



Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL

Bramcote Hills Park Management Plan

2018 – 2023 YEAR 3

Welcome to the Park



BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK BRAMCOTE, NOTTINGHAM

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-2023

Document History

Date	Description	Author
2018	Management Plan 2018-23 New document for Green Flag Submission. Third Management Plan – original documents 2006- 2011 and 2012-2017	Tim Crawford Business & Projects Manager (Environment)
2019	Management Plan 2018-23 Plan updated to reflect the changes on the ground, revised policies and the Green Flag Judges comments from 2018	Tim Crawford Business & Projects Manager (Environment)
2020	Management Plan 2018-23 Plan updated to reflect the changes on the ground and revised policies	Tim Crawford Business & Projects Manager (Environment)

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CABE Space – A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The provision of parks, recreation grounds and open spaces across the Borough of Broxtowe is recognised as being strategically important to the Council through the Environment and Health Priorities in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020.

In addition, the Council recognised the importance of all management and maintenance issues relating to green spaces in the Borough through the creation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy 2015-2030.

Bramcote Hills Park is a very valuable asset to both the local amenity and visitors to the area. The management plan takes a medium term strategic view of the site and outlines how the park can contribute to both social and environmental issues.

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Chapter 1 of the Bramcote Hills Park Management Plan sets the scene and provides the introduction and background to the parks management. Information is provided about the location and a description of the site. In addition, the context of the site within the Borough of Broxtowe is discussed and relevant wider policy issues are described.

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Summary of Management Plan

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for the future management, maintenance and development of Bramcote Hills Park from 2018 to 2023. This management plan builds upon the previous plans prepared for the periods 2006-2011 and 2012-2017. The original plans were well received by both the Green Flag judges and members of the public. They proved to be very useful ‘tools’ and a similar format for the current plan has been adopted.

The management plan is not a stand-alone document and should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies and documentation. The plan does however, bring together a wide range of issues and information in one document and where relevant, highlights links to other, more detailed documents/policies.

1.2 Format

The format of the management plan is in four sections, which provide the following:-

- A background and context to the park including the site history and a policy review;
- A current position statement and assessment of strengths and weaknesses based around the Green Flag Award judging criteria;
- An assessment of long-term objectives and future management needs for the park;
- An action plan for the continuous improvement and a programme to monitor and co-ordinate this.

This plan is written to both support a bid for a Green Flag Award and act as a management tool for Council officers.

1.3 Target Audience and Usage

The management plan encompasses an agreed action plan for change and continuous improvement within Bramcote Hills Park. It is a working document to assist and support officers of Broxtowe Borough Council, park users and the local community.

The plan is reviewed annually by the target audience. See Section 26.0.

2.0 Vision

Broxtowe Borough Council's vision statement is:

'A great place where people enjoy living, working and spending leisure time'.

In preparing the previous management plans the Council agreed a vision for the park:

'To provide and develop a high quality park with recreational, arboricultural and historical features for the enjoyment of residents and visitors'.

This vision is still relevant for the new management plan.

3.0 Aims

The following aims have been developed to reflect future needs of Bramcote Hills Park. The aims are based upon the key criteria set for the Green Flag Award, recent public consultation, Broxtowe Borough Council's corporate objectives and liaison with stakeholders.

- **To provide a welcoming park for all residents and visitors.**
- **To provide a healthy, safe and secure park for all users.**
- **To achieve a consistently high standard of maintenance and cleanliness.**
- **To advocate and demonstrate sustainable environmental management.**
- **To protect, conserve and promote the nature conservation and heritage value.**
- **To actively promote and enable community participation and involvement.**
- **To raise the profile of the park by maximising marketing opportunities.**
- **To ensure effective and viable management.**

Further details and objectives are outlined in Chapter 3.

4.0 Site Name

The Park takes its name from the Bramcote Hills Estate owned by the Sherwin family. The original focal point of the Estate was the large Manor House built in 1805.

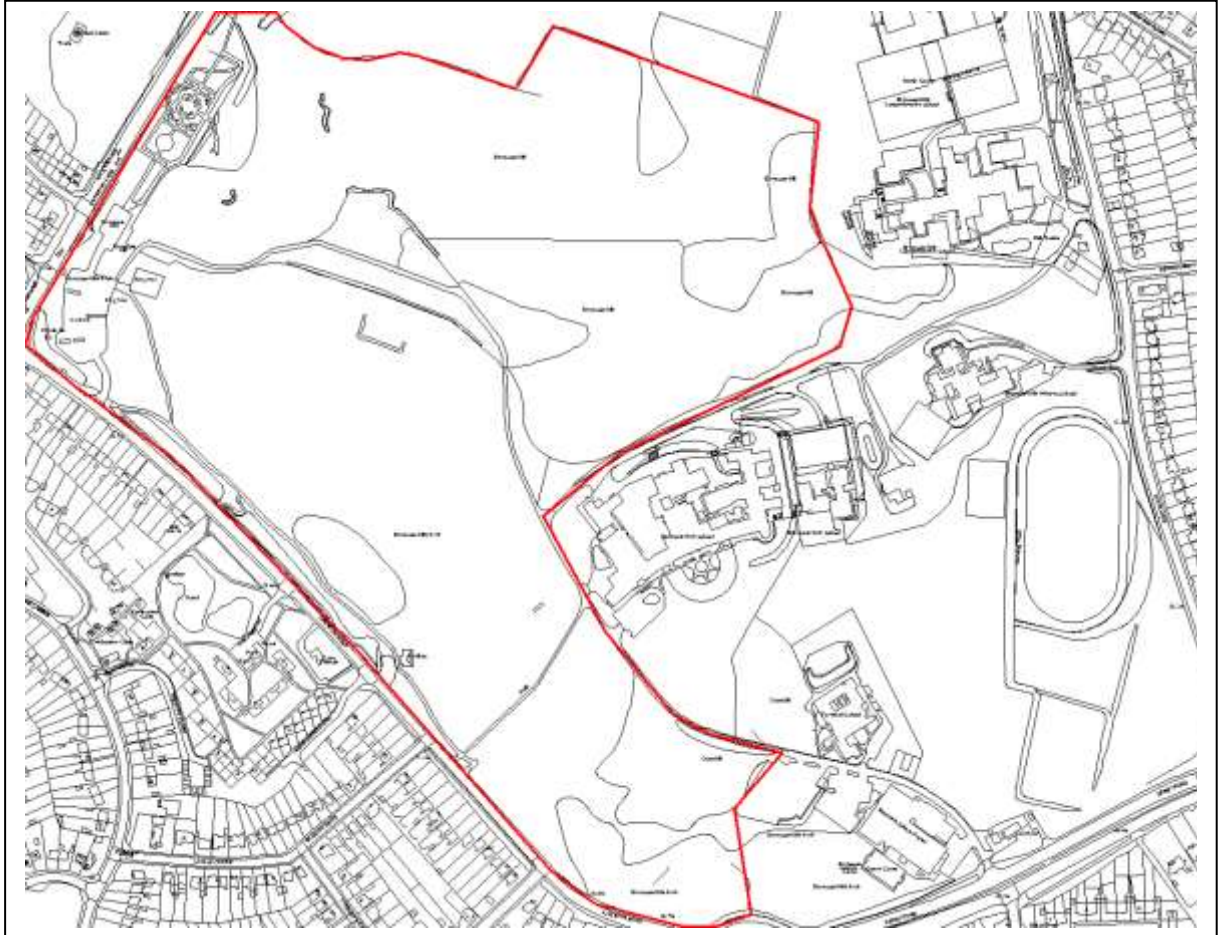


Figure 1 – Plan of Bramcote Hills Park

The red line defines the area covered by the Management Plan.

5.0 Location and Size

Bramcote Hills Park is approximately 27 hectares in size, comprising a mix of woodland and parkland. It is situated in the Bramcote Ward within the Borough of Broxtowe. It is located to the west of Nottingham City, adjacent to the urban areas of Bramcote, Stapleford, Beeston and Wollaton.

It is 5 miles from Nottingham City centre, 11 miles from Derby City centre and only 5 minutes drive from Junction 25 of the M1.

The site can be located on the OS Landranger map no.129. The grid reference for the main park entrance is 449969:338369.

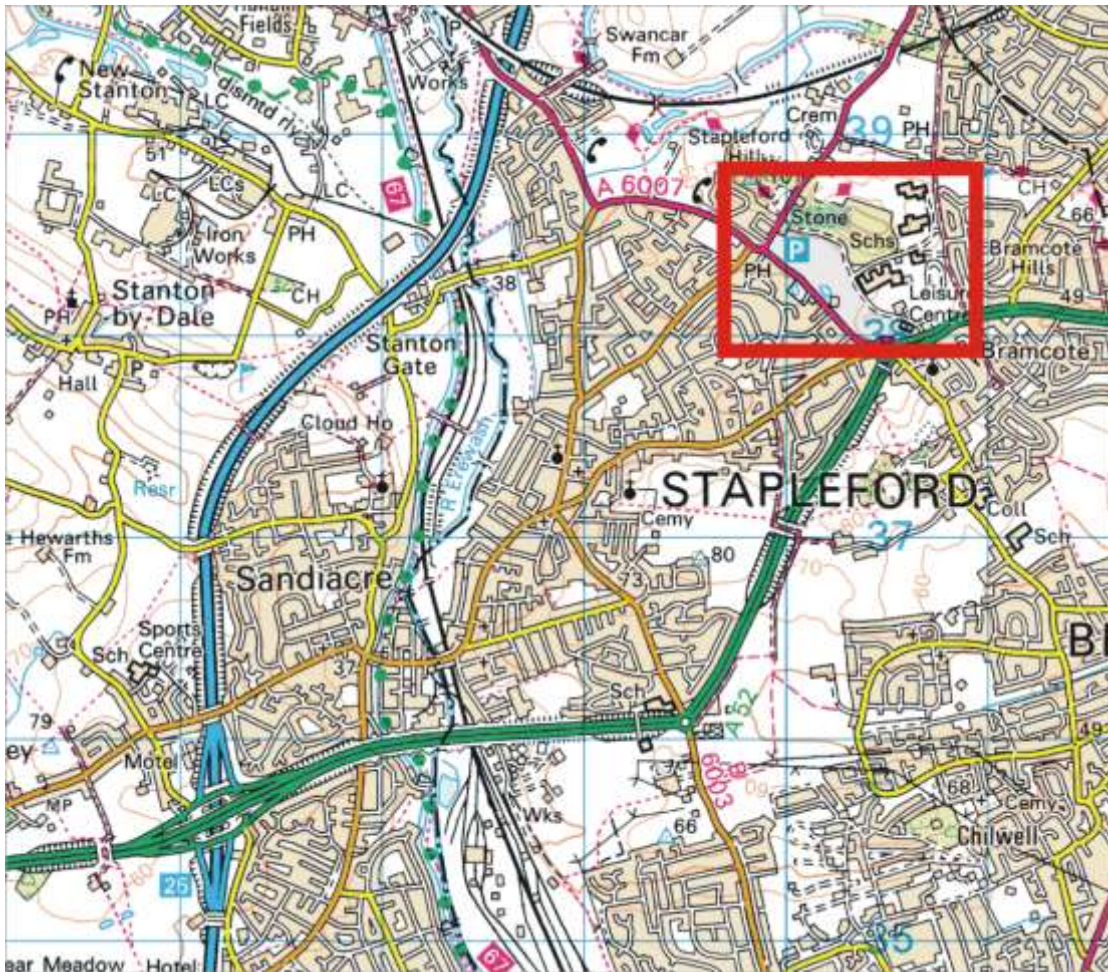


Figure 2 – Location of Bramcote Hills Park

6.0 Site Description

6.1 Background

Bramcote Hills Park is one of 23 parks and recreation grounds within the borough that are managed and maintained by Broxtowe Borough Council.

The park is a focal point for community participation in leisure and recreational activities and is much appreciated facility for dog walkers, parents with young children, families, children, joggers/fitness enthusiasts and cricket players, who all value the park for its recreational and environmental benefits.

There are many key and varied features to the park, including the Holocaust Memorial Garden, the cycle path and the mature parkland trees. Historical features include the ice-house, the site of the former Bramcote Hills House and the walled garden. Facilities include a play area, trim trail, cricket square and outfield, as well as picnic areas and seating. The interpretation panels throughout the park help illustrate the area's history.

The park is well used by local people and visitors and is a shortcut for school children accessing the Bramcote School and Bramcote College.

6.2 Context within the Green Spaces Network

The park forms part of a green corridor with links from Trowell to Wollaton Park. This route takes in Pit Lane recreation area, The Hemlockstone, Bramcote Hills Park, the former Bramcote Golf Course, Alexandrina Plantation, Lowes Nursery, through to Wollaton Park. A substantial part of this green corridor is the 'Robin Hood Way'.

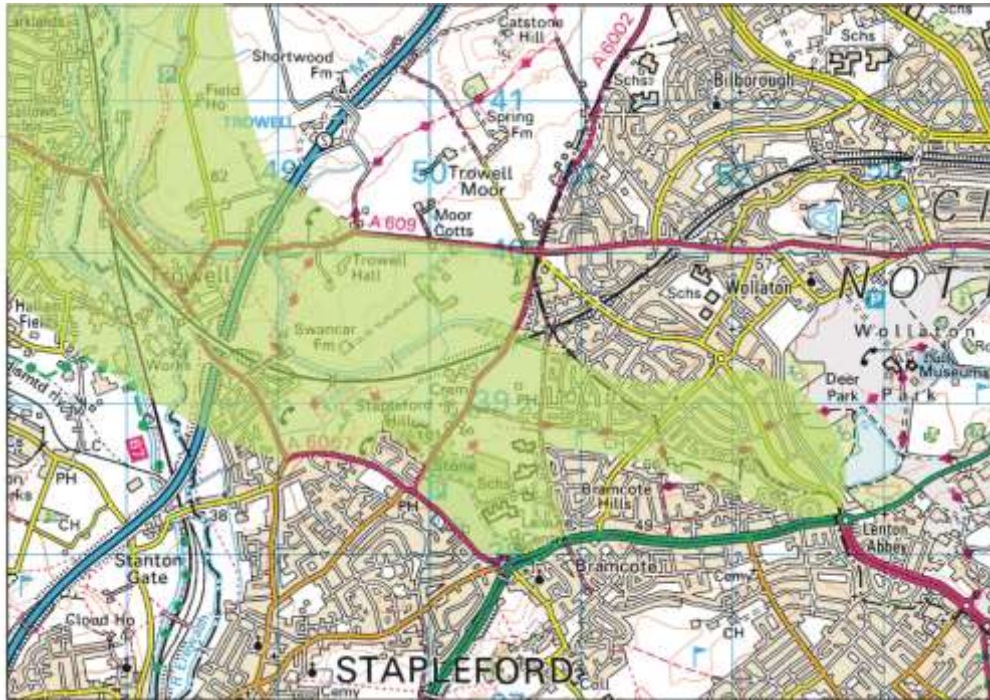


Figure 3 – Green Corridor from Trowell to Wollaton Park

6.3 Landscape Zones

For management purposes, Bramcote Hills Park is separated into a number of distinct compartments or landscape zones. These areas are briefly described below.

6.3.1 Open Parkland

This is an area of 11.6 hectares comprising over 250 mature trees, many of which are significant because of their age and size. The parkland includes a children's play area, trim trail, cycle route, tree trail and car park. The site is also a popular venue for orienteering with the Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club using the area for local and regional events.

It is used as the annual venue for the Hemlock Happening, a day of community events and activities, attracting over 8,000 visitors to the park.

The park is the venue for a popular family fun fair, which is held at Easter and in August each year.

In addition various ad-hoc events take place throughout the year ranging from Guide Barbecues to dog training classes. The site is also used as a venue for various religious and musical events.



Figure 4 - Open Parkland

6.3.2 Cricket Square, Outfield and Pavilion

The popular venue used by Bramcote Cricket Club has a wonderful backdrop of woodland and open parkland. The square and pavilion are maintained directly by the Club with the Borough Council undertaking maintenance of the outfield. The Borough Council has previously allocated a grant to the cricket club as 50% of the costs towards the extension to the pavilion. The cricket club in 2017 secured funding for permanent cricket net frames adjacent to the pavilion.

These are now fully operational and have been an asset in attracting young players and developing and improving performance.



Figure 5 - Cricket Square and Outfield

6.3.3 Walled Garden

This is the most recent development on the site in the area used previously as the Council's parks maintenance depot and nursery. It includes:

- Interactive Sundial maze for families and children. Interpretation boards indicate the different ways to utilise the maze.
- Ice-House. This has been restored to reveal its unique qualities. An interpretation board at the entrance explains how such structures were used for food storage.
- Footings of Dairy Cottage/Gardener's Cottage. These were original park buildings that eventually fell into a state of disrepair. The retained footings and interpretation boards explain their heritage.



Figure 6 - Walled Garden

6.3.4 Holocaust Memorial Garden

Created in late 2000, the garden was officially opened on 27 January 2001. It contains a striking statue created by Naomi Blake, herself a survivor of the holocaust. It is complimented by a series of information panels and a backdrop of plants that were chosen to provide colour and form at the time of the annual reflection ceremony. A memorial service has been held in the garden every year since 2001 on the 27 January. See Appendix 22.

At the event in January 2014 the Council worked with St John's C of E Primary School in Stapleford to design the front cover of wild flower seed packets that were given out to all the people attending the service. The seeds were all species that would attract bees and were distributed to help promote an ongoing message about the "journey of life". This is a concept that was very well received by those attending. See Appendix 22.



Figure 7 - Holocaust Memorial Garden & Hemlock Stone

6.3.5 Blue Butterfly Wildflower Garden

Located at the northern end of the walled garden this area provides a diverse collection of wildflowers designed to enhance the ecological content of the park.



Figure 8 – Blue Butterfly Wildflower Garden

6.3.6 Woodland

An area of 11.0 hectares, which is mainly broad-leaved woodland. There are significant trees, which add to the quality of the area. The land rises steeply up from the parkland offering panoramic views of the adjacent countryside.

A series of stone surfaced paths direct visitors around a circular waymarked route.



Figure 9 – Woodland in Winter

6.3.7 Bramcote Hills House

The house was built in 1805 and was set in a position to take advantage of the natural terrain with views out to the surrounding countryside. It was demolished in the 1960's. To create awareness of the historical significance of the building part of the building's footprint has been restored.



Figure 10 – Site of Former Bramcote Hills House

7.0 Access

The park has a large catchment area attracting visitors from the local areas of Bramcote and Stapleford.

Due to its size and unique qualities, it also attracts visitors from all parts of the borough and from neighbouring areas in particular Nottingham City and Erewash.

Pedestrian access is possible via 8 formal access routes. In addition there are 2 main vehicular access points with car parking at the junction of Coventry Lane and Ilkeston Road and to the rear of Bramcote Leisure Centre.

The park is well served by local bus routes. Access for bicycles is good and the park includes a section of a major cycle route, which links the area to Beeston Town Centre and Stapleford. It is also part of the very popular Erewash Valley Trail.

8.0 Land Tenure

The park is classed as Public Open Space. Broxtowe Borough Council holds the freehold to the entire site. All management, maintenance and policy issues are the responsibility of the Council's Environment Division.

9.0 Legal Issues

9.1 Byelaws

The park is covered by the Council's Byelaws for Recreation Grounds made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act.

The open grassland area of the park is identified as a canine faeces removal area. The play area is a dog prohibited area.

The park is also covered by a generic legislative framework, which seeks to address and control behaviour and activities within the Borough Council's Parks and Recreation Grounds. These are actively promoted and enforced in partnership with the Police, Neighbourhood Wardens, the Council's security contractor and other Council departments.

9.2 Public Rights of Way

The Robin Hood Way, a long distance waymarked trail, runs through the woodland from Moor Lane to Coventry Lane. Two definitive rights of way (footpaths 85 and 86) run through the woodland.

9.3 Covenants

There are no covenants associated with the park.

10.0 History

10.1 Bramcote Hills Park is an attractive area of parkland and woodland dating back to the early 19th century. Whilst there have been many changes over the years, the original landscape of the parkland remains largely intact.

10.2 1650 - 1799

The majority of the lands of Bramcote can be traced back to four small independent estates that were taken over by Norman William Hostiarius and named Ulchel, Alvrice, Godric and Levrice.

During the middle ages these estates fell into the hands of the Willoughbys of Wollaton and the Convent of Gilbertines at Semperingham. After the dissolution of the monasteries the Semperingham estate property passed to the Harleys who resided initially at Bramcote Manor.

Soon after the death of the last benefactor in 1650 the Manor was purchased by John Sherwin. His family were influential in the development of Nottingham and he held the office of mayor in 1667 and several times thereafter. The Manor remained in the Sherwin family and through marriage the Longden family. The Sherwins initially lived in The Manor and later in Bramcote Hills.

The Bramcote Hills Estate was created from 1800. Bramcote Hills House, the 'handsome residence', was built by 1805 and set within a well wooded landscape. The fine building was of late Georgian style with six bay windows and a rendered frontage. In 'Rambles of Nottingham' John Sherwin Esq. J.P. wrote 'the Sherwin's park was fenced – first a privet hedge and then a low wall, with an interior rampart, embankment, or green sloping glacis of grass. A fine low iron gate, near the termination of the demesne affords a full view of Bramcote Hills Hall, a low square building, facing the south, with offices to the rear, reposing against a magnificent background, formed by the lofted wooded eminence of Bramcote Hill, where the trees in early spring, with their evergreen tops, rise over the lower woods of russet brown in such a manner, as at a distance to represent tall clay buff cliffs, surmounted with wood. Soon we arrive near some scattered clumps of houses, with cultivated gardens and outlying ranges of glass houses, as if horticulture were the staple pursuit in the sheltered Valley of Stapleford. Looking right is the Hemlock Stone!

In 1809 the Manor House passed to John Longden who married Charlotte, the sister of the last of the line of the male Sherwin's. They had a son John, born in 1803 who later inherited the estate. He took on the Sherwin name and became John Sherwin on the death of his father in 1818. On 20 October 1829 he married Catherine, daughter of Robert Holden whose family still live at

Nuthall Temple. In 1829 he also changed his name again as he became heir to the Gregory family estate at Harlaxton, Lincolnshire.

The bringing together of the Sherwin and Gregory estates meant that the family was now extremely wealthy. They included estates at Rempstone (1300 acres) and Lenton (2000 acres) in Nottinghamshire and Denton (1000 acres) in Lincolnshire. The Harlaxton estate (2500 acres) came into the family through his distant relation Daniel De Ligne. The wealth of these estates increased considerably during the industrial revolution giving Gregory sufficient funds to be able to travel extensively and build Harlaxton Manor. The coat of arms at Harlaxton relates directly to those crests found on the cottages within the walled garden at Bramcote Hills.'

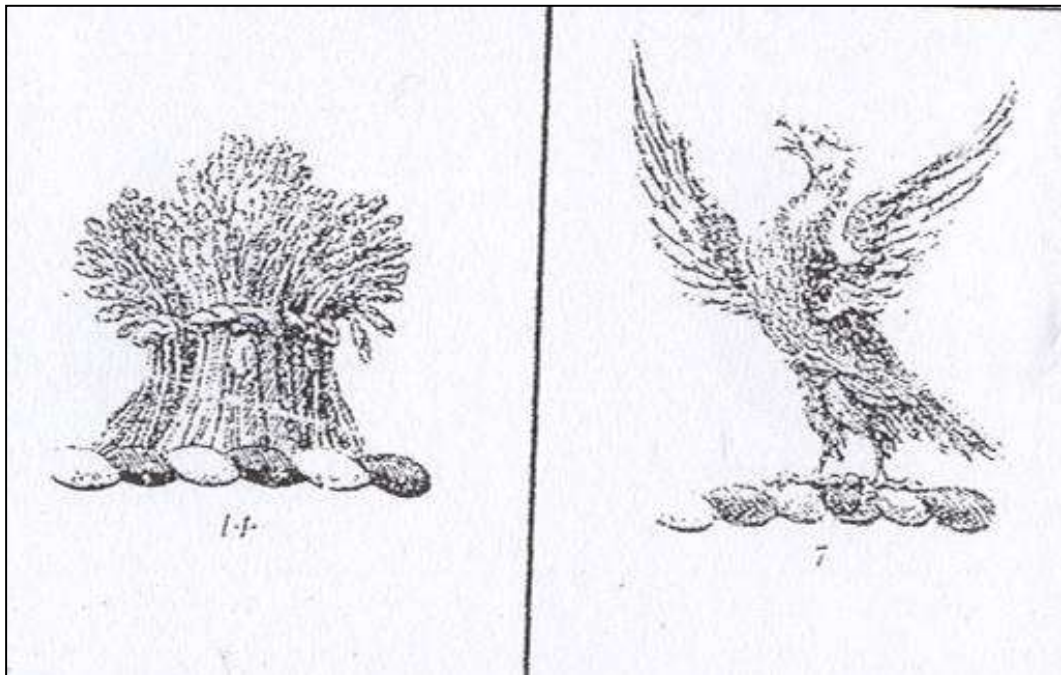


Figure 11 – Sherwin, Gregory Family Crest

10.3 1800 - 1940

Gregory moved from Bramcote Hills to Harlaxton in the mid 19th century. He had no children so the estate passed to his brother-in-law Henry Holden. Bramcote Hills remained in the Holden's family until 1937 when the last descendant Major Frank Holden died. In a family will from the 18th century the estates gardener, Vinden, was left 500 pounds (a significant sum at the time) and shows the fondness the family had for their gardener at the time.

During his life John Sherwin Gregory was an extremely generous benefactor, he gave Bramcote village its first school in 1839 and gave land for the new church and a substantial part of the cost of its building in 1861. His sister (Frances Jane Longden) gave the almshouses at the top of Cow Lane in 1852 (the trust still continues and Longden Close near the Hemlock stone was named after her). His wife also provided a new school on Town Street in 1885. This side of his character was seen again in Harlaxton village where he built other estate properties for the community.

In Bramcote Church is a notable memorial to the Sherwins. A hatchment is a display of the coat of arms of a deceased person, hung outside a residence during a period of mourning and later preserved in the church. In the case of married couples the shields were divided with the side of the deceased partner (in this case the husband) on a black background and the arms of the surviving widow on the white background, so this plaque must have been erected between 1869 & 1892. Catherine was interred in the family vault in the Old Tower in the Churchyard.

The Holden branch of the family is commemorated in 2 brasses in the chancel. The one on the left is in the memory of Henry Holden, who died in 1900 aged 76.

The Prince of Wales visited the park on 22 May 1929 to exhibit his Royal farm stock in the cattle classes. In a quote from the Nottingham Evening Post on the day it was reported that "The Prince's year old red bull, Lenton Royal Crest, beat his stable companion, Lenton Knight, and in the class for short horn heifers his Royal Highness had matters all his own way, taking three premier awards". See Appendix 17. The article was also very complimentary about the park and woodland with a quote of "a more delightful outlook than that afforded by the thickly wooded park that rolled away on all sides it would be impossible to conceive".

The last private owners of the land at Bramcote Hills were Mr and Mrs Fitzherbert Wright, the grandparents of Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, whose mother was born in Bramcote Village.

10.4 1941 - 1989

During World War II, Chilwell Ordnance Depot used the house as a rehabilitation centre for A.T.S. drivers.

In 1950 the Council bought the building and estate and divided the property into two flats for employees.



Figure 12 - Bramcote Hills House 1967



Figure 13 - Bramcote Hills House 1967

The parkland then came into public use. Throughout the 1970's and 1980's the walled garden on the site was used as a base for the Council's parks section with buildings erected at the southern end of the walled garden to create a depot. Both Gardener's Cottage and Dairy Cottage within the walled garden were used as office accommodation for the parks department and subsequently as the base for the Council's Leisure Services Directorate from 1974. The house itself unfortunately suffered from years of dereliction and decay and was demolished in 1969.

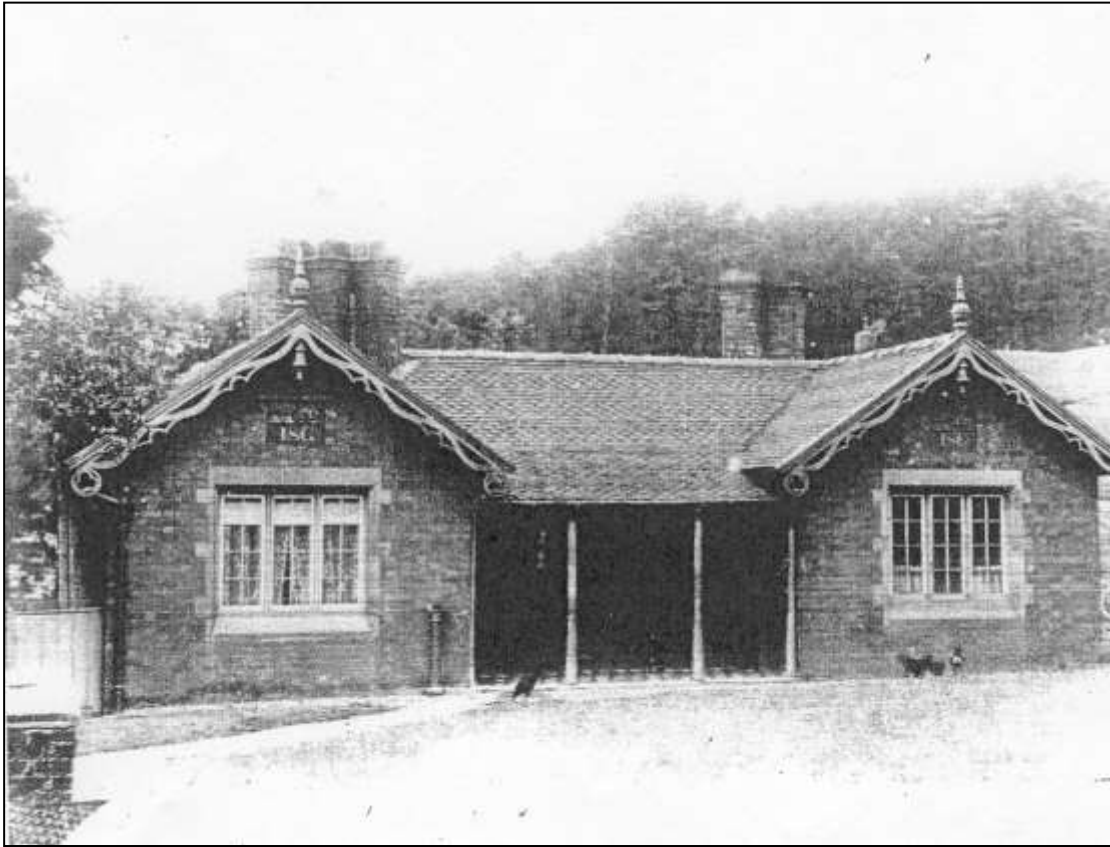


Figure 14 – Dairy Cottage

10.5 1990 - 1999

In 1990 a decision was taken to close the Parks Nursery and the glasshouses were sold. The Leisure Services Directorate was relocated to Beeston with Gardener's Cottage and Dairy Cottage left vacant. The site continued to be used as a Parks Depot until 1994 when the buildings were demolished and the staff relocated to a new depot at Kimberley. Also that year a landscape design competition for the walled garden was launched. This was advertised nationally attracting 30 quality submissions. The list was reduced to four finalists following public consultation. The finalists then produced fully costed and detailed schemes. The winning submission included a combined public house and community facility. However, over the next year the brewery's requirements for the public house expanded and the emphasis of the project changed with a much reduced garden. In 1995 a decision was taken to abandon the project and consider alternative funding options. Initially a bid for Derelict Land Grant allowed the site to be cleared and the boundary with Coventry Lane rebuilt.

