

**Wirral Council  
Parks & Countryside Service**

# **The Arno**

**2023-2028  
Management Plan**



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## **Preface to the 2017-2022 update of The Arno Management plan.**

This is the 2023-2028 Management Plan for The Arno; the management plan will highlight areas for improvement in the park and provide a clear vision on how we intend to sustain our standards.

Since a staffing restructure in 2020, the park has been the responsibility of the General Manager & Team Leader for Rock Ferry, Prenton, Oxton and Birkenhead working closely with staff and stakeholders.

The new 2023-2028 Management Plan for the Arno contains plans for the further development of the formal rose garden and a more detailed plan of how to attract a wider audience through park events.

### **1 Introduction**

The plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of The Arno. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions, please contact the **Parks and Countryside Department** at Wirral Council on telephone number **0151 606 2004** or report the problem on the website [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) or write to:

**Wirral Council  
Neighbourhood Services  
Parks & Countryside Service  
Wirral Council  
Wallasey Town Hall  
Brighton Street  
Wallasey  
CH44 8ED**

#### **1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Plan**

The prime purpose of this Management Plan is to ensure that the future upkeep and management of the park will sustain, and continue to improve on, the quality of the park and the facilities it offers.

This Plan covers the period from 2023-28 and will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

The Plan is prepared for all those who use, manage or who might have an interest in the park, either now or in the future., it will continue to be subject to discussion and review with key stakeholders, including park users.

## **2 The Wider Policy Context**

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Neighbour Services Department of Wirral Council.

The content and structure of the Management Plan has been informed by the following guidelines:

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans (CABE Space, 2004)

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118095356/http://www.w.cabe.org.uk/files/parks-and-green-space-management-plans.pdf>

Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual (Keep Britain Tidy, 2016) [www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf](http://www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf)

### **2.1. Corporate Objectives**

The Council's Vision is that Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, where employers want to invest and local businesses thrive, and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives here.

The Wirral Plan agreed by cabinet in September 2021 sets out a series of pledges which the Council and its partners will work to achieve by 2026 focussing on 5 key themes:

- Inclusive Economy
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Sustainable Environment
- Brighter futures
- Active and healthy lives

The Wirral 2021-26 plan is available to download online:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50080601/Appendix%201%20Wirral%20Plan%202021-26.pdf>

### **2.2. Parks and Countryside Service Objectives**

The department's role is to protect the environmental quality of key locations across the borough for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and to influence investors to operate their businesses and encourage new investors. Parks and countryside site maintenance and land uses will be re-aligned where appropriate to achieve resource and economic efficiencies whilst promoting health, social and environmental benefits to our communities.

The Parks and Countryside Service have produced a 10-year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy that will inform and direct the next 10 years for the service (running from 2014-2024). It is available online at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/Leisure%20parks%20and%20events/parks%20and%20open%20spaces/Wirral%20Parks%20and%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%202014-2024.pdf>

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to provide attractive and well managed parks and open spaces, whilst being accessible; and providing positive and healthy activities for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and to attract and retain investment in the borough. The service also intends to contribute to the environmental sustainability and biodiversity of Wirral to achieve a good balance by protecting habitats while supporting economic growth.

The management plan reflects the existing structures that are present in the interim.

## **2.3 Environmental Initiatives**

Wirral Council is committed to carrying out its work in an environmentally responsible manner.

Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency at Council in July 2019 and through this committed to action to address the ecological and climate crisis that we face.

The commitment to action aims to:

- cut climate damaging pollution locally in line with global targets, whilst developing resilience to more extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels that impact Wirral
- protect and enhance biodiversity

As a local authority, we can have a positive influence through:

- how we organise our operations and services
- the regulations and policies we set
- the goods and services we buy
- the investments we make
- the example we set to others.

Tackling the ecological and climate crisis presents major opportunities locally to improve quality of life, health, wellbeing and the economy.

More information on the Climate Emergency Declaration found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/climate-change-action>

To deliver against these aims Wirral Has developed 'Cool Wirral'. The Cool Wirral campaign is aimed at encouraging local climate-related action in support of the delivery of the 'Cool 2 Climate Change Strategy for Wirral:-

[View Wirral Council's Cool 2 climate strategy and progress reports](#)

The Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly the Wirral Climate Change Group) co-ordinates local action on climate change. The partnership is supported by Wirral Council and a variety of partnership.

More information on the Cool Wirral Partnership maybe found at:

[https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20\(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust)

Some key initiatives include:-

### **Designating Pollinators and wildflower sites**

A large proportion of pollinators are flies, including more than 250 species of hoverfly. Bees make up about a quarter of the pollinating insects and in the UK alone there are approximately 250 species of bee, 24 species of bumblebee, 225 species of solitary bee and just one species of honeybee. Butterflies and moths are also pollinators as well as bugs and beetles.

In line with the council's Climate Emergency Response, steps are being taken to prioritise pollinators. Dependant on the location of a verge, pollinators are prioritised in various ways, these methods can include:

- planting pollinator friendly plants
- not mowing grass verges when wildflowers of significance are in season
- reduced weed removal in the area of pollinator sights

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/pollinators-and-wildflower-sites>

### **No Mow May**

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the [No Mow May campaign](#), which is about stopping mowing in general grass areas in parks to help bees, butterflies and wildlife.

### **Trees, hedgerows and woodland**

The council have been working with partners and stakeholders to develop a 10-year strategy to consider how we manage and respond to the borough's current trees and the future provision of trees. In the ten-year span of this strategy over 210,000 trees will be planted, at least 21,000 per year. In doing so we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost. The trees that are planted will see Wirral's tree canopy cover doubled by the time they are fully grown.

We will adopt the principle of 'the right tree for the right place' to ensure the most resilient tree population possible. We will establish a clear picture of



Wirral's tree stock and its benefits. We will work constructively with individuals and groups to deliver this vision.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/trees-hedgerows-and-woodland>

### **3 Aims, Visions and objectives**

The Arno will be maintained in accordance with its primary purpose as a historic town Park and will maintain its standard to achieve Green Flag award.

#### **Vision**

The vision for The Arno is to preserve its Historic town park feeling and to continue to enhance the excellent formal rose gardens the signature feature of the park.

#### **Aims**

1. Increase the numbers of people visiting The Arno
2. Protect wildlife and promote biodiversity
3. Develop educational and business potential of The Arno
4. Continue to improve the formal rose Garden
5. Increase Income generated by the park to provide security of provision for the future
6. To expand the potential of the Quarry and enhance its features

#### **Objectives**

- 1.1 Promote and encourage events and entertainment, in keeping with the character of the park.
- 1.2 Improve Marketing of The Arno
- 2.1 Encourage local schools to use park for education and leisure
- 2.2 Form partnerships with local businesses to increase appropriate park use
- 3.1 Enhance maintenance of formal rose garden.
- 4.1 Look at ways to sponsor rose beds by Local companies
- 4.2 To look at income from memorial tree's/ Benches
- 5.2 To install Sundial back in the Park



## 4 Site information

### 4.1 Site Summary

**Name:** The Arno

**Typology and primary purpose** – Wirral Open Spaces Assessment November 2010 (based on PPG17 guidance): **Local Park**

**Primary purpose:** Intensively managed park used primarily by local people providing accessible, high-quality opportunities for formal and informal recreation and children's play including community events.

**Location plan:**



**Grid reference:** 330445, 387332

**What 3 Words:** tame.pulse.sing (Storeton Road entrance)

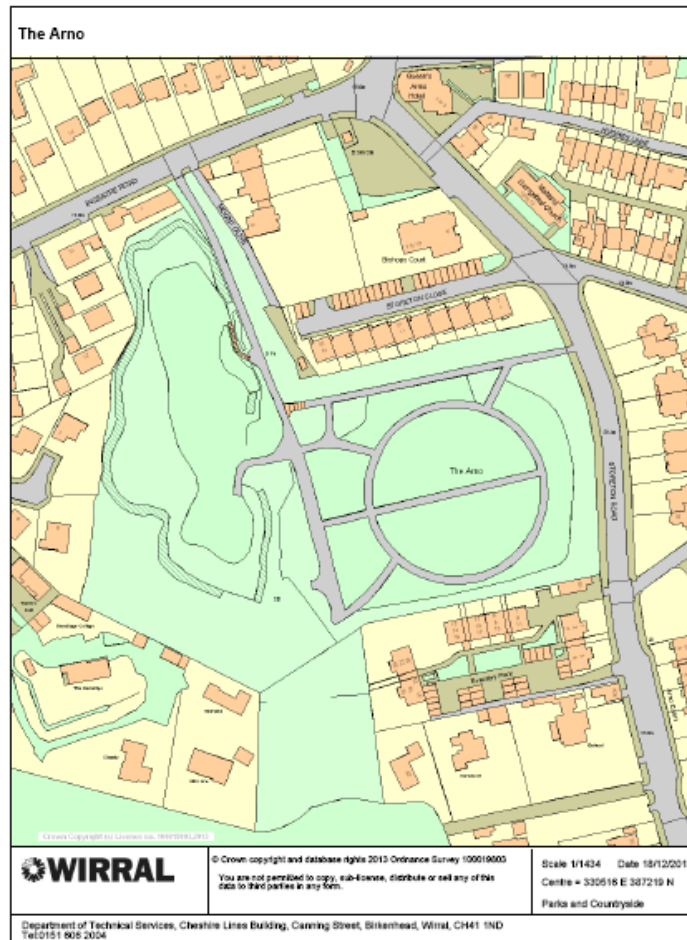
**Address:** Storeton Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Wirral Ch43 5xb

**Ward:** Oxton

**Size:** 2.78 Hectares

**Green Flag Awarded:** 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

**Fig 1 The Arno Site Plan**



## **4.2 Access:**

The Arno is located on a main bus route with the nearest stop located on Ingestre Road.

