

Wirral Council
Community Services Department
Parks and Countryside Service

Bidston Hill

Management Plan 2022-2027



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Preface to the 2017-2022 Management Plan for Bidston Hill

Since 2016 the Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm has become independent from Wirral Council. The Farm still provides important facilities for visitors to the site what although a close working partnership is maintained these facilities are at the discretion of the management body – the Tam O'Shanter Cottage Urban Farm Trust. Consequently Park staff now operate from the nearby site of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens.

In 2018 the area suffered from several large wildfires due to the prolonged dry summer weather. As is usually the case in these conditions, the fires were generally started by people and became very difficult to extinguish. The end result was that large areas of the heathland became a charred area.

1. Introduction

This plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and Improvement of the park. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions please contact the **Parks and Countryside Service** at Wirral Council on telephone number **0151 606 2004** or visit

www.wirral.gov.uk

or write to:

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

To support or join **The Friends of Bidston Hill** contact them via their website;-
<http://www.bidstonhill.org.uk/>

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 is maintained to the current standard or better as measured by the Green Flag criteria.

This Plan covers the period from 2017-2022 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.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

1.1. 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:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/pp7-wirral-plan-equity-people-and-place-2021-2026.pdf>

1.2. 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.

1.3. 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 maybe 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 Vision, Aims and Objectives

Vision

To maintain Bidston Hill and it's historic features as an attractive, natural site for the benefit of present and future generations delivering recreational, health and educational benefits.

Aims

1. Conserve and where possible restore and enhance wildlife habitats, primarily lowland heathland and woodland
2. Retain and enhance amenity and landscape value
3. Educate local people and visitors and about the value of the local environment

Objectives

1. Progressively restore the north and south heathland areas to good condition by:
2. Maintain varied woodland safe for users and valuable for wildlife
3. Manage European Gorse (*Ulex europeaus*)
4. Maintain grasslands
5. Maintain Views
6. Involve as many people as possible in the management of Bidston Hill
7. Maintain the standard required to retain the Green Flag Award

4. Site information

Name: Bidston Hill

Grid Reference: 329093, 389313

Primary classification: Country Park

Ward: Bidston & St James

Size: 49.3ha

Site Overview:

Bidston Hill is an important recreation area for Birkenhead, Beechwood, Noctorum and Bidston Village. It provides a high quality natural environment with opportunities for retreat from these urban areas. Despite its urban location its height above the surrounding development and woodland along its fringes provide a sense of separation and remote character.

The hill rises to 70.4m – one of the highest points on Wirral - and exerts a strong influence on the surrounding landscape. It is littered with points of historical interest and local heritage.

Bidston Lighthouse, Observatory and windmill are key landmarks on the hill and are visible within the wider area. Of these, only the windmill is owned by the council.

Location plan:



Designations:

The hill is locally designated as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI) for its lowland heathland. There are two Regionally Important Geological Sites that have been designated by the Cheshire RIGS group.

Existing facilities and features:

- Viewpoints to Liverpool waterfront and Wales
- High quality natural environment with mature woods, heath and grassland
- Hybrid Rhododendron collection in Park Wood
- Picnic area with benches
- Self-guided Heritage Trail
- Close proximity to Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm with toilets, café, play area and picnic area. Although the farm is self managed by a charity – The Tam O'Shanter Cottage Urban Farm Trust, it provides facilities for visitors to Bidston Hill
- Disused windmill with limited access for visitors

Tenure:

Bidston Hill is owned and managed by the Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Community Services Department

Summary of main uses:

- Informal recreation
- Education
- Walking / dog walking
- Access to nature

Access:

The whole site is publicly accessible at all times.

The hill is easily accessible by public transport. There are regular buses stopping adjacent to the site on Upton Road. It is approximately half a mile on foot to Bidston railway station with services to West Kirby, Liverpool and Wrexham.

There is a car park adjacent to Tam O'Shanter Farm that is closed at 5pm daily.

The park is surrounded on all sides by housing. There are many informal access points.

There is a permissive bridleway through the site running from Upton Road through to Eleanor Road.

The site is crossed by several designated rights of way as well as many informal paths.

Vyner Road North cuts the site in two and can be crossed at road level or by the high-level footbridge.

History

The park has much historic interest. A brief summary of the history is available on the council's website at www.wirral.gov.uk and on a local history website at <http://www.wirralhistory.net/bidstonhill.html>

The site was bought by Birkenhead Borough Council in sections starting in 1893 for public recreation. There are many marks and carvings in the rocks, some of them ancient. The

site was enclosed as a deer park in the 15th century with traces of the wall enclosure surviving.

The current windmill was built in 1800, the lighthouse in 1872/3 and the observatory in 1866. Historical information about the extensive history of the observatory buildings is held at the Liverpool Oceanographic Library at Liverpool University.

Summary of any known issues:

- The site is near to areas of high-density housing and suffers from the associated problems of vandalism, fly-tipping, fires and graffiti. Serious vandalism is mostly confined to arson on the heathland. This has occurred in any spell of dry weather for the last 100 years or more! It is very difficult to control despite the efforts of Fire Reduction Officers, Rangers and volunteers. Merseyside Fire Service respond very quickly to any reports of fire though often the damage is done. Consequences are the visual damage until regrowth and the proliferation of more gorse which is the greatest fire risk.
- Fly tipping and graffiti does occur in various locations but is dealt with as quickly as possible.
- The terrain causes access problems for machinery and vehicles. Undulating, rocky and tree cover limit access.
- Access for visitors has to be balanced with ecological management.

Summary of Successes

- The site has achieved a Green Flag Award every year since 2008
- The Friends of Bidston Hill has been in existence for over 20 years producing regular newsletters for its members, running events such as windmill openings, guided walks, practical task days and attracting grants totalling £66,000.
- Over the last 30 years the perception of the site has shifted from a 'no go' park rife with vandalism, regular incidents of indecent exposure and car crime and only lightly used to a more heavily used park enjoyed by a wider variety of visitors seldom troubled by anti-social behaviour.
- The park has hosted a wide variety of events including drama productions, guided walks, windmill openings, children's activities, morris dancing among many others.
- The park has been used for educational activities including Forest Schools, school visits and vocational conservation work
- The partnership between Wirral Council and the Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm between 1990 and 2015 enhanced the management and use of Bidston Hill by providing extra resources and facilities.

5. Green Flag Criteria and Assessment

The intention is for the park to achieve the standards as defined by the **Green Flag Award Scheme**; further details about the scheme are available at www.greenflagaward.org.co.uk.

This plan will provide clear aims and objectives to be achieved over the next five years.

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. well maintained and Clean
4. Environmental Management
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

1. A welcoming place

The signage for the site from the surrounding roads is restricted to one entrance sign on Boundary Road and one at the junction of Boundary Road / Upton Road. All other directional signs indicate Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm which is regarded as the visitor centre for Bidston Hill. The hill shares a main entrance and car park with Tam O'Shanter Farm. The Farm is open from 9.30 to 4.30pm. There are toilets, a café, emergency telephone and information point. These facilities are available to people with disabilities.

The farm is a popular and well known site to people with many types of disability, and inclusion is an important mission for the site. The management link between the hill and the farm provides an opportunity to extend people's visits to the Farm out into the wider countryside by encouraging them to use the Hill thereby contributing to good health.

In 2009 £10,000 of ERDF funding was awarded for an Accessible Trail running from the Tam O'Shanter Farm car park around Taylor's wood and to the windmill. The trail upgraded facilities and extended access for people with mobility problems.

A good range of information is provided about history of the Hill and the environment for all ages.

2. Healthy, safe and secure

Dog fouling

The whole of the Wirral Council area 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. In August 2007 a media campaign 'Don't give a dog a bad name' was launched to highlight the new powers.

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. Many dog walkers do use the litterbins for the disposal of removed faeces.

Emergency Vehicle Access

Emergency vehicle access is available from Upton Road, Vyner Road North, Tam O'Shanter Farm and Boundary Road via the Observatory access road.

