



Holmebrook Valley Park

Management Plan 2025-2030

Green Spaces Section, Environmental Services
Chesterfield Borough Council



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contents

Foreword.....	7
Introduction	8
1.0 Current Management.....	9
1.1 Site Name.....	9
1.2 Site Introduction.....	9
1.3 Site Location	10
1.4 Site Description	10
1.5 Political Representation.....	10
1.6 Legal Considerations	11
1.6.1 Tenure	11
1.6.2 Designations	11
1.6.3 Licences	11
1.6.4 Byelaws.....	11
1.6.5 Public Rights of Way and Access Arrangements	12
1.7 History of the park	12
1.8 Natural Environment Management	13
1.8.1 Landscape and Ecological Value of the Park	13
1.8.2 Funding for Environmental Management.....	14
1.8.3 Tree and Woodland Management.....	14
1.8.4 Tree Safety	16
1.8.5 Hedgerow Management.....	16
1.8.6 Conservation Grassland Management.....	16
1.8.7 Lake and Watercourse and Management.....	17
1.8.8 Water Safety.....	19
1.8.9 Ecological Monitoring.....	19
1.9 Recreation and Amenity Management.....	20
1.9.1 Current Recreational Uses	20
1.9.2 Events	20
1.9.2 Amenity and Sports Grounds Maintenance	20
1.9.3 Sports Pitch Development.....	21
1.9.4 Sports Pitch and Events Booking and Allocation.....	22

1.9.5 Angling Facilities	23
1.9.6 Play Facilities Development.....	23
1.9.7 Visitor Services and Information.....	24
.....	24
1.9.8 Refreshment Facilities.....	25
1.10 Structures and Surfaces Management	25
1.10.1 Roadways, footpaths, and associated structures	25
1.10.2 Bridges	25
1.10.3 Fencing, Access Structures and Benches	26
1.10.4 Sculptures	26
1.10.5 Play Equipment.....	26
1.10.6 Buildings.....	27
1.10.7 Fire Safety	28
1.10.8 Building Security.....	28
1.11 Waste Management.....	28
1.11.1 Cleansing and litter collection.....	28
1.11.2 Dog Waste.....	28
1.11.3 Waste Disposal	29
1.12 Personnel and Physical Resources.....	29
1.12.1 Personnel	29
1.12.2 Vehicles, Plant and Tools	30
1.12.3 Work Standards.....	30
1.12.4 Programmed Maintenance Schedule.....	31
1.13 Developments and Improvements	32
1.14 Community Interaction	34
1.14.1 The Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park.....	34
1.14.2 Volunteers.....	35
1.15 Stakeholder Consultation.....	35
2.0 The Way Forward	36
2.1 Park Evaluation.....	36
2.2 The Vision.....	36
2.3 A Welcoming Place	38

2.3.1 Welcoming	38
2.3.2 Good and Safe Access.....	39
2.3.3 Signage	40
2.3.4 Equal Access for All	41
2.4 Healthy, Safe and Secure.....	42
2.4.1 Safe Equipment and Facilities	42
2.4.2 Personal Security.....	43
2.4.3 Dog Fouling	44
2.4.4 Appropriate Provision of Facilities.....	44
2.4.5 Quality of Facilities	45
2.5 Clean and Well Maintained	45
2.5.1 Litter and Waste Management	45
2.5.2 Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture.....	46
2.5.3 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance.....	46
2.5.4 Equipment Maintenance	46
2.6 Sustainability	47
2.6.1 Environmental Sustainability- energy and natural resource conservation, pollution	47
2.6.2 Pesticides	48
2.6.3 Peat Use	48
2.6.4 Waste Management and Minimisation	48
2.6.5 Arboriculture and Woodland Management	49
2.7 Conservation and Heritage	50
2.7.1 Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora	50
2.7.2 Conservation of landscape features.....	52
2.7.3 Conservation of building and structures	52
2.8 Community Involvement	52
2.8.1 Community involvement in management and development, including outreach work.....	52
2.8.2 Appropriate provision for the community.....	53
2.9 Marketing.....	53
2.9.1 Marketing and promotion.	53
2.9.2 Provision of appropriate information.	54

2.9.3 Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information.....	54
2.10 Management	54
2.10.1 Implementation of the management plan	54
2.11 Summary.....	55
3.0 The Plan of Action	56
3.1 Action Plan	56
3.2.2 Financial Strategy	64
4.0 Achievement of Objectives	64
4.1 Indicators of Success	64
4.2 Monitoring Progress and Review.....	65
Appendices	65
5.1 Corporate Plan 2023-2027	65
5.1.1 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.....	67
5.1.2 Chesterfield's Vision for Parks and Open Spaces 2015–2024.....	68
5.2 Training and Continued Professional Development	69
5.3 Budgets and Revenue.....	69
5.4 Marketing and Promotion	70
5.5 Sustainability	70
5.5.1 Biodiversity	70
5.5.2 Local Wildlife Sites.....	70
5.5.3 Green Purchasing Policy.....	71
5.5.4 Banned Product List.....	72
5.5.5 Environmental Management System	73
5.6 Health and Safety.....	74
5.6.1 Health and Safety Policy	74
5.6.2 Risk Assessment	75
5.6.3 Water Safety.....	75
5.7 Waste Management, Street Cleansing and Enforcement	76
5.7.1 Dog Fouling	76
5.7.2 Litter.....	76
5.10.3 Green Waste	76
5.8 Pest Control	77

5.9 Building Maintenance	77
5.10 Play Facilities.....	77
6. Maps	78
7. SPECIES LIST	80
8. Risk Assessment	83

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.



