Hastings](#)



Free car parking in Dordrecht Way



Free car parking at Harmers Lane



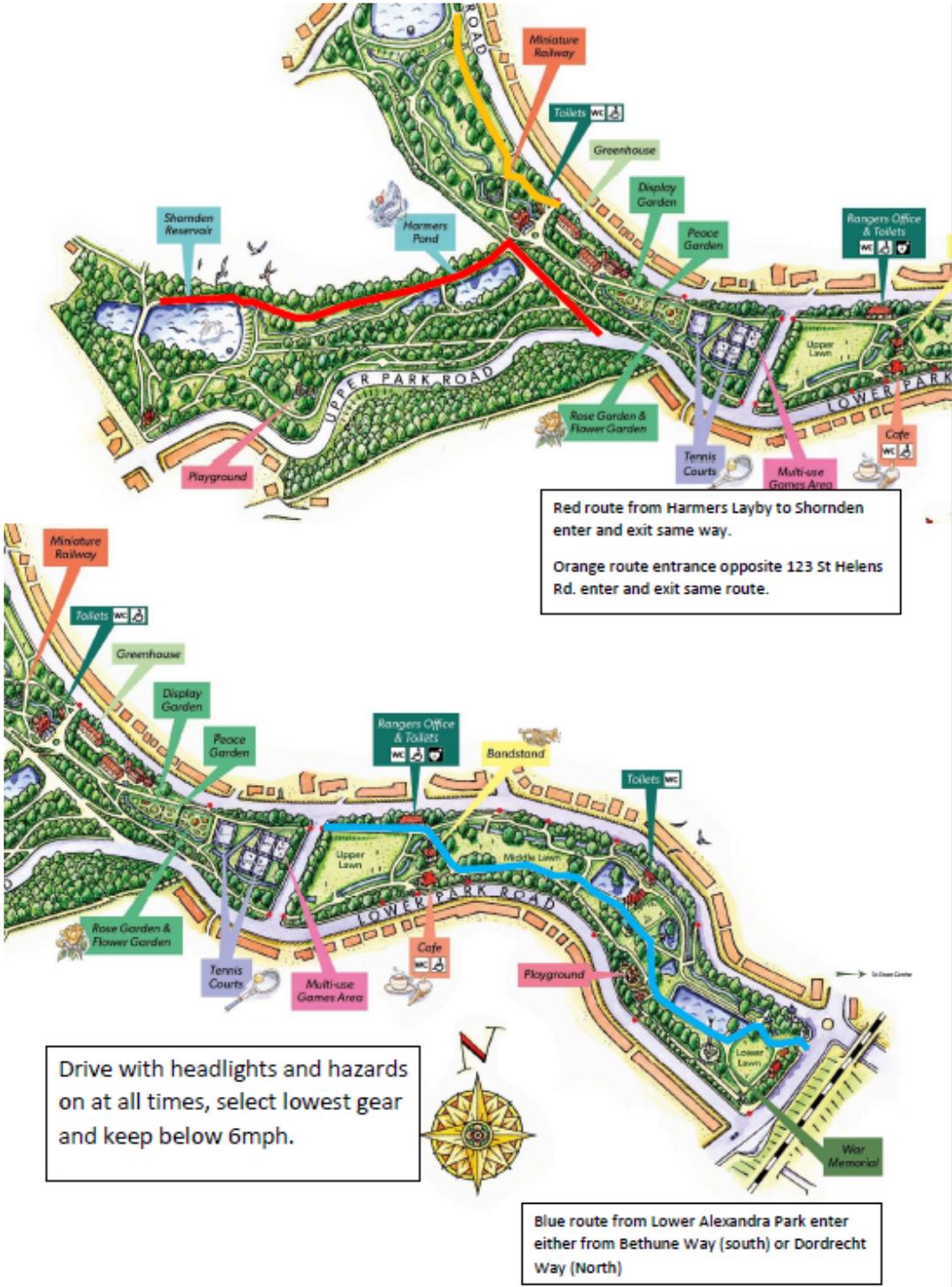
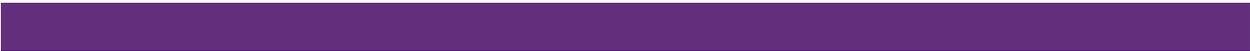
Designated parking for disabled badge holders



Priority fishing for disabled anglers



One of the key vehicle entrance points



Designated vehicle route

SECTION 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure

2.1 Appropriate Level of Quality Facilities and Activities

The council is committed to provide well maintained play, sports and facilities for all users to the park.

Provision consists of an information shelter, two fully equipped playgrounds, one located at the lower end of the park and the other at the upper end. Several tennis courts are provided, which have been subject to refurbishment works during 2024 (this is covered further on in the document), public toilets, two cafes, a miniature railway, community groups, events and planned sports activities, provided by the council.



Hastings Quakers commissioned seat made from locally sourced 200-year-old chestnut.



One of the two cafes in the park

2.2 Safe Equipment and Facilities

Public Risk Assessments:

Site based risk assessments are undertaken regularly and were reviewed in 2024.

Regular inspections are undertaken as part of the council's system of inspection to meet our duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act and Health & Safety at Work Act.

Current risk assessments are held with the inhouse grounds maintenance operational service. These are subjected to an annual review or following any change in legislation or injury and/or incident.

QHSE monitoring of the park is regularly carried out. All aspects of the park are examined, and high priority issues are assessed and addressed during the inspection.

Hastings Borough Council - Generic ALL Asset Risk Assessment - Parks & Open spaces external

SECTION: Environment & Natural Resources	LOCATION: 046 Alexandra Park Formal		
ASSESSED BY: Nick Hennessy	DATE: 25/05/24	REVIEW DATE: 25/05/25	

See the guidance on [Sharepoint](#) on how to complete this form. The following risk 'heat map' will help you to score your risks:

Severity →	1 Trivial/ None	2 Minor	3 Lost time (<7 days)	4 Lost time (>7 days)	5 Major/Fatal
1 Remote	1	2	3	4	5
2 Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
3 Possible	3	6	9	12	15
4 Likely	4	8	12	16	20
5 Certain/ Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25

For some examples, see

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies>

Green = Low Risk
Yellow = Medium Risk
Red = High Risk

List significant hazard and harm	List persons at risk	Controls currently in place	Risk Rating after controls (L,M,H)	Action – what, by whom,	Risk Rating after controls and new actions (L,M,H)	By when? Date completed and initials
Self Protection General all hazards protection	Public Employees Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic risk assessment Appropriate clothing/footwear and PPE Accident reporting and investigation 	M		M	
Slips Trip & Falls Metaled footpaths & hardstanding	Public Employees Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular recorded site inspection Intervention level assessment Public reporting procedure in place 	M		M	

Extract from Risk Assessment Form for annual H&S inspections of Alexandra Park

Children's Play Areas:

Both play areas in the park are risk assessed by the council's inhouse grounds maintenance team's RPII operationally qualified inspector.

The playground sited in the lower end of the park is inspected 6 times a week during the summer, and 5 times a week during the winter. The playground at Shornden is inspected 5 times a week during the summer, and 3 times a week during the winter. (Summer and winter inspection seasons are: Summer – Monday closest to the first weekend of Easter to the end of September. Winter – 1st October to last week before Easter).

In conjunction with this, an independent annual RPII inspection is undertaken.



Alexandra Park Lower playground

ROUTINE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION SCHEDULE

Fill in each item according to the following:

A – Surface Finish: (of equipment) protective coating – damaged. B – Miscellaneous Parts: missing, bent, broken, loosened worn, opening hooks etc. C – Edges: protrusions, sharp points or edges.
 D – Pinch or Crush Points: exposed mechanisms, junctures or moving components etc.
 E – Mechanical/Moving Parts: worn bearings, lack of lubrication, seizure or excessive motion, missing covers.
 F – Guard/Handrails: missing, bent, broken, loosened etc. G – Access: missing/broken rungs, steps or treads, loosening etc.
 H – Foundations: cracked loose etc. I – Surfacing: slippery, damaged, compacted, displaced, missing, etc.
 J – Condition of Roadside Barriers/Signs. K – Access Points, Fencing & Gates. L – Condition of Seating. M Condition of Litter bins, signs, drain covers. N – Condition of General Surfacing – Level/Drainage/Cleanliness. O – Lubrication of all equipment: pivots, bearing surfaces and grease nipples

Alexandra Park Lower - (Daily Inspection) Play Equipment	SIZE S/M/L	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Picnic table and 2 benches																
Pleasdale Toddler Multi Play	M															
Kompan galaxy minka	L															
Double swing	M															
Roundabout	M															
Russells neptune	L															
Russells ropeclay (*most ropes removed, cable climber to be replaced)	L															
Wicksteed Blue Jumbo Springer	S															
Eibe wheelchair platform	M															
Wicksteed zig zag red pirouette	S															
Wicksteed zig zag yellow pirouette	S															
Timber benches 5 No.																
SMP timber animals 1 No.																
Bins 2																
2731m fence																
3 gates																
1074m ² Surfacing																

DAY/ DATE	TIME	FEATURE	ISSUE	ACTION	Risks		
					High	Medium	Low
Monday							
Tuesday							
Wednesday							
Thursday							
Friday							
Saturday							
Sunday							

Playground is fit for use – tick

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

SIGNED.....DATE.....

Playground Inspection Form for Alexandra Park Lower Playground

ROUTINE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION SCHEDULE

Fill in each item according to the following:

A – Surface Finish: (of equipment) protective coating – damaged. B – Miscellaneous Parts: missing, bent, broken, loosened worn, opening hooks etc. C – Edges: protrusions, sharp points or edges.
 D – Pinch or Crush Points: exposed mechanisms, junctures or moving components etc.
 E – Mechanical/Moving Parts: worn bearings, lack of lubrication, seizure or excessive motion, missing covers.
 F – Guard/Handrails: missing, bent, broken, loosened etc. G – Access: missing/broken rungs, steps or treads, loosening etc.
 H – Foundations: cracked loose etc. I – Surfacing: slippery, damaged, compacted, displaced, missing, etc.
 J – Condition of Roadside Barriers/Signs. K – Access Points, Fencing & Gates. L – Condition of Seating. M Condition of litter bins, signs, drain covers. N – Condition of General Surfacing – Level/Drainage/Cleanliness. O – Lubrication of all equipment: pivots, bearing surfaces and grease nipples

Alexandra Park Shornden – (Daily Inspection) Play Equipment	SIZE S/M/L	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1 bin o/s area																
Fences signs																
4 seats																
2 gates																
1 multi activity and slide climber	M															
1 swing (2 cradle/2 flat)	M															
Cantilever basket swing	M															
Twist balance/Balance beam	M															
Burma/suspension bridge	M															
286m ² Safety Surfacing																
96m ² Amenity grass under Woodland Play equipment																
Barrier Rail 181m																
3 No. Mushroom Seats	S															

DAY/ DATE	TIME	FEATURE	ISSUE	ACTION	Risks		
					High	Medium	Low
Monday							
Tuesday							
Wednesday							
Thursday							
Friday							
Saturday							
Sunday							

Playground is fit for use – tick box

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<input type="checkbox"/>						

SIGNED.....DATE.....

Playground Inspection Form for Shornden Playground

2.3 Personal Security

The council has one Park Ranger, who is based at the park, in the tennis pavilion office. The Ranger patrols all the council's parks and open spaces with an emphasis on health & safety.

The Ranger assists in enforcing byelaws such as dog fouling in Parks and assists East Sussex Traveller Liaison Team in dealing with unauthorised traveller encampments.

The council's inhouse grounds maintenance team provides a uniformed presence by way of two staff based in the park, undertaking grounds maintenance tasks.

Key elements of the Ranger Service's activity are:

- site visits
- community engagement
- education
- public safety
- reporting

The Safer Hastings Community Safety Partnership ([Safer Hastings Partnership | Community Safety | Hastings](#)) ensures that all partner agencies comply with Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA) established that the responsibility of reducing crime does not fall solely to the police. Section 17 of the CDA requires local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of all their activities and functions and do all that they reasonably can to reduce these problems. Designing out crime and designing in community safety through planning can be a vital tool in fulfilling this duty.

Led by the council, the Safer Hastings Community Safety Partnership deals with all crime and disorder issues. It regularly includes both the council's Park Ranger, Park Management Services and the council's Warden Service in preventing any incidents of antisocial behaviour and has already improved the overall safety in the park.

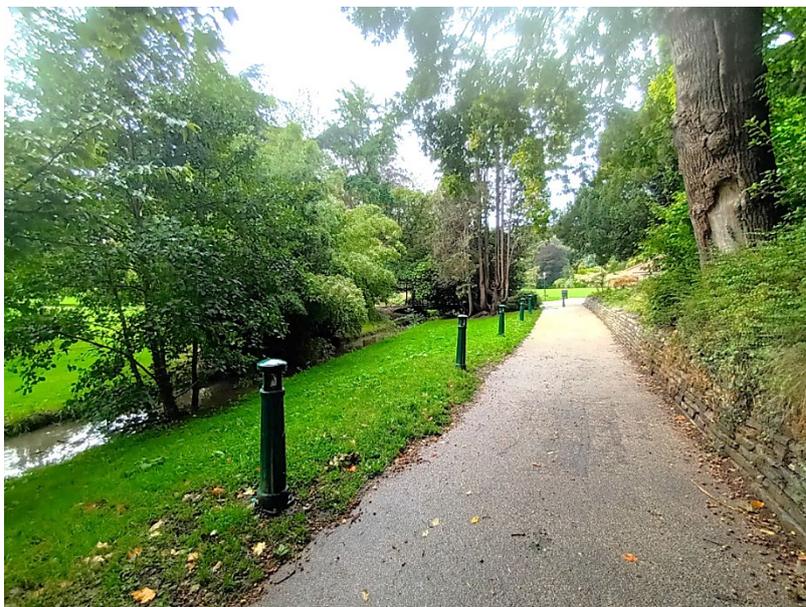
Following a bid with the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) to the Home Office, the council received funding through the Safer Streets project to help tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). This funding was used for the recent installation of CCTV cameras covering heavily used areas.

The CCTV system aims to:

- deter and assist in the detection of crime and anti-social behaviour
- reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- support criminal investigations
- improve the safety and security of visitors to the park, especially women and girls

Local Police officers visit the park often and help deal with issues if required.

Alexandra Park remains an extremely safe location with the Park Ranger ensuring safety is maintained. There are very low incidents of crimes reported in the park either to the Police or the council.



Line of light up bollards alongside a main footpath

Byelaws:

The byelaws for the park can be found at the following page of the council's website: [Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws in Hastings](#)



2.3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour:

Anti-social or inappropriate behaviour by a minority of individuals can spoil everyone else's enjoyment of the park.

The combined resources of the council's Ranger, Street Wardens and the grounds maintenance onsite team, the Police and PCSO's are working towards a zero tolerance of vandalism.

Whenever possible in the heritage environment, vandal resistant design will be considered, combined with regular maintenance, this will strengthen the zero-tolerance message.

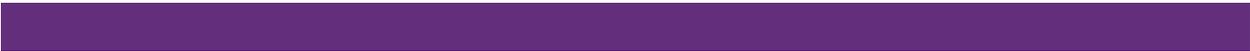
Where vandalism does take place, it should be rectified immediately, leaving no sign of the damage, emphasising the zero-tolerance message.



2.3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour - Public Space Protection Orders

The PSPO's are made under the provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Failure to comply with restrictions set out in the Public Space Protection Orders in the areas they apply to is an offence.

Public Spaces Protection Orders are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone.



They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour. The PSPO's begun on Monday 12 June 2017 and will be enforced by Sussex Police and the council. The Ranger, Street Wardens and the grounds maintenance onsite team monitors anti-social behaviour in the park and work closely with the Friends and the local Policing team. As per the legislation the PSPOs are reviewed every 3 years.

In regard to the parks the ASB PSPO does not have an alcohol ban across any of our pleasure grounds. The parks and gardens across the borough offer places for families and organised groups to enjoy picnics and gatherings with small amounts of alcohol, rarely leading to anti-social behaviour.

This does not mean that anti-social behaviour due to drinking alcohol cannot be enforced. The ASB PSPO does allow the surrender of alcohol on request and prohibition on anti-social behaviour across the whole borough. Where an authorised person reasonably believes that a person has or intends to consume alcohol within the borough of Hastings and is causing anti-social behaviour then they can require the person to surrender any alcohol.

A full copy of the Anti-social Behaviour PSPO's can be found through the website: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/community-safety/pspo/>

2.4 Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling

Dog Control PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone.

They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

When deciding whether to make requirements or restrictions on dogs and their owners, the council needs to consider whether there are suitable alternative public areas where dogs can be exercised without restrictions.

The council also needs to consider the accessibility of these alternative sites for those with reduced mobility, including but not limited to, assistance dog users.

The current Dog PSPO for Parks has restrictions where dogs have to be on leads at certain times, exclusion areas for dogs in areas such as play parks and waterways, and it is an offence not to pick up dog fouling.

The PSPOs have been in place since June 2017 after replacing the Dog Control Orders and have been reviewed every 3 years. They are enforced by the council's warden service. The Ranger, Street Wardens and the grounds maintenance onsite team monitors anti-social behaviour in the gardens and work closely with the Friends and the local Policing team.



Public Space Protection Order displayed at entrances of the park.

A full copy of the Dog Control PSPO's can be found through the council's website: <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/community-safety/pspo/>

2.5 Providing and maintaining a clean/safe environment

The Grounds Maintenance Service was brought back in house during November 2023 and the council now provides its own direct services. The Grounds Maintenance Operational Specification sets out the maintenance service and standards undertaken across the council's parks and open spaces.

Cleanliness of the council's parks and open spaces is taken seriously, with sites categorised under the Environmental Protection Act, Code of Practice for litter clearance, with the park having a Zone 1 classification.

The council has a zero tolerance of graffiti, and we are expected to be pro-active in removing graffiti quickly.

Safety of park users is of utmost importance, with emphasis on maintaining sightlines open and paths accessible.

Shrub borders, where they are near to entrance points in the park, or adjacent to public pathways, are selectively pruned to maintain sightlines. Planted areas in the vicinity of the lower playground are pruned to a lower height, to reduce anti-social behaviour and keep areas visible.



Horticultural maintenance with emphasis on maintaining sightlines

2.6 Pest Control

Rats have been a known presence throughout the park, partly due to the waterways, the infrastructure of underground pipes, and the feeding of wildfowl. The numbers of vermin in the park will be monitored and controlled by the council's Pest Control.

Information regarding the risks presented by rats, including Weil's disease, is available on the council's website: [Pest control - Rats: information and advice](#).

Regular baiting takes place and safer baiting stations have been installed to facilitate this. Positive advice to the public about feeding bread to wildfowl will hopefully reduce the excesses of food being left around the water bodies.





SECTION 3: Well Maintained and Clean

3.1 Litter and Waste Management

The cleanliness of Alexandra Park is taken very seriously and is reflected in the Grounds Maintenance Inhouse Specification requiring maintenance to a high standard with emphasis placed on complying with the EPA Environmental Protection Act, Code of Practice for litter clearance based on the park having a Zone 1 classification.

There are 30 litter bins sited within the park, which are emptied daily during the summer months, from Easter to the end of September and twice a week during winter.

Litter bins are cleaned, as required, to remove dirt with hinges and locking mechanisms lubricated, as needed.

There is one cigarette bin, located near the Rangers office, which has an EPA 3 classification, and is emptied once a week, year-round.

All litter is collected, bagged, sealed and removed immediately to contained storage facilities, ready for disposal at our local transfer station.

Hypodermic needles and syringes are collected with litter pickers and are placed in secure sharps bins and are disposed of via our joint waste contractor, Biffa.

Dog/animal faeces are collected, bagged and removed from site.

Incidents of fly tipping and hazardous waste are cleared immediately upon location or report received.

The council has a zero tolerance on graffiti, with graffiti being removed as soon as possible within the park. Removal is by use of chemical solvent (graffiti wipes) or painted over, using a paint colour to match surface. If match paint is not immediately available a return visit within one working week is arranged.

The council has an online form where any concerns of fly tipping, litter and other council services can be reported [Hastings Borough Council homepage](#). These reports are allocated to the appropriate department to act on.