See emergency access map below

Anti social behaviour

Wirral Council operates a Community Patrol force, established to provide a 24 hour response to any concerns notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. **The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 0151 666 5265.**

The Parks and Countryside Service is represented on the ASB Governance meeting, a forum consisting of the following agencies Merseyside Police, Community Safety, Youth and Community groups and other partner organisations. Serious issues regarding security in Parks and Countryside sites can be raised at the meeting with the intention of providing a multi agency approach to addressing any problems. A Community Support Officer regularly patrols the site and is in contact with the Site Ranger if any issues arise.

The park is covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

The Observatory, Lighthouse and associated buildings are an important feature of the hill - their use and management have an effect on the site. Wirral Council own and manage the access road to the buildings from Boundary Road.

Infrastructure

Parks and Countryside (PAC) staff patrol regularly and any necessary action is taken as soon as possible. Work that cannot be carried out immediately is reported to the Team Leader for prioritisation.

Volunteers and local residents are also encouraged to report any problems to staff.

There is a system of tunnels beneath the hill. For safety reasons the Bidston tunnels have been sealed to prevent access.

Tree Inspections

In 2016 the PAC section have adopted a system of zoning areas with trees as high, medium and low risk as defined by a set of criteria, see Appendix 13. Consequently, frequency and detail of inspections will depend on the zone.

Public toilets

Toilets are available at the Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm between the hours of 9.30 – 4.30.

Health Benefits

The value of mere open spaces is now universally admitted as necessary for the health of people when congregated in numbers, and as of educational value in the humanising influences of their beauty. Birkenhead and Liverpool, were among the first large towns practically to recognise this by the formation of beautiful parks, which were created, generally out of level ground, by the expenditure of much money and labour, which is also needed for their maintenance. But Bidston, from elevation and position, has a command of scenery unusual in extent, variety, and beauty, and possesses a purity of air that is remarkable, and which may account for the very brilliant sunsets and sky effects seen from it. That they are very striking and beautiful is the impression left on the writer from what he has seen on visits during more than forty years, and is also the opinion of all acquainted with the locality he has consulted.

Quote from "Bidston Hill Preserved", written by Edward Quaile in 1894. Quaile was one of the Bidston Hill Committee, the group that campaigned successfully to secure Bidston Hill for the public

3. Clean and well maintained

All maintenance is carried out by volunteers and Parks staff, occasionally supplemented by contractors when grants have been secured.

Fencing is necessary in some places but is kept to a minimum to retain the open character of the hill.

Litter bins on site are placed appropriately, in the car park where they can be emptied easily, safely and regularly.

There are six litterbins in the car park and one on King George's Way. In the summer they are emptied once per week by Parks staff.

There are many volunteers and friends who collect litter from the site regularly either as part of an organised group or on their own in their own time. Bags and litter pickers are provided by the site ranger.

Views are maintained at key points by removal of vegetation.

4. Environmental Management

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

No green waste leaves the site. Green waste generated is either re-used in the forest schools project or composted or chipped and reused on the site.

Chester Zoo sometimes take waste brash for giraffes and rhino food. Waste brash is also taken for den building and woodland crafts as part of the education programme delivered by the Rangers.

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

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.

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>

Tractor and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Peat is not used in any capacity within the grounds of Bidston Hill.

5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

5.1 Built heritage

There is much unique history to be retained and interpreted. A Heritage Trail has been established with marker posts and associated leaflet. The Friends group have also attached QR codes with links to information on their website.

Bidston Windmill is a brick built tower mill that was used to grind grain into flour for 75 years between 1800 and 1875. After this time the mill fell into disrepair and was purchased for public use and restored in 1894. The windmill underwent extensive refurbishment in 2007 to repair the roof, sections of the floor and ladders. It is now safe for use as a visitor facility and is well interpreted through displays, leaflets and open days.

The Observatory, Lighthouse and associated buildings are an important feature of the hill but are in private ownership.

The Cockpit is a narrow circular trench, approximately 10 inches deep and twenty feet in diameter cut into rock. It is thought that it was the home to illegal cock fighting, but its original use was probably a gorse mill, where gorse was crushed for animal feed.

The Penny-a-day dyke was built in 1407 to create a deer park for hunting. The remains of the wall can still be seen along the edge of Park Wood below the ridge from the Mill to the Observatory. It no longer has any functional use, and due to lack of funding for repair work the wall is slowly deteriorating.

The Goddess Rock Carvings are believed to be Norse Irish in origin and it has been suggested that they date from the late 9th century. The horse carving is also thought to be very old. The carvings may be in need of conservation, appropriate advice is needed.

The bridge over Vyner Road is Victorian and provides views across to Wales. It is maintained by the Engineer's Department of the Council.

5.2 Geology

The hill is designated as a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS site). It is considered important to our current understanding of geology in the area. It is noted mainly for exposures of ice-smoothed Helsby Sandstone between the windmill and the observatory, and for Thurstaston Sandstone near Bidston Hall. There are exposures of trough cross-bedding. The latest geological monitoring form completed in 2004 by a qualified geologist from the Cheshire RIGS group records that there are currently no threats to the site. (There are two main areas of interest)

The condition of Wirral's Geological sites is monitored by the Cheshire RIGS group and reported to the Wirral Local Sites and Biodiversity Group who meet 4 times a year. The condition of the sites is recorded annually and the results are submitted to DEFRA.

There is further scope for the interpretation of geology on the site in partnership with the local RIGS group.

5.3 Habitats

The hill is locally designated as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI). It is important for lowland heath, scrub and fringing mature woodland, both mixed deciduous and coniferous. Common lizards occur and the windmill contains an important winter roost for bats. (See appendix 5).

A 5-year habitat management plan was produced by Hilary Ash (of Cheshire Wildlife Trust) and Colin Hayes in 2002 which has been used to guide habitat management on the site since that date. Management advice from the 2002 plan has been updated and incorporated into this plan (below). Bidston Hill continues to be managed according to this advice with occasional input from Hilary Ash. The original document is a useful source of reference.

5.3.1 Lowland Heathland

Lowland heathland has declined in extent by at least 80% nationally in the last century. Local decline is similar. Wirral had extensive heathland on both its sandstone ridges, but Bidston Hill is the only extensive area of heath left on the eastern ridge. Small areas of heathland exist within Wirral Ladies Golf Course.

Bidston Hill retains extensive areas of heathland (North Heath B and South Heath H, plus some smaller patches. However there is extensive invasion by European gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

The North Heath and large parts of the South Heath are heavily invaded by scrub, mainly silver birch with some pine, oak and rhododendron. If left, within a few decades this will convert most of the area to secondary woodland, with loss of the open heathland and dependent species. The 1970s aerial photographs show that this has happened recently to parts of Taylor's Wood and other areas.

Fire is a regular occurrence. Most fires occur in dry seasons and are rapid and hot, and would be expected to cause considerable damage to invertebrate populations and lizards.

Fires do help to restrict tree growth and allow heather to regenerate, but also favour the spread of European gorse.

Heathland pools and peaty hollows occur along the top of the ridge supporting wetland plants. Dragonflies have been recorded here.

Small patches of damp heath still exist. Some management has been done in recent years to remove scrub and cut back invading *Gaultheria*. Plant species include purple moor-grass, cross-leaved heath and three species of bog-moss (*Sphagnum*). Damp heath is very rare on Wirral, so even small patches such as these have special value for wildlife and for education.

5.3.2 Secondary Woodland

All the woodlands on Bidston appear to be secondary, although there are small patches of a few ancient woodland indicator species at the southern end of Park Wood. Extensive plantings of Scots pine and pedunculate oak, together with some beech, were carried out in the 19th century. Most of these areas have been colonised by silver birch. There are also birch-dominated areas, which date from various points over the last century, presumably by invasion of heathland or grassland.

The woodlands have low floristic value but are important for birds. Breeding species include Buzzard, Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, Sparrow hawk, Song Thrush, Goldcrest and various tits and warblers. The pine is not regenerating, but birch and oak are, along with small amounts of other species such as rowan and whitebeam. Most areas show a good structure of canopy, understorey including substantial amounts of holly, and ground flora, lying dead wood.

Areas with high density of pine, especially A, have very little ground flora. Park Wood has much rhododendron, some bushes being unusual varieties, and cherry laurel. Ground flora is accordingly very limited. Some rhododendron (mostly *R. ponticum*) and laurel occur elsewhere in the woods.

