



Holmebrook Valley Park Management Plan 2020-2025



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Greenspaces Section Environmental Services
Chesterfield Borough Council
Stonegravels Lane
Chesterfield S41 7LF**

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Foreword

I am very pleased to be given the opportunity to write a few words in support of our Green Flag application for 2021. First of all I would like to say that Holmebrook Valley Park is a great asset to the Council and the local community.

Over the last twenty years since the park was created it has grown to become a vibrant recreational facility as well as a significant wildlife haven for the local area. The park has been enjoyed for many years by the local and wider community in Chesterfield who have worked together to make the park the place it is today.

It is also heartening to mention the extent of volunteers who give up their free time to assist and manage the various projects that take place in the park, even the less popular ones such as river clearance and litter picking. They show the pride and appreciation for what we have created in the park and our custody of its future.

All of the projects and actions set out in the plan ensure that it is striving to attain the highest standards, expected by the public and judged by the Green Flag awarding body.

Lastly I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to all the staff, individuals, organisations and professionals who have enabled this management plan to be produced.



Councillor 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 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 Appendices and 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 daily 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

Appendices provide assorted supporting documents, such as maps and risk assessments.

1.0 Current Management

1.1 Site Name

Holmebrook Valley Park.

1.2 Site Introduction

Holmebrook Valley Park is one of two country parks owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council and was the first to be completed during the 1990s.

The site was initially opencast for coal before being reclaimed and landscaped from 1992 onwards. The chair of the Recreation and Leisure committee at the time said “Holmebrook Valley Park really is going to be a jewel in our crown.” On looking at the park today this promise has been fulfilled.

The park was officially opened by Frank Dobson MP on Sunday 23rd April 1995.

Since then the park has gone from strength to strength resulting in the overall maturity of the site and the acceptance within the local and wider community as a place to enjoy and spend leisure time.



1.3 Site Location

The park is situated on the western fringe of the borough of Chesterfield with a central grid reference of SK356729. The main entrances for the site are on Watermeadow Lane, Newbold, Chesterfield, S41 8XP and Linacre Road, Holme Hall, Chesterfield.

1.4 Site Description

Holmebrook Valley Park covers 141 acres and is situated on the western fringe of the borough of Chesterfield. The western boundaries of the park follow the dividing line between the borough of Chesterfield and the district of North East Derbyshire.

The park consists of a mosaic of woodland, species-rich wildflower meadows, sports pitches, open water and visitor facilities, such as play areas and picnic sites. The watercourse Holme Brook bisects the park on its journey eastward to its confluence with the River Hipper in Chesterfield town centre.

The altitude of the park is between 100 and 135 metres above sea level. The park features two plateau areas on the south and north sides of the site, which are linked by a steep slope with a southerly aspect.

The site can be described as 'urban fringe' linking the suburb of Newbold with the rural parishes of Cutthorpe and Old Brampton.

1.5 Political Representation

The park is covered by the borough council ward of Linacre, this is currently represented by Cllr Peter Barr. Most of the park falls within the County Council electoral ward of St Mary's, represented by Cllr Jean Innes.

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

As Holmebrook Valley Park falls within the parliamentary constituency of Chesterfield, the area is currently represented by Toby Perkins MP.

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 has designations under the council's forward plan.

The entire site is designated as Green Belt within the borough council's adopted local plan.

The area of semi-natural riparian woodland that flanks the Holme Brook is designated as a County Wildlife Site due to its conservation importance recognised by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

1.6.3 Licences

An annual grazing licence is issued to a pony grazier for a field on the western fringe of the site in connection with the conservation management of the grassland.

A licence has been signed for the operation of a café within the pavilion.

Holmebrook Valley Park Angling Club holds a licence for fishing rights on the lake and a model aircraft club holds an operating licence for the playing fields at specific times.

1.6.4 Byelaws

Byelaws for all council owned parks and greenspaces are currently under review. The current byelaws are not applicable to Holmebrook Valley Park but this is to be addressed through the review. A Public Space Protection Order, restricting dogs in certain areas of the park, is pending subject to further public consultation.

1.6.5 Public Rights of Way and Access Arrangements

Two public footpaths cross the park from north to south and two statutory bridleways pass from east to west through the park.

The borough council provides a number of concessionary bridleways and footpaths around the site. Informal open access is encouraged throughout the site with the exception of the fenced area of riparian woodland and the field to the western fringe which is grazed with livestock.

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.

(See Access Routes Map- Appendix I)

1.7 History of the park

Holmebrook Valley Park was created during the mid 1990s when the site was landscaped following the extraction of 270,000 tonnes of coal through open cast mining operations. A number of remnant small-scale mines in the form of 'bell pits' were uncovered at the time of open casting.

Prior to open cast mining the site formed part of the farmed landscape and was largely attached to the Holme Hall holding. Some of the existing boundary features are shown on maps from the 19th century and stone gate posts from the era can be found on Brockwell Lane and the old bridleways.

A 'trotting track' is shown on the 1921 Ordnance Survey map on the southern boundary of the site. This may have been an informal racetrack used by local miners for racing pit ponies.

Brockwell Lane, which runs through the park, was a former drovers road used in the transport of salt from Cheshire in the 18th Century.

1.8 Natural Environment Management

1.8.1 Landscape and Ecological Value of the Park



Holmebrook Valley Park's 'rural fringe' location provides an important link for wildlife from the surrounding countryside to Chesterfield's urban greenspace. The watercourse Holme Brook benefits from a broad flank of undeveloped, riparian greenspace, which begins at Holmebrook Valley Park and ends close to the watercourse's urban confluence with the River Hipper in Chesterfield town centre.

Aside from the site's value as a wildlife corridor component in the wider landscape, Holmebrook Valley Park features a diversity of habitats which is unique to its locality. The extensive areas of species rich grassland,

managed lake and riparian woodland support a broad range of plant and animal species.

The Park is home to a range of wildlife including nationally and locally rare species such as water voles and white clawed crayfish.

There is a vast range of wildflowers to be found within the park's species rich grassland including two species of orchid.

As a testament to the wildlife value of the park within the local and wider area the parks designation as a local wildlife site has been extended. The LWS panel described the park as, '*an excellent example of restoration of former colliery land for wildlife and agreed with the assessment of the site's key ecological features primarily the value of a large scale mosaic of habitats, but also in relation to the Ark site for white clawed crayfish*'

(See Appendix II- Species List and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Report)
(CH062 Extension of Local wildlife site designation)

1.8.2 Funding for Environmental Management

The Greenspaces Section secured a Higher-Level Environmental Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England in 2010, which ran until 2020. This has been confirmed as extended to 2021. 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 HLS grant contributes towards 15 hectares of grassland management and 330m of hedgerow restoration within Holmebrook Valley Park.

1.8.3 Tree and Woodland Management

The park's tree cover consists of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, recent mixed plantation and copses, hedgerow trees and individual specimen trees of varying age.

The riparian area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland that encloses Holme Brook remained untouched during the open cast mining operations on the adjacent land to the north. This area features ground flora associated with ancient-semi natural woodland in the region including Yellow Archangel, Wood Sorrel, Lords and Ladies and Ransoms. It is likely that this area is remnant ancient woodland due to the species present. The woodland contains species that place it within W8 and W10 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. An initial survey in 2005 highlighted the site's ecological significance.

The 2005 survey noted that the ground flora was deteriorating in places due to compaction from the public accessing the watercourse. This resulted in the need to fence the entire area to prevent public access and allow the ground flora to recover. The area is managed by non-intervention. A recent survey in 2011 have noted a recovery in ground flora communities in places although some patches remain bare due to previous heavy compaction. Unauthorised access has now been controlled through the installation of a stile and surfaced path. Since the area was fenced an increase in the number of nesting birds has been noted by site staff.

Following the reclamation of the site from open cast mining a whole site landscape restoration scheme was implemented including the establishment various small plantations and copses, planted for landscape improvement and wildlife.

Species planted include natives such as Pendunculate Oak, Silver Birch, Rowan, Field Maple, Hazel and Ash along with other species such as Scots Pine, Corsican Pine, Norway Maple, Silver Maple, Horse Chestnut, Holm Oak, White Poplar and Walnut.

Planting was undertaken in patterns designed to imitate natural woodland and the plantations and copses are now undergoing first selective thinning.

The thinning policy is to favour well formed, windfirm stems whilst retaining a diverse species mix of natives and exotics.

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.

Coppicing is undertaken on a 5-8 year cycle on the stands of White Poplar, White Willow, Wych Elm and Crack Willow that border the lake for conservation and safety purposes.

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, 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, biomass or left as dead wood where safe and appropriate.

Holmebrook Valley Park is currently well stocked with trees but replanting is considered where an individual tree requires removal. Where replanting is undertaken the species selected usually is one that occurs naturally in the area unless a specific visual effect is desired.

Tree and woodland management is undertaken by park staff and outside contractors.

(See Semi-Natural Woodland & Plantations and Scrub & Thinning Maps- Appendix I)

1.8.4 Tree Safety

The tree stock within the park is routinely inspected by officers who are trained and qualified in arboriculture.

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

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

The greenspace team report obvious hazards to the Forestry Team for action or will make safe trees themselves where they are able to do so.

1.8.5 Hedgerow Management

A number of the hedgerows that flank the old sunken bridleway track and other bridle tracks to the west edge of the site are of great antiquity and contain several mature Common Ash and

Pendunculate Oak. The ground flora in the hedge bottom is diverse and contains species such as Bluebell, Dogs Mercury, Wood Anemone, Jack-by-the-Hedge and Yellow Archangel.

The existing hedgerows are complimented by newly planted hedgerows that have attained an age where management is required.

Management consists of laying hedges in the traditional Derbyshire style and light mechanical flailing to prevent obstructions of bridleways and footpaths. This work is undertaken by greenspace team or external contractors.

1.8.6 Conservation Grassland Management

Holmebrook Valley Park features large areas of species rich grassland, both semi-naturally occurring and created.

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 in late summer baling and removing. Wildflower seed will be broadcast on fields following chain harrowing to improve the botanical interest.

One of the fields on the western fringe of the site is grazed between May and November with Welsh Mountain Ponies as part of the conservation grassland maintenance.

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, who has been engaged on the works for a number of years and is familiar with the sites at Holmebrook Valley Park and throughout the borough.

(See Conservation Grassland Map- Appendix I)

1.8.7 Lake and Watercourse and Management



One of the key focal points of the park is the lake located at the west end of the site. The water body is fed from field drain and surface run off at the western end of the lake with an outflow into the Holme Brook on the eastern side. An abstraction pipe from the Holme Brook into the west bank of the lake was blocked in 2008 to prevent signal crayfish and porcelain

diseased infected white-clawed crayfish entering the lake.

The lake has capacity as a venue for informal, and match, coarse angling run through Holmebrook Valley Park Angling Club (see Recreation and Amenity Management section). The lake is also popular with visitors interested in ornithology, general relaxation and 'feeding the ducks'. The borough council works with the angling club to ensure structures such as angling platforms are maintained to a suitable standard and bankside 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.

Aside from the recreational use of the lake the water body is an important refuge for wildlife. Surveys over recent years identified the lake as having potential for use as a white-clawed crayfish 'Ark' site. White-clawed crayfish were released in the lake under license from Natural England and specific habitat management work has been undertaken to support the species. This work consists of the creation of submerged refuge and spawning areas using bundles of cut woody material staked along the shallow margins of the lake. Woody material is sourced from forestry operations within the park.

Two stretches of barrier constructed of locally felled logs were installed at the eastern and western banks of the lake to assist in halting bankside erosion.

The Holme Brook issues at an old reservoir one quarter of a mile west of the pond where the watercourse ceases to be known as Linacre Brook. The watercourse catchment sources are springs high up the Linacre Valley with a tributary spring from Cutthorpe, the confluence of which is located on the western fringe of the park.

The watercourse has not been noticeably canalised or diverted on its route through the park and a series of natural meanders are apparent within the riparian woodland.

The Holme Brook provides a habitat for various species with brown trout, water vole and white clawed crayfish present.

Management of the conservation aspect of the lake is undertaken by the greenspace team.

Three new wildlife ponds /scrapes were created during 2012 and 2013. The first of these was located within a verge area of the upper pavilion car park, the second within the area of scrub and plantation adjacent to the pony paddock and a third on the north western track to Hall Farm. It is hoped that the ponds will develop into important habitats for dragonflies and other invertebrates and will be used for environmental education in the future.

1.8.8 Water Safety

Swimming and water sports are not permitted in the lake.

Lifebuoys are positioned at various points around the lake, which are checked daily by the greenspace team. Signage warning that swimming is not permitted is installed at three points around the lake.

The greenspace team who undertake work to the water body can swim and are trained in small boat handling.

Thin ice signs are displayed on all waterbodies during the winter months.

An open water risk assessment has been produced. (See Appendix III)

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 Site area under a service level agreement with the borough council's planning department. The last survey undertaken by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust recommended the extension of the County Wildlife Site to encompass the entire park in recognition of the ecological quality of the habitats present. This was confirmed in early 2020.

1.9 Recreation and Amenity Management

1.9.1 Current Recreational Uses

Holmebrook Valley Park offers significant recreational opportunities for both local residents and outside visitors.

The park functions as a recreational 'hub' and provides opportunities for children's play, angling, cycling, horse riding and walking. Various sports and organised activities take place within the park including football, Petanque and orienteering.

Members of the public seeking to hold an event within the park may find relevant contact details on notices within the pavilion building. Events booking contacts are detailed in the appendices of this document.



The Holmebrook Valley Strategic Walking & Cycling Route is a part of the park and provides an important link into the town centre.

A 'Walking for Health' group is now established within the park assisting local people to become more active. This group is supported by the greenspace service in the provision of walks.

A mountain bike track was created at the eastern end of the park in 2013. The track was designed by local mountain bikers and incorporates jumps and berms. There is an emerging project to create a more challenging mountain bike jump course below the football pitches on the slopes to the south. This project is in tandem with the Don River Catchment Trust. The idea is to incorporate some flood attenuation within the raised banking of the jumps to hold back water from the Holme Brook.

The park is also popular with visitors seeking quiet recreation and relaxation. Nature observation, dog walking and picnicking are popular activities.

The following table contains details of some recent events held in the park.

Organiser	Activity
Chesterfield District Athletics Club	Cross Country Champs
Girl Guiding Chesterfield West	Centenary Celebration with Picnic and Songs
Chesterfield Junior Blues FC	Football Trials for Under 6s to 14s
Brampton Rovers FC	Football Tournament for kids
Ashgate Hospice	Santa Dash
Chesterfield in the Community	Football Training Sessions
Playgroup	Toddlers Nursery for local Mothers
Forum Group	Meetings in the Pavilion Community Room
Urban Studies Group	Investigating Rivers Programme

1.9.2 Events

The park's size, topography, location and facilities are unique within the borough and makes for an ideal venue for larger events.