Grounds Maintenance Litter Bins - Site and location detail

Site	Feature No	Class	Location
Alexandra Park	1.16	EPA 1	Bethune Way entrance
	1.17	EPA 1	Beginning of Boating Lake (St Helens Rd side)
	2.16	EPA 1	Near entrance Dordrecht Way, junction Lower Parl Road.
	3.16	EPA 1	Adjacent to depot.
	4.16	EPA 1	South of Southern Water covered tank.
	5.16	EPA 1	Near ladder board sign for Old Roar Ghyll/Coronation Wood.
	5.17	EPA 1	Adjacent to Middle Pond
	6.16	EPA 1	St Helens Road entrance, past ladder board sign to Old Roar Ghyll & Coronation Wood.
	6.17	EPA 1	Adjacent to Bowling Green
	7.16	EPA1	East of Rhododendron Walk.
	7.17	EPA 1	Middle Lawn, Lower Park Road side
	8.16	EPA 1	West of Rhododendron Walk.
	8.17	EPA 1	Middle Lawn, St Helens Road side
	9.16	EPA 1	North side of Shornden reservoir (east side)
	9.17	EPA 1	Path alongside cafe
	10.17	EPA 1	In front of Rangers Pavilion
	11.17	EPA 1	Path alongside café
	12.17	EPA 1	At Dordrecht Way entrance to park (St Helens Road side)
	13.17	EPA 1	At Dordrecht Way entrance to park (Lower Park Road side)
	14.17	EPA 1	At Dordrecht Way entrance to Upper Park (St Helens Road side)
	15.17	EPA 1	Adjacent to Tennis Courts
	16.17	EPA 1	Adjacent to WC, up from Depot entrance
	17.17	EPA 1	East side of Buckshole Reservoir
	18.17	EPA 1	West Side of Buckshole Reservoir
19.17	EPA 1	Harmers Lane, adj to Harmers Reservoir	
20.17	EPA 1	Shornden Playground	
21.17	EPA 1	Alongside Shornden Reservoir	
22.17	EPA 1	North side of Shornden Reservoir, by path to Silversprings	
23.17	EPA 1	Upper Clarence Road entrance	
24.17	EPA1	Opposite north entrance of miniature railway	

Litter bin emptying reporting record

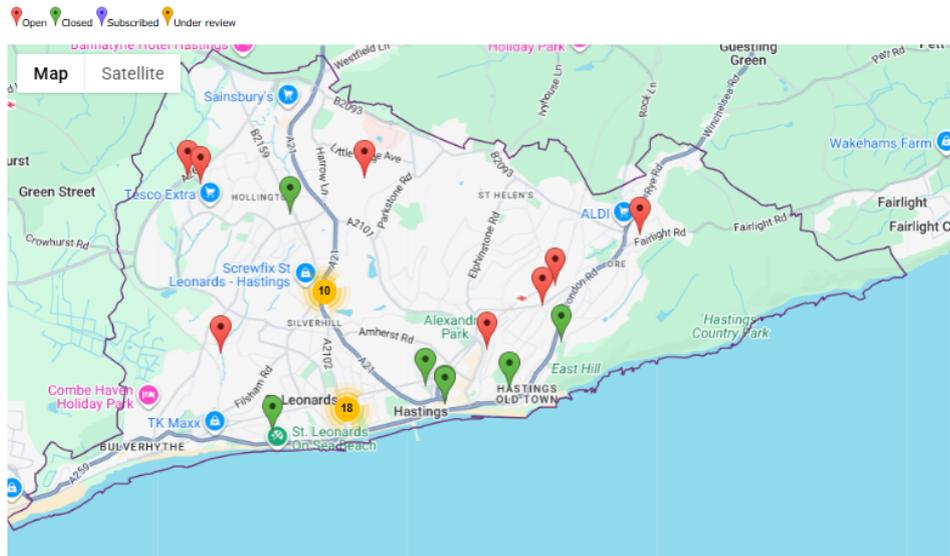
Report Fly-tipping

- Can you see any hazardous materials, for example glass or asbestos?
- Did you witness the incident?

Please tell us the location of the fly-tipping as accurately as you can. Either search to select an address and place a blue pin on the map at the location of the issue, or click on a map to place the pin. Pins already on the map show the location of existing reports. Click on any of these pins to see more information about that report.

Please note: if your report is about flyposting rather than fly-tipping, please use [this form instead](#). If your report is about fly-tipping or rubbish on private land please use [this form instead](#).

Search for addresses containing:



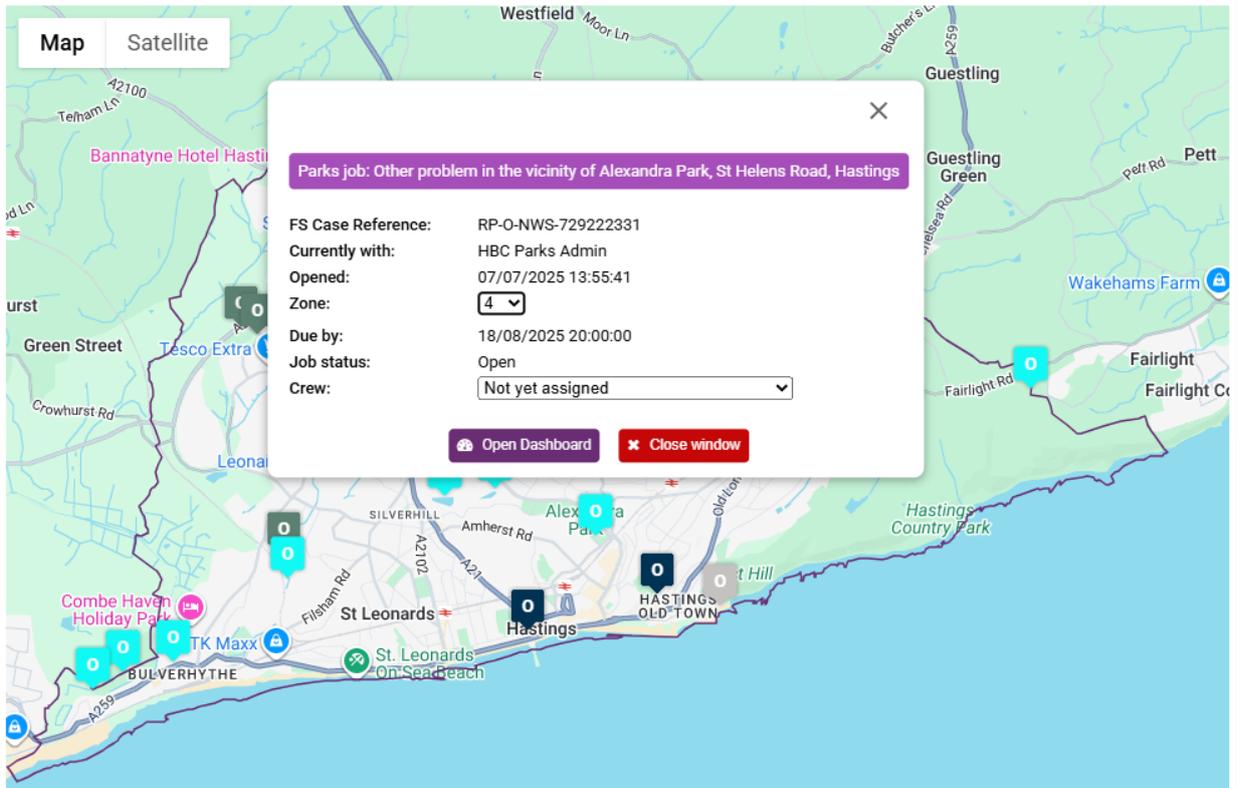
Council's online form to report fly tipping

Park jobs

- Bin
- Dead animal
- Dog fouling
- Flyposting
- Fly-tipping
- Graffiti
- Litter
- Needles
- Other
- Show all
- Show none

- Overdue jobs only
- Jobs not yet sent to crew only
- Jobs opened today only
- Cancelled jobs only

- O** Job is open
- A** Job is open and allocated to a crew
- C** Job has been cancelled
- R** Job is under review



Map of reported issues for action



Park staff jet washing York stone path to War Memorial



Fly tipped green waste chipped and composted on site



Emphasis on a clean and tidy park

3.2 Horticultural Maintenance

The Grounds Maintenance specification has been carefully reviewed, with horticultural standards for Alexandra Park being protected and maintained.

Emphasis on shrub bed maintenance is concentrated on health and safety by keeping sightlines open, pathways fully accessible and to reduce secluded areas through sympathetic pruning.

Consideration is given to new/replacement replanting of shrubs and perennials to avoid dominant and fast-growing species at areas which can impede line of sight and reduce the feeling of safety and security to park users.

Shrub beds are maintained to a clean and tidy appearance through regular visits by the two static park gardeners.

Wherever possible arisings will be composted or recycled, new materials will derive from renewable resources and pesticides and inorganic fertilizers will be avoided if possible. Peat or peat products have been systematically reduced within the park.

All green waste is re-used as chipped material onto shrub beds or composted off site.

Since 2005 we have sourced plant materials in reduced peat growing mediums, for example all bedding plants for Alexandra Park contain no peat. Nursery stock will be purchased from local suppliers and where possible locally grown sources, utilising environmentally sustainable growing methods. All plant containers will be recycled.

Grass areas are mowed frequently during the growing season, utilising several different types of machinery varying from a tractor for the large recreational areas, ride-ons, pedestrian mowers and hand trimmers.

Grass edges are trimmed around obstacles and bases of established trees. Edges abutting paths, gullies, kerbs and along borders are reformed using a half-moon or machinery. Arisings are blown back onto grass areas by means of mechanical blowers. Litter collection takes place immediately before mowing.

Leaves and debris are cleared selectively from grass to prevent excessive damage to sward and/or excessive leaf build up and to remove any health and safety issues.

A number of grass areas, banks and outer perimeter areas have been classified as environmental areas, identified for their ecological interest and as such have important, specific maintenance requirements in promoting biodiversity and encouraging wildlife and pollinators.

These areas have been classified into four categories:

1. Maintenance is kept to a minimum of litter clearance.
2. Environmental Area 1: Cut once a year in September and leave cuttings.
3. Environmental Area 1 cut and collect: Cut once a year during September, rake arisings and remove from site.
4. Environmental Area 2: Cut twice a year, first cut being undertaken in April, the second cut in September and leave cuttings.

Some areas requiring maintenance are steep banks and require cutting with either a tractor mounted flail and/or specialist equipment.



Hedge cutting in the park



Shrubs maintained at entrance routes



Formal garden



Summer bedding



Rose Garden



View across middle lawn



Triple mower in use

3.3 Arboricultural Maintenance

Alexandra Park contains many interesting trees of varying species, ranging from newly planted through to mature specimens, some in excess of 100 years old.

The council has an appointed arboriculture contractor, Elite Arborists, who were awarded a 5-year contract on 1st December 2022.

Elite Arborists are an ARB approved contractor (the UK's leading body responsible for the care of Britain's trees), backed by full industry accreditation including ISO 9001 – Quality Management, ISO 14001 – Environmental Management, ISO 45001 – Health & Safety.



Elite Arborists at work in Alexandra Park



The council's arboricultural officer undertakes annual health and safety inspections of trees within the park.

Levels of inspection include short visual through to half day inspections, evaluating the condition of the trees, any potential risk posed to park users.

Working alongside Elite, the council's aim is to maintain a healthy population of trees within Alexandra Park.

All inspections are recorded with works required noted and work order requests raised direct to Elite Arborists. Works can cover the removal of dead wood, removal of low hanging branches and broken branches.

Occasionally trees are considered to pose a high health and safety risk that complete removal of trees are the only option.



Variegated Horse Chestnut



Algerian Oak Quercus canariensis



White Haw Crataegus punctata



Berberis jamesiana



Jounama Snow Gum Eucalyptus pauciflora subsp.



Swamp cypress, Taxodium distichum.

3.4 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

It is important to maintain park structures and monuments in a clean, tidy and safe condition. Vandalism and graffiti are not to be tolerated and will be repaired/removed quickly.

Park buildings and structures are inspected externally 4 times a year as part of the council's health and safety checks. Where any issues are noted, work orders are raised for reactive repairs to be undertaken.

Statutory checks are carried out to all buildings to meet current compliance regulations to cover issues such as asbestos, electrics, fire prevention and legionella.

There is a rolling programme of decoration to the outer Alexandra Park railings.

War Memorial:

On each working day, when graffiti is noticed, it will be removed using cleaners, or where ineffective, graffiti will be painted over with paints matching the existing colour. The York stone path will be pressure washed to remove slippery surface immediately prior to the Remembrance Sunday parade or any other event.

Repairs and partial decoration are undertaken annually to the War Memorial, and full decoration is carried out every fourth year.

Shelters:

Structures will be inspected for damage, vandalism or graffiti. Any damage noted will be actioned and if a health and safety issue is noted, the structure will be closed off from public access and notices attached advising the public. Graffiti will be removed by cleaning or as a last resort, painting over using the same colour type and match of paint as original.

Bandstand:

Maintenance includes sweeping floors and cleaning supporting structure. The electric supply box will be checked it is secure at every visit. The structure will be checked weekly for damage, vandalism or graffiti. Graffiti will be removed by cleaning, or as a last resort, painting over using the same colour type and colour of paint as original.

3.5 Equipment Maintenance

All equipment used by staff is subject to routine, documented checks in line with the equipment purchase, maintenance and use policy.

Individuals volunteering directly for the council follow all safety procedures in line with the Volunteers Policy, which in summary states they will complete an induction and attend training.

Community volunteer groups are expected to hold relevant insurance policies, including public liability insurance, as required by the council.

RISK ASSESSMENT

FORM GRABLA

Task or operation – Practical Conservation Task | Who might be harmed? – Employees, public, volunteers, colleague

See GRA002 for generic hazards to Buildings, car park and access routes inc site work
 See GRA005NS for generic hazards to Filled Officers
 See GRA007NS for generic hazards to Lifting and handling
 See GRA012NS for generic hazards to driving on Council business
 See GRA014NS for generic hazards to Work equipment

List / describe the hazards	What has been done already to reduce the risk?	What needs to be done, if anything to improve safety standards?	Who by?	When by?
1 - Slips, trips and falls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protrusion in ground • Uneven ground • Slopes, ramps, steps • Cliff edge or extreme topography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly mark any protrusion • Clear anything hiding trip hazard • Fence off dangerous ground • Safety talk about hazards on site at start • Signage to mark cliff edge • Suitable footwear • Mobile phone on site 			
2 - Manual handling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury caused by improper lifting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees trained • Proper direction to volunteers • Not to overstretch on a lift • 1 person to carry no more than 20kg • Correct PPE i.e. steel toe capped boot • Heavy lifts planned before task • Appropriate people on any heavy lifts • Use mechanical aids where possible • Mobile phone on site 			
3 - Manual tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to operator • Injury to other person • RSI Repetitive Strain Injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools safety talk at beginning • Proper supervision of volunteers • Correct PPE i.e. Steel toe capped boot, gloves • Safe working distance • Vary work and tools used and have breaks • Site to be kept tidy • 1st aid kit on site • Supervisor to be 1st aid trained • Mobile phone on site 			

RISK ASSESSMENT

FORM GRABLA

4 - Fire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury caused by fire • Smoke inhalation • RTA caused by smoke over road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocated fire supervisor • Regular breaks • Water available • Fire location away from other combustible items • Douse fire down at end of task • Fire site away from working area • 1st aid kit on site • Check wind direction and road location • Keep fire as small so is manageable • Fire Brigade informed of controlled burn. • Mobile phone on site 			
5 - Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning • Hypothermia • Wells disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life jackets worn • Life line attached • Dedicated banksman • Regular breaks • Wash hands before break • Check depth when working in chest waders • Wear life jacket attached to life line when using chest waders • Mobile phone on site 			
6 - Cross infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry faeces • Needle stick • Veils disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site checked before task, faeces/needles removed • PPE i.e. gloves, litter pickers • Wash hands before refreshment break • Cover any open wounds • All workers encouraged to have Tetanus inoculation • Mobile phone on site 			
7 - Skin irritation/dermatitis from plant sap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaction with plant sap i.e. Giant Hog Weed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify any plants that pose a hazard and mark/fence off • Suitable clothing worn • 1st aid kit on site • Supervisor to be 1st aid trained 			

RISK ASSESSMENT

FORM GRABLA

8 - Overhead vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debris falling • Eye injury • High wind tree fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear any encroaching vegetation posing risk • Hard hats worn for tree work • No working in high winds in wooded area • Eye protection issued 			
9 - Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury caused by collision with pedestrian/cyclist etc • Injury caused by collision with stationary vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All lights on inc hazard lights, main beam and fog lights when moving • Slow speed • Dedicated reversing assistant • Off road driver training • Vehicle parked in safe area • 1st aid kit in vehicle • Walk route if off-road before driving 			
10 - Loading/unloading of equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury caused by improper loading/unloading of equipment • Injury caused to driver by unsafe load in RTA • Injury caused by other traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor/driver to load/unload • To be done away from public area • Load to be safe for driver on road • 1st aid kit in vehicle • Hi visibility jackets to be worn • To be done clear of passing traffic 			
11 - Dangerous animal or insect bite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury caused by animal bite • Allergic reaction to insect bite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk given before task • Areas swarming insects are in is fenced off • Any medical issues asked of volunteers before task starts 			
12 - Adverse weather conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury caused by high winds • Hypothermia • Slip on ice • Sun/extreme heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk • Regular breaks • Stop task if weather too bad • PPE i.e. hard hats • Suitable footwear • Continuous monitoring of conditions • Regular rehydration breaks • Volunteers encouraged to cover up in strong sun • Mobile phone on site 			

RISK ASSESSMENT

FORM GRABLA

13 - Drugs and alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to self or other due to intoxication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone one under the influence to be prevented from participated in work • Mobile phone on site for emergency services 			
14 - Tea kit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burn or scald from storm kettle • Cross infection from mugs and food stuff • Smoke inhalation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only experienced person to boil kettle • Cork stopper in kettle never used while boiling • Kettle site away from volunteers • Mugs to be cleaned before task • All food to be kept separate from work area and clean • Glove to be worn • Ashes to be disposed of when cold • Kettle site to be on flat ground 			
15 - Underground services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury caused by digging into services i.e. electrical/gas/water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor to check site before task • Services maps are checked before task • Services known on site to be marked • Safety talk before task starts • If in doubt do not dig/work in area 			
16 - Members of the public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to MOP caused by entering work area • Injury to volunteer/employee caused by MOP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage to warn the public of work area • If possible fence off work area • Supervisor to deal with any aggressive MOP • Safe working distance • Constant supervision of work area • No dogs in work area • Take plenty of breaks. • Water available. 			
17 - Fatigue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to MOP caused by entering work area • Injury to volunteer/employee 				

What is the residual risk **LOW**

Example of risk assessment used for volunteer community task days

3.5.1. Equipment used by staff:

Vehicles:

Driver's daily vehicle check and defect report No: **05551**

You are legally required to complete this form. Do not drive vehicle if defective.

Vehicle Reg No: Driver:
 Date: Start Mileage: End Mileage:

Daily Vehicle Check - Items to be checked by driver before and during driving:
 function - damage - cleanliness etc. ✓ = Serviceable X = Defect

<input type="checkbox"/> Engine oil / Water / Fuel - level - leaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Battery - Security - condition
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving controls / Steering - wear - operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Horn / Wipers / Washers - operation - condition
<input type="checkbox"/> Body / Guards / Wings / Spray suppression - damage	<input type="checkbox"/> Ancillary equipment - loading aids - camera - brushes
<input type="checkbox"/> Mirrors - condition - security	<input type="checkbox"/> Wheels - condition - security - Ric clips
<input type="checkbox"/> Tachograph / Speedometer - operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Beales - warning devices and instruments
<input type="checkbox"/> Tyres - Inflation - damage - wear	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed limiter - operation
<input type="checkbox"/> Lamps / Indicators / Steplamps	<input type="checkbox"/> Exhaust - condition - visual smoke emission
<input type="checkbox"/> RFL in date	<input type="checkbox"/> Reflectors / Markers / Warning device
<input type="checkbox"/> Brakes - pressure - operation - leaks	<input type="checkbox"/> 'O' License displayed
<input type="checkbox"/> Number plates - condition - security - illumination	<input type="checkbox"/> Body / Load - security - protection

Is there a defect to report? Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

Defect report - details of any faults noted should be entered below.

Name of Driver:
 Signature of Driver: Date:

Action taken

Signature: Print Name:
 Position: Date:

This form is part of your daily defect reporting procedure. Report all defects to management.



Drivers' daily vehicle check sheet

As part of safe working practice, council vehicles are checked by the driver pre and post use, with each check recorded in the 'Driver's Daily Vehicle Check and Defects Report' book.

