

"A country park

Wirral Country Park

of great worth"

Management Plan

2023 – 2028

Wirral Council
Neighbourhoods
Parks and Countryside



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INTRODUCTION

Wirral Country Park is a long-standing, major leisure and nature conservation resource with an appeal which stretches beyond its local area into the population catchments of Merseyside and the North West region.

The plan addresses management of Wirral Country Park including the Wirral Way, and other smaller areas associated with the park managed by Wirral Council.

The 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 **Wirral Parks and Countryside** at the address below:

Wirral Council
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH44 8ED

Wider Policy Context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Neighbourhood 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 Corporate Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

2 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.

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 may be 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 may be 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 environmental 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

<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. The amenity grassland by the Visitor Centre isn't cut during May and neither is the Wirral Way. The Barbecue Site, and formal grass areas around the Visitor Centre are cut. Paths are also cut through the Dee Cliffs SSSI, along the cliff top and paths are cut through the amenity grassland by the Visitor Centre to ensure safe access. Paths at Cubbins Green and Dawpool Nature Reserve are cut during No Mow May, including along the cliff top for safety.

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>

SITE INFORMATION

1 Location Plan and Facilities



Grid Reference: SJ 3238 3834
Address: Station Road, Thurstaston, Wirral, Merseyside
Primary classification: Major Park (Country Park)
Ward: West Kirby & Thurstaston
Size: 40.23 Ha

Facilities

- The Wirral Way Footpath, Cycleway and Horse ride
- Cubbins Green
- Dungeon SSSI
- Thurstaston Visitors Centre, BBQ Areas, grassland and environs
- Campsite, Education and Events Field
- The Dee Cliffs SSSI, Grasslands and Ponds
- Thurstaston Beach
- Marl Pit Pond and Visitor Centre Pond
- Extensive Estuarine views
- Car Parks
- Access to the foreshore of the west Wirral coast and Dee Estuary
- Access to Ashton Park West Kirby – a Green Flag Park
- GJ's Café
- The Whistle Stop Cafe
- Lecture Theatre
- Picnic Areas
- Touring Caravan Site
- Static Caravan Site
- Dee Sailing Club

2 Tenure

Wirral Country Park, comprising the Thurstaston Centre, Wirral Way, Dawpool Nature Reserve, Cubbins Green and the Dungeon Woodland as well as the sites leased to the Caravan Club, Thurstaston Caravan Owners Association and Dee Sailing Club, are owned by Wirral Council and managed by Parks and Countryside.

The Wirral Way was formed from a converted single-track railway line which ran from Hooton in the south to West Kirby in the north; this provides a long distant route, which runs through the park to the Wirral Boundary with Cheshire West and Chester. Wirral Council has responsibility for the section between West Kirby and Gayton some 9.6 km (6 miles). The remainder of the Wirral Way, Gayton to Hooton, lies within the control of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The Council has lease agreements relating to the Dee Sailing Club and an area of the site to the Caravan Club of Great Britain; who use the land for as a touring caravan site. The land at the southwest end of Station Road is leased to The Thurstaston Caravan Owners Association, who manage the site as a static caravan park. A shared maintenance responsibility exists for the site's access road and some services.

The kiosk facility at the Visitor Centre currently offers cycle hire through Tracs (UK) who have an agreement with Wirral Council to manage this offer.

A privately owned café is located in single storey premises adjacent to the park's main entrance at Thurstaston.

There are ten bridges that span the Wirral Way located at Ashton Park, Church Road, Sandy Lane, Simon's Bridge, Links Bridge, Station Road, Dungeon Bridge, Delavor Road, Farr Hall Drive and Cottage Lane. All bridges in the park are the responsibility of Wirral Council's Highways Department. A Highways engineer inspects the bridges every two years.



Dungeon Bridge on the Wirral Way, looking towards Thurstaston

3 Main Uses

- Walking
- Bird watching
- Dog walking
- Cycling
- Horse riding
- A quiet naturalised area for passive and active recreation
- Photography
- Natural history
- School visits / an educational resource centre
- Opportunities for voluntary conservation work
- An events venue
- Sailing
- Caravanning
- Camping (groups only)
- BBQ facilities
- A meeting venue for a wide variety of groups and societies

4 Park Users

The site hosts school, university and local interest group activities and is regularly used both by the local community and visitors from outside the borough. It has visitors from the Liverpool, Chester and Manchester areas. Regular users include walkers, cyclists, joggers, dog walkers, bird watchers and horse riders alongside users who come to attend events. The peak use is at weekends during the summer months although the site is used throughout the year.

5 Stakeholders

- Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Staff
- Friends of Ashton Park
- Friends of Cubbins Green
- Cubbins Green Restoration Group
- York Avenue Residents Group
- Farr Hall Drive Residents Group
- Wirral Country Park Thursday Task Force
- West Kirby in Bloom
- Thurstaston Hall Farm
- Oldfield Farm
- Natural England
- Merseyside Police
- Cheshire and Chester West Council
- Wirral Schools
- Wirral Council's Community Safety Team
- Wirral Council's Access Officer
- Wirral Council's Events Advisory Committee
- Wirral Council's Sports Development Team
- The Wirral Barn Owl Trust

- Bee Wirral (Whistle Stop Café)
- G J's Café
- Tracks (UK)
- Junior parkrun
- The National Trust
- Dee Sailing Club
- Heswall Golf Club
- Caldby Golf Club
- Caravan Club of Great Britain
- Thurstaston Caravan Owners Association

6 Wirral Country Park Joint Steering Group

In 2022 a Wirral Country Park Joint Steering Group was established to help plan and organise events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the official opening of the park that took place in 1973, and in particular to make improvements to the Wirral Way entrance at West Kirby. The 'Gateway Project' will be delivered in 2023. The Joint Steering Group is chaired by Wirral Council's Assistant Director for Environment and includes Cheshire West and Chester Council Officers. Other events that took place in 2023 included a Wildflower Exhibition, Photographic Exhibition, a series of guided walks and commissioning of a limited edition book celebrating Wirral Country Park.

As well as discussing the 50th anniversary celebrations officers from both councils have met to discuss long-term projects including widening and re-surfacing of the Wirral Way and provision of uniform signage throughout the park. Officers have also discussed the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Award and it is hoped that the Wirral Country Park Joint Steering Group will continue to focus on joint management projects including a Wirral Way Code of Conduct supported by both authorities, joint working with Sustrans to develop the National Cycle Route and supporting stakeholder groups throughout the park.



The Wirral Country Park logo used to promote the work of the Joint Steering Group

7 Access Points

Due to the parks linear nature, extending over a distance of 9.6 Km (6 miles), there are numerous access points, either by foot, on bicycle, horse or vehicle. The main access points on to the Wirral Way are:

- Grange Road West Kirby to the north (Northern end of Wirral Way)
- Ashton Park (Several access points)
- Church Road, West Kirby (Ramps and steps)
- Sandy Lane (Ramp and steps)

- York Avenue Public Right of Way
- Melloncroft Drive, Caldy (Cubbins Green)
- Caldy Car Park and picnic site (off Croft Drive)
- Croft Drive, Caldy
- Gleneagles Estate
- Station Road to the Visitor Centre at Thurstaston
- Banks Road, Lower Heswall
- Davenport Road, Lower Heswall
- Riverbank Road, Lower Heswall
- Cottage Lane, Lower Heswall

There are more than 60 other access points to the park, including from Thurstaston Beach, as well as access points within the park, all of which are inspected annually. It is policy to continually improve access for all within Wirral Country Park and wherever possible steps requiring substantial repair are replaced with ramped access or that timber bridges, boardwalks are replaced with non-slip surfaces.



Part of a Natural England funded project in 2022 was to install a fully accessible path through the nature ponds within the Dee Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest

8 History

Wirral Country Park is widely regarded as the first Country Park in Britain. Country Parks were conceived under the Countryside Act (1968) as “countryside on the doorstep” of our major conurbations. They were also partly created in order to alleviate the pressure falling on the increasingly popular National Parks. The Act gave new powers to local authorities allowing them to ‘on any site in the countryside appearing to them suitable or adaptable for the purpose...to provide a country park, that is to say, a park or pleasure ground to be used for that purpose’.

A draft scheme for the construction of Wirral Country Park was prepared by Cheshire County Council in 1968 and approved under the Act. *‘The scheme recommended in this report would*

provide a country park of great worth. Being linear however visitors will be dependant for views, quietness and atmosphere on the best of the country on each side being maintained in its present or similar form'.

The park's origins lie with its spectacular landscape and estuarine location as well as its former use as the 12-mile long Hooton to West Kirby Railway. For 7 of these miles the line ran close to the Dee Estuary.

By 1962 the line was closed and remained redundant. In 1973, with money from the Countryside Commission, the old line was formally re-opened as Wirral Country Park, the former line having already been converted to a permissive footpath "The Wirral Way". This path forms the backbone of the park, which also embraces the wider areas of The Dungeon (sandstone gorge woodland), Cubbins Green and the main focus of the park, the Visitors Centre and Dawpool Nature Reserve.



Neston Station c.1900

When it was officially opened in 1973 Wirral Country Park had already been open to the public for 5 years and photographs from 1969 show the AA sponsored 'Drive to Plant a Tree Day' at the park, as well people enjoying the, as yet unsurfaced, Wirral Way. Whilst the proposals in the original park scheme show new car parks, barbecue sites and picnic areas there's no mention of a visitor centre. The first Countryside Rangers were appointed in 1969 and it's quite probable that, needing a base to work from, the visitor centre as we know it today was constructed, and possibly designed to look like a railway carriage on the embankment overlooking the Wirral Way.

Now, nearly fifty years after the Countryside Act of 1968 and the creation of Country Parks throughout Britain, the same principals of regard to the '*availability and adequacy of existing facilities for the enjoyment of the countryside by the public*' exist in the Country Park Accreditation Scheme with essential criteria including free admission, daily site presence, use for public and educational events, public toilets and an up to date site management plan needing to be met.

The Country Park Accreditation Scheme was started in 2009 by Natural England to address concerns raised about Country Parks and specifically evidence presented by the Countryside Agency to a Select Committee's enquiry into Town and Country Parks in 1999. This led to the Government's 'Rural White Paper' a year later and which was the first report specifically about country parks since the Countryside Commission's 'Advisory Notes on Country Park Plans' published in 1974. The 'Renaissance of Country Parks' described in the Countryside Agency's report continues as we have seen an increase in park users over the last few years, especially a result of 'staycationers' and are meeting the demands of users, providing new facilities and access for all, and ensuring that this invaluable asset continues to provide our visitors with 'a country park of great worth'.

More information about the park's history can be found in the Wirral Country Park Green Heritage Conservation Plan 2023 – 2028.

9 Biodiversity

The Wirral Way provides a wildlife corridor extending along the west Wirral peninsula. Wildflower species attract invertebrates whilst the hedgerows provide food and shelter for small mammals and birds. Apart from the railway, historical land use has left a legacy of marl and brick pits and, at Dawpool, the landfill site has become an area of mixed scrub and grassland. The Dungeon and Dee Cliffs are both Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Action Plans for the Dee Cliffs Ponds and Grassland and Dawpool Nature Reserve and purchase of specialist equipment have restored many wildflower species that had been lost to unmanaged grassland at these sites and along the Wirral Way. Wirral Way Widening schemes undertaken in 2013 and in 2022 have also encouraged diversity through maintenance of a grass/wildflower edge along the surfaced pedestrian/cycle route.

The main habitat areas within the park are:

- The Wirral Way (Caldy – Heswall) Site of Biological Importance
- The Wirral Way (Heswall - Gayton) Site of Biological Importance
- The Dee Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest
- The Dungeon Site of Special Scientific Interest
- The Dungeon Site of Biological Importance
- Thurstaston Beach (part of Dee Estuary RAMSAR/SSSI site)
- Dawpool Nature Reserve
- Cubbins Green

The Wirral Way from Caldley to the boundary at Gayton is a locally designated Site of Biological Importance. The northern section from Caldley to West Kirby lost its SBI status some years ago due to the lack of diversity and encroachment of woody vegetation, especially Sycamore. Wirral Wildlife (part of Cheshire Wildlife Trust) undertake periodic site species surveys with some management recommendations. In 2022 the Wirral Way Widening Scheme included removal of woody vegetation growing within the ditches along the path and culverting of one side of the path with a permeable pipe. Apart from widening the path to cater for the increase in visitor numbers, the scheme allowed the drainage to be improved, taking into account expected increase in periods of prolonged and heavy rainfall as a result of Climate Change. The grass verge was extended either side of the path and will allow a varied and colourful ground flora to develop from the existing seed bank. The embankments will be more stable with a wildflower and shrub layer

and where areas have been cleared of sycamore and poplar they will be planted with species such as elm that will benefit species in decline including the White-letter hairstreak butterfly.

A Draft Wirral Way 10 Year Tree Management Plan (2018 – 2028) has been drawn up to bring the park into a more favourable condition by restoring lost biodiversity, reducing invasive encroachment of woody species and reducing the amount of bankside erosion. It will ensure that the Wirral Way from Caldy to Gayton maintains its local Site of Biological Importance status and aims to have the section at West Kirby to Caldy re-designated as a local Site of Biological Importance.

Along the Wirral Way there are numerous garden escapees including Bamboo and Montbretia. Other non-native species include Bitterling and Red-eared Terrapins in most of the ponds, which also contain New Zealand Pygmy Weed also known as Australian Stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*). Management of these within the SSSI pond cluster was undertaken as part of the Dee Cliffs Conservation and Enhancement Scheme (2017 – 2022). Japanese Knotweed is known to exist at five specific locations within the park (See Page 105 Appendix 18: Policy regarding the treatment of Japanese Knotweed by Wirral Council).

There is some disturbance to wildlife from park users and dog are requested to be on a lead in the area around the Visitor Centre at Thurstaston both to protect the birds in the ponds and visiting the Bird Hide but also in an effort to reduce dog fouling in the amenity grassland popular with schools and picnickers. Natural England provided 95% funding for the Dee Cliffs Conservation and Enhancement Scheme that has restored the freshwater habitat to a 'favourable condition' and that has put in place management prescriptions that will maintain the site in a favourable condition.



The Rangers have undertaken training on specialist machinery used to manage the grasslands within the park including by the Dee Cliffs and Dawpool

The park is visited regularly by natural history groups and geologists. About 5,000 schoolchildren visited the site at Thurstaston in 2019 (pre-Covid figures) to undertake curriculum studies including activities such as seashore searches and minibeast hunts. The Rangers provide assistance to visiting schools through a booking system that helps with provision of equipment and other resources and which may include a Ranger-led activity.

10 The Thurstaston Centre

Visitors arriving at the centre have a range of choice of ways to travel. Visitors arrive by car, coach, bicycle, on foot and by horse. There is currently no public transport available directly to the Thurstaston Centre but a bus service operates from Heswall to West Kirby stopping on Telegraph Road (A540). A 1.5km long pedestrian footpath extends along the eastern side of Station Road. The nearest train station is at West Kirby 5km to the north; visitors can walk or cycle to the Visitor Centre or take the bus and walk the remaining 1.5km.

The Thurstaston Centre area provides suitable access for all levels of physical ability; the Visitor Centre has been modified to accommodate wheelchair access, has disabled toilet facilities and is open daily, including weekends and provides a range of free maps and trail leaflets. There is a designated area for breastfeeding and a lecture theatre available for group use including for use as a prayer room and a public bird hide. In 2020 a lease was awarded to Bee Wirral, a Community Interest Company, to manage a café within the centre.

Close to the Visitor Centre are designated barbecue sites and surfaced paths leading throughout the grassland and onto the Wirral Way and onto Thurstaston Beach. There are several picnic units and bench seating and the short cut amenity grassland is popular with picnickers and families playing games.

The main car park is well surfaced, catering for around 70 cars including 3 designated disabled spaces. The area also caters for coach access, although schools visiting by coach are encouraged to hire the adjacent Campsite for parking. The car park remains open during the summer evenings. A second 'overflow' car park is located to the right at the bottom of Station Road opposite main park entrance and can accommodate around 340 cars (90 on all-weather surfacing). The grass bays in this car park have to be closed periodically to restrict parking and access where the bays are muddy. Car parking charges apply and are managed by Wirral Council's Parking Services. The 'barbecue field' at the bottom of Station Road can be used for organised events.



The fully accessible bird hire within the Visitor Centre is open daily

11 The Wirral Way

The Wirral Way is a medium distance (12 mile) footpath, cycleway and horseride running from West Kirby through to Hooton. Approximately half is within the management and control of Wirral Council with the remainder managed by Cheshire West and Chester Council. The Wirral Way extending from West Kirby to the Wirral boundary has been completely resurfaced providing good access for all including mobility scooters, wheelchairs, prams and buggies. The Wirral Way also bisects Ashton Park in West Kirby – a Green Flag Park. A surfaced car park is located off Croft Drive Caldy. This adjoins the Wirral Way and Cubbins Green and has capacity for up to 40 cars.

12 Thurstaston Beach

Although Thurstaston Beach is not part of the Wirral Country Park its proximity to the park, shared users and management by Wirral Country Park staff and resources means that it has been included as part of the park facilities. There are two stepped access routes to the beach from the park. They are both situated within a quarter of a mile of the centre. One is at the end of Station Road leading to Shore Cottages to the north and the other is located to the south at Tinkers Dell. There are also ramps at Cubbins Green and Heswall Fields and slipway access at The Dee Sailing Club (Thurstaston Slipway). Some visitors scramble down the cliffs to access the beach. This is not encouraged due to continual cliff movement, slippery unsurfaced paths with no handrails and the cliffs being a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest.



Thurstaston Beach is often included as part of a visit to the park and is managed by the Rangers based at Wirral Country Park

13 Events and Activities

A full and varied public events and activities programme is offered at the park throughout the year. The Rangers undertake some activities but often work in partnership or alongside other organisers to ensure the success of events. The park hosts the annual Coastal Walk as well as regular athletic races, obstacle courses and the annual West Kirby Santa Dash. Junior parkrun takes place every Sunday morning and the Theatre hosts various art and photographic displays as well as various public workshops.

The Wirral Way regularly hosts Breeze Cycle Rides and Cycle in Wirral events as well as the annual Cheshire Endurance Horse Ride and the Thurstaston Centre hosts Teddy Bears Picnics, storytelling and is the starting point for many guided walks that take place throughout the year.

Anyone organising a public outdoor event on land owned or managed by Wirral Council must complete an Event Notification Form and provide evidence of £10m Public Liability Insurance, risk assessments and method statements. Where caterers are used, these must be registered with the Food Standards Agency.

Information about organising outdoor events in and the Wirral Event Notification Form can be found at: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/organising-outdoor-events>



The park hosts many public events and activities throughout the year

14 Schools and Environmental Interpretation

Each year about 5,000 schoolchildren visit Wirral Country Park to undertake environmental field trips as part of their curriculum studies. Most schools use the facilities at the Thurstaston Centre and schools are encouraged to book the event field for day visits rather than use the Visitor Centre facilities. Most schools stay for 4 – 5 hours and undertake a variety of activities, often including a visit to Thurstaston Beach. There is a booking procedure in place and groups can have Ranger-led activities or they can be supplied with resource material and equipment and lead their own activities. Activities include pond-dipping, meadow walks, compare and contract and seashore searches as well as Forest and Beach Schools or 'Summer Schools' offering a range of activities. In 2024 an Annualised Assistant Ranger was appointed to take the lead on school and environmental interpretation at Wirral Country Park, Heswall Dales and the Hilbre Islands.



Pond-dipping is one of the most popular school activities as part of a group visit



School and other group visits are assisted with resource information and advice on access, including tide times

15 Income Generation

Each year Wirral Council publishes a list of fees and charges on its website. The following events fees and other Council approved charges apply to Wirral Country Park (from 1/4/24):

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Forest or Beach School taster session for up to 15 children 3 hours | £293.00 |
| Forest or Beach Schools for over 15 children for each 2 hour session | £240.00 |
| Forest or Beach Schools for up to 15 children for each 2 hour session | £229.00 |
| Forest or Beach taster session 3 hour session for up to 30 children | £68.00 |
| Summer School session for up to 15 children 3 hours | £293.00 |
| Wirral Country Park Charge for ranger-led activity - per pupil per hour | £3.80 |
| Hire of Theatre (AM or PM) | £80.00 |
| Hire of Theatre (All Day 9am – 5pm) | £142.00 |
| Wirral Country Park Campsite Day Hire (Schools Community Groups – In Borough) | £63.00 |
| Wirral Country Park Campsite Day Hire (Schools Community Groups – Out of Borough) | £69.00 |
| Wirral Country Park Campsite day hire (commercial events/weddings) | £114.00 |
| Wirral Country Park Campsite day hire (including use of showers) | £190.00 |
| Wirral Country Park Campsite overnight charge (up to 15 persons) | £98.00 |
| Wirral Country Park Campsite overnight charge per person (charged after number exceeds 15 persons) | £5.50 |
| Charity Events and Private Events - small - daily site fee | £84.00 |
| Charity Events and Private Events - medium - daily site fee | £168.00 |
| Charity Events and Private Events - large - daily site fee | £446.00 |
| Charity Events and Private Events - very large -daily site fee | £1,017.00 |
| Commercial Events (excluding circuses) in all other parks and beaches - small - daily site fee | £336.00 |
| Commercial Events (excluding circuses) in all other parks and beaches - medium - daily site fee | £672.00 |
| Commercial Events (excluding circuses) in all other parks and beaches - large - daily site fee | £1,785.00 |
| Commercial Events (excluding circuses) in all other parks and beaches - very large - daily site fee | £4,095.00 |
| Commercial Events (excluding circuses) in all other parks and beaches - non refundable deposit for large/very large/major events | £452.00 |
| Weddings - minimum charge | £793.00 |
| Transit events which pass through a park (e.g. a Marathon) - charity | £310.00 |
| Transit events which pass through a park (e.g. a Marathon) - commercial | £780.00 |
| Filming - crew of 1 to 9 - less than 4 hours | £467.00 |
| Filming - crew of 1 to 9 - 4 hours and over | £890.00 |
| Filming - crew of 10 + less than 4 hours | £935.00 |
| Filming - crew of 10 + 4 hours and over | £1,560.00 |
| Disturbance of parking for regular users | £295.00 |
| Additional storage | £310.00 |
| Events where alcohol will be available | 50% Site Fee |
| TRAINING IN PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SITES Annual Group Fitness Training Licence | 10% of income from activity |
| TRAINING IN PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SITES Annual Professional Dog Training Licence | 10% of income from activity |
| TRAINING IN PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SITES Annual Professional Dog Walking Licence | 10% of income from activity |
| Dog Shows at all sites - Daily site fee | £300.00 |

All above charges include VAT where applicable

Bench Donations

Wirral Country Park has a charging policy for donated benches and picnic units. The cost of a bench or picnic unit is the same price if purchased by a member of public. (ie it includes VAT). Plaques are also purchased for the donor and includes VAT. Installation is usually undertaken by volunteers and charged at £120 per unit. VAT is claimed back but this is used to offset future maintenance and repairs.

