

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM
IN THE TOWN HALL, MARKET SQUARE, HIGHAM FERRERS**

PRESENT:

- Cllr C O'Rourke (Chairman)
- Cllr Mrs P H Whiting
- Cllr V K Paul
- Cllr G Kelly
- Cllr B Spencer (as substitute)
- Cllr S Prosser (as substitute)
- Miss A Schofield (Town Clerk)
- Mrs E M Arrow (Assistant Clerk)

1 member of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr H L Jackson, Cllr P McCann, Cllr P Tomas.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

5. **SPORTS AND HIRE FEES REVIEW**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the current sports and hire fees for 2024-25 remain unchanged for 2025-26, as follows:-

Sports Clubs and Facility Fees

- Football Clubs: Football Pitch only - £16 per match. With Changing Rooms - £25 per match. With access to Pavilion for Toilets - £9.50 per match.
- Cricket Club: Cricket Pitch - £220 per season. Changing Rooms - £300 per season. The above charge is per season assuming a match each weekend, additional matches may be charged pro rata'd at the above rate.
- Tennis Club: - £162.50 per quarter to include all matches, club and coaching sessions and use of the cabin.

Casual Hire of Tennis Courts and MUGA

- Tennis Court Hire - £5 per hour. Half price if a Tennis Club Member.
- Regular users - seasonal fee of £50 per annum.
- MUGA - £10 per hour

School Use of Facilities

Fee for the period after May half term through to the end of summer term period, £300.

Sports Pavilion Hire

Category of Hire	Room Type	Price per Hour (£) (Mondays –	Price per Hour (£) (Sundays/Public

		Saturdays inclusive)	Bank Holidays)
Commercial	Hall 1	£12.50	£18.75
Charity	Hall 1	£10	£15
Community	Hall 1	£9.50	£14.25
Under 13's Party	Hall 1	£8.50	£12.75
Private Function / Party	Hall 1	£11	£16.50

If you are a group, individual or organisation offering free health and wellbeing services to residents of the town, the council will consider offering free use of this facility on a case by case basis.

Hire of Castle Fields

The use of Castle Fields for fairs etc. be subject to negotiation by the Clerk, with a minimum fee of £500.

Outdoor Events on Town Council owned Open Spaces

- **Local Community/Charity based in Higham Ferrers** - No charge (but donations accepted for upkeep)
- **Local Community/Charity based outside of Higham Ferrers** - £50 per day.
- **Commercial other** – subject to negotiation by Clerk, minimum of £150 per day.
- **Corporate** – subject to negotiation by Clerk, minimum of £300 per day.
- **Local Government events promoting sports, health and wellbeing for the Higham Ferrers community** – No charge (but donations accepted for upkeep).
- **Fitness sessions/dance/activity classes** – If there is no fee charged by the hirer to their participants – No charge (but donations accepted for upkeep). If there is a fee charged by the hirer to their participants - £10 per session held.

6. **REVIEW OF THE FREE USE OF THE PAVILION**

RESOLVED:

That the continued free use of the pavilion is permitted for both AK Fitness Training and the Book Exchange.

7. **LARKIN GARDENS PLAY AREAS**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the council adopt the play area adjacent to 57 Larkin Gardens and the play area adjacent to 20 Larkin Gardens subject to agreement on the commuted sums. That the Clerk be delegated to agree the commuted sum within the range specified.

8. **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That a Biodiversity Action Plan be approved.

9. **TREE PLANTING, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That two 12-14ft swedish white beam trees be planted at Saffron Road Recreation Ground with a budget of £750 approved for the cost of the purchase and planting of the trees plus associated stakes, tree ties and metal guards.

10. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Paths Warden report is received and noted with thanks to Marion Darnell.

11. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr Whiting attended an event in Rushden that was run by NNC and had sports clubs, police, a fire engine, water slide, golf and other activities available for attendees. The event was free for activities and attendance. It was very well run and received and Cllr Whiting asks if we can request the event be brought to Higham Ferrers next year.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12th November 2024

Chairman

Date

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT: Riverside Park Improvement Project, Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

REPORT AUTHOR: Assistant Clerk, Emily Arrow

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	Yes	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	Yes	
POLICIES REFERENCED	Biodiversity Policy	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	x
	There will be financial implications	
	There is provision within budget	x
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	x
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk, Assistant Clerk	
APPENDICES	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan for Riverside Park	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To consider the recommendations from the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan for Riverside Park.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been carried out at Riverside Park to establish what habitats are present in the area.
- 2.2. Following that, it was agreed that a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan would be written using the data gathered for the PEA and further observations from the area to better help the council to manage the area and protect and enhance the existing habitats.

3. LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

- 3.1. The Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (EMP) in full forms the appendices and below is a short summary of the recommendations that have come from it.

3.2.

	Summary points:-	
1.	Any proposed clearance works should only be carried out between March-September to protect the habitats of herptiles, hedgehogs and other species common on the site.	To note
2.	Phased cutting should be undertaken on clearance sites, to enable any herptiles present to disperse safely.	To note & GM
3.	A similar phased cutting approach should be adopted for any grass clearance near the riverbanks, to allow any voles to disperse safely.	To note & GM
4.	Should we wish to undertake any major clearance we should carry out a badger survey no more than one month prior to the clearance to ensure no badger setts have been constructed.	To note
5.	Precautions should be taken to minimise machinery/noise levels too close to any nesting birds.	To note

6.	All trees on site should be retained unless a tree survey indicates a tree needs felling for health and safety purposes. Any tree removal should also incorporate replacement tree planting.	In line with our policy
7.	If we decide to carry out clearance works we have to accept it will result in habitat loss and loss of commuting corridors for wildlife, but will create more open spaces for public use.	To note
8.	To compensate for any loss of habitat, clearance works could be mitigated with new policies to retain areas of neutral grassland with a relaxed mowing regime and potential planting of wildflowers.	To note
9.	There is also potential for enhancement of scrub with native species and some regeneration of woodland.	To consider
10.	It is recommended that 8 bat boxes be installed on mature trees in the woodland area.	To approve
11.	It is recommended that 8 bird boxes be installed on mature trees in the woodland area	To approve
12.	It is recommended that 2 hedgehog houses be installed within retained areas of scrub.	To approve
13.	It is recommended that 2 hibernacula (animal refuge) be created using natural materials such as logs, stone, vegetation etc for use by herptiles.	To approve
14.	It is recommended a minimum of 4 bee and insect houses be installed throughout the site on woodland and scrub edges.	To approve

4. **FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 4.1. Do council wish to act upon point 9. above and the suggestion of potential enhancement of scrub with native species and some regeneration of woodland. If so, next step is to understand process and the associated cost.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1. That at least 8 bat boxes, 8 bird boxes, 2 hedgehog houses and 4 bee and insect houses be installed at Riverside Park at the locations suggested within the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. Cost £1110 to be met from 340/4844 Riverside Park.
- 5.2. That volunteers and/or staff create 2 hibernacula. That a budget of £250 be set for any materials required that cannot be located from the council's own landholding. Cost to be met from 340/4844 Riverside Park.



Landscaped and Ecological Management Plan

Riverside Park, Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8BH

High Ferrers Town Council

Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	1	Maddy Carter BSc, Graduate Ecologist	23/07/2024
Proof	1.1	Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Senior Consultant	08/08/2024
Proof	1.2	Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Senior Consultant	12/08/2024
Final	2	Maddy Carter BSc, Graduate Ecologist	12/08/2024

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Guidelines

This assessment has been designed to meet:

- British Standard 42020 (2013) 'Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development'.

Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.

This approach is enshrined in Government planning guidance, for example, paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework for England.

The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

In consequence of the scale and intensity of the proposed development, this plan-led report is considered adequate and proportionate. It communicates all relevant information necessary to determine a planning application or support the recommendations for further surveys.

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1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited were commissioned by High Ferrers to produce an Ecological Management Plan (EMP) for the Riverside Park, Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8BH (hereafter referred to as the site).

Of relevance to this EMP, the site has been subject to the following ecological assessments:

- A Ecological Constraints and Opportunities Report/ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal in May 2023 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd 2023).

1.2 Project Description

The proposed plans pertaining to the site describes the works to comprise: *To determine if they are able to create more open space for public use through the clearance of small areas within the site.* A proposed development plan is provided in **Appendix 1.**

1.3 Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SP 95268 68894 and has an area of approximately 5.3ha comprising a 3.4ha meadow and a 1.9ha island adjacent to the River Nene. The island and meadow are situated either side of the back channel for the River Nene and comprise UK BAP priority habitat deciduous woodland and wet woodland, riparian habitat/inundation vegetation, tall herb, scattered scrub, scattered trees, grassland, mixed scrub, bramble scrub and a pond. The site is situated to the west of the market town of Higham Ferrers and east of the Nene wetlands in the Nene Valley in North Northamptonshire. It forms part of a public green space and is surrounded by residential properties and gardens to the east and north, public parkland/green space to the south, and the A45 to the west alongside which runs the River Nene. The wider landscape comprises further areas of public parkland and wetland extending from the south-west to north-west, with scattered grassland and UK BAP priority habitats including lowland fens, reedbeds, deciduous woodland, and coastal floodplain and grazing marsh. The built-up areas of Irthlingborough and Rushden lie beyond to the north-west and south. A site location plan is provided in **Appendix 2.**

1.4 Scope of This Report

The aims of this LEMP are to provide the definitive ecological mitigation and enhancement prescriptions to ensure ecological receptors identified during previous ecological assessment and suitably protected in accordance with the development and opportunities remain at the site for protected species during the operational phase.

2.0 Ecological Baseline Conditions Relevant to This Report

The baseline ecological conditions of relevance to this report were determined as a result of previous ecological assessments at the site comprising the EcoCO PEA (Arbtech Consulting Ltd 2023).

2.1 Habitats Recorded on Site

The site is characterised by the back channel for the River Nene which has an island of wet woodland within it. On land the site comprises other neutral grassland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland. Habitats recorded at the site include:

- Other neutral grassland, scattered trees, scattered dwarf shrubs, tall herb, swamp
- Modified grassland
- Other rivers and streams inundation vegetation
- Bramble scrub
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Wet woodland, scattered scrub, bare ground
- Standing open water, pond
- Built linear feature – fence
- Developed land, sealed surface

2.2. Value to Protected/Notable Species

Given the type and extent of habitats recorded and the assessed connectivity between the sites and the wider landscape, the site was assessed to provide opportunities for the following protected and/ or notable species:

- Amphibians;
- Reptiles;
- Otters and Water Voles;
- Bats;
- Birds;
- Badgers;

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- Hazel dormouse
- Hedgehogs

Amphibians

There is a pond on site within the grassland and a further two ponds within 500m of the site. The closest off-site pond is located 285m south and is suitably connected to site via grassland, scrub and trees. Additionally, the Nene wetland and associated waterbodies situated to the west provide additional aquatic habitat. The terrestrial habitats; grassland, woodland, scrub and shrubs; are all optimal for great crested newts and common amphibians to commute, forage and hibernate within. The on-site pond was assessed for its habitat suitability for great crested newts and was given a HSI score of 0.62 [average]. Due to the optimal habitats, both aquatic and terrestrial, the presence of GCN and common amphibians cannot be discounted from site.

Reptiles

Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting, refuge and hibernating opportunities for reptiles in the form of woodland, tall grassland, scrub and shrubs. The managed area of grassland is suitable for reptiles to commute across, but the short sward length and lack of species diversity means it lacks refuge opportunities.

Water Voles

The back channel of the River Nene that is bordered by woodland, scrub and grassland provide suitable habitat for water voles to forage and commute within. The banks are relatively shallow around the back channel, which does not make for suite burrow making habitat. However, the site is located next to the River Nene and associated wetlands which likely support a natural riparian structure with steep riverbanks that are more suitable for burrow making.

Otters

The Nene wetlands are known to be used by Otters [Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants, 2023]. The riparian habitats on site and the back channel of the River Nene provide suitable habitat for otters to commute and build holts. Due to the small size of the back channel and limited depth, the back channel is unlikely to support a fish population suitable to support a population of otters. Therefore, otters are most likely to be using the site to commute through.

Bats

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There is a small number of trees on site that may provide potential roosting features behind the ivy on the trunks. The ivy itself is too thin but the dense foliage could hide crevices and gaps in the trees that are suitable for crevice dwelling bats to roost within. A lot of the trees on site are young so do not have suitable ecological niches to provide roosting features for bats.

