

Wirral Council

Regeneration and Environment Directive

Parks Allotments and Countryside Service

Warwick Park

Management Plan (2023-2028)

(Updated: December 2023)



(Main Entrance to Warwick Park, June 2023)

Management Plan written (and updated) by:	Date:
Stephen Roberts	Jan 2024
Management Plan authorised by:	Date:
Ian Roberts and Anthony Bestwick	Jan 2024

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Introduction

Wirral Council has produced this document in conjunction with the Friends of Warwick Park to provide a comprehensive framework for the future development of the site.

We encourage suggestions from park users and the wider community to this plan.

For further information or to submit any suggestions contact the Parks and Countryside Service at Wirral Council by email Streetscene@wirral.gov.uk or write to:-

**Wirral Council
Parks, Allotments & Countryside Service
Grand Entrance
Birkenhead Park
Park Road North
Birkenhead
CH41 4HD**

The Wider Policy Context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Delivery 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)
- Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, 2014 – 2024
- Wirral Plan 2020
- Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual (Keep Britain Tidy, 2016)

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 sets out a series of 20 pledges which the council and partners will work to achieve by 2020, focusing on three key themes:

- protecting the most vulnerable
- driving economic growth
- improving the local environment

To find out more information about the 20/20 vision visit:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision>

Parks and Countryside Service Objectives

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/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-development-and-maintenance>

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to attract and retain investment in the borough through provision of 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. 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.

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.

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:

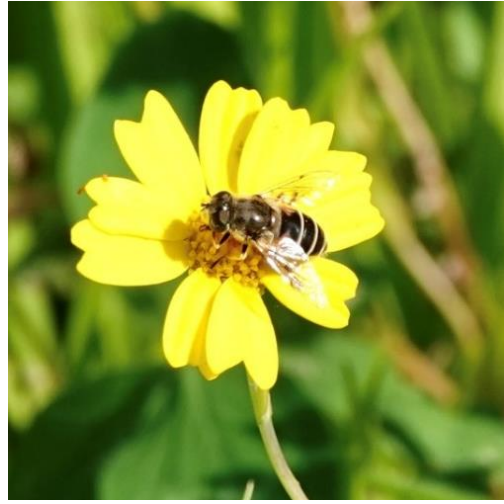
- planting pollinator friendly plants
- not mowing grass verges when wildflowers of significance are in season
- reduced weed removal in the area of pollinator sites

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.

Pollinators in Warwick Park





Meadow Flowers in Full Bloom

Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland strategy

The Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy is a vital part of the council's efforts to tackle climate change.

There have been a number of achievements since the strategy launched in July 2020. These will help to protect, regenerate and care for Wirral's existing stock. More trees, hedgerows and woodlands have also been planted.

[Read more about the progress of the Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy](#)

Hedgerow Plants with Fruits at Warwick Park – Providing Autumn and Winter Food for Birds, Mammals and Insects



Strategy vision statement - 2020 to 2030

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.

[View Wirral's tree strategy and 'A Greener Wirral' strategy summary](#)

Mature Trees Provide Shade in the Summer While New Ones are Planted for the Future

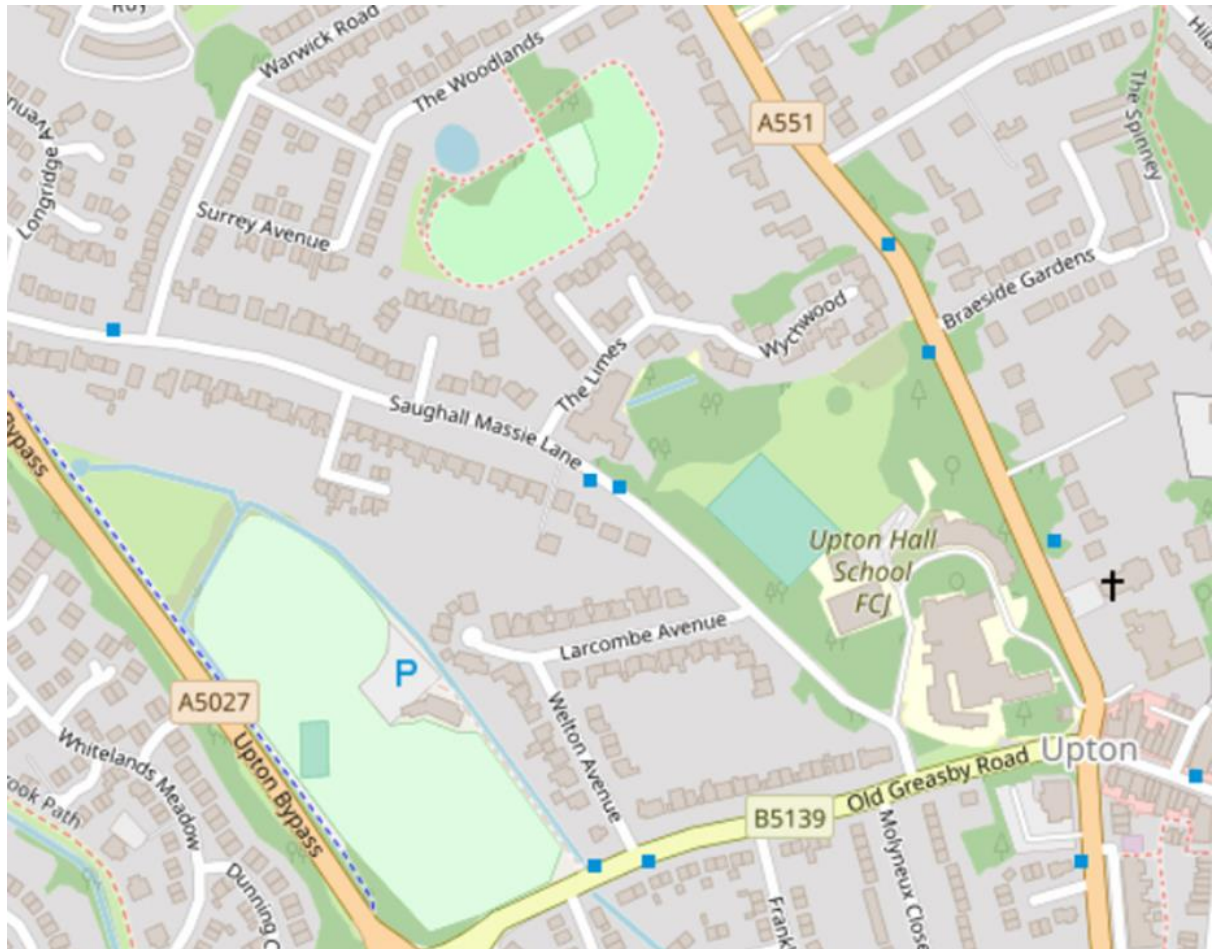


Site Information

Name: Warwick Park,

Typology: Small Local Park

Location plan:



Address: The Woodlands, Upton, Wirral, CH49 6NQ

Grid reference: SJ266884

Ward: Upton

Size: 1.94 hectares

Brief description: A small local park which was built during a period of urbanisation in the 1930s.