The Ingestre Road and Storeton Road entrances are suitable for wheelchair users; the woodland area within the site is unsuitable for wheelchair users.

## **4.3 Existing facilities and features:**

- Formal rose garden.
- Mature tree and shrub stock.
- A natural area of gorse and woodland.
- Seating.
- Sandstone rock face and outcropping

## **4.4 Tenure:**

**The Arno** is owned and managed by Wirral's Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Community Services Department.

#### **4.5 Park Overview:**

The Arno is situated in a residential area in Oxton and consists of a formal rose garden, herbaceous border, lawns, shrub beds and mature trees. A naturalised area consisting of gorse and trees is located within the site of a former sandstone quarry. The site is bounded by Storeton Road, private housing and the Oxton Fields.

#### **4.6 Summary of main uses:**

- An area for passive and active recreation.
- Dog walking
- An area to relax and reflect.
- Events

#### **4.7 Stakeholder and Partner organisations:**

- Merseyside Police.
- Wirral Council Community Safety Team.
- Children and Young People's Department – 'Outreach Team'
- The Friends of The Arno and Oxton Fields
- Oxton Society

#### **4.8 History:**

The Arno is situated on the site of a former sandstone quarry. For generations the site had been in the ownership of the Earls of Shrewsbury, and their family titles are remembered in the names of many of Oxton's roads - most notably in the case of the Arno - Ingestre Road. A hoard of Roman coins was discovered by quarrymen working there in 1834. Towards the very end of the 19th century, and once quarrying had ceased, the quarry became a popular but informal area of recreation for local residents. In the early years of the 20th century, two local residents - Catherine King and Edmund Taylor - began to campaign for the conversion of the former stone quarry into a formal park in Oxton. In 1910 the Earl of Shrewsbury advised Birkenhead Corporation that he was willing, without charge, to hand over the deeds of The Arno if the Corporation would agree to create a Recreation Ground on the site - and to maintain it! His offer was accepted and the total cost of converting the disused quarry into a formal park was £1,106 8s 9d. The sundial (unfortunately now removed) was erected as a memorial to Edmund Taylor, who was instrumental in obtaining the site for a park. George Proudman, the Mayor, officially opened the Arno Recreation Ground on Saturday 30th March 1912 and the park celebrated its centenary in 2012.

**Fig 2 View towards main entrance**



**Figure 3 The Former Sundial**





**Figure 4-The Quarry Area Circa Early 1900s**



#### **4.9 Resources:**

- General Parks Manager (based at Birkenhead Park grand entrance)
- Team Leader (based at Victoria Park)
- Annual revenue budget.
- Visiting maintenance staff.
- A range of horticultural machinery and tools.
- Visiting arboriculture team.
- Friends of the Arno volunteers

#### **4.10 Staff:**

The grounds maintenance is undertaken 'in-house' by the Parks and Countryside service's own staff. The Arno is maintained by a visiting gardener. The gardeners' duties include the following:

- Pedestrian grass cutting
- Hedge cutting
- Rose bed maintenance
- Planting and care of annual bedding
- Shrub bed maintenance
- Herbaceous border maintenance
- Rectification of any damage
- Litter removal

A specialist team undertake seasonal maintenance of the park's tree stock.

Tractor mounted equipment performs the volume grass cutting.

## 5 Green Flag Assessment

The intention is for The Arno to continue to meet the required standards as defined by the **Green Flag Award Scheme**; further details concerning the scheme can be found at [www.greenflagaward.org.co.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.co.uk).

The recommendations made by the Green Flag Judges in the feedback report for the 2022 mystery shop assessment (Appendix 8) have been incorporated into the Action Plan.

The following Green Flag assessment criteria are used as a focus for the future development of the park.

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Environmental Management
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing and communications
8. Management

### 5.1 A welcoming place

The park has two main entrances located on Storeton Road and Ingestre Road respectively, a secondary informal entrance is located on Oxton Fields.

Storeton Road - This entrance leads into the formal area of the park including the rose garden. Sandstone walling, in good condition, runs to either side of the entrance. New vertical bar ornamental metal gates have been installed.

Ingestre Road - This entrance leads into the natural area at the rear of the park. A low brick wall topped with sandstone copings and vertical bar metal railings runs to either side of the entrance. Vertical bar ornamental metal gates are also in place. The gates and railings have recently been refurbished, with new gateposts being installed. It is the main vehicle access into the park and to prevent unauthorised vehicle use consideration should be given to erect a removable bollard.

**Fig 5 Storeton Road entrance**



**Fig 6 Ingestre Road entrance**



Oxton Fields – An informal entrance, consisting of a desire line path, leads from the fields up the hill into the rear of the park.

**Fig 7 Oxton Fields entrance**



Park signage and information board at the two entrances is regularly updated by the friends.

Perimeter sandstone walling, typical of the local area, extends along the length of the park's boundary to Storeton Road and this is in good condition. Repairs have recently been carried out to the sandstone revetment alongside the path into the rose garden from Ingestre Road. The planting in front of the revetment walling needs to be replaced.



## **5.2 Healthy, safe and secure**

This management plans details ways in which the council and its partners endeavour to keep the park and surrounding areas safe, secure and of good quality.

### **Anti social behaviour**

Wirral Council's Community Patrol established to provide a 24-hour response to any concerns notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. The Patrol provides a reactive response to calls from the public and Council staff and generally they do not undertake routine patrolling. Problems of a persistent or on-going nature however can be raised with the team. The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 0151 666 5265.

Incident reports compiled by Wirral Council's Community Patrol are made available to the Parks and Countryside Service and are provided to the Local Area Team Leader.

The Parks and Countryside Service is represented on the Anti- Social behaviour ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) Governance Group, a forum consisting of the following agencies Police, Community Safety, Youth and Community groups and other partner organisations. The group meets on a monthly basis and the meetings are chaired by Merseyside Police.

The park is covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875 and section 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906

### **Staff and Volunteer Health and Safety Procedures**

The health and safety of staff and volunteers on site is covered by the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy. The policy is available for viewing on the Human Resources section of the Council intranet.

Risk assessments are carried out as needed and copies are kept at Victoria Park

Health and Safety Committee meetings are held every month by the Principal Officer (Parks Management). The meetings involve Senior parks management Trade Union Health and Safety Representatives. Any issues arising can be dealt with at this meeting.

### **Dog Fouling**

The whole of the Borough of Wirral is designated under Dog Control Orders (that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005). These provide increased levels of enforcement for five offences prescribed in a dog control order. These are - failing to remove dog

faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. Failure to comply can result in a prosecution and a maximum fine of up to £1,000. Alternatively, offenders may be offered a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice. Wirral's Community Patrol Officers have been authorised to issue notices.

The Friends have supported the installation of guidance signs placed at the various entrances to the formal area of the park to the effect that 'Dogs should be kept on a leash'.

The park has signs at the entrances indicating that it is a 'clean it up' area. Dog walkers are advised to wrap the droppings and place in a litterbin. Dog fouling is classified in law as litter for street cleaning purposes and can be disposed of correctly wrapped in Council litterbins, consequently dedicated dog waste only' bins are not provided by the Council. Most walkers do use the litterbins for the disposal of removed faeces.

For further information regarding dog fouling, visit:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/dog-fouling>

An annual Parks Safety inspection is carried out annually between January and March (See appendix 4). The inspection is intended to identify defects within the site that present a safety problem for staff, users, and adjacent residents. The checklist requires appraisal of the following items:

1. Paths, steps, ramps
2. Fences, gates
3. Monuments.
4. Furniture – signs, seats, litterbins etc.
5. Soft landscape – grass, planted areas, water features etc
6. Trees

### **5.3 Clean and well maintained**

The General Parks Manager and Team Leader are responsible for the management and maintenance of the site. The site is in the Birkenhead District operational area

Litterbins are sited at the entrances and throughout the park with the design standardised over the last few years following initiatives in other green flag sites.

The bins are usually emptied on a Monday and Friday. Litter is picked up at the same time.

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with a frequency- based specification allied to an annual maintenance schedule (see Appendix 4)

Graffiti is removed immediately by patrolling staff. Any more difficult instances of graffiti are reported via the 'Streetscene' helpline run by the Council's waste department. This helpline is also available to the public. Priority is given to offensive material.