Other Income

Dee Sailing Club Lease

Wirral Country Park Caravan Club Lease

Thurstaston Caravan Owners Association Club Lease

Visitor Centre Kiosk Lease

Visitor Centre Café Lease Agreement

Filming Charges

Campsite Hire (including for overnight stays, day hire and wedding receptions)

Ranger-led Event and School Charges

Donations

There is additional income received for 'ring fenced' products and services that include sponsorship, Natural England Conservation Enhancement Scheme payments, and grants.



Wedding receptions are becoming increasingly popular in the park and provide good income generation

ACCESS AUDIT

1 The Disability Discrimination Act 1995

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate against anyone on the grounds of his or her disability in connection with employment, public transport, education and the provision of goods and services. Part of the DDA applies to service providers' premises which includes land. The DDA affects all those responsible for providing access to the countryside as 'service providers'. It covers the whole range of countryside services including guided walks, events, visitor centres, information, interpretation, signage, paths and trails etc. The DDA also covers everyone involved in providing a service to the public, including volunteers. It does not outline specific standards but requires that '*reasonable provision*' should be made. The 'Framework for Action' in the guide '**By all reasonable means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people**', published by the Countryside Agency in 2005, is based on the principle of 'Least Restrictive Access' (LRA). This requires that all work, whether planned improvement or ad hoc maintenance, must meet the highest possible access standards for that piece of work. Where the highest access standards cannot be achieved – for example, because of insufficient funds, lack of consent by a landowner or practical difficulties – there should always be a clearly reasoned and documented justification for the decision to use a lower standard. LRA is an approach that helps raise the overall standard of access of a site, route or facility over a period of time. It can be reasonably justified therefore under the Disability Discrimination Act and using guidelines published by the Countryside Agency that a continuous review of access within Wirral Country Park and provision of improved access will make a considerable difference to access for all users. The creation of a surfaced ramped access should be regarded as the first stage in the provision of excellent access for all at Wirral Country Park and as Wirral's premier outdoor visitor attraction should continue to be a management priority and in meeting the aims and objectives of the Green Flag Standard.

'A key factor when disabled people choose to visit a destination is how easy it is to get there and home again. A lack of accessible car parking can prevent visits by people with limited mobility, wheelchair users and older people. The most accessible routes, sites and facilities are usually those that offer a range of different options'.

By all reasonable means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people, The Countryside Agency (2005)

Awareness of the access options is essential and improved signage and website information on access will be another stage in the ongoing improvements being made at Wirral Country Park.

Currently, there are no statutory benchmarks for reasonable practice in the outdoors in regard to the DDA, mainly due to the wide variety of landscape form, but managers should know what standards to apply when planning any access improvements.

It is not possible to make all of the countryside fully accessible for everyone at all times. Nonetheless, sites, especially those attracting visitors to a specific landscape feature and with visitor facilities including car parking, toilets, should aim to ensure as much accessibility for as many people as possible. Good practise could be providing a variety of access options with some routes at least achieving the highest access standards of the BT Countryside for All Standards or the Management Zoning (as used in this report and taken from 'By all reasonable means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people published by The Countryside Agency) whilst other routes will reach lesser standards.

A national system of standards for physical access in the countryside was developed by the 'BT Countryside for All Accessibility Standards' (Published by the Fieldfare Trust (1997 and 2005). Customer research was used to identify different standards for different countryside settings. These settings were defined as:

- urban and formal landscapes
- urban fringe and managed landscapes
- rural and working landscapes

A fourth setting, 'Open Country, semi-wild and wild' was defined but not subject to technical specifications.

'In deciding which approach to use, it should be noted that statutory standards or specifications do not exist for the outdoors – countryside and urban greenspaces. The Countryside Agency Management Zones are a new tool, the BT Countryside for All Accessibility Standards being the most widely agreed technical standards'.

By all reasonable means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people, The Countryside Agency (2005)

'Most visitors do not want to see the loss of the special qualities of a place and sometimes this will limit the amount of access that is possible'

By all reasonable means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people, The Countryside Agency (2005)

2 Access For All Site Assessment

The Visitor Centre has good access although some mobility scooters have struggled with the narrow automatic doors. Access to the non-public parts of the building would be difficult for staff that have reduced mobility and require assistance. This includes combination door locks and narrow door frames. There is a single separate Disabled Toilet also used for baby changing and breast feeding.

The Wirral Way from West Kirby to Thurstaston is surfaced with Hop Path (recycled material produced by J. Hopkins) which provides a hard well-packed surface with few loose stones. The Wirral Way from Thurstaston to Gayton (Wirral Council Boundary) is surfaced with limestone chippings. These do not bind as well as other material and in places there are large (over 10mm) loose stones.

Water erosion does occasionally lead to cracks in the path surfacing and flooding of the Wirral Way does occur along with collection of leaf litter, especially in the Thurstaston Car Park, Caldby Car Park and along the section running through Ashton Park. Paths at Cubbins Green, Dawpool Nature Reserve and the Thurstaston Centre are grass and are mown on a regular basis. Wheelchair, mobility scooter and pram and pushchair is accessible for most of the time except after heavy rainfall.

The pond cluster at Thurstaston is accessible from surfaced paths that leads from the Wirral Way. The Dee Cliffs are accessible from surfaced paths that lead from the Visitor Centre, the Barbecue Site and the Wirral Way. The campsite utility block has access for people with limited mobility that

require assistance. There is ramped access to the toilets and kitchen areas and separate male and female disabled toilets, hand wash basins and showers (wet rooms).

An Access Guide has been provided by **AccessAble** and can be found in Appendix 13 as well as at <https://www.accessable.co.uk/venues/wirral-country-park-and-visitor-centre>

3 Access Points Survey and Actions

A Wirral Country Park Access Points Survey can be found as Appendix 12.

The park does have good access points with gentle sloping, wide access along its length. The Visitor Centre has good access, and stepped access usually has handrails. Vehicle barriers which used to cross the Wirral Way have all been removed along with the pedestrian squeeze through stiles. This was also done to improve access for maintenance vehicles and which has resulted in a higher standard of maintenance throughout the park. A steep ramp from Croft Drive (Caldy) onto the Wirral Way was highlighted by Frank Napper (Disabled Holiday Info) and there is a short section of Wirral Way immediately in front of the disabled parking bays at Thurstaston that is also rather steep.

The Campsite utility block was refurbished in 2019 providing access for all along with fully accessible wet rooms with showers. An on-site surfaced car park was also constructed to allow better access to the facility for visiting groups and also to allow parking for any mobility adapted vehicle or facilities required to allow full inclusion.

Actions

- Maintain an up to date Access Points Survey for Wirral Country Park
- A continued policy of removing squeeze through stiles and surfacing access points as well as further construction of access for all paths should continue. Much of this work could be achieved relatively cheaply using standard park post and rail fencing and recycled path surfacing material. In some areas however, landscaping, culverting of open drains, bridge widening etc will be required to ensure access for all throughout
- Hop Path (or equivalent recycled material) should be used for path surfacing where possible. The site has Environment Agency consent to use recycled material for path surfacing (Appendix 15 The Environment Agency Compliance Assessment Report)
- Use specialist equipment to keep parking areas and the Wirral Way free of leaf litter in line with the Parks and Countryside General Service Requirement
- Ensure that further expenditure and discussion on provision for access for all is a priority
- Ensure the AccessAble website information is kept up to date

4 Wirral Way Code of Conduct

Conflict does occur between different users groups within the park. At The Dungeon and Cubbins Green cycling and horse riding are not permitted. As both have designated Public Footpaths this is covered under legislation by Wirral Council's Rights of Way Officer. The Wirral Way is not a Right of Way and so a voluntary Code of Conduct has been provided to assist users in their enjoyment of the park. The Code of Conduct is displayed in park noticeboards and small plastic signs are on display along the Wirral Way.

THE WIRRAL WAY CODE OF CONDUCT

PLEASE KEEP SAFE, BE COURTEOUS AND ALLOW EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE WIRRAL WAY

This route is managed to encourage people to enjoy the countryside by cycling, walking or horse riding, and to be a safe and attractive place for everyone to enjoy
With the exception of mobility scooters, motor vehicles of all kinds are strictly prohibited from using the Wirral Way

ALL USERS

Please be considerate to all other users particularly young families and people with mobility problems or wheelchair users

DOG WALKERS

DO NOT DISCARD COLLECTED DOG WASTE ALONG THE WIRRAL WAY
IF THERE ARE NO BINS – TAKE YOUR DOG WASTE HOME
Don't let your dog spoil the enjoyment of the park by other users
Prevent your dog fouling around picnic areas, benches or car parks
PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD AROUND THE THURSTASTON VISITOR CENTRE, PONDS AND GRASSLAND AREA
If you cannot control your dog on the Wirral Way, keep it on a lead


CYCLISTS

DO NOT USE THE ROUTE AT SPEED
Slow down at all junctions, bends and entrances
Use a bell – don't surprise people
Remember there may be people who are hard of hearing or visually impaired – don't assume they can see or hear you

HORSE RIDERS

DO NOT GALLOP ALONG ANY SECTION OF THE WIRRAL WAY
KEEP TO THE DESIGNATED HORSE RIDING ROUTE AT ALL TIMES
Slow down and call out a warning when approaching other park users

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION



Thurstaston

Wirral Country Park

The Wirral Way

ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE

Please be considerate towards all other users

Please take your litter home
Thank you

CLEAN IT UP!

Follow the Countryside Code and the Wirral Way Code of Conduct displayed in noticeboards





A Code of Conduct and signage are used to inform visitors of safe use within the park

5 Customer Feedback

Comments from visitors are noted from Tripadvisor although we do not post replies/comments. Feedback is also generated through the Wirral Country Park Facebook Page. Customers are also able to email the park, make comments through the Wirral Council Website, Twitter or Facebook pages and the Council switchboard. Wirral Council's Customer Response Management Policy is for reports to be acknowledged within 40 days. For major projects including the Wirral Way Widening schemes and pond clearance work on-site signage is used to inform of proposals and occasionally residents with property adjacent to the park will be leaflet dropped.



In 2022 a 4 page booklet was used to inform about the Wirral Way Widening Scheme. It was delivered to local residents where work was going to take place giving them the opportunity to feed back on the proposals. The booklet was also made available from the Visitor Centre, from Rangers when undertaking patrol and once work had started the contractors were given a supply to hand out.

GREEN FLAG AWARD AND ACCREDITATION



The intention is for the park to continue to meet the standards of the **Green Flag Award Scheme**; further details about the scheme are available at www.greenflagaward.org.uk.

The latest Green Flag Judges' Green Flag Award 2023 has been incorporated into this plan. (Appendix 11).

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

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

1 A Welcoming Place

Thurstaston Centre

The Thurstaston Centre lies at the western end of Station Road a 5.6m narrow width tarmac-surfaced access off the main Telegraph Road A540, which runs north to South from Chester to West Kirby. There is signage indicating the park is situated on the A540 junction with Station Road.



The Visitor Centre and pond at Thurstaston

A good quality map and interpretive board is located at the main car park. There are large capacity litter bins emptied weekly under contract located around the Thurstaston Centre main access points. The Visitor Centre is open daily and is the focus of the Country Park for many visitors and provides toilets, limited wet weather shelter a café and information. There is a privately owned café operating at the main entrance to the park at Station Road. The main car park has been created from the former railway station and sidings which is well surfaced. Five parking bays are currently provided for visitors with mobility issues. During peak times the car park has problems with capacity requiring a secondary car park to be used. This secondary 'overflow' car park has three all-weather surfaced bays for parking approximately 90 cars. Other bays are grass and only opened during the summer months. One path links the car park to the Visitors Centre under the adjacent bridge and another, between the surfaced and grass bays, to the Wirral Way.

The Wirral Way

Part of the National Cycle Network (Route 89) the Wirral Way has seen a general increase in visitors over the last few years and a sharp rise in visitor numbers since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic started.

The Wirral Way Restoration and Access Project, phase one and two, was completed in the winter 2008/9 and led to a considerable improvement in access for visitors of all levels of ability. In 2014/15 the Wirral Way Widening and Safety Improvements Scheme identified areas of particularly heavy usage. Adjacent open drains were culverted and new signs and a change of path surface were used to highlight access crossings along the Wirral Way. Further widening of the Wirral Way took place in 2022 due to the increasing number of visitors to the site, but also as part of drainage improvements and to increase biodiversity along the northern section of the path. Signs encouraging visitors to be considerate to each other are found along its length and the Wirral Way Code of Conduct is displayed in noticeboards.

Riverbank Road

A break in the Wirral Way occurs between Riverbank Road and Davenport Road requiring users to continue along the road for a distance of 0.66 km. At the Riverbank Road entrance point there is a small picnic area with good quality timber signs at the entrance/exit along with a good quality notice board and litter bin. A good quality timber sign, litter bin and notice board are also located at the Davenport Road entrance to the park.



Refurbished in 2022 three new picnic tables were installed and hedgerows reduced

Cubbins Green – An area of grassland consisting in size of approximately 2.76 Hectares fronting the Dee Estuary. The site is situated approximately 2km south of West Kirby and 2.5km north of the Visitor Centre and provides another important gateway onto the Wirral Way and Dee Estuary. The site lies within the residential area of Caldy. In 1964 and taking into account areas of land under prior agreements for access and essential services, an area of land ownership at Caldy was passed to the Council by sisters Eveline and Ivy Cubbin in memory of their parents William and Mary Jane Cubbin. The conditions of the land transfer were that the land was to be *'kept open and unbuilt upon and henceforth shall be known as Cubbin Green'*. The site has a large well-surfaced car park (Caldy Car Park) catering for around 30 cars and vegetation screens the area from neighbouring properties. There are 2 large capacity bins and 2 smaller bins adjacent to picnic tables emptied weekly under contract. A small ramped access forms a route to the beach. There is a small pond that struggles to maintain water during the summer months and a larger open overflow pool associated with an adjacent surface water drainage system. The area is currently promoted as a picnic site and affords spectacular views of West Kirby, Hilbre Island and the Dee Estuary across the mud flats to Wales. During the summer months an abundance of wildflowers can be found including the rare Bee Orchid. The area is also ideal for bird watching and sea fishing. Cubbins Green is also a popular place for dog walkers and is well used by local residents. This car park is also used as a staging post for a variety of events including the annual Wirral Coastal Walk. The Rangers undertake practical work with a local residents group on Cubbins Green including coppicing, footpath maintenance and hedgelaying.



The Cubbins Green local residents group meet once a week and undertake vegetation management as well as bridge and path maintenance

Ashton Park – Situated within a few hundred metres of the West Kirby terminus of the Wirral Way and lies either side of the Wirral Way. There are several entrances from the Wirral Way to Ashton Park including a ramp constructed to facilitate access for disabled users to the Upper Park. The transitional relationship between the urban park, with its ornamental quality and the natural informality of the Wirral Way is being discussed with the Friends of Ashton Park and Ness Botanical Gardens.

West Kirby gateway terminus – The entrance to the start of Wirral Way is low-key consisting of a double field-gate, for maintenance vehicle access, with post and rail fencing, signage and two notice boards. A gap by the field-gate forms the entrance for pedestrians. A number of adjacent on-road limited time car parking spaces are available along with a pay and display car park by West Kirby Concourse. West Kirby rail station and taxi rank are located approximately 200m away. The 1.5-mile section from West Kirby to Caldy, like the entire Wirral Way, is based on the old railway line. The track bed forms the footpath, which is a permissive right of way both run parallel to the Dee Estuary for much of the length. There are nine brick built railway bridges, one Iron Bridge and one wooden bridge, which form interesting architectural features along the route.

The Dungeon – Designated a SSSI; it is a 3.94 hectare site of predominately oak woodland with a small ravine approximately half a mile from the main Wirral Way to the south of the Visitor Centre and to the east of the Wirral Way. It is signed from the main path and is accessed via a narrow route. Benches are provided. The site provides pedestrian access only.



The highest natural waterfall in Wirral and end of the Thurstaston Fault at the Dungeon

Dawpool Nature Reserve – Dawpool Nature Reserve lies 0.7km north of the Visitor Centre and covers an area of 4.3 Hectares. Covering an old landfill waste site the reserve is rough grassland with scrub cover, a hedgerow boundary with the Wirral Way and a seasonal wetland area. The Wirral Way passes over a bridge, which was filled in when the landfill site became disused. The site can also be accessed along the private road that provides access to the caravan sites and to Dee Sailing Club, Thurstaston Slipway and to Thurstaston Beach. The slipway is leased to Dee Sailing Club and is used by cocklers who also use the private road for access and licenced under the Dee Cockle Regulation Order.



Dawpool Nature Reserve looking across the Dee Estuary from the Wirral Way

Campsite

The Campsite is used by community and other groups for overnight stays and day hire. It is also used for an events area and hosts events such as the Wirral Way Half marathon and larger BBQ events. Schools are encouraged to use the Campsite as it provides a high standard of toilet and hand washing facilities and is closed to the public. Wedding receptions are becoming increasingly popular at the site and are an important income stream for the park.



With stunning views into the evening sunset, the Campsite is a popular venue

2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Visibility at the main and overflow car parks has been greatly improved and there is on-going work to reduce the height of the over-mature hedgerows around the car parks and Visitor Centre. The Visitor Centre (internal and external) is covered by CCTV. CCTV at the Campsite was installed in 2019 and covers the entrance and car park. Dog fouling in Wirral is controlled under the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 1998, which implements the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. It applies to all land within the borough boundaries, with certain exceptions. Signs are provided at entrance points indicating the park is a 'clean it up' area. Dog walkers are asked to wrap droppings and place in a litterbin. Dog fouling is classified in law as 'litter' for street cleaning purposes, and can be disposed of in Council litterbins. Dedicated 'dog waste only' bins are not provided but use of the park's litterbins for disposal is encouraged with signage. Since the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act in 2014, the Local Authority has the power to make Public Space Protection Orders, and issue Community Protection Notices. Wirral Council operates a 24-hour Community Patrol force, established to provide a response to any concern notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour on Council owned land. The patrol can be contacted on 0151 666 5265. The Parks and Countryside Service are represented on the Junior Joint Agency Group (Junior JAG), a forum consisting of Merseyside Police, Community Safety, and Youth workers. Issues regarding security in parks are raised at the meeting with the intention of providing a multi-agency approach to addressing problems. The park is covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875. As part of the Wirral Way Restoration and Access Project, tree pruning and selected removal together with hedge cutting and pruning back of overhanging vegetation has significantly improved sight-line visibility along the route with the added benefit of opening up views. Wirral Council has produced a 'General Statement of Intent' and is attached as Appendix 17.



Site-based Rangers are usually able to swiftly deal with health and safety situations including tree removal, footpath reinstatement as well as repairs to bridges and steps

3 Clean and well maintained

Resources

- Wirral Country Park, Hilbre Islands and Heswall Dales Manager
- 5 Full Time Rangers
- Contract Cleaner
- Assistant Senior Parks Manager
- Various volunteer groups
- 'Whistle Stop Café staff (Bee Wirral) and volunteers
- A range of horticultural machinery and tools
- Land Rover, van, utility vehicle & trailers
- Visitor Centre with office, staff kitchen & toilet
- Staff Mess Room with kitchen & toilet
- Volunteers Mess Room with kitchen and toilet
- Garages with Workshop
- Tool & Wood Store
- Support from other Parks and Countryside Staff and Council departments

Work is carried out to meet general standards set out in a Borough-wide grounds maintenance frequency based specification. The specification sets out corporate standards of maintenance and 'job cards' are issued detailing regular operations. (Examples of Job Cards for Wirral Country Park can be seen in Appendix 5). The Wirral Country Park Manager prepares a programme of 'winter-works' to be undertaken each year and which may include tasks for the district arboricultural team or contractors plus a short and long term programme of works for the Rangers. Information about large or long-term projects is posted on site or on the park's Facebook page. Litter bins are located at key locations throughout the park. Between 2011 and 2019 a total of 17 litter bins were removed from various locations including from around the Visitor Centre, Car Parks and Barbecue Site. This has significantly reduced the amount of time spent emptying the bins and litter picking with a policy of providing large 1100 litre 'Eurocart' bins at main entrance points and with signage encouraging visitors to take their litter home for recycling.



Signage informs visitors about litter, use of barbecues and major projects. Public litter picks are organised throughout the year and the weekly 'Wirral Wombles' are supported by volunteer groups including Wirral Rotary.