In 1998 further funding was obtained through the Government's New Deal initiative working with Groundwork Greater Nottingham. This combined with a bid for Landfill Tax Credit in 1999 allowed the walled garden to be created. The design was based around one of the finalists from the design competition.

10.6 2000 to 2011

The walled garden was officially opened in 2000 with the planting of 100 Queen Elizabeth roses to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday and a pair of Field Maples at the top end of the garden. In late 2000 the Holocaust Memorial Garden was built and officially opened on 27 January 2001. A memorial service has been held in the garden every year since 2001 on the 27 January. Later that year both Dairy Cottage and Gardener's Cottage were demolished having failed to secure alternative uses for the buildings. The building footprints are still however visible within the garden.



Figure 15 – Gardener's Cottage Pre-demolition

In 2003, a major redevelopment of the park boundary with Coventry Lane and Ilkeston Road was undertaken introducing a combined pedestrian cycle route through the park. By careful design and consultation with Nottinghamshire County Council this route was linked to the Council's recent work to provide a disabled access route through the park.

A new play area was constructed adjacent to the car park in spring 2007 and a sustainable footprint garden within the walled garden was created.

10.7 2011 Onwards

In late 2011 the main car park was redesigned. The previous layout could not cope with the demand, particularly at weekends. The major problem was the lack of defined parking spaces, which did not allow it to be used effectively.

The scheme was completed in January 2012 and has been well received. The option of charging for car parking was also considered. It was decided not to implement this proposal as it was felt that for the capital cost involved measured against the potential income and the possible impact on surrounding streets, this was not worthwhile.

The upgrading of the car park also provided the opportunity to review the signage at the park entrances and new eye-catching signs were installed in Spring 2012.

In the summer of 2013 a chainsaw sculptor was used to create carvings of woodland creatures in the old beech tree which fell over on the park. This was done working with local school children who created the designs for the sculptor. In Autumn of 2013 the path from Ilkeston Road across the park to the 2 adjacent schools was resurfaced. This is a very popular and well used route. The work was funded by Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme with the Borough Council working in partnership with Groundwork Greater Nottingham. Also included as part of the scheme was the installation of new bollards around the cricket club car park and the planting of 15 heavy, standard trees.

In Autumn 2014 further sections of the old estate fence were revealed by clearing out rhododendron. These were subsequently repaired and renovated. In spring 2015 the access road from the car park into the main park was extended to provide improved pedestrian and vehicle access. In summer 2015 all the interpretation boards were upgraded at the major park features.

In 2016 the decision was taken to invite expressions of interest for the provision of a catering and toilet facility in the park. This led to 2 submissions with a preferred bidder selected. See Appendix 9 for a detailed update on progress to date.

Working with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust a new Woodland Management Plan for the park was drawn up in the Spring of 2017. The previous 10 year plan ended in 2016 and had proved significant in the development and restoration of the woodland. See Appendix 8b.



Figure 16 – Car Park before alterations, showing cars double parked



Figure 17 – New Car Park showing the same area but with cars parking using the new defined bays

In late summer 2018 the first landscape reclamation phase of the adjacent landfill site was transferred to the Council. This land has previously been used for sand extraction and in more recent years as a landfill site by Biffa Waste Services Limited. The phase 1 area has been laid out with stone surfaced footpaths, blocks of native planting and open grassland. The Council has received a commuted sum payment to cover maintenance of the site in the future. The remaining phases will transfer to the Council once all the outstanding remedial and restoration works have been completed to the necessary standard.

Two sports pitches on the site will be transferred to the adjacent school. Ultimately the tree planted areas, grassland and footpaths will become a natural extension to the park.

As already mentioned the building of a visitor facility with toilets and catering opportunities remains a key priority. Funding, however, has always been the main issue. This is even more relevant as local authorities continue to face very difficult financial decisions over the coming years.

11.0 National Context

In developing a management plan for Bramcote Hills Park it is important to understand the current political and policy context in which Park Managers and Maintenance Teams are operating. In recent years parks have risen in importance on the political agenda and there are now various national strategies which set out a framework for the future management of open spaces and help to determine aims and objectives for the park's future management. A number of current and relevant publications and policy guidance notes are outlined below.

11.1 National Planning Policy Framework

Published in March 2012 this document sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework within which local people and Councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities. Relevant topics covered are:

- Promoting healthy communities
- Protecting Green Belt land
- Meeting the challenge of climate change
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

11.2 Design for Play – A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces (2008)

Creating inspiring play spaces that will please, excite, challenge and satisfy children requires knowledge of play, technical skill, an understanding of children and, above all, imagination.

The 10 principles for designing successful play spaces

Successful play spaces ...

- are bespoke
- are well located
- make use of natural elements
- provide a wide range of play experiences
- are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children

- meet community needs
- allow children of different ages to play together
- build opportunities to experience risk and challenge
- are sustainable and appropriately maintained
- allow for change and evolution

11.3 A Guide to Producing Parks and Green Space Management Plans

Published by CABI Space in 2004, this guidance manual sets out a framework for developing and writing management plans for parks and green spaces. The guide provides best practice on the content of management plans, how they could be developed, what they will achieve, when will the work take place and how will it be done.

12.0 Local Strategic Context

This management plan compliments the wider strategic context of other Broxtowe Borough Council documents and Council Policies. It seeks to achieve the objectives of the strategic framework by translating those that are appropriate, into the management of the park. These documents and policies are listed below:

- Broxtowe (Greater Nottingham) Aligned Core Strategy 2014
- Broxtowe Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020
- Broxtowe Corporate Plan 2016-2020
- Green Infrastructure Strategy 2015-2030
- Bramcote Hills Park Woodland Management Plan 2017-2026
- Broxtowe Play Strategy 2017-2025
- Procurement Strategy
- Risk Management

12.1 Broxtowe (Greater Nottingham) Aligned Core Strategy 2014

This is a key strategic planning document which:

- Sets out a number of spatial objectives
- Sets out a spatial development strategy
- Sets out strategic policies to guide and control the overall scale, type and location of new development.

In the area surrounding Bramcote Hills Park are various Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation:

- Bramcote Sand Quarry - Lenton Sandstone Formation
- Bramcote Hills Woodland - Woodland and Sandstone

12.2 Broxtowe Borough Partnership – Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020

The aim of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to address key issues facing the Borough of Broxtowe. It is supported by a partnership of agencies involved in the borough who are committed to working together to improve the quality of life in the community.

Successful community strategies are built upon active input from local communities. The Broxtowe Partnership undertook a major community consultation exercise in order to develop this strategy. Partner organisations and local communities were invited to present their views on priorities for action and this strategy is based largely upon the results of that consultation. It has helped the Council identify clear priorities and targets which may be challenging but are intended to make an impact on quality of life in the area.

The key areas are:-

1. Employment
2. Community Safety
3. Healthy Living
4. Children and Young People
5. Housing
6. The Environment
7. Community Relations

The full strategy can be viewed on the Broxtowe Borough Council website. See link below.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/media/1407/sustainable-community-strategy-for-2010-2020.pdf>

12.3 Corporate Plan 2016-2020

The plans priorities are:

Housing

- A good quality affordable home for all residents of Broxtowe

Business Growth

- New and growing businesses providing more jobs for people in Broxtowe and improved town centres.

The Environment

- The environment in Broxtowe will be protected and enhanced for future generations.

Health

- People in Broxtowe enjoy longer active and healthy lives.

Community Safety

- Broxtowe will be a place where people feel safe and secure in their communities.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-plans-policies/corporate-plan/>

12.4 Green Infrastructure Strategy 2015-2030

This strategy was approved by the Council's Leisure, Parks and Cemeteries Committee on 5 July 2016.

The creation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy was a key target in the Council's Corporate Plan. The report took over 18 months to prepare in partnership with Groundwork Greater Nottingham. Public consultation took place during May and June 2015 and engaged a wide range of stakeholders.

The strategy identified the green assets within the Borough such as amenity and wildlife sites, green access routes, water features such as rivers and ponds and heritage assets. The document studies how these assets fall into corridors forming the green infrastructure network in the Borough. The mapping of these corridors also helps to identify gaps within the network.

The Council worked closely with other agencies and interested groups such as Natural England and Nottinghamshire County Council to create the strategy and, following consultation, changes were made, principally the additional of six corridors, to create the final document.

The strategy includes lists of ideas and projects that will help form the basis of future capital programmes and assist as part of the consultation process for new planning applications and requests for funding. It also informs work around the development of parks and open spaces, the management of nature reserves and wildlife areas, and ways of increasing facilities to encourage healthy active lifestyles.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

<http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16535>

12.5 Bramcote Hills Park Woodland Management Plan 2017-2026

It has long been established that the park's woodland is a very valuable resource. To ensure that it is managed the Borough Council worked with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to prepare a management plan covering the period 2006-2016. This proved a very successful document and helped improved the woodland significantly.

The new plan is divided into 5 sections.

Part 1 – Description of Woodland

Part 2 – Evaluation of the Woodland Objectives

- Part 3 – Management details with annual work plans for the 10-year period
- Part 4 – Bibliography
- Part 5 – Appendices

Appendix 8b shows the previous year actions and the progress that has been made.

The full management plan can be viewed on the Broxtowe Borough Council website. See link and address below.

Bramcote Hills Park Woodland Management Plan 2017-2026

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/media/3184/bramcote-lnr-plan-2017-26-final-web.pdf>

12.6 Broxtowe Play Strategy 2017-2025

Produced in partnership with Groundwork Greater Nottingham it covers the strategic elements around children's play and identifies:

- Priorities for play
- A policy for monitoring, evaluation and review
- An action plan with key priorities for improvement.

The play area at Bramcote Hills Park is identified as a 'medium' priority. It is assessed as needing gradual replacement of certain items as they reach an age 'beyond a point of economical repair'. It is also noted that this priority may have to be raised if given its high level of use issues of deterioration become more apparent.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/media/4327/broxtowe-borough-council-play-strategy-2017-2025.pdf>

12.7 Procurement Strategy

This has 5 key strategic objectives.

- Procurement should contribute to the realisation of the Council's vision and support the achievement of strategic objectives.
- All procurement projects should be professionally managed so that the intended benefits are delivered.
- Partnering and other alternative service delivery options should be considered for all major projects/expenditure.
- There should be a successful transition to e.commerce as part of the Council's e.government strategy.
- A consistent and co-ordinated approach to procurement should be implemented across the Council.

These objectives will form an integral part of the management plan and in particular the issues detailed below will be considered.

Alternative Service Delivery Methods
Consideration of Partnering
Workforce Issues and employee involvement
Sustainable Procurement
Equal Opportunities

12.8 Risk Management

The risk management objectives of the Council are to:

- Integrate risk management into the culture of the organisation
- Management risk in accordance with best practice
- Fully document major threats and opportunities
- Clearly identify risk exposures
- Implement cost effective actions to reduce risks
- Ensure conscious and properly evaluated risk decisions

CHAPTER 2 – WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Chapter 2 of the Bramcote Hills Park Management Plan identifies the current management position using the key criteria set for the Green Flag Award. In addition, a SWOT analysis is undertaken for each of the 8 Green Flag criteria, to assist in the establishment of aims and objectives for the Park.

13.0 Introduction

The Green Flag Award and the accompanying guide, *Raising the Standard*, provide a useful tool for assessing the quality and performance of open spaces. This chapter outlines the park's current position in relation to the award criteria and builds on the feedback from the Green Flag judges in previous years, together with the consultation exercises undertaken.

This chapter also embraces the "Tell us about your local park/open space" survey in Summer/Autumn 2013.

14.0 The Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award is the recognised national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces. The Green Flag Award is a quality award which recognises well-managed green spaces and aims to raise the standard of management for all open spaces. Sites are judged with a desk and field assessment on the following criteria:-

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, landscape and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing and communication
- Management

The park has held the award since Summer 2006. This achievement has been celebrated by various flag hoisting ceremonies at various locations within the park.

The award is also celebrated with various press releases throughout the year relating to events on the park.



Figure 18 – Raising the Flag Summer 2016

Summer 2016 saw the celebration of the 10 years of the park being awarded the Green Flag. This was marked by the unveiling of the ‘Giant’ Green Flag and inviting 10 people who have been very influential in helping the park achieve the award over this period. See press release in Appendix 26.

15.0 A Welcoming Place

“A welcoming place is one that invites and draws people into it”

15.1 Welcoming

The park is situated adjacent to the wards of Bramcote and Stapleford. The main entrance to the park is off Ilkeston Road and provides access for cars and pedestrians. This is well maintained and has an attractive floral display set into the bank. This entrance, together with the access points adjacent to the cricket club and the route via Bramcote Leisure Centre, have large welcoming signs.

The main entrance has been enhanced with a low level wall and railings introduced to replace an old timber post and rail fence. This has created a more welcoming approach and makes the park much more visible.

New signs have also been introduced at the entrance.



Figure 19 - Entrance to Park

The car park was redesigned and improved in late 2011 to allow more efficient and effective use of the space available.



Figure 20 – Winter Wonderland

15.2 Good and Safe Access

In addition to the main park entrance there are a number of other access points into the park both from Coventry Lane, Ilkeston Road and via the adjacent woodland. A new pedestrian access and hard surface path have been installed close to the pedestrian crossing on Ilkeston Road to discourage pedestrians from using the vehicular entrance to the park.

The adjacent main roads are well served by pelican and toucan lights to allow safer crossing of the main roads from the catchment areas of Bramcote and Stapleford.

The site is on a number of main bus routes linking the town centres of Beeston, Stapleford, Ilkeston and Long Eaton. It is also adjacent to the main Nottingham to Derby bus route.

The park has been enhanced by the addition of a cycle route, which promotes both cycle use and access for people with disabilities around the park. The new Erewash Valley Trail also runs through the park.

The path which runs across the park providing access to the schools from Ilkeston Road was resurfaced in Autumn 2013.

In Spring 2015 the access road from the car park into the main park was extended to provide improved pedestrian and vehicle access.

15.3 Signage

The entrance signs to the park were redesigned in early 2012. The idea was to create a modern and eye catching approach that was 'different' to traditional local authority parks signs. The positive feedback from the public has helped demonstrate that this has been achieved.



Figure 21 - New Park Entrance Signage

In addition, there are a series of interpretation panels, which provide information about features in the park and in particular about the parks historical background. These were reviewed and upgraded in Summer 2015. The new boards have been very well received. The most recent signs have been designed to complement the new park entrance signs. In Summer 2011 a new sign for the Erewash Valley Trail was installed. See 16.2 for more information.



Figure 22 – Erewash Valley Trail Signage

15.4 Equal Access for All

Equal access for all is provided in the park by the following:-

- Designated disabled access car parking spaces.
- A designated route around the park that has been specifically designed for people with disabilities.
- Seating at strategic locations with armrests.

15.5 SWOT Analysis – A Welcoming Place

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive entrance with walls and pillars • Large redesigned car park with marked spaces. This was previously identified as a weakness. • Designated car park spaces for people with disabilities • Easy access from all boundaries • Good range of on-site interpretation • On-site notice board to display current information • Lighting on the cycle path • Good access around the park for people with disabilities • External direction signage to the park • Children’s play area with access for people with disabilities • New park entrance signs • New access road/path from car park into main park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the on-site interpretation does not have a consistent theme. • The steep hills in the woodland are a constraint to access
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to local schools and leisure centre offers further potential for community involvement • Explore barriers to use by non park users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter from school children that use the park as their route to and from school can be a problem on occasions • The popularity of the park for dog exercising needs careful management to ensure that dog fouling and dogs in general does not reduce the welcoming effect

16.0 Healthy, Safe and Secure

“How well managers understand their users needs, encouraging them to enjoy healthy activities using appropriate safe to use facilities and activities and to feel personally safe the secure”. (Raising the Standard)

As part of the Council’s commitment to the health and safety, the borough’s Safety Officer has the key responsibility of health and safety and monitors this accordingly. Working with the Grounds Maintenance Manager, the following methods and/or procedures are utilised to ensure that there is a safe environment for both the public and members of staff. This list is illustrative, not comprehensive:-

- Risk assessments
- COSHH assessments
- Safe working procedures
- Safe chemical storage, application and disposal (where chemicals are used)
- Specific training and certification e.g. PA 1/6 and Chainsaw Usage
- Defined roles and responsibilities
- Effective communication methods
- Emergency procedures
- Effective reporting and investigating procedures
- Recognised first aiders
- Manual handling procedures
- The provision of PPE
- A regular inspection regime

16.1 Equipment and Facilities

There is a regular programme of maintenance and inspection for the facilities detailed below:-

- Twice weekly inspection of play area with an annual inspection by an independent body
- Twice weekly inspection of trim trail area with an annual inspection by an independent body

Further information is provided in Appendix 12.

Broxtowe Borough Council operates a 24-hour emergency call out system, which can be accessed through the Council's main telephone number. The Council is on call-out to respond to dangerous trees and other emergency situations on the park.

16.2 Options For Health

In terms of a healthy green space, the park offers a range of opportunities for both the committed fitness enthusiast and individuals who enjoy a quiet, relaxing stroll. Young people are also catered for with a popular children's play area close to the main entrance. The park also has a trim trail. In addition, the park is a popular venue for guided walks as part of the joint initiative with Groundwork Greater Nottingham and for the local 'Walking to Health' group – Walk and Talk. This group is assisted by the staff at the adjacent Bramcote Hills Leisure Centre. New steps have recently been installed to allow easier access up a steep slope from the walled garden into the woodland.



Figure 23 – Steps into the Woodland

In conjunction with the Greenwood Community Forest the Borough Council has implemented activities and projects to improve the recreational facilities in the park. Where possible, groups who would not normally be active and use the park have been targeted.

Activities have included music and dance for the under 5's, walking and story telling in the park, Victorian outdoor games and a major Dri Tri event (a triathlon where the swimming was replaced by rowing machines) which was a huge success and has been repeated in subsequent years. Appendix 6a provides further details.

Working with the Greenwood Community Forest Team saw the publication of a 'Getting Active' leaflet for this park.

The leaflet promotes:-

- Cycling in the park.
- Walking routes in the Park
- Longer walking routes starting from the park
- The Parks Trim Trail
- A new 'Taster' orienteering course

Please see Appendix 6b. Copies of the leaflet are available by contacting the Parks and Environment team on 0115 9177777.

A further initiative has seen the Bulwell Outlaws giving mountain biking/BMX biking lessons on the park to local school children. This initiative was designed to give cyclists good advice on how to use the park responsibly when cycling. A good practice information flyer was produced for all those attending. Please see Appendix 6c.

The borough's Sports Development team have used the park to promote junior cricket in conjunction with Bramcote Hills Cricket Club.

In Spring 2017 the cricket club secured funding to install new permanent cricket nets adjacent to the pavilion. These have proved to be very popular.



Figure 24 – Dri Tri Event

The club, who operate 2 senior and 2 junior teams have been consulted on the management plan and are keen to promote the contribution that cricket makes to the life and quality of the park in the summer months. In addition, they feel that the outfield needs to be improved; work is ongoing in this area.

Cycling in the park is now welcomed along the official cycle route on the Ilkeston Road boundary. The lighting installed along this route has transformed the southern end of the park and despite initial concerns has attracted many favourable comments.

Nottinghamshire County Council has undertaken a cycle count of the number of cyclists using designated cycle routes in the Borough. Bramcote Hills Park was chosen as one of the sites. In total, 194 cyclists used the park in one day, a further indication as to its popularity. Given the level of usage by cyclists the County Council have now installed a permanent cycle counter on the cycle path running parallel with Ilkeston Road.

The peak hours for cyclists are the commuter periods between 7.00am to 9.00am and 4.00pm to 6.00pm. During the summer months over 100 cyclists use the route on a daily basis.

The park is also used for Cyclo-cross events.



Figure 25 – Cyclo Cross Event



Figure 26 – Cycleway

The park is a regular site for 'Boot Camp' exercise sessions organised by 3 different local fitness enthusiasts. These sessions are spread out over the week and at different locations in the park to minimise impact to other park users.

The popularity of the "Boot Camps" continues to grow with floodlit sessions now in operation during the winter months.

The Council makes an hourly charge to the organisers to run these sessions.

In April Leisure, the operating company for leisure within the Council, use the park for their annual 5k running race and 1k Fun Run. This attracts over 300 people.

The latest addition to the park in terms of promoting healthy outdoor activity is the Erewash Valley Trail. This is a 30 mile circular route which takes in beautiful countryside, wildlife and waterways, but is never far from the towns and villages on the borders of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The trail is available to walkers and cyclists and is well marked with orange 'Erewash Valley Trail' signs, together with interpretation panels, which highlight the route and local points of interest. One such sign is located close to the main entrance to the park. See Figure 22.

The trail runs along the bottom edge of the park and was officially opened as part of the Hemlock Happening celebrations on the park in June 2011.

Please see the link below to the Erewash Valley Trail leaflet.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/for-you/parks-and-nature-conservation/nature-conservation/erewash-valley-trail/>

The 2012 Broxtowe Footsteps Festival ran from 28 May-10 June and was a celebration of walking in and around Broxtowe. Eight of the walks either started at or included the park in their route. They ranged from Nordic and orienteering walking to traditional routes and also included special story telling walks for children. A similar programme took place in May 2013.

On 2 dates in Spring 2017 Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club delivered 2 family taster sessions to promote orienteering in the park.

With the growing popularity of Geocaching the park has become a popular venue for this activity and the Council has worked with local people to allow Geocaches to be installed. See Appendix 31. The use of geocaches in the park is monitored through the Council's guidelines document. See link to Council Geocaches home page below.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/for-you/parks-and-nature-conservation/parks-open-spaces/geocaching/>

16.3 Personal Safety

Whilst there is no on-site dedicated park keeper the high profile presence of the parks maintenance teams and the use of mobile CCTV, helps create a safer park environment.

Various other measures have been undertaken to control anti-social behaviour on the park. Examples include:-

- Installation of a height restriction barrier on the park entrance road to deter unauthorised visitors.
- Installation of vehicle deterrent barriers to prevent unauthorised access to the grassland and woodland.
- Installation of a lockable barrier to the top car park.
- Routine cleansing of graffiti.
- Working in partnership with local security contractor to patrol the park every evening and tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Removal of shrubby trees around the car park perimeter to create a much more open and visible site.
- Creation of a new dedicated tarmac maintenance access road onto the parkland. The previous access was adjacent to the children's play area and was considered to be unsafe.
- Use of portable concrete blocks at main entrances to restrict unauthorised access.

In addition, as part of the installation of the lighting associated with the cycle route, the Council were able to secure funding to illuminate the path from the school to Ilkeston Road as part of the 'Safer Routes to Schools' initiative. Again this has been very well received, particularly by the school that had targeted this as a project for some of their year 10 and 11 students.

The problem of unauthorised BMX and motorcycle riding has been controlled by close working with a group of local riders and the local police.

The group in partnership with the Council have developed a designated cycle area on land at the Hemlockstone open space across the road from the park. This has moved the cyclists onto a more defined and controlled area.

16.4 Dog Fouling

The park is covered by the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 as a canine faeces removal area. All dog bins are emptied twice weekly. The fenced play area is dog free and the woodland designated as a dog exercise area.

A review of how the Council uses new legislation to help control dog fouling and responsible dog ownership is now underway.

The park is also used for dog training classes, which promote responsible dog ownership and awareness of the borough's bye-laws.



Figure 27 - Dog Training Class

The Council employs a team of 4 Neighbourhood Wardens working on a shift basis. They have enforcement powers to deal with dog fouling. Given its popularity as a dog walking venue, the site is high on the priority list for monitoring. The Neighbourhood Wardens use the park as one of their sites for the dog identification chipping programme. This event also allows the wardens to pass on information regarding dog issues, provide advice and listen to feedback from park uses. The Council has previously won 2 national awards for its dog-related policies.

16.5 Risk Assessment

The table outlines the site-specific risk assessment for Bramcote Hills Park. A copy of the relevant inspection sheets are provided in Appendices 13 and 14.

	Seriousness of Potential Injury		Likelihood of Injury Occurring
1.	Death	1.	Certain
2.	Major injury	2.	Very likely
3.	Minor injury	3.	May happen
		4.	Unlikely
		5.	Very unlikely

Item	Hazard	Seriousness of Potential Injury	Likelihood of Injury Occurring	Risk Score	Control Measures
Paths	Slipping and tripping	3	3	9	Most paths are in good condition but the woodland routes need regular maintenance. All routes are regularly monitored.
Children's Play Areas	Injury through using play equipment	3	3	9	Play area is inspected and maintained twice weekly
Steps	Slipping, tripping and falling	2	3	6	All steps within woodland are regularly monitored and maintained
Trees	Tree or branches falling down	2	3	6	Trees are regularly inspected and maintenance or felling carried out as required
Dogs	Attack from dog	3	3	9	Dog safety initiatives are carried out on park and people fined for allowing their dogs to foul on the park
	Contact with dog fouling	3	3	9	
Events	Range of public liabilities	2	3	6	All events have to meet set criteria which are reviewed by the Council with regards to public liability

Site Specific Risk Assessment

The risk score is obtained by multiplying seriousness of potential injury with likelihood of injury occurring. Any risk score of 3 or lower is unacceptable. A risk score of 4 or 5 is a risk, which should be looked at being reduced if present on a long-term basis.

A review of site specific risk assessments is currently taking place working with the Council's insurance team. This is likely to be introduced in 2020.

16.6 SWOT Analysis – Healthy, Safe and Secure

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular inspection regime for parks, woodland play area and trim trail Risk assessments in place Site used by 'Walking the Way to Health' group Active cricket club with senior and junior teams Illuminated cycle route Site patrolled by Council's security contractor Waymarked routes to support healthy living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No on-site park attendant No public toilets on site No provision for teenagers on site Lack of single style of park furniture

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New steps installed to provide easier access into the woodland • Strong dog policies • Children’s play area has been refurbished and extended with DDA compliant equipment. • Taster sessions for family orienteering undertaken with Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club • Portable concrete blocks being used to deter unauthorised access. 	
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for permanent CCTV camera on site • Continue to explore funding opportunities for toilet, catering and ranger facilities for the park • Implementation of new legislation relating to responsible dog ownership • Detailed site specific risk assessments to be introduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism • Anti-social behaviour • Return of unauthorised BMX and motorcycle use • Fires in woodland

17.0 Well Maintained and Clean

“For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed”. (Raising the Standard).

17.1 Litter and Waste Management

Bramcote Hills Park is a very popular site attracting a mix of different visitors. The high number of visitors means that issues such as maintenance, litter collection and bin emptying must be carried out routinely and effectively.

The park is well served with 27 dual waste bins. These are emptied twice weekly or more often in peak periods. All maintenance staff are encouraged to hand pick litter. The full park is litter picked on a weekly basis.

In Summer 2013 fifteen of the old bins on the park were replaced with new modern bins which incorporate the Green Flag and Borough Council logos. The bins are dual waste bins and replace the inconsistent mix of litter and dog bins that had developed over the years.



Figure 28 - New Style Combined Litter/Dog waste bins

There are also a number of dedicated local residents who assist in keeping the park clean by undertaking litter picking on a regular basis.

The Council has combined the cleansing functions that were previously undertaken by the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing sections. Under the previous regime one team emptied the dog bins and another the litter bins. The combined approach has resulted in the creation of a dedicated cleansing team responsible for all litter, cleansing and bin emptying on the park, an initiative that has generated many favourable responses.

Other issues such as needles and syringes and fly-tipping are dealt with by a 'hit squad' managed by the Council's Street Cleansing Manager.

In 2018 the Council introduced the "Clean and Green" initiative to promote community involvement in parks and open spaces across the Borough. This has proved very successful with a range of events held over the last 12 months. One of these was at Bramcote Hills Park working with a local school to plant trees and bulbs and undertake litter picking within the park.



Figure 28a - Clean and Green Logo

17.2 Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture

The park is maintained by an area based team, with further input from designated individuals for specialist work. The area based team carry out fine turf maintenance, shrub and bedding maintenance, litter management and minor repair work. Specialist teams are brought in to undertake tree maintenance, gang mowing and hedge cutting. The schedules are shown in Appendix 4.