Each vehicle has its own book which has several checks including visual and system inspections, recording of defects and an 'action taken' section to rectify any issues found.



Risk Assessments:

Risk assessments are held for all tasks the grounds maintenance staff are required to undertake. These risk assessments are reviewed annually, and the team hold copies of risk assessments relevant to their duties.

Activity Risk Assessment HBC - RA 8.4

Task	Pedestrian Sports Turf Maintenance Operations
Location	Hastings Borough
Name of Assessor	Cameron Morley
Signature	
Date of Issue	17th May 2025

PPE and emergency equipment requirements for this operation					
	Y		Y		Y
	Y		N		N
	Y		N		Y
					N

Local/Specific PPE and emergency equipment comments or requirements:
 Refer to specific COSHH assessments for substances in use for additional controls.

Persons at Risk			
Operatives	Public/Visitors	Other Contractors	
Yes	Yes	Yes	

Local Review Details (Assessments must be locally reviewed at the point of introduction of the task at a contract or project. Subsequent local reviews should occur following a change in equipment and/or activity, following an incident, or as a minimum on an annual basis)			
Name	Introduction Date	Name	Date Reviewed
Name	Date Reviewed	Name	Date Reviewed
Name	Date Reviewed	Name	Date Reviewed

Example of one of a number of risk assessments held

Activity Risk Assessment HBC - RA 8.4

Likelihood	Rather Often	Severity of Outcome	Rating
Highly Unlikely	1	First Aid injury or minor property damage	1
Unlikely	2	Minor injury or property damage	2
Medium	3	Potential for time injury or absent from ill health	3
Likely, may occur regularly	4	Major illness or injury	4
Highly Likely, certain or almost certain to occur	5	Fatal or disabling injury or serious ill health	5

Hazard	Risk	L	S	R	Control Measures	L	S	R	Further Action Required
Use of Machinery									
Defective Equipment	Defective equipment present a risk of injury	3	6	18	Before use, carry out and record daily safety checks of machines, pay specific attention to safety devices if thought to be defective at any time, cease use of machine and attach a defect tag to isolate from use and report any defects to your Supervisor. Ensure machines are regularly serviced in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.	1	3	3	Apply a rating to both likelihood and severity and then multiply together to give actual risk rating of a particular hazard
Loss of control or poor operation	These machines are dangerous under the control of untrained or unskilled operators	3	4	12	Operators to be fully trained and competent in the use of this type of machinery, ensure to be adequately guarded in accordance with the manufacturers handbook and instructions. Guards to be securely fixed.	1	4	4	
Entanglement with moving parts	Fluffy grass or maintained equipment can cause serious injury	3	4	12	Do not put hands into danger areas of machines, including into blade or line areas as they revolve or spin.	1	4	4	
Hot Engine parts	Burns to hands from hot engine and exhaust system	3	3	9	Keep hands clear from engine, drive belts and pulleys hydraulic system and exhaust, even after use.	1	3	3	
Rickrolling/storing fuel	Contact with harmful substances, Fire, Theft and Risk of pollution	3	3	9	Ensure operatives are briefed on the use of petrol and associated COSHH assessment. Wear gloves when handling petrol. Store petrol in a safe jerry can only. Use a banner when fueling, particularly from Jerry Cans (max 20L). Secure fuel cans when not in use. Refill machines on level ground when machine has cooled. Do not overfill machine. Clean up all spillages, however small to avoid slip hazard or ground contamination. Don't smoke or allow others to smoke when refueling or near where fuel is stored. Carry out work where areas are not busy. Never leave the equipment unattended whether running or not in public areas if approached or confronted with people or animals, switch off immediately.	1	3	3	
Injuries to other members of the public	Members of the public, particularly children or animals may not understand or anticipate the risk of injury.	2	4	8		1	4	4	

Storage of chemicals and COSHH:



Chemical Safe in the depot

All chemicals held within the yard are stored securely within the chemical safe, which is sited on bunding.

Keyholders to the safe are restricted to the Management Team.

All usage of chemicals is recorded with records held within the Chem Safe.

COSHH data sheets are held within the safe for each chemical.

PPE

All staff are issued with council corporate uniform and specific PPE is provided dependant on tasks required by staff. This will include various types of protective gloves, safety glasses, ear defenders, safety boots, high visibility clothing, waders, face masks and any specialist PPE as may be required.

Worksheets:

Teams are issued with relevant work sheets for specific tasks being undertaken. These are used to record, and evidence works carried out, checks completed, and any issues noted on site.

These are uploaded and stored onto the council's shared electronic filing system, SharePoint.



BATHING WATER QUALITY MAINTENANCE SUMMARY REPORT

Location	Subject	Action	Date	Detail	BWQ MP Ref	Date Check/Work Undertaken
Boating Lake original upper level outfall weir	Water Flow systems	Inspect visually and clear upper outlet grill.	Weekly - All year	See 6.4 but more often these were the old existing ones.		
Boating Lake new lower level outfall pipes.	Water Flow systems	Visually inspect lower pipe outlets remove blockages and remove vegetation. Realign to change levels as required.	Weekly - All year	There are 2 pipes but converge into the same outlet as the upper outlet does.		
White Pond's penstock to lower 4 ponds.	Water levels	Visually inspect lower pond water levels. Adjust penstock to maintain ponds to highest safe level possible.	Weekly - all year, mainly summer.	This is the general control of the volume of water into the lower ponds. Water flow should be kept to maximum capacity.		
All Park as specifically listed in "Waterways Inspection Sheet"	Valves grills	Check all valves are fully operable and grills, weirs and spillways are clear and functional. Report back to HBC as per "Weekly Waterways Inspection Sheet".	Weekly - All Year	Additions from last year are low level grills over outfall pipes in Boating Lake. Deletions are Black Pond grill to Shirley's Pond. Both smaller grills not on waterways sheet.	7, 8, 9 and 10	

Template for Bathing Water Quality Inspections

Toolbox Talks:

The management team look to deliver a monthly toolbox talk to all operational staff. These are chosen either following a recent event and or seasonal change i.e. Winter or Summer Working.

Talks cover: awareness of needlestick and sharp hazards; hygiene; manual handling; winter working; traffic awareness; asbestos awareness; dealing with aggressive behaviour; summer working; slips, trips and falls; PPE; mechanical hazards; vehicle fires; near miss reporting.

019 PPE - GLOVES

Introduction: Hand injuries received at work typically are a result of either exposure to hazardous substances or cuts from sharp objects such as needles, glass, or metal. In order to protect your hands it is important that you wear your gloves. There are many types of gloves and choosing the correct one can be difficult.

Your hands are at risk from:

- Broken glass
- Sharp edges on fly-tipped items
- Hypodermic needles
- Sharp items hidden within waste
- Hazardous chemicals.



General use:

- Gloves should be carefully selected in accordance with risk assessments
- Gloves should be worn at all times when working on site, the task will determine what type of protection is required
- Consider site conditions and weather – do gloves need to protect against wet or cold conditions?
- Provide disposable gloves for visitors
- Dispose of contaminated gloves as this can damage the glove and reduce its level of protection
- Always remove gloves before eating, drinking, or using the toilet

Don't use excuses for not wearing gloves. To protect your hands, you need to select the right equipment for the hazard:

- Chemicals
- Cuts
- Puncture
- Abrasion; or
- A combination of different hazards



Selecting the right glove

You can check what hazards your glove will protect against by looking at the markings printed on it

Toolbox Talk - PPE

Use of mechanical, handheld machinery and equipment:

As part of safe working practices, the council's plant and equipment are checked by the driver/user before use, with each check recorded in the Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist form.

All equipment is stored safely within dedicated locked rooms within the depot.

Mechanical equipment is subject to annual winter maintenance via several different external specialist contractors.



EQUIPMENT SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST (LOG)

COMPANY: _____ UNIT NUMBER: _____
 OPERATOR: _____ SHIFT: _____
 DATE: _____

CHECKLIST	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Operating & Emergency Controls							
Safety Devices							
Personal Protective Devices							
Tires & Wheels							
Outriggers (if applicable) & other Structures							
Air/Hydraulics & Fuel System for Leaks							
Cables & Wiring Harnesses							
Placard/Warning Control Markings							
Operating Manuals							
Guardrail System							
Engine Oil Level (if applicable)							
Battery Fluid Level							
Hydraulic Reservoir Level							
Coolant Level (if applicable)							
Loose or Missing parts							
Braking Device(s) Operating Properly							
Motion Alarms							

WARNING: Do not operate equipment without proper authorization and training.

Additional Comments: _____

SUPERVISOR: _____

Example template of pre use equipment check sheet

EQUIPMENT	
No.	ITEM
3	Stihl FS411 Brushcutter
1	Stihl FS 361 C-EM Brushcutter
1	Stihl FS131R Brushcutter
2	Stihl HL 94 C-E Long-reach Hedge trimmer
2	Stihl HS82T Double Sided Hedge Trimmer
3	Stihl HS 87 R Hedge trimmer, 750mm/30"
2	Stihl BR 600 Backpack Blower
2	Stihl BG 86 Blower
1	Stihl KM131 Kombie Engine Bike Handle
2	Stihl KM131 Kombie Engine
2	Stihl KM Extension Shaft
1	Stihl Brushcutter Kombi Tool Head
2	Stihl HL Hedge Trimmer Kombi Tool Head
1	Stihl RG-KM Rotary Cutting Kombi Tool Head
1	Stihl F&B-KB Edge Trimmer Kombi Tool Head
1	Stihl BR-KM Pick Tine Cord Kombi Tool Head

List of various handheld tools and equipment used in the maintenance of features within Alexandra Park.



Tractor, electric gator and trailer used by the Grounds Maintenance team

3.5.2 Equipment used by the public:

Playgrounds:

As referenced under 2.2 routine operational safety inspection checks are carried out by the council's RPII operationally qualified inspector.

The playground sited in the lower end of the park is inspected 6 times a week during the summer, and 5 times a week during the winter.

The playground at Shornden is inspected 5 times a week during the summer, and 3 times a week during the winter. (Summer and winter inspection seasons are: Summer – Monday closest to the first weekend of Easter to the end of September. Winter – 1st October to last week before Easter). In conjunction with this, an independent annual RPII inspection is undertaken.

Repairs and maintenance to ensure safe use i.e. new parts replaced due to wear and tear, surfacing repairs, servicing gates, lube roundabout bearing etc.



Inclusive play provision

Lifebuoys:

There are 16 lifebuoys positioned around the waterbodies in Alexandra Park. The grounds maintenance inhouse service check the housing and lifebuoys 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, to ensure that lifesaving equipment is intact and, where necessary, replace immediately from stock.

Notices attached are checked to ensure they are clear and legible. The inner and outer casings are cleaned where required and all actions undertaken are recorded on the weekly inspection report.

In addition to the weekly inspections, the housing and lifebuoys are checked comprehensively every 6 months for safety and condition. Any issues noted are reported for repair or replacement.



WEEKLY LIFEBOUY INSPECTIONS

Week Commencing:

Number	Location	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	In Situ	Comments/Action Taken
1	Alexandra Park Boating Lake SE corner								Yes/No	
2	Alexandra Park Philly's Pond SE end								Yes/No	
3	Alexandra Park Black Pond south end by platform								Yes/No	
4	Alexandra Park Black Pond East corner (by Bowk)								Yes/No	
5	Alexandra Park Powis Pavilion north wall								Yes/No	
6	Alexandra Park White Pond north end (on railings)								Yes/No	
7	Alexandra Park Disabled swims north Harmer's reservoir								Yes/No	
8	Alexandra Park Between middle swims Harmer's reservoir								Yes/No	
9	Alexandra Park Warmer's Catchment Pond								Yes/No	
10	Alexandra Park Shonden reservoir east on dam crest								Yes/No	
11	Alexandra Park North bank by path bridge Shonden								Yes/No	
12	Alexandra Park Shonden east side of railings or smaller pond								Yes/No	
13	Alexandra Park, Va Road side Buckhole reservoir								Yes/No	
14	Alexandra Park Buckhole reservoir St Helens Road entrance								Yes/No	
15	Alexandra Park Buckhole Catchment 1								Yes/No	
24	Alexandra Park North side of Buckhole reservoir; St Helens Rd side								Yes/No	

Weekly Lifebuoy Inspection Form

Dipping Platforms:

Dipping platforms down to water level will be cleaned every 6 months. As part of the quarterly H&S periodic inspections, the viewing platforms are checked for any H&S issues. Any issues found are raised for our minor works contractor, to repair or replace.

Fishing Swims:

As part of the quarterly H&S periodic inspections, the fishing swims are checked for any H&S issues. Any issues found are raised for our minor works contractor, to repair or replace. The exception to this is the 2 new fishing swims installed and maintained by the fishing club at Buckshole Reservoir.

Defibrillator:

There is one defibrillator, which is located to the side of the Rangers building in the park. A visual check of the defibrillator is undertaken by the Park Ranger 5 days a week.

Water Fountain:

There is one water fountain, which is located to the side of the Rangers building in the park. The drinking water fountain is cleaned at the start of the season in May, where it is flushed through. The water supply is turned off at the end of the season in September. A visual check is undertaken by the Park Ranger 5 days a week.

Seats:

Seats will be kept clean through washing to remove unwanted deposits. Any damage that could be hazardous to the public is actioned. As part of the quarterly H&S periodic inspections, the seats are checked for any H&S issues. Any issues found are raised for our minor works contractor, to repair or replace.

Table Tennis Tables:

These will be inspected for damage and action taken where needed. Surfaces will be wiped clean, taking care to remove bird droppings, chewing gum etc. Graffiti will be removed as required, taking care to ensure no damage to the table playing surface is caused through the use of chemical graffiti removal kit.

Handrails:

Handrails will be cleaned to remove bird droppings, dirt etc. As part of the quarterly H&S periodic inspections, the handrails are checked for any H&S issues. Any issues found are raised for our minor works contractor to repair or replace.



Dipping Platform



Drinking Water Fountain

Health and Safety Check					
Site: Alexandra Park Lower	Date: 14/07/2025	Name: Tom Spence	Reference: HS0725		
Map of Site	Freq: Quarterly	When: Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct			
Items	Checked as per MHS1	Details of Issue	Action Taken		
			Type	To	Action Date
Furniture					
Benches	N/D				
Bins	N/D				
Steps	N/D				
Hand Rails	N/D				
Bollards	N/D				
Signs/notice boards	N/D				
Infrastructure					
Fences/Walls/Railings	N/D				
Protective Fences/Walls/Railings	N/D				
Boundary	N/D				
Buildings					
Out-buildings/shelters	N/D				
Accessibility					
Footpaths/hard standing	N/D				
Drainage infrastructure	N/D				
Gates	N/D				
Bridges/boardwalks	X	Damaged section of viewing platform at black pond	HBC5641	Booker and Best	14/07/2025
Water					
Waterways	N/D				
Water Bodies	N/D				
Vegetation					
Ground level	N/D				
Head height	N/D				
Electrical					
Light columns	N/D				
Electric Junction Box	N/D				
Additional specific checks					
Comments					
Signed: T.Spence		Date: 14/07/2025			

Health and Safety Check Inspection Form

SECTION 4: Environmental Management

4.1 Managing Environmental Impact

Procurement

The council is continually developing its environmental role in areas such as the use of recycled products and reducing waste and emissions. It therefore requires companies which deal with the Council to have a positive approach to environmental management. Ideally a company would be able to demonstrate this approach through formal accreditation such as Eco- Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), ISO 14001 or an equivalent standard. However, in evaluating a contract, the council would also consider informal evidence of a company's record, for instance whether it is working towards accreditation, whether it has conducted an environmental audit, whether it has an environmental policy, or whether relevant training has been pursued.

Environmental Policy

On 29 March 2010, our Cabinet approved the Environmental Policy. Hastings Council is committed to working towards a more sustainable future we are committed to minimising our adverse environmental impacts by reducing pollution and tackling climate change while improving the quality of life for the people of Hastings.

Further information on Hastings Environmental Policy can be found here [Environmental Policy in Hastings](#).

Landscape

Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is a priority for Hastings Borough Council and Alexandra Park has undergone positive changes which has significantly helped both the landscape and wildlife through improvements such as implementing sustainable water management practices like wetland creation through the Bathing Water Management plan 2016. The water travelling through the park is cleaner and this is an ongoing commitment from the council. Ref - Appendix A.



When planting in the grade II listed park as a local authority we consider the park's special historic interest and significance. Planting schemes would respect and enhance the historic landscape design. Park management has aspirations to include wildflower meadows and bulb planting increasing biodiversity and aligning goals as to the Corporate plan.

Hastings Borough Council is committed to reducing the overall impact to the natural environment. Some key areas that have been identified are:

- Improving Air quality
- Reducing pollution
- Doing its part for climate change
- Ensuring the new Local Plan provides the best framework for tackling the nature and climate crisis.
- increase biodiversity and ensure that space for nature is maintained and improved, including preparing a business plan for a habitat bank and identifying land for community growing.



Flowering seed mixes to attract pollinators





Attracting wildlife to water areas

4.2 Waste Minimisation

Wherever possible arisings will be composted or recycled, new materials will derive from renewable resources and pesticides and inorganic fertilizers will be avoided if possible. Peat or peat products have been systematically reduced within the park.

All hard materials, such as woody pruning's are chipped and re-used on site as wither mulches or to top up natural footpaths.

4.3 Chemical Use

Herbicide use is limited to selective spraying to the rose beds and there is occasional requirement to treat moss on pathways and playground surfaces. Glyphosate will only be used in the case of treating Japanese Knotweed; alternative methods will always gain priority when appropriate.

4.4 Peat Use

Since 2005 we have sourced plant materials in reduced peat growing mediums, for example all bedding plants for Alexandra Park contain less peat. Nursery stock will be purchased from local suppliers and where possible locally grown sources, utilising environmentally sustainable growing methods. All plant containers will be recycled.

4.5 Climate Change Adaption Strategies

As mentioned in the Corporate Plan 2025 – 2030 Hastings council is committed to working with communities to achieve net zero by 2030, including appointing a Climate Change officer.

An action plan has been developed by the council to ensure we are working towards targets such as drought tolerant planting schemes, encouraging public transport to our sites and increasing wildflower and pollinator planting where possible.

Staff that are permanently based within the part use an electric utility vehicle. All other vehicles and equipment that are used to maintain the park are fitted with low impact grass tyres.

Information on climate change can be found here [Climate Change Strategy in Hastings](#), the Hastings corporate plan 2025 – 2030 can be found: [Hastings Borough Council Corporate Plan 2025-2030](#) and information on Hastings Flood planning can be found here: [Hastings Flood Plan](#)



SECTION 5: Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

5.1 Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora

The council is committed to updating its own website to ensure the information on wildlife areas is current: [Countryside and nature in Hastings](#).

The areas of Old Roar Gill and Coronation Wood were declared a Local Nature Reserve in 2002. Old Roar Gill consists of important ancient gill woodland habitat in the centre of town whilst Coronation Wood is an important secondary woodland.

Information on biodiversity in Hastings can be found in the Biodiversity Action Plan [Hastings Biodiversity Action Plan](#).

Old Roar Gill is a deeply cut, narrow wooded valley running along the upper reaches of Alexandra Park.

Spotted flycatchers, grey wagtails and kingfishers can be seen in the woods and open water at the upper end of the park.



The gill, like most woodlands in Hastings, is rich in ferns, mosses and liverworts. In spring, the woods are carpeted in ancient woodland flowers such as bluebell, wood anemone and wood Avens. The scarce parasitic plant toothwort is a feature of the gill and the park.

Other visiting or breeding species of interest include:

- A rare endemic cranefly, *Lipsothrix nervosa*
- Nationally scarce snail *Macrogastera rolphii*
- Spotted flycatcher
- Osprey
- Grey wagtail
- Kingfisher
- Tufted ducks
- Pochard duck
- Goldcrest
- Nuthatch

- Treecreeper
- Song thrush and Mistle thrush
- Tawny Owl

The deadwood lying in the stream and woodland floor supports many rare and scarce invertebrates including the endemic crane fly (*Lipsothrix nervosa*) and the nationally scarce door snail (*Macrogastra rolphii*).



5.1.1 Water Quality and Safety:

Water quality and oxygen levels throughout the network of reservoirs, ponds, wells and streams is monitored regularly. The works detailed in the Waterways Management Plan (Appendix A) have led to a tangible improvement of standards after the 1st year.

Regular maintenance to flow channels, culvert grilles and control valves minimises risks of flooding; and is part of the routine maintenance carried out.