*Councillor Steve Lismore
Cabinet member for Health and
Wellbeing*

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.

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 Cllrs Judy Staton and Gavin Baldauf Good. 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 Steve Lismore.

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.

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 in effect around the café, children's play areas, and the lake.

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- Appendices)

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 Appendices - 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 2026. 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.

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

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 Appendices).

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- Appendices)

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 is popular with visitors interested in ornithology, general relaxation and 'feeding the ducks'.

The borough council works to ensure structures lakeside seating are maintained to a suitable standard and bankside vegetation is appropriately managed.

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. The scrapes were re-established in 2025 through consultation with Wildscapes and the Don Catchment Rivers Trust. This project was funded under a project to create habitats for Great Crested Newts (GCN). This work was to increase the capacity of the scrapes in a way that is beneficial to GCN as well as allow for some informal seating, information boards, hibernacula and additional marginal and aquatic planting.

1.8.8 Water Safety

Swimming and water sports are not permitted in the lake.

Lifebuys 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.

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 is managed through the Paqrks Development Officer.

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

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.

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 has allowed the purchase of 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 machine for use from 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 have now created a second piste with a newly landscaped border including seating.



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

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. Issues since Covid have placed angling as a source of ASB within the park. Rogue elements within our fishing community established themselves at the lake without any group taking on the lease. We had ongoing reports of antisocial behaviour including excessive littering, alcohol and drug use. We also lost two of our four cygnets due to fishing related issues. We reached out to individuals with a view to creating a new club but despite our best efforts, this again was unsuccessful.

In order to prevent this we ceased fishing at the lake, but this was largely ignored with social media posts highlighting trespass, night fishing and illegal activity.

The decision was taken to ban fishing altogether at the lake. In order to do this we removed a significant number of match fish from the lake to make the site less appealing. We are also removing most of the fishing pegs from the lake to reinforce this. It has been made apparent from other park users that the protection of our existing wildlife and swans aligns with what they would like from the park.

1.9.6 Play Facilities Development

In the Councils 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.



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 Environmental Services 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. A new leaseholder has taken over the café from January 2026.

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 plannings 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. Minor repairs were also undertaken in Summer 2022. Unfortunately, recent high rainfall events have damaged some sections and ongoing repairs look necessary. The main 'haul route from the Pavilion car park to the lake was partially restored and a tarmac base layer was put in place covering an area of 400m². This has greatly improved access for buggies and mobility scooters.

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. Bridge 3 is currently closed due to significant structural issues. Inspections have raised concerns about its long term stability. The decision has been taken to replace the bridge

in its entirety with a smaller structure as vehicular access is no longer required. The new bridge was installed in 2024.

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- Appendices)

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. Works are currently underway in Spring 2025 to install drainage beneath the play equipment to resolve ongoing drainage issues which have become problematic for year round use.

(See Visitor Facilities Map- Appendices)



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 one base for the west area Environmental Services Team. They operate throughout the week at the park carrying out routine works in conjunction with their responsibilities across the wider Council estate.



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 our 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 maintenance	Throughout the year.	As required
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 August	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
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	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.
2021-23	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.
2023 onwards	New signage and information	Promoted by the Friends Group to assist with navigating the park and improve overall knowledge of the park's habitats and fauna. Developing the QR codes for the signs are proving to be a stumbling block in getting the signage completed.
2022/23	Petanque	Newly funded Petanque piste to be created next to the existing piste due to increase in use and popularity
2023	Covid memorial planting lower field	12 Flowering Cherry trees planted in an arc with 3 'rustic' benches
2024	Petanque	New cabin for Petanque club for changing and storage facilities
2025	Play area at Pavilion	Drainage improvements around play spaces include extensive soil removal, pipework installed and new play bark surfacing.
2025	Signage	New entrance signage to the park from Water meadow Lane and Linacre Rd in the CBC corporate style
2025	Scrapes extension.	Digging out and increasing the capacity of the scrapes to provide greater holding capacity for water and also habitat provision. This was to improve Great Crested Newt habitat as part of a wider national project.
2025	Rainwater Planters at the Pavilion	Installed by DCRT /CBC to promote sustainable water management on buildings



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, horse boxes 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 except for 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 several 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.

Adjacent to the pavilion is the wide plateau areas used for various sports and events. The kinder play area and petanque pistes 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. 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 encroachment.

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.

It was recognised that the park lacked a signs 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 planning 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 plannings 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 out as required. Upgrading of the remaining paths is intended as funding opportunities arise.

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 Environmental Services 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 Environmental Services Team who undertake repairs. Informal, daily checks of play equipment are undertaken to ensure any issues are addressed quickly.