Football tournaments and community fetes have been held within the park over recent years. This continues with end of season competitions at junior level. PVS events who promote running events are looking to establish a 10k run in the park both on the trails and through other areas of the park such as the woods.

1.9.2 Amenity and Sports Grounds Maintenance

The sports pitches on the site are mown and marked out by the Greenspace team. Drainage works are undertaken where required. Funding from the Football Association's Football Foundation is in progress to procure drainage machinery to improve the current condition of the pitches.

The football goal posts are dismantled at the end of the football season, refurbished and stored for installation at the beginning of the next season. Goal mouths and centre spots are renovated during early summer and sports sand broadcast across the eastern pitches to maintain soil macropore structure and assist with drainage.

Amenity grassland within the car park areas are mown once fortnightly during the growing season by the greenspace service 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 greenspace service using a tractor mounted flail. The grass around litter bins, benches and signage is strimmed as part of the same operation.

1.9.3 Sports Pitch Development

The Football Foundation approved a bid during 2012 for the improvement of the football pitches within the park. The work included installation of drainage and reseeding of the eastern pitches along with verti-draining and sanding of the western pitches.

Work was completed in the summer of 2014 with much improved pitch quality and a noticeable improvement in drainage. Holmebrook Valley has become the centre for amateur league football within this area of the borough and with additional funding streams becoming available from the FA we hope to improve the pitches again at the end of the season 2019-2020. Funding from the FA was sourced to procure a new verti drain which will be used in the 2022 – 23 season.

A new Petanque rink was installed adjacent to the pavilion in March 2012 with grant aid from Derbyshire County Council. The club holds 'taster days' for new entrants to the game and has increased its membership year on year. The club has managed to secure additional funding to extend the hardstanding around the rink to increase informal seating and spectator provision. The Petanque Club are progressing their application to create a second rink.

1.9.4 Sports Pitch and Events Booking and Allocation

Football pitch lettings during the season are agreed annually with local clubs who pay a fee to play league games in the park.

Events and activities 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 sports pitch and event bookings.

1.9.5 Angling Facilities

The angling rights to the lake are leased on an annual license. There are twenty-five fishing platforms on the lake, which are maintained by the council's greenspace service. Most angling pegs are accessible to wheelchair users and special arrangements are in place for blue-badge holding anglers to park close to the lake. Improvements in access provision for elderly and disabled anglers is underway.



At the present there is no current lease with an Angling club. There has been interest from a number of parties but this has not led to a new lease being issued.

1.9.6 Play Facilities Development

In the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Holmebrook Valley Park is classified as a Destination 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. Through the Play Strategy it has been identified as an area which offers a high standard of play equipment serving the local populace along with visitors from further afield.

Playbuilder

The Playbuilder project was completed in 2011 with the creation of a play and fitness space adjacent to the Linacre Road car park.

Kinder Play Project

The Borough Council was successful in a bid to Derbyshire County Council for funding totalling £60,000 for the design and installation of a new play area adjacent to the pavilion. The play area has been designed for older children and features disabled access equipment.

The play area is very popular throughout the year due to the proximity of car parking, toilet facilities and café.



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 and leading guided walks.

The existing interpretation for the park consists of three information panels at Linacre Road car park, the pavilion car park and at the viewing point above the lake. The information panels feature a plan of the site with key features and some brief information on the history and use of the site.

Additional signage displaying the seasonal locking times for the car parks is installed in prominent positions. The greenspaces team are working with the Friends group to create information signs and named zones across the park to provide route guides, way markers and site info via QR codes. The council's website has general information on parks along with a specific page dedicated to Holmebrook Valley Park. There are links to the Friends Group website.

1.9.8 Refreshment Facilities

A privately-run and well-established café operates from the pavilion on a licence. The café opens six to seven days a week on a seasonal basis and is a popular facility amongst visitors to the park. The café serves hot and cold drinks, ice-creams, cakes and light meals.

1.10 Structures and Surfaces Management

1.10.1 Roadways, footpaths, and associated structures

Holmebrook Valley Park has over ten kilometres of surfaced footpaths and bridleways.

Paths and tracks within the park are inspected by the greenspaces unit and repairs arranged as necessary.

Road planings are utilised for resurfacing work on sloping paths due to resistance to erosion and appropriate grips and ditching are created.

The footpaths around the lake were resurfaced during the summer and autumn of 2020 to address issues of erosion and drainage.

1.10.2 Bridges

Four timber and steel bridges can be found within the park, which enable passage over the Holme Brook at intervals along its course.

Bridges are visually inspected by greenspaces officers every three months and are thoroughly inspected by the council's structural engineers annually. The bridges are jet washed clean by the borough council's cleansing section three times per year annually to remove built up debris and dirt.

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.

1.10.4 Sculptures

The park features three sculptures, which were installed through the residential developer funded 'percent for art' scheme. These consist of a stone monolith between the pavilion and the lake, a steel wheel sculpture on the northern fringe of the site and a large brick ball south of the pavilion car park.



The Friends Group are keen to pursue an Art Trail for the park increasing awareness and enjoyment of public art. A funding bid was successful with a mosaic installation for the Pavilion the first objective. This was installed in July 2021. Such was the positive feedback for this that further art trail pieces are being explored.

Should the sculptures require maintenance/repair, advice is taken from the sculptors and any work required is undertaken by them or the council's facilities maintenance section.

(See Visitor Facilities Map- Appendix I)

1.10.5 Play Equipment

Holmebrook Valley Park currently features a large, disabled access play area adjacent to the pavilion. This play area consists of adventure play equipment of rustic design and is very popular.

A county council funded play and outdoor exercise area has been installed adjacent to Linacre Road car park. This play site is easily accessible by children from the Holme Hall estate whilst the outdoor exercise equipment is used by visitors of all ages.



The play equipment within Holmebrook Valley Park is inspected weekly by a play area technician, who undertakes repairs and removes any hazards. Play equipment is also inspected twice annually by qualified independent engineers.

(See Visitor Facilities Map- Appendix I)

1.10.6 Buildings

The main building in the park is the pavilion. Within the building are fourteen football changing rooms, public toilets, cafe, kitchen and greenspace team office. There is also an adjacent garage and walled yard, which are used by park staff for vehicle, plant and material storage.

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

The water system is temperature checked and tested monthly for Legionella. The entire system is flushed and disinfected every six months. Site staff inspect the changing room showers and taps every week while the facilities are not being frequently used.

An asbestos register is kept on site, which is read and signed by all contractors before they are permitted to work on the building.

1.10.7 Fire Safety

A fire alarm is installed within the pavilion and storage building, 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 quarterly 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 greenspace service is responsible for the collection of loose litter and the emptying of litter bins within the park, which is undertaken routinely on a daily basis.

The cleaning of the pavilion is undertaken by the building cleaning section of the council whilst the exterior public toilets are cleaned daily 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 by the council's greenspace service daily.

The Council is proactive in combating dog fouling with enforcement staff empowered to issue fixed-penalty notices for dog fouling. Signage posted around the park informs visitors that dog fouling offences are subject to such fines.

The Council's enforcement officers work within the park on promoting dog fouling awareness, distributing dog waste bags and liaising with dog owners. The problem of dog fouling in open spaces across the borough has been the subject of a recent high-profile advertising campaign using adverts on buses.

1.11.3 Waste Disposal

All collected waste is deposited within a lockable skip, which is removed to landfill. Separation of recyclable waste is undertaken by the café operator within their premises. Our current arrangements have made on site separation of litter impractical as contamination by dog waste is a regular problem. Litter picks are working towards separating items as they are collected and then disposed of at a recognised local facility

Empty chemical containers (such as pitch marking paint) are disposed of at a central Council facility. Any other waste is disposed of in accordance with current regulations and guidelines.

1.12 Personnel and Physical Resources

1.12.1 Personnel

Holmebrook Valley Park is a base for the west area Greenspaces Team. One dedicated Greenspace Officer is stationed within the park, who is supported by a wider team of 10 officers.

The officer's principal focus is Holmebrook Valley Park but they also



cover some smaller satellite woodlands and other green spaces.

Specialist arboricultural and silvicultural works are undertaken by CBC Tree Team, which consists of two arborists. The Tree Team also undertakes tree safety survey work within the park. Larger tree works requiring specialist equipment are contracted out to approved arboricultural contractors.

1.12.2 Vehicles, Plant and Tools

The west area greenspace team has a transit tipper, a four-wheel drive pickup truck and an all-terrain vehicle at its disposal. The team has access to a pool of plant such as tractors, flail attachments, ride-on brush cutters, rotivators, woodchippers, stump grinder, larger trucks, 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.

The TreeTeam have access to a variety of specialist equipment for arboricultural and silvicultural works.

1.12.3 Work Standards

The standard of general grounds and infrastructure maintenance is quality-checked by the greenspace team leader and the Principal Greenspace Officer. The park Friends Group also provide independent feedback on work standards throughout the park.

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 HLS agreement 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 31st July to early September	Once per annum.
Chain harrowing and wildflower seed drilling	From July to October following hay cut.	As required
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 September to early March unless urgent	As required
Building and structure	Throughout the year.	As required

maintenance		
Path and track maintenance	From March to September	As required
Football pitch grass cutting	Throughout the year	Fortnightly from May to September.
Football pitch marking	From September to May	Weekly
Goal post removal/renovation/installation.	May to September	Posts removed in May
Litter bin emptying	Throughout the year	Thrice weekly
Dog waste receptacle emptying	Throughout the year	Twice weekly
Loose litter collection	Throughout the year	As required
Bridge inspection and repair	Quarterly	Quarterly
Vegetation cut backs from access routes and furniture	Throughout the year	As required
Pony grazing	May to November	As determined by ecological assessment.
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
2015	Old play area removed	Redundant play area equipment removed from centre of the park and converted to dog exercise area.
2016/17	Replacement of Sensory Garden	Derelict Sensory Garden removed and replaced with new landscaping design incorporating sensory planting.
2017	Restructure of parks service	Recruitment to a new, outcome-focused service of multi-skilled staff.
2019	Removal of islands on the lake	Largely to deter ASB during summer months as islands became a target for swimmers
2019/20	Soft flood defences(x3) in the wooded slopes created.	To assist in local flood risk management with DRCT
2020	Reinstatement of failed areas of footpath and improved drainage	Drainage to be installed beneath the reinstated paths to resolve ongoing issues. Steps to be extended leading down to lake.
2020	Petanque	Hardstanding around the Petanque extended to allow for additional seating and benches for participants.
2021	Pollinator planting	Roundabout on Water meadow Lane turned over to pollinator scheme planting. (See below)



2021-2023	Marginal wetland planting	This is located adjacent to the main footpath to the south of the dog area.
2021 onwards	Art Trail	The first elements of improving the Art Trail are envisaged for this coming summer with additional pieces over the coming years.
2021	Old mountain bike trail removed	The trail was failing and presenting a hazard to users. Removal and reinstatement with a more naturalistic element is to be pursued.
2021	Tree planting	1,000 whips were planted adjacent to the lake and near to the dog area to increase our tree cover and habitat provision in the park.
2022 onwards	New signage and information	Promoted by the Friends Group to assist with navigating the park and improve overall knowledge of the parks habitats and fauna.
2022	Petanque	Newly funded Petanque pitch to be created next to the existing due to increase in use and popularity

2022	Scrapes improvement	Digging out and increasing the capacity of the scrapes to provide greater holding capacity for water and also habitat provision.
2022	Signage	New entrance signage to the park from Water meadow Lane and Linacre Rd in the CBC corporate style

1.14 Community Interaction

1.14.1 The Friends of Holmebrook Valley 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 Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park were formed in 2008 following an expression of interest in the park by members of the public attending the local community forum. The rising interest and the desire amongst some of the members to become more involved in the day to day management of the park led them to contact the council for assistance in setting up a friends group.

This was seen as a logical step for them as many of their questions and requests for information could be better addressed via a more focussed group.

Since their formation, the friends group have grown in strength and now have over thirty members meeting regularly with representatives of the park management.

The Council see this as a very positive step for the park and park users from a management point of view. The Council work very closely with the group on day to day problems, arising issues and future planning.

The friends group have been successful in applying for external grant money to resurface paths and install benches around the park.

1.14.2 Volunteers

The Friends Group host a monthly litter pick of the park, which is well-attended and publicised locally. The litterpick ensures the parks receives a regular 'deep clean' and provides opportunities for local people to become involved with the park and, possibly, join the Friends group.

Other voluntary labour is provided by amateur naturalists who undertake invertebrate surveys, the data from which is fed-back to relevant organisations for regional and national monitoring. The data is also used to inform management of the site semi-natural features.

1.15 Stakeholder Consultation

A consultation meeting was held with the Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park during November 2020 to discuss objectives and future developments within the park.

The Friends made suggestions for improved directional signage within the park and updated 'welcome' signs at the main entrances. Extension of disabled access paths, changes to land use and increasing voluntary participation in litter picking were other key themes.

A number of the suggestions have been incorporated into the Action Plan at 4.0 for the coming five years.

2.0 The Way Forward

2.1 Park Evaluation

Holmebrook Valley Park has developed into a multi-purpose site with a number of roles to fulfil within the community. The visitor survey highlighted this with the results showing that the majority of people visit the site at least once a week and most come from within five miles of the park.

Visitors come to the park to walk, exercise the dog, enjoy nature and for general relaxation.

Others come to use the parks sports facilities and the extensive network of paths for orienteering, cycling, horse riding and jogging. The lake is also a popular venue for coarse angling.

2.2 The Vision

“Our vision is that Holmebrook Valley Park is a thriving, sustainable and accessible country park that welcomes and captivates residents and visitors.”



The continuing improvements to the park, its facilities over recent years and the investment in the major redevelopment of the sports pitches have raised the profile of the site as a quality destination. The hosting of large events has attracted new visitors and those from further afield and continuing investment will be made in developing new facilities and attractions.

Current management of the park has developed over time as the site recovered from open cast mining and gradually began to mature into the various habitats and recreation facilities seen today.

Management over this period mirrored the growing needs of the park as it developed.

In recognition of the new financial position local government finds itself in, commercial opportunities to increase revenue will be sought to offset future development and management of the park.

Holmebrook Valley Park has held the prestigious Green Flag Award for excellence in parks management since 2011 and the intention is to retain this award in future years.

Management will involve continuous assessment against the criteria set by the Green Flag scheme. This will include where appropriate the results of the visitor survey which will help to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the park and provide the council 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

Holmebrook Valley Park has two main vehicular access points, one off Watermeadow Lane and the other from Linacre Road.



