



Northcroft and Goldwell Parks



Northcroft and Goldwell Parks

Management Plan 2018 - 2022

Plan prepared by West Berkshire Council Grounds Maintenance Team

With involvement from:
West Berkshire Council Transport & Countryside Service and key stakeholders

A 5 year Management Plan for 2018 - 2022

The Action and Development Plan will be reviewed and updated annually. The plan will also be reviewed annually following feedback received from the Green Flag Award judges.

The Management Plan has been updated annually since 2004.

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1. Introduction to the Management Plan

Welcome to the management and improvement plan for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks. This management plan for the parks is a published document prepared by West Berkshire Council outlining the 'vision' for the parks. This plan provides the aims and objectives for how the Council will deliver this 'vision' and it enables park users to monitor progress in achieving these. The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for everything that happens in Northcroft and Goldwell Parks. All partner organisations and key stakeholders involved in managing and improving the parks will carry out their activities to help fulfill the objectives of this plan. The parks are managed by the Transport & Countryside Service within West Berkshire Council. New ideas are welcomed for incorporation into this plan. Whether you are a resident, park user, a business or other organisation, we value your suggestions and comments. This will ensure that we develop the parks to meet everyone's needs and expectations.

Preparation of the Management Plan

This plan has been produced following consultation with the residents who live immediately adjacent to the park and are therefore the most likely to be affected by any changes within the park as a result of future management proposals.

In late 2015, 191 households were sent a user survey questionnaire to which 70 (36%) returns were received. The questionnaire was based on the model recommended by the Institute for Sport, Parks and Leisure and repeated one carried out in 2009. Key stakeholders and others with an interest in the parks who have also been consulted include:

Ward Members and Council Officers
Friends of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks
Northcroft Football Club
Newbury Cricket Club
Continental Landscapes (grounds maintenance contractor)
Northcroft Leisure Centre
The Showman's Guild of Great Britain
Local schools- Robert Sandilands, Speenhamland Primary, Winchcombe School
Natural England
Environment Agency
Walking the Way to Health Coordinator and Walk Leaders
Local residents

Further copies of the plan are available from the address below. The plan can also be found on the Council's web site www.westberks.gov.uk. (Key 'Goldwell Park' into the search engine).

Address: Transport & Countryside West Berkshire Council Market Street Newbury RG14 5LD	Telephone 01635 519858 Email paul.hendry@westberks.gov.uk
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2. Site Description

Situated in Newbury, Northcroft and Goldwell Parks are two attractive parks that adjoin each other. The parks are separated by the remnants of the former Northcroft ditch. The two parks vary in character and purpose.

Northcroft Park is bordered to the south by the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon Canal and surrounds Northcroft Leisure Centre. Ten hectares in area, this park provides opportunities for formal outdoor sports, providing two football pitches, one cricket pitch, a children's play area, a football changing facility, Newbury Cricket Club and the Monkey Marsh. The Monkey Bridge is an important crossing point over the river and canal into Northcroft Park from the South.

Goldwell Park once formed part of the grounds to Goldwell House. A different terrain to Northcroft Park, it consists of open hillside landscape of improved grassland with a scattering of mature and semi-mature trees. The views from the top of Goldwell Park are beautiful. Goldwell Park is four hectares in size and comprises a woodland walk, a grassed slope and an area of earth mounding providing a dirt BMX facility. The woodland walk is situated at the top of the hill along Goldwell Park's northern boundary adjacent to Old Bath Road. The walk passes through an area of mixed woodland that provides valuable biodiversity interest within the park. The BMX area consists of simple earth mounding, shaped, formed and grassed over to provide a facility for children and teenagers.

Surveys of local residents carried out in 2004, 2009 and 2015 in support of this management plan showed that local people value the parks for providing access to formal and informal activities in a peaceful and tranquil setting.

Newbury Flood Alleviation Scheme:

Newbury has been identified in the River Kennet Flood Risk Management Strategy as an area of significant flood risk. Accordingly, the Environment Agency has designed flood defences to be created at six locations within the town including Northcroft & Goldwell Parks. During the course of 2013-14 these measures were implemented at Northcroft & Goldwell. In order to protect adjacent housing, an embankment up to 1.2m high within the park on the eastern side to the north of Northcroft Lane was constructed. The embankment was built with a sinuous form and shallow slopes in-keeping with the surroundings. It was sown with a wildflower mix to enrich the parks' character and create a wildlife corridor. A new pond has also been created here to increase the diversity of wildlife habitat. This pond has attracted novel species such as the Black-tailed Skimmer dragonfly.



New pond in construction, created as part of Environment Agency landscaping

The parks host a number of important events within Newbury's annual events calendar including the Michaelmas Fair, the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, the May Hockey Festival, July cyclocross, September Triathlon and a September Beer Festival.



Cyclocross

Name:	Northcroft Park	Goldwell Park
Grid Reference	SU 467673.	SU 467676
Area	10 Hectares	4 Hectares
Tenure	The site is owned and managed by West Berkshire Council. Tel: 01635 519553 www.westberks.gov.uk	The site is owned and managed by West Berkshire Council. Tel: 01635 519553 www.westberks.gov.uk
Site Status	The site is a formal park with sports pitches and a children's play area, Northcroft Leisure Centre, Newbury Cricket Club and the Monkey Marsh.	The site is a formal park with a mature landscape of trees and grass on a relatively steep gradient adjoining Northcroft Park.
Legal Interest	Northcroft Park is protected by a covenant dedicating the park to the people of Newbury.	Goldwell Park is protected by a deed of covenant that protects the park for future generations in Newbury.
Byelaws	The park is identified as a canine faeces removal area. The playground area is a dog prohibited area under Section 164 of the Public Health Act.	The park is identified as a canine faeces removal area.
Access	The park can be accessed by car and cycle via Northcroft Lane. Cycle access is also available from the Old Bath Rd, with a cycleway running through the parks. Pedestrians can access the park via the River Kennet, the Kennet and Avon Canal and Russell Road via the Monkey Bridge and from Goldwell Park. The park is approximately a 5 minute walk from Newbury Town Centre either along the canal towpath or along Northcroft Lane. The train station is approximately 15 minutes walk away. Access by car is from Oxford Street turning into Strawberry Hill, then West Street and Northcroft Lane.	Pedestrian entrance points can be found on Old Bath Road, Moor Lane and Cleveland Grove. The Lambourn Way (public right of way) route and cycleway also cross the park. The park is approximately 5 minutes walk from Newbury Town Centre and the train station is approximately 15 minutes walk away. The park can be accessed by car from Northcroft Lane turning into Strawberry Hill, West Street and then right into Northcroft Lane. Access by car is also available from the Old Bath Road.
Public Transport	The nearest bus stops are on Old Bath Road, Goldwell Drive and Cleveland Grove all of which are served by the No 4 bus route from Newbury.	Further information regarding the bus times can be provided through Newbury Bus Service (Tel 01635 567500).
Public Conveniences	The nearest public conveniences are situated at Newbury Wharf.	

3. History of the Parks

Civil Wars of 1643 and 1644

Newbury was the site of two Civil War battles between the Royalists and Parliamentarians. The first battle of Newbury took place in September 1643 and the second in October 1644. A key point of historic interest is the reference on the early maps to Goldwell Park being referred to as 'Speen Hill'. Speen Hill was the site of a battle during the English Civil War and it is possible that parts of the battle took place in Goldwell Park. Speen saw action during the Civil War over a two day period during which the King remained around Newbury. The warring factions had several skirmishes around Shaw and Donnington Castle and particularly in the fields at Speen.

Goldwell House

Evidence of the history of the parks comes mainly from old maps of the area. The earliest maps date back to 1882 and show the area of the parks being significantly bigger than their current size. Goldwell Park was part of the grounds belonging to Goldwell House. Goldwell House is a large house dating from the Early Georgian period and said to be built about 1740, although the fine staircase appears to be in an earlier style. Today the house appears cramped in its site, but originally it sat in spacious gardens now partly occupied by a housing estate and recreation land linking to Northcroft. The house, now used as offices, was once the home of the Page family. Francis Page was a successful Newbury businessman who built up a big coal trading business using the canal. In 1768 Francis purchased all the shares of the Kennet Navigation and invested in improvements, including enlarging the locks to take 128 ton barges instead of the previous 80 ton limit.

A 1911 map shows the avenue of Lime trees, having been planted sometime between 1882 and 1911, possibly as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria. At this time Goldwell Park is still shown as being part of Goldwell House and there is the first recorded reference to Goldwell Hill being known as Speen Hill.

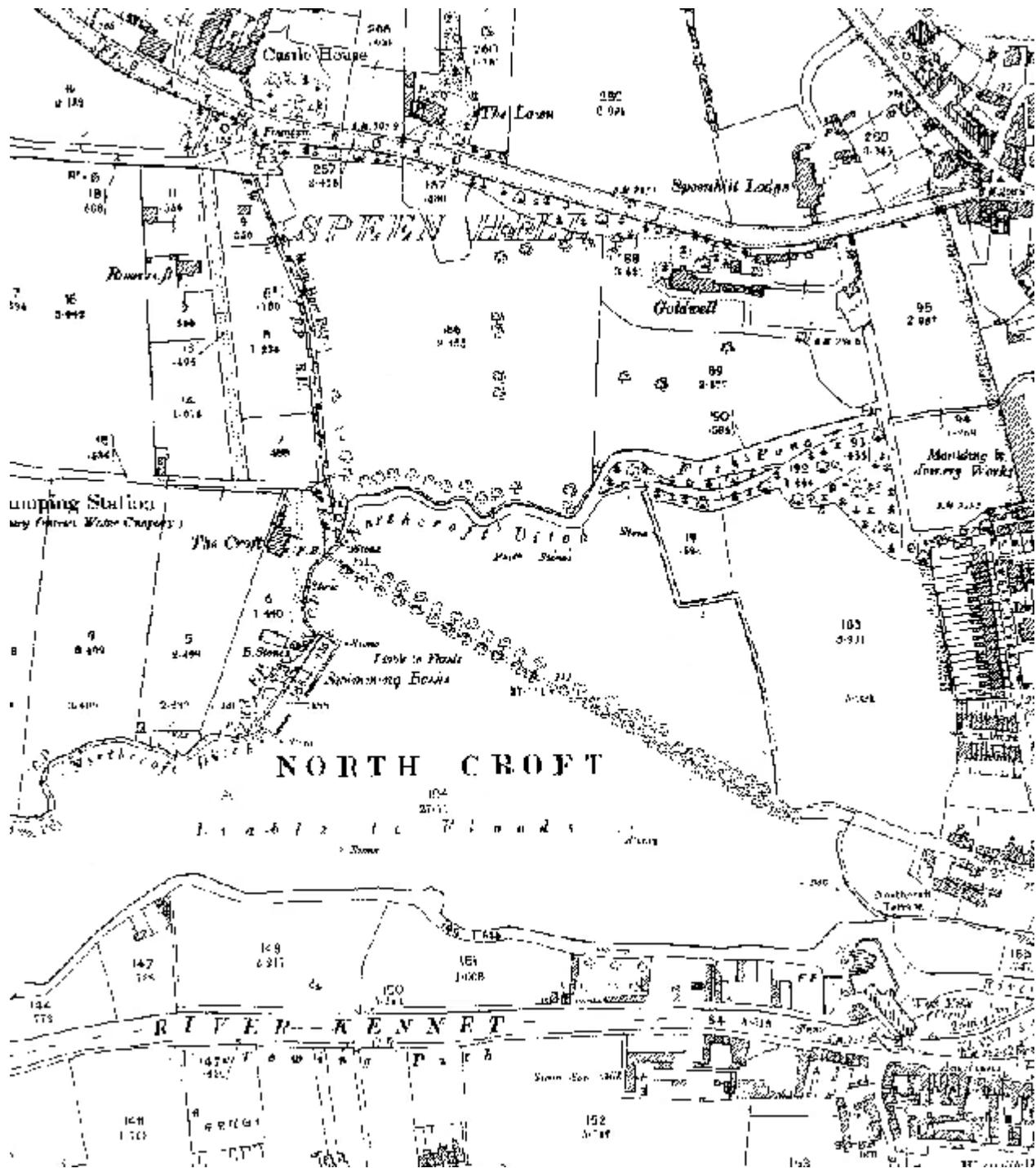
The Northcroft Ditch

The Northcroft Ditch was originally a small branch stream of the River Kennet. It flowed across Northcroft into the lake below Goldwell House, then across Northbrook Street and into the Marsh (now Victoria Park) before flowing south and rejoining the main river. Towards the end of the 19th century, this stream was exploited to fill the town's first swimming baths. In 1937, the baths were completely modernised and a water treatment plant installed to form the still existing outdoor lido.

The Northcroft Ditch and a fish pond are present on the 1882 map. The ditch is still very much a feature on site today running along the side of the playing fields and across the foot of Goldwell Hill.

Common Grazing land

The fields at Northcroft were known as 'Lammas Lands', commons on which the inhabitants have the right of pasturage, formerly commencing on Lammas Eve, the day before the festival of Lammas (1st August). As far back as 1640 we find that a Hayward of Northcroft was appointed by the Court Baron of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgess of



Land at Northcroft and Goldwell 1891-1912

Newbury, as Lord of the Manor. In 1650, the Court Baron prosecuted Henry Girle for putting twelve cows into Northcroft contrary to custom.

In earlier times people only kept as much stock as their land would maintain throughout the year. It frequently happened that many of the inhabitants had considerable land in

other places and kept a large number of cattle. The cattle were often turned out to feed on Northcroft and other sites as soon as they were opened – to the great prejudice of the townspeople. To remedy this situation, an order was made by the Court Baron in 1663 :-

‘That no inhabitant shall bring any cattle into Northcroft or the other open fields unless such as are usually kept in the parish, and no person to turn out above 4 hoggs and 4 beasts or 6 beasts and 2 hoggs at a time, upon pain or forfeiture of 2s. 6d. per each hogg or beast above the aforesaid number .

A hogg refers to a weaned lamb which has not yet been shorn.

Throughout the 19th century Newbury lost some of its common lands although it became apparent during the course of the enquiries that some had disappeared during the previous century – legally or illegally. Northcroft held on to its grazing rights but with the passing of time few wanted to turn out hoggs or cattle. Consequently there was little interest when a meeting was called in 1953 to end these rights. The vote was carried and enabled the cricket pitch to be fenced off on what had once been fiercely contested common.

The Michaelmas Fair

The Michaelmas Fair was a charter fair started by Queen Elizabeth I on her visit to Newbury in 1596. Of the four annual fairs granted to the town, the only one that remains today is the Michaelmas Fair in October. The original fairs were held on the Day of Annunciation (25 March), St John the Baptist's Day (24 June), St. Bartholomew's Day (24 August) and St. Jude's Day (28 October). Each fair had its own court, called a Court of Pie Powder (meaning dusty feet), which settled any disputes arising from the trade at the fair. The Corporation had to pay an annual sum of £3 to the Exchequer, for the right to keep tolls and fees raised from the fairs.



