



# Poolsbrook Country Park Management Plan 2020-2025



**CHESTERFIELD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Greenspaces Section Environmental Services,  
Chesterfield Borough Council  
Old Brickworks Lane,  
Chesterfield, S41 7LF**

Management Plan 2020 - 2025

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## Foreword

As a councillor and executive member for the environment for Chesterfield Borough Council, I am pleased to be given the opportunity to say a few words about the park and our application for Green Flag.

The park was the second country park to be created in the borough during the early 1990's following opencast coal extraction. Since its early beginnings it has grown into a popular venue for visitors both local and from afar to come and enjoy the many varied facilities and activities available.

These range from a warm friendly café, multi-use play areas, lakeside views, fishing, walks and wildlife protections areas.

Also in recent years the development of a caravan site has truly put Poolsbrook Country Park on the map.

To crown it all a survey carried out this summer has shown that 99% of the visitors to the park were satisfied with the park and its facilities.

My appreciation and thanks goes out to all those people who have been involved either as interested members of the public or the friends group who have helped to achieve this overwhelming praise for the park.

With the various ongoing projects and actions set out in the plan for the future I feel assured that the park reaches the highest standards required now and in the future that a discerning public look for and all those required by the Green Flag awarding body.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved workers, individuals, organisations and professionals who have enabled this management plan to be put together.



***Cllr Jill Mannion-Brunt. Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing***

## Introduction

The management plan is written in four sections.

The first section looks at the current management of the park which details the many different aspects of the park and what is involved in the maintenance and management of a large country park. In this section one can clearly see all the numerous and sometimes conflicting activities that go on in the park. All of which require careful management to ensure the smooth running of the park.

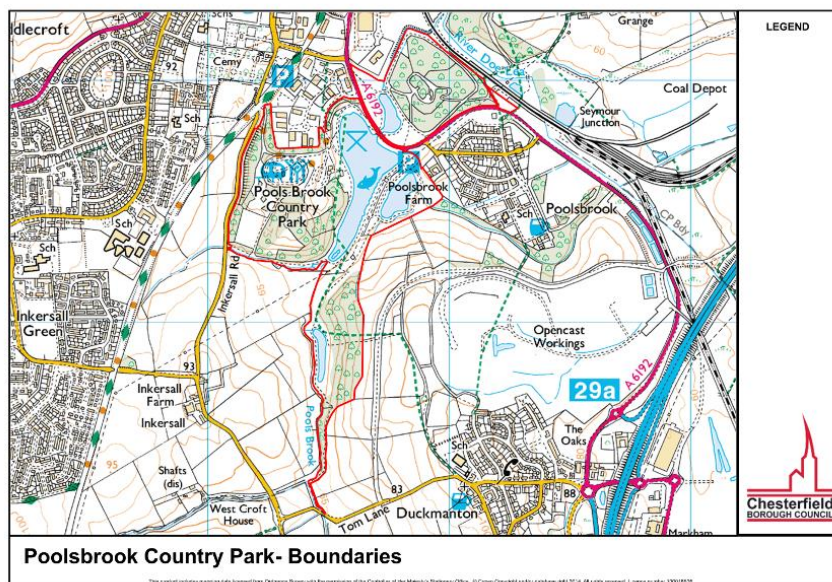
The second section – The Way Forward looks at the strengths and weaknesses of the park. In this section the park is described using the green flag criteria. Under each heading the current approach/action is discussed and where appropriate an indication is given of how we are meeting the criteria and what needs to be done to improve on it to meet the requirements.

The third section - The Action Plan, here is where to find the work and timescales set out that builds upon the discussion in the way forward and presents to the reader what is required to maintain the high standards in the park and achieve green flag status.

The fourth section – The Achievement of Objectives is a list that provides details of how we can measure our success overtime via the measures set out in the action plan and discussions with our partners and stakeholders.

The last section sets out where Chesterfield sits within the broad context of national policy on greenspaces, and the local aspects within which come the challenges the council faces on a daily basis in providing high quality parks and greenspaces to the public of Chesterfield. It is under this umbrella of policies, procedures and strategies laid down by government and the council that the parks and greenspaces are managed.





## 1.0 Current Management

### 1.1 Site Name

**Poolsbrook Country Park.**

### 1.2 Site Introduction

Poolsbrook Country Park is one of two country parks owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council. The park was created during the 1990s and it is the largest recreation facility in the borough of Chesterfield.

The old spoil tips of the former Ireland Colliery were landscaped to mimic a natural landform of a lake/river valley, which was subsequently planted with trees and wildflower seed.



The park is a popular venue for play, angling, horse riding, caravanning and walking. Local people value the site for the extensive footpath network, wildlife habitats and children’s play facility.

### 1.3 Site Location

The park is situated on the eastern fringe of the borough of Chesterfield with a central grid reference of SK436767. Vehicles can reach the park from Junction 29A of the M1 or from the A617 Chesterfield to Worksop road. The main entrances for the site are on Pavilion Drive and Erin Road.

## 1.4 Site Description

Poolsbrook Country Park extends to 165 acres and lies between the town of Staveley and the villages of Poolsbrook, Duckmanton and Woodthorpe.

The park consists of new plantations, mature woodland, species-rich wildflower meadows, lakes, ponds and visitor facilities including play areas and a visitor centre.

Poolsbrook Country Park occupies a man-made wooded valley centred on Markham Lake and two smaller water bodies lying between 50 and 100 metres above sea level.

The watercourse Pools Brook enters the park at its southern fringe before flowing into Markham Lake. The watercourse then reforms at the outflow of Markham lake heading north to the confluence of the Pools Brook with the River Doe Lea.

Poolsbrook Country Park lies within a landscape typical of the Derbyshire Coalfield area, which consists of mixed agricultural land, former heavy industrial sites, new light industrial estates, commercial units and housing estates.

## 1.5 Political Representation

The park lies within the borough council ward of Poolsbrook and Middlecroft. This is currently represented by the Labour Party's Cllr Chris Ludlow and Cllr Barry Dyke.

The lead member for the Health and Wellbeing is Cllr Jill Mannion Brunt and the lead member for Leisure is Cllr Amanda Serjeant.

The Derbyshire County Councillor for the area is Cllr John Williams who represents the Labour Party. Cllr Williams is Shadow Cabinet Member for Regeneration as well as a member of the county council's Finance, Management and Regeneration Improvement and Scrutiny Committee.

The entire park lies within the parliamentary constituency of Chesterfield, which is currently represented by Toby Perkins MP of the Labour Party.

## 1.6 Legal Considerations

### 1.6.1 Tenure

The site is owned in its entirety by Chesterfield Borough Council.

## **1.6.2 Designations**

There are no statutory designations for the park but the park is designated under the council's local plan.

An area of species-rich grassland and riparian woodland on the southern limit of the park is designated as a County Wildlife Site under policies EVR4 & EVR5 due to its conservation importance.

Pools Brook Flash consists of a small area of reed and swamp at the north east point of the park, which is also designated as a County Wildlife Site.

The Pools Brook watercourse is subject to policy EVR13 of the local plan, which protects river and canal corridors.

## **1.6.3 Licenses & Leaseholds**

A lease over parts of the pavilion for the operation of a café facility and associated activities is held by two local people.

Poolsbrook Angling Club holds a 25-year license for exercising coarse fishing rights on Markham Lake, Ireland Pond and St John's Pond.

The Caravan Club lease a large area of land within the north east corner of the park, which is occupied by a caravan site. The long-term lease attracts a gross fee of £217,000.

## **1.6.4 Byelaws**

Byelaws for all council owned parks and greenspaces are currently under review although none currently apply to Poolsbrook Country Park as the byelaws pre-date the park's creation.

## **1.6.5 Public Rights of Way and Access Arrangements**

A public footpath enters the park on the east side of the nature reserve area, which then heads north through the site. The definitive line of the public right of way has not been altered since the reclamation of the site from coal extraction as the route passes through the centre of the lake.

The borough council provides a number of concessionary bridleways and footpaths around the site. Informal open access is encouraged throughout the site.

Vehicle access to the park is restricted during the hours of darkness with car park gates locking at the varying times of dusk throughout the year. The locking and unlocking of gates is undertaken by a security contractor.

## 1.7 History of the park

Poolsbrook Country Park was created from the site of the former Ireland Colliery and associated pit tips.

Before the sinking of the colliery shafts and the construction of the colliery buildings the area consisted of farmland set in an essentially rural landscape.

The spoil heaps of the former Ireland Colliery were reclaimed by Derbyshire County Council during the early 1990s with European development funding. The ownership and management of the park was transferred to

Chesterfield Borough Council in 1997 who invested a significant sum in adding infrastructure such as the pavilion and tarmac roads at the time. The park was officially opened in July 1999.



## 1.8 Natural Environment Management

### 1.8.1 Landscape and Ecological Value of the Park

The park is a significant landscape component, acting as a buffer between urban housing, industrial sites and refuse tips and the surrounding countryside.

The trees within the woodland plantations are beginning to attain a height necessary to screen neighbouring industrial units and housing. As the planting within the park matures it is envisaged that the local landscape will develop an increasingly natural appearance and the visual impact of the industrial sites will lessen.

The two high-voltage electricity pylons present within the park, and the lines they support, are landscape detractors.

Poolsbrook Country Park's high ecological value can be attributed the extent and diversity of habitats present on the site.

The large open water bodies of Markham Lake, St John's Pond and Ireland Pond are central landscape features of the park. These water bodies are valued for their coarse fisheries and contain a variety of coarse fish species including common carp, roach, perch, tench and bream.

Unfortunately the margins and banks of Markham Lake and St John's Pond are quite steep and, as such, little emergent vegetation has established around the fringe of these waterbodies.



Markham Lake is frequented by wildfowl including Mallard, Canada geese, Great crested grebe, mute swan, coot and moorhen.

The watercourse Pools Brook provides an important aquatic habitat frequented by water voles. Pools Brook enters an area of wet woodland, which is a scarce habitat across the county, before flowing into Markham Lake.

Woodland is an obvious and significant habitat in the park. This habitat includes semi-natural riparian woodland along the Pools Brook and large, mixed plantations of native broadleaves and exotic conifers and broadleaves associated with the reclamation of the former colliery spoil tips.

The current age, density and species composition of the plantations are ideally suited to certain resident and migratory birds.

The southern section of the park is designated as a county wildlife site under planning policy and incorporates the Pools Brook, wet riparian woodland, a large pond and several acres of species rich semi-natural grassland. The grassland in this area is in prime ecological condition and features a diverse community of ground flora.

The Derbyshire Red Data Book species Pepper-saxifrage was recorded within the grassland in 1999 but has not been noted since.

A small area of lowland swamp can be found in the north east corner of the park, which also forms part of a designated county wildlife site. Common reed and reedmace dominate this area, important for its ornithological interest, specifically for breeding marshland birds including water rail and little grebe.

The park is a significant component in the local landscape and links to other ecologically importance sites through the riparian network of the River Doe Lea catchment area.

*(See Appendix 2- Species List)*

## **1.8.2 Funding for Environmental Management**

The Environmental Services Section secured a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England in 2010. This grant scheme provides funding for targeted conservation work on the borough council's country parks and nature reserves in addition to funding through annual budgets. The current HLS agreement has been extended to 2022.

The HLS grant contributes towards five hectares of grassland management and three hundred and fifty metres of hedgerow restoration within Poolsbrook Country Park.

### 1.8.3 Tree and Woodland Management

The park's tree cover consists of semi-natural broadleaved riparian woodland, recent mixed plantations, species rich hedgerows and hedgerow trees.



The riparian area of wet, semi-natural broadleaved woodland that encloses the southern section of Pools Brook consists of an upper canopy of crack willow and common alder. The ground flora in this area features common nettle, great willowherb, wild Angelica and meadowsweet. The woodland contains species that place it within W6 of the National Vegetation Classification system.

This area of woodland is designated as a County Wildlife Site and is surveyed periodically by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust under a service level agreement with the borough council.

Following the reclamation of the site from the former coal mining operation a whole site landscape restoration scheme was implemented including the establishment various plantations and hedges, planted for landscape improvement and wildlife.

Species planted include natives such as Common Alder, Pendunculate Oak, Silver Birch, Rowan, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly and Common Ash along with other species such as Scots Pine, European Larch, Norway Maple, Silver Maple, Common Lime.

Alder was included in the planting mix for its nitrogen fixing qualities to improve the impoverished soils of the former colliery tips.

Planting sites were ploughed, using a winged tine, to create a ridge and furrow for planting and to aid drainage. Planting was undertaken in blocks designed to imitate the shape of natural woodland and the plantations are now undergoing first selective thinning.

The thinning policy is to favour well formed, wind firm stems whilst retaining a diverse species mix of natives and exotics. There is the potential to grow good quality timber trees from the current crop.

Resultant stumps from thinning operations are allowed to regrow to provide an understorey. Stumps may be treated with herbicide or extracted where there is a specific reason for this.

Existing dead wood, whether in the form of lying branches, standing dead stems or attached aerial branches, is retained where it is safe to do so to provide micro-habitats for invertebrates.

Arising brash, cordwood and timber is either processed and sold as firewood to the public, utilised in projects within the park, chipped and removed to the borough council's nursery for storage and reuse as low grade amenity shrub mulch or left as dead wood where safe and appropriate.

Tree and woodland management is undertaken by park Greenspace officers and outside contractors.

*(See Woodland Map- Appendix 1)*

### **1.8.4 Tree Safety**

The tree stock within the park is routinely inspected by greenspaces officers, trained and qualified in arboriculture and forestry.

Trees along main access routes, adjacent to buildings and around other areas of high public use are inspected bi-annually in accordance with the tree survey risk assessment (see Appendix 5).

Individual trees are assessed for safety using the Visual Tree Assessment method and pruning or felling prescribed based on the evidence of visible significant defects and the location of the tree.

The park Greenspace teams report obvious hazards to the greenspaces officers for action by an arboricultural contractor or will make safe trees themselves where they are able to do so.

### **1.8.5 Hedgerow Management**

Several hedgerows can be found within the park. One of the hedges separates Markham Lake from Ireland Pond and extends to three hundred and fifty metres. Another hedge extends to eighty metres and is located on the nature reserve area to the southern tip of Markham Lake.

Both hedges were planted when the park was reclaimed from colliery tips and have recently been laid, using the traditional Derbyshire method, by the park ranger staff under the Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

A further, long hedge marks the boundary of the park with Inkersall Road.



*(See Hedgerow Map- Appendix 1)*

### **1.8.6 Conservation Grassland Management**

Poolsbrook Country Park's nature reserve area includes two meadows of botanical interest, which fit within the National Vegetation Classification System group MG5 for species-rich grassland. The former 'ski slope' to the south of the pavilion is being converted to species-rich grassland.