A major programme of replacement of the roses is planned in conjunction with the Friends group. There are approximately 3,400 roses in the rose garden. 8 outer beds containing 110 roses each, 10 round outer beds contain 20 roses each, 8 middle beds containing 130 roses each and 16 inner beds contain 80 roses each (see appendix 5).

The herbaceous border and shrub stock needs to be appraised annually and any missing plants are replaced.

**FIG 8 Long Border in the summer**



A specialist forestry team visits the park to undertake seasonal tree work.


In 2016 staff from Wirral Parks & Countryside Service completed a tree risk zoning exercise. (See appendix6).

Vulnerable trees are identified as part of patrols and reported to the Team Leader, and any urgent safety work is carried out directly as needed.

Conservation and amenity tree work is carried out where resources allow, as part of the winter works programme.

## 5.4 Environmental Management

Wirral parks and countryside team put sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery. Our key commitments are:

-  Improve our sustainable performance
-  Comply with environmental legislation
-  Purchase sustainably
-  Use natural resources sustainably
-  Travel sustainably
-  Minimise waste
-  Manage land sustainability
-  Raise Awareness
-  Work in partnership

### Climate Change

Wirral Council is committed to carrying out its work in an environmentally responsible manner. This means that as a Climate Local signatory, Wirral Council is committed to:

- taking action on climate change
- publicly reporting this action to cut climate related pollution
- changing the way we work in response to a changing climate.

Information on Wirral Council's commitment to "Climate Local" can be found at: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/climate-change-action>

Wirral Council's commitment to the treatment of invasive weeds, can be found at: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/grass-cutting-and-ground-maintenance/wirral-council>

Wirral Council is committed to improving its waste management and recycling objectives.

Green waste generated at the park is separated and composted at the area depot (Birkenhead Park) to avoid disposal to landfill; the material is subsequently reused for soil improvement. Brash generated during seasonal tree-work operations is chipped and stored for reuse as mulch. Any waste timber and metals are also separated for reuse/recycling at the depot. Composting and production of leaf mould are carried out by the friends

In November 2018 Wirral Borough Council introduced a single use plastic policy; this can be found following the link below.

<http://wbcnet.admin.ad.wirral.gov.uk/news/news/2018/11/13/single-use-plastic-policy-announced>

Chemical usage has been severely restricted in 2019/2020 and is now only used in exceptional circumstances or to deal with invasive non-native species. Herbicide usage is restricted to non-residual herbicide

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (C.O.S.H.H.) assessment records of all chemical based products used within the park form part of the Departments Quality Assurance procedures. Pesticide records are retained at the district depot (Victoria Park). Chemical storage and usage within the park comply with the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling legislation.

Parks, Allotments & Countryside are moving towards electric strimmer's and hedge cutters in a move to reduce emissions. The Arno now has an electric strimmer and an electric hedge cutter.

Parks, Allotments & Countryside actively look to purchase machines that have lower emissions and reduce our staff's exposure to noise and vibration.

Tractor and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Since 2019, Wirral Borough Councils parks and countryside department has trailed a blanket ban on the use of Herbicide in all our Parks and Open spaces apart from for the treatment of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.

Any plants or trees for the park are bought in and is produced, to the Council's specification, using compost that is 100% peat free.

The park is well served by public transport (as stated in section 4.2), and it is an aspiration to provide pedestrian signage to the site from nearby railway stations.

## **5.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage**

The main heritage features consist of the following:

- Historical aspect of site.
- Sandstone gate pillars and perimeter sandstone walling.
- Mature tree stock.
- Informal natural area in the former sandstone quarry.
- Formal Rose Garden



**Fig 9 Natural Areas to the rear of the Arno**



In 2020 the Friends of the Arno designed various bug and bee hotels and they have been very welcomed with visitors to the park.

**Fig10 Bug and bee hotels**



The park's centenary year was in 2012 and The Friends marked the occasion with the installation of a commemorative stone with an attached plaque.

During the course of work undertaken at the site in 2012 an old commemorative plaque dating back to 1912 celebrating the opening of The Arno was found and has been refurbished and set in front of a old tree on the same piece of grass were it was originally positioned.

In 2018 The Friends of the Arno raised money to install a new Rose arch at the entrance to the Rose Garden.

**Figure 11- Rose Arch**



In 2019 the friends took out a lease of the once derelict former mess room from Wirral Borough Council, and have since restored it as a base for volunteers gardeners and storage of garden tools.

## **5.6 Community involvement**

### **The role of community stakeholders**

The community of Wirral both in general and in the form of constituted community and voluntary sector organisations are a key partner in relation to Wirral Council's parks service. This is represented in Wirral Council's vision:

**“To provide and maintain high quality parks and open spaces in partnership with the local community”.**

The Friends of The Arno and Oxton Fields were formed in 2007, with the primary objectives of promoting and improving The Arno and Oxton Fields for the benefit of the local community.

The Friends of The Arno Gardens and Oxton Fields undertake an active role in maintaining the area and the current condition of the herbaceous border for example is attributable to their efforts. The Friends volunteer activities also include planting projects, pruning, weeding as well as graffiti removal and litter picking on a day-to-day basis.

Representatives of the Friends meet with the Park's management regularly and a positive relationship working mutually for the long-term benefit of The Arno has been formed.



**Fig 12 Friends of The Arno**



All Wirral's Parks Friends groups are invited to attend a Park's Forum, which is held twice a year. This presents an opportunity for the various groups to network and share their experiences.

Since 2018 the friends of The Arno have entered in to the RHS Britain in Bloom award scheme. In 2021 & 2022 the friends were given the top award of outstanding! Describing the park as "thriving"

**Fig 13RHS judges**



## **5.7 Marketing and Communications**

### **Web Site**

Wirral Council's Internet web site, [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) has recently been redesigned and has links to the Parks and Countryside Departments information.

The Parks and Countryside Service's home page now includes links to information about Wirral's Green Flag parks. This can be viewed by Clicking on the Arno on the Home page

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces-0>

The Friends have their own website for the park at

[www.friendsofthearno.blogspot.com](http://www.friendsofthearno.blogspot.com)

A Facebook page has also been developed at

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthearno>

### **Newsletters & Leaflets**

The Friends produce regular newsletters for members and work closely with the Oxton Society to hold joint activities and co-operation in the immensely popular annually held 'Secret Gardens of Oxton' event.

Two local historians, who are members of the committee contribute to articles and give talks. The friends regularly update their membership leaflet and have produced an information leaflet about the rose garden.

### **Notice Boards**

Notice boards in The Arno provide valuable information to park users such as events, meetings and any other community information.

### **Signage**

To promote the park to a wider audience, Brown 'tourism' signs have been strategically placed in surrounding roads to direct the public to the park.

### **Events**

Events are a valuable asset to bring in a wider audience of park users, the Arno has been successful holding many events in previous years and the aim is to develop this more. The Oxton Secret Gardens is held annually and brings many visitors to The Arno

**Fig 14 Plant Sale at The Arno**



## **Interpretation Board**

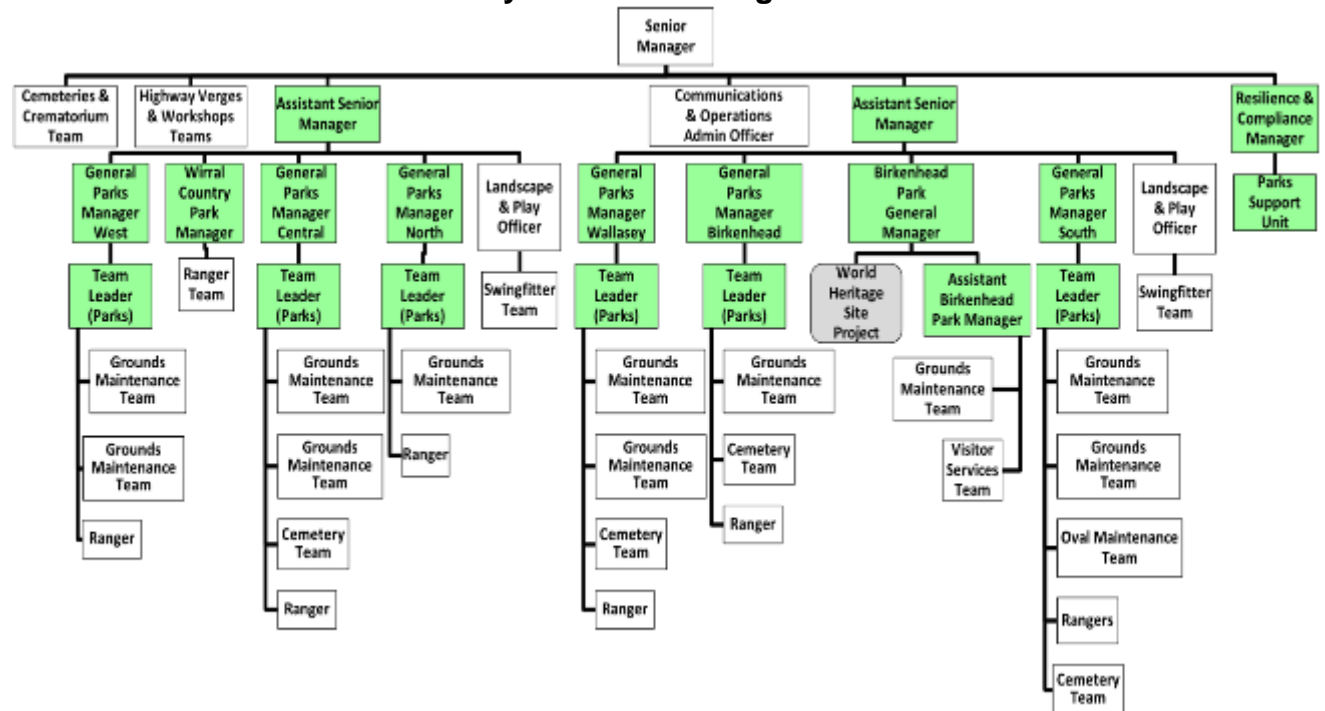
Interpretation boards provide valuable information to park users such as flora and fauna and the history of the park. The interpretation board is situated at the entrance to the quarry.