Access:

- **Public transport:** Upton Railway Station is 1.1 miles from the park. There is a bus stop on Moreton Road (A551) near Overchurch Primary School.

- **Cycling and walking connections:** there are no official cycle routes or footpaths, but it is accessible via many quiet suburban roads.
- **Car parking:** no car park; visitors leave cars on adjoining suburban roads.
- **Other relevant details:** In consequence of informal conversations with visitors, it is known that people from other parts of the Borough, including Wallasey and Birkenhead, bring their families and dogs to the park by car. They say that it has a uniquely peaceful and welcoming atmosphere.

Tenure

- As explained above, in consequence of purchases made in the 1930s, the whole park belongs to Wirral Borough Council, which came into being in 1974, when several district councils were amalgamated.

Features and facilities:

- Children's play area
- Pond
- Grass junior football pitch
- Variety of native and non-native trees
- Footpaths around the internal perimeter of the park
- Litter bins
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Noticeboard
- Unmown grassy areas for wildlife
- Bug Hotel
- Bird Boxes



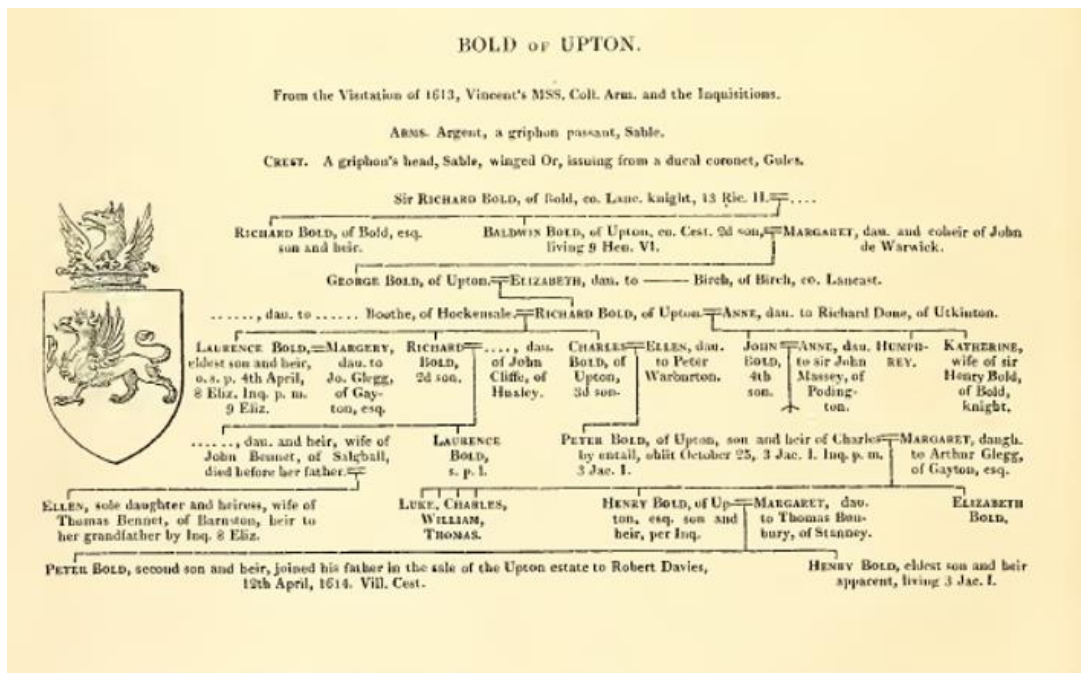
Children's Play Area

Bug Hotel and Bird Box – Erected by the Friends



A Brief History

Warwick Park's history can be traced back to the 14th century. It was known as Warwick Hey – a field name which refers to a former open field which was subsequently enclosed. 'Warwick' is the name of its former owners, the Warwick family, lords of the manor and owners of Upton Hall. Sometime later, the manor passed to the Bold Family, who held it until 1614.



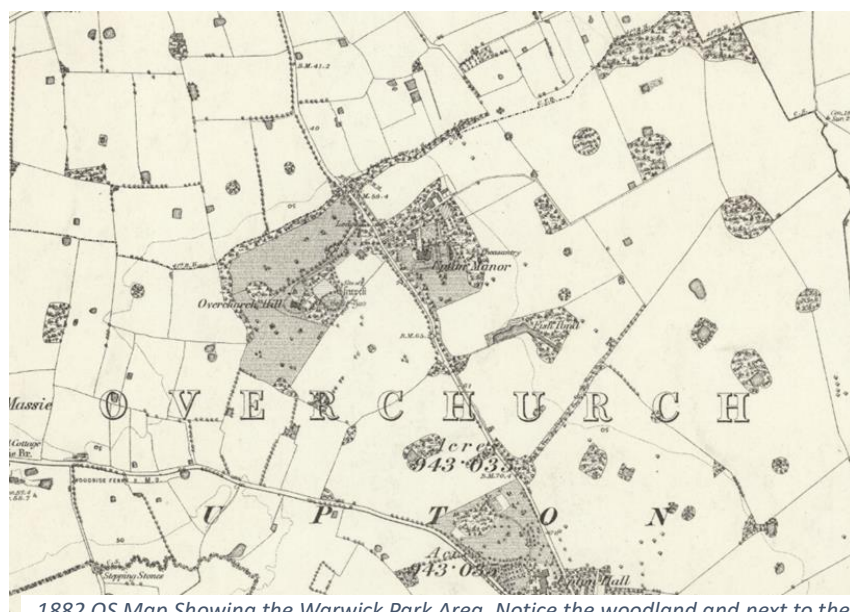
Bold Family Tree from Ormerod's History of Cheshire