The species rich grassland was tested for nutrient content prior to entry into Natural England's Environmental Stewardship (Higher Level) Scheme. The grassland is managed by cutting after 1st of August, baling and removing. Wildflower seed has been broadcast on certain fields followed by chain harrowing to improve the botanical interest.

An early spring cut and removal of cuttings is occasionally undertaken on certain fields.

At present conservation grassland management is carried out by an external contractor. There is potential to introduce seasonal grazing within the nature reserve paddock.

*(See Species-rich Grassland Map- Appendix 1)*

### **1.8.7 Lake and Watercourse and Management**

The character of Poolsbrook Country Park is defined by the three lakes and ponds that are central to the park.

Markham Lake is the most significant waterbody on the site covering 16.2 acres. Markham Lake benefits from angling platforms on the eastern and northern banks to facilitate coarse fishing, which are maintained by Poolsbrook Angling Club. The lake is also popular with visitors interested in ornithology, general relaxation and 'feeding the ducks'.



Markham Lake and the southern dam wall are periodically inspected under the Reservoirs Act.

The man made nature of the lake, artificial structure of the banks and size of the surface area results in problems with localised erosion of the bank sides. Stone and timber bank reinforcements have been created over recent years to prevent further erosion although more work is required on the western bank of the lake.

Markham Lakes features a small island to its southern reaches, adjacent to the inflow of the Pools Brook. The island is dominated by a stand of crack willow trees and is gradually eroding away from the effects of the Pools Brook inflow. The erosion is exacerbated by the grazing of bank side vegetation by wildfowl, exposing the island's soil.

The island is valued by the local visitors to the park as a nesting place for birds but is limited in conservation value being dominated by Canada Geese and escaped domestic fowl.

A small settling pond is located adjacent to the Markham Lake inflow, which acts as a silt trap for water feeding from a drainage ditch into Pools Brook.

The northern outflow of Markham Lake passes under the Erin Road bridge and into St John's Pond. St John's Pond covers two acres and has steep bank sides along with weirs at the inflow and outflow. Consequently the pond is of little value for wildlife but is utilised for coarse angling.

Ireland Pond is situated to the eastern side of the park, adjacent to Poolsbrook Farm, and extends to three and a half acres. This pond is fed by grips draining from plantations and meadows within the park. The broad, shallow banks and lower inflow and outflow of water has allowed more emergent vegetation to establish on the pond.

The conditions in Ireland Pond are ideal for carp and the angling club reserves the pond for this type of coarse angling. The angling club have installed two floating islands within the pond to act as refuges for fish fry from cormorants and grebes.

The borough council works with the angling club to ensure structures such as angling platforms are maintained to a suitable standard and bank side vegetation is appropriately managed. The Environment Agency provides advice on fishery management to the council and the angling club. Fish species include tench, bream and some very large specimens of carp.

The nature reserve area on the southern tip of the park features a pond of around one and a half acres, known as the Nature Lake. This pond has diverse marginal and emergent vegetation.

*(See Appendix 2- Species List)*

This pond is not used for angling but is managed for its conservation value.

### **1.8.8 Water Safety**

Swimming is not permitted in the lake.

Signage warning that swimming is not permitted is installed at three points around the lake.

The Greenspace officers who undertake work to the water body are able to swim and are trained in small boat handling.

Low-impact watersports, such as kayaking, are permitted when organised groups pre-book the use of Markham Lake. There currently no facilities for the public to take part in watersports on an individual basis. (All water sports activities are only permitted when water quality testing approves this. 2021 quality testing did not allow any activities to take place.)

An open water risk element is addressed in the site risk assessment. *(See Appendix 3)*

### **1.8.9 Ecological Monitoring**

Ecological monitoring is undertaken by the greenspaces unit and Natural England to gauge the effectiveness of the grassland management under HLS.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust undertakes periodic ecological assessments of the County Wildlife Sites areas under a service level agreement with the borough council's planning department. There is also



a committed body of conservation volunteers who carry out butterfly transects surveys as well as bird surveys and occasional bird ringing

## 1.9 Recreation and Amenity Management

### 1.9.1 Current Recreational Uses

Poolsbrook Country Park is an important centre for recreation and exercise for the local community.



The park is popular with walkers, cyclists and equestrians for the extensive path network and links to the Trans-Pennine Trail and wider countryside.

Angling is an important activity on the park and is run by a well-organised resident angling club  
Ornithologists and those with a general interest in natural history value the park for the diversity of habitats and the range of wildlife to be seen.

An orienteering course is established within the park and is used by individuals and groups.

The park is used as a venue for events run by external groups or the Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park. The pavilion building includes a community room, which is hired by various groups for courses, meetings and activities.

### 1.9.2 Amenity Grounds Maintenance

Amenity grassland within the car park areas are mown once fortnightly during the growing season by the area grounds maintenance team subject to the weather conditions. Arising cuttings are not removed.

Grass that flanks the edges of the paths and bridle tracks around the site is cut once fortnightly by the greenspaces service using a tractor mounted flail. The grass around litter bins, benches and signage is strimmed as part of the same operation.

All mowing within the park will be the responsibility of the greenspaces service, except HLS designated areas which are mown using contractors.

### **1.9.3 Sports Development**

The strategic leisure section is working towards the completion of a long-term leisure development plan for the borough.

Poolsbrook Country Park is likely to be a significant hub for leisure activities, in particular cycling and walking. There is an active Park Run event each Saturday which includes up to 300 participants. The leisure development plan will promote these activities.

### **1.9.4 Events Booking and Allocation**

Externally organised events, activities and room bookings are subject to council approved fees and charges, which are agreed annually. Prospective organisers of events in the park must submit an application form for consideration and, in the case of large events, a specific event plan.

The Parks Development Officer, within the Greenspaces unit, is responsible for event bookings.

### **1.9.5 Angling Facilities**

The angling rights on Markham Lake, Ireland Pond and St John's (Jack's) Pond are leased to Poolsbrook Angling Club on a twenty-five year license. The angling club maintains the pegs on the waterbodies.

The club has approximately four hundred and eighty full members and also issues day tickets to visiting anglers, which are purchased from a local angling shop.

Poolsbrook Angling Club provides voluntary bailiffs who check permits and rod licences. The bailiffs also enforce club rules, litter pick and prevent misuse of the lake and ponds.

Markham Lake and St John's Pond are stocked with tench, bream, roach and perch whereas Ireland Pond is largely reserved for carp.

The club are proactive in obtaining grant aid for projects.

### **1.9.6 Play Facilities Development**

In the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Poolsbrook Country Park is classified as a Borough Park and as such is seen as a destination site where a range of facilities' to meet the needs of all sections of the community should be provided.

The existing play equipment was installed over two stages. The original play area was installed around the time of the pavilion construction and features play equipment of the style of the time. The original play area cost in the region of £50,000.

In 2010 the Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park secured funding from Biffa, Viridor and Derbyshire County Council for the construction of a play area with equipment suitable for toddlers.

Chesterfield Borough Council ran a scheme in parallel for the creation of a play area designed for older children and young teenagers. This scheme was funded through the Big Lottery awards scheme and through a Viridor grant.

All the play areas are extremely popular with the public and are well-used during weekends and school holidays.



### **1.9.7 Visitor Services and Information**

A key role of the greenspace service is interaction with visitors to the park. This includes the provision of visitor information, patrolling, supporting events.

The existing interpretation for the park consists of one information panel on the side of the pavilion. This information panel features a basic graphic map of the site and limited visitor information. Additional signage displaying the seasonal locking times for the car parks is installed in prominent positions.

There is currently no specific leaflet on the park in print.

The pavilion has great potential for the improvement of visitor services. The entrance lobby leads to the café, community rooms and the park ranger office. There is scope to create an attractive information point for visitors.

A master plan for the park was commissioned in 2006 and was undertaken by the consultancy TEP. The master plan was informed by visitor surveys and the document has been referred to in completing this management plan.

### **1.9.8 Refreshment Facilities**

The café currently operates 7 days a week if the weather permits. Increasing use of the park for recreational walking and other pastimes has made opening the café for longer periods more viable. Concessionary stalls are also permitted for events.

### **1.9.9 Car Parking**

Car parking is currently available off Pavilion Drive, to the west of Markham Lake, and off Erin Road to the east.

The Pavilion car park will accommodate up to fifty ordinary cars. There is designated parking for up to three horse boxes/transporters. This is signposted.

The Erin Road (Anglers) car park will accommodate up to forty vehicles. Horse transporters are not permitted to use this car park.

Access to both car parks is controlled by gates, which are locked at dusk throughout the year, with locking times displayed on specially designed signage.

There is also a car park on Inkersall Road, which although open has to close on occasion due to deter fly tipping and non-permitted car meets.

### **1.9.10 Caravan Site**

In 2007 the Caravan Club agreed a long-term lease with Chesterfield Borough Council for the development of a state-of-the-art caravan site on a former area of grassland within the park.

The Caravan Club's investment was in the region of £1.8m. The annual rent/income share received by the Council varies from a minimum of £10,000 up to £17,500 per annum and is index linked.

The site boasts eco-features such as grey & rain water recycling, solar panel heating, photo voltaic cells, wind turbine & ground source heat coil.

The site provides pitches for up to eighty six caravans along with the associated facilities and is busy throughout the whole of the year.

## **1.10 Structures and Surfaces Management**

### **1.10.1 Roadways, footpaths, and associated structures**

Poolsbrook Country Park has approximately six kilometres of surfaced footpaths and bridleways.

Path and tracks within the park are inspected by the greenspaces unit and repairs arranged as necessary. Most repairs are carried out during the winter months whilst the footpaths are less used.

Crushed limestone is used for small repairs on some paths while road planings are utilised for large scale resurfacing.

### **1.10.2 Bridges**

The Pools Brook is spanned by a concrete bridge at the southern tip of Markham Lake. This bridge features tall, timber parapets designed to protect equestrians from the bridge edges.

The outflow of St John's Pond is spanned by a bridge of concrete and steel construction.

A timber and steel bridge can be found within the park at the east side of Ireland Pond, which enables passage over a deep drainage grip.

Bridges are informally inspected by the park Greenspace officers on a routine basis and by the council's structural engineers on an annual basis.

Repairs are undertaken by the council's facilities maintenance section.

### **1.10.3 Fencing, Access Structures and Benches**

All fencing, gates and benches are inspected regularly by greenspaces unit and repairs or replacement are undertaken as necessary.

There are a number of A-frame motorcycle barriers and horse hops around the site, which were originally installed to prevent vehicular trespass. These barriers are no longer effective or required due to changes in land use and reduction in vehicular trespass.

### **1.10.4 Play Equipment**

Poolsbrook Country Park features a range of play equipment, targeted at different ages, which is situated to the east of the pavilion overlooking the lake. The play area is bordered by steel fencing.

The play equipment within Poolsbrook Country Park is inspected weekly by an Environmental Services technician, who undertake repairs and removes any hazards. Play equipment also inspected biannually by qualified engineers.

*(See Visitor Facilities Map- Appendix 1)*

### **1.10.6 Buildings**



The pavilion was constructed of sandstone with an aesthetically pleasing design. The pavilion is partitioned into a café, community room, offices, storage rooms, toilets and a kitchen.

A walled yard and double garage are located to the rear of the pavilion, which are both utilised by the park ranger staff for machinery and material storage.



The buildings are served by broadband telephone, mains electricity, water and mains drainage. Heating is provided by electric heaters and hot water by an emersion system.

Building structure maintenance and improvements are arranged by the council's facilities maintenance section.

The pavilion would benefit from redecoration and refurbishment once resources allow.

### **1.10.7 Fire Safety**

A fire alarm is installed within the pavilion and garages, which links to an alarm control company who contact the fire brigade in the event of activation. An evacuation plan and fire extinguishers are provided within the building in compliance with fire regulations. The extinguishers are checked and alarm tested periodically by an independent contractor.

### **1.10.8 Building Security**

An intruder alarm covers the pavilion and garage. This is monitored by a company who contact a private security contractor to respond to alarm activations outside office hours.

## **1.11 Waste Management**

### **1.11.1 Cleansing and litter collection**

The greenspaces service is responsible for the collection of loose litter and the emptying of litter bins within the park.

The cleaning of the pavilion is undertaken by the building cleaning section of the council whilst the exterior public toilets are cleaned by the cleansing section.

### **1.11.2 Dog Waste**

There are several dog waste receptacles within the car parks and the entry points on the perimeter of the park.

The bins are emptied twice weekly by the council's cleansing service or as necessary during busier times.

### 1.11.3 Waste Disposal

All collected waste is deposited within a lockable skip, which is removed to landfill.

## 1.12 Personnel and Physical Resources

### 1.12.1 Personnel

Poolsbrook Country Park is the base for the east area greenspaces service. The east area team currently consists of two greenspace officers. The team's principal focus is Poolsbrook Country Park but they also cover the satellite sites of Norbriggs Flash and West Wood along with a variety of smaller woodlands and other green spaces.

The ranger team's duties are described at 1.5 Park Management Structure.

### 1.12.2 Vehicles, Plant and Tools

The east area team has a crew-cab pickup and an all-terrain vehicle at its disposal. The ranger service has access to a pool of plant such as a compact tractor, flail attachments, ride-on brush cutters, rotovators, woodchippers, stump grinder, larger trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles, trailers and boats for water maintenance.

The team have an on-site tool store consisting of fencing equipment, wood working and joinery tools and forestry equipment, such as chainsaws and brushcutters.

### 1.12.3 Work Standards

All tree pruning, felling and associated operations are undertaken to the current British Standard BS3998: Recommendations for Tree Work and in compliance with The Forestry Act 1967, The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the European Protected Species Regulations.

Grassland and hedgerows are managed in compliance with Natural England's specification and general good agricultural practice.

### 1.12.4 Programmed Maintenance Schedule

Operation	Time(s) of Year When Undertaken	Frequency
Amenity Grass cutting	April to September	Fortnightly
Hay making	From mid August to early September	Once per annum.
Chain harrowing and wildflower	From July to October following hay	As required

seed drilling	cut.	
Hedgerow laying, coppicing and gapping up.	From October to early March	As required
Plantation thinning and coppicing	From October to early March	As required
Tree surgery	Usually from October to early March unless urgent	As required
Building and structure maintenance	Throughout the year.	As required
Path and track maintenance	From September to March	As required
Litter bin emptying	Throughout the year	Twice weekly
Dog waste receptacle emptying	Throughout the year	Twice weekly
Loose litter collection	Throughout the year	As required
Bridge inspection and repair	As required	As required
Vegetation cut backs from access routes and furniture	Throughout the year	As required
Play equipment inspection and repair	Throughout the year	Weekly

## 1.13 Developments and Improvements

The following table contains details of works and improvements to the site over recent years.