The annual Michaelmas Fair in Northcroft Park 2018

The Pill Box

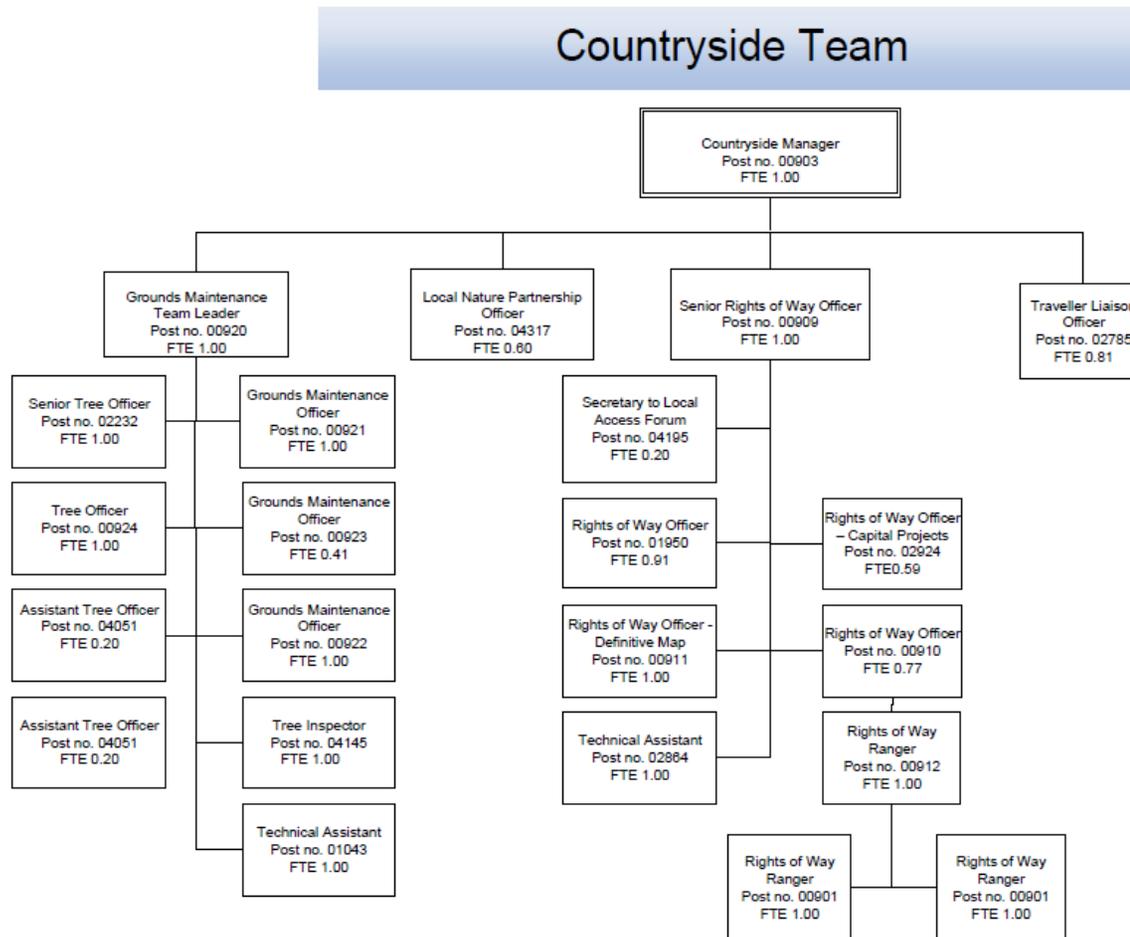
The World War II pill box on the canal beside Northcroft Park is part of a chain of anti-invasion defence works known as GHQ (General Headquarters) Stop Line Blue which runs from Wiltshire along the Kennet and Avon canal to Theale. Stop lines were built between 1940 and 1941, after the defeat at Dunkirk in May 1940. GHQ stop lines were constructed across Britain to contain enemy armoured forces, being essential anti-tank lines with a continuous anti-tank obstacle formed by a waterway, artificial ditch, a line of concrete obstacles or a railway embankment. Pill boxes or anti-tank gun emplacements were placed at the principal crossing points of roads, railways and waterways.



Northcroft pill box is a Type 22 meaning it's small and hexagonal, one of the more common types of pill box. It is believed that the pill boxes built along the Kennet and Avon were built in July 1940. This pill box forms part of the Newbury nodal point. The defences were developed as a nodal point because Newbury was considered an important centre of regional road communications. During 1941 it was reclassified as a Category B anti-tank island.

4. Management Structure

Northcroft and Goldwell Parks are managed by West Berkshire Council's Grounds Maintenance Team, currently forming part of the Transport and Countryside Service.



5. Wider Policy Context

The Council's Strategy.

In accordance with these priorities, the Transport & Countryside Service aims to provide parks that are clean, safe, welcoming, accessible and enjoyable to visit.

It is through this management plan that the Transport & Countryside Service's vision for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks has been developed and the parks contribute to the Council in the following way:

Priority	Park Contribution
Protecting the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling & Waste: The grounds maintenance contract started in January 2018 with Continental Landscapes, requires that all green waste be composted and all litter collected be recycled where possible. Use of peat is prohibited and use of pesticides is discouraged. All litter bins are emptied three times a week and litter is regularly 'picked'. Dog bins are available and are emptied three times a week. • Graffiti: We aim to remove all reported graffiti within 28 days and prioritise abusive graffiti. • Vandalism: All vandalism within the parks is repaired as soon as it is reported. All safety repairs are carried out immediately.
Promoting a Vibrant District	<p>Clean, attractive and accessible parks and open spaces increase the vibrancy of a town centre. Both Northcroft and Goldwell Parks are within easy walking distance of Newbury high street and they offer a tranquil and beautiful retreat from the bustling shops. The parks are well maintained and accessible to all of West Berkshire's residents and visitors. Regular community events are held in the parks.</p>
Caring for and Protecting the Vulnerable	<p>There is disabled access to the parks and the playground areas. Disabled parking bays are clearly marked in Goldwell car park. Entrances to the park and playground are wide enough for buggies and there is a cycle route running through the park. There are two full size football pitches for adult, youth and junior football. The sports facilities offer the opportunity for all groups to participate in sports and help young people develop both physically and emotionally helping to support our young people.</p>

6. Local Context

6.1 Community Profile

There are just over 153,800 individuals living in West Berkshire according to the 2011 Census. The largest urban areas are Newbury and Thatcham with 56,598 residents. Northcroft Ward, the area immediately surrounding Goldwell and Northcroft Parks, is included in this area. There are 5354 individuals living in the ward of Northcroft with just over half being female.

6.2 Age Structure

	Total	0-4	5-15	16-19	20-44	45-64	65+
West Berkshire	153,800	6.5%	13.7%	4.9%	31.8%	27.8%	15.4%
Northcroft	5354	6.8%	10.8%	3.8%	37.1%	25.1%	16.3%

Source: ONS, Census 2011 up-dated 30 January 2013

6.3 Consultation

This management plan is informed by:

- Responses to questionnaires sent to local residents in 2015 about patterns of use in the parks.
- Regular site visits by West Berkshire Council Grounds Maintenance Officers.

7. A Welcoming Park

7.1 Access

The parks have several access points for pedestrians, cars and cyclists. Goldwell Park can be accessed by car and cycle through Northcroft Lane and also via Old Bath Road. Pedestrian access is via Old Bath Road, Moor Lane, Cleveland Grove and Northcroft Lane. The Lambourn Valley walk also runs through the park from Moor Lane. Cycle access to Goldwell is via Old Bath Road, with a cycleway running through the park.

Northcroft Park can be accessed by foot, car and cycle from Northcroft Lane. There is pedestrian and cycle access from Russell Road via the Monkey Bridge.

Ample car parking is available at Goldwell Park and in the Northcroft Leisure Centre car park. The car parks are situated centrally between the two parks.



The new Monkey Bridge Access

7.2 Disabled Access

In 2006 (18.5), the West Berkshire Council Access Officer undertook a site specific disability access audit of both Northcroft and Goldwell Parks to identify the needs and aspirations of disabled visitors and potential visitors to the parks. Work has been carried out in the car parks to make access easier for wheelchair users into the parks. Regular discussions with Access



Officers take place and their suggestions are incorporated into our action plans where possible. (Action Plan: Accessibility)

Car parks have been marked to prevent parking in front of access points and railings are a set width apart to enable wheelchair access.

7.3 Car Park

The car park at Goldwell provides ample parking for park users. Following a parking survey carried out by the Council in August 2008, it was found that most spaces are used by workers within Newbury who take advantage of the free parking preventing genuine park users from finding space. Parking controls in Goldwell car park were therefore introduced and management of the car park was transferred from the Grounds Maintenance Service to the Car Park Management Team during 2009, and charges were introduced. In 2011, encouraged by feedback from Green Flag judges, changes were made to the car park signage to reduce its visual obtrusiveness.

In order to continue to supply free parking for park users and to encourage more visitors to Northcroft and Goldwell Parks, four spaces are available with a maximum of two hours free parking with no return within two hours. Two blue badge parking bays remain.

7.4 Signage

First impressions are important when managing facilities for people. The overall impression for people approaching and entering the parks should be inviting, positive and welcoming. The following principles have been introduced:

- Adopt a standard design for access into the two parks
- All entrances to have appropriate signage
- All entrances are to be free from any danger
- All entrances to be welcoming and well maintained
- All entrances to have appropriate controls to prevent unlawful access
- All entrances have equal access for all members of the community

We have standardised the signage at the main entrance points to the parks. So far the quality of the park entrances at Northcroft Lane, the main Old Bath Road access, the Monkey Bridge and the main car park have been improved by the introduction of standardised signage and access improvements that have raised awareness as to who owns, manages and cares for the parks. A simpler sign based on the main park entrance signs has been installed at the alternative Old Bath Road access.



Old bollard replaced at Old Bath Road



Park Sign

An interpretation board for the Speen Moors Walk route has been installed adjacent to Northcroft Lane and provides some historic information on the park for visitors.

7.5 The Monkey Bridge

The Monkey Bridge is a key access point as it is the main access to the park and to the town centre from the south. The old bridge was replaced in order to improve access to the park for cyclists, wheelchair users and parents with buggies and prams. Work to the Monkey Bridge was completed in April 2008. As part of the reinstatement of the area, native hedging was planted along the fence lines in February 2009 with the first phase of planting being carried out by members of the Friends of Northcroft & Goldwell Parks. These hedgerows are now well established. In addition several native trees were planted along the new walkway from Northcroft to the Monkey Bridge.



The old Monkey Bridge



Poor access



The new Monkey Bridge with improved access for all

The project involved the installation of two new bridges spanning the Northcroft River and the Kennet and Avon Canal. The new bridge a shared use footway/cycleway with ramps to make it accessible to wheelchair users, cyclists and prams and has been judged a great success by park users.



Former damaged fencing



Replacement fencing

7.6 Getting to the Park

By Car: The parks can be accessed by car from Northcroft Lane. On arrival in Newbury, follow the signs for Northcroft Leisure Centre, turning into Strawberry Hill, West Street and then right into Northcroft Lane. Access by car is also available from the Old Bath Road.

By Bus: The nearest bus stop is on Old Bath Road served by the No 4 bus route from Newbury. Further information regarding the bus times can be provided through Traveline (0871 200 22 33) or www.traveline.info.

On Foot: Pedestrian entrance points can be found on Old Bath Road, Moor Lane and Cleveland Grove. Pedestrians can access the park via the River Kennet, the Kennet and Avon Canal and Russell Road via the Monkey Bridge. The Lambourn Way (public right of way) crosses the parks. The park is approximately a 5 minute walk from Newbury Town Centre either along the canal path or along Northcroft Lane. The train station is approximately 15 minutes walk away.

By Bicycle: Cyclists can access the parks from Old Bath Road, Moor Lane and Cleveland Grove and via the Monkey Bridge in the south. A cycle route runs from Old Bath Road through Northcroft and Goldwell Park. A cycle rack is located outside the Leisure Centre.

8. Healthy, Safe & Secure

8.1 Control of Dogs

Although the parks are popular with dog owners, some other park users feel that poor control over dogs and problems such as dog fouling devalue the parks. The survey showed that people believed the parks would be improved if these issues were addressed. Whilst dog fouling is relatively rare, it does sometimes occur. A Dog Foul Leaflet (18.6) has been produced by WBC and it is proposed to raise awareness about dog fouling through its use. Working closely with the Council's Dog Warden also helps to promote responsible dog ownership within the parks. Any problematic areas will be patrolled by the Dog Warden at the request of officers and spot fines will be issued to offenders. Any stray dogs, once contained, will be removed from the parks by the dog warden. The provision of dog bins has been reviewed and the existing bins are emptied up to three times a week. In October 2016 three dog bag dispenser stations were installed in N&G Parks as part of a district wide roll-out of 37 stations. The dog bags are bio-degradable and free at point of use for the public. The dispensers are sponsored by business. The bags have proved popular amongst dog walkers and there has been minimal anti-social behaviour associated with the dispensers. Information about reporting stray dogs and dog fouling is available to the public on the West Berkshire Council website.

8.2 Children's Play Areas

The children's play area is a dog free zone and is equipped with self closing gates to prevent unwanted access by dogs. In response to requests from local parents, the play area was extended in 2006 to cater for the under five age group. The rest of the play area was refurbished in 2013 following a wide-ranging consultation on what types of play provision were desired. The Council has received a great deal of positive feedback from this and the new play area.



Old Children's play area at Northcroft



New Children's play area at Northcroft, refurbished in 2013

Signage has been installed at each entrance to the existing play areas to ensure people are aware of the guidance of use and informed as to how to report faults. The children's play areas are inspected and maintained to meet current recognised safety standards EN 1176 & 1177. The play areas are cleaned and visually inspected for defects weekly and Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents assessors carry out safety inspections quarterly. Defects are rectified using a dedicated play area maintenance budget. Risk assessments are reviewed annually.



Children's play areas all have self closing gates and guidance of use displayed

8.3 Anti social behaviour

From time to time young people may gather in groups that other park users find intimidating. This can lead to complaints from local residents about noise or disruptive behaviour. The Council discourages this in the following ways:

- By placing signage at play areas indicating the intended age group for which the play area is suitable
- By liaising with youth workers to provide play facilities at suitable locations for teenagers and communicating directly with young people to establish their needs
- By working with planners to ensure that new play areas are properly overlooked and provide opportunities for teenagers
- By encouraging refurbishment projects to target older age groups where suitable
- By reporting vandalism to the police

Generally, this is an itinerant problem with the groups of young people moving elsewhere after a time. However, where problems persist, local residents can become frustrated. In these cases, the Council relies on support from the police to take action.

8.4 Fencing

As a result of safety issues and discussions with local users, the entrances at Northcroft Lane were seen as a priority for improvement and a section of fencing installed to prevent children falling over the low wall and to create a more formal approach into the park. The new fence significantly improved the general appearance of the park at this key access point.



Park entrance before & after

New park railings installed along the Northcroft Lane boundary (see below) have again greatly improved the general appearance of the park at a key access point. This project arose from discussions on safety issues and priorities for improvements between local users and park managers.



Fence before replacement



New park railings shortly after installation



Boundary fence line in Northcroft Park



New boundary fence in Northcroft Park



The boundary fences have been repaired, including the fence along the river bank at the request of the Cricket Club and the installation of safety rails on the vehicle bridge over the ditch between the football pitches is another example of a potential safety hazard being identified and addressed.

8.5 Personal Security in the Parks

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism in parks is a nationwide issue. A priority of this management plan is to ensure that all potential safety issues within the two parks are addressed in accordance with public realm safety best practice. If anything is broken, damaged or dangerous it is immediately repaired, removed or replaced. The two parks are popular facilities with local people and are therefore managed accordingly to ensure the continued safety of the people who use them.

The parks are generally open in aspect with very good visibility and sight lines. The parks are both used regularly as a throughway to and from the town centre and local schools. This regular use adds to the sense of personal security. The main pathways through the park are lit at night, again adding to the sense of personal safety within the parks.

