



HATHERLEY PARK

GREEN FLAG AWARD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022—2027

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CHELTENHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contents

1.0 Introduction	4	7.0 Inspection and Maintenance	33
2.0 General information about the park	6	<i>7.1 Buildings and other structures</i>	33
<i>2.1 Legal Issues</i>	6	<i>7.2 Play area and equipment</i>	33
<i>2.2 Strategic Significance of Hatherley Park</i>	8	<i>7.3 Infrastructure</i>	33
<i>2.3 Surveys and Assessments undertaken</i>	12	<i>7.4 Soft landscape</i>	34
<i>2.4 Community Involvement</i>	13	<i>7.5 Trees</i>	34
<i>2.5 Current management structure</i>	14	<i>7.6 Pests</i>	34
3.0 Historical Development	15	<i>7.7 Green Space Volunteers</i>	35
<i>3.1 The heritage importance of the garden</i>	15	8.0 Finance	35
<i>3.2 Historical Timeline</i>	16	9.0 Monitoring and Reviews	36
<i>3.3 Features of historical landscape</i>	17	<i>9.1 Customer satisfaction</i>	36
<i>3.4 Research</i>	17	<i>9.2 Reviews</i>	36
4.0 Vision	18	10. Park Development / Work Plan	37
5.0 Management and Development of the park	19	11. Appendices	49
<i>5.1 The management team</i>	19	<i>1 Work Programme</i>	49
<i>5.2 Management Zones</i>	19	<i>2 A Guide to the trees of Hatherley Park</i>	51
5.2.1 Zone A - Entrances	21	<i>3 Green Flag Meeting—01.12.23</i>	53
5.2.2 Zone B - Formal recreation	21		
5.2.3 Zone C - Lake	21		
5.2.4 Zone D - Formal Area	22		
6.0 Qualitative Analysis	23		
<i>6.1 Welcoming Place</i>	23		
<i>6.2 Healthy, safe and secure</i>	24		
<i>6.3 Well maintained and clean</i>	25		
<i>6.4 Environmental management</i>	27		
<i>6.5 Biodiversity, landscape and heritage</i>	29		
<i>6.6 Community involvement</i>	30		
<i>6.7 Marketing and communications</i>	32		
<i>6.8 Management</i>	32		

1.0 Introduction

Hatherley Park is a 3 hectares ornamental park, surrounded by large properties with generous sized gardens to many of them. In 1934, the council acquired 11 acres of Hatherley Court Estate. The ground work for the new recreation area was initiated in 1938 using out of work labourers who were recruited to dredge and reshape the pond, to level the playing field and to undertake the planting of flowers, an extensive shrubbery and an avenue of standard flowering trees along the path.

The park was opened by the Mayor of Cheltenham on 29th April 1939. The ceremony was performed in front of a large invited audience.

Two gated entrances, one on the northern section of the boundary and the second to the south. The park has railings around the entire boundary; many properties have added fencing to their boundary for privacy.

The main path is lined with mature trees and is laid out in a figure of eight.

This provides a circuit of the lake and pleasant views of Leckhampton Hill, part of the Cotswold Escarpment. In 2016 a 300m section of self-binding gravel was constructed to increase the route around the park to include the open space area which became impassable during the winter months.



Photo 1.1 Cheltenham's largest poplar (Populus nigra)

The lake, formerly the fish pond for the Hatherley Court Estate, is approximately 60m x 20m with variable depths is lined with a number of mature trees.

The small wildlife pond was constructed in summer 2005 with assistance from BTCV. An interpretation panel giving information on the habitat and species within the lake has also been added along with additional seating close by.

The park houses a fenced play area for toddlers and infants with swings, slide and a train and house for imaginative play; two circular picnic benches provide a suitable picnic spot for families. A multi-activity unit for older children sits along with junior swings, a new large spinning disc selected through consultation with two local schools and local residents attending the park's 80th anniversary celebrations, adjacent seating area and basketball hoop with more seating. There is also a pétanque court with benches and a new sign. A junior football pitch is marked out during the youth football season and is used regularly by Southside FC; the small changing pavilion with toilet and hot water is available when hiring the pitch.



Photo 1.2 Wildlife pond

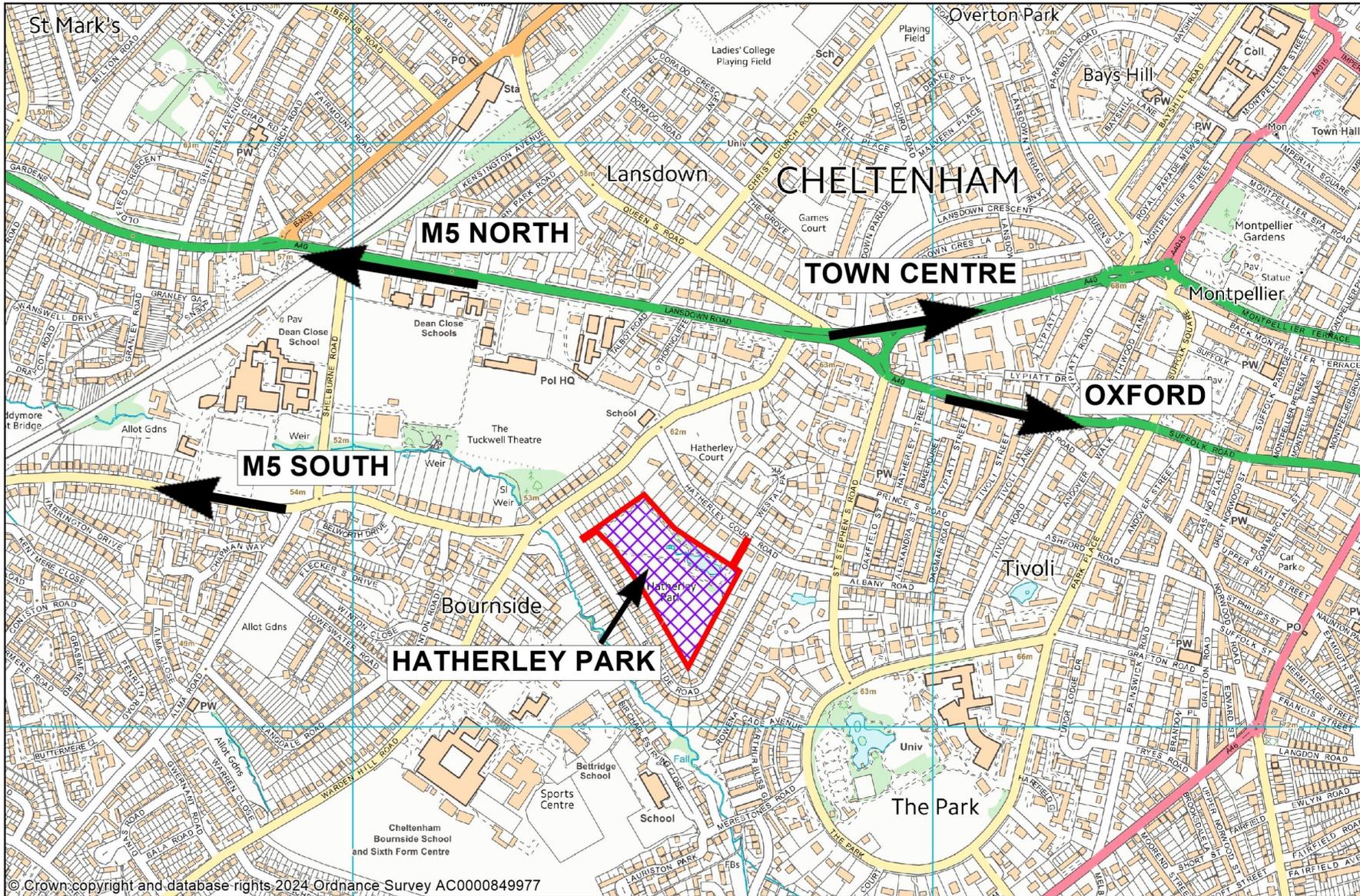


Figure 1.1 —Location Plan

2.0 General information about the park

2.1 Legal Issues

Ownership

Hatherley Park is owned by Cheltenham Borough Council and the legal boundaries are shown in figure 2.1 overleaf. The size of the park is approximately 3.0 hectares. Entrances to the park are from Bounside Road and Hatherley Court Road.

Lease

At the time of writing this document there are no leases in place for the pavilion although a verbal agreement has allowed the Friends of group to store tools and use toilet facilities during events and working parties, and it is also used by the Friends to enjoy refreshments after their working parties.

The Butterfly Box has a temporary licence to operate a café in the park near the play area. The licence is due to expire in March 2024, and a tender process is currently underway for the pitch.



Photo 2.1 The Butterfly Box café



Photo 2.2 A view of the lake—June 2023

Landscape Maintenance - In 2012 the council's Environmental Maintenance section was transferred to a new company Ubico. Ubico is a local authority company owned by its shareholders Cotswold District Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Stroud District Council, and provides these authorities with a range of services including waste collection, recycling, street cleansing and landscape maintenance of parks and open spaces including school fields.

Byelaws - A copy of the byelaws for all of the parks in Cheltenham are available on request.

Public Space Protection (Cheltenham) Order 2020 - In July 2020 new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) were agreed by Borough Councillors. These orders include dog control and exclusion from play areas. These orders replaced a number of previous orders with regards to anti-social behaviour, alcohol consumption and dog control. The link is as follows:

[Link: Public Spaces Cheltenham Order 2020](#)



KEY

- 1. Lake (*front cover*)
- 2. Wildlife pond (*photo 2.1*)
- 3. Play area (*photo 3.8*)
- 4. Pétanque court
- 5. Pavilion
- 6. Path extension
- 7. Wildflower meadow area
- 8. Entrances
- 9. Butterfly box cafe

Figure 2.1— Hatherley Park legal boundary with key features

2.2 Strategic Significance of Hatherley Park

Cheltenham is a large Regency spa town in Gloucestershire with a population of 118,800 (Census 2021) located on the edge of the Cotswolds. Cheltenham is the home of the most prestigious race in the National Hunt racing calendar, the Gold Cup, the main event of the Cheltenham Festival in March.

The town also hosts a number of cultural festivals featuring nationally and internationally famous contributors and attendees. The town is famous for its Regency Architecture and is said to be “the most complete regency town in England”, with many buildings listed.

Hatherley Park is situated adjacent to the central conservation area of Cheltenham. It is one of the main formal parks within the town, providing recreation, sport, and play facilities.

Joint Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 (JCS)

The JCS is a partnership between Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council supported by Gloucestershire County Council.