The woodland, pond, Nene back channel and grassland provide optimal feeding and commuting habitats for bats. The linear features such as the river Nene [off-site] provide an optimal commuting corridor for bats to use between resources and connects the site to wider more extensive habitats in the locality.

Nesting birds

The site falls within the boundary of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits [Ramsar, SSSI and SPA] which is a designated site for supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds, several Annex 1 species, and several species of National European Importance. Furthermore, the woodland, scrub, shrubs and scattered trees provide nesting and foraging habitat for common and widespread birds.

Badgers

No evidence of badgers was found on site. There are no setts on site but the woodland/scrub on the banks of the back channel provide suitable sett building opportunities, however, the rest of the site is relatively flat limiting its suitability for sett excavation. The grassland, scrub and woodland provide optimal commuting and foraging opportunities for badgers.

Hazel Dormouse

Habitats recorded on site are assessed to provide foraging, commuting and nest building opportunities for dormice in the form of woodland and scrub. There is over 20ha of scattered woodland and connecting corridors present to the west, south and north of the site across the Nene wetlands and adjacent to the A45. The onsite habitats [woodland and scrub] are connected to suitable habitat within the wider landscape via a network of woodland and hedgerows. The presence of dormice on site cannot be discounted.

Hedgehogs

The woodland, grassland, trees, shrubs and scrub provide optimal habitat for hedgehogs to commute, forage and hibernate within.

2.3 Scope for Mitigation and Enhancement

Mitigation is required during the clearance of the outlined areas. These small clearance areas largely reside within other neutral grassland that have tall herbs or are inundated with vegetation. This habitat provides opportunities to support common amphibians, reptiles, water voles, badgers and hedgehogs. It is therefore assessed that mitigation through precautionary working methods are required to reduce the potential for impacts to these species to an acceptable low level during construction. It is also assessed that enhancement of the site targeting the species groups have a viable probability of occupation and will thus represent effective ecological enhancement.

3.0 Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

3.1 Mitigation

Mitigation prescriptions to reduce adverse impacts to existing ecological features and biodiversity as identified through previous ecological assessment are detailed in

Table 1 below.

Table 1: Mitigation Prescriptions

Mitigation	Specification
<p>Persons Responsible and Lines of Communication</p>	<p>A Biodiversity Champion will be selected to oversee the clearance of grassland. The Biodiversity Champion will be someone with significant influence during the clearance, such as the project manager. The Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for ensuring all actions outlined in this EMP are implemented. Any queries with regards to the mitigation and enhancement prescriptions will be addressed to the project ecologist and communication will be retained between the Biodiversity Champion and project ecologist throughout the project. The project ecologist's contact details are located on the title page of this report. It is recommended that the Biodiversity Champion informs the project ecologist of the commencement of enhancement installation works and provides updates where necessary.</p> <p>Once the ecological enhancements have been installed, a Post-Development Biodiversity Champion will be allocated who has influence on site once the development is complete, such as a long-term maintenance contractor. The Post-Development Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for ensuring all recommended management is undertaken and any associated remedial measures are completed where necessary.</p>
<p>Post-development site visit by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist</p>	<p>A post-development site visit by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist will be undertaken to confirm the successful installation of the biodiversity enhancements and proposed soft landscaping.</p> <p>A short report will be produced detailing the results of the site visit and any remediation recommendations, if necessary.</p>
<p>Precautionary methods of working – Common amphibians and Reptiles (herptiles)</p>	<p>Ecological Clerk of Works</p> <p>An appropriately accredited ecologist will be present to act as an ecological clerk of works [ECoW] during the clearance of all habitats of potential value to herptiles [tall herbs, tall grassland, scrub]. The primary responsibility of the ECoW will be to ensure the on-site development area is appropriately clear of herptile habitat prior to allowing works to commence in the absence of ecological supervision. The ECoW will be present to supervise site clearance works required to facilitate the development until the ECoW is satisfied that the pre-requisite mitigation prescriptions detailed below have been completed effectively and the risk to herptiles has</p>

been reduced to an acceptable level. The ECOw will provide formal confirmation of compliance via email following the successful supervision of site preparation and clearance works.

Timing of Clearance Works

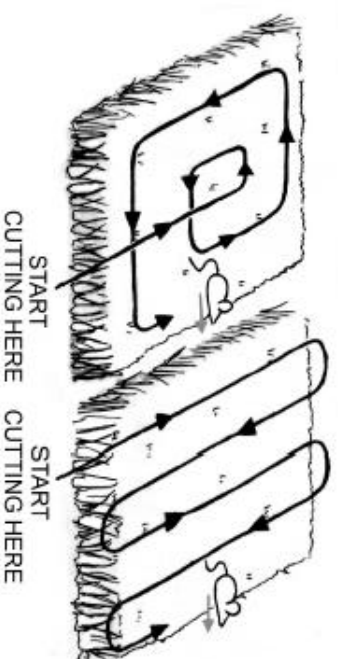
Site preparation and clearance works must commence outside of the hibernation period for herptiles, which is typically between November and February inclusive. Herptiles are mostly torpid during this timeframe and are thus most vulnerable to injury or death. Undertaking site clearance works during their active period between March and September will allow individuals to disperse unperturbed to adjacent retained habitats if disturbed. Clearance works must not be undertaken during temperatures below 80C when herptiles may be torpid or above 180C when herptiles may enter aestivation

Toolbox Talk

The ECOw will provide a toolbox talk to contractors immediately prior to site preparation and clearance works to highlight the potential presence of herptiles, outline indicators of their presence, and to inform of protocol if an herptile is found.

Pre-Development Vegetation Clearance

Sensitive vegetation removal will comprise a phased cutting method in addition to cutting in systematic patterns. The phased cutting method will be undertaken in two stages; the first cut will remove all vegetation to approximately 200-300mm from ground level and the second cut will be to ground level/ bare ground. Amphibians and reptiles are most likely to be present at or just below ground level; the phased technique allows any individuals present at this vegetation level to disperse. The systematic vegetation cutting must be applied to both cutting phases and comprises cutting systematically towards areas of retained habitat to encourage any individuals to retreat to retained habitat unharmed. This method also prevents the creation of habitat islands during the second cutting phase which has potential to trap individuals in isolated pockets of habitat and thus increase the potential for injury or death during works. A suitable systematic cutting technique is exemplified below on **Figure 1**.



	<p style="text-align: center;">Figure 1: A schematic representation of vegetation cutting patterns as best to eliminate terrestrial opportunities for reptiles within the clearance areas.</p> <p>Once the vegetation has been removed to ground level, trees and large shrubs can then be sensitively removed. The trees and large shrubs will retain subterranean root networks that provide refuge opportunities for herptiles. In order to sensitively remove the trees and shrubs, each plant will be cut leaving a short stump (c. 300mm) in preparation for root ball removal. The root balls will then be removed in a phased approach, whereby hand tools (where possible) or small plant machinery will be used to pull the root ball approximately 30cm out of the ground during each pulling phase followed by a break for the ECoW to check for the presence of amphibians and reptiles. This procedure will continue until the roots have been removed. Holes created will then be infilled and subject to trampling/ light rolling to prevent recolonisation.</p> <p>Once the sensitive vegetation and tree/ shrub clearance has been completed, the development area will be managed as bare ground or very short vegetation (<50mm) which is unsuitable to support herptiles for prolonged periods and is likely prevent individuals from colonising the development area during construction works. All vegetation arisings/ logs created from the cutting will be removed from the area; excess materials can be used to create new hibernacula, the specification of which is detailed below in Table 2.</p>
<p>Precautionary methods of working – Riparian mammals</p>	<p>Mitigation</p> <p>Similarly to herptiles, sensitive vegetation removal will be required within any grassland near the banks of the river. Sensitive vegetation removal will comprise a phased cutting method with hand tools [i.e. a strimmer] in addition to cutting in systemic patterns. The phased cutting method will be undertaken in two stages; the first cut will remove all vegetation to approximately 200-300mm from ground level and the second cut will be to ground level/ bare ground. This method will allow for any voles present to disperse along the banks of the river. The systematic vegetation cutting must be applied to both cutting phases and comprises cutting systematically towards areas of retained habitat to encourage any individuals to retreat to retained habitat unharmed. This method also prevents the creation of habitat islands during the second cutting phase which has potential to trap individuals in isolated pockets of habitat and thus increase the potential for injury or death during works. A suitable systematic cutting technique is exemplified below on Figure 1.</p>
<p>Precautionary methods of working – Terrestrial mammals</p>	<p>Mitigation</p> <p>The following precautionary method will be adhered to during development activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-commencement badger survey will be undertaken no more than one month prior to site preparation and clearance works to ensure no badger setts have been constructed during the time elapsed between the initial site survey and development works commencing. Should a badger sett be recorded the project ecologist will need to advise on how to lawfully progress the development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site clearance works should be undertaken outside of the hedgehog hibernation season, which is typically between October and February inclusive. However, as no scrub is being removed the clearance of the grassland this reduces the likelihood of hibernating hedgehogs being disturbed, injured or killed. Therefore, the clearance can encroach into the hibernation period as hedgehogs hibernate under hedges and roots of trees. • Excessive artificial light spill will be avoided. Th wildlife sensitive lighting strategy detailed below is considered suitable to reduce adverse impacts to terrestrial mammals as a result of increased lighting. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations to prevent ingestion by species potentially present during development works.
<p>Precautionary methods of working – Nesting birds</p>	<p>No nesting bird habitat will be cleared but precautions should be taken when clearing the areas of grass closest to the scrub. A standard precautionary inspection of the scrub should be undertaken by contractors prior to commencement of works. Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged.</p>
<p>Protection of retained trees and hedgerows</p>	<p>All trees on site should be fully retained insofar as possible unless otherwise informed by an arboriculture/tree survey for health and safety purposes. Any tree removal should incorporate replacement tree planting. Retained trees and woodland should be protected in line with the measures outlined in the British Standard "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction - Recommendations" (BS 5837) (2012).</p>
<p>Wildlife sensitive lighting strategy</p>	<p>External Lighting During the Construction Phase</p> <p>Works will be completed during daylight hours. This will prevent indirect impacts occurring to nocturnal species on and adjacent to the site as a result of artificial lighting. Whilst it is acknowledged that some works may take place during periods of darkness between October and April (Inclusive), this will be for very short periods shortly prior to dawn and after dusk when nocturnal species are entering hibernation/ periods of inactivity. As such, no significant impacts associated with artificial lighting are anticipated at this time of year.</p>

3.2 Enhancement

Enhancement of the site including the provision of new habitats through soft landscaping and species-specific features in addition to any subsequent management requirements are detailed in **Table 2** below. The proposed soft landscape scheme is on the plan in **Appendix 3** and the proposed species-specific enhancements are illustrated on the plan in **Appendix 4**.

Table 2: Enhancement Prescriptions

Ecological Enhancement	Specification
Habitat Creation	<p>Habitat loss is required to facilitate the clearance of grassland and scrub to create more open spaces for public use. This will have a negative impact in opportunities for protected and/or notable species as it removes a commuting corridor between the areas of woodland. Outside of the clearance areas, the rest of the site shall be retained as it is currently found which provides optimal habitats for multiple protected and/or notable species. To compensate for the clearance of these areas of grass site management could include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retaining areas of other neutral grassland to enhance through the planting of wildflowers and maintaining a relaxed mowing regime. - Enhancing the modified grassland by planting wildflowers. - Retaining and enhancing the scrub already present on site but ensuring it is comprised of 80% native species with at least 3 woody species such as hawthorn, broom or holly [Full list of woody species in hedgerows is available within the Hedgerow Survey Handbook by DEFRA]. Maintaining tall grassland or forbs at the edge of the scrub will also enhance this habitat. - The lowland deciduous woodland and wet woodland can be enhanced by the removal of cherry laurel; the implementing of temporary open spaces [i.e. felling of a small area of trees to create glades and allow regeneration]; retaining standing or fallen deadwood [i.e. large dead branches or stems].
Provision of bat boxes	<p>Overview:</p> <p>Eight bat boxes will be installed on mature trees within the lowland mixed deciduous woodland or other woodland. The proposed locations are shown on the plan provided in Appendix 3. Details of the bat boxes recommended for the sites are as follows:</p> <p>External bat box to be installed within the woodland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommended external bat box will be constructed of woodcrete/ woodstone. Boxes of this construction are known to require minimal maintenance and have a lifespan of 25 years plus. • For crevice dwellers, 1No. Vivara Pro Low Profile Woodstone Bat Box (or similar) (see Figure 2) will be installed. This bat box type is suitable to support a range of species including noctules <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> and soprano pipistrelles <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>. These species represent Species of Principal Importance as listed on Schedule 41 of the NERC Act (see Appendix 4).