A programme of thinning and crown lifting has been implemented in the small woodland area of dense vegetation in Goldwell Park. This has improved sight lines and personal safety in this area of the park and has created the opportunity to develop a woodland walk (appendix 18.5). To maintain the trees in a safe and healthy condition in both Northcroft and Goldwell Parks, an in-house biennial tree safety audit is conducted and recommendations for work are carried out by WBC's term arboricultural contractor. A copy of the current tree safety audit may be obtained by contacting Arthur Cullen on trees@westberks.gov.uk.

Risk assessments are carried out for all work activities and are constantly reviewed. A central file is kept at the Council Offices and contains detailed information on the safe systems of work. Site based risk assessments have recently been commissioned. Other events such as the Michaelmas Fair have representatives who carry out their own risk assessments for their activities within the parks.

Vehicle access to both parks is from Northcroft Lane. The Council works with Northcroft Leisure Centre to ensure that the gates to Northcroft Lane are locked shut at night to prevent cars accessing the park and causing public disturbances. The Goldwell side of Northcroft Lane is bounded by a knee rail to prevent unsolicited vehicular access.

8.6 Health Benefits

It is increasingly recognised that access to good quality parks and open spaces is good for people in terms of health and well being and in promoting social inclusion. The future management of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks will strive to play to these strengths.

The parks promote healthy lifestyles through play by providing a range of equipment for children of all ages and abilities, in a safe and fun environment.

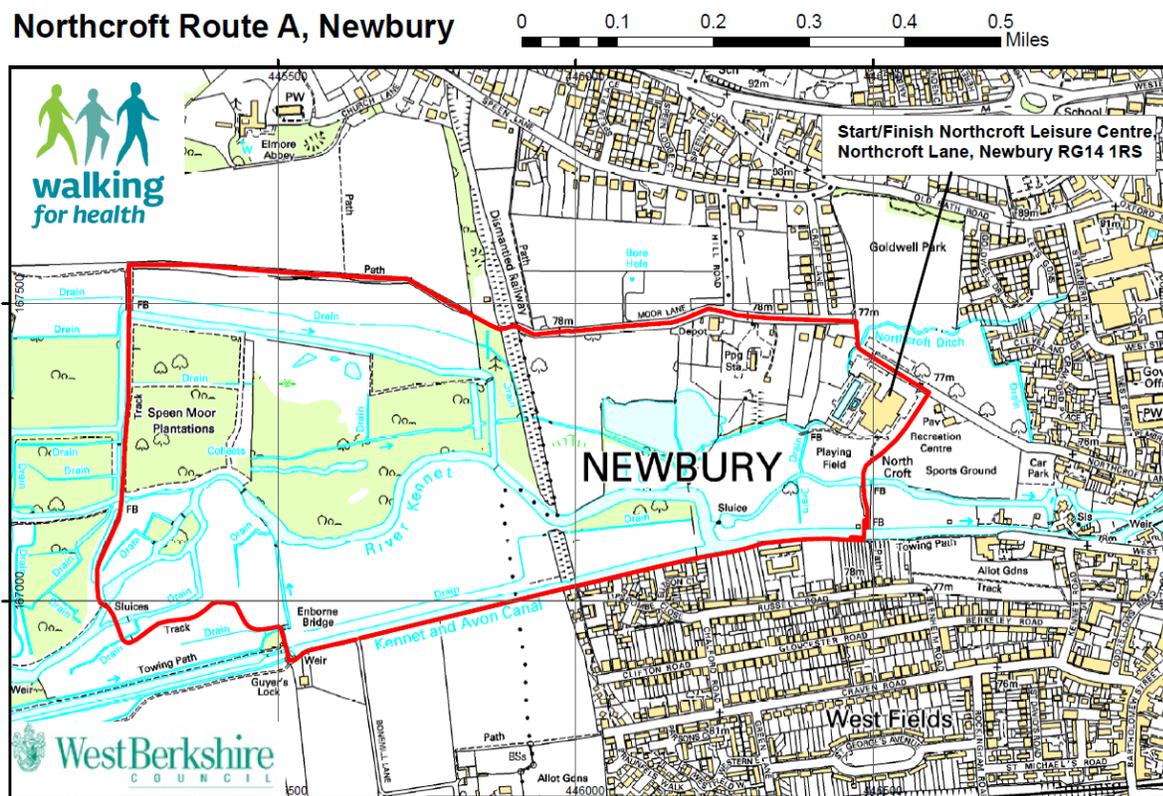
Physical activity for adults and children is encouraged through the provision of football and cricket pitches in Northcroft Park.

In January 2019, the Council was approached with regard to the possibility of hosting a weekly Junior Park Run. The course of approximately 2km would involve two laps of Goldwell Park. The site would be ideal as it is enclosed, has ample car parking and toilet facilities, however there was a safety consideration with crossing Northcroft Lane so another site was used.

Northcroft Leisure Centre is situated within the heart of the parks and offers tremendous opportunities for the parks to contribute to the wider objectives of social inclusion and healthy

living. Health walks are now being promoted as part of the Walking the Way to Health programme and a walk leaves Northcroft Leisure Centre every Tuesday at 11am and every 4th Friday of the month at 10am. Participants meet at the Leisure Centre and then walk together for an hour around the parks and further a field. The walks are very successful both in terms of health benefits and socially for many of the retired adults and others who walk with the scheme. The walks provide people with the opportunity to improve their health and well being through access to quality green space and nature which helps reduce stress, aids recovery and promotes social interaction. There are three suggested walks from Northcroft. Route A = 3.7km, Route B = 3km and Route C = 3.8km.

Northcroft Route A, Newbury



More information can be found at <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wfh>

In summary the following health and safety principles have been introduced into the parks:

- Closer working with dog warden and promotion of 'good dog guide'
- Tackling any anti social behaviour in the parks working with other agencies if necessary
- Promotion of health walks in the parks
- Immediate action on any graffiti or vandalism
- Regular safety inspections in accordance with best practice
- Regular disabled access review

9. Clean & Well Maintained

Northcroft and Goldwell Parks are popular sites. Visitors impact on the park in a number of different ways, both environmentally and physically. It is recognised that although the current maintenance arrangement for the two parks meant that the parks were generally kept clean and tidy, improvements could be made. The public have identified concerns over reinstatement to the park and litter problems following large events such as the Michaelmas Fair. The importance of thorough and prompt litter clearance is a matter which is stressed to all event organisers and all the regular annual events have proved to be well prepared in this respect. A particular improvement in the speed of litter clearance following the 2011 Michaelmas Fair was noted by several park users and is an improvement we have sought to maintain since.

9.1 Waste Management

The parks have a number of litter bins sited around their perimeters to maintain the area in a clean condition. Litter and dog bins are routinely emptied up to three times per week in both Northcroft and Goldwell parks. Leaf clearance is undertaken fortnightly during a four month winter period.

In order to improve the cleanliness of the two parks, more litter bins have been installed along the main footpaths and bin provision is kept under review to ensure appropriate provision.

9.2 Grounds Maintenance

The Transport & Countryside Service oversees the day to day maintenance of the parks. The contractor, Continental Landscapes, is employed by the Council to carry out this maintenance. Work carried out by contractors is regularly inspected. The duties of the contractor includes sports turf maintenance, hedge maintenance, grass cutting, bin emptying, litter picking, shrub and tree planting, weeding, pruning, play area cleansing and inspection and minor repairs to the infrastructure of the park. The regime of maintenance is available in Appendix 18.8.

Trees in the parks are inspected every two years and safety work carried out as identified.

All benches and bins have had a hard surface wear pad installed beneath them to remove muddy puddles and to ensure that the overall appearance of the parks is maintained to the highest standards



New hard surface installed beneath benches

9.3 Buildings Maintenance

Condition surveys are undertaken every five years for the maintenance of buildings within Northcroft and Goldwell Parks. These are full mechanical, structural and electrical condition surveys. Repairs or enhancements that are identified in the surveys are programmed in to the work schedule on the basis of the report. Also FLASH forms have been introduced by WBC to aid monitoring of FIRE, Legionella, Asbestos, Safety and Health for each building.

The sports changing room was refurbished in 2002 and redecorated in 2015.

9.4 General Maintenance

The previous maintenance regime did not facilitate any routine repair or painting of park fixtures and fittings. As part of the improvement to the quality and appearance of the parks, a schedule of painting was introduced. This includes all gates, trip rails, fences, lighting columns and bins etc. Provision has been made to allow for re-painting every five years or when necessary.



Painting required



Trip rail painting required



After Painting



Main entrance points have been standardised and upgraded to provide continuity and prevent access by unauthorised vehicles.



Moor Lane entrance before



New Bollards installed

Areas of worn ground and potholes within the parks are addressed by continuous monitoring and repair through back filling soil and seeding. If necessary temporary fencing is installed to protect these areas until grass is re-established. The area at the car park entrance where grass is regularly damaged by cars cutting the corner has been repaired and such problem areas are monitored and action taken as necessary.



Wear and tear problem at car park entrance has now been remedied

Work has been carried out on the Old Bath Road access which leads to the woodland walk. This area was overgrown and unwelcoming. Vegetation has been cut back to improve

sightlines, signage has been erected to welcome visitors to the park and dog bins have been installed to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their dog.



Narrow and uninviting entrance at Old Bath Road



Improved entrance at Old Bath Road

Of all the entrances to both parks, one stands out as the key gateway into the parks; the access point at Northcroft Lane which serves as the main entrance to and from the parks for vehicles and pedestrians travelling to and from the town centre.

Overall the main entrance is well maintained and benefits from the regular grounds maintenance work carried out by the current grounds maintenance contractor. Work was carried out in March 2008 to hard landscape this access to provide a level, dry and safe access point for all park users. A grass grid has been laid at the vehicular access point off Northcroft Lane as this is used by heavy transport at community events such as the Michaelmas Fair.

Local residents have identified the pathways as an issue in the consultation. 69% of those people consulted stated they use the park for walking in and so it is important that the paths are safe and useable.

The woodland walk in Goldwell Park has been resurfaced and all footpaths in the park are maintained and repaired where necessary.



Before picture of Woodland Walk



New path surface on Woodland Walk

9.5 Enviro-Crime and Graffiti Policy

Vandalism and graffiti in the parks are reported in a number of ways; the public can call the Council's call centre (numbers are on the new signs in the parks and on the Council web site), contractors can fill out a defect report or by site checks undertaken by Council officers. Our policy is that any safety repairs will be carried out immediately.

In order to help keep graffiti to a minimum in the parks, a graffiti wall is available for use by graffiti artists. In order to ensure that the graffiti wall continues to successfully prevent vandalism of the parks equipment, it is regularly cleaned of graffiti leaving space for new art.

In summary, the following maintenance principles are in place:

- Regular monitoring of scheduled maintenance standards
- Regular inspection and maintenance of park infrastructure
- Immediate action on any graffiti or vandalism
- Strong Council and community front against enviro-crime
- Prompt removal of graffiti which helps to prevent vandals re-offending

10. A Sustainable Park

Climate Change

West Berkshire hosted a Climate Conference on 28 October 2019. The event was organised by West Berkshire Council following its declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019. It was one of the first initiatives to come from a new Environment Board established by the council which will create a new Environment Strategy 2020-30 and coordinate and oversee environmental projects. Although still in draft form, this strategy has five objectives:

1. Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
2. Responsible economic growth
3. Healthy communities
4. Resilient to climate change
5. Work with our communities

Particularly pertinent to Northcroft and Goldwell Parks is item 3. Healthy Communities : Maintaining the environment in which we live so that our residents are able to benefit from good air quality and access to what they need to take part in an active lifestyle.

Until the new Environment Strategy is adopted, the current Environment Policy (see Appendix 18.9) is adhered to

10.1 Waste Management and Recycling

Waste management is an issue of national concern and in West Berkshire we are determined to play our part, ensuring that West Berkshire is a good place to live now and in the future.

We aim to:

- Encourage people to change to a greener way of life
- Protect and enhance the natural environment of West Berkshire
- Increase recycling, and use more local resources, reducing dependence on goods and services from outside the district
- Keep West Berkshire clean

The current five year grounds maintenance contract which commenced in January 2018 with contractors, Continental Landscapes requires that all green waste is composted and that all litter collected is recycled where possible. All litter and dog bins on site are emptied three times a week and litter is regularly picked.

Wood chip arising from treework is shredded and composted. The larger material is used for firewood.

10.2 Pesticide Policy

West Berkshire Council recognises the need to minimise adverse impacts on the environment. As such and with specific reference to Northcroft and Goldwell Parks, maintenance arrangements are restricted to weed control of a cultural nature (hoeing and hand weeding), rather than chemical means. As a consequence of this, the Council discourages the use of pesticides, a decision that has environmental and financial benefits. Where pesticide use is

absolutely necessary, the grounds staff will use non-residual herbicide applications to reduce environmental impact e.g. large scale weed killing on sports pitches.

10.3 Use of Resources

It is West Berkshire Council's responsibility to lead the way in cleaner, greener living and manage its parks in a way which reduces and removes any practices which have a negative effect on the environment. The Council will ensure that environmental priorities are integrated into the decisions it takes on the management of the parks and will seek to work within the principles laid out in the Environmental Policy for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks (see Appendix 7).

The parks encourage the use of bicycles with well maintained routes throughout including the Monkey Bridge access. The parks are easy to walk to with pavements being maintained and personal security ensured through street lighting and open planning. Litter collected from the parks is recycled where possible. All green waste is shredded for return directly back to park beds. Wood chip arising from arboricultural work is mulched or used as biomass fuel in power generation while other vegetative waste is shredded and composted.

Use of peat within the parks is prohibited and use of pesticides is discouraged. The Council ensure that all plants used within Northcroft and Goldwell Parks are sourced from suppliers who use a peat free growth medium. Perennial planting is used rather than seasonal planting and planting is in keeping with the parks' characters and landscapes. Timber used within the parks is only purchased from suppliers who can guarantee their wood is from sustainable forests and is FSC approved. Irrigation is used for young trees only. The contractor endeavours to use low emission plant equipment and machinery. Park benches and some bins made from recycled plastic are used where appropriate.

Our contractors carefully coordinate their maintenance regime in order to avoid unnecessary or multiple journeys. Officers walk or cycle to the parks to carry out site inspections from the nearby Council offices.

11. Conservation & Heritage

11.1 Soils

The soils of Northcroft and Goldwell parks are gravelly or flint clay loams. This is in keeping with the 1:250 000 soil survey map that classifies the soils of the River Kennet floodplain as ground water gleyed chalky and gravel river alluvium over flint gravel (812a frome). It is normal for such soil types to be at least 30cm deep, although the flint gravel slopes of Goldwell are expected to be shallower.

Along the banks of the River Kennet there are areas of exposed debris consisting mainly of buried demolition rubble, bricks and tiles. This suggests that part of the site was disturbed and is composed of artificially displaced material and it is known that the football pitches are located on the site of the old town rubbish tip.

11.2 Hydrology

At the base of the slope that forms Goldwell Park lie remnants of the former Northcroft ditch. Although it is usually free of water, during prolonged periods of wet weather this does run off the nearby gradient and gathers in the ditch. Further ditches cut across Northcroft Park transferring surface water into the nearby River Kennet. Northcroft Park forms part of the River Kennet Flood Plain. The park occasionally floods by the river forming a useful reservoir for storm water which may otherwise damage nearby property.