Formally adopted by Cheltenham Borough Council on December 12th 2017 the strategy provides a co-development plan to show how Cheltenham and the other partners’ areas will develop during the period up to 2031. It means Cheltenham is well placed to ensure the provision of homes and jobs for local people up to 2031 while protecting the things that make Cheltenham an attractive place to live, work and visit. The strategy sets out the approach that the Councils will take:

- To protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.
- Deal with climate change.
- Set out policies for the location and timing of new housing, employment development, key infrastructure, community, leisure and tourism facilities.

Para 2.9 of the Strategy states that “Cheltenham is characterised by its high-quality historic environment, set within a formal garden townscape and a wider open landscape defined by the Cotswolds AONB and the Green Belt.

2.14 states that: “Retail and Tourism will continue to make a major contribution to Cheltenham’s economy”; and finally Policy INF4: Green Infrastructure states that: “Existing green infrastructure will be protected in a manner that reflects its contribution to ecosystem services (including biodiversity, landscape/townscape quality, the historic environment, public access, recreation and play)”

[Download: Joint Core Strategy 2011–2031](#)

The Cheltenham Plan (adopted July 2020)

The Cheltenham Plan together with the JCS, the Gloucestershire Minerals and Waste Local plans and any neighbourhood plans made in the future comprise the Statutory Development Plan for Cheltenham up to 2031.

“The development plan also sets out higher level objective and aspirations that aim to both conserve what is valued and cherished with Cheltenham and to encourage development in spatial and policy areas the council wishes to promote in the public interest.”



The following policies have specific relevance to Hatherley Park:

Policy L1 Landscape and setting.

Policy GI1 Local green space.

Policy GI2 Protection and replacement of trees.

[Download: The Cheltenham Plan](#)

Conservation Areas

Cheltenham has a number of Conservation Areas, the largest of which is the Central Conservation Area which covers the whole of the Town Centre, an area of over 600 hectares. This Conservation Area is split into 19 areas, one of which is Dean Close & Hatherley Park. The key characteristics of Dean Close & Hatherley Park are described as of special because:

1. The overall variety in age and style of residential properties adds historical and architectural interest to the area.
2. The concentration of 1930s houses creates a strong, distinctive identity for the area surrounding Hatherley Park.
3. Hatherley Park and Court Gardens provide important recreational spaces within the otherwise built-up area. The green space positively contributes to the character and appearance of the character area.
4. Mature tree-lined streets greatly enhance the street scene within parts of the character area
5. Dean Close School, which was opened in May 1886 as a memorial to Francis Close. The school consists of a series of large buildings set in significant grounds and playing fields.

Dean Close and Hatherley Park covers a mixed area where a distinct shift in character is apparent moving through the area from east to west. The varying character includes the grand villas in large plots along the south side of Lansdown Road, the majority of which are part of Dean Close School; the Victorian red-brick school set in spacious playing fields; the distinctive Edwardian houses along Hatherley Road and Hatherley Park with its surrounding 1970s houses, which are individually contained in smaller plots and give this particular area a tighter urban grain.

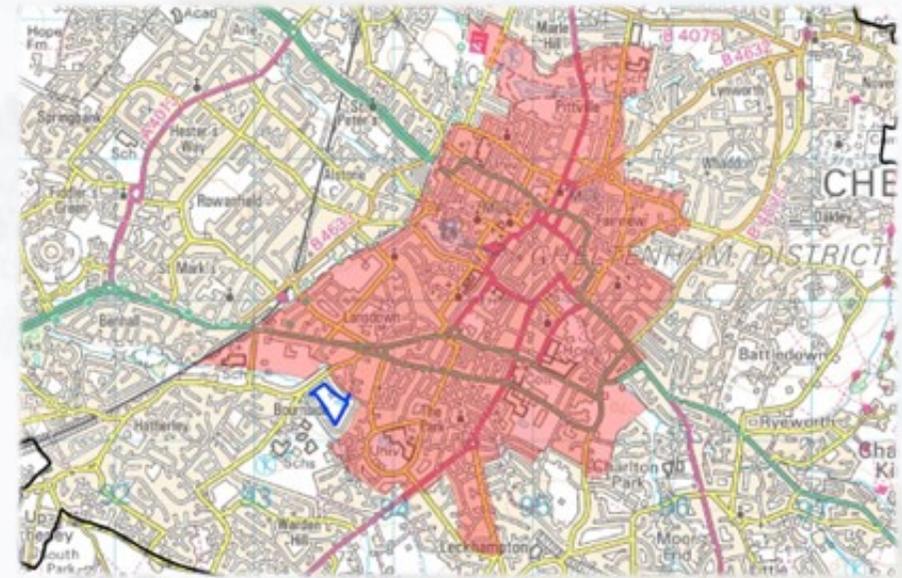


Figure 2.2 Central Conservation Area with Hatherley Park highlighted in blue.

Extensive views of Leckhampton Hill are prevalent from Hatherley Park, over the roofs of houses on Bournside Road. Expansive views of the hill are also offered at various points along Hatherley Court Road where it closes the long vista down this road.

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3164/7-dean_close_and_hatherley_park

Green Space Strategy for Cheltenham 2009-2024

In 2007 Community First Partnership were commissioned to map all green spaces within Cheltenham. The report published in 2008 detailed each green space in terms of primary purpose (typology), accessibility of the site (accessibility), and the sites significance (hierarchy). At the same time Middlemarch Environmental carried out a biodiversity audit of the green spaces within Cheltenham Borough.

As a response to these reports a comprehensive strategy for the borough's green spaces was developed to protect, connect, and enhance the various elements of green space provision. This brought together overall management with strategic land management, sustainability, biodiversity, and resilience to climate change.

These reports and strategies can be found on the council's website using the links below:

[Download: Green Space Audit](#)

[Download: Biodiversity Audit](#)

[Download: Green Space Strategy](#)

Hatherley Park is identified in the Strategy as having the primary purpose of a 'Park and Garden' which provides: "Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events". The park is multi-functional and includes semi-natural green spaces, urban woodland, green corridors, events facilities, outdoor sports facilities, and provision for young people.

The Green Space Strategy set out the Council's vision of:

"Working together to ensure a comprehensive network of attractive, valued and well used, locally distinct green spaces, that are accessible, safe and welcoming, which meet the existing and future needs of the community, enhance biodiversity and are managed sustainably to reduce our impact on climate change."

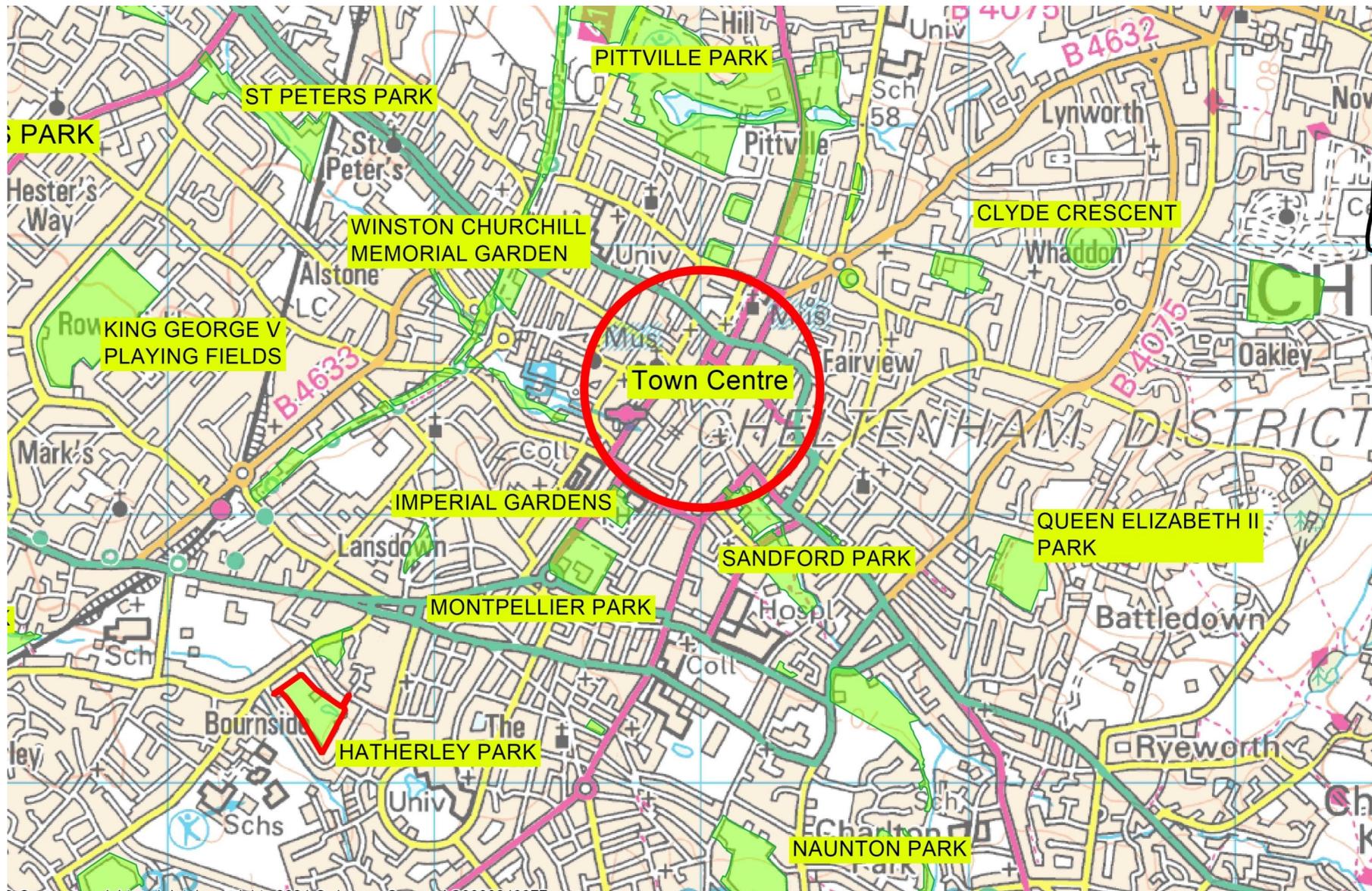


The relationship of Hatherley Park to other green spaces

Figure 2.3 shows the relationship of Hatherley Park to Cheltenham's other parks and green spaces. The park is approximately 30 minutes walk to the south of the town centre. It is bounded on all sides by residential housing.



Photo 2.3 - View within Hatherley Park looking west



KEY Hatherley Park Local Parks and Green Spaces

Figure 2.3—Hatherley Park location map and nearby parks

2.3 Surveys and Assessments undertaken

Ecological survey - Middlemarch Environmental carried out a biological audit in 2006 which formed part of Cheltenham's Green Space Strategy which was adopted in 2009.