5.3.3 European gorse (*Ulex europeaus*)

There are extensive areas of European gorse on the site. It has wildlife value as a nectar source in spring, supports various invertebrates especially spiders, and as cover for small birds and mammals, including foxes. However, it requires management as it is a major fire risk as soon as it becomes well grown, and is invasive of more valuable lowland heathland. Growth along footpaths can make them impassable.

5.3.4 Grasslands

Small amounts of acidic grassland occur round the edges of the site, especially on the recreation ground. The recreation ground in particular forms a useful dog-exercise and amenity area, requiring minimal maintenance. It was in the distant past mown as amenity grassland. The plant species diversity is low, but typical of this habitat. Very small amounts of neutral grassland also occur (the horse exercise area). All grasslands are un-mown. Scrub invasion is sparse, and they should have value for invertebrates.

5.3.5 Hybrid Rhododendrons

A large number of these were planted in Victorian times alongside the main path through Park Wood. A leaflet 'Rhododendrons of Bidston Hill' describes some of the named types and indicates their location.

5.3.6 Habitat Management Aims

A) Conserve and where possible restore and enhance wildlife habitats, primarily lowland heathland and woodland

Justification: Lowland heathland is a valuable National Biodiversity Priority habitat, important for both its dwarf shrub flora, and its associated invertebrates. Bidston Hill is believed to still hold a colony of common lizard, an increasingly rare and once common species on Wirral.

Conservation and restoration of remaining heathland is a key target of both national and local Biodiversity Action Plans. As the only remaining public heathland on the eastern side of Wirral, it has considerable landscape and educational value.

The woodland, though secondary and poor in plant species, has good structure and supports a large number and variety of birds. It is the only extensive woodland at the northeast end of Wirral, the nearest being Storeton Woods, and therefore has considerable landscape and educational value.

There are other less extensive but useful wildlife habitats:- damp heath, acid grassland. The proximity of several different habitat types, forming a mosaic, increases the variety of wildlife the Hill will support, especially birds.

B) Retain and enhance amenity and landscape value

Justification: Bidston Hill is a key recreation site for the area, lying between the densely built communities of Birkenhead and Beechwood, and virtually surrounded by housing. The Hill complements the work of the Urban Farm. It is one of the few areas on this ridge with views out over Wirral and to Liverpool. It has many historical features and high landscape value.

5.3.7 Habitat Management Objectives

1. Progressively restore the north and south heathland areas to good condition by:

a) Invasive species management

The majority of young birch and pine require removal and ongoing control.

b) Tree management

Leaving a selection of good trees of a range of ages to act as shelter and perches for birds and invertebrates, and for landscape reasons.

c) Heath margin management

Retain a scrub edge to the woodlands, by coppicing if necessary, to protect the woodland and provide a gentle transition between habitats. This supports the widest range of wildlife. Cut material should be removed from the heathland, to avoid nutrient increases, which favour scrub and European gorse. Larger pieces can be built into habitat piles in the fringes of the woodland, where they will act as refuges and hibernation sites for lizards, small birds and invertebrates. Smaller wood can be chipped for use on woodland paths.

2. Maintain varied woodland safe for users and valuable for wildlife by:-

a) Manage dead wood:

Both standing and lying, is vital to wildlife, especially beetles, fungi and birds. At present all the woodlands have too little dead wood. Leave dead wood where it falls if possible. If moving wood or making habitat piles from smaller pieces, avoid damaging regenerating trees or long-established ground flora.

b) Control Invasive Species:

A few non-native species have colonised from gardens or originate from Victorian plantings, and are replacing native species, which have greater value for wildlife. The main problem species are *Rhododendron ponticum* and cherry laurel (*Prunus lusitanicus*). While there are some unusual and valuable rhododendrons, in most of the woodland except Park Wood, and on all of the heathland, invasion by these species is harmful to wildlife. While they do provide shelter, which is particularly valuable to birds in Park Wood, and the laurel some berries, these functions can be served at least as well by native holly. Both are poisonous to mammals and support almost no invertebrates. Both shade out all other flora, including regenerating trees.

In woodlands other than Park Wood, there is relatively little of these species at present, and both species should be progressively removed where they are getting a toehold, before problems increase. Native holly and regenerating trees should be allowed to fill the gaps. Holly is very dense in parts and may need controlling in places e.g. where it is close to a footpath and walkers feel insecure.

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is invasive in a few places. While not as harmful as the above, it does tend to take over, leading to a woodland cover with sycamore and no other trees in the long term. Judicious removal of saplings will allow other tree species to thrive as well. Removal of the large seed-producing trees could be considered, but will have to be balanced against amenity value.

Shallon (*Gaultheria shallon*) and other garden species are only very localised problems, but Shallon does need to be watched in some parts of the woodland, especially by the damp patch. The Woodland Trust has a problem with this in Storeton Woods and can give advice on its control.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is a very persistent alien, which needs removal before it spreads further. Fragments of its underground rhizomes readily root, so that any disturbance of the earth in that area has to be done with great care. It is in retreat but still requires remedial management.

c) Maintain Pine Stock

Over the next decades, natural change will be to lose the pines as they grow old. The next generation of trees growing up are mostly oaks and birch, with some whitebeam, beech

and in places sycamore. Very little pine regeneration is occurring, probably because pine needs light as a seedling. Some birds, especially the goldcrests, rely on the pines and the trees also provide landscape value, especially in winter. It will be desirable to keep some pine in the next generation of trees. Where clearings occur in the existing pine-dominated woodlands naturally by tree-fall or following management work, encourage pine to regenerate.

d) Increase diversity of Ground Flora

Secondary woodlands naturally have a poor ground flora compared to ancient woods (such as Dibbinsdale), and it is not advisable to try to mimic an ancient wood on rather different soil. However, Bidston Hill woodlands are isolated from natural colonisation by even common shade-tolerant plants such as celandines, wood avens, red campion and herb Robert.

To increase the visual attractiveness of the woods, and offer a little extra food to wildlife, it might be worth planting small numbers of such species at strategic points in the less acidic woodlands, e.g. in the very heavily used woods near the car park. This could be a popular exercise, with plants raised at the urban farm and planted out by local children and adults using native British stock.

e) Manage Hybrid Rhododendrons in Park Wood

This woodland contains a number of valued rhododendron cultivars, especially along the path down from the Observatory, but also scattered along the main north-south footpath. They are of considerable age (as rhododendrons go). Specialist advice should be sought from Ness Gardens to identify, tag and map the special bushes and to advise on how best to manage them to prolong their lives and give the best floral display possible. Such advice will need to be paid for and Ness Gardens' staff will need to visit when the plants are in flower.

Cherry laurel and common *R. ponticum* occupy much ground in Park Wood and are in places regularly encroaching on the main paths. Apart from the wildlife problems noted above, this makes many people feel insecure. These species should be removed from adjacent to the main path, and stumps treated to prevent re-growth. In the long term, progressive removal from elsewhere in the wood is desirable, but must be done very gradually so that natural regeneration and shrub growth can fill their place, and continue to provide shelter for migratory birds.

There is exposed rock immediately below, as well as gravel on the path. This poses a serious risk to those using the swings, which will have to be removed. All dangerous rope swings should be reported to the appropriate department of the council for action. Alternative facilities for young people should be sought off-site by other departments of the WMBC.

f) Management of Woodland Fringe

Areas of very dense young birch trees - these probably arose on old fire sites or patches of heathland. If left alone these will eventually thin themselves - most of the trees dying at a young age. Where the areas adjoin paths, this may be thought undesirable on visual and safety grounds. Some thinning of the birch now will avoid this, and allow the better trees to grow to maturity. The thinnings should be used to make habitat piles within the same areas, where there is little existing ground cover.

g) Management of Damp patches.

There are two larger damp areas within the woodlands, and the patch in Taylor's Wood south, plus some small patches along the eastern edge and the pools and marshes along the

ridge. These are of wildlife importance as there is so little damp habitat on the Hill. Three species of bog-moss (*Sphagnum*) still occur in K and at least one in Taylor's Wood. These areas need to be kept open and as wet as possible.

Some scrub clearance has been undertaken in recent years around K, and an attempt made to control the invading patch of *Gaultheria*. This management should continue. Removal of the nearest of the large pines adjacent would increase the light levels.