**Figure 15- Interpretation Board**



## 5.8 Management

### Current Wirral Parks and Countryside Service Organisational Chart



The Management of The Arno is the responsibility of the General Manager and Team Leader whose key role is to be responsible for the management, maintenance, development, and promotion of The Arno. The area grounds maintenance depot is located at Victoria Park. Enquiries regarding the management and maintenance of the park can be made to the General Manager by email [neilgarnett@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:neilgarnett@wirral.gov.uk).

There is further input from other technical divisions within Wirral Council such as Asset Management for building repairs and alterations. Regeneration and Environment Directorate's Energy Team, monitoring efficiency and financial services for accountancy.

## 6: Action Plan

	Action	Lead Officer	Target date	Resource	Action Completed
<b>1. A welcoming place</b>					
1.1	To install a bollard at the Ingestre Road Entrance	Team Leader	2024	Requires additional funding	
1.2	Repairing and repainting all park gates and railings	Team Leader	2026	Requires additional funding	
1.3	Continue to hold weekly flower and Rose bed tidies and litter picking	Local area Team Leader		Friends of The Arno	
<b>2. Healthy, safe and secure</b>					
2.1	Re development of former staff mess room for use by Friends of the Arno	Friends of the Arno	2023	Friends of the Arno	
2.2	Undertake an annual 'site safety inspection'	Team Leader/ General Manager	Annually	Within existing resources	
2.3	Raise awareness of the issue of dog fouling, improve signage around the park and produce leaflets to give out to visitors	Team Leader/ General Manager Friends of the Arno	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
2.4	Monitor levels of anti-social behaviour occurring in the park reporting all incidents to Merseyside Police	Team Leader/ General Park Manager/	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
<b>3. Clean and well maintained</b>					
3.1	Continue programme of rose bed replacement. Following annual assessment	Team Leader Friends of The Arno	Annually	Requires additional funding	
3.2	Assess the herbaceous border and replant as required.	Team Leader Friends of The Arno	Ongoing	Friends of The Arno	
3.3	Condition survey of current shrub stock and replant were needed	Team Leader	Ongoing	Requires additional funding	
3.4	Asses the Parks tree stock and produce a five-year tree planting strategy	General Manager/ tree landscape officer	2025	Within existing resources	

<b>4. Environmental Management</b>					
4.1	Install recycling bins in the park	Area Team Leader	2024	Within existing resources	
4.2	Minimise pesticide use in the park	Area Team Leader	ongoing	Within existing resources	Since 2019 park has been pesticide free except invasive weed treatment.
4.3	To stop mowing schedule adjacent to the sandstone Quarry wall leaving swathes of uncut grass to provide diversity, interest and habitat	Area Team Leader	2024	Within existing resource	
4.4	Transport all green waste for composting for reuse in the park.	Ground maintenance team/Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resource	
4.5	Undertake control measures of invasive weed species such as Japanese Knotweed	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resource	
4.6	Replacing fuel powered machinery with battery powered equipment to reduce emission levels	In house workshop team	2023 onwards	Within existing resources	
<b>5. Conservation and heritage</b>					
5.1	Liase with local interest groups and the Friends of the Arno.	Team leader	ongoing	Within existing funding	
5.2	To uncover original steps leading to the quarry and installing a plaque at the entrance	General manager/Team Leader	2023	Friends of the Arno and within existing resources	
<b>6. Community involvement</b>					
6.1	Replace all 3,400 roses over the next 3 years.	Area Team Leader	2023 2024 2025 2026	Requires additional funding  Friends of The Arno	
6.2	Continue Area Team Leader and General Managers attendance at Friends Committee meetings.	Area Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	

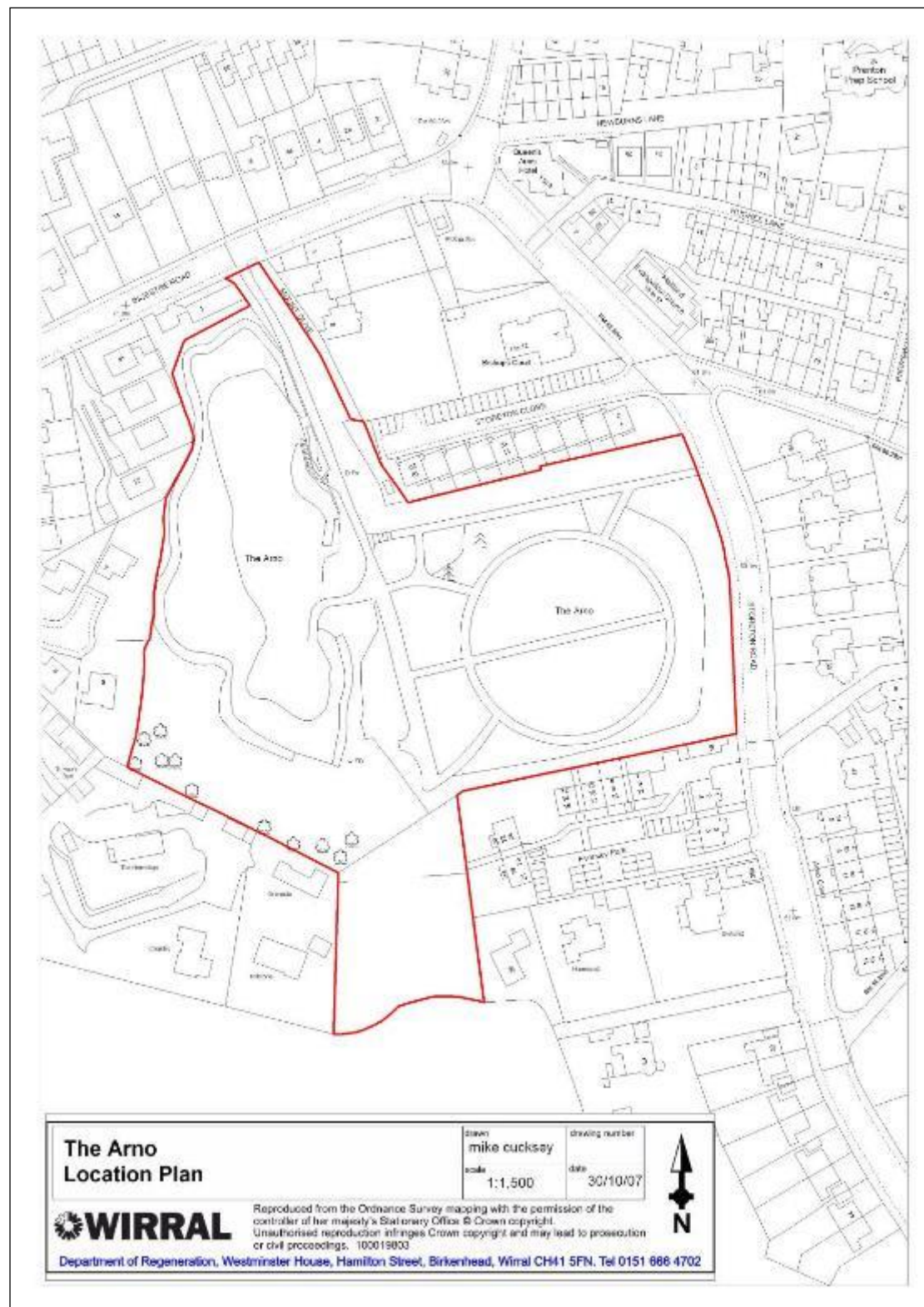


6.3	Continue support for Friends volunteer work within the park	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
6.4	form partnerships with local businesses to organise working parties on the Rose Beds	Local Area Team Leader	2019	Within existing resources	Completed
6.5	In partnership with stakeholders Increase the parks events to attract a wider audience	Local Area Team Leader	Ongoing	Friends of The Arno	
<b>7. Marketing</b>					
7.1	Continue to promote the park on the council website. To monitor and keep up to date.	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
7.2	To form partnerships with local business to promote the potential of the park	General Parks Manager/ Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
7.3	Increase activities programme specifically aimed at Local schools use of the Park	General Parks Manager	2019	Within existing resources	Completed
7.4	Increase the number of available memorial benches within the park	General manager/Team leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
<b>8. Management</b>					
8.1	Introduce a new service monitoring system which involves users	Local Area Team Leader	2022	Within existing resources	
8.2	Develop new management plan with stakeholders	Local Area Team Leader	2027	Within existing resources	
8.3	Pursue funding sources as they come available to develop and improve the parks range and quality of facilities in line with the objectives set out in the plan	General Parks Manager	2023-2028	Requires additional funding	