11.3 Trees

There are a number of mature trees in both Northcroft and Goldwell Parks. A tree safety audit was last completed in 2019. Tree surveys are undertaken every two years and all recommended safety work is implemented by the appointed arboricultural contractor.

Tree cover in Northcroft falls into four categories:

- Predominantly mature Alder and Willow that have established along the banks of the River Kennet, Northcroft ditch and Northern boundaries
- A mixture of juvenile and semi mature trees around the Leisure Centre including Leylandii, London Plane, Alder and Cherry
- The avenue of mature Limes along Northcroft Lane
- New mixed planting to enhance biodiversity and add structure to the existing tree cover

Tree cover in Goldwell Park is varied and in keeping with the former grounds of Goldwell House. The trees are mainly mature, with some recent planting introduced to screen housing and enhance biodiversity. The park has some exceptionally large and fine specimens of Oak, Lime, Yew, Sycamore, Cypress, Beech, Ash, Hornbeam, Maple, Willow and Horse Chestnut. There are two main blocks of mature trees. One runs along the Goldwell side of the Northcroft ditch and the other along the park boundary with Old Bath Road.



Lime Tree Avenue

Further mature trees are scattered within the park landscape. The trees in the parks are monitored and replaced when necessary, with the advice of the West Berkshire Council Tree Officer. The grounds maintenance service aims to plant at least 50 trees per annum across West Berkshire to replace any tree removed for safety reasons and so sustain the Council's tree stock and the quality of the local landscape. Some of this planting has been carried out in Northcroft and Goldwell Parks.



Memorial tree planted
Goldwell Park
Jan 2019

11.4 Woodland Walk

The area of woodland running alongside Old Bath Road has been thinned out, replanted and a new path laid down to create a pleasant woodland walk. The woodland walk has been enhanced through understorey planting to create a wildlife margin and enhanced woodland edge. Where it is practical, dead tree trunks have been left in situ to provide habitats for insects, bats, fungi and birds. Bird and bat boxes have been introduced as a means of encouraging greater diversity. This work was carried out with the help of local volunteers.



11.5 Birds

To date the site species list stands at 48 species of birds sighted in the parks and adjacent areas such as the river (for full list see Appendix 11). The list was begun by the Friends of the Northcroft and Goldwell Parks and has been added to over the years. The conservation status of no less than 20 of the 48 species are categorised as Red or Amber under an assessment carried out by the UK's leading ornithological organisations where the categories Green, Amber, Red indicate increasing levels of conservation concern due to population declines. Among the Red-listed species found at Northcroft are the formerly ubiquitous Starling and House Sparrow, also Firecrest, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Spotted Flycatcher; among those Amber listed are Kingfisher and the long distance summer migrant Willow Warbler. Of the five types of thrush found in the parks three are Red-listed (Song Thrush and the two winter visitors Fieldfare and Redwing), one is at Amber (Mistle Thrush), with Blackbird at Green. Urban parks and surrounding garden habitats can have a tremendous value for wildlife, as these results tend to confirm, and further efforts to enhance the parks in this regard have been and will continue to be made. Bird boxes have been erected around the parks to encourage nesting and a Tawny Owl box has been erected in the north east section of the Monkey Marsh.

11.6 Ground Flora

Please see Appendix 18.3 for our ground flora list for the Monkey Marsh. The most notable species found is Common Meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum* which is a declining plant of streamsides and wet meadows considered to be a Berkshire axiophyte, that is a species which, if found with a sufficient number of associated species, indicates habitat of conservation

importance. At Northcroft the plant occurs within the Monkey Marsh and also in a small area on the north bank of the river opposite. Management of these areas will be aimed at preserving the existing plants and hopefully encouraging their spread.



The results of bulb planting within Goldwell Park

11.7 The Monkey Marsh

The Council has developed a specific management plan for the Monkey Marsh. This is in keeping with the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) statement for the River Kennet by Natural England. This management plan will be revised to take into account the results of more recent species surveys, recent developments within the parks and around the Monkey Marsh. (Action Plan: Wildlife Management)

As part of the preparation for the management plan for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks, Natural England were consulted and are keen to see conservation enhancements and further opportunities for wildlife and nature areas along the River Kennet. The Council has consulted with both Natural England and the Environment Agency in the development of the Monkey Marsh as a valuable conservation area that benefits wildlife.

The Monkey Marsh is one of a few areas close to Newbury town centre that is grazed by cattle. Grazing of this area is a sustainable and cost effective way of maintaining it whilst adding additional interest within the park.

11.8 The Monkey Marsh Bee Bed

In the Spring of 2017 West Berkshire Council was delighted to encourage an initiative put forward by two local residents who undertook the digging of a bee flower bed on the grass verge just north of the Monkey Bridge footbridge. The project aimed not only to provide an environment for bees and other pollinators (whose numbers are currently in drastic decline), but also to provide an opportunity for passers-by, and especially children, to enjoy and learn about the natural environment. At a time when children are increasingly disassociated with nature, even a small bed can provide a stimulating and inspiring opportunity. In June a work party of volunteers met to remove the turf and a mixture of established plants and seeds were sown. Within two short months this was a colourful and thriving bed much loved by both local residents and bee populations alike. It has become known as The Monkey Marsh Bee Bed.

A notice board has been erected near the Monkey Bridge with details of this bed and other group activities taking place.



The Monkey Marsh Bee Bed, Summer 2017



The Monkey Marsh Bee Bed, summer 2017

11.9 Bat Conservation

Bat boxes have been installed on the trees on the edge of Goldwell Park and along the Kennet river area of the parks. Bat box checks have revealed that some of the boxes had been used by a small number of pipistrelle bats.

The Second World War pill box that was part of the civil defence of the river, canal and Newbury town has been transformed by creating artificial roosting crevices internally and grilling off the entrance to provide a bat hibernaculum. The design for this was developed and implemented on site by volunteers from a local Bat Group.

12. Community Involvement

This plan has been produced as a direct result of consultation with the local people who make use of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks. Consultation has demonstrated that local people appreciate the parks for the natural and informal appearance of Goldwell and the formal sporting facilities and play area at Northcroft. Access to the wider countryside and the riverside and canal walks are also valued.

12.1 Patterns of Use User Survey

In 2015 a questionnaire was devised by the Council's Parks Service with the aim of canvassing residents local to Northcroft and Goldwell Parks and understanding how they view both parks. A questionnaire, based on the model recommended by the Institute for Sport, Parks and Leisure, was sent out to 191 households and 70 (36%) returns were received. In addition the questionnaire was posted on the WBC website and notices in the park noticeboards invited any park user who wished to comment to download or request a form. The returns have given us a very interesting picture of how both parks are used, who uses them and how park users rate the service, amenities and experience gained in the parks. These responses allowed us to rectify any problems in the parks such as poor sight lines, inadequate benches, litter bins and play equipment and work towards resolving issues such as vandalism, noise disturbances and dog fouling. We were able to work with the local community to greatly improve the general appearance of the parks and create a cleaner, safer and more welcoming open space. Opinions and comments are always welcomed from park users and our contact details can be found on the notice board at the main entrance to Goldwell. The patterns of use survey results can be found in Appendix 18.1.

Currently there is no active Friends Group for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks. Steps are being taken to find a volunteer co-ordinator to bring together those residents who are keen to get involved in the management and help with other interesting projects in the parks.

12.2 Volunteering in Northcroft and Goldwell Parks



Local volunteers planting bulbs at Goldwell



Volunteers meet with local councillors, parks management team and ISS (then the Grounds Maintenance contractor) to raise the parks' first Green Flag.

Local people and companies have carried out a number of events in the parks. For example in 2012 Bayer employees did some planting improvements and in 2013 local people helped to plant the Mayor's Copse.

12.3 Working with Northcroft Leisure Centre

The Leisure Centre (run by Parkwood Leisure) is important to the parks as it is a central point between the two open spaces linking them together. The Leisure Centre helps to attract people to the parks by offering a wide range of sports and facilities.

The presence of the Leisure Centre with regular comings and goings of people and site staff provides a sense of security for individuals who use the parks. The Leisure Centre's main entrance is protected by CCTV. We work with the Centre's manager to ensure that the Centre's car parks and immediate vicinity are kept free of litter.

One of the problems identified by local residents was after-hours access to the car parks by young adults in cars, which could be quite noisy. The opportunity for cars to access the car parks late at night has been removed by working in partnership with the Leisure Centre to ensure that the barrier to the car parks is locked shut every night.



Main entrance barrier at Northcroft



Sign informing of car park opening times

This has stopped cars gathering in the car park at night. New signage has been installed at all park entrances. The signs include appropriate information regarding site contact details, hours of opening and emergency phone details. These are accompanied at the main entrance points by a site map and information boards.

12.4 Working with Local Sports Clubs

Newbury Cricket Club and three local mens football teams are based in Northcroft Park.



Newbury Cricket pavilion



Changing Room facilities at Northcroft

The parks are used for a number of organised events that attract thousands of people. Future events will encourage appreciation and use of the parks. The annual events programme can be found in Appendix 18.15 of this plan. In order to develop the community's interest and aspirations for the parks, we have developed closer links with the Leisure Centre and the Cricket Club and other regular users. Newbury Cricket Club is responsible for the upkeep of the cricket pavilion and is currently seeking to refurbish the building.

Within the parks there are two full size pitches available for adult and youth football.

Fishing is also popular at Northcroft. Information on freshwater fishing can be found on both Environment Agency and Canal and River Trust websites. An Environment Agency Rod Licence is required for fishing at Northcroft.

12.5 Youth Participation

Although user surveys have demonstrated that park users and local residents strongly reject the idea of providing more facilities for teenagers in the parks, we engaged with young people through the Council's Culture and Youth Service and in this way facilitated and developed an understanding of appropriate activity within the parks for younger people. The BMX track was originally developed with the active involvement of local teenagers and offers young adults and teenagers the chance to use the parks for recreation purposes and also helps promote sport among young people.

12.6 Local Schools

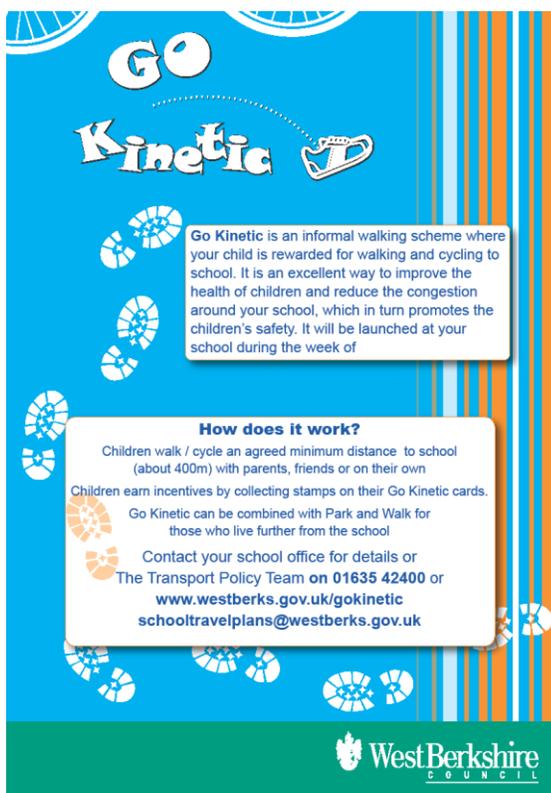
Local schools have indicated that they occasionally make use of the parks for educational visits and have suggested that they might make more use of the parks for environmentally based study in the future. Though this is an activity that parks managers would very much like to encourage it has not yet been possible to devote staff time to promote this aspect of the parks.

The changing rooms are currently rented to a Home Education Group as a classroom on a weekly basis. They use the park as part of their education programme.

There is also interest from a local Girl Guide group in hiring the changing rooms.

Northcroft and Goldwell Parks have been involved in the 'Go Kinetic! Campaign', a scheme where children are encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school by receiving stamps which can be exchanged for rewards such as free swimming at the leisure centre.

The improvements to sight lines, path access points and footpaths have benefited and encouraged this scheme and made the parks safe places for children and their parents to use in the early morning and afternoons. More information can be found at <https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk>



12.7 Tree Planting

Lockdown Wood

Lockdown Wood is a project by Newbury Friends Of The Earth, supported by West Berkshire Council, to plant commemorative woods in the district in memory of all that has been lost due to the coronavirus pandemic, in hope for a healthy future for our families and our world.

Lockdown Wood Goldwell Park will be the flagship small wood in Newbury.

During the week beginning 11 December 2020, 500 trees were planted by volunteers from Friends of the Earth, local residents, Sovereign Housing Association, Newbury and Thatcham Green Gym, the Navigator Co, local councillors and West Berks Council officers.

Two hundred and fifty trees were donated by the Woodland Trust, and 250 trees from West Berks Council.

The trees have been planted along the side of the cycleway and at the base of Goldwell Hill to form a naturalised “L” shape of woodland.

No.	Species	size
20	Beech	200/250
20	Oak	200/250
20	lime	200/250
15	lime	6-8
20	Alder	200/250
20	Hornbeam	200/250
20	Cherry	200/250
20	Field Maple	200/250
20	Whitebeam	200/250
20	Rowan	200/250
5	Wild service	6-8
20	crab apple	200/250
20	holly	2ltr
10	Holly	80-100

Species list for trees supplied by West Berks Council



The newly planted Lockdown Wood and Goldwell House

Mayors’ Copse: To mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee a commemorative copse of 27 oak trees were planted in Goldwell Park in 2012 with the current mayor and each surviving former mayor of Newbury taking part and planting a tree. Further planting within the Mayor’s Copse is planned for spring 2019.



Planting of the Mayors' Copse on 1st December 2012 in Goldwell Park

Bayer Tree Planting, December 2013. At an event coordinated by the Newbury Volunteer Centre, on 11th December 2013 a group of native trees was planted at the top of Goldwell Park by employees of Bayer plc, who also donated the funding that enabled the project to go ahead



Bayer employees with the trees planted on 11th December 2013

13. Marketing

13.1 Marketing Strategy

Aims of the marketing strategy:

- Interpret the parks and their facilities for the public
- Develop a cohesive marketing approach for the two parks
- Continue to provide a diverse range of events and activities
- Strive to maintain our Green Flag Award for the parks, initially awarded in 2007/2008.

We will meet these aims using the following marketing tools:

Leaflets

A leaflet is widely available from local libraries, Council offices and the Tourist Information Centre (Appendix 18.12). We also produce leaflets when major work or events take place in the parks to keep the park users involved, such as the Monkey Bridge renovations. Information on the proposed flood alleviation works in 2012 was posted on park notice boards and made available in leaflet form.

Website

The website for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks is accessible via West Berkshire Council's website at www.westberks.gov.uk (Key 'Goldwell Park' or 'Northcroft Park' into the website's search engine). The website re-launch took place in May 2014 after a major review.

User Survey

The Council finds the patterns of use survey a very informative way of gauging public opinion about Northcroft and Goldwell Parks and of involving the local community in the management of the parks. We aim to regularly carry out these patterns of use surveys on residents living near the parks and on other park users. The results from these surveys allow us to identify and pursue new marketing opportunities. The results of the 2015 survey have informed the present management plan (Appendix 18.1).

Current Events Calendar

All upcoming events are advertised in the notice boards on the main signs into the parks and also on the Council's web site. Annual events such as the Michaelmas Fair are advertised in local press.

The Newbury Hockey Festival is advertised on a number of hockey-related websites, including the official England Hockey website. The Newbury Hockey Club produces a flyer which is emailed out to clubs, teams and University sides. Posters are put up at club houses and in the

week before the event, the club does a leaflet-drop in the surrounding area to inform local residents about the festival.