The site comprised amenity grassland, scattered mixed trees, species-poor hedge, bare ground, bulb planting, introduced shrub and two ponds. Species recorded in the amenity grassland were annual meadow-grass, cocksfoot, daisy, dandelion, white clover, perennial rye-grass, speedwell, rough-stalked feather-moss and lesser celandine.

There were many trees scattered throughout the site, including mature specimens of considerable size and ecological value. Species noted were silver birch, hawthorn, conifer spp., maple, weeping willow, yew, holly, horse chestnut, monkey-puzzle, Scots pine, poplar and cherry. Of note were two weeping willow trees adjacent to the north-eastern boundary, which had holes suitable for roosting bats, and a large poplar tree on the same boundary which was very large and contained mistletoe.

Two ornamental ponds were present on site. These ponds had brick sides with muddy water. A patch of sedge was present on the western bank of the larger pond. It is considered unlikely that these ponds would offer suitable habitat for protected species such as great crested newt.

Introduced shrub was present along parts of the boundary, with a variety of species noted. Species-poor conifer hedge was also present along the thin corridor onto the site in the western corner. A new building with a tiled, pitched roof was present adjacent to the eastern boundary.

This building did not have visible features that are considered suitable for bats.

Hard and soft landscape survey - Detailed hard and soft landscape surveys have not been carried out.

Tree survey - The Council's Tree Officers carry out a tree survey of Hatherley Park every two years.

The latest survey was conducted in 2022. The Tree Officer has put the arising tree surgery works out to tender for subsequent implementation. A full detailed survey of the tree report is available on request.

The poplar tree along the northern boundary is highlighted in the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory as a 'notable tree'.



Photo 2.4 - A winter view of the poplar

Management reviews

Management reviews are held annually with key stake holders; these review and highlight areas where improvements have been carried out and show areas which need to continue improving.



Photo 2.5 - A busy morning at the cafe

2.4 Community Involvement

Community involvement in Hatherley Park is very active, with Friends of Hatherley Park who have been established since 2001. Also the regular users of the park, including many dog walkers, form part of the group and others, who when out on their daily walk, pick up litter if seen in the park.

A nearby nursery often visits the play area with the children, as well as Bournside School (a secondary school) from where many school children use the park on their way to and from school.

Bournside School pupils also maintain a small community garden adjacent to the pétanque court.

With the areas demographics a number of elderly people are regularly seen enjoying the park whilst using one of the many park benches.

The Friends group works every Thursday afternoon in the park where they receive many positive comments about the work they do. The group also hold a number of events each year, raising money for local and national causes.

The contribution of the local community through the Friends of Hatherley Park has been invaluable and will continue to be so for future park development. The group have raised over a period of five years almost £50,000 for the park development.



Photo 2.6 - Bournside School Community Garden



Photo 2.7 - FoHP volunteers carrying out maintenance to the lake

2.5 Current Management Structure

The Council's management structure can be viewed on the Council's website.

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3296/senior_management_structure_chart

The garden is looked after by the Green Space Development Team (GSDT) which comes under the directorate of Climate Change & Place. The management structure of the GSDT is shown in figure 2.4.

GREEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT

Departmental structure



Figure 2.4 Green Space Development Team structure

3.0 Historical Development

3.1 Heritage importance of the park

The council acquired 11 acres of the Hatherley Court Estate in 1934, for a purchase price of £2750. Of the 11 acres, 2.5ac were reserved for building purposes and for the creation of Hatherley Court Road. The recreation area ground works were begun in 1938 and were intended to be 'of special value to the dwellers in the Tivoli district'. The park was opened by the Mayor of Cheltenham on 29th April 1939 after work had taken place to reshape the pond, level the playing field and plant flowers and trees. The ceremony was performed in front of a large invited audience. The project was deemed "a daring experiment, consisting of a recreation ground and playing field for children on one side of the park "beautifully laid out" for adults on the other."



Figure 3.1 Historical map of park 1950

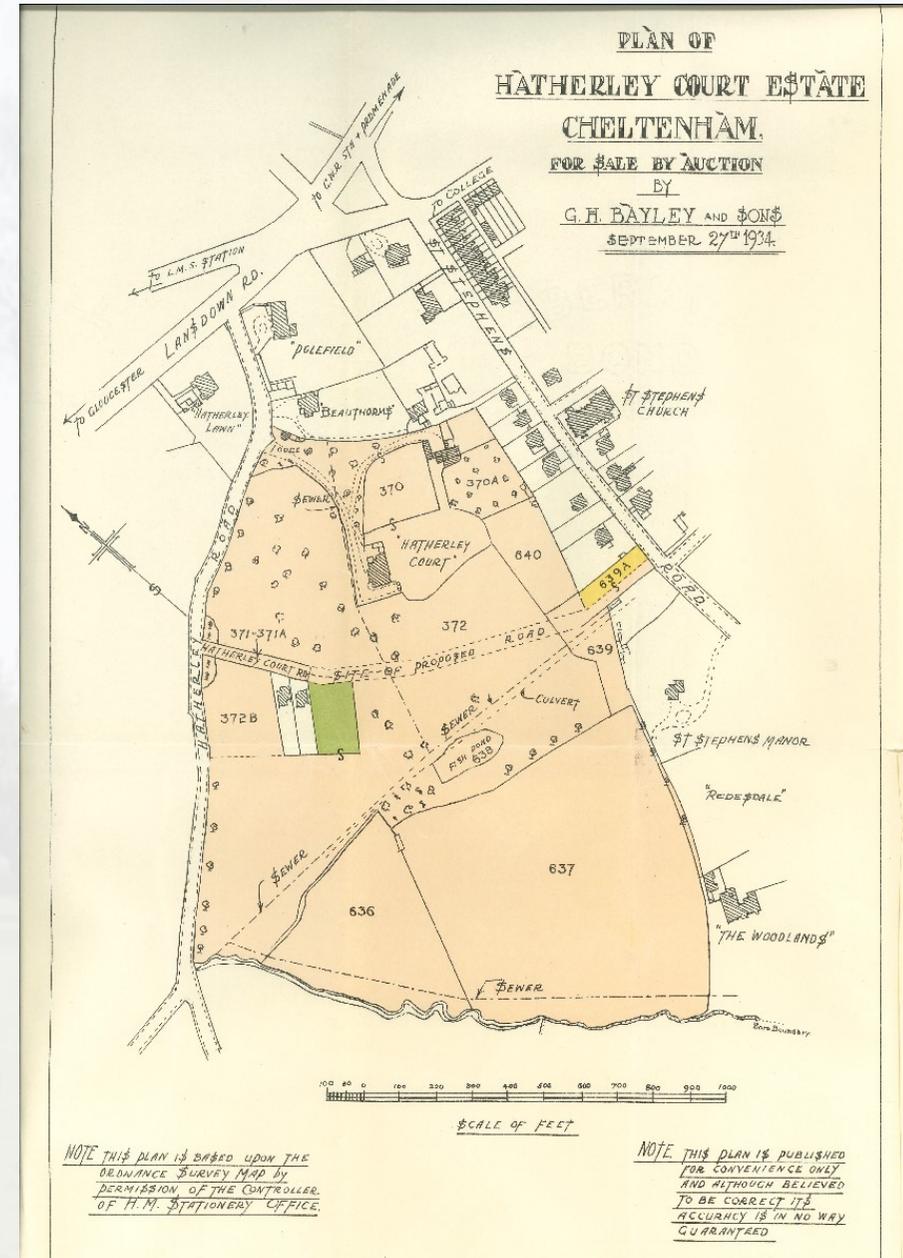


Figure 3.2 Hatherley Court Estate - sales map 1934

3.2 Hatherley Park—Historical Timeline

Below is a brief historical summary in the form of a timeline.

1934 The council acquired 11 acres of the Hatherley Court Estate for the purchase price of £2,750, 2.5 acres of which was reserved for the purposes of building and for the creation of Hatherley Court Road.

1938 Work commenced to reshape the lake and level the playing field. Out of work labourers were recruited to carry out the work, and to undertake planting of shrubs and an avenue of trees.

Cumberland stone was used for the construction of the miniature waterfall, streams and rock garden.

There was a big pavilion with attendant's room and aviary at the end of the path from Hatherley Court Road. Near the children's playground, with swings, slides and witches hat, there was a large wooden shelter

1939 The park was opened on 29th April 1939 by the Mayor of Cheltenham. The ceremony was performed in front of a large invited audience. Tea was later served in a marquee following a tour of the grounds.

1979- The BBC1 comedy, *Butterflies*, (1979-1986) starring Wendy Craig and Geoffrey Palmer, featured scenes of Hatherley Park. The disillusioned housewife used to day-dream on one of the benches by the lake.

1987 Old timber buildings, toilets and play equipment were removed, and new equipment installed in its current position. A new pavilion was build on the eastern boundary, which still remains today.

2005 The original cascades were removed and the wildlife pond constructed in its place.

2016 A 300m section of self-binding gravel path was constructed around the pitch to allow access all year round.

2019 The park celebrated its 80th anniversary with a large event held in the July of that year.



Photo 3.1 View of the original fish pond 1934



Photo 3.2 View of the lake looking south, with the original pavilion and toilets behind.

3.3 Features of the historical landscape

The lake

The layout of the park remains true to its original form, the main historical element of which being the lake.

The lake pre-dates the park, and was part of the original Hatherley Court Estate.

Its original purpose was that of an ornamental fish pond with a small boat house at the eastern end.

Upon purchase of the land by the council, labourers were employed to dredge and reshape the pond into that seen today. Concrete lined waterfalls—'the cascades' were also constructed at this time to provide a feature to the western end.

The cascades were finally removed in 2005, as they had started to badly degrade. They were replaced by a wildlife pond, helping to increase biodiversity in the park.

3.4 Research

Limited research regarding the park has been undertaken, although many regular users of the park have mentioned during conversations that they remember visiting the park as a child. An idea for a future community project would be to capture these memories for future generations.



OPENING OF CHELTENHAM'S NEW PARK
 Hatherley Court Recreation Ground, the latest addition to Cheltenham's large number of parks, was formally opened by the Mayor of Cheltenham (Mr. John Howell) on Saturday afternoon.
 1.—Some of the children on one of the new rowing-boats.
 2.—Ready for a game of cricket.
 3.—The Mayor (on left) declaring the ground open.
 4.—Mrs. John Howell, jun., with her two children, Joanna and Jonathan, securing the grounds.
 5.—A view of the laid-out gardens.