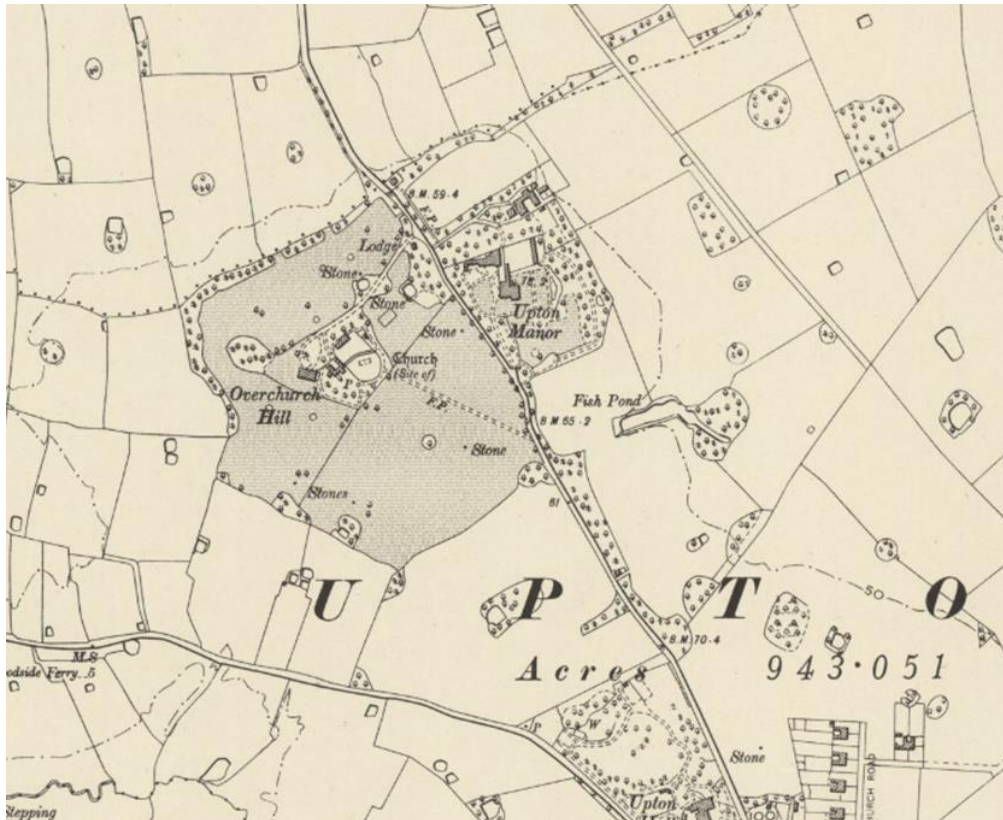
The Future Warwick Park on the 1839 Tithe Map. The field numbered 8 in the middle is called Warwick Hey. Notice the little woodland with the pond in it. This still exists in Warwick Park. It was probably a marl pit. The trees were planted as cover for game – birds and animals for the landowner to hunt. The land belonged to William Webber of Upton Hall. Upton Hall can be seen bottom right of the map. This is next to the modern traffic lights, at the junction of Moreton, Ford, Arrowe Park and Greasby Roads.

By 1839, Warwick Hey belonged to William Webster of Upton Hall. It had an area of 31 acres and was given over to growing hay. According to the *Chester Courier* in October 1839, both William and his son, William Junior, were awarded prizes by the Liverpool Agricultural Society for excellent farming practices – William Junior for laying 5,232 yards of drains in 12.5 acres of land and for having the best bull and William Senior for ‘judiciously covering with marl’ ten acres of land. Marl was a type of soil conditioner, which was found below the surface in certain places on the landscape, dug out and spread over the soil to ‘sweeten’ it. That is the origin of the pond in Warwick Park. Sometime after 1861, Upton Hall was purchased by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) Sisters and became known as Upton Convent, a Catholic residential school for girls. It is now called Upton Hall School. In 1930, Upton Parish Council bought 4.75 acres of Warwick Hey, including the woodland and the marl pit from Norman Farrell, a builder from Hoylake. The land stretched from the Woodlands to the boundary of the part of the field bought by the FCJ sisters in 1923.

Upton, along with many other villages in Wirral began to expand during the early 20th century. In those days, there were two county borough councils in Wirral – Wallasey and Birkenhead. The rest of the peninsula came under Cheshire County Council and its respective district councils. Upton came under Wirral District Council, but people began to think that it would make more sense if it was incorporated into either Wallasey or Birkenhead. Therefore, in 1931, a referendum was held in which the inhabitants of Upton were asked to vote on whether to join either Birkenhead or Wallasey. Following a turnout of 70% of the electorate, Birkenhead received 661 votes and Wallasey 240. The *Daily Post* said that this followed ‘a strenuous fight during which meetings were held at which representatives of both boroughs wooed the Upton ratepayers’ and reported that, during the previous day, Wallasey Fire Brigade had processed through Upton, proclaiming that they could be in Upton within ten minutes. The Birkenhead Brigade followed them with a notice saying, ‘Why wait for ten minutes to put your fire out when we can do it in four?’



1882 OS Map Showing the Warwick Park Area. Notice the woodland and next to the number '9'. This is the existing pond in Warwick Park.



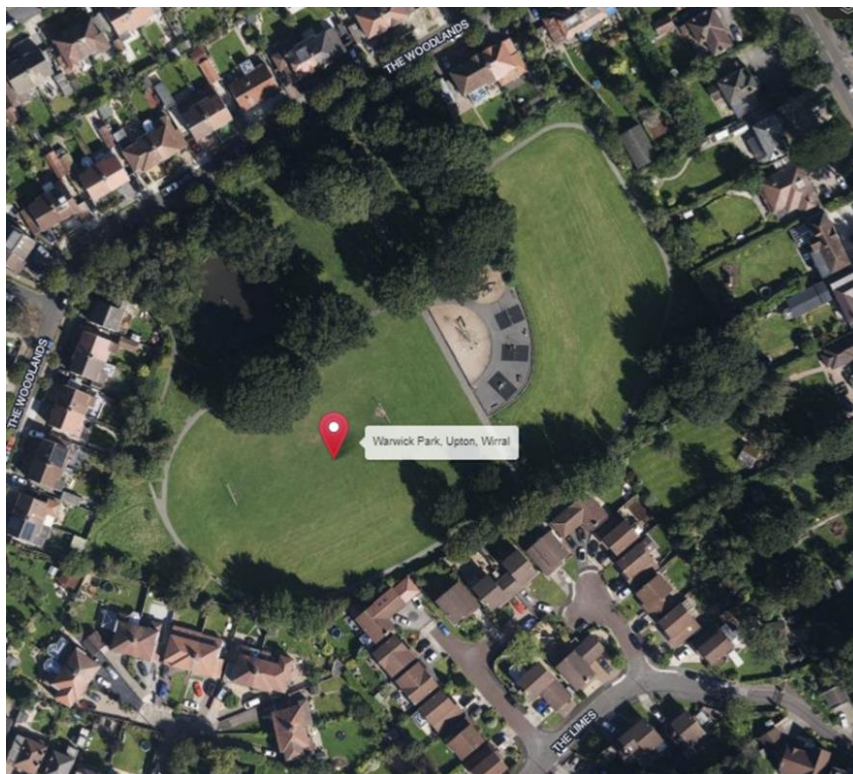
1899 OS Map. Warwick Hey is by the 'P' in Upton. The area was still rural at this point.