In the Taylor's Wood damp patch, removal of a line of small birches and a pine along the south side will open up the area considerably, allowing a heather fringe to recover. This area was much more open in the 1970 aerial photographs. Removal of a few rush stools might create some pools, providing water and somewhere for the bog-mosses to spread. This area is almost adjacent to King George V Way and is therefore easily accessible for educational purposes.

3. Manage European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Unlike the autumn-flowering dwarf or Western gorse (*Ulex gallii*), which is a natural part of the heathland, European gorse causes some problems. It grows tall and leggy and in that state is very fire-prone. Its prickly growth can quickly block footpaths. Burning it releases phosphate into the soil, which encourages its regrowth. However, it is also a valuable plant to wildlife, providing abundant nectar and pollen in spring, seeds in autumn, structural support to many spiders' webs, etc. When in flower it is an attractive plant.

Regular flailing slows its growth better than burning does. Regrowth can be sprayed. If the cuttings are removed, or are so soft as to rot quickly, then there is no build-up of dead litter where fires could start.

a) Reduce Fire Risk

Cutting and maintaining a network of firebreaks, utilising the existing paths as some of them. Accept that fires will happen, but the effect will be localised so each patch has a chance to recover, and at least the more mobile wildlife has some chance to move out to safety

b) Manage to prevent overgrowth of main paths.

Cut annually or as needed along paths where fire and blocking are problems. Cut to around 30cm tall.

4. Maintain grasslands

These are currently un-mown, and their primary wildlife value is for invertebrates. That by the car park is most important for amenity use. Mowing should not be reinstated to these grasslands - it would remove invertebrate interest, and be no advantage to amenity use, as most are slow-growing acidic grasslands. Should scrub invasion become a problem, then individual bushes can be removed. Where possible, maintain a scrub edge to the woodlands.

5. Maintain Views

Views from the Hill are important to the amenity and landscape value of the area. A series of views is traditionally kept open towards Wallasey and Liverpool and towards the Dee.

6. Community involvement

The role of community stakeholders in Wirral's Parks and Countryside Service

Friends and stakeholders are an integral part of the way the Council will take forward the Parks and Countryside Service.

In 2013 a new 'Parks and Countryside Partnership and Performance Board' was launched, with membership from a range of stakeholders. The Board meets on a quarterly cycle. Members receive, assess and provide feedback on reports about the performance of Wirral Parks and Countryside Service, measured against agreed performance standards and indicators from the Green and Open Space Strategy. The Board provides expert stakeholder input and advice to support the service and will participate in performance monitoring.

A Wirral Green and Open Space Strategy Key Stakeholder Workshop was held in 2013 to discuss the following topics: the ten-year vision; the future role of Council, Friends Groups, volunteers and other partners; and the health, education, environmental sustainability, biodiversity and economic benefits of green and open spaces. The workshop summary can be viewed on the Council website [here](#).

All 46 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. Collectively the Friends of Wirral Parks produce a quarterly newsletter with contributions from all friends groups.

Friends of Bidston Hill

The Friends of Bidston Hill were set up in 1987 and work with the Rangers liaising on areas of public interest; conservation of the buildings and carvings; and on the day-to-day management of the Hill. There are around 50 members.

The Friends are an active group that have been involved in many projects including the creation of leaflets as well as youth projects such as the creation of a musical play with 'Active Drama' and the 'Bidston's got Wind DVD' for schools. The Friends are proud of their creativity and forward thinking to encourage people on the Hill and subvert antisocial problems by providing new ways for people to use Bidston Hill.

The friends launched a website in September 2012 which can be found at: <http://www.bidstonhill.org.uk/>

Occasional grant funding is raised by the Friends Group that has funded leaflets, booklets, furniture such as seats education activities and public events.

The group produce a regular newsletter. In 2004 a member of the Friends, Morna Knottenbelt, researched and produced a detailed report about the Rhododendron collection in Park Wood entitled 'The Rhododendrons of Bidston Hill'.

The Friends group run windmill and lighthouse open days. The mill opens on the first Saturday of each month during the summer. The first and last open days are dependent on activity in the bat roost, because of the risk of disturbance. The lighthouse is in private ownership and is by appointment only.

The Friends group also carry out practical conservation tasks (the 'Friday Group') on a regular basis.

Aim

To educate local people and visitors and about the value of the local environment

Justification: Unless people using Bidston Hill and living around it appreciate its value and importance, there will not be sufficient resources made available to carry out the essential management to conserve the site. It is well placed to encourage people, including those from the nearby, deprived urban areas, to experience and value wildlife and open space, for their own health and the future of the planet.

Objective

To involve as many people as possible in the management of Bidston Hill by

- promoting and supporting the Friends group,
- holding events and activities,
- increasing the number of volunteer task days

7. Marketing And Communications

The Wirral Council web site, www.wirral.gov.uk The Parks and Countryside Service's home page now includes links to the Parks Development Team, park events programme and information concerning Wirral's **Green Flag** winning parks. The park information can also be accessed from the 'A-Z of services' on the Council's web site. Information regarding Bidston Hill is available on the web site.

There is a circular walk that takes in Bidston Hill that is available both in print and on Wirral's tourism website: www.visitwirral.com

The Friends of Bidston Hill have their own website: <http://www.bidstonhill.org.uk/>

Wirral Council will have a dedicated web page for Bidston Hill that is expected to go live soon (January 2017)

The following site-specific leaflets are available:

- Rhododendrons of Bidston Hill
- Bidston Hill Heritage Trail
- Trees of Bidston Hill
- Bidston Windmill

Leaflets are made available at Tam 'O Shanter Farm, visitor centres at Birkenhead Park, Wirral Country Park and are taken to events around Wirral and wider locations in the Parks and Countryside's mobile information unit.

Windmill open days attract approximately 600 people per year. Four guided walks per year attract a total of 20 people per year.

Marketing of the site is not aimed at attracting new visitors, but at enhancing the experience of existing visitors.

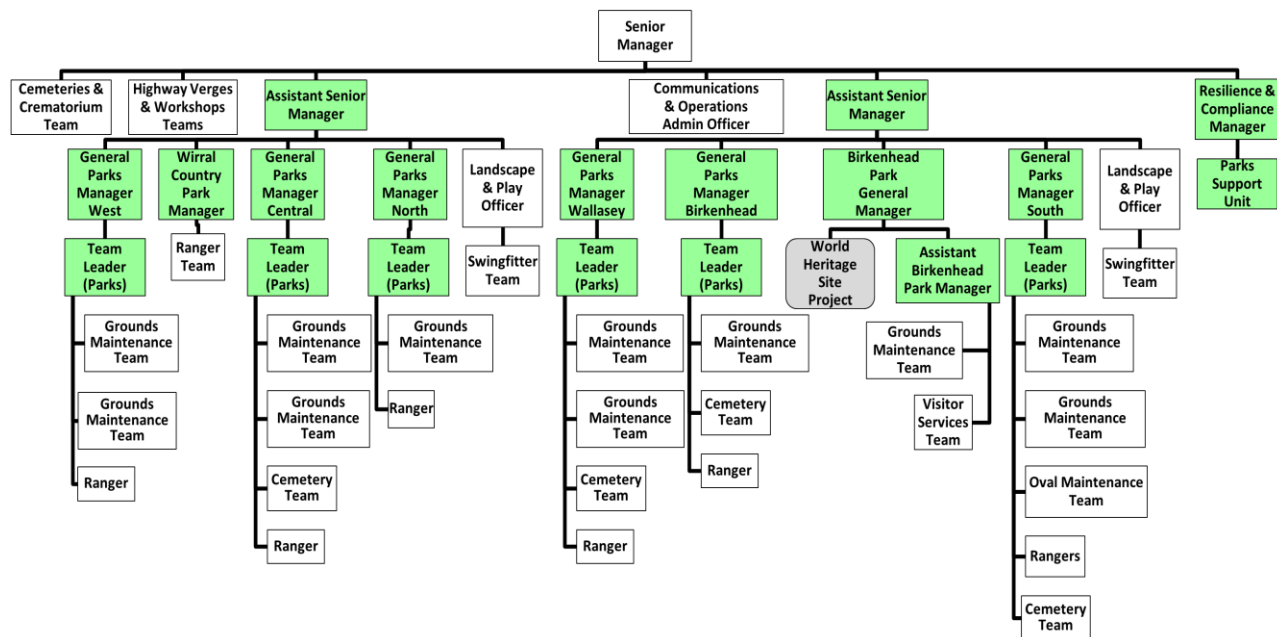
The self-guided trail is aimed at allowing people to explore Bidston Hill and its heritage for themselves.