The Environment Agency enforce the requirements of the Reservoir Act 1975 and structures are subject to annual inspection and report. The Engineers' summary references these management requirements under Section 12(2) & Section 12(2A).

A flood risk assessment has been undertaken; the reservoirs being noted within corporate flood plan. The Flood plan can be found here: [SRF document template1](#)

Controlled diversion of the flow channel (downstream) ensures enhanced oxygen supply to the network of ponds in the Lower Park. In extreme conditions straw bales will be provided and additional water agitation through pumping to increase oxygen content. Algaecide will only be used in extreme circumstances.

5.1.2 The Waterways Project

The need for waterways improvement in Alexandra Park was recognised in 2013 as a response to the town's bathing (sea) water quality issues recorded by the Environment Agency. The sites used to measure water quality in Hastings by the EA include the Pelham beach – where the outfall of the Park's waterways emerge. HBC worked in partnership with Southern Water and the EA to conceive a plan to address and improve the standards throughout the park.

Work in 2014 to naturalise the concrete stream in the park introduced native planted coir rolls to the stream bed. This project has provided a natural in-stream habitat for wildlife throughout the length of the park and an effective sediment and pollution filter.

The next phase 2015-16 saw a radical rethink to the flow of water through the park, with many features to improve the water quality installed throughout the lower park, including floating planted islands, dense marginal planting, new valves, and enlarging and re-profiling sections of the watercourses between ponds.

Subsequent independent analysis after year one proved a tangible improvement to cleaner water for the town with key changes to e-coli, nitrates, phosphates and levels of dissolved oxygen.

The Waterways Management Plan 2016 - 2026 (please see Appendix A) provides a full insight into the extensive works, future management and ongoing maintenance of the project.



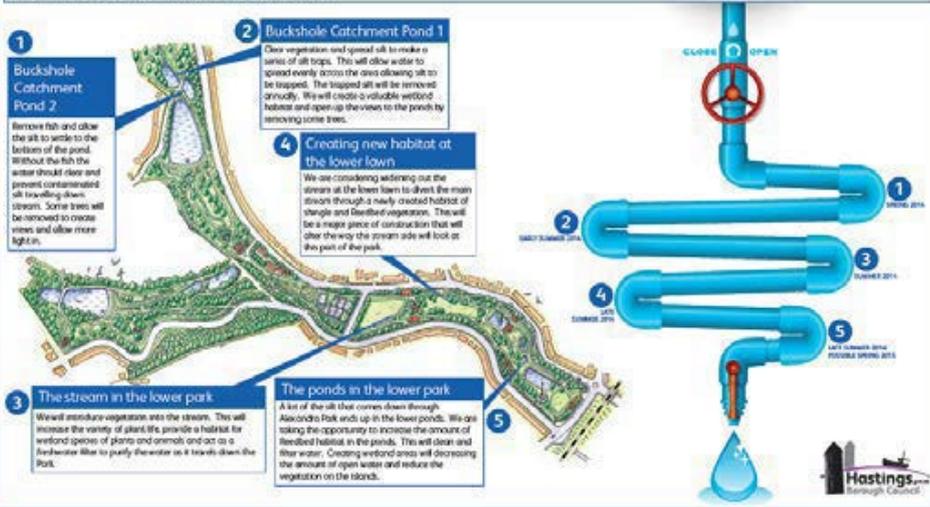
Parks staff and Biomatrix working to install coir rolls (left) and working together on the finishing touches



The finished result

Improving water quality in Alexandra Park

The Council is working to ensure the water coming out of Alexandra Park and flowing down to the sea is free of pollution and silt.
Why? Water from Alexandra Park flows under the Town and is discharged into the sea at Pelham Place.
 The Council and the Environment Agency are working together to improve the quality of that water and improve the biodiversity of Alexandra Park at the same time.
This is what we are proposing over the next 12 months.



Poster displayed throughout the park, describing the water cleaning project



5.2 Conservation of Landscape Features

5.2.1 Nationally Significant Tree Collection

Alexandra Park has a wide and varied tree collection, including rare Champions trees. A tree walk has been developed by the Friends of the Park. Tree labelling was carried out to supplement the tree walk funded by the Friends of the Park, during 2010.

Tree planting in the park continues under the guidance of Dr Owen Johnson. Opportunity will be taken to enhance the collection using trees that would have been available to Marnock in the 1880s. Care will be taken to avoid planting that will compromise newly created vistas, or that may impact on existing vegetation.

The Tree Walk guide can be found and downloaded from: [Tree Walks in Alexandra Park, Hastings](#)

The following trees have been planted during the 2015/16 period:

Koelreuteria paniculata on bank W of tennis offices, behind Hubert Fawcett seat, TQ8120710482

Prunus verecunda, between yew roundel and stream at NW end of the long lawn, TQ8135410483

Prunus 'Taoyame', between stream and path E of tennis offices, TQ8134310488

Prunus 'Asano', across stream W of bandstand, TQ8127210422

Crataegus arnoldiana, on bank to Park Road just W of Dordrecht Way junction, TQ8107110361

Crataegus champlainensis, S of stream from hard tennis courts, near Dove Tree, TQ8106010378

Crataegus schraderiana, on bank to Park Road W of Dordrecht Way, above Gwen Willis bench, TQ8103610383

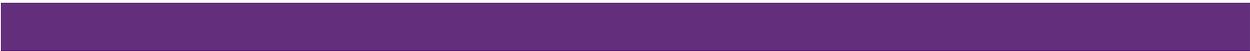
Crataegus x durobrivensis, S of stream from hard tennis courts, near big Field Maple, TQ8103310398
Crataegus wattiana, on bank to Park Road W of Dordrecht Way, opposite steps to Newgate Woods, TQ8100610411

Malus kansuensis, E side of Dordrecht Way S of stream culvert, TQ8110710361

Malus fusca, between path and Park Road just E of Dordrecht Way junction, TQ8110910342

Quercus bicolor, in middle of oak bank, TQ8069010642

Quercus x hastingsii Thorpe's Wood, TQ8043410255
Betula insignis BSWJ 11751:
Thorpe's Wood below Newgate Road, TQ8039910246



Carpinus kawakamii CWJ 12449: Thorpe's Wood, TQ8056810323

Cercis chinensis BSWJ 12665: In shrubbery on E side of Dordrecht Way, N end, by Weeping Purple Beech, TQ8116910461

Idesia polycarpa CWJ 12837: St Helens Road boundary E of Rangers' Office, by gorse bush, TQ8130410560

Lindera metcalfiana var. *dictophylla* KWJ 12313: Thorpe's Woodbelow Newgate Road, TQ8041210239

Persea japonica BSWJ 12789: Thorpe's Wood, TQ8057310313

Quercus ilex (Holm Oak; transplanted seedling): Thorpe's Woodbelow Newgate Road, TQ8040610420

Rehderodendron indochinense BSWJ 12115: Thorpe's Wood, TQ8050510274

Sorbus caloneura GUIZ 80: W side of Dordrecht Way, behind footings of old shelter, TQ8112510413

Sorbus hedlundii WJC 13806: In shrubbery on E side of Dordrecht Way, near Thuja stump, TQ8114510423

Sorbus vestita (Himalayan Whitebeam; seed from Ness BG): Thorpe's Wood, TQ8048810262

Stuartia serrata: Thorpe's Wood near Newgate Road, TQ8041710233

Trochodendron aralioides CWJ 12357 (Taiwan): Thorpe's Wood, TQ8049510268

Acer campbellii var. *yunnanensis* Campbell's Maple TQ8071010707 Among yews at bottom edge of Pinetum Lawn

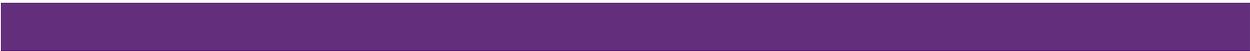
Afrocarpus falcatus African Yellowwood TQ8044910474 N edge of Shorden Woods below Reservoir, among pines

Alangium platanifolium var. *macrophyllum* an *alangium* TQ8043210467 N edge of Shornden Woods below Reservoir, among pines

Broussonetia papyrifera Paper Mulberry TQ8075910681 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, lower

Butia capitata Pindo Palm TQ8044510470 N edge of Shorden Woods below Reservoir, among pines

Carpinus fangeana Monkey-tail Hornbeam TQ8054310298 Thorpe's Wood, to replace lost *Acer laevigatum*



Castanopsis sieboldii Siebold's Chestnut-oak TQ8054010302 Thorpe's Wood, to replace an Indian Horse Chestnut transplant

Catalpa bungei Bunge's Catalpa TQ8073810703 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, lower

Catalpa fargesii f. *duclouxii* Farge's Catalpa TQ8076810670 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, lower

Chionanthus retusus Chinese Fringe Tree TQ8108710475 St Helens Road shrub border by stream near hard tennis courts (to replace Indian Horse Chestnut transplant).

Cupressus cashmiriana Kashmir Cypress TQ8056410476 Shornden valley just above Harmer's Ponds

Diospyros kaki Chinese Persimmon TQ8163510382 Stream side of bowling green by WC block

Eucalyptus nicholii Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint Gum TQ8046010479 N edge of Shornden Woods below Reservoir, among pines

Euonymus lucidus Himalayan Evergreen Spindle TQ8060810856 Under Buckshole dam below yew clump

Euonymus phellomanus a Chinese spindle TQ8068710799 Pinetum Lawn, below top path in yew clump

Hovenia dulcis Japanese Raisin Tree TQ8066410867 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, near Buckshole dam

Neolitsea sericea a Japanese laurel TQ8052810300 Thorpe's Wood, to replace lost *Acer pectinatum*

Persea thunbergii a Japanese laurel TQ8068310720 Bottom side of Pinetum Lawn near stream

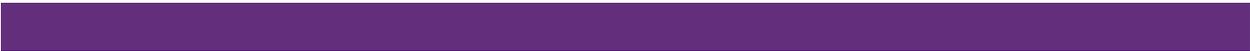
Phoenix canariensis Canary Palm TQ8126610478 St Helens Road bank to left of Rangers' office.

Pistacia chinensis Chinese Pistachio TQ8073510713 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, mid

Plagianthus regius New Zealand Ribbonwood TQ8039510483 N edge of Shornden Woods below Reservoir, among pines

Poliiothisis sinensis Chinese Poliiothisis TQ8145710477 St Helens Road shrub border opposite Heather Garden (near site of failed *Meliosmatenuis*).

Pterostyrax corymbosa a fringe tree TQ8112510474 St Helens Road shrub border opposite hard football pitch



Quercus myrsinifolia Bamboo Oak TQ8069710777 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, opposite yew clump

Quercus rhysophylla Loquat-leaved Oak TQ8069210673 Bottom of oak bank, to replace old Scarlet Oak

Sassafras albidum American Sassafras TQ8097110453 Over stream from Rose Garden, to replace fallen oak

Sorbus hemsleyi Hemsley's Whitebeam TQ8069110799 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, opposite yew clump

Stuartia monadelphica Orange-barked Stuartia TQ8067610727 Bottom side of Pinetum Lawn near stream

Stuartia sinensis Pink-barked Stuartia TQ8066110735 Bottom side of Pinetum Lawn near stream

Styrax formosanus Taiwanese Snowbell Tree TQ8068710765 Pinetum Lawn, just below yew clump

Tetracentron sinense Spur-leaf Tree TQ8057310510 Across path from upper Harmer's Pond

Tilia cordata 'Winter Orange' Orange-twigged Lime TQ8064110883 Under Buckshole dam above yew clump

Tilia oliveri Oliver's Lime TQ8065310881 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, near Buckshole dam

Zanthoxylum simulans a toothache tree TQ8111210474 St Helens Road shrub border opposite hard football pitch

Zelkova carpinifolia Caucasian Oak TQ8040510342 W corner of Shorden swings lawn. Transplanted sucker from Thorpe's Wood.

Zelkova carpinifolia Caucasian Oak TQ8034510390 Off S end of Shornden Reservoir dam. Transplanted sucker from Thorpe's Wood.

Zelkova sinica Chinese Zelkova TQ8072410722 St Helens Road border of Pinetum Lawn, mid.

5.2.2 Green Corridors:

A number of green corridor routes exist linked to the park that follow natural valleys. The park links with Silverhill to the West via Shornden Wood and Thorpe's Wood and towards Little Ridge Avenue and Conquest Hospital via Old Roar Gill. A green corridor through the new development at Little Ridge Avenue supports this. Going northeast via a tributary of the park stream next to Ashford Way, one reaches St Helens Woods, a Local Nature Reserve, and beyond to the Ridge and open countryside. Any Planning Applications that damage these links must be prevented.

Links are also made with the Town Centre via the Greenway Cycle Route, part of which passes through Summerfields Woods, another Local Nature Reserve.

5.3 Conservation of Buildings and Structures

5.3.1 Cultural Heritage

For many, the history of the town and the community in which they live formed the early foundation of today's society; as such, people gain comfort and stability from it and yearn to increase their knowledge and understanding of it. The history of Alexandra Park has roused much interest; a visit to the park is even more enriched with this in mind.

The town's War Memorial is a great example of this; its restoration reinforced its value to the local community. The Grade II listed monument was restored to its original design, while incorporating the names of servicemen who lost their lives in the Second World War. Its environs were re-designed to facilitate the increasing numbers that attend the Remembrance Sunday service. An interpretational panel was also added to raise the significance of the memorial and explain its interesting history.



Before restoration



In 2025

The War Memorial was designed by Margaret Winser, a pupil of Rodin, and was unveiled in 1922, commemorating all those who gave their lives during the Great War. Names of those who lost their lives during the Second World War were added in 1994. A feasibility study was carried out to inform the restoration and re-landscape of the site. Elements of the project included restoring the memorial to its former glory, finding a better way to display the memorial plaques and to better facilitate the Remembrance Sunday service.

Restoration work costing £120,000 was completed in March 2010 and a re-dedication ceremony (corresponding to the original dedication anniversary) took place on 27th March 2010.



Community event at the War Memorial



SECTION 6: Community Involvement

6.1 Community Involvement in Management and Development

The park offers opportunities to relax, walk the dog, take children to the playgrounds, have a picnic with friends or participate in sport. In particular it acts as a major catalyst in bringing communities together.



Active Hastings runs fitness classes for all ages across the borough

Active Hastings run fitness classes for all ages



Shornden Meadow



Event at the bandstand



Sponsored Christmas tree placed in the Peace Garden for Hastings & East Sussex SANDS (Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Charity) for remembrance



Chinese Red Birch, planted in Peace Garden, in memory of Cllr Jeremy Birch, Leader of the Council 2010 - 2015



The Friends of Alexandra Park



Following the Friends group disbanding in 2017 there is strong community interest in a reformation of the Friends.

An initial meeting to gauge community interest in reforming a constituted group was held in June 2025 with attendance in excess of 50. This was followed by an AGM on the 12th August.

The purpose of the Friends is:

- To promote and enhance the park for the benefit of residents, visitors, and wildlife.
- Seek to ensure any changes are sustainable and respect the parks heritage and distinctiveness.
- Represent the views of the residents in matters concerning the park.
- Work co-operatively with the council, businesses, community groups, charities, schools, and other appropriate organisations.
- Raise funds, receive grants and donations.
- Apply for funds to carry out work of the Friends.
- Co-operate with and support other organisations with similar purposes.

The Friends are considered a valuable asset of community contribution and participation and are to be encouraged to engage as fully as possible in the Parks future. Details can be found on the groups Facebook page [Friends of Alexandra Park, Hastings. | Facebook](#)



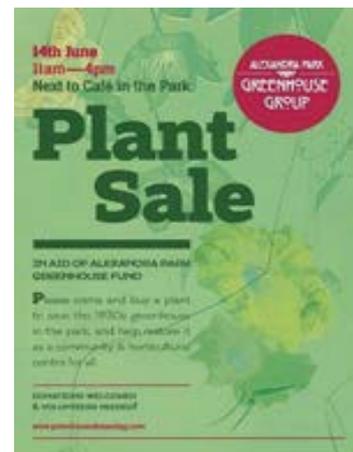
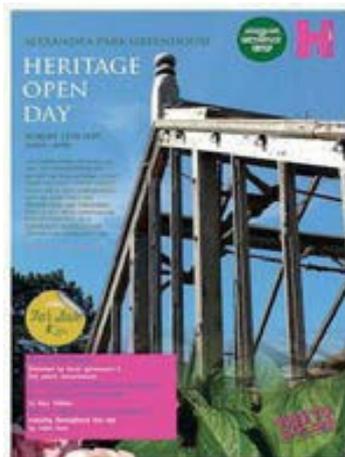
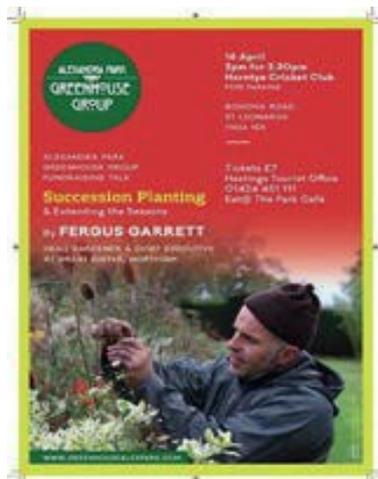
Friends of Alexandra Park AGM 2025

The Alexandra Park Greenhouse Group



The Alexandra Park Greenhouse Group was formed in 2013 with the aim of restoring the historic 1930s greenhouse and establish it once again as a community resource.

For many years Hastings Borough Council used the greenhouse to propagate bedding plants for local parks and displays. It was then developed as a popular and fondly remembered “Pets Corner” which closed in the 1980’s when the greenhouse fell into repair.



Extensive campaigning and fundraising events have included plant sales, a talk delivered by Fergus Garret, many children’s gardening workshops, open days, art events, donations from local business, support from the council and volunteer working parties.

Full details can be found on the group’s website: [Greenhouse • Alexandra Park Greenhouse](#) and Facebook [Alexandra Park Greenhouse Group | Hastings | Facebook](#)

Arts on Prescription



Arts on Prescription have been granted a lease by the council to use the footprint of the bowls green and pavilion within the park.

They are a group of wellbeing practitioners, therapists, artists, makers, creatives, performers, and musicians who passionately believe in the arts as a healing balm for good health and wellbeing. The group provide creative activities and confidence building workshops designed to enhance mental health, wellbeing and promote social engagement.

Statement from Tara Reddy, Founding Director: "Arts on Prescription aims to enhance wellbeing through accessible and inclusive art and nature-based workshops. Our program, researched by Brighton University, demonstrates the health benefits of these workshops, with attendees reporting increased community connection, new skill acquisition, and access to further education, volunteering, and employment opportunities.

Our team of artists and wellbeing practitioners facilitates a daily program of creative and nature-based activities from our volunteer peer-led hub, Art in the Park. This program supports adults and families experiencing mental health issues and at risk of isolation or loneliness, who are referred to our service by GPs, support agencies, or through self-referral.

From our Art in the Park hub, we are developing an educational learning area on our meadow lawn to promote the health benefits of connecting with nature and biodiversity. We also host engaging community events, attracting over 1000 residents annually, to advocate for environmental protection and biodiversity. We are committed to recruiting a passionate team to help us care for this beautiful space within Alexandra Park."

Full details can be found on the group's website: [artsonprescription.org/Therapeutic art and Reminiscence/East Sussex](https://artsonprescription.org/Therapeutic%20art%20and%20Reminiscence/East%20Sussex) and Facebook [ArtsonPrescription.org | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsonPrescription.org)



Arts on Prescription leased area of decommissioned bowls green and bowls pavilion

ART & WELLBEING FOR ALL
ART IN THE PARK @ ALEXANDRA PARK

- Workshops
- Family Art Sessions
- Online Activities
- Events
- Outreach Programs
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Wellbeing Support

[@arts_on_prescription](#) [@artintheparkaoop](#)
info@artsonprescription.org [Alexandra Park, Bowls Green](#)

Arts on Prescription

Referral & Registration

Referral to our sessions is via our online registration form. Please email us to gain the link, pop in during one of our sessions or scan the QR code below. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you would like any help registering online. If finance is a barrier please speak to our team. linktr.ee/artsonprescription

All local services such as your GP, mental health service, Health in Mind and drop in services such as HARC refer to us and will help you register with our online registration and wellbeing form.

Do you want to try out a creative idea, broaden your social or business network, learn new skills, run a workshop, volunteer or support our sessions?

Email: info@artsonprescription.org for more information or booking the venue.



What do Arts on Prescription do?