- For void dwellers; Large Multi Chamber Woodstone Bat Box (or similar) will be installed. This bat box type is suitable to support a range of species including brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*. These species represent Species of Principal Importance as listed on Schedule 41 of the NERC Act (see **Appendix 4**).
- The bat boxes will be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing a southern elevation on mature trees with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light and facing vegetated habitats.




Figure 2: Vivara Pro Low Profile Woodstone Bat Box (image credit: <https://www.nhbs.com/equipment?qtview=194583>)

Recommended management:

The proposed bat boxes are designed to require no management or maintenance. Furthermore, preventing physical disturbance of bat boxes will increase the chances of occupation by roosting bats. However, it is recommended that the bat boxes are inspected annually for

	<p>the first five years outside of the typical active season for bats (May to September inclusive) following installation. Bat boxes must be replaced if they are damaged, removed, or have fallen from their recommended location.</p>
<p>Provision of bird boxes</p>	<p>Overview:</p> <p>Eight bird boxes will be installed in accordance with the woodland on mature trees. The proposed locations are shown on the plan provided in Appendix 3. Details of the bird boxes recommended for the sites are as follows:</p> <p>External bird box to be installed within the woodland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommended bird box will be constructed of woodcrete/woodstone. Boxes of this construction are known to have minimal maintenance and a lifespan of 25 years plus. • 1no. Woodstone Nest Box – with 28mm entrance hole will be installed (or similar) (see Figure 3). These bird box types are suitable to support tree sparrows <i>Passer montanus</i>, blue tits <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>, coal tits <i>Periparus ater</i>, great tits <i>Parus major</i>, and crested tits <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>, which are all likely to be present in the local area. • Schwegler 3S Starling Nest Box – with 45mm entrance hole will be installed (or similar). These bird box types are suitable to support starlings <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>, pied flycatchers <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> and nuthatches <i>Sitta europaea</i>, as well as overright shelter for woodpeckers <i>Picus spp.</i> • The bird box will be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing a northern aspect where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight.

	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 3: Woodstone Nest Box (image credit arkwildlife.co.uk)</p> <p>Recommended Management:</p> <p>The proposed bird boxes are designed to require no management or maintenance. Furthermore, preventing physical disturbance of bird boxes will increase the chances of occupation by nesting birds. However, it is recommended that the bird boxes are inspected annually for the first five years outside of the typical nesting bird season (March to September inclusive) following installation. Bird boxes must be replaced if they are damaged, removed, or have fallen from their recommended location.</p>
<p>Hedgehog Enhancements</p>	<p>Two hedgehog houses will be installed within the retained areas of scrub (see Figure 4), as shown on the plan in Appendix 3. A hedgehog house suitable for the site can be found here: https://www.nhbs.com/hedgehog-house</p>

<p>Herpitle Enhancements</p>	<p>Management: The proposed hedgehog house is designed to require no management or maintenance. Furthermore, preventing physical disturbance of the hedgehog house will increase the chances of occupation by hedgehogs. However, it is recommended that each hedgehog house is inspected annually for the first five years following installation. Should the hedgehog houses be significantly damaged, they must be replaced.</p> <p>Two hibernacula will be created using natural materials such as logs collected from the site, stone, vegetation arisings, and earth to provide additional refugia opportunities for herpiles post-development A specification for the construction of the hibernacula is provided on Figure 5 below. The location of the hibernacula has been selected to ensure it is south facing to maximise thermal up-take and located within areas of vegetation likely to be of elevated value to herpiles post-development, whereby connectivity between the peripheral habitats and the site will be maintained. The proposed locations is shown on the plan in Appendix 3.</p>



Figure 4: The hedgehog house proposed for the site (image credit <https://www.nhbs.com/hedgehog-house>)

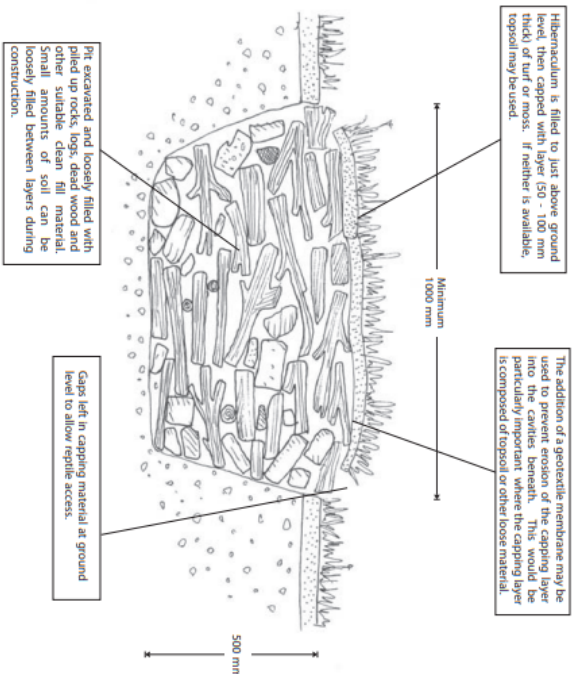
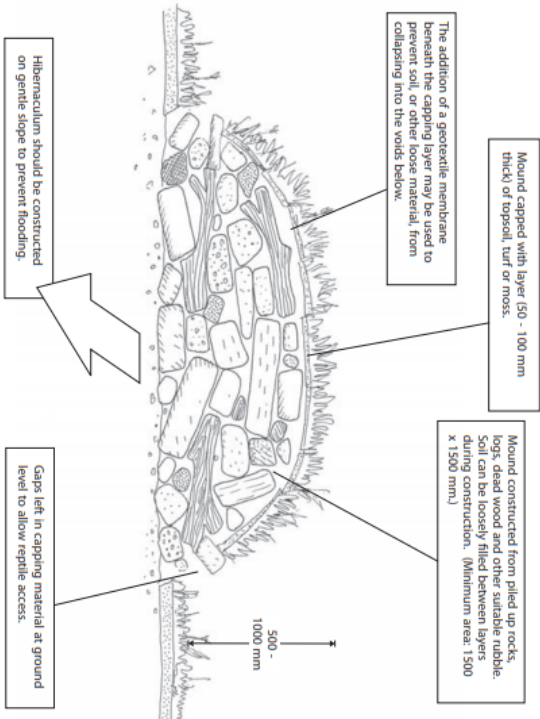
	<p>Hibernaculum on free-draining ground</p> <p>Where ground conditions allow, the hibernaculum should be incorporated into a shallow pit. This design is more likely to remain frost-free, and will be less obtrusive and thus unlikely to be subject to interference.</p>  <p>Hibernaculum on impermeable ground</p> <p>Where ground conditions are impermeable, then an 'above-ground' or mounded design should be utilised in order to prevent the hibernaculum from flooding. This design should also be used if it is not possible to excavate a pit for any other reason.</p> 
<p>Insect Enhancements</p>	<p>A minimum of four bee and insect houses will be installed throughout the site, on woodland and scrub edges. The proposed locations are shown on the plan provided in Appendix 3. Details of the insect houses recommended for the sites are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodstone Salina Bee and Insect Hotel (or similar) (see Figure 6). This provides suitable habitat for solitary bees such as mason and leafcutter bees. • Butterfly and Bee Box (or similar). This provides suitable habitat for both butterflies and solitary bees. • Both types of boxes should be placed in a sunny area of the site near pollen-rich flowering plants. They can be mounted on trees, fences or walls.

Figure 5: A schematic representation of a man-made hibernaculum.



Figure 6: Woodstone Salina Bee and Insect Hotel (image credit CJ Wildlife)

Management
The Salina Bee and Insect Hotel will need the nesting tubes (made up of bamboo) replaced every 2 years to prevent the build-up of bacteria and ensure the continuation of insects using the box.

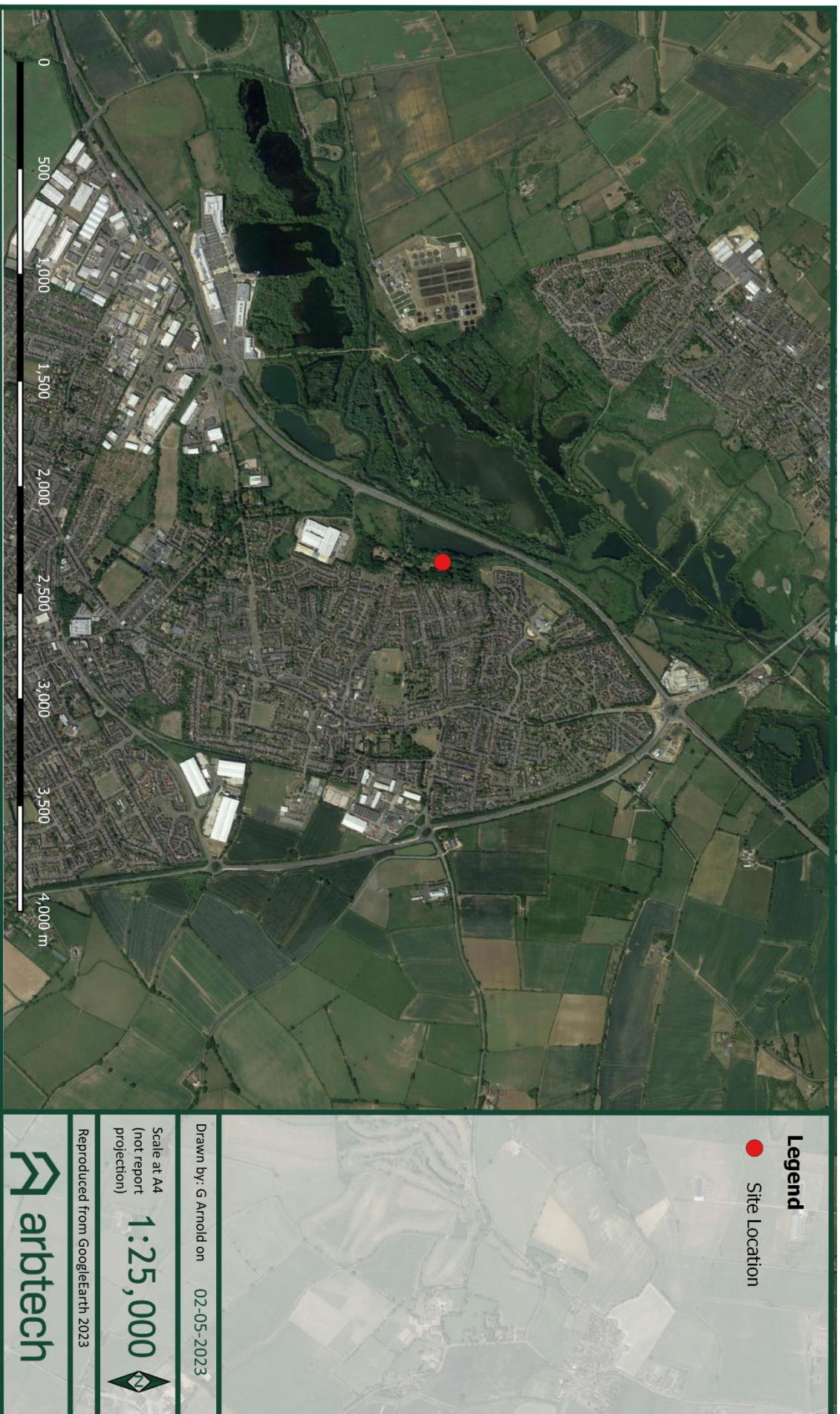
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Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan



Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



Appendix 3: Ecological Enhancement Plan



Appendix 4: Legislation and Planning Policy

LEGAL PROTECTION

National and European Legislation Afforded to Habitats

International Statutory Designations

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are sites of European importance and are designated under the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) and the EC Birds Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds respectively. Both form part of the wider Natura 2000 network across Europe.

Under the Habitats Directive the, Article 3 requires the establishment of a network of important conservation sites (SACs) across Europe in order to conserve the 189 habitats and 788 species (non-bird) identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended).