Photo 3.4 Filming of the TV series 'Butterflies'

Photo 3.3 Old postcard of the opening of the park in 1939

4.0 Vision

The vision for Hatherley Park is set out below and linked to the Green Flag Award criteria – the national standard for quality in green space management.

The Vision of the Green Space Development team and its partners are:

"Hatherley Park will be known to all, available to all and loved by all that use it. It will be a special and distinctive place for relaxation, activity, pleasure and mental wellbeing."



Photo 4.1 View looking north

Green Flag Criteria	The Vision for Hatherley Park
Welcoming Place	A welcoming park that is accessible to all sections of the community to play, explore, participate, learn and relax.
Health, Safe and Secure	A healthy, safe and secure environment for all visitors.
Well Maintained and clean	A clean and well maintained park that is an attractive and enjoyable experience for all visitors
Environmental management	A park that is managed, maintained and developed in a way that minimises the impact on the environment.
Biodiversity, landscape and heritage	A park where biodiversity is promoted and developed. A park where the heritage value of the site is conserved and enhanced through its character zones, views, vistas and historic buildings for the enjoyment of visitors.
Community Involvement	A park where there is an inclusive approach, involving all sections of the community, in contributing to the management and development of the park.
Marketing and communications	A park that is promoted as an asset to Cheltenham, to the people who live in the town and to visitors.
Management	A park where there is a co-ordinated and joined up approach to the management, maintenance and development of the park.

5.0 Management and Development of the park

5.1 The management team

The council's Green Space Development Team (GSDT - see figure 2.4) is responsible for the management of the park, its maintenance and development. This includes liaising with other council departments, Ubico, the general public, volunteers and a number of other organisations.

Inspection and general maintenance of the park is carried out in accordance with the Inspection and Maintenance schedules in Section 7.0, and the Work Plan in section 10.0. The work is carried out by staff from the GSDT, other council departments, Ubico, and Friends of Hatherley Park volunteers. For more specialist inspections, maintenance and development outside contractors are employed.

A bi-annual review of the Work Plan is to be introduced to ensure the document remains a relevant document, and adapts to the changes and pressures placed upon it.

5.2 Management Zones

The Park is divided into a number of Management Zones (see figure 5.1) and the current management and proposed development of each area is described.

There are a number of general issues relevant to a number of Management Zones, and these are covered below.

Access and circulation

An entrance is situated on both Bournside Road and Hatherley Court Road. All entrances are accessible for wheelchair users. The park has a good footpath network with a good circulation layout.

A new self binding gravel path was constructed around the southern perimeter in 2016. This now allows users to access all areas of the park during the winter months. The path is flat, allowing those with mobility issues to circulate the path unhindered.

Security

The park is open to the public at all times, 365 days a year. One leaf of the double gates to both entrances are locked shut to prevent unauthorised vehicular access. The council's neighbourhood team / PCSO's carry out patrols to reduce instances of anti-social behaviour. The low branches to a number of trees have been raised to give clear views in order to prevent places to hide.

Notice, welcome and interpretation boards

Interpretation and welcome boards are situated at entrances to the park, which provide information on the available facilities and historical context.

Tree management

The council's Tree Officer carries out regular inspections in accordance with the inspection schedule. Trees are pruned or if necessary removed and replacements provided.

Planting

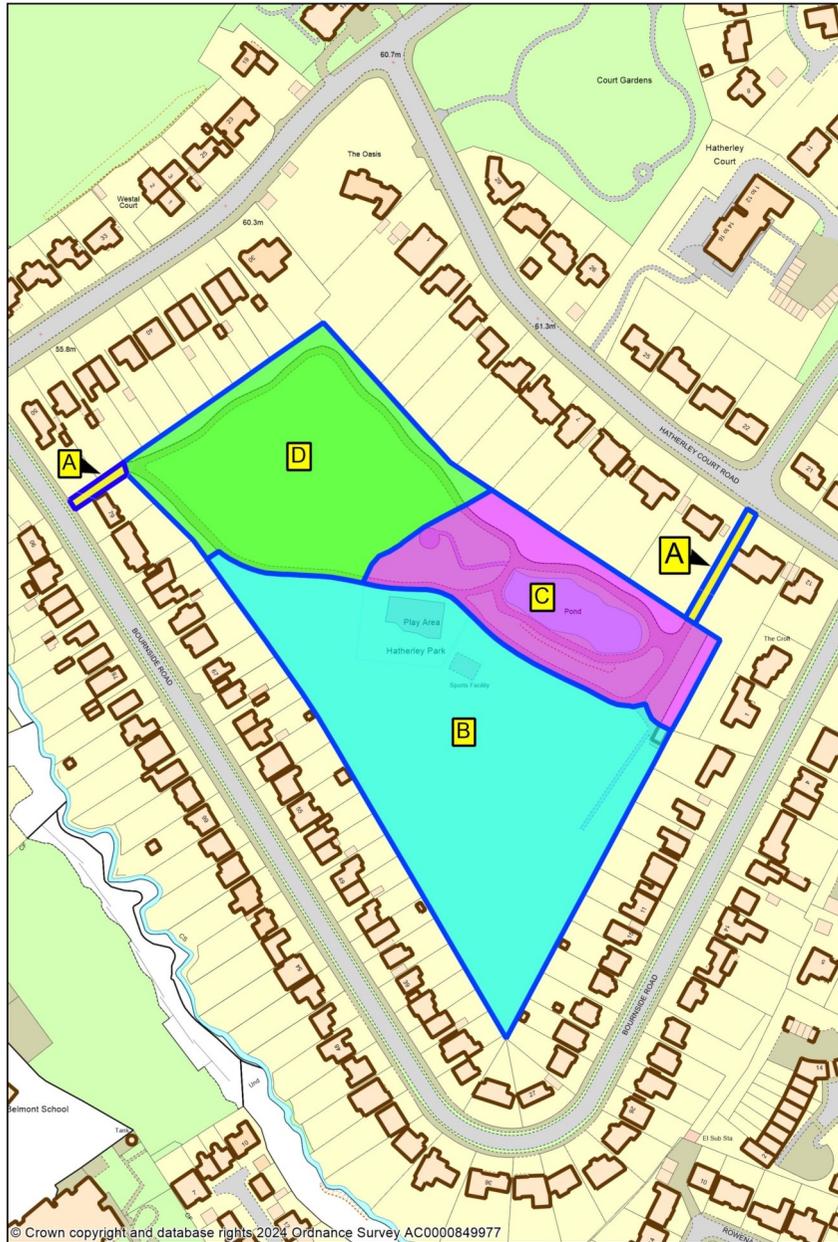
Shrubs are pruned by volunteers or Ubico in accordance with the maintenance schedule.

Park Furniture

There were separate bins for general rubbish and dog waste, but it was found park users would put waste in the nearest bin despite its designation. It was decided that new double black rubbish bins would replace both rubbish and dog waste bins and could be converted for recycling when the council could provide this service.

The Butterfly Box Café provide recycling locations throughout the park for their paper cups.





KEY

- ZONE A** Entrances
- ZONE B** Formal recreation
- ZONE C** Lake area
- ZONE D** Formal area

Figure 5.1 Hatherley Park Management Zones

5.2.1 Zone A - Entrances

Both entrances are gated and have railings either side of a tarmacked pathway. The gates and railings are periodically checked and repairs undertaken as required. A programme of repainting the entrance railings is due to commence in the spring of 2024, and is expected to be completed by the end of the summer, weather depending.

The entrance off of Hatherley Court Road also has pebble sections on either side, much used by the local children. Minor repairs will be undertaken during 2024 as part of the entrance refresh project.

Weeding and general upkeep is undertaken by the FoHP.

5.2.2 Zone B – Formal recreation

This is the main area of the park, used generally for both formal and informal sports, along with dog exercising and general events.

The area consists of close cut amenity grass, and is maintained in accordance with the schedule in Appendix 1.

The new perimeter path now encircles the pitches, providing good access for general park users along with spectators on match days.

Goal mouth areas are inspected regularly, and repairs made if required.

This zone also incorporates the wildflower meadow. This is maintained in accordance with the schedule in Appendix 1. A section of meadow was prepared and resown during autumn 2023 with local seed from our site on Leckhampton Hill. The remaining section will be resown in autumn 2024, along with opportunities to expand the area.

5.2.3 Zone C – Lake area

The area around the lake includes many mature trees and shrub borders. These are maintained by UBICO and FoHP in accordance with Appendix 1.

The lake is encircled by a tarmac footpath, allowing for good access and views. The reeds around the lake edge are maintained on a periodic basis by FoHP and GSDO. The lake has suffered badly from silting due to the close proximity of the trees, and that there is very little flow through the lake as the only feed comes from land drainage run-off.

A project is underway to initially treat the lake to reduce the quantity of silt, then carry out a larger operation to remove what is left. Grant options are currently being explored to cover the larger full desilting and bank stabilisation works.

The wildlife pond is maintained on a periodic basis. A full revamp of the pond was undertaken in 2023, and further aquatic plants introduced during 2024. The area around the perimeter suffered from an infestation of mares tail, which has successfully been treated with weed suppressant matting and a layer of bark mulch.

In order to prevent the mares tail re-establishing, it has been decided to build a rockery on top of the matting, which can then be planted with a native scheme. This will both make the pond area more attractive, and also benefit the biodiversity within and around the pond, ensuring it is more sustainable in the longer term.



Photo 5.1 View of the lake

5.2.4 Zone D – Formal area

This zone consists of mainly general amenity grassland, boarded by beds of shrubs and mature trees. The area is mainly used for informal games, away from the football pitches, and picnics during the summer months.

Snowdrops, crocus, and daffodil bulbs have been planted in swathes across the area, which give a good splash of colour during the spring. The grass in these areas are left long until the bulbs have died back.

This area provides some opportunity for additional tree planting as part of the tree sponsorship scheme, and is reviewed each year with the tree officer.

The ground rises quite steeply from the path on its southern edge to the northern corner, where benches provide an expansive view of the park and the Cotswolds beyond.

Accessibility

Whilst terrain includes some steep slopes, there are no steps within the park, and the paths ways are designed to maximise access. The original tarmacked figure of eight loop allows for a beautiful route around the lake and north western end of the park including access to the Butterfly Box café. The newly constructed self binding gravel path affords access around the recreation pitches, even during winter months.

The pavilion has a concrete ramp to the doorway to allow accessibility by wheelchair.

The path surfaces are inspected and maintained in accordance with the schedule in section 7, to prevent trip hazards and uneven surfaces.



Photo 5.2 A late spring view along the lake path

6.0 Qualitative Analysis

6.1 Welcoming Place

Hatherley Park is situated within an urban setting with just two entrances to access the site. Both have green gated entrances with interpretation panels visible from the road.