In December 2015 the Parks Service was the winner in the “most improved” category for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural services. This is an award presented by APSE with the parks service judged against 75 other councils in the category.

17.3 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

Much has been done in recent years to improve the infrastructure of the park with new paths installed, broken walls restored or replaced and old vandalised buildings removed.

Where possible the on-site maintenance teams are able to action repairs immediately. All other repairs are completed within 7 days unless waiting for parts or equipment.

17.4 Equipment Maintenance

The play area and trim trail are inspected twice weekly by a qualified playground inspector. The equipment used to maintain the park is maintained on a regular basis and used by trained and experienced staff. Risk assessments have been undertaken for operations and staff provided with appropriate safety equipment.

17.5 Swot Analysis – Well Maintained and Clean

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good standard of grounds maintenance • Fine turf well maintained • Little evidence of graffiti • Vehicular and maintenance equipment in good condition • Flexible maintenance team • Joined-up working with Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing sections. • 27 combined litter/dog waste bins • Partnership working with sub-contractors • Site inspection programme to cover paths, park furniture, fences and trees • Parks service winner in “Most Improved” category for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural services by APSE in 2015. • Local residents help to keep the park clean by undertaking litter picking activities. • Clean and Green initiative operating on the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of single style of park furniture • No on-site park attendant • Play area not inspected daily • Cricket pavilion sometimes a target for graffiti.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obtain external funding for dedicated ‘Park Ranger’ • Work with schools, Keep Britain Tidy to maintain and develop the park further • Continue to develop the walled garden area by upgrading path network and introducing new/replacement plant material • Implement the anti-social behaviour legislation relating to the issue of ‘Fixed Penalty Notices’ for litter and dog fouling in the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park is used as a ‘desire line’ for school children in the morning and late afternoon. This brings with it issues of littering • Limited funding for future revenue and capital investment • Access to the park by Travellers

18.0 Environmental Management

“The way the site is managed has a positive impact on the environment, locally and globally both now and in the future”. (Raising the Standard).

18.1 Environmental Policies

The Borough’s Green Infrastructure Strategy (2015-2030) provides the Parks and Environment Section with clear guidelines on issues relating to sustainable land management.

The Council’s Corporate Plan with its Environment Priority commits the Authority to improve parks, open spaces and countryside, and to take responsibility to protect and enhance the environment for future generations.

Incorporating this commitment into Park Management has partly been achieved through a gradual review of the previous grounds maintenance specifications. These required specific chemicals and fertilisers to be applied at set times and at set rates. A much more flexible approach is now in place with only minimal herbicide applications in strategic areas.

18.2 Resource Conservation

Mulching of shrub beds has been undertaken in the Walled Garden to reduce the need for watering. Water consumption on the park is kept to an absolute minimum. The tap housings in the walled garden are kept locked and the newly planted trees are all fitted with irrigation pipes to ensure water reaches the root zone.

A ‘Sustainable Footprint’ garden located within the walled garden has plants that require minimal maintenance/water. This garden was the catalyst for the Bramcote Park Business and Enterprise School to look at reducing their eco-footprint.

18.3 Pesticide Use

The only chemical used in the park is the occasional application of non-residual herbicide Glyphosate to combat weed growth.

18.4 Peat Use

There is no peat used in the park, soil conditioners and mulches, where used, are all recycled material.

18.5 Green Fuels

The authority uses bio-diesel on its vehicle and machinery fleet.

18.6 Waste Minimisation and Recycling

Green waste is kept separate as part of maintenance operations at the park and then transferred to the Kimberley Depot for recycling. Wood waste is shredded and used as mulch in tree planted areas. Sycamore felled by the PCV (Practical Conservation Volunteers) is taken off site and has been used as path edging in nearby parks.



Figure 29 – Recycling Bin near Play Area

A recycling bin has been installed near the children’s play area with separate slots for mixed recyclable and general waste. This has been well received.

The car park at the Bramcote Leisure Centre entrance to the park has a series of recycling bins for cans, glass and plastics. The public are encouraged to use these when visiting the park.

In terms of reutilising materials on site, the timber brash resulting from the felling of the established sycamore trees in the woodland was interwoven by the volunteers and used to create barriers to prevent BMX riders accessing certain routes in the woodland. The larger timber that is felled in the woodland has been left in situ to provide habitats for wildlife. A dead beech tree with a cavity used by bird life was reduced in size and made safe and left adjacent to the cricket pavilion.

New paths have been created using shredded timber to create links from the Leisure Centre car park into the park.

18.7 Arboricultural and Woodland Management

The ageing tree stock in both the open parkland and woodland is recognised. New planting has taken place over the last 20 years to produce a more diverse age range. This however, is an ongoing process particularly as many of the mature trees are showing signs of dieback. The existing trees are being carefully managed by the Council's Tree Officer to maintain their life expectancy.

To encourage more tree planting and to celebrate 10 years as a Green Flag Park visitors to the park were invited to sponsor one of ten new trees planted in December 2016. See Appendix 26.

A new initiative, in December 2006 as part of National Tree Week, saw the planting of the first of a programme of new unusual trees to create more of an Arboretum feel to the parkland. The first tree planted was a Tulip Tree (*Liriodendrum tulipiferum*). The second tree was planted in November 2007 and a quality leaflet produced following the same format as 2006. This was again well attended including 8 students from the Bramcote Park School. The tree planted was a Foxglove Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*). A new feature in 2007 was to put a coin, minted in the same year as the tree was planted, in the planting pit with the tree. This follows a tradition started by Kew Gardens. Kew traditionally used a 1p coin, but a £2 coin was used due to its robust size and also its interesting design. If the tree is ever felled in the future and the root plate removed the coin may be found giving an interesting feature as to its history.

This idea was continued in December 2008 when a Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo Biloba*) was planted and in 2009 when a Pin Oak (*Quercus Palustris*) was chosen. In 2010 a Southern Beech (*Nothofagus Antarctica*) was planted. See Appendix 20b. Also that year a Black Walnut (*Juglans Nigra*) was planted as part of National Tree Week. This was a good example of community partnership working as the tree was funded by Bramcote History Group. The most recent tree in the series was a Celtis Australis (European Nettle Tree). A further tree planting initiative in December 2008 saw the planting of a Sweet Gum Tree (*Liquidambar Styraciflua*) to commemorate the 90th birthday of Nelson Mandela. This was planted in the Walled Garden adjacent to the Holocaust Memorial Garden. This location was specifically chosen given his work on opposing apartheid. The tree has a commemorative plaque with the inscription "Planted in 2008 to mark the 90th birthday of Nelson Mandela, an inspiration to all who are oppressed and deprived".



Figure 30 – Autumn Trees

In November 2013 fifteen extra heavy standard native trees were planted by children from the adjacent Bramcote Hills Primary School, in partnership with Groundwork Greater Nottingham.

In December 2014 a *Pyrus Calleryana* “Chanticleer” tree was planted close to the Holocaust Memorial to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide. Present were a survivor of the genocide together with the Rwandan High Commissioner.

In December 2018 and 2019 new trees were planted working with the Foxwood Academy, the school closest to the park. The events were part of the Council’s Clean and Green Initiative and also involved planting drifts of daffodils on the fringe of the woodland.

The Woodland Management Plan, written in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, has set priorities for maintaining the woodland. The last 4 years has seen extensive whip planting within designated compartments to exclude rabbits, dogs and people. These have proved to be very successful. Figure 30 shows the fenced compartment with young trees and ground flora establishing. The new Woodland Management Plan was launched in 2017.



Figure 31 - Tree Planting with The Mayor and Children from Bramcote Hills Primary School



Figure 32 – 20th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide Tree Planting December 2014

18.8 SWOT Analysis – Environmental Management

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to planting programme for new trees and retention of existing ones • New 10 year Woodland Management Plan • Ongoing tree planting initiative • Use of pesticides kept to a minimum • Mulching of shrub beds • No peat use • ‘Sustainable Footprint’ garden created • New fenced tree planting areas within the woodland have proved successful • New recycling bin installed near play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing tree population • Revenue budget for supporting the role of the PCV in the park has been reduced
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of alternative fuels • Use of recycled materials as part of sustainable procurement • Improve awareness of sustainability and in particular how the issues relate to all operational staff • Improve staff training in environmental management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decay in over-mature tree bases • Changes in legislation • Increased litigation • Infestation of site by rabbits • Increasing threat from diseases to tree stock

19.0 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

“Attention should be paid to the appropriate management and conservation of natural features, wildlife and fauna, landscape features and buildings and structures”. (Raising the Standard).

19.1 Natural Features, Wildlife and Flora

Through its Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Council recognises the importance of a sustainable approach to viewing the natural environment and landscape which provide multiple benefits for people, wildlife and local communities.

One of the green corridors in the strategy runs directly through the park. This is known as corridor “2.10 Bramcote Corridor and Boundary Brook”. It identifies the park as an amenity asset to protect within the corridor. The biodiversity mapping identifies:

- Natural grassland
- Acid grassland
- Broadleaved woodland

A significant part of the park is made up of mature woodland, comprising largely indigenous species. The value of this woodland was historically overlooked and maintenance rather ad hoc.

Recognising the valuable woodland habitat, the Council has been working in partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on the actions contained in the Woodland Management Plan. As indicated previously this guides the way in which the area is improved for people and wildlife. A significant achievement as part of this partnership was the designation in 2008 of the woodland as a Local Nature Reserve.



Figure 33 – Establishment of Trees and Ground Flora in Woodland Compartments

The parkland area is maintained on a 14 day grass cutting cycle, the light sandy soils encourage fine grasses, which are slow growing. Customer expectations have resulted in all the parkland being cut to the same standard frequency. There is however, further scope to explore if certain areas could be managed with 2 cuts a year and maintained as wildflower areas as part of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's 'Blue Butterfly' scheme. An area to the top of the walled garden has been set aside for maintenance in this way, together with a second area close to the fringe of the woodland.

The 'County Flower' for Nottinghamshire (*Colchicum* spp) has been introduced to the fringe of the Walled Garden, under the canopy of the adjacent trees. With a significant number of old trees established within the open grassland area, many with bat boxes, the park has a good bat population. Areas of recently planted trees have also been fenced off to encourage nesting birds.

A veteran but diseased Beech tree in the middle of the open parkland was retained and protected with an 'estate' fence to create a safe area. The

alternative approach would have been to fell this tree. By leaving it in situ to deteriorate naturally a valuable environmental feature was created. This was well received by the public and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust promoted it as an example of best practice. However, in August 2012 nature finally caught up with the tree and it collapsed. The calculations about where the tree would fall were very accurate and its trunk and limbs fell safely within the fenced area. The tree will remain for the natural process of decay to continue and provide a valuable habitat for wildlife. The trunk has now been enhanced with carvings of woodland creatures after a project working with school children and a local tree sculptor.

A further initiative saw 2 new Beech trees planted either side of the veteran tree to mark the 35th Anniversary of Twinning with Stadt Gütersloh. The Borough's twin town in Germany presented the Council with a Beech tree at an exchange visit and the Borough Council arranged for a matching tree to be planted side by side as a symbol of enduring friendship.



Figure 34 – Veteran Beech Tree prior to the tree falling



Figure 35 – Fallen Beech Tree showing one of the Woodland Carvings on the top of the trunk

Recognising the status of woodland as a Local Nature Reserve, and its important link as an extensive green corridor of SINC sites, work has been undertaken to improve the ecological data relating to the site.

Working with the South Notts Bat group a recording event was held. The bat group lent out a number of bat detectors to the attendees who were then able to pick up the hunting calls. Two species of bat were positively identified, Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle. The walk took in a circuit of woodland and lasted approximately 1½ hours. Many positive comments were received and thanks expressed to the bat group.

Further work with the group will see new bat boxes installed in the park in early 2020. The group will monitor the bat population using the boxes to provide an indication of the species present in the park and how they are faring.

Consultation with the Nottingham Records Office revealed that as the site is not classified as a Local Wildlife site they do not hold extensive species lists for the park. The information they have been able to provide will, however, be used alongside the information provided by the conservation volunteers. Appendix 29 details the information recorded to date.

In recent years Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have worked with and actively encouraged local residents with specialist knowledge to come forward and undertake survey work in the park and woodland.

One of the outcomes of this was in Spring 2017 which saw the creation of the Bramcote Nest Box Group. Working with the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer the group, who have members who are licenced nest recorders with the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology), monitor bird populations in the woodland. See Appendix 29 for the first survey undertaken in March 2017.

In October 2017 the group worked with the Council to erect nest boxes in the woodland. The volunteers will record the uptake and breeding success in the boxes. They will then report this information to the BTO to allow a picture of change to be built up all over Britain. This information will be shared with the Council and subsequently included in the Management Plan. Species being monitored include blue, great and coal tits and nuthatch and tree creeper.

The boxes are built by the group with the Council funding the cost of the materials. See Appendix 29d for the 2019 nest records.



Figure 35a – Nest Box Installation

19.2 Landscape Features

The park is part of a chain of areas which form an important wildlife corridor linking the City of Nottingham to the open countryside. This corridor contains the 'Robin Hood Way' a long distance footpath route.

Due to the topography of the site the woodland hill forms an impressive backdrop to the park which is visible from the surrounding areas of Bramcote and Stapleford. It is particularly striking in Autumn as the leaves take on their Autumn colours.

Within the Bramcote Landfill site is an important geological formation of Lenton Sandstone. This formation consists of a series of fine to medium sandstone. The formation is underlain by coal measures strata. With the transfer of this land to the Borough Council there is potential to clear vegetation and expose this important formation.

19.3 Buildings and Structures

The park has a long and interesting history, but for many years the opportunity to utilise this aspect of the park was missed.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds and the deteriorating condition of the buildings and the Walled Garden, an approach had to be found which maximised heritage value without incurring significant capital costs. A compromise was achieved with the footprint of the 2 cottages in the Walled Garden retained and the Ice House and the base of the old manor house exposed and brought into public view. New interpretation boards on the site now explain the history of these features and the role the park has played in the past.



Figure 36 – Ice House

Further work is on-going to develop other heritage aspects of the park, including opening up original fence and wall boundaries. This has included the restoration of a large area of the wall between the Manor House site and the parkland. The latest area was the restoration of a further section of fencing to the east of the Manor House. There are also plans to reveal and restore further sections of the original fence that have recently been identified.



Figure 37 – Bramcote Hills House Wall Before



Figure 38 – Bramcote Hills House Wall After

19.4 SWOT Analysis – Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent interpretation of the conservation and heritage features in the park, including Ice-house, base of old park buildings, boundaries • The Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies a green corridor running through the park • Dead standing trees left for habitat • Areas of walled garden designed as Blue Butterfly ‘Wildflower Gardens’ • County flower (Colchicum spp) planted in walled garden • Bat boxes in parkland trees and new bat boxes introduced 2020 • New and updated Woodland Management Plan prepared for site • Ancient Beech tree retained in open parkland within safe ‘falling area’ • The woodland is designated as a Local Nature Reserve • Working with South Notts Bat Group to do Walk & Talk events • Working with Bramcote Nest Box Group to erect bird boxes in woodland and monitor bird species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full biodiversity survey of the flora/fauna in the park has not been undertaken • Revenue budget for supporting the role of the PCV in the park has been reduced
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope for improved management of woodland • Links with adjacent SINC • Continue to manage the woodland working with PCV • Designate further areas of the parkland as wildflower areas • Further identify historical links in the park, such as old walls and fences • Notts Wildlife Trust undertake species recording events in woodland • Continue to work with Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomology Society on species recording in the woods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism of the remaining heritage features • Invasive species in woodland e.g. sycamore and rhododendron • Fire damage in woodland. Working closely with fire service and Council’s security contractor.

20.0 Community Involvement

“This should be entirely appropriate to the site and the needs of the local community.” (Raising the Standard).

20.1 Community Involvement and Participation

The park enjoys active support from individual members of the public who undertake litter-picking works and report back any observed problems.

The Council works closely with the Practical Conservation Volunteers (PCV) in undertaking woodland management in the park. The work consists mainly of rhododendron and sycamore clearance to open up glades and views. Works also include fencing and hedging work to offer habitat and wildlife protection, footpath management, together with replacement planting.

The PCV run day tasks, which regularly attract over 20 volunteers. PCV work with Groundwork Greater Nottingham, local schools and the Green Health Partnership to attract a variety of volunteers to work on the park. The programme of work for previous and future years is shown in Appendix 5.

In recent years the Council has worked with the local Broomfield College in the felling of a series of large sycamores in the woodland. These had been identified as part of the Woodland Management Plan but were beyond the scope of the PCV. The college students were looking for opportunities to practice felling techniques and the dismantling of trees in a confined environment. The work was carried out at no cost to the Council and provided the students with experience of working in a real life situation. A ‘win win’ scenario.

The park is very well used by local schools, uniformed groups, orienteering, cyclo-cross and running clubs. The popularity of the park for cross country events has increased in recent years and an article in the Midland Counties Annual report praised the park as a “really wonderful cross country course”. It also hosts events as wide ranging as dog training classes, medieval enactments and training course for emergency services.

Cancer Research UK held a “Bark for Life” 3km walk through the park and woodland. This was very well attended with over £2000 raised. The Council’s Neighbourhood Wardens were in attendance throughout the event to promote the responsible dog ownership message. See Appendix 19.



Figure 39 – Bark for Life Walk

The park is the venue to 2 major events run by Broxtowe's Leisure Management Company (L Leisure). These are the 5k and 1k runs. The runs are all off road and take place on pavements, grass and gravel pathways around the park. The children's 1k fun run is for children of 8 years and over. The 5k event is a great introduction to running for those people who have been tempted but 10k and a half marathon seem too long as an initial event.

The events have been a success every year since their introduction in 2009 with over 350 people participating each time including runners as young as 5 and as old as 70 enjoying the undulating course around the park.

The L Team use the park for various activities, always looking for something new to try. The park was the venue for the first Scootering event in the Borough. This is a cross between orienteering and scooting. This proved to be extremely popular. See flyer in Appendix 19.

The Bramcote School and Bramcote College are particularly keen to strengthen their links with the park. They promote events in the park through their "Learning Newsletter" to parents.

Fifteen new native trees were planted on the park in a project involving Groundwork Greater Nottingham and children from Bramcote Hills Primary School. The event took place as part of National Tree Week, with the Mayor of Broxtowe in attendance to assist with the planting. The day also saw 3000 snowdrops, daffodils and crocus bulbs planted on the park, again working with the school children.

The tree planting was part of the ongoing process of creating a mixed age range of trees on the park that can be enjoyed by future generations.

A further tree planting project was a partnership event with Beeston Civic Society to mark their 40th anniversary. New trees were planted in the fenced woodland compartments created by the Conservation Volunteers. See Appendix 26 for Press Release.



Figure 40 – Witches Seat

The witches' seat in the walled garden was designed by a local sculptor working with schools in the area. There is a companion seat on the Hemlock Stone on the other side of Coventry Lane. The seat depicts the mystical references associated with the Hemlock Stone.

For many years the park has hosted 2 fun fairs at Easter and August Bank Holiday. In summer 2015, 200 children with special needs were invited to attend the fair "free of charge". The fair opened its doors early on a day before the official opening for these children, together with their families and carers, to experience all the rides. This proved to be a terrific event and was supported by the generosity of the Showmen and the Nottingham Freemasons. This is now a regular event in the parks calendar. See Press Release Appendix 26.

Central College Nottingham have used the park for some of their students with Autism/Asperger's syndrome to undertake voluntary conservation work. In partnership with Greenwood and officers from the Council's parks management team this was organised. The work included coppicing sycamore trees, scrub removed and digging out rhododendron roots to prevent regrowth. This was designed to give students more skills, confidence and experience of working in the community. The feedback was extremely positive as can be seen from the quotes below.

"An excellent opportunity for students to get involved in some practical conservation work, giving students an insight into what's involved has certainly broadened their experiences and possibly (for some) opened another door into the world of work." (Mark Holden Group Tutor).

"This was a great way to get involved with some conservation work, we all worked hard and enjoyed the session, the Council staff were very good and I hope we can do more to help in the future." (James Meakin Student).

The park is the focal point for the Bramcote and Stapleford community and this is best summarised by the 'Hemlock Happening', an event started in 2002 as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. It is now an annual event attracting 8,000 visitors. See Appendix 10.

In Autumn 2016 the Walking Theatre Company returned to the park to perform "Wiz around Oz". This was a spontaneous, interactive fun filled walking adventure through the woods in the park for all the family to enjoy. See Appendix 19 for a flyer for the event.



Figure 41 – Wiz around Oz

The latest community initiative has seen the park become a regular venue for “Yarn Bombing”. This is when local people dress areas of the park with knitted features. A designated Sweet Chestnut tree in the park has been Yarn Bombed to celebrate the Green Flag Award, the Hemlock Happening Event and most recently Christmas. In addition one of the seats in the walled garden was decorated for the Holocaust Memorial Service in January 2017. See Appendix 23 for photographs of the Yarn Bombing.

The Air Training Corps at the nearby Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground use the woods to train in aspects of field craft and sports that help the cadets develop in their role.

Since 2015 the Salvation Army have been using the park for a series of events on Summer weekends. They provide brass band music for the public to enjoy and entertainment for the children. This is at no cost to the Council and has proved to be extremely popular.



Figure 42 – Salvation Army Brass Band and Children’s Entertainment

The park is used by the Nottingham and Derby Hot Air Balloon Club for occasional launches. This is a spectacular sight and although usually very early in the morning it does attract interest from dog walkers and runners up early enough to see the launch.



Figure 43 – Hot Air Balloon

In April 2018 local resident and fund raiser Robert Cleave used the park to launch his epic round the world cycle ride. This was well attended by lots of residents and community groups who cycled the first mile with Robert around the park. Nine months later in October 2019 Robert returned to the park having completed 18,000 miles crossing 5 continents and cycling through 29 countries. The final leg of his journey saw the last mile on the park with local residents once again in full support. The event raised over £21,000 for charity.



Figure 43a – Roberts Ride Event



Figure 44 – Hemlock Happening. Arts production using the Hemlockstone as a dramatic backdrop



Figure 45 – Children’s Play Area

20.2 Appropriate Provision for the Community

One of the most popular attractions at the park is the children’s play area which caters for a wide range of age groups. The area has equipment with high play value and also equipment that is DDA compliant.

Since its redevelopment the play area has been a huge success drawing large crowds throughout the year. It has received lots of praise from children and adults alike.

The Council’s new Play Strategy 2017-2025 recognises the importance of high quality and diverse play provision. See 12.6.

Children’s needs and expectations are also well served by the woodland (an informal play area in itself), the sundial maze within the Walled Garden and the large expanse of open grassland for unrestricted imaginative play.

Through a series of disabled access improvements, people with disabilities can now make use of the park. The benefits are disabled car parking spaces located in the upper car park and a disabled way marked route of 1.25km around the parkland area. These facilities are in line with the “BT Countryside for All” standards and guidelines.

The Council's Equalities Working Group looks at all the Council's services, including parks and open spaces, to make sure that services provided are in accordance with the Equality Standard.

20.3 Public Consultation

The Council operates the Broxtowe Parks Standard as an assessment for all its parks and open spaces.

The most recent consultation for Bramcote Hills Park demonstrated that the most popular reasons for visiting the park were:

1. For a walk
2. Walk the dog
3. Children/family outing
4. Visit the play area
5. Peace and quiet
6. Enjoy flowers and trees
7. See birds and wildlife

With the exception of 'for a walk' which was clearly the most popular reason for visiting the park, the scores for numbers 2 to 7 were very similar.

This is a clear indication that the park is strongly valued for a diverse range of activities.

The results are analysed below.

How often do you visit the park?

Daily	20
Weekly	39
Monthly	20
2 to 3 times a year	9

How do you normally get to the park?

Walk	14
Cycle	5
Car	39

How long do you normally stay?

Less than 30 minutes	8
30 minutes to 1 hour	36
1 to 2 hours	33
More than 2 hours	11

To achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard, parks must score an average of 45% of all responses in the good and above category and an average of 85% of all responses in the fair and above category. Bramcote Hills Park scored 88% in the good and above and 98% in the fair and above. This clearly demonstrates that the standard is being achieved.

The responses below show the percentage of people who scored very good or good to the questions.

Welcoming	97%	A very clear indication that the park is attractive to visitors. There were positive comments about the new car park.
Signage	78%	Positive comments about the new signs introduced.
Cleanliness	80%	There was generally positive feedback with comments about the work undertaken by local residents who help keep the park clean.
Dog Fouling	66%	General feeling is that the majority of dog owners pick up after their dogs. There is still a problem in the woodland and also evidence of people leaving bags hanging on trees.
Access	93%	Most visitors feel the balance of paths is just about right with comments about avoiding formalising the park too much.
Grass cutting	92%	Feeling that things are just about right.
Shrub/Flower beds	80%	A few comments about increasing the floral diversity within the woodland garden.
Trees	85%	Positive support for the way the parkland trees and woodland are being managed.
Play Facilities	88%	Some very positive feedback about the extent and quality of facilities provided. A few comments about the need for more facilities for under 5's.
Sports Facilities	62%	A few comments about cricket being the only sports facility on the park. This is balanced by a general feeling that more sports facilities may actually spoil the park.
Vandalism/ Anti- social Behaviour	81%	The high figure demonstrates that the park is not seen as a problem area. A few comments about motorbikes on the park and damage to the cricket nets.

Nature and Wildlife	78%	Support for how the park is being managed but concern that some areas of the park and the woodland are overused by the public.
Overall impression of the park	89%	Some very positive comments, balanced by a strong feedback for toilets. There were zero responses in the poor and very poor categories. See Appendix 15b for some relevant extracts from the consultation.

The comments received from the consultation were very diverse but there was a series of common themes.

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play area • Very clean park • Good network of paths • Nature Conservation • Good general management of park • 'Preserved' Beech tree • Responsible dog walkers • Hemlock Happening • Absence of vandalism/anti-social behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of toilets • Lack of café/restaurant • Dog fouling in woodland • Additional facilities in play area for very young children • Parts of the park are too popular • Opportunity to improve the walled garden

These views have been incorporated into the future aims and objectives for the site and are reflected in the action plan. The issue of lack of toilets/restaurant cannot be easily addressed without significant financial contribution. This is considered further in terms of potential external funding contributions. See Appendix 9.

20.4 SWOT Analysis – Community Involvement

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range of events that take place in the park is diverse and varied • Active Cricket club on site with strong junior membership • Agreed partnership with cricket club to allow the extended pavilion to be used for community events as part of the borough's financial contribution towards the extension • Strong community ownership and commitment to the parks future development • Facilities available for varied age groups and abilities • PCV very active on the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views of 'non users' are still largely unrepresented as part of the consultation process

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company with charitable status set up to try to achieve a “Community Hub” facility with toilets and catering opportunities • Park hosts the hugely successful ‘Hemlock Happening’ • Strong links with Bramcote School with park events promoted through schools “learning newsletter” to parents • Park has its own “Yarn Bombing” tree • Consultation undertaken for Broxtowe Parks Standard 	
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote further community use of the site through PCV • Promote further the potential to use the park for educational opportunities with local schools • Develop further opportunities for large scale community events in the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working and developing further events with the community is very time consuming • Shortage of staff time to undertake consultation

21.0 Marketing and Communication

“Knowing and understanding the community who use the site means that managers can develop far more active engagement from users”. (Raising the Standard).

21.1 Marketing and Promotion

Achieving Green Flag status for the park has been a major motivator in promoting the park to a much wider audience. There are also a number of leaflets, which promote the park and the surrounding areas.

- “Welcome to Bramcote and Stapleford Hills Public Open Spaces”
 - a leaflet promoting the tree trail, way marked routes and historic park features.
- “Six of the best walks in Broxtowe Borough”
 - a leaflet detailing 6 walks, 2 of which start and finish in the park.
- “The Hemlockstone”
 - a leaflet which promotes the adjacent Hemlock Stone Open Space. With its close links to the park the leaflet features the walled garden, the children’s play area and provides visitors the opportunity to view both sites. See Appendix 18.

- “Erewash Valley Trail”
 - a multi-user trail to encourage people to use the parks, green spaces and countryside.

The park is also promoted through the Council’s website which highlights the availability of the above leaflets.

Social media is used to promote events and activities on the park.

21.2 Education and Interpretation

An annual volunteer programme is organised by the PCV in conjunction with the Borough Council. In recent years work has included fencing construction and repairs, rhododendron and sycamore removal, bracken clearance. The programme has recently been extended to include tree and wild flower planting as part of the woodland management plan.

In terms of on site interpretation, the park is well served by a series of very informative panels which provide the visitor with details about the park’s history and development together with route maps for the way marked trails.

21.3 Sponsorship

In 2017 sponsorship agreements were secured with 2 local companies to sponsor floral bedding displays together with the walled garden in the park. This has provided an additional income stream for the park.



Figure 46 – Floral Bedding Sponsorship

21.4 Swot Analysis – Marketing and Communication

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well developed events programme in place • Published material is of high quality • Good interpretation boards and signs around the park • New entrance signs • Good use of the on-site notice board • Various park leaflets • New on site sponsorship initiatives • Social media used by Council's communications team to actively promote the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information on user numbers or usage types
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An education pack could be developed to encourage use of the park by the adjacent schools • Develop a website for the park • Maximise the potential of press releases for the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflets need to be regularly reviewed as they can easily become out of date

22.0 Management

“The Green Flag Award requires the establishment of an active management plan based on a deep understanding of the community that it serves”. (Raising the Standard).

22.1 Finance

The plan recognises the importance of forward financial management and the need to record how budgets are spent and where opportunities for raising revenue can be maximised.

In terms of future funding sources, the Council's current revenue budget for the park is £72,500. Other potential funding sources will also continue to be investigated to assist with the future development of the park.

- Council's ongoing Capital Programme. The park has received nearly £200,000 of capital funding in the last 5 years. The most recent being an allocation of £65,000 for the redesigned car park and £30,000 for the new footpaths, tree planting and fencing across the park.