In Memoriam

For 1 week in September 2020, Goldwell Park hosted an outdoor art installation - *In Memoriam* by Luke Jerram <https://memoriamartwork.com/> , co-ordinated by the Corn Exchange.

The installation comprised of a field of ‘festival’ flags (actually bed sheets) which were arranged in the form of a medical logo and set up in such a way as to allow people to wander through at their own pace (a covid friendly non mass gathering nor time specific event).



Corn Exchange Newbury presents

IN MEMORIAM

by Luke Jerram



This installation is a temporary memorial for the public to visit and remember all those we have lost from the COVID-19 pandemic. The artwork is also made in tribute to all the NHS health and care workers who have been risking their lives throughout the last 6 months.

Referencing those people who have been in hospital and care homes during this crisis, the flags are created from bed sheets and arranged in the form of a medical logo.

Presented in the open air, the structure allows people to enter, contemplate and explore the artwork, whilst adhering to the rules of social distancing.

Luke Jerram's multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects.

Living in the UK but working internationally for 23 years, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the globe.

memoriamartwork.com
#MemoriamArtwork

• Keep a safe distance • Be respectful of others • Please do not touch the flag poles

In Memoriam Audio Experience

Enjoy this newly commissioned audio track by artists from Massive Attack & Portishead as you explore In Memoriam.

Click on the QR code or visit this webpage to hear the track on your own device and headphones.

www.bit.ly/MemoriamMusic

In Memoriam was commissioned by the Weston Arts + Health Weekender, supported by Weston Arts and PCC/19/06, 09/20, informed by the Medicine Trust funded 'Weaver Lives' project, led by Dr Louise Phoenix at Exeter University.

In Memoriam at Goldwell Park is presented by the Corn Exchange and 100 Golden Ark Creative Space and funded by Trevelyan Trust and Arts Council England. For further information please email info@100goldenark.com or call the Corn Exchange on 01628 5219210.





*In Memoriam
a tribute to the NHS and those lost during the pandemic of 2020*

An increase in the diversity of events taking place in the parks is encouraged. For example, two new events came to the Parks in 2016, an 'Inflatables' weekend in August, and a celebration and family day organised by the Malayalee Cultural Association. In 2019, Circus Wonderland, a Big Top Circus and DanTERS Fun fair, a small Family run fair came to the park.



Inflatable event held at Northcroft since August 2016



Family day run by the Malayalee Cultural Association 2016

The parks are regularly used for small not for profit events such as fun days, treasure hunts and social get-togethers. We are able to offer the football changing rooms as a base for toilets, water supply and wet weather cover for these events. No charge is currently made for this.

Green Flag awarded to Newbury parks

Northcroft and Goldwell parks have been awarded the first 'Green Flag for Parks Award' in the district.



The award is given in recognition that parks are well maintained and managed and is fast becoming as well known as the Blue Flag Award for beaches which has received widespread media coverage over recent years.

The project will carry on as work continues to put in recommendations for improvement from the Judges to ensure that this excellent standard is maintained.

Grounds Maintenance Manager, Stewart Souden said: "I would like to thank all of the Countryside and Open Spaces staff for their efforts and commitment and the Friends of the Parks Group (made up of residents local to Newbury), which has made an important contribution to the Council's efforts in improving the parks and shows what can be achieved when everyone works together towards a common goal."

Taken from 'The Reporter' June 2008

Press Releases relating to achievement of Green Flag status

Northcroft and Goldwell Park becomes the first in West Berkshire to be recognised by Green Flag scheme

By Reporter, newburytoday.co.uk
Email: newburytoday@newburynews.co.uk
Phone: 01635 564631
[More News](#) [Back to homepage](#)

A NEWBURY park has become the first in West Berkshire to be awarded a Green Flag. Northcroft and Goldwell Park was one of 53 new sites in the south east to be recognised by the scheme.

The park was added to the list of some of the best in England yesterday by Baroness Kay Andrews, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

The award comes following recent work on the park by West Berkshire Council and community group Friends of the Park.

The Green Flag Awards scheme has been running for 11 years, and awards flags to commend welcoming and well-maintained green spaces that involve the local community.

This year, the number of winners in the south east rose by 42%.

Internet Advertising and Posters

Northcroft and Goldwell Parks are also advertised on the internet on various family friendly search engines which suggest places to go with the children. It is hoped that this source of advertising will encourage more families to visit the parks. The parks are advertised on the websites for Ideas for the Kids, BBC Breathing Places, Net Mums and Kids go Free. The main signs have a notice board where local events and news can be advertised.

Green Flag Award Scheme

The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme was designed to create a benchmark of excellence in recreational green spaces. See Appendix 18.2 for Green Flag Award criteria.

Submission for a Green Flag Award for Northcroft and Goldwell parks was first made in 2005/2006, but was unsuccessful. A new application was put forward in January 2007 with a number of improvements made following judges feedback from the 2005/2006 application. This application was successful and we have maintained Green Flag status for Northcroft and Goldwell every subsequent year, building on each year's success with further improvements.



14. Management

14.1 Vision Statement for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks

Our vision for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks is to provide a safe, secure and attractive green space for all park users to enjoy and to ensure that the parks are well managed in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable way.

This will be achieved by:

1. Striving to create and maintain a welcoming place for all park users
2. Establishing a safe and secure place
3. Using our parks and green spaces to encourage a healthy lifestyle and promote well being
4. Maintaining high standards of cleanliness in our parks
5. Using environmentally sound management practices
6. Promoting conservation and heritage interest in the parks
7. Encouraging community involvement
8. Promoting the parks through marketing

14.2 Management Strategy

This management plan has been produced through consultation with a wide range of users and facilitators of the parks. The plan aims to ensure that a coordinated partnership is developed between the Council and all key stakeholders to ensure the long term future of the parks. It is a constantly evolving document, addressing the changing needs of the park users and facilitators. The current version of this plan has been reviewed and updated to reflect the work that has been carried out so far, helping to clearly show the direction the management of the parks will take and ensure that the Council provides the best possible service to local people. The plan focuses on a number of realistic and deliverable targets and enables park policies to be introduced. These targets and policies are reviewed and updated annually.

The plan is also a means of securing additional investment and allocation of resources to contribute to the improvements within the parks.

In managing the parks, it is important to ensure that the unique features within the parks are recognised and their value for local people and visitors is developed through appropriate management. The parks offer different habitats and where possible this can be improved through adding structure and variety within the parks landscape.

Management Strategy Objectives:

- To implement the objectives identified within each section of this management plan
- To monitor and review the effectiveness of these objectives within Northcroft and Goldwell Parks
- To ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to deliver the objectives within the plan
- To ensure the priorities for investment are balanced against local need and aspirations

- To demonstrate the contribution that Northcroft and Goldwell Parks make towards West Berkshire's wider strategic aims
- To meet park management operations targets

14.3 Financial Strategy

Current yearly maintenance costs for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks are £41,639.43 per annum, see Appendix 18.8. Revenue budgets are set every February for the following financial year (April to March).

The parks take an income from hire of the football pitches. The rate for the use of these facilities reflects prices of similar local providers.

West Berkshire Council's supplementary planning guidance SPG 04/04, 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Growth', Topic Paper 7 – Open Space, has allowed many of the improvements to the parks to occur through Section 106 legal agreement external funding streams.

15. Where Do We Want To Get To?

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

A Welcoming Place

- Improvements made, such as new signage to main entrances, create a more welcoming park.
- Car parks allow easy disabled access.
- New Monkey Bridge allows better access for disabled, the elderly, parents with buggies & cyclists.
- The western end of Northcroft Lane resurfaced
-

Healthy, Safe and Secure

- Regular Walking to Health walks make use of the parks.
- Great sport provision with 2-3 football pitches, cricket club & pitch.
- Play area has been refurbished 2013
- Fences have been replaced or installed where needed.
-

Clean and Well Maintained

- Hard surfaces installed under benches to enable better cleaning.
- Regular litter picking, litter bin & dog bin emptying to maintain park cleanliness.
-

Sustainability

Conservation and Heritage

- Trees well maintained and regularly assessed.
- Creation of woodland walk.
-

Community Involvement

- Parks host wide range of regular community events.
- Various annual events bring thousands of people into the park over the annual period
-

Marketing

- Website has been improved to make information more clear.
-

Management

- Management plan has been reworked to make it more user friendly.
- Patterns of use survey carried out and feedback from public being acted upon. 90% of users rated the park as good or excellent
- 14 Green Flags awarded since 2007/2008.

Weaknesses

Welcoming Place

Healthy, Safe and Secure

- Cricket club building is an eyesore and needs refurbishing.
- The site Health & Safety audit needs updating
- Site Risk assessment needs up-dating
- Disability access audit needs updating

Clean and Well Maintained

Sustainability

- Scope for recycling bins

Conservation and Heritage

- The Monkey Marsh management plan needs to be reviewed and up-dated and an action plan generated.
- Diversity of wildlife habitat could be enhanced

Community Involvement

- No current Friends Group – efforts being made to find a volunteer co-ordinator

Marketing

Management

Opportunities

A Welcoming Place

- Investigate resurfacing play area to improve accessibility

Healthy, Safe and Secure

Clean and Well Maintained

Sustainability

Conservation and Heritage

- Opportunity to link into historical town trail with interpretation boards for Old Monkey Bridge
- Opportunity for more practical tasks for volunteers within parks.
- Climate change Environment Strategy should allow more scope to plant trees and improve wildlife habitat diversity in the parks

Community Involvement

- Encourage school, Brownie & Scout groups to make more use of the parks.
- Training provided for walkers to become walk leaders if they are interested.
- Explore using social media to create a Friends Forum.

Marketing

- Make more use of the information boxes under each main sign to advertise events
- Opportunity to promote the park as accessible for all.
- Website could include links to Green Flag website and other relevant websites.
- Investigate use of social media to promote park

Management

- Continue to apply for Green Flag to provide drive and guidance to continually improve the parks.
- There is scope to raise income from hiring out the parks for commercial events.

Threats

A Welcoming Place

Healthy, Safe and Secure

- Vandalism of equipment.
- Illegal camping in the parks.
- Anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol, groups etc.

Clean and Well Maintained

- Graffiti.
- General wear and tear to equipment.

Sustainability

Conservation and Heritage

- Incidence of flooding has increased recently making football pitches unuseable

Community Involvement

- Complaints from residents living close to the parks about events held eg noise, litter, damage to surface
- The Michaelmas Fair requires careful management to avoid possible friction between Council and residents close to the park.
- Carefully manage quantity and variety of events so as not to cause annoyance to residents

Marketing

Management

- Budget constraints and cuts making it harder to receive funding

16. How Will We Get There?

Action and Development Plan

Improvement	Project	Responsibility	Resource	Time scale	Progress
1. Welcoming and Accessible	Signage and information Maintain cleanliness of park's signage	WBC/ CL	Include in routine maintenance	18-22	All signs cleaned May 2019 ongoing
	Disability access Carry out new DDA audit	WBC	In house WBC	18-22	Schedule in 2021
	Cycleway Remark cycleway in Goldwell Park	WBC	In house WBC	18-22	Schedule 2021
	Play area Replace woodchip surfacing to make more accessible and reduce maintenance	CB	Capital or S106 funding	June 20	Invitations to tender to be submitted via Council's In-Tend process in Feb 22
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure	Changing rooms Ensure FLASH adhered to	AC	In House	Annually	Last completed Dec 2020
	Investigate new digital assets management system to deliver RMMP.	PH/AC	Capital	2022	Discussion with provider have commenced
	Risk Management and Mitigation Plan (RMMP) Develop a proactive asset management system through phased activities:	RIP group	In house	TBA	Commenced Jan 2020
	(RMMP) Assets Survey site and compile list of assets for a register	RIP group	In House	March 2020	Currently designing methods

Improvement	Project	Respons- ibility	Resource	Time scale	Progress
	(RMMP) Assets Assess assets for safety	RIP group	In House	June 20	Follow on after completion of list of assets
	(RMMP) Assets Inspect, maintain and repair	RIP group	In house	TBA	Commence 2022. Follow on after completion of list of assets
	(RMMP) Both parks Record a site specific risk assessment	RIP group	In house	TBA	Commence 2021
	Camping in the park Refer to the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleepers strategy	WBC	In house	18-22	Implement when required
	Sports Pitches Inspect pitches weekly to ensure playability	TG/CL	In house	18-22	Ongoing weekly inspections
	Antisocial Behaviour Work with local police, Leisure centre and residents. Design out hideaway areas.	WBC/ NLC/ TVP	In house	18-22	Implement when required
	Cricket Club Work with Cricket Club to find a solution to refurbishing the pavilion.	WBC/ NCC/ other bodies	In house	18-22	Ongoing. Plans submitted by cricket club to enlarge pavilion to cater for female teams.
3. Clean and Well maintained	Fencing Re-paint knee rails Clean off algae on railings	TG/ CL/	Revenue budget with possible Young Offenders Team collaboration	18-22	Knee rails due to be repainted 2021
	Graffiti Removal of graffiti as it occurs – offensive graffiti immediately, otherwise within 28 days	WBC/ CL	Existing revenue budget	18-22	Implement when required

Improvement	Project	Respons- ibility	Resource	Time scale	Progress
	Changing rooms Maintain changing rooms: wear and tear repairs	CB/TG	Revenue budget	18-22	Inspect weekly and implement when required.
	Litter and waste Promote waste minimisation on Council sites	WBC	No cost – done in house	18-22	Ongoing
	Litter and Waste Work with partners to ensure adequate disposal & storage of rubbish on site	WBC/ CL	No cost	18-22	Monthly checks with contractor
	Contractors activities Monitor contractor performance to ensure works are to specification	TG/AC	No Cost	18-22	Daily discussions with contractor
	Recycling bins Investigate possibility of installing in the park	WBC	Capital budget	18-22	Commence 2020
	Play area Inspections Maintain regular play area inspections to ensure equipment is safe. Rate remedial action according to risk.	JP/CB/ CL	Revenue budget	18-22	Weekly with contractors Quarterly with RoSPA
4. Sustainability	Resources Use the grounds maintenance specification to promote sustainable awareness amongst contractors	WBC/ CL	No cost	18-22	Use current specification but start to re-write new specification for when contract is re-tendered in 2023
	Trees Ensure trees are correctly maintained in accordance with best practice and works recommended in tree survey	WBC	Revenue budget	18-22	Survey every 18 months to 2 years Last Completed 2019
	Flooding Excavate ditches in order to channel	WBC	Capital budget	18-22	Commenced Feb 2020

Improvement	Project	Responsibility	Resource	Time scale	Progress
	water correctly to prevent flooding of pitches and parks				
	Public Events Ensure public events taking place in the parks adhere to the Council's Environmental policy and hirers agreement and will not adversely affect the parks.	AC	No cost	18-22	Liaise with hirers
5. Conservation and Heritage	Wildlife management Keep under review the environmental policy developed for the parks in accordance with the Council's wider environmental policies	WBC	Revenue Budget	18-22	Ongoing
	Joined up management of the parks and surrounding areas Set up a task group from differing backgrounds to link up surrounding areas with the park and carry out joined up conservation management.	WBC/ local groups	No cost	18-22	Discussions commenced Jan 20
	Fishing Investigate opportunities to access the river for fishing	WBC	No cost – done in house	18-22	2020
	Trees Plant up new areas to trees in accordance with new Environment Strategy	WBC/ volunteers	Capital budget	18-22	Commence 2020. 250 trees planted Lockdown Wood.
	Flora and Fauna Monitor and update lists	WBC/ volunteers	No cost	18-22	Implement when volunteers identified