About

AOP is a group of wellbeing practitioners, artists, makers, creatives, and musicians from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, with a common goal: we believe in a philosophy of Art for All. We provide inclusive art, nature and wellbeing activities from our wheelchair accessible hub Art in the Park in Alexandra Park, Hastings. AOP workshops are also delivered in the wider community and online to people who are housebound or are carers. We have wellbeing advisers in all our sessions. Alexandra Park is famed for its arboretum (tree collection) as one of the best collections of trees in Britain. Many of the large and beautiful trees in the park are regarded as 'champions'.

Events

To enable us to provide free and low cost activities AOP hosts fundraising community engagement events including our annual Easter Picnic, outdoor theatre and music events.

Workshops and Talks

We also host a wide range of activities to the community facilitated by professional artists including: nature walks, talks, printmaking, botanical dyeing, watercolour painting, and more. These sessions run alongside our regular funded programme as stand-alone experiences. For the latest listings, visit our Eventbrite, follow us on social media, or drop us an email. If you have an event you'd like to host with us, please get in touch. Check out our Eventbrite and social media or email us for up-to-date listing.

info@artsonprescription.org



Regular Sessions for 2025 / 2026

- The Monday Grow Project**
 - 01 10am - 12:30pm Nature and art, gardening around the green, an educational programme with various art and nature structured activities. **Session cost: £5 / PWVC***
- Tuesdays Yoyo Arts Club**
 - 02 10am - 12pm Yoyo Arts Club has endless inventive creative ideas and nature activities for families. With an outside enclosed green space to explore. **Session cost: £5 / PWVC***
- Wellbeing Wednesdays**
 - 03 10am - 12:30pm An art program run with wellbeing themes with plenty of scope for a variety of media and expression for adults referred to AOP. **Session cost: £5 including pot-luck lunch / PWVC***
- Thursdays Just Jam**
 - 04 10am - 12pm Join us for a fun and interactive music session, with guided percussion, rhythm, and song. All instruments are provided and all abilities welcome - just bring yourself! SEN/NEURODIVERSE WELCOME! **Session cost: £5 / PWVC***
- Friday Print Group**
 - 05 10:30am - 12:30pm Friday Print is a small peer-led group for the printing curious. A line printing class with teas and coffees with those of all levels having a chance to learn and share skills. **Session cost: £5 / PWVC***
- Online Classes**
 - 06 Can't visit our sessions in person? Arts on Prescription deliver various classes including art and singing online. **Contact us for details.**
- Weekly Art At Sessions**
 - 07 Run by our talented art facilitators at your local community centre / residential home / community location. **Get in touch to find out more.**

info@artsonprescription.org
*IF FINANCE IS A BARRIER PLEASE SPEAK TO OUR TEAM

6.2 Appropriate Provision for the Community

6.2.1 Events

Alexandra Park can be used as a gathering point before or following a walk, procession or run. Small to medium sized events are well suited to the park. For larger events, we suggest event organisers look at using another of the council's venues.

Events are managed by the Bookings and Events Officer. All events are subject to the council's licence, supervised by the Licensing and Health and Safety teams and co-ordinated through the council's marketing team. An events booking pack is sent out which highlights all the key issues for organisers. The booking form can also be downloaded from the website which is then returned to eventsadmin@hastings.gov.uk.

All events that are undertaken on council land need to apply, initially using the event enquiry form. Once the form has been assessed and sent to other parties in the council for comment, the event organiser will be contacted.

The following links relate to the required processes for booking an event:

[Event Booking Process:](#)

Event enquiry form: [Event Booking Form](#)

Risk assessment template: [HBC Risk Assessment Example 2018](#)

Event management plan: [Event Management Plan Template](#)

[Planned events in the park 2025:](#)

Date	Event
24 th April	Pet Advice Clinic
6 th April	Paws for Clause
8 th May	Pet Advice Clinic
8 th June	Race for Life
21 st June	Herb Walk
22 nd June	The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company "Gentle Harry's Farm"
24 th July	Pet Advice Clinic
27 th July	Eat@ Bandstand
31 st July	Pet Advice Clinic
3 rd August	Eat@ Bandstand
10 th August	Eat@ Bandstand
17 th August	Eat@ Bandstand
24 th August	Eat@ Bandstand
31 st August	Eat@ Bandstand
9 th November	Remembrance Day Service



6.2.2 Sports

Sport provides valuable opportunities for communities, with regular participation contributing to healthier, more active lifestyles—a core priority for Hastings Borough Council. According to Sport England, parks and open spaces, while not specifically designed for sport, are vital resources that enable people to get active. They offer accessible opportunities for individuals who may never visit a sports club, leisure centre, or private gym. By supporting informal, flexible, and inclusive forms of activity, parks play a key role in engaging a wider cross-section of the community.

The Sport England Active Lives Survey (2023/24) shows that 62% of Hastings residents are achieving the recommended 150 minutes of moderate physical activity each week. Green spaces such as Alexandra Park are central to enabling this. However, inactivity remains a significant challenge, with 24.8% of residents active for fewer than 30 minutes per week.

To address this, Hastings Borough Council's Active Hastings team, funded by East Sussex County Council Public Health and Hastings & St Leonards Primary Care Network, is working to break down barriers to physical activity. Alexandra Park is a key location for this work.

The Active Hastings team currently deliver three regular sessions in the park: Walking Football, Qigong, and Girls' Football. All sessions have a sliding scale ticket price, from a maximum of £3 and included the option for free tickets. In 24/25, these sessions engaged 127 residents, 22% of whom reported a disability or long-term health condition.

Alongside these activities, Alexandra Park also offers:

- Hard tennis courts (with year-round coaching)
- Jogging and walking
- Casual football
- Rounders

To further exploit the potential for sport we have:

- secured funding from Sport England and have converted two tennis courts (7 & 8) into a multi-use games area
- supported health walks run by the Conservation Volunteers
- refurbished the 6 tennis courts

Grassroots sport must be accessible to all residents, with activities kept free or affordable to remove financial barriers. Flexible provision allows people of all abilities and lifestyles to participate, fostering long-term activity habits. Special emphasis is needed on engaging young people, providing safe, appealing opportunities that build confidence, social skills, and community connection, while offering constructive alternatives to antisocial behaviour. Partnerships with schools, youth groups, and local clubs can strengthen pathways into formal sport. By prioritising accessibility and youth engagement, Alexandra Park can become a hub for health, inclusion, and community cohesion.

A number of activities and classes are delivered by the Council's Active Hastings Team. A selection of current listings can be found at: [Hastings Borough Council | Active Hastings](#)

Following a successful grant application to the Lawned Tennis Association, a £100,000 investment funded the refurbishment of 6 tennis courts in Alexandra Park. The courts re-opened in July 2023 and have new surfaces, nets and posts.

The refurbished tennis courts won the Lawn Tennis Associations Park Courts of the Year Award: [Award-winning tennis celebrated](#)

The courts are available to book online, up to 7 days in advance of games : [Clubspark / Alexandra Park \(Hastings\) / Home](#)

Coaching sessions are available to book online and initiatives are provided where free tennis can be booked: [Clubspark / Break Point Tennis @ Alexandra Park / Are you ready to get on court?](#)



Qigong Session



Walking Football



Table tennis event



Football event



Girls social football



Pop up tennis session



The newly refurbished tennis courts win LTA's Park Courts of the Year award.



Drone photo of tennis courts

6.2.3 Play

Sport Play is an important part of the physical, emotional, and psychological development of any child. In the urban environment, the Park offers a far safer place for parents to take their children. Lack of garden space at home and the busy nature of most roads make 'community' play very difficult. Play within the park environment is not just about equipped playgrounds; there are a host of other play-based things to do.

The council sees provision for youngsters as a key priority and Alexandra Park is in an excellent position to accommodate new activities. Developing activities for young people and helping sustain them is seen as a top priority.

Both playgrounds (one located at Shornden and one at the lower park) have both undergone refurbishment during 2020.

The design at Shornden incorporated more adventurous play equipment as pods around a central accessible seating area and has natural play features and trails into adjacent woodland. Emphasis was to provide for toddlers and in particular 8–13-year-olds.

The design at the lower park increased play value and incorporated multi use play items.

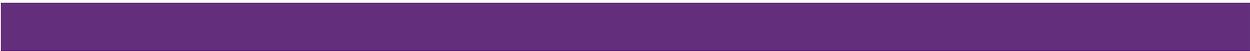
One swing has a seat suitable for toddlers and children with disabilities. Further condition works to address and improve Health and Safety issues were undertaken during 2020.

New ideas have been explored in making links between existing physical play features, therefore increasing the play value within the park.

6.2.4 Healthy Living – Supporting Health and Wellbeing

Adults living in the most deprived areas of Hastings experience significantly shorter lives (on average 9.5 years less for men and 6.9 years less for women) compared with those in more affluent parts of the borough. Long-term health conditions such as chronic pain, musculoskeletal problems, and respiratory illness are widespread, alongside high levels of mental health difficulties. Falls in older adults are also a pressing concern: Hastings has the highest rate of falls in East Sussex, which is itself a national outlier. Rising obesity and persistently poor health add further to the burden, highlighting the urgent need for accessible ways to support healthier living.

In this context, Alexandra Park is a vital public health asset. The park provides a safe, welcoming environment where residents can engage in physical activity, social interaction, and outdoor recreation; factors proven to improve both physical and mental wellbeing. For older adults in particular, the park's safe walking routes and community activities can build strength, balance, and confidence, helping to reduce falls. Meanwhile, time spent in green space is known to alleviate stress, combat loneliness, and support long-term mental health.



Alexandra Park is already a well-established hub for healthy pursuits. Organisations such as The Conservation Volunteers ([East Sussex Health Walks | TCV %](#)) run weekly health walks for all ages and abilities, while residents also benefit from a wide variety of informal and structured activities, from walking and jogging to tennis, football, and rounders, that make it easier to achieve recommended levels of physical activity.

Hastings Borough Council is committed to supporting not-for-profit initiatives in the park that promote healthier lifestyles, recognising that strong partnerships with community groups, charities, and local health organisations are essential to tackling health inequalities. By connecting people to nature, activity, and each other, Alexandra Park is not just a recreational space but a key driver of public health and community wellbeing across Hastings.

SECTION 7: Marketing and Communication

7.1 Marketing and Promotion

Events and activities held within Alexandra Park such as 'Race for life' and music at the 'Bandstand' are publicised on our social media platforms.

What are we trying to achieve?

A healthy, safe and enjoying green space which is accessible to everyone. It is our aim to continue to meet the local communities needs and provide the best possible standards of horticultural maintenance.

How is the Place being currently used?

The park is being used by a variety of users including dog walkers, for exercising, volunteer groups and general use. It is our aim to ensure that this green space is used for a wide range of activities but also all users feel welcome and safe.

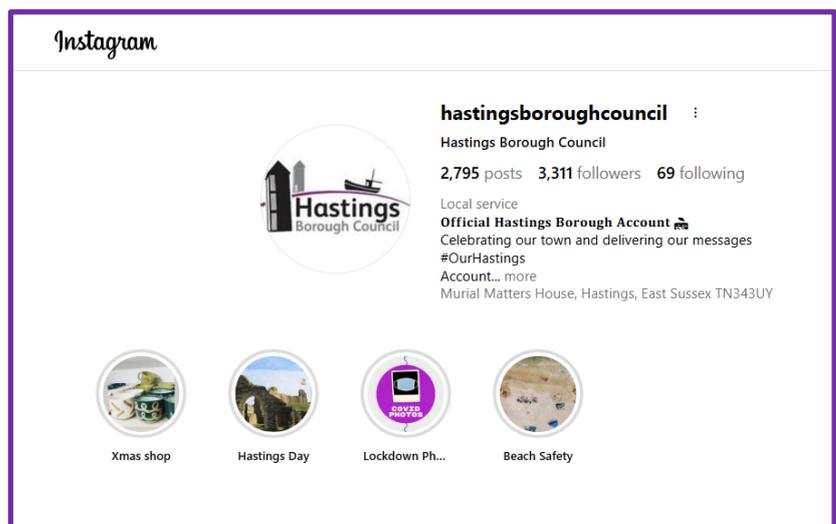
If park users have any queries, they can contact the parks department through the 'Hastings Online' website. Through this type of communication park users can also feed back to us.

[Hastings' parks](#)

7.2 Appropriate Information Channels

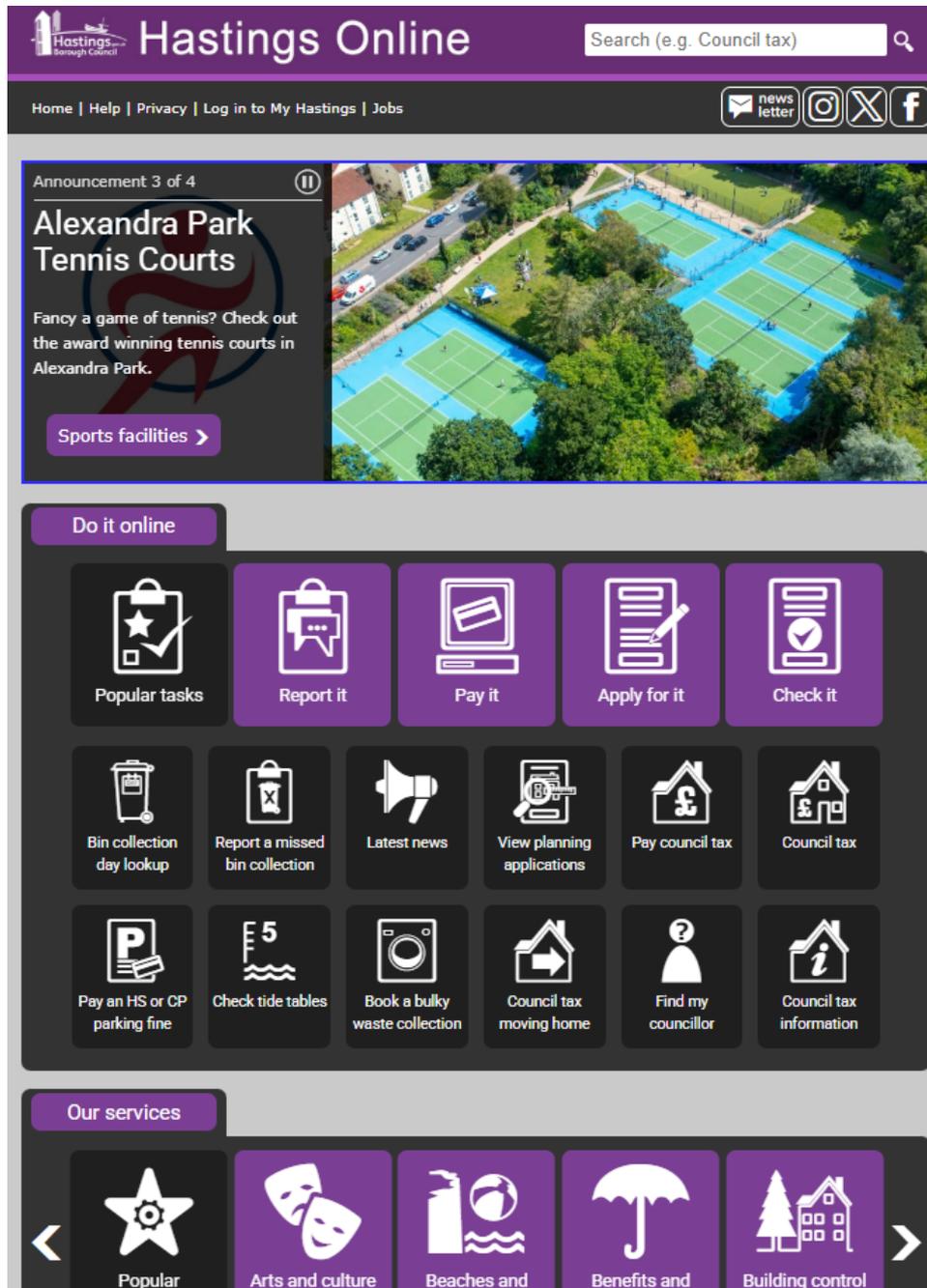
The Parks department use Facebook and 'X' (Formerly Twitter) this enables us to reach a broader range or park users and potential volunteers. We also have communication streams such as website, newsletter and noticeboards within the park.

Park users can keep up to date with events, improvement works and also temporary closures.



The council's social media pages

The Hastings Online website is a portal to a wealth of information, policies, PSPO's, the councils Local Plan and information regarding the Local Government Reorganisation.



The council's Online website

7.3 Appropriate Educational and Interpretational Information

7.3.1 Education

Schools often organise field trips to support children’s development and education. The new National Curriculum includes “Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD). The webpage can be found here: [Education for sustainable development | UNESCO](#).

A key aim within this is to promote awareness, understanding and respect for the environment in which we live. It also sets out to secure commitment towards sustainable development at a personal, local, national, and global level.

Alexandra Park can offer huge opportunities in helping children understand both the natural and landscaped environment and the importance of protecting it for future generations. The Ranger service will facilitate interpretive walks both in the park and the Local Nature Reserve.

The Conservation Volunteers deliver regular ‘health walks’ for an hour every Wednesday at 10.30am, meeting at the Rangers office/toilet block. Details of the walk can be found on their webpage: [East Sussex Health Walks | TCV %](#)

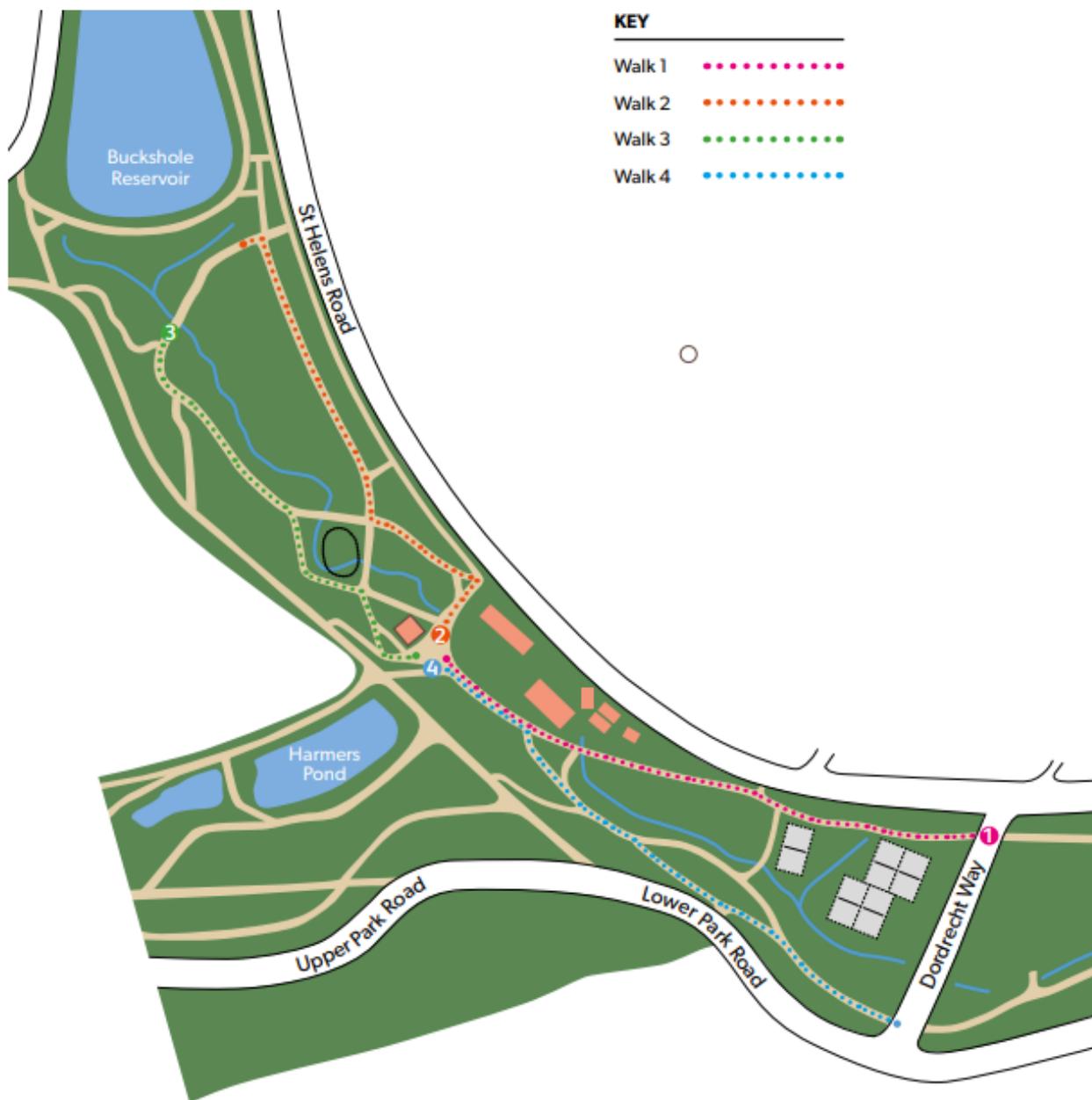
The council has a self-guided Tree Walk leaflet with 4 routes mapped. The Tree Walk guide is available as a downloaded guide and can be found here: [Tree Walks in Alexandra Park, Hastings](#).