1935 OS Map - Warwick Hey is now a public park, totally surrounded by urban development.



Aerial View of Upton in 1946. Warwick Park is Towards the Top Right-Hand Corner



Modern Aerial View of Warwick Park

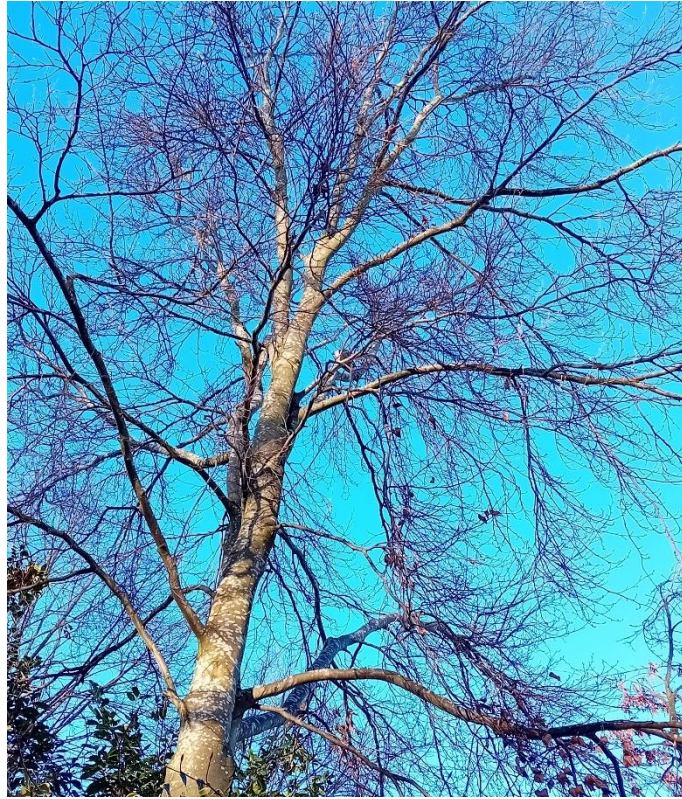
The decision to join Birkenhead was a good one, because the Borough Council began to invest in Upton. In 1933, under the guidance of Parks Superintendent, George Cowie (who resided at Ivy Farm in Arrowe Park – now Arrowe Park Depot), the Council began to transform Warwick Hey from a boggy wasteland into a beautiful playground for children under the age of fourteen. The marl pit was made into a rock pool and festooned with aquatic plants. The works cost £3,600 and the park was officially opened in May 1935, by Chairman of the Parks Committee, Councillor William Davies. The *Daily Post* described how ‘a crowd of children rushed past him and ran helter-skelter for the swings and other apparatus in the playground. Their shrieks of delight caused much merriment and satisfaction.’ In September 1936, Upton Library, with its modern architecture and dedicated children’s section, was opened. It continues to be an asset to the town. Wirral Council staff maintain its grounds.



Upton Library and War Memorial, Inaugurated at the Same Time as Warwick Park

When we think of the 1930s, we usually remember gloomy topics such as the Great Depression, mass unemployment, the Means Test, the rise of Hitler and the outbreak of the Second World War. The stories of Warwick Hey and Upton Library shed a more positive light on the ‘Devil’s Decade’ and show how local councils helped to make people’s lives more liveable, ameliorating the negative effects of urbanisation by ensuring access to green spaces and providing quiet sanctuaries for reading and contemplation. Warwick Park’s history inspires us to keep maintaining and developing it so that it can continue to host similarly beneficial activities, thus promoting local people’s health and wellbeing for many more years to come.

I thank Frank Murphy, Historian of Upton, for generously sharing his knowledge and resources with me and recommend that you visit his website: *Upton in the Hundred of Wirral* - <https://www.upton-wirral.co.uk/index.php>



Birdlife in the Winter



Warwick Park in its Urban Setting on the Woodlands



Green Flag criteria and assessment

The intention is for the park to meet the required standards of the **Green Flag Award Scheme**; further details concerning the scheme can be found at <https://www.greenflagaward.org/>

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

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

1. A welcoming place

Entrances

The only entrance is for pedestrians only and is on The Woodlands. The gate only can be opened by maintenance staff, giving access to their vehicles and machinery. The gateway is unremarkable, but pleasantly framed by trees and shrubs, allowing the park's quiet charm to entice passers-by to pay it a visit. Next to the noticeboard, well-maintained planters, containing annual and perennial flowers, give visitors a cheery welcome.



Main Entrance



The Second Entrance

Signs

There is one brown tourist sign on the A551 Moreton Road which points in the direction of the park.

Noticeboards

There is one by the entrance, which displays information about wildlife in the park and advertises forthcoming events, such as the Viking Festival and another in the children's play area. One or two information boards explaining the park's history and wildlife would be welcome additions to the site.



Clear Sign at the Children's Play Area

Activities

The main function of the park is to provide people with a quiet natural space for relaxation. It is also a haven for children, many of whom are brought here by parents and grandparents immediately after the end of the school day on weekdays and during the day at weekends and holidays. Children enjoy exploring the footpaths on their scooters and on foot, observing the wildlife (especially at the pond) and, of course, playing on the equipment in the designated play area. Adults enjoy meeting friends, sitting, chatting, picnicking, reading and watching the wildlife. Older children use the small grass football pitch in the centre of the site. The park is also used for annual events such as the Upton Viking Festival.