The main, most used entrance is on Hatherley Court Road; the path is on a gentle slope with pebble sections on either side running along the entrance railings. Many children can be seen walking along them and they are a feature of the park's character.



Photo 6.1 - Archway entrance to Hatherley Park

The interpretation panels give information on the history of the park, a map of the park, park code and contact details for Cheltenham Borough Council.

Three other noticeboards within the park are used by the Friends, to display information about forthcoming events for the park and information about how to join the Friends group.



Photo 6.2— One of the Friends noticeboards

6.2 Health, safe and secure

The council recognises the important role that parks and green spaces play in the health and well-being of residents. The council promotes and facilitates a programme of events aimed at encouraging the maximum use of parks and open spaces for the whole community.

Policy and process

The council has an overall Health and Safety Policy for its parks and a risk assessment approach to the management of health and safety in parks.

The council's two Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officers carry out regular play equipment and green infrastructure inspections.

When any issues are reported by members of the public, these are immediately escalated by the Green Space Development team for resolution, either by external contractors or by Ubico's grounds maintenance team.

Staff are employed by Ubico to carry out daily maintenance, emptying bins, checking and cleaning toilets and other maintenance duties. They are a regular presence on site and report any problems.

Anti-social behaviour

Hatherley Park has been less prone to anti-social problems than other council owned parks but liaison with the local PSCOs has proved effective in dealing with the occasional issues that arise such as vandalism and graffiti.

Prompt identification and removal of tagging and graffiti has proved to be effective, as have additional PCSO patrols at identified times.

The parks' site notice-boards display information about how to contact police and the council by telephone, e-mail or via the web-site to report damage and incidents.

Dog control

The council have adopted dog control orders as part of the Public Spaces Protection (Cheltenham) Order 2020 under 59 and 63 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Dog control orders replace the previous system of byelaws for the control of dogs.

The dog control order regulations cover the following offences:

- failing to remove dog faeces and not having a receptacle to remove faeces
- not keeping a dog on a lead
- not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded, such as play areas
- no one person may take more than 4 dogs on public land

For further information https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/69/animal_issues_and_advice/299/dog_control/2

Vehicles in the park

Vehicles driven within the garden are restricted to council staff, maintenance staff, and contractors. All vehicles should be driven no faster than 5mph, have hazard lights on, and give way to pedestrians.

Defibrillator

There is a defibrillator on the outside of the pavilion, which is maintained by the Friends of Hatherley Park and the council.

Events

A small number of Cheltenham parks receive the majority of applications for special events. Special events are predominantly events organised by external organisations who wish to use Borough Council open space as an event venue. Parks and open spaces are actively promoted as event venues and there are guidelines that cover all elements, such as insurance, risk assessments, setting up, clearing up times, duration and nuisance to local. To hold an event in the park the host needs to complete a special events application form and submit via the special events team along with a risk assessment. Environmental health ensures that the event will keep the impact to a minimum on the local resident and other park users.

6.3 Well maintained and clean

Litter and waste management - a programme of replacing the existing waste bins was undertaken, with new black double bins installed. These bins provide extra capacity and can be altered to collect recyclable and non-recyclable waste, including dog waste. Ubico staff and FoHP volunteers carry out litter picking in the garden, and the bins are regularly emptied by Ubico.

All events held within the park are encouraged to recycle as much of their waste as possible.

Park inspections and maintenance - a regime of inspections and maintenance are carried out in the park and on the buildings and infrastructure, as set out in section 7.

Trees - the Tree Officer undertakes a detailed inspection of the trees in Hatherley Park in accordance with the schedule shown in section 7.

Grass - the larger areas of the grass within the garden are maintained by mowing and the arisings left as mulch on the grass. In areas that are planted with spring bulbs the foliage is allowed to die back before the area is cut. The grass is allowed to grow longer in dry periods.



Photo 6.3 A winter sunset

Shrub and other planted areas

There are a number of shrub areas in the park and these are maintained in accordance with the work plan in Section 10.

Utilities

Any service issues are reported to the relevant public utility provider and they carry out the work to an agreed timescale.

Pest control

The council's pest control officer carries out monthly inspections of the 'hotspots' for pests and action is taken if required.

Surfaces

Paths within the garden are either of a tarmac or self-binding gravel construction. They are maintained in accordance with the schedule shown in section 7.

Buildings

Hatherley Park has a sports pavilion, which is available to teams booking the football pitch and by the Hatherley Park Green Space volunteers for tool storage and as a meeting resource for their weekly work parties.

Butterfly Box <https://www.facebook.com/TheButterflyBoxChelt/> gained a temporary licence in July 2020 to operate a pavilion café. The licence will expire in March 2024, and the council is undertaking a tendering process to find a permanent replacement.

The Butterfly Box currently uses a solar panel as a renewable energy source on site.

Equipment Maintenance

In order to promote safe use of parks and green spaces, all infrastructure, facilities and equipment are inspected on a regular and scheduled basis.

The Council employs a full-time Parks and playground technical officer who assesses the condition of paths, fencing, gates, seating, information boards, hard surfacing etc on a schedule that reflects the level of usage of the green space and the required frequency identified. Play equipment including play surfaces, the skateboard ramps, climbing blocks and other equipment used by the public are inspected on a weekly basis to ensure cleanliness; maintenance and safety of equipment on a regular basis. A fully comprehensive condition survey is carried out annually by the Council's external specialist.

Play area equipment and surfacing all conform to the relevant British / EN standards and are visually inspected on a weekly basis. Repairs are identified on a risk basis as *high* (repair immediately), *medium* (schedule for repair) or *low* (monitor). A copy of the full annual inspection is available on request.

All works are prioritised and supervised by the technical officers and are carried out by them or by known and reputable contractors.

Play areas display pictorial signs for no dogs, no wheeled vehicles, no smoking, no glass and say no to strangers.

Cleanliness - a clean park is often perceived as a safe park and all efforts are made to maintain the park to excellent standards.



Photo 6.4 The pavilion



Photo 6.5 Friends Group volunteers cleaning around the wildlife pond

6.4 Environmental management

In 2019 Cheltenham Borough Council declared a Climate Change Emergency. It's Climate Emergency Action Plan—[Pathway to Net Zero](#) , is available on the Council's website. This document, along with the [Environmental Service Strategy](#) guide projects designed to improve environmental performance and meet broader sustainability objectives.

Pesticides and herbicide use - Several years ago, an external company was commissioned to review the council's pesticide policy and practice. Since then, the recommendations have been adopted and the council actively pursues a policy to minimise their use. As an alternative to chemical use, flower and shrub beds are mulched using a 75mm layer of composted wood chippings which is topped up on a yearly basis, and a weed membrane to control the growth of weeds. No insecticides are employed. If deemed necessary hard-surfaced areas in the park are spot-treated in April and July for weeds using glyphosate. This is only applied if there are deemed to be no other viable options, and is undertaken either by trained staff or a suitable contractor.

During 2020 the Council conducted a trial in alternative approaches in controlling vegetation/weeds in public spaces. Its aim was to reduce the reliance upon glyphosate based herbicides, and to consider alternative approaches to managing unwanted vegetation in public spaces. Unfortunately, the trial was affected due to COVID-19, but the results identified a need to continue with the minimising of glyphosate use, however the alternative measures were found to have limited efficacy. The trial and all updates are appended in the Council's Environmental Services. Updates can be found at: [Use of glyphosate for weed control](#) . This will continue to be monitored and updated as alternative methods are reviewed.

Materials - The Council has adopted a No Peat Policy in order to minimise the use of this finite resource and the resulting potential impact on climate change. Following the closure of the Council's nursery in 2018, all plants are procured from external suppliers. All of the potting media is now coir based peat substitute.

Wherever possible the Council uses surplus wood chippings from approved third party contractor works. Often a request is raised to leave chippings from tree surgery in situ, which is then available for volunteer work parties. Given the much recognised benefits of leaving deadwood in situ, consideration is given to leaving either standing dead wood or leaving tree trunks on site when felling or tree surgery is required.

The ecological benefits include providing a habitat for various different decay fungi and wood boring insects, which in turn attract other wildlife further up the food chain. Different decay strategists will colonise standing dead wood and prone trunks. Standing trunks are also suitable sites for nesting birds, and bats.

There are no boxed grass mowing and all green waste is taken to the council's depot for composting.

Arisings from the wildflower meadow area are cut and collected and left on site in the composting area, or used as mulch beneath the larger trees.

Water - the water used on site is from a mains supply and is used for toilet facilities within the pavilion. Water supplies used for drinking are tested on an annual basis.

Recycling - The Council's waste and recycling objectives are managed according to its Environmental Service Policy, revised for 2020-2030 .The policy can be found at: https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3590/waste_collections_service_policy

Ubico is at present unable to fully recycle any waste collected in litter bins across Cheltenham. A planned recycling update due in 2020 has been delayed due to COVID-19. An ongoing trial has been started in several locations.

The Council is also signed up the county's [Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, 2007-2020](#) it currently remains a live strategy through 2023.

All events held within the park are encouraged to recycle as much of their waste as possible.

Air quality - The Council has produced an Air Quality Action Planning 2014 in accordance with its statutory duties under the Environment Act 1995 and following the designation of the Borough as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2011. The Action Plan is currently under review, and an updated version is expected to be introduced in 2023.

Hatherley Park is not located within an area of air quality concern but as an important urban green space it indirectly benefits respiratory health by improving air quality and limiting the impact of heatwaves on respiratory problems associated with heatwaves by reducing urban temperatures. Green spaces and trees in particular, provide both direct cooling from shade and reduce the ambient temperature through the cooling effect of evaporation of water from the soil and through plant leaves.

The link to the Council's Air Quality Action Plan can be found at: https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3780/air_quality_action_plan_2014_-_27

Arboricultural management - Hatherley Park has a mix of native and exotic species of trees within the park which are inspected every 2-3 years by CBC Tree officers, the latest inspection report is available on request. The park has Cheltenham's largest Poplar tree on its northern boundary, along with a Cedar of Lebanon. There is also an avenue of Horse Chestnut trees along one of the main paths.



Photo 6.6 View looking north of the Cedar of Lebanon and Poplar tree

Overall arboricultural management in Hatherley Park is undertaken by an in-house team of tree professionals with the following aims:

- To comply with the overall plan for, and management of, the park.
- To preserve and enhance the existing landscape
- To identify and undertake work required for health and safety reasons



Photo 6.7 A winter scene across the lake

6.5 Biodiversity, landscape and heritage

Conservation

Hatherley Park won the Bees Needs Award in 2015 for the work that is carried out to ensure biodiversity and conservation are at the forefront of any management of the park. Since 2010 the Green Space team have incorporated urban meadow planting, opting for nectar rich species in the chosen mixes to increase the food source for pollinators. Over the years the mixes have changed to increase the flora display which in turn has increased the nectar rich species. The areas have been moved every two of years to prevent the numbers of colonising weeds from becoming established.