- Landfill Tax. This has been a valuable source of funding in recent years with contributions from WREN. Schemes with a total value of £38,925 have been implemented from Landfill Tax on the park in the last few years.

The plan also recognises the challenging financial climate faced by local authorities and the threat that a reduced revenue/capital budget may restrict some of the actions within the action plan. Issues relating to alternative policies and joined up working will be investigated both for the park and for all outdoor facilities provided by the authority.

22.2 Personnel

A recent Senior Management Restructure has seen the Environment team become part of the Strategic Director's Department.

The Parks and Environment team has overall management responsibility for all policy and maintenance issues. This team meet on a regular basis to ensure there is no duplication of effort and there are good lines of communication. Detailed below are the respective roles of the team in relation to the park.

Conservation and Green Spaces Development Manager – Horticultural Design Works. Play Area Design, New Capital Works. Nature Conservation and Liaison with community groups

Grounds Maintenance and Arboricultural Manager – Day to day management of all maintenance operations for the site.

Environmental Projects Officer – Major design and infrastructure projects

In terms of on site maintenance the majority of works are undertaken by a team of 4 people who pick up the fine turf maintenance work, the back up mowing, shrub bed maintenance and annual bedding maintenance. Whilst this work is all scheduled, there is flexibility to meet the demands of the changing seasons and to ensure that the site looks at its best for key events. The maintenance teams report back any issues identified requiring additional attention e.g. graffiti, fallen tree branch.

The litter bins and cleansing team also perform an extended role in reporting back any issues identified on the ground

The Parks team link closely with the Communities Section, via the Broxtowe Community Partnership. This allows for cross over of ideas and policies.

There is also close liaison work between the Parks team and L Leisure, the Council's leisure management company. This is a Broxtowe Borough Council company that delivers leisure, culture and sports events to the communities of Broxtowe. These links are particularly important given the parks important role in major community events.

22.3 Adjacent Land Influences on the parks future management

The management plan recognises the importance of ongoing negotiations with Biffa Waste Services Ltd, to ensure that the former landfill site to the north of the park is developed to the required standard that allows it ultimately to fulfil its potential as a long-term extension to the park.

Various sites just outside the park boundaries are designated as existing Sites of Nature Conservation (SINCs). These are detailed below:-

- Stapleford Hill
- Hemlockstone
- Bramcote Landfill site

The Management Plan acknowledges the location of these important sites and will take into consideration any actions within the park that may impact on them.

22.4 SWOT Analysis – Management

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is well maintained and the facilities are of a high quality • Links with adjacent landholdings and SINCs have been identified • The main issues facing the parks future development have been identified • The previous Management Plans (2006-2011) and (2012-2017) have proved to be very effective tools. The new plan 2018-2023 builds on this • Keep Britain Tidy group asked permission to circulate the Green Flag Management Plan as an example of good practice, permission was given 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing management team and parks workforce
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop further links between survey results and on-site activities • Continue to explore further opportunities for raising capital and revenue • Continue to negotiate the remaining transfer of adjacent Bramcote landfill site with Biffa Waste Services • Potential for increased involvement from volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No site specific forward capital programme for the park • The challenging financial climate faced by local authorities and a reducing revenue budget for parks services work over the coming years.

CHAPTER 3 – WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Chapter 3 of the Bramcote Hills Park Management Plan brings together the information from Chapter 1 and the analysis in Chapter 2 to create objectives and management prescriptions, which relate back to the aims set out in section 3.0 of the document. These are set out below and underpin the overall and long-term development of the park. Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 are the part of the management plan which takes the park forward.

The plan is not, however, a document that should be regarded in isolation. It has clear links with other Council strategies and policy documents.

23.0 Aims, Objectives and Management Prescriptions

23.1 Aim

To provide a welcoming park for all park visitors.

23.1.1 Objective

Ensure the park is welcoming with good safe access for all abilities and clear signage at all entrances.

23.1.2 Management Prescriptions

- Keep entrance signage and interpretation panels clean, readable and up-to-date.
- Inspect and maintain boundary fencing, site furniture and paths.
- Ensure good and safe access for all abilities.
- Sweep and cleanse car park and entrance road regularly.
- Further develop the Walled Garden.
- Continue to maintain the view from the Manor House across the park.

23.2 Aim

To provide a healthy, safe and secure park for all users.

23.2.1 Objective

Maintain equipment, facilities and the parks infrastructure to a high standard. Control any anti-social behaviour issues, ensure health and safety procedures are in place and maximise options for health.

23.2.2 Management Prescriptions

- Maintain equipment and facilities to a high standard.

- Encourage responsible dog ownership.
- Undertake annual risk assessments.
- Address and resolve any anti-social behaviour issues.
- Continue to review the need for additional/replacement play equipment.
- Work with the Community Interest Company to progress the initiative to provide a Community Cafe and toilet facilities.
- Maximise options for health.

23.3 Aim

To achieve a consistently high standard of maintenance and cleanliness.

23.3.1 Objective

Have a comprehensive and clear management system in place for all aspects of the parks maintenance, with regular inspection and performance monitoring and ensuring visitors have the opportunity to comment.

23.3.2 Management Prescriptions

- Maintain all areas in accordance with specifications and schedules.
- Keep park free from litter and dog waste.
- Review site furniture and bins
- Work with schools to promote responsible attitude to littering

23.4 Aim

To advocate and demonstrate sustainable environmental management.

23.4.1 Objective

Minimise the use of pesticides, reduce waste and energy consumption, encourage recycling of materials, promote nature conservation and continue with no use of peat.

23.4.2 Management Prescriptions

- Compost green waste.
- Recycle waste from recycling banks and recycle bins.
- Training of Broxtowe staff in sustainable land management.
- Implement recommendations from Woodland Management Plan.

23.5 Aim

To protect, conserve and promote the nature conservation and heritage value.

23.5.1 Objective

Identify evolving requirements and develop suitable management prescriptions for important landscape, ecological and historical features. Encourage biodiversity within the site. Actively promote nature conservation.

23.5.2 Management Prescriptions

- Implement recommendations from the Borough's Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Improve wildflower areas.
- Manage development of habitats to encourage bio-diversity.
- Implement recommendations from new 10 year Woodland Management Plan.
- Maintain interpretation boards and heritage features.
- Develop further heritage features.

23.6 Aim

To actively promote and enable community participation and involvement.

23.6.1 Objective

Support the PCV, Greenwood and Groundwork Greater Nottingham to assist in the active management of the park and provide a varied programme of events and art activities. Undertake regular consultation and surveys using a range of techniques.

23.6.2 Management Prescriptions

- Promote and support other agencies involved in managing and maintaining the park.
- Implement further varied events and activities.
- Encourage and promote school and community events.
- Consultation with users and non-users.

23.7 Aim

To raise the profile of the park by maximising marketing opportunities.

23.7.1 Objective

Ensure the park has a high profile, ensure good interpretation of all features and encourage and enable use by schools and other groups.

23.7.2 Management Prescriptions

- Keep the park leaflets up-to-date.
- Promote events and activities.

- Utilise the internet and all aspects of social media.

23.8 Aim

To ensure effective and viable management.

23.8.1 Objective

Ensure standards are maintained by securing the necessary revenue and capital funding and that the management plan is regularly reviewed and updated

23.8.2 Management Prescriptions

- Annual monitoring of Management Plan.
- Explore alternative funding sources.
- Negotiate with Biffa Waste Services on transfer of adjacent land.
- Major review of management plan in late summer/autumn 2023.

CHAPTER 4 – HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE’VE ARRIVED?

Chapter 4 is the final chapter in the Bramcote Hills Park Management Plan and provides the focus for ongoing improvement and development. The chapter sets out an action plan for the next five years and also explains how the plan will be reviewed and monitored.

24.0 Introduction

The following action plan sets out the intended actions required to continue to improve Bramcote Hills Park in relation to the issues identified within the previous sections of the Management Plan.

The Business and Projects Manager (Environment) will implement the action plan with support from other members of the Parks team. It is intended that the action plan will be adapted to reflect the judges’ feedback from the Green Flag assessments. Other relevant sections of the Council involved in the Management Plan include L Leisure and the Communities team.

The Management Plan is a live document that is responsive to change. Amendments will regularly be made to reflect changes and incorporate the views of users and the wider community.

25.0 Action Plan 2018-2023

The action plan is divided into the 8 aims previously identified. These reflect the criteria established by Green Flag for managing quality green spaces.

- To provide a welcoming site for all site users.
- To provide a healthy, safe and secure site for all users.
- To achieve a consistently high standard of maintenance and cleanliness.
- To advocate and demonstrate sustainable environmental management.
- To protect, conserve and promote the nature conservation and heritage value
- To actively promote and enable community participation and involvement.
- To raise the profile of the site by maximising marketing opportunities.
- To ensure effective and viable management.

All the aims have prescriptions and actions, which correspond with the objectives identified in Chapter 3. A performance measure and estimated cost are also identified together with a nominated officer/group responsible for the action and a relevant timescale.

The progress box is completed as part of the annual review of the Management Plan.

The action plan covers the full duration of the Management Plan.

25.1 Abbreviations used in Bramcote Hills Park Management Plan

Organisations

Abbreviation	Organisation/Department
BBC	Broxtowe Borough Council
GCF	Greenwood Community Forest
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NWT	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
PCV	Practical Conservation Volunteers
LL	L Leisure (the leisure management company for Broxtowe Borough Council)

Broxtowe Borough Council Officers

Abbreviation	Organisation/Department
EPO	Environmental Projects Officer
GMAM	Grounds Maintenance and Arboricultural Manager
NW	Neighbourhood Warden
BPME	Business & Projects Manager (Environment)
CGDM	Conservation and Green Spaces Development Manager
SO	Safety Officer
RSCM	Refuse and Street Cleansing Manager

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To provide a welcoming park for all visitors – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Keep site entrance signage & interpretation panels clean, readable and up-to-date	Signage and panels maintained in good and clean condition	18-19 £500 19-20 £500 20-21 £500 21-22 £500 22-23 £500	No negative reports from public	CGDM
	Review of all entrance and interpretation signs	20-21 £4,000	New signs erected as necessary	CGDM
	Review all wooden finger posts throughout park and woodland. Prices obtained budget options being considered	2021 - £6,000	New signs erected	EPO
Progress: Signs cleaned on a regular basis				
Inspect and maintain boundary fencing, site furniture & paths	Boundaries and paths checked and maintained at 4 monthly intervals	18-19 £1,000 19-20 £1,000 20-21 £1,000	No damage left unattended for more than 10 days	CGDM & GMAM
	Record number of public reports	21-22 £1,000 22-23 £1,000		
Progress: Fencing, site furniture and paths checked. Repairs undertaken to boundary with landfill site. Renovation work undertaken to path in woodland.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To provide a welcoming park for all visitors – sheet 2

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Ensure good and safe access for all abilities	Review all access points and routes through park	2019 £2,500 2020 £2,500 2021 £2,500	Visually note number of visitors with disabilities on regular basis and at events. Record any public complaints	CGDM/LL
	Install new stone path from leisure centre car park to Ilkeston Road entrance through woodland	2020 £7,000 as budgets allow	Path installed	CGDM
Progress: Access improvements being undertaken working within budget constraints. Temporary concrete blocks installed to prevent unauthorised access.				
Sweep and cleanse car park and entrance road regularly	Roadway and car parks maintained in a clean and tidy condition	Road swept in Feb, May, August and November over 5 year period. Litter picking weekly over 5 year period. Costs contained within revenue budget for site	Grounds staff visual inspection and reports from members of public	RSCM
Progress: Programmed maintenance visits have taken place.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To provide a welcoming park for all visitors – sheet 3

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Further develop the walled garden	Improve path surfaces. Introduce new planting and landscape features	£10,000 - Ongoing	Works undertaken	CGDM
Progress: Some replacement planting undertaken winter 2018/19				
Continued to maintain the view from the Old Manor House across the park	Vegetation cut back	Autumn 2020 - £1,000	View retained	GMAM
Progress:				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To provide a healthy, safe and secure park for all users – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Maintain equipment and facilities to a high standard	Play area and trim trail inspected twice weekly	Cost contained within revenue budget for site	No negative reports from public Avoidance of public insurance claims.	GMAM
Progress: Play area and trim trail continue to be inspected and maintained. Play area receives extensive use and requires periodic repairs. No public insurance claims received.				
Review trim trail with a view to refurbishing/replacing current equipment and surfacing	Obtain funding for work	Summer 2019 £10,000	Equipment/surfacing Replaced/refurbished	CGDM
Progress: No funding yet identified. Two items on trim trail repaired summer 2019				
Encourage responsible dog ownership	Review and update Dog Byelaw signs. Regular monitoring by Neighbourhood Wardens	2020 £3,000 On-going random visits	Signs updated Visually note number of faeces	NW NW
	Pursue prosecutions and publicise	On-going over 5 year period	Target site for annual prosecution inspection reports	NW
	Bins for dog fouling renewed as required	£500 annual allowance over 5 year period	No bin deficiency to be reported	RSCM
	Review popularity of park for dog exercising	On-going, costs contained within revenue budget	Number of complaints from park users	NW/BPME

Progress: Regular monitoring with Neighbourhood Wardens takes place. No new on site prosecutions. Park continues to be very popular for dog walking and the dog fouling byelaws respected.

Undertake annual risk assessments	Annual review	December 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 costs contained within revenue budget	Annual reduction in changes required	GMAM/SO
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Progress: Risk assessments reviewed. New detailed site specific risk assessments being developed for all Council's Parks and Open Spaces following review work undertaken in partnership with Council's insurers.

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-23

Aim – To provide a healthy, safe and secure park for all users – sheet 2

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Address and resolve any anti-social behaviour issues	Work with Council's security contractor to patrol park at appropriate times	All year round. Costs contained within revenue budget	Fewer reported incidents. Feedback from patrols	BPME
	Consider the need for 'teen' facilities	On-going	Feedback from users	CGDM
Progress: Patrols continue, no major problems reported. No strong demand for "teen facilities" on site. Good "teen facilities" are provided at the adjacent Hickings Lane Recreation Ground approximately 0.5 miles from the park.				
Continue to review the need for additional/replacement play facilities	Investigate possible partnership and funding opportunities	On-going over 5 year period	Funding obtained and facilities installed	BPME
Progress: Bramcote Hills Park is identified as a medium term priority in the Play Strategy, i.e. a site that requires attention between 2020-23. The Council's forward Capital Programme and the Pride in Parks initiative identifies funding for this. This will include a bid for external funding.				
Work with the Company with charitable status to progress the initiative to provide a Community Hub providing toilets and catering facilities.	Meetings with Company. Reports to Environment and Climate Change Committee	Regular meetings with the group	Funding obtained, planning permission obtained, facility built	BPME
Progress: The company achieved charitable status in 2019. This was a requirement of the Council before it could potentially grant them a long term lease. An alternative site has now been proposed for the building and detailed designs and costs are now being prepared.				
Maximise options for health	Implement outdoor sporting and recreational activities on the park	On-going over a 5 year period	Monitor numbers and feedback	BPME/LL

	Investigate permanent distance markers for 1k and 5k routes	Summer 2020 possible external funding	Markers installed and usage monitored	BPME/LL
<p>Progress: LL continue to use the park for events. Regular orienteering and cross country events with the varied nature of the park making it a very popular venue. Quality Coffee van has agreement to use the park at weekends. This has proved popular and an income stream for the Council. Toilets at far end of park in leisure centre promoted as a public facility.</p>				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To achieve a consistently high standard of maintenance and cleanliness – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Maintain all areas in accordance with specifications and schedules	Comply with scheduled maintenance programme	On-going throughout the year. Costs contained within revenue budget	Monitoring performance against specifications	GMAM
Progress: Maintenance works completed.				
Keep site free from litter and dog waste	Empty bins in accordance with schedule	Twice weekly	Maintenance reports analysed for consistency	RSCM
	Collect site litter	Weekly	Record of public complaints	CGDM
	Periodic intensive removal	Annually		
	Work with local volunteers to help keep park clean and tidy	Ongoing Costs contained within revenue budget		
Progress: Bins emptied and litter cleared in accordance with schedule. No adverse comments from public.				
Review site furniture and bins	Introduce consistent style of park furniture and bins	Costs contained within revenue budget 2020	New furniture installed	CGDM
Progress: No new furniture needed at present time.				
Work with local schools to promote responsible attitude towards litter	Reinforce anti-litter message at each school	Ongoing with visits and correspondence	Site check after visits	RSCM/CGDM/ NW
	Publicity documents issued to schools			
Progress: Previous work with local schools has been very productive and the site is respected by pupils.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To advocate and demonstrate sustainable environmental management – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Compost green waste	Collect and transfer for composting arising from wildflower areas	October annually. Costs contained within revenue budget	Minimal green waste present on meadow areas	GMAM
Progress: All green waste collected and processed for green waste composting.				
Recycle waste from recycling banks and recycling bins	Collect waste as part of emptying schedules	Ongoing	Measure percentage recycled	RSCM
Progress: All waste collected and recycled. Sometimes cross contamination in bins near play area.				
Training of Broxtowe staff in sustainable land management	Refresher courses and induction training	As required	Periodic review of implementation success	BPME/GMAM
Progress: All new staff are made aware of sustainable policies as part of the induction. Presentation to all staff on meadow and wildflower mowing event undertaken in November 2019. Members of parks team attended 1 day training course on wild flower/meadow management				
Implement recommendations in Woodland Management Plan	Actions implemented and plan reviewed half yearly at meeting with NWT and PCV	Annually. Costs contained within revenue budget	Targets in Woodland Management Plan achieved	PCV/NWT/CGDM
Progress: Two meetings a year held with NWT and PCV. Works undertaken in accordance with action plan. See Appendix 8b				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To protect, conserve and promote the nature conservation and heritage value – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Implement recommendations from the Borough's Green Infrastructure Strategy	Management Plan adjusted to comply with recommendations	Autumn 2018 and ongoing	Determined as changes occur	BPME/CGDM
Progress: Relevant actions ongoing.				
Improve wildflower areas	Increase range of areas and diversity of species when reseeded	2020 £750	Survival of new plant species and record of attracted species	CGDM/GMAM
Progress: Revenue development in budget for 2020/21 for borough wide initiative to increase meadow areas and areas of wildflowers.				
Manage development of habitats to encourage bio-diversity	Species survey and recording	Current and on-going	Recorded information	CGDM/NWT
	Implement alternative grass cutting policy	2020 cost contained within revenue budget	Increase in species throughout food chain	GMAM
Progress: Areas of reduced grass cutting now included in the first phase of land transfer from Biffa Waste Services. Working with Nottingham Bat Group to erect bat boxes.				
Implement recommendations from new 10 year Woodland Management Plan	Work with NWT & PCV to implement actions	Series of annual work prescriptions costs contained within revenue budget	Actions achieved	NWT/PCV/CGDM/BPME
Progress: Relevant actions ongoing working with NWT and PCV.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2011-2016

Aim – To protect, conserve and promote the nature conservation and heritage value – sheet 2

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Maintain interpretation boards and heritage features	Panels and features maintained in good and clean condition at 4 monthly intervals	18-19 £300 19-20 £300 20-21 £300 21-22 £300 22-23 £300	No negative reports from public	EPO
	Panels updated and/or replaced as necessary	20-21 £3,000 21-22 £3,000	Relationship to features on ground	EPO
Progress: Panels and features cleaned as per target schedule.				
Develop further landscape and heritage features	Implement works as appropriate and as funds allow	On-going	Completion of phased works	BPME/GMAM
Progress: Existing features continue to be promoted.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To actively promote and enable community participation and involvement – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Promote and support the other agencies involved in managing and maintaining the park	Meetings held and notes distributed	On-going		BPME/CDGM
	Flyers and posters displayed	On-going	Attendees at meetings, range of topics discussed, actions achieved	BPME/CGDM
Progress: Regular meetings with NWT and PCV				
Implement further varied events and activities	Continue to support and promote Hemlock Happening	Annual event in June	Attendee numbers	BPME/LL/NW/ GCF/PCV/NWT
	Hold 2 Fun Fairs per year	April and August	Attendee numbers	
	Continue with major sporting events on the site e.g. triathlon, 5k	At various time in the year. Costs contained in revenue budget	Attendee numbers	
	Further community participation activities per annum organised by NWT, GCF,LL	Costs contained in revenue budget	Attendee numbers and activity interest feedback	
Progress: Hemlock Happening was cancelled in 2019 due to heavy rain. Support continues for other sporting, recreational and entertainment events. Events well attended.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To actively promote and enable community participation and involvement – sheet 2

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Encourage and promote school and community events	Encourage schools and community groups to use park	4 events per annum	Demand level	BPME/CGDM/ GCF/LL
Progress: Events took place throughout the year, including school projects, community tree and bulb planting, community picnics and school adventure days.				
Consultation with users and non-users	Survey at appropriate times	Variable	Responses received	BPME/CGDM
	Site contact with users	On-going	Feedback received	
Progress: Consultation proposed for summer 2020 as part of the Broxtowe Parks Standard.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To raise the profile of the site by maximising marketing opportunities – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Keep the park leaflets up to date	Detailed check/adjustments prior to additional print runs	On-going	Accuracy/relevance of contents	CGDM/EPO
Progress: No revisions needed to park leaflets at present.				
Promote events and activities	Press releases for all events	On-going	Releases featured in local papers	BPME/EPO
	Event displays	On-going	Feedback from attendees at events	
	Poster and banner displays	For each event		
Progress: Press releases issued for all events. Good uptake from local papers. Banners at entrances to the park at various times advertising major events.				
Utilise the internet and all aspects of social media	Broxtowe Borough Council website – promote events and activities	On-going	Hits on Bramcote Hills Park pages	BPME/EPO
	Email Posting lists	For each event/activity	Feedback enquiries	
	Facebook/Twitter	On-going	Feedback enquiries	
Progress: Council website used to promote activities. Social media links to Facebook, Twitter and You Tube on Council home page to allow more effective communication with park users. Monthly parks newsletter to over 2000 subscribers.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To ensure effective and viable management – sheet 1

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Annual monitoring of Management Plan	Annual review and update as required	November annually	Level of revisions required	BPME
	Compare capital & revenue budget allocations against plan requirements	January annually	Adequacy of budget allowance	
	Identify & progress external funding opportunities	On-going with specific projects and events identified annually	Value received	
Progress: Annual review undertaken, budgets reviewed. Alternative budgets continue to be investigated. Key tasks undertaken				
Explore alternative funding sources	Review annually what funding streams are available. Examine the funding opportunities arising from new housing developments as part of Section 106 contributions	Annually	New funding secured	BPME/CGDM
Progress: Annual review undertaken, no section contributions relating to the park at the present time. Bramcote and Stapleford Community Hub Group preparing a bid for funding for community building on the park.				

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ACTION PLAN 2018-2023

Aim – To ensure effective and viable management – sheet 2

Prescription	Action	Action Date & Estimated Cost	Performance Measure	Responsibility for Action
Negotiate with Biffa Waste Services on transfer of adjacent land	Land transferred to the Council in satisfactory condition with relevant payment	April 2019	Land transfer completed	BPME
Progress: First phase of transfer was completed in Autumn 2018 and Section 106 payment made. Second payment received in Autumn 2019. Negotiations continue with regards to second phase transfer.				
Major review in 2023	Prepare new management plan.	October 2023	Results exceeding or falling short of plan requirement.	BPME
Progress:				

26.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Bramcote Hills Park Management Plan will be continually reviewed using the process detailed below.

26.1 Annual Review

Progress against the action plan will be reviewed by the Business and Projects Manager (Environment) in conjunction with officers from the Parks team and other relevant officers.

26.2 Policy Revisions

Where new strategies or policies are introduced during the lifetime of the plan these will be noted and incorporated as necessary. Changes to the narrative of the plan will be made as appropriate as part of the review process.

26.3 Fundamental Review

A fundamental review will be taken in year 5 of the Management Plan. Partners and stakeholders will be consulted and a full evaluation of the plan will be undertaken.

Appendix 1 – Scale Plan (1:4000 showing Park Boundary)



Appendix 2 – Aerial Photograph of the Park



Appendix 3 – Grounds Maintenance Specifications

All maintenance work undertaken on the park is carried out in accordance with the specifications as detailed below.

These were the basis of the original CCT documents but have been amended over time to reflect changes in working practices.

The following specifications summarise the main points of the original documents.

Specification A - Grass Cutting

Specification G - Grass Edge Maintenance

Specification I - Annual Bedding

Specification J - Shrub/Rose Bed Maintenance

Specification P - Playground/Trim Trail Inspection and Maintenance

Specification V - Cleansing

Specification FF - Herbaceous Bed Maintenance

SPECIFICATION A

GRASS CUTTING

A1 Method of Operation

Prior to cutting any area, the Contractor will remove all litter to ensure no injury to persons or damage results, and to avoid the shredding by machinery of any such material.

Where different machines are required to cut an area the time difference between the operations on any one site will not exceed 24 hours.

All grass will be cut evenly, to the same height on each site and without damaging the existing surface.

Clippings shall be evenly distributed over the surface of all cylinder mown areas, except where they are to be mown and "boxed off".

The Contractor will clear all grass clippings arising from mowing operations from paved and tarmac areas, all footpaths, mowing margins, channels, etc.

A2 Mowing

General Park Areas:

All grass areas shall be cylinder mown using a machine with at least 6 blades. Average 45 cuts per linear metre. Vegetation will be maintained with a cut height of 20mm and with a maximum height of 40mm.

Whip Areas:

All such areas shall be rotary or flail mown at a height of 50mm. This will involve 2 cuts, 1 in June and 1 in October.

SPECIFICATION G

GRASS EDGE MAINTENANCE

G1 General

All finished edges will be sharp, neat and vertical with no grass overhanging the finished edge.

All arisings will be removed by the Contractor.

A line will be used to obtain a straight edge where appropriate.

G2 Bed Edge Maintenance

The edges of all shrub, herbaceous, annual and rose beds shall be cut on every occasion that the surrounding grass is cut.

G3 Path Edge Maintenance

All edges adjoining paths shall be edged once during the period November to February. The grass is to be cut back to maintain the full path width. All arisings are to be removed by the Contractor and the paths swept clean at the conclusion of the operation. Arisings shall not be left from one day to the next, but must be removed each day of the operations.

The work shall be undertaken using a sharp edging iron or by mechanical means.

SPECIFICATION I

ANNUAL BEDDING

I1 Preparation of Beds (Spring and Summer)

No cultivation, preparation or planting to take place if the ground conditions are unfit.

The Contractor to ensure that all perennial weeds and bedding plants from previous displays are removed from the beds and disposed of by the Contractor.

Once cleared of all plant material, the bed will be dug over to a minimum depth of 300mm.

The bed will then be evenly consolidated by treading the soil at close spacing and raking until a fine tilth is obtained.

I2 Planting (Spring and Summer)

Summer bedding will be planted in the first two weeks of June.

Spring bedding will be planted in the last week of October and the first week of November.

When the ground is dry it should be watered prior to planting to ensure successful establishment.

Planting holes will be prepared large enough to accommodate the root ball of each plant without restriction. Plants shall be trowel planted to the same depth as they were grown in the nursery bed or container.

The Contractor will firm the plants correctly, avoiding excessive soil compaction but ensuring good contact between the roots and the soil.

At the completion of planting, beds will have all footprints hoed out, without causing damage to the new or existing planting, and the surrounding area will be left clean and tidy.

After planting, the whole bed is to receive sufficient water to thoroughly moisten the topsoil down to a depth of 100mm.

I3 Bedding Maintenance (March – September)

The Contractor shall visit all beds on a 3 weekly cycle commencing in the first week of March and undertake the following work:

- Remove all weed growth by hoeing and/or hand weeding.
- Remove all litter and other debris.
- Remove dead flower heads, and rogue plants (including bulbs).

At completion of the maintenance visit all footprints will be hoed out, without causing damage to the planting. The area, including the bed surrounds, will be left clean and tidy.

All grass edges shall be maintained in accordance with Specification G – Grass Edge Maintenance.

I4 Bedding Maintenance (October – February)

In the first week in December the Contractor shall visit all beds and undertake the following work:

- Remove all weed growth by hand weeding. No hoeing is to take place as this may affect the spring bulbs close to the surface.
- Remove all litter and other debris.
- Remove all leaves.
- Trim grass edges with long handled shears.

At completion of the maintenance visit all foot prints will be raked out, without causing damage to the planting, noting in particular any spring bulbs that may be close to the surface. The area, including the bed surrounds, will be left clean and tidy.

SPECIFICATION J

SHRUB/ROSE BED MAINTENANCE

J1 Clearing of Beds

All beds will be cleared of litter, rubbish, leaves and weeds etc. as part of the pruning operation. In addition all beds shall be cleared of litter, rubbish, leaves and weeds etc. on four further occasions throughout the year. The clearances shall take place during the first week in April, June, August and October.

J2 Edge Maintenance

All grass edges adjoining shrub/rose beds shall be edged once per annum during the period 1 November to 28 February using a suitable sharp edging iron.

J3 Pruning

The purpose of pruning is to build a strong framework keeping shrubs healthy and vigorous, maintaining the shape and balance, ensuring the maximum amount of flowering wood is produced and that the shrubs are kept so that they do not create a nuisance or danger. Where plants overlap hard areas, growth will be allowed until it restricts use of that area. Growth will be trimmed by shortening with secateurs.

Pruning and removal of branches is to be carried out using sharp, clean implements to give a clean sloping cut with one flat face.

Flowering Deciduous Shrubs – At the beginning of the growing season they shall be checked and all dead wood, broken, damaged, overcrowded or crossing branches cut out.

Pruning shall be undertaken in accordance with the following timetable:

Category A – Shrubs flowering in winter will be pruned in early spring (April – May).

Category B – Shrubs flowering March to July will be pruned immediately after flowering.

Category C – Shrubs flowering July to September will be cut back to old wood in January or February.