There are 2 noticeboards at present. One in the car park and 1 further onto the Hill on the edge of Taylor's wood close to the picnic tables. Both are used for general information and forthcoming events. The Friends of Bidston Hill have indicated that a third board near to the Lighthouse / Observatory would be beneficial for visitors using that part of the site.

8. Management

The Parks and Countryside Service were restructured in 2020.

The diagram below shows the current organisational structure.



General Management of Hamilton Square Gardens is the responsibility of the General Parks Manager and Team Leader whose key role is to be responsible for the management, maintenance, development and promotion of Hamilton Square Gardens.

There is further input from other technical divisions within Wirral Council such as:

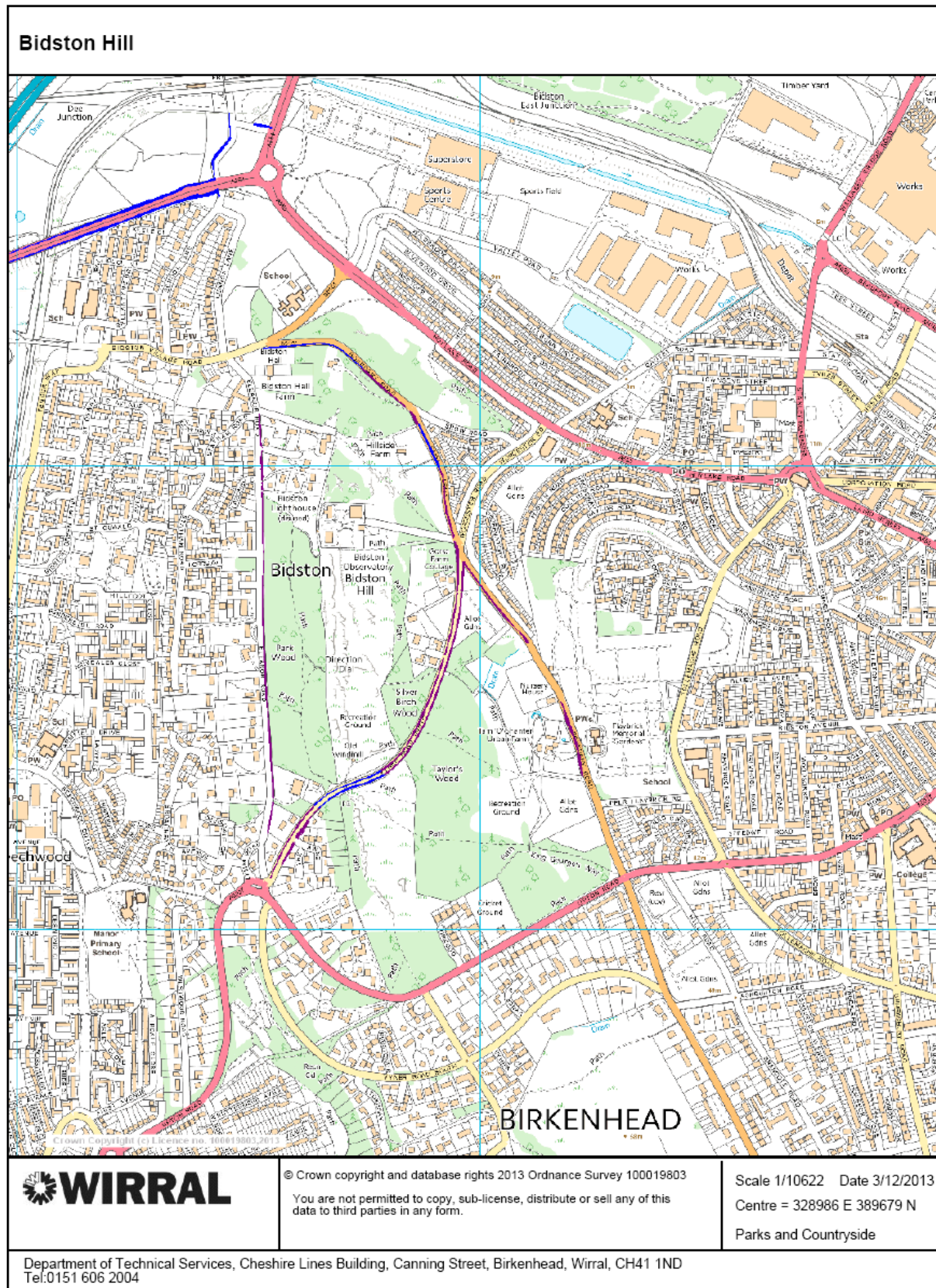
- Asset Management for building repairs and alterations.
- Financial Services for accountancy

The Districts works maintenance depot is located at Victoria Park. Enquiries regarding the management and maintenance of the park can be made to the Team Leader on telephone number 0151 645 8299.

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the General Parks Manager for Birkenhead on: **0151 606 2004**. Email: streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1: Location Plan



Appendix 2: Action Plan

Memo of understanding between FOBH and the Parks and Countryside section of Wirral Council

1.FOBH can undertake certain tasks on their own at any time

Tasks include;-

- Litter picking
- Patrolling and recording

2. FOBH can undertake certain tasks as long as a nominated person takes responsibility for the task / group. He / she must liaise with MBW staff, be competent in using the appropriate tools, be able to undertake the task in a safe manner and be able to supervise the group accordingly

Tasks include

- Cutting and clearing vegetation using hand tools
- Supervising the opening of the Windmill (following the safe operating procedure)

No task should be undertaken that does not comply with the Management Plan

Action Plan for Bidston Hill

The overall objective is to manage the Habitat Survey zones (Appendix 6) with the new part-time Ranger assisted by the Friends of Bidston Hill Volunteer group. Each zone will be managed in accordance with the aims set out in the Management Plan.

Zone A

This area contains mature secondary woodland, mainly of oak, birch, holly and mature pine and an under story of smaller tree species mosses and grasses. There are a number of paths and desire lines running through it.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Thin out birch and holly to open up the woodland floor for ground species.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Create habitat piles for wildlife with the arising's from woodland thinning.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2022
3	Accentuate the paths and opening up the eye-line by removing trees and shrubs.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021
4	Site bird boxes to	The Ranger	Jan 2019 –	Within	Complete by 2021

	encourage nesting.	and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2020	existing resources.	
5	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers. Merseyside biobank.	Apr – Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021.
6	There is a section of rock wall contain carvings. This section needs clearing to show these carvings more clearly	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Aug 2019	Within existing resources.	Review Dec2109

Zone B

This is an area lowland heath characterized by heather, European gorse, birch scrub, scattered mature oaks and patches of bare ground and moss. The zone has a number of hollows which fill with rain water over the winter and dry out in summer. During the summer of 2018 fires have destroyed areas of gorse and birch scrub.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove scrub birch and European gorse to encourage the heather to develop.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers. Wirral Met College.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Create fire barriers across the zone to prevent fires spreading.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to 2022
3	Open up the hollows by removing gorse and birch scrub to encourage wetland habitats for amphibians.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Within existing resources.	Review and monitor yearly
4	Retain patches of birch and gorse for wildlife havens.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	On going		Review and monitor yearly
5	Leave bare ground to create areas for common lizards to bask.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	On going		Review and monitor yearly

6	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers. Merseyside biobank.	Apr – Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021
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Zone C

This is an area of mature woodland with holly, beech, pine and birch. There are areas of mature rhododendron and a specimen collection of rhododendron.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Thin the areas of rhododendron.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove and thin trees along the path and from each side of the steps from the observatory.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Open up glade areas in the woodland by selective thinning.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr – Sep 2019	Within existing resources	Complete by 2021

Section D

This area contains mature birch with gorse and some open patches of bare ground, moss and grasses. Within the area there are some damp hollows which fill with water during the winter and dry out in the summer.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove gorse from either side of the path.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove birch fallen on to paths.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Remove scrub from the hollows to open them up.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Carry out a species survey of the zone	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr – Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section E

This area is known as Taylor's wood south. It is an area of mature woodland containing birch, oak, holly and mature pine trees along the road side. There is also an understory of smaller trees and grass and lying dead wood. A footpath runs around the edge of the wood.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove any trees or shrubs overhanging the path on either side.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Thin small areas in the woodland to create glades for biodiversity.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Install a way marker sign to the windmill from the main road.	The Ranger	Oct 2019	Within existing resources.	Review Jan 2020
4	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr– Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section F

This is an area of mature woodland containing holly, birch and oak. There is an understory of small trees, grass and mosses. A footpath runs from the main road heading towards the windmill.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Accentuate paths by removing overgrown gorse, holly and birch	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Create a fire break through the woodland.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Remove overgrown ivy and bramble from the entrance to the hill.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank	Apr– Sep 2019	Within existing resources	Complete by 2021

Section G

This is an area of mature woodland consisting of birch, holly, some oak and rhododendron. Small trees, grass, gorse and moss form an understory. There is also a small wetland area near to the path. The woodland backs on to a residential area and forms a barrier to the houses.