Inspections

As part of their day-to-day role Rangers are able to identify defects within the park that present a safety problem for staff, users and adjacent residents. Any defects or issues are reported to the Wirral Country Park Manager to take the appropriate action. This may include recording a task on Microsoft Outlook and assigning it to one of the Rangers with a 'completion by' date. The following items may be recorded as having defects:

1. Paths, steps, ramps
2. Walls, fences, gates
3. Buildings
4. Furniture – signs, litterbins etc
5. Soft landscape – grass, planted areas, water features etc
6. Trees (these are also reported to the Tree Risk Officer)

A Health and Safety Workplace Inspection (see Appendix 21) is undertaken each year. It is circulated to managers and any non-compliance recorded with actions required. Sites inspected at Wirral Country Park are the Visitor Centre and the Rangers Yard (Garages and Mess Room). A Site Safety Inspection is undertaken each year. It is circulated to managers and any non-compliance recorded with actions required. (See Appendix 19) Sites inspected at Wirral Country Park are:

The Thurstaston Centre (including campsite/ponds, grassland and car parks)

The Wirral Way

The Dungeon

Dawpool Nature Reserve

Thurstaston Beach

Cubbins Green

An Annual Property Return is completed for serviced equipment (See Appendix 20)

Fencing on the Wirral Way

Fencing forms an important aspect of Wirral Country Park. It identifies ownership of the park, gives a clear signal to walkers and visitors of what constitutes the park and what is private land and it acts as a stock proof fence in areas where cattle are kept. There are no planning conditions placed on private fence boundaries abutting the Wirral Way and this has led to a variety of differing styles and designs - in some cases resulting in a detrimental appearance. There are boundary fences on either side of the Wirral Way with a dividing wooden post and rail fence separating some sections of the footpath/cycle route and the horse ride. Other associated footpaths have post and wire fencing. A local farmer has a written agreement with the Council stating that the Council will maintain the stock-proof fence surrounding sections of his land. A lot of the fencing still dates back to the 1970's. (The average life expectancy of the type of fencing used at the time, Oak posts and softwood rails or high tensile wire is 10 years). Where fencing is no longer required (for example where hedgerows now form a boundary) it is being removed. Other post and rail fencing is replaced with softwood posts and rails as required.

In some places fencing between the footpath/cycle route and the horse ride on the Wirral Way has been removed to allow easier access for maintenance and emergency vehicles. This is especially important at some sections where vehicle access from the road is restricted. Removal of some sections of fence between the footpath/cycle route and the horse ride also helps to ensure good access at all times. Users can be temporarily diverted onto the adjacent path when maintenance work is taking place. The narrowest sections of the Wirral Way are under the bridges. All fencing under the bridges has been removed to ensure access for maintenance vehicles, especially onto the horseride, but also to provide a turning point. Again, This is especially important at some sections where vehicle access from the road is restricted.

Surfacing along the Wirral Way

The 6-mile Wirral Council managed section of the Wirral Way was re-surfaced with a recycled material in 2008/09. In 2014/15 five sections of the Wirral Way (approximately 2000 yards) were widened and resurfaced and a further three sections widened and resurfaced in 2022 (approximately 1,800 yards).



Resurfacing, widening and drainage improvements in 2022 have made the shared pedestrian path and cycle route much safer for all users

Trees

A Tree Survey is undertaken for the park and Rangers have all attended a one-day LANTRA tree surveying course. The Wirral Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy informs of the management of trees including policy on removal and planting.



The Rangers are trained to undertake tree management including felling and chipping

Fly-tipping

The park is a linear route with 338 private properties neighbouring it. Some householders dispose of garden refuse over the boundary depositing it onto the Wirral Way. The large Eurocart litter bins are also occasionally used by local residents for disposing of household waste. Regular inspections take place and appropriate action taken as necessary.

4 Environmental Management

Recycling is currently undertaken at a low level and occurs where deemed practical. Should funding become available the opportunity exists for the park to be placed at the forefront of Wirral's parks in demonstrating sustainable best practices and providing a good example of environmental awareness in its management. The park should aim to exhibit best practice regarding use of renewable energy and seeking to minimise the buildings overall carbon footprint, through the introduction of increased on-site composting, alternative sustainable energy production including for example the employment of bio-mass and geo-thermal heating systems coupled with supplementary use of both wind and solar power and improved building insulation. The aim should be to become exemplary in this regard and funding to develop a Decarbonisation Plan for the Visitor Centre was awarded in 2023. The Visitor Centre, built circa 1970, does not presently conform to current building regulations in terms of energy efficiency the heating system is provided via an oil-fired boiler. If further funding opportunities exist the centre could be redeveloped and used as a demonstration of alternative technologies befitting a public building within an important Country Park and utilising, among others, the following environmentally considerate features:

- as small an environmental footprint as possible is economic to run over its whole life cycle, and fits well with the needs of its users
- energy and carbon efficient, designed to minimise energy consumption, with effective insulation and the most efficient heating/cooling systems and appliances
- a minimum of waste in its redevelopment to maximise re-use of on-site materials
- design to enable its occupants and users to use less water, through the installation of more efficient fittings and appliances
- design to make recycling and composting easy for occupants and users

Water and energy consumption at the park is monitored and where necessary modification is made to minimise wastage, thereby achieving economies in usage in line with the Council's Environmental Policy. Green waste generated at the park is not currently composted, but is left on site wherever possible. Woodchip generated is generally not used on site but taken to Arrowe Country Park where it is sold as a biofuel. Where transport for woodchippings is not available they may be spread along the Wirral Way but not on the pedestrian/cycle route or horse ride. Wood cut for logs is made available to users of the Campsite for open fires.

The Forestry Commission have confirmed that a Felling Licence is not required for tree management work within the park so long as the 5 cubic metres quarterly allowance is not exceeded. Other exemptions include:

- Trees that pose an immediate danger or threat can be felled without a licence.
- Topping, lopping, pruning or pollarding trees does not require a licence

A Felling Licence is not required for trees that have the following diameters when measured 1.3 metres from the ground:

- 8 cm or less
- 10 cm or less for thinnings
- 15cm or less for cutting coppice

This allows essential habitat management to take place where thinning of woody vegetation is required such as freshwater and grassland management and restoration projects as well as clearing areas to allow tree planting to maintain Wirral's tree stock. An Environmental Impact Assessment is usually undertaken prior to any large environmental management projects.

The Local Planning Authority has Tree Preservation Orders at Church Road, West Kirby (HK00240007), Melloncroft Drive West, Caldy (A001/WR0062), Croft Drive, Caldy (A001/HK0006GD01) and Farr Hall Drive, Lower Heswall (WR0100A001) listed as being pleasant/important for the visual amenity. Some trees in the Dungeon may still be covered under an Area Order (HW0001A001) and a group of trees consisting of approximately 132 Oak, 47 Elm, 46 Sycamore, 18 Beech, 10 Ash and 6 Birch. The order only protects trees over 70 years old and only those species named in the description.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (C.O.S.H.H.) assessment records of all chemical based products used within the park are available to all staff and chemical usage conforms to the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling regulations.

The resurfacing of the Wirral Way between West Kirby and Gayton utilised a reconstituted material derived from recycled building waste and retained within timber edging derived from a sustainable source. New paths and resurfacing also uses 'Hop Path' produced by J. Hopkins at their recycling plant in Manchester. Other path surfacing material includes locally sourced crushed brick and concrete.

Vehicles, including tractor and mowing equipment, are checked for emission levels. An oil separating tank is used to collect contaminants from vehicle/plant jet washing in the Rangers Yard.

Wirral Country Park has operations registered under the Environment Agency's 'Schedule of Exempt Waste Operations. Permitted activities (and EA Schedule Reference) are:

- **U2** - Use of baled end-of-Life Tyres in Construction (Both agricultural and non-agricultural waste)
- **U12** - Spreading Mulch (Both agricultural and non-agricultural waste)
- **T6** - Treatment of waste wood and waste plant matter by chipping, shredding, cutting or pulverising
(Both agricultural and non-agricultural waste)
- **T9** - Recovery of scrap Metal (Both agricultural and non-agricultural waste)
- **D7** - Burning Waste in the open (Both agricultural and non-agricultural waste)

The Environment Agency Compliance Assessment Report for Wirral Country Park is attached as Appendix 15 and Wirral Council Environmental Policy attached as Appendix 16.

Wirral Country Park Visitor Centre is one of over 13,000 Refill Stations in the UK. Supporting Wirral Council's policy to phase out single use plastics. Free drinking water is available from the Visitor Centre and from an outside tap outside of opening hours.



We aim to ensure compliance with environmental requirements requiring consent for activities within the designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and specifically under Section 28E (1)(a) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended and inserted by section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). This is usually through notification to Natural England with a 'Notice of proposal to carry out an operation on an SSSI'. Where work may impact on Thurstaston Beach (Natura 2000 site) a Habitats and Regulations assessment is usually undertaken and usually with consultation with Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation where operations take place below Mean High Water.

5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Built Heritage

A sandstone monument commemorating the opening of the park is situated on the open grass area in proximity to the Visitors Centre. The main remaining heritage features associated with the former railway are the brick-built station platform at Thurstaston and the road bridges spanning the former track / Wirral Way. A trackside gradient marker can still be seen near to the Davenport Road access point and next to the Heswall Fields section. There are two disused stone railway bridges at Croft Drive and Gayton. There are two Parish Boundary Markers along the Wirral Way.



A Blue Plaque acknowledging the life and work of local author William Olaf Stapledon on Simons Bridge crossing over the Wirral Way at Caldy

Nature Conservation

Wirral Country Park has immense value as a nature conservation resource. The Visitor Centre at Thurstaston is a main gateway to a wider countryside including the Dee Estuary and surrounding coastal and pastoral scenery. The Wirral Way itself is a wildlife corridor that spans 12 miles and running parallel to the shore for most of its length. For 4 miles between Caldy and Gayton it is a locally designated Site of Biological Importance (Local Wildlife Site). It acts as a connector though a mosaic of farmland, woodlands, heaths, ponds and rocky outcrops interlaced with bridleways and footpaths. The pond cluster and 'Middle Pond' at Wirral Country Park remain from the 1800's when they were dug in order to extract nutrient rich clay (marl), which was used as an agricultural fertilizer and for bricks (as shown on the Thurstaston Parish Tithe Maps). Marl pits can be dated back to the post-medieval period and their existence is often evident through field and place names. The pits were likely to have been abandoned during the mid-19th century and became filled with water to become the freshwater habitat visible today. The Visitor Centre Pond was enlarged when the Visitor Centre was built to create an interesting feature. The Dee Cliffs SSSI includes a freshwater habitat once described as one of the most important pond

clusters in Cheshire. A Conservation Enhancement Scheme part funded by Natural England between 2016 and 2021 has restored the ponds and adjacent grassland to a favourable condition.



The pond cluster within the Dee Cliffs SSSI has been restored with woody vegetation removal and regrading of bankside to encourage marginal vegetation

Designations

The main body of the site includes an area which is locally designated as a Special Landscape Area and is located within the Green Belt and Coastal Zone. The Dee Estuary adjacent to the Country Park is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It has been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA), and a Special Area for Conservation (SAC), under the European Union's Habitats Directive. It is a Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. It is primarily of importance for its assemblage of wintering waders and wildfowl and as a staging post for migrating birds.

The designated areas of special interest for nature conservation within the park are:

- The Dungeon SSSI and also a site of Special Biological Interest (SBI) including semi-ancient woodland and open running water
- Dee Cliffs Thurstaston SSSI including maritime grassland and maritime scrub, unimproved grassland and ponds
- Wirral Way (Thurstaston to Heswall) SBI including scrub, woodland standing water and unimproved grassland
- Wirral Way (Caldy to Thurstaston) SBI including scrub and unimproved grassland

The Dungeon SSSI and the Dee Cliffs are also designated for their geological interest. Other areas of special interest for nature conservation (non-designated) within the park are:

- Cubbins Green
- Thurstaston Visitor Centre grounds including ponds, woodland and scrub
- The Jump Field including pond
- Dawpool Nature Reserve

The Rangers work alongside partner organisations and neighbouring landowners to achieve the best outcomes for nature conservation on the site. The Site Designations for protected areas of the park are appended to this plan.

6 Community Involvement

The Wirral Biodiversity Local Sites Partnership, Tidal Dee Partnership, Dee Estuary Voluntary Wardens, Wirral Wildlife, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and other conservation groups use the park's facilities for their activities. Numerous community groups utilise the park and the services the Rangers offer. The park hosts many opportunities for local communities, groups and societies to engage in both utilising the parks facilities, giving opportunities for people to get actively involved in a variety of events, activities and projects for both the benefit of the individual and the park. The Campsite is hired by local scout groups for overnight stays and by church and other community groups for weekend activities. Young people taking part in the Wirral National Citizens Service Award or Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme are encouraged to complete the John Muir 'Discovery Award' at the park. The Theatre is made available, free of charge, for partnership groups meetings. In 2018 junior parkrun started in the park with 166 people attending the first event. Numbers still exceed 100 participants every Sunday morning. The Visitor Centre Whistle Stop Café is managed by a Community Interest Company. They offer training and workshops using the Visitor Centre facilities and assist schools and other groups with their visits.

There isn't a Wirral Country Park Friends Group as attempts to bring together people to cover the whole park have failed. Instead there are a number of local residents groups that work with the Rangers and other volunteers:

- York Avenue Residents Group (West Kirby)
- Cubbins Green Residents Group (Caldy)
- Farr Hall Drive Residents Group (Heswall)

Groups regularly involved in events and projects include:

- Wirral Footpaths and Open Spaces Preservation Society
- Wirral Barn Owl Trust
- The Wirral Society
- Dancing in the Rain (Nordic walking)
- Wirral Wildlife and Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- Junior parkrun
- Breeze Bike Rides
- Run in Wirral
- Tracs UK (cycle hire)



The contribution made to the management of the site by volunteers is invaluable. The Rangers work with volunteers to help them achieve both the John Muir Award and their Duke of Edinburgh Community Service. Strong links have been formed with local schools and colleges with work experience and other community-based opportunities offered.



Volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the management of Wirral Country Park

A Tool Store equipped with a variety of hand tools and a pedestrian mower is provided for three groups that visit the park each week. These groups undertake regular routine maintenance of the site as well as undertaking larger management projects alongside the Rangers and volunteers from the Wirral Country Park Thursday Task Force. In 2021 a Volunteers Mess Room was constructed within the Garages to provide wet weather shelter with indoor seating along with a kitchen and toilet.



The support and input from volunteer groups, in particular the Thursday Task Force and local residents groups, allow us to undertake major conservation projects as well as general maintenance that helps the park achieve a Green Flag Award each year

Groups regularly involved in maintenance and conservation projects include:

- Wirral Country Park Thursday Task Force Volunteers
- John Muir Trust
- Wirral Rotary
- Wirral Society
- Wirral Wombles
- Local Schools
- West Kirby in Bloom
- National Museums Liverpool
- York Avenue Residents Group
- Cubbins Green Residents Group
- Farr Hall Drive Residents Group
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



In 2021, Cheshire Wildlife Trust were successful in obtaining a Heritage Lottery Grant to fund the Our Dee Estuary Project. The project has funded 3 interpretive boards for the glacial erratics display at the Thurstaston Centre, Dawpool Nature Reserve and Cubbins Green. The project has also used the Visitor Centre facilities to run workshops as well as events.

Several large local businesses have staff volunteer days at the park and in 2022 Wirral Mencap service users undertook their Gateway Award at the park. In 2018 6,558 volunteer hours were logged at Wirral Country Park. In 2019 the number increased slightly to 6,867. No records were kept during 2020, 2021 or 2022 however, volunteer numbers are slowly returning to previous levels as Covid restrictions eased and people feel more confident returning to volunteer work.

The Rangers, with input from National Museums Liverpool, are creating a species database with records being shared with the Local Biological Records Centre (rECOrd). The aim is to make a full species record available alongside a Wirral Way Breeding Birds Survey and the Wirral Way Local Wildlife Site Survey undertaken by Wirral Wildlife.



Large groups can assist with very labour-intensive tasks such as scarifying the old railway embankments to encourage development of the dormant seed bank

7 Marketing, Communications and Surveys

The Wirral Council Internet web site, www.wirral.gov.co.uk and www.visitwirral.com has links to the Parks and Countryside Service, the site contains information specific to Wirral Country Park.



Many groups like to post images of their work with the Rangers on social media and we're happy to share stories and inform the public about projects taking place – and why

Trip Advisor comments from visitors have included:

Nice part of the Wirral July 2022

Visited whilst in the area. Nice walk down to sand dunes and beach and wooded walk along the disused railway line between West Kirby and Neston. Carparking and cafe facilities with picnic area where we were so all good.

Nice green space June 2022

Nice green space with paid car parking. On the headland above Thurstaston beach. Had picnic here before heading down to the beach.

Head to the right (west side past the cafe) for four bbq areas with picnic tables.

Plenty to see May 2022

An interesting park on the Dee estuary, with an interesting visiting center where you can watch the birds. Everything is clearly explained in the center.

Also there are plenty possibilities for a nice stroll, plenty benches to sit on.

Loads of different birds to be seen May 2022

An interesting visiting center, with a nice cafe.

Plenty of information about the birds you can find here in the park.

Beautiful country park April 2022

Lovely country park - plenty of parking. Lots of routes to walk along with our dog and the view is spectacular over the estuary. Cold April day but many families enjoying the area and using the barbecues. A few cafes to choose from which is good to know for future visits. Toilets in Visitor Centre were very clean with soap and hot water (not always found in public toilets). We never went to the beach area as I'm not so agile but we could see a lot of people enjoying themselves. Highly recommend and look forward to returning

Media

One of the Wirral Country Park Rangers appears on BBC local radio every 3 weeks as part of a regular wildlife feature on Saturday mornings. The show has a large audience and forthcoming events and news items, including those at Wirral Country Park, are featured. Events, activities and news stories also feature on the Wirral Council Facebook page as well as on the Wirral Council Intranet Site (for employees) and website and the weekly Parks and Countryside Newsletter. A noticeboard in the Visitor Centre advertises Ranger-led and other groups and organizations' local environmental events. Wirral Country Park has its own Facebook page and it is regularly updated with events and management information. One post about use of the flail cutter along the Wirral Way and aimed at horseriders reached over 11,000 people.

In 2023 the BBC commissioned a short series of articles featuring the park throughout the seasons. The Rangers and local historians, geologists and volunteers all gave interviews that were shown on BBC North West Tonight.



Visitor Statistics

In January 2017 traffic monitoring was started recording vehicles that entered into the main surfaced car park adjacent to the Visitor Centre. Weekends and Bank Holidays are the busiest days with visitor numbers increasing when the park hosts large public events.

The National Travel Survey (NTS) is a household survey commissioned by The Department for Transport and designed to monitor long-term trends in personal travel. The survey collects information on how, why, when and where people travel as well as factors affecting travel and Table NTS0906 'Car / van occupancy by trip purpose: England, 2022' shows that the average car/van occupancy for a holiday/day trip is two persons. Based on this information provided by the NTS the number of people arriving by car at Wirral Country Park, Visitor Centre Car Park, exceeded 200,000 in the period from February 2017 to February 2018. Using the same traffic monitoring information, average car occupancy (and Parking Services information on car parking ticket sales) the total number of people arriving by car at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston, in

2019 was nearly 300,000. In 2020 the number of people arriving by car at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston was calculated at nearly 400,000. In 2021 that figure was less than 200,000 but the overflow car park was closed for nearly three months for resurfacing. These figures only show the number of visitors arriving by car at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston and does not include access to the park at other sites, by pedestrians, horseriders or cyclists. In 2021, total park visitor numbers were estimated at about 400,000 assuming that half the total number of visitors each year are to the Thurstaston Centre. In 2022 this figure had increased to an estimated 500,000.

In 2023 the number of people arriving by car at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston, increased slightly by 4.6%. (On Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 2023 1,510 cars entered the main Visitor Centre Car Park at Thurstaston and this was recorded as the peak day for cars entering into the car park in 2023). However, since car parking charges were introduced at Thurstaston, car parking away from the Thurstaston Centre has increased dramatically with many visitors parking at Caldy Car Park and Banks Road Car Park, as well as at Thurstaston Hill and parking on the roadside at various park entrances along the Wirral Way. Assuming that only half the total number of visitors are now parking at the Thurstaston Centre, and with car visitor making up 50% of visitors total park visitor numbers, total visitors in 2023 have now been estimated approaching 600,000. All the figures above only relate to visitor numbers at the section of park managed by Wirral Council.



The largest number of visitors arriving by car at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston (based on the NTC average car/van occupancy for a holiday/day trip of two persons) since traffic monitoring started in 2017, was in May 2020 when restrictions on staying in doors due to the Covid pandemic were lifted. There were an estimated 40,000 visitors. Again, this figure only shows the number of visitors arriving by car at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston and does not include access to the park at other sites, by pedestrians, horseriders or cyclists. From 2010 to 2020 a monitoring system that allowed the reporting of cycle usage from a Merseyside wide network of dedicated automatic cycle counters was installed at Wirral Country Park with monitors in place on the Wirral Way by Ashton Park (ref no 646) and near to the Visitor Centre at Thurstaston (ref no 645). The locations were agreed with the counters located on the segregated cycle path that is not shared with regular vehicular traffic. Although in 2017 monitoring shows that there was a 7.4% decrease in cycle usage across Merseyside, over the 11 year period of cycle monitoring, cycle usage on Merseyside

has grown by over 71%. Information provided from the Merseyside Cycle Monitoring Report 2016/17 shows peak usage (weekends and weekdays) during June and August each year. The counter by Ashton Park recorded a total of 7,373 cyclists using the Wirral Way (at that section) in six consecutive weeks in July and August 2019. In 2020 those same weeks recorded usage at 9,530 - a 29% increase in the number of cyclists using the Wirral Way. In 2017 there were 83 recorded bookings for the Barbecue Site with nearly 2,000 people attending. Due to the popularity of the free to use site a further 3 brick built barbecue stands were built adjacent to the Visitor Centre. Booking of the barbecue site is no longer required and so visitor numbers are no longer recorded. The sites are however very popular and provision of designated barbecue areas has helped reduce damage to park furniture and risk of grass fires from disposable barbecue use.

43 curriculum school visits were recorded from April to November 2022 at Wirral Country Park with an approximate total of 2,600 pupils. In 2023 there were 59 recorded school visits with nearly 3,000 pupils. Between April and December 2022 there were a further 6 activities that had an educational element (eg Ranger-led walks) with attendance of about 600. Total figures for event attendance at Wirral Country Park during that period included the West Kirby Santa Dash, Cheshire Endurance Horse Ride and various athletic races was an estimated 3,000. These figures were reflective of the first year after Covid that there were no restrictions in place.