Upton Viking Festival 2023

UPTON VIKING FESTIVAL 2023		
SUNDAY 13 TH — 10.30AM TO 4.30PM		
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		
TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
10.45—11.15	WIRRAL ARCHAEOLOGY	PETER JENKINS THE GREAT VIKING BATTLE FOR ENGLAND [BRUNANBURGH] 934AD
11.00—11.30	VIKING LIVING HISTORY	VIKING RE-ENACTMENT
11.30—12.00	WIRRAL ARCHAEOLOGY	PROFESSOR STEPHEN HARDING VIKING WIRRAL AFTER BRUNANBURGH
12.15—12.45	WIRRAL ARCHAEOLOGY	DAVE CAPENER THE WIRRAL FYRD—MILITARY SERVICE IN 10TH CENTURY WIRRAL
13.00—13.45	VIKING LIVING HISTORY	KIDDIE VIKING [YOUR CHILDREN IN THE ARENA WITH VIKINGS]
13.45—15.00	VIKING LIVING HISTORY	SHIELD COMPETITION // VIKING MARCH // SCARECROW COMPETITION JUDGING & PRIZES PRESENTED BY THE VIKING JARL & MARCH INTO UPTON VILLAGE
15.15—15.45	WIRRAL ARCHAEOLOGY	PROFESSOR STEPHEN HARDING THE MEOLS BOAR & BRUNANBURGH PROJECT
16.00—16.30	WIRRAL ARCHAEOLOGY	PETER JENKINS THE HARRYING OF THE NORTH & REBELLIONS AFTER HASTINGS
16.00—16.30	VIKING LIVING HISTORY	VIKING RE-ENACTMENT AND FAREWELL SALLUTE



Parks Staff

Park maintenance staff can be identified by their green uniforms, bearing the Wirral Borough Council Logo. Their priority is to look after the park, but they are also able to answer questions, to give advice and to report the public's observations and any apparent safety concerns to managers. They carry mobile phones in order to be able to contact managers when necessary and to take photographs of problems such as broken paving slabs or dangerous tree branches.

2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

Dog fouling

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 park's litterbins for the disposal of removed faeces. The waste bins are 'hooded type' as they are also used for dog waste.

Dogs are excluded from entering the play area, which is fenced and signed appropriately.



Anti-social behaviour

The Friends encourage their members to report incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism to the police. They provide extra 'eyes and ears' for Wirral Council.

Graffiti incidents are quickly reported by the gardeners or the Friends for quick action by the Council's dedicated graffiti team. An immediate response is instigated for graffiti of an offensive or obscene nature.

Incident reports are compiled by Wirral Council of any incidents/accidents in the park.

Tree Inspections

Vulnerable trees are identified by the site staff as part of daily patrols and reported to the General Manager, and Parks Tree Officer, whereupon urgent safety work is carried out directly as needed.

Two and three-yearly tree inspections are made by the Council's dedicated tree inspectors, and urgent works are carried out directly.

Conservation and amenity tree work is carried out where resources allow.

For details on council owned trees near to or overhanging private property, please refer to the councils policy published on the Council website available at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/trees-along-road>

Infrastructure

Site staff carry out regular inspections to identify defects within the park that present a safety problem for users, staff and adjacent residents. The following items are appraised:

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

The Council's staff or relevant contractors undertake repairs.

An annual audit of condition of all the pathways is undertaken with a view to prioritising any repairs, largely for safety reasons. Any necessary repairs are carried out under the parks planned preventative maintenance programme.

Any major repairs or refurbishment can be included or considered as part of the council's planned preventative maintenance programme or included on the Council's capital programme.

Accumulations of leaves can create risks in the autumn and these are cleared with blowers, rakes and brushes.

Site safety inspections

Annual site safety inspections are undertaken, and any necessary repairs are carried out immediately by the Team Leader and/or Area Park Manager.

Workplace inspections take place quarterly, in conjunction with the relevant unions, to ensure the workplace is meeting the required health and safety standards.

Wirral Council's Health and Safety Policy is regularly reviewed and updated. Annual safety inspections are carried out by the Team Leader/General Manager.

Activities:

The children's playground is the most popular attraction in the park. The safety of the playground is of crucial importance and is inspected weekly by trained playground maintenance operatives. Necessary repairs are undertaken immediately or the item is taken out of use. A written log of each inspection is kept and defects logged and actioned.

Cycling is discouraged because of the threat to children and older people on the pathways and generally incidents are few.

A sense of security is provided by gardeners who help to reduce the potential for misuse or anti-social behaviour. The feeling among people that it is safe and secure are the foundations of a popular park. Well-used parks are safer and most importantly feel safer.

Security is an issue for all age groups and happily there are very security concerns and incidents is small although the perception of people is difficult to change. The presence of the gardeners and friends assists in this.

Good sightlines allow better supervision of areas that can, on occasions, suffer misuse. Key sightlines have been identified and have now been opened up as part winter works tree programmes.

Every council van contains an **up-to-date first aid kit**. First aid training is renewed regularly.

Pest control is provided via a service contract with the Council's Pest Control Team that ensures rats are kept under control and any increase in population is addressed.

3. Clean and well maintained

Resources Available for Maintenance of the Park

Day to day park maintenance is overseen by the Area General Manager and Area Team Leader. The work is carried out by a mobile team based at Arrowe Park Depot, consisting of a grounds maintenance supervisor and two gardeners. During the summer months the grass is cut by a tractor with gang mowers.

Horticulture

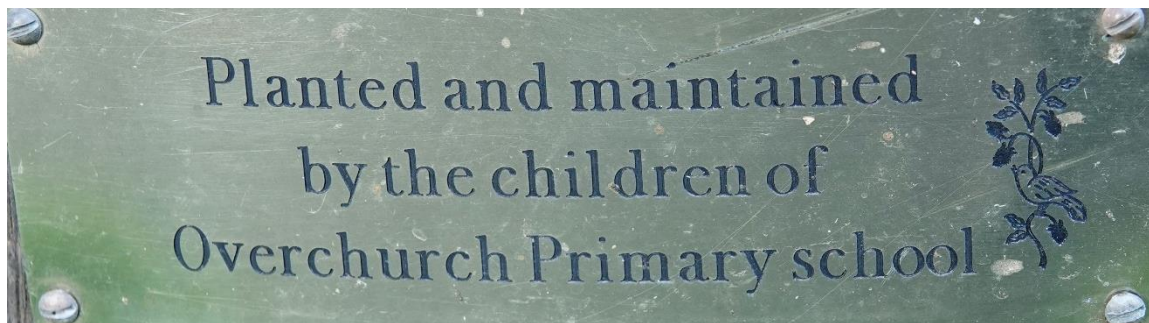
- Shrubs and Hedges: are pruned by council staff at appropriate times of the year.
- Formal planting in containers is managed by the Friends of Warwick Park with contributions by local schoolchildren.

Seating

In addition to the picnic benches, there are several park benches dotted around the perimeter path and under the trees.