SPAs are classified under Article 2 of the EC Birds Directive both for rare bird species (as listed on Annex I) and for important migratory species. SACs and SPAs up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from the coast are afforded protection in the UK under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 which consolidate all amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. In Scotland, the requirements of Habitats Directive are implemented through a combination of the 1994 and the 2010 (reserved matters) Regulations. The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended) provide a means for designating and protecting SACs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and recognises the importance of wetland ecosystems in relation to global biodiversity conservation. The Convention refers to wetlands as “areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres” however they may also include riparian and coastal zones. Ramsar sites are statutorily protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) with further protection provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Policy statements have been issued by the Government in England and Wales highlighting the special status of Ramsar sites. The Government in England and Wales has issued policy statements which ensure that Ramsar sites are afforded the same protection as areas designated under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives as part of the Natura 2000 network (e.g. SACs & SPAs).

National Statutory Designations

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are designated by nature conservation agencies in order to conserve key flora, fauna, geological or physio-geographical features within the UK. The original designations were under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 but SSSIs were then re-designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As well as reinforcing other national designations (including National Nature Reserves), the system also provides statutory protection for terrestrial and coastal sites which are important within the European Natura 2000 network and globally. Further provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs have been introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

Local Statutory Designations

Local authorities in consultation with the relevant nature conservation agency can declare Local Nature Reserves (LNRS) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. LNRS are designated for flora, fauna or geological interest and are managed locally to retain these features and provide research, education and recreational opportunities.

Non-Statutory Designations

All non-statutorily designated sites are referred to as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and can be designated by the local authority for supporting local conservation interest. Combined with statutory designation, these sites are considered within Local Development Frameworks under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration during the determination of planning applications. The protection afforded to these sites varies depending on the local authority involved. Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGs) are the most important geological and geomorphological areas outside of statutory designations. These sites are also a material consideration during the determination of planning applications.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 are designed to protect 'important' countryside hedgerows. Importance is defined by whether the hedgerow (a) has existed for 30 years or more; or (b) satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

Under the Regulations, it is against the law to remove or destroy hedgerows on or adjacent to common land, village greens, SSSIs (including all terrestrial SACs, NNRS and SPAs), LNRS, land used for agriculture or forestry and land used for the keeping or breeding of horses, ponies or donkeys without the permission of the local authority. Hedgerows 'within or marking the boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling-house' are excluded.

National and European Legislation Afforded to Species

The Habitats Directive

The EC Habitats Directive aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those species of European importance. The Directive is transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Conservation Regulations) and the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended). The following notes are relevant for all species protected under the EC Habitats Directive:

In the Directive, the term 'deliberate' is interpreted as being somewhat wider than intentional and may be thought of as including an element of recklessness. The Habitats Regulations do not define the act of 'migration' and, therefore, as a precaution, it is recommended that short distance movement of animals for e.g. foraging, breeding or dispersal purposes are also considered.

In order to obtain a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence, the application must demonstrate that it meets all of the following three 'tests': the action(s) are necessary for the purpose of preserving public health or safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequence of primary importance for the environment;

- There is no satisfactory alternative; and
- The action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern

30 Convention) and implements the species protection requirements of EC Birds Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds in Great Britain (the birds

Directive). The WCA 1981 has been subject to a number of amendments, the most important of which are through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000) and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

Other legislative Acts affording protection to wildlife and their habitats include:

- Deer Act 1991
- Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

Badgers

Badgers Meles meles are protected under The Protection of Badgers Act which makes it an offence to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger, including use of tongs and digging
- Possess or control a dead badger or any part thereof
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or any part thereof
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a badger when it is occupying a badger sett
- Intentionally or recklessly cause a dog to enter a badger sett
- Sell or offers for sale, possesses or has under his control, a live badger

Effects on development works:

A development licence will be required from the relevant countryside agency for any development works liable to affect an active badger sett, or to disturb badgers whilst they occupy a sett. Guidance has been issued by the countryside agency's to define what would constitute a licensable activity. It is no possible to obtain a licence to translocate badgers.

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Birds

With certain exceptions, all birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Sections 1-8 of the WCA. Among other things, this makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) take, damage or destroy (or, in Scotland, otherwise interfere with) the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built
- Intentionally take or destroy an egg of any wild bird
- Sell, offer or expose for sale, have in his possession or transport for the purpose of sale any wild bird (dead or alive) or bird egg or part thereof.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest (Scotland only)

Certain species of bird, for example the barn owl, bittern and kingfisher receive additional protection under Schedule 1 of the WCA and Annex 1 of the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC) and are commonly referred to as "Schedule 1" birds.

This affords them protection against:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young
- Intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young of such a bird
- In Scotland only, intentional or reckless disturbance whilst lekking

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- In Scotland only, intentional or reckless harassment

Effects on development works:

Works should be planned to avoid the possibility of killing or injuring any wild bird, or damaging or destroying their nests. The most effective way to reduce the likelihood of nest destruction in particular is to undertake work outside the main bird nesting season which typically runs from March to August. Where this is not feasible, it will be necessary to have any areas of suitable habitat thoroughly checked for nests prior to vegetation clearance.

Schedule 1 birds are additionally protected against disturbance during the nesting season. Thus, it will be necessary to ensure that no potentially disturbing works are undertaken in the vicinity of the nest. The most effective way to avoid disturbance is to postpone works until the young have fledged. If this is not feasible, it may be possible to maintain an appropriate buffer zone or standoff around the nest.

Herpetofauna (Amphibians and reptiles)

The sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*, smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*, natterjack toad *Epidalea calamita*, pool frog *Pelophylax lessonae* and great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* receive full protection under Habitats Regulations through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species
- Deliberate disturbance of species in such a way as:
- To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
- To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

With the exception of the pool frog, these species are also listed on Schedule 5 of the WCA and they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

Other native species of herpetofauna are protected solely under Schedule 5, Section 9(1) & (5) of the WCA, i.e. the adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*. It is prohibited to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill or injure these species.

Effects on development works:

A European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licence issued by the relevant countryside agency (e.g. Natural England) will be required for works liable to affect the breeding sites or resting places amphibian and reptile species protected under Habitats Regulations. A licence will also be required for operations liable to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licences are to allow derogation from the relevant legislation, but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficacy to be monitored.

Although not licensable, appropriate mitigation measures may also be required to prevent the intentional killing or injury of adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm, thus avoiding contravention of the WCA.

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Water voles

The water vole *Arvicola terrestris* is fully protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA. This makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take (capture) water voles
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection

Effects on development works:

If development works are liable to affect habitats known to support water voles, the relevant countryside agency must be consulted. It must be shown that means by which the proposal can be re-designed to avoid contravening the legislation have been fully explored e.g. the use of alternative sites, appropriate timing of works to avoid times of the year in which water voles are most vulnerable, and measures to ensure minimal habitat loss. Conservation licences for the capture and translocation of water voles may be issued by the relevant countryside agency (e.g. Natural England) for the purpose of development activities if it can be shown that the activity has been properly planned and executed and thereby contributes to the conservation of the population. The licence will then only be granted to a suitably experienced person if it can be shown that adequate surveys have been undertaken to inform appropriate mitigation measures. Identification and preparation of a suitable receptor site will be necessary prior to the commencement of works.

Otters

Otters *Lutra lutra* are fully protected under the Conservation Regulations through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species
- Deliberate disturbance of species in such a way as:
- To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
- To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

Otters are also currently protected under the WCA through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection

Effects on development works:

An EPSM Licence issued by the relevant countryside agency (e.g. Natural England) will be required for works liable to affect otter breeding or resting places (often referred to as holts, couches or dens) or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, and rear young). The licence is to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficacy to be monitored

Bats

All species are fully protected by Habitats Regulations 2010 as they are listed on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species (e.g. All bats)
- Deliberate disturbance of bat species in such a way as:
- To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;

- To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

Bats are afforded the following additional protection through the WCA as they are included on Schedule 5:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection

Effects on development works:

Works which are liable to affect a bat roost or an operation which are likely to result in an illegal level of disturbance to the species will require an EPSM licence. The licence is to allow derogation from the legislation through the application of appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring.

Dormice

Dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* are fully protected under Habitats Regulations through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

- Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species
- Deliberate disturbance of species in such a way as:
- To impair their ability to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
- To impair their ability to hibernate or migrate
- To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

Dormice are also protected under the WCA through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection

Effects on development works:

Works which are liable to affect a dormice habitat or an operation which are likely to result in an illegal level of disturbance to the species will require an EPSM licence. The licence is to allow derogation from the legislation through the application of appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring.

White clawed crayfish

The white clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* receives partial protection under Schedule 5 of the WCA in respect of Sections 9(1) and 9(5). This makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally take (capture) white-clawed crayfish.

Effects on development works:

The relevant countryside agency will need to be consulted about development which could impact on a watercourse or wetland known to support white clawed crayfish. Conservation licences for the capture and translocation of crayfish can be issued if it can be shown that the activity has been properly planned and executed and thereby contributes to the conservation of the population. The licence will only be granted to a suitably experienced person if it can be shown that adequate

surveys have been undertaken to inform appropriate mitigation measures. Identification and preparation of a suitable receptor site will be necessary prior to the commencement of the works.

Wild Mammals (Protection Act) 1996

All wild mammals are protected against intentional acts of cruelty under the above legislation. This makes it an offence to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

To avoid possible contravention, due care and attention should be taken when carrying out works (for example operations near burrows or nests) with the potential to affect any wild mammal in this way, regardless of whether they are legally protected through other conservation legislation or not.

Legislation afforded to Plants

With certain exceptions, all wild plants are protected under the WCA. This makes it an offence for an 'unauthorised' person to intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) uproot wild plants. An authorised person can be the owner of the land on which the action is taken, or anybody authorised by them.

Certain rare species of plant, for example some species of orchid, are also fully protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This prohibits any person from:

- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) picking, uprooting or destruction of any wild Schedule 8 species (or seed or spore attached to any such wild plant in Scotland only)
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, or possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale, any wild live or dead Schedule 8 plant species or part thereof
- In addition to the UK legislation outlined above, several plant species are fully protected under Schedule 5 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. These are species of European importance. Regulation 45 makes it an offence to:
 - Deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy a wild Schedule 5 species
 - Be in possession of, or control, transport, sell or exchange any wild live or dead Schedule 5 species or anything derived from such a plant.

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Effects on development works:

An EPSM licence will be required from the relevant countryside agency for works which are liable to affect species of planted listed on Schedule 5 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The licence is to allow derogation from the legislation through the application of appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring.

Invasive Species

Part II of Schedule 9 of the WCA lists non-native invasive plant species for which it is a criminal offence in England and Wales to plant or cause to grow in the wild due to their impact on native wildlife. Species included (but not limited to):

- Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
- Giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*
- Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

Effects on development works:

It is not an offence for plants listed in Part II of Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 to be present on the development site however it is an offence to cause them to spread.

Therefore, if any of the species are present on site and construction activities may result in further spread (e.g. earthworks, vehicle movements) then it will be necessary to design and implement appropriate mitigation prior to construction commencing.

Injurious weeds

Under the Weeds Act 1959 any land owner or occupier may be required prevent the spread of certain 'injurious weeds' including (but not limited to):

- Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*
- Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*
- Curled dock *Rumex crispus*
- Broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*
- Common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*

It is a criminal offence to fail to comply with a notice requiring such action to be taken. The Ragwort Control Act 2003 establishes a ragwort control code of practice as common ragwort is poisonous to horses and other livestock. This code provides best practice guidelines and is not legally binding.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)**National Planning Policy Framework**

The National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable development. The Framework specifies the need for protection of designated sites and priority habitats and species. An emphasis is also made on the need for ecological infrastructure through protection, restoration and re-creation. The protection and recovery of priority species (considered likely to be those listed as UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species) is also listed as a requirement of planning policy.

In determining a planning application, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from harm; there is appropriate mitigation or compensation where significant harm cannot be avoided; opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments are encouraged; and planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the Biodiversity Duty

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006, requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.

Section 41 of the Act (Section 42 in Wales) requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of 'principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity.' This list is intended to assist decision makers such as public bodies in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Act. Under the Act these habitats and species are regarded as a material consideration in determining planning applications. A developer must show that their protection has been adequately addressed within a development proposal.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by Natural England will be required for works likely to affect a bat roost or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licence is to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficiency/success to be monitored. The legislation may also be interpreted such that, in certain circumstances, important foraging areas and/or commuting routes can be regarded as being afforded *de facto* protection, for example, where it can be proven that the continued usage of such areas is crucial to maintaining the integrity and long-term viability of a bat roost (Garland & Markham, 2008).