Watermeadow Lane

Access to the park is gained through lockable steel gates leading onto a tarmac drive with car parks to the left and right. A retractable height barrier restricts access by commercial vehicles and caravans outside of staff working hours.

The drive continues past the commemorative ash tree, planted for the opening of the park in 1995, to the pavilion and onto a lockable barrier that prevents access to the main body of the park with the exception of authorised users.

Further tree planting within the car park has been undertaken over recent years to improve the visual amenity of the main entrance.

Car parking is split between an upper and lower car park. The upper car park retains a number of areas of shrub planting from the original reclamation design. These have been neglected over recent years and there is an intention to restore these with appropriate shrub segregation and pruning.

The grass verges flanking the main drive and pavilion are mown to a high specification to provide a welcoming first impression to visitors.

A postal delivery point has been installed at the pavilion.

Adjacent to the pavilion is the wide plateau areas used for various sports and events. The kinder play area and petanque rink are also located adjacent to the pavilion car park.

Following several years of improvement works the entrance to the park is a welcoming experience for the public with open views across Derbyshire and towards the Peak District.

Linacre Road

This is the smaller of the two entrance ways and access is gained through steel, lockable gates. A short tarmac drive leads to a small roundabout flanked by grasscrete parking areas.

A stone path leads from the drive to a picnic area, which consists of four picnic benches. This leads on to a large adventure play facility and outdoor gym set within a semi-natural landscape. There is currently an unmade path leading to the play and gym equipment. This becomes very muddy during winter and there is a need to upgrade this path through installation of hard surfacing to allow year-round use.

The mature, individual trees within the meadows either side of the car park have been crown lifted to give the impression of grazed, traditional parkland. This, coupled with the absence of car park boundary structures, gives an unrestricted and welcoming impression to visitors.

2.3.2 Good and Safe Access

The park has ten kilometres of surfaced paths rated as good/fair by 60% of the respondents to the visitor survey.

These include statutory bridleways, concessionary bridle/cycle tracks and footpaths. The majority of the paths are available for cycle use and the park provides an important through route to the town centre from the surrounding suburbs.

Vehicle access to the park is restricted to maintenance vehicles and disabled access to the lake for angling. The Friends Group and Angling Club have both raised concerns over the length of the vehicle access route taken by disabled anglers from the Watermeadow Lane entrance to the lakeside.

Car parks have sleeping policemen installed to prevent speeding.

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. Retractable height barriers are installed at vehicle access points to car parks from the highway to prevent unauthorised commercial vehicle use and traveller encampments.

Access to the park from Watermeadow Lane and the Linacre Road entrances is considered safe.

However, the Linacre road entrance was identified as being in need of some form of safe crossing as this entrance is on a busy road and opposite a large residential estate. To this end the local highway authority has been contacted and a small, central-refuge crossing has now been installed at this point.

2.3.3 Signage

Welcome signage was initially installed to the Linacre Road car park entrance and the Loundsley Green pedestrian entrance. A further welcome sign was installed at the Watermeadow Lane entrance. The signs are due to be replaced in 2022.

It was recognised that the park lacked a sign/s that gave users information on the park in general and a site map indicating the facilities available and where they are located in the park. These have now been produced with attractive and detailed visitor maps, and park information

Car parks have signs indicating when the park closes and the car park gates are locked. Safety signage within the park is a priority and updating of the waterside safety signs is undertaken as necessary.

Directional signage is now being installed to guide visitors to facilities and to control horse access.

Environmental interpretation of the natural history and conservation management practices is required and some signage on the importance of pollinating insects has been installed to inform and educate visitors on the ecological management of the park.

The Friends Group have recently installed a notice board on the exterior of the pavilion providing visitor information.

Chesterfield Petanque Club also have a dedicated noticeboard adjacent to the petanque rink.



2.3.4 Equal Access for All

Path surfaces are predominantly of recycled road planing construction. Previously paths were of crushed limestone construction but were susceptible to erosion damage. A decision was taken to commence a programme of path resurfacing using recycled road planings and 'top track' to combat water damage during the winter months.

This has been very successful and visitor satisfaction with path condition has improved over recent years, which has been reflected in the visitor survey.

Access for wheelchair users and families with pushchairs has also improved although further improvements are now necessary.

Overall the paths are very accessible, however the topography of the park means that wheelchair / pushchair access to some areas is limited due to steep slopes and during winter some paths surfaces can become muddy. Providing greater access for wheelchair/pushchair users is a priority and recent resurfacing works have opened up a further 1500m of path.

Maintenance of paths is an ongoing process and is carried annually and as required. Upgrading of the remaining limestone paths is intended as funding opportunities arise.

There is a requirement for a surfaced, wheelchair accessible path to the Linacre Road play area from the car park as the existing 'desire line' footpath is very muddy and access during the winter months is limited.

The footpath to Linacre Reservoirs at the west side of the park is not surfaced and is in an extremely poor condition. Derbyshire County Council have indicated their desire to upgrade this footpath to a multi-user trail in the future. In the short term, consideration will be given to improving the surface to allow easier access for walkers.

Signage of paths is an area that needs to be prioritised to enable users to make full use of the site. Some directional signage has been installed at key points but further waymarking is under review with the Friends and greenspaces teams.

2.4 Healthy, Safe and Secure

2.4.1 Safe Equipment and Facilities

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

The planners of externally organised events, where the expected number of participants exceeds two thousand, are asked to provide a detailed events plan.

The play equipment within Holmebrook Valley Park is inspected weekly by qualified members of the Greenspaces Team who undertake repairs. Informal, daily checks of play equipment are routinely undertaken by the greenspace team.

The pavilion 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 our security contractor. Cars are restricted to designated car parks 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. One fatality has been recorded in the lake, which was the result of young people walking on the ice when the lake had frozen. Regular greenspace patrols and the posting of 'thin ice' signs during the winter months are implemented to help prevent similar incidents.

The water supply within the pavilion is temperature tested monthly and the system is chlorinated quarterly to combat Legionella. Out of the football season the showers are run for three minutes twice weekly to ensure passage of water through the system.

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.

Contractors and Council operatives undertaking work on the pavilion building are required to read and sign the asbestos register before access is granted.

2.4.2 Personal Security

Holmebrook Valley Park has a relatively low level of recorded crime when compared to other parks in the borough.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour and theft from cars became a problem around the Linacre Road car park. The removal of overgrown shrubberies and pruning of trees around this area to open up sight lines into the car park proved successful with a dramatic reduction in incidents.

The greenspace 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 greenspace team are successful in resolving most incidents of misuse but contact the local police for all crimes.

The Forestry Team have begun a programme of woodland thinning across the site, which will open up enclosed footpaths to give a greater feeling of security to visitors.

The park is patrolled weekly by police officers and the car parks are frequently visited by patrol cars. The police also hold open days at the pavilion for local residents to report any problems.

The park does suffer some low-level misuse during the evenings in the form of illegal camping, drinking parties and camp fires. This misuse occurs largely in the summer months and may be attributed to the park's rural fringe location and ease of access from local housing estates. The greenspace team report all incidents to the police along with any damage caused.

A series of illegal traveller encampments during 2015/16 led to a review of park security and height barriers were installed to prevent commercial vehicle and caravan access.

2.4.3 Dog Fouling

The most significant concern expressed by visitors in the recent survey was dog fouling which has been a continued problem as the park is very popular with dog walkers.

Since the installation of the dog waste bins a change in Council waste management procedures has led to the acceptance of dog waste with other mixed litter at waste processing facilities. There is now an intention to replace the dedicated dog waste bins with dual-use litter/dog waste bins.

The greenspaces team worked in collaboration with enforcement officers issuing fixed penalty notices, which has led to a reduction in dog fouling within the park.

Signs informing dog owners of their responsibilities have been fixed to visitor information panels and the Friends group have fully supported this by joining in with the dissemination of information.

2.4.4 Appropriate Provision of Facilities

The finalisation of the café operating lease in 2010 has led to a marked improvement in visitor satisfaction with refreshment facilities and the café has proved to be popular with visitors.



The public conveniences were refurbished in 2011, which has led to a rise in visitor satisfaction with the toilet facilities within the park.

A requirement for play equipment with disabled access had been identified county-wide and at a borough level. A bid was submitted to Derbyshire County Council for funding to create a disabled-access play area and pentaque pitch immediately adjacent to the Watermeadow Lane car park. The bid was successful and the play area and pitch are now installed.

The angling club highlighted a requirement for disabled access fishing pegs. An agreement was made to install one additional peg and associated access track.

The park has not been subject to a formal disabled access audit for a number of years and it is recognised that an audit should be undertaken within the next three years.

The ecological value of the park has gradually been increasing over recent years as highlighted by the recent survey undertaken by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. The Friends Group are keen to increase opportunities for visitors to observe the abundant wildlife. The Park has had its LWS status extended which will afford protection into the future from development and planning pressures.

2.4.5 Quality of Facilities

The Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park are often the first point of enquiry for members of the public enquiring about the park and provide a useful, independent view on quality of facilities.

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

The Council also undertake an 'Are You Being Served?' survey of residents every two years to gauge residents satisfaction with services and facilities. General satisfaction with parks and open spaces was at 53.7% for 2019.

The assessment for the Green Flag award application is seen as an ideal way of having the park appraised by other Greenspace professionals.

2.5 Clean and Well Maintained

2.5.1 Litter and Waste Management

Litter and dog fouling are not major problems at Holmebrook Valley Park but the visitor survey highlighted that these remain the main concerns of the public.

Following the restructuring of the greenspaces unit all litter and dog waste receptacles are currently emptied by the site staff as part of their daily duties within the park.

Via consultation with the public, through the visitor survey, there has been a gradual reduction in the number of litter bins in the interior of the site. The existing litter bins within the car parks have been replaced with new, larger bins and visitors are encouraged to take their litter home with them. This approach has proved effective and there is less evidence of littering on site.

Dedicated dog waste receptacles were installed at specific points within the park. In recent years the Council waste disposal policy has changed allowing dog waste to be accepted with other mixed waste. As such there is an intention to replace dedicated dog waste receptacles with mixed waste litter bins over the next five years.

Loose litter, litter bins and dog waste bins are emptied daily by the team.

2.5.2 Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture

The majority of grounds maintenance work within the park is now undertaken by the greenspace team including mowing of paths, maintenance of sports pitches and maintenance of amenity grassland within car parks.

The sport pitches have since been subject to a Derbyshire Football



Association funded capital redevelopment project.

The project included the installation of slit and pipe drainage throughout the three pitch sites to enhance the playing surface along with top dressing and reseeded. Annual applications of sports sand are made to maintain the soil structure of the pitches along with goal mouth and centre spot renovations.

2.5.3 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

The original layout of the pavilion leant heavily towards football changing facilities leaving very little space for other uses. Today's requirements for the building are broader and the building is used by school groups, Friends group and the urban nature group. The community room was used for staff training prior to C19 restrictions on use of the building and it is hoped that this can be safely resumed shortly.

2.5.4 Equipment Maintenance

This is an ongoing task and is one which is being tackled by the onsite dedicated greenspace team. Where funding is available old timber furniture is being replaced with robust, recycled plastic furniture with a greater life expectancy. All site furniture, including fences, are inspected maintained by the greenspace team.

Play equipment will continue to be regularly inspected by the greenspaces team on a weekly basis with any repairs immediately undertaken. Independent RoSPA inspections will continue to be undertaken every six months.

The play surface under the equipment at the Pavilion play area is currently natural grass, which becomes very waterlogged and muddy during the autumn and after heavy rain. Improving the surfacing in the short term is to be provided using play chip. A more satisfactory long term solution is being investigated to address seasonal impact upon the facility, this may include wholesale relocation of the play area to the rear of the car park in front of the pavilion.

2.6 Sustainability

2.6.1 Environmental Sustainability- energy and natural resource conservation, pollution

Holmebrook Valley Park's topography, location and land use is of importance in flood prevention. The undeveloped land and natural meanders of the Holme Brook watercourse slows the flow of water from the high-altitude land to the west of the park in the Linacre valley. This assists in the prevention of flooding further down stream as the Holme Brook passes into developed urban areas. Ongoing

work in partnership with the Don Catchment Rivers Trust is increasing awareness of natural flood mitigation works as well as installing 'leaky dams' in some of the wooded areas of the park to reduce flooding.

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 holding is also utilised.

Large scale path and track resurfacing is undertaken using recycled materials where appropriate as this is more environmentally sustainable than quarried limestone and creates a more durable 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. Petro/chemical traps are linked to the service yard drainage system, which are emptied and monitored regularly.

A study of potential renewable energy sites across the borough has been undertaken as part of the review of the Local Development Plan. Whilst Holmebrook Valley Park has not been identified as being suitable for a significant energy development. There has previously been proposals to harness wind power to power the pavilion through the installation of a small wind turbine. The potential for this is still under investigation.

Whilst the broad, south facing pavilion roof would be ideal for solar panels, the low elevation of the pavilion roofline would make the panels vulnerable to theft of vandalism.

Chesterfield Borough Council holds EMAS accreditation and is externally audited to ensure that its 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 park at Watermeadow Lane and the occasional use of glyphosate to treat injurious weeds within the species rich grassland, such as creeping thistle and broadleaved dock. 'Ecoplugs' 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 do not use 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 arisings from hay cutting operations is baled and removed from site. The hay is then sold on if the quality is suitable by the agricultural contractor to local hill farmers in the peak district. All other grass arisings are left to decompose in situ.

2.6.5 Arboriculture and Woodland Management

Holmebrook Valley Park's plantations and semi-natural woodland are managed for the benefit of wildlife and for landscape quality. A program of thinning and coppicing of the plantations has begun and this is to continue over the next decade to allow the development of windfirm plantations of diverse structure and ecological value.

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 or tree pathogens.

Timber, cordwood and brash arising from woodland management or tree surgery is usually stacked on site where possible to provide deadwood habitats. Opportunities to sell or utilise marketable timber are taken where they arise.

The thinning plan for the next four years can be found at Appendix 1.

Mature trees along main access routes and around play areas, car parks and adjacent to buildings are inspected annually in accordance with the Council Tree Inspection Procedure 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 a tree survey risk assessment. (See appendix I).

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

The onset of Ash dieback is a major concern within the park and staff are undergoing identification of and management of our Ash trees to ensure current best practice and to minimise any danger to the public.

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 has involved 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 indicators of success are, generally, present within the sward and the challenge will be to further enhance the condition of the grassland.

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 laid, coppiced and planted up as necessary in the traditional 'Midland Bullock Fence' fashion, which is the local style.