Footpaths

Footpaths are surfaced with tarmac. They require frequent maintenance due to the action of tree roots.



Plaque on a Planter

4. Environmental Management

Water consumption at the park is monitored and, where necessary modifications are made to minimise wastage, thereby achieving economies in line with the Council's Environmental Policy and Carbon Reduction Programme 'Cred'.

Pesticide usage at the park is minimised, and glyphosate is no longer used anywhere in the park.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment records of the chemical-based products used within the park together with pesticide records are retained at Arrowe Park Depot. Chemical storage and usage within the park

complies with the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling legislation.

Motorised mowing equipment used at the park is checked for emission levels. The council is gradually introducing battery powered tools, that minimise HAVS issues and reduce fossil fuel use.

Green waste is separated and composted where possible for reuse in the park. Chipped green waste is either left on site to decay, or removed to a depot where it is stored and sold for use as renewable energy. Any waste timber or metals recovered are also separated for reuse/recycling at Arrowe Park Depot.

Pest management is delivered under contract with that service within the Council and complies with the required regulations.

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the No Mow May campaign, which is about reducing mowing in general grass areas to help bees, butterflies and wildlife. Selected areas in the park are left to grow from the end of April until mid-June.

Sustainable materials are utilised in the park as much as possible with the main item being seating.

5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

The park was designed some 90 years ago; this design still suits its function. The green landscape, its shrubs and trees have matured and require constant management, but due to it being a small park, this is not too onerous.

The most striking original feature is the pond, which, as explained above, is a former marl pit. It is home to a variety of waterfowl and even to a terrapin (called Terry by the friends).





The Pond in Winter

The character and landscape of the park is to be retained while seeking improvements that respect its heritage and character, using materials, fittings, plants and facilities that lie comfortably within this template.

Nature Conservation:

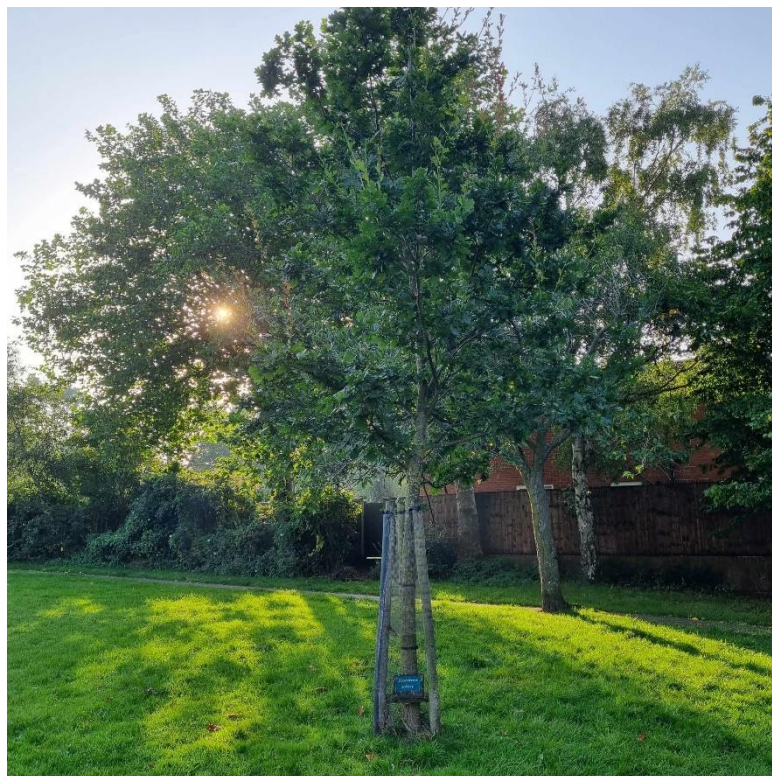
The team leader is available to lead groups, give walks and talks on the topic of nature conservation and heritage.

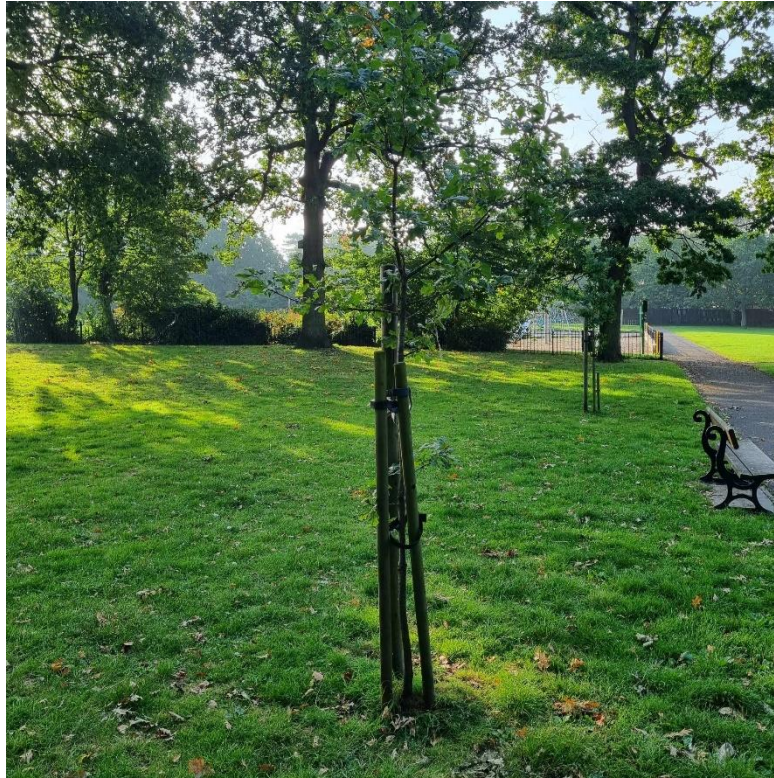
There are informal areas set aside for nature conservation.

An area of grass is set aside as a 'now-mow' zone.

Trees

There is a wide variety of trees, which are regularly surveyed. A triannual survey of the condition of tree stock is undertaken and pruning, removal and replanting are carried out as part of the Winter Works programme. A mixture of indigenous and introduced species is being used to widen diversity and colour.





Saplings around the Play Area, Planted during November 2023



Cornus 'Winter Fire' Provides Colour during Mid-winter

Ground Flora

Wildflowers are allowed to flourish in the unmown areas.





Fauna

A range of fauna is present including grey squirrels, hedgehogs, foxes, voles, mice, pipistrelle bats as well as a wide of birds. The Friends of the park oversee the bug hotel and bird boxes. Log piles are left in secluded areas to encourage diversity of fungi and insects. The most obvious inhabitants of the park are, however, the waterfowl which gather around the pond.