Category D – Cornus (dogwood) and willows grown as shrubs. These should be pruned hard back to within 150mm of the base at the end of March.

Evergreen shrubs, except Lavender and Hypericum. No regular annual pruning required except to remove unwanted growth etc.

Lavender – Prune annually in March using shears. Dead flower stalks to be cut off and disposed of by the Contractor.

Climbing Shrubs – Shall be tied and supported as necessary at all times.

Bush Roses (Hybrid Teas and Floribunda) – Pruning shall be undertaken in February/March avoiding frosty weather to encourage basal growth and keep plants in a balanced and compact habit.

J4 Dead Heading/Sucker Removal

The Contractor will remove all dead flowers and any suckers that develop. Suckers will be removed as close as possible to the soil surface and shall be cleanly cut.

SPECIFICATION P

PLAYGROUND/TRIM TRAIL INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

P1 General

The Contractor will ensure that all works comply with the British Standard 5696 and any amendments.

P2 Inspection and Maintenance

The Contractor will inspect and maintain all equipment twice weekly, using a system of recorded inspection.

On all inspection visits the equipment and surfaces will be inspected and the Contractor will:

- Check that all joints and fastenings are secure, and tighten where necessary.
- Check that there are no projections from the underside of platforms, and remove where necessary.
- Release and free any tied or twisted swing chairs ready for proper use.
- Rake the full bark area to produce a level surface.
- Sweep or rake up any bark dispersed from the site replacing it back into the play area.
- Remove all glass, litter, debris and weeds.

- Empty all litter bins.
- Check that all parts of the equipment are present.
- Check that there is no evidence of corrosion or rot.
- Check that all supports are firmly fixed into the ground.
- Check that the surfacing near the equipment is in good condition.
- Check that no part of the equipment is likely to fail.
- Check that there are no sharp corners, edges or projections.
- Check that all moving parts move freely and without noise and are in good condition.
- Check that all platforms and footboards are in good condition.
- Check that no individual chain links or chain supports are worn.
- Check that the seats are level and in good condition.
- Check that when the slide chute is in several sections, no gaps are present between which objects can be inserted.
- Check that the slide surfaces are smooth, clean and even throughout their length.
- Check that the slide run out is level.
- Check that on all equipment, panels, guard-rails or other safety features are present and in good condition.
- Check that footholds are not worn and slippery.
- Check that all fences and retaining logs around play areas are present and in good condition.
- Check that bark surfaces are the correct depth.

Following the inspection, any equipment requiring attention will be reported to the Supervising Officer on the recorded inspection sheet.

Should, as a result of his inspections or other work on site, the Contractor become aware of the presence of any damaged or dangerous equipment, the Contractor will immediately (i.e. before the completion of the day's work) take steps to fence or immobilise the items of equipment affected, using fencing, steel rope or chain provided by the Contractor. The Contractor will notify the

Supervising Officer of his action within twenty-four hours of his having taken such action. Warning signs shall be displayed in the appropriate positions.

P3 Lubrication

On two occasions per year, during the months of March and September, all items of play equipment will be lubricated using greases or oils provided by the Contractor.

P4 Certified Inspection

The Contractor should note that on up to two occasions during the year the Supervising Officer will have a certified inspection carried out by a professional engineer.

SPECIFICATION V

CLEANSING

V1 General

The term "Cleansing" shall include the following items of work:

- Emptying of all litter bins including removal of any litter and debris on the areas adjacent to the bins and the replacement of disposable liners where applicable.
- Sweeping of footpaths, car parks, drives and other hard landscaped areas on a 3 monthly cycle.
- Removal of litter etc. from annual, shrub and rose beds.
- Removal of litter from grass and woodland areas.

All litter, stones, debris etc. resulting from cleansing operations shall be removed from site by the Contractor at the end of each working day.

V2 Emptying Bins

On all Parks, Recreation Grounds, Open Spaces, Play areas, the Contractor will empty completely all the litter bins and dispose of the contents from site.

Emptying of such litter bins will be undertaken twice weekly.

Any litter in the immediate vicinity or surrounding a litter bin shall be swept up and removed after the litter bin has been emptied.

V3 Sweeping

All footpaths, car parks, drives and other hard landscaped areas shall be swept on a 3 monthly cycle. The Contractor shall sweep the area in a methodical manner. The larger areas shall be swept with a mechanical sweeper, with the small paths etc. swept using a hard-bristled hand broom.

All arisings will be removed from site by the Contractor.

V4 Litter Picking

All grass and woodland areas shall be cleansed twice weekly. The areas should be cleansed in a methodical manner with particular attention paid to this heavily used area of the park.

V5 Clearance of Twigs, Branches from Grassed Areas, Footpaths and Roadways

Following strong winds and storms, areas as requested by the Supervising Officer, shall be cleared. This work may be requested at any time of the year. Each specified area is to be cleared of all debris within 5 working days of receiving the instruction.

V6 Additional Work

In addition to the work listed previously the Contractor will be expected to periodically undertake additional works:

- Removal of deposits resulting from fly tipping.
- Removal of items associated with fly posting or graffiti.

SPECIFICATION FF

HERBACEOUS BED MAINTENANCE

FF1 General

The Contractor shall maintain herbaceous beds in accordance with sound horticultural practices and to the standards set out in this Specification, to achieve an attractive and colourful display, which spans the longest possible period.

FF2 Seasonal Maintenance – Spring (February – March)

On one occasion during the period February to March the Contractor will cut back all plants to the previous year's growth.

The centre of three to four year old plants may become woody and cease to produce vigorous growth. Such plants are to be dug up and the vigorous

shoots removed and replanted. Planting technique should be considered in relation to the type of root system. The Contractor must familiarise himself with specific plant requirements.

On one occasion, during February/March, after cutting down vegetation the Contractor will lightly fork over the beds to a depth of 30mm to 50mm.

FF3 Seasonal Maintenance – Summer (April – September)

Where necessary plants must be supported and tied by using appropriate staking material selected according to the growth habit of the plant.

During the period April to September on one occasion every month at evenly spaced intervals, the Contractor will hoe the beds. As blooms fade and die the Contractor will remove dead blooms before seed set.

FF4 Seasonal Maintenance – Winter (October – January)

As the flowering season ends for each species of plant the Contractor will remove staking materials and retain until the following spring.

The contractor will remove straggly damaged vegetation, taking care to leave sufficient vegetation to afford protection to the crowns of plants.

Appendix 4 – Annual Grounds Maintenance Schedule – Bramcote Hills Park

For the purposes of maintenance, the park has been broken down into 4 distinct areas.

1. Main parkland including the play area/trim trail and cricket outfield.
2. Car park and entrance area.
3. Walled Garden.
4. Woodland.

The following pages separate the work into a series of items, which relate to the grounds maintenance specifications. Also included are measurements detailing the volume of work and the frequency of operations against a monthly timescale.

1. MAIN PARKLAND

Work Item	Quantity	Frequency of Operation per Month											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
General Grass Cutting	93049m ²			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		
Whip Areas Grass Cutting	2361m ²				1								
Rough Areas Grass Cutting	920m ²						1						
Hedge Maintenance	1025m ²				1					1			
Litter Bins	10 no.	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Sweeping	295m ²			1			1			1			1
Path Edging	477 lin.m											1	
Play Area/Trim Trail/Maintenance	2 no.	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Litter Picking	96330m ²	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

2. CAR PARK AND ENTRANCE

Work Item	Quantity	Frequency of Operation per Month											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Boxed Grass Cutting	3266m ²			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		
Annual Bedding	16m ²		1	1		2	2	2	1	1		1	1
Litter Bins	2 no.	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Sweeping	475m ²			1			1			1			1
Path Edging	25 lin.m											1	
Litter Picking	3266m ²	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

3. WALLED GARDEN

Work Item	Quantity	Frequency of Operation per Month											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Boxed Grass Cutting	4192m ²			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		
Wildflower Grass Cutting	652m ²									1			
Annual Bedding	52m ²		1	1		2	2	2	1	1		1	1
Litter Bins	6 no.	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Rose/Shrub Beds	1481m ²			1		1		1		1		1	
Path Edging	190 lin.m											1	
Herbaceous Beds	56m ²			1		1		1		1		1	8
Litter Picking	4192m ²	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

4. WOODLAND

The maintenance of the woodland is covered separately under the Woodland Management Plan.

Appendix 5 – PCV Work Programme 2015-2020

The PCV have worked with the Council for a significant number of years on the park. This appendix provides a summary of the last 5 years work.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>
<u>2015</u>	
January	Installing fencing for new tree planting
February	Installing fencing for new tree planting
March	Tree planting
April	Sycamore thinning, bracken bash
September	Rhododendron control
<u>2016</u>	
April	Self-set sycamore removal.
July	Maintain clear access of all major paths in woodland. Undertake maintenance to tree planting compounds.
August	Install new steps from Coventry Lane up to the top of the woodland.
December	Install fencing for new tree planting areas.
<u>2017</u>	
January	Install fencing for new tree planting areas and plant trees.
July	Clean up of Coventry Lane steps installed in 2016. Vegetation cut back and remove soil wash out. Reseed banks with woodland seed mix.
August	Prepare area in woodland for winter tree planting works.
November	Install additional steps at the top of Coventry Lane entrance. Fencing of tree areas ready for next phase of planting.

2018

January	Install fencing for new tree planting areas and plant trees
April	Sycamore thinning, rhododendron removal
October	Rhododendron removal
November	Tree after care in newly planted compartments

2019

February	Sycamore felling, rhododendron removal
July	Clean up of steps in woodland, cut back vegetation and remove soil wash out
October	Path clearance works

2020

The forward programme is currently being finalised and will be designed to reflect the requirements of the Woodland Management Plan.

Appendix 6a – Triathlon, 5k and 1k Events – Bramcote Hills Park

The first Triathlon was held in the park in 2006. In the early years this was a Dry Triathlon (Dri Tri).

The first event comprised of a 1,000 metre row on rowing machines, a 2.4 mile mountain bike ride around the park and a 900 metre run.

Local schools were invited to enter and this resulted in 230 young people taking part throughout the day. The children were aged between 10 and 14 years.

To enable the event to function successfully, over 40 volunteers got involved with the event through the School Sport Partnership project. These young people came from the secondary schools throughout the Borough.

Following the event the demand for a repeat event on an annual basis was huge. To meet demand rowing machines and mountain bike provision had to be doubled in turn increasing the volume of supporting equipment and people required to run the event.

As the event expanded it was run in both the afternoon and evening. The regular afternoon session was for schools and the new evening event attracted adults and groups of participants.

Comments from participants:-

“Two of our team said that even though it was a fun event and not supposed to be really serious, it was what they had needed to motivate them back into getting out running again. Even our supporters said afterwards that they were so inspired to see ‘normal people’ doing sport that they were going to start running this week and look for some similar events to enter. If your idea was to get people interested in sport and fitness then certainly amongst my little band then it was very successful”.

In 2010 the Dri Triathlon changed format to a regular Triathlon. The event started at the neighbouring Bramcote Leisure Centre where each competitor completed the swim. The cycle event went through the park and onto the surrounding roads. The final running element took place in the park and woodland. The whole event was a huge success with over 400 competitors.

The park is now the venue for 5k and 1k runs organised by Broxtowe’s sports partner L Leisure. The events have been very popular with children and young adults running together in the 1k.

Appendix 6b – Getting Active in Bramcote Hills Park

This leaflet was produced in partnership with Greenwood Community Forest. It is aimed at getting people into the park and participating in physical exercise. This could either be:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Trim Trail
- Orienteering
- Body Stretches

The leaflet has been issued to all local schools in the area and is available from the Council Offices. See link and address below.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/media/1814/bramcote-hills-getting-active-leaflet.pdf>

Please contact the Parks and Environment team on 0115 9177777 for a copy of the leaflet.



BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK

MOUNTAIN BIKING/BMX BIKING

GOOD PRACTICE INFORMATION

The Park is a popular site used by large numbers of people, all with different interests and priorities.

The large woodland area is very important environmentally and is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. We are, therefore, discouraging cyclists from using that area.

When using the Park for biking, please follow these guidelines.

1. Give Way to Walkers

- Slow down and ride carefully when you pass
- Make sure they hear your approach
- Try not to ride in large groups.

2. Stay on the Track

- Keep to defined routes
- Do not damage trees/shrubs
- Avoid erosion
- Be kind to birds and animals

3. Be Tidy

- Take litter home
- Guard against fire

Broxtowe Borough Council and its employees cannot accept responsibility or liability for any claim, loss or damage whatsoever which may arise resulting from the use of this area, except as so far as provided by Statute or common law.

**For Further Information Please Contact:
Broxtowe Borough Council, Council Offices
Town Hall, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1AB
Telephone 0115 917 7777**

Appendix 7a – Community/Sports Events in Bramcote Hills Park 2019

Event	Date	Organiser	Numbers	Publicity
Cross Country Events	Sunday 6 January and Sunday 20 January	East Midlands Cross Country	250 people	Press releases/on site notices
Holocaust Memorial Event	Monday 28 January	Broxtowe Borough Council	150 people	Press releases/invites
Orienteering Event	Sunday 3 February	Notts Orienteering Club	100 people	Press releases/on site notices
Cross Country Event	Sunday 17 February	Trent College Charity Event	250 people	Press releases/on site notices
Orienteering taster session	3 March and 15 June	Notts Orienteering Club	40 people	Website/social media
Easter Funfair	Friday 12 April - Saturday 20 April	Local fairground operators & Broxtowe Borough Council	6000 people	Press adverts, onsite notices, flyers
Easter Family Sunrise Worship Service	Sunday 14 April	Local Churches	50 people	Site notice, press releases
Hemlock Happening	Saturday 8 June	Bramcote and Stapleford Golden Jubilee Group/Liberty Leisure	Event cancelled due to heavy rain and winds	Press releases, on site adverts, flyers
Salvation Army Band	Sunday 7 July + 4 additional Sundays in summer	Salvation Army	Over 200 people	Press releases/on site notices
Cricket Matches	Summer 2019	Bramcote Cricket Club	Over 70 matches	
Children with Special Needs Fun Day	Wednesday 21 August	Local fairground operators/Nottingham Freemasons/Broxtowe Borough Council	600 people	Letters to special needs groups/schools
Fun Fair	Thursday 22 – Monday 26 August	Local Fairground Operators and Broxtowe Borough Council	4000 people	Press adverts, on-site notices, flyers
Round the World Bike Ride – last mile	Saturday 19 October	Local Support Group	75 people	Press release/invites/social media/ On site

Appendix 7b – Proposed Community/Sports Events in Bramcote Hills Park 2020

All dates are provisional as at December 2017

Date	Event
Monday 27 January 11.00 a.m.	Holocaust Memorial Event
Sunday in February	Community Litter picking event
Dates to be agreed	Easter Fun Fair
Saturday 6 June	Hemlock Happening
Wednesday 26 August	Children with Special Needs Fun Day
Thursday 27 August - Monday 31 August	Summer Fun Fair

Appendix 8a – List of Improvement Works Undertaken Over Last 5 Years

2015/16

Park

Extension of surfaced roadway linking car park to main car park area

Renovation of interpretation boards in park and walled garden

New recycling bin installed near children's play area

Woodland

Year 9 action from Woodland Management Plan undertaken

2016/17

Park

Pleached Hornbeam feature introduced in walled garden.

Working partnership established with Community Interest Company regarding possible community café and toilets on the park.

Woodland

Year 10 action from Woodland Management Plan undertaken.

Fencing repaired in woodland. New steps installed in woodland from Coventry Lane entrance

2017/18

Park

Yarn Bombing introduced into the park for the first time.

New vehicle restriction barrier installed at entrance to car park.

New sponsorship initiatives within the park.

Woodland

Steps extended in woodland from Coventry Lane entrance.

New Woodland Management Plan produced in partnership with Notts Wildlife Trust.

2018/19

Park

Transfer of Phase 1 of land from Biffa Waste Services completed.

Items on trim trail repaired or replaced.

Overhaul of old wooden timber structures on play area.

Tree planting initiative with local school

Woodland

Year 1 and 2 actions from Woodland Management Plan undertaken.

2019/20

Park

Areas of car park resurfaced to address surface water erosion.

Bulb planting initiative with local school.

Group working on Bramcote and Stapleford Community Hub project achieve charity status.

Woodland

Year 3 actions from Woodland Management Plan undertaken.

Appendix 8b – Annual Work Plan Bramcote Hills Park Woodland

Actions from Bramcote Hills Park Woodland Management Plans

Original Plan

Year 9 - 2015

Reference Number	Priority (1-3)	Compartment/Prescription Detail	Season (Sp/Su/Au/Wi)	Update
3.1.1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectively fell sycamores in compartment 3 Selectively fell sycamores in compartment 5 	Au/Wi Au/Wi	Works completed by volunteer group
3.1.2	1	Ongoing removal of sycamore saplings and seedlings in all compartments	Sp/Su/Au/Wi	Works complete
3.1.6	2	Coppice 1/3 rd of willow to SE corner of compartment 15	Au/Wi	Works complete
3.1.10	3	Monitor area of heathland and re-seed if necessary	Sp/Su	Some seeding undertaken

Year 10 - 2016

Reference Number	Priority (1-3)	Compartment/Prescription Detail	Season (Sp/Su/Au/Wi)	Update
3.1.1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectively fell sycamore in compartment 8 Selectively fell sycamore in compartment 10 	Au/Wi Au/Wi	Works complete
3.1.2	1	Ongoing removal of sycamore saplings and seedlings in all compartments	Sp/Su/Au/Wi	Works complete

Year 1 - 2017-2026 Management Plan

Year 1 - 2017

Reference Number	Priority (1-3)	Compartment/Prescription Detail	Season (Sp/Su/Au/Wi)	Update
3.1.2	1	Monitor and remove any sycamore saplings and seedlings in all compartments	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
	1	Remove saplings and shrubs (all species) from sandstone formation in compartments 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15. Don't	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV

Reference Number	Priority (1-3)	Compartment/Prescription Detail	Season (Sp/Su/Au/Wi)	Update
		remove roots.		
3.1.3	1	Monitor and remove rhododendron regrowth from all compartments priority to compartments 8 and 14.	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
	1	Remove all rhododendron regrowth from sandstone formation in compartments 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15. Don't remove roots	Su	Works completed by PCV
3.1.4	2	Plant native species of shrubs/trees. Plant some evergreen shrubs such as holly to replace rhododendron screen	Au/Wi	PCV/volunteer group
3.1.7	1	Infrastructure Maintenance	Sp/Su/Au/Wi	PCV/volunteer group/contractor

Year 2 - 2018

Reference Number	Priority (1-3)	Compartment/Prescription Detail	Season (Sp/Su/Au/Wi)	Update
3.1.2	1	Monitor and remove any sycamore saplings and seedlings in all compartments	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
	1	Remove saplings and shrubs (all species) from sandstone formation in compartments 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15. Don't remove roots.	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
3.1.3	1	Monitor and remove rhododendron regrowth from all compartments priority to compartments 8 and 14.	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
	1	Remove all rhododendron regrowth from sandstone formation in compartments 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15.	Su	Works completed by PCV
3.1.6	2	Birch thinning (compartment 9 only)	Au/Wi	Not yet undertaken
3.1.7	1	Infrastructure Maintenance	Sp/Su/Au/Wi	Works undertaken by PCV

Year 3 - 2019

Reference Number	Priority (1-3)	Compartment/Prescription Detail	Season (Sp/Su/Au/Wi)	Update
3.1.2	1	Monitor and remove any sycamore saplings and seedlings in all compartments	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
	1	Remove saplings and shrubs (all species) from sandstone formation in compartments 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15.	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
3.1.3	1	Monitor and remove rhododendron regrowth from all compartments priority to compartments 8 and 14.	Au/Wi	Works completed by PCV
	1	Remove all rhododendron regrowth from sandstone formation in compartments 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15.	Su	Works completed by PCV
3.1.4	2	Plant native species of shrubs/trees. Plant some evergreen shrubs such as holly to replace rhododendron screen	Au/Wi	Work completed by PCV
3.1.5	1	After care of planted shrubs/trees	Au/Wi	Work undertaken by PCV
3.1.7	1	Infrastructure Maintenance	Sp/Su/Au/Wi	Work undertaken by PCV

Appendix 9a – Potential Catering and Toilet Facilities on the Park

Following a decision to invite expressions of interest for an external company to provide a facility in the park the Bramcote Hills Park Community Interest Company were chosen. They put together a very detailed submission detailing their vision as to how such a facility would work. Over the last 2 years the company have progressed their proposal as detailed below:

Company Management

Originally the group were set up as a Community Interest Company (CIC) with a managing board comprised of 8 Directors. Following their approval as the preferred applicant, it was agreed that there would be both officer and elected member representation at future meetings of the board. These roles have been filled by Tim Crawford, Business and Projects Manager (Environment) and one of the Bramcote Councillors. Their input at meetings is to provide advice on technical matters and a community interest view. The group meets on a regular basis to discuss all aspects of project development.

Regular consultation has been undertaken with members of the community through public meetings, information sessions on the park and social media.

Meetings with the Bramcote Conservation Society have also taken place to obtain their view on the project.

The group have help from a quantity surveyor and local planning advisor, both recently retired.

Following discussions with the accountants and the Council the group changed its status from a Community Interest Company to a Registered Charity. This has both financial benefits and gives greater opportunity for grant funding. They are currently in the process of securing a 28 year lease from the Council for an area of land on the park. The group is now called the Bramcote and Stapleford Community Hub to reflect its location and appeal to the wider community. This name change was in line with comments from the Charity Commission. To reflect the conditions from the Charity Commission a new project vision was prepared as detailed in appendix 9b

Project Fundraising

To date initial funding for the project has been received from:

- Big Lottery Fund - £10,000
- Crowd Funding - £1,400
- Local businesses/charities – £1,160

Total - £12,560

On top of this is a pledge for £10,000 from a local business towards the building of the facility. The board has a working group focusing on fundraising with local community events already held.

The funding received to date has allowed the appointment of architects, preparation of feasibility designs and a topographical survey to be undertaken.

A target of up to £500,000 has been set by the group for building costs and staffing the building in the first 2 years of operation.

Building Development

Initially the company contacted a number of architects interested in developing plans for a building that met the outline brief they had prepared. Concept designs had been made available for the public to view at the Hemlock Happening in 2016. Initial discussions had also been held with officers from the council's planning team about a 'preferred' location with initial advice suggesting that the facility should be close to the car park and also needed to take advantage of any natural screening provided by existing park landscaping rather than being in a central position within open parkland.

Following confirmation that the company had been selected as the council's preferred applicant and after consultation with a number of architects it was decided that a 'Design and Build' approach was the best option for the project as this provided a solution that best fitted the design specification and offered a more cost effective build proposal.

Working with the architects the concept design was subject to various changes and amendments to fulfil the views of the company, take on board comments from the consultation and to create a concept that the group found acceptable to take forward to the next stage.

As part of the feasibility study a topographical survey of the proposed area was also undertaken, funded by the company.

The group are now looking to identify potential companies to take the design process forward. There has been recognition by the group that the original size and scale of the building was too big and a smaller building approx. 160m² is now more appropriate. Such a building will be more realistic to achieve in terms of fund raising.

The company has, as part of the design process, recognised the need to review the management of the car park which is already at capacity particularly at weekends during the summer months.

Business Plan

Given the scale of the project and the importance of generating external funding the group drew up an initial Business Plan for the project. The Council's Commercial Manager had a look at the proposed plan and provided constructive criticism on changes that should be made. The company are currently drawing up a new Business Plan that will take these comments on board.

Timescale

Initially the company had been looking to have a detailed proposal ready for consideration by the Council in late 2018. Given all the changes that have taken place over the last 2 years and in particular the change to a charitable company and the need to secure a 28 years lease from the Council it is unlikely that there will be any works on the ground until 2021.

Summary

- There have been initial funding successes and further bids are now being drawn up that will benefit from the revised Business Plan.
- The concept drawings produced enabled widespread public consultation to be undertaken and demonstrated that there was potential for such a building that could sit aesthetically in a location close to the children's play area and the car park.
- There is very strong community support for the project.
- The enthusiasm, commitment and skill set of the company is to be commended. It is however recognised that there is still a long way to go with the project.

Project Vision

The Bramcote & Stapleford Community Hub (B&SCH) is committed to making the development of a neighbourhood community hub, with meeting facilities, basic food and drink provision and toilets, a true asset to Bramcote Hills Park for the improvement of social welfare.

As local residents and users of Bramcote Hills Park, B&SCH understand the importance of creating a building that is in keeping with the park and will benefit the local community. They are very aware of the sensitivity of creating a new building in a public open space, especially a space that is as popular and well-loved as Bramcote Hills Park.

Our vision is for the community hub in Bramcote Hills Park is to provide a welcoming facility which increases access to the park and brings together members of the community, particularly those who are at risk of isolation or disadvantage. We will be a focal point for community events and provide volunteering and work experience opportunities for all sections of the community. The project will be undertaking work with local partners including Broxtowe Borough Council as landowners and other groups and organisations using the park.

It is important to us, as a family and community focused enterprise, that we provide a hub for the local community and a place where local groups can meet with plenty of room to accommodate buggies and wheel chair users, inside, and space to park mobility scooters outside. We also feel that it is important to have ample space so that the hub remains a pleasant open environment at all times of the year.

We envisage the internal space layout to be a single open space. The creation of flexible space within the hub will accommodate the needs of different charity and social groups and provide accessible seating for those wishing to have refreshments. Windows in the building will bring in daylight and sunshine and open up the panoramic views of Bramcote Hills Park. The toilets, both male and female, will also include specifically furnished disabled provision and baby changing facilities. The design and specification will follow passive and sustainable principles that will reduce the environmental impact of the building and will be energy efficient.

Appendix 10 – Hemlock Happening

The development of this event is directly linked to The Hemlock Stone Project which began in June 2001 with a performance in the walled garden entitled 'The Stone, a tale of Sandstone, Giants, Bluebells and Barium', written and directed by Hanby and Barrett - this was the first instalment of a project that has spanned 4 years. The play was researched and devised in the local community and acted as a catalyst for a whole range of art-focused projects.

The Hemlock Stone project is about creatively exploring the history, heritage and mythology of the Hemlock Stone and surrounding area (including the walled garden and park) and the results so far (including the play), have been the creation of:

- a new leaflet written and illustrated by members of the local community
- the design and creation of two new interpretation panels – one for by the stone itself and the second for across the road at Bramcote Hills Park to unite the two sites (both in conjunction with Julian Hanby)
- a series of 12 bronze and wood way-markers created by artist Jane Stockley working directly in local schools and community groups, which reflect the history and mythology of the site
- a story trail book with local infant schools working with visual artist Claire Simpson and writer Panya Banjoko – a copy of which is now in every primary school library in Bramcote and Stapleford
- two new sculptural seats by sculptor Saffron Waghorn, again working in local community groups and schools. The twin seats are situated at the Hemlock Stone itself and opposite in Bramcote Hills Park

Although the project was based around the theme of the Hemlock Stone – all the project work and activities encompassed the wider park and walled garden.

The impact of the first stage of the project 'The Stone', was so strong, that it resulted in an annual event called the Hemlock Happening, organised by The Bramcote and Stapleford Golden Jubilee Group in conjunction with Broxtowe Borough Council.

The Hemlock Happening is a unique, free community event, the ethos of which is 'local people, entertaining local people'.

The first Hemlock Happening in 2002 was to celebrate the Queens Golden Jubilee. A specially commissioned play was written by Andy Barrett, Directed by Julian Hanby and performed by local amateur performers. It was called 'When Two Worlds Collide or Rene Shimwell V's Mrs Eatch' and chronicled over 200 years of Bramcote and Stapleford history. Other highlights of that first event included the building of a unique Brazier, which was erected on the Hemlock Stone by the local fire brigade and lit, as part of the chain of national beacons, followed by a spectacular firework display to an audience of over 4,000 people. Field activities throughout the day included arts workshops, Punch and Judy shows, stalls by local groups and lots of free fun and entertainment. The performance programme included music, drama and dance from a wide cross section of local schools and community groups.

The event has become an annual fixture in the calendar and Summer 2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the event. It was launched in 2002 to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Summer 2012 saw the biggest event to date to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It included a full range of Diamond Jubilee and Olympic themed activities.

- 1950's themed dance workshops with Rock and Roll and hand jiving.
- Jubilee flag and jewellery making
- Sing-a-long music from the 1950's
- Olympic sports events

Photographs detailing previous Hemlock Happening events are detailed on the subsequent pages.

The success of the event continues and whilst it was very disappointing that the 2019 event had to be cancelled due to very heavy rain and winds, work planning is now underway for the 2020 event.



Audience Watching Performance in Walled Garden



Drumming in shade of trees on the Park



Druids with Hemlockstone as background

Appendix 11 – Girl in the Woods

“A chilling tale set in and around Bramcote Hills Park, performed by a local cast”. This project evolved following the success of the Hemlock Happening event on the park. It was the Council’s Arts and Events team who put together the concept and bid to the Arts Council of England for funding for the project.

The concept for the story is described below and came about after Andy Barrett from the production company visited local people in the area.

“Earlier in the year I was gathering stories from the elders of the area in sheltered housing accommodation across Stapleford. Not just any old stories, but ghost stories. My hope was that I would find local tale or myth that we could turn into a play. The response was nearly always the same, ‘there aren’t any ghosts round here. Stapleford isn’t a ghost sort of place’. But every now and again, just as I was about to leave, somebody would catch my eye, take me into a corner of the room and tell of something that had happened in their lives that they have never been able to explain and which involved the visitation of something from beyond the grave”.

“I’ve taken moments from these stories and mixed them with the history of Bramcote Hills House to create ‘The Girl in The Woods’. There is a lot of fact in this show and also a great deal of fiction. It is up to you to decide which is which”.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to be able to stage the story in these woods as this time of the year and we hope that it intrigues you, bewilders you and sends a littler shiver down your spine”.