The crayfish Ark project will continue in the lake with habitat improvements in the form of staking bundles of submerged woody material around the lake margins. Periodic monitoring will also be undertaken under the guidance of an expert ecologist.

A fishery management plan is proposed, which will focus on providing breeding cover for fish and improving the angling and biodiversity value of the lake as a whole.

Woodland management will include coppicing, to create varied growth stages as favoured by invertebrates and 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.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust undertook a survey of the park conservation grasslands in 2017, the results and species list of which may be found at Appendix 2. The report recommended additional spring cuts of certain fields along with the removal of encroaching scrub, which will be addressed in the Action Plan.

In addition to the aforementioned wildlife viewing hide project proposed by the Friends Group, additional habitat improvements will be made to the paddock area to increase opportunities for the observance of wildlife. These improvements will include nest box installation, creation of habitat piles and planting of nectar-rich plants for invertebrates.

2.7.2 Conservation of landscape features

The upper plateaus occupied by the football pitches provide splendid views across the adjoining countryside, towards Chesterfield town and beyond. These views may be regarded as a key feature of the park.

However the plateaus are also very bleak during inclement weather and windswept. There is a requirement to plant individual trees at selected points across the plateaus to break up the monotony of the playing fields whilst preserving the vistas.

The existing sculptures are prominent within the landscape, provide points of interest and will be maintained by the greenspace service. Further sculptures will be considered for installation in the park should the opportunity arise.

2.7.3 Conservation of building and structures

As the pavilion is of recent construction and of limited architectural merit, the conservation of built heritage is not a significant factor to be considered.

Some remnant drystone walls and banks can be found on the old Cutthorpe Bridleway to the west end of the park and efforts are underway to restore and protect these.

2.8 Community Involvement

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

The Friends group forms the principal mechanism for engagement with the community. The group are very active in sourcing funding and contributing to management decisions within the park. The group have begun to undertake practical work in the park and this will be encouraged through the provision of volunteer work parties led by the greenspace team.

The Friends Group has recently recognised the need to use social media to communicate with park users, particularly young people, and communicate with the public via Facebook/Twitter.

2.8.2 Appropriate provision for the community.

The park is highly valued by both the local community and users from further afield. Educational use of the park has increased over recent years with the provision of children's environmental-themed events and adults guided walks and installation of new interpretative panels on pollinating insects and the importance of wildflowers.

The County Council-run Urban Studies group has increased the number of school environmental sessions held within the park over recent years.

The recent visitor survey demonstrated that the public have strong opinions on the management of the site and provision of facilities. This highlights the need for further consultation with the Friends group and visitors through a variety of media.

2.9 Marketing

2.9.1 Marketing and promotion.

A new interpretation panel design has recently been completed and the artwork from this panel has been used in the production of a promotional leaflet for the park.

Liaison with the council's public relations section will be required to help with providing marketing material such as leaflets and press releases.

Promotion of the park through the council's tourist information centre will be undertaken through the distribution of leaflets and display of posters promoting the park and events.

The public can find information on the park through the Council's website:

<https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/explore-chesterfield/parks-and-green-spaces/parks/a-z-of-parks/holmebrook-valley-park.aspx>

Or through the Friends group website:

<http://www.holmebrookvalleypark.org.uk/>

It is an objective of the new Chesterfield Borough Council Parks & Open Spaces Strategy to research and produce a marketing and events plan for all Council-owned greenspace, including Holmebrook Valley Park.

2.9.2 Provision of appropriate information.

The new direction from the Department of Transport is for a reduction in unnecessary road signage and a request to Derbyshire County Council for brown, tourist signage on the highway was turned down.

Information relevant, and of interest, to visitors is displayed within the pavilion or on one of the three large notice boards located at key points throughout the park.

The greenspace team display information about specific management work to inform park users or to allay concerns if the work is sensitive.

The Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park have use of a large display board within the pavilion foyer, which they use to display information and images of park wildlife along with an externally-mounted information panel.

The Holmebrook Angling Club has a specific notice board at the lake head providing information to club members and day ticket details whilst the Petanque Club also has use of a dedicated information panel.

2.9.3 Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information.

The greenspace service has developed an annual programme of events which include children's environmental themed activities and guided walks for adults on the ecology and history surrounding the park.

The recently produced interpretative panels and associated visitor leaflets provide information on the park's history and ecology whilst a new panel on the importance of pollinating insects has been installed adjacent to wildflower meadows.

Further environmental interpretation is required at locations of high ecological interest.

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 Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park, local councillors, park users and the wider public.

The greenspace team at the park already have a good relationship 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.

Valuable work has been undertaken by the Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT) in identifying opportunities to assist in flood management across the park. This has included the installation of 'leaky dams' at strategic points as well as enlarging the existing scrapes to improve their holding capacity, attenuating run-off to the lake

2.11 Summary

The assessment of the park against the Green Flag criteria, in conjunction with the survey results and recent Friends consultation meetings, has helped in the identification of the strengths and weaknesses of the park.

On the strengths side is what park users take for granted when visiting the park, which is a safe place to visit, one that is well maintained and a place that does not neglect the needs of wildlife.

Not least amongst these are the people who give their time voluntarily in promoting and working towards the common good of the park and the community at large. All these factors, combined together, are the strengths of the park today.

Whilst many of the objectives of previous management have been met, the park continues to develop according to the needs of visitors. Safe access to play, improvement in the quality of visitor facilities and opening further areas of the park to disabled visitors are key objectives of management for the next five years.

The Council will continue to work closely with the Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park, visitors and other stakeholders to ensure the preservation of this highly-valued site and the continued enhancement of visitor experience.

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.

Actions highlighted in **Green** are routine maintenance operations funded through park revenue budgets.

Actions highlighted in **Blue** are funded through grants already secured.

Actions highlighted in **Red** will proceed once external grant aid has been secured.

Actions described in **Black** are the financial responsibility of external partners.

The table below details which of the partners in the parks management are to be involved in completing each action.

Partners Key:

GST- Greenspaces Team

FMS- Facilities Maintenance Section

FG- The Friends Group

CF- Community Forum

PS- Publicity Section

CS- Cleansing Services

DWT- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

CSP- Community Safety Partnership

DCC- Derbyshire County Council

NE- Natural England

BC- Building Cleaning

HAC- Holmebrook Angling Club

Green Flag Theme	Action	Performance Measure	Target Completion Date	Partners Involved	Lead Partner	Estimated Cost & Source	Progress
A Welcoming Place	Refurbish welcome signage	Welcome signage refurbished	May 2022	GST	GST	£500	
	Re-establish shrub maintenance regime at Watermeadow Lane upper car park.	Shrubs restructured and appropriately prune	March 2021	GST	GST	£200	
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Maintain police patrols in the evenings and greenspace liaison.	Increased police presence.	Ongoing	GST, CSP	CSP	N/A	Frequent patrols.
	Inspection and repair of bridges	Bridge inspected quarterly and repairs effected.	Quarterly	GST, FMS	GST	£1000	Ongoing
	Disability Access Audit	Audit completed and recommendations addressed in the management plan.	May 2022	GST	GST	£2000	
	Action	Performance Measure	Target Completion Date	Partners Involved	Lead Partner	Estimated Cost & Source	Progress
	Visitor facilities ratings survey	Survey completed	September 2020	GST, FG	GST	N/A	
	Evidence of littering and dog fouling reduced.	Less loose litter and dog faeces.	Ongoing	GST	GST	N/A	

Clean and Well Maintained	Mow 1.5m amenity strip down the sides of all footpath and bridletracks.	Paths mown once a fortnight.	Annually	GST	GST	£3,000 per annum	Ongoing
	Hedgerow flailing	Hedges flailed back from paths.	Annually	GST	GST	£300 per annum	Ongoing
	Public toilet cleaning	Toilets cleaned daily	Daily	GST, BC	BC	£5,000 per annum	Ongoing
	Car parks mechanically swept.	Car parks swept.	Monthly	CS	CS	£1,000 per annum	Ongoing
	Sports pitch maintenance & associated building cleaning	Pitches and changing facilities maintained	Weekly	GST	GST	£44,000 per annum	Ongoing
	Dog waste receptacles and litter bins emptied frequently.	Bins do not overflow and are emptied when required.	Twice weekly	GST	GST	£1,500 per annum	Ongoing
	Replacement of 15 dog waste receptacles with mixed waste bins	Replacement bins installed	October 2021	GST, FG	GST	£2,000 per annum	
	Action	Performance Measure	Target Completion Date	Partners Involved	Lead Partner	Estimated Cost & Source	Progress
	Completion of the bridletrack link from Holmebrook to the Linacre Reservoirs	Track completed.	October 2025	DCC, FG	DCC	DCC rights of way improvement budgets	Ongoing DCC confirm medium to long term objective
	Annual survey of	Faulty furniture	Annually	GST	GST	£1,500 per	Ongoing

	furniture condition and repair/replacement of faulty items.	repaired/replaced before summer each year.	ongoing.			annum	
	Weekly inspection of play facilities and repairs effected.	Play equipment in good condition and safe for use.	Weekly ongoing.	GST	GST	£1,500 per annum	Ongoing
	Undertake 30% selective thin of plantations in five phases as per thinning plan (Appendix 1)	All phased thinning completed by 2021	December 2021	GST	GST	£3,000 per annum	Ongoing
	Undertake cyclical coppicing of crack willow and white poplar stands around lake.	Eight year coppice cycle established.	Ongoing	GST	GST	£900 per annum	Ongoing
Sustainability	Creation of deadwood habitat piles utilising forestry arisings.	Habitat piles in situ where appropriate.	Ongoing	GST	GST	N/A	Ongoing
	Grazing of fenced conservation meadow between May and September with ponies.	Annual grazing maintained	Ongoing	GST, NE	GST	N/A	Ongoing
	Creation of a wildlife observation hide within paddock.	Hide constructed	August 2019	FG, GST, DWT	FG	£7,000	
	Chain harrowing/discing of conservation grassland followed by broad	Achievement of Natural England's indicators of success and	As prescribed following ecological	GST, NE	GST	£250/ha discing/harrowing £800/ha seed	As required.

	casting of wildflower seed and light rolling following hay cut.	botanical improvement of grassland.	assessment.			broadcasting	
	Annual haycut and baling in late summer.	Achievement of Natural England's indicators of success and botanical improvement of grassland.	Ongoing	GST, NE	GST	£3,500	Ongoing
	Creation of submerged habitat for white-clawed crayfish.	Further areas created.	Ongoing	GST	GST	N/A	Some areas already created, more to follow.
	Annual inspection of trees along main access routes and high target areas.	Trees inspected and remedial works undertaken.	Annually	GST	GST	£3,000 per year	Ongoing
	Landscape tree planting around the football pitch plateaus.	'Vista-sensitive' tree planting established.	December 2021	GST	GST	£1,000	Ongoing
	Annual inspection and maintenance of sculptures.	Sculptures retained in good repair.	Annually	FMS, GST	FMS	£500	Ongoing
	Conduct survey of wildlife site area.	Survey and report completed	2016	DWT, GST	DWT	SLA (Forward planning budget)	Ongoing
	Provision of volunteer work days on practical tasks.	Friends Group litterpicks held monthly.	Monthly	FG, GST	FG		In progress/ongoing
Community Involvement	Further public consultation through the social media	Friends Group to operate Facebook/Twitter accounts to communicate park news to visitors.	March 2019	FG, GST	FG		
	Further public	Installation of an	March 2017	GST, FG	GST		Completed

	consultation through the Friends Group	external noticeboard for use of the Friends Group					
	Further public consultation through the Friends Group	Completion of a further visitor survey and increase in members of the Friends group	September 2020	FG, GST	FG	£700	
	Investigate opportunities for external funding for capital projects such as path resurfacing.	Securing of further external grant funding.	Ongoing	FG, CF	FG		Friends Group submitted successful grant bid to Tesco 2016.
	Redesign of the parks section on the council website to include more information on Holmebrook Valley Park.	Redesign of parks section and greater information on Holmebrook Valley Park online.	Under constant review	GST, FG	GST		Ongoing
	Increase use of redeveloped football pitches.	Achieve 100% occupancy level of 5 teams/pitch and host an annual football festival.	2021	GST	GST		Income yield of £32,750 in 2017
Marketing	Complete a commercial marketing plan for the park.	Plan delivered as part of wider review of greenspace commercial opportunities	2020	GST	GST	£5,000	Site appraisals begun.
	Hold annual park	Bi- monthly	Ongoing	All	GST	£250	In progress,

	management meetings with representatives of all partners and user groups to discuss action progress and arising issues.	meetings held with Friends group.					regular consultation meetings have taken place.
	Review of management plan actions.	Plan reviewed.	Annually	All	GST		Ongoing
Management	Investigate and secure any appropriate grant aid/external funding.	Appropriate funds secured.	Ongoing	FG, GST	FG		Ongoing

3.2 Financial Plan

3.2.1 Financial Forecast

The following table details the projected expenditure for Holmebrook Valley Park over the next year based on known and estimated income and costs.

Expenditure Element	2018/2019			2019/2020			2020/2021		
	Exp. Against Revenue budget	Secured grant funding	Un-secured grant funding	Exp. Against Revenue budget	Secured grant funding	Un-secured grant funding	Exp. Against Revenue budget	Secured grant funding	Un-secured grant funding
Maintenance	£60,000	£3,000		£59,500	£3,000		£59,500	£3,000	
Capital/Development	£2,000		£32,000	£12,000		£7,000	£5,500		
Marketing, community & management	£250			£2,250			£7,450		
Total (Expenditure)	£62,250	£3,000	£32,000	£73,750	£3,000	£7,000	£72,450	£3,000	

3.2.2 Financial Strategy

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 may require external funding through grant aid, which will be sourced in partnership with the Friends Group.

Potential sources of funding will be investigated by the Friends Group 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 retention of the Green Flag award as this is seen as an independent method of assessing the site.

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, expressed informally or through formal user surveys.

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.

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5. 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. The ensuing years since the report have been impacted by austerity measures, especially at local government level where investment has declined. With climate change awareness an increasing factor for all, especially the young, investment in quality greenspaces is critical. The benefits in a socio-economic context are widely accepted. The environmental and ecological importance of our greenspaces is now at the forefront.

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 the 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%.

Many areas of the Borough have dense built areas often with intermixed housing and industrial/commercial areas. Houses in these areas often have no or only small gardens.

Unemployment rates in Derbyshire (3.1% at October 2012) remain lower than in England (3.8%), however Chesterfield Borough has the highest unemployment rate in the administrative county of Derbyshire at 5.6%. In some areas of the Borough the rate is much higher e.g. Rother at 10.9%. The council has been investing in the restructuring of the town's economy in order to attract new manufacturing industries and service based businesses. It is committed to working in partnership with the private sector and local and regional organisations to promote the regeneration of former industrial areas which lie derelict. This will enable the borough to meet both its future housing and employment needs from the redevelopment of brownfield land within the urban area, thereby avoiding any further peripheral expansion of settlements on to greenfield land.