7. Community involvement

The Role of the Friends Group

The Friends are passionate about the park. Most of them live nearby and therefore monitor park use and report problems such as wind damage or antisocial behaviour. They look after the noticeboard and maintain the planters. They look after the bird boxes, bug hotel and wildflower meadows. The friends also liaise with council staff and report issues when they arise. They contributed to the compiling of this management plan.



Friends of Warwick Park During the Upton Viking Festival 2023

8. Marketing and Communications

The Wirral Council web site www.wirral.gov.uk has information about the park. The Parks and Countryside Service's homepage now includes links to information about Wirral's Green Flag parks.

Market research is the basis of any marketing in giving an understanding of the users and their needs. Further work is always needed to keep the information up to date.

Information about events is important to ensure good attendances, raise funds and give credit to our sponsors and grant agencies. Press coverage is issued for events and posters are posted extensively in the local area and farther afield. The Friends of Warwick Park have a [Facebook Page](#) as do the [Wirral Vikings](#). But there is scope for additional publicity and celebration of the park.

9. Management

Resources available for maintenance and management of the park

The management of the park is the responsibility of Wirral Council's Parks, Allotments and Countryside team. Following a major restructure in 2015 the parks service was reorganised on into geographical areas. There was a further reorganisation in 2021 to make budget savings. The local team is managed by the General Manager and Team Leader for the Central District. Two mobile teams work out of the Arrowe Park Depot; one of them, with a Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and two gardeners tends Warwick Park. They have access to:

- Range of tools and machinery
- A flat back van with trailer
- Tools, machinery and storage at Arrowe Park Depot
- Vehicle repair and maintenance depot in Birkenhead
- Support from the Council's tree team and tree contractor
- Wirral Facilities Management team who play a role in maintaining buildings
- Friends Group

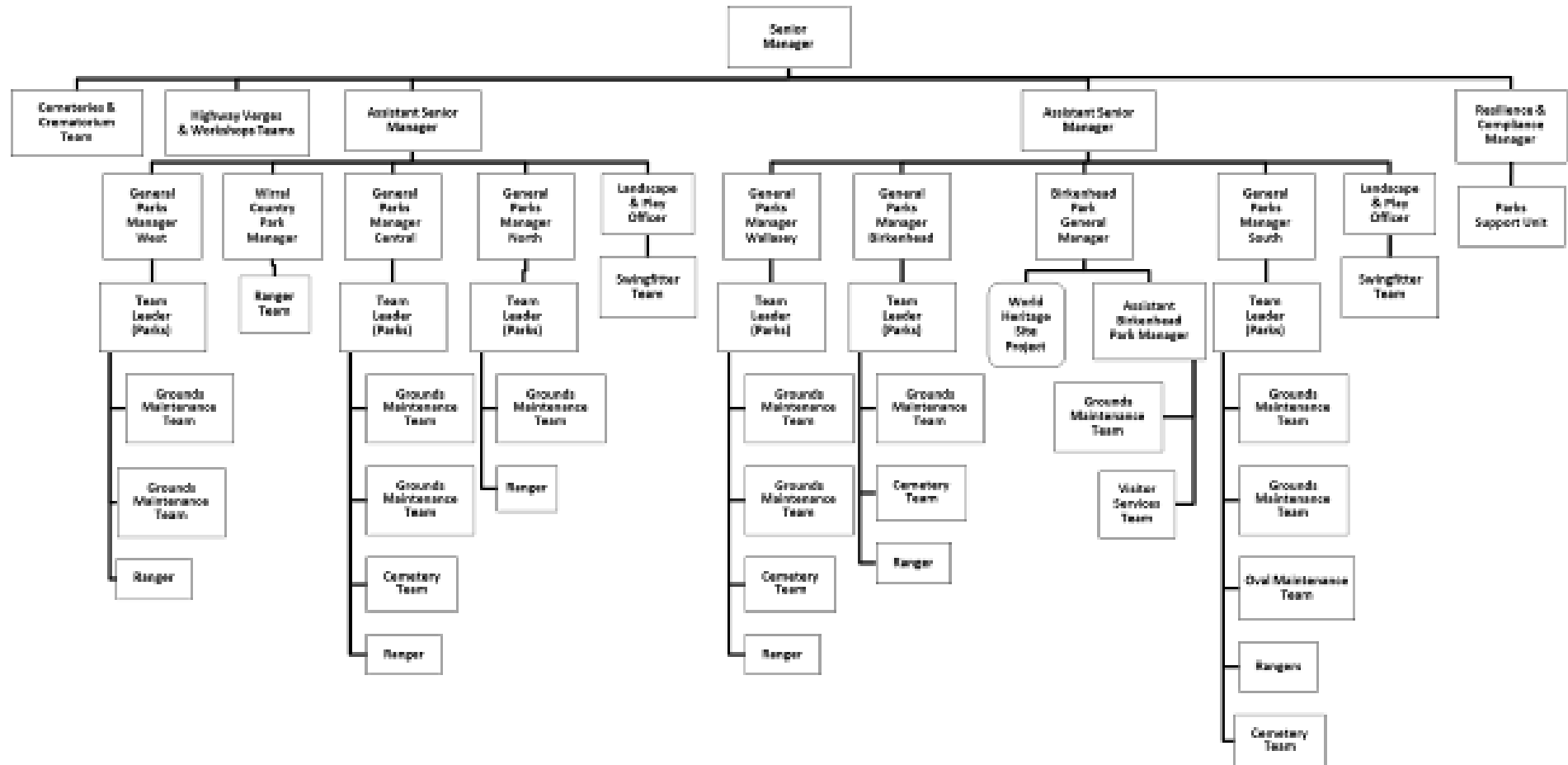
Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the General Parks Manager: email address: ianroberts@wirral.gov.uk

The Parks and Countryside Service like other public services around the country is experiencing budgetary pressure and face challenging times to deliver service improvements. Increasing emphasis on commercialisation will be a challenge for council staff and voluntary groups alike.

Implementing the management plan

The Friends communicate regularly with Wirral Council Staff in order to agree on priorities.

