

SOUTH PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2018-2022



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1 Introduction and site description

The open, uninterrupted parkland, mature trees, and views across the city make South Park one of Oxford's most distinctive and attractive green spaces. Its unique character lies between the formal and the informal, and it requires a specific management plan and policies to reflect this. This report sets out what management strategies are currently in place for the park and what actions are needed to maintain and preserve its character.

South Park is approximately 55 acres in extent, and was donated to the City Council in 1951 by the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) as a gift to the people and City of Oxford to commemorate the Festival of Britain. It was accompanied by covenants designed to ensure it remains an open space, that no unsuitable activities take place and that no buildings are erected. The land was purchased by the OPT in 1932 and Oxford City Council opened it as a public park in 1959. The park is situated on rising ground on the east side of Oxford and is the largest City Council owned green space close to the city centre. A view of the city with its spires and towers can be obtained from the ridge of the hill, a favourite location for photographers. The park also provides a fine setting for the many regular community and commercial events held there each year.

Its location close to the city centre, and its proximity to one of the main concentrations of student halls of residence, presents challenges for the management of the park, and its desirability as an iconic events venue creates further demands. The range and scale of users has the potential to impact on the historic landscape and on local residents, and can also create conflicts of interest between the various users and stakeholders. However, dealing with issues relating to the popularity of a park is a rewarding challenge to have, and the City Council and other key stakeholders have developed a closer working relationship over recent years to ensure a balance is maintained between use and preservation. All parties are also dedicated to further enhancing the park while striving to maintain its unique character.

Recent additions to the park include a fitness trail and a refurbished play area.



View of the city from the middle of South Park

1.1 Site location and asset map

South Park is within the Headington Hill Conservation Area. The lower, western, end meets the junction of St Clement's St, Headington Road (A420) and Morrell Avenue, and rises to the east with its southern edge bordered by Morrell Avenue. The northern side is bordered by Headington Road and Cheney Lane. The park is near the Warneford Hospital, Cheney School and Brookes University and is popular with the local community.



Map showing entrances and structures within the park

- 1. Entrance – Union Street
- 2. Entrance – Warneford Lane
- 3. Entrance – Cheney Lane, upper
- 4. Entrance – Cheney Lane, lower

- 5. Entrance – Headington Hill
- 6. Play area
- 7. Commemorative monolith
- 8. Depot area: The Oxford Artisan Distillery (TOAD)

1.2 Historical background

Before becoming a public park the land now known as South Park was agricultural land and the lower part retains the distinctive ridge and furrow undulations caused by earlier ploughing practices.

By the nineteenth century the land was associated with The Rise, a substantial property on the corner of Cheney Lane, halfway down Headington Hill. The Rise had a large estate encompassing land on both sides of Cheney Lane, including the present South Park and Morrell Avenue. In 1876, after the death of the owner, Tyrrell Knapp, his widow planned to sell the estate for residential development as fourteen separate building lots linked by a network of residential roads. However, the Morrell family were unhappy at the prospect of urban development so close to their main residence at Headington Hill Hall (now part of Brookes University) and purchased the house and land for £26,000, thereby doubling the size of their estate.

Herbert Morrell built a bridge spanning Headington Hill to join the newly acquired land to their existing estate at Headington Hill Hall and landscaped it as parkland with carriage drives allowing views down onto the city (but nevertheless maintained it in agricultural use). In the late 1920s, under pressure from the City Council to release land for housing, the Morrells released part of the land on the southern side of their property on which the Morrell Avenue estate of 1930s houses was erected.



The OPT bought the remaining land in 1932 (but not The Rise) and continued its use as a working farm (Cheney Farm, managed from a small wooden farmhouse and farm buildings in the north-east corner of the land) until the 1950s when the last tenant farmers' lease expired (Bill and Honour Timbs).

The trust gave the land to the City of Oxford to be preserved as an open space for the benefit of the public and in 1959 South Park was opened. Unlike other Oxford parks, the OPT are actively involved in the management of South Park and there are several covenants in place restricting its use and development (see Appendix 2).

Headington Hill Hall, the Morrells' residence, is now part of Brookes University and its associated land is now Headington Hill Park. The Morrells' parkland on the north side of Cheney Lane is now Brookes University student accommodation buildings. The Rise was demolished in the early 1970s and Granville Court flats now occupy the

site overlooking the lower part of South Park. Until recently the agricultural buildings at the top of the park, formerly Cheney Farm, have been used as a depot to store City Council Parks department machinery and equipment. In 2016 The Oxford Artisan Distillery (TOAD) was granted planning consent to use the premises. The barn is a Grade II listed building.

The geology of the park is mixed: the upper part lies on free-draining, permeable, sandy soil overlying a thick band of impermeable Oxford clay. The lower part is Oxford clay, with a spring line evident across the middle where the overlying sand terminates. Land drains have been installed in the lower part of the park and at the lowest point a ditch carries surface

water to an underground drainage system. However, the sand-over-clay geology causes the lower part of the park to receive additional surface water which can cause very wet conditions.

The importance of the site is documented in The Oxford Heritage Plan, and the Archeox Geophysical Survey of South Park has further information on its history (see Appendix 4).

The Commemorative Monolith

The Portland stone monolith, erected in 1935, is engraved with the following: 'This Park was acquired by the Oxford Preservation Trust through the liberality of the Pilgrim Trust and David and Joanna Randall-McIver 1932'.

The monolith, engraved by Eric Gill, one of the foremost sculptors and engravers of the first half of the twentieth century, is an important example of its type in its own right, but is also important in commemorating the pioneering work of the OPT, the Pilgrim Trust and the Randall-McIvers, as private benefactors, in preserving open spaces for public benefit.