The walks cover one part of Alexandra Park, with each route being easily accessible and where the rare trees can be viewed in close order. For the adventurous, there are plenty more trees to be discovered in the rest of the park.



Parrotia Persica, one of many fine specimens in the park

Tree Walks Map

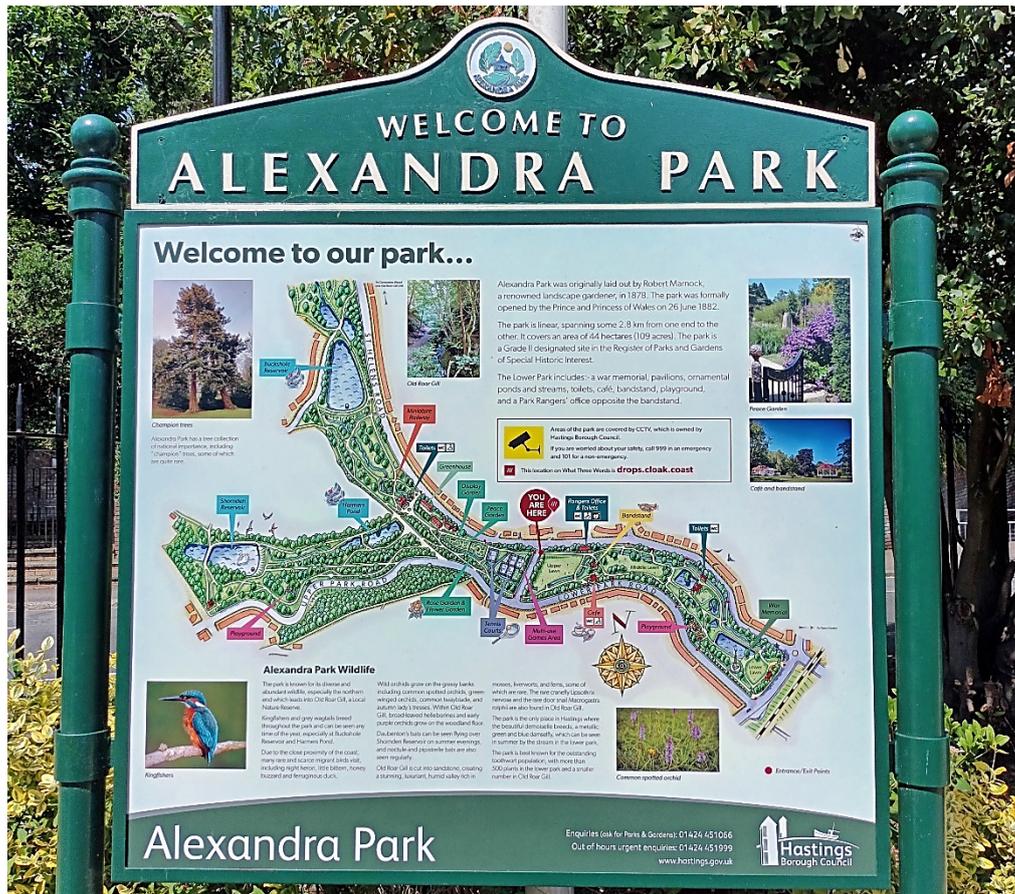


7.3.2 Interpretational Information

The council will continue to ensure all park visitors are well informed about various aspects of the park.

Good information systems ensure users get the most from their visit.

There are interpretation information boards at the main, key entrance points into the park at Bethune Way and Dordrecht Way, with a map of the park and indicators for facilities.



Welcome interpretation board with detailed map of the park

SECTION 8: Management

Green Space Management



Emphasis on a clean and tidy park

8.1 Leases and Rights of Way:

Current leases within the park include:

- The café concession lease is from the 1 February 2013 until 31 January 2028 and contains a restriction for no other concession within the Lower Alexandra Park, save for those which arise through special events within the park which are not organised by the council.
- The miniature railway has a lease from 13 February 2019 until 12 February 2034, to manage an area of land and operate trains in the Upper Park area.
- Buckshole and Harmers reservoirs are licensed to the Hastings and Bexhill Freshwater Angling Association, currently a 10-year lease.
- Two properties, Queens Lodge and Burnside, are managed by Southern Housing Association and are rented to tenants.

Rights of passage exist as follows:

- Owners of Buckshole Cottages
- Southern Water to access their interests, inherited by the Property Company that purchased the pumping station
- The Pump House Café and Deli
- Southeastern Power Networks (UKPN) to access the 3 substations
- Southern Gas Networks plc to access the gas governor station
- Resident in Queens Lodge



Miniature Railway



Buckshole reservoir fishing swim

8.2 General Management throughout the Park

To avoid repetition throughout the plan, the following practices and applications are common throughout the three areas of Alexandra Park (Lower, Upper and Shornden). Specific items relating to the individual area follow.

Dog fouling

The amenity use for this section of the Park includes child's play, picnicking and sitting on the grass. Dog fouling bins have been supplied, and enforcement is carried out through the Dog Control Orders introduced. These measures have been a huge success. We believe the introduction of the dogs on leads area in the lower park has also led to a reduction in dog fouling.

Public Safety

Representatives of HBC carry out regular inspections as part of the Council's system of inspection to meet our duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act and Health & Safety at Work Act.

Vertical edges to the ponds and streams are a potential safety hazard. A risk assessment has been carried out to identify the most hazardous changes in level; these have railings or dense planting as a control measure.

Maintenance and delivery vehicles use the existing footpaths and should never exceed the maximum allowed speed of 5 mph.

The dense vegetation, particularly the shrubs close to the path by the stream are thinned where appropriate to improve visibility.

Litter and fly tipping

Litter is cleared under EPA zone 1 classification. Dog fouling bins are provided, and the Fouling of Land Act will be upheld by the Ranger Service.

Litter is a constant concern throughout the park and escalates according to events, good weather or public holidays. Occasional fly tipping occurs (Harmers Road being vulnerable) which is cleared as soon as possible.

8.3 Area 1 – Lower Park

8.3.1 Past Management

Historically, The Lower Park has had a high standard of traditional Park maintenance with extensive areas of bedding and was nationally famous for its displays of begonias. As resources allow, the contemporary focus is to maintain the quality required for the prime area of Hastings' flagship park with less traditional bedding but retaining large areas of lawn to maintain as well as the borders and the new biodiversity related areas.

8.3.2 Current Public Use

The Lower Park receives the largest number of visitors to the park, being close to the town centre and has the principal play, sports and events facilities, and is the most open area. It had suffered a high rate of vandalism, but since restoration has seen a marked decline in incidents. The principal uses are walking, dog walking (on leads by request), children's play, informal recreation, seating, football, tennis, use of the café, War Memorial and events.

Direct access is gained from Bethune Way (the main entrance to the park), St Helens Road, Lower Park Road and Dordrecht Way.

The major areas of public use are the following:

- First Lawn: large area of lawn, trees and a sloping bank up to Lower Park Road.
- The War Memorial provides an important reference point for many of the residents of Hastings, particularly on Remembrance Sunday.
- The Boating Lake, now a key feature of the Waterways Project
- The three ponds, two of which have islands, supporting wildfowl and fish.
- The children's play area
- Second Lawn: general amenity and informal ball games.
- Tea House/Café
- Bandstand: recognised as one of the central attractions in the park.
- Tennis Pavilion: providing toilets, changing facilities and a room that provides Ranger Offices.
- Third Lawn provides an excellent venue for a diverse range of events.

Use of the park is largely during daylight hours. Lighting has been provided to illuminate key buildings and the access to the café.

8.3.3 Environmental Quality

Water pollution of the watercourse and water bodies will be reduced by control of foul water spills. Pollution has occurred in the past at regular intervals, due to inadequate foul water systems emanating from beyond the park. Southern Water Services are working with the EA to identify cross and misconnections between the surface water and foul sewer systems that discharge into the park. Southern Water has completed a £1.2m scheme in 2012 to deal with a failing combined sewer at the northern end of the park.

Noise pollution relating to the events occurring within Lower Park has caused annoyance to residents on St Helens Road and Lower Park Road. The events occur over a short period during the summer and may not be considered to be an enduring problem. Under the terms of our license the number and noise levels of such events are carefully controlled and will continue to be staged on the top lawn by Dordrecht Way.

8.3.4 Public Safety – Play Area

The play area currently complies with European Standard EN1176 and is inspected daily throughout the year by RPII trained inspectors; these checks are supplemented by an annual RPII Inspection.

8.3.5 Access and Paths

Most of the paths follow the original layout of St. Andrews Gardens and Robert Marnock's design. The topography of the park makes access for disabled people difficult. Routes have been identified where access is feasible, the Council's policy being to promote accessible areas rather than trying to make difficult access improvements. Paths were originally surfaced with gravel, evidenced by early postcards. They were expanded in width and have been covered with asphalt and, prior to restoration, became poor and potentially hazardous. The paths were in need of better profiling for natural drainage and a specification appropriate for its future managed use. In the Lower Park all paths were reconstructed in 2002 and finished in bonded resin, aggregate finish, to facilitate access.

Most of the steps in Lower Park are in the original position of Marnock's design. They have been finished in unsuitable materials comprising concrete crazy paving and a concrete edge; this remains an aspiration to adapt to more appropriate materials. The handrails to the steps have been replaced with a Victorian heritage design, copied from Warrior Square Gardens.

The majority of the footbridges in Lower Park are in the positions shown in 1897. They are mostly of steel construction and are in a serviceable condition. They have been strengthened recently to provide a bridge capable of accepting heavy traffic as part of the designated vehicle route. A timber footbridge near the bandstand has been replaced with the traditional iron design.

8.3.6 Vegetation Management

The vegetation of the Lower Park is dominated by parkland trees of a wide range of species and varieties which are generally well-formed and well-spaced. These require little work within the scope of the plan other than regular inspection.

However, there are areas of dense vegetation with poorly formed trees and scrub invasion at the northeastern edge of the park and on the southern boundary which require careful thinning. In addition, there are a few ornamental trees in the upper park, notably cherries, which are over-mature. Specific vista has been created through the park and these are to be preserved through careful tree and shrub management.

The shrub areas, which are mainly along the northern edge, vary in density, maturity and species. There are many shrubs of high interest, but the steep banks, areas of grass between them and heavy shade, together with over-maturity of others requires a carefully planned programme of formative pruning and/or replanting to give continuous, low maintenance groundcover.

8.3.7 Water Features

Please see Waterways Project – Appendix A



8.3.8 Structures



QUEEN'S LODGE

Queens Lodge: The building is outside the boundary of the park and is leased by Southern Housing.



WAR MEMORIAL

War Memorial: Grade II listed memorial designed by Margaret Winser (a pupil of Rodin) and built in 1922 to commemorate all those who died in the Great War. The monument was completely restored during 2009/10.



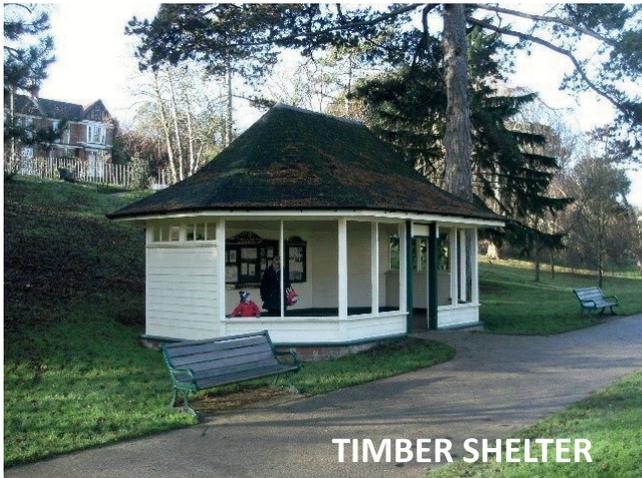
SAXONHURST LODGE

Saxonthurst Lodge: The building is outside the boundary of the park and is privately owned.



BOWLS PAVILION TOILETS

Bowls Pavilion Toilets: The toilets were constructed in the 1930's. They are important in that they are placed midway between the tennis pavilion and the southern entrance and provide essential facilities to park users.



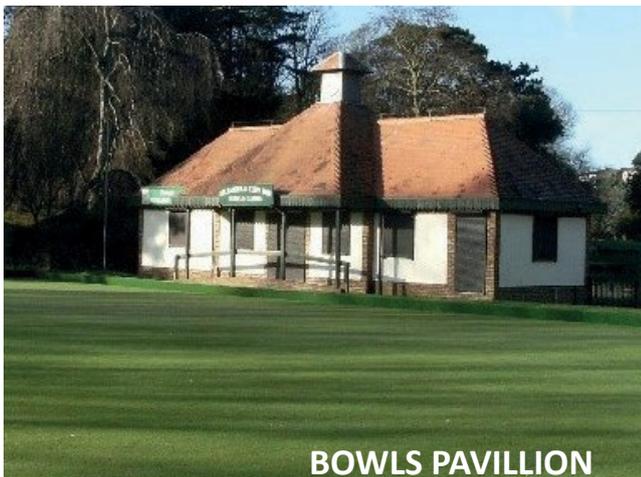
TIMBER SHELTER

Timber shelter: Was constructed around 1910 and originally was glazed on two sides. It now serves as a hub for visitor information.



CAFÉ

Café: The café was fully restored during the restoration project and is very popular.



BOWLS PAVILLION

Bowls Pavilion: The pavilion was constructed in 1993 and bears little resemblance to the timber pavilion built circa. 1915. The building is not in keeping with the heritage of the park and will be maintained accordingly.



BANDSTAND

Bandstand: The bandstand was erected circa. 1920 and fully restored in 2003. It forms the focal point for this part of the park and is used for a range of activities.



TENNIS PAVILION

Tennis Pavilion: The tennis pavilion was erected circa. 1920. It has multi use, including accessible toilets, the Park Ranger office and changing rooms.

8.3.9 Railings and Main Entrances

The boundary railings were original, made from wrought iron and painted black. They were badly decayed, and most were replaced by mild steel railings (on cost grounds), loyal to the original design. These need careful maintenance to protect them against corrosion and now form a rolling programme of works. The circa 1900 entrance gates/pillars were replaced at the Queens Road entrance and the Bethune Way entrance was adapted to link with the new pedestrian crossing and to open it up, as it was previously very overgrown. The link with the promenade walk has also been established.

8.3.10 Management and Aims and Objectives

Aims

Lower Park is of considerable historic interest, reflecting the way that Robert Marnock adopted the design of St Andrews Park itself based on earlier features. It is now a mature park with excellent tree cover and is an important site within Hastings for events and informal recreation and is the most accessible part of the park to the public. The overall aim for the park should therefore be twofold:

- Having restored the park (where feasible) to Marnock's design and retaining early twentieth century additions such as the buildings; the park should be managed/maintained such that it remains in a positive condition
- And to ensure that the park is a high-quality amenity space catering for contemporary needs.

Objectives

The aim can be achieved through the following objectives:

- Manage the eco-systems in the ponds and streams to optimum conditions and to minimize damage to water edges. Ensure all flood control measures are in place and culverts are kept clear; ensure a constant water flow through the pond network.
- Maintenance of boundary railings and improvements to management of boundary vegetation will be required, work such as this being considered as an ideal opportunity for volunteer participation.
- Maintain paths, steps and handrails, ensuring good disabled access wherever reasonably practical and maintain all other furniture including signage and seating.
- Regular planned maintenance including statutory inspections to all buildings including toilets, shelter, cafe, bandstand and tennis pavilion.
- Retain and enhance the tree cover through long term management and maintain the shrub areas to a good horticultural standard.
- Manage the grass areas in order to prevent erosion/compaction.

8.3.11 Management Prescriptions

General Prescriptions and Capital Works

The council is committed to raising the profile of the park for visitors and residents. We publish a programme of events annually. These events cover activities across the borough and are facilitated by our Ranger Service. The council has and will continue to promote a range of cultural activities in our parks such as art installations and events, outdoor theatre productions, nature conservation activities and walks, school activities and social history. We will work with community groups and events coordinators to promote activities in our parks, and Alexandra Park in particular.

Themes for such activities to include:

- biology.
- arts.
- geology.
- science.
- plant knowledge and horticulture.
- arboriculture.
- animal education.
- local history.
- water management.
- awareness of changes in cultural and social values.

Survey

Topographical and tree surveys have been carried out as a basis for future management and recording and where necessary will be used for the preparation of contract documents and condition survey database.

Paths and Steps

The path network is maintained as per the grounds maintenance specification and repairs/re-surfacing planned as per the maintenance programme. The surfaces of the steps will be reconstructed in stone on edge, whenever the opportunity arises. The handrails will be regularly maintained. The reinstated paths will now measure 2.5m for pedestrian paths and 3.5m for vehicle routes.

War Memorial

Following restoration in spring 2010. The masonry was coated with Keim paint. The column was treated with anti-graffiti treatment to reduce the effects of the bronze staining.

Railings

The boundary railings were re-instated to the original design. Internal railings around the ponds and watercourses match the lattice design of the bridges.

Play Area

Hastings Borough Council capital funding has provided the upgrading and installation of new equipment at the lower playground during 2019.

Ponds, Boating Lake and Stream

The ponds will be managed to ensure the best water quality. Special attention should be given to monitoring water quality and quick reaction to any form of pollution.

Café

A business plan has been agreed with the successful concessionaire to map out the future of this important facility. Maintenance responsibility is set out in the terms of the lease.

Bandstand

The bandstand was fully restored and decorative lighting installed, including up-lighting to the surrounding trees. A programme of band concerts is arranged every year in summer and other important events will be centred around the bandstand.

Tennis Pavilion

The restored tennis pavilion has a number of uses, not least it provides a high standard of toilet provision, including DDA compliance and baby changing. The Ranger base is in the park, within this building along with changing areas for events and a small room for additional catering. It is recommended to create a safe vestibule area to the Ranger's office, which can also provide information about the park.

Other Buildings

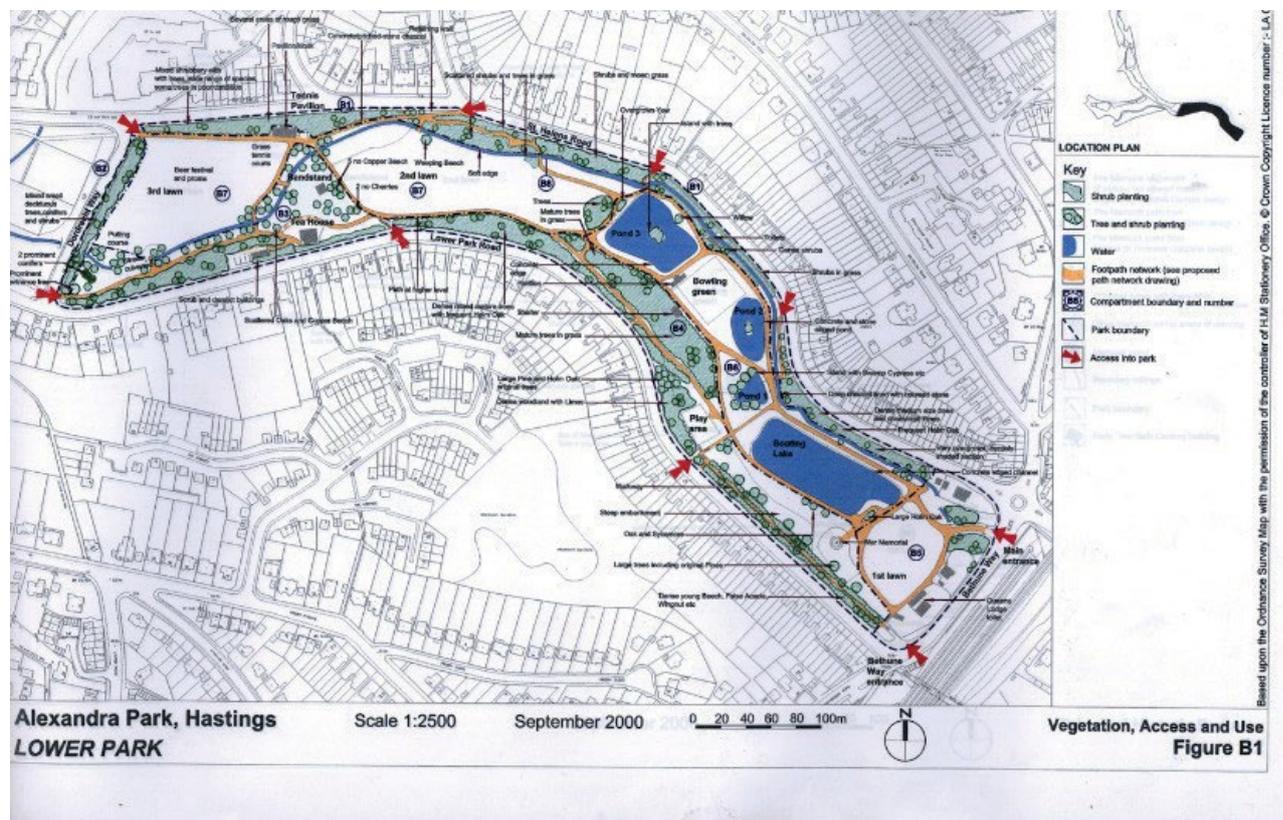
The Queens Lodge toilets at the southern end of the park were demolished. The timber shelter was restored as it was in the 1920s, but a decision was made not to re-incorporate the Georgian style windows due to maintenance implications. The shelter is now fully restored and is utilised as a community information point.