Year	Improvement	Description
2012-2018	Track improvement	Track resurfaced from Poolsbrook Flash to St John's Pond.
2010-21	Biodiversity Management	HLS scheme commenced.
2019	Erosion control	Erosion controlled by reinforcing bank with stone and boulders
2019	Parking management at entrance	Removal of planters and replaced with boulders and wildflower planting
2020	Safety works	Removal of lakeside timber decking and railings due to poor condition and safety concerns.
2021	Improvements to Anglers car park	Reintroduction of height barrier to prevent HGVs 'parking up' and caravans gaining access
2021	Removal of 11KV a oh line	The telegraph poles and overhead lines have been removed and cable rerouted underground.
2022 /23	Footpaths around lake	The parkrun organisation and angling club is supporting the Council in applying for funding to repair and reinstate footpaths around the lake and car parks.
2023	Smaller bridges	Replacement with piped ditches to reduce ongoing maintenance and fit more with site aesthetic
2023	Height barrier	Reintroduction of the height barrier at the Anglers

	car park to reduce impact of larger vehicles and lorries impacting the car park surface.
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## 1.14 Community Interaction

### 1.14.1 The Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park

Chesterfield Borough Council encourages public involvement in the management of its parks through the formation of 'Friends' groups. Friends groups exist for all the principal parks in the borough and are active in running events, accessing external funding for projects and assisting the council in managing the parks.

The original Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park were formed in 2004.

Due to issues within the group and its membership it was decided that the Friends group would discontinue. The Angling Club has taken up the mantle of being the main interest group within the park and actively participates through its own events. The Parkrun users have sought to become more involved as their event increases in popularity. This has led to requests for an outdoor shelter to manage the parkrun and other events.



### 1.14.2 Volunteers

A small group of volunteers assist the Greenspace officers with some estate maintenance tasks both at Poolsbrook and Norbriggs Flash. Other voluntary opportunities are provided to local schools to assist in the teaching of environmental studies. An application to implement and or provide a Forest school at the site was proposed. Ongoing negotiations and assessments are seeking to see whether this can be a viable opportunity.

## 2.0 The Way Forward

### 2.1 Park Evaluation

Poolsbrook Country Park has developed over the past two decades from a landscape-detracting colliery spoil heap to an important landscape component, linking the urban housing and industrial areas of Staveley to the wider countryside.

Visitor surveys have indicated that there is a high level of visitor satisfaction with the park and the facilities present. The positive attitude of the public using the facility shows the value of the park.

The majority of users tend to live within five miles of the park and use the site for quiet recreation although this has changed over the previous year due to lockdown restrictions making the park more popular.

Visitors expressed their desire to see the use of the park broaden to include adventure activities, mountain biking and watersports. This desire will have to be balanced against the existing qualities of the park. Management must seek to integrate the provision of adventure activities with wildlife conservation, retention of tranquil areas and established recreation.

The provision of adventure sports may draw visitors from a wider area and encourage use of the park by young people who are under-represented in the demographic of park users.

There has been some concern about the proximity of the children's play area to Markham Lake, whilst the current safety arrangement may be deemed satisfactory, there is a need to address the perception of the hazards present in the area.

The original infrastructure and facilities have been refurbished over recent years. An improvement programme for the paths and car parks across the site has commenced.

The existing visitor information and marketing is inadequate for a country park of this size, although increased profile via social media is improving the situation. As with all aspects of social media this can at times work in presenting the park in a negative manner.

The fabric of the visitor centre building is in good condition although redecoration and some minor repairs would enhance the appearance of the facility.

## 2.2 The Vision

“The continuing development of a safe, attractive and vibrant Country Park offering a variety of visitor experiences consisting of woodland, lakes, meadows and high quality built facilities. This will deliver positive improvements to the Park and aid the regeneration of the Staveley area, providing a wealth of cultural, economic, health and educational opportunities for successive generations in a setting that balances human activities with the needs of the environment.”

The park will now be assessed against the criteria set by the Green Flag scheme. The strengths and weaknesses of the park will be viewed objectively and seek to provide greenspaces with a focus on the future objectives for management.

Any recommendations/requirements will form part of the action plan for the park.

The criteria for the Green Flag award are:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained



- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

## 2.3 A Welcoming Place

### 2.3.1 Welcoming

Poolsbrook Country Park has several access points, the principal ones being Pavilion Drive car park and Erin Road (Anglers car park).

#### **Pavilion Drive**

This is the main car park for the site, being located adjacent to the visitor centre, café and play facilities. Pavilion Drive provides an attractive, welcoming gateway to the park and adjacent Caravan site. Unauthorised parking had become a concern on Pavilion Drive and this was reduced by installing boulders adjacent to the main access.

The approach to the car park passes an ornate colliery winding wheel, set in sandstone displaying the park name.

The car park is bounded by groupings of broad leaved trees with large areas of mown grassland.

New litter bins have been purchased to replace the existing open-topped bins of poor condition. The timber bench will be replaced with a modern bench of recycled-plastic construction and the knee rail refurbished.

Aside from car park locking times signs there is a noticeable lack of signage. Directional signage, informing visitors of the location of café toilets and play facilities is required.

#### **Erin Road**

This deceptively large car park is approached from Erin Road, adjacent to Poolsbrook Farm. A decorative colliery winding wheel set in sandstone flanks the entrance to the car park. The western aspect of the car park features an attractive vista over Markham Lake.

The car park itself consists of a large expanse of rutted and potholed crushed limestone surfacing flanked by broad areas of amenity grassland. Vehicles are contained within the surfaced area by rustic, timber posts and box steel gates.

The car park surfacing was very rutted and uneven. Resurfacing of the area using road planings was undertaken but requires ongoing maintenance. A major upgrade is planned once funding has been approved via Viridor credit scheme.

Signage consists of a car park locking sign and an angler's notice board.

Reinstatement of the interpretative panel and installation of directional signage is now necessary.

### **Other Entrances**

The envisaged use of the site and escalating popularity will increase the demand for visitor car parking. The car park on Inkersall Road has been surfaced and reopened.

There is currently no public parking available on the St John's side of the park, which may be necessary to service new facilities. Ongoing works by statutory undertakers has put a halt on any works being undertaken.

There are numerous pedestrian access points onto the park, including a link to the Trans-Pennine Trail. These access points will be subject to appropriate maintenance to improve the 'gateways' to the park.

### **2.3.2 Good and Safe Access**

Poolsbrook Country Park is crossed by over three miles of surfaced tracks and paths with a large number of unsurfaced paths where vegetation is periodically cutback. The vast majority of these routes are concessionary bridle tracks and footpaths.

The vast majority of paths within the park are in a good state of repair and the paths are easily accessible to people of different abilities and wheelchair users.

The pavilion car park has a sleeping policeman installed at the entrance to control vehicle speed.

Lockable gates and associated fencing is used to prevent vehicle access to the park during the hours of darkness to prevent misuse of the park.

Access to the park from the existing car parks is considered safe. However, the planned development of the St John's side of the park would increase the number of pedestrians crossing Erin Road. As this road has a 40mph speed limit, and is used by haulage vehicles, the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing has been raised with the County Council.

### **2.3.3 Signage**

Brown, tourist highway signs guide visitors from the nearby A619 to the park.

Current welcome signage is limited to the ornate colliery winding wheels with 'Poolsbrook Country Park' engraved into the supporting masonry. Whilst these features have historical significance they need to be accentuated to be more welcoming for visitors.

The existing interpretation panels are dated and in need of revision. A corporate theme for park interpretation panels has developed over recent years at Holmebrook Valley Park and Somersall Park. A fresh design, incorporating this theme is in production.

Car parks have signs indicating when the park closes, and when the car park gates are locked.

The existing water safety signage is suitable for purpose.

There is a need for directional signage within the park and finger posts are to be installed at strategic locations to direct visitors to main facilities and control access by equestrian users.

### **2.3.4 Equal Access for All**

Upgrading and maintenance of paths is an ongoing process and is carried annually and as required. Upgrading work will take into consideration the needs of physically impaired visitors and families with young children in prams and pushchairs.

Reinstatement of a damaged sewer by Yorkshire Water led to the resurfacing of an access track from St John's Pond to Poolsbrook Flash in March 2020. Resurfacing of the remaining tracks in this area will be required to support the increased use of this part of the park.

Disabled toilets are available and disabled parking is located immediately outside the visitor centre.

There are several wheelchair accessible angling pegs and disabled anglers can access the bankside with vehicles.

The play equipment adjacent to the visitor centre has been designed to be accessible to all.

## **2.4 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

### **2.4.1 Safe Equipment and Facilities**

All structures and buildings within the park are inspected regularly by park staff and specialist engineers to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. This system of proactive inspection has proved to be effective due to the very low frequency of recorded accidents associated with park structures.

Externally organised events are asked to provide risk assessments as part of the events plan submitted by the organisers.

The play equipment within Poolsbrook Country Park is inspected weekly by a Environmental Services technician who undertake repairs and is also inspected twice annually by qualified engineers.

The visitor centre is fitted with a fire alarm and intruder alarm. Alarm activations are responded to by a security contractor.

Vehicular access to the park is restricted during the hours of darkness through the locking of gates by a security contractor. Cars are restricted to designated car parks during the day to prevent conflict with users of the park.

The current water safety measures are deemed to be appropriate for the site and the uses of the lake, however visitors have highlighted a concern over the proximity of some play equipment to the lake.

Regular ranger patrols and the posting of 'thin ice' signs during the winter months are implemented to help prevent unsafe incidents.

All operations undertaken within the park by council operatives and contractors are subject to a risk assessment produced or approved by the borough council's health and safety officers.

Letting of the community room within the visitor centre is subject to terms and conditions which cover fire procedure and safe use of the facility.

### **2.4.2 Personal Security**

The few reported incidents occurring within the park every year concern low-level anti-social behaviour and minor thefts from the service yard. The park's Greenspace officers report all incidents to the police along with any damage caused.

The park ranger team regularly patrol the site and assist in deterring misuse by providing a uniformed presence in the park. This, coupled with their maintenance duties in the park help to maintain the public's view of the park being a safe place to visit. The park Greenspace officers are responsive in attending most incidents of misuse but they also contact and report incidents to the local police for all crimes.

The police are not regularly seen in the park, or car parks, occasionally contact will be made with local officers to discuss the provision of a visible, uniformed presence.

### **2.4.3 Dog Fouling**

Dog fouling in the experience of site staff, is at levels where comparatively, they are relatively low.

Of major concern to the public was the risk posed by uncontrolled and dangerous dogs. This is something which is also an issue at our other country park. Dogs not under control around the lake have become a major concern for anglers and walkers as well as wildfowl. Signage and PSPOs are

seeking to encourage more responsible behaviour. The Environmental Protection service make random visits to the park to inform and educate dog owners.

#### **2.4.4 Appropriate Provision of Facilities**

There is a great desire amongst the visitors to see the development of facilities for outdoor adventure activities, which are absent in the park at present.

The creation of extensive mountain bikes trail, of various grades, will be implemented. The trails will make use of the park's topography and plantations, emanating from the visitor centre and the proposed Erin Road car park. Local mountain bikers will be consulted on the types and design of trails and features.

A key requirement for visitors with young children is a baby changing unit. This facility will be incorporated into the existing toilet block with unisex access.

Visitors were generally pleased with the existing café and value its presence. There is a will to see extended opening hours and the potential for this will be investigated with the current leaseholders. Provision has been made to extend car parking hours to accommodate evening visitors

The current leaseholders have identified a need for further outdoor seating in connection with the café. An extension to the existing block paving and installation of picnic benches is being evaluated.

#### **2.4.5 Quality of Facilities**

There is currently no independent system of inspection in place for gauging the quality of facilities present within the park. It is envisaged that the Green Flag will be used for internal and external assessment of facility quality in the future.

Visitor surveys are to be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the management policy and the visitor's satisfaction with the facilities provided.

Poolsbrook Angling Club will submit grant aid applications for the refurbishment of angling platforms and associated bank protection work.

## **2.5 Clean and Well Maintained**

### **2.5.1 Litter and Waste Management**

Litter and dog fouling are not major problems at Poolsbrook Country Park but this does remain a concern of the public. This is generally raised after busy weekends or at the time of events when the park is operating at near to capacity.

There are four dog waste bins situated within the park, one in the visitor centre and Angler's car parks, one adjacent to the play area and one near the Markham Lake inflow. These bins are deemed

sufficient to service the requirements of dog walkers and are emptied twice a week by an employee from the Council's cleansing section. There have been two larger bins installed that receive both dog and mixed waste. This should help in improving provision.

There are twelve general litter bins located within the car parks, around the café and next to the play areas. This number is adequate for normal use of the park as visitors are encouraged to take their litter home. The bins are routinely emptied by the park ranger service.

The park is on a haulage route to nearby refuse tips and suffers from loose litter blowing onto site in windy conditions. Loose litter throughout the park is collected by the greenspaces team daily.

### **2.5.2 Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture**

Since the restructuring of the Greenspaces service the majority of grounds maintenance work within the park is now undertaken by the greenspace officers including mowing of paths and maintenance of amenity grassland within car parks. This change has improved standards with the vast majority of visitor survey respondents rating grounds maintenance as either good or very good.

### **2.5.3 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance**

The exterior and interior maintenance of the visitor centre is undertaken by the Facilities Maintenance section of the council. Greenspace staff carry out regular inspections and any maintenance or repairs are scheduled through a 'facilities request order'.

The growing number of visitors to the park will increase the use of the visitor centre and raise visitor expectations. Redecoration of the exterior and interior of the building is required along with minor repairs and levelling of exterior paving.

The café leaseholders are responsible for certain aspects of building maintenance through their lease of the café, office, and storage.

Machinery is maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and is regularly inspected by users before operation to identify faults.

### **2.5.4 Equipment Maintenance**

Over recent years many recycled plastic benches have replaced the decaying timber furniture, originally installed when the park was created. The new benches are situated on paving slab bases to minimise problems with vegetation encroachment and maintenance. Many are now commemorative benches.

The greenspaces officers inspect the park furniture and equipment monthly for potential problems and the results are recorded along with the remedial action taken. In addition to this the Facilities Maintenance section undertakes an inspection of the park infrastructure every three years.



Play equipment will continue to be regularly inspected by a Environmental Services technician with any repairs immediately undertaken. Independent inspections will continue to be undertaken every six months by RoSPA approved inspectors via the Council's insurance provider.

## **2.6 Sustainability**

### **2.6.1 Environmental Sustainability- energy and natural resource conservation, pollution**

The Pools Brook flows through the lake system of the country park, which is a tributary of the Doe Lea, which ultimately feeds into the River Rother. The lake system plays an important role in the hydrology of the landscape, buffering the effects of heavy rainfall on the Doe Lea.

The council's green purchasing policy is applicable to all plant and material purchased for use on the park. Recycled materials are used wherever possible and some timber harvested from forestry operations on the council's land holdings is also utilised.