	Action	When	Who	Financial	Complete
1	Remove birch, holly and rhododendron from the entrance and along the path to open up the area.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove birch and gorse scrub from the wetland area to increase biodiversity.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Thin rhododendron and birch to create habitat piles.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section H

This area is known as South Heath. The area contains birch and gorse scrub with some mature oak and pine. On the north ridge there are areas of wetland and in the winter and dry out over the summer months. During the summer the area was extensively burnt by wildfires. Rock exposures can be seen throughout this area.

	Action	When	Who	Financial	Complete
1	Remove the birch in this area by 20% and remove mature gorse.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers Wirral Met College.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Create a fire break by removing gorse and birch.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Remove gorse and birch scrub from areas	The Ranger and the FBH	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing	Review yearly to complete by 2022

	of heather to encourage development.	Volunteers WMC.		resources.	
4	Remove birch from wetland areas to diversify habitat for frogs, dragon flies and insects.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
5	Remove birch and gorse scrub to create bare patches for lizards and insects.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
6	Remove gorse from rock surfaces to expose the geology.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
7	Remove gorse and birch from the edge of the paths	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers WMC.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
8	Translocate pine to the edge of the adjacent woodland in order to regenerate woods	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers WMC.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
9	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section J

This is an area of mature woodland containing oak, scot's pine, holly, willow, birch and beech. There are a number of paths dissecting the area with some open glades.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Thin areas of dense holly.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove gorse and trees over pathways and to open up sight lines.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Remove trees from glade areas to diversify the habitat.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Create habitat piles from felled trees and gorse.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022

5	Install directional fingerpost at strategic points.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
6	Retain standing dead wood but remove hung up trees.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
7	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section K

This is a small wetland area surrounded by woodland.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove scrub trees to open up the area to enhance the wetland and moss.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove any invasive species eg shallon	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2022
3	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section L

This is an area of mature woodland including oak, holly, birch and willow. There is a bridle path cutting across it. Within the wood there are a number of old ditches.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Thin the holly to open up woodland floor	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2022
2	Accentuate paths by remove trees and scrub	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2022
3	Remove trees from the ditches	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2022
4	Retain standing dead wood and remove	The Ranger and the FBH	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing	Complete by 2022

	hung up trees	Volunteers.		resources.	
5	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section M

This is an area of grassland with a few trees mainly oak and buckthorn.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove any scrub trees.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Keep paths clear of vegetation.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section N

This is an area of birch woodland with some pine, oak, rhododendron and gorse. There are wetland areas and bare patches of rock and earth. There are a number of footpaths and desire lines crossing the zone. This area has been subjected to fire damage during the summer of 2018

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove 20% of birch to open up the area.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Manage gorse to reduce its coverage, but leave pockets for insects	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Open up wetland areas by removing scrub gorse and birch	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and WMC.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Make safe wind-blown trees near paths	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
5	Open up paths to create clear sightlines	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022

6	Translocate pines to the edge of the woodland to rejuvenate pine.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
7	Create habitat piles from felled silver birch and gorse.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
8	Create a fire barrier adjacent to the fence adjoining properties.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
9	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section P

This is an area dominated by silver birch, but has some mature holly, oak and pine. There is a rich field layer to the woodland and areas with scrub European gorse. Wetland areas also occur in the woodland.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Thin the birch by 20%	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove gorse to manageable levels throughout the woodland	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Create a fire barrier adjacent to any property	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Accentuate the path through the woodland	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
5	Open up glades and wetland areas in the woodland to diversify the habitat	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
6	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section R

This is an area of birch woodland with oak, holly, willow and beech. The woodland has a mix small trees and a field layer of plants. Scrub gorse is also present throughout the zone.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Thin the birch by 20%	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Manage the gorse scrub by removing	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Accentuate the paths by removing gorse and any overhanging trees	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Make safe any wind - blown birch and hung up trees near the paths	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
5	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section S

This is a small area of mixed woodland consisting of holly, birch beech, willow and a number of young oak. There is also an adjacent field containing some small oak trees.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove the birch and thin out the holly to develop the oak woodland.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove tree from the grassland area to retain as a habitat and recreational space.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Open up pathways through the area.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Include a footpath sign to the windmill	The Ranger	Jan 2020	Within existing	Complete by 2020

	and observatory			resources	
5	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section T

This is a small area of birch woodland with gorse scrub. There are some pine trees and holly scattered throughout.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Thin birch by 20%	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove gorse and birch from pathways to open them up	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Create a fire barrier around the property adjacent to the area	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Translocate pine saplings to this area to increase biodiversity	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
5	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section U

This is an area of former heath with gorse and silver birch the dominant species. The area has suffered extensive fire damage during the summer of 2018. There are areas of bare rock and soil with some wetland basins.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove birch and gorse from the area	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Create a fire barrier across this section to alleviate the risk	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022

3	Create open rock and soil areas for species of insects and lizards to use	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Create habitat piles to encourage wildlife	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
5	Remove gorse and birch to open up pathways across the area	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
6	Remove scrub gorse and birch from wetland areas to develop the habitat	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
7	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Section V

This is an area of mixed woodland with mature beech, oak and holly with scrub silver birch and mature rhododendron. There are also patches of gorse throughout this section and also a large patch of bramble in the former horse exercise area. A large circular area call the Cock Pit is a feature in this part of Bidston Hill.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove birch and gorse from around the Cock Pit to open up the feature	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Remove invasive rhododendron to open up the area	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Remove encroaching shrubs and bramble from the pathways	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
4	Create a fire barrier near the adjacent property	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
5	Thin out holly and birch and create habitat piles through the section	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
6	Carry out a species	The Ranger	Apr - Sep	Within	Complete by

	survey of the zone.	and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank	2019	existing resources.	2021
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Section W

This section contains a small area of mature and immature woodland with beech, oak, wych elm willow and holly.

	Action	Who	When	Financial	Complete
1	Remove overhanging trees and bramble from the sides of the path	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers.	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
2	Put in a way marker to the windmill and observatory	The Ranger	Jan 2019 - 2022	Within existing resources.	Review yearly to complete by 2022
3	Thin some of the wych elm near the paths.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021
4	Carry out a species survey of the zone.	The Ranger and the FBH Volunteers and Merseyside Biobank.	Apr - Sep 2019	Within existing resources.	Complete by 2021

Appendix 3: Site of Biological Interest Citation

Site name: Bidston Hill
Ward: Bidston / Claughton
Area: 46.9 ha
Date of Notification: 1980
Date of Revision: 2002
Status: Owned by WMBC

Site code: B57
Grid Reference: SJ 285894

Description: Bidston Hill is an exposed sandstone ridge with fairly extensive, though degraded lowland heath, gorse and birch scrub. The heathland is mostly dry, but damper patches do occur with cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and 3 species of *Sphagnum*. Common lizards are to be found in the drier areas. **Taylor's Wood** to the south east and other fringing woodlands are mature woodlands with either mixed deciduous or coniferous dominance. Purple Hairstreak butterflies occur but the woods are mainly noted for their ornithological interest. The hill is an important landfall for migratory species, especially finches, thrushes and warblers. The substantial list of breeding birds includes Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Tawny Owl as well as various warblers, tits, finches and sparrows. There is a (private) ringing station at the north end of the hill.