Suitable standing deadwood logs are drilled to provide nesting locations for solitary bees and lying deadwood provides suitable habitats for insects. Also within the shrub borders ivy is retained to provide ground cover and allowed to creep up trunks of trees to provide suitable nesting spots for small birds such as wren and gold crest.

The sections of shrub borders have many species of shrubs of mixed ages; when replanting areas, plants are chosen to include suitable species for wildlife benefits too. Providing an extended source of nectar is valuable for a range of insects and provides a food source for many garden species of birds which are recorded within the park by Cheltenham Bird Club.



Photo 6.8 A Heron taking flight from the lake

Nature conservation however is not considered to be the primary function of the park. The park is an area for sports recreation and relaxation. Any actions that the Council undertakes to increase biodiversity and nature conservation are taken within this context.



Photo 6.9 Preparing the wildflower meadow

Future Plans – there are discussions ongoing over arrangements for surveys to take place to obtain a biodiversity baseline and habitat mapping to enable enhancement and monitoring of progress into the future within Hatherley Park and other green space sites around Cheltenham. These will most likely involve students from University of Gloucestershire, council staff and other voluntary contributors.

The potential to expand the wildflower meadow area further will be reviewed during 2024, and implemented in the autumn.

Further maintenance of the wildlife pond will be undertaken during 2024, and the formation of a naturally planted rockery around the perimeter.

6.6 Community involvement

The main community involvement is focused around the Friends of Hatherley Park. Their weekly working groups do not go unnoticed; park users on a Thursday afternoon actively thank the Friends for the hard work they do and how the park looks.

The Friends group was formed in 2001 as part of the residents' association, which has since folded. The Friends have a membership of around 300, many of whom have been members from the start. A core group of between ten and twelve volunteers take part in the weekly working parties carrying out a range of tasks including weeding, planting, litter picking and organising a number of events throughout the year. In 2021, despite COVID-19 restricting group participation, volunteering exceeded 1,190 hours. They have also developed a Guide to the Trees of Hatherley Park, enabling visitors to appreciate the variety on show throughout the park (see Appendix 11.1)



Photo 6.10 Duck food basket for visitors to buy health food

The Friends also encourage park users to feed the ducks, by providing for sale duck food pellets during the working party. Many regulars actively search for the duck food basket.



Photo 6.11 Brass in the Park event 2023



Photo 6.12 Brass in the Park event 2023

The Friends Group hold an annual Easter Egg Hut, with fun activities for all the family, which of course includes a childrens egg hunt. The event is well known within the community and is well attended every year.

The local nursery school regularly visit the park with the children using the play area and exploring the natural world. The play area is a regular meeting space for many mums and children, meeting friends and in the summer months having picnics.

The Butterfly Box hold evening events throughout the year, including pizza and hot chocolate nights in the autumn!



Photo 6.14 The easter egg hunt 2023



6.13 A pizza and hot chocolate evening held at the Butterfly Box



Photo 6.15 Discovering the eggs!

6.7 Marketing and communications

Cheltenham is known as Cheltenham Spa and 'The Garden Town of England' on account of its fine parks, gardens, open spaces and tree lined streets with over 150 parks and open spaces.

Situated in the leafy suburb of Hatherley, Hatherley Park is a popular venue for sports and relaxation.

Information about the park is also provided on the Council's web-site: https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/33/parks_and_open_spaces/346/hatherley_park

The Friends of group maintain and update the news on the notice boards and also update and publish marketing and events information through their website: <http://www.friendsofhatherleypark.org/>

The Butterfly Box has a Facebook page publicising their presence and events at the park: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=the%20butterfly%20box>

Bus

The 97/98, 94U and 10 bus routes have stops within 5 minutes walking distance of the park, providing easy access to public transport.

Car/bicycle

Hatherley Park is readily accessible by both car and bicycle. Although the park itself does not have a car park, street parking is available on Hatherley Court Road and Bournside Road. The park is easily reached by bicycle using one of the many cycle routes into the town centre from surrounding areas of Cheltenham. There is a cycle storage area situated adjacent to the pavilion.

On foot

All of the entrances are accessible for pedestrians.

The council have a tourism website for Cheltenham: www.visitcheltenham.com



Figure 6.1 Friends of Hatherley Park website

6.8 Management

The council's management structure is described in section 2.5. This 5 year Management Plan 2022 – 27 contains an Action Plan in section 10. It provides a tool to monitor how well the plan is implemented.

7.0 Inspection and Maintenance

The tables below are a summary of the Inspection and Maintenance responsibilities of organisations that look after the park.

7.1 Buildings and other structures

The Inspections are carried out by the council's Property Department who appoint contractors to carry out maintenance and specialist inspections. All buildings are inspected in the same way.

Inspection	Frequency
Roof coverings	Quarterly
Gutters	6 monthly
Windows and doors	Quarterly
External walls	Quarterly
Fire doors	Weekly :
External Decoration	Annually
Water and drainage	Annually
Mechanical services	Annually
Heating	Annually
Fire-fighting equipment	Annually
Electrical	Annually
External fixtures and fittings	Annually

7.2 Play area equipment

The inspections are carried out by the council's GSDT. They carry out routine maintenance but appoint contractors to carry out specialist work.

Inspection/maintenance	Frequency
Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officer – Visual inspection	Weekly
Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officer – Operational inspection	Monthly
External independent inspection and report	Annually

7.3 Infrastructure

The inspections are carried out by the council's GSDT's Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officer who carries out most of the maintenance work but may use also use specialist contractors.

Item	Frequency
Walls	Bi-monthly
Railings	Bi-monthly
Gates	Bi-monthly
Footpath surfaces	Bi-monthly
Benches—wooden & metal	Bi-monthly
Waste bins	Bi-monthly
Interpretation boards	Bi-monthly
Notice boards	Bi-monthly
Lamp Posts	Bi-monthly—by Gloucestershire CC
Tree plaques	Bi-monthly
Bollards	Bi-monthly
Fencing	Bi-monthly

7.4 Soft Landscape

Ubico are contracted to the council under the direction of the GSDT to carry out regular maintenance of the soft landscape areas in the park.

Item	Frequency
Close cut grass	2 weekly in the growing season
Play area grass	2 weekly
Hedges	Annually (winter)
Shrub areas	Annually (winter or spring) depending on species
Longer grass areas	Grass paths cut monthly through longer vegetation
Wildflower areas	Cut, cleared and seeded annually
Boundary shrubberies	Annually (winter)
Pathways swept	Monthly (frequency increased in Sept./Oct)
Litter bins emptied	Daily (summer twice a day)
Lake edge	Annually by Friends Group

7.5 Trees

The Trees Officer undertakes a detailed inspection of the trees in Hatherley Park generally every 2 – 3 years. A report on condition and any remedial works are carried out by a tree surgeon. Trees are also checked after high winds for damage and any necessary remedial works carried out.

7.6 Pests

The council's Pest Control Officer makes monthly visits to the site to check hotspots and takes any appropriate necessary action.



Photo 7.1 Fritillaries in flower 2022

7.7 Green Space Volunteers

The FoNP arrange for a team of volunteers on a regular basis to work in the park. They carry out a range of activities, depending on the skills and physical abilities of the volunteers. Some tasks are carried out on a regular basis and some on an 'as required' basis. None of the tasks involve the use of power tools or chemicals.

Task	Frequency
Litter picking	Every working party
Sweeping and edging the paths	Every working party
Weeding and tidying of the shrub beds	Every working party
Tidy up around the entrances	Monthly
Clean benches, notice boards etc. & bins	3 monthly
Prune shrubs	Annually
Minor lifting of tree canopies	As required
Remove epicormic growth from trees	2 yearly
Maintenance of young trees	Annually
Tidy and weed around the bandstand	monthly
Remove self-sown trees and weed areas	As required

The volunteers also take on projects such as the winter wonderland and the western boarder. They also raise money for projects to enhance the park.

8.0 Finance

The council does not disaggregate the parks and landscape budgets on a per park basis. However the costs for Hatherley Park are broadly divided into main areas – management and maintenance.

FoHP continue to raise additional money for restoration and development and where appropriate maintenance money can be used for restoration.

Those using the park for commercial activities pay a fee to the council which goes to the parks and landscape budgets although some may be used in Hatherley Park for enhancements.

Budgets have not increased over recent years, which has meant a small real terms reduction in the overall amount allocated for the management and maintenance of Hatherley Park. This has to date not significantly impacted on the maintenance standards in the park.



Photo 8.1 Corporate volunteers assisting at a Friends Group work party

9.0 Monitoring and Reviews

9.1 Customer satisfaction

A customer satisfaction/park users' survey has not yet been undertaken on the Park. However local residents and customers can feedback their views on the park via the Friends of Hatherley Park Group meetings and web-site forum or directly to the Council. The Council publicise their contact details on the parks notice boards situated at each entrance, and always strives to resolve any issues of dissatisfaction or implement suggested improvements within the park.

9.2 Reviews

A major review is carried out on the 5 Year Maintenance Plan on an annual basis where the document is reviewed by the council and stakeholders with particular emphasis on the Action Plan.

An 6 monthly meeting is also held at the GSDT depot to which the council invites the stakeholders to meet and discuss progress and other issues concerning the park.