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

The park does suffer some low-level misuse during the evenings in the form of illegal camping, drinking parties and campfires. 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. To date this has been successful. Combination locks are in place to allow permitted access without the necessity for a keyholder attending site.

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 Environmental Services 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 renewal of the café operating lease in 2025 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. Such is the popularity of pentanque that there has been an additional piste and store facility added to the existing one.

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 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 environmental services 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 reseeding. 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, the Petanque club and the urban nature group. The Council also uses the community room for occasional training programmes such as RoSPA and Facilities management

2.5.4 Equipment Maintenance

This is an ongoing task and is one which is being tackled by the onsite dedicated 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 local area 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 by increasing drainage and resurfacing 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 as part of the next iteration of the parks and play strategy.

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 reinstatement and extension of the scrapes on the top plateau is working to support this as well as providing improvements to habitat.

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 '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.

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 appendicesI).

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, the most recent being in summer 2025.

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 Appendices. 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 development team.

The Friends Group recognises 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 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 or the Friends Group Facebook page:

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

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.

2.9.3 Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information.

The greenspace development officer in collaboration with the Friends group has managed 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.



Rain Planters installed at the Pavilion by Don Catchment Rivers Trust with Chesterfield Borough to promote sustainable water management from our Pavilion.

Green Flag Theme	Action	Outcome	Completion target date	Lead Officers	Costs and source	Progress
A Welcoming Place	Remove obsolete signs Refurbish existing signs. Update the park information boards	New signs installed. Awaiting Loundsley Green Rd signs. Redesign of information boards	May 2026	Greenspaces Facilities dept Reprographics team	£2,500	Ongoing
	Re-establish shrub maintenance regime at Watermeadow Lane upper car park. (See Petanque works)	Shrubs restructured and appropriately pruned to improve wind resistance and increase/improve species selection.	May 2026	Greenspace officers and tree team.	£1200	Ongoing. Started Feb 2026
	Increase provision and use of café facilities.	New leaseholders have been engaged on a 3 year initial lease. Agreements on increased opening hours to improve visitor experience.	January 2026	Estates and Legal team. Greenspaces team	Lease	Completed

Healthy Safe and secure	Maintain good relationship with PCSO and community safety team to address ASB	More targetted patrols when necessary. Invite PCSOs to Friends meetings to update	Ongoing	Greenspaces Management. Community Safety Officers. PCSOs	NA	Ongoing
	Maintain current park opening hours and security of site. Ensure prompt response to any issues. (Riber Security)	Ensure that the park, its gates and buildings are secured and locked as per framework agreement and notices.	Ongoing	Greenspaces Team Riber Security ASI (Alarms) Facilities dept	Framework agreement.	Ongoing
	Emergency Provision	Ensure provision of emergency response kits at Pavilion for 24hr use. Bleed kits and Defib unit.	June 2025. Inspected and logged monthly	Environmental Services	£750	Completed
	Ensure minimal use of herbicides on hard surfacing at car parks and buildings only.	Applied and directed once a year. Explore alternatives to use.	Ongoing	Streetscene officers	£250	Ongoing
Clean and well maintained	Ensure site access and all routes are clean and presentable.	Car parks and roads are mechanically swept.	Monthly	Environmental Services	NA	Ongoing

	Facilities are clean, in use and available to the public.	Toilets cleaned Pavilion and changing facilities cleaned	Daily Weekly	Environmental Services	NA	Ongoing
	Litter and dog waste bins are emptied frequently. Litter on site is picked during routine works.	Staff attentive to ensuring this when on site during site checks.	Twice weekly or as required. Friends monthly litter pick	Environmental Services Friends Group	£2,500 pa including skip hire	Ongoing
	Recreational and sports facilities maintained	Regular mowing and marking of sports pitches. Maintenance of Petanque as required	Weekly or fortnightly as required in season	Environmental Services	£8,000 per pitch per season	Ongoing
	Recreational and amenity access is well maintained and appropriate to location	Main access routes mown fortnightly in growing season. Hedgerows maintained as necessary.	Ongoing Annually Ongoing	Environmental Services. Facilities dept	NA NA £10,000	Ongoing

		Footpaths maintained and upgraded				
	Play areas and park furniture is safe and useable	Weekly visual RoSPA inspections to play equipment. Routine inspections of gates and seating.	Ongoing	Environmental Services.	NA	Ongoing
Sustainability	Creation of expanded scrapes in top woodland scrub area. Include dead hedges, hibernacula and information boards.	Reintroduction of Great Crested Newts and associated flora and fauna	Ongoing	Greenspaces Team Wildscapes Wildlife Trust	NA	Ongoing.
	Grazing of fenced conservation meadow between May and September with ponies.	Annual grazing maintained	Ongoing	Agricultural contractors	HLS funded	Annually
	Creation of deadwood habitat piles utilising tree works arisings.	Habitat piles in situ where appropriate.	Ongoing	Environmental Services Tree Team	NA	