Routine Maintenance

Is dealt with in the Management Plan.

- Maintenance after events to be agreed between proprietor of events and maintenance team.
- Advise arboricultural section of tree work considered necessary.
- Monitor number of vermin in Park.
- Events lawn and Bandstand: as required renovation works comprise of feeding, aeration, topdressing and seeding in accordance with the GM specification.
- Formative pruning of shrubs in accordance with management plan and a good horticultural/heritage standard.
- A limited number of events are held within the park which are in keeping with the Grade II heritage listed status of the park.

8.3.12 Compartment Prescriptions – Lower Park



The Lower Park prescribed works

The Northern Edge

- Control dense shrub/tree regeneration to retain views.
- Clear vegetation overhanging stream

The Western Edge

- Cut back overgrown shrubs and thin trees so that individual shapes can be seen.

The South-Western Edge and Bandstand

- Maintain scrub between café and the road to retain visibility.
- Maintain existing cover of mature trees by tree works as necessary.

The Central and Eastern Edge

- Thin dense vegetation around play area and on the eastern boundary to maintain feeling of safety and vistas
- Elsewhere, maintain existing cover of mature trees by tree works as necessary.

8.4.1 Past Management

Prior to 1993, the Park was managed by a team of dedicated gardeners growing annuals and shrubs locally in Hastings for use in the park. The area along the eastern boundary of the park adjacent to St Helens Road from the Tennis Courts to the Rose Garden was nationally famous for its display of dahlias. Upper Park was managed by the direct works team, who carried out annual planting, maintained existing shrubs and trees, cleared litter, and removed obstructions in the watercourses. Repairs to hard landscape projects were carried out by outside contractors. The depot buildings were the headquarters for the maintenance and management team.

8.4.2 Current Public Use

Current public use within Upper Park is concerned with walking, dog walking, seating, tennis, picnics, informal recreation and angling.

Direct access is gained from:

- Dordrecht Way
- Lower Park Road
- Harmers Lay-by
- Vale Road
- St Helens Road
- There is access to the formal areas in the south and the woodland in the north and northwest.
- There are no parking restrictions on St. Helens Road north of the depot, which allows access for visitors arriving by car.

The particular value of the Upper Park is provided by the following attractions:

- Rose Garden
- Flower Garden
- Spring bulbs
- Watercourses
- Chalybeate Spring
- Dr McCabe's Well
- Buckshole Reservoir
- Multi Use Games Area
- Tennis Courts

There is also a steam and electric miniature railway which remains a popular attraction. It is run through a volunteer group.



Miniature Railway

8.4.3 Environmental Quality

Water pollution:

Water running from Old Roar Gill enters into the managed natural bathing water quality system (see Appendix A).

8.4.4 Access and Paths

Upper Park has good pedestrian access as indicated in Figs C1. Access for the disabled may be gained from:

- The two entrances on Dordrecht Way
- By the path from Upper Park Road
- Entrances from St Helens Road (with no parking restrictions)
- The path from Vale Road
- The entrance by Buckshole Reservoir.

Only two entrances in Upper Park include steps. Access within Upper Park is available. The paths are generally level or on shallow gradients and alternative routes are available to avoid the few steep sections.

Most of the paths follow Robert Marnock's layout. They were originally surfaced with gravel but have widened and been covered with asphalt, often without edging, but are now in good condition.

8.4.5 Vegetation Management

Grassland

Parts of the original lawns at the southern end of the Upper Park now have tennis courts, but elsewhere they survive, and a good quality short sward is essential as a foil to the planting in these areas. To the south of the stream the grassland of nature conservation interest around the covered reservoir requires forage cutting once a year. There is the opportunity to develop nature conservation interest through varied regimes. The area adjacent to the covered reservoir is of poor soil quality and supports wildflowers.

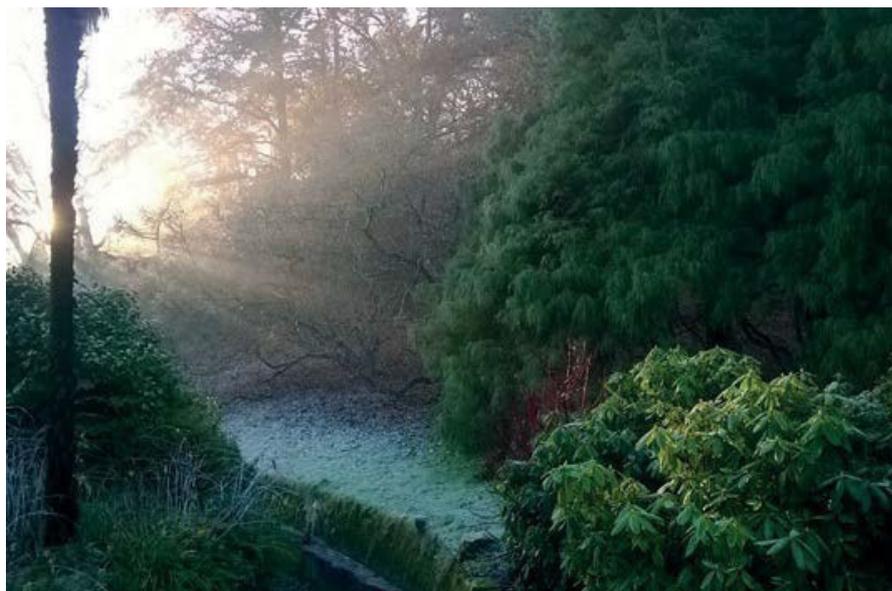
Trees and shrubs

There is considerable variation in the tree and shrub cover across Upper Park and its management requirements. The south-western and western edge of the park is dominated by very large trees as far as the covered reservoir. Here management is largely a matter of removing regeneration and unwanted or invasive species. To the north there is woodland which requires occasional thinning to develop well- formed canopy trees and the management of paths and vegetation through cutting back bramble and coppicing of the laurel and rhododendron. Immediately adjacent to St. Helen's Road, the narrow shrub borders require treatment to obtain good quality and ease of maintenance.

Gardens

The Rose Garden is subject to ad-hoc replanting according to the general health of the specimens held.

The Sub-Tropical Garden is well planted each year with conventional bedding to compliment the ever-expanding list of herbaceous perennials and ornamental shrubs. The Peace Garden occupies a 900m² area utilising sustainable planting. The remainder of the bedding is redesigned every year to be sympathetic with the perennial planting.



Frosty morning in the sub-tropical garden

8.4.6 Water Features

The banks of Buckshole Reservoir had been partially eroded by anglers; the provision of three new (2015/6) fishing swims has done much to resolve this. In addition, 2 further fishing swims were constructed during 2020.

The growth of alder around the open sides of the reservoir is removed and trees should not be planted on any part of the earth dam. The grass is maintained to high amenity standard.



Downstream of the Pumping Station, the stream is contained with a deep stone and concrete lined channel which is largely hidden from view except adjacent to the Tennis Courts. Upstream of this, the concrete-lined channel is less suited to the informal character of the park. The date of the concrete, or what preceded, are unknown. However harsh this treatment appears to be, it is necessary to retain the concrete edges in order to help prevent erosion of the channel.

8.4.7 Depot Buildings, Glasshouse, Pumping Station and Other Buildings

The depot buildings are low brick structures and are the base for the grounds maintenance operations in the park and throughout the borough. The glasshouse is currently leased to the Alexandra Park Greenhouse Group. The pumping station was a brick built Victorian building of grand appearance, with a domed glass roof. It was demolished in the 1970s and a single storey brick faced structure. Southern Water had no further use for the building. It has since been sold and runs as a cafe.

8.4.8 Chalybeate Spring and Dr McCabe's Well

The Chalybeate Spring was added to the park by Marnock. The spring supplies iron rich water from an underground spring that never changes its rate of flow. The original stonework is still in situ and has been restored. Dr McCabe's Well predates Marnock and had become overgrown and hidden but has also been restored.

8.4.9 Railings

Sections of railings have not been replaced through the restoration project, in particular from Dordrecht Way to Harmers, St Helens Road (near Buckshole) and above Buckshole. These will need to be addressed as they are in poor condition and may become a health and safety issue.

8.4.10 Objectives

Upper Park substantially retains Marnock's original design and has some outstanding parkland trees. There are twentieth century features typical of a public park with attractive contrasts between formal and informal landscapes. The overall aim for its restoration and management should be:

- to continue to restore the Park in keeping with Marnock's design but retaining early twentieth-century additions such as the tennis courts, Flower and Rose Gardens.
- to ensure that the park is a high-quality leisure space catering for contemporary needs.

To retain and restore the structure of Marnock's Park with the contrasts between woodland, parkland and more formal areas while accommodating twentieth-century features and twentieth-century planting that fits the character of the Victorian Park.

To reinforce the distinctive character of each compartment, by improving the structure of, and access to, the woodland and by adapting the Sub-tropical Garden to be a more sympathetic and sustainable garden.

To develop management practices for the areas of semi-natural vegetation such as the grassland and woodland that work with natural processes and improve amenity value and wildlife interest. To maintain and enhance the exceptional quality and variety of native and ornamental trees and to bring ornamental shrub areas into active management.

To improve the quality of all paths and create a hierarchy of routes within the woodland and informal parkland areas, and to ensure good access for the disabled.

To manage the water bodies in sympathy with the character of the compartments in which they lie but taking into account that they are a single system. Flood control measures are a priority.

To maintain good quality boundaries which contribute to the surrounding landscape,

8.4.11 Management Prescriptions

8.4.12 General Prescription and Capital Works

The following are either tasks which apply to the area as a whole or require standard elements which are given here to avoid repetition.

Education

Education will play a major role in this part of the park. The Park divides at this point towards the town centre, Silverhill and Old Roar; there is good provision for parking with Harmers Layby and free parking along St. Helens Road. This is a good start point for education/interpretation tours of the park and provided through our Ranger Service.

Survey

The Upper Park was included within the tree and topographical survey of the whole park prior to the restoration works. Within the densely planted areas, initial clearance of scrub and sycamore regeneration was carried out so that the positions of significant trees and shrubs can be accurately plotted.

Paths and Steps

The path network between Dordrecht Way and the Pumping Station has been fully reconstructed with DBM wearing course and finished with resin-bound gravel. In the remainder of the park a new wearing course was applied where necessary.

Railings

The railings were replaced on the northern edge up to the entrance to the Rose Garden. The railings along Dordrecht Way were restored to match the opposite side of the road.

Seats

Seats have been replaced with the Edwardian design found elsewhere in the park and an index of memorial seats has been prepared to control numbers and locations.

Signs

Signs and information points have been provided in key locations. They will generally be of cast iron appearance (timber in the Local Nature Reserve).

8.4.13 Compartment Prescriptions (Upper Park)

1: Buckshole Reservoir

- Control angling so as not to conflict with local residents
- Commitment to the annual engineer's report
- Cut back overhanging vegetation at northern end and maintain an open scrub woodland edge and open up fishing platforms
- Cut rough grass edge to reservoir every year, removing all arisings and remove all alder growth to banks
- Provide erosion control to upstream dam face as required
- Replace lower draw off valve at 2.8 metres depth
- Take water level readings monthly and take crest level readings annually
- Operate valves to draw off tower and topping controls twice annually
- Control vegetation on downstream dam face in order to monitor for any movement/erosion
- Check spillway for erosion or failing stonework

2: Northern Border

- Cut back shrubs as necessary to improve structure and access along path and adjacent roadside, thinning as necessary
- Inspect and raise or reduce crowns as appropriate to improve visual character and visibility
- Maintain ornamental shrubs by correct seasonal pruning as per GM specification

3: The Northern Slopes

- Regular cleaning of the channel around Dr McCabe's Well
- Maintain conifer planting
- Restructure planting to give better long-term grouping of trees by selective removal unwanted specimens and replanting as necessary

4: The Woodland

- Thin canopy trees in favour of native species to develop better form and uneven age structure, removing sycamore and other native species and leaving glades up to 15m across alongside the paths
- Coppice path-side shrubs on 10–15-year cycle and reduce dominance of Bramble
- Chalybeate Spring to be maintained by cleaning the drain and scrubbing the York stone path to avoid it being slippery

5: The Central Edge

- Remove regeneration of Sycamore, Birch etc. to improve visibility and tree form, especially adjacent to paths.
- Maintain Grassland by annual forage cutting. Mow remaining areas to parkland standard retaining areas of rough grass where appropriate.
- Carry out tree works as necessary to maintain the quality of tree cover.

6: The Covered Reservoir

- Forage cut the bank adjacent to the reservoir in late summer, ensuring that all arisings are removed. (The compound is not owned by the Council). Monitor diversity of wildflowers, especially the success of wild orchids.

7: The Southern Edge

- Remove selected ornamental planting and suppressed trees to maintain dominance of good-quality mature parkland trees.
- Identify grassland of potential nature conservation interest and cut once in later summer, removing all arisings. Mow the remaining areas to maintain a short amenity sward.
- Spot treat invasive trees and shrubs as the need arises.

8: The Sub-tropical Gardens

- Limited seasonal bedding will be retained but with more sustainable planting and to a complimentary landscape design to blend in with the Peace Garden and surrounding landscape.
- The shrubs in the border opposite the Rose Garden will be maintained to enhance the specimen trees.
- In the corner of the bedding area the scrub around the palms will be removed and the adjacent border will be trimmed to show the foliage plants and specimen trees.

9: The Tennis Courts

- The tennis courts are to be kept moss and debris free.

10: The Stream

- Elsewhere, carry out a specialist inspection of the stream channel and repair concrete and stonework as necessary.

8.4.14 Maintenance Management

The following management and maintenance operations will be carried out in accordance with the Grounds Maintenance specification:

- Monthly checks on condition of drainage, seats, footpaths, steps, railings, signs, play area, shrubs, trees and grass. Damage or vandalism to be made good as and when observed.
- Weekly checks on water features, removing obstructions and debris.
- Weekly clearance and removal from site of litter on shrub beds, lawns, ponds, stream, paths and steps.
- Dog fouling to be cleared and removed from site.
- Maintenance after events to be agreed between proprietor of events and maintenance team.
- Clearance and removal from site of leaf litter on ponds, shrub beds, lawns, paths and steps from October – February.

8.4.15 Paths

It is expected that paths will need to be resurfaced once every 15 years.

In woodland and parkland areas a 2m wide strip will be kept as regularly mown grass/herbaceous vegetation and low coppiced shrubs as appropriate. Unsurfaced paths that become heavily worn will be top-dressed with freely draining material and re-graded as appropriate.

8.4.16 Railings

Railings will be repainted on a rolling programme.

8.4.17 General Prescription and Capital Works

In the formal areas of Lower Park the grassland will be maintained as good quality amenity grassland as specified in the GM contract.

8.4.18 Trees and Shrubs

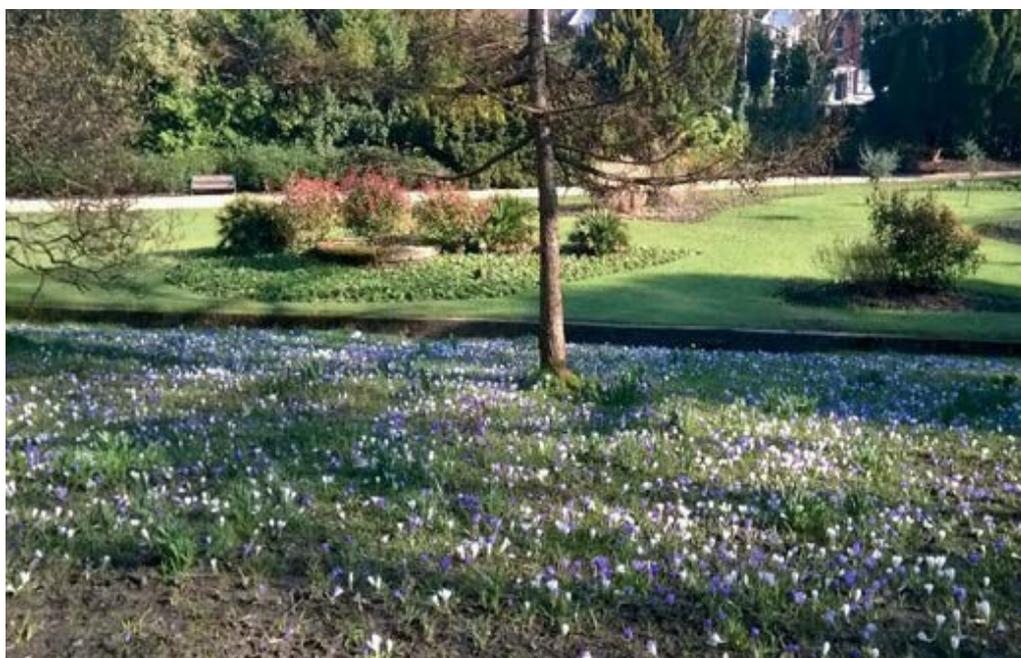
Parkland trees will be inspected 6 monthly where they surround play areas, All other trees within the park are inspected annually.

A detailed specification for ornamental shrub maintenance is incorporated into the GM Contract specification. This will include:

- Further formative pruning of overgrown plants;
- Seasonal pruning of flowering shrubs and pruning to restrict spread;
- Weeding and making up of mulch around newly- planted shrubs.

8.4.19 Woodland

The arboricultural works include thinning, coppicing and clearance of glades alongside paths. The main objective of annual maintenance will be to reduce the dominance of Brambles, and to prevent Sycamore and other inappropriate species regenerating in the more open areas.



Bank of spring crocus overlooking the sub-tropical garden

8.5 Area 3 - Shornden



8.5.1 Past and Current Management

The wood is currently managed as a semi-natural area, with the main maintenance operations being grass cutting, play area maintenance, planned and reactive tree works.

Harmers and Shornden Reservoirs were managed as areas for drinking water supply and fenced off from the public, but have now been populated by a variety of wildfowl and are rich in biodiversity.

The paths consisted of gravel paths without edging and were surfaced with an asphalt wearing course during the 1930s. A riven fence provides a boundary between the path and the reservoirs.

8.5.2 Current Public Use

Current public use within Shornden Wood is mainly walking, dog walking, children's play and fishing. Dog walking is the most popular amenity use. The route through the park is also a valuable "green corridor" route linking Silverhill to St Helens Road and the Town Centre.

8.5.3 The Reservoirs

There is no angling permitted at Shornden Reservoir; the most popular area for fishing is Harmers Reservoir, where the fishing stations have been improved, and a fully accessible swim has been provided, suitable for people with disabilities. In some areas there is dense overhanging vegetation, the Upper Stilling pond providing excellent diversity of wildlife.

At Shornden Reservoir safety measures have been taken to improve the dam, including removal of rank vegetation and providing good swards to the downstream face. Erosion control measures were incorporated on the upstream face below the concrete apron.