Improvement	Project	Respons- ibility	Resource	Time scale	Progress
	Wildlife boxes Monitor and maintain bat, bird boxes in the parks	WBC	Volunteer effort	18-22	Implement when volunteers identified
	Monkey Marsh Enhance the Monkey Marsh area as an area of high wildlife conservation value: review management plan	WBC/ volunte ers	No cost	18-22	Review plan 2020
	Monkey Marsh Carry out programme of planting in Monkey Marsh & areas surrounding Monkey Bridge: review success and need for further work	WBC/vo lunteers	No cost	Mar 2020	Liaising with local grazers and user groups
6. Community Involvement	Friends Group Develop Friends Group or equivalent	WBC	No Cost	18-22	Commence 2020
	Community Events Continue making park available to host a wide variety of events	WBC	No Cost	18-22	Continual liaising with hirers
	Hirer's Agreement Draw up an agreement for hirers to follow to ensure high safety standards are followed and reduce complaints from residents	AC/CB	No cost	Jun 2021	
	Community Groups Form contacts with local schools, scouts/brownies etc to assist with eg tree planting	AC/TG	No cost	18-22	Commence Mar 20
7. Marketing	Leaflet Develop an interpretative leaflet for the	WBC	No cost	18-22	Complete by 2021

Improvement	Project	Respons- ibility	Resource	Time scale	Progress
	parks: consider revision of 2013 version				
	Notice Boards Use park notice boards to more effect to advertise community events and activities	WBC	No Cost	18-22	Update regularly as events get booked
	Social Media Investigate the use of social media to advertise the parks	WBC	No cost	Apr 20	Seek advice from Council's own communications department
	Local press Develop more links with press to promote the parks regularly	WBC	No Cost	18-22	Ongoing
	Forum Investigate setting up a social media forum page for the parks	WBC	No cost	Sum mer 2021	Commence Feb 2021
8. Management	Survey Undertake a new patterns of use survey to ensure the parks are fulfilling users requirements	WBC	No cost	2021	Initiate summer 2021
	Green Flag Continue applications for Green Flag to ensure standards are maintained and improved.	WBC	No cost	18-22	Complete annually
	Financial resources Set out a pricing guidance for hiring the park for commercial events	WBC	No cost	Sep 21	Benchmarking Information being collated
	Financial resources Investigate other sources of Funding streams eg Community Groups, or grants from wildlife bodies	WBC	No Cost	Sum mer 2020	Initial contacts being made

Key:

WBC	West Berkshire Council	RIP	Risk Improvement Programme (WBC)
PH	Paul hendry, Countryside Manager, WBC	CL	Continental Landscapes (Grounds Maintenance contractor)
AC	Arthur Cullen, Grounds Maintenance Manager, WBC	TVP	Thames Valley Police
TG	Tony Gallop, Grounds Maintenance Officer, WBC	NCC	Newbury Cricket Club
CB	Caroline Booth, Grounds Maintenance Officer, WBC	NE	Natural England
NLC	Northcroft Leisure Centre	EA	Environment Agency

17. How Will We Know When we've Arrived?

Monitoring & Review

Grounds Maintenance Officers will continue to visit the site regularly and monitor progress against the action plan. The park's management will continue to work with key stakeholders and the Friends of Northcroft and Goldwell to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the parks and work towards improving the site for all. The parks' management will continue to develop their relationship with contractors, Continental Landscapes, to ensure that the park is maintained to the highest possible standard.

Team Meetings and Appraisals

All park staff working on the management plan for Northcroft and Goldwell meet regularly. The Grounds Maintenance Manager has regular one-to-ones and appraisals with Grounds Maintenance staff allowing monitoring of actions allocated to individuals. Appraisals help individuals to focus on the specific tasks set for them within these parks.

User Surveys

User surveys were carried out in 2004, 2009 and 2015. The earlier surveys have given local residents and park users an opportunity to express their views about the park and the services provided, with the results proving invaluable to the parks managers. The action and development plan for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks has developed from the results of these surveys.

Parks managers analyse the results of the user surveys in order to gauge whether the changes they have implemented in the park have been successful and to identify any new issues for action. Members of the public can contact West Berkshire Council to pass comment on the park or to make a complaint. Contact details can be found on the West Berkshire Council website and on park notice boards.

Review

Council officers meet once a year to update the management plan. This allows the team to focus on actions and developments for the year ahead. Regular review meetings will also take place when necessary. Review meetings will be held following feedback from each Green Flag application to discuss any suggestions and recommendations raised by the judges.

18. Appendices

18.1 User Survey 2015 results

Q1 .How often do you visit Northcroft and Goldwell Parks?

Most Days	44%
2-3 times per week	26%
Weekly	16%
Fortnightly	7%
Monthly	3%
Less often	4%

Q2. How would you rate the Parks?

Excellent	21%
Good	69%
Poor	8%
Very Poor	1%
No opinion	1%

Q3. Are there any ways in which your visit can be more enjoyable?

Yes	48%
No	28%
No Opinion	24%

Q4. What do you find most enjoyable about the parks?

Play area: 14 responses
Spring Flowers: 7 responses
Peacefulness: 7 responses
Trees: 13 responses
Public Open Space 25 responses
River /Canal: 4 responses
Views from Goldwell Hill: 14 responses
Natural Beauty: 12 responses
Dog walking: 5 responses
Events: 4 responses

Q5. Why do you visit the Parks?

	Number of likes
Walk	50
Walk the Dog	19
Jogging	7
Sport	10
Nature	29
Scenery	33
play area	26

Q6. What are your views on the facilities in the Parks?

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	No Opinion
Car parking	10%	31%	16%	2%	2%	39%
Sign posting	14%	34%	21%	4%	0	27%
Lighting	6%	35%	32%	11%	6%	7%
Condition of the paths	7%	57%	28%	6%	0	2%
Accessibility for prams/wheelchairs	15%	22%	17%	3%	0	43%
Play area	19%	57%	11%	3%	0	13%
Cleanliness	8%	50%	30%	5%	0	7%
Provision of sports pitches	4%	41%	12%	5%	0	43%
Provision of special events	10%	47%	20%	0	0	23%
Provision of seating	3%	16%	42%	16%	9%	14%
Provision of litter bins	3%	38%	41%	9%	5%	5%
Provision of dog waste bins	3%	22%	42%	8%	2%	23%
Standard of maintenance	8%	51%	32%	6%	0	3%

Q7. Would you like to see more of any of the following?

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Flowers/ formal garden	51%	42%	7%
Better dog control measures	32%	28%	40%
Fitness Trail	38%	29%	33%
Teenage area	22%	50%	28%
Nature trail	63%	20%	17%
More staff	19%	42%	39%
Art in the park	59%	29%	12%
Nature conservation areas	72%	10%	28%
More trees	63%	27%	10%
Pathways	32%	50%	18%
More events	31%	51%	18%

The majority of users would like more flowers, a nature trail, more art, more nature areas and more trees. Most people do not want more paths or a teenage area

Q8. Have you experienced any problems in the park?

Yes	31%
No	69%

Main issues for those who said 'yes'- youths, dogs, illegal camping and drugs

Q9. Was the problem resolved to your satisfaction?

Yes	28%
No	72%

The details of any specific issues are currently being investigated by officers with a view to having these addressed wherever possible. A further update on this will be included here in due course.

Q10. Any other comments?

- 11 comments- great place to visit
- 2 comments- teenagers misbehave
- 4 comments – please get rid of illegal camping
- 1 comment – control dogs
- 1 comment- do not create a teenage facility

18.2 Green Flag Award Criteria

1. A Welcoming Place

The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park or green space should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting. Features of particular importance are:

- Good and safe access
- Good signage to and in the park or green space
- Equal access for all members of the community

2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

The park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately. Particularly important issues are:

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use
- The park or green space must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse
- Dog fouling must be adequately addressed
- Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park or green space, and clearly sign posted

3. Clean and Well Maintained

For aesthetic as well as Health and Safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addresses, in particular:

- Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately addressed
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place and regularly reviewed

4. Sustainability

Methods used in maintaining the park or green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Specifically:

- An environmental policy or charter and management strategy should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed
- Pesticide use should be minimised and justified
- Horticultural peat use should be eliminated
- Waste plant material in the park or green space should be recycled
- High horticultural and arboricultural standards should be demonstrated
- Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling and resource conservation measures should be used

5. Conservation and Heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features, wildlife and fauna
- Landscape features
- Buildings and structural features

These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment

6. Community Involvement

Management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park or green space user groups as possible.

Management should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use
- Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved
- Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community

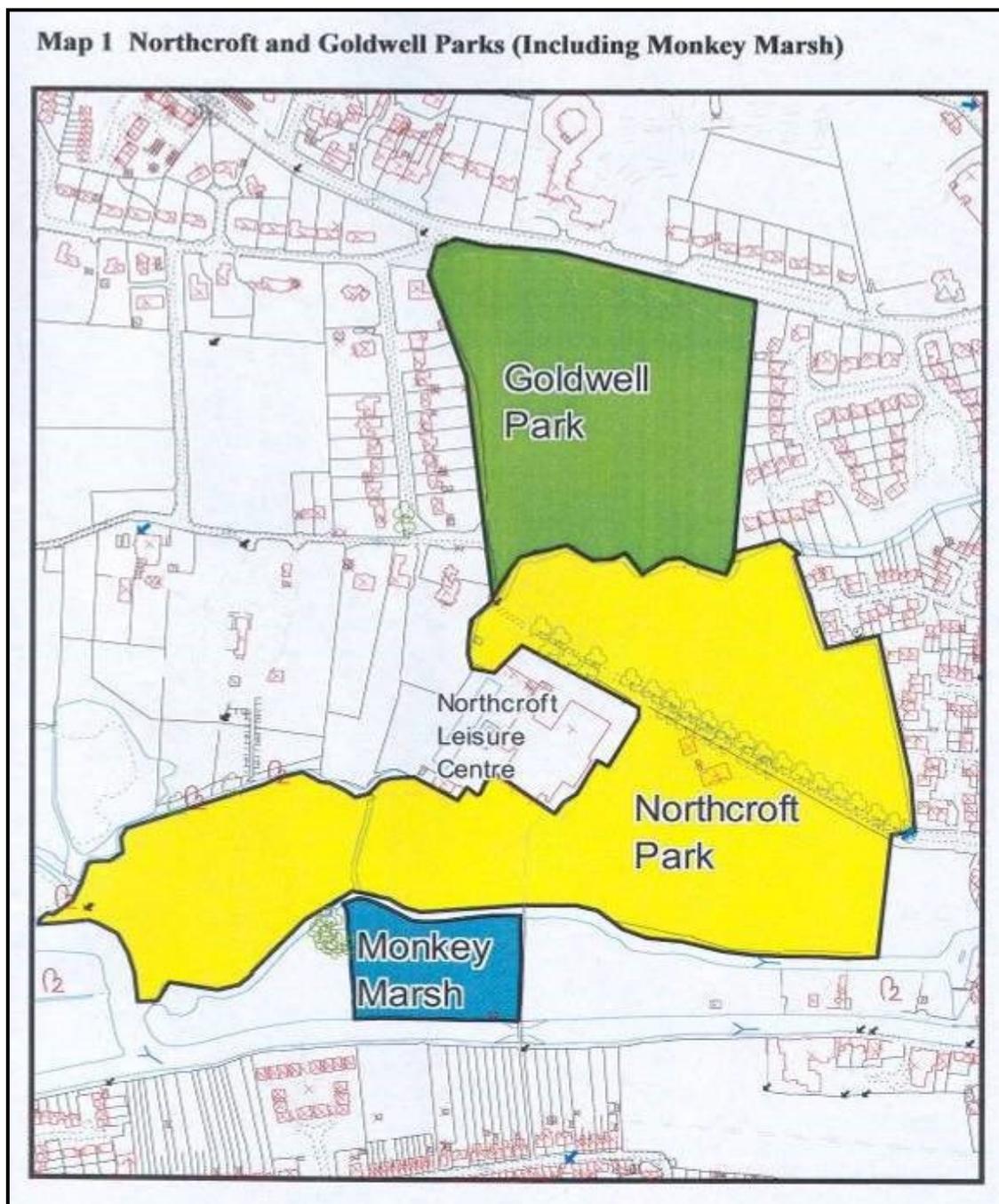
7. Marketing

- Marketing strategy in place, in practice and regularly reviewed
- Good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved
- Promotion of the park or green space as a community resource

8. Management

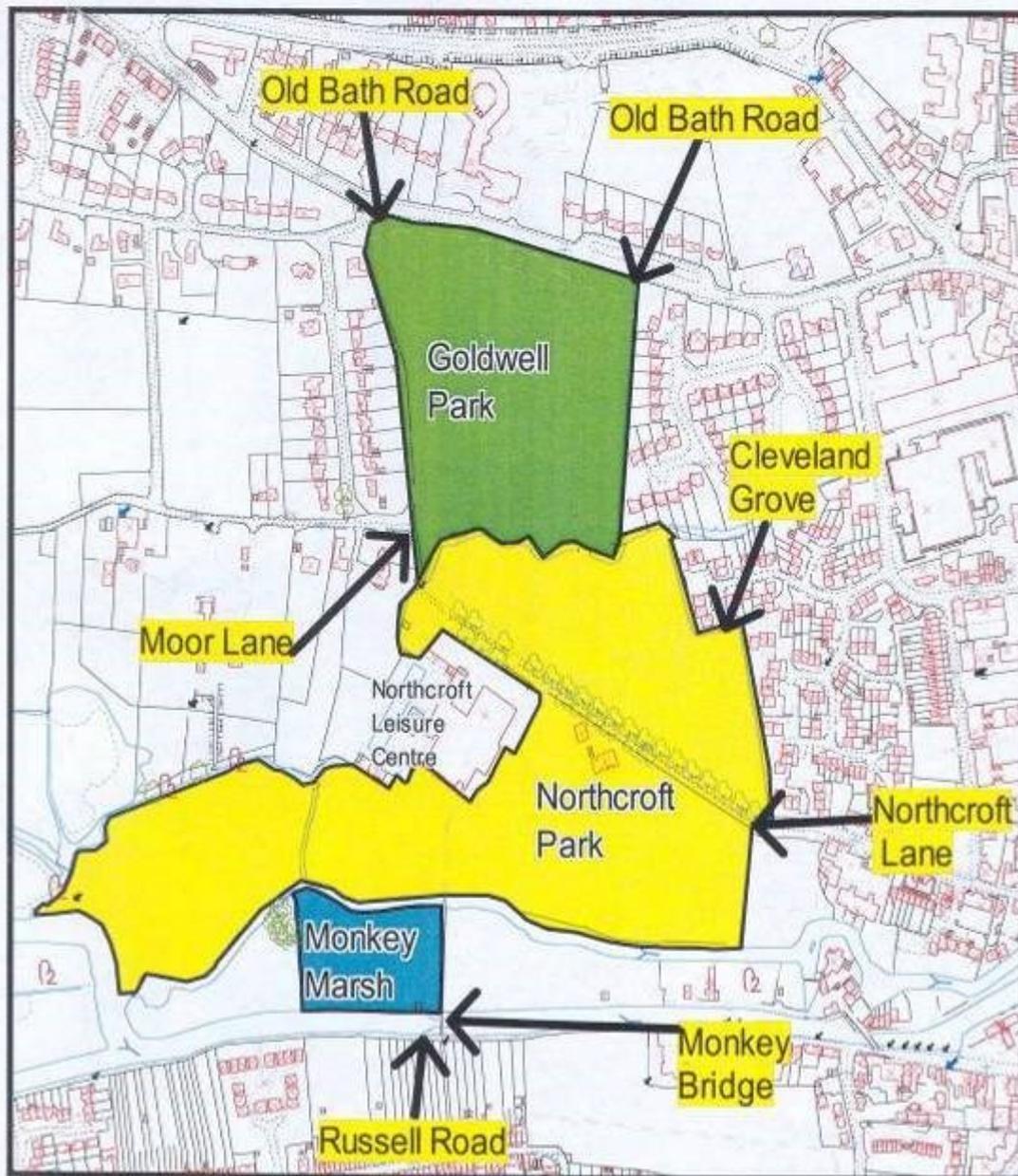
A Green Flag Award application must have a management plan or strategy in place which reflects the aspirations of Local Agenda 21 and clearly and adequately addresses all the above criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park or green space's management. The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed. Financially sound management of the park or green space must also be demonstrated.