Large scale path and track resurfacing is undertaken using recycled road planings as this is more environmentally sustainable than quarried limestone and creates a better-quality surface.

Energy and water usage within the pavilion is closely monitored by the council's facilities maintenance section and system improvements are undertaken as necessary.

Chesterfield Borough Council holds EMAS accreditation and is externally audited to ensure that it's facilities and operations comply with environmental best practice.

### **2.6.2 Pesticides**

Pesticides are rarely used within the park. The exceptions to this are the use of glyphosate herbicide to control weeds within the tarmac car parks. Glyphosate stump plugs are sometimes used to poison broadleaf tree stumps where regrowth is not desired and mechanical stump extraction is not possible.

### **2.6.3 Peat Use**

The council does not permit the use of peat or peat based products on any of its sites. Cell and container grown tree planting stock is sourced from nurseries that use minimal peat in their operations.

### **2.6.4 Waste Management and Minimisation**

Arising green wood waste is recycled for use within the park as dead wood habitat wherever possible. Excess and waste material from operations such as fencing is stored and used in other projects where possible.

Grass arising from hay cutting operations is baled and removed from site. The hay is then sold on/donated by the agricultural contractor to local hill farmers in the peak district.

All other grass arisings are left to rot down in situ.

## **2.6.5 Arboriculture and Woodland Management**

The plantations within Poolsbrook Country Park will be subject to a programme of selective thinning over the next five to ten years. The objectives of the thinning will be to encourage the development of wind firm stands containing trees of good form, to optimise the plantations for wildlife, particularly woodland birds and to harvest firewood for sale to the local end-user market.

Standing and lying deadwood will be left in-situ during course of thinning operations.

Although native species will be favoured in thinning operations a good population of non-invasive exotic trees will be retained for diversity, landscape value and to increase the 'robustness' of the plantations to the possible effects of climate change.

Trees along main access routes and around play areas, car parks and adjacent to buildings are to be inspected bi-annually for safety and potential future veteran trees identified and protected to increase the diversity of habitat on the site. The inspection of trees is in accordance with VALID tree survey risk assessment and benefit methodology.

Where removal of individual trees is necessary replacement planting will be undertaken where practical.

All tree pruning, felling and associated operations are undertaken to the current British Standard BS3998: Recommendations for Tree Work and in compliance with The Forestry Act 1967, The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the European Protected Species Regulations.

## **2.7 Conservation and Heritage**

### **2.7.1 Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora**

The objectives for wildlife conservation within the park are to preserve and enhance existing habitats of ecological value.

A program of species rich grassland restoration is prescribed under the HLS scheme. This will involve the application of locally native wildflower seed to fields with potential for restoration followed by the management of the grassland using hay cutting and grazing techniques.

The indicators of success for the grassland restoration project are:

The soil phosphate index remains below 1.

Two years after the commencement of restoration, at least two high value indicator species for the target biodiversity action plan (BAP) grassland habitat should be occasional in the sward.

Five years after the commencement of restoration, at least two high value indicator species for the target BAP grassland habitat should be frequent and two occasional in the sward.

Cover of wildflowers in the sward (excluding undesirable species but including rushes and sedges) should be between 20% and 90%. At least 40% of wildflowers should be flowering during May-June.

Other than established blocks of scrub, cover of invasive trees and shrubs should be less than 5%.

Cover of bare ground should be between 1 and 5%, distributed throughout the field in hoof prints or other small patches.

The objective for the management of hedgerows is to create thick, species rich hedges, which provide cover for birds, invertebrates and small mammals.

Hedges are to be layed, coppiced and planted up as necessary in the traditional 'Midland Bullock Fence' fashion, which is the local style.

Woodland management will include coppicing, to create varied growth stages as favoured by invertebrates and birds. Thinning techniques will be tailored to the requirements of woodland birds. Resultant broadleaf stumps from plantation thinning operations will be allowed to regrow to create an understorey.

Standing and lying dead wood will be retained and created where it is safe to do so for invertebrate habitat.

## **2.7.2 Conservation of landscape features**

Aside from the high-voltage electricity pylons, the landscape value of the park is significant in an urban-fringe environment. The lake and surrounding woodlands contribute to aesthetic value of the area and vistas should be maintained from various points around the park and from the public highway.

A shelterbelt-style plantation of trees will be established between the Anglers car park and the neighbouring Poolsbrook Farm to provide a screen and improve the visual amenity of the area.

The Markham Lake island is valued by the local community and efforts will be made to prevent further erosion damage.

### **2.7.3 Conservation of building and structures**

The pavilion is of recent construction and is not of historical or architectural significance. The conservation of built heritage is not a factor in the park.

## ***2.8 Community Involvement***

### **2.8.1 Community involvement in management and development, including outreach work.**

The Friends group formed the principal mechanism for engagement with the community. The group were very active in sourcing funding and contributing to management decisions within the park. Over time this became fractured and the group eventually ceased to exist. The Angling Club and Parkrun are now the main groups within the park and continue to carry out activities.

The provision of practical work opportunities for teenagers through local schools will continue and management will seek to expand this initiative through the organisation of events, educational visits and further volunteer task days.

### **2.8.2 Appropriate provision for the community.**

The recent visitor survey provided a means for those visitors who are not involved with the Friends group to 'have their say'. This is useful information as members of Friends groups tend to have specific interests or views about a park whilst the casual user of a facility can provide opinions or ideas from a different, more detached perspective.

With this in mind a visitor survey should be undertaken every two to three years to gauge the view of the casual user.

## ***2.9 Marketing***

### **2.9.1 Marketing and promotion.**

Poolsbrook Country Park has relied on repeat visitors, word-of-mouth and limited advertising through events for promotion.

The site lies in close proximity to other country parks, such as Rother Valley and Thrybergh, which benefit from high-profile marketing and diverse facilities. The development of Poolsbrook Country Park's facilities and infrastructure will allow the park to compete with other local sites but this must be complimented by appropriate marketing and promotion.

The coverage of the park on the council's website is insufficient at present and a separate page covering the park is required. This is now under construction with dedicated sections on each park and a user-friendly layout.

### **2.9.2 Provision of appropriate information.**

Brown tourist signage to the park is already installed from the surrounding main roads.

The ornamental colliery wheels providing the existing entry signage are insufficient. Purpose-built welcome signs are required, incorporating directional signage to facilities and attractions.

Revision of the existing interpretation panels is necessary to provide more detailed and attractive information points for visitors.

The design and publication of a visitor leaflet will follow the review of the interpretation panels to include a plan of the site and visitor information presented in a uniform style.

### **2.9.3 Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information.**

Along with the revised interpretation panels, internally organised events, such as ranger led guided walks, are required to introduce visitors to some of the less obvious features of the park, its ecology and history.

It is envisaged that the foyer of the pavilion will be redesigned to act as an information point for visitors including educational material.

## ***2.10 Management***

### **2.10.1 Implementation of the management plan**

The management plan will be implemented by the Environmental Services section through the Greenspaces unit.

Assistance with implementation of the plan and securing of grant aid will be sought from the Anglers Club, local councillors, the community forum, park users and the wider public.

The ranger team at the park will forge new relationships with the local police and further support will be sought from them in the delivery of a safer site.

External partners in the management of the site include Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Derbyshire County Council.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England assist in the implementation of the plan through their continued support and monitoring of the ecology of the park.

## **2.11 Summary**

The results of previous visitor surveys indicate that Poolsbrook Country Park is highly regarded and valued by the public as a site for informal recreation and relaxation.

Evaluating the provision and quality of facilities and services available to the public, against the Green Flag criteria, has identified where the park is performing well along with areas where improvements are required.

The main strengths of the park are community involvement, standards of maintenance, conservation value and the landscape of the site.

Development of wider visitor facilities, improvements in infrastructure, on-site education of visitors and targeted marketing of the park will be the objectives of management over the coming years and this will be reflected in the plan of operations.

The Council will seek to preserve and expand the community involvement with the park into the future.

Annual application to the Green Flag award scheme will be made to ensure the standard of management of the park is peer-evaluated by an external body.



## 3.0 The Plan of Action

### 3.1 Action Plan

The actions detailed below are linked to the appropriate Green Flag themes for ease of benchmarking and to ensure compliance with Green Flag criteria.

The plan of action is set out for the next five years but will be reviewed with the rest of the management plan in response to changes in conditions to ensure the management plan remains a 'living and working' document.

The overall responsibility for undertaking the management of the site lies with Chesterfield Borough Council. However the council recognises that, to fulfil the aspirations for the site, help from our partners and the public is essential.

Green Flag Theme	Action	Performance Measure	Target Completion Date	Partners Involved	Lead Partner	Estimated Cost & Source	Progress
A Welcoming Place	Visitor Centre Car Park						
	Replace open top litter bins for bins with closing lids	Bins replaced	August 2021	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£2,400	Outstanding,
	Install directional signage	Signage installed	July 2021	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£800	Complete October 2014
	Install bespoke 'Welcome' signs	Signage installed	July 2021	GREENSPACES TEAM,	GREENSPACES TEAM	£2,000	Deferred until Summer 2015
	Erin Road Car Park						
	Refurbishment of height barrier and gates	Height barrier removed and gates repainted and repaired	April 2023	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£700	Completed June 2021
	Resurfacing of car park with planings	Car park resurfaced and edged	December 2020	FMS, GREENSPACES TEAM, PBAC	FMS	£4,000	Completed September 2020
Install directional signage	Signage installed	August 2021	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£800	Outstanding	

	Create new St John's car park	Car park operational	June 2022	FMS, GREENSPACES TEAM, PBAC	GREENSPACES TEAM	£10,000	Pending grant funding
	Refurbishment of pedestrian access points	Clear of vegetation and boundary structures in good condition	June 2021`	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£700	Old A-frame barriers removed and entrances upgraded
	Locking and unlocking of car parks	Gates opened and dawn and locked at dusk daily	Ongoing	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£6,000 per annum as part of pro rata contract	Ongoing
	Installation of a pedestrian crossing point on Erin Road	Appropriate crossing point installed.	December 2022	DCC, CF, GREENSPACES TEAM	DCC	N/A	Pending DCC approval
	Directional signage for equestrians	Signage installed at key points	April 2023	GREENSPACES TEAM, FG	GREENSPACES TEAM	£500	Outstanding
Green Flag Theme	<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>	<b>Partners Involved</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Estimated Cost &amp; Source</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Weekly inspection of play facilities and repairs effected.	Play equipment in good condition and safe for use.	Weekly ongoing.	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£1,500 per annum	Ongoing
	Six-monthly inspection of play	Play equipment in good condition and	Six-monthly	GREENSPACES TEAM	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	£300.00 per visit.	Ongoing

	equipment by RoSPA engineer	safe for use.					
	Monthly inspection of park furniture and infrastructure by park Greenspace officers	Faulty furniture repaired/replaced before summer each year.	Annually ongoing.	GREENSPACES TEAM		£1,500 per annum	Ongoing
	Three-yearly inspection of park furniture, buildings and infrastructure	Furniture and structures in good condition and safe for use.	Every 5 years	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	£1,000	Ongoing
	Patrol of waterbodies and display of thin ice signs during freezing temperatures	Deterrents in place at key times.	Every winter	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	N/A	Ongoing
	Dog fouling and littering education	Dog fouling and littering offences reduce.	Daily	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	N/A	Ongoing
	Creation of a unisex-access baby changing facility	Baby changing facility open for use.	November 2012	FMS, GREENSPACES TEAM, FG	FMS	£5,000	Completed-Facility open
	Installation of outdoor gym equipment	Gym installed and open for use	November 2019	GREENSPACES TEAM, FG	GREENSPACES TEAM	£17,000	Completed-Gym equipment installed November 2019
Clean and Well Maintained	Dog waste receptacles and litter bins emptied frequently.	Bins do not overflow and are emptied when required.	Daily	GREENSPACES TEAM		£1,500 per annum	Ongoing
	Public toilet cleaning	Toilets cleaned daily	Daily	GREENSPACES AND FACILITIES	GREENSPACES AND FACILITIES	£5,000 per annum	Ongoing
	Loose litter collection	Site free of litter	Daily	GREENSPACES TEAM,	GREENSPACES TEAM	£2,000 per annum	Ongoing

	Mowing of one metre either side of path edges	Sward maintained at short height one metre either side of paths	Fortnightly during growing season	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£3,000 per annum	Ongoing
	Strimming around signs and furniture	Furniture free of long grass/weeds	Fortnightly during growing season	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£800 per annum	Ongoing
	Cutting back of vegetation encroaching onto paths	Paths free of encroaching overgrowth	Monthly during growing season	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£800 per annum	Ongoing
	Car parks mechanically swept.	Car parks swept.	Monthly	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£700 per annum	Ongoing
	Graffiti removal		As reported. Offensive graffiti removed on the day or asap.	SPECIALIST TEAMS	GREENSPACES TEAM	£200 per visit	Ongoing
Sustainability							
	Undertake 30% selective thin of plantations	Plantations line thinned retaining mix of Scots Pine and Pendunculate Oak crop with diverse understorey	Bi-annually	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	£3,000 per annum	Completed
	Routine inspection of trees as per VALID specification	Annual safety inspection of trees within falling distance of high target areas	Annually	TREE TEAM	TREE TEAM	£250.00 per annum	Ongoing
	Creation of deadwood habitat piles utilising forestry arisings.	Habitat piles in situ where appropriate.	As per work requirements	GREENSPACES TEAM	GREENSPACES TEAM	N/A	Ongoing
Conservation and Heritage	Hay cutting undertaken	Hay making completed	Annually in late summer.	GREENSPACES TEAM, NE, DWT	GREENSPACES TEAM	£2,500 per annum	Ongoing

	annually on conservation grassland in late summer with occasional early spring cuts where necessary	annually.					
	Chain harrowing /discing of conservation grassland followed by broad casting of wildflower seed and light rolling following hay cut.	Achievement of Natural England's indicators of success and botanical improvement of grassland.	As required in late summer.	GREENSPACES TEAM, NE, DWT	GREENSPACES TEAM	£1,200 per occasion	Ongoing
	Conduct survey of wildlife site area.	Survey and report completed	2019	DWT, GREENSPACES TEAM	DWT	£300 per occasion SLA (Forward planning budget)	Ongoing
	Repair of land drain	Standing surface water	2021	SPECIALIST TEAMS	GREENSPACES		
<b>Green Flag Theme</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>	<b>Partners Involved</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Estimated Cost &amp; Source</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Community Involvement	Provision of volunteer work days on practical tasks organised in liaison with DWT	Volunteering opportunities are organised every quarter.	June 2013	GREENSPACES TEAM, FG	GREENSPACES TEAM	£2,000 per annum	4 volunteers days per year are hosted
	Further public consultation through visitor	Completion of a further visitor survey and	September 2021	FG, GREENSPACES TEAM	FG	£3,000	Deferred until summer 2022

	surveys and recruitment to the Friends Group	increase in members of the Friends group					
Marketing	Redesign of the parks section on the council website to include more information on Poolsbrook Country Park.	Redesign of parks section and greater information on Poolsbrook Country Park online.	July 2021	GREENSPACES TEAM,	GREENSPACES TEAM	£2,500	More information provided-further redesign to link with corporate website improvement.
	Design and production of new interpretation panels.	Panels to be installed	July 2020	FG, GREENSPACES TEAM, PS,	PS	£3,000	Deferred until summer 2021.
	Redesign of visitor centre foyer area to act as a visitor information point.	Foyer lay out altered.	November 2020	GREENSPACES TEAM,	GREENSPACES TEAM	£400.00	Outstanding November 2021
Management	Hold annual park management meetings with representatives of all partners and user groups to discuss action progress and arising issues.	Teams meetings held.		GREENSPACES TEAM,		£300.00 per annum	Ongoing
	Review of management plan actions.	Plan reviewed.					New 5-year plan to be completed during summer 2021.
	Investigate and secure any appropriate grant aid/external	Appropriate funds secured.				£200.00 per annum	Ongoing



funding.							
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## **3.2 Financial Plan**

### **3.2.1 Financial Forecast**

Planned amenity grounds maintenance, tree safety work, site furniture, path, track and infrastructure repair operations are mainly funded through the internal parks revenue budget.