8.5.4 Paths

The great majority of paths within the site are those of the original Robert Marnock design. It is unlikely that the woodland paths were originally surfaced, but the other paths were surfaced with gravel and later capped with asphalt. Many of these are now in need of selective change and reinstatement, as are the woodland paths.

8.5.5 Woodland Management

The change of maintenance in recent years has allowed dense regeneration of brambles, sycamore and birch. This is also found in clearings left by the 1987 storm. However, there is a more significant challenge with the establishment of laurel, rhododendron and sycamore. It is unrealistic to manage the woodland and particularly the shrub compartment to Victorian standards; to counter the issue, a strategy has been implemented which opens up and maintains the important views and permits healthy growth of desired species. Our aim should be to encourage a diversity of understorey plants, including wildflowers and good habitats for wildlife.

8.5.6 Grassland

The areas of mown grass are of an acceptable standard. Shornden Meadow is managed to promote wildlife and is a focus for volunteer groups carrying out conservation tasks

8.5.7 Safety

Changes in contours, particularly next to steps, site-based risk assessments will identify specific hazards and the high risks mitigated through installing fencing or planting evergreen shrubs.

The Upper Park Road route has been resurfaced in 2009.

8.5.8 Management and Aims and Objectives

8.5.9 Aim

There has been little change to the overall structure and layout of Shornden Wood since the 1890s. It appears to be a woodland park with a strong design structure which is probably by Robert Marnock and restoration of the original character is compatible with present-day use for informal recreation and nature conservation. The overall aim for the compartment should therefore be the following:

Restoration of Marnock's design of an open woodland park within the constraints of intensive use for informal recreation and realistic levels of maintenance.

8.5.10 Objectives

The aim can be achieved through the following objectives:

- Identify all of the visual relationships of the elements within Marnock's design as far as is possible and carry out thinning, scrub clearance and tree works to restore these over a defined timescale.
- Maintain the restored landscape structure to ensure that its character is retained and enhanced.
- Ensure good, safe access for park users along the existing path network wherever physically possible.
- Ensure good signage and a clear hierarchy of routes, open spaces and sitting areas.
- Minimise conflict between pedestrians and cyclists by the layout of paths and tracks.
- Incorporate nature conservation measures into management of all areas, but particularly the grassland SNCI.
- Minimise risks to public health and safety by controlling vermin and ensuring safe access.
- Provide improved facilities for anglers and develop improved management of the reservoir margins.

8.5.11 Compartment Prescriptions

1: Harmers Reservoir

- Repair damage caused by anglers
- Maintain fishing swims
- Repair riven fencing as required.
- Water management
- Clearance of overhanging vegetation
- Replenish/level granular path dressings

2: Northern Edge

- Maintain new planting and carry out formative pruning as necessary.
- Cut back overgrown shrubs at eastern end to improve form and visibility. Carry out localised thinning of shrubs and trees as necessary

3: Shornden Reservoir and Catt's Brick Tank

- Carry out annual reservoir safety checks, including checks to the earth dam and spillway.
- Maintain close mown sward to dam bank, no trees or dense vegetation are permitted.

4: Central Woodland and Parkland

- Clear regeneration and cut back overgrown shrubs alongside paths.
- Carry out winter survey to plot structure of views.
- Clear regeneration and cut back shrubs from principal viewpoints. Repeat visual survey and continue clearance until original landscape structure is established.
- Thin retained younger trees in favour of parkland species.
- Remove regeneration and scrub on south side of Shornden Reservoir.
- Thin and cut back border at southern edge.
- Cut back shrubs at key viewpoints regularly (5- 10 yrs) to maintain views.
- Mow path verges where this accords with original design.
- Prevent sycamore and birch regeneration of flank and herbicide treatment as necessary.

5: Western Scrub Woodland

- Remove regeneration and scrub and re-introduce mowing.
- Incorporate parkland management into mown areas to the east.

6: Shornden Meadow

- Cut back scrub edge.
- Carry out baseline survey of grassland.
- Mow part annually in late summer, part biennially, removing all arisings in all cases.

7: Newgate Wood

- Thin woodland to produce a balance of native species, removing sycamore and other alien species where possible
- Maintain existing regime for the open areas.
- Thin and prune roadside trees as necessary for safety.
- Plant further appropriate species (Owen Johnson list)

8.6 Capital Spending Since the HLF Restoration in 2004:

- Peace Garden in the Upper Park (delivered). A small scheme in the Upper Park provides an area for peaceful relaxation. Led by a community group they secured £25k from the People and Places grant fund, enabled through BTCV, and have successfully secured a further £25K through the Round Table.
- Restoration of the Grade II listed War Memorial
 - Supported by the ex.Servicemen’s Association.
 - Includes application to the Heritage Memorial Fund.
 - Project feasibility funding awarded to draw up designs, plans and costings.
 - Funding £120k, (£23k Mayor’s charities and Ex. Servicemen Assoc. fundraising and £97k HBC capital programme).
- Bid by the Friends of Alexandra Park in support of educational and interpretational activity within Alexandra Park. £700 secured through the Round Table to fund tree labelling throughout the park.
- Multi-use games area funded by Sport England constructed north of Dordrecht Way, opened in March 2006. Cost £80k.
- Tennis courts 1/2 re-surfaced and new stop netting fence built, February/March 2006. Cost £41k.
- New pre-formed concrete ditches for the bowls green and improved access to the pavilion, October 2005– March 2006 and Winter 2007/08. Cost £34k.
- Re-surface paths from Harmers to Shornden – Summer 2008. Cost £130k.
- Reservoir safety works carried out to Buckshole and Shornden
- Reservoirs during 2008/09 valued at £220k.
- Park depot refurbishment during 2009 valued at £220k
- The Waterways Project c. £230K
- 2022 Buckshole Reservoir Safety Works



8.7 Monitoring Our Success

The following measures will be adopted to measure the park's overall success:

- Green Flag Award - Successful award 2022/23
- Green Heritage Award - Successful award 2022/23
- Green Flag Award - Successful award 2021/22
- Green Heritage Award - Successful award 2021/22
- Green Flag Award - Successful award 2020/21
- Green Flag Heritage Award - Successful award 2020/21
- Green Flag Award - Successful award 2019/20
- Green Flag Heritage Award - Successful award 2019/20
- Green Flag Award - Successful award 2018/19
- Green Flag Heritage Award - Successful award 2018/19
- Green Flag Award - Successful award 2017/18
- Green Flag Heritage Award - Successful award 2017/18
- Green Flag Award – Successful award 2016/17
- Green Flag Heritage Award – Successful award 2016/17
- Green Flag Award – Successful award 2015/16
- Green Flag Heritage Award –Successful award 2015/16
- Green Flag Award – Successful award 2014/15
- Green Flag Heritage Award – Successful award 2014/15
- Green Flag Award – successful award 2013/14
- Green Flag Heritage Award – Successful award 2013/14
- Green Flag Award – successful award 2012/13
- Green Heritage Award – Successful award 2012/13
- Best Park Award – Regional award 2006/7 and 2007/08 (unsuccessful in 2008)
- BALI Landscape Management Award - 2008
- Customer satisfaction – Citizens Panel 87.7 % satisfaction rating

POLICIES AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN



Policies and Annual Action Plan

Policy	Actions	2025	2026	2027	2028
Commit to continual improvement	1. Review and confirm future available funding	Y			
Enter Green Flag Award	1. Enter Alexandra Park	Y			
Enter Green Heritage Award	2. Enter Alexandra Park	Y			
A welcoming place	1. Ensure all entrances are kept free of encroaching vegetation. General tree maintenance, where appropriate.	Y			
	2. Ensure all entrances and interpretation signs are clearly legible, updated and cleaned as part of the quarterly inspection.	Y			
	3. Bethune Way entrance to be improved with new planting and tree removal.		Y		
	4. Continue to provide parking space for blue badge holders at Lower Park.	Y			
	5. Assess and improve access pathways through the park where required.	Y			
	6. Carry out assessment and works to maintain clear views and vistas into the park from the roadside.	Y			
Healthy, safe and secure	1. Council managers will determine priorities for access improvements based on practicability.		Y		
	2. Undertake quarterly health & safety risk assessment review.	Y			
	3. Carry out reactive work to address issues raised in H&S risk assessments.	Y			
Clean and well maintained	1. Repaint and repair railings – identify areas most in need.	Y			
	2. Repaint, repair and replace bins as required.		Y		
	3. Carry out full quality and monitoring of the park features 4 times a year.		Y		
	4. Carry out calendared tasks associated with new waterway management plan.	Y			

Policy	Actions	2025	2026	2027	2028
Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Program of plant division and cultivation for the park. 2. Create new and extend existing nectar rich annual flower areas for biodiversity and public interest. 		Y Y		
Conservation and Heritage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue maintenance schedule of structures/buildings with appropriate materials and colour schemes. 2. Use of heritage materials and furniture designs in keeping with the park. 3. Re-write conservation and heritage plan. 	Y Y Y			
Community Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise and support a variety of activities through the council's Sports Development and Events Team. 2. Attend scheduled meetings with Friends of Alexandra Park and the Greenhouse Group. 3. Co-ordinate community and volunteer planting and conservation work task day. 4. Produce online interpretive materials explaining the waterways management of the park. Produce online interpretative materials relating to the cultural heritage of the park to widen people's appreciation of the site. 	Y Y Y	Y		
Marketing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Website to be updated with links to other relevant websites/activities. 2. Promote the park and items of associated interest on social media. 3. Update and re-deign visitor information leaflet. 	Y Y	Y		
Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rewrite of management and conservation plans. 2. Explore linking physical play activities, therefore increasing the play value within the park. 3. The council will continue to support all activities in the park, which promote healthier living. 4. Review inhouse operational services risk assessments annually. 	Y Y Y Y	Y		

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Index of reference points supporting the plan:

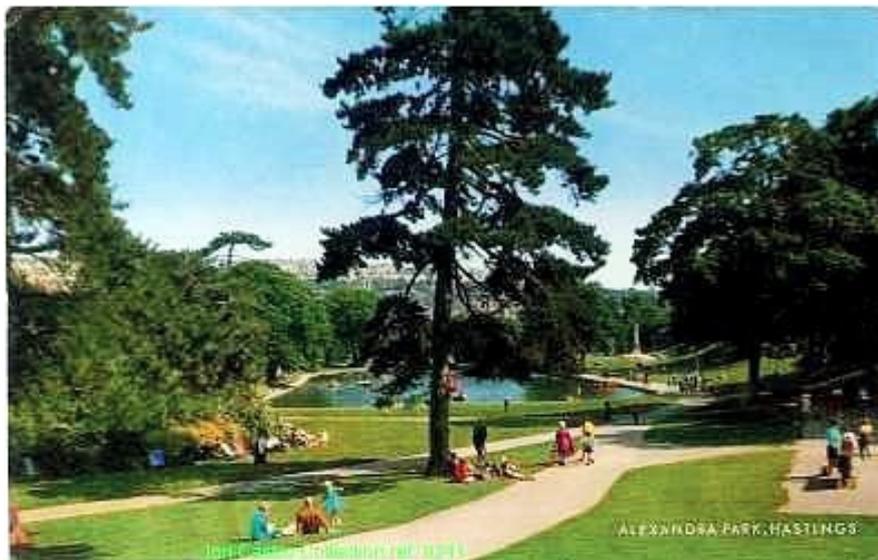
- Grounds Maintenance specification, available on request.
- Management of Old Roar Ghyll and Coronation Wood Local Nature Reserve: [Old Roar Gill and Ancient Woodland report - March 2024 draft](#)
- A comprehensive library of documents support the management of Alexandra Park.

Review:

This management plan will be reviewed annually with reference to the Green Flag Judges' feedback.

The last Green Flag entry made by Hastings Borough Council was for 2023, to account for a settling in period as ground's maintenance was taken back as an inhouse service in November 2023.

The judge's mystery shop feedback for 2023 is provided below.





SITE QUALITY EVALUATION (Mystery Shop)

Name of Site	Alexandra Park
Managing Organisation	Hastings borough council
Date of Assessment	29.7.23
Time (from – to)	Click or tap here to enter text
Weather conditions	Sunny

OVERALL RESULT	<p>Green – Meets the standard with no concerns raised</p> <p>Amber – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern</p> <p>Red – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified</p>
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Green	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT	
Grading	Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.
Strengths and recommendations	<p>Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading.</p> <p>Photographs are also included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p>

A Welcoming Place				
1. Is the site welcoming?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Beautiful entrances with stunning views, grand signs and sense of arrival				
2. Is the site easy to find?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Prominent on the landscape				
3. Is signage in good condition?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Very and design great for the nature of this park				
4. Is the site accessible to all users?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:				
Healthy, Safe and Secure				
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Didn't see any concerns across the site. Lots of features and some (like the damaged tree) damaged but not unsafe				
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Very busy day and filled with fun and happiness				
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:				
Well Maintained and Clean				
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: Few bits around the whole of the site. All looks fresh and new and didn't find a grot spot. work needed to remove it from water bodies as really stands out in these feature areas.				
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments: There are lots of horticultural features within this park and the quality of maintenance within these areas was not great. Poor border edging, a lot of weed cover so much so that the shrub borders are being lost under weeds when you look at the % cover. Weeds in floor spaces where it's a horticultural area also. This section is what has pushed the overall score to Amber as it is in a state of decline and needs improving				
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: One dead new tree – but lots of new trees all alive, one tree limb dropped but safe and is fresh for work pending				
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:				
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:				
Environmental Management				
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment and biodiversity.	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Water bodies with the floating islands are amazing. Areas like the wet wood and areas not mown all working towards nature				
Landscape and Heritage				
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: Lots of features and in good condition as an overall. Work on the lake and algae needed.

Community Involvement

15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: Lots of notice boards and art area and community café space

16. Is user feedback positive?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: So many people in the are all having an amazing time.

Marketing and Communication

17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media.	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	NG	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Final comments:



beautiful welcome signs



Beautiful historical feature



beautiful landscape



beautiful art feature within one of the lakes, work on the algae in the lake needed and litter removal needed.



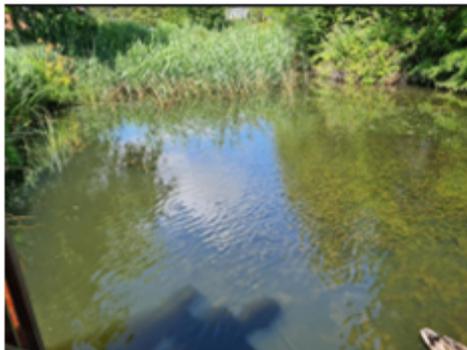
Great historical information sign



Great floating islands and more evidence of algae management needed



Community spaces



Beautiful, clear pond, some weed intervention will be needed in near future as the ducks were walking on the top of it. Filled with fish



Algae evidence but actually a picture of the really busy play area. Sorry its so far away but so full of kids not appropriate to take up close. Great play value within here and families having so much fun



Weeds taking over this area



Historical info showed within the border



More weeds within the borders taking over the [spaces](#)



Beautiful cared for historical [feature](#)



This ~~hort~~ feature maintained really well as a [space](#)



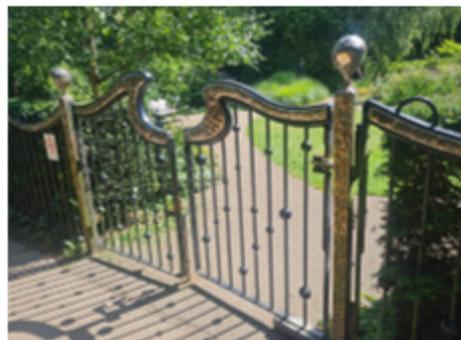
Lovely miniature railway and beautifully maintained



hot feature but weeds all around the outside on the floor detract from the main feature re standards



Another water body of the reservoir as a stunning feature and well maintained



Stunning features within the peace garden well cared for



Dead tree



Split tree made safe



Community tennis event that was so ~~so~~ busy, not appropriate for a photo but really great scheme that the community loved and valued



Formal rose garden, poor edging and lots of weeds within the beds across the whole of this area.

APPENDIX A WATERWAYS PROJECT

In order to create new habitats and cleaner water in Alexandra Park, we have changed the way our Victorian ponds and stream function.

How we found the problem:

Alexandra Park is a major Victorian heritage park in the middle of the urban area of Hastings. Our problems arose when we discovered that dirty and contaminated water was flowing into the park from surrounding dwellings in the area. Our problems were compounded by the fact the contaminated water did not stay in the park. It flowed into a culvert which took it under the main town and then discharged from a pipe on the main tourist beach. This meant it was potentially affecting the quality of our bathing water and tourism. This was clearly unacceptable, so we set about finding a solution.

Finding a solution:

In 2014 we teamed up with the Environment Agency and Southern Water to identify and fix the household mis connections. This stopped contaminated water coming into the park from surrounding houses. We then needed to have a solution to clean up any water that was flowing through the park. Our objectives for our project and future management were simple. Find natural (not technological) solutions using nature as a natural filter; provide better and more diverse habitats; provide opportunities to increase biodiversity and provide a natural interest to the water features for park users.

How the ponds in Alexandra Park work

Alexandra Park has a gill stream running from the top of the park into a series of catchment ponds, feeding a reservoir, a canalised stream and a series of ornamental ponds, ending in a concrete boating lake. The water then flows into a culvert, under the town and is discharged at the sea.

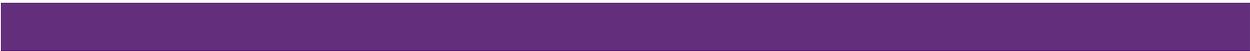
So, what did we do?

Solving the Silt

We started at the top. We cleared vegetation around the catchment ponds to let more sunlight and UV light into the system, thereby helping break down harmful bacteria. We created a series of silt traps and deltas to allow water to flow evenly across a wider surface area. This allowed more silt to be trapped and increased the surface area of water exposed to sunlight and UV rays. By having silt spread more evenly across the ponds there was greater opportunities for vegetation to take hold, thereby creating a further cleaning mechanism. We removed fish from the top catchment ponds to prevent them stirring up silt which we knew carried contaminants through the system.

Slowing the stream down

We then set to work on the stream that runs through the park. This is an old concrete sided and concrete bottomed channel where plants had no opportunity to take hold. We introduced large coir rolls with native plants growing in them. This slowed the water down, creating more opportunities for silt to get trapped and for oxygen to become dissolved into the water. When



the plants grew, their roots provided a natural filtration of the water and the native plants provided a dense habitat in the stream for the first time.

Floating islands

The next stage was our most ambitious. There are four ornamental ponds at the bottom of the park, including a concrete boating lake. We installed a series of floating islands in the ponds. These work on the same principle as the coir mats in the stream, only they are on floating structures in various positions in the ponds. They are islands of native flora whose roots dangle under water to provide a filtering and cleaning mechanism for any contaminants in the water. We also introduced pond side vegetation to soften the banks of the ponds and provide bank side habitats.

Aeration Pump

In one of the ponds we installed an aeration pump to push the water around the floating islands. This prevented the water becoming stagnant and increased the water flowing through the plant roots. As the ponds were in a series, one after the other, we broke out channels between them to again aerate the water and allow it to flow through newly planted vegetation.

What has this succeeded in doing?

We have improved water quality, increased biodiversity, provided a natural mechanism to break down harmful bacteria, provided spectacular habitats for park users to enjoy and ensured we have clean water flowing from our park onto our beaches. This is an ongoing and long-term project. We need to ensure the system continues to provide clean water. Maintaining the newly created habitats and monitoring their function will be an ongoing commitment for the council.

The Alexandra Park Bathing Water Management Plan is available to download:

https://www.hastings.gov.uk/parks_gardens_allotments/sustainability/aplan



APPENDIX B CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PLAN

The council's management, heritage and conservation plans demonstrate our commitment to maintaining our parks. We aim to provide a wide range of horticultural, arboricultural, heritage, conservation, wildlife interest, recreational and play facilities to meet the need of the local community and visitors.

The Conservation and Restoration Plan is available to download:

[Executive Summary](#)

APPENDIX C BUCKSHOLE RESERVOIR SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Works were completed in 2022 at Buckshole Reservoir to ensure that the reservoir meets the Environment Agency identified safety standards.

A new spillway channel following the route of the existing channel was constructed to protect the dam from larger predicted flood events in the future and a new outlet pipe was installed.

Significant landscaping works were undertaken, which included replacement of removed trees, new planting and reinstatement of grass areas.

Details of the work can be found here: [Buckshole Reservoir works complete](#)