There are 17 species of bat breeding in England and Natural England issues licences under Regulation 55 of the Habitats Regulations to allow you to work within the law.

Licences are issued for specific purposes stated in the Regulations, if the following three tests are met:

- The purpose of the work meets one of those listed in the Habitats Regulations (see below);
- That there is no satisfactory alternative;
- That the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status (FCS) in their natural range

The Habitats Regulations permits licences to be issued for a specific set of purposes including:

- 1. include preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of over-riding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;**
 2. scientific and educational purposes,
 3. ringing or marking
 4. conserving wild animals
- Development works fall under the first purpose and Natural England issues bat mitigation licences for developments.

EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES POLICIES

In December 2016 Natural England officially introduced the four licensing policies throughout England. The four policies seek to achieve better outcomes for European Protected Species (EPS) and reduce unnecessary costs, delays and uncertainty that can be inherent in the current standard EPS licensing system. The policies are summarised as follows:

- Policy 1: provides greater flexibility in exclusion and relocation activities, where there is investment in habitat provision;
- Policy 2: provides greater flexibility in the location of compensatory habitat;
- Policy 3: provides greater flexibility on exclusion measures where this will allow EPS to use temporary habitat; and,
- Policy 4: provides a reduced survey effort in circumstances where the impacts of development can be confidently predicted.

The four policies have been designed to have a net benefit for EPS by improving populations overall and not just protecting individuals within development sites. Most notably Natural England now recognises that the Habitats Regulations legal framework now applies to 'local populations' of EPS and not individuals/site populations.

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT: Roman Way Verges – Post Request

REPORT AUTHOR: Assistant Clerk, Emily Arrow

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	N/A	
POLICIES REFERENCED		
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	
	There is provision within budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	x
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk	
APPENDICES		

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To consider a request for posts/bollards to be installed on the grass verge area at Roman Way to prevent vehicles parking.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In July 2021 a similar request was made to install bollards on the grass verge area at Roman Way after a complaint was made to the police about commercial vehicles parking there during evenings and weekends.

At the time the police advised that vehicles parking on the grass verge were not parked illegally and therefore were not subject to enforcement. There was no ‘obstruction’ in the eyes of the law as the term ‘obstruction’ in traffic law does not mean the obstruction of view but the obstruction of access roads/driveways. The police advised all they could do is approach the owners of the vehicles and ask them to park more considerably. It would fall to the council to make adjustments to the verges such as bollards to stop vehicles from gaining access.

The cost of 4 x bollards at the time of July 2021 was quoted at £52-124 per bollard with a suggested budget of £1200-1800 to include all installation. An alternative was suggested; large rocks, with a budget cost for supply and placement of 10 sandstone quarry rocks (1.5-2 tonnes) quoted at £2650 in July 2021.

The minute and resolution from the July committee meeting was as follows:-

It was noted by councillors that the grass area did not look particularly worn. The Clerk had written to the companies whose vans were seen parking on the grass verge and this may have helped to resolve the issue. There are general parking issues in the area aside the reported use of the grass verge. The PCSO is including the area in her patrols.

RESOLVED:

That bollards are not installed on the grass area in Roman Way as a means to prevent vehicles parking.

3. REQUEST

- 3.1. This latest request has come directly to the council from a resident in the area, as follows:

Can something be done to prevent parking on the grass verges/areas in Roman Way? This is causing significant amenity and road safety visibility issues.

The resident reports that in the evenings the verge is almost always completely full with parked vehicles and they *believe that posts would be a preferred solution to the issue.*

4. CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Following receipt of the request our Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities Supervisor has visited the site to assess the condition of the grass verges. He advises the verges were in a fairly good condition at the time of inspection but that because the inspection took place at the end of August it's understandable that the condition of the grass may deteriorate more in the winter months.
- 4.2. The PCSO was asked to visit Roman Way at the time of this request and has been asked to visit over the years since July 2021.
- 4.3. This is not the only place within the town where parking on grass verges is perceived to be an issue and if posts are installed on Roman Way it may give rise to further requests/set a precedence.
- 4.4. Installing posts may simply move the parking problem elsewhere on Roman Way or the surrounding estate roads.
- 4.5. In other areas of the estate some of the open space areas have knee-high fencing installed to their edge. This fencing was originally installed by the developers. This fencing has been removed, and not replaced, in some locations following damage or decay/end of life. Replacement has only taken place if there is a proven need for the retention of knee-high fencing based on risk.
- 4.6. Given the lapse of time since July 2021 the committee is asked to consider the request and if any further action is needed.

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT: Skatepark Remodelling

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	Business Forward Plan short to medium term project	
POLICIES REFERENCED	N/A	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	See 4.4
	There is provision within budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk	
APPENDICES	May 2024 Annual Inspection Report for Saffron Road play area and skatepark Remodelling sketch plans	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To agree to undertake skatepark remodelling work.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Skatepark has been in constant use (apart from the short period during Covid) since it was constructed in 2015. However, it is now in need of some remedial repair.
- 2.2. The steep banking is now eroding quite rapidly on the end closest to the football pitch and the bonded rubber mulch is in a very poor condition, to the extent where it is becoming a trip hazard and therefore a health and safety issue.
- 2.3. The bonded rubber mulch was applied in 2018 and extended in 2019. It was applied to both ends to address the problems faced with soil erosion and exposure of the concrete foundations and it did significantly help to address the problem. The end nearest the football pitch is the more open end and doesn't have the car park railings at the base of the bank like the Pavilion end. The children tend to congregate to this end more frequently. It is the end that has suffered a higher level of vandalism to the bonded rubber mulch and was the end, pre the application of the bonded rubber mulch, that suffered the greater level of soil erosion and concrete foundation exposure.
- 2.4. The bonded rubber mulch did not extend all the way down the banking so the point at which it ends on the grass soil bank is, and always was, a potential line of weakness. In addition, vandalism over time to the bonded rubber mulch has resulted in sections becoming loose and missing. This has increased the soil erosion and has re-exposed concrete. Once sections of the bonded rubber mulch lift, the children pull at the sections and it works itself looser and breaks away.

- 2.5. The bonded rubber mulch to the skatepark end nearest the Pavilion has fared much better than the end nearest the football pitch and is considered not to currently require any improvement work.
- 2.6. The skatepark was last independently inspected in May as part of the annual play inspections by Seagrave Inspection Services Ltd. The report forms part of the appendices and with reference to the skatepark, the end banks were noted within the report, with a risk factor of 12 applied and recommendation of monitor to improve/repair this condition.
- 2.7. To act upon the loss of bonded rubber mulch and the findings of the annual play inspection report, Wheelscape, who carried out the original construction of the skatepark, have been out to the site and carried out an assessment of the football pitch end. They assessed for:-
1. Like for like repair to the bonded rubber mulch.
 2. Remodelling in which to lengthen the landing area and build a shallower run off area in order to reduce the wear and tear on that end of the skatepark.

3. **REPAIR TO BONDED RUBBER MULCH**

- 3.1. As a minimum, like for like repair to the bonded rubber mulch is required. Quotes for this have not been obtained. As an indicator, the cost in 2018 for the football pitch end initial lay of the bonded rubber mulch was £2438 and subsequent extension £3606, total cost to date £6044.

4. **REMODELLING PROPOSAL**

- 4.1. The remodelling work proposed is to lengthen the concrete landing area by extending it by 1m, therefore doubling its size. The proposal includes building a more shallow soil bank whilst still leaving space between the skatepark and the football pitch. Wheelscape have suggested seeding the bank beyond the extended concrete landing with grass seed. This may not be the best solution, as this was the original construction pre the bonded mulch. Other possibilities are bonded rubber mulch as before, or perhaps wetpour or artificial grass.
- 4.2. If the remodelling works to the football pitch end of the skatepark were to be undertaken, the skatepark would need to be closed for a period of time and probably not less than 2 weeks.
- 4.3. There would be a need to import soil for the work. We have a soil stockpile at the cemetery and using some of this supply would lessen the reliance on purchase and import from further afield thus offering some cost savings.
- 4.4. The estimated cost for this work is in the region of £20,000. There is currently no budget for the remodelling work so, timeframe dependent, the cost would be met from EMR Higham Ferrers Improvement Fund or as an identified project by budget allocation 2025/26.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

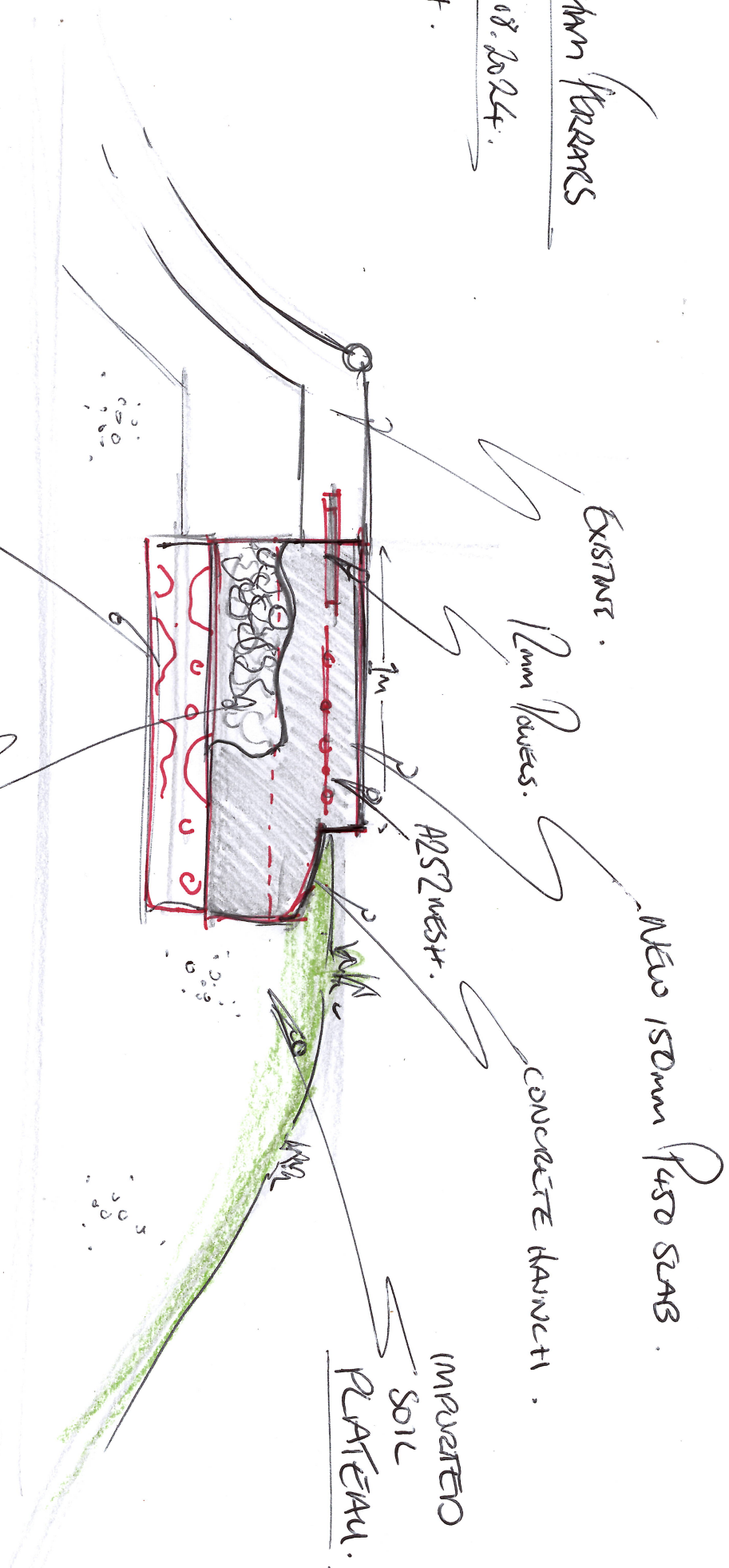
- 5.1. In order to try and better future proof the practicality of use and the long term cost of repair and maintenance of the skatepark it is recommended:-
- That the remodelling work be undertaken with procurement by means of contract.
- That the contract specification include:-
- Design based on the sketch plans
 - Flexibility to allow companies to come forward with their best solution for the finish to the shallower soil banking based on our detailed report of the problems experienced since construction.
 - A maximum budget to control expenditure.
- That the cost of the project to be met from budget allocation 2025/26.