Woodland, conservation grassland and conservation hedgerow management are funded through the internal Woodland/Conservation budget, which is supplemented by external grant funding through Natural England's Higher-level Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

Capital items such as installation of new site furniture and major track resurfacing works may be partially funded through internal budgets but will require significant external funding. This will be raised through leases from the café, angling club leases, events revenue and through grant applications.

Potential sources of funding will be investigated by the Greenspaces Management Team and other user groups and every effort will be made to assist stakeholders in securing funding not available directly to local authorities.

## **4.0 Achievement of Objectives**

### **4.1 Indicators of Success**

The principal method for gauging the effectiveness of the management described in the plan will be the achievement and retention of the Green Flag award.

The performance measures indicated within section 3.1- Action Plan will inform management of the day-to-day progress made towards each element of the Green Flag criteria.

Other indicators of success, in addition to the Green Flag criteria, are those specified under Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Scheme. Achievement of these objectives will demonstrate that the site is managed to the highest standards of wildlife conservation.

The final, and most important, indicator of success will be a high level of visitor satisfaction with the park and its facilities.

## ***4.2 Monitoring Progress and Review***

Progression towards achieving each objective will be monitored in three ways.

Operations and actions will be scheduled in accordance with the work plan and completion checked against the timescales set.

An annual meeting will be held with all partners and stakeholders to discuss progress, review the management plan and discuss amendments.

A visitor survey will be conducted every three years to gauge the public's opinion on the management of the park, the quality of the facilities and their desires and aspirations for the park in the future.

## **5.0 Context and Policy**

### ***5.1 The National Context***

The vital role that greenspaces play in the public perception has been highlighted by a number of reports from government over the last decade such as the 2002 report titled *Living Places- Cleaner, Safer*, based upon the recommendations of the 2001 Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, which was set up to improve parks and open spaces nationally.

The report called for various government departments to work together on improving Green Space and, as a result, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) set up CABE Space in 2003.

CABE Space assists local authorities and green space managers nationally in the development of strategies.

Following on from this in July 2004, central government announced a new public service agreement target to lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, greener public spaces and improve the quality of the built environment, in deprived areas and across the country, with measurable improvement by 2008.

Two indicators measure the improvements to green spaces-

1. The achievement of Green Flag status for parks and open spaces.
2. The public's satisfaction with their local parks based on visitor surveys.

In March 2006 the National Audit Office (NAO) published its value for money study on 'enhancing urban green space' and concluded that Government's programmes, since 2002, had halted the decline of parks and open spaces and the challenge now is to embed progress and spread the benefits more widely.

## ***5.2 Regional Context***

Chesterfield is the largest town in the administrative county of Derbyshire. The borough of Chesterfield is the smallest district in Derbyshire by area, being a relatively compact, predominantly urban area. It includes the settlements of Chesterfield, Brimington and Staveley which together had a population of 103,800 at the time of the 2011 Census.

The town centre of Chesterfield is a sub-regional shopping and service centre for the whole of north eastern Derbyshire. It has excellent rail services to London and other regions and the M1 motorway runs adjacent to the borough's eastern boundary with road links via the A617 and A619 to junctions 29, 29A and 30.

Chesterfield lies on the River Rother and its tributaries which flow from south to north through the borough. The environs of these rivers and the Chesterfield Canal, which runs parallel to the Rother for much of its length within the borough, offer major opportunities for further improvement. The urban areas of the borough are defined by "green wedges" of open countryside which help to retain the separate identity of communities. Chesterfield is also contained to the north, west and south by the North East Derbyshire Green Belt.

The borough is part of the North Derbyshire/North Nottinghamshire coalfield area which has been subject to major industrial structural change resulting from the closure of deep mines and the decline in heavy engineering industries both in the borough and the surrounding districts of Bolsover and North East Derbyshire.

The East Midlands Regional Plan requires local authorities to put together green infrastructure studies or plans which identify key infrastructure assets.

Chesterfield Borough Council produced its Green Infrastructure Study in 2009 and within this study Poolsbrook Country Park is described as a multi-functional green infrastructure asset sited in the wildlife corridor of the River Doe Lea.

### **5.3 Local Context**

The Borough had a total population of approximately 103,800 in 2011. The number of people over retirement age is slightly higher than the national average and the number of people of 16 years and under is slightly lower than the national average.

The population of Chesterfield Borough is predicted to rise by 10.5% during the period 2010 – 2035. Generally the population of Chesterfield Borough is an ageing one. There will be a greater proportion of people over retirement age in future years.

Chesterfield Borough is relatively deprived ranking 91st out of 326 English local authority areas in the 2010 English Multiple Index of Deprivation (1 is the most deprived). For more in-depth analysis England is divided up into 32482 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) which are ranked 1 as the most deprived and 32482 as the least deprived in various measures.

Five fall within the top 10% of most deprived areas in England and 12 fall within the top 20%.

The Borough of Chesterfield is fortunate to have over 400 ha of public open space of recreational value in or immediately adjacent to the built areas of the Borough. This includes parks, greenways, public playing fields, small areas of open space in local areas, separate woodlands within the built areas, and urban fringe woodlands and countryside sites with public access.

### **5.4 Chesterfield Borough Council Structure**

The Council is composed of 48 councillors elected every four years. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. The overriding duty of councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them. Councillors have to agree to follow a code of conduct to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. The Standards and Audit Committee trains and advises them on the code of conduct.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Meetings of the Council are normally open to the public. Here councillors decide the Council's overall policies and set the budget each year

The Cabinet is the part of the authority which is responsible for most day-to-day decisions. The Cabinet is made up of the Leader and eight councillors appointed by the full Council. Before major decisions are to be discussed or made, these are published in the Cabinet's forward plan in so far as they can be anticipated. These major decisions are called "key decisions"

There is a Scrutiny Board, Informal Review Panels, and the Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel who support the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole. They allow citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern.

The Scrutiny Bodies may also be consulted by the Cabinet or the Council on forthcoming decisions and the development of policy

Members of Council usually belong to a political party. Currently Chesterfield Borough Council is made up of 14 Liberal Democrats and 34 Labour Party members.

The senior management structure is headed by our Chief Executive, Huw Bowen. He has overall responsibility for managing the council and as part of the Corporate Management Team helps deliver our vision, aims and priorities set out in our Corporate Plan.

Huw Bowen is supported by two executive directors who oversee the various service areas.

### **5.4.1 How Decisions Are Made**

Our constitution governs how decisions are made, how we operate and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

- Decisions on issues affecting the Council and its services are taken by elected members through the Council and its committee meetings, most of which are open to the public.
- Full Council is made up of all 48 councillors and is responsible for deciding on the Council's overall budget and policy framework and setting the budget each year.
- Many of the day-to-day decisions are taken by the executive decision making arm of the Council known as the Cabinet. Cabinet members have specific responsibilities for particular services and take decisions within the budget and policies agreed by the full Council.

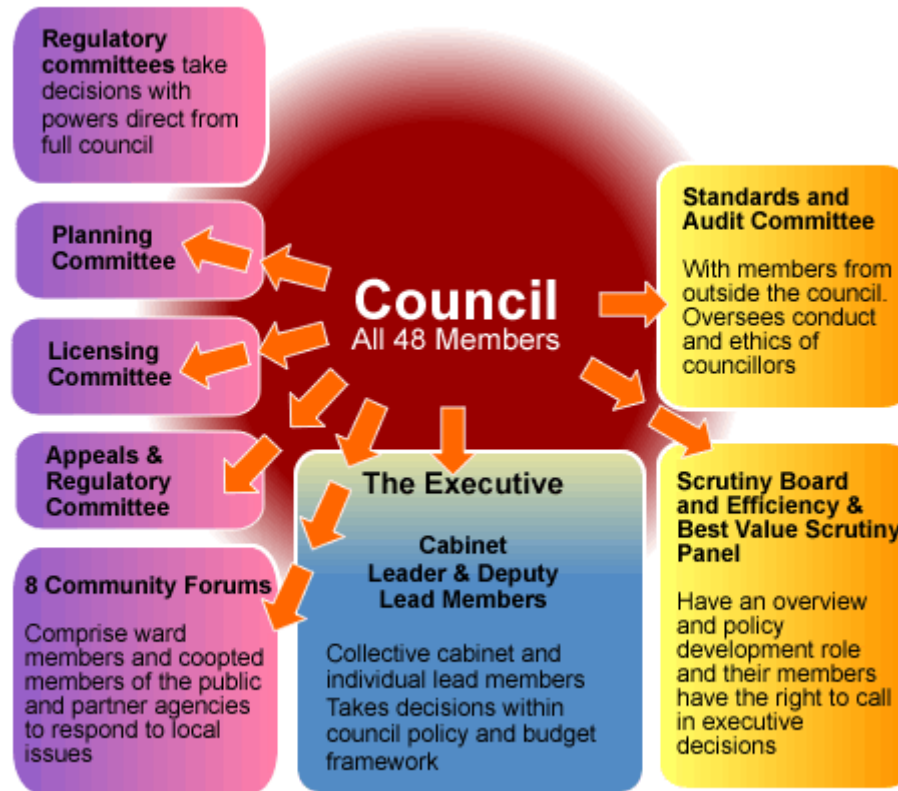
- Before major decisions are to be discussed or made by the Cabinet, these are published in the Forward Plan in so far as they can be anticipated. These major decisions are called "key decisions".

Councillors who are not on the Cabinet also have important roles in the Council's business. They may be members of one of the Regulatory Committees or undertake Overview and Scrutiny activities.

- Our Scrutiny Board, Informal Review Panels, and the Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel support the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole. They take a closer look at our policies, decisions and performance and ensure that the Cabinet is held to account. They also look in depth at areas of concern or special interest to Chesterfield people and in doing so help to improve the way the Council does things.
- Our Planning Committee has overall responsibility for planning decisions, listed building consent and the regulatory planning functions of the council.
- Licensing matters are considered by our Licensing Committee and Appeals & Regulatory Committee while the conduct of individual councillors is overseen by our Standards and Audit Committee.

An important part of our decision making structure are our four Community Assemblies which together cover the whole of the Borough. The Forums are made up of councillors and local people and deal with matters of local interest and concern to local communities. Forum meetings are held every 2 months at community venues and members of the public are actively encouraged to attend and get involved.





**Chesterfield Borough Council Management Structure**

### 5.4.2 Council Plan 2019-2023

The borough council's corporate plan details the corporate aims and objectives for the period 2019 to 2023 and highlights key projects for individual years, which will assist in achieving the corporate objectives.

The six corporate aims for 2019 to 2023 are:

- A Sustainable Community
- An Accessible Community
- A Living Community

- A Working and Learning Community
- A Safer, Healthier and Active Community
- A High Performing Council with Productive Partnerships

The outcomes that are specific to greenspaces are:

- The quality and biodiversity of our parks and open spaces will be improved
- There will be improved community use of our parks
- Participation in sport and recreation will have increased.

### **5.4.3 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2015-2024**

Chesterfield Borough Council has taken a positive approach to parks and open space provision in the Borough. This is reflected in higher standards of maintenance than nationally, an absence of the decline in the condition of parks which has occurred elsewhere, the recent development of two major Borough parks and investment in local play and sports facilities as far as resources have permitted.

A new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was written in 2014 and a consultation exercise is being held with a view to formally adopting the new strategy in 2015.

The vision for the new strategy is:

To ensure that Chesterfield has an accessible network of high quality parks and open spaces which puts good health and an excellent quality of life within reach of everyone who lives in and visits Chesterfield.

To achieve this Vision for Chesterfields' parks and Open spaces we will:

- Improve the quality of existing open spaces
- Rationalise the quantity and accessibility of open space

- Promote our spaces and engage our communities to maximise use and benefits
- Improve biodiversity and sustainable landscapes
- Maximise the efficient use of resources to achieve our priorities
- Improve partnership working to achieve joint objectives such as getting more people more active.

An assessment of site typology, quality and catchment areas was undertaken to inform the strategy. The assessment identified areas of the borough with a deficiency of accessible greenspace coupled with multiple deprivation.

Based on consultation with communities, partners and Friends Groups to identify our key issues, the main priorities of future parks management are:

- Rationalise quantity of provision and improve quality
- Identify key needs/investment priorities and deliver in partnership through external funding and capital receipts
- Maximise the efficient use of resources to achieve our priorities
- Understand the needs of partners and deliver shared objectives
- Increase community engagement and ownership
- Make sites safer
- Promote green spaces for health, physical activity and to increase use
- Increase access to nature and improve biodiversity
- Improve site links via multi-user routes and out into the wider countryside
- Offer a diverse and attractive programme of events and activities
- Realise the full potential of green space in terms of tourism, lifelong learning and economic development
- Seek to provide new facilities or improve quality of existing facilities through new development

#### **5.4.4 Planning Policy and Green Infrastructure**

The Chesterfield Borough Local Plan 2018-2035 sets out the local planning authority's detailed policies and proposals for the development and use of land within Chesterfield borough, including Staveley and Brimington, until 2016.

The plan is vital for the development and regeneration of Chesterfield over the next ten years and will help the town become a safer, cleaner, greener and more thriving place to live and work.

Whilst helping to create the conditions in which the community and economy can thrive, the plan continues to provide the means to protect and improve the natural and built environment of the borough.

This plan looks forward to 2016. However the social economic and environmental challenges and opportunities in the borough will not stand still.