	Chain harrowing/ discing of conservation grassland followed by broad casting of wildflower seed and light rolling following hay cut.	Achievement of Natural England's indicators of success and botanical improvement of grassland.	Annually	Agricultural contractors	HLS funded	Annually
	Annual haycut and baling in late summer.	Achievement of Natural England's indicators of success and botanical improvement of grassland.	Annually	Agricultural contractors	HLS funded	Annually
	Creation of submerged habitat for white-clawed crayfish.	Further areas created.	July 2025	Environment Agency Environmental Services	NA	Ongoing
	Annual inspection of trees along main access routes and high target areas.	Trees inspected and remedial works undertaken.	Annually	Tree Officer	NA	Annually
	Tree planting around the new petanque piste	'Vista-sensitive' tree planting established. Miyawaki inspired hedge planting	Feb/March 2026	Environmental Services Tree team Petanque Club	NA	Completed

	Additional wildflower areas	Linacre Rd entrance border and around the new Petanque. Hedgerow mix wildflowers added.	March 2025 and March 2026	Environmental Services	NA	Annually
	Annual inspection and maintenance of sculptures.	Sculptures retained in good repair.	Annually	Facilities and Estates	NA	Annually
Community Involvement	Provision of volunteer work days on practical tasks.	Friends Group litter picks held monthly.	Monthly	Friends Groups	NA	Ongoing
	Maintain regular communications with Friends Group, Football Teams and Petanque club	Annual general meetings and monthly online or site catch ups.	Monthly	Greenspaces Development Manager	NA	Ongoing
	Maintenance of community memorial benches and seating	Clearance of scrub and saplings obscuring views from memorial seating across the lake and vistas	Annually	Environmental Services Tree team Friends Group	NA	Annually

Marketing	Investigate further commercial opportunities for the park in respect to leases and stakeholder engagement.	Hire of community rooms and Pavilion. New café leaseholders Work with FA on Home Advantage scheme	Ongoing	Facilities and Estates. Greenspaces Development Team	NA	Ongoing
Management	Investigate opportunities for external funding for capital projects such as path resurfacing.	Securing of further external grant funding.	Ongoing	Greenspaces Projects Team	UKSPF and community grants fund have enabled some resurfacing and drainage works	Ongoing

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.

Appendices

5.1 Corporate Plan 2023-2027

Chesterfield Borough is a great place to live, work, visit and invest. We want all our communities to share in the benefits of Chesterfield's success, enjoying healthy and active lives. We face a challenging time with further reductions in local government funding and an increasing demand for services. The Council Plan helps us to effectively invest and deploy our time, resources and energy to support key services and work with residents, partners and businesses to ensure that everyone in the borough can achieve their full potential.

The Council Plan includes our priorities for the next four years:

- Making Chesterfield a thriving borough
- Improving quality of life for local people
- Building a resilient council

These are the activities on which we will focus our efforts and want to see a real shift in over the four years. The four-year plan allows us time to plan ahead without trying to speculate about what our communities will need and expect in the distant future. The Plan doesn't cover in detail everything we do (this is covered in our service plans and annual council plan delivery plan) but we have included some key facts and figures which tell you a bit more about our day-to-day activity.

Throughout the plan development we have been guided by our simple but important vision:

Putting our communities first: Chesterfield Borough Council is here to serve and support our communities including our residents, tenants, businesses, visitors, students and voluntary groups. Together we will continue to make our borough a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

How we will work: It isn't just what we do that is important, it is the way that we do it. The council has four values that describe how we will work to achieve our vision of putting our communities first.

We are customer focused: delivering great customer service, meeting customer needs. We regularly carry out satisfaction surveys to find out what our communities and residents think of the services we provide. We engage with our residents, tenants, visitors and businesses through a wide range of groups, forums, roadshows and online, seeking their views on our services and how we can improve them. We look to deal promptly and effectively with complaints and always welcome comments and compliments.

We take a can do approach: striving to make a difference by adopting a positive attitude. Our staff come up with and deliver solutions to problems and regularly go the extra mile to ensure our communities are well served. We contribute actively to partnerships with other organisations in the borough and beyond. We manage our suppliers and contractors fairly but robustly to make sure we get the best from the public money we spend.

We act as one council, one team: proud of what we do, working together for the greater good. We value regular and open engagement with all staff and carry out regular surveys to find out how we can improve as an employer. We invest in the development of our staff, regularly attracting additional funding for training. We promote a commercial outlook within our teams, to make sure we secure value for money and look for opportunities to generate additional income that we can then invest in service delivery.

We believe in honesty and respect: embracing diversity and treating everyone fairly. The council has a strong record of going well beyond its statutory equality duties and regularly works with partners to host and promote events throughout the borough that celebrate diversity. Our staff and councillors work



well together and individuals are able to express their views openly within their teams and at wider meetings and events.

5.1.1 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Aims of the parks and open spaces strategy.

This strategy will become the key document guiding the Council's protection and investment into parks and open spaces.