In 2023 a full and varied public events programme was organised for the Wirral Country Park anniversary year. Ranger-led guided walks included celebrating World Wetland Day and there was a Wirral Country Park Photographic Exhibition that visited The Ashton Park Summer Fair and the Annual Wirral History and Heritage Fair at port Sunlight. The Cheshire Wildlife Trust managed 'Our Dee Estuary' project 'included a series of guided walks at Thurstaston and the park again hosted the Wirral Open Studio Tours and 'Totally Wild' food foraging courses.

8 Management

The Manager for Wirral Country Park, Heswall Dales and Hilbre Islands is responsible for the management and maintenance of the site, supported by an Assistant Senior Manager (also responsible for North, Central and West Wirral Parks and Countryside Areas). There is a team of 5 full time Rangers based at Wirral Country Park and who also manage Heswall Dales and Hilbre Islands. The Management Plan will help to inform staff and members and the public about the aspirations Wirral Council and the local community have for the future development and maintenance of the park.

An Environmental Audit is undertaken prior to major management tasks where the activity may impact on the natural or local history of the site. Goods and services purchased for Wirral Country Park are made through Wirral Council's Procurement System and procurement regulations are in place. Wirral Council operates a **Customer Response Management** system (CRM). Comments, requests for work and complaints from members of the public are logged by either Wirral Council's Streetscene Call Centre, or by the Wirral Country Park Team Leader. Members of the public can also report a problem by completing an on-line form. This service is also used by local Councillors and members of Parliament. For day-to-day site management the staff at Wirral Country Park use Microsoft Outlook Calendar. This is used to log school, Campsite, Barbecue and Theatre Bookings along with facilities management, non-conformities, lost property, staffing notes and volunteer days. Microsoft Teams is used to keep all staff members up to date with management issues and tasks requiring attention.

Enquiries regarding the management and maintenance of the park can be made directly to the Wirral Country Park Manager at wcp@wirral.gov.uk

GREEN HERITAGE AWARD AND ACCREDITATION

A 5-year Green Heritage Site Conservation Plan (2023 – 2028) has been produced to address the conservation management of heritage features of the whole of Wirral Country Park within both Wirral Council and Chester West and Chester Council management areas and that includes:

- The Wirral Way
- Cubbins Green
- Dawpool Nature Reserve
- Thurstaston Centre
- The Sidings
- Tinker's Dell
- The Dungeon
- Parkgate Old Baths
- The Ropewalk
- Lees Lane
- Neston Cutting
- Hadlow Road Station

The plan is intended to provide information on the park's heritage assists and interpretation of the of the park's history and landscape character. It was part of a successful application for Green Heritage Status recognising the first designated country park in Britain and how these assets are integral to the management of the park by a Wirral Country Park Joint Steering Group.



Wirral Country Park has a fascinating history including being created from an old railway line, old Second World War Anti-aircraft Battery and an old landfill waste site

It is an aspiration of Chester West and Chester Council to achieve designated 'country park' status and Green Heritage Award for the section of park after achieving the Green Flag Award within their management area for the first time in 2023. The Green Heritage Site Conservation Plan includes the following chapter and sub-chapter headings:

- **SITE INFORMATION**
 - Description, Map and Site Designations
 - Park History

- **CONDITION OF HISTORIC FEATURES**
 - Identifying and Recording Historic Features
 - Catalogue of Historic Features along The Wirral Way
 - Catalogue of Historic Landscape Features
 - Merseyside Sites and Monuments Records Office Listings
 - Defence of Britain Archive Record
 - Tree Preservation Orders
 - Historic England Listing for Hadlow Road Railway Station
 - Assessment of Historic Features

- **USE AND ENJOYMENT OF HISTORIC FEATURES**
 - The Wirral Way
 - Cubbins Green
 - Dawpool Nature Reserve
 - Thurstaston Centre
 - The Sidings
 - Tinker's Dell
 - The Dungeon
 - Parkgate Old Baths
 - Neston Cutting
 - The Ropewalk
 - Lees Lane
 - Hadlow Road Station
 - Events and Activities
 - Interpretation
 - Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Further Education

- **MAINTAINING HISTORIC CHARACTER & APPEARANCE**
 - The 50th Anniversary of the Official Opening of Wirral Country Park
 - The Wirral Way
 - The Thurstaston Centre
 - Hadlow Road Station

Green Heritage Site Accreditation focusses on a site's heritage conservation and interpretation, recognition of historic features and relevant conservation statements and links with the management plan. Scoring for Green Heritage Site Accreditation places higher emphasis on the conservation, protection, interpretation and use of the designated Heritage Site. The Desk assessment contains 4 categories or scoring, and the site visit contains 10 categories. The categories for scoring during assessment are as follows:

Desk Assessment

- Presentation of Conservation Plan or statement
- Strategic and policy and background
- Community involvement and marketing
- Integration of Heritage Management

Site Visit

- Good conservation standards
- Historic features given prominence
- Historic features integrated into the life of the site
- Information available and evidence that historic features are enjoyed by the public
- Relevance of historic landscape design – integrity understood and interpreted
- Horticultural displays contribute to historic character
- Recognition and appropriateness of historic tree and plant collections
- New and replacement features enhance or conserve the historic character and appearance

The Wirral Country Park Heritage Conservation Plan provides a concise catalogue of historic features along with a detailed history of the site and the park's development. It details current management with regard to the input of stakeholder groups, events and activities and interpretation of historic features and provides a Action Plan and Project Bank listing current and proposed projects to further enhance the park's history and heritage.



Good quality park furniture, fixtures and fittings are essential and the Wirral Way Gateway is an example of the recognition of the park's heritage

COUNTRY PARK DESIGNATION AND ACCREDITATION

The intention is for the park to continue to meet the criteria required by Natural England's Country Park Accreditation Scheme. Further details about the scheme are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-accreditation-for-your-country-park>

Essential Criteria

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| 1. Area | At least 10 Hectares (25 Acres) in Size | Yes |
| | Must have identifiable boundary | Yes |
| 2. Accessibility | Readily accessible to the population which it is intended to serve | Yes |
| | Entry free of charge | Yes |
| | Site access plan in place that has been developed following an access audit and addresses the requirements of the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) to ensure indoor and outdoor facilities provided are inclusive and accessible. Evidence of commitment to Equality Standards (or equivalent level of delivery) related to the site | Yes |
| 3. Character | Must predominantly consist of natural or semi-natural landscape, e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland, heathland, parkland | Yes |
| | Less than 5% total area of buildings | Yes |
| 4. Facilities | Easily followed paths, bridleways and cycle paths, e.g. waymarked or with a leaflet | Yes |
| | Toilets on site or within 2 minutes walking distance | Yes |
| 5. Links to local communities and neighbourhoods | Opportunities for the local community to have an influence over the management and development of the site | Yes |
| 6. Management | Daily staff presence | Yes |
| | Up to date management plan | Yes |
| 7. Activities | Available for public or educational events | Yes |
| 8. Information and interpretation | Clear entrance signage | Yes |
| | Information about where visitors can go and what they can do | Yes |

Desirable Criteria

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| 1. Accessibility | Green transport policy or plan for the site | No |
| | Additional facilities for less able visitors e.g. easy going trails, accessible seats and picnic benches, relevant site information in an accessible format, play equipment | Yes |
| | Evidence of progress towards the next level of equality standards (or equivalent level of delivery) | Yes |
| 2. Character | Management and promotion of the site's biodiversity, geo-diversity and historical environment | Yes |
| 3. Facilities | Outdoor recreation facilities e.g. water sports, adventure sports | Yes |
| | Promoted self-guided health promoting activities | Yes |
| | Visitor centre | Yes |
| | Play facilities | No |
| | Catering provision | Yes |
| | Cycle or horse trails | Yes |
| | Art or sculpture | Yes |
| 4. Links to local communities and neighbourhoods | Outreach programme to engage and involve local people | Yes |
| | Active promotion to less represented sectors of the community | No |
| | Outreach programme to engage and involve local schools and lifelong learning delivery | No |
| 5. Links to the wider countryside | Links from the site to the rights of way network, permissive access routes or other adjoining public open space or open access areas. Connectivity between site and where people live | Yes |
| 6. Management | Permanent staff presence during the daytime | Yes |
| | Opportunities for community involvement in practical or management tasks | Yes |
| | Annual Action Plan / Work Plan | Yes |
| | Achieved or working towards Green Flag Award (GFA) status | Yes |
| 7. Activities | Programme of walks or events | Yes |
| | Programme of activities and events that promote healthy living and environmental awareness | Yes |
| 8. Information and interpretation | More detailed information and interpretation about the site and other issues | Yes |
| | Brown and white tourist directional signs | Yes |
| | Shown on OS map | Yes |

WIRRAL COUNTRY PARK MASTER PLAN

The Wirral Country Park Master Plan was written to revisit the original vision for the creation of Wirral Country Park and will bring that vision up to date as part of Wirral Council's Leisure Strategy. Key aims have been identified along with proposals to deliver three parts of the Leisure Strategy:

1 Leisure Strategy - Promote and celebrate Wirral's parks, coast and countryside for leisure activities

- We will maximise the potential of our parks, beaches and open spaces through developing our country parks as national tourist attractions and create more opportunities for camping and caravanning facilities
- We will increase the number and variety of events held in Wirral including festivals and local activities to all our residents, regardless of age or income

Delivery through the Wirral Country Park Master Plan:

- We will provide visitors with good on site facilities, including access for all
- We will provide a safe, clean and secure Campsite with facilities that can cater for all users and with options for different users groups and which will be part of our schools offer and to include Forest Schools
- We will provide car parking that can cater for the increase in visitors throughout the year and which will allow the park to host large events

2 Leisure Strategy - Encourage people to take part in sports, leisure, social and physical activities

- We will work with partners to develop creative ways to support people to access leisure activities
- We will work with local schools and colleges to encourage participation in leisure and sport from an earlier age
- We will increase access to physical and sporting activities for more of our residents
- We will work with partners to further develop our cycling and walking networks and cycle hire hubs
- We will promote the health, economic and environmental benefits of walking and cycling through marketing campaigns, local businesses and educational institutions

Delivery through the Wirral Country Park Master Plan:

- We will maintain the Wirral Way to a high standard providing a well-managed, safe pedestrian, cycle and horse riding route
- We will encourage the development of activities within the park by ensuring good facilities, and supporting partner organisations including 'multi terrain' and obstacle course' races, cycle hire etc
- We will ensure that the Country Park is safe, welcoming and accessible to all

3 Leisure Strategy - Increase pride in Wirral's communities and encourage more residents to volunteer

- We will work with local groups and communities to encourage more people to volunteer in Wirral
- We will explore opportunities to enable local groups and communities to manage and run local leisure assets and activities in their neighbourhoods

Delivery through the Wirral Country Park Master Plan:

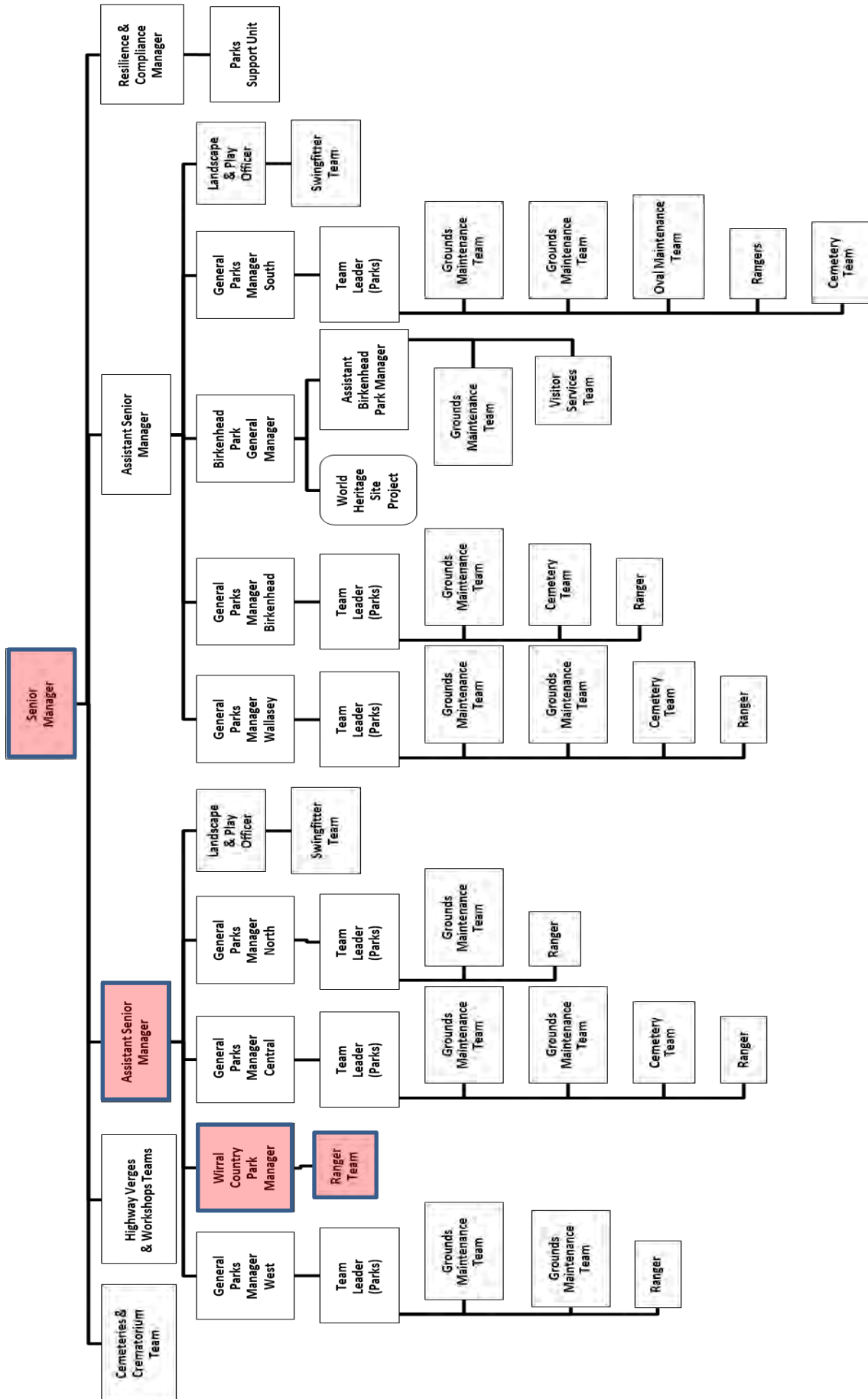
- We will ensure that there are volunteering opportunities for all at Wirral Country Park by providing good facilities, training and equipment
- We will continue to offer personal development through the John Muir Award and Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes
- We will continue to work with and support our many volunteer groups including Autism Together, Heswall Centre, Phoenix Futures, Heswall Soroptomists and Wirral Rotary and to assist them with the development of their own leisure programmes within the park
- We will continue to support groups and communities to run their own leisure activities at the park including Breeze Cycling, Run Wirral, Commando X-Trail, Chain Runner, Wirral and North Wales Paragliding and Hang Gliding Club and Pensby Runners



The Wirral Country Park Master Plan will be updated in 2023 to include Wirral Council's new Corporate Objectives including its commitment to the Climate Change Emergency

Appendices

Appendix 1: Wirral Parks and Countryside Organisation



Appendix 2: Location Plans



Wirral Way North Location Plan

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| drawn | drawing number |
| Mike Cucksey | |
| scale | date |
| 1:20,000 | 07/01/2009 |



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Parks & Countryside, Westminster House, Hamilton Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 5FN 0151 666 4711



Thurstaston Centre Location Plan

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| drawn | drawing number |
| Mike Cucksey | |
| scale | date |
| 1:7,000 | 07/01/2009 |



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**Wirral Way South
Location Plan**

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Drawn Mike Cucksey | Drawing number |
| Scale 1:20,000 | Date 07/01/2009 |



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Department of Regeneration, Westminster House, Hamilton Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 5FN. Tel 0151 666 4702

Appendix 3: Aerial photographs





Thurstaston Centre Aerial Photograph

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| drawn | drawing number |
| Mike Cucksey | |
| scale | date |
| 1:7,000 | 07/01/2009 |



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Wirral Way South Aerial Photograph

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| drawn | Mike Cucksey | drawing number | |
| scale | 1:20,000 | date | 07/01/2009 |



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Appendix 4: Parks and Countryside General Service Requirement

Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection

- Collect and remove litter and refuse from all of the areas included within this plan. 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:
 1. ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations
 2. programming works effectively
 3. 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:
 1. main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths
 2. visitors' centres and attractions
 3. ornamental grass areas
 4. soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders
 5. surfaces within play areas
- Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:
 1. in good horticultural condition
 2. 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 Park 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:
 1. 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.
 2. Litter on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing.
 3. 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 Local Team Leader. 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.
- 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.

General/amenity grass

- All general/amenity grass areas shall be maintained within the specified height range:
 1. Minimum height 25 mm
 2. 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. All locations covered by a site management plan at contract commencement shall have been subject to a condition survey within three years of contract commencement. All other locations shall have been subject to a condition survey within five years of contract commencement. Following each site condition survey the prepare an improvement plan for inclusion in the relevant site management plan and subsequent submission to the Service Manager, or where there is no site management plan for direct submission to the Service Manager.

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 to 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 Local 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 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.
- Be aware of his obligations when undertaking any work on or near a highway with regard to public safety and traffic regulations.

Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting

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

Public toilets

- Be responsible as key-holder for opening, closing and securing the buildings.
- Maintain public toilets to a sufficiently high level of cleanliness to protect public health and maintain good appearance.
- Toilets shall be kept free from unacceptable odours. All sanitary ware shall be kept free from all, stains; dirt and any build up of lime scale or dry germ. A streak and smear free finish shall be achieved.
- Replace where necessary all consumables such as toilet rolls.
- Use best endeavours to conserve supplied utilities including electricity and water, and arrange access for the reading of meters by the utility suppliers.
- 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 Service Manager immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.

Trees and woodland

- Maintain an up to date Tree Survey of the site.
- 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.

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.
- In the event of severe weather conditions or a major disaster provide additional staff and resources as deemed necessary. At such times maintain radio or telephone contact with the Service Manager's staff so that the staff can be directed to other emergencies as necessary.
- 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 – arboriculture 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.

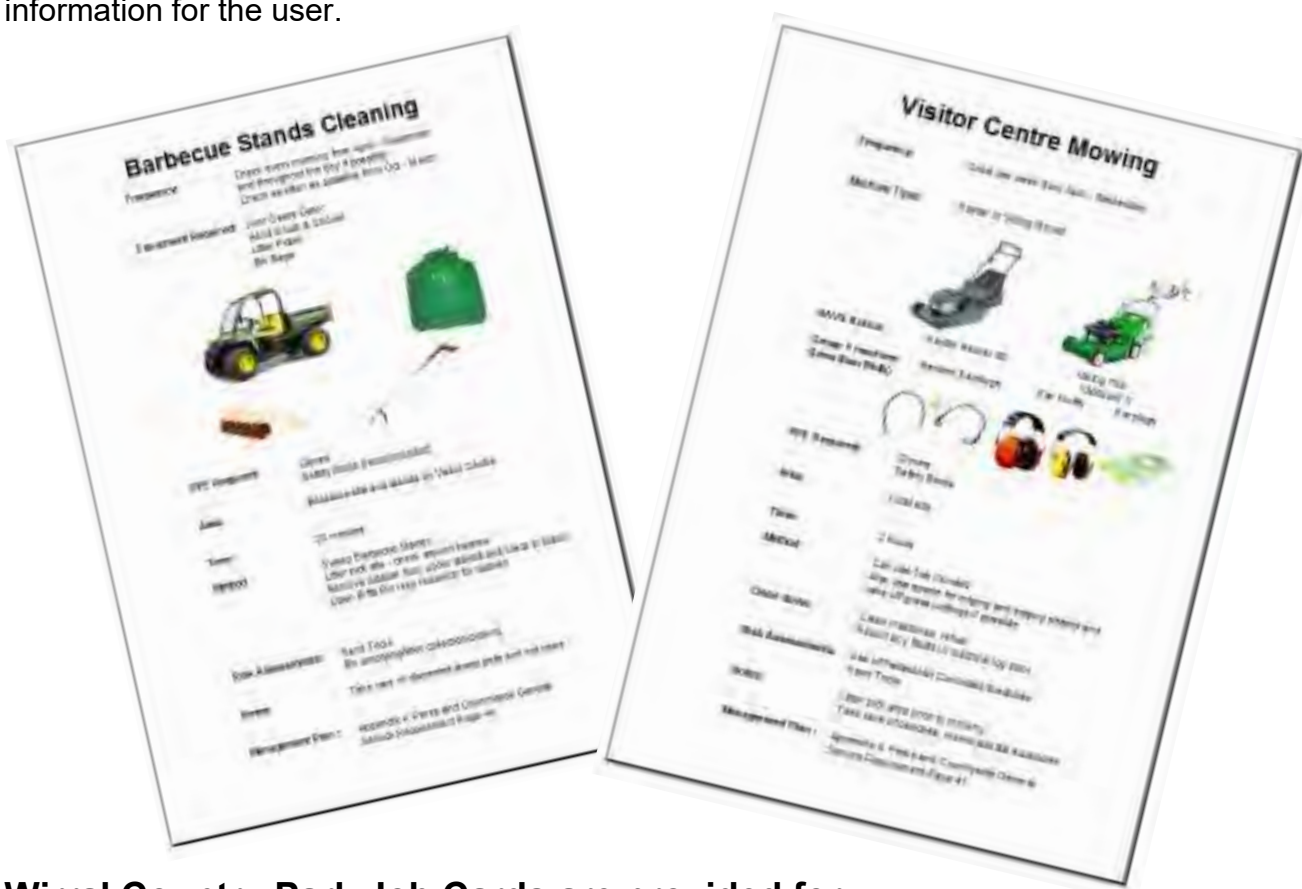
Visitor centres

- A named person shall be responsible as key holder for opening, closing and securing the buildings.
- Visitor Centres will be maintained to a high level of cleanliness appropriate to their use including public visibility, including offices, lecture/meeting rooms, changing rooms, furniture, showers, hallways, windows (internal & external), toilets, feminine hygiene disposal units, soap dispensers and similar items, inclusive of replacing all necessary consumables such as toilet rolls.
- Cleaning operations shall include any vacuuming, dusting, sweeping, polishing, wiping down, disinfecting etc in order to leave the Visitor Centre in a clean, tidy and safe condition.
- The best endeavours shall be used to conserve supplied utilities including electricity and water and arrange access for the reading of meters by the utility suppliers.
- All equipment and materials is to be stored in a safe condition.
- Provide and display the necessary warning signs/barriers to ensure public safety during cleaning operations.
- Remove any graffiti as part of the cleaning operation.
- All operations shall be carried out prior to the Visitor Centre being opened to minimise the risk of accidents to the public and staff.
- Make provision for the cleaning up of spillages, breakages and similar occurrences during the opening hours of the building.
- Inspect the premises after each cleaning operation and notify the Service Manager immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.