With this information the basis of the tale came together. Here is just a taster of the story.

It is 1966 and Jonathan Drew has returned to Bramcote Hills to attend the funeral of a fellow soldier from the Great War. He is surprised to find that the once proud house that stood in the park in being demolished, a house that many years before was the scene of a truly chilling event.

A unique opportunity to experience a haunting and visually striking theatrical performance at Halloween in the atmospheric setting of the woods of Bramcote Hills Park. It is not for the faint hearted.

There were 2 performances arranged both nights each of what was a sell out with over 700 tickets sold in total. The performances lasted around 1 hour and 15 minutes and each one received tremendous acclaim and feedback. The performances captured the true spirit of community involvement with the cast drawn from Bramcote Park School, the local community theatre company and even the Deputy Leader of the Council.

The youngest cast member was 11 and the oldest 69.



Party guests at the house enjoying a firework display



The Ghost Appears but is unseen by party guests



The story unfolds to a full house



The Hanging Ghost and the 'Girl in the Woods'

Appendix 12 – Play Area Inspection Sheet

Bramcote Hills Park		<u>Inspection 1</u> <i>Time:</i> _____			<u>Inspection 2</u> <i>Time:</i> _____		
		<i>Date:</i> _____ <i>Inspector:</i> _____			<i>Date:</i> _____ <i>Inspector:</i> _____		
Item of Equipment	Manufacturer	Inspected ✓	BOQ Works carried out Please detail	Detail any additional works required	Inspected ✓	BOQ Works carried out Please detail	Detail any additional works required
<i>Activity Centre (Wood)</i>	<i>Chipmans</i>						
<i>Two Seat Swing (Flat)</i>	<i>SMP</i>						
<i>Spring Motorbike sidi Nijha</i>							
<i>Double Twist</i>	<i>Nijha</i>						
<i>Rocker Spring Daisy (Multi-Seat)</i>	<i>Kompan</i>						
<i>Activity Centre (Steel)</i>	<i>Levercrest</i>						
<i>Two Seat Swing (Cradle)</i>	<i>Levercrest</i>						
<i>Trim Trail</i>	<i>Chipmans</i>		Please Complete Separate Sheet	Please Complete Separate Sheet		Please Complete Separate Sheet	Please Complete Separate Sheet
<i>Sign(s)</i>							
<i>Fence</i>							
<i>Gate(s)</i>							
<i>Seat(s)</i>							
<i>Bin(s)</i>							
<i>Surfacing (Raked & Weed Free)</i>							

Appendix 13a – Woodland and Park Inspection Form - Trees

Bramcote Hills Park - Woodland & Park Inspection Form – TREES

Date of inspection: _____ **Map area:** _____ **Inspected by:** _____

The inspection appraises the condition of trees within a band parallel to the waymarked footpath extending to a distance of 10m from the path edge on both sides.

Tree size ranges (in height): 0 – 6m **S**; 6 – 12m **A**; 12 – 18m **B**; 18 – 24m **C**; 24m+ **D**

Inspection (Use a separate sheet for each tree identified for work)	Observation
<p>i) Dead/Dangerous or Damaged Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine size of tree - Determine hazard to the public - Determine if tree needs to be felled or whether it can be stabilised for wildlife habitat - Determine impact of works on protected wildlife - Does felled tree need removing or can felled sections be left in woodland - Mark tree with hi-viz paint (discretely if tree is not to be felled) (Tick Box) - Indicate position of tree on work plan (Tick Box) - Notify public of hazard/close footpath if hazard is immediately threatening (Tick Box) 	<p>S A B C D Low / Medium / High Fell / Stabilise Low / Medium / High Leave / Remove <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>ii) Deadwood/Broken Limbs/Disease Within Tree Crowns</p> <p>Inspect the crowns of trees for dead wood; storm damage; hung up branches etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine size of tree - Determine hazard to the public - Determine if material can be removed safely - Determine impact on protected wildlife - Determine if removed timber can be left safely in woodland - Indicate position of tree on work plan – <u>do not</u> mark tree with paint (Tick Box) - Notify public of hazard/close footpath if hazard is immediately threatening (Tick Box) 	<p>S A B C D Low / Medium / High Yes / No Low Medium High Yes / No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Bramcote Hills Park - Woodland & Park Inspection Form – TREES

Date of inspection:

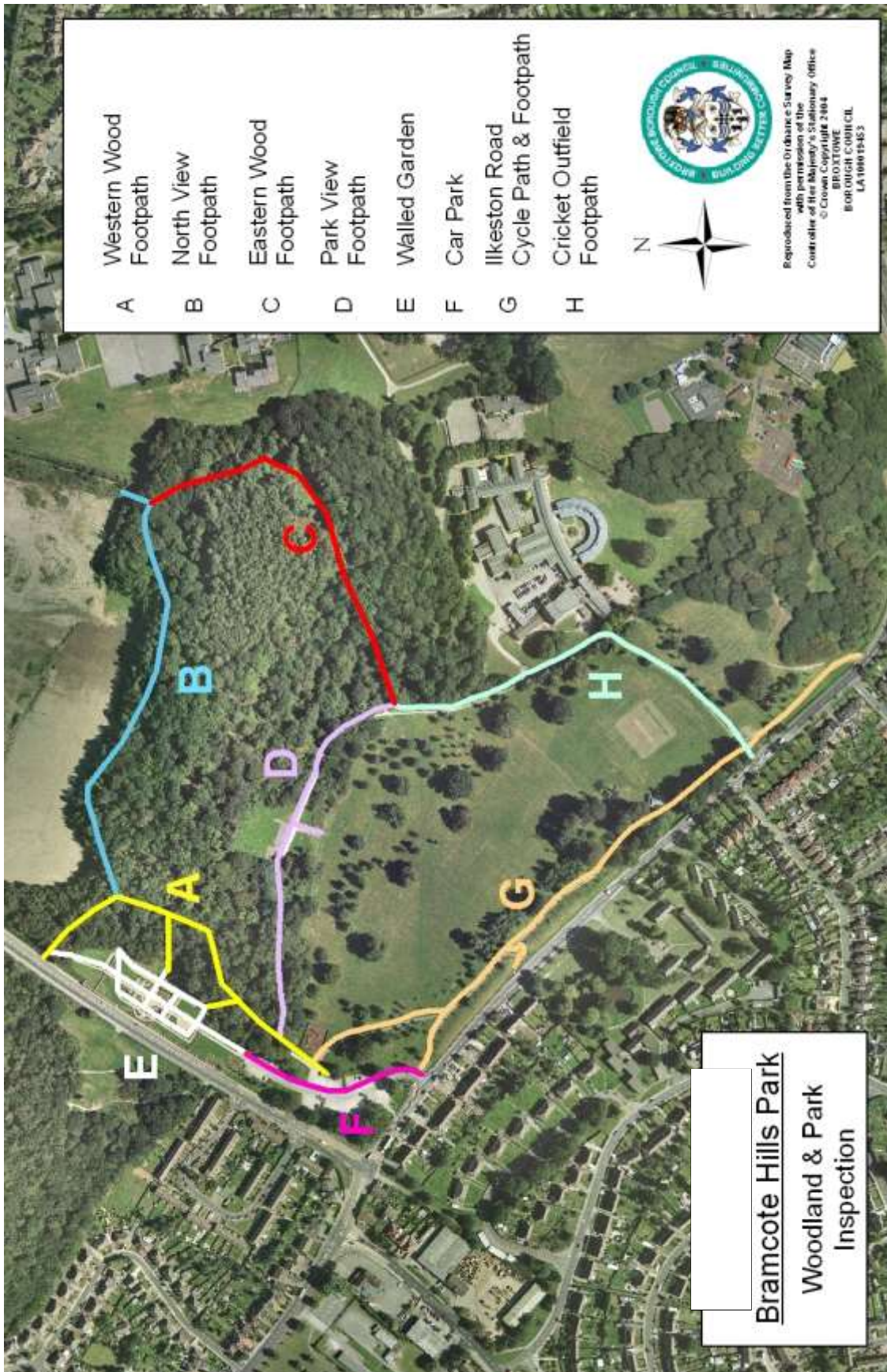
Map area:

Inspected by:

iii) **Further notes or comments**

No action required at time of inspection (Tick Box)

Appendix 13b – Woodland & Park Inspection Plan – Footpath Routes



Appendix 14 – Woodland and Park Inspection Form – Path/Fence/Seats/Signs/Bins

Bramcote Hills Park – Woodland & Park Inspection Form PATHS/FENCES/SEATS/SIGNS/BINS		
Date of inspection:	Map Area:	Inspected by:
Inspection (identified problems to be marked on plan)		Observation and Comments
i)	Footpaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion/depressions/trips hazards Debris/obstructions/litter/fly-tipping Vegetation encroaching into walking area Damage to handrails 	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No
ii)	Fences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism/damage Are stiles/gates in good working order Notify public of hazardous fence where necessary (tick box) <input type="checkbox"/> 	Yes / No Yes / No <input type="checkbox"/>
iii)	Seats/Signs/Bins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is seat clean/safe Are signs safe/in good condition Are bins in good condition 	Yes / No Yes / No Yes / No
iv)	Further notes of comments:	
No action required at time of inspection (tick box) <input type="checkbox"/>		

Appendix 15 – Consultation

Appendix 15a – “Broxtowe Parks Standard” Questionnaire

Detailed below is the questionnaire used with the results relating to Bramcote Hills Park highlighted in bold. There were 88 returns relating to the park.

BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LOCAL PARK/OPEN SPACE

We would like to know how your local park or open space is performing. Is it providing what it should and to the right standard? We will use this information to help draw up the new ‘Broxtowe Parks Standard’ for all our major parks and open spaces. First choose the location of your park/open space and then select the site you would like to tell us about.

Location of Park or Open Space

Attenborough	<input type="checkbox"/>	Awsworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beeston	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bramcote	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brinsley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chilwell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastwood & Greasley/ Giltbrook	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kimberley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nuthall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stapleford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trowell	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Park or Open Space

Attenborough:	Long Lane Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awsworth:	The Lane Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Shilo Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beeston:	Broadgate Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Beeston Fields Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Weirfields Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>

Bramcote:	Alexandrina Plantation (Sandy Lane)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bramcote Hills Park	88
	King Georges Park (Town Street)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sandgate Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brinsley:	Brinsley Headstocks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Brinsley Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chilwell:	Cator Lane Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inham Nook Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sherman Drive Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastwood/Greasley/ Giltbrook:	Beauvale Park (Dovecote Road)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Colliers Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Coronation Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Greenhills Road Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hall Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jubilee Park (Church Street)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mansfield Road Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Smithurst Road Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kimberley:	Hall om Wong Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Knowle Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Flixton Road Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Millfield Road Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
	The Stag Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nuthall:	Basil Russell Playing Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>

	College Way Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Horsendale Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Redbridge Drive Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stapleford:	Archers Field Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Central Avenue Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hemlockstone Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hickings Lane Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Judson Avenue Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pasture Road Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Queen Elizabeth II Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toton:	Banks Road Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Manor Farm Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trowell:	Pit Lane Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watnall:	Watnall Green Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. How often do you visit this Park or Open Space?

Daily	20	Weekly	39	Monthly	20
2/3 times a year	9	Once a year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How do you normally get there?

Walk	14	Cycle	5	Car	39
Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state): _____			

3. What are your main reasons for visiting?

Please tick up to 5 main reasons.

Peace and quiet	32	Walk the dog	38
-----------------	-----------	--------------	-----------

Enjoy flowers/trees	31	Children/family outing	37
See birds/wildlife	28	Visit the play area	33
For a walk	61	Picnic	14
Take a short cut	3	Attend events	10
Ride a bike	12	To improve health	15
Play sport	8	Guided walk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watch sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	

4. How long do you normally stay?

Less than 30 minutes	8	30 mins-1hour	36
1-2 hours	33	More than 2 hours	11

5. How welcoming is the Park/Open Space?

Very good **45** Good **40** Fair **2** Poor **1** Very poor Don't know

Any comments: _____

6. How effective is the signage?

Very good **27** Good **39** Fair **14** Poor **3** Very poor **1** Don't know **4**

Any comments: _____

7. How would you rate the standard of cleanliness?

Very good **27** Good **43** Fair **15** Poor **1** Very poor **2** Don't know

Any comments: _____

8. How clean is the site in terms of dog fouling?

Very good **17** Good **39** Fair **21** Poor **5** Very poor **3** Don't know **3**

Any comments: _____

9. How easy is it for you to get around, i.e. are there enough paths and in the right places?

Very good **42** Good **40** Fair **5** Poor **1** Very poor Don't know

Any comments: _____

10. How would you rate the standard of grass cutting?

Very good **41** Good **38** Fair **6** Poor **1** Very poor Don't know **2**

Any comments: _____

11. How would you rate the standard of maintenance of the shrub beds/flower beds?

Very good **23** Good **40** Fair **11** Poor **4** Very poor **1**

Don't know/not applicable **9**

Any comments: _____

12. How would you rate the standard of maintenance of the trees?

Very good **23** Good **47** Fair **11** Poor **3** Very poor Don't know **4**

Any comments: _____

13. How would you rate the play facilities provided?

Very good **40** Good **27** Fair **5** Poor **3** Very poor **1**

Don't know/not applicable **12**

Any comments: _____

14. How would you rate the sports facilities provided?

Very good **8** Good **30** Fair **13** Poor **7** Very poor **3**

Don't know/not applicable **27**

Any comments: _____

15. How are issues with vandalism and anti-social behaviour dealt with?

Very well **12** Well **30** Fair **7** Not very well **2** Not at all **1** Don't know **36**

Any comments: _____

16. Thinking about protection of nature and wildlife how would you rate this aspect of the Park or Open Space management?

Very good **25** Good **34** Fair **13** Poor **4** Very poor Don't know **12**

Any comments: _____

17. What is your overall impression of the Park/Open Space?

Very good **41** Good **37** Fair **10** Poor Very poor Don't know

Any comments: _____

ABOUT YOU

1. Which of the following categories best describes your age? (Please tick one only)

14 and under 15-19 20-29 = **10** 30-39 = **16** 40-49 = **31**
50-59 = **14** 60-69 = **14** 70 and over = **3**

2. Are you female or male? (Please tick one only) Female **58** Male **30**

3. Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health problems that affect your use of parks and open spaces? (Please tick one only)

Yes 5 No 83

4. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group? (Please tick one only)

White:

British **82** Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other White background **3** please write in: _____

Mixed:

White and Black African White and Black Caribbean **1** White and Asian **2**

Any other mixed background please write in _____

Asian or Asian British:

Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Chinese

Any other Asian background please write in _____

Black or Black British:

African Caribbean Any other Black background please write in _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Parks and Open Spaces Questionnaire, the information that you have provided will be held on computer and may be shared with other departments within the Council.

The questionnaire is available in large print and other languages.
If you have any queries please contact the Parks and Environment Section on 0115 9173649

Appendix 15b – Comments from Consultation

“Myself and family love this park, whether it’s a quick visit in winter for a snowball fight or an all day visit in summer holidays for a picnic and family day. The only thing that really lets it down its there’s no public toilets”.

I really enjoy the park and find people are very sociable. Nice to see it being used for different reasons i.e. picnics, playing, dog walking, sitting around etc. I like the carvings on the tree, have also seen a children’s party in the park which was nice. Like to watch the cricket games, this is one of my favourite parks”.

“Bramcote Hills Park is a very busy park with all groups of people. It lacks two things, a café and toilets. The Council could improve the facilities whilst I am sure making a profit if these two services were introduced. Even in the depths of winter regular dog walkers during the week as well as families at weekends use the park and café offering hot drinks and food would, in my eyes, make a huge profit, which could lead to the funding/payment of upkeep of toilet facilities. I am sure anti-vandal devices and CCTV could be installed”.

“Proximity of the park was a major reason for buying a house in the area”.

“Park needs to be a quiet area for people to enjoy, not a theme park”.

“It’s clean, spacious, green/beautiful and well maintained”.

“Needs public toilets and maybe even a café would be good”.

“Lovely new car park”.

“Nice open space, good parking”.

“Toilets would encourage me to stay longer at the park”.

“No more paths, keep it green and natural. Good for electric scooter access”.

“Annual bedding is great, shrub and herbaceous deserve a little more attention”.

“More money needs spending on the walled garden flower beds to create interest in all seasons. Too much money is spent on play areas”.

“Excellently maintained play area, sometimes a little crowded. May be better with an extra separate area for young children e.g. 0-3 as the bigger children can be intimidating e.g. pushed passed.”

“Children are lucky to have such a large and extensive play facility”.

Tell us about your local park /open space



We would like to know how your local park or open space is performing. Is it providing what it should and to the right standard? Please visit the Council's website:

www.broxtowe.gov.uk/localpark

Alternatively use the QR code below to access it direct.

The questionnaire is quick and easy to complete with a series of drop-down boxes and 'point and click' answers. For further information please contact the Parks & Environment Team on 0115 917 3625.



Environment



HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Broxtowe Borough Council, as an employer and landlord, is fully committed to the health, safety and welfare of all its Councillors, employees, visitors to its premises, occupiers and others who may be affected by its work activities. It is the Council's policy to endeavour to provide safe and healthy working conditions and to enlist the active support of all its Councillors and employees to achieve this end.

The objectives of the policy are to promote standards of health, safety, fire prevention, hygiene and welfare, which comply fully with the spirit and requirements of legislation. The Council undertakes, so far as is reasonably practicable, to:

- Maintain plant and systems of work that are safe and reduce the risk to health
- Ensure safe practices in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances
- Provide such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to promote the health (including mental health) and safety of all Councillors and employees
- Maintain work places in a safe condition and provide a safe means of access to and egress from such work places
- Provide and maintain a safe working environment with minimal risks to health and with adequate facilities for employees' welfare at work
- Prevent accidents and causes of work related ill health

The Council's Health and Safety Policy, which includes the organisational responsibilities and arrangements is detailed in the Health and Safety Section on the Council's Intranet. These will be reviewed regularly to take into consideration changes within the Council, legislation and technological advancement. The Safety Committee discusses workplace health and safety matters twice yearly.

Directors, Heads of Service, Managers and Supervisors will ensure compliance with all health and safety legislation including the Council's Health and Safety Policy and codes of practice.

Each Councillor and employee is reminded that they have a legal responsibility to take care of their own health and safety and also the health and safety of others who may be affected by actions or decisions made by them.

The Council gives its full backing to this policy and will support all those who endeavour to carry it out.

Signed:
Chief Executive

Date: 03 May 2018



**Appendix 17 – Extracts from Nottingham Evening Post
May 22 1929 – Prince of Wales at Bramcote Hills
Park**

PRINCE OF WALES'S STOCK PRACTICALLY INVINCIBLE

H.R.H. AT BRAMCOTE

LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GOOD FORTUNE

The Prince of Wales, who is President of the Notts. Agricultural Society, today visited the show at Bramcote Hills Park, the residence of Mr E. S. Tansley. H.R.H. was also an exhibitor, and in the cattle classes, his Roy farm stock was practically invincible.

The Prince's year old red bull, Lenton Royal Crest, beat his stable companion, Lenton Knight, which was champion at Banbury Show last week and in the class for shorthorn heifers, not over two years old, his Royal Highness had matters all his own way, taking the three premier awards.

SHOW IN IDEAL SETTING

The showground was laid out on admirably compact and convenient lines on a site fronting the mansion, backed by it's belt of magnificent trees, now in their most charming dress of springtime and a more delightful outlook than that afforded by the thickly wooded park that rolled away on all sides it would be impossible to conceive.

Last year the Nottinghamshire society merged their show with that of the Royal Society, which met at Wollaton, but in 1927 the local exhibition was held at Hucknall Aerodrome and the number of entries of general stock that is horses, cattle, sheep and pigs was exceeded in the case of the present gathering by one, the total being 330.

In addition there were produce, poultry and dog sections. The dogs, an entirely new feature at the Notts. show, produced an entry of no lower than 750 and the exhibits were of a very representative character. The Prince of Wales, who is the president of the society, was well represented in the shorthorn classes, several magnificent specimens of the breed being sent from Grove Farm, Lenton and his Royal Highness's personal visit to the show was it goes without saying, a source of great gratification to the members of the society as well as to the general public.

Appendix 18 – Leaflets

A) Bramcote Hills Park

A copy of this leaflet can be found on the Council's website. Please see link below.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/media/5333/bramcote-hills-park-leaflet.pdf>

Appendix 18b – The Hemlockstone

of The Hemlock Stone

The combination of the stone with the surrounding oak woodland (the oak being a sacred tree for the Celts) and a nearby 'sacred spring' all add credence to the idea of Druidic use. On older maps the spring is shown as the 'Healing Well' just to the north-west of Stapleford Hill. This now lost natural spring was used by gypsies and miners alike as a place to wash and a local 'cure-all'.

There are sandy caves and hollows on Stapleford Hill and there is a story that one of the filled in caves was the opening of a tunnel that led all the way to Wollaton Hall.

One of the very varied myths that exists around the Hemlock Stone is that it was thrown there by a giant, but the location, nationality and reason for this, seemingly varies with every telling of the story!

A modern myth suggested by local people is that the stone is actually the remnants of a meteorite!

Another legend concerns a very pious monk in Lenton Priory who found he could not sleep one night and decided that the Devil must be near.

He began to pray as hard as he could and this fervent praying woke the Devil who was asleep on Stony Clouds near Sandiacra. (Another version suggests Castleton in the Peak District.) In his anger for being woken, the Devil flung a mass of rock, aiming at the Priory, hoping to smash it and the monk to pieces. But his aim fell short and the stone settled on the side of Stapleford Hill, never to move again.



How to find The Hemlock Stone

Bus routes

From Nottingham
Take the Rainbow 4 from Broadmarsh Bus Station to the Sherwin Arms. It is a 10 minute walk along Ilkeston Road to the Hemlock Stone, situated on Coventry Lane.

Parking

Free Parking at Bramcote Hills Park. The park is open 365 days of the year. Additional parking can be found at Pit Lane Recreation Area, with a footpath leading to Stapleford Hill.

Accessibility

The walled garden is fully accessible. Stapleford Hill is a woodland and some paths are steep.



Research undertaken and text produced by local residents
Barbara Brooke, Alan Clayton and Jill Ward.



For further information about tourist attractions in the borough of Broxtowe please contact D. H. Lawrence Heritage on 01773 717353 or visit the Broxtowe Borough Council web site www.broxtowe.gov.uk

The Hemlock Stone

Presenting the walks, panoramic views and interest points of the mysterious Hemlock Stone, Stapleford Hill and Bramcote Hills Park.



Visit Nottinghamshire's striking and remarkable geological feature, only a stone's throw away from the beautiful, award winning Bramcote Hills Park.



The Myths and Legends

Much speculation surrounds the Hemlock Stone. Even its name is a puzzlement - many theories exist as to how the stone got its name.

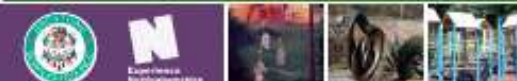
- Once commonly referred to as the Cromlech or Cromlech Stone, which comes from the 17th century Welsh and translates as a 'bent flat stone'.
- The name could originate from the word 'hemm', meaning border, as in hem of a dress and 'loca', meaning enclosure, translating as 'the stone in the border field'.
- A German word that has been used to describe similar looking rocks on the continent is 'Himmel - axt - stein', which means 'Heaven - hatchet - stone'.
- Many Danes settled in the Nottinghamshire area in the 9th century. The old Danish word 'hemmelig' meaning a cover, or overhanging.
- Local folklore even conjures up the idea of witches at the site using poisonous hemlock plants in their potions!

There are many theories and myths about the origin of the stone, and some are more exotic than others!

The Hemlock Stone is felt by many to have been the site of past activity by the Druids, the priesthood of the Celts. It would form a natural focal point, a temple and altar for Celtic festivals such as Beltane, where the ancient practice of lighting fires on the stone during the night before May Day continued until the early 19th century.



This information is available in large print.
To request a copy please call 0115 9173649





Introduction

The area of the Hemlock Stone, Stapleford Hill and Bramcote Hills Park is made up of red sandstone, deposited in the early Triassic period over 200 million years ago.

There are many points of interest and facilities in the area surrounding the Hemlock Stone. Coventry Lane, now a main road that runs in front of the Hemlock Stone, was once used by the Romans as a route to reach their fort at Broxtowe. The road is part of an ancient trackway which led further north into Nottinghamshire from a crossing of the River Trent near Attenborough.

The Woodland surrounding the Hemlock Stone, consists mainly of oak and silver birch and is typical of woodlands found in Nottinghamshire on sandstone soils. This type of woodland has been identified as vulnerable in Nottinghamshire, requiring protection and sympathetic management.

Respecting the Environment

It's wonderful to enjoy open space and woodland environment. Here are a few helpful hints to remind us all of how we can positively contribute to the future of our environment:

In the open space and woodland

- Use paths where practical.
- Avoid trampling wild flowers.
- Minimise disturbance to any wildlife or nests.
- Avoid boggy areas where possible.
- Exercise caution on steep banks for your own safety and avoid scrambling which may dislodge vegetation.

Litter and Cleaning up

- Take all of your litter away with you and recycle what you can.
- Be a responsible dog owner by cleaning up after your dog. You will find many dog waste bins provided around the wood and parkland to dispose of your dog waste.

What else can I do to help?

- If you notice any damage or vandalism to the area please report it to us 0115 917 7777

Management

The Hemlock Stone Woodland, Stapleford Hill and Open Space areas lie within the Greenwood Community Forest and are managed by Broxtowe Borough Council working in partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and BTCV, formerly known as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

BTCV hold volunteer days on the site to help undertake maintenance tasks such as path surfacing, fencing, and tree management. For further information please contact them on 0115 9313316.

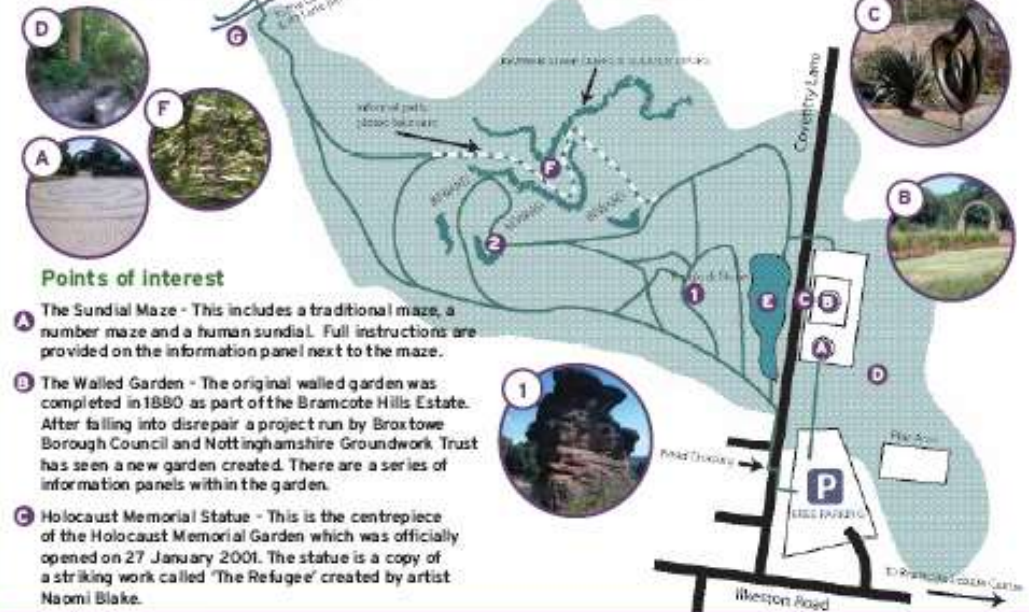
The woodland is maintained in accordance with the Stapleford Hill Woodland Management Plan which details annual operations to promote the conservation management of the site. A copy of the plan can be viewed on the Broxtowe Borough Council web site www.broxtowe.gov.uk - Alternatively you can request a copy of the plan by contacting Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 9173649.

Open Viewing Points

- 1 The Hemlock Stone - Standing in front of the Hemlock Stone there is a clear view of the beautiful walled garden within the grounds of Bramcote Hills Park.

The upper part of the Hemlock Stone is heavily impregnated with barium sulphate or barytes, a mineral that is resistant to weathering processes and thus forms a protective cap above the pillar of softer rock below. Over many millennia, erosion of the softer sandstone surrounding the pillar by water, ice, and wind has shaped the strange form of the Hemlock Stone that we see today.

- 2 Panoramic view from the summit of Stapleford Hill. At 101m above sea level, this spot boasts magnificent views on a clear day of Crich Stand, Wollaton Hall, and the valleys of the Rivers Trent and Erewash. Situated on the Hill is a triangulation point once used by Ordnance Survey.



Points of interest

- A The Sundial Maze - This includes a traditional maze, a number maze and a human sundial. Full instructions are provided on the information panel next to the maze.
- B The Walled Garden - The original walled garden was completed in 1880 as part of the Bramcote Hills Estate. After falling into disrepair a project run by Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire Groundwork Trust has seen a new garden created. There are a series of information panels within the garden.
- C Holocaust Memorial Statue - This is the centrepiece of the Holocaust Memorial Garden which was officially opened on 27 January 2001. The statue is a copy of a striking work called 'The Refuge' created by artist Naomi Blake.
- D The Ice House - The Ice House was built in 1861 and was used to store ice from local rivers and ponds for use in the kitchens of Bramcote Hills House. The ice would be used to keep food cool and fresh in the summer months.
- E Open Space - A good place for a picnic in the shadow of the Hemlock Stone.
- F Sandstone quarries and dramatic hill sides - Sandstone quarries were worked until the 1940s with tramway access to the main rail line off Coventry Lane. The remains of this activity make a dramatic addition to Stapleford Hill.
- G Canal Walk - A beautiful walk along the Nottingham Canal. The Nottingham Canal was completed in 1796 and built primarily for the transportation of coal. It ceased commercial operation in 1928 and by 1937 it was abandoned.