By adopting this strategy, the Council will have:

- Clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving its parks and open spaces, to meet the needs of community attitudes and expectations in providing green space in the borough.
- Evidence of local leadership on and commitment to parks and open spaces, to underpin bids for funding for their improvement.
- Clear links to and co-ordination with the Councils Corporate Plan and the emerging Local Plan.
- Evidence and policies to underpin the negotiation of 'planning gain' for open space provision in association with new development.
- A developed hierarchy of parks and green spaces, with a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement with the basis for the development of investment-backed annual action plans.
- Improved accessibility to Chesterfields parks and open spaces.

Scope of the parks and open spaces strategy

Chesterfield parks and open spaces strategy covers the whole borough of Chesterfield and includes all publicly owned accessible green space. Allotments and playing pitch facilities are referred to throughout the strategy, however, recommendations in relation to allotments and playing pitches are dealt with in the existing allotment and playing pitch strategies.

This strategy highlights a range of issues affecting open spaces in Chesterfield addressing open spaces in general and setting out approaches for the provision and management of a range of specific types of open spaces, such that provision is balanced across the borough and tailored to meet community aspirations.

It sets out a range of policies and actions that will help to secure better local open space provision and includes targets to help us measure our success in achieving the strategy's aims.

The strategy has been developed from an audit of open spaces of 0.2 ha or more. The table below details the open space typologies included within the study.

5.1.2 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

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

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 Sustainability

5.5.1 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. The county wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy draft was launched in 2024. 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).

5.5.2 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.

5.5.3 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 Purchases.

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?

5.5.4 Banned Product List

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.

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

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

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 in the appendices.

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.

- Peat for soil amelioration purposes
- Materials containing Genetically Modified Organisms

5.5.5 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.

5.6 Health and Safety

5.6.1 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.

5.6.2 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.

5.6.3 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.

5.7 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.

5.7.1 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.

5.7.2 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.

5.10.3 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.

5.8 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 treatment programmes.

5.9 Building Maintenance

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

5.10 Play Facilities

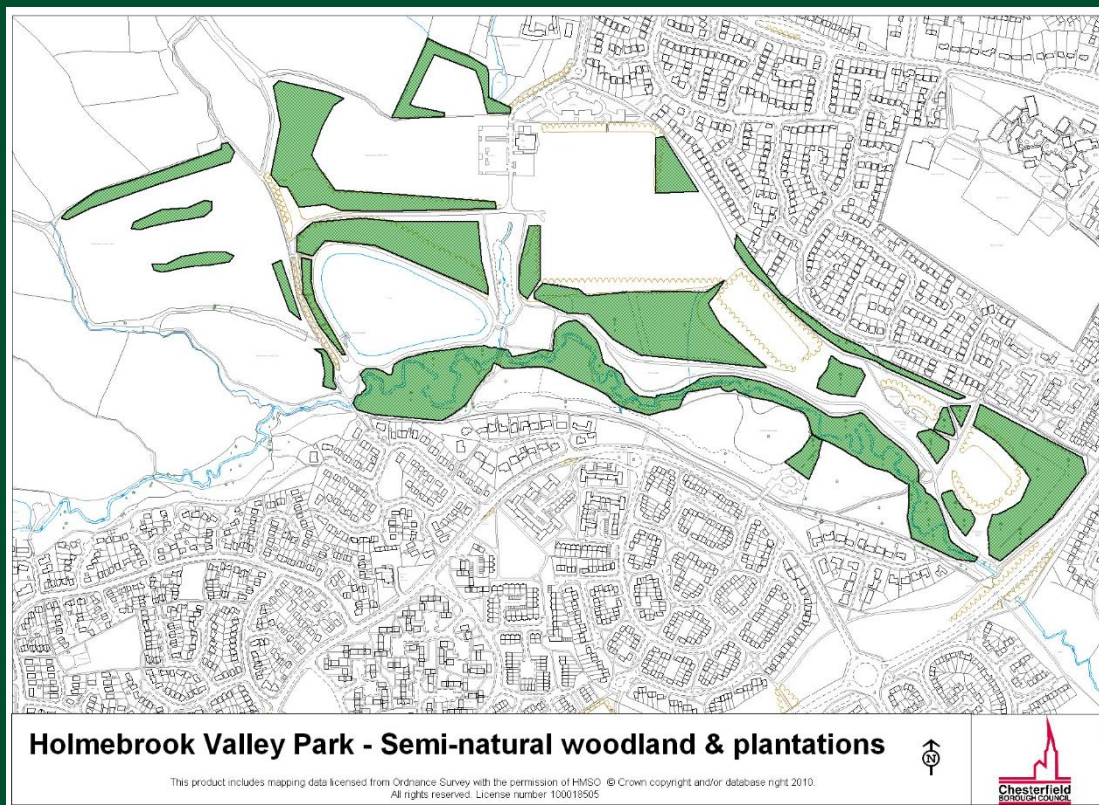
Chesterfield Borough Council manages 92 play spaces that provide for a diverse range of play opportunities for children and young play in the Borough.

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.