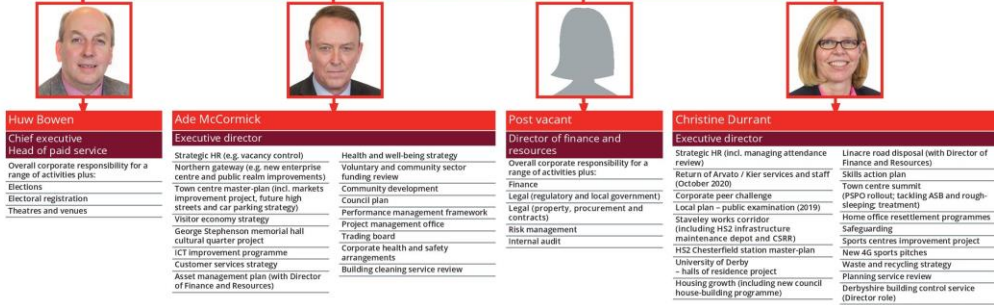
The Borough of Chesterfield is fortunate to have over 400 ha of public open space of recreational value in or immediately adjacent to the built areas of the Borough. This includes parks, greenways, public playing fields, small areas of open space in local areas, separate woodlands within the built areas,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

5.4 Chesterfield Borough Council Structure

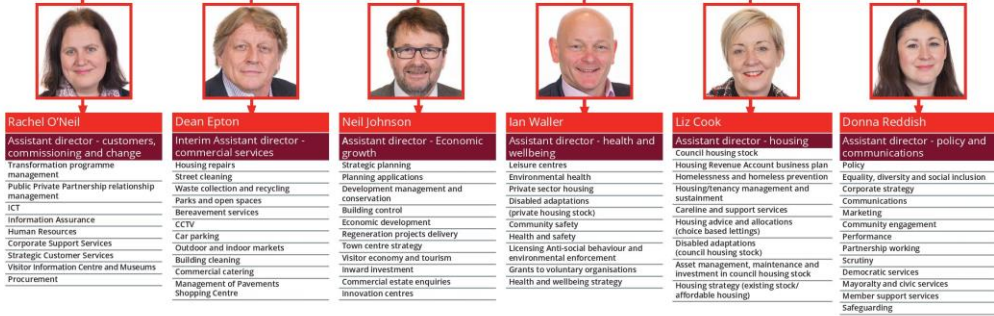
The Council is composed of 48 councillors elected every four years. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. The overriding duty of councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them. Councillors 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.

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.

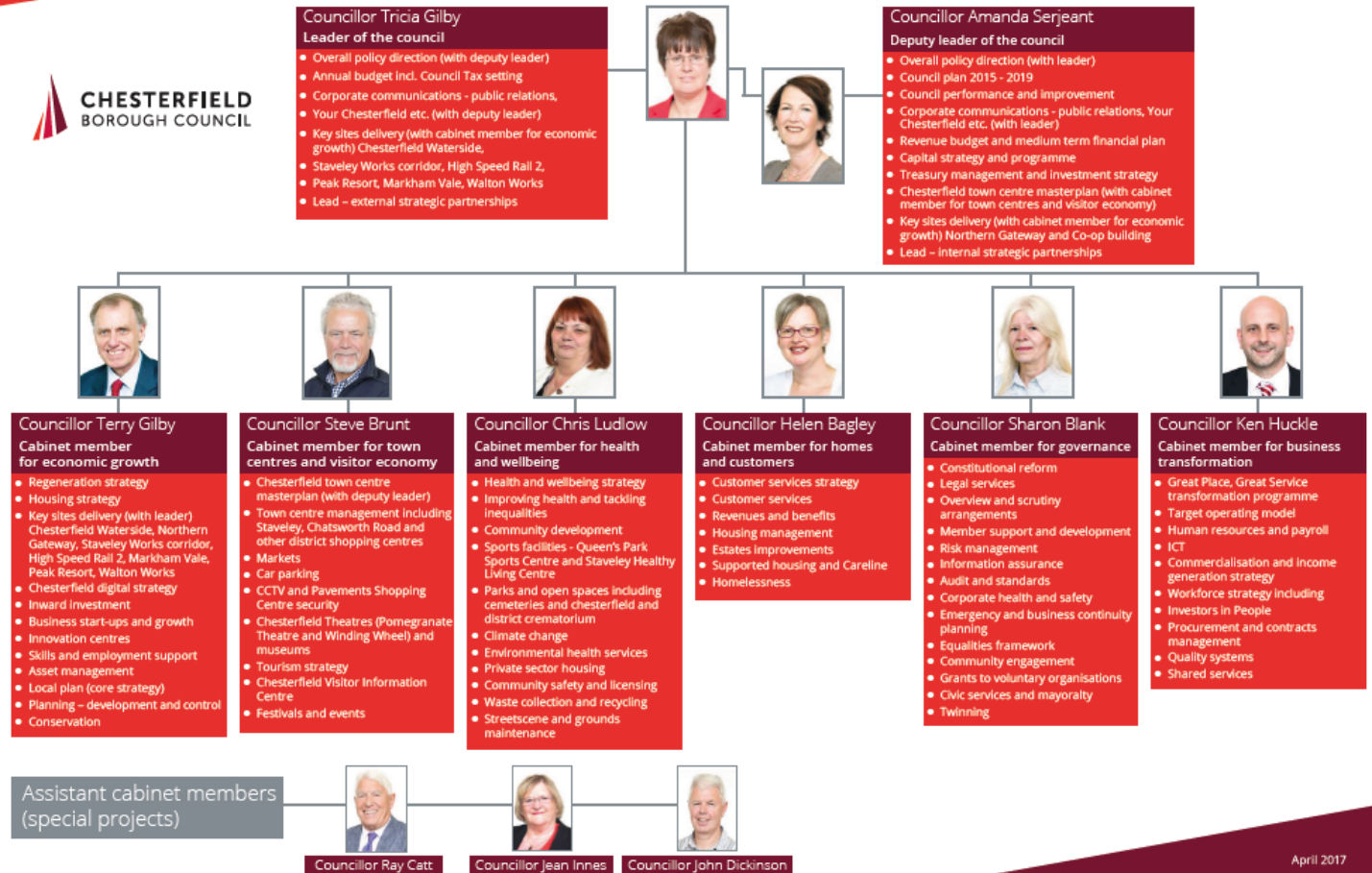
Senior Leadership Team



Corporate Management Team



Cabinet member portfolios



5.4.1 How Decisions Are Made

Our constitution governs how decisions are made, how we operate and the procedures that 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 councillors 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 insofar as they can be anticipated. These major decisions are called "key decisions".

- The day-to-day delivery of local services is carried out by various staff through the council's management structure. The senior leadership team is headed by our chief executive Huw Bowen. He has overall responsibility for managing the council. The team comprises the chief executive and two executive directors, and the director of finance and resources. The senior leadership team and service managers form the corporate management team. This team helps deliver our vision, aims and priorities set out in our Council Plan. See details of the senior leadership team and corporate management team below.

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 carry out overview and scrutiny activities.

- Our scrutiny committees and informal review panels 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 and regulatory committee while the conduct of individual councillors and overview of budget and audit matters is overseen by our standards and audit committee.

5.4.2 Corporate Plan 2015-2019

Chesterfield Borough Council Plan (2015-2019) - 2017/18 Update Summary

Our vision: Putting our communities first

Our priority: to make Chesterfield a thriving borough.

To deliver this, we will focus on four objectives:

1. To make sure that local people benefit from growth in Chesterfield Borough
2. To continue delivering regeneration projects that will make Chesterfield Borough a better place
3. To develop our great town centre
4. To improve access to technology that meets the needs of our residents, businesses and visitors

Our priority: to improve the quality of life for local people.

To deliver this, we will focus on four objectives:

5. To increase the supply and quality of housing in Chesterfield Borough to meet current and future needs
6. To increase the quality of public space for which the council has responsibility through targeted improvement programmes
7. To improve the health and well-being of people in Chesterfield Borough
8. To reduce inequality and support the more vulnerable members of our communities

Our priority: to provide value for money services. To deliver this, we will focus on a single objective: 9. To become financially self-sufficient by 2020, so we can continue to deliver the services our communities need.

Our values:

- Customer focused – delivering great customer service, meeting customer needs.
- Can do – striving to make a difference by adopting a positive attitude.
- One council, one team –proud of what we do, working together for the greater good.
- Honesty and respect – embracing diversity and treating everyone fairly.

5.4.3 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

The first Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for Chesterfield was launched in 2003. It had the key aim of maximising the social, environmental and economic benefits of green space provision.

The strategy has been a catalyst for realising a wide range of improvements in terms of quantity and quality of parks and open spaces over the last ten years.

- Over that time, more than £8.25 million of capital has been invested to improve the Council’s parks and open spaces and 70 per cent of this was from external sources.
- Since the launch of the strategy, over 20 Friends of Parks groups have established and played a significant role in attracting external funding to drive improvements and attracting more people to use their local park.
- We now have master plans and management plans for our main parks and hold four prestigious Green Flag awards.
- Brearley Wetlands, Norbriggs Flash and Blue Bank Pools have been declared as Local Nature Reserves and large tracts of woodland are now being actively managed and made more accessible.
- A range of challenging and innovative play equipment and outdoor gyms, multi-use games areas and skate parks have sprung up across the Borough.

Other notable achievements include:

- An eco-friendly Caravan Club site at Pools Brook Country Park
- Multi-user routes e.g. Somersall
- Chesterfield Canal restoration and the Trans Pennine Trail link
- Establishment of Chesterfield In Bloom
- Silver gilt award in East Midlands in Bloom
- Grade 2* Heritage listing for Queen’s Park

The new Parks & Open spaces Strategy 2015 -2024 has since been produced.

Chesterfield's Vision for Parks and Open Spaces 2015–2024

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

Strategic Objectives

To achieve this vision for Chesterfield's parks and open spaces we will:

- Prioritise investment in Parks and Open Spaces
- Use resources effectively and sustainably
- Increase the use of Parks and Open Spaces
- Effectively engage with our communities and partners

5.4.4 Planning Policy and Green Infrastructure

The Local Plan provides the spatial planning strategy for the borough to guide where new development goes and is the basis for decisions on planning applications.

The Local Plan for Chesterfield Borough currently consists of the following documents and strategies:

- the 2013 [Local Plan; Core Strategy](#)
- saved policies of the 2006 [Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan](#)

The evidence base that supports the Local Plan can be found by following the links on the left-hand side of this page.

The new Local Plan

We are currently working on a new Local Plan that will replace the above documents.

This will provide an update of the overall strategy for the borough and new site allocations looking ahead to 2036.

Supplementary Guidance

There is a set of [Supplementary Planning Documents](#) to provide extra guidance on certain issues. We also publish informal site-specific advice on key regeneration sites.

Other Local Plan Documents

Supporting the Local Plan, we have also published the following required documents:

- the Statement of Community Involvement, setting out how we will consult the community on planning policies and proposals
- [Local Development Scheme](#), the programme for work on the Development Plan Documents

5.5 Park Management Structure

The Council Commercial Services incorporates the greenspace, streetscene, building cleaning, building/repairs, capital works, waste management, bereavement services and support services units. The greenspace, streetscene, waste management and building cleaning units are managed as 'Environmental Services' within the structure.

The Greenspaces unit was formed by amalgamating the strategic leisure, outdoor leisure management section with the parks and open spaces management, grounds maintenance and arboricultural services.

The Greenspaces unit is responsible for the management of country parks, urban parks, nature reserves, allotments, woodlands and arboriculture within Chesterfield along with wider grounds maintenance and greenspace development.

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 Greenspace Team is organised in two areas covering the east and west areas of the borough based within the principal borough parks of Poolsbrook Country Park, Eastwood Park, Queen's Park and Holmebrook Valley Park.

The Greenspace Team undertake a range of estate and grounds maintenance tasks including horticulture, sports pitch care, grassland management, hedgerow maintenance, access improvements and the maintenance of fencing and site furniture.

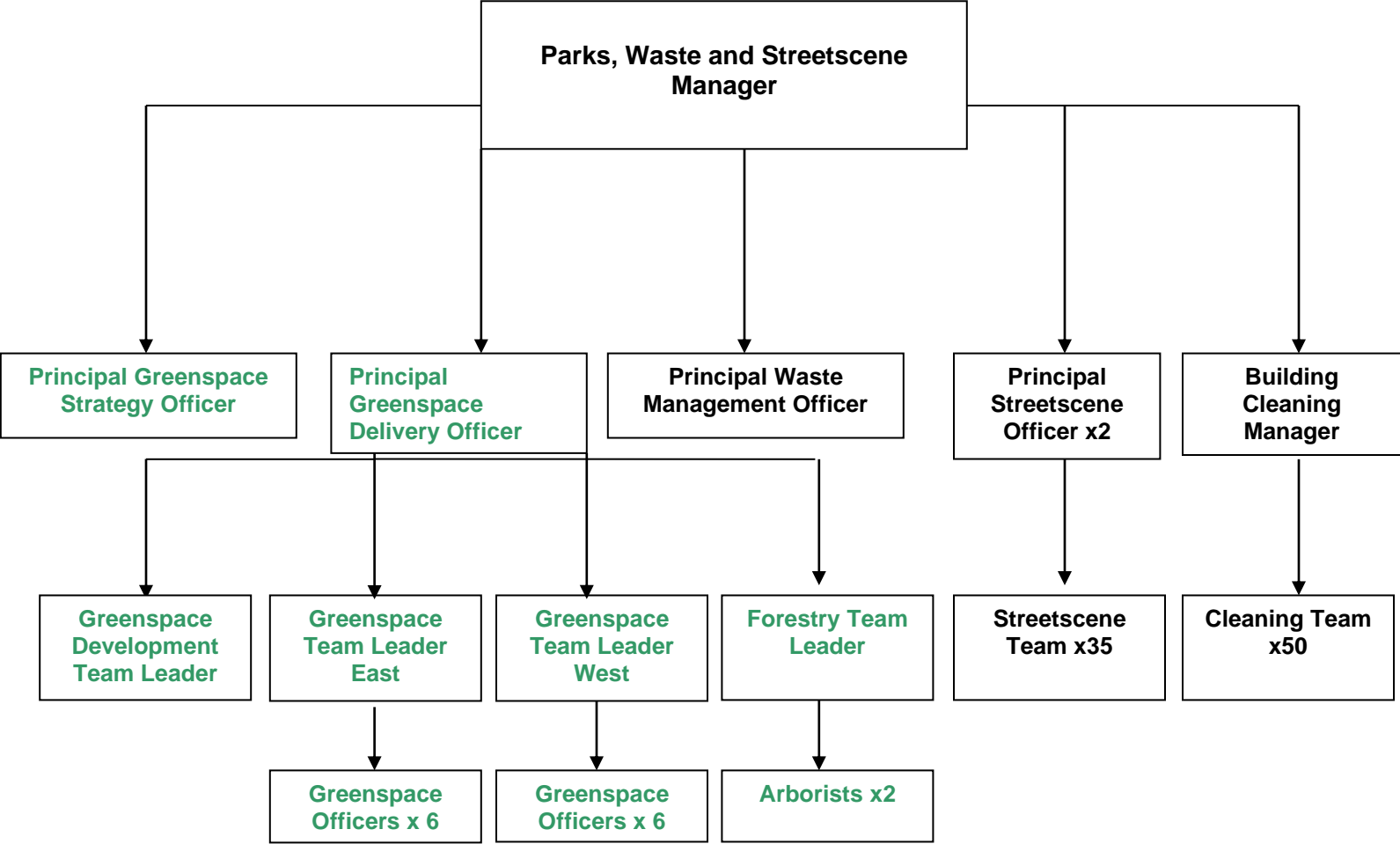
Other duties of the team are leading volunteer tasks and guided walks, liaising with the public, providing visitor information, supporting events and deterring misuse of sites. This includes dog fouling and littering enforcement.