Appendix 18c – Six of the Best Walks in the



1 From car park walk thru pedestrian opening onto road running alongside car park (Coventry Lane), turn R, cross at pedestrian crossing & walk up to the entrance to the Hemlock Stone.

2 After entering open space, you will reach a fork in the path. Take the centre path for the most direct route to the Hemlock Stone, or for an easier route, follow the RH fork, which brings you below & then up behind the Stone.

3 To see the triangulation point at the top of Stapleford Hill, head upwards on any of the paths until reaching the top. (Please note that trees can obstruct the intended view of the surrounding areas). When you are finished here, head back downhill towards the Hemlock Stone & at the junction of paths just before reaching the Stone, take the established RH path heading slightly uphill in the first instance, leading around edge of hill. (If you do not wish to climb Stapleford Hill, you should follow the established looking path behind the Stone, bearing L & heading slightly uphill in the first instance, leading around the edge of the hill.)

4 Continue along this path thru the wood until eventually you reach the edge of the wood.

5 Cross wooden footbridge, turn L & follow path around field. At fork in path, bear R & then cross stile. Go up flight of steps on RH side, & continue to follow footpath until you reach a bridge on the R.

6 Go over railway-bridge to reach Nottingham Canal. (Turn R here if you wish to take shorter route & go onto number 13, otherwise continue onto number 7.)

7 Turn L along towpath to reach boundary of Trowell Garden Centre & follow perimeter fencing to reach main entrance to garden centre. As fencing stops, continue straight & then at bend of road, take footpath ahead into Nottingham Canal area.

8 At the second kissing gate, follow path bearing ahead & R & then turn L thru next kissing gate, just before small bridge. Drop down onto canal towpath on this side of the water & follow towpath towards Trowell.

9 At the end of the towpath go down the slope under the M1 bridge, climb the slope on the other side & rejoin the canal towpath, following it until reaching a bridge. Go under bridge & turn thru kissing gate up the slope to Nottingham Road, Trowell.

10 Turn R & walk down to the Festival Inn on the bend of the road. (Festival Inn was named in 1951, at the time of the festival of Britain, when Trowell was used as the festival village due to its position as the most central village in Britain). When you are ready, walk back up the road on the other side, & follow the footpath sign to Swansea Bridge. This will bring you back onto the canal towpath, where you turn R & continue along path.

11 Go back down the slope, under the M1, & up the slope back to the canal towpath. At top of slope, turn L & walk along the other side of the canal to the way you came, back to Swansea Bridge.

12 At bridge, cross over & follow the path ahead, retracing your steps back to the garden centre. Go back along the path with the perimeter fence to your L, to the canal towpath.

13 Continue to follow the towpath for a good distance to reach a car parking area. Go thru this & up onto the main road (Coventry Lane). Cross road at pedestrian point & follow path down on the other side, going under a railway bridge. After about 100m, there is a crossroad in the paths.



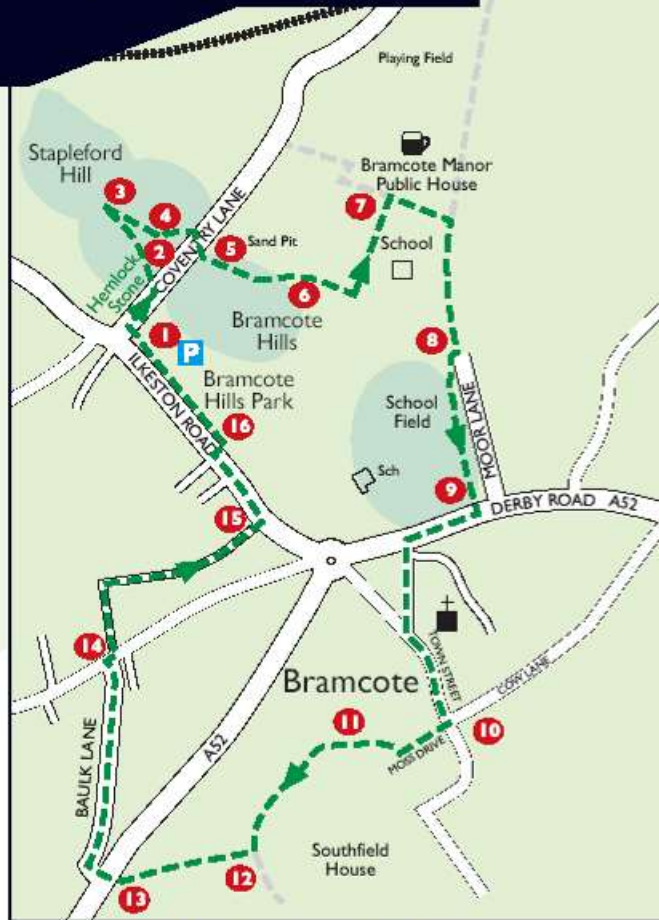
14 Turn R, following entire lower edge of school field. After field ends, turn R onto footpath – with school & fencing on your LH side. Turn L at next junction of paths.

15 Path will lead you into Bramcote Woods. Take path diagonally R & at finger post follow sign for Walled Garden following cliff edge of the sand quarry (off to your R) until you reach junction of paths.

16 Follow track straight ahead, edging downwards gradually – don't drop down sharply. The path eventually comes out to the car park, where the walk began.

Bramcote Hills, Bramcote Village & Burnt Hill
Walk 6

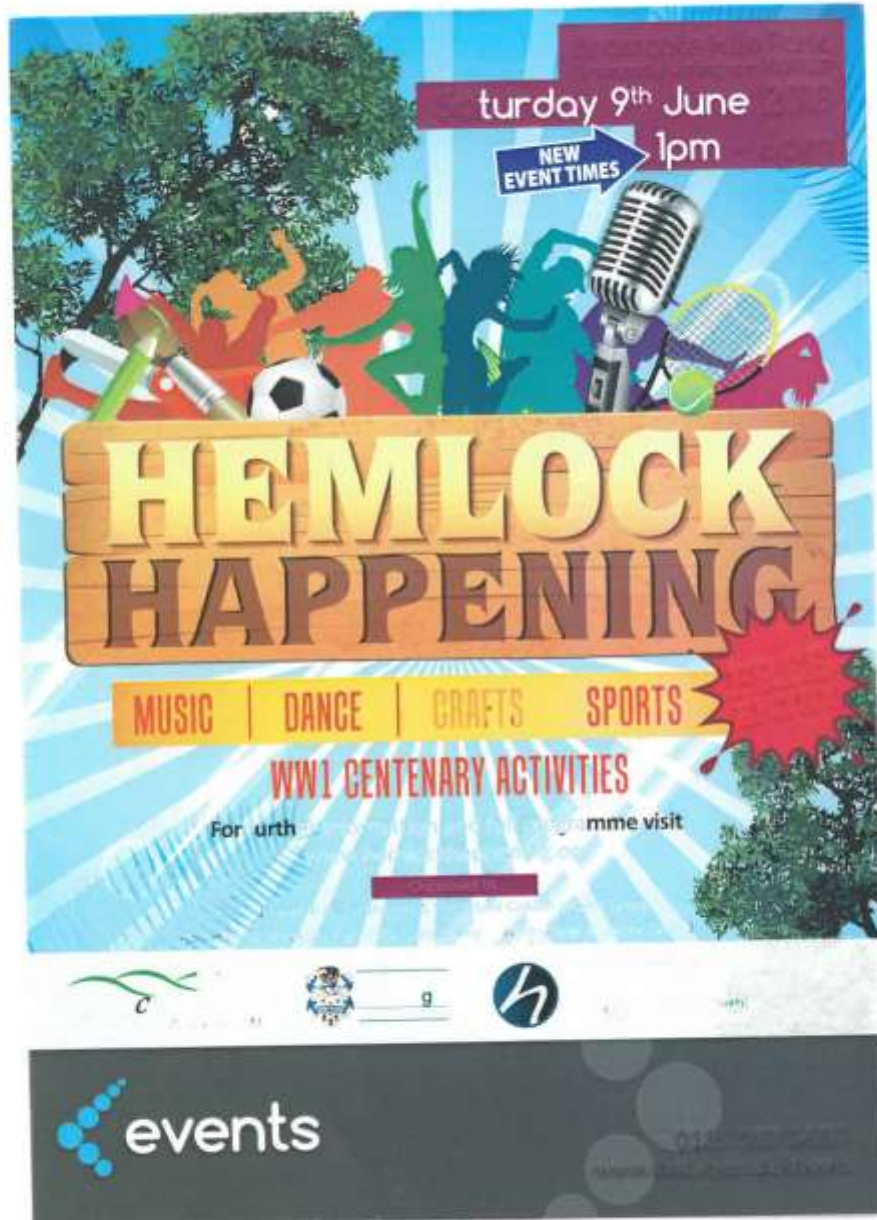
- 1** From car park walk thru pedestrian opening onto road running alongside car park (*Coventry Lane*), turn R, cross at pedestrian crossing & walk up to the entrance to the Hemlock Stone.
- 2** After entering open space, you will reach a fork in the path. Take the centre path for the most direct route to the Hemlock Stone, or for an easier route, follow the RH fork, which brings you below & then up behind the Stone.
- 3** To see the triangulation point at the top of Stapleford Hill, head upwards on any of the paths until reaching the top. *(Please note that trees can obstruct the intended view of the surrounding areas)*. When you are finished here, head back downhill towards the Hemlock Stone.
- 4** As you come back down to the Stone, take the path going L & downhill thru the trees, to re-meet Coventry Lane at a different entrance point, higher up the road.



Distance: 3.75 miles | Time: Approx. 2-3 hours |
 Start Point: Bramcote Hills Car Park, Bramcote,
 (corner of Ilkeston Road & Coventry Lane).

- 5** Cross the road & go up the wooden steps diagonally opposite. At this point you might wish to follow the fingerpost sign & visit the walled garden & Holocaust Memorial. When you are ready return to this point & climb the steps upwards, signed Bramcote Woods. Follow this path upwards & then bear left, which takes you around the LH side of the hills.
- 6** Turn L at the finger post, signed Robin Hood Way & Wollaton Park. Then take the next path on the L, going out of the woods - school buildings will be on the RH side.
- 7** At T-junction of paths turn R, passing the rear of Bramcote Manor Public House. When you reach the next junction of paths, turn R & walk up Moor Lane.
- 8** As lane turns into a residential street, look out for a road on the LH side, called Dean Croft (just past school entrance). Take path opposite this road onto the school playing field. You will be exiting the field in the far LH corner, so follow the LH side perimeter hedges until you reach the exit onto Derby Road.
- 9** Turn R along the main road & cross at pedestrian crossing continuing uphill until reaching Church Street. Turn L into Church Street & walk up to junction (see interpretation board for information on Bramcote Village) where you will turn L into Town Street.
- 10** At the junction of Cow Lane & Moss Drive, turn R up Moss Drive. At fork in road, take the RH path, which is a private drive but has footpath access. Follow footpath until you come to an iron gate & go thru kissing gate on R into field.
- 11** Cross field diagonally to far LH corner of field with a stile just out of view until you get nearer. Cross stile & follow track & then at first fork take either path.
- 12** At next fork, turn R & go straight across two fields & over a stile to Balk Lane.
- 13** Turn R, passing over A52 & follow path round to the R until it becomes a regular street & meets Nottingham Road.
- 14** Cross road & turn R, then immediate L onto Ewe Lamb Lane. After short distance, take first road on R (*Marshall Drive*) & continue until road joins Ilkeston Road.
- 15** Turn L & cross by pedestrian crossing, entering Bramcote Park by entrance in front.
- 16** Walk L along cycle path, to return to start point & car park.





THE D.H. LAWRENCE
 FESTIVAL OF CULTURE

the walking theatre co.
 "...innovative theatre anywhere..."

Broxtowe
 Borough
 COUNCIL

WIZ around OZ

Date: Saturday 10th September
Time: 2.30pm (duration 90 mins)
Location: Bramcote Hills Park,
 Ilkeston Road, Bramcote NG9 3JT
Ticket Prices: Adults £2, Children £1,
 Family Ticket £5 (inc 2 adults & up to 3 children)

Calling all Muchkins! Dorothy has lost Toto, The Cowardly Lion has lost the Scarecrow, the wicked witch has lost the plot and the Great Wiz has lost his marbles! Join the award winning 'The Walking Theatre Company' for a spontaneous, interactive, fun filled walking adventure through the magical woods of Bramcote Hills Park. Suitable for all the Family to enjoy!

Be prepared for all weathers as this is an outdoor performance. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

To book tickets and for more information contact Broxtowe Events team
 t: 0115 917 3695 e: events@broxtowe.gov.uk w: www.broxtowe.gov.uk/broxtoweevents

Broxtowe Events
 Broxtowe Borough Council



Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL

VOTE FOR BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK AS THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE 2016

Bramcote Hills Park is one of the Borough's most popular sites and is visited by thousands of people each week who enjoy its many attractions, including the play area, Walled Garden, Holocaust Memorial Garden, open park and woodland and heritage attractions.

After celebrating its tenth year as a prestigious Green Flag Award winning park earlier this year, what better way to end the year on a high than being named a People's Choice Award Winning park!

This year, Keep Britain Tidy are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Green Flag Award, there won't just be one People's Choice winner – there will be ten, all voted for by the public.

The voting has begun and ends on Friday 30 September. The ten most popular parks and green space in the UK will be announced in October

VOTE NOW
SCAN HERE!



Broxtowe Borough Council



Charity Christmas Fancy Dress DOG WALK & SHOW

Come and join us to raise funds for abandoned dogs!

Prizes for best dressed dog and walker • Small, Medium and Large dog categories

Sponsored by Kennelgate Pet Store, Chilwell

Broxtowe's Dog Control Service • Dog goodie bag for every entry • Information stand, dog toys and treats on sale

Bramcote Hills Park

Ilkeston Road, Bramcote

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

11:00am - 2:00pm

£2 per dog

**Festive cakes & Hot Beverages available
provided by Spud Shack**

Please keep all dogs on leads and under proper control on the day. Why not take the green initiative....walk to the walk!!

All funds raised will go to abandoned dogs at Babbington Hall Rescue Centre

For further information contact Neighbourhood Wardens on: 0115 917 3142

*Promoting
responsible dog ownership*



Environment



Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL

SCOOTERING

WITH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB
Thursdays - 6.30pm - Bramcote Park



Wheely good fun!
Orienteering with
a difference!

Speed round the park
as you look for the
hidden treasure points!

£1 per
child or
£3 for a
family

Sessions suitable
for ages 5 years plus.



Children aged 5 - 7 years must be accompanied by an adult on the park at all times.

Visit www.broxtowe.gov.uk/sport4me for further information,
call 0115 9173572 or email sport@broxtowe.gov.uk. Alternatively contact
Catherine Hughes on 07940 57 57 58 or email hubclub@noc-uk.org



Broxtowe Sport
Broxtowe Borough Council



Bark For Life

A CANINE EVENT TO FIGHT CANCER

In aid of



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Bark For Life is an event organised by volunteers from the Relay For Life Nottingham Committee on behalf of Cancer Research UK. Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England & Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041688) and the Isle of Man (1103)

**Bark For Life is a sponsored walkies
in aid of Cancer Research UK.**

Will your dog join the fight against cancer?



Event: Bark For Life 2014
Location: Bramcote Hills Park
Date: Sunday 27th April 2014
Cost: £5 per dog
Time: 10:30am
Course: 3 km (approx)

**To join in pick up a
registration form here!**

or register online at www.nottinghamrelay.co.uk/barkforlife

Let's beat cancer sooner





**Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL**

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Friday 27th January, 11.00am


**The Walled Garden, Bramcote Hills Park
Ilkeston Road, Bramcote, NG9 3JT**

Join us to remember those affected by the crimes against
humanity committed during the Holocaust and in
subsequent atrocities throughout the world.

For more information, please contact Broxtowe Borough
Council on 0115 917 3210, email civic@broxtowe.gov.uk
or visit www.broxtowe.gov.uk



HOW CAN LIFE GO ON?
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2017



A Message in the Park

Sunday Afternoons
Bramcote Hills Park
3:00pm
4th May, 1st June, 3rd August

Music, Songs, Favourite Hymns,
Children's Crafts, Team Games,
Bible Stories & more...

Featuring friends from
The Salvation Army
Stapleford

*If it's raining please join us at The Salvation Army,
Albert Avenue, Stapleford*

www.staplefordsa.org.uk

(0115) 939 7059



Response Form

If you support the development of a cafe and toilets in Bramcote Park please let us know. The more support we have the more likely it is to happen.

- I support the building of a cafe and toilets on Bramcote Park
- I would like to become a member of the company
- Please add me to your mailing list
- Please let me know about opportunities for volunteering

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Email _____

Tel _____

Please return to:
Bramcote Hills Park Community Cafe
8 Edingale Court, Bramcote
Nottingham, NG9 3LY

Cafe Location



We have looked at various locations for the location of the café. We believe that options A or B shown in this picture are the best locations, close to the play area and the car park without having a detrimental impact on the rest of the park.



Bramcote Hills Park Community Café

**Owned by the community
Run by the community
For the community**

Bramcote Hills Park Community Cafe C.L.C. (Registered company number 10152246, Registered office 8 Edingale Court, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3LY)



www.bramcoteparkcafe.uk

There are four steps to making the cafe happen.

- Step 1 – Obtain permission from the council to build the cafe and toilets
- Step 2 – Design the building
- Step 3 – Raise the money
- Step 4 – Build the cafe and toilets

Bramcote Hills Park Community Cafe is a company owned by local people, run by local people, for the benefit of local people. We are looking to build and operate a cafe and toilet facilities in Bramcote Park, something which has been badly needed for a long time. We are a community interest company, which means that any profits made are not paid out to shareholders (we don't have any) but are reinvested in the local community.

There are lots of ways that you can help. You could become a co-owner of the company. It doesn't cost anything and you get a say in how the business is run. You can help fund raise as we will need to raise about £500,000 to construct and equip the cafe. You can join our mailing list to keep up to date with how things are progressing, and you can volunteer to help, either in the design and construction stages or when the cafe is open. Please use the form overleaf to get in touch.

Appendix 20 – Improvement Works to the Park – Work at Hills House

Excavations revealing the footprint of
“The Hills House”



New stepped access linking the park to "The Hills House"



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

Appendix 21 – Rhododendron Removal and Fencing Works



Top section of fence can just be seen covered in leaves and rhododendron.



Section of fence now exposed following clearance of leaves and rhododendron.



Earth movement and full rhododendron clearance reveals line of “estate” fence.



Link between previous section of restored fence in foreground and new section at rear.

Appendix 22 – Photographs of Holocaust Memorial Service



Appendix 23 – Yarn Bombing



Appendix 24: Positive Feedback from Beaver Scouts



**Appendix 25 – Community Groups and Other Organisations
involved in the Development and Implementation
of the Management Plan**

a)	<p>Greenwood Community Forest Nottinghamshire County Council Conservation Team County Hall Loughborough Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 7QP</p> <p>Tel: 0115 9932598</p>	b)	<p>Nottingham Wildlife Trust The Old Ragged School Brook Street Nottingham NG1 1ED</p> <p>Tel: 0115 9588242</p>
c)	<p>Practical Conservation Volunteers (PCV) Ian Ward</p> <p>Tel: 01332 864581</p>	d)	<p>Groundwork Greater Nottingham Places Team Leader Unit A Tennyson Hall Forest Road West Nottingham NG7 4EP</p> <p>Tel: 0115 9788212</p>

News Release

NEW TREE PLANTED TO COMMEMORATE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY ON WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER (11.00AM) AT THE WALLED GARDEN, BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK, ILKESTON ROAD, BRAMCOTE, NG9 3JT

A SPECIAL TREE PLANTING will take place at Bramcote Hills Park next week to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, as part of National Tree Week.

Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe, Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE will join Amdani Juma, Chair of the Nottingham Rwandan Community and a survivor of the Rwandan genocide at the ceremony, alongside the Rwandan High Commissioner, William Nkurunziza at the ceremony on Wednesday 3rd December at 11.00am.

A *Pyrus calleryana* ‘Chanticleer’ tree will be planted close to the Holocaust Memorial to mark the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in Rwanda, between April and June 1994 where an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in the space of 100 days.

Earlier this year, Amdani spoke of his journey as a survivor of the Genocide at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony at the park. The new tree has abundant white flowers in spring and foliage which turns red in the autumn. It will grow into a conical shaped crown which reflects both the Rwandan Genocide logo and the Holocaust Memorial Trust’s flame logo.

Other tree schemes by the Borough’s Parks Team will see new trees and hedges planted at various parks and open spaces in the Borough with new schemes at Archers Field Recreation Ground and Pasture Road Recreation Ground in Stapleford, Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground, Beeston and Bramcote Hills Park woodland.

Working with partner organisations, the Council is aiming to plant over 15,000 new trees this season, ranging from young transplants to extra heavy standard specimens as part of its target to plant 100,000 trees by 2016.

For more information, please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 3210,

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK VISITORS DISCOVER LOCAL HERITAGE

VISITORS TO BROXTOWE'S popular Bramcote Hills Park can now discover more about the local and natural history of the site, thanks to a project to celebrate the rich heritage of the area.

Work has just been completed on a project to upgrade the information panels installed to help local residents find out more about the park's historical features, as well as its excellent facilities. These include the Holocaust Memorial Garden, a cycle path and open parkland, a play area, trim trail and cricket square, as well as picnic areas and seating.

The four new panels detail the parks heritage using sketches and paintings, which have all been produced by local artists.

They include:

Details of the Hemlock Stone, a remarkable geological feature almost 10m high set amongst acres of beautiful parkland.

The Ice House which was used by The Hills House to store food.

The retained footings of Dairy Cottage and Gardeners Cottage.

The Sundial Maze, an interactive maze for families and children.

In summer 2006 Bramcote Hills Park was awarded its first Green Flag in recognition of the high standards of maintenance, community involvement, sustainable working practices and the parks heritage value. The award has been retained every year since.

GETTING ACTIVE AT BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK

A new 'Getting Active' Leaflet has been produced by Greenwood Community Forest in partnership with Broxtowe Borough Council detailing the many outdoor opportunities on offer at the award winning Bramcote Hills Park. The leaflet includes walking routes around the park, longer walking routes that start in the park, the park's popular Trim Trail, the official cycle route through the park and the new orienteering course in the park.

Packed full of tips, the leaflet advises on preparation work, examples of exercises to do in the park, a weekly log sheet to detail your activities and a plan showing the new orienteering.

Getting active helps to lower blood pressure, control weight, lower cholesterol level and strengthen heart and lungs. Bramcote Hills Park provides a fabulous backdrop for numerous outdoor activities and is the perfect place to start a new fitness programme.

PRESS REPORT – Civic Society planting Trees

Wednesday 5 February 2014 at 10.15 am

Bramcote Hills Park

Ilkeston Road, Bramcote, NG9 3JT

meet at Car Park by Children's Playground

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY to BEESTON CIVIC SOCIETY

Forty trees will be planted on Wednesday 5 February to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the beginning of *Beeston & District Civic Society*. The Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe, Councillor Iris White, will be attending.

The Woodland Trust has awarded us two Woodland Packs of small saplings consisting of Silver Birch, Rowan and Wild Cherry.

Broxtowe Borough Council suggested we plant them in the woodland area at Bramcote Hills Park and are providing help and support for the project. They are also providing some more trees for planting - Hazel, Thorn, Oak and Sweet Chestnut.

The Conservation Volunteers group, who work closely with the Borough Council, are erecting rabbit proof fencing to help protect the trees. They will also help plant some of the trees.

The work by the Beeston & District Civic Society will help towards the Council's 10 year woodland management plan for the park and the tree planting will be a further step towards the target of planting 100,000 trees in the Borough by 2016.

Groundwork Greater Nottingham is working with Broxtowe Borough Council to support the Council's environmental education goals, and as part of this, they have organised a class of children from *Wadsworth Fields Primary School, Stapleford*, to come and assist with the planting.

Beeston Civic Society has had several tree planting projects over the years. We like to involve children whenever possible because it is the children who will be able to watch the trees mature. Maybe in 40 years these children will come back with their families and enjoy the woods in the park!

We are also currently working on a project to find and allocate Tree-Guardians for trees that are planted along or near roads within local neighbourhoods.

Beeston & District Civic Society members are very grateful to all the organisations that have helped support this project and, in particular, to the individuals from them who have been specifically involved with us:

Broxtowe Borough Council

The Woodland Trust

The Conservation Volunteers

Groundwork Trust

And the children and staff from *Wadsworth Fields Primary School*

Barbara Selwood

917 8488 mob: 07773 786 183

babsel@ntlworld.com

VOTE FOR BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK AS THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

AFTER A DECADE of being a prestigious Green Flag Award winning park, Bramcote Hills Park, known as the 'Jewel in the crown' of the Borough's parks and open spaces is now in the running for a People's Choice award.

Voting is now open for the People's Choice Green Flag Award, which this year will recognise 10 sites in honour of the 20th anniversary of the Green Flag Award – all voted for by members of the public.

Broxtowe Borough Council is urging residents and visitors to the popular park to vote cast their votes before voting closes on 30th September.

Voting is quick and easy – simple visit <http://www.greenflagaward.org>, find the location on the map, click the park icon and vote.

Leader of Broxtowe Borough Council, Councillor Richard Jackson said: "Celebrating ten consecutive years as a Green Flag Award winning park was an incredibly proud achievement for Broxtowe Borough Council and all those who work tirelessly to ensure it remains such a well-loved space.

"Now is the time for residents, families, dog walkers and anyone else who enjoys the park to show how proud they are to have such an excellent site in the Borough by voting for it in the People's Choice Awards."

The ten most popular parks and green space in the UK will be announced in October.

Broxtowe is also proud of it's other Green Flag sites at Colliers Wood, Moorgreen and Brinsley Headstocks, as well as the borough's two Community Green Flag sites at Alexandrina Plantation/Sandy Lane Open Space, Bramcote and Bramcote Old Church Tower. You can also vote for these on the website.

For more information, please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 3643, email grounds@broxtowe.gov.uk or visit www.broxtowe.gov.uk/parks

News Release

Issue Date: 5th December 2016

WOOLLY 'JUMPERS' KEEP TREES WARM AT BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK

TREES AT BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK have a new way to keep warm during the cold weather thanks to a local knitter from Wollaton.

A Sweet Chestnut tree at the park was 'yarn bombed' by local knitter and Geocaching enthusiast Hannah Birch after she contacted Broxtowe Borough Council with a unique idea to dress the trees to celebrate the park's 10th year of Green Flag award success.

The tree is located adjacent to the cycle track at the park and visitors can search for a hidden Geocache using their mobile phones when they find the tree.

The yarn bombing was officially revealed on Friday 2nd December as Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe, Councillor Graham Harvey joined students from White Hills Park Federation Trust to plant trees around the main car park at the site as part of National Tree Week.

A total of 10 trees were planted to mark 10 consecutive years of the park holding the prestigious Green Flag award. The selection of trees were specially chosen for their excellent autumn colour and once established will provide a blaze of colour as summer fades. A number of the trees were donated in private memorial or commemoration.

Future Yarn Bombing may appear at the park in 2017 to celebrate different events and activities. Keep visiting the park and you never know what new colourful knitted dressings you may see.

For more information please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 3507, email grounds@broxtowe.gov.uk or visit www.broxtowe.gov.uk/parks

TEN AWARD WINNING YEARS FOR BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT THE WALLED GARDEN, BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK ON THURSDAY 28TH JULY AT 11.00AM

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK will celebrate ten years of being a prestigious Green Flag Award winning park later this month at a special event to mark the occasion and thank some of local people who have been pivotal in the its success.

Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe, Councillor Graham Harvey will join ten friends of the park on Thursday 28th July at 11.00am to raise a 10m x 5m flag in the Walled Garden at the park.

The Green Flag Awards recognise and reward the best parks and green spaces across the country. A Green Flag is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

Chair of the Leisure, Parks and Cemeteries Committee, Councillor Shane Easom said: "Bramcote Hills Park is one of the Borough's most popular sites and we are delighted to be celebrating its tenth consecutive Green Flag Award."

"The park, along with the Council's other parks and open spaces are so successful because of the fantastic work of the many local people who are committed to ensuring they can be enjoyed by residents and visitors to the borough for many years to come."

Bramcote Hills Park is approximately 27 hectares in size, comprising a mix of woodland and parkland. It is a focal point for community participation in leisure and recreational activities and is a much appreciated facility for dog walkers, parents with young children and families. It plays host to the annual Hemlock Happening which attracts thousands of visitors each year.

There are many key and varied features to the park, including the Holocaust Memorial Garden, the cycle path and the open parkland. Historical features include

the ice-house, the site of the former Bramcote Hills House and the walled garden. Facilities include an exciting play area, trim trail and cricket square, as well as picnic areas and seating. The interpretation panels throughout the park help illustrate the area's history.

The Borough Council is also celebrating retaining the Green Flag at Colliers Wood at Moorgreen for the 8th year running, as well as at Brinsley Headstocks and the borough's two Community Green Flag sites at Alexandrina Plantation / Sandy Lane Open Space, Bramcote and Bramcote Old Church Tower.