Current Wirral Parks and Countryside Service Organisation Chart



Appendices

Appendix 1: Action Plan

Action	Lead Officer	Resource	Target Date	Objective Achieved
A Welcoming Place				
Replace Wooden Signboard next to the pond.	Team Leader	From Existing Resources	2023	
Produce an Information Leaflet About the Park	Team Leader	From Existing Resources	2024	
Healthy, Safe and Secure				
Retain and develop links with youth organisations, schools and police	All	NA	Ongoing	
Continue rolling programme of footpath repair	General manager/ Landscape Officer	From Existing Resources	Annual	
Clean and Well Maintained				
Continue to Maintain the site in accordance with council policies and schedules	General Manager, Team Leader, Supervisor and GMOs	From Existing Resources	Ongoing	
Sustainability				
Program of replacing park bins.	General manager	From Existing Resources	3 new bins installed January 2024	
Continue to minimise pesticide usage	General manager/ Team leader	From Existing Resources	Ongoing	
Conservation and Heritage				
Encourage wildlife and diversity through the installation of bird/bat boxes and maintain	Friends	From Existing Resources	Ongoing	
Establish further wildflower areas in Park	General manager/ Team leader Friends	To be identified	Ongoing	

Continue tree pruning / replanting to aid longevity and re-establishment	Team Leader	From Existing Resources	Annual	
Monitor wildlife in the park	Team Leader and Volunteers	Team Leader and volunteers	Annual	
Community Involvement				
All groups to work together in a positive way, and maintain constructive relationships	All	N/A	Ongoing	
Marketing				
Upgrade information on the Wirral Council website	Team Leader	Parks service	2024	
Refresh the social media content	Team Leader	Parks service/ volunteer time	2024	
Investigate wider use of social media	Friends and Team Leader	Friends/ voluntary		
Management				
Apply for Green Flag award	All	Parks budget, income generation schemes, Grants	Ongoing	
Maintain a management plan to deliver short-term and longer-term improvement to the quality of the park	All	Parks budget, volunteer time	Annual review as part of GF reapplication process	
Pursue funding for events and improvements, and generate income for the park through new projects	All Parties		Annual	
Replace parks machinery over 2-year period	Head of service	Council		2024
Replace parks vehicles over 3-year period	Head of service	Council		2024 2025

Appendix 2: Parks and Countryside Service General Service Requirement

Parks and Countryside Service General Specifications applicable to Warwick Park

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

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

Data for incidents of graffiti shall include:

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

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

Fly-tipping shall be defined as any single quantity of tipped material that cannot be lifted by two members of staff and removed from the site. If tipped material can be lifted by two members of staff, it is deemed to be covered by the litter control clauses of this service requirement.

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

Grass maintenance

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In drought conditions, subject to the approval of the 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.

Premium ornamental and ornamental grass

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

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

- Minimum height 8 mm
- Maximum height 15 mm

Premium ornamental and ornamental grass maintenance shall include all necessary:

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

General/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 the park.

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 team leader.

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

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

Notice boards and signs

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

Shrubs, roses, herbaceous planting

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

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

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

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

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

Hedges – ornamental and non-ornamental

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

All trimmings shall be removed for recycling or reuse.

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

Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting

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

Children's play areas

Play areas shall be inspected, maintained and repaired to ensure that they are safe and all equipment is in working order in accordance with the relevant British Standard or other relevant standard.

Refer to British Standard EN1176 Part 1-7 and 1177 and to the RPII (Register of play inspectors international Ltd) for guidance on all aspects of play area and play equipment maintenance; in particular, their information sheets for:

- inspection and maintenance of playgrounds
- regular inspection of playgrounds
- legal aspects of safety

This information is available from <https://www.playinspectors.com/>

Inspection shall be recorded either manually or electronically and logged with the Employer within the week following the inspection. Only trained and competent staff, who have attended a recognised and appropriate course run by RPII or similar training body, shall carry out maintenance operations which shall be undertaken in a safe and thorough manner.

Minor repairs and adjustments shall be carried out to play equipment, gates and safety surfacing to ensure that they are safe and usable at all times including weekends, bank holidays and public holidays. Any play equipment, gates and safety surfacing that cannot be repaired immediately shall be made safe until an effective repair is undertaken.

Minor repairs shall include replacement of swing seats, chain, links, bearings, and loose-fill safety surfacing and rubber tiles.

Major repairs identified during the inspection shall be reported immediately to the Service Manager.

Painted and timber surfaces must be treated on a regular basis to ensure good condition and presentation. This includes all play equipment, gates and furniture.

Arrange for an independent annual recorded inspection of all play areas by RPII or similar accredited organisation. The inspection shall be a full mechanical and physical examination and include a risk assessment for each play area, and indicate compliance with the Equality Act.

Public Safety

Store all equipment and materials in a safe condition and provide and display the necessary warning signs/barriers to ensure public safety during cleaning operations.

Remove any graffiti as part of the cleaning operation.

Comply with all the responsibilities and requirements on waste collection and disposal.

Inspect the premises after each cleaning operation and notify the team leader immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.

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 team leader.

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 team leader may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site. The team leader may on occasion instruct delivery of brushwood chippings to sites within the Borough where these materials are required for composting, mulching, or creating footpaths or bridleways.

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

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

Provide a 24 hour, 365 days a year, emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs that have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. A response unit consisting of a minimum of two suitably trained staff with appropriate vehicle and equipment shall be provided within one hour's notice following notification of an event by the team

leader or emergency services authority. Incidents of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

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

Trees in parks

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

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – arboricultural management

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

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/result/?q=trees>

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 3: Parks & Countryside Tree Policy

When considering tree work, whether by inspection or complaint, a number of issues are taken into account. The primary driver for work undertaken on trees will always be health and safety. While the Council would always want to be a good neighbour in terms of managing our tree stock, we do not automatically prune to reduce height, for light, satellite reception or to control leaf fall etc.

- All persons employed to undertake tree work shall be suitably trained and qualified and in possession of the appropriate certification.
- All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010.
- Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses, and all adjacent land, are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees.
- As part of site health and safety inspections, we 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 identified hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.
- Undertake requests for commemorative and other funded tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces to support the renewal of the tree stock, where these requests align with the design of specific parks and green spaces.
- The appropriate Council Officer for each park and countryside site (usually the Parks, Allotments and Countryside Team Leader for the location) is responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations including tree preservation orders, which would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.
- Before undertaking work, 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.
- Any work should include, where appropriate, the removal of stumps and subsequent surface reinstatement.
- Stumps intended for permanent retention to be cut at a specified height and left.
- On completion of all work, the work area will be thoroughly cleaned and left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.
- All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work is to be disposed of. The only exception to this shall be 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 and bridleways.
- There is an emergency call out service which provides 24 hours per day, 365 days per year emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs which have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. Incidences of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.