18.3 Map of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks

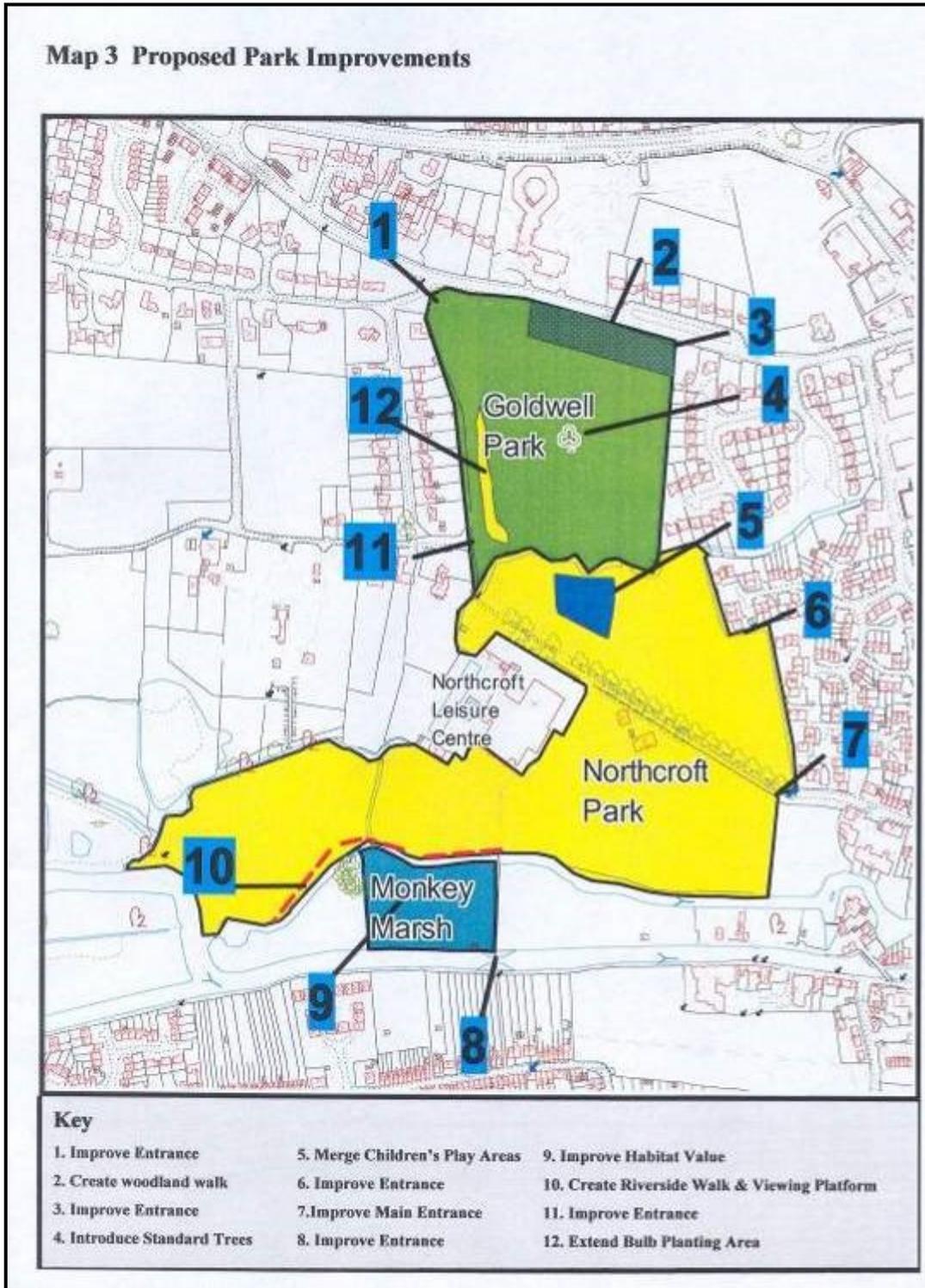


18.4 Main Access points

Map 2 Main access points to Northcroft and Goldwell Parks



18.5 Park improvements 2007-2011



Park improvements delivered in the period 2007-2011 inclusive

18.6 Dog Fouling Leaflet



Check list

- Teach your dog to foul in the garden.
- Always carry a poop bag.
- Always clean up after your dog.
- Your dog should be taken out to exercise, not to foul.
- Try to make sure your dog never fouls in a public place.
- Remember you could be committing an offence if you fail to remove and dispose of your dog's faeces.
- Worm your dog – dogs that are not wormed regularly can carry infections.
- Encourage other dog owners to do the same.

If your dog fouls in a public place – clean it up!

If you need more information, please contact your local Animal Warden using the contact details on the back of this leaflet

Dog Fouling

Environmental Health

West Berkshire & Wokingham Environmental Health & Licensing

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 42400 and ask for Environmental Health and Licensing

West Berkshire Council:
Environmental Health and Licensing
Market Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5LD
Telephone: 01635 503242
email: ehadvice@westberks.gov.uk

Wokingham Council:
Environmental Health and Licensing
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1BN
Telephone: 0118 974 6000
email: environmental.health@wokingham.gov.uk



WOKINGHAM COUNCIL

This service is provided in partnership



Dog fouling

It is every owner's moral duty and legal responsibility to clean up after their dog.

Parks

The disgust that dog mess causes to those who have stepped in it, sat by it or seen their local parks ruined by it is felt keenly enough by dog owners who walk there every day. The offence and anger fouling causes to the general public is so great that letters of complaint on the subject are received daily by MPs and councillors across the UK. While these complaints have sometimes resulted in more special bins being provided and awareness raising projects being funded, they have also resulted in campaigns and policies that punish not only the guilty owners and their dogs, but all dog owners.

The countryside

Dog mess is not only a problem in our towns and urban areas. Some owners, visiting the countryside, seem to forget about their duty when they are out of town. The mess of visiting dogs often surrounds car parks at popular beauty spots and public open spaces, which are often the same areas where people picnic and children play. Wherever you are, you must always collect and dispose of your dog's mess.

The law

The Council has the power to prosecute under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This Act allows for a fixed penalty fine of £50. In certain circumstances offenders can be taken to court where the maximum fine is £1,000 and a criminal record.

It is every dog owner's duty to clear up after his or her dog. There are no excuses, fouling is unacceptable.

The solutions

1. If you have a garden, teach your dog to "go" there, **before you leave home**. The faeces can then be put straight into your dustbin or digested in a sunken "dog loo".
2. **Always** carry the means to clear up after your dog. Research shows that simple plastic bags are far more convenient, more effective and cheaper than most poop scoops. Your bags should be as unforgettable as a lead when you take your dog out.
3. **Every time** your dog fouls, "bag it and bin it", whether it is in a park, wood, path or roadside gutter. Remember the rain does not wash it away.
4. **Respect** your Local Authority rules on dog-free areas. Dogs cannot read signs, so it is up to you to keep them away from children's play areas and sports pitches. If dog-waste bins are provided, then use them.
5. **Never** let your dog out alone to "go to the loo". This should go without saying, but it does still happen. Apart from the fouling problem, you may never see your companion again.
6. **Get involved** when your Local Authority is considering new rules on dog access. Keep an eye on the announcements in your local paper. If positive views, opinions and the benefits of dog ownership are not presented, they will never be considered.
7. **Get your dog wormed**. Visit your veterinary surgeon for advice on the products suitable for your pet and the frequency of doses.
8. Politely but firmly encourage guilty owners you meet to **do their duty**. You do not need to be rude, simply offer them one of your bags; embarrassment over their unacceptable behaviour often gets results.

9. **Always** wash your hands after walking your dog and before eating. While Toxocarainfections are very rare and are more likely to affect children (because of their play habits), remember adults can become ill too.

Toxocarainfection

Fears about the danger to human health from dog faeces have spread throughout the population. However, most people's knowledge of the rare Toxocara canis infection is limited to hearsay and media reports. The facts are:

- The eggs of the Toxocara worm, if deposited in soil, can lie dormant for up to three years. They are highly resistant to temperature changes and chemical disinfectants have little effect on them.
- In tests five per cent of dogs were found to expel Toxocara worm eggs.
- Of this five per cent, the majority were puppies between two weeks and six months of age or pregnant bitches.
- As the eggs of the Toxocara worm take over two weeks to hatch and become active, there are no health risks to you from immediately clearing up after your dog.
- Foxes and cats also act as hosts to the Toxocara worm.
- Toxoplasmosis can also be caught from eating raw or undercooked meat, unpasteurised goats' milk products and food contaminated by infected faeces.

18.7 Access Reports 2004-07

Location: Northcroft Park
Type of facility: Play Park
Date: 24/09/04, revised 22/11/06
Names of Officers: David Foster Access Advisor
Kathy Warden Grounds Maintenance Officer
Lisa Ford Countryside Access Office

Description of facility:

- Small playground within large park close to Northcroft Sports and leisure centre
- 2 play areas 1 for toddlers and one for older children.
- Close to Newbury Centre Town centre
- Immediate area around the park is level.

Car parking:

2004

- Adjacent to the park with no designated bays
- Level with tarmac surface.

2006

- Designated bays with clear path to play area
- Level with tarmac surface.

Play areas:

2004

- No gaps in rails which goes around nearly the whole playing field.
- Needed key to get through to play area, if we didn't have the key with us it would be impossible to enter the play area for someone in a manual chair or a pushchair.

2006

- Gaps in rails installed to allow direct access into play areas
- Area open for use at all times without the use of a key.

New recommendations for 2006/2007:

- Surface installed for play park similar to play area at Stroud Green (good for wheelchairs and buggies and soft for landing on)
- Wider entrance gate for double buggy access
- Make a smooth path into the play area – there is a small ledge just after the gate in the play area at the gate facing the leisure centre.
- Extra path into new under 5s area with marked bay leading on to it.
- If possible a path leading from the cycle path from Speen Lane entrance (starting at bottom of path) across to play area.
- More signage of play area from road – e.g. a sign at the Lime tree on the corner of the entrance to the car park at Goldwell Park.

- Leaf clearance from the disabled access paths into play areas made a priority if possible.
- Colourful play equipment – bright colours for visually impaired. Some of the equipment has already got this in place.
- Bench next to play area needs a back to give support to people sitting on it.

Equipment: Hopefully when we've sorted all the above then we can start looking at what Specialist Equipment is needed, accessible slides and swings, also a different ground surface and contrasting of colour for the visual impaired and signage.

18.8 Regime of Maintenance

Goldwell Park	
Operation	Annual Cost
Spring meadow (annual grass cut)	
Grass cutting Performance specification 50-100mm	
Naturalised bulb area grass cut	
Path and hard surface cleansing	
Fortnightly leaf clearance in winter	
Exterior furniture maintenance	
Young tree maintenance	
Dog bin emptying (3 times weekly)	
Litter bin emptying (3 times weekly)	
Litter pick (3 times weekly)	
	Total £7,487.89
Northcroft Park	
Operation	Annual Cost
Annual inspection & topping up of Mulch	
Pruning & care of Shrubs & Roses	
Herbicide treatment of hard surfaces	
Path and hard surface cleansing	
Grass cutting Performance specification 25-60mm	
Grass cutting Performance specification 50-100mm	
Summer meadow cut (twice annually)	
Spring meadow (annual grass cut)	
Naturalised bulb area grass cut	
Fortnightly leaf clearance in winter	
Litter pick (3 times weekly)	
Exterior furniture maintenance	
Remove lime suckers	
Changing rooms- arrangements for fixtures	
Changing room cleaning	
Young tree maintenance	
Dog bin emptying (3 times weekly)	
Litter bin emptying (3 times weekly)	
Inspection of play area (1 time weekly)	
Pitch maintenance	
Pitch preparation for season	
Pitch works at end of season	
	Total £34,766.15
Grand Total for Northcroft & Goldwell Parks	£42,264.04

18.9 Environmental Policy for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks

West Berkshire Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment both locally and globally. The Council is determined to serve the best interests of the local community by protecting and actively promoting the improvement of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks. It is determined, in partnership with the local community, to pass on the parks to future generations in a better condition than they are today. The Council recognises the importance in ensuring it incorporates environmental and sustainability issues into its services and activities. The Council will ensure that environmental priorities are integrated into the decisions it takes on the management of the parks and will seek to work within the following principles:

(A) **Protection of our Environment** - we will minimise, and wherever possible eliminate, the release of all forms of pollution (including the use of pesticides)

(B) **Protection of the Living World** - we will protect, and where appropriate enhance, habitats and biodiversity

(C) **Sustainable Use of Natural Resources** - we will make sustainable use of renewable natural resources where possible. We will conserve non-renewable resources, and where practicable use recycled materials

(D) **Sustainable Transport** - we will reduce the need for movement of both people and goods and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport as alternatives to the private car

(E) **Minimisation and Safe Disposal of Waste** - we will minimise the creation of waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use and recycling of resources

(F) **Wise Use of Resources** - we will seek to minimise waste of all limited resources, including energy, water and materials, and use sustainable resources where possible

(G) **Delivery and Purchase of Services and Products** - we will minimise adverse environmental impacts of the services which we deliver by using the best available technology not entailing excessive cost. We will include environmental standards in all contracts and will ensure that contractors working on the behalf of the Council apply environmental standards at least equivalent to ours. We will consider environmental matters in our product purchases, and reduce the adverse environmental impact of our purchases

(H) **Environmental Information** – we will promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues, by raising awareness, by education, information provision and open consultation with the local community

(I) **Environmental Responsibility** - we will monitor and review this environmental policy with a view to improving performance each year with positive action. Staff and members will demonstrate a commitment to the policy. Management decisions relating to the parks will take account of the principles of this policy

The Council will achieve these commitments through implementation of the management plan for the parks

18.10 ROSPA Play Area Inspection and Risk Assessment

A copy of the current RoSPA Play Area inspection (carried out quarterly) may be obtained by contacting Arthur Cullen on 01635 551111



Safety Inspection Report

Annual Inspection

Site name: **Northcroft Park**
Date of inspection: **08 December 2020**
Inspector: **Bill Slater**



18.11 Site Risk Assessment

Record of Risk Assessment.	Activity, procedure or workplace being assessed: Use of Northcroft / Goldwell Park, Newbury, Berkshire	Date: 9th Jan 2007
	Assessed by: David Bull	Service: Assurance
		Ref. DJB001/090107