Highway Crossings

28.08.2024.
ET.

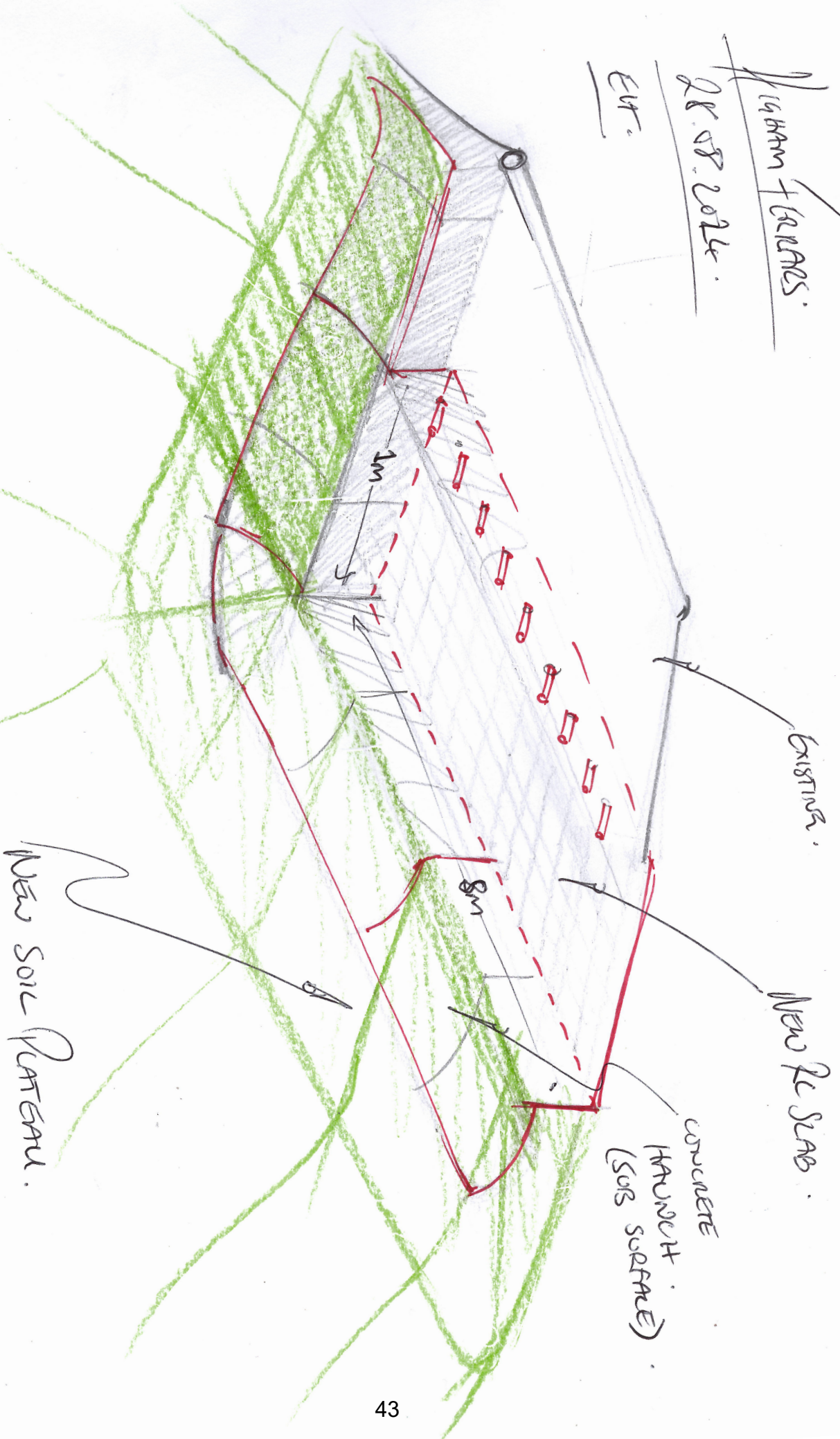
IMPORTED. G52 SUB GRAIN.

MOT TYPE 1.



William Ferrens.
28.08.2014.

E.V.T.





Annual Inspection Report



Saffron Road Play Area & Skate Park

Client:	Higham Ferrers Town Council
Address:	The Town Hall Market Square Higham Ferrers Northants NN10 8BT
Date:	14th May 2024
Inspector:	Peter Briggs

Assessed site risk at time of inspection

High Risk (15)

32 Manor Road Barton Seagrave Northants NN15 6WD

Mob: 07983 339879 Tel: 01536 724034

Email: p.briggs@seagraveinspectionsservices.co.uk

www.seagraveinspectionsservices.co.uk



GENERAL COMMENTS

Monitor area and review all fixings for security. The concept of the Operational/Annual/Post Installation is to assist the customer in providing a programme of works as recommended with any findings or EN failures. Consider a robust maintenance and inspection schedule. Guidance should be given that the installation process has been followed as per the manufactures/suppliers instructions.

The following notes form an important part of the inspection report - The equipment has been assessed to the relevant British version of the European Standard namely BSEN1176 for Playground Equipment, BSEN14974 for Wheeled Sports, BSEN15312 for Multi Use Games Areas and BSEN16630 for permanently installed Outdoor Fitness Gym Equipment. The standards mentioned are minimum standards and are not a legal requirement, where in the opinion of the Inspector compliance failure is noted then there is a risk assessed accordingly. Risk assessment is a legal requirement and should the need arise a court or a Health and Safety Inspector will ask to see the assessment, the level of risk has to be acceptable.

Seagrave Inspection Services Ltd risk assessment is based on Peter Heseltine and Bob Cooks Third Edition Assessing Risk on Children's Playgrounds, this is not a definitive list of terms of all equipment, however; the book principles will be applied, other factors such as accident statistics, Inspectors experience are also relevant.

Inspections are non-dismantling, for equipment that disappears into enclosed fixings dismantling inspection will be advised accordingly. Equipment over 2.5 metre heights are excluded from Seagrave Inspection Services Ltd, for wear parts above this height an advisory note will be provided if felt necessary.

Structural loadings should be provided by the manufacturer for all types of above mentioned equipment.

Guidance should be sought from the supplier for certification that the depth or type of surfacing used meets EN1177 for HIC requirements.

This report indicates the assessed level of risk at the time of visiting and not a given or implied guarantee to the installation process or product warranty. No dismantling of equipment took place or any other general maintenance. This report also does not confirm the playground will remain free from possible product conflict for the period until the next audit. Refer to the owner of the play area for any routine or operational inspections and the manufacturers recommended schedules for ongoing maintenance/inspection requirements before and after this audit.

There are three levels of inspection; Routine, Operational and Annual. The Annual Inspection checks the Operational and the Operational checks the Routine Inspections. A risk assessment is also provided where considered necessary and categorised on a score rating as follows;

Risk rating	Action
1 - 3 Very Low Risk	Monitor
4 - 7 Low Risk	Monitor and take reasonable action if required
8 - 12 Medium Risk	Take action to reduce if possible
13 - 20 High Risk	Take action ASAP to implement control measures
21+ Unacceptable Risk	Remove or immobilise immediately

ANCILLARY ITEMS

Ancillary items such as; seats, litter bins, gates, planting form part of the inspection along with comments relating to the facilities in close proximity to roadways, water courses, electrical substations, overhead cables and any structure considered a hazard i.e. general safety of the area.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Findings</u>	<u>Comments and Recommendations</u>
Access	Monitor	None
Pathways	Acceptable	Monitor
Fencing	Average	See report
Gate(s)	Acceptable	Monitor use
Sign(s)	Present: Average	See report
Seat(s)	Below Average	See report
Litter Bin(s)	Acceptable	Monitor
Cleanliness	Acceptable	Monitor area
Planting	Trees Grass	Monitor nearby trees Acceptable
Location	Acceptable	Monitor use

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

No faults found during the inspection.
Recommendation:
 No action required, monitor this item.

6

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Toddler Multiplay				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		6			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

Split gator evident.
Recommendation:
 Consider replacement.

5

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Elephant Rocker				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		5			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

Split gator evident.
Recommendation:
 Consider replacement.

5

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Horse Rocker				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		5			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



Split gator evident.
Recommendation:
Consider replacement.

5

Recommendation:	
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Recommendation:	
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Recommendation:	
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Item	Motorbike Rocker				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		5			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



Trip point evident.
Recommendation:
Repair this condition asap.

10

Recommendation:	
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Recommendation:	
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Recommendation:	
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Item	Arch Climber				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			10		

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



Chain/connecting link(s) wear evident.
Recommendation:
Monitor to replace at 40% dia wear.

8

As above finding. Recommendation: As above comment.	
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8

Crutch strap perishing. Recommendation: Replace as required.	
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8

1 x seat missing. Recommendation: Replace missing seat and chains as required.	
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3

Item	2 Bay 4 Cradle Swing				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour & Rubber Bonded Fibre				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

 Worn bearing evident.
Recommendation:
 Monitor to replace as required.

7

Recommendation:

Recommendation:


Recommendation:

Item	Roundabout				
Supplier	Europlay				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		7			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

 No faults found during the inspection.
Recommendation:
 No action required, monitor this item.

6

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

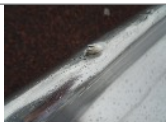
Recommendation:

Item	Twin Tower Multiplay				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Rubber Bonded Fibre				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		6			


Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

 Dents in chute with sharp edges.
Recommendation:
 Carry out improvements to this condition.


12

 As above finding.
Recommendation:
 As above recommendation.

12

 Corrosion/rust evident.
Recommendation:
 Consider re-painting.

7

 As above finding.
Recommendation:
 As above comment.

7

Item	Slide 1 of 2				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			12		

Item EN Compliance	50	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

No faults found during the inspection.
Recommendation:
 No action required, monitor this area.

6

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Agility Trail				
Supplier	Playdale				
Surface	Grass				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		6			

Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

Damage evident to rope section.
Recommendation:
 Consider repairs/replacement of rope.

8

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Multiplay Unit				
Supplier	Playdale				
Surface	Rubber Bonded Fibre				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

Lateral movement evident on beam.
Recommendation:
 Monitor this condition to repair as required.

8

Recommendation:

Recommendation:




Recommendation:

Item	See Saw				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Rubber Bonded Fibre				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



	Delamination evident in places. Recommendation: Monitor to keep rubbed down to prevent splinters.	8
	Wet pour shrinkage in places causing trip issues. Recommendation: Repair this condition asap.	10
	Bearing stiff. Recommendation: Carry out improvements to this unit.	7
	Recommendation:	

Item	Rocking Horse				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			10		

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



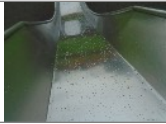
	Chain/connecting link(s) wear evident. Recommendation: Monitor to replace at 40% dia wear.	12
	As above finding. Recommendation: As above comment.	10
	Recommendation:	
	Recommendation:	

Item	2 Bay 4 Flat Swing				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Rubber Bonded Fibre				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			12		

Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	No
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number


	Corrosion/rust evident. Recommendation: Monitor this item for deterioration & structural integrity.	7
	As above finding. Recommendation: As above comment.	7
	Dents evident in chute. Recommendation: Monitor this condition.	5
	Recommendation:	


Item	Tractor Climber				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		7			


Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

	2 x bolts missing on slide start section under platform. Recommendation: Consider replacing missing bolts.	5
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	Wet pour shrinkage in places. Recommendation: Monitor to repair this condition.	4
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	Dents evident in chute. Recommendation: Monitor this condition.	5
---	--	---


	Recommendation:	
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Item	Slide 2 of 2				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		5			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

	Split(s) evident in gator. Recommendation: Replace as required.	5
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	Recommendation:	
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	Recommendation:	
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	Recommendation:	
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Item	Spring Disc				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		5			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

	Trip point evident. Recommendation: Repair this condition asap.	8
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	Recommendation:	
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	Recommendation:	
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	Recommendation:	
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Item	Rope Swing				
Supplier	Unknown				
Surface	Wet Pour				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



No faults found during the inspection.

Recommendation:
No action required, monitor this item.