For more details of the parks and open spaces in Broxtowe Borough visit the website at www.broxtowe.gov.uk/parks or contact 0115 917 3643 or email grounds@broxtowe.gov.uk

Notes to the Editor

ONE IMAGE ATTACHED OF THE PARK

TEN GUESTS

- **Barbara Brooke** - Barbara was one of the key players in establishing the Hemlock Happening which resulted in applying for the first Green Flag Award.
- **Stan Heptinstall** – Like Barbara, Stan was pivotal in setting up the Hemlock Happening and promoting the value of the park to the local community
- **Alex Khan, Broxtowe Borough Council** – Alex leads the Council's events team which transforms the park into an event venue for theatre and concert productions, as well as the annual Hemlock Happening.
- **Ian Ward, Practical Conservation Volunteers** - This group, formerly BTCV have worked with the Council for over 25 years on volunteering projects. They have been vital in undertaking a lot of the work included in the Council's Woodland Management Plan.
- **Steve Woodward, Broxtowe Borough Council** – Steve is the Council's Grounds Maintenance and Arboricultural Manager and leads the team of dedicated gardeners who maintain the park to such a high standard each year.
- **Gaynor Jones Jenkins, Nottingham Wildlife Trust** – Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust were key partners in producing the first Woodland Management Plan which has shaped the development of the site. They are currently helping to produce the next ten year plan.
- **Chris Riley, Broxtowe Borough Council** – As the Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Chris is always looking for new ways to improve the park by adding new features and securing additional funding. Chris designed the play area which is the park's most popular attraction

-
- **Malcolm Hackett, Greenwood Community Forest Partnership** - Malcolm manages the Partnership and has worked with the Council on various community projects at the park, including the recent chainsaw sculptures.
 - **Jo Phelan, Groundwork Greater Nottingham** - Groundwork have worked with the Council on various funding bids and helped secure finances for access improvements and tree planting projects.
 - **Nigel Keeling, Broxtowe Borough Council** – The park’s high standard of cleanliness is respected by park visitors and Nigel makes this happen by ensuring all the bins are emptied regularly, any litter is picked up promptly and the paths are swept.
 - **Norman Clyde Watson** – Norman is an important member of The Friends Group at the nearby Sandy Lane and Alexandra Plantation Local Nature Reserve. The group regularly helps out with litter picks on the park
 - **Chris Laxton-Kane, Broxtowe Borough Council** - Chris leads the Council’s Sports Development Team which have encourage local people to stay healthy and active by using the park for a range of sporting events which take place each year.

BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK

SPECIAL FAIR 4 SPECIAL CHILDREN

200 children with special needs have been invited to enjoy all the fun of the fair for free on Wednesday 26 August thanks to the generosity of the fair owner Michael McKean, his fellow Nottingham Freemasons, the showmen and Broxtowe Borough Council.

The fair, that visits Bramcote Hills Park annually in August, is opening its doors early especially for these children who can then enjoy the rides and experience the magic of the fairground before the official opening. The Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe, Councillor Susan Bagshaw will welcome the children at 11.45am and meet those involved in organising this special treat.

Having recognised the challenges faced by children with special needs at the fairground, the Nottingham Freemasons in partnership with Michael McKean worked on how to make it more accessible and remove some of the obstacles encountered by these children.

As well as experiencing the rides the children enjoy the usual hot dogs, burgers, candy floss and ice cream, all for free. Parents and carers, brothers and sisters have also been invited to use the rides for free making a fun afternoon out for all the family to enjoy.

“For physically challenged and special needs children the enjoyment they would get from an afternoon at the fair is just the same, but the opportunities to experience that enjoyment can be limited. Once they are on the roundabout or the dodgems their faces light up, which is a joy to see and we want all children have the same happy experience” said Michael McKean.

Members of the Edwalton and St. Giles Freemasons Lodges in Nottingham raised funds throughout the year to cover the costs of the food and then give their time on the day to make sure it is a safe and enjoyable event for all. The Showmen fund the cost of running all the rides and also give their time.

Broxtowe Borough Council who is responsible for managing and maintaining the award winning park made no charge for the fair to use the site as their contribution towards the event.

Another supporter of the fun day is the Masonic Charity ‘Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) Nottinghamshire’ which supports children in distress in Nottinghamshire Hospitals by providing teddies for them to cuddle. TLC will have a stall at the Fair and ensure that every child leaves the fair with their own special teddy to cuddle.

This fair and the TLC charity are just two example of the good work which Freemasons are carrying out in communities all over the country.



News Release

Issue Date: 20th September 2016

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY AT BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK

Whether it's to honour a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, as a gift or just because you love the Park, visitors to the much loved Bramcote Hills Park can now leave a lasting legacy by sponsoring one of ten new trees which will be planted on the site.

The new trees will be planted around the main entrance of the park to celebrate its tenth consecutive year of being a prestigious Green Flag award winning park.

The trees will be chosen for their splendid autumn colour and will be planted during National Tree Week which takes place between 26th November and 4th December 2016.

Each tree costs £100 to sponsor which includes full care and maintenance for the first year of establishment as well as a certificate and information pack about the tree.

All sponsors will be acknowledged with a special notice in the park's noticeboard.

Bramcote Hills Park is approximately 27 hectares in size, comprising a mix of woodland and parkland. It is a focal point for community participation in leisure and recreational activities and is a much appreciated facility for dog walkers, parents with young children and families.

In summer 2016 the Park celebrated 10 years as a Green Flag award winning park, in recognition of the high standards of maintenance, community involvement, sustainable working practices and the park's heritage value.

For more information please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 3625, email grounds@broxtowe.gov.uk or visit www.broxtowe.gov.uk/parks

Over 200 Chicks Fledge From Bramcote Hills Park

25/07/2019 - A nest box programme has seen 218 chicks fledge from boxes installed at Bramcote Hills Park.

This is the second year the volunteers have erected and monitored 31 nest boxes in the woodland at the site, including one experimental three compartment box. The boxes are made from recycled timber and are designed to help provide suitable homes for our feathered friends.

A volunteer group spent the winter months building and putting up nest boxes and over the spring and summer, Blue Tits and Great Tits have been making the most of their new homes to bring new life into the world.

With hundreds of hours of volunteer time invested in the project, the group monitored the boxes and the birds that nest in them and their breeding success. Whilst on the visits they also found three Jackdaw chicks in a large natural cavity in a tree. All of this information, together with anecdotal reports from other visitors to the site will be passed on to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) as part of their nest record scheme, providing valuable data to help monitor the health of our bird life nationally.

Last year 181 chicks fledged from 27 boxes.

Becky Dakin, one of the volunteers said: "I've loved helping with the project, from building the boxes to seeing the chicks fledge. Being mindful in nature together with a lot of walking and climbing has made a noticeable improvement to my health and well-being".

The project is already benefitting the local wildlife and is a great partnership between the local volunteers, Broxtowe Borough Council and the BTO. The Council is looking forward to working with the volunteers to further benefit the local wildlife in the 12 Year Green Flag Award Winning Bramcote Hills Park.

Why not visit your local park or open space this weekend and see what wildlife you can find?

Foxwood Academy Pupils Help Plant Trees And Bulbs

17/12/18 - Pupils from Foxwood Academy got stuck into a tree planting event earlier this month, digging the holes for the trees, positioning the trees into place, and planting daffodil bulbs as part of the Council's involvement with National Tree Week 2018 and the Borough's 'Clean & Green' initiative.

The pupils were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Broxtowe Borough Council, Councillor Derek Burnett BEM and Sonia Burnett, and Bramcote Ward councillors, Councillor Martin Plackett and Councillor Jan Goold.

Two Silver Birches and one Mountain Ash were planted at Bramcote Hills Park by the students together with 400 daffodil bulbs on the edge of the woodland.

Broxtowe Borough Council, has committed to planting 1000 trees every year for the next 5 years and is on track to meet its year one target. These three trees mark the end of tree planting for 2018 and it was only fitting that they be planted in Broxtowe Borough's largest park which has been awarded the Green Flag consecutively for the last 12 years.

James Hutchinson, Head Teacher of Foxwood Academy said:

"Our students have really enjoyed getting out into the local community and planting today. They are exceptional young people and they will look forward to the blooms in the spring. It is a beautiful park that is very close to our Academy and we were very happy to support the event."

The Council's Clean and Green Campaign will see £72,000 invested in new initiatives to complement and enhance existing programmes to keep Broxtowe clean and tidy.

Appendix 27 – Bramcote Hills Park Access Audit

The audit was undertaken by the Project Development Officer at the Greenwood Partnership Team. The audit used the Scottish Natural Heritage National Nature Reserve Access form with a number of adaptations to reflect the mix of categories within Bramcote Hills Park. The assessor had been trained to undertake the assessments and had carried out a range of similar assessments across the county.

The audit covered the following issues:-

- Types of users and patterns of use
- Key experiences for visitors
- How do visitors find out about the site?
- Where is the nearest bus or rail service?
- Location of nearest car park
- Spaces for disabled visitors
- Access from car park to main park features
- Adequacy of outdoor seating
- Adequacy of picnic tables
- Toilet provision
- Publicity material for the site
- Outdoor interpretation boards
- Way marking of paths
- Gates, stiles and barriers on the site
- Path features - surface
 - width
 - gradient
 - passing places
 - trip hazards
 - other obstructions
- Cycling issues
- Lighting

The key findings from the audit are detailed below. Where possible these will be implemented working within the financial constraints set for the parks service and in accordance with the management plan for the park.

SUMMARY

What opportunities exist on the site to improve accessibility?

1. To enable more visitors to reach points of interest (such as viewpoints, bird hides, significant landscape features etc.) and get the essence/significance of the site

Woodland Area

Due to the topography and steep nature of the paths, the woodland area has restricted access for: people with limited mobility/wheelchair users/the visually impaired. However, by providing more detailed information about the levels of accessibility, provision of resting areas and seating and improved waymarking, there is potential for more users to be able to access this area.

Part of the Parkland Route runs along the southern edge of the woodland and provides users with a woodland experience. There may be opportunities to improve this experience by crown raising/coppicing some of the woodland edge to provide views and access into the woodland and through provision of additional seating within the woodland edge.

2. By improving physical accessibility such as a footpath from the car park to create an accessible circuit or link to another accessible path or part of the site

Parkland Route (Waymarked in blue)

This route is promoted as 'more suitable for the less mobile'. In general the route is accessible for wheelchair users/those with limited mobility. However, there are several barriers/obstructions on the route (see previous comments re: restricted width barriers and paths, poor path surface, difficult access along a narrow road) which need attention. Once the necessary improvements are made, the route can be described and promoted as a fully accessible route for all.

3. By improving intellectual access and understanding by changing or providing interpretive facilities and services

Review existing information/interpretation provision. Follow Fieldfare Trust design guidance to ensure new information/interpretation is accessible for all.

Many site users visit the park regularly so consider flexible information provision which can be updated regularly e.g. to reflect the changing seasons, current management/developments, forthcoming events etc.

Many existing on-site information/interpretation boards are deteriorating. However, much of the text/information is interesting and of

SUMMARY
What opportunities exist on the site to improve accessibility?
good quality and could be used again. Existing information focuses on the historical aspects of the park. Additional subjects/themes could include wildlife/woodland/veteran trees/information.
4. By providing alternative access where actual physical access may be impossible to key parts of the site
See section 3 above. Memorial Garden – there are opportunities to create additional sensory/scented garden areas which could provide further sensory experiences for blind/visually impaired users. Events Consider running guided walks/activities for specific user groups to show what facilities are available. This can help build confidence leading to self-led visits.
5. By working with other agencies locally to co-ordinate accessibility improvements
Consideration should be given to contacting specific user groups e.g. local disability organisations, older person groups e.g. Age Concern and parent/toddler groups e.g. Sure Start, to help ascertain what additional facilities/information they require and would find useful. It may be particularly useful to consult with users of motorised mobility scooters regarding specific access requirements e.g. some scooters may require wider accessible widths at access points. Users can also access steep slopes and moderate terrain beyond the range of conventional wheelchairs and there may be potential to provide additional routes within the woodland.
6. List the type of information about this site that could be useful for inclusion in a guide for disabled people.
Information provision needs to include 2 key messages about what the site has to offer: 1. The Key Experiences i.e. What is there for visitors to see and do? What is significant, special about this site? The aim should be to provide sufficient pre-visit information so that potential users can decide if the site is of interest to them. Additional on-site

SUMMARY

What opportunities exist on the site to improve accessibility?

information should be provided which enhances the visit.

For the park this could include descriptions and visuals (in a variety of formats) of the key elements of the site including the woodland, parkland, parkland/veteran trees, memorial/holocaust garden, paths and trails, play area etc. as well as themes such as the history and wildlife of the site and should reflect seasonal changes etc.

2. Infrastructure and Facilities i.e. Does the site provide for each users specific needs? The aim should be to provide pre-visit information which is sufficiently detailed to enable disabled users to make informed choices about whether a site is suitable for their needs. Additional on-site information should be provided to support and guide visitors once at the site.

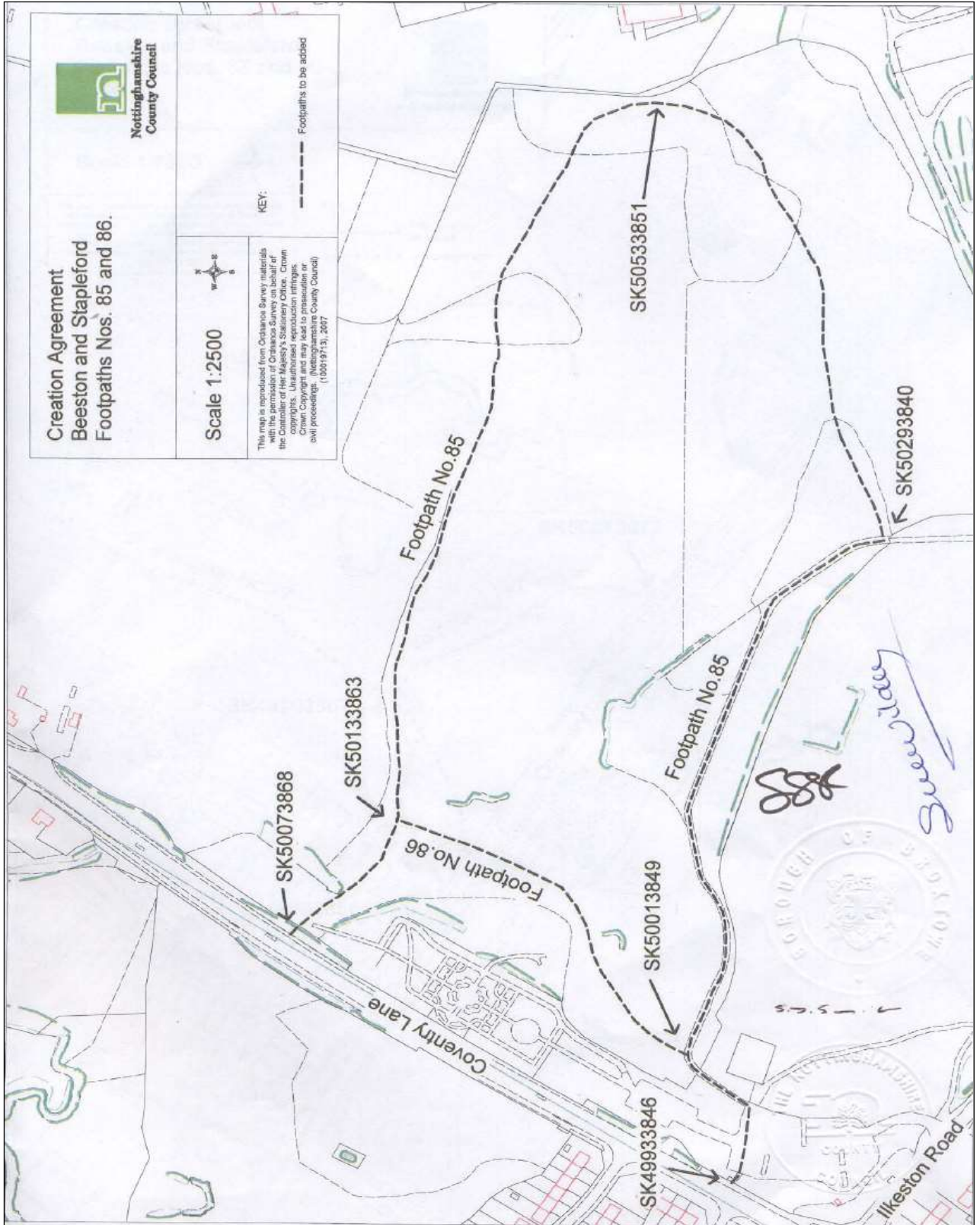
For the park this could include descriptions/images of the infrastructure and facilities including detailed information about the levels of accessibility

e.g. Site Accessibility Map showing

- site location
- car parking
- signage
- toilet facilities
- other site infrastructure/facilities e.g. accessible picnic tables
- waymarked paths and trails
- the degree of slope/location of slopes
- path surface material
- width restrictions
- kerbs/barriers
- location of benches/perches etc.

Ongoing consultation with local disability groups and other site users is an essential part of this process and will help ensure provision of suitable and accessible information and facilities/infrastructure.

Appendix 28 – Creation Agreement Plan for Footpaths 85 & 86 through the woodland



Appendix 29a – Recording of Ecological Data

Recognising the status of the woodland as a Local Nature Reserve, and its important link as an extensive green corridor of SINC sites, work has begun to record the ecological data relating to the site. The species listed below are from records obtained working with the PCV and the Nottingham Records Office.

Trees and Shrubs

Common name

Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Broom	<i>Sarothamnus scoparius</i>
Cedar of Lebanon	<i>Cedrus libani</i>
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
False acacia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos alba</i>
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>

Grasses, sedges & rushes

Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaries</i>
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Wavy Hair grass	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>

Herbs

Common name

Aquilegia sp.	<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolia</i>
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
Cleavers	<i>Gallium aparine</i>
Common figwort	<i>Schrophularia nodosa</i>
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Large bindweed	<i>Calestegia sylvatica</i>
Lesser burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>
Mugwort	<i>Aretemesia vulgaris</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio Jacobaea</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>
Wild daffodil	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>
Wood avens	<i>Geranium urbanum</i>

Ferns

Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Male fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>

Birds

Common name

Common Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopos collybita
Blue Tit	Parus caeruleus
Great Tit	Parus major
Nuthatch	Sitta europeaea
Carrion Crow	Corvis corone corone
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs

Bats

Common Pipistrelle
Saprano Pipestrelle

In summer 2012 The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust secured the services of a trained volunteer who undertakes survey work in the woodland. See Appendix 31b.

Appendix 29b – Botanical Survey 2012

This information was recorded from several visits during 2012. Records have been made of shrub layer and field layer, based on the compartments identified in the Woodland Management Plan 2006.

Frequency estimates are indicated on the following scale; D = Dominant; A = Abundant; F = Frequent; O = Occasional; R = Rare.

Compartment 1

Shrub layer: elder F, yew F, holly O, young sycamore

Field layer: bare earth and leaf litter abundant, common nettle F, hedge mustard R, burdock species R, broad-leaved plantain R, ivy R, cow parsley R, garlic mustard R, bramble R, white bryony R, chickweed R, rosebay willowherb R, cleavers R, bindweed species R, wood avens R, nipplewort R, foxglove R, bluebell species R, sow thistle R, Canadian fleabane R, hedge woundwort R, non-native lamium species R, grass species R, dead stumps of rhododendron a few with regrowth, bare rock moss species.

Compartment 2

Shrub Layer: rhododendron R.

Field Layer: Bare earth and leaf litter dominant, no plants, the ground is shaded by yew canopy.

Compartment 3

Shrub layer: holly O, elder O, rhododendron O

Field layer: Bare earth dominant, dead stumps and branches of rhododendron a few with regrowth shoots, common nettle F lower down.

Compartment 4

Shrub later: rhododendron O.

Field layer: Bare earth dominant, dead stumps of rhododendron, common nettle R, bracken R, enchanters nightshade R, buckler fern R, bramble R, grass species R, elder seedlings R, sycamore stumps a few with regrowth, mosses R.

Compartment 5

Shrub layer: Young rowan, holly, elder, rhododendron O.

Field layer: Bare earth F, bramble O, bracken O, wood avens R, cleavers R, common nettle O, dandelion R, forget-me-not species R, grass species R, rosebay willowherb R, foxglove R, yew seedlings R, sycamore stumps with regrowth.

Compartment 6

Shrub layer: holly O

Field layer: Bare earth dominant, bramble R.

Compartment 7

Shrub Layer: holly R

Field layer: Bare earth dominant, dead stumps and branches of rhododendron some with regrowth, grass species R, moss R.

Compartment 8

Not recorded.

Compartment 9

Shrub layer: Young oak O, young beech O, young sycamore O, elder R, rhododendron O.

Field layer: Bracken dominant, bramble F, rosebay willowherb O, common nettle O, bare earth O, grass species O, (includes false oat grass, wood meadow grass and early hair grass), foxglove R, sheep's sorrel R, honeysuckle R.

Compartment 10

Shrub layer: Young rowan F, holly R.

Field layer: Bare earth and leaf litter dominant, bracken O (to the west of the compartment), bramble R, male fern R, buckler fern R, common nettle R, wood avens R, grass species R, sycamore stumps some with regrowth. A small wire enclosure is situated where there is a clearing in the canopy, vegetation here is bare earth R, bramble, bracken, grass species, buckler fern, foxglove, conifer seedlings, young oak, sycamore stumps with regrowth.

Compartment 11

Not recorded.

Compartment 12

Shrub layer: Young rowan O, rhododendron R.

Field layer: Bracken F, Bramble F, bare earth F, grass species O, red campion R, enchanter's nightshade R, sycamore seedlings R, sycamore stumps with regrowth, moss R.

Compartment 13

Shrub layer: holly O, rhododendron along the lower edge.

Field layer: Bare earth dominant, bracken O, bramble O, rosebay willowherb O, sheep's sorrel O, common nettle O, wood sage O, grass species O, ivy O, foxglove R, gorse R, dead rhododendron branches and stumps with a few regrowth.

Compartment 14

Not recorded.

Compartment 15

Shrub layer: rhododendron F, willow O, elder O.

Field layer: In the higher section; bare earth dominant, dead cut branches and stumps of rhododendron some with regrowth.

Field layer: Lower down, it is more open lower down, common nettle D, bindweed species A, bracken O, common thistle O, bramble O, ragwort O, great willowherb O.

Further down is an area of amenity-cut grass which appears to be in this compartment.

Notes

Survey by Paul Wilson made over several visits during 2012.

Appendix 29c – Bird Survey in Woodland March 2017

Birds Identified

Great Spotted Woodpecker
Green Woodpecker
Long Tailed Tit
Coal Tit
Great Tit
Blue Tit
Robin
Wren
Magpie
Chaffinch
Jackdaw
Mistle Thrush
Blackbird
Jay
Nuthatch
Tree Creeper
Wood Pigeon
Carrion Crow
Dunnock
Bull Finch
Gold Finch
Chiff Chaff

Appendix 29d – Bramcote Hills Park Nest Records 2019

Parkland

Trees

Box #	Grid Ref.	Box type	Date 17/04/2019	Date 17/05/2019	Species
Box 1	SK50623 37630	Tawney Owl	Squirrel		
Box 2	SK50623 37655	25mm	11 eggs	11 3/4 feathers	BT
Box 3	SK50597 37601	30mm	4 eggs	7 1/4 feathered	GT

Woodland

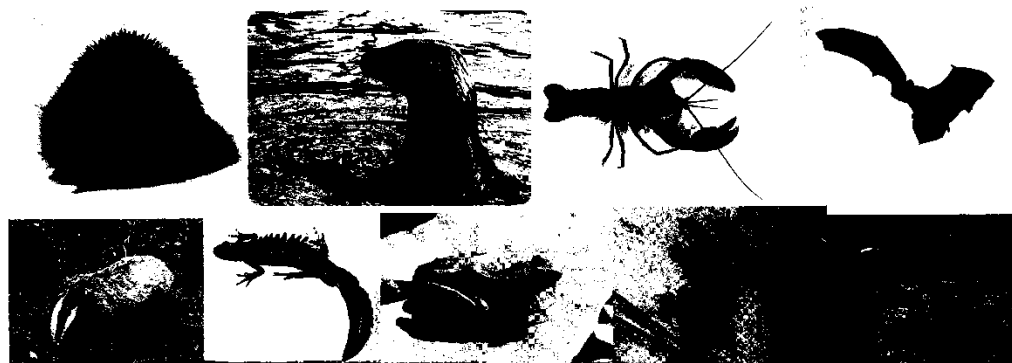
			Date 17/04/2019	Date 17/05/2019	Species
Box 4	SK50043 38532	34mm	8 eggs	on nest	GT
Box 5	SK50079 38544	25mm	6 eggs	7 3/4 feathered	BT
Box 6	SK50107 38653	32mm	lined nest	3 dead 2 eggs	BT
Box 7	SK50085 38490	32mm	On nest	7 3/4 feathered	GT
Box 8	SK50100 38520	T Creeper	2 eggs	9 1/2 feathered	BT
Box 9	SK50294 38592	30mm	2 eggs	8 1/2 feathered	GT
Box 10	SK50242 38629	25mm	7 eggs	12 1/2 featherd	BT
Box 11	SK50228 38542	34mm	8 eggs	9 3/4 feathered	GT
Box 12	SK50282 38482	30mm	8 eggs	9 1/2 feathered	GT
Box 13	SK50373 38476	25mm	lined nest	8 cold eggs	BT
Box 14	SK50154 38559	25mm	lined nest	7 1/2 feathered	BT
Box 15	SK50180 38546	30mm	3/4 nest	10 1/2 feathered	BT
Box 16	SK50304 38470	T Creeper	lined nest	9 1/4 feathered	BT
			19/04/2019	17/05/2019	
Box 17	SK50389 38567	25mm	2 eggs	12 1/4 featherd	BT
Box 18	SK50466 38554	34mm	On nest	Fledged	GT
Box 19	SK50506 38525	30mm	3 eggs Squirrel	1 egg+6 1/4 fth	GT
Box 20	SK50424 38477	34mm	dam	6 eggs	GT
Box 21	SK50404 38435	25mm	9 eggs	10 dead chicks	BT
Box 22	SK50530 38435	30mm	12 eggs	Fledged	GT
Box 23	SK50438 38411	34mm	7 eggs	Fledged	GT
Box 24	SK50329 38342	34mm	7 eggs	7 3/4 feathered	GT
Box 25	SK50523 38458	25mm	8 eggs	Fledged	BT
Box 26	SK50319 38367	25mm	lined nest	5 new born	BT
Box 27	SK50421 38374	25mm	7 eggs	9 3/4 feathered	BT
Box 28	SK50189 38582	30mm	Empty	Empty	
Box 29	SK50393 38571	30mm	13 eggs	Fledged	GT
Box 30	SK50474 38586	25mm	On nest	Fledged 1 dead	BT
Box 31	SK50328 38374	3 holes	3/4 nest	6 1/2+2 eggs	GT

BT- Blue Tit

GT - Great Tit

Appendix 30 – Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre Flyer

HAVE YOU SEEN ANY HEDGEHOGS OR OTHER RARE WILDLIFE LATELY?



If so, your record is needed!

The Nottinghamshire Biological & Geological Record Centre (NGBRC) is currently seeking new and up-to-date records of endangered and protected species within the county. Your record could prove vital in conservation efforts to protect these animals.

Maybe you have a hedgehog in your garden? A badger sett nearby? Toads in your pond? Bats in your roof? Or, maybe you are a keen walker and have seen something around Nottinghamshire? Whatever you have seen, we would like to hear from you. Particularly if you have come across any of the following species:

- **Hedgehogs**
- **Badgers**
- **Amphibians** (especially Great Crested Newts and Natterjack Toads)
- **Bats**
- **Reptiles** (such as Common Lizards, Slow Worms and Grass Snakes etc)
- **Otters**
- **Crayfish** (Fresh Water Crayfish and the Alien American Species)
- **Dormice**

Please contact Rob or Pete at the NBGRC on 0115 9153909 Email: nbgrc@ncmg.org.uk or
Derek Wilson (particularly for hedgehog records) on: 07780503399 Email:
dwmrcvs@hotmail.com

It would be helpful if you could provide any or all of the following information with your call / email:

- What species did you see? And where did you see it? And what date/time did you see it? (4 or 6 figure grid references and addresses would be helpful, but general area is OK)
- What was it doing and under what circumstances did you see it? (dead, alive or injured etc)
- Was there any young in tow, if so how many?
- Any other information you can provide.

Thank You.

Appendix 31 – Geocaching

Detailed below is an extract from a local Geocacher who has set up 5 caches within the park. He has approval from the Parks and Environment Manager to do this and is responsible for managing and maintaining them.

"I have visited the area on a number of occasions recently and believe that I have found some good locations for 5 geocaches. I am able to give you the description and the location of the hides, all of these are within the wooded area and pretty close to the main footpaths. I don't envisage the hides to be difficult but, neither do I want them to be disturbed by non-geocachers.

I anticipate being able to suggest parking in the main car park near to the children's play area and will suggest that the route is away from this area (Northwards) up the incline. This will then allow for a clockwise walk around the perimeter of the park.

There will be 4 traditional caches and 1 bonus cache. The traditional caches will be found from the given co-ordinates and the bonus (or unknown) cache will be found using the numbers on a couple of red/white poles already in situ.

Cache 1: N 52 56.571 W 001 15.245 (at the side of the footpath in a rotten/rotting tree stump just on the other side of the fence, but accessible from the footpath side and doesn't need any climbing - the hide will be a 35mm film canister inside a drilled out off-cut).

Cache 2: N 52 56.546 W 001 14.985 (in another tree stump at the side of the path - this will be a small klip-lok box with natural camouflage).

Cache 3: N 52 56.441 W 001 14.998 (Just off of the path in a hole in silver birch tree - cache will be a small plastic tub - hole is about 6 feet up).

Cache 4: N 52 56.426 W 001 15.150 (Near to rhododendrons and gnarly roots - this will be a small klip-lok concealed within another off-cut).

Cache 5: N 52 56.484 W 001 15.297 (bonus cache near to Hills House - opposite side of path to the large tree there are two trees covered in ivy - I intend to hide a fake pine cone in the ivy).

All of the cache containers will be clearly marked, all of the cache pages will acknowledge the permission granted by yourselves and link to your web-site. I will also provide information about the park and the other Brocks Toe caches.

The walk is relatively short, and I have purposely tried to avoid areas where children may be playing and people exercising.

I hope that my proposal meets with your approval, I have found that a short series of well-placed caches regularly attracts caching families as well as the 'number hunters', whereas one or two random caches can often go unvisited".