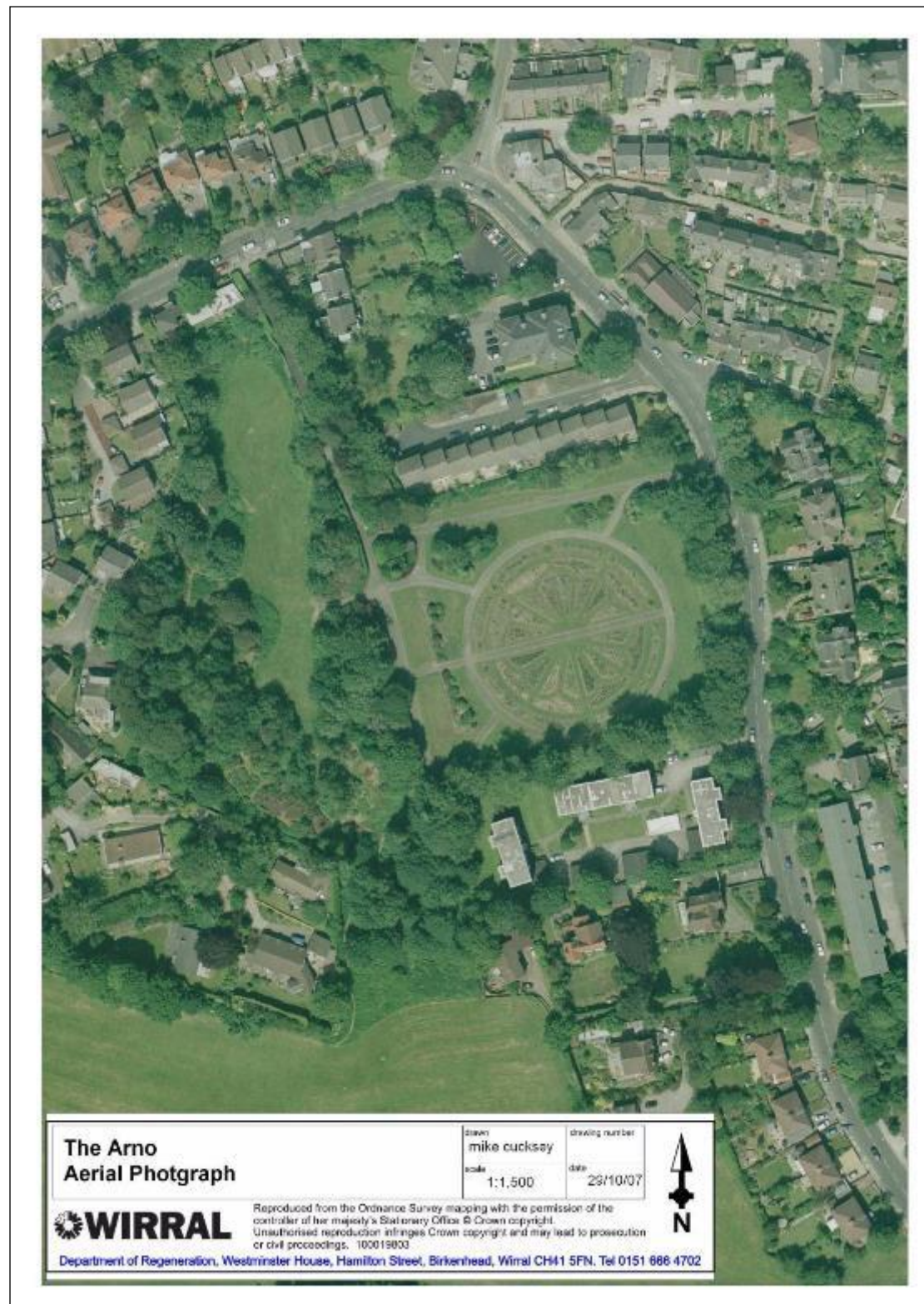


## Appendices

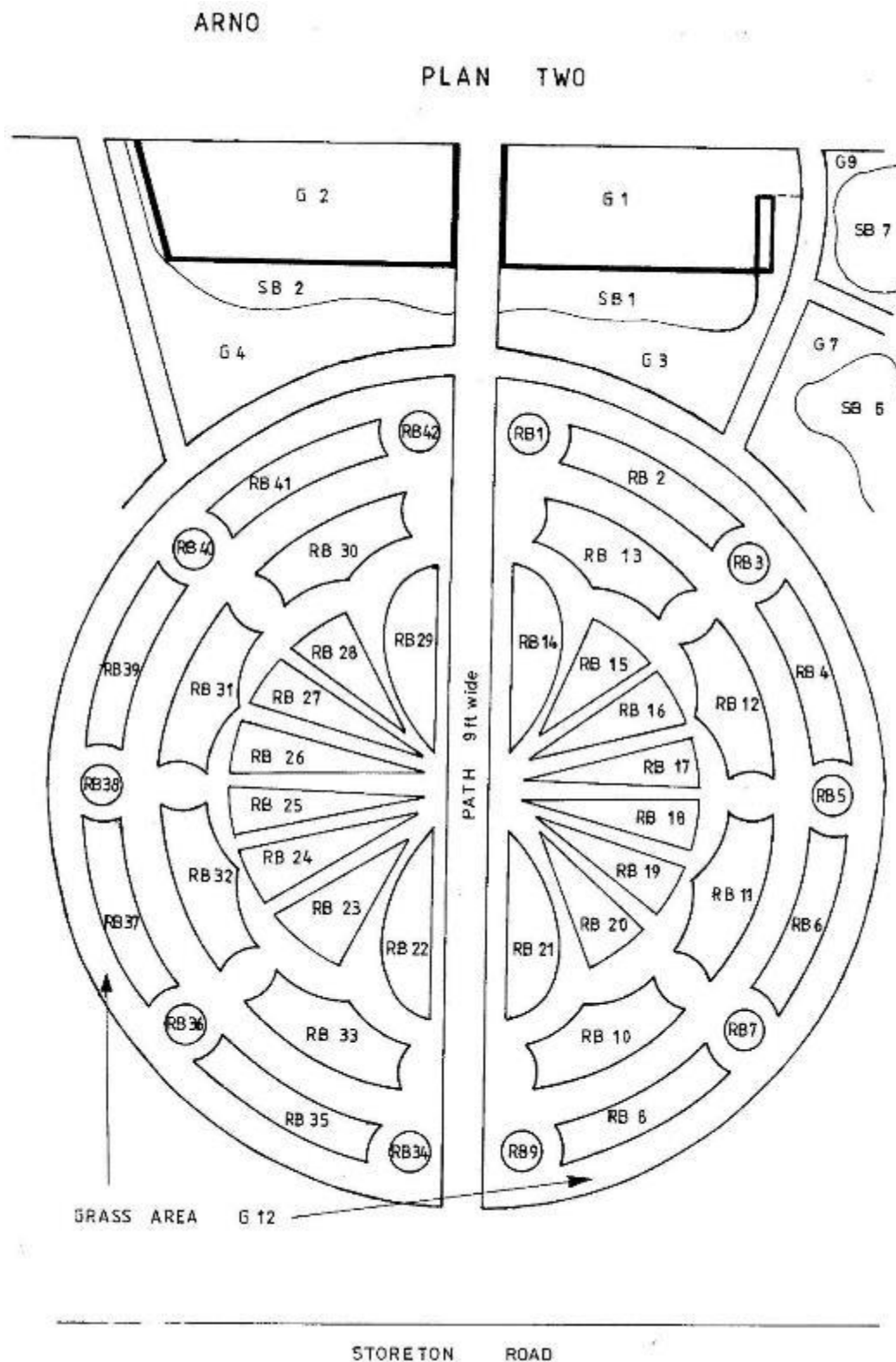
### Appendix 1: Site Plan



## Appendix 2: Aerial Photograph



# Appendix 3: Schematic Plans and site quantities



ARNO HILL RECREATION GROUND

PLAN 1

AREA

SQ. YDS

EDGING LIN. YDS

ARNO

PLAN ONE



## **Appendix 4: The Arno Service Requirement**

### **Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection**

Collect and remove litter and refuse from all of the sites included within the service requirement. In the case of adopted highway verges this responsibility is limited to the occasions immediately prior to grass cutting activities. Government guidance and Regulations for the disposal of noxious or hazardous waste, for example empty chemical containers or 'sharps' shall be followed.

Inspect and empty all litter bins, and dispose of the rubbish, clear all litter from around each bin.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not specify frequencies and this requires the requisite standards to be maintained by:

- ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations
- programming works effectively
- applying resources appropriately

Litter control shall conform to the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006).