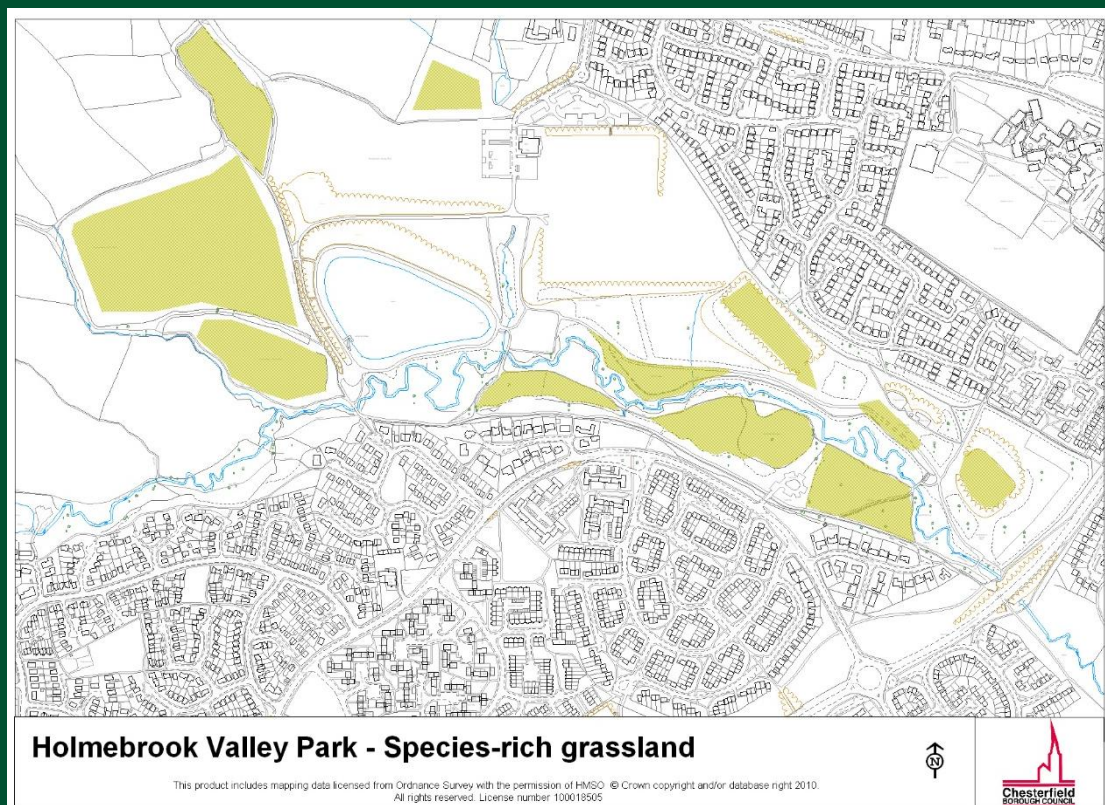
Good quality play provision is a key part of the Councils vision because it helps to develop healthy, confident, creative, tolerant and culturally aware children and young people.

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.