Photo 9.1 The Acer glade

10.0 Park Development / Work Plan

Park Development Plan

Key:

GSDO - Greenspace Development Officer,

CPO - Community Parks Officer,

FoHP - Friends of Hatherley Park,

TO - Tree Officers,

P&PTOs – Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officers

SR – Senior Ranger

CR - Community Ranger,

GSDM - Green Space Development Manager

Ongoing – for tasks or project that do not have a timeframe or ending

Regularly- for tasks that are carried out periodically

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.1 Welcom- ing Place	To ensure that Hatherley Park is welcoming and accessible to all possible users	Maintain inviting en- trances to the park	Detailed plan for updating signage	Update signage & install new panel where highlighted	Ongoing	CR, FoHP	Update entrance signs 2022
			Railings & gates in good repair	Repairs and painting carried out when need- ed	Ongoing	PPTO	Installed 2021
		Provide information on shrubs & trees within park	Install pétanque Court sign		Ongoing	FoHP, GSDO	In progress Some labelling complete
		Continue commemora- tive bench scheme	Create labels for shrubs and trees within park	Produce a self-guided tree walk	Autumn 2018	FoHP	Completed 2021
				Reviewed due to new pétanque court		FoHP GSDO	Four benches sponsored by the pétanque pitch All bench addi- tions to park completed 2021

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.1 Welcom- ing Place con- tinued	To promote sustainable trav- el	Increase access and security for cyclists	Identify suitable lo- cations for cycle racks	Install cycle racks	Summer 2021	CPO	Three bike rack locations in- stalled 2021
	To improve facilities within the park	Provide a café offering within the park	Identify a suitable location & operator	Undertake trial	2020		Tenders re- turned Feb 2021
6.2 Healthy, Safe and Se- cure	To ensure the safety of all staff and users	Minimise hazards	Ensure Risk Assess- ments are up to date	Review RA pro- gramme in place & implemented	Annual	GSDO	
		To ensure all contrac- tors work within H&S guidelines	Before external works, correct pa- perwork received	Correct paperwork received for all exter- nal works	Regularly	GSDO	
		Report H&S incidents, maintain records of breaches	Regular inspections of infrastructure & play equipment	Complete inspection reports & any faults reported & resolved	As per in- spection regime	PPTO	
		Continue to work with Ubico & Police	Regular meet- ings/updates from Police	All parties regularly update by email or quarterly meetings	Regularly	CR	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.2 Healthy, Safe and Se- cure continued		Continue with compre- hensive formal regime of play area inspec- tions	Weekly visual, monthly detailed, annual external in- spections	Documented inspec- tions completed and reports retained	Ongoing	PPTO	
		Park infrastructure inspections	Remedial action in- spections	Inspections fulfilled and reports retained	Ongoing	PPTO	
		Public toilet facilities considered	Discuss new provi- sion of public toilet within the park	Assess necessity for toilet provision	January 2022	GSDO, CPO	
6.3 Clean and Well Main- tained	To maintain the highest stand- ards of land- scape, ground maintenance and cleanliness	Provide adequate stor- age for work party activities	Discuss possible ad- ditional storage shed	Alleviate any tool/storage issues	Spring 2022	GSDO, CPO, CR, FoHP	New shelving installed in the pavilion 2023
		Maintain the park free of litter and graffiti at all times	Review the litter and graffiti policy and lead times	Removal of fly tipping and graffiti within 1 day maximum	Regularly	GSDM, Ubi- co, FoHP	
		Commence the pro- gramme of replacing bins	Highlight the priori- ty bins to replace for double capacity units	All bins replaced with double capacity bins	Ongoing	PPTO, CR	Review due to new café unit 2022
			Ensure that any re- ports of fly tipping are dealt with promptly	Fly tipping removed within maximum 1 day	Ongoing	Ubico, GSDM	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS	
6.3 Clean and Well Maintained continued		Maintain commemorative benches to prolong longevity	Implement the maintenance plan	Ensure contractor compliance	Ongoing	GSDO	Completed Apr 2016 Ongoing Initial prep and sowing completed autumn 2023. To be expanded in 2024 Completed Completed Completed Summer 2017 Design consultation commenced	
			External contractor to apply oil twice a year (Oct & Mar)	All benches will have life span of approx. 10 years	Regularly	PPTO		
		Plant up area cleared on western border	Plant up with portatilla, cornus and mahonia	Area planted and mulch applied to reduce weed growth	Spring 2016	GSDO		
			Convert areas to perennial meadow	Diverse display	Regularly	Ubico		
		Maintaining Urban Meadow	Reseed southern meadow area	Improve and reduce maintenance	Autumn 2022	CR, FoHP		
			Develop a more natural looking, native meadow					
		Continue to improve border areas	Planting shrubs	5 cornus planted and mulched	Spring 2016	FoHP		Completed
				Escallonia hedge Himalayan birch planted	March 2020	FoHP		Completed
				Plant 3x Prunus, Liquidamber, Elm	Winter 2017/18	FoHP		Completed Summer 2017
				Western boarder project	To enhance the planting along the western boarder, providing for ease of maintenance and improvements in biodiversity.	Design 2024 Planting 2025		GSD FoHP

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIME-TABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS		
6.3 Clean and Well Maintained continued			Develop a community orchard	Plant suitable local species as part of a community planting project	Winter 2021/22	CPO, CR, FoHP	Orchard deemed unsuitable		
			Improve planting bed near to pétanque court	Replant with Perennial/Prairie planting	Improve display, lower intensity of maintenance	2022	FoHP	Bed now planted and maintained by Boumside Sch Repairs undertaken 2019	
			Maintain a safe lake edge structure	Monitor the lake edge around the hom beam	Ensure any land slippage is minimal	Regularly	PPTO		
			Maintain a healthy pond environment	Desilting the lake and marginal improvements	Conduct design and feasibility study.	Winter 2022	GSDO	£27k quote received 2022. Tendering to follow	
					Fundraise to undertake desilting work	Spring 2024	GSDO, FoHP	Fundraising research underway	
			Improve access provision	Cut back and remove marginal species, esp. Norfolk Reed	Contain successional growth of dominant species	February 2022	CR, FoHP		
					Resurface waterlogged perimeter pathway	Provide suitable multi-use path	Summer 2022	GSDO	Completed 2022. Remedial works to be carried out.
					Improve area beneath poplar tree on northern boundary	Create rockery using stones removed from cascades. Still at CBC Depot	Move stones to site during summer.	Summer 2024	
Create planting scheme	Autumn 2024	FoHP							

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA-BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.4 Sustaina-bility	To adopt envi-ronmental man-agement princi-ples and there-fore reduce the impact of man-agement opera-tions on envi-ronment	Produce a maintenance document To adopt an environ-mental policy for the parks service and therefore HP	Improve maintenance zone structure and create seasonal work plan	Streamline zonal and seasonal management program	Spring 2022	CPR, FoHP	Ongoing in line with new work plan Discussion on-going for possi-ble sensitively positioned compost bays Potential for composting
			Produce a list of shrubs within the zones	Secure funding and undertake work	Winter 2021/22	FoHP	
			Work within the council's policy for reducing impacts on the environment	Reduce green waste removed from site after work parties & planned maintenance	Ongoing	TO	
			Reuse natural materials whenever possible to minimise material being removed from park	Leaves retained on site in the woodland area.	Ongoing	All	
				Reduction of materials going to landfill	Ongoing	All	
				Leaves from the dis-eased horse chestnut bagged up and hidden discretely for 2 years	Ongoing	All	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.4 Sustaina- bility Continued		Increase the vegetation interest for longer season through planting plan taking into account climate change	Investigate different planting styles and how to incorporate within park	Bark chip around tree bases to help with water conservation and supressing weed growth Create dead hedges and log piles Increase in the flowering and vegetation interest across the year Increase in the flowering and vegetation interest across the year	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	ALL All All GSDO, FoHP	
6.5 Conserva- tion	To promote biodiversity through appropriate management	Where appropriate increase the biodiversity of the park	Identify areas for habitat improvements Carry out baseline surveys before improvements	Produce proposals for the areas including species if possible Carry out surveys once improvements carried out	Autumn 2019 Summer 2019	CR CR, FoHP, Local schools	Review 2024 Review 2024

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.5 Conserva- tion continued		Maintain the health of park's trees	Carry out tree survey	Report produced and any work required scheduled	2020 Ongoing	TO	Completed Au- gust 2020
		Promote the Park's trees	Update website with tree list	Species list of range of flora and fauna	Ongoing	TO	
		To involve the commu- nity in recording wild- life and improving biodiversity	Continue to work with external organi- sations and encour- age recording of spe- cies	An extended species list for a range of spe- cies that use the park	Ongoing	CR	
6.6 Heritage	Maintain the historical integ- rity of the park and its character zones	To promote the park's history and its signifi- cance of the park with- in the local area	To investigate the methods to capture historical information from the local com- munity	Hold event for local residents to share their memories and photo- graphs.	Ongoing	FoHP	
			Plan event for Queen's Jubilee	80 th Birthday Party event to be held	July 2019		Completed July 2019
				Develop a community event to celebrate the Jubilee 2022	June 2022	FoHP	Completed 2022

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA-BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.6 Heritage continued	Maintain the strategic significance of the green space in the new local plan and community plan	Park in local plan	Continue to ensure that planning service are aware of the significance	Meet with Planners	Ongoing	GSDM	
6.7 Community Involvement	To encourage community involvement in the park through consultation, events and activities and Friends group	Continue to work with the FoHP to support their work	To continue with the quarterly meetings and other communication	The creation of a working programme month to month for the year	Regularly	CR, FoHP	Weekly diary kept shows adherence to CBC annual maintenance plan.
		Continue to support working parties and encourage greater diversity of volunteers	Continue to promote the working parties through social media and word of mouth	Increase in number of volunteers attending working parties and potentially increase in working parties per month	Ongoing	CR, FoHP	22 regular volunteers
		Encourage visitor appreciation of the park	Add FoHP 'A Guide to the Trees of Hatherley Park' to council website	Increase awareness and use of FoHP self-led tree tour guide	February 2022	GSDO, CPO	Completed

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.7 Community Involvement continued		Engage with park users for their thoughts	Users information gathering day	Comprehensive insight to park and how used	Summer 2018 Ongoing	FoHP, CR	Survey of pupils from 2 local schools & attendees at 80 th Birthday event selected new roundabout
6.8 Marketing	To actively promote the park to all potential users	Increase the awareness of the park and the facilities	Continue to promote events in the Park and encourage more diverse events	Balance the number of activities with the other park users	Regularly	SRSE	
			Ensure CBC website displays correct information	Up to date website which is easy to use	Regularly	WT	
			Work with Marketing Cheltenham	Wider awareness of Cheltenham's parks through inclusion of marketing of the town to encourage a wider range of users	Ongoing	CPO, MC	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETA- BLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.8 Marketing continued		Raise awareness of the park for holding events	Continue to promote park and events on a range of social media	Encourage event's organiser to share to CBC social media pag- es	Ongoing	CR, FoHP MC, SRSE	
6.9 Manage- ment	To provide a responsive, flexible and high quality management service	Apply for the Green Flag Award	To submit the Green Flag Award applica- tion	Application submitted	January 2024	CPO	Completed sub- mission

This plan will be reviewed annually, but on-going feedback from stake-holders and regular meetings with Friends of Hatherley Park (FoHP) will enable continuous development.