The park shall be maintained to Grade B standard in accordance with the Code of Practice Part 1: litter and refuse

- Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items

The maximum response time to restore to Grade A standard (no litter or refuse) if it falls below Grade B shall be 1 day; this means by 6pm the following day.

Ensure that all staff uses their reasonable endeavours to collect and minimise the effects of litter on the sites, whenever it is encountered in the pursuance of their duties, whether or not those duties are primarily litter control.

### **Sweeping and cleansing**

This requirement is applicable to all surfaces other than grass within all sites. The entire surfaces of all tarmac, concrete or paved areas, rubberised surfaces and tiles, including play facilities and safety surfaces and other surface areas including loose surfaces such as bark and shale shall be kept clear in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006) to Grade B standard.

Sweeping, including gutters and drainage channels within the surface areas, shall be carried out by appropriate methods that do not damage or disrupt the surface.

Surfaces shall be washed down whenever necessary in order to maintain a clean and useable area.

All paths and hard surfaces shall be swept at even intervals and be kept cleared of grass cuttings following mowing operations.

All slippery surfaces caused by whatsoever nature, shall be made safe by the removal and / or treatment of the hazard.

All hard surfaces shall be maintained in a substantially weed free condition including moss and algae growth.

### **Fallen leaves**

Fallen leaves shall be regularly cleared from areas of:

- main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths
- visitors' centres and attractions
- ornamental grass areas
- soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders
- surfaces within play areas
- grass sports pitches and facilities
- all weather sports pitches and facilities

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

- in good horticultural condition
- and / or with a safe, well drained hard surface

Any leaves that have accumulated into drifts or are unsightly or damaging to plants and bulbs shall be removed as a priority.

The operation shall be carried out frequently throughout the autumn in order to facilitate shrubbery and rose bed cultivation, and to prevent leaves from spreading back onto lawns, paths, hard surfaces, sports and horticultural features. Where necessary, after leaf clearance, beds shall be lightly pricked through to remove footmarks.

The final clearance of all autumn leaves shall be completed by the end of December in each year of the contract period.

### **Graffiti and fly-tipping**

Information on graffiti and fly-tipping shall be collected. Data shall provide such data to the Service Manager on a weekly basis as part of his weekly exception reports.

Data for incidents of graffiti shall include:

- date
- location
- surface type
- paint type
- description including offensive characteristics

Offensive or racist graffiti shall be reported as a priority. This shall be reported to the Service Manager within one hour of identification, to enable this to be removed by the Employer's specialist operator within 24 hours.

All instances of fly-tipping shall be reported to the Service Manager.

### **Grass maintenance**

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

All grass cutting machinery used across the entire range of standards shall be appropriate and fit for the purpose of achieving the specified standard.

On each occasion that grass cutting takes place the following shall be achieved:

- an even, uniform sward to the requisite height across 100% of the surface area, including all obstacles, grass margins, weed growth, seed and flower spikes and bents.
- Litter on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing.
- any litter subsequently shredded as a result of the mowing operation, shall be collected and removed

Should grass exceed the maximum permissible height, the grass shall be brought back into conformance by frequent repeat mowing.

The use of herbicides around obstacles and margins shall not be permitted on ornamental and associated grass areas. The use of appropriate herbicides to kill growth around obstacles and margins in other areas shall be permitted unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant site management plan or by instruction from the Service Manager. In such areas, the maximum bandwidth of kill shall not exceed 50mm.

The edges of turf adjacent to hard surfaces, cut backs, planted borders, beds, channels and kerbs shall be kept maintained to a neat even line. On each occasion of re-cutting all finished bed edges shall be sharp, neat and vertical.

In the case of ornamental lawns all cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings, no matter where they fall, shall be removed for recycling or reuse immediately on completion of the operation.

All cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings across the complete spectrum of grass mowing operations which land on hard surfaces, shrub borders or flower beds shall be cleaned up and removed immediately on completion of mowing.

Arisings that fall on general grass/amenity grass, highway urban verges and rural verges shall not normally require removal, unless excessive growth has occurred, in which case arisings shall be collected and removed for recycling or reuse.

Unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant site management plan, grass areas over naturalised Narcissus, Galanthus and Crocus bulbs etc, shall remain uncut from the commencement of the grass cutting season to the third week in May, unless the bulb leaves have died down sooner, at which time the grass and bulb tops shall be cut and removed and the areas brought into conformance with the surrounding areas. Subsequently these areas are to be maintained to the same standard as the rest of the area.

In drought conditions, subject to the approval of the Local Parks Manager, the height of cut shall be adjusted so as not to cause added stress and damage to the sward. If grass growth is at a standstill an obligation remains to control grass and weed flower spikes by cutting.

On resumption of mowing operations after adverse weather conditions have caused them to cease, ensure that a return to the appropriate standard is achieved by increasing the frequency of mowing.

### **Premium ornamental and ornamental grass**

Premium ornamental areas and ornamental areas shall be maintained so that they are substantially free from weeds, coarse grasses, moss and algae by cultural methods and the application of approved pesticides. Cutting machines shall be cylinder type for fine turf maintenance. For premium ornamental areas the arisings shall be boxed off and recycled or reused. For ornamental areas there is no requirement for boxing off arisings.

All premium ornamental and ornamental grass areas shall be maintained within the specified height range:

- Minimum height 8 mm
- Maximum height 15 mm

Premium ornamental and ornamental grass maintenance shall include all necessary:

- pest, disease and weed control
- fertilising
- scarifying
- aeration
- rolling
- irrigation
- seasonal renovation

### **General Grass**

All general grass areas shall be maintained within the specified height range:

- Minimum height 25 mm
- Maximum height 60 mm



Hard landscape infrastructure: hard surfaces – roadways, pathways, car parks; parks and green spaces site infrastructure – benches, lighting, fencing, walls (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

Undertake a rolling programme of condition surveys of the hard landscape infrastructure of the park. Following each site condition survey the prepare an improvement plan for inclusion in the relevant site management plan and subsequent submission to the Service Manager

### **Hard surfaces weed control – parks and green spaces**

Undertake a programme of effective weed control on all hard surfaces including roads; footpaths, car parks, steps, ramps and bridges Including the bases of all walls and fences where adjoining hard surfaces, along kerbstones and around landscape and park furniture . The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

### **Hard surfaces gritting, salting and snow clearance**

Hard surface gritting, salting and snow clearance is required to ensure that, where reasonably practicable, safe passage along a road or footpath is not endangered by snow ice.

Although there is no requirement to treat all roads and footpaths there are locations where this is required. The sites and areas to be treated are limited to those where essential only access is required which includes to cemetery chapels, access for planned burials, visitor and community centres and known problem locations and hazardous gradients.

Treatment shall include pre-treating to prevent ice from forming and post treating when ice has formed or snow has accumulated.

### **Benches and seating**

All benches and seating, including picnic benches & tables, shall be kept clean at all times, and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material.

### **Fences, railings, walls, gates, handrails, stiles, boardwalks, revetments and bollards**

Any minor repairs such as loose bolts, protruding nails and sanding of sharp edges shall be undertaken. All other repairs must be reported to the Parks Manager.

Defects which represent a hazard that cannot be repaired immediately must be made safe until an effective repair can be undertaken.

Regularly maintain gates, locks and mechanisms to ensure good working condition.

## **Notice boards and signs**

Keep all signs, signposts and notice boards clean at all times and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material of construction.

## **Shrubs, roses, herbaceous and annual bedding**

Maintain shrub beds attractively presented, free of litter, weeds, other unwanted vegetation, and pests and diseases. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

Shrubs shall be maintained by pruning and training using the best horticultural practices to allow the development of each shrub in keeping with its habit, location and purpose.

Cultivation work in weather or ground conditions that would be harmful to the soil condition and its structure shall not be undertaken.

Observe that the purpose of pruning is to establish a strong framework of branches, keeping the shrubs healthy and vigorous, maintaining the size, shape and balance, whilst ensuring the maximum amount of flowering wood and fruit are produced.

Carry out the pruning of individual shrubs and roses appropriate to the requirements of each species or cultivar.

## **Hedges – ornamental and non-ornamental**

Maintain all ornamental and non-ornamental hedges to their previously cut height, width and shape, ensuring that the top and sides of each hedge are cut neatly so that all growth is removed to the point of the previous cut on the old wood. Maintain hedges to ensure the safe and free flow of motor traffic along adopted highways and other vehicle routes, and to ensure the safe and free flow of pedestrians and cyclists along adopted highway footpaths and all other access routes across sites.

All trimmings shall be removed for recycling or reuse.

The base of the hedge shall be left clean, tidy and vegetation free on every occasion the hedge is cut.

## **Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting**

Where requested by the Service Manager proposals for replacement, renewal and new planting of shrubs, roses and hedging shall be submitted.

## **Trees and woodland**

All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998:2010 'Recommendations for tree work'. Be responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations, including Tree Preservation Orders that would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.

All persons employed to undertake tree work, shall be suitably trained and qualified and shall be in possession of appropriate certification.

Consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, utility access hole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc that are either adjacent to or on the work area. These are to be preserved in good condition and make all necessary arrangements to make good any damage.

Include for stump removal and subsequent surface reinstatement following tree felling in highways locations. Stumps intended for permanent retention should be cut at a specified height and left free from snags.

On completion of all tree work ensure that the work area is thoroughly cleaned and is left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work shall be disposed of. The only exceptions to this shall be at woodland locations where the Service Manager may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site. The Service Manager may on occasion instruct delivery of brushwood chippings to sites within the Borough where these materials are required for composting, mulching, or creating footpaths or bridleways.

Refer to section 'Waste management including recycling of biodegradable waste' (green waste).

### **All trees and woodland – emergency and out of hours call out service**

Provide a 24 hour, 365 days a year, emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs that have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. A response unit consisting of a minimum of two suitably trained staff with appropriate vehicle and equipment shall be provided within one hour's notice following notification of an event by the Local Area Team Leader or emergency services authority. Incidents of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

Provide sufficient labour, vehicles and equipment required for emergency tree work operations. Heavy lifting equipment and cranes will need to be obtained as soon as reasonably practicable for special operations.

### **Trees in parks**

Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses and all adjacent land and neighbouring properties are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees. As part of the regular site health and safety inspections assess and act on any tree related risks.

### **Individual trees in parks and green spaces – arboricultural management**

Undertake reactive management of selected trees in parks, green spaces, golf courses, cemeteries and churchyards in response to hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.

### **Individual trees in parks and green spaces – replacement and renewal**

Undertake occasional requests for commemorative and other tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces.

### **Vandalism and third party damage (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)**

Work with community stakeholders and partner organisations to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour in sites covered by the service.

### **Soft landscape**

Rectify minor incidents of vandalism or third party damage to soft landscape features including trees, planted and grassed areas within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor incidents of damage caused by any other source.

### **Hard landscape infrastructure**

Rectify minor damage to fencing, gates, walling, furniture, signage, notice boards, lighting and surfacing and other hard landscape infrastructure resulting from any act of vandalism or third party damage within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor damage caused by any other source. Minor damage shall be defined as requiring no more than 1 hour of labour per occasion to rectify with a minimal requirement for materials.

For more significant incidents of vandalism or third party damage make safe immediately.

## **THE ARNO**

### **Managed asset quantities table**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
Ornamental Grass	3353m <sup>2</sup>	
General Grass	6932m <sup>2</sup>	
Hedge two side and top	20m <sup>2</sup>	
Hedge one side and top	689m <sup>2</sup>	
Herbaceous Border	765m <sup>2</sup>	
Rose Bed	1583m <sup>2</sup>	
Shrub Bed	1737m <sup>2</sup>	
Hard Surface	2040m <sup>2</sup>	
Building	1 No	Storage shed
Tree Stock	Yes	
Woodland	Yes	
Natural area	Yes	
Benches	9	
Bins	5	
Notice boards	2	



## Appendix 5 Annual Parks safety inspection checklist

### Parks and Open Spaces Annual H&S Inspection

SITE	The Arno.	
Date of inspection:	2/3/22	Signed:
Inspector (1):	Ben Calcott	B. Calcott
Inspector (2):		
<p>Items referred to (Asset Department) / (External Contractor) for repairs:</p> <p>Trees overhanging from the Arno into neighbouring properties at Everysey Park. Have sent to tree officer for remedial work to be carried out.</p> <p>General comments/observations/recommendations:</p> <p>Items for Managers attention:</p>		
Manager name:	Neil Gomett	Signed: Neil Gomett
Date checked:	25/03/22	
<p>Manager's comments:</p>		

ENVIRONMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Is the tree canopy above footpaths and play areas visibly free of dead, dying, diseased or loose branches?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Is the tree canopy above surrounding pavements/roads visibly free of dead, dying, diseased or loose branches?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		See notes.
Are all footpaths clear of overhanging vegetation/branches that could make contact at head height or below?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are all invasive or poisonous plant species identified with the team and either cordoned off, due to be removed or on a treatment plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Have all known hotspots been checked for sharps/needles/drug paraphernalia or broken glass?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are there clear sightlines that enable people and vehicle users to see what's ahead and around them?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
INFRASTRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are footpaths in a safe condition and free of trip hazards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are steps in a safe condition and free of trip hazards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are bridges in safe condition with no visible subsidence of the balustrades, walking surfaces safe and railings securely fitted?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are fencing and gates safe with no gaps, sharp edges, or protruding fixings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are culvert grills safe, clear, adequately fixed, and free-flowing?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
STREET FURNITURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are the benches safe to sit on with no cracks or visible signs of damage? Are the legs free from cracks and have no visible sign of damage?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are the bins set in the ground correctly? Are the frames free from visible signs of damage? Does the bin have a liner in it?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are the lampposts/Telegraph poles structurally sound (free of cracks/splits), free of damage and access hatch securely fastened?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are the feeder pillars free of paint damage, structurally sound (free of cracks/splits), and door secure and locked?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are CCTV camera poles structurally sound (free of cracks/splits), free from damage? Are the cameras/LED units damaged at all?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SITE SIGNAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are water safety warnings visible and free of surrounding vegetation?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are fence notice boards or signage in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

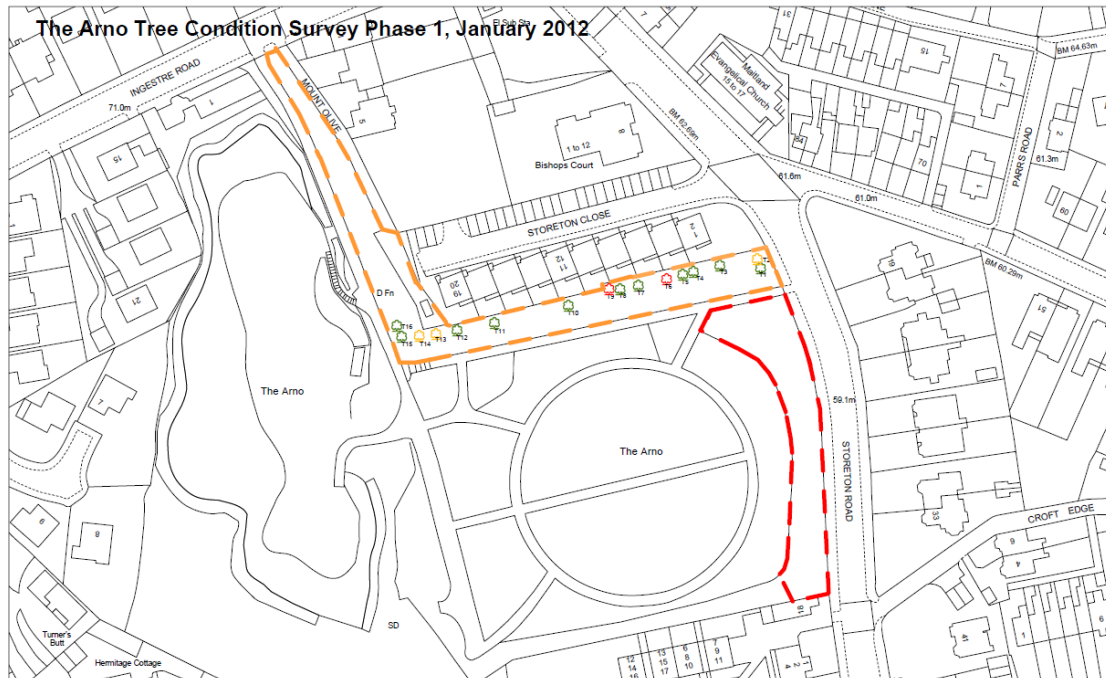
Are interpretation lecterns in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings? Are they eligible and free of graffiti?	✓			
Are upright notice boards/interpretations in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings? Are they eligible and free of graffiti?	✓			
Are entry signs in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings?	✓			
Fire assemble points are present, and are the signs visibly clear and in the correct position?			✓	
Vehicle restrictions - are they in the correct place and are clear to read?			✓	
Service yard site safety signages - are they in the correct place and are clear to read?			✓	
<b>MONUMENTS AND SCULPTURES</b>	☑	☒	N/A	<b>FURTHER ACTION</b>
Do monuments, bandstands, flagpoles, and sculptures appear structurally sound? Are they free from damage/graffiti?	✓			
Do walls appear structural sound: free from bowing, large mortar cracks, loose/missing bricks, or copings.	✓			
<b>SPORTS AND PLAY FACILITIES</b>	☑	☒	N/A	<b>FURTHER ACTION</b>
Are tennis court surfaces, signage, nets, fencing, gates and surrounds safe and in visibly good condition?			✓	
Are MUGA surfaces, signage, fencing, gates and surrounds, goalmouths, and basketball hoops safe and in visibly good condition?			✓	
Are Outdoor Gym surfaces, signage, and equipment safe and in visibly good condition?			✓	
Are Play Area landscape features: Shelters, fencing, trees and vegetation safe and in visibly good condition?			✓	
Are games greens fencing, surrounds, gates, and surfaces safe and free from damage or deterioration? Has the irrigation system been tested recently and serviced?			✓	
<b>EXTERNALS OF BUILDINGS</b>	☑	☒	N/A	<b>FURTHER ACTION</b>
Are building roofs visibly in good condition with no missing tiles or lead?			✓	
Are building walls visibly in good condition? (Timber cladding, brick, plaster)			✓	
Are gutters, downpipes and surface water drains visibly clear?			✓	
Are manholes sitting flush and secure to the frame? Is drainage from buildings free from issues?			✓	