A specialist Forestry Team within the Greenspaces Section maintains the trees and woodlands across the Council landholding.

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

Parks policy, landscape development, and play development strategies are formulated by the Greenspaces Section. Sport strategy is formulated by the Council's Leisure Services section.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTION



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 has recently been secured in the form of a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Grant from Natural England, which will fund important wildlife conservation work on the borough's country parks and nature reserves over the next decade.

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.

The park 'Friends' groups are also active in marketing their respective parks with many organising and promoting events. The Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park have taken their marketing a step further with the launch of their own website providing information on the park and the activities of the group.

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 *Greenprint for Chesterfield* in 2003. This is a biodiversity action plan for the Borough that helps to co-ordinate our approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the Borough and to preserve our wildlife for current and future generations.

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.

41.38% of Local Wildlife Sites are 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.

What is Significant ?

Any purchase the value of which is over £25,000

Any purchase which has significant Health and Safety implications

Electrical equipment rated at 1kW or higher

Heating or hot water equipment with an input rating in excess of 35 kW

Any vehicle powered by fossil fuel

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 the EMAS system, which provides 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.

In respect of its employees, this includes the provision of:-

- (i) A safe place of work.
- (ii) A safe and healthy working environment.
- (iii) Safe plant and equipment.
- (iv) Safe systems of work.
- (v) Adequate information, instruction, training and supervision.
- (vi) Adequate welfare arrangements.
- (vii) Adequate arrangements for handling, storing transporting and using articles or substances at work.
- (viii) Suitable and sufficient risk assessments undertaken in accordance with all

statutory provisions.

- (ix) A full consultation framework consisting of a Health and Safety Committee arranged quarterly with representatives from the employers and employees sides in accordance with The Safety Committee and Safety Representatives Regulations 1977. (For terms of reference see Section 3.25)

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 greenspace team.

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

The greenspace 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

The council is committed to improving the cleanliness of the borough and a key project under the corporate plan with Key Performance Indicators for dog fouling, grass cutting and litter.

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 Streetscene Services operatives a minimum of once a week with high use receptacles being emptied more frequently.

The borough council takes a proactive stance on reducing dog fouling and have trained officers to issue fixed penalty notices to people whose dogs foul public spaces and then fail to clean up after them.

5.11.2 Litter

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

The greenspace 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 rangers and greenspace team 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.

Brash and cordwood are chipped and taken to the Council-owned Hasland Nursery site 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 cordwood is taken by the contractor to offset the cost of operations if of marketable value. Alternatively larger parcels of timber are occasionally sold 'standing' to timber merchants where the quantity and value of timber is likely to realise a profit.

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 spraying 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 92 play spaces that provide for a diverse range of play opportunities for children and young play in the Borough.

In 2007 the Council along with the neighbouring local authority North East Derbyshire District Council produced a Play Strategy that sought to raise the profile of Play in the area.

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

A new Play Strategy has recently been produced to reflect the Councils current position and the demographics of the borough.

Through the new Play Strategy the Council will further improve on existing work to ensure better provision for children's play.

THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PLAY- A SUMMARY

Defining play

'What children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests in their own way and for their own reasons'.

Formal play – fixed play equipment – play development

Informal play – space in which to play

Play Typology

In order to assess our fixed equipment play spaces they are categorised as follows:

Local Areas for Play (LAPS) – small landscaped areas with a single item of play equipment usually for younger children in a neighbourhood setting e.g. Oadby Close, Juniper Close.

Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS) – several items of fixed play equipment usually for younger children in a neighbourhood setting e.g. Private Drive, Parkside View, Princess Street and Stanford Way.

Community Parks/Neighbourhood Equipped Areas For Play (NEAPS) – areas with fixed play equipment (play, skate, gym, muga) catering for a wide range of ages and abilities within larger pieces of open space and parks with space for informal play e.g. Langer Fields, Somersall Park, Brearley Park .

Destination Parks/NEAPS – places that people will travel to from outside the Borough to visit e.g. Queen's Park and Pools Brook Country Park.

We have a strong offer

The number of play spaces we have has steadily increased along with our overall landholding. The Council in partnership with Friends groups have delivered a number of new and refurbished play spaces. We have started to address a shortfall in our provision for teenagers e.g. multi use games areas and wheeled sports facilities.

However the Council's budget for parks and open spaces in real terms has decreased by over £750,000 in ten years. We are now at a crossroads and need to refocus on key priorities.

Around 50 per cent of the land classed as amenity/local open space can reasonably be counted as children's play space. This totals 40 hectares which equates to 0.38 hectares per 1,000 population.

Children's play space can also be found within parks, but it is difficult to assess the proportion of park land which could be reasonably defined as children's play space,

however whilst average provision could be assumed to be in the region of the 0.8-hectare threshold, the distribution of formal and informal play space is uneven.

This further underlines that provision of equipped play spaces needs to be rationalised in order to sustain the quality of our provision.

The purpose and play value of local areas for play (LAPs) also needs to be critically examined.

Strategy Aims

Provide an audit/evidence base of existing provision of play spaces, detailing quality, quantity, accessibility, condition, financial liability and wider value to the community.

Identify any deficiencies or surpluses in provision and options for dealing with this now and in the future. Also identify gaps in provision for specific age ranges within a ward.

Joint Open Space Assessment - The work will aim to identify all open space over 0.2ha in size that is of 'public value' as defined in the NPPF.

Consider how the Council, in partnership with the local community and partner agencies can ensure total inclusion and improve existing provision.

Prioritise future spending on play space improvement and development through an action plan.

Provide information to inform the Council to make decisions on the distribution of developer contributions and play and recreation fund bids, prioritising projects and sites according to a range of core criteria.

Ensure a robust inspection and maintenance process is viewed as an integral part in the delivery of this strategy and that it is resourced appropriately.

Ensure that Chesterfield Borough Council demonstrates equality of accessibility to all play spaces.

Ensure that play space provision is built around the needs of children and young people.

Challenges

78 Geographical Play Spaces – Laps, Leaps, Neaps – rises to 90+ types with MUGA/Gym/Skate.

Ageing and obsolete play equipment e.g. Langtree, St David's Rise, Durley Chine

Shrinkage and Damage to Safer Surfacing – insurance risk

Destination/Community Parks – increasing demand for different play types e.g. MUGA, Play, Skate

Dwindling resources - limited capital financing and an evermore competitive external funding scene

Ongoing renewal - no sinking fund for replacement – legacy?

Repair and maintenance - how to manage, sustain and keep pace

Criteria for Assessment

To rate each site it is necessary to measure it against key factors linked to the attributes of each location, design of the site and the play equipment installed.

1) **Quality Assessment** – How good is the play space?

This is a subjective assessment of whether a play space is fit for purpose or requires improvement. The quality assessment includes criteria such as access, equipment and facilities, parking, site problems and maintenance. The quality of the site will be rated:-

a) High Quality b) Low Quality

2) **Value Assessment** – How is the play space valued within the community?

The assessment of value includes criteria such as the level of use, ecological, educational, economic, health, anti-social behaviour issues and amenity benefits.

The value of sites will be rated:-

a) High Quality b) Low Quality

3) **Accessibility Assessment** – How easy is the site to get to versus the size of the play space on offer and the population near the site?

How far do people have to travel, is it a good location? Is it easily accessible for all?

The accessibility standard for “provision for children/young people” is a 10 minute walk or 480m. This enables us to identify areas that are not currently served by existing facilities.

A radius of 480m has been drawn from each site on the ward maps, this visually highlights areas of surplus or deficit.

4) **Quantity Assessment** – This is a measure of the other play areas on offer in the vicinity. Does a similar park exist within a close radius and does it duplicate the play value on offer?

The Open Space Study recommends quantity standards for the provision for children and young people to be 0.8ha per 1,000 population. These standards have been

calculated taking into account the current provision, current population and any identified deficiencies.

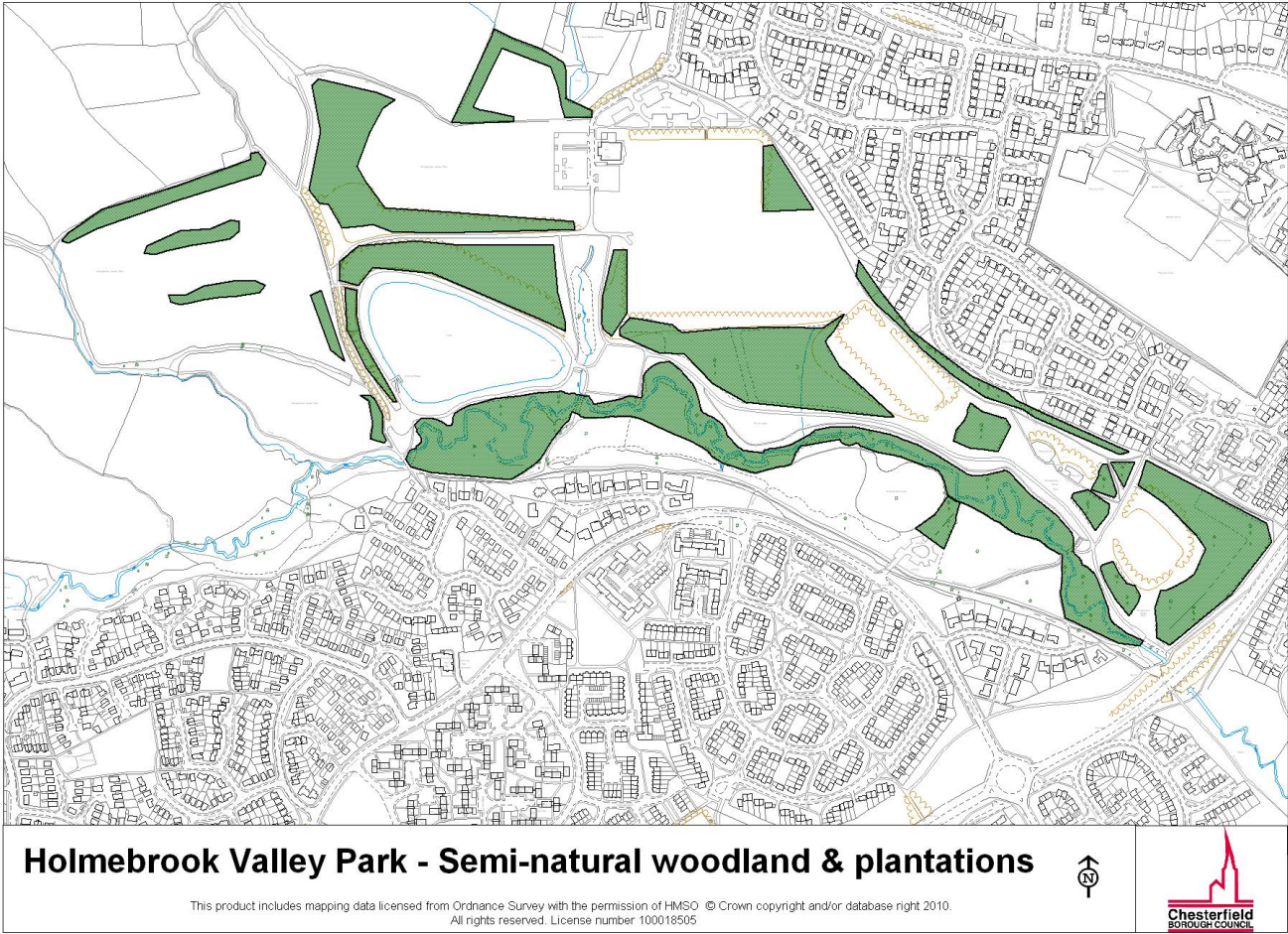
The quantity of the sites will be rated:-