Parks are protected in the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) under policy POS 1: Existing Parks and Open Spaces. This means the only type of development allowed on the parks would be that relating to recreation or the maintenance of the park itself (e.g changing rooms, play areas, etc).

Parks will be allocated as a key green infrastructure asset in the borough's Core Strategy (the replacement for the Local Plan, which is expected to be adopted in 2013) and have the same protection as under the existing local plan.

## ***5.5 Park Management Structure***

The Environmental Services is headed by Ian Waller. The section incorporates the grounds maintenance, cleansing operations, greenspace, bereavement services and support services units.

The Greenspaces unit was formed by amalgamating the outdoor leisure management section with the parks and open spaces management and arboricultural services under the Environmental Services section.

The Greenspaces unit is responsible for the management of country parks, urban parks, nature reserves, allotments, woodlands, arboriculture and the park ranger service within Chesterfield.

Other duties include the provision of arboricultural advice to other sections of the council and the letting of facilities in parks for events and sports.

The park Greenspace officers and wardens are organised in three areas covering the east, central and west areas of the borough based within the principal borough parks of Poolsbrook Country Park, Queen's Park and Holmebrook Valley Park respectively.

The park Greenspace officers and wardens undertake a range of site maintenance tasks including woodland and grassland management, hedgerow maintenance, access improvements and the maintenance of fencing and site furniture.

Other duties of the Greenspace officers and wardens are leading volunteer tasks, liaising with the public, providing visitor information, supporting events and deterring misuse of sites. This includes dog fouling and littering.

External contractors are also employed to undertake specialist services such as arboricultural works and wildflower meadow maintenance through hay cutting etc.

Parks policy and landscape development strategies are also formulated by officers within the Greenspaces unit

## ***5.6 Training and Continued Professional Development***

Chesterfield Borough Council is committed to the professional and personal development of its employees. This is demonstrated through the council's involvement in the Investors in People scheme. Employees have annual personal development reviews with their line manager where training needs are highlighted and performance reviewed.

## ***5.7 Budgets and Revenue***

The Environmental Services Section have responsibility for the overall budget for the service. This is split into the various budget heads with an allocation of approximately £1 million for parks and greenspaces.

An essential part of the management role is to maximise grants and external funding for works to greenspaces where possible to augment budgets. This can come from a variety of sources, the most recent being a grant from SITA Trust for £55k, which enabled the creation of Norbriggs Flash Local Nature Reserve.

Significant funding of over £110,000 in the form of a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Grant from Natural England, has funded important wildlife conservation work on the borough's country parks and nature reserves over the past decade. This funding revenue will end in 2023

Important sources of revenue are generated from a number of areas such as sports pitch lettings, angling club leases, organised events, café leases and room lettings in park buildings.

## ***5.8 Marketing and Promotion***

Chesterfield Borough Council promotes its parks and open spaces through the council's in-house public relations section and the award winning tourist information centre based at New Square in Chesterfield town centre.

Promotion of green spaces, and events taking place within them, is undertaken through a variety of media including the council's website, articles in the council publication 'Our Town' and press releases in the Derbyshire Times and other local publications.

## **5.9 Sustainability**

### **5.9.1 Biodiversity**

Chesterfield Borough Council has recognised the importance of biodiversity for a long time and in conjunction with our partners Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust launched the revised *Greenprint for Chesterfield* in 2006. This was a biodiversity action plan for the Borough that helped to co-ordinate our approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the Borough and to preserve our wildlife for current and future generations. This document has been updated to extend to 2023.

Targets are set, and progress monitored, using the national Biodiversity Action Recording System (BARS).

### **5.9.2 Local Wildlife Sites**

Chesterfield has twenty nine Local Wildlife Sites, of which two are local nature reserves.

The results of an assessment undertaken between April 2004 and March 2009 found that twelve of the sites had received positive management within the period covered by the assessment.

Over 40% of Local Wildlife Sites were assessed to be under positive management.

### **5.9.3 Green Purchasing Policy**

Chesterfield Borough Council's environmental purchasing policy is incorporated within the Corporate Procurement Strategy.

The aim of the policy is to improve our environmental performance by procuring environmentally preferable goods and services whilst ensuring that we obtain value for money.

A two part procedure has been developed, purchases are identified as either significant or standard purchases. The aim of this approach is to ensure that purchases that have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment are given more consideration than small day to day purchases.

In order to determine if you are making a purchase with a significant impact a series of thresholds have been developed. The basic principles of the policy are outlined below, and there is also a banned product list which you should refer to.

#### Requirements for Significant Purchases

Significant purchases are not every day events and they warrant a degree of thought and effort to ensure we get it right.

This process is aided and documented by the completion of a Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Form. The Sustainability Officer will help you complete this form.

#### Standard Purchases

Any item which doesn't fall into the significant category is called a Standard Purchase.

For these day to day purchases of less significant items you must consider environmental issues (see below) but you're not obliged to document your thinking.

#### Questions to ask yourself when making a standard purchase

Is the product energy and resource efficient?

Does the product use the minimum amount of virgin materials and make maximum use of post consumer materials (e.g. recycled)?

Is the product non or less polluting to air, water or land than alternatives?

Is the product durable, easily upgraded and repairable?

Is the product reusable and do markets and the infrastructure exist for recycling the product at the end of its life?

Is the product supported by additional information to demonstrate its environmental preferability?

Is the product fit for the purpose and economically advantageous?

### **5.9.4 Banned Product List**

#### 1. Ozone depleting substances

Chesterfield Borough Council will not buy products which contain ozone depleting substances or have used these substances in their production or packaging.

The substances can be categorised as :

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), halons, 1,1,1, trichloroethane and any other ozone depleting substances.

2. Tropical hardwoods not independently certified as coming from a well managed and sustainable source

3. Wood preservatives or wood treated with preservatives containing pentachlorophenol (PCP), lindane or tributyltioxide

4. Active substances banned in the European Union under Council Directive 79/117/EEC

Council Directive 79/117/EEC dated 21 December 1978 prohibits the placing on the market and the use of plant protection products containing certain active substances which, even if applied in an approved manner, could give rise to harmful effects on human health or the environment. The UK government has added several active substances banned in the UK.

The complete list is available on-line at :Pesticides Safety Directorate under annex B

5. Certain cleaning materials

Chesterfield Borough Council will not use products which are petroleum-based, or contain foaming agents NTA or EDTA, optical brighteners, chlorine bleaches, enzymes, synthetic perfumes, colourings or have been tested on animals.

6. Peat for soil amelioration purposes

7. Materials containing Genetically Modified Organisms

### **5.9.5 Environmental Management System**

The borough council operates a form of environmental audit for the council's operations and facilities to ensure minimal impact on the local and wider environment.



## **5.10 Health and Safety**

### **5.10.1 Health and Safety Policy**

Chesterfield Borough Council acknowledges its statutory duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all associated legislation, to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its employees and the health and safety of any other person who may be affected by its undertakings.

The Health and Safety policy, supported by instructions, procedures and organisational arrangements, is to be applied to all the Council's undertakings.

To ensure the successful implementation of the Policy, all Elected Members, the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, Heads of Service, Service Managers, Supervisors and all other employees are committed to fulfilling their health and safety responsibilities.

The Council is committed to continual improvement in meeting its health and safety objectives by reducing, so far as is reasonably practicable, the number of accidents at work and incidents which may have a detrimental effect on health and safety.

The Council's undertakings will be regularly monitored through inspection and audit to ensure that the objectives for health, safety and welfare, set out in this Corporate Health and Safety policy are achieved.

Any changes to existing legislation may require changes to the policy implementation arrangements. These changes will act as an amendment to this policy document until a revised document can be produced.

The policy shall be reviewed biennially and amended, as necessary, to ensure that any objectives, methods, responsibilities and/or recording requirements meet the standards required by statutory provisions.

### **5.10.2 Risk Assessment**

The health and safety policy details the procedure and methodology for producing and

revising risk assessments for the council's operations, property and activities that take place on its land.

### **5.10.3 Water Safety**

The council maintains lifebuoy installations on all its main publicly accessible waterbodies, which are inspected regularly by the greenspaces team.

Warning and prohibition signs are erected in prominent locations around waterbodies to deter misuse and injury or death.

The greenspaces staff displays 'thin ice' signs on waterbodies during the winter months when the temperature drops below zero Celsius.

## ***5.11 Waste Management, Street Cleansing and Enforcement***

### **5.11.1 Dog Fouling**

Dog excrement receptacles have been installed on streets and public greenspace across the borough for use by the general public. The receptacles are emptied by Environmental Services cleansing operatives a minimum of once a week with high use receptacles being emptied more frequently.

### **5.11.2 Litter**

Routine and reactive litter collection is dealt with by the Environmental Services cleansing operatives. Teams are despatched on specific routes through streets and public open spaces to collect loose litter and empty litter bins routinely.

The park ranger service also undertakes litter collection duties in specific parks and open spaces across the borough.

The borough council takes a proactive stance on reducing littering offences and have trained dog enforcement officers, housing Greenspace officers and park Greenspace officers to issue fixed penalty notices to people who are witnessed dropping litter.

### **5.11.3 Green Waste**

Waste generated from arboricultural or woodland operations are dealt with in four ways. Timber, cordwood and brash are left on site to provide a dead wood habitat for invertebrates and mammals.

Woodchip and cordwood are taken to Eastwood Park depot for storage and reuse as mulch on low grade amenity shrub beds. The nursery has a waste transfer license from the Environment Agency to permit this activity. Timber and logs are sold to local biomass and firewood contractors to offset the cost of operations if of marketable value. Other arising green waste, such as collected amenity grass cuttings, is disposed of at a local green composting site.

### **5.12 Pest Control**

Rodent and invertebrate control is undertaken by the borough council's Environmental Control section.

Invasive vascular plant species, such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, are controlled through planned herbicide treatment programmes.

### **5.13 Building Maintenance**

Buildings are maintained by the council's facilities maintenance section. Repairs and inspection are undertaken on both a programmed and reactive basis.

### **5.14 Play Facilities**

Chesterfield Borough Council manages 88 play spaces that provide for a diverse range of play opportunities for children and young play in the Borough.

Good quality play provision is a key part of the Council's vision because it helps to develop healthy, confident, creative, tolerant and culturally aware children and young people.

Through the Play Strategy the Council will further improve on existing work to ensure

better provision for children's play.

Key outcomes for the Play Strategy are:

- Make effective use of funding
- Complements and informs other key strategic plans and initiatives
- Sustain play provision over the long term
- Improve public spaces as an environment for play
- Improve children's access to safe places to play and socialise
- Provide more and better local and inclusive play opportunities where they are most needed.
- Promote longer term, more cross-cutting partnership working
- Develop strong leadership and support for play
- Promote and develop commitment to play at a strategic level
- Promote and develop inclusively
- Enhance decision making and service provision

## **OUR KEY THEMES**

Informed by the audits and consultation and linking into key strategic documents and priorities, a series of Play Strategy Themes have been developed. These set out the core objectives for the Play Strategy to develop and implement the needs and aspirations of children and young people in Chesterfield and have been a reference point for all action and delivery plans arising from the strategy.

**Theme 1** RAISE AWARENESS OF PLAY

**Theme 2** RAISING THE QUALITY OF PLAY PROVISION

**Theme 3** IMPROVING THE RANGE OF EQUIPPED PLAY PROVISION

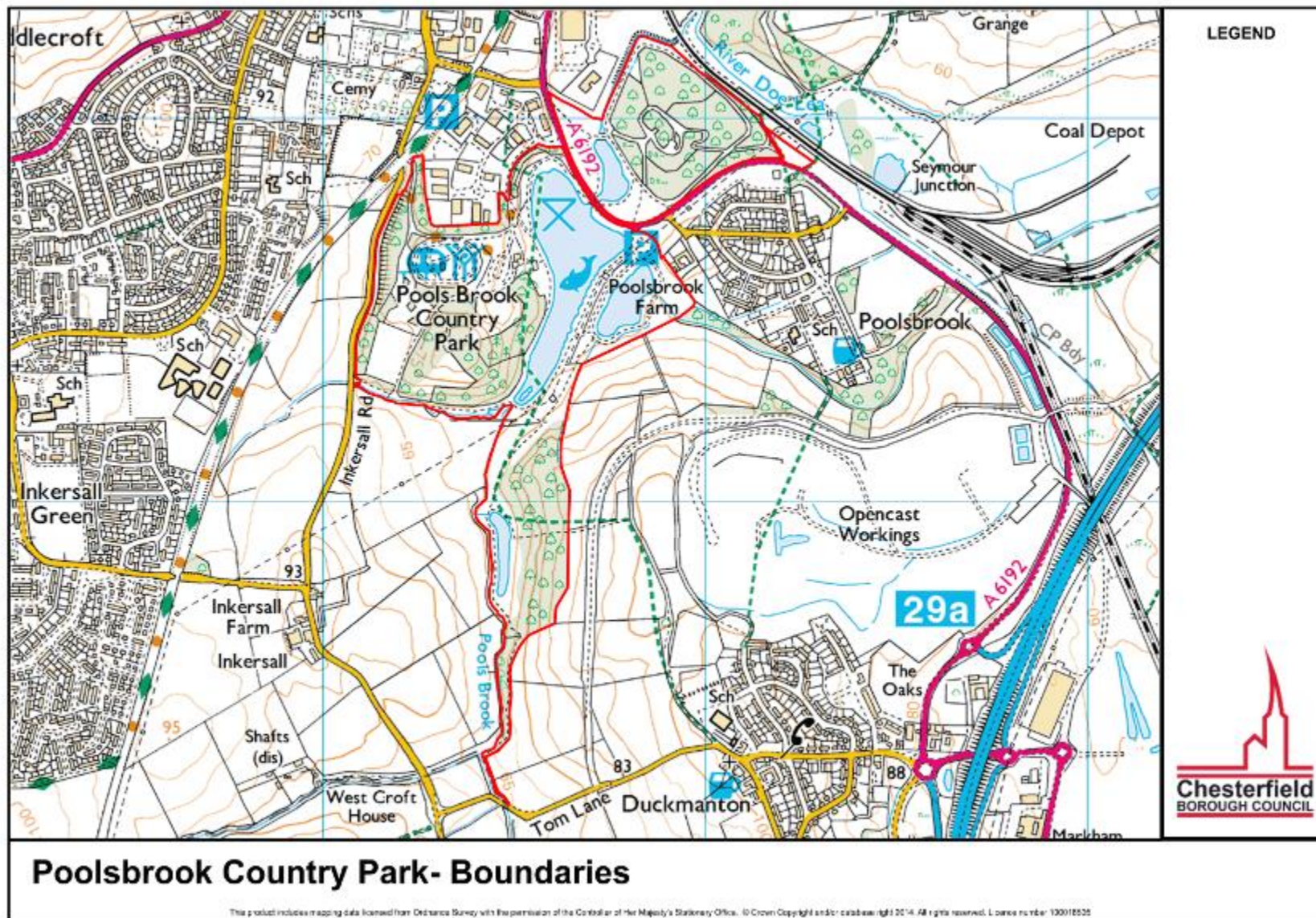
**Theme 4** EXTENDING THE RANGE OF PLAY OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION

**Theme 5** PROVIDING MORE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

## APPENDIX 1

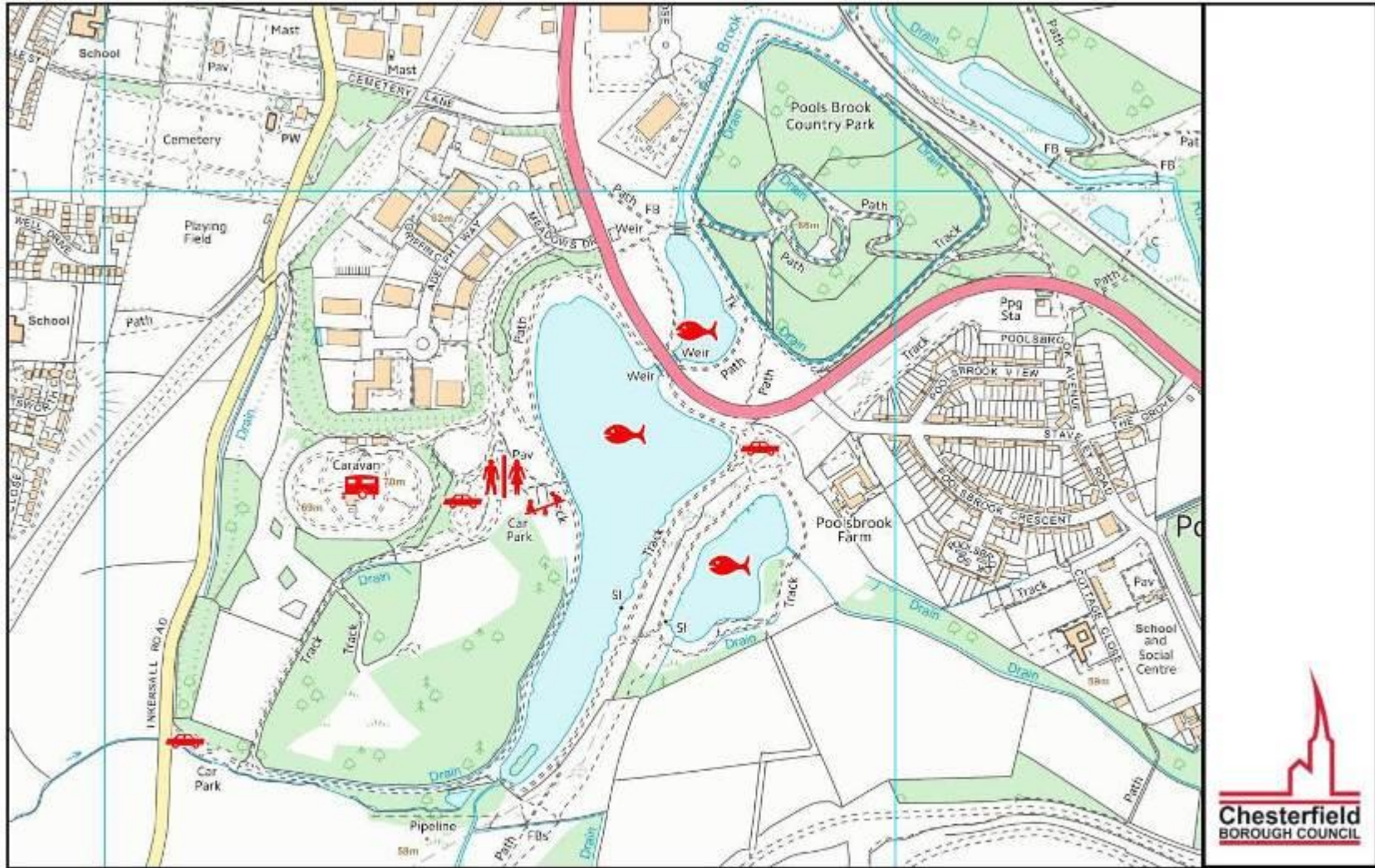
### MAPS

- Map1- Park Boundaries
- Map 2- Visitor Facilities
- Map 3- Species-rich Grassland
- Map 4- Woodlands
- Map 5- Hedgerows







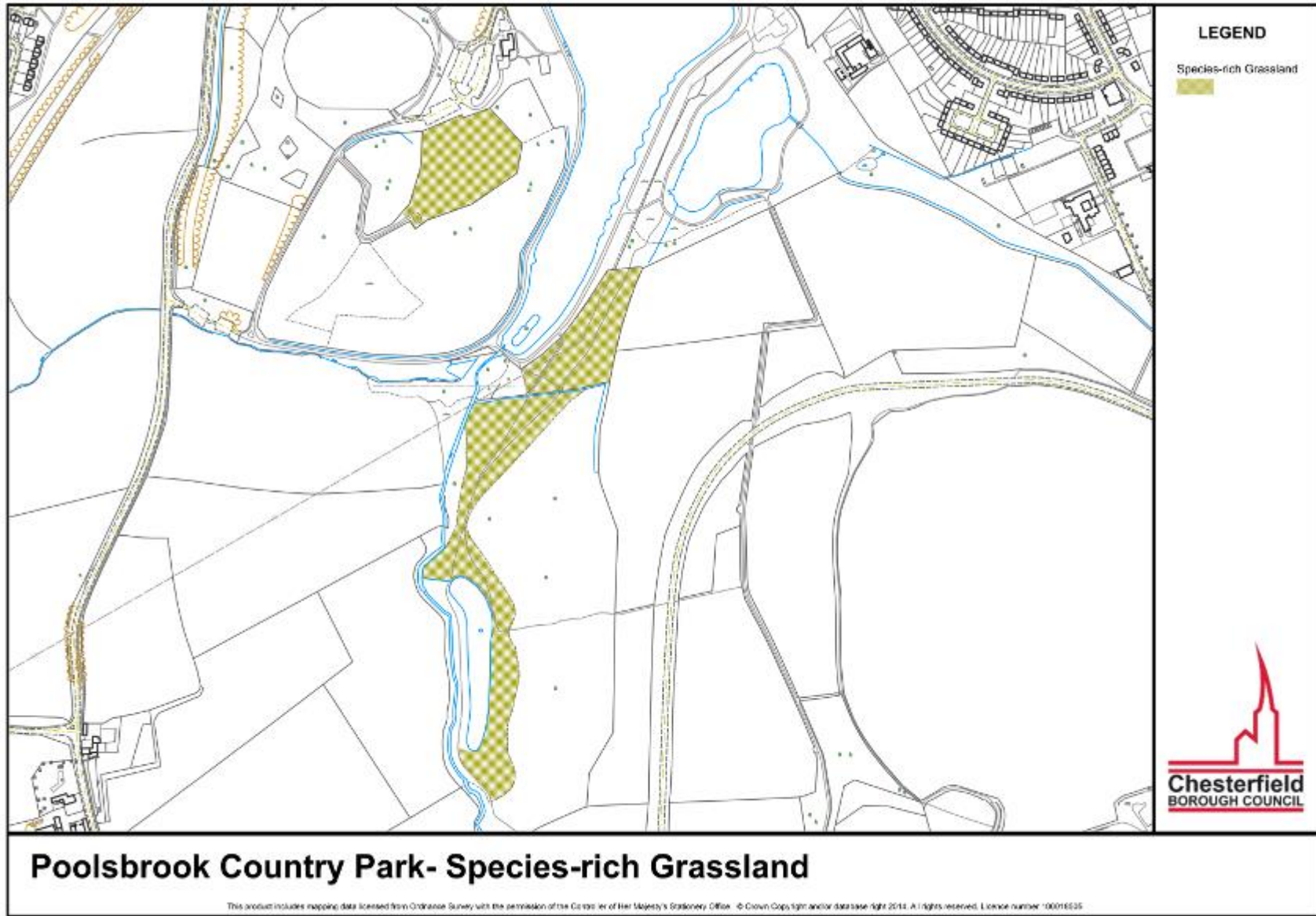


## Poolsbrook Country Park- Visitor Facilities

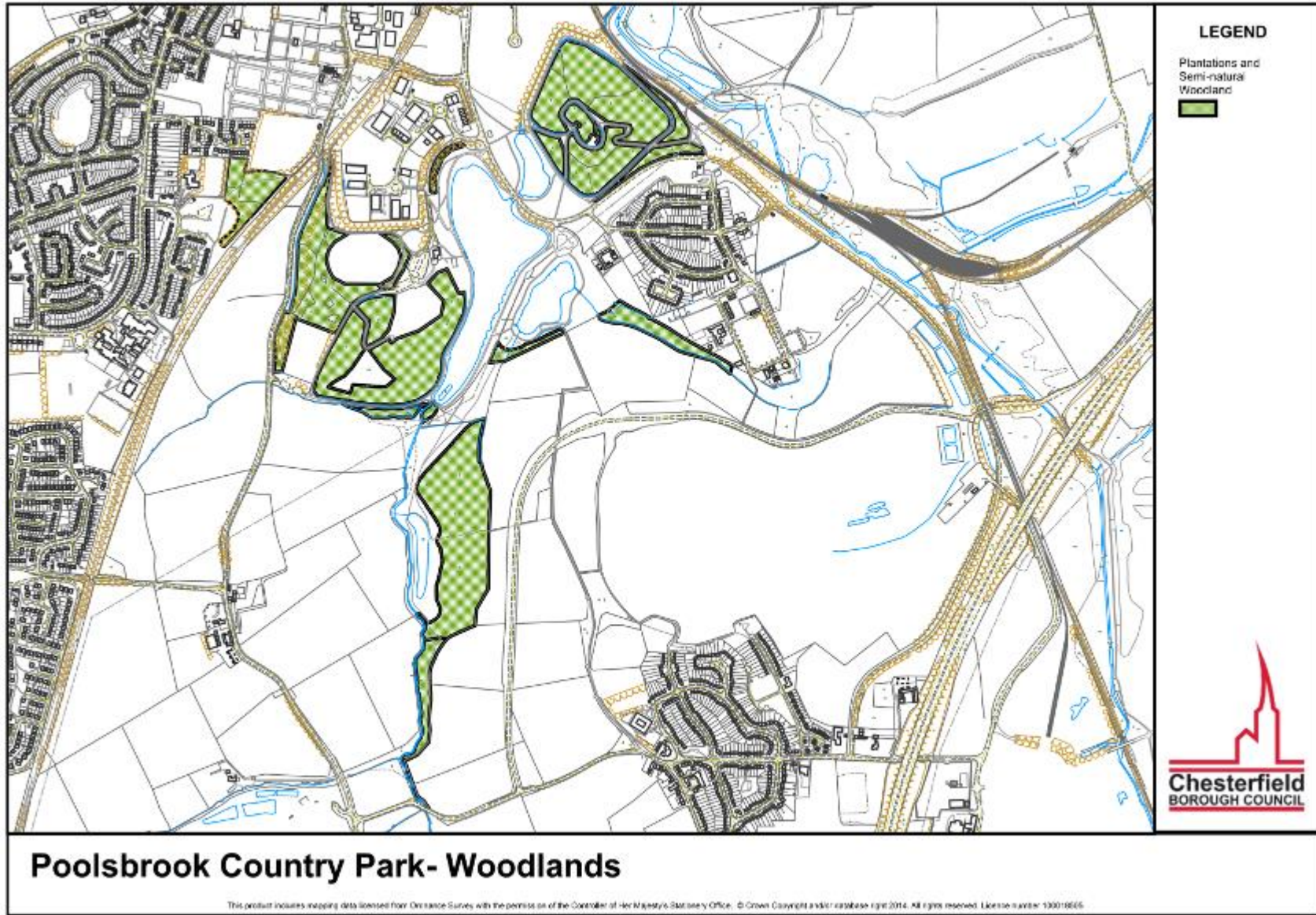
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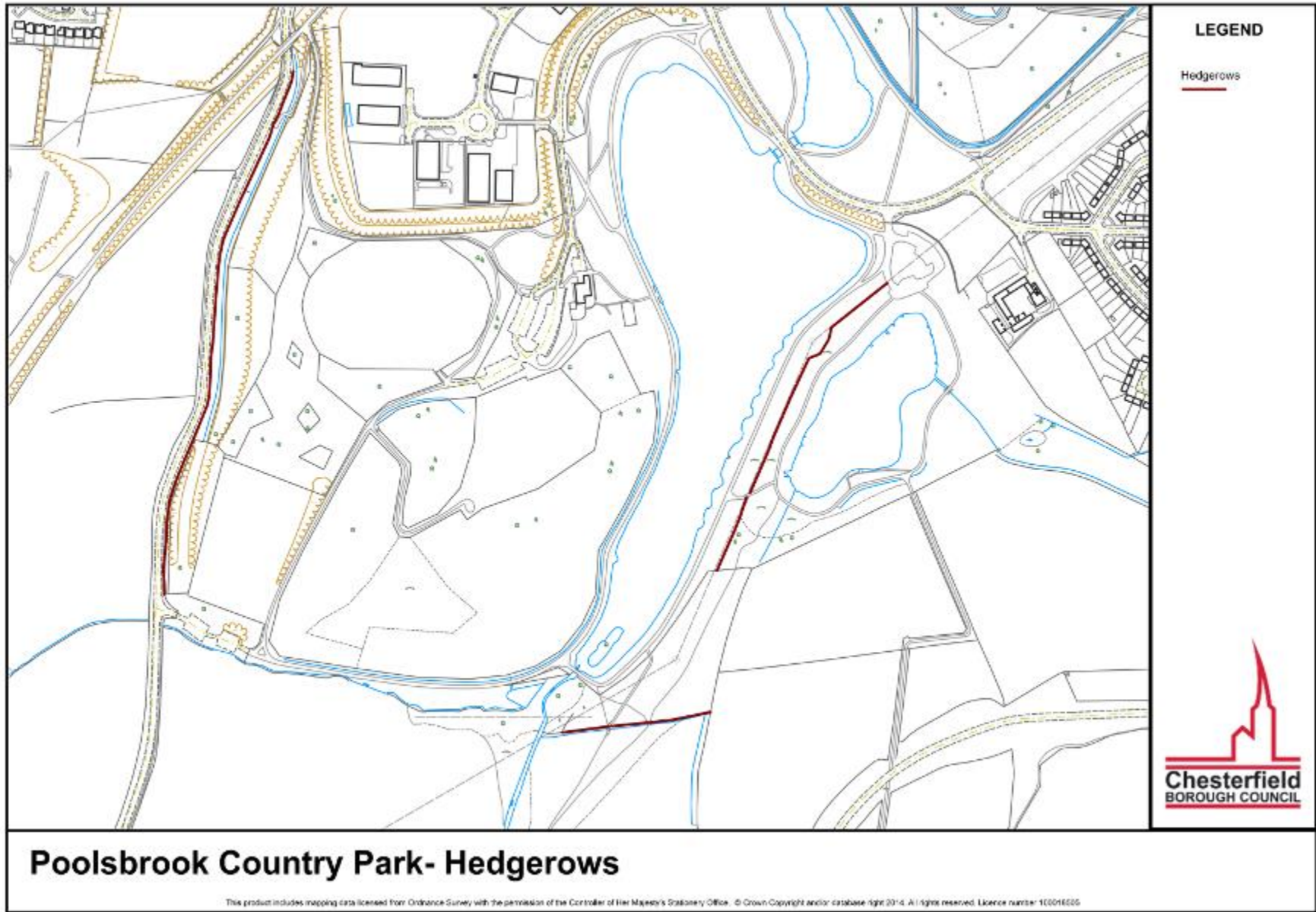