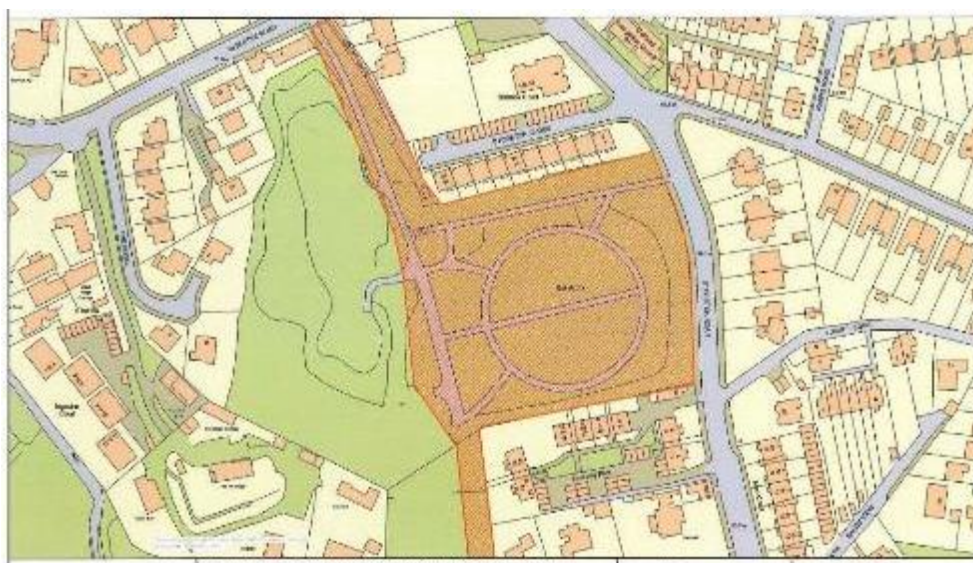


## Appendix6: Tree Condition Plans and tree Zoning

### The Arno Tree Condition Survey Phase 1, January 2012



### The Arno Tree Condition Survey Phase 2, January 2015



All areas shaded orange were surveyed on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015.



## Tree Zoning



## **Guidance to tree Zoning**

### **High Risk**

1. School playgrounds
2. In High-use parks/public areas: Permanent structures with a constant target
3. Permanent structures with a value in excess of £50,000 or are habitable
4. Seating areas
5. Camp sites
6. Known informal recreation “hotspots” used for impromptu “gatherings”
7. Car park areas adjacent to high use public areas
8. Footpaths/access ways with greater than 36 pedestrians per hour
9. Individual trees or groups of trees with high risk tree characteristics such as:
  - standing dead trees or those with very poor condition
  - trees that visually obstruct traffic signs, traffic lights, or street lamps
10. Railway lines
11. „A” Class roads, strategic and distributor
12. Principle Roads in built up areas
13. Guide: Pedestrian rates over 36 per hour, Structures over £50,000.

### **Medium Risk**

1. „B” Class roads, secondary distributor and visually obstructed lights and signs
2. In High use Parks/Public areas: informal play areas, minor paths, grass recreation areas
3. Golf Courses (excluding areas in High Hazard Zone)
4. Car parks adjacent to moderate/low use areas
5. Bus stops in high use thoroughfares
6. Trees with medium risk characteristics, such as:
  - Old and veteran trees
  - High density of large or mature trees
  - Areas of recent root disturbance such as footway reconstruction, trenching, drainage etc.
  - Storm damaged trees
7. Guide: Pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour, Structures £2,000 – £50,000

### **Low Risk**

1. Unclassified roads: congested junctions and visually obstructed traffic lights/signs
2. Trees with medium to low densities of large diameter, mature or “problem” species trees
3. Moderate to low use parks, playgrounds and picnic areas
4. Public areas with dispersed recreation
5. Open areas, woods, riparian and peripheral areas with limited use or access
6. Guide: Pedestrian rates lower than 1 per hour and structures up to £2,000

## Appendix 7. Rose Garden list of varieties

<b><u>Rose bed No</u></b>	<b><u>Variety</u></b>
No 1	Oriana
No 2	Blessings
No 3	Apricot Silk
No 4	Halle
No 5	Evelyn Fison
No 6	You are my Sunshine
No 7	Diamond days Forever
No 8	Indian Summer
No 9	Belle Epoque
No 10	Pensioners Voice
No 11	Elizabeth of Glamis
No 12	Royal Volunteer
No 13	Sunset Song
No 14	Fragrance Cloud / Velvet Fragrance
No 15	Bride
No 16	Chinatown
No 17	Iceburg
No 18	Diamond Days Forever
No 19	Indian Summer
No 20	Freedom
No 21	Tickled Pink
No 22	City of Leeds
No 23	Kings Ransom
No 24	Silver Jubilee
No 25	Lady McRobert
No 26	Iceburg
No 27	Mountbatten
No 28	Bride
No 29	Velvet Fragrance
No 30	Sunset Song
No 31	Halle
No 32	Dr Jo
No 33	Masquerade
No 34	Zambra
No 35	Super Trouper
No 36	Belle Epoque
No 37	Pot of Gold
No 38	Evelyn Fison
No 39	Halle
No 40	Apricot Silk
No 41	Blessings
No 42	Oriana

# SITE QUALITY EVALUATION

## (Mystery Shop)

<b>Name of Site</b>	The Arno
<b>Managing Organisation</b>	Wirral Council
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
<b>Time (from – to)</b>	11.25am to 12.20am
<b>Weather conditions</b>	Heavy rain, cool

<b>OVERALL RESULT</b>	<b>Green</b> – Meets the standard with no concerns raised <b>Amber</b> – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern <b>Red</b> – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified
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<b>Green</b>	X	<b>Amber</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Red</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT				
<b>Grading</b>	Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.			
<b>Strengths and recommendations</b>	Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading. Photographs are also included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations. Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual <a href="#">here</a> for further information on the criteria.			
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>				
1. Is the site welcoming?	N G	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Very welcoming; nice ambience throughout.				
2. Is the site easy to find?	N G	G	A	R
	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Satnav takes the visitor to the site. Brown sign on the main road.				
3. Is signage in good condition?	N G	G	A	R

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Excellent and informative				
4. Is the site accessible to all users?	N G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: The site is very accessible despite the natural topography. However, there is some localised failing of tarmac wearing course which needs to be addressed.				
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>				
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	N G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: All good. Excellent benches.				
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	N G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: An open site with a friendly ambience.				
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	N G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: All dogs were on leads and the site showed no evidence of fouling.				
<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>				
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	N G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: The site is remarkable clean and tidy. Good clean and smart binds throughout the site. No litter seen on site.				
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	N G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: The standard is impressive. Good herbaceous beds, mixed shrubberies, rose beds and lawns. The rose beds are a major feature, but some bare areas were apparent; these need beating up with new introductions.				
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	N G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Comments: Good healthy tree stock. All canopies look good with some excellent specimens and a good diversity of species. Please consider new strategic tree planting as a phased project to ensure continuity and mixed ages of species.				
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	N	G	A	
	G			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Excellent walls, railings, steps, etc. The infrastructure is impressive; however, some localised path failings (tarmac breaking up) needs addressing.				
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	N	G	A	R
	G			
	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: The site is purely formal displays, casual leisure and wildlife (no formal play or other equipment).				
<b>Environmental Management</b>				
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment and biodiversity.	N	G	A	R
	G			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Much tree cover and shrubberies provide opportunity for habitat, roosting, feeding, nesting, etc. Roses and all other flora provide opportunity for pollinating insects. The dedicated wildlife area is very encouraging.				
<b>Landscape and Heritage</b>				
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	N	G	A	R
	G			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Much evidence of historic recognition and conservation – stone walls, steps, etc and historic park info provided on a smart lectern. The landscape is well considered/laid out and well maintained/conserved.				
<b>Community Involvement</b>				
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	N	G	A	R
	G			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: On site notices, web sites and social media confirm much engagement with the community.				
16. Is user feedback positive?	N	G	A	R
	G			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: This is a well respected site and enjoyed by locals. One user kindly offered much background info and historic facts.				
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>				
	N	G	A	R
	G			



## Appendix 9: Project Bank

<b>PROJECT BANK</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>'Ballpark' cost estimate (inc design and contract management fee)</b>	<b>Justification, policy fit and evidence of need</b>
Restoration of the Sundial	estimated £30,000	The sundial was built to commemorate the completion of the Arno, see page 7 above.
Entrance Arches	estimated £3,000	Two commemorative arches over the Storeton Road and Ingestre Road entrance gates.