Criteria for selection: (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Habitats:	Heathland - dry heath	Percentage:	10%
	Heathland - wet heath		<10%
	Woodland - mixed (plantation)		
	Woodland - coniferous (plantation)		
Most recent survey:	Plants:	2002	
	Birds:	2002	
	Invertebrates	1988	



Appendix 4: Bidston Hill 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 useable for sports play
- 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

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 for the purpose of recording.

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.

In drought conditions, subject to the approval of the Service 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.

General/amenity grass

All general/amenity 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 parks, open spaces and other sites.

Hard surfaces weed control

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 Service 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.

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.

Public toilets

Toilets can be found at Tam O'Shanter farm and can be used for those walking on Bidston Hill. They are maintained by the staff of the farm.

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, manhole 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 to the entire satisfaction of the Service Manager.

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.

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 Service Manager 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

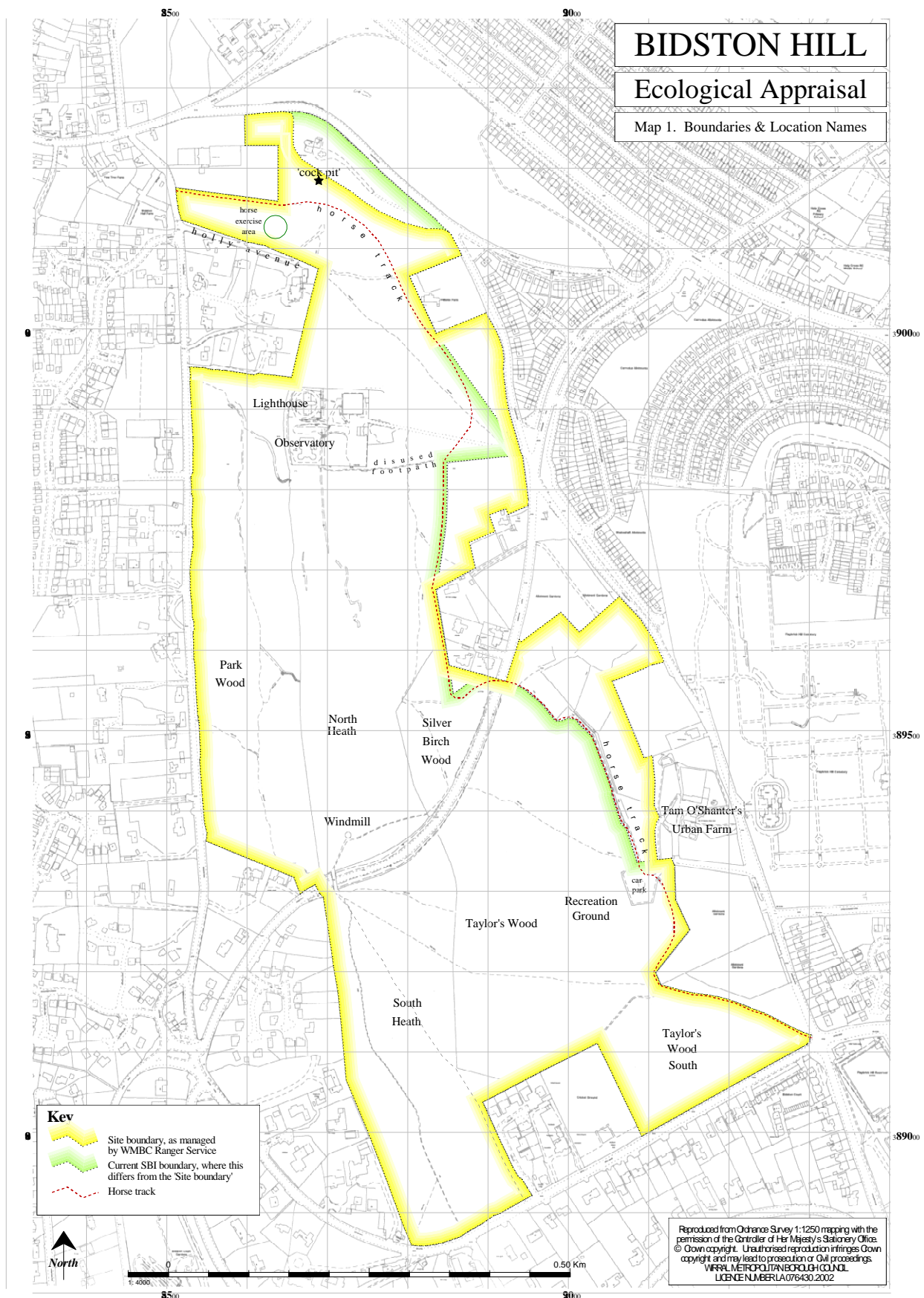
Rectify minor incidents of vandalism or third party damage to soft landscape features including trees, planted and grassed areas within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor incidents of damage caused by any other source.

Hard landscape infrastructure

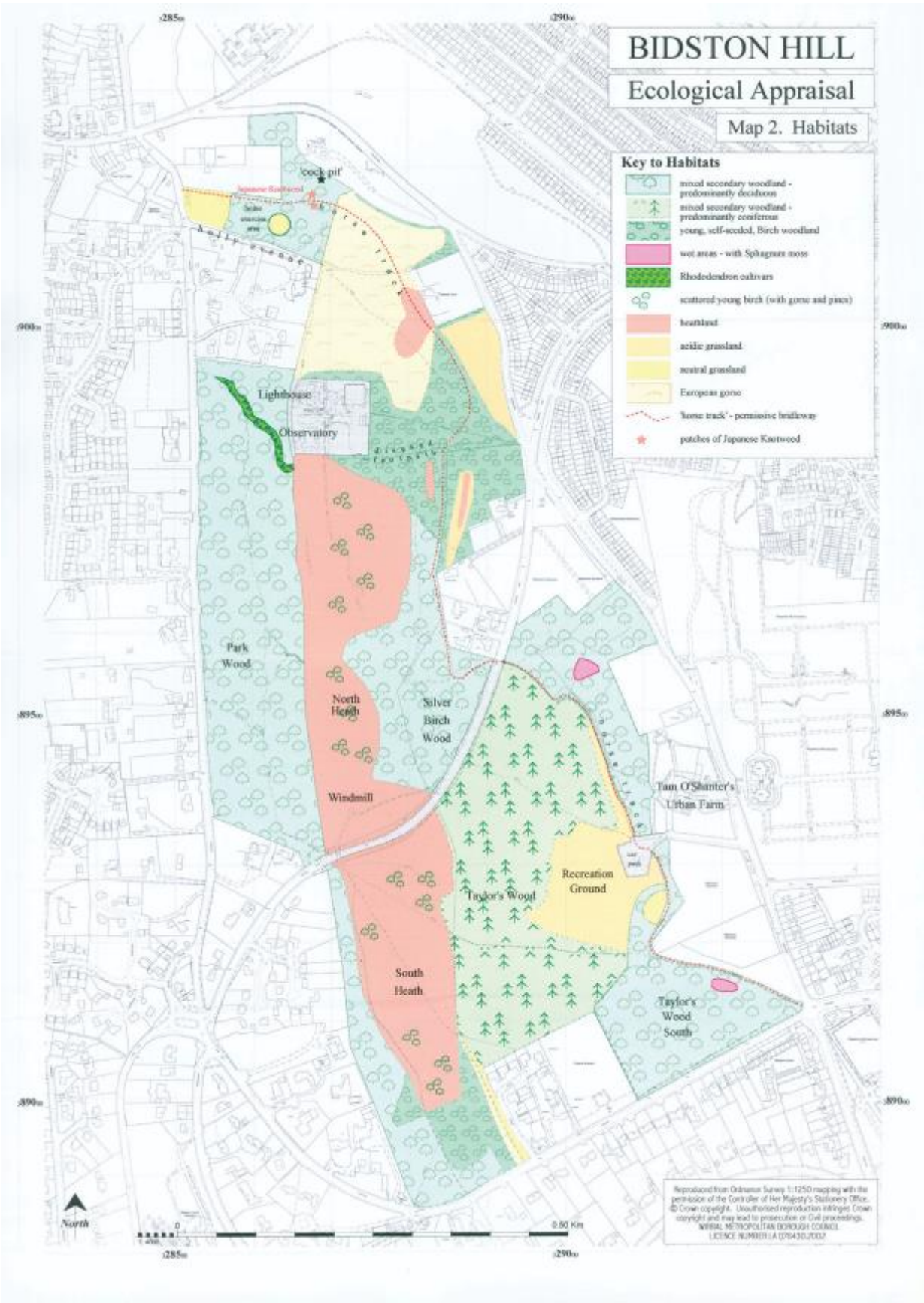
Rectify minor damage to fencing, gates, walling, furniture, signage, notice boards, lighting and surfacing and other hard landscape infrastructure resulting from any act of vandalism or third party damage within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor 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.