Appendix 5: Job Cards and Frequency of Operation

Job Cards are used for regular routine maintenance tasks and include visual health and safety information for the user.









Wirral Country Park Job Cards are provided for:







| Task | Expected Frequency of Operation based on Service Requirement |
|--|---|
| Wirral Way Mowing | Every two weeks from April to September and then as required |
| Wirral Way Strimming | Twice per year |
| Wirral Way & Car Parks Leaf Litter Removal | Twice per year and as required |
| Visitor Centre Mowing | Once a week from April to September and then as required |
| Visitor Centre Strimming | Once per month from April to September |
| Barbecue Site Mowing | Once a week from April to September and then as required |
| Barbecue Site Strimming | Once per month from April - September |
| Barbecue Site Cleaning | Daily April – September & in between day bookings if possible |
| Barbecue Stands Cleaning | Daily April – September |
| Cliff Top/Barbecue Field Mowing | Once a week from April to September and then as required |
| Cliff Top/Barbecue Field Strimming | Once per month from April - September |
| Dee Cliffs SSSI Grass Cutting (Hay Meadow) | Once per year after July 15th |
| Dee Cliffs SSSI Grass Cutting (Paths) | Every 2 weeks from April to September and then as required |
| Campsite Grass Cutting | Every 2 weeks from April to September and then as required |
| Beach Cleaning | Minimum of once per month |
| Bird Hide Cleaning (Exterior) | Twice per year |
| Overflow Car Park Mowing | Every 2 weeks from April to September and then as required |
| Overflow Car Park Hedge Cutting | Once per year |
| Visitor Centre Flower Beds and Baskets | Twice per year |
| Yard Maintenance | Twice per year |




Appendix 6: Wirral Country Park 5 Year Action Plan

This 5-year Action Plan uses the Green Flag assessment criteria as a focus for the future management of the park. It identifies areas requiring action to meet and maintain the Green Flag standard and takes into account Green Flag Judging Assessment, the Access Audit and Customer Feedback and which can be undertaken within existing resources or some minimal additional funding.

| A welcoming place | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 1.1 | Improve the arrival experience from Station Road to the Thurstaston Centre with new up to date Brown and White Tourist Signs | 2025 | WBC Traffic/Highways | Green Flag - A welcoming place Marketing Country Park Status – Information and Interpretation WCP Master Plan |
| 1.2 | Improve the arrival experience of the Thurstaston Visitor Centre with uniform 'branded' signage | 2027 | WBC & CWAC | Leisure Strategy – development of the park as a national tourist destination. WCP JSG recommendations WCP Master Plan |
| 1.3 | Reduce hedge heights at all main entrances along with crown raising | 2025 | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag – A welcoming place Clean and well maintained |
| 1.4 | Prune/reduce hedging/vegetation at strategic points along Wirral Way to maximise visibility of landmarks, vistas from key viewing points | Annual | Rangers Volunteers District Staff | Green Flag – A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure Wirral Country Park Master Plan |
| 1.5 | Thin & lower hedgerow between Visitor Centre car park and private houses | 2023  | Rangers and Volunteers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure Clean and well maintained |
| 1.6 | Install new noticeboards at Cubbins Green, Riverbank Road, Davenport Road, Banks Road, Cottage Lane | 2027 | WBC & CWAC | Leisure Strategy – development of the park as a national tourist destination. WCP JSG recommendations |
| 1.7 | Install new signage at primary, secondary and tertiary entrances | 2028 | WBC & CWAC | Leisure Strategy – development of the park as a national tourist destination. WCP JSG recommendations |
| 1.8 | Thin trees around Caldy Car Park and towards Cubbins Green | 2023  | Tree Officer Arbor Force | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 1.9 | Install new picnic units between Caldy Car Park and Cubbins Green | 2024 | Rangers and Volunteers | Green Flag – A welcoming place WCP Master Plan |
| 1.10 | Extend the area of grassland around Riverbank Road picnic site | 2024  | Rangers and Volunteers | Green Flag – A welcoming place |
| 1.11 | Continue with Cubbins Green Restoration Project | On-going | Rangers and Volunteers | Green Flag – A welcoming place Cubbins Green Restoration Project |
| 1.12 | Continue with Dawpool Action Plan and update after 2025 | 2025 | Rangers and Volunteers | Green Flag – A welcoming place Dawpool Action Plan |
| 1.13 | Continue with Dungeon Action Plan and update after 2025 | 2025 | Rangers and Volunteers | Green Flag – A welcoming place Dungeon Action Plan |

| Healthy, safe and secure | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 2.1 | Update Access Audit | Annual | WCP Manager | Country Park Status – Accessibility |
| 2.2 | Improve external security lighting around Visitor Centre | 2023  | WCP Manager | Green Flag - Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.3 | Lower hedgerows at all secondary/tertiary park entrances | 2025 | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.4 | Lower hedgerow between Visitor Centre and Wirral Way | 2023  | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.5 | Look at further hedgerow reduction on Campsite | 2024  | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.6 | Remove trip hazards along horse ride esp redundant 'steps' between Dawpool and Caldly | 2023  | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure WCP Master Plan |
| 2.7 | Remove old path edging boards along Wirral Way at West Kirby | 2023  | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.8 | Continue to cover areas throughout the amenity grassland by the Visitor Centre where visitor pressure has caused erosion/compaction | On going | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure WCP Master Plan |
| 2.9 | Update all on-site noticeboards with Wirral way Code of Conduct | Annual | Rangers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.10 | Affix remaining Wirral Way Code of Conduct Signs and add 3 x colour-coded trails | 2025 | Rangers | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.10 | Reduce soil from Riverbank Road to improve visibility along Wirral Way | 2025  | Contractors | Green Flag - A welcoming place Healthy, safe and secure |
| 2.11 | Continue invasive weed spraying programme | Annual | Rangers | Green Flag - Healthy, safe and secure Council policy |
| 2.11 | Continue with Annual H&S Site Inspections | Annual | WCP Manager Rangers | Green Flag - Healthy, safe and secure Council policy |
| 2.12 | Continue with Annual H&S Workplace Inspections | Annual | WCP Manager Rangers | Green Flag - Healthy, safe and secure Council policy |
| Clean and well maintained | | | | |
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 3.1 | Maintain a seasonal maintenance programme of leaf removal from the Wirral Way and surfaced car parks | On-going | Rangers John Deere Utility 4x4 | Green Flag - Healthy, safe and secure Clean and well maintained |
| 3.2 | Remove all damaged/ redundant timber post and rail fencing along the Wirral Way | On-going | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - Clean and well maintained |
| 3.3 | Create a surfaced path to the road at Riverbank Road picnic site with access (dropped kerb) for bin access | 2026 | Highways Bin Contract Supervisor | Green Flag - Clean and well maintained. This now means that all park bins are emptied |

| | | | Rangers and Volunteers | under contract and by mechanical means. |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| 3.4 | Remove debris from Dungeon Waterfall and stream | On going | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag - Clean and well maintained WCP Master Plan |
| 3.5 | Update Bench File with up-to-date images of all benches and picnic units | 2025 | WCP Manager | Green Flag - Clean and well maintained Compliance with Bench Policy |
| Sustainability | | | | |
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 4.1 | Maintain an environmental audit of the park's management to ensure best practice is applied | Annual | Team Leader | Green Flag – Sustainability |
| 4.2 | Provide a designated fire pit and safety zone on the Campsite | 2023  | Rangers | Green Flag – Sustainability |
| 4.3 | Provide a wood store on the Campsite | 2025 | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag – Sustainability |
| 4.4 | Maintain Environment Agency compliance with Exemption Certificate | Annual | WCP Manager | Green Flag – Sustainability EA Legislation |
| 4.5 | Manage Caravan Site Club drainage towards climate change | 2025 | WCP Manager Asset Management | Green Flag – Sustainability |
| 4.6 | Seek funding for Visitor Centre improvements addressing carbon footprint | 2028  | WCP Manager Asset Management | Green Flag – Sustainability |
| Conservation and heritage | | | | |
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 5.1 | New displays in Theatre including Dinosaur Footprints, Hilbre Tide Gauge, Wader Diorama | 2023  | WCP Manager | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage Heritage Site |
| | Update Visitor Centre displays, especially interpreting the Wirral Way | 2023  | WCP Manager Rangers | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage Heritage Site |
| 5.2 | Produce and update a Green Heritage Site Conservation Plan for WCP including CWAC managed area | 2023 to 2028  | WCP Manager | Heritage Site |
| 5.3 | Write and implement a new five-year Conservation Management Plan for the Dee Cliffs SSSI | 2025 | WCP Manager | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage Heritage Site |
| 5.4 | Install on-site interpretive information: Erratics, Dawpool and Cubbins Green interpretive boards | 2023  | Our Dee Estuary | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage Heritage Site |
| 5.5 | Publish a Wirral Country Park History book as part of the 50 th anniversary celebrations | 2025 | JSG Funding | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage Heritage Site |
| 5.6 | Install 3 new cast iron benches appropriate to the location on Thurstaston Station Platform | 2028 | From donors Contractors for installation | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage Heritage Site |
| 5.7 | Restore 1973 Memorial stone with new dedication for park's 50 th anniversary | 2023  | WCP Manager Landscape Officer Contractors | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage Heritage Site |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 5.8 | Create a Biodiversity Database with species records | On-going | Rangers Volunteers rECOrd | WCP Master Plan |
| 5.9 | Restore Heswall Jump Field Pond for SBI inclusion | 2028 | Rangers Volunteers | Green Flag – Conservation and heritage |
| Community Involvement | | | | |
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 6.1 | Maintain the Thursday Volunteers Task Force | On-going | Rangers | Green Flag – Community involvement |
| 6.2 | Maintain regular practical work parties with residents groups | On-going | Rangers | Green Flag – Community involvement |
| 6.3 | Work with Wirral LEA and ECO Schools on the schools offer | On-going | Rangers | Green Flag – Community involvement |
| 6.4 | Establish community groups with the whistle Stop Café | On-going | WCP Manager Whistle Stop Café staff | Green Flag – Community involvement |
| 6.5 | Develop the old orchard site for local sustainable food production | On-going | WCP Manager Rangers Whistle Stop Café staff | Green Flag – Community involvement Council policy |
| Marketing | | | | |
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 7.1 | Maintain the WCP Facebook Page with weekly features | On-going | Rangers | Green Flag – Community involvement/marketing Management |
| 7.2 | Provide regular updates on 50 th anniversary celebrations |  | Corporate Marketing Team WCP Manager Rangers | Green Flag – Community involvement/marketing Conservation and heritage WCP Joint Steering Group |
| 7.3 | Attendance at Wirral History and Heritage Fair in 2023 for 50 th anniversary celebrations |  | Corporate Marketing Team WCP Manager Rangers | Green Flag – Community involvement/marketing Conservation and heritage WCP Joint Steering Group |
| 7.3 | Add user information to the WCP Page on the council's website to include Teacher Packs, booking forms | 2025 | Corporate Marketing Team Rangers | Green Flag – Community involvement/marketing Management Healthy, Safe and Secure |
| 7.4 | Guided walks for the annual Wirral Walking Festival each May | Annual | Rangers | Green Flag – Marketing |
| 7.5 | Guided walks for the annual Heritage Open Days | Annual | Rangers | Green Flag – Marketing |
| Management | | | | |
| Ref | Action | Target | Resources | Justification |
| 8.1 | Update Schools Booking Form with annual price increases/options | Annual | WCP Manager | Green Flag – Management Council Fees and Charges |
| 8.2 | Update Teachers Packs for: Seashore Search, pond dipping, meadow walks, minibeasts |  | Rangers | Green Flag – Management |
| 8.3 | Update all Job Cards with PPE and HAVS info | 2025 | WCP Manager | Green Flag – Management H&S policy |
| 8.4 | Ensure staff continue to receive training updates and requirements through Council Training Portal | On-going | WCP Manager | Green Flag – Management H&S policy |

Appendix 7: Project Bank

These projects require additional resources and funding outside the scope of the existing day to day resources available to the park.

| Project | Cost estimate and Resources Required | Justification, policy fit and evidence of need |
|---|--|---|
| New 'Gateway' at West Kirby Entrance to the Wirral Way | Estimated at £50k including £17k for Wirral Way resurfacing | Joint Steering Group recommendations. West Kirby Master Plan. |
| New on-site directional signage – to include Dee Sailing Club, Caravan Sites, beach access, Shore Cottage | Estimated at £4,000 for 8 fingerpost signs | New paths require additional signage |
| New Visitor Centre Bridge | Estimated at £25k Capital Bid submitted | Structural Engineers Report |
| Refurbished Station Road Steps to Beach | Estimated at £30k Capital Bid submitted | Structural Engineers Report WCP Master Plan |
| Refurbished Cycle Hire Kiosk and veranda | Estimated at £40k Capital Bid submitted | Needs to extend to deliver accessible bikes. Veranda rotting. |
| Refurbished Garages, Workshop, Wash bay and Fuel Store | Estimated at £15k Capital Bid Submitted | H&S recommendations, EA legal requirement |
| Regrading 3,500 metres of the Wirral Way | Estimated at £80K Capital Bid submitted | 12 years since last surfacing. Heavy usage has resulted in erosion and potholes |
| Refurbished access to Thurstaston Beach (Tinker's Dell) | Estimated at £30 Capital Bid submitted | Closed in 2021 after cliff erosion but dependant upon route of the England Coast Path |
| New signage from Station Road – to include car parks, Dee Sailing Club, Caravan Sites | Requires input from Highways Estimated at £2,000 | Country Park Status – Information and Interpretation |
| Improve pedestrian safety between Wirral Country Park and the overflow car park | Requires input from Highways including road markings/traffic calming | WCP Master Plan |
| Undertake a 'Community Dig' at the Dungeon to investigate the road and undisturbed area | Would require project to be led by local group like Wirral Archaeology | WCP Master Plan |
| Tree planting throughout park | Support from Tree Officers | Wirral Council Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy |
| Install monitored CCTV in Car Park | Estimated at £3,000 for 4 cameras. Wirral Control. | Green Flag - Healthy, safe and secure |
| Tractor and side-arm reciprocating flail | Requires in-house servicing | Identified as requirement under P&C new machinery Capital Bid |
| Replacement for 4x4 vehicles | Estimated at £52k. Capital Bid submitted | Identified as requirement under P&C new vehicles Capital Bid |
| Replacement heating/hot water boiler for Visitor Centre | Energy Conservation Engineer Climate Emergency Officer | Decarbonisation Programme Wirral Council Policy |
| LED lighting, improved building insulation throughout | Energy Conservation Engineer Climate Emergency Officer | Decarbonisation Programme Wirral Council Policy |
| Use of the Overflow car park woodland shelter belt as an overnight motorhome park to increase opportunities for camping/caravanning | Estimated (additional to upgrade to the over-spill car park as above) £15,000 to include surfaced parking bays and later chemical toilet waste tank installation | Leisure Strategy & WCP Master Plan |
| New classroom/Utility Block wet weather shelter on Campsite | £20k. Look at sponsorship/joint funding and Revenue Budget | Leisure Strategy & WCP Master Plan |
| Liverpool City Region Bamboo Project | ECO Schools officer, WCP Joint Steering Group | Leisure Strategy & WCP Master Plan |

Appendix 8: Green Flag Assessment and Response 2022



SITE QUALITY EVALUATION (Mystery Shop)

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name of Site | Wirral Country Park |
| Managing Organisation | Wirral Council |
| Date of Assessment | 29 September 2022 |
| Time (from – to) | 11 to 12 |
| Weather conditions | Cloudy and some rain |
| OVERALL RESULT | <p>Green – Meets the standard with no concerns raised</p> <p>Amber – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern</p> <p>Red – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified</p> |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Green | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Amber | <input type="checkbox"/> | Red | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|

| NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Grading | <p>Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red</p> <p>NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.</p> |
| Strengths and recommendations | <p>Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading.</p> <p>Photographs are also included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria. | | | |
| A Welcoming Place | | | | |
| 1. Is the site welcoming? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Very welcoming with quite a lot of car parking spaces in and around the site | | | | |
| 2. Is the site easy to find? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Brown signs take you directly to the site and of course so does the Sat Nav (for once) | | | | |
| 3. Is signage in good condition? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: General yes, but some interpretation boards could do with some new frames unless you are encouraging the growth of Lycans | | | | |
| 4. Is the site accessible to all users? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: In the majority of cases yes and some new paths have been constructed which is appreciated by the people I spoke to | | | | |
| Healthy, Safe and Secure | | | | |
| 5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: There are lots of facilities on this site and taking an overall view they are in a good and safe condition. | | | | |
| 6. Did you feel safe during the visit? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Very safe, good open site lines around the site, quite a few about so you are never alone. | | | | |
| 7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Lots of dogs about, off there leads but coursing no problem to other members of the public. There are more than usual | | | | |
| Well Maintained and Clean | | | | |
| 8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Comments: There are bins around the site but no indication of whether or not the rubbish is sorted or recycled. | | | | |
| 9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: The site is mainly natural with some good mature historical hedgerows, edges of main paths are mowed a meter back | | | | |
| 10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Again, tree look in a safe and healthy condition, | | | | |
| 11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: The infrastructure (which consist of old railway platforms) appeared in good condition, the only issue I had was with the brick-built BBQ these need some repair Picnic benches are also are in need of repair where they have been burnt | | | | |
| 12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: All facilities, fences paths and building appeared in safe and good condition. There are a few ponds / wetlands on the site but only one pond had a buoyancy safety ring near it? | | | | |
| Environmental Management | | | | |
| 13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment and biodiversity. | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Very much so, some area is allowed to develop by themselves, so are mowed so the public can use them for family picnics, and some fields are really cut back as if they have been cut for hay. Hedgerows and trees are full of berries, and mushrooms | | | | |
| Landscape and Heritage | | | | |
| 14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Some beautiful views across the Dee Estuary with information board revealing what can be seen, the remains of the old railway station have been regenerated in parts and be put to modern use. | | | | |
| Community Involvement | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: I could not see any evidence of a Friends Group, but that does not mean there are no organisation helping in the maintenance and upkeep of the park | | | | |
| 16. Is user feedback positive? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: I spoke to quite a few people on this assessment and general they were all pleased with the site, some people mentioned that the new paths ways on the far side have improved there walking distance. Nobody had a complaint | | | | |
| Marketing and Communication | | | | |
| 17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media. | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Good maps and walking routes are in the notice boards along with information boards around the site. Social media is distributed through the council social media channels | | | | |
| 18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display? | NG | G | A | R |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comments: Yes, and yes | | | | |
| Final comments: With regards to the picnic benches being burnt by portable BBQ I would suggest that you place a metal plate over the meted part and assign saying place BBQ on this plate. This is a wonderful park which offer such a variety walks with interesting scenic view and wildlife. It is also on a through route of the cycle trails, a lovely café with inside or outside seating and of course dog are welcome. | | | | |





Meets all the requirements of the Green Flag Award

Managers Feedback:

3. Is signage in good condition?

Comments: General yes, but some interpretation boards could do with some new frames unless you are encouraging the growth of Lycans

We will be looking at painting some of the bare wood to make cleaning easier

8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?

Comments: There are bins around the site but no indication of whether or not the rubbish is sorted or recycled.

Visitors are encouraged to take recyclable litter home and signs do show this. The Rangers, cafe and volunteers use recycling bins in the Rangers Yard

11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?

Comments: The infrastructure (which consist of old railway platforms) appeared in good condition, the only issue I had was with the brick-built BBQ these need some repair Picnic benches are also in need of repair where they have been burnt.

The brick barbecue stands were repaired shortly after the judges visit and the burnt picnic benches are gradually being repaired or replaced

12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?

Comments: All facilities, fences paths and building appeared in safe and good condition. There are a few ponds / wetlands on the site but only one pond had a buoyancy safety ring near it?

There are three pond/wetland sites and all three have lifebelts. The deepest pond has two lifebelts

15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?

Comments: I could not see any evidence of a Friends Group, but that does not mean there are no organisation helping in the maintenance and upkeep of the park

On the day of the visit there should have been evidence of our weekly Thursday Task Force on site.

We don't have a Friends Group as the park is 6 miles long and includes a number of different sites. We have therefore established residents working groups at York Avenue (West Kirby), Mellondroft Drive (Caldy) and Farr Hall Drive (Heswall) who assist in the management of the park. We also work with local community groups including West Kirby in Bloom, the Friends of Ashton Park and the Wirral Wombles.