Stage 1		Stage 4	Stage 5			Stage 6	Stage 7			9
	List significant hazards and effects Examples - Sharp edges: cut or abrasion. Slips and trips: impact, cut or bruised. Structure collapsing: persons trapped, crushed. Objects falling: persons cut, bruised, fracture.	Describe hazard control measures in place. Examples - Electrical equipment is tested and registered. All staff are given Manual Handling awareness training. Only named (and trained) persons are to clear photocopier. Covers are in place over any cables crossing walkways.	Likely hood	Severity	Risk Rating	Identify any further controls required. Examples: Devise & issue a 'good housekeeping policy'. Plan to replace unsuitable furniture in next financial year. Provide a safe means to reach the highest shelves. Ensure staff are made aware of roles and responsibilities.	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Action dates set by Service Head are:
			L	S	L X S		L	S	L X S	
1	Slips, trips and falls from exposed electrical cable at the pedestrian access to Newbury Cricket Club.	NONE	3	4	12	Undertake works to remove cable if not in use, or bury underground to a depth were the cable cannot be exposed. Provide adequate signage to advise of buried electrical cable. Provide information to ground staff regarding buried electrical cable.	3	2	6	Rectified

2	Electrocution from the severing of exposed electrical cable at the pedestrian access to Newbury Cricket Club by Grounds Maintenance machinery.	NONE	3	4	12	As above	3	2	6	Rectified
3	Drowning in deep water at sluice gates.	Signage provided stating 'Keep Away, Deep Water'. Edge protection provided to protect against falls in to deep water.	3	2	6	None Further	3	2	6	Yearly
4	Pedestrians struck by moving Vehicles (Construction)	Construction Area fenced of to restrict unauthorised access. Signage provided to advise pedestrians of moving vehicles.	3	2	6	Continually monitor site to ensure existing controls remain in place.	3	1	3	Monthly
5	Struck by Moving Vehicles (Leisure Centre Car Park)	Car Parking Area well lit during darkness. One-way traffic management system in car park. Speed Ramps in place to reduce motor vehicle speed. Easily identifiable pedestrian footpaths	2	3	6	All vegetation be trimmed not to obscure any street lighting. Maintain clear road markings to ensure speed management.	1	3	3	Yearly
Stage 2: Indicate if additional assessments req.		Manual handling <input type="checkbox"/>	DSE <input type="checkbox"/>	COSHH <input type="checkbox"/>	PPE <input type="checkbox"/>	Noise <input type="checkbox"/>	Fire <input type="checkbox"/>	Asbestos <input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	

Stage 3: Indicate who could be harmed as a consequence of any of the above hazards?	WBC staff <input type="checkbox"/>	Public / Visitors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cleaners / Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other ↓
	Pregnant person(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	Disabled / Elderly / Infirm <input type="checkbox"/>	Young Persons (under 18) <input type="checkbox"/>	Children (under 16) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Likelihood		Severity	
4	Almost certain	4	Substantial: Major RIDDOR.
3	Likely	3	Moderate: Over 3-day injury.
2	Unlikely	2	Minor: Non RIDDOR.
1	Highly unlikely	1	Trivial: No significant injury.

Severity	4	4 Moderate	8 Substantial	12 Intolerable	16 Intolerable
	3	3 Tolerable	6 Moderate	9 Substantial	12 Intolerable
	2	2 Trivial	4 Tolerable	6 Moderate	8 Substantial
	1	1 Trivial	2 Trivial	3 Tolerable	4 Moderate
	Likelihood				
	1	2	3	4	

Risk classification in action	
Intolerable	Cease this work immediately. Make task / area safe. Inform Service Head now.
Substantial	Not tolerable. Allocate suitable resources directly. Seek professional advice.
Moderate	Start or continue only if additional controls introduced within specified time.
Tolerable	Resume, but continue to monitor to ensure existing controls are maintained.
Trivial	No further action required (i.e. existing safety controls are satisfactory).

Record of Risk Assessment.	Continuation sheet. Use this page to continue with the Risk Assessment as required.
	Upon completion, copy and discuss these findings with the Head of Service or their nominated representative.

Stage 1		Stage 4			Stage 5			Stage 6			Stage 7			9
	List significant hazards.	Describe existing measures to control the hazards.			Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Identify any further controls required.			Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Action dates set by Head of Service are:
					L	S	L X S				L	S	L X S	
6	Falls from height from Aerial Slide.	Playground Equipment regularly inspected and maintained by competent contractors. Area below slide regularly checked and kept free of unwanted articles.			2	2	4	None Further			2	2	4	Yearly
7	Falls from height from Playground Equipment	Playground equipment regularly inspected by competent contractors.			2	2	4	None Further			2	2	4	Yearly

8	Slips, trips and falls around playground equipment	Area regularly monitored for equipment defects. Area checked regularly for unwanted articles. Arrangements made for removal of such items.	2	2	4	None Further	2	2	4	Yearly
9	Pedestrians being struck by mounted cyclists.	Separate demarcation for footpath / cycle path. All footpaths / cycle ways adequately lit during darkness. Footpaths checked by competent staff for surface defects (ie potholes)	2	1	2	Ensure trees / over hanging fauna is trimmed not to obscure street lighting and signs.	1	1	1	Yearly
10	Slips trips and falls in Pay and Display Car Park (Northcroft Lane)	NONE	3	3	9	Undertake works to fill in severe potholes and provide level surface. Provide adequate lighting to illuminate car park area.	2	3	6	1 Month

Stage 8: Promote assessment outcome(s).	Forward and discuss Assessment with Head of Service (or nominated). Ensure any further controls will reduce the risk to reasonably practicable level. Date copy actioned:							
	Additional comments if required:							

Head of Service responsibilities:	Ensure target dates are set as required (Stage 9). If target date method not used, what alternative approach is taken?										
	Ensure assessment viewed by SMT (or equivalent), plus Safety Committee. If not, what alternative approach is taken?										
	How are Stage 3 persons informed of above hazards and controls in a way understandable to them?						Paper copy <input type="checkbox"/>	Soft copy <input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Group mtg. <input type="checkbox"/>	Other ↓
	Verify all stages complete. Signed:			Date verified:							

1st review date:	Signed:	2nd review date:	Signed:
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18.12 Parks Leaflet

Park History

A 1911 map shows the avenue of Lime trees, having been planted sometime between 1882 and 1911, possibly as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria. At this time Goldwell is still shown as part of Goldwell House .

Lime Trees



Towards the end of the 19th century Northcroft became the site of the town's swimming pool. It had simply formed from a stretch of the branch of the River Kennet which then flowed across Northcroft and Goldwell Parks.

A key point of historic interest is the reference on the early maps to Goldwell Park being referred to as 'Speen Hill'. Speen Hill was the site of a battle during the English Civil War and it is possible that parts of the battle took place on part of Goldwell Park.

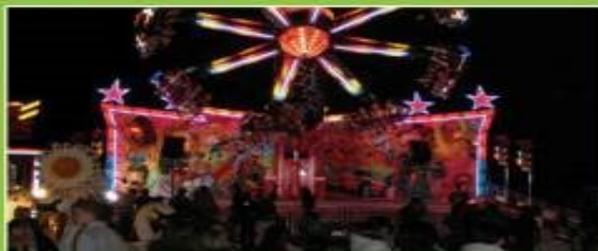
Newbury was the site of two Civil War battles between the Royalists and Parliamentarians. The first battle of Newbury took place in September 1643 and the second in October 1644.

The Michaelmas Fair was a charter fair started by Queen Elizabeth 1 on her visit to Newbury in 1596. Of the four annual fairs granted to the town, the only one that remains today is the Michaelmas Fair.

Events

Many events take place at Northcroft and Goldwell Parks throughout the year. Some of the annual events include the Michaelmas Fair and the Biathlon.

Michaelmas Fair



Newbury cricket club is responsible for the cricket at Northcroft. The Council has worked with the Cricket Club to promote cricket in the park for local people.

Within the parks there is one full size pitch, a junior pitch and a five a side pitch to allow a range of adult and youth football.

Fishing is also popular at Northcroft. Northcroft appears in the Environment Agency's "Where to go Fishing Guide."

West Berks

Welcome to Northcroft and Goldwell Parks



Wildlife

The wildlife in Northcroft and Goldwell Parks is rich and varied. There are a number of different habitats within the parks. It has marsh, woodland and grassland and is also situated on the edge of the River Kennet.

The birdlife in the parks is rich in number and 44 species have been recorded so far. These species include woodland and garden birds.

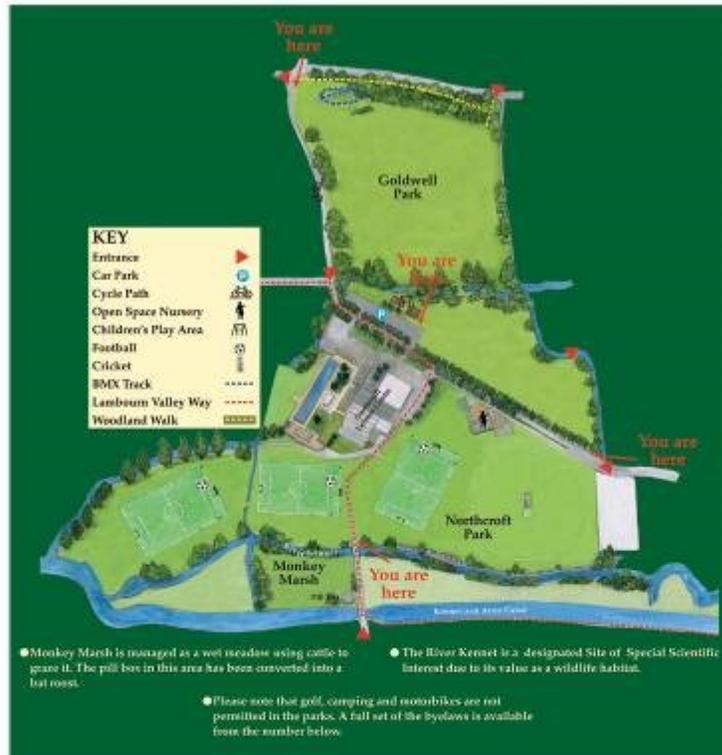
In 2007 there will be bat, owl and bird boxes put up on trees around the parks so keep your eyes open to see if they are being used.

The old Pill Box on the Monkey Marsh has been converted in the hope that it will provide a comfortable shelter for bats to use.

Dragonflies are also a common visitor to the parks, in summer have a look to see if you can spot them near the water.

Seasonal wildlife information will be on show in the display boxes underneath the entrance signs if you would like to know a bit more.

The bird list is featured in the management plan for Northcroft and Goldwell Parks.



If you have any questions or queries about the parks please contact:
Parks and Open Spaces, West Berkshire Council
Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2AF

Telephone: **01635 519553**
 Fax: **01635 519453**
 Email: **ssouden@westberks.gov.uk**

Further info and the Management plan can be found at:
www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8150

How to get involved

Friends Group

The Friends of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks is a group of local residents with an interest in their local parks. The Friends report any problems in the parks to the Council and take part in local events. The Friends also help to influence the management of the parks to meet local needs.



Friends of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks at the opening of the new welcome sign. ref: 14-2004

Working for parks to be proud of

NEWBURY'S Friends of Northcroft and Goldwell Parks hope that recent improvements will see the parks a national standard award this year.

The group visited an award winners evening at Northcroft park last Saturday evening, which will serve as an information point based to advise the forthcoming events.

Visitors have worked in conjunction with West Berkshire Council for the past 12 months to ensure that the recreation areas near to their homes are safe and attractive.

A spokesman for the Friends, Neil Howard, said: "West Berkshire has some beautiful public open spaces and we are pleased to be working with the council to keep them that way."

Local people regularly survey the leisure spaces and wildlife habitats in the parks to review work that has been done and assess potential future improvements which could be achieved.

The grounds maintenance manager for the council, Stewart Scoble, said: "Parks are an extremely important community feature and the group's linking and stewardship and guide in their parks."

"The council is always keen to work closely with individuals, their local and localities in an essential part of making sure that we are delivering exactly what local people want."

The group has been involved in several conservation and repair tasks with the aim of receiving a green flag award this winter. Accomplishing a national standard of good practice.

Improvements made so far have ranged from tree and plant surveys and increased tree safety audits to better disabled access and a re-paint of the park's infrastructure.

A woodland walk on the northern boundary of Goldwell Park was created for leisure purposes and the Second World War era pill box by the canal has been converted into a safe haven for a rare species of bat to hibernate.

Future plans include the replacement of the new low bridge columns later this year and the start of building tastefully park benches.

If you'd like to help please either come along to a Friends meeting (see noticeboard for details) or contact **Kathy Warden**, West Berkshire Council, on **01635 519570** or e-mail **kwarden@westberks.gov.uk**

18.13 Monkey Marsh Flora

The last botanical survey of the Monkey Marsh, River Kennet and Kennet and Avon Canal area adjacent to Northcroft Park was undertaken in July 2010. The species recorded are listed below.

Botanical Survey of Monkey Marsh, 6th July 2010: Species List

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	Short-fruited Willowherb
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp-agrimony
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	Long-stalked Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stalked St John's-wort
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy

<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-Robin
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping-Jenny
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple-loosestrife
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis secunda</i>	Creeping Forget-me-not
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious Bistort
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Salix sp.</i>	a willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Symphytum sp.</i>	Comfrey
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	Common Meadow-rue
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime

18.14 Bird List for Northcroft & Goldwell Parks

Originally compiled by C.Calder (Member of our Friends group) and added to subsequently. The UK conservation status for each species is shown – the categories Green, Amber, Red indicate levels of increasing conservation concern due to population declines.

Species	Status	Species	Status
Blackbird	Green	Kestrel	Amber
Blackcap	Green	Kingfisher	Amber
Black-headed Gull	Amber	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Red
Blue Tit	Green	Long-tailed Tit	Green
Bullfinch	Amber	Magpie	Green
Carrion Crow	Green	Mallard	Amber
Chaffinch	Green	Mistle Thrush	Amber
Chiffchaff	Green	Moorhen	Green
Coal Tit	Green	Nuthatch	Green
Collared Dove	Green	Pheasant	not assessed
Dunnock	Amber	Pied Wagtail	Green
Fieldfare	Red	Redwing	Red
Firecrest	Red	Robin	Green
Garden Warbler	Green	Sedge Warbler	Green
Goldcrest	Green	Siskin	Green
Goldfinch	Green	Song Thrush	Red
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Green	Sparrowhawk	Green
Great Tit	Green	Spotted Flycatcher	Red
Grey Wagtail	Amber	Starling	Red
Green Woodpecker	Amber	Swallow	Amber
Greenfinch	Green	Treecreeper	Green
House Martin	Amber	Willow Warbler	Amber
House Sparrow	Red	Wood Pigeon	Green
Jay	Green	Wren	Green

Northcroft and Goldwell Parks

Proposed Events Calendar 2021

Date 2021	Location	Event
March 2021	Northcroft Park	Danter's Spring Fair
Easter weekend	Northcroft Park	Divizes to Westminster Canoe Race
April	Goldwell Park	Circus Wonderland Big Top Circus
May	Northcroft Park	Hockey Festival
May/June	Goldwell Park	Banjo Cycles Cyclocross
2-5 July 3 July main event	Northcroft Park	Newbury Pride
10-11 17-18 weekends in July	Northcroft and Goldwell Park	Inflatable Theme Park
1 st weekend September	Northcroft and Goldwell Parks	Team Kennet Triathlon
2 nd weekend September	Northcroft Park	Real Ale Festival
3 rd weekend October	Goldwell Park	Michaelmas Fair