11.0 Appendices

Appendix 1

Work Programme

Location	Details of work	Timing of works
Open grass areas	<p>Gang mow open grass areas allowing cuttings to fly. Clear cuttings from other landscape features Strim or clip grass edges on every other mowing operation Areas with 'naturalised' bulbs not to be mown until bulb foliage has 'died back' area then to be cut and cleared or if foliage is light, to be flailed. Then bring back into regular mowing regime Edge/half-moon grass edges against paths identified on inspections during growing season Clear litter from grass area 3 times a week</p>	<p>Every 14 days through growing season Every 28 days through growing season Late spring/early summer Late autumn/winter All year</p>
Wildflower areas	<p>Monitor occurrence of dominant weeds and those liable to release windblown seed into adjacent gardens. Apply herbicide to bindweed or remove them Reduce the number of thistles by up to 80% or remove flowers especially where the prevailing wind blows seed into gardens Leave cutting down wildflower area until as late into the autumn as possible but cut before site becomes too wet to work on. Cuttings to lie to allow seed fall before clearing. Avoid damage to basal rosettes Clear litter from grass area 3 times a week Detail items</p>	<p>Growing season Late autumn All year</p>
Play area	<p>Inspect weekly Inspect monthly Arrange independent annual inspection Repair as required Litter clear 3 times a week</p>	<p>Weekly Monthly Annual All year All year</p>

Football pitch	Weekly pitch and post inspection during playing season Mark out lines weekly throughout playing season Mow outlines as required Aerate pitch on 8 occasions Contravate and overseed Repair any damage to goal mouths and centre Mow as remainder of field through summer Apply fertiliser	Weekly Weekly As required Late May May May/June Every 14 days through growing season April/October
Pavilion	Inspect exterior on quarterly infrastructure inspection Building structure maintained as 20 year scheduled by property department	Jan, Apr, July, Oct Ongoing
Shrub areas	Prune according to seasonal requirements or landscape aspirations Weed control and litter clear Clear litter from borders 3 times a week Assess mulch depth and top up Detail items	Monthly visits Monthly visits All year Annual
Hedges	Trim twice a year Weed control and litter clear Clear litter from borders 3 times a week	Jun/Jul, Oct/Nov Monthly visits All year
Trees	Complete inspection and programme works identified Plant additional trees as discussed with CBC Trees Officer	Spring Winter
Infrastructure	6 monthly infrastructure inspections and subsequent remedial works Bins emptied as litter clearance frequency Paths to be swept every 7 days	Jan, Aug 3 times each week All year
Security	Monitor dog fouling and report to PPTO's	Ongoing

Appendix 2

A Guide to the trees of Hatherley Park

FRIENDS OF HATHERLEY PARK



When Hatherley Park first opened in 1939, the newspaper report from the opening ceremony stated there is an avenue of trees bordering the main path through the park and there is an extensive shrubbery with standard flowering trees and herbaceous plants. Today, there is still an impressive collection of stunning trees for everyone to enjoy.

The mature trees and shrubs which line the park's main path and boundary provide an excellent habitat for wildlife. The seeds and berries are an important food source for all the wildlife, including foraging bats, which follow the boundary planting to their feeding grounds.

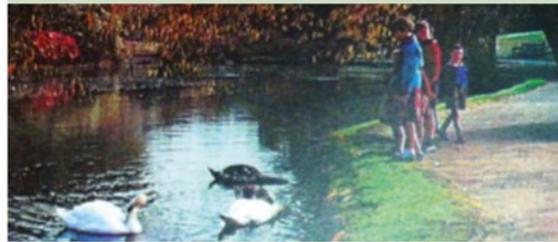
In Cheltenham's parks, dead and fallen trees are kept to benefit wildlife. Decaying trees provide habitats for lichen, fungi and invertebrates. Insects living there are an invaluable food source for many birds and some mammals.

Holes have been drilled into some of the tree stumps to provide homes for masonry bees.

The tallest tree in the park is the hybrid black poplar (*Populus x canadensis*). It was measured in July 2018 using a laser rangefinder. The girth of the tree, measured at a height of 1.5m, was 6.39m and its height was exactly 35.5m!

Cheltenham Borough Council has a tree sponsorship scheme, which enables individuals to purchase a tree in memory of a loved one. The newest trees – five liquidambars, three elms and the Persian ironwoods have all been bought by individual members of Friends of Hatherley Park so they can be enjoyed by their owners in their lifetime.

Information about the tree scheme can be found on the Council's website: www.cheltenham.gov.uk



The Friends of Hatherley Park was set up in 2002 and became a registered charity in 2011

Funding for park improvements has been raised from membership subscriptions, community events, individual donations and grant applications. This funding has been used for many projects, including: creation of the wildlife pond; installation of additional play equipment; new picnic seating and tables; a boules court; noticeboards; the Cotswold stone boundary path; new trees and additional shrub and herbaceous planting. FoHP works with the council to maintain and enhance the park for all users.

Hatherley Park was awarded its first Green Flag in 2005 and has successfully retained it every subsequent year.

A group of volunteers meets every Thursday afternoon between 14:00 and 16:00 to garden in the park. Please contact us on www.Friendsofhatherleypark.org or just join us one Thursday afternoon. Membership forms may be downloaded from our website.



A GUIDE TO THE TREES OF HATHERLEY PARK



Produced by the
FRIENDS OF
HATHERLEY PARK





Appendix 3 Green Flag Meeting - 01.12.23



GREEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT

Hatherley Park – Green Flag Meeting

01.12.2023

NOTES

Review of 2023

- The park continued to be heavily used throughout the year.
- The Green Space Volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the year, with the focus split fairly evenly between maintenance work and projects. All the planned work parties were well attended, with a combined total of 821 hours completed and an average of 9 Volunteers at each event. In addition to the work parties, a total of 255.5 hours admin work was undertaken, including bagging up duck food etc.
- The project to resurface the self-binding gravel path has been successful, although some remedial works are required to the play area end due to water runoff down the bank. The contractor to be chased.
- The wildflower meadow was reseeded with the help of Cotswold National Landscapes team under the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands banner. A review will be undertaken during 2024 to look at the potential to expand the areas in subsequent years.
- Maintenance and restoration of the wildlife pond was commenced, with a general clearance of the pond to allow for additional planting to be undertaken in 2024. The potential for landscaping the areas surrounding the pond to be investigated, but must be subject to caution due to the mares tail present (area currently covered by weed suppressant matting and bark mulch). Look at forming a rockery on top of the matting and incorporating a native planting scheme.
- Trees continue to be planted within the park, the latest being an Acer planted between the wildlife pond and the lake.
- The link continued with Bournside School, who have taken over a bed adjacent to the Petanque Court. Weekly maintenance by the school was undertaken by the pupils, although this has tailed off during the autumn term. School to be contacted to discuss a plan going forward.
- Water treatment carried out to reduced the silt content. AquaBio used – a natural product designed to oxygenate the water and activate the microbes involved in breaking down the silt. A further treatment is to be carried out during the winter.

- A number of successful events were held during the year, including Easter Egg Hunt, Brass in the Park, and a Coffee Morning. All were well attended and enjoyed by the local community.
- A defibrillator was successfully installed on the side of the Pavilion as part of the Public Hearts Cheltenham Defibrillator Campaign.

Judges Feedback – Green Flag Award 2023

- *Waste not fully recycled* – The Butterfly Box cafe incorporates recycling bins into its operation adjacent to the play area, and the general bins around the park each have “tubes” for the collection of cups. Further recycling initiatives currently underway in other parks within the town. These will be rolled out within Hatherley Park if found to be successful.
- *Entrance railings require protecting from rust at one entrance* – Project to repaint entrance railings to be commenced in 2024.
- *Water flow from grass bank onto path* – Investigation underway to determine if water is as a result of an intermittent spring or from the land drainage system. Look at options to ‘hold back’ the water using a swale system to enable natural percolation into the ground. The design will also be planted with native species to increase habitat and biodiversity.

Projects 2023/24

Ongoing

- **Shelving works to pavilion** – Completed.
- **De-silting of the lake** – Initial AquaBio treatment completed. Further treatments to be undertaken during the winter. Grant options for larger desilting project to be explored with FoHP.
- **Bournside School Community Bed** – Bed now planted and being maintained by Bournside pupils on a weekly basis. This has tailed off during the autumn term, and contact is required with Bournside to agree a plan going forward.
- **Wildlife Pond** – Maintenance / clearance works to the wildlife pod undertaken. Some marginal replanted, but leave to settle until the spring, then look at further replanting. Look at creating a rockery ‘ontop’ of the matting (due to mares tail), then plant with a native scheme and create further habitats for biodiversity.
- **Leaf Bays** – Bays have been expanded, but are currently full. Project to investigate ways to speed up rotting to be undertaken, thus enabling more of the leaves to be composted. Area around the Poplar requires mulching to improve soil quality and fertility.
- **Area around Golden Elms** – Area between the trees grassed over, and will be left longer to create further ‘meadowland’ habitat.
- **Sponsored Trees** – Further trees to be planted within the Acer Glade as part of the tree sponsorship scheme.

Potential

7. **Information Boards** – Boards to be updated / refreshed. Revised designs to be consistent with other Cheltenham park signs. Should include the location of the new defib, park code information and some history
8. **Entrance Project** – Both areas to be refreshed, including minor repairs to surfacing, and painting of railings. Any required repairs to be undertaken in the New Year, enabling painting to commence when the weather improves.
9. **Expand Meadow Project** – Review of success of current area to be undertaken during the spring / summer. There is potential to expand into the southern corner of the Park, whilst still allowing a mowing strip behind.
10. **Western boundary beds** – Some initial clearance works undertaken by a corporate group. Consultation with FoHP now underway regarding the design. General feeling is that it should be low maintenance, and improve biodiversity, while still providing a focal point for that end of the park.
11. **Area where box removed (behind Pineapple Sage)** – Potential to plant with pollinators to increase biodiversity, but will need to be shade / drought tolerant as area is close to the large Poplar. Link this project with the meadow flower, to review and improve the insect connectivity within the Park.
12. **Perennial bed near Pavilion** – A member of FoHP would like to see a perennial bed adjacent to the group of Silver Birches. This is to be discussed at the AGM, as it may not be the right place for it, as it is close to the Bournside School bed, and tends to be a cut through for people and dogs making their way onto the main playing field – maintenance could be problematic, and the bed could eventually block the views into the main park.
13. **Surface to side of Pavilion** – Following the installation of the defibrillator, it has been highlighted that the ground to the side of the pavilion is muddy and uneven. Look at the possibility of laying self-binding gravel in the area to improve safety.
14. **Events** – Easter Egg Hunt currently planned. Look at potential to hold another mid summer event, potentially Brass in the Park again. To be discussed at the AGM.

AOB

- Wheel ruts around the park. Green space team to lay geogrid matting to strategic points to alleviate some of the problems. Revised route discussed with UBICO, but not all operatives are using it. To be chased.
- Ecological surveys – Green space team to encourage the University, Bournside and others to support undertaking surveys.