Appendix 9: Green Heritage Site Assessments 2023



Green Heritage Site 2023

Name of Site:

Managing Organisation:

Desk Assessment Feedback (1)

| Criteria | Strengths | Recommendations |
|--|--|--|
| Presentation of conservation plan or statement | Nicely presented with good layout and use of photographs. | A rather lengthy plan where it could be reduced by splitting up certain information into appendixes |
| Strategic & policy background | A lot of quoting of regulations | Some of this information is not required in a management Plan (you do need to show it) but could be referred to and placed in the appendixes.. |
| Community involvement & marketing | This is delt with adequately, credit to you for letting high school come in on Work Experience weeks | With actual seeing the volunteers, this could be elaborated more in the plan Try and introduce local school to come in and help with the planting of the raised beds |
| Integration of Heritage Management | There is a lot going on and the staff are highly qualified and keen to ensure this is brought back and maintain for the public and nature. | None. |

Field Assessment Feedback (1)

| Criteria | Strengths | Recommendations |
|--|--|--|
| Condition of Historic Features | | |
| Good conservation standards | Very good approach to the site with ample car parking and signage and map of the park in the main car park. | None, the wardens and volunteers understand what is required by conservation |
| Historic features given prominence | The old Railway Platform has been made the e main feature of the site. | A space has been provided for a Signal Box or Waiting Room , but this is reliant on funding. |
| Restoration / re-creation of historic features | Where possible items have been restored and put back into a safe condition and used as part of the integral part of the parks design | This is ongoing project and outlined in the aims and objects are outlined in the Management Plan |
| Use and enjoyment of historic features | | |
| Historic features intact & in use | The features are used every day and are visible to the public throughout the year. | None this is being managed very well |
| Historic features integrated into the life of the site. | The old station platform separates the carpark from the main throughfare creating a safety barrier between park users and traffic. Old ponds have been cleared and planted up where needed to encourage dragon fly's etc | None, this is constant in the minds of the wardens |
| Information available & evidence that historic features are enjoyed by the public. | There is a leaflets and maps in the Visitor Centre as well as local information about the railway line and nearby cottage industries. | None |
| Maintaining historic character and appearance | | |
| Relevance of Historic Landscape design- | Very good display in the Visitor Centre and a model of the | Would like to see some boards showing the wildlife that you |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| integrated understood and interpreted. | railway station and siding along with old photographs and illustration | are likely to see, especial by the ponds. |
| Horticultural displays contribute to historic character. | The embankment along the line length is to be maintained with natural vegetation, shrubs and trees, in a sensitive and safe way | We believe it is your intention to put planted plants along the old platform to recreate the effects of the old station |
| Recognition and appropriateness of historic tree and plant collections | Trees and shrubs that are not already existing are selected for their saltwater tolerance with it being on a coastal strip. | A difficult job to the openness of the site and being exposed to salt offshore winds. But this is considered when planting is required |
| New and replacement features enhance or conserve the historic character and appearance. | Wherever possible items are replaced by like-to-like products and other new items keep to the theme of the Railway | None |

The is a wonderful site full of lots of local history which has been superseded by the advice of time. It was farm land, then a clay brick work along came the railway, then a defence post during the second world war and then part used as a local Council Tip. A very diverse site.

The main theme of the site is based on the railway, and where possible signage and name are kept in the Railway format.

There is no Friends Group a such but the steward ship of certain parts of this line site has been handed over to the local resident to look after and keep clean/maintain. This site is improving each year, along with visitor numbers and it has a good group of volunteers to assist the regular Wardens, it also encourages work experience pupils from the local High School participate, has facilities to cater for organised group camping and encourages local residents to manage their own areas.

Well done you deserve a Green Heritage Flag





Desk Assessment Feedback (2)

| Criteria | Strengths | Recommendations |
|--|---|---|
| Presentation of conservation plan or statement | Lot of information | Rather a lengthy document contains irrelevant issues just keep this document relevant to this park. 4 pages on welcoming! |
| Strategic & policy background | A lot of Items listed | You state your aims bit have no dates when they are to be achieved |
| Community involvement & marketing | Lots of community groups use this and they are listed in the document. Communication and marketing are covered by the council's social media department and the groups concerned web sites. | This section could be reduced |
| Integration of Heritage Management | The restoration of the railway building and the visitor centre | You do need to improve the historical events regarding other parts of the lina trail. |

Field Assessment Feedback (2)

| Criteria | Strengths | Recommendations |
|---|--|---|
| Condition of Historic Features | | |
| Good conservation standards | Very good approach to the site with ample car parking and signage and map of the park in the main car park. | None |
| Historic features given prominence | The old Railway Platform has been made the e main feature of the site. | None |
| Restoration / re-creation of historic features | Where possible items have been restored and put back into a safe condition and used as part of the integral part of the parks design | None |
| Use and enjoyment of historic features | | |
| Historic features intact & in use | The features are used every day, | None |
| Historic features integrated into the life of the site. | The old station platform separates the carpark from the main throughfare creating a safety barrier between park users and traffic. Old pond has been cleared and planted up where needed to encourage dragon fly's etc | |
| Information available & evidence that historic features are enjoyed by the public | There is a leaflets and maps in the Visitor Centre | |
| Maintaining historic character and appearance | | |
| Relevance of Historic Landscape design- | Interpterion is very good | Would like to see some boards showing the wildlife that you |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| integrated understood and interpreted | | are likely to see, especial by the ponds. |
| Horticultural displays contribute to historic character | Very good display in the Visitor Centre and a model of the railway station and siding along with old photographs and illustration | None |
| Recognition and appropriateness of historic tree and plant collections | Trees and shrubs that are not already existing are selected for their saltwater tolerance with it being on a coastal strip. | None |
| New and replacement features enhance or conserve the historic character and appearance. | Wherever possible items are replaced by like-to-like products and other new items keep to the theme of the Railway | None |

The is a wonderful site full of lots of local history which has been superseded by the advice of time. It was farm land, then a clay brick work along came the railway, then a defence post during the second world war and then part used as a local Council Tip. A very diverse site.

The main theme of the site is based on the railway, and where possible signage and name are kept in the Railway format.

There is no Friends Group a such but the steward ship of certain parts of this linear site has been handed over to the local residents to look after and keep clean/maintain. This site is improving each year and it has a good group of volunteers to assist the regular Wardens, it also encourages work experience pupils from the local High School participate and has facilities to cater for organised group camping.

Manager's Feedback to Green Heritage Site Recommendations 2023:

*A rather lengthy plan where it could be reduced by splitting up certain information into appendixes
Rather a lengthy document contains irrelevant issues just keep this document relevant to this park. 4 pages on welcoming!*

The Management Plan provides information about each part of Wirral Country Park broken down into several sections. Previous Judges have asked that these are incorporated into the plan separately as each could be considered a park in itself.


With actual seeing the volunteers, this could be elaborated more in the plan Try and introduce local school to come in and help with the planting of the raised beds

This section could be reduced

There appears to be conflicting views between the two judges that visited.

*Would like to see some boards showing the wildlife that you are likely to see, especial by the ponds.
Happy to look at including information boards once the pond restoration work has been completed*

Appendix 10: Green Heritage Site Assessments 2024

|  Site Quality Evaluation (Mystery Shop) | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|------------------------|---|
| Name of Site | Wirral Country Park | | Managing organisation | Wirral Borough Council | |
| Weather Conditions | Dry and sunny | | | | |
| Date of assessment | 26.10.2024 | | Time (from – to) | 11:00 – 14:00 | |
| Overall Result | <p>Green – Meets the standard with no concerns raised</p> <p>Amber – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern</p> <p>Red – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified</p> | | | | |
| Result: (✓) | <p align="center">Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</p> <p> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> </p> | | | | |
| Grading | | | Strengths and Recommendations | | |
| <p>Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red</p> <p>NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.</p> | | | <p>Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading.</p> <p>Photographs can be included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p> | | |
| A Welcoming Place | | | | | |
| 1. Is the site welcoming? | NG | G | A | R | Very much so. Good car parking with information board at the centre, containing an orientation map with information on 3 different colour coded walks with features, length and difficulty. Visitors centre was easy to find with friendly staff. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 2. Is the site easy to find? | NG | G | A | R | Well signposted |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 3. Is signage in good condition? | NG | G | A | R | In good condition and informative. Minor recommendation of potential colour coded waymarking posts, as we needed to refer to a photo of the plan on a couple of occasions. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 4. Is the site accessible to all users? | NG | G | A | R | Car park information board also contains areas of key interest and details of accessibility point to the beach for wheelchairs. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| Healthy, Safe and Secure | | | | | |
| 5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition? | NG | G | A | R | Yes, good rest room facilities in the visitor centre. Small kiosk with impressive selection of cakes and refreshments. Ample indoor and outdoor seating. |
| | | ✓ | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | A couple of picnic areas in different locations were available, with a great facility of brick BBQ frames for visitors to use, which are generally very well respected. We saw a large family group setting up at one BBQ for a family celebration, which is fantastic. |
| 6. Did you feel safe during the visit? | NG | G | A | R | At all times |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling? | NG | G | A | R | Designated area of 'dogs on leads' is well respected by dog walkers. More open areas dogs can run free, met numerous very well behaved dogs, running carefree and loving life! Only one instance of dog fouling was identified during the 3 hour visit, which is exceptional for the number of dogs and expanse of the park, incredibly well respected by the community. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| Well Maintained and Clean | | | | | |
| 8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed? | NG | G | A | R | No litter identified on site, again very well respected by all users. One disappointing issue of large lumps of charcoal left on one of the brick BBQ's, which is a shame but given size of lumps, they were likely lumps too hot for the visitor to dispose of before they left and hopefully they will bear this in mind next time they use it. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance? | NG | G | A | R | Good balance of maintenance without being overly manicured, appropriate to area and sympathetically managed for biodiversity. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance? | NG | G | A | R | Yes. Tree works conducted in accordance to BS 3998. Good clearance on all pathways. Management is again appropriate to area and sympathetically managed for biodiversity. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition? | NG | G | A | R | Yes. Some muddy spots on the blue route, but this is advised on the noticeboard map with recommendation for strong shoes/walking boots to be worn as this route can be wet and muddy. One small section of broken fencing next to a natural brook on the blue route, given the size of the site and its extensive use, this is a very low percentage in the scheme of things. Overall, the site is maintained to an very high standard. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition? | NG | G | A | R | On the whole, yes. One picnic bench is quite degraded, but all others were in good and newer conditions. Seems to be a phased replacement in progress, which is proactive management with such a busy and large scale site, with conflicting priorities. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| Environmental Management | | | | | |
| 13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment? | NG | G | A | R | Yes. SSSI site and wildlife ponds. Large section of hedge previously laid along the red route, regenerated well. Pond areas have good balance of depth, graduated exits for wildlife, open water and vegetation. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| Landscape and Heritage | | | | | |
| 14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition? | NG | G | A | R | Heritage aspect for this site, is the site itself, being the first Country Park in Britain. All aspects of the site are in very good condition. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| Community Involvement | | | | | |
| 15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement? | NG | G | A | R | An abundance of activities with something for everyone, advertised through both on site notice boards and active social media pages. Activities include bike hire and repair, Wirral Wombles litter picking group, craft and campfire sessions, build a bug hotel, pumpkin walks, worm charming sessions and |
| | | ✓ | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------|-----|---|
| | | | | | sandcastle competitions etc. Affordable and very well considered +range of activities. |
| 16. Is user feedback positive? | NG | G | A | R | All positive from conversations with people, overhearing other conversations and expressions on people's faces, all were enjoying their time there. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| Marketing and Communication | | | | | |
| 17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media. | NG | G | A | R | Yes, also captured in point 15. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| 18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display? | NG | G | A | R | Flag pole and notice board central to car park at entrance, both flag and certificate proudly on display. |
| | | ✓ | | | |
| Overall Result (✓) | Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard? | | | | |
| | Green | ✓ | Amber | Red | |
| Final comments | <p>Conducted the mystery shop with my long suffering husband, who is usually dragged along to these things with me. We both had a fantastic visit, both of us were impressed with the high standards of maintenance, different aspects of the park and the variety of activities on offer. We will be frequent visitors from now on and our huge thanks to the hardworking team and volunteers for a very enjoyable visit!</p> | | | | |

Insert photographic evidence below and on subsequent pages





Grass appears worn in this photo around the bench and brick BBQ, but it's actually gravel to prevent wear and reduce free risk.





Well maintained pond networks, with good provisions lifebuoys.



Well signed SSSI, with guidance for visitors highlighting the impact and respective severity of potential repercussions if damage is caused to the area



Previously laid hedge, great for biodiversity



Photo of fence requiring repair to assist with locating – on red route adjacent to a natural brook.

Thank you again to the hardworking team and volunteers for a very enjoyable visit!

Manager’s Feedback to Green Heritage Site Recommendations 2024:

I’m delighted to hear that you enjoyed your visit and will be returning! The colour-coded routes will have new trail markers positioned in 2025 (now added to the Action Plan) and we have started refurbishment of the picnic tables ready for the start of the Easter break.

Appendix 11: Wirral Country Park Access Points Survey 2024

| Access Point | Description | Area | Type | Alternative | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------|
| | | | | 2024 Update | Date |
| 1 | Main Entrance | Wirral Way | Squeeze through with double field gates | Gates removed and new Gateway fea | 04/11/2024 |
| 2 | To Upper Park | Wirral Way | Steps with handrail | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 3 | To Lower Ashton Park | Wirral Way | Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 4 | To Upper Ashton Park | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 5 | To Lower Ashton Park | Wirral Way | Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 6 | Church Road East | Wirral Way | Steps with handrail | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 7 | Church Road West | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 8 | Sandy Lane West | Wirral Way | Mobility Kissing Gate | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 9 | Sandy Lane East | Wirral Way | Steps with handrail | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 10 | Wordsworth Walk | Wirral Way | Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 11 | York Avenue | Wirral Way | Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 12 | Macdona Drive | Cubbins Green | Mobility kissing gate | Good/ Heavily cut back | 04/11/2024 |
| 13 | Cubbins Green | Wirral Way | Steps and slope | Showing signs of erosion | 04/11/2024 |
| 14 | Cubbins Green Slipway (N) | Caldy Beach | Steep ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 15 | Melloncroft Drive | Wirral Way | Squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 16 | Cubbins Green Slipway (S) | Caldy Beach | Steep ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 17 | Cubbins Green | Wirral Way | Kissing gate | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 18 | Cubbins Green | Wirral Way | Narrow bridge | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 19 | End of Caldly Car Park (N) | Wirral Way | Slope | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 20 | Caldy Car Park | Wirral Way | Steps with handrail | Poor. Needs attention | 04/11/2024 |
| 21 | End of Caldly Car Park (S) | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 22 | Caldy Car Park Entrance | Wirral Way | Squeeze through | Good but poor sightline onto road | 04/11/2024 |
| 23 | Croft Drive Entrance | Wirral Way | Squeeze through and ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 24 | Gleneagles Estate | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 25 | Dawpool NR (NE) | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 26 | Dawpool NR (SE) | Wirral Way | Squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 27 | Dawpool NR (W) | Dee Sailing Club | Steps with handrail | Removed | 04/11/2024 |
| 28 | Thurstaston Slipway | Thurstaston Beach | Ramp | Good/Parking Enforcement in place | 04/11/2024 |
| 29 | Caravan Site Road | Wirral Way | Squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 30 | Dawpool NR (S) | Wirral Way | Squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 31 | Caravan Club (N) | Wirral Way | Steps, handrail and squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 32 | Caravan Club(S) | Wirral Way | Steps, handrail and squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 33 | Thurstaston Caravan Site | Wirral Way | Steps, handrail and squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 34 | Station Road Steps | Thurstaston Beach | Steep steps with handrail | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 35 | Cliff Top | Barbecue Site | Squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 36 | Station Road (W) | Barbecue Site | Steps | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 37 | Overflow Car Park | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 38 | Overflow Car Park | Station Road | Ramp and steps | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 39 | Overflow Car Park | Station Road | Slope | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 40 | Overflow Car Park | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 41 | Overflow Car Park | (Vehicle entrance) | No designated pedestrian route | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 42 | Main Entrance | Station Road | Ramp and squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 43 | Station Platform (NE) | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 44 | Car Park (NE) | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 45 | Station Platform (SW) | Wirral Way | Steps | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 46 | Car Park (SW) | Wirral Way | Steps with handrail | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 47 | Station Platform (S) | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 48 | Car Park (Disabled Bays) | Wirral Way | Squeeze through | Widened | 04/11/2024 |
| 49 | Mounds | Wirral Way | Broken barrier | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 50 | Car Park (S) | Wirral Way | Steps with handrail | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 51 | Barbecue Site | Wirral Way | Squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 52 | Main Campsite | Car Park | Double Field gates | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 53 | Campsite | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 54 | Campsite Toilets (M) | Campsite | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 55 | Campsite Toilets (F) | Campsite | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 56 | Campste Utility Area | Campsite | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 57 | Campsite Laundry | Campsite | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 58 | Dee Grassland (N) | Wirral Way | Surfaced Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 59 | Dee Grassland (S) | Wirral Way | Mobility kissing gate and surfaced path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 60 | Tinker's Dell | Thurstaston Beach | Steep steps with handrail | Work in progress | 04/11/2024 |
| 61 | Old Sewage Plant | Wirral Way | slope | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 62 | Campsite (S) | Wirral Way | Double Field Gates | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 63 | Dungeons | Wirral Way | Ramp and narrow bridge | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 64 | Dungeons | Footpath | Path | Good/New signs and boardwalk | 04/11/2024 |
| 65 | Heswall Fields (N) | Wirral Way | Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 66 | Heswall Fields (S) | Wirral Way | Ramp | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 67 | Pipers Lane Footpath | Wirral Way (Private) | Narrow and unsurfaced | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 68 | Pipers Lane Footpath | Pipers Lane (Private) | Squeeze through and narrow | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 69 | Banks Road | Wirral Way | Squeese through and double field gates | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 70 | Davenport Road Entrance | Wirral Way | Wide squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 71 | Riverbank Road Entrance | Wirral Way | Wide squeeze through | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 72 | Cottage Lane (N) | Wirral Way | Wide ramp, surfacing regularly eroded | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 73 | Cottage Lane (S) | Wirral Way | Wide shallow steps | Good/tarmaced | 04/11/2024 |
| 74 | Heswall Golf Club | Wirral Way | Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 75 | Heswall Golf Club | Wirral Way | Path | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 76 | Visitor Centre (N) | Wirral Way | Ramp but manual narrow doors | Good/Improved as part of CP Toilets | 04/11/2024 |
| 77 | Visitor Centre Main Doors | Wirral Way | Automatic door with ramped access | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 78 | Outside Kiosk | Wirral Way | Ramped acces but slope step adjacent | Good | 04/11/2024 |
| 79 | Visitor Centre Bridge | Wirral Way | Ramped access and wide along length | Poor/awaiting H&S works | 04/11/2024 |
| 80 | Visitor Centre (S) | Wirral Way | Automatic door with ramped access | Good | 04/11/2024 |

Appendix 12: AccessAble Access Guide



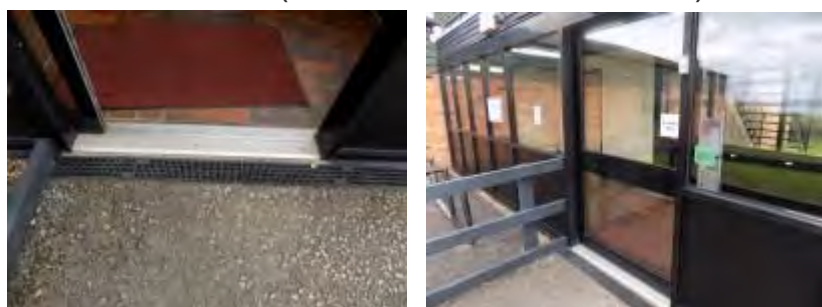
Information provided by AccessAble is below and can be found on their website at: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/venues/wirral-country-park-and-visitor-centre>

Main Car Park



- Parking charges apply
- The car park is located on Station Road
- The car park type is open air/surface
- Parking spaces for Blue Badge holders do not need to be booked in advance
- There is/are 4 Blue Badge parking bay(s) within the car park
- The dimensions of the Blue Badge parking bay(s) are 500cm x 600cm (16ft 5in x 19ft 8in)
- The nearest Blue Badge bay is 150m (164yd 2in) from the Visitors Centre entrance
- The furthest Blue Badge bay is 155m (169yd 1ft) from the Visitors Centre entrance
- The route from the car park to the entrance is accessible to a wheelchair user with assistance
- Assistance may be required because there is / are slopes/ramps
- The car park surface is tarmac
- There is not a road to cross between the car park and the entrance
- The car park does not have a height restriction barrier
- There is not a designated drop off point

Outside Access (Visitors Centre Entrance)



- This information is for the entrance located at the front of the building
- There is not level access into the venue
- The main door(s) open(s) automatically
- The door(s) is / are single
- The width of the door opening is 100cm (3ft 3in)

Level Change (Visitors Centre Entrance)



- There is a ramp/slope to access this area/service
- The ramp or slope is located to the right as you face the entrance
- The ramp/slope is easy
- The ramp/slope is permanent
- The ramp does have handrails
- The handrails are on both sides
- The width of the ramp/slope is 130cm (4ft 3in)

Outside Access (Country Park Entrance)



- This information is for the entrance located on Station Road
- There is level access into the venue
- There are no doors at this entrance
- The width of the door opening is 100cm (3ft 3in)

Inside Access (Visitors Centre)



- There is level access to the service(s)
- This venue does not play background music
- Motorised scooters are allowed in public parts of the venue
- The lighting levels are medium

Bird Hide



- There is a bird hide available inside the visitors centre, which is accessed by a 80cm wide door, that opens away from you. This hide is 15m from the visitors centre entrance.