## APPENDIX 2

### Species List

#### Ground Flora & Aquatics

Great Willowherb  
Common Nettle  
Wild Angelica  
Common Ragwort  
Meadowsweet  
Greater pond-sedge  
Common spike-rush  
Yellow Iris  
Gypsywort  
Purple-loosestrife  
Water mint  
Common club-rush  
Greater Spearwort  
Water dock  
Fringed water-lily  
Water starwort  
Rigid hornwort  
Spiked water-milfoil  
Common-spotted orchid  
Common bird's foot trefoil  
Common knapweed  
Ragged-robbin  
Yellow rattle  
Common reedmace  
Common Reed  
Southern Marsh Orchid  
Meadow Crane's Bill  
Tufted vetch  
Ribwort Plantain  
Meadow vetchling  
Betony  
Lesser Stitchwort  
Devil's Bit Scabious  
Woodsage  
Common Sorrel  
Bulbous buttercup  
Meadow buttercup  
Selfheal  
Cowslip

Lady's bedstraw  
Pignut  
Common Knapweed  
Yarrow  
Oxeye daisy

#### Grasses

Common bent  
Sweet vernal-grass  
Crested doGreenspaces Teamail  
Fine-leaved sheep's fescue  
Sheep's fescue  
Slender Creeping red fescue  
Smaller Cat's tail  
Yorkshire fog  
Meadow foxtail  
Cocksfoot  
Perennial rye-grass

#### Birds

Grey Partridge  
Pheasant  
Woodcock  
Wood pigeon  
Great Crested Grebe  
Little Crested Grebe  
Black backed Gull  
Cormorant  
Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Mallard  
Yellow hammer  
Robin  
Wren  
Chaffinch  
Bulfinch  
Great tit  
Blue tit  
Crossbill  
Green woodpecker

Song thrush  
Mistle thrush  
Coot  
Moorhen  
Starling  
Tree Sparrow  
Reed warbler  
Gold finch  
Heron  
Dunnock  
Long-tailed tit  
Pied wagtail  
Buzzard  
Kestrel  
Sparrowhawk  
Magpie  
Jackdaw  
Carrion Crow  
Jay

### **Mammals**

Water vole  
Brown Hare  
Rabbit  
Grey squirrel  
Brown rat  
Field vole  
Mole  
Stoat

Hedgehog  
American Mink  
Roe Deer

### **Trees**

Pendunculate Oak  
Red Oak  
Scots Pine  
Corsican Pine  
European Larch  
False Acacia  
Ash  
Small-leaved Lime  
Yew  
Aspen  
White Poplar  
Crack Willow  
Norway Maple  
Common Alder  
Italian Alder  
Field Maple  
Goat Willow  
Silver Birch  
Crab Apple  
Pillar Apple  
Hawthorn  
Hazel  
Holly  
Dogwood  
Guelder Rose



## APPENDIX 3

- General Risk Assessment for the Park
- COSHH Risk Assessment



### C.B.C. RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

<b>SELECT ASSESSMENT TYPE. DELETE TYPE N/A.</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TITLE</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT NO.</b>	P002	<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	Environmental Services
<b>WORKPLACE:</b>	<b>Chesterfield Borough Council Areas</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT DATE:</b>	Initial Assessment: N/A	<b>SECTION:</b>	Environmental
<b>TASK:</b>	<b>Poolsbrook Country Park</b>	<b>ASSESSED BY:</b>	<b>Barry Tomlinson</b>	<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>WORK EQUIPMENT:</b>	<b>Poolsbrook Country Park</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	Annually	<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	
<b>RISK RATING &amp; RESIDUAL RISK:</b>				<b>SECTION HEAD:</b>	Dean Epton
<b>L/M/H = LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH</b>					
<b><u>NB: USE RISK RATING SHEET TO DECIDE RISK RATING &amp; RESIDUAL RISK</u></b>					

WORKPLACE/TASK /EQUIPMENT. ASSESSE	HAZARDS IDENTIFIED	WHO IS AT RISK	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	RISK RAT. (L/M/H)	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES	RES. RISK (L/M/H)
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Paths	Slips, Trips & Falls	Employees Public	<p>Paths are routinely inspected and issues highlighted</p> <p>Vegetation is routinely cut and maintained to keep paths clear</p> <p>Maintenance work is carried out periodically to re-surface and repair the paths</p> <p>Notice are displayed around the park when paths are frozen / slippery</p>	Medium (3 * 2)	Path plan to highlight specific areas to be produced with document inspections recorded	Medium (3 * 2)
Steps	Slips, Trips & Falls	Employees Public	<p>Steps are routinely inspected and issued highlighted</p> <p>Vegetation is routinely cut and maintained to keep steps clear</p> <p>Maintenance work is carried out periodically to re-surface, re-instate and repair the step</p> <p>Steps are taken out of use if unsafe</p>	Medium (3 * 2)	Path plan to highlight specific areas to be produced with document inspections recorded	Medium (3 * 2)
Bridges	Structural Failure	Employees Public Animals	<p>Bridges are inspected on an annual basis by structural engineer</p> <p>Bridges are inspected on quarterly basis by competent person</p> <p>Bridges are closed if any structural / safety concerns are raised</p>	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (4 * 2)
Lake	Drowning	Public	<p>Warning notices are displayed a various locations around the lake</p> <p>Life Bouys are located at various locations around the lake</p> <p>The lake is a no swimming or boating lake</p>	Medium (5 * 2)		Medium (5 * 2)

Benches	Collapse Impact Injury	Public	Benches are routinely inspected and issued highlighted  Maintenance work is carried out periodically to repair or replace broken benches  Benches are taken out of use if unsafe	Low (2 * 2)		Low (2 * 2)
Fish Pegs	Collapse Impact Injury Drowning Slips, Trips & Falls	Public	Fishing Pegs are routinely inspected and issues highlighted  Maintenance work is carried out periodically to repair or replace broken Fishing Pegs  Fishing Pegs are taken out of use if unsafe  Anti-slip surface on top of Fishing Pegs  All banks / paths leading to Fishing Pegs are routinely inspected & repaired as required	Medium (5 * 2)		Medium (5 * 2)
Play Area	Impact Injuries Trap Injuries Slips, Trips & Falls	Public	All play equipment is inspected annually by independent engineer & also by insurance  Play equipment is maintained on a weekly basis	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (3 * 2)
Trees	Impact Injuries Cuts & Scratches	Employees Public	Trees are routinely thinned out as required.  All obstructing over hanging branches are removed as required  Trees are routinely inspected by qualified staff and any necessary safety work arranged.	Low (2 * 2)		Medium (3 * 3)

Horses	Collison	Public	<p>Specific routes are highlighted around the park for horses</p> <p>Paths are routinely inspected and issued highlighted and repaired</p> <p>Horses limited to walking and trotting on concessionary routes- no cantering, galloping or jumping.</p>	Medium (3 * 2)		Medium (3 * 2)
Inappropriate Motor Vehicle Use	Collison Damage to Environment	Employees Public Animals	<p>Car park are closed dusk till dawn</p> <p>Barriers block off access to the park in various locations</p> <p>Speed limits are in place</p> <p>Speed humps are installed</p> <p>Greenspace officers patrol public areas during daytime hours</p> <p>Area is patrolled during evening hours on occasional basis by local P.C.S.O. &amp; security company</p>	Medium (5 * 2)		Medium (5 * 2)
Dogs	Dog Fouling Dog Attack	Employees Public	<p>Bins are provided at various locations around the park</p> <p>Warning signs regarding dog fouling are displayed around the park</p> <p>Enforcement officers visit the park on regular occasions during the day</p> <p>Greenspace officers have been trained and are qualified to issue fines</p> <p>Dog owners are encouraged to keep dogs on lead in densely populated areas or when events are taking place</p>	Medium (4 * 2)	Dogs to be kept on lead signage to be erect around lake area & around children's play areas	Medium (4 * 2)

Events	Public Safety  Conflicts	Public  Employees	All events are booked through the Council & are recorded on booking system  Event booking plans are required for all events including insurance  Notices are displayed around the park notifying public of any change to the area	Low (2 * 2)		
General Public Safety	Injury & Incident	Public	Car park are closed dusk till dawn  Notices are displayed at main public entrances stating parks opening & closing times  Lighting is kept on at night around pavilion  Greenspace officers patrol public areas during daytime hours  Additional staff are on duty when events are taking place	Medium (3 * 2)		
Anti Social Behavior	Physical Injury  Physical Damage  Psychological Injury	Employees  Public	Greenspace officers patrol public areas during daytime hours  Area is patrolled during evening hours on occasional basis by local P.C.S.O. & security company  Staff are required to report ALL incidents in accordance with departmental procedures  Mobile phones supplied to each team & can raise issues direct to Police on Helpline Number 0845 1233333 or 999 in Emergency	Medium (3 * 2)	Staff to be provided with training in dealing with Anti Social Behavior issues  Notices to be displayed asking public to report any issues relating to anti social behavior	Medium (3 * 2)

Sharps	Puncture Wounds Blood born Viruses	Employees Public	Greenspace officers patrol the park on a regular basis  Greenspace officers are trained to collect sharps & all incidents are reported	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (4 * 2)
Water Quality	Various Health Issues	Employees Public	Water samples are taken on a weekly basis  Warning notices are displayed around the lake area if any minor issues to public safety  Lake area is fenced of if any major issues to public safety	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (4 * 2)

Fire	Burns & Death  Damage to the Environment	Employees  Contractors  Environment	<p><b>Park</b> The park is not used for camping purposes &amp; barbequing &amp; fires are not allowed</p> <p><b>Building</b> Poolsbrook Country Park depot has had a fire risk assessment completed</p> <p>All electrical equipment is Portable Appliance Tested annually</p> <p>Poolsbrook Country has a Break Glass alarm system fitted in the ranger office &amp; associated building, verbal notification is required in garage area</p> <p>Fire alarm &amp; smoke detectors are tested on regular basis by Technical Services</p> <p>ALL staff are aware of the Fire Action Procedure</p> <p>Fire extinguishers are provided &amp; are serviced on an annual basis by Chubb</p> <p>Annual fire safety training is given to all staff</p> <p>Full fire drills / evacuations to be carried out every 6 months</p>	Medium (5 * 2)		Medium (5 * 2)
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Missing / Lost Children		Employees  Public	<p>Staff / Child ratio guidelines following dependant on age of children</p> <p>Register taken at start of activity, during any breaks &amp; at end of activity</p> <p>As soon as you become aware that a child is lost or missing you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform the Group Supervisor immediately</li> <li>• Check when / where the child was last seen</li> <li>• Check all areas of the building / site – use all available staff</li> </ul> <p>If the child cannot be found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the child's parent and emergency contact to see if the child has returned home.</li> <li>• Contact the police</li> </ul>	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (4 * 2)
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**RESIDUAL RISK RATING**

<b>SEVERITY</b>	<b>VALUE</b>	<b>LIKELIHOOD</b>
NO INJURY	1	VERY UNLIKELY
MINOR INJURY	2	UNLIKELY
OVER 3 DAY INJURY	3	POSSIBLE
MAJOR INJURY	4	LIKELY
DEATH	5	VERY LIKELY

**RESIDUAL RISK LEVEL**

SEVERITY            X            LIKELIHOOD            = RISK RATING

**EXAMPLE**

MINOR INJURY (2) X            UNLIKELY (2)            = 4

<b><u>RISK RATING &amp; RESIDUAL RISK RATING</u></b>	
1 – 5	LOW RISK
6 – 12	MEDIUM RISK
13 – 25	HIGH RISK





# COSHH Risk Assessment No:

**RISK LEVEL**

Directorate: **Environment**

Establishment/Section: **Environmental Services**

Describe the activity or work process.  
*(Include how long and how often this is carried out and the quantity of substance used)*

Storage of Chemicals and Fuel at Poolsbrook Country Park

Location of process being carried out?

Greenspace officers' garage

Identify the persons at risk:

Employees   
*(including trainees)*

Contractors

Public   
*(including students)*

Name the substance involved in the process and its manufacturer.  
*(A copy of a current safety data sheet for this substance should be attached to this assessment)*

Unleaded fuel  
Roundup herbicide

### Classification *(state the category of danger)*

#### NEW SYMBOLS



Explosive



Danger



Sensitiser, Carcinogen, Mutagen or Teratogen



Warning



Oxidiser



Corrosive



Aquatic Toxicity



Flammable



Compressed Liquefied Gas

### Hazard Type



Gas



Vapour



Mist



Fume



Dust



Liquid



Solid



Other (State) .....

### Route of Exposure



Inhalation



Skin



Eyes



Ingestion



Other (State) .....

### Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs) *please indicate n/a where not applicable*

Long-term exposure level (8hrTWA):

Short-term exposure level (15 mins):

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**State the Risks to Health from Identified Hazards**









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**Control Measures:** (for example extraction, ventilation, training, supervision). Include special measures for vulnerable groups, such as disabled people and pregnant workers. Take account of those substances that are produced from activities undertaken by another employer's employees.

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Is health surveillance or monitoring required? Yes  No

**Personal Protective Equipment (state type and standard)**

 <input type="checkbox"/>		 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Dust mask		Visor	
 <input type="checkbox"/>		 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Respirator		Goggles	
 <input type="checkbox"/>		 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Gloves		Overalls	
 <input type="checkbox"/>		 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Footwear		Other	

**First Aid Measures**

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**Storage**

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**Disposal of Substances & Contaminated Containers**

Hazardous Waste <input type="checkbox"/>	Skip <input type="checkbox"/>	Return to Depot <input type="checkbox"/>	Return to Supplier <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
(If Other Please State):.....				

Is exposure adequately controlled?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Risk Rating Following Control Measures**

High <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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