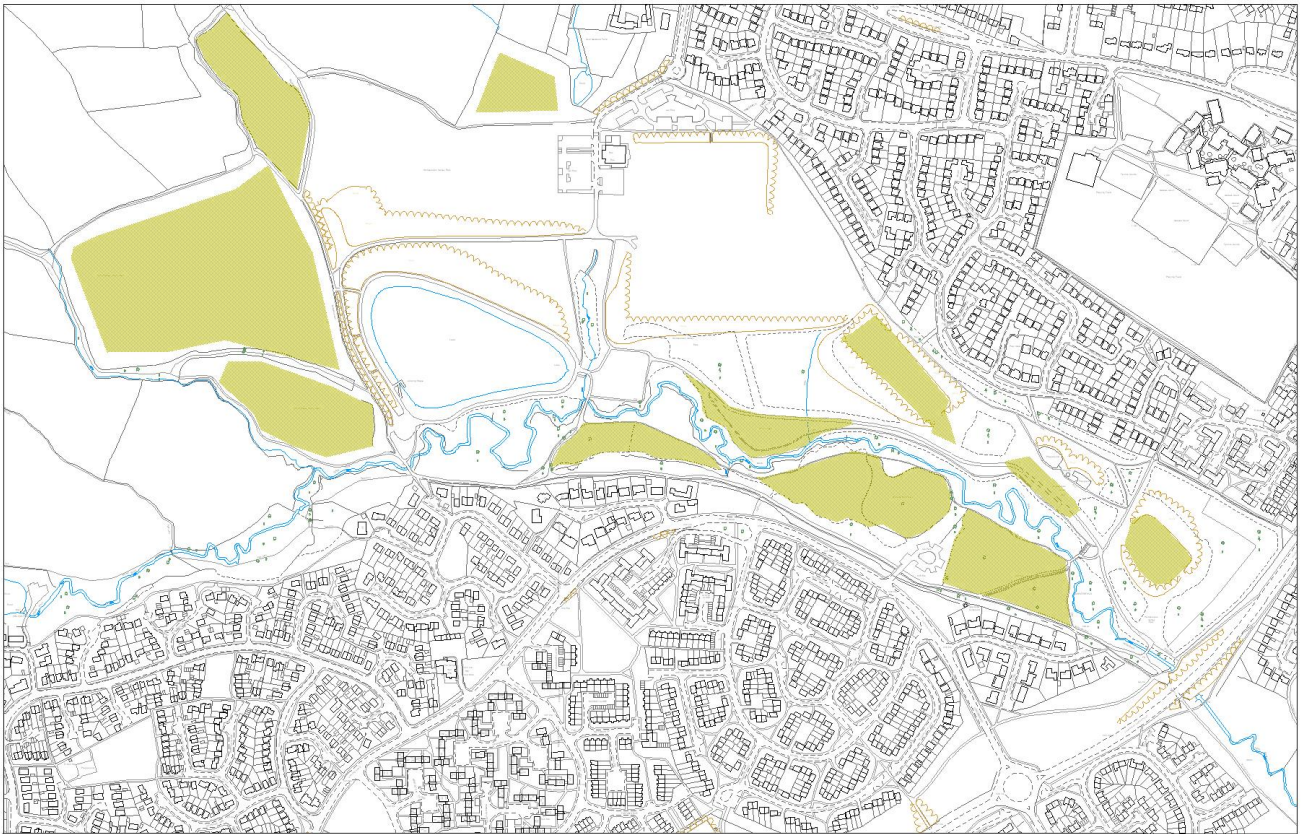
- a) Surplus b) Deficit

Factor	Criteria	Rationale	Measure	Score	Weight
Context	Accessibility	Based on Audit	Limited	5	33%
			Unrestricted	10	
	Proximity	Based on GIS Analysis using FiT Accessibility Standard Buffers. No overlaps = relative high value, increased overlaps relative low value.	No overlap	10	
			1 overlap	9	
			2 overlaps	8	
			3 overlaps	7	
			4 overlaps	6	
			5 overlaps	5	
			6 overlaps	4	
			7 overlaps	3	
			8 overlaps	2	
			9+overlaps	1	
	Quantity	Based on level of provision at ward level assessed against FiT standard quantity benchmark.	Below 0.25Ha	10	
			0.25 – 0.5Ha	9	
			0.5 – 1Ha	8	
			1 – 1.5Ha	7	
1.5 – 2Ha			6		
2 – 2.5Ha			5		
2.5 – 3Ha			4		
3 – 3.5Ha			3		
3.5 – 4Ha			2		
4Ha+			1		
Type of Use	Hierarchy	Based on Prescribed typology derived from audit.	Destination	10	33%
			NEAP	7	
			LEAP	5	
			LAP	3	
Benefit to Local Population	Deprivation Children & Young People Population	Based on Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Assessed at LSOA Level.	0 – 10% most deprived	10	33%
			11 – 20% most deprived	7	
			0 – 10% least deprived	5	
		Percentage of Chesterfield	0 – 0.5%	3	
			0.6 – 1.0%	5	

		children and young people living in the area. Assessed at ward level	1.1 – 1.5%	7	
			1.6 – 2.0%	10	

6- MAPS





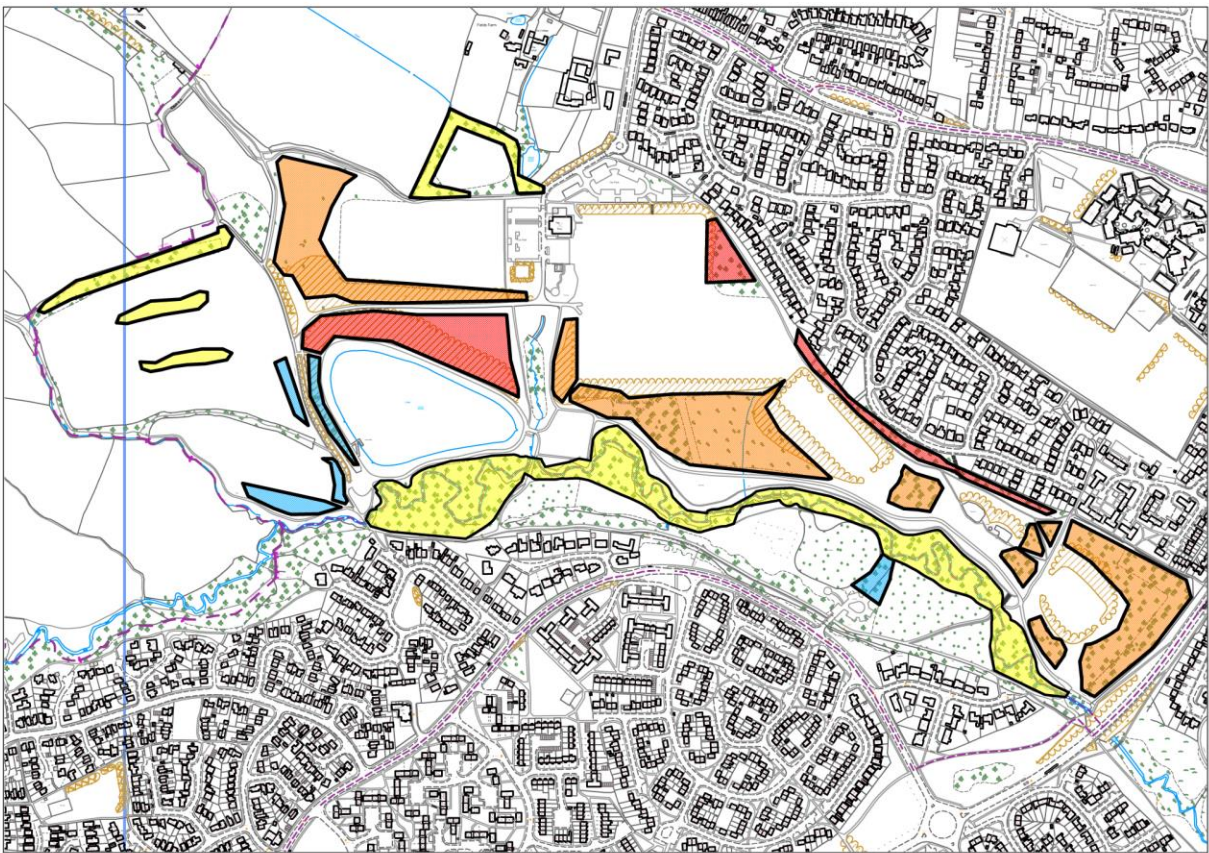
Holmebrook Valley Park - Species-rich grassland

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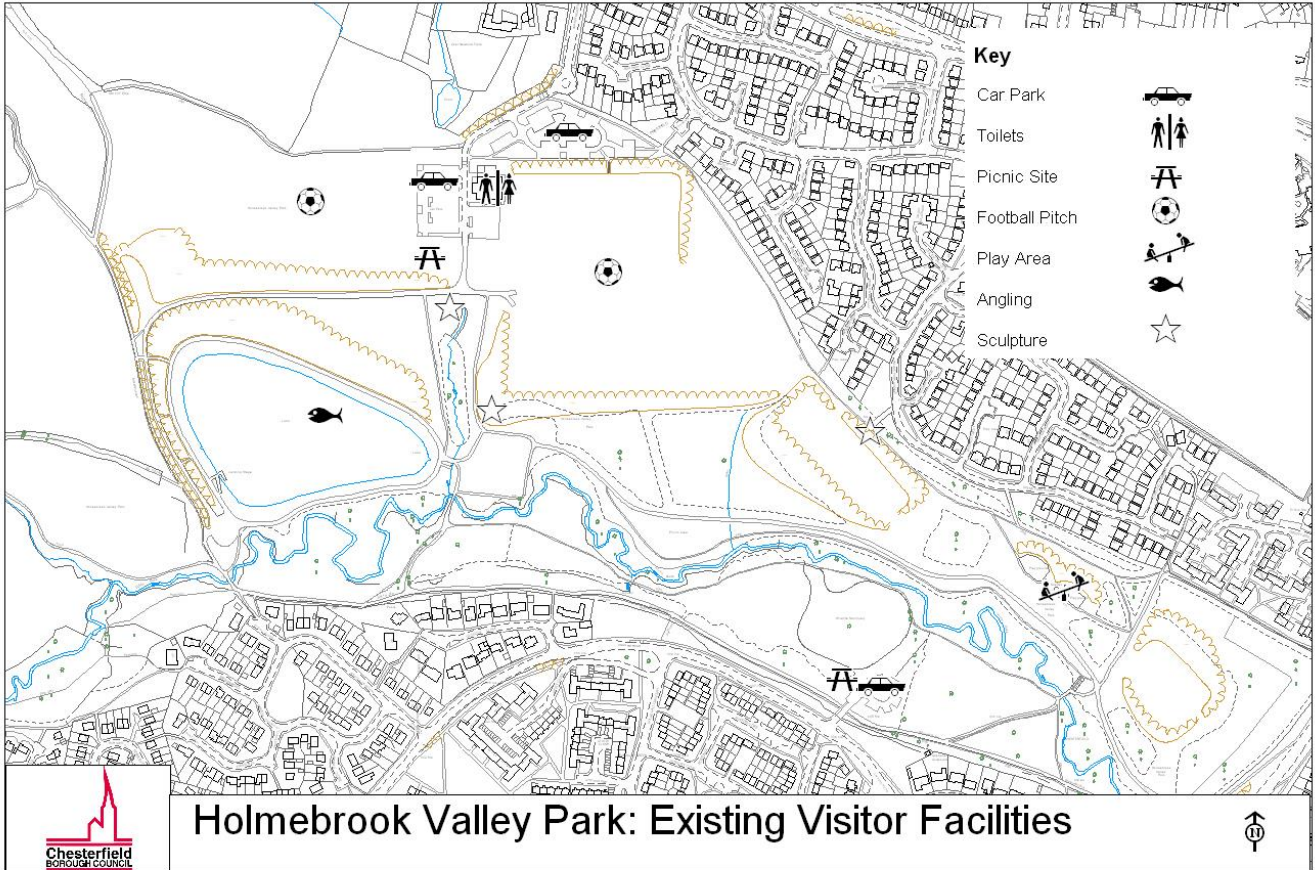


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Plantation Thinning Plan

Red	2017/2018
Orange	2018/2019
Blue	2019/2020
Yellow	2020/2021



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7 - SPECIES LIST

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust 2017 Report

Holmebrook Valley Park

Surveyed 27 June 2017, R Newman

The Wildlife Site covers the streamside woodland and an area of variable created grassland/mire south of the stream.

The woodland is much as described in previous surveys. Intense pressure from visiting school and youth groups is causing localised damage to the ground flora, the stream banks and presumably the stream bed. Given the recognised benefits of an outdoor classroom this is probably an acceptable activity.

The grassland area is made up of a number of different community types including wet and dry neutral grassland and mire. These support a diverse flora and at the time of survey the array of wildflowers was of considerable value aesthetically and to the invertebrate fauna. Owing to the diversity of habitats the area meets the WS grassland selection criteria (Area 1 in the summary table.).

Holmebrook Valley Park also includes a range of other wildlife habitats, at present undesignated. These include woodlands, hedgerows, species rich grassland banks and a number of hay meadows, the latter managed within a HLS scheme agreement. Four of these were visited. (See spreadsheets) Three are all close to favourable condition using the Farm Environment Plan HLS criteria. The two meadows in the northwest are particularly rich in wildflowers whilst the field in the southeast supports a diversity of species at a lower density. Steep scrubby banks in the NW add to the habitat mosaic supporting LA orchids whilst grassy glades within the wooded areas and associated with the playground are also of value. The array of flowering plants coupled with the mosaic of habitats suggests that the site is of value to invertebrates. The on-site interpretation implies on-going support from the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust.

Action

Consider extending the WS designation to cover the whole of the Park.

Contact Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and Pollinating the Peak to gather further info on inverts.

Future Monitoring

Low priority owing to positive management by CBC within HLS.

Management Suggestions

1. Scrub control on the orchid rich banks is needed imminently

2. A second (autumn) cut of all the grassland areas would be valuable and is probably essential for the meadows in HLS in order to meet the HLS objectives.
3. The HLS areas that weren't visited include an area grazed by horses at the time of the visit (field 1212). Such hard grazing during July will not be favourable to the conservation interest.
4. Area A4 to the north of the stream is poor quality. A change in management (including two annual cuts, with at least one involving removal of the cut material) is essential to try and enhance the plant community. Addition of hay rattle seed following the second cut may prove beneficial. Alternatively, this area needs removing from the HLS agreement.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust- Meadow Survey Species List

		BAP indicator	WS Indicator	1773	0691	0453	A4
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow						
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort	BAP	WS				
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley						
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common knapweed	BAP	WS	F	C	F	E
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear			R			
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle			R			
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh thistle						
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle						
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawkbeard		WS				
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common spotted orchid	BAP	WS	R, VLF			
<i>Dactylorhiza</i> sp	Common spotted orchid hybrid	BAP	WS			R	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Greater willowherb						
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp	Eyebright					R	
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	BAP	WS		E		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers						
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh bedstraw	BAP	WS				
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	BAP	WS				
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow cranesbill						
<i>Heracleum sphondyleum</i>	Hogweed					P	
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag	BAP	WS				
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	BAP	WS	F	F	F	R, VLA
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn hawkbit	BAP	WS				
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy	BAP	WS	R	R	R	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birds foot trefoil	BAP	WS	F	O	R	
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field woodrush		WS				
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet saxifrage	BAP	WS			R	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain			R	R	F	
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	BAP	WS			R	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil		WS				