Eating and Drinking (Vending Area)



- No tables are permanently fixed
- No chairs are permanently fixed
- No chairs have armrests
- The nearest table is approximately 15m (16yd 1ft) from the main entrance
- The standard height for tables is 70cm
- There is ample room for a wheelchair user to maneuver
-

Parks and Gardens



- The park or garden does have footpaths
- The path(s) has a / have compact earth, tarmac and muddy surface(s)
- The majority of the path(s) is / are wide enough for wheelchair users
- There are easy and moderate slopes on the paths
- There are bench seats situated along the paths for people to rest

Accessible Toilet



Location and Access

- Accessible toilet facilities are available
- The toilet is not for the sole use of disabled people
- There is pictorial signage on or near the toilet door
- This accessible toilet is approximately 18m (19yd 2ft) from the main entrance
- The accessible toilet is located off the main corridor
- There is level access to this accessible toilet

Features and Dimensions

- This is a unisex toilet
- A key is not required for the accessible toilet
- The door opens outwards
- The door is locked by a locking handle
- The width of the accessible toilet door is 90cm (2ft 11in).
- The door is light
- The dimensions of the accessible toilet are 150cm x 340cm (4ft 11in x 11ft 2in)
- There is sufficient turning space in the cubicle for a wheelchair user
- There is a lateral transfer space
- As you face the toilet pan the transfer space is on the right
- The lateral transfer space is 60cm (1ft 12in)
- There is a dropdown rail on the transfer side
- There is a flush, however it is not on the transfer side
- The tap type is lever
- There is a mixer tap
- There is an emergency alarm
- The emergency pull cord alarm is fully functional
- Disposal facilities are available in the cubicle
- There is a/are female sanitary and general domestic waste disposal units
- There is not a/are not coat hook(s)

Position of Fixtures

- Wall mounted grab rails are available for the toilet
- As you face the toilet the wall-mounted grab rails are on both sides
- There is not a shelf within the accessible toilet
- There is a mirror
- Mirrors are not placed at a lower level or at an angle for ease of use
- The height of the toilet seat above floor level is 47cm (1ft 7in)
- There is a hand dryer
- The hand dryer cannot be reached from seated on the toilet
- The hand dryer is not placed higher than 100cm (3ft 3in)
- There is not a towel dispenser
- There is a toilet roll holder
- The toilet roll holder can be reached from seated on the toilet
- The toilet roll holder is placed higher than 100cm (3ft 3in)
- The height of the toilet roll holder is 105cm (3ft 5in)
- There is a wash basin
- The wash basin cannot be reached from seated on the toilet
- The wash basin is not placed higher than 74cm (2ft 5in)

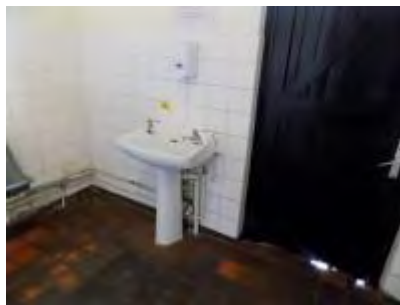
Colour Contrast and Lighting

- The contrast between the external door and wall is good
- The contrast between the internal door and wall is good
- The contrast between the wall-mounted grab rail(s) and wall is good
- The contrast between the dropdown rail(s) and wall is good
- The contrast between the walls and floor is good
- The lighting levels are medium.

Baby Change Facilities

- Baby change facilities are located within the venue
- Baby change facilities are located within the accessible toilet
- The height of the baby change table once extended is 80cm (2ft 7in)

Standard Toilets



- The female and male toilet facilities that were surveyed are located off the main corridor.
- The female and male toilets are approximately 18m (19yd 2ft) from the main entrance.

- Inside the venue, there is level access to the female and male toilets.
- Lighting levels are medium.

Additional Info

- Staff do receive disability awareness / equality training
- Documents can be requested in Braille
- Documents can be requested in large print
- A bowl of water can be provided for an assistance dog
- An assistance dog toilet area can be provided onsite
- The assistance dog toilet area is located on grassed areas

In 2023 a Changing Places Toilet was installed in the Visitor Centre. These are in addition to the standard accessible toilet that doesn't provide a changing bench or hoist that doesn't allow lateral transfer from a mobility scooter and that is too small to easily accommodate more than one person. Providing this Changing Places Toilet will have a dramatic difference for people visiting the park and who desperately need these facilities.



Appendix 13: Protected Sites Citations

1 Dee Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest

Date Notified: 10 March 1994

File ref: SJ 28/7

County: Merseyside

Site Name: Dee Cliffs

District: Wirral

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 238832

Area: 14.39 (ha) 35.55 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 108 **1:10,000:** SJ 28 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1979

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** 1994

Other Information:

1. This site is adjacent to the Dee Estuary SSSI and lies partly within the Wirral Country Park.
2. Site boundary changed at renotification by partial deletion in 1983.
3. Site boundary changed at renotification by partial deletion in 1994.
4. Thurstaston Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site is included within this site.

Reasons for Notification:

Dee Cliffs are located 3 km west of Heswall, immediately adjacent to the Dee Estuary and rise to 15 m above sea level. The soil is base-rich clay. This site contains the best known example of clay cliff and bank habitat in Merseyside as well as some marl pits which have a rich flora and fauna and an area of herb-rich neutral grassland. The clay cliffs support an open grassland community which is dominated by red fescue *Festuca rubra* but there is also much bare ground. False oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, early hair-grass *Aira praecox*, barren brome *Bromus sterilis*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and tall fescue *Festuca arundinacea* are the other common grass species. The herb flora is rich with a wide range of lime-loving plants present, some of which are at the northern limits of their British distribution, for example yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata*. Common centaury *Centaureum erythraea*, bristly oxtongue *Picris echioides*, autumn hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, bloody cranesbill *Geranium sanguineum*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* and common restharrow *Ononis repens* are some of the other species also found on the cliffs. The maritime influence is seen in the presence of sand couch *Elytrigia juncea*, lyme-grass *Elymus arenarius*, sea rocket *Cakile maritima* and sand sedge *Carex arenaria*.

The marl pits contain aquatic vegetation, emergent vegetation, marshy grassland and willow carr. The aquatic vegetation includes curled pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*, common duckweed *Lemna minor*, alternate water-milfoil *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* and floating sweetgrass *Glyceria fluitans*. Emergent vegetation includes bulrush *Scirpus latifolia*, which is locally dominant forming a swamp habitat, unbranched bur-reed *Sparganium emersum* and branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*. Water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, lesser water-plantain *Baldellia ranunculoides*, foals water-cress *Apium nodiflorum* and lesser water parsnip *Berula erecta*. Marshy grassland has developed behind the emergent vegetation. This community is dominated by hard rush

Juncus inflexus and marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* while creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, marsh foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*, oval sedge *Carex ovalis* and false fox sedge *Carex otrubae* and cyperus sedge *Carex pseudocyperus* are important components of this community.

Other parts of the site include some scrub and neutral grassland. This is dominated by Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and crested dogs-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*. Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, false oat-grass, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* are the other common grass species. Herbs such as dyers greenweed, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, common birds-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and common valerian *Valeriana officinalis* are found throughout.

Thurstaston GCR site is important for the study of Late Devensian glacial deposits. The coastal cliff sections show a sequence of sands and gravels interbedded between two till units. The lower lodgement till contains abundant erratics indicating ice movement towards the southeast over the Wirral. At the base of the upper flow till a two-metre thick deposit of loess indicates some fluctuation of the ice front, and the whole sequence represents a complex depositional environment associated with a single glacial episode. The sands and gravels are also noted for well-developed faults and other structures, indicating post-depositional deformation.



2 The Dungeon Site of Special Scientific Interest

County: Merseyside

Site Name: The Dungeon

District: Wirral

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Local Planning Authority: Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 251831

Area: 1.2 (ha) 2.8 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50 000 108 1:10 000 SJ 28 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1977 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The boundary of this site remains unchanged from that notified in 1977.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The Dungeon is a small wooded ravine a quarter of a mile to the north-west of Heswall, which shows a natural stream section through the Tarporley Siltstone Formation of the Mercia Mudstone Group, of Triassic age. At the south-west end of the section the faulted contact with the older Wilmslow Sandstone Formation is seen. The Tarporley Siltstone section is similar to that in other parts of the Cheshire basin, being made up of red fine sandstones and siltstones, with parallel and rippled bedding, and salt pseudomorphs. Current ripple crests indicate that sediment transport was towards the northwest. Sediments and sedimentary structures in these rocks make it possible to infer that they were deposited in a marine intertidal environment.



3 The Wirral Way Site of Biological Importance

Name: Wirral Way (Thurstaston - Heswall) – 2011-12 Survey

Recorder: Mike Griffiths

Site Code: 16

Grid Ref: SJ267806

Status: SBI Grade C

Site Description:

The Wirral Way is a linear country park formed from a disused railway. The park is managed by Wirral Ranger Service and contractors. Two parallel paths run the length of the site, one for horses and the other for walkers and cyclists. Vegetation covers both the sides and the space between paths for most of the way. I have divided this part of the Wirral way into two sections, separated by an infill of housing between Davenport Road and Riverbank Road. Hedgerows of various condition, bound both sides of the site with much of the boundary also fenced with post and wire.

Habitat Description:

Habitats consist mostly of re-generation broad-leaved woodland with some plantation, scrub, tall herb and coarse grasses with additional flora. As habitats change so frequently and interlink, habitat mapping is rendered difficult. I have included habitat maps at a scale that allows sufficient detail due to variations throughout the site, which would not be clear at a scale of 1:10,000.

Species Records

See Appendix B for species lists. Species lists recorded as A and B (noted above). These sections are clearly separate from each other but both are lengthy. No attempt at sub dividing these sections has been made because clear markers such as roads or bridges are not conveniently placed. Also, the habitats and species lists would be broadly similar.

As the site is open to the public, it has been possible to record more frequently than would normally be the case.

Recording dates: 11.07.11, 25.07.11, 01.08.11, 02.01.12, 02.05.12, 28.05.12, 14.06.12

Interesting Species:

None were noted but the site is important as a wildlife corridor.

Conditions of Site:

Wirral Ranger Service and contractors maintain and develop the site with help from volunteers and consultation with conservation bodies. Management of habitats to encourage greater diversity and protect existing species is ongoing. There are a number of garden escapes, some of which may be of benefit to pollinating insects and not all have been included in the species list.

The disturbance caused by footpath replacement appears to have been done sensitively and with little disturbance to existing habitats. There is a verge cut along the paths to maintain a shorter sward and this may help to encourage invertebrate diversity and allow annual species a foothold. However, there is a large proportion of tall herb cover such as bracken and bramble in some sections. Reduction, in some areas of these species would benefit species diversity of plants and invertebrates. Similarly, tree cover in some areas may be reducing species diversity due to dense shade. The woodland flora that would accompany this habitat such as native bluebell, wood anemone and ramsons were not found here. The section near Davenport Road is an example.

Damage to the site includes some dumping of garden waste from adjacent residences, though most of this is simply unsightly. However, habitats, signs, bridleways and fences are in good state of repair.

Assessment of Conservation Value:

As a wildlife corridor running from Hooton to West Kirby (with some breaks) the Wirral Way should have a positive impact on neighbouring sites. The section running through Thurstaston to Heswall is particularly notable in this regard with neighbouring SBI sites not far away. Part of the management plan for the site includes maintaining and improving conservation value. This is a unique feature in the borough and should be considered important in retaining SBI C status even though some areas may not be SBI quality in their own right. The area is also noted as good for birds and nesting sites monitored by British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Recommend retention of SBI 'C' status.

Boundary of SBI:

Boundaries consist mainly of hedging with post and wire fencing. A number of gardens back on to the site with most fenced but there are also signs of dumping of garden wastes at some properties. Existing boundaries should be kept.

Survey Map Sections -

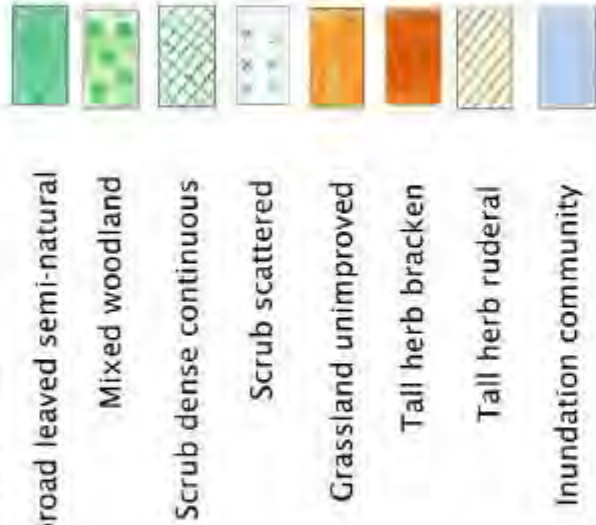
A1 & A2 Thurstaston Station - Davenport Road
B Riverbank Road - Heswall/ Neston Parish Boundary



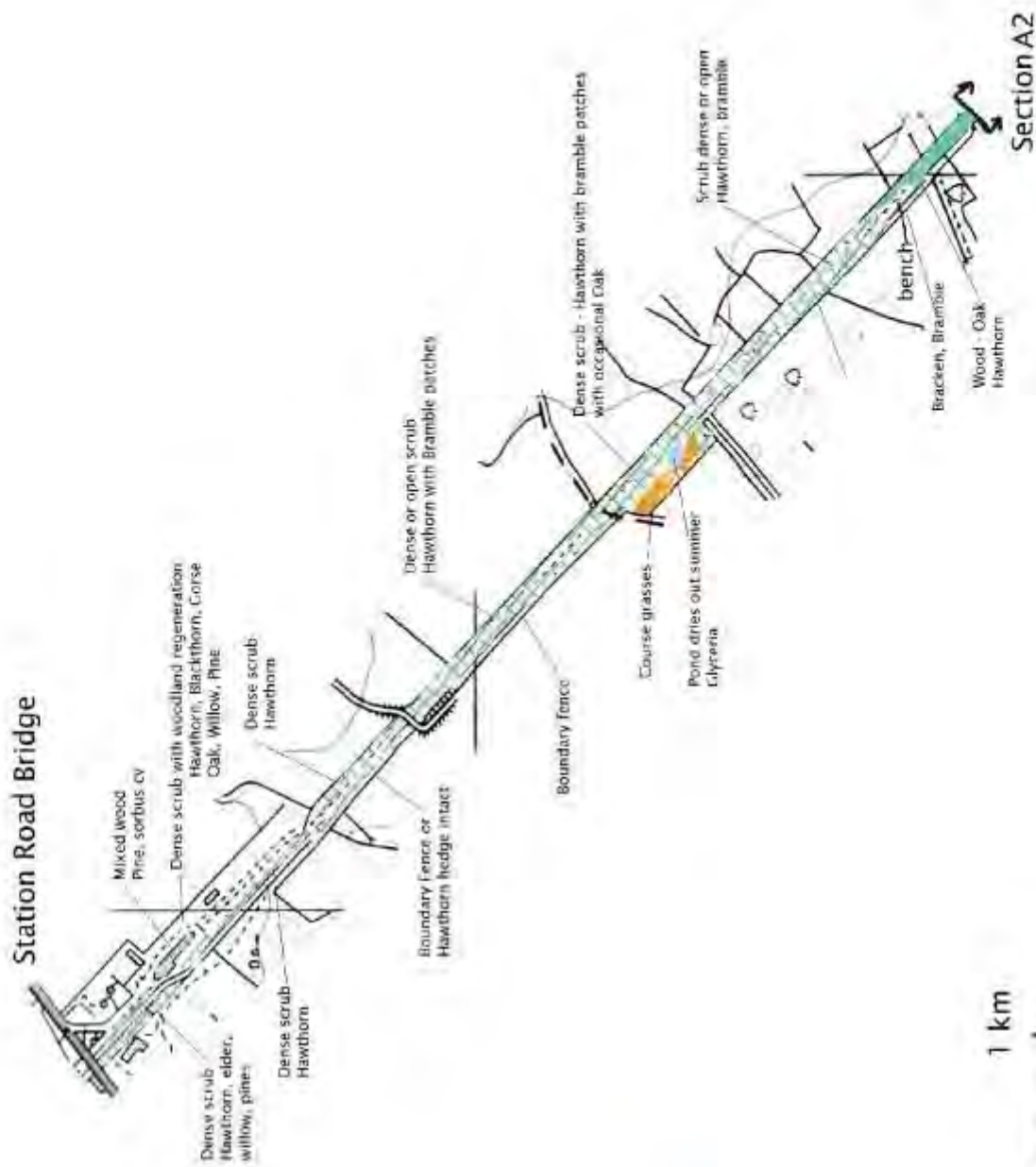
**Wirralway
Thurstaston to Davenport Road Section A1**

Habitats

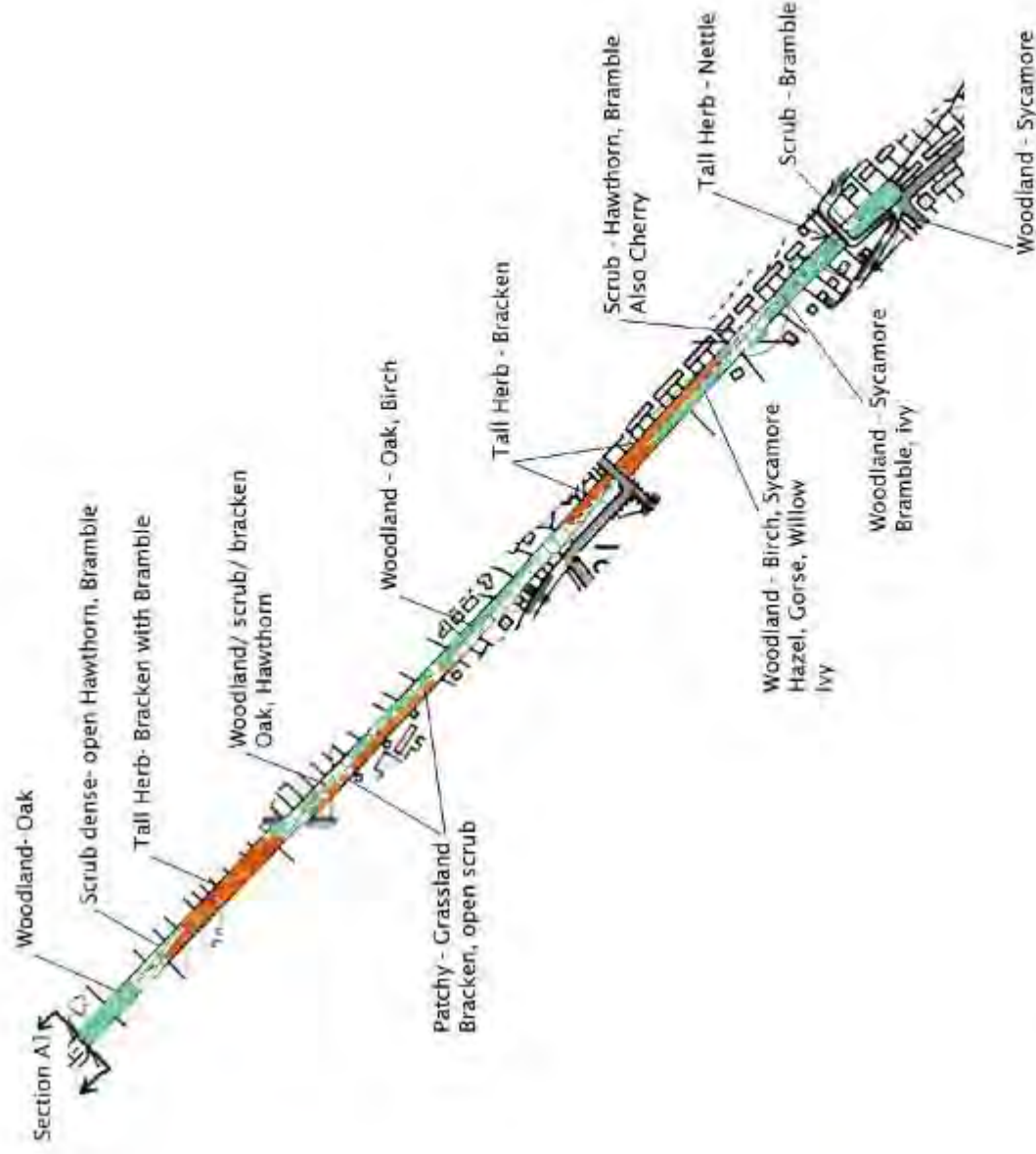
NB. Habitats often patchy but not large or distinct enough to indicate on map.



Hedgerows and fences not indicated



**Wirral Way
Thurstaston - Davenport Road Section A2**



Habitats

- Woodland broad leaved semi-natural 
- Mixed woodland 
- Scrub dense continuous 
- Scrub scattered 
- Grassland unimproved 
- Tall herb bracken 
- Tall herb ruderal 

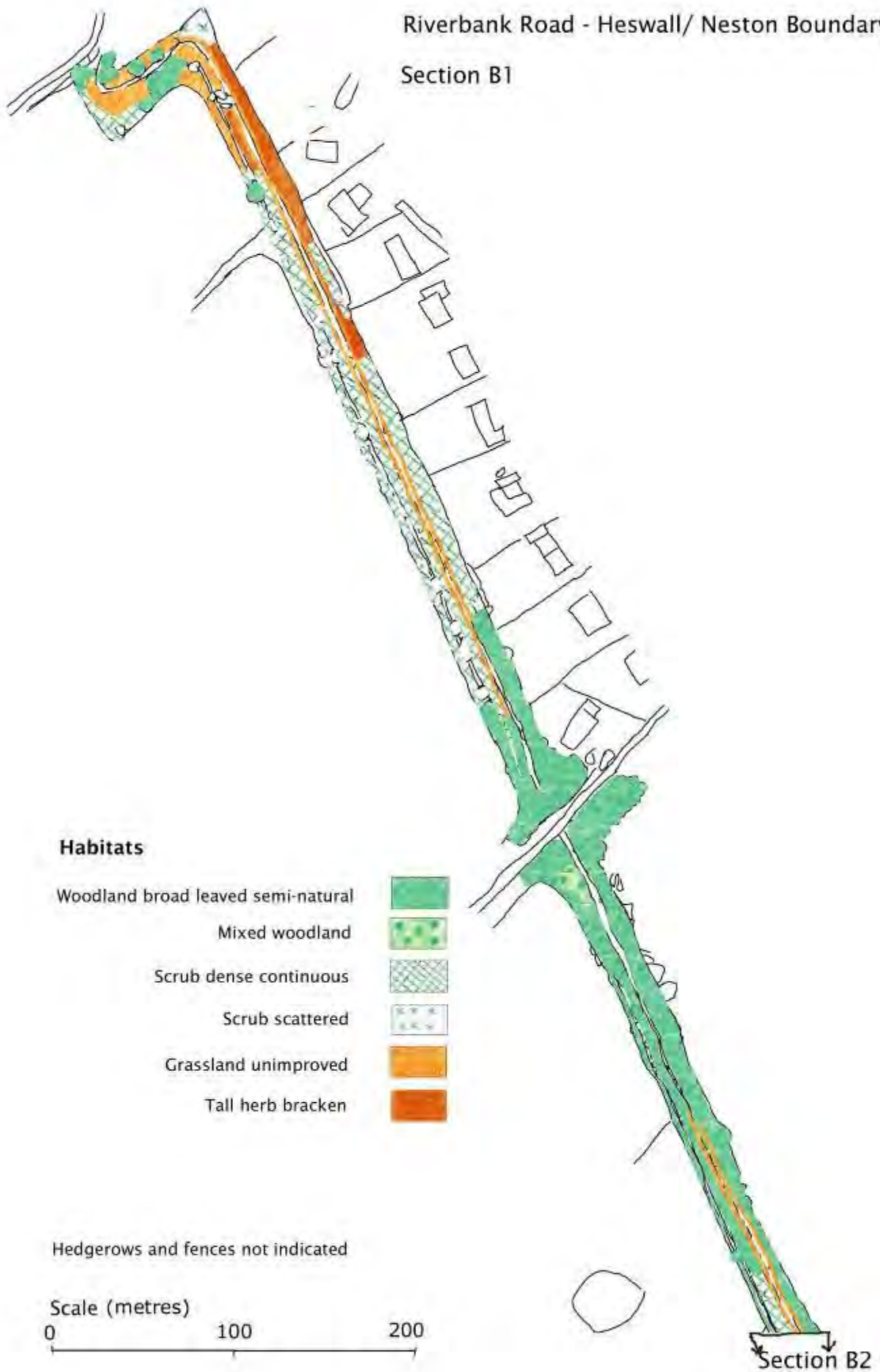
NB. Habitats often patchy but not large or distinct enough to indicate on map.