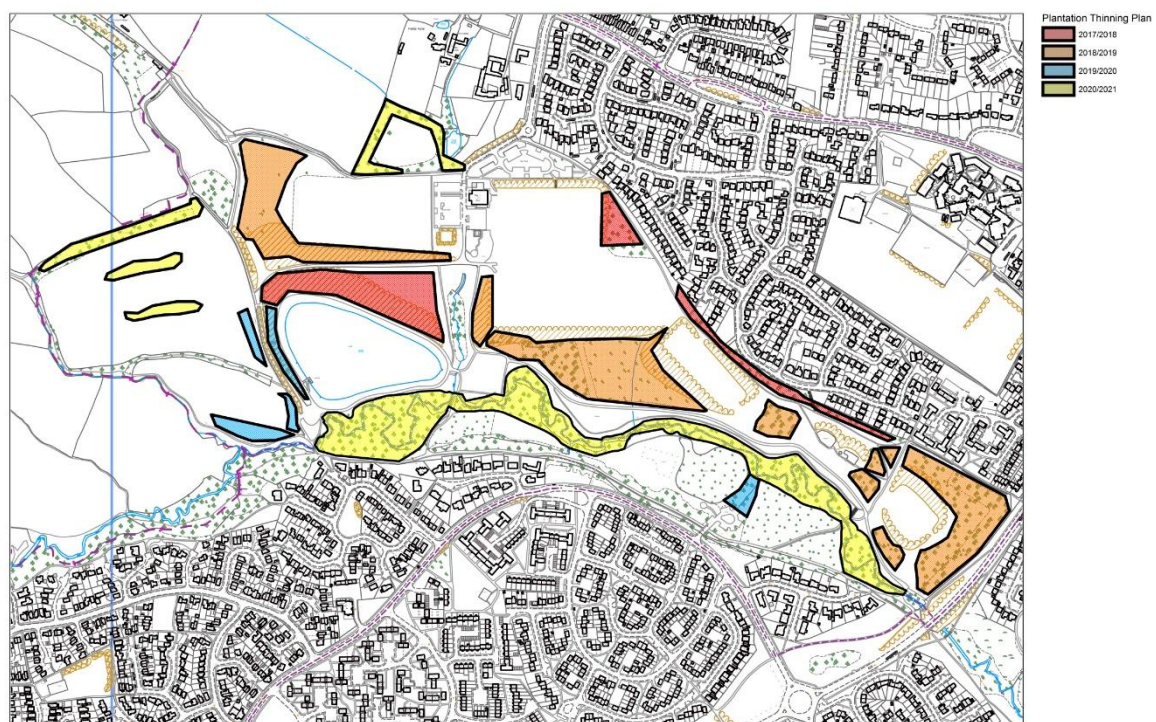


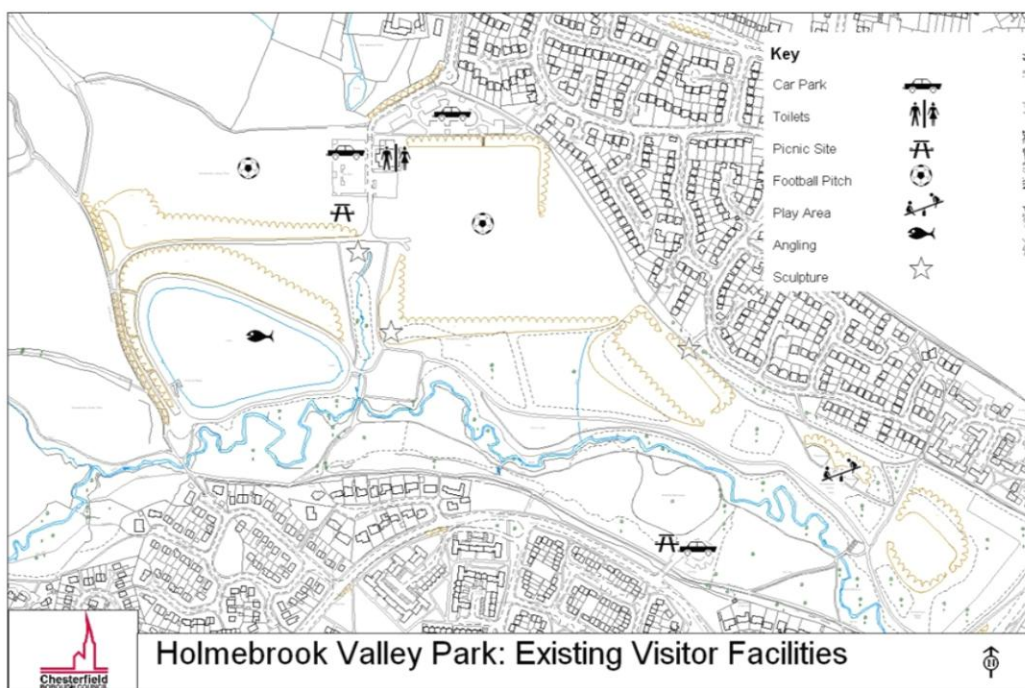
6. Maps





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7. SPECIES LIST

Amateur Ecologist Species List

Herbs

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

Birds

Wood pigeon	Magpie	European Larch	Red legged partridge
Skylark	King fisher	Common Alder	Woodcock
House martin	Tree sparrow	Common Lime	Pheasant
Dunnoch	Chaffinch	Aspen	Coot
Robin	Rowan	Greenfinch	Moorhen
Blackbird	Scots Pine	Goldfinch	Mallard
Songthrush	Corsican Pine	Kestrel	Goosander
Chiffchaff	Crack Willow	Common buzzard	Mute swan
Blue tit	Guelder Rose	Sparrow hawk	Canada goose
Great tit	Wild Cherry	Grey partridge	Herring
Treecreeper	Norway Maple		
	Silver Birch		

Trees and Shrubs

Field Maple
Hazel
Hawthorn
Common Ash
Holly
Blackthorn
Pendunculate Oak
Dog Rose
Goat Willow
Elder

Mammals

Rabbit
Hare
Fox
Badger
Grey Squirrel
Water Vole
Brown Rat

Other Invertebrates

Leaf hopper

Bumble Bee

Parasitic wasps

White clawed crayfish

Mosses

Swan's neck thyme moss

Hart's tongue thyme moss

Reptiles

Grass snake Gull

Amphibians

Common toad

Common frog

Butterflies and moths

Holly blue

Green-veined white

Large white

Comma

Speckled wood

Meadow brown

Small skipper

Five spot burnet moths

8. Risk Assessment

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RISK ASSESSMENT



	Venue: Holmebrook Valley Park – General Public use	
Risk Assessment undertaken by: Sarah Poulton	Service:	Environmental Services
	Service area:	Green Spaces Team
Signed: <i>Sarah Poulton</i> Date: 20/1/26	Service manager:	Gary McCarthy
	Signature:	<i>Gary McCarthy</i>

Scope of Risk Assessment:

This assessment covers the park for general usage
Consist of a mainly tarmacked path network, grassed amenity areas with trees and shrubs, play areas, Petanque pistes. There are a series of seats, picnic benches and bins. There is also a pavilion onsite with café, toilets, changing facilities and community room.