5

Recommendation:	
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Recommendation:	
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Recommendation:	
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Item	Overhead Rotator				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Grass Matting				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		5			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



Chain/connecting link(s) wear evident.

Recommendation:
Monitor to replace at 40% dia wear.

7



Gaps evident in grass matting.

Recommendation:
Monitor to repair this condition.

8



Review recommended inspection and maintenance schedules as detailed from the supplier/manufacturer for zip line unit.

8



Bolt protruding from shackle not fully tightened up?

Recommendation:
Investigate for integrity **asap**.

15

Item	Zip Line				
Supplier	Wicksteed				
Surface	Grass Matting				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
				15	

Item EN Compliance	N/a	Surface EN Compliance	N/a
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



Fencing loose in ground.

Recommendation:
Monitor to repair this condition.

7



Distorted fence panel.

Recommendation:
Monitor this condition.

6

Recommendation:	
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Recommendation:	
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Item	Fencing (Play Area)				
Supplier	N/a				
Surface	N/a				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		7			

Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

No signage evident.
Recommendation:
 Consider signage.

7

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Outdoor Gym - Bike				
Supplier	Fresh Air Fitness				
Surface	Grass Matting				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		7			

Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

No signage evident.
Recommendation:
 Consider signage.

7

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Outdoor Gym - Skier				
Supplier	Fresh Air Fitness				
Surface	Grass Matting				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		7			

Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
--------------------	----	-----------------------	-----



Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

Missing/damaged foot support blocks.
Recommendation:
 Replace as required asap.

8

As above finding.
Recommendation:
 As above comment.

8

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Outdoor Gym - Hip Glider				
Supplier	Fresh Air Fitness				
Surface	Grass Matting				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		

Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

Missing/damaged foot support blocks.
Recommendation:
 Replace as required asap.

8

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Outdoor Gym - Hip Twister				
Supplier	Fresh Air Fitness				
Surface	Grass Matting				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		

Item EN Compliance	No	Surface EN Compliance	Yes
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

No signage evident.
Recommendation:
 Consider signage.

7

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Item	Outdoor Gym - Multi Press Unit				
Supplier	Fresh Air Fitness				
Surface	Grass Matting				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		7			

Item EN Compliance	N/a	Surface EN Compliance	N/a
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

Decay evident on bench(s).
Recommendation:
 Monitor this condition.

7

As above finding.
Recommendation:
 As above comment.

7

Green metal bench missing end caps.
Recommendation:
 Replace missing caps.

6





Recommendation:

Item	Bench(s)				
Supplier	Unknown				
Surface	N/a				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
		7			

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	N/a
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number



	Steep drop on banks to skate area. Recommendation: Monitor to improve these areas.	12
	Rubber bonded fibre showing signs of breaking up and migrating onto the riding surface. Recommendation: Monitor to improve/repair this condition.	12
	Damaged signage evident. Recommendation: Repair as required.	7
	Slight damage evident to riding surface. Recommendation: Monitor this condition.	10

Item	Concrete Skate Area (High Risk Activity)				
Supplier	Unknown				
Surface	Concrete				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
				13	

Item EN Compliance	Yes	Surface EN Compliance	N/a
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number


	Protruding bolt(s) evident to signage. Recommendation: Cut back as required.	8
	As above finding. Recommendation: As above comment.	8
	Recommendation:	
	Recommendation:	

Item	MUGA				
Supplier	Play Innovation				
Surface	Tarmac				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		

Item EN Compliance	N/a	Surface EN Compliance	N/a
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Findings at the time of inspection with risk number

	Protruding bolt(s) evident to signage. Recommendation: Cut back as required.	8
	Recommendation:	
	Recommendation:	
	Recommendation:	

Item	Signage				
Supplier	Unknown				
Surface	N/a				
Risk Rating Overall	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Unacceptable
			8		



Inspection Scope for RPII Annual Inspectors

This document outlines the RPII scope for inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed as Annual Inspectors on the RPII Register of Inspectors when undertaking Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine inspections.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it will be the standard that is current at the time of inspection except where overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information contained in reports is provided to assist the owner/operator in fulfilling their responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standard. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of the inspection, unless they are also explicitly listed here.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this includes public parks, pay and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centres, farm parks etc. All equipment used or employed in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant standards (listed below):

BS EN 1176 Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Playground equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors & indoors.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - 'Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation' (this document gives guidance to the owners/operators of the facility on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playground equipment, excluding ancillary items).

In the United Kingdom the National Foreword forms an important part to the understanding and implementation of the recommendations set out in this document. It clarifies the application of the document within the UK as best practice guidance, as the document has been used since its initial publication. Therefore, in the UK this standard (BS EN 1176 – Part 7) contains no requirements and needs to be read and implemented as guidance, with the use of the term 'shall' therefore becoming a recommendation, as in the term 'should'.

Domestic play equipment falls outside of the scope of BS EN 1176 and has its own standards (BS EN 71 series – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance will follow the requirements and recommendations of BS EN 1176.

When water play items, including spray parks, are inspected any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will refer to EN 1176. We have not assessed these against the requirements of EN 17232 (Water play equipment and features).

Other equipment that is not clearly identified as unsupervised or domestic (natural play, self-build equipment etc.) will be assessed for compliance with the relevant standard listed below:

- BS EN 15312** Free access multi-sports equipment
- BS EN 14974** Skateparks
- BS EN 16630** Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment
- BS EN 16899** Parkour equipment (plus RPII/API guidance notes)

Annual and Post Installation inspections will take into consideration compliance with these current standards, and defects related to wear and vandalism. Items not listed in the report have not been included in the inspection. The inspection will cover the playground equipment and the active area (that area which is obviously part of the playground), nominally up to three metres around, the fence line if closer, or other areas as agreed.

Operational inspections only take into consideration defects related to cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear (of moving parts) structural integrity, wear and vandalism.

Routine visual inspections relate only to the most obvious defects such as broken or missing parts, litter, vandalism and issues created by severe weather conditions (the intention is to identify hazards created by storm damage).

All inspections are non-dismantling, non-destructive and do not include any structural, toxicology or impact assessments defined in the standard; however, the inspector will undertake a manual test for stability and if equipment fails under manual load, or any other hazard is identified as an unacceptable risk, the owner/operator will be notified as soon as practicably possible.

The inspector will access all reasonably accessible equipment and will assess all reasonably accessible parts above the standing surface. Where it is not possible to access parts of the equipment without employing an alternative means of access the report will record the action required by the owner/operator to ensure the continued safe use of the equipment.

Ancillary equipment will be assessed using the inspector's knowledge and experience of the standards named in this document. (Note: Ancillary items are not included in the specific equipment-type parts of the EN 1176 series; hence they are not assessed for compliance with EN 1176 series and are subject to a general safety assessment).

The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area.

The inspector will not undertake any of the following works unless specifically agreed in writing at the time of order:

Checking the depth and underlying structural integrity of any surface areas and/or carrying out any testing of the impact attenuating properties of any surfaces; the identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection; the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is beneath the playing surface (loose-fill materials may be moved to expose foundations); tightening any bolts, hinges or other fixing devices on any apparatus or equipment; assessing or inspecting any electrical installations contained on any site and/or apparatus and/or equipment; assessing or inspecting any water supplies and/or water features and/or any associated computerised systems (including carrying out any programming); where planting or trees are mentioned in the report no assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken – the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

The owner/operator should have a 'design risk assessment' provided by the manufacturer/designer of the area for the equipment and location in which the facility is installed.

The operator is responsible for managing risks of their provision and is required by law to carry out a 'suitable and sufficient assessment' of the risks associated with a site or activity. This inspection shall be considered as contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility.

The details contained within the report are a snapshot of the condition at the time of inspection only and subsequent events may affect the condition of the facility. Suggested remedial actions are based on the knowledge and experience of the inspector and/or that of the inspection company. The owner/operator should always seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

Table 1

The operator is responsible for following the guidance of the relevant standards. The standards give guidance on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of the various types of facilities. The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in an RPII Annual or Post-Installation Inspection. The relevant standards also contain additional parts which the operator should follow.

Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual/ Post Installation Inspection
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of foundations (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of playing surfaces (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.1 d) Compliance with the relevant parts of the standard and or risk assessment (see note 3)	✓	✓ [3]
6.1 d) Effects of weather	✓	✓
6.1 d) Presence of rot, decay or corrosion (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Assessment of repairs made or added or replaced components (see note 4)	✓	✓ [4]
6.1 d) Excavation or dismantling/additional measures	✓	✗
6.2.1 Assessment of glass reinforced plastics (see note 5)	✓	✓ [5]
6.2.1 Inspection of one post equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.2.4 Undertaking the Operators inspection protocol	✓	✗

NB: The clause numbers in table 1 are taken from BS EN 1176 - Part 7:2020. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards listed herein. Playgrounds contain a range of equipment from different manufacturers and installed over a number of years; operators should implement any guidance provided by the manufacturer. Item specific detail is not readily available to RPII Playground Inspectors, whose report contributes to the operator's overall Annual Main Inspection as detailed in the relevant

[1] A manual test only is undertaken for stability. Wear and instability are only detectable where readily apparent without dismantling or destruction and without the use of tools, excavation or specialist equipment. Rot and corrosion are tested or with a hammer and/or steel rod. Decay in timber may exist which can only be found with specialist equipment.

[2] Only the visible condition and dimensional compliance of surface extent is considered. Neither testing of impact attenuating properties nor measurement of the thickness of bound surfaces are undertaken on RPII annual inspections.

[3] The inspection assesses compliance where this can be tested on site using manual methods without dismantling, destruction and without the use of tools or specialist equipment.

[4] The operator should use manufacturer's recommended parts, or equivalent. We are unable to verify if such parts have been used, and any subsequent change in quality or performance.

[5] Visible glass fibres will be noted in reports. The operator is responsible for repairs or replacement.

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT: Accessible Play Equipment

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	N/A	
POLICIES REFERENCED		
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	x
	There is provision within budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	x
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk	
APPENDICES	5-year Maintenance Plan for play areas	

1. PURPOSE

To consider a proposal from Councillor Vijay Paul.

- 1.1. *That the Council adopt a policy that any, and all, future pieces of play equipment can be 'accessed by all abilities' on a new for old basis.*
- 1.2. *That the Council reconsider placing 1-2 pieces of new play equipment at Saffron Road play area.*
- 1.3. *That the new play equipment will either be installed to replace some old equipment, which could be removed, or to increase the enclosed play area to allow for more space to install the equipment.*
- 1.4. *That the Council fund at least 50% of the procurement and installation of the play equipment and take on the maintenance of the same.*

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A local fundraising initiative has been set up by a couple to raise money for accessible play equipment at Saffron Road play area via 'GoFundMe' the fundraising platform. There has been liaison with individual councillors by the couple. The Clerk has sought a meeting with the couple. This proposal brings consideration of the local initiative of installing accessible play equipment at Saffron Road play area formally to the Council.
- 2.2. The definition of 'accessible equipment' is quite broad and is generally assessed in 3 different ways – motor inclusion, sensory inclusion and mental inclusion. This encompasses a wide range of possibilities including wheelchair access, visual textures, audio or touch based equipment and areas that encourage socialisation.
- 2.3. Inclusive pieces of play equipment are installed at our Nightingale Way play area, including a basket swing which allows for assisted transfer and a low level roundabout designed for wheelchair transfer. The toddler multiplay units at both Nightingale Way and Saffron Road have accessible elements included, such as play panels to promote mental stimulation.
- 2.4. In March 2024 the Council received, as part of the Clerk's Report to the Environment and Recreation Committee, a 5-year maintenance plan for its play areas, The plan was produced to help plan the budget for expected expenses within the play areas and was compiled

following weekly play area inspections (carried out by staff), annual play area inspections (external) and staff knowledge of where potential weaknesses and failures in current equipment are starting to appear. Any pieces of existing equipment coming to the end of their life and will need to potentially be replaced in the coming years are also identified. As part of this process the Council intends to focus on ensuring that any replacement equipment can serve a wide variety of needs. The 5-year plan presented in March 2024 forms part of the appendices. The maintenance plan is a document that is intended for regular review. The extract below is for Saffron Road play area.