Appendix 5: Ecological Appraisal Map – Boundaries and Location Names

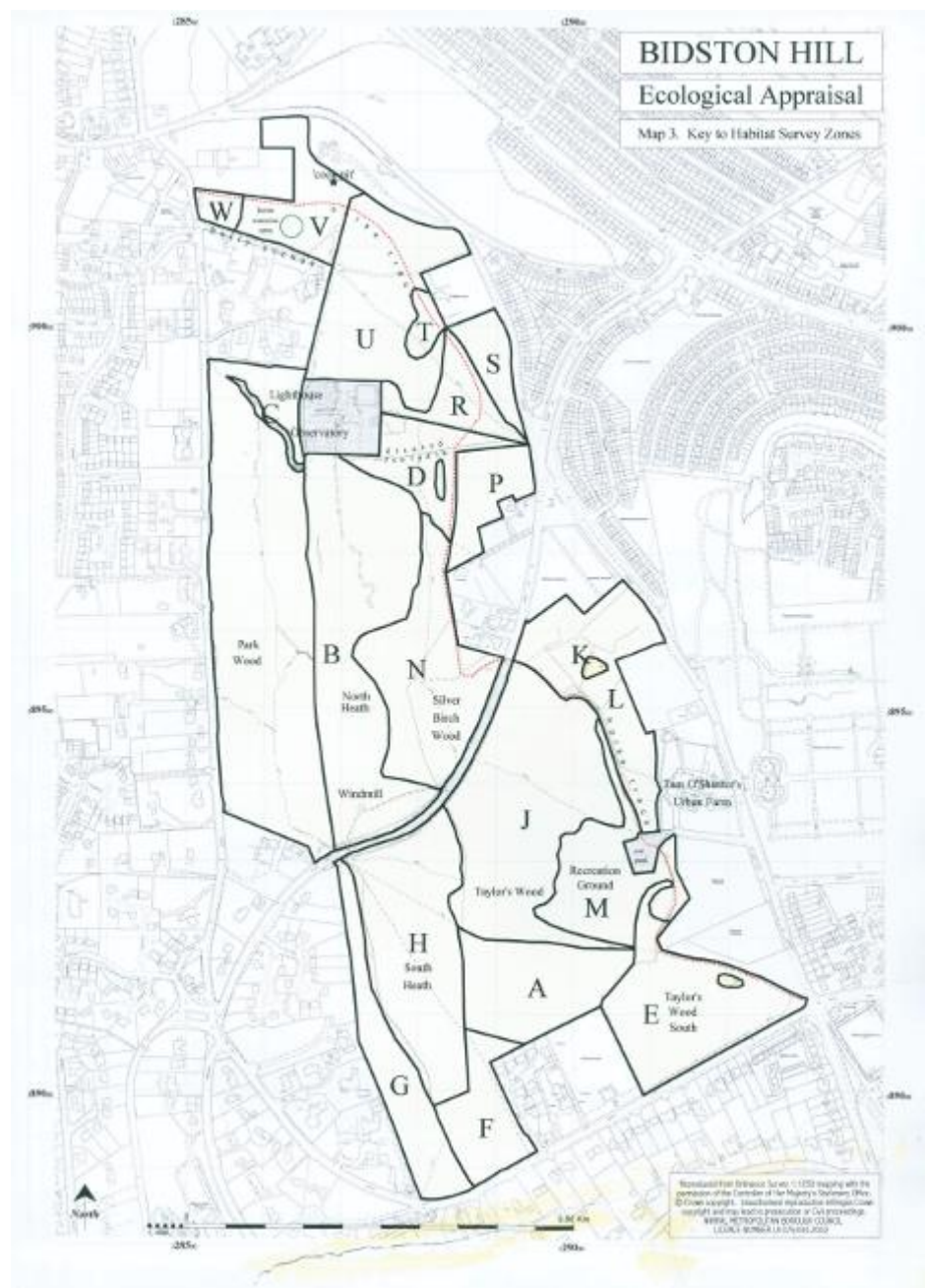


Appendix 6:Ecological Appraisal Habitats Map



Appendix 7: Ecological Appraisal Habitat Survey Zones

A	Mature Scots Pine woodland with holly, oak, birch
B	Lowland heath. European gorse dominates north section
C	Mixed woodland
D	Silver birch stand
E	Mixed secondary woodland with remnants of heath
F	Mixed secondary woodland with remnants of heath. Birch dominant
G	Mixed secondary woodland with remnants of heath. Birch and rhododendron dominant
H	Lowland heath. Best on site
J	Mature Scots Pine woodland with holly, oak, birch
K	Wet Heath
L	Young Birch woodland
M	Acidic grassland
N	Secondary mixed woodland
P	Mixed secondary woodland with remnants of heath. Birch dominant
R	Birch scrub
S	Acidic grassland and birch scrub
T & U	Degraded lowland heath dominate by gorse, birch and bracken
V	Secondary woodland with Sycamore, bramble, yew and oak
W	Overgrown grassland encroached by scrub



Appendix 8: Annual Parks Infrastructure Safety Inspection pro-forma



Parks & Countryside

Annual Parks Site Safety Inspection Checklist (excluding children's play areas)

Site: Bidston Hill North	Date: 07/01/2021	Name of Inspector: John Jakeman
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The inspection is not a condition survey but is intended to identify defects that present a safety problem for staff, users or adjacent residents.

Site plans can be used to identify defect locations.

Item	Defect	Action Taken
Paths, Steps, Ramps	None. Many paths are rough / uneven but in keeping with the site	
Walls, Fences, Gates	None. Some sections of old wall are crumbling but as the wall is not functional and been in the same state for decades it is unlikely to cause a hazard.	
Buildings	None. Windmill only	
Furniture – Signs, Seats, Litter bins etc	None.	
Soft Landscape – Grass, Planted Areas, Water features etc	None	
Trees	None. See Tree survey	
Invasive weeds	None	
Street lighting, Flood lighting, Sports Lighting, Building lighting	None	
Other	None	

Signature of Inspector:	Date: 07/01/2021
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J. Jakeman		
Name of H&S Representative:	Signature of H&S Representative:	

7/1/21



Parks & Countryside

Annual Parks Site Safety Inspection Checklist (excluding children's play areas)

Site: Bidston Hill South	Date: 08/01/2021	Name of Inspector: John Jakeman
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The inspection is not a condition survey but is intended to identify defects that present a safety problem for staff, users or adjacent residents.

Site plans can be used to identify defect locations.

Item	Defect	Action Taken
Paths, Steps, Ramps	All OK. Rough and uneven in places but acceptable for the location	None
Walls, Fences, Gates	None	None
Buildings	None	
Furniture – Signs, Seats, Litter bins etc	All OK	None
Soft Landscape – Grass, Planted Areas, Water features etc	N/A	
Trees	All inspected through Tree Inspection Schedule	
Invasive weeds	None that pose a H&S risk	
Street lighting, Flood lighting, Sports Lighting, Building lighting	N/A	

Other		
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Signature of Inspector: John Jakeman		Date: 08/01/2021
Name of H&S Representative:	Signature of H&S Representative:	

7/1/21

Appendix 9 Emergency Access and Fire Plan



Appendix 10- Tree Zones (see maps below)

Criteria for 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