<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		WS	R		R	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup				P	P	
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Spearwort	BAP	WS				
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup			A	P	P	P
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle	BAP	WS	R	R	C	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg	Bramble						
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel					P	
<i>Rumex</i> spp	Docks			R	R		
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great burnet	BAP	WS				
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Ragwort			R			
<i>Senecio</i>	Marsh ragwort	BAP	WS				
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Betony	BAP	WS			R	
<i>Stellaria</i> sp	Stitchwort					O	
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's bit scabious	BAP	WS				
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion					P	P
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil			R	R		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Meadow clover			F	F	R	F
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover			R,VLF	P		P
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle						
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch		WS	O	F		F
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush vetch		WS			R	R
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth tare		WS		F		R
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False fox sedge		WS				
<i>Carex ovalis</i>	Oval sedge						
<i>Carex</i>	Brown sedge						
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation sedge	BAP	WS				
<i>Carex nigra</i>	Common sedge	BAP	WS				
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	Sharp flowered rush						
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed rush						
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush					P	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent			O	P	P	P
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh foxtail						P
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow foxtail				P	P	
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass			O	P	P	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False oat grass						
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's tail			A	P		P
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocks foot					P	
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted hair-grass			R		P	

Festuca pratensis	Meadow fescue						
Festuca rubra	Red fescue				P	P	
Glyceria fluitans	Flotegrass						
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog			A	P	P	P
Lolium perenne	Perennial ryegrass			R	P	P	P
Phleum pratense	Timothy			O	P	P	P
Poa trivialis	Rough stalked meadowgrass			O		P	P
Trisetum flavescens	Yellow oat grass				P		

Amateur Ecologist Species List

<p>Herbs</p> <p>Meadow vetchling Greater birds-foot trefoil Creeping thistle Common nettle Common knapweed Common birds-foot trefoil Ribwort plantain Red clover Creeping buttercup Black medick Tufted vetch Bush vetch Spear thistle Meadow buttercup Broad leaved dock Black Knapweed Common ragwort Common dandelion Oxeye daisy White clover Wild carrot Red campion Ragged robin</p>	<p>Trees and Shrubs</p> <p>Field Maple Hazel Hawthorn Common Ash Holly Blackthorn Pendunculate Oak Dog Rose Goat Willow Elder</p> <p>Birds</p> <p>Wood pigeon Skylark House martin Dunnock Robin Blackbird Songthrush Chiffchaff Blue tit Great tit Trecreeper Magpie King fisher Tree sparrow Chaffinch</p>	<p>Rowan Scots Pine Corsican Pine Crack Willow Guelder Rose Wild Cherry Norway Maple Silver Birch European Larch Common Alder Common Lime Aspen</p> <p>Greenfinch Goldfinch Kestrel Common buzzard Sparrow hawk Grey partridge Red legged partridge Woodcock Pheasant Coot Moorhen Mallard Goosander Mute swan Canada goose Herring</p>
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	<p>Mammals</p> <p>Rabbit Hare Fox Badger Grey Squirrel Water Vole Brown Rat</p> <p>Other Invertebrates</p> <p>Leaf hopper Bumble Bee Parasitic wasps White clawed crayfish</p>	<p>Reptiles</p> <p>Grass snake Gull</p> <p>Amphibians</p> <p>Common toad Common frog</p> <p>Butterflies and moths</p> <p>Holly blue Green-veined white Large white Comma Speckled wood Meadow brown Small skipper Five spot burnet moth</p>
<p>Mosses</p> <p>Swan's neck thyme moss Hart's tongue thyme moss</p>		

8 - RISK ASSESSMENTS



C.B.C. RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

SELECT ASSESSMENT TYPE. DELETE TYPE N/A.	ASSESSMENT TITLE	ASSESSMENT NO.		DIRECTORATE:	Environmental Services
WORKPLACE:	Chesterfield Borough Council Areas	ASSESSMENT DATE:	Initial Assessment: N/A	SECTION:	Environmental
TASK:	Holmebrook Valley Park	COMPLETION DATE:		SUBSECTION:	
WORK EQUIPMENT: Holmebrook Valley Park		REVIEW DATE:		ASSESSED BY:	Barry Tomlinson – Technical Assistant (Quality and Risk Assessment)
				SIGNATURE:	
RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK:		L/M/H = LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH		SECTION HEAD:	Glenn Rowbottom
				SIGNATURE:	

NB: USE RISK RATING SHEET TO DECIDE RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK

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)
Paths	Slips, Trips & Falls	Employees Public	Paths are routinely inspected and issued highlighted Vegetation is routinely cut and maintained to keep paths clear Maintenance work is carried out periodically to re-surface and repair the paths Notice are displayed around the park when paths are frozen / slippy	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	Steps are routinely inspected and issued highlighted Vegetation is routinely cut and maintained to keep steps clear Maintenance work is carried out periodically to re-surface, re-instate and repair the step Steps are taken out of use if unsafe	Medium (3 * 3)	Path plan to highlight specific areas to be produced with document inspections recorded	Medium (3 * 2)
Bridges	Structural Failure	Employees Public Animals	Bridges are inspected on an annual basis by structural engineer Bridges are inspected on quarterly basis by competent person Bridges are closed if any structural / safety concerns are raised	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (4 * 2)
Lake	Drowning	Public	Warning notices are displayed a various locations around the lake Life Bouys are located at various locations around the lake The lake is a no swimming or boating lake	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	<p>Collapse</p> <p>Impact Injury</p> <p>Drowning</p> <p>Slips, Trips & Falls</p>	Public	<p>Fishing Pegs are routinely inspected and issued highlighted</p> <p>Maintenance work is carried out periodically to repair or replace broken Fishing Pegs</p> <p>Fishing Pegs are taken out of use if unsafe</p> <p>Anti-slip surface on top of Fishing Pegs</p> <p>All banks / paths leading to Fishing Pegs are routinely inspected & repaired as required</p>	Medium (5 * 2)		Medium (5 * 2)
Play Area	<p>Impact Injuries</p> <p>Trap Injuries</p> <p>Slips, Trips & Falls</p>	Public	<p>All play equipment is inspected annually by independent engineer & also by insurance</p> <p>Play equipment is maintained on a weekly basis</p>	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (3 * 2)
Trees	<p>Impact Injuries</p> <p>Cuts & Scratches</p>	<p>Employees</p> <p>Public</p>	<p>Trees are annually thinned out</p> <p>All over hanging branches are removed as required</p> <p>Trees are inspect by qualified staff if any issues to safety are raised</p>	Low (2 * 2)		Medium (3 * 3)
Horses	<p>Collison</p>	Public	<p>Specific routes are highlighted around the park for horses</p> <p>Paths are routinely inspected and issued highlighted and repaired</p>	Medium (3 * 2)		Medium (3 * 2)

Inappropriate Motor Vehicle Use	Collison Damage to Environment	Employees Public Animals	Car park are closed dusk till dawn Barriers block off access to the park in various locations Speed limits are in place Greenspace team patrol public areas during daytime hours Area is patrolled during evening hours on occasional basis by local P.C.S.O. & security company	Medium (5 * 2)	Barriers to be provided to block off all access to park	Medium (5 * 2)
Dogs	Dog Fouling Dog Attack	Employees Public	Bins are provided at various locations around the park Warning signs regarding dog fouling are displayed around the park Enforcement officers visit the park on regular occasions during the day Greenspace team have been trained and are qualified to issue fines Dog owners are encouraged to keep dogs on lead in densely populated areas or when events are taking place	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	<p>Car park are closed dusk till dawn</p> <p>Notices are displayed at main public entrances stating parks opening & closing times</p> <p>Lighting is kept on at night around pavilion</p> <p>Greenspace team patrol public areas during daytime hours</p> <p>Additional staff are on duty when events are taking place</p>	Medium (3 * 2)		
Anti Social Behavior	<p>Physical Injury</p> <p>Physical Damage</p> <p>Psychological Injury</p>	<p>Employees</p> <p>Public</p>	<p>Greenspace team patrol public areas during daytime hours</p> <p>Area is patrolled during evening hours on occasional basis by local P.C.S.O. & security company</p> <p>Staff are required to report ALL incidents in accordance with departmental procedures</p> <p>Mobile phones supplied to each team & can raise issues direct to Police on Helpline Number 0845 1233333 or 999 in Emergency</p>	Medium (3 * 2)	<p>Staff to be provided with training in dealing with Anti Social Behavior issues</p> <p>Notices to be displayed asking public to report any issues relating to anti social behavior</p>	Medium (3 * 2)
Sharps	<p>Puncture Wounds</p> <p>Blood born Viruses</p>	<p>Employees</p> <p>Public</p>	<p>Greenspace team patrol the park on a regular basis</p> <p>Greenspace team are trained to collect sharps & all incidents are reported</p>	Medium (4 * 2)		Medium (4 * 2)

RESIDUAL RISK RATING

SEVERITY	VALUE	LIKELIHOOD
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

RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK RATING	
1 – 5	LOW RISK
6 – 12	MEDIUM RISK
13 – 25	HIGH RISK

C.B.C. RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

SELECT ASSESSMENT TYPE. DELETE TYPE N/A.	ASSESSMENT TITLE	ASSESSMENT NO.	D006	DIRECTORATE:	Environmental Services
WORKPLACE:	Holmebrook Valley Park	ASSESSMENT DATE:	Initial Assessment: N/A	SECTION:	Environmental
TASK:	Depot Assessment	COMPLETION DATE:		SUBSECTION:	
WORK EQUIPMENT:	General Working Environment	REVIEW DATE:	30/05/2020	ASSESSED BY:	Barry Tomlinson – Technical Assistant (Quality and Risk Assessment)
				SIGNATURE:	
RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK:				L/M/H = LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH	
				SECTION HEAD:	Glenn Rowbottom
				SIGNATURE:	

NB: USE RISK RATING SHEET TO DECIDE RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK

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)
General Working Environment	Traffic Movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collision with Static or Moving Objects • Collision with public (mainly in the car park) • Collision with bikes, buggies, prams, etc. 	Employee Public Contractors Vehicles	Only trained staff are allowed to use equipment Working environment speed limits MUST be followed to at all times Vehicle drivers take care whilst entering / exiting depot Visual warning beacons are fitted on some vehicles & are on when vehicle is moving ALL staff wear hi-visibility clothing whilst in working environment	Medium (2 * 5)		Medium (2 * 5)

	<p>Yard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slips & Trips • Cuts & Abrasion • Collision with Tools & Equipment • Contamination 	Employee	<p>ALL staff are made aware of good housekeeping requirements</p> <p>Restricted access to yard area, yard is locked when not being used</p> <p>Clear defined walkways & working areas</p> <p>Washing facilities available at site</p>	Medium (2 * 3)		Medium (2 * 3)
	Security	Property Trespasses	<p>The yard is secured at night & weekends with gates, brick wall & building around the perimeter.</p> <p>The building & garage are alarmed at night & weekends</p> <p>All vehicles are locked when not in use</p> <p>Security lighting fitted within yard area</p> <p>Greenspace team office is locked when he is working out on site</p>	Medium (3 * 3)		Medium (3 * 3)
	<p>Mess Room / Ranger Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocutation • Slips & Trips 	Employees Contractors	<p>ALL equipment is Portable Appliance Tested every 2 years</p> <p>Adequate welfare facilities are available – Independent male & female toilets are available as part of the building</p>	Low (1 * 1)		Low (1 * 1)

	<p>Garage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slips & Trips • Cuts & Abrasion • Collision with Tools & Equipment • Explosion • Electrocutation • Fire • Burns • Contamination • Spillage's 	<p>Employee Environment</p>	<p>ALL staff are made aware of good housekeeping requirements</p> <p>Restricted access to area, garage is locked when not being used</p> <p>Clearly defined walkways</p> <p>Washing facilities available at site</p> <p>ALL chemicals are stored in correct containers & are locked in chemical storage bins</p> <p>Limited number of chemicals stored</p> <p>COSHH Assessments & Data sheets available in mess room / ranger office</p> <p>Spill kits are at site to deal with spillage, staff trained in the use of spill kits</p> <p>All spillages are recorded on incident forms</p> <p>Fire extinguishers available at site</p> <p>ALL equipment is Portable Appliance Tested every 2 years</p> <p>All materials are stored safely</p> <p>Fuel is stored in machines & fuel cans that are locked in fuel bins</p>	<p>Medium (2 * 3)</p>		<p>Medium (2 * 3)</p>
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	<p>C.O.S.H.H.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spillage's • Burns • Irritation • Fumes • Explosion 	<p>Employees</p> <p>Contractors</p> <p>Environment</p>	<p>ALL staff attend COSHH training as part of the Councils induction process</p> <p>COSHH Assessments are carried out on ALL products</p> <p>COSHH Assessments & Material Data Sheets are kept on site – Located in Greenspace team Office (Desk Drawer)</p> <p>ALL staff are issued with appropriate P.P.E. for chemicals</p> <p>ALL chemicals are stored in locked chemical safety bins</p> <p>Small amounts of chemical are stored</p> <p>Use of personal application log</p> <p>Chemical stored in appropriate containers</p> <p>Chemicals mixed & applied as per manufactures recommendations</p> <p>Spill kits are available at site to deal with spillage's, staff trained in the use of spill kits</p> <p>All spillage's are recorded on incident forms</p>	<p>Medium (2 * 3)</p>	<p>Annual toolbox training to be given to ALL staff</p>	<p>Medium (2 * 3)</p>
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	<p>Fire</p> <p>Fire Action Procedure</p> <p>If You Discover A Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound the alarm – Break Glass / Verbal Command (FIRE) • Dial 999 to call the Fire Brigade • Attack the fire if possible using the appliance provided (Only if Trained & Safe) • Vacate the building via the nearest Signed Exit Route • Notify Supervisor / Operations Manager <p>On Hearing The Fire Alarm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacate the building via the nearest Signed Exit Route • Close ALL doors behind you • Report to the Fire Assembly Point – MAIN CAR PARK • Do Not re-enter the building or leave the site until instructed to do so by Supervisor / Operations Manager <p>DO NOT TAKE ANY RISKS</p>	<p>Employees</p> <p>Contractors</p> <p>Environment</p>	<p>Holmebrook Valley Park depot has had a fire risk assessment completed</p> <p>All electrical equipment is Portable Appliance Tested annually</p> <p>Holmebrook Valley Park has a Break Glass alarm system fitted in the ranger office & associated building, verbal notification is required in garage area</p> <p>Fire alarm & 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 & are serviced on an annual basis by Chubb</p> <p>Full fire drills / evacuations to be carried out every 6 months</p>	<p>Medium (2 * 5)</p>	<p>BI-annual fire extinguisher training to be given</p>	<p>Medium (2 * 5)</p>
	<p>Anti Social Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Injury • Psychological Damage 	<p>Employees</p> <p>Contractors</p>	<p>Staff are required to report ALL incidents in accordance with departmental procedures</p> <p>Mobile phones supplied to each team & can raise issues direct to Police on Helpline Number 0845 1233333 or 999 in Emergency</p>	<p>Medium (3 * 2)</p>	<p>Staff to be provided with training in dealing with Anti Social Behaviour issues</p>	<p>Medium (3 * 2)</p>

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