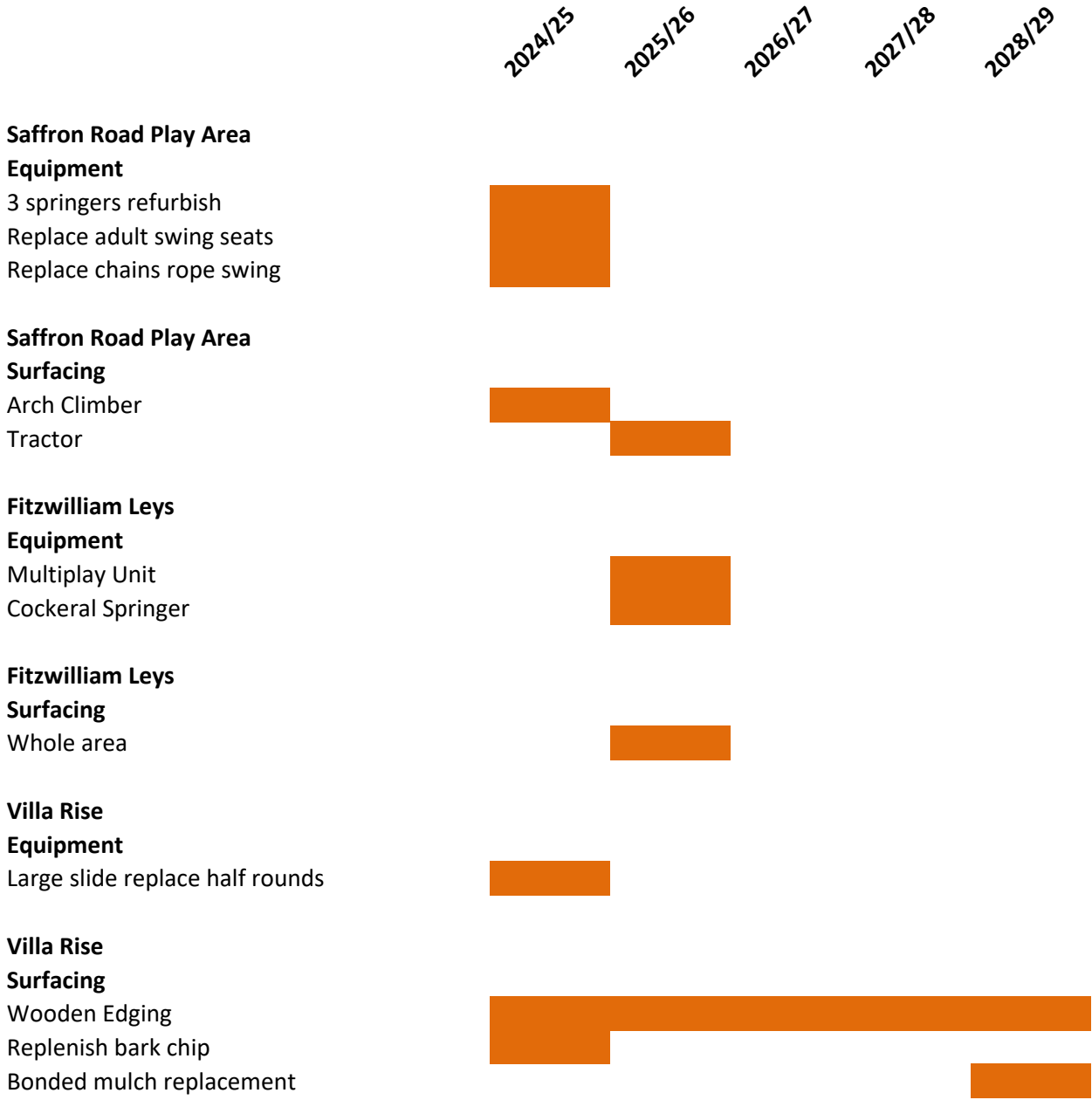
Saffron Road play area equipment

- 3 springers refurbish 2024/25 (agenda item)
- Replace adult swing seats 2024/25 (part)
- Replace chains rope swing 2024/25 (complete)

Saffron Road play area surfacing

- Arch Climber 2024/25 (complete)
- Tractor 2025/26

Maintenance



HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT: Public Open Space (POS) Land to the Front of Henry Chichele Primary School

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES		
POLICIES REFERENCED	N/A	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	x
	There is provision within budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	x
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk	
APPENDICES	Report to Environment and Recreation Committee March 2024	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider how the Public Open Space (POS) land to the front of Henry Chichele Primary School, School Lane, may be used.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In January council made the decision not to reopen the land to the front of Henry Chichele Primary School for car parking, with the matter passed to the Environment and Recreation Committee for them to consider how the space may be used going forward. In March the committee resolved:
That quotes are sought for establishing a 'community garden' with raised beds, benches and a medium sized tree as a centre piece, with the longer term aim to ask the school if they would like to get involved in looking after the garden with the pupils.
- 2.2. The Clerk met with the Head of Henry Chichele Primary School in October. The school has a sizeable play area to the rear of the school. This includes a large grass playing field, hard standing with outside canopy lunch area, surface painted games, play equipment and themed play huts. There is a small woodland walk, a pond area and 2 separate areas that both contain a series of raised beds for planting. The school are fortunate to have these areas and are already busy with the work that comes in maintaining them. Given their on-site facilities there is, quite understandably, a reluctance to become involved in having access to and helping to look after additional raised beds or a 'community garden'. The school did indicate a willingness to be involved in future considerations for the area, for example, involvement with designing any features, installations, play equipment, planting proposals etc. that council might consider for the land.

3. COSTS

- 3.1. To provide an indicator for costs:-
- Picnic benches, up to £1000 for recycled plastic heavy duty.
 - Benches, up to £1000 for the Eastgate style
 - Planter, 3 tier similar to the two located in the Market Square, £800

- Raised beds come in a variety of designs and sizes. Price for a rectangular 2m x 0.75m and 0.35m high, wood treated bed, up to £360. Bespoke designs are available with seating included.
- Tree planting is species and size dependent and further guidance would be required to form a planting plan. As an indicator, the cost at the time to plant the 5 Swedish white beam trees on Saffron Road Recreation Ground at approximately 12-14ft tall, including compost, stakes and tree ties was £1,381.25. This excludes the metal guards that were later installed to protect against vandalism.

4. **FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 4.1. Any 'community garden' is only as good as the community volunteers that care and look after it. If volunteers don't come forward, or can't be found, garden maintenance will fall to the council and ultimately form part of the grounds maintenance contract with respective on-going costs.
- 4.2. Prior to use for car parking, this POS was previously identified by the council and the community as underutilised. Reference is made to the council's consultation and Community Plan, 2013. A seating area with planters was suggested in the past.
- 4.3. The March report presented to this committee forms part of the appendices and set out some initial options for the land. Considering the March option report and the additional information presented in this report, council is asked to provide further guidance.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There is no allocated budget for project/improvement works undertaken to the POS. Capital costs to be met from EMR Higham Ferrers Improvement Fund.

INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th MARCH 2024

REPORT: Public Open Space (POS) Land to the Front of Henry Chichele Primary School

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	Yes	
POLICIES REFERENCED	N/A	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	x
	There is provision within budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	x
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk	
APPENDICES	Report to Town Council 30 th January 2024	

1. **PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To consider how the POS land to the front of Henry Chichele Primary School, School Lane, may be used.

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. Council considered in January what action to take regarding the POS land. The report to the January Town Council meeting is attached. The resolution from that meeting was:-
That the area is left closed as it is at present and is not reopened for car parking. That the matter is passed to the Environment and Recreation Committee for them to consider how the space may be used going forward.
- 2.2. The POS land to the front of Henry Chichele Primary School was transferred to the council many years ago. It is understood the land was originally designed and set out by the developer with the intention that it could be used by the community for holding community events, such as fetes, craft fairs, fundraising activities etc.

3. **FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1. Committee is asked to provide direction on the preferred use of the land. This to guide staff and enable directed and specific research on the practicality and associated costs of proposals.
- 3.2. **Options for the use of the POS land** - which are by no means exhaustive:-
- Community garden with raised beds
 - Installation of outdoor gym/fitness equipment
 - Picnic area with benches
 - Fenced play area (note Fitzwilliam Leys play area is in proximity)
 - Sculpture installation
- 3.3. **Do Nothing.** Council may choose not to do anything with this land. The area would remain closed for vehicle parking, with appearance and use as currently existing.

- 3.4. **Seek the view of residents.** Council may choose to undertake a survey of residents to gauge support for a specific proposal or to seek suggestions for possible uses. If so, they are invited to provide guidance as to the form of the survey and the survey area; local to School Lane or town wide.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. There is no allocated budget for project/improvement works undertaken to the POS. Capital costs to be met from EMR Higham Ferrers Improvement Fund.

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT: Painting of the Springers, Saffron Road Recreation Ground

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	Yes	
POLICIES REFERENCED	N/A	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications £1182.75	x
	There is provision within budget 220/4280	x
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk	
APPENDICES	May 2024 Annual Inspection Report for Saffron Road play area and skatepark 5-year Maintenance Plan for the play areas	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To incur expenditure to repaint the springers at Saffron Road Recreation Ground play area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The play area at Saffron Road Recreation Ground includes 3 springers, an elephant, a horse and a motorbike. The springers are Wicksteed springers and have been part of the play area for many years.
- 2.2. The May 2024 Annual Inspection Report for the play area identified split gators on all 3 springers. The replacement gators were placed on order, however, in that time, the spring of the horse springer broke and the horse was taken out of commission pending a replacement spring alongside the gator. It cannot be proven but the spring was found broken following morning inspection by the Park Warden. This leads us to believe it may have broken following an act of vandalism or rather zealous use.
- 2.3. The repaint of the springers has been identified on the Maintenance Plan for the play areas. The springers are worn in appearance and while the horse is out of commission it is deemed an appropriate time to consider their repaint.

3. COST TO REPAINT

- 3.1. Cost to repaint £1182.75. This excludes removal and reinstall, collection and return delivery to site which will be undertaken by the Park Warden and Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities Supervisor.
- 3.2. The repaint is undertaken off site. The springers will be out of commission while the work is undertaken.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1. That the 3 springers at Saffron Road play area be repainted at a cost of £1182.75.

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

12th NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT: High Pressure Washing and Moss Treatment, Tennis Courts and MUGA

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES		
POLICIES REFERENCED	N/A	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications £1495 per annum	x
	There is provision within budget	x
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk	
APPENDICES		

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To enter a 3-year contract for the annual provision of high pressure washing and moss treatment of the tennis courts and MUGA.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In 2020 the council entered a 3-year contract for high pressure washing and moss treatment of the tennis courts. At the same time the council considered including the MUGA into the contract. The decision was made to exclude the MUGA due to the guarantee for the new MUGA surface. The new surface came with a 3-year guarantee but the surfacing company advised that if we used a third party for high pressure washing they would not honour the guarantee as they couldn't be sure the third party were using the correct equipment, at the correct pressure and using appropriate techniques. The guarantee period expired 02/10/2023.
- 2.2. The recommendation for the surfacing is that spraying with a moss killer should be done, the higher level of frequency is quoted as every 3 months. The current contract is annually but the Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities Supervisor monitors this and is in regular liaison with the tennis club. If additional spraying is thought necessary between the annual spray it can be arranged. Deep cleaning of the surfacing is recommended, although the advice states that every court location is different, as a guide they recommend having the court cleaned at least every couple of years.

3. 3-YEAR CONTRACT RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1. Given the expiry of the guarantee and the satisfactory performance and good working relationship under the current contract for the high pressure washing and moss treatment of the tennis courts, it is recommended that the MUGA be incorporated into contract. The price for a 3-year contract to cover years 2025 to 2027 for both the tennis courts and the MUGA is £1495. The current contract price for the tennis courts is £795. This is the only company that the Clerk has been able to find that offer a fixed price contract and it is recommended that it be entered to ensure the continued regular care of the tennis courts and MUGA. One-off prices for just the tennis courts varied from £900 to £2325 in December 2023 so the contract offers value for money.

Higham Ferrers Parish Path Warden Report November 2024

Path VC15 walked 12.10.24. Looking good.

Path VC26 walked 12.10.24 and 24.10.24. Path beside dog park is now excellent both sides, what a difference!

Thanks to the contracted team for their clearance work, it has been very well done this year.

I am getting messages from FixMyStreet asking me to check paths when they have been told that the work is completed. I really like this, as in the past it was reported as complete but actually not done (or not done properly). They offer such a good service.