Hazard	Consequences	Who is at Risk	P	S	R	Controls	P	S	R	Action Level
Uneven ground or obstacles	Personal injury including bruising, cuts, grazes, sprains and strains fractures resulting from accident –	Public	3	3	9	Trees, herbaceous borders, flowerbeds, grassed areas, trees, seated area, and paths are all maintained on a regular basis. Paths and terrain are mainly flat	1	3	3	Low

	slips, trips, falls, needles, litter etc					Staff / public reporting mechanisms in place to record damage / maintenance requirements. Public should pay close attention to all ground conditions and surrounding area Unsafe areas will be cordoned off Visual inspection carried out frequently				
Adverse weather conditions	Extreme weather conditions including heat causing heatstroke, sunburn. High winds causing trees to fall	Public	3	3	9	The park has trees to provide shade. Events may be cancelled or adapted due to conditions Visual checks of parks made after high winds	1	3	4	Low
Flooding / icy conditions	- Slips, Trips and Falls All areas become slippery when wet	Public	4	2	8	Paths are treated with grit in icy conditions Persistent and hazardous flooded areas are cordoned off	2	2	4	Low
Animal hazards, insects, dogs	Personal injury resulting from animal hazards, insects, dogs.	Public	3	1	3	PSPO in place Staff are able to request dogs be put on a lead if they become an issue Public are advised to report issues to CBVC enforcement	1	1	1	Low
Anti-Social Behaviour	Could result in physical injury, physical damage or psychological damage being sustained for example assault or abuse.	Public	3	2	6	Staff on site occasionally Advise members of the public to report and incidents to the non-emergency police number 101 Diversionary activities commissioned if required. Reduce perception of crime / ASB by natural surveillance, activities and repairing vandalism	2	2	4	Low
Trees	Impact injury of a falling branch – concussion, fracture	Public	3	5	15	Visual inspections are carried out when staff are onsite. There is a regime for tree inspections and programmed maintenance	1	5	5	Low

Traffic	Collision impact injuries such as bruises, crushing, fractures	Public	3	4	12	Traffic movement is limited on site Any traffic movement is restricted and safety procedures put in place such as using hazard warning lights	1	4	4	Low
Using Play equipment	Improper use, falling injuries such as cuts bruises Strains sprains, and fractures	Public children	4	3	12	The play equipment inspected RoSPA trained inspector every 3 months and a weekly visual check If defects are discovered equipment will be cordoned off until a repair has been made. Signage is displayed to indicate age appropriateness.	2	3	6	Low
Petanque						Club have their own Risk assessments and insurance				

Hazard	Consequences	Who is at Risk	P x S = R	Controls	P x S = R Action Level
Identify Hazards Identify hazards in the halls/rooms/site and on the perimeter road that could reasonably be expected to result in significant harm.	What could result from the hazard? First aid injury – minor cuts, sprains, bruises. RIDDOR 3 day injury – broken fingers, toes, sprained tendons or muscles, illness (tiredness, stress, gastric). Serious injury – head injury, loss of consciousness, broken bones, dislocations, respiratory problems. Usually an injury from which full recovery is possible. Death or very serious injury to one person – loss of limb, paralysis or life changing injury from which full recovery is unlikely. Death or very serious injury to more than one person.	Who might be harmed? • Organiser's staff • Venue staff • Visitors • Exhibitors • Contractors • Young/new inexperienced staff • Disabled • Children • New and expectant mothers • Elderly visitors	Risk P = Probability S = Severity R = Risk Level P x S = R	Is the risk adequately controlled? Consider hierarchy of controls • Eliminate • Substitute • Reduce • Isolate • Control • PPE • Discipline Do the controls • Meet legal requirements? • Represent best practice? • Reduce risk as far as is reasonably practicable? • Comply with industry standards?	What is the Residual Risk? Recalculate the risk. Action Level H = High, immediate action required. M = Medium, justify and review each event day. L = Low, no further action required. (See table in footer)

RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK

LIKELIHOOD (PROBABILITY)	5. Almost Certain	5.	10.	15	20	25.
	4. Probable	4.	8.	12.	16.	20.
	3. Possible	3.	6.	9.	12.	15.
	2. Possible (Under unfortunate circumstances)	2.	4.	6.	8.	10.
	1. Rare	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
		1. Minor Injury (No 1 st Aid required)	2. Minor Injury (1 st Aid required)	3. Injury Requires Hospital Treatment	4. Major Injury resulting in Disability	5. Fatality
SEVERITY (CONSEQUENCES)						

Risk Rating is calculated by multiplying the likelihood against the consequences, e.g. taking a likelihood of 4, which is classified as Probable, and multiplying this against a consequence of 2, which is classified as a Minor Injury 1st aid required, would give you an overall risk rating of 8, which would be risk rated as a medium risk. Residual risk is the risk left after adding additional control measures.

High risk equals 16 to 25.

High Risks activities should cease immediately until further control measures to mitigate the risk are introduced.

Medium risk equals 9 to 15.

Medium Risks should only be tolerated for the short-term and then only whilst further control measures to mitigate the risk are being planned and introduced, within a defined time period. Note: Medium risks can be an organisation's greatest risk, it's Achilles heel, this due to the fact that they can be tolerated in the short-term.

Low risk equals 1 to 8.

Low Risks are largely acceptable, subject to reviews periodically, or after significant change etc.