Hedgerows and fences not indicated



Riverbank Road - Heswall/ Neston Boundary

Section B1



Riverbank Road - Heswall/ Neston Boundary

Section B2

Section B1

Habitats

Woodland broad leaved semi-natural



Mixed woodland



Scrub dense continuous



Scrub scattered



Grassland unimproved



Tall herb bracken

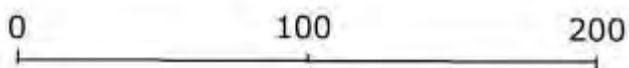


Tall herb ruderal (too small to map)



Hedgerows and fences not indicated

Scale (metres)



Appendix 14: Environment Agency Compliance Assessment Report



Environment Agency

Compliance Assessment Report (Exemption) form

Report ID:

001015RJJU1

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Name of site | Thurstaston visitor centre | Operator | Wirral Council | IR ref no. | Exemptions project |
| Officer | Jones | Date | 09/10/2015 | Area/office | GIMMC RFH |
| Paragraph number (s) | U1 U3,T10,T4, T6,T9,U2 | Time in/out | 11:45 12:15 | Event type: | Routine <input type="checkbox"/> Incident <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Assessment type: | Site inspection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Site life status: | Operational <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-operational <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| What part(s) of the site was assessed? | Pathways | | | | |
| Following your assessment of the exemption and the operations on site, has the relevant exemption been complied with? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or No <input type="checkbox"/> . If No, provide details below. | | | | | |
| Has a breach of any relevant directly applicable legislation been noted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> or No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . If yes please list breaches below. | | | | | |
| Has the breach of the exemption caused an incident? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> or No <input type="checkbox"/> . If yes, place CICS environmental impact classification, Cat1, Cat2, Cat3 or Cat4 in this box. Cat <input type="text"/> (see overleaf for information on the CICS) | | | | | |
| Not to comply with the terms of the exemption, directly applicable legislation or the objectives of Article 13 may constitute one or more offence(s). Article 13 requirements state that waste must be recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment, and in particular without: | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals • causing nuisance through noise or odours • adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest. | | | | | |
| Following your assessment of the exemption and the operations on site, have the Article 13 objectives (as indicated above) been complied with? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or No <input type="checkbox"/> . If no provide details below. | | | | | |
| NB. If there is a breach, only one of the following will have an 'X' placed in the box | | | | | |
| At present we do not intend to prosecute you for the above offence(s), however you are warned that this may change if further relevant information comes to light. THIS IS A SITE WARNING. <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | WE WILL NOW CONSIDER WHAT ENFORCEMENT ACTION IS APPROPRIATE <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Visit report/comments. | | | | | |
| Please note: Officers completing this form are encouraged to comment and act on the environmental performance of the site as a whole. | | | | | |
| There are two registrations on the site for exemptions. | | | | | |
| EPR/VF0507SY/A001- U1 and U3 | | | | | |
| EPR/TH0518DF/A001 - T10,T4,T6,T9,D7,U2 | | | | | |
| U1 was ongoing for the repair of paths and was used correctly. | | | | | |
| U3 was used correctly and the project has been completed. | | | | | |
| T10 (sorting mixed waste) was registered incorrectly and can be deregistered. | | | | | |
| T4 (baling / sorting waste) is used to compact waste in order to make it easier to transport it is for plastics and paper etc and is not required. | | | | | |
| T6 registered correctly | | | | | |
| T9 registered correctly | | | | | |
| U2 baled tyres used in construction registered correctly | | | | | |
| D7 required and registered correctly | | | | | |
| Site is in compliance with Environment Agency Objectives. | | | | | |
| Report delivery method: | Copy left on site <input type="checkbox"/> | Posted <input type="checkbox"/> | Emailed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Faxed <input type="checkbox"/> | Date 12/11/2015 |

Officer's signature

R. JONES

Recipient's name or position within company

Mr. Hank

Continuation sheet used: Yes No



Environmental Policy

Wirral Council provides essential services to more than 312,000 residents across a number of key areas and recognises that its activities and services have both beneficial and adverse impacts on the environment.

In working toward a more sustainable future we will:

- Maintain an Environmental Management System which satisfies the requirements of the international standard ISO 14001.
- Comply with all applicable legal requirements and with any other requirements which relate to the Council's environmental aspects.
- Continually seek to minimise negative environmental impacts, prevent pollution and reduce waste during delivery of our services.
- Reduce carbon emissions arising from public sector buildings, operations and service delivery, and encourage others to do so.
- Make use of goods and services which are least harmful to the environment and encourage the use of Fair Trade produce.
- Increase the amount of waste reused and recycled and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Undertake actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change.
- Improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.
- Consider environmental costs, risks and impacts when making planning, contracting, purchasing and operating decisions.
- Regularly monitor and review our environmental performance.
- Ensure that all employees are aware of their environmental responsibilities through communication, training and support.
- Communicate this policy to employees, partners and the public.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
WIRRAL COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. A. ...".

Date: 16th November 2015

Appendix 16: Wirral Council General Statement of Intent

Wirral Council accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and all subsequent regulations.

The council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees, visitors, contractors and any other persons affected by its undertaking.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive, to ensure that departments comply with this commitment through the implementation of a robust management system that seeks continual improvement in the health and safety performance of the council.

The council's objectives, so far as health and safety is concerned, are to provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable:-

- Plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe.
- Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
- Sufficient information, instruction and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety at work.
- A safe place of work with safe access to and egress from it.
- A healthy working environment and adequate welfare facilities.

All staff should be aware of their responsibilities contained within this health and safety policy and report any unsafe acts or situations to an appropriate officer.

Eric Robinson
Chief Executive

Date: 25th February 2015

"There is nothing so urgent or important that we cannot take time to do it safely"

Appendix 17: Japanese Knotweed – Wirral Council Policy and Maps

The treatment of Japanese Knotweed by Wirral Council involves the following:

- Taking into account specific site requirements, the Japanese Knotweed will either be stem injected (particularly on sites close to water courses or other sensitive plants) with a solution of Glyphosate or sprayed using a solution of Glyphosate and Icade (Triclopyr).
- If stem injection is the method chosen this will be undertaken by an appropriately trained member of staff or a contractor, the operative undertaking the work will be trained and qualified in stem injection holding the relevant PA61NJ licence.
- The spraying is undertaken by a member of Wirral Council staff trained and qualified in chemical application and holding a PA6 license
- Spraying takes place using a knapsack sprayer and continues for a minimum of 3 years to suppress and potentially eradicate the plant.
- The Council is committed to continuing with its spraying programme longer than 3 years in order to ensure that the plant is eradicated.
- The cycle of spraying takes place throughout the growing season usually March to October and involves 3 specific spraying sessions.
- Spraying cannot take place when it is raining or when there are high winds as this would render the treatment ineffective. As such specific dates are not identified where spraying can take place instead this is left to the decision of the qualified staff member.
- Dead Japanese Knotweed stems and plant material is either burnt on site or is taken off site and disposed of by a registered contractor at a site registered for disposal.
- The programme of treatment outlined above complies to and follows the Environment Agency Guidelines and Code of Practice on the treatment of Japanese Knotweed.

Following a review of the Japanese knotweed management processes at Wirral Council by Phlorum Ltd (August 2017) the following recommendations were made:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1) Ensure all appropriate staff involved in Japanese knotweed management (ideally all staff from managers to operatives) are familiar with the PCA knotweed Code of Practice). Ensure that the Pesticides Code of Practice is complied with, particularly with regard to herbicide storage, transport, disposal, record keeping and CPD.</p> | <p>Tool box talks are taking place within each parks & countryside team during August and September.</p> | <p>Parks & Countryside Managers</p> |
| <p>2) Carry out Japanese knotweed awareness training of appropriate staff. If a council-wide system was developed, simple surveys of all land assets could be completed by simply trained staff at these locations. For staff involved in knotweed management they should consider attending PCA courses as part of their CPD.</p> | <p>Tool box talks are taking place within each parks & countryside team during August and September.</p> | <p>Parks & Countryside Managers</p> |
| <p>3) Ensure that all herbicide records are kept for at least three years.</p> | <p>Noted – briefing will be included in tool box talks during August and September</p> | <p>Parks & Countryside Managers</p> |
| <p>4) Recommend that stem injection of herbicide is only used when necessary. It is a technique that is potentially wasteful of chemicals and labour and has not been found to be more effective than foliar applications. It is particularly useful when knotweed is growing amongst other plants that are to be retained.</p> | <p>Noted – briefing will be included in tool box talks during August and September</p> | <p>Parks & Countryside Managers</p> |
| <p>5) Don't undertake winter clearance of knotweed canes unless it is absolutely necessary. Clearance can cause knotweed to spread from viable crown fragments and result in unnecessary disposal costs. Wherever possible, knotweed canes should be left in situ and trampled down, if necessary.</p> | <p>Noted – briefing will be included in tool box talks during August and September</p> | <p>Parks & Countryside Managers</p> |

Appendix 18: Annual Parks Safety Inspection Checklist

Parks and Open Spaces Annual H&S Inspection

| | | |
|---|--|---------|
| SITE | | |
| Date of inspection: | | Signed: |
| Inspector (1): | | |
| Inspector (2): | | |
| Items referred to (Asset Department) / (External Contractor) for repairs: | | |
| General comments/observations/recommendations: | | |
| Items for Managers attention: | | |
| Manager name: | | Signed: |
| Date checked: | | |
| Manager's comments: | | |

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

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

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Are manholes sitting flush and secure to the frame? Is drainage from buildings free from issues? | | | | |
| EXTERNAL ACCESS AND EGRESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | FURTHER ACTION |
| Are all access routes kept clear of combustible materials? | | | | |
| Are external access and exit routes clear, in good order and free from trip and slip hazards? | | | | |
| EXTERNAL AREAS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | FURTHER ACTION |
| Are structures, i.e., sheds, containers, and external storage, in good repair and secure? | | | | |
| Are fragile roofs adequately safeguarded and signed? | | | | |
| Are adjoining walls, fences, and gates in good condition? | | | | |
| Are service yard materials stored safely and secure? Are walking/driving surfaces free from slip/trip/puncture hazards? | | | | |
| ADDITIONAL NOTES | | | | |

Appendix 19: Annual Property Return

Facility Name: _____

Facility Address _____

Postcode: _____

1. Servicing, Testing and Inspections

Please enter all details requested. If not applicable then put N/A in the box.

| | | <i>insert Company name or persons name</i> | Date: |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------|
| Fire Alarm system | | | |
| Fire Co-ordinator & 6 monthly drill | | | |
| Emergency Lights | | | |
| NICEIC certificate | | | |
| PAT certificate | | Test: Visual: | |
| Boiler/s | Serviced/Maintained by | | |
| | Zurich Inspection | | |
| Lift/s | Serviced/Maintained by | | |
| | Zurich Inspection: | | |
| Catering equipment | | | |
| Asbestos 6 monthly to Tech Serv | | | |
| Water Hygiene – Temps | | | |
| Shower heads last disinfected | | | |
| Lightning Conductors | | | |
| Air conditioning Units | | | |

2. Energy Monitoring

| | Meter ref Number | Reading |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Electricity | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Gas | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Water | | |
| | | |
| | | |

3. Declaration

This is to confirm that the above servicing, test and inspections have been carried out by a competent person/contractor and all items will have a valid test/servicing certificate within the period

Responsible Person (Print name): _____

Job Title: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 20: Workplace Annual Inspection Checklist



WORKPLACE ANNUAL INSPECTION CHECKLIST (ANNUAL)

Guidance on completing this form is available in the Health & Safety Management Arrangements for Risk Assessments

| | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Name of building/workplace: | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Date inspection undertaken: | / / | | |
| Building / workplace description <i>(including old or new, location, number of floors, approx. number of rooms, etc.)</i> | | | |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| Usage <i>(office, Childrens Centre, workshop, library, Leisure Centre, Community Centre, etc)</i> | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Public footfall <i>(high medium or low)</i> | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Additional risks <i>(frequented by young children, elderly, people with special needs, etc)</i> | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Level Of Risk (based on use or occupancy - see below) | | | |
| Low <input type="checkbox"/> | Medium/Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> | High <input type="checkbox"/> | Very High <input type="checkbox"/> |

| RISK VALUE | RISKS |
|-----------------|---|
| Low | Primarily used as offices |
| Medium/Moderate | General access for the public or other workshops, etc |
| High | Part or whole of premises primarily or routinely used by vulnerable people, including young children (4yrs and under) and elderly |
| Very High | Sleeping accommodation |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Slip Trip Fall (Internal - public, communal rooms & areas, and unoccupied rooms) Failure to ensure that slip, trip, fall hazards could lead to accidents that result in injuries such as broken bones, bruising, etc | Are all walkways, entrances and exits free from obstructions? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is there adequate lighting to highlight slip, trip or fall hazards to staff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the areas free from trip hazards such as trailing cables, boxes, files or bags on the floor? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the floors and surfaces clean, tidy and in good condition? Note: this includes mats, floorboards and carpets and examples include uneven floors, loose floors, bubbled area's on the carpets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there sufficient areas to hang coats and store personal belongings so as not to cause slip or trip hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the barrier mats near to entrances in good condition including not curling at the ends thereby posing trip hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Is slip resistant flooring installed in appropriate areas such as toilets, showers, etc? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is Slippery Floor signage used when surfaces are wet to cordon the area until safe? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Where possible, is the workplace cleaned early and late in the working day to prevent floor contamination throughout high footfall? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there any other slip trip fall hazards within the workplace? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If 'yes' provide details: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Storage Failure to store items correctly could result in an accident of failing items or staff falling whilst collecting resulting in head or body injuries | Is there sufficient purpose made storage space to avoid using the floor? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are all items securely stored / stacked? Note: items should NOT be stored on top of shelves, all items should be stored on the actual shelves and shelves should not be overloaded. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are heavy items should be stored at waist height? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the shelving/racks/cabinets safe and secure with no missing bolts, no cracks/splits in the shelving, etc and, also not overloaded? | | | | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is correct equipment available to access items stored at height e.g. mini steps / climbing stool? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there any other storage hazards within the workplace? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If 'yes' provide details: Click or tap here to enter text. |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Offices, rooms & receptions Failure to safely manage offices, rooms and receptions could lead to injuries and ill health | Sufficient areas to hang coats and store personal belongings so as not to cause slip or trip hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is there sufficient natural light to carry out the work safely together with measures to protect against any glare such as blinds? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are light bulbs and fluorescent tubes in good working order? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there adequate welfare facilities consisting of hot and cold running water, toilet facilities, somewhere to rest and eat meals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is there a system for removing waste on a daily basis? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is all furniture in good repair, that is undamaged and stable? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are permanent fixtures in good condition and securely fastened, e.g. cupboards, display boards, shelving? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are windows secure, in a good condition and, where required, open and close easily? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is there a 'clear desk policy' for receptions? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| For Medium , High and Very High Risk Premises: Any hazardous substances, including cleaning products, kept to a minimum and locked away in a secure location? Note: there should be COSHH risk assessments for all substances used | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. | |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | For High and Very High Risk Premises; Is safety glass fitted to doors and other windows or glazed areas that are lower than 80cm? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | For High and Very High Risk Premises: Are lock and security catches fitted to windows to restrict openings to 10cm or less? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | For High and Very High Risk Premises: Are finger guards fitted to the hinged areas of doors that present a risk pinching, crushing or amputating? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there any other hazards relating to offices, rooms and receptions? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If 'yes', provide details: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Electricity (Internal) Failure to manage electricity in the workplace could expose staff to live electricity leading to injuries such as electric shock, heart attack or secondary injuries | Are all areas free from overloaded extension cables e.g. 'daisy chaining' extension cables, additional extension plug on a 4-gang extension lead, etc? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Have all portable electrical appliances that are not hand-held and are moved occasionally (e.g. fan heaters, table lamps, etc.) been PAT tested within the last year with labels to show their last test date? Note: this includes all equipment which staff have brought in been tested i.e. radio's, toasters, fans, cables, etc. All equipment MUST be tested before being used. Office/IT equipment (e.g. desktops, VDU screens, MFD's, etc.) should be PAT tested within the last 4 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are flexible cables secured to the baskets or to the floor? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Staff have been informed that they are not allowed to interfere with or repair electrical equipment unless it is safe and they are authorised? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | There are arrangements for electrical equipment to be switched off when not in use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there procedures to ensure that defective equipment is removed from use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Staff have been informed that they are not allowed to bring in their own electrical equipment unless they have been authorised? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Have visual checks of cables, plugs and insulation been carried out to see if they are damaged or worn? Note: all cables are in an acceptable condition and not split or damaged. Wires should not be exposed. Plugs are not cracked or in unsafe condition. If unsure please isolate the equipment and speak to the relevant manager. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | For premises routinely used by young children (i.e. 4yrs and under), are there measures to prevent them coming into contact with live electrical sockets? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Do automatic internal doors function correctly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there any other hazards relating to electricity in the workplace? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If 'yes', provide details: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Asbestos (Internal) | Is there an Asbestos Management Plan on site and has it been kept up to date? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Failure to manage ACM's could result in disturbance and the release of asbestos fibres leading to chronic health issues such as mesothelioma, and asbestosis | Are there arrangements for the copy of the asbestos survey and inspection report to be kept on site and be viewable to all contractors prior to any work carried out and for the contractors to sign to confirm that they have read and understood the report before any work starts on site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | If any staff are liable to disturb asbestos in the workplace, are there measures to prevent access and/or warn them not to touch or disturb the material? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there arrangements for annual asbestos inspections and for submitting their return to Corporate Asset and Facilities Management? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there emergency arrangements to deal with potential exposure to asbestos if suspected? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| General Procedures (Internal) Failure to manage and communicate appropriate procedures could lead to delays in responding to emergencies or not following recognised procedures | Are there sufficient First Aiders (see First Aid Management Arrangements)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Do First Aiders ensure that first aid boxes are replenished and, if required, carry out weekly checks of defibrillators? Note: First aid box should be available with the HSE's minimum recommendation of stock (see First Aid Arrangements). The first aid box should be easily located (green sign with white cross), all stock should be within best before date | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is there signage displayed showing first aiders, fire marshals and terrorist threat procedures? Note: ideally they should be displayed together. Signage should be updated if first aiders leave etc | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|--------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Other than fire signage, where required, is other safety signage visibly displayed and in good condition including, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - blue Mandatory (e.g. wear PPE), - red Prohibition (e.g. No Smoking), - green Information (e.g. social distancing, contra flow systems) and - yellow Warning (e.g. slippery surface) such as covering including | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is the Health and Safety at Work Policy Notice displayed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there procedures to ensure that all staff and visitors wear their visitor badges? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Do the emergency alarms at receptions function correctly and is there a 'tried and tested' response if activated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Have the alarms on the disabled toilets been tested and staff aware on what to do in the event of an emergency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there procedures to ensure that all staff including new starters are aware of the emergency procedures, e.g. fire, terrorist threats, etc | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the fire extinguishers in the correct position and not moved or used to prop open doors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the extinguishers on an annual inspection programme (should be a sticker on the extinguisher showing the date of the last inspection)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Are there records that the fire alarm has been tested on a weekly basis and drills carried out every 6 months? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there procedures to ensure fire exits are never blocked and are clear at all times? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| External Hazards Failure to ensure that external hazards including, slips, trips, falls and traps could lead to accidents that result in injuries such as broken bones, bruising, etc | Is there adequate lighting on the main access and egress routes (including car parks) to highlight slip, trip or fall hazards to staff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are all paving slabs secure and paths on the main access and egress routes in good condition to give a flat, even surface? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the parking areas free of potholes on the main access and egress routes? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are the main access and egress routes free from leaves, mud and algae? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Is the nosing of steps covered in an anti-slip coating? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | In car parks, are there barriers or others means to separate vehicles from pedestrians? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there arrangements for the grit bins to be checked in October to ensure that there is sufficient grit and a shovel? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Have areas to be gritted in the event of icy periods been identified including main paths and emergency exits? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |

| Hazard | Through observations of all areas identify the areas of control that should be in place to reduce the risk and tick either yes / no to indicate if they exist? | Yes | No | N/A | Further information required: 1) If 'yes', the measures in place, or 2) If 'no', any further action, which is to be included in the action plan below |
|--------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Are there procedures to be alerted when there are going to be icy periods and for someone to grit the identified areas before the arrival of staff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Do automatic gates open and close correctly? Note: motion or optical sensors installed on the side will trigger the opening and closing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Do manual gates open and close correctly and are there measures to ensure that they do not trap fingers/hands when opened (e.g. stoppers to prevent opening fully, latches to ensure they don't swing shut, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| | Are there any other external hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If 'yes', provide details: Click or tap here to enter text. |