There was much discussion over the siting of this monolith, which OPT intended to be 'sited upon the triangle grass plot at the foot of the hill' as documented in the OPT trustees' minutes, 9th December 1934. The City Engineer did not agree, believing it should be placed in the park, to add interest, which led to its current position, opposite Marston Road.

In 2017, after an application by OPT to Historic England, the monolith was added to the list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The commemorative stone is now listed as Grade II.

1.3 Landscape and views

South Park is a residual of the country house landscape attached to Headington Hill Hall. Herbert Morrell had the area landscaped as parkland with carriage drives allowing views down onto the city. The oldest trees were planted to frame the view with one or two signal trees planted to provide interest, such as the large oak three quarters of the way up the park.



The view from South Park is the oldest view of Oxford for which there is evidence of artistic appreciation and it is one of the most frequently reproduced, including its use by modern artists and photographers as the iconic view of Oxford. The views from the park include not only the panorama of the city centre and western hills beyond, but also closer views to London Place and St Clements.

The 'dreaming spires' of Oxford are internationally recognised as a symbol of the city and its renowned university. However, equally important are the views into the park, particularly when leaving the city centre along St. Clements to the junction with Morrell Avenue. The sweeping grandeur of the rising parkland and the feeling of open space it provides should be carefully managed and preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.



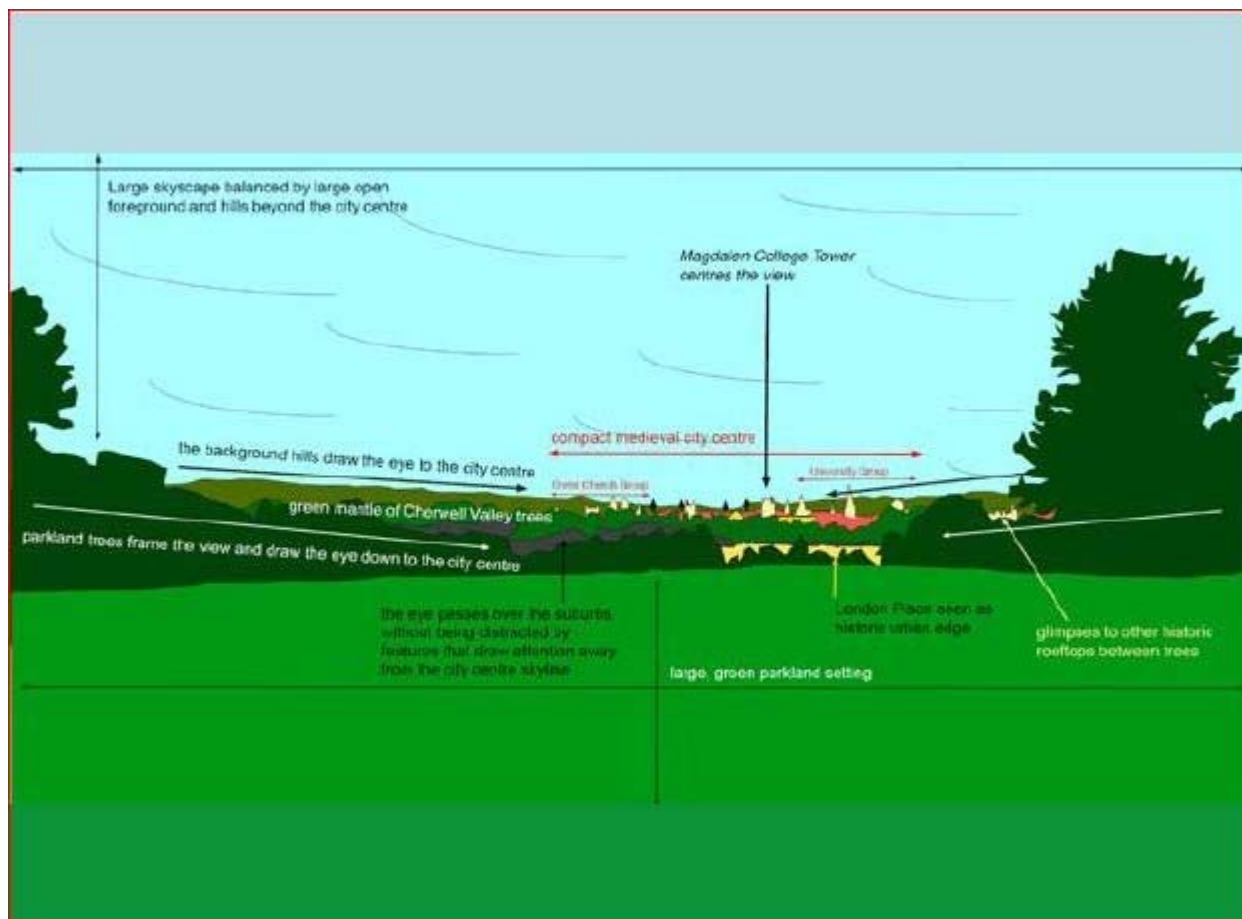
View up South Park from the Union Street entrance

Oxford views

There have been a number of policies, first introduced in Oxford in 1962, to protect the character of the city's skyline from the impact of high buildings. The Oxford Local Plan 2001–2016 (at the time of writing consultation on a new plan has started) aims to protect the character of the skyline and manage the characteristics of Oxford's view cones. The skyline's importance is also recognised in other planning policy documents including the adopted Core Strategy which states that: 'Views of the skyline of the historic centre will be protected'.

In addition to this in 2015 Oxford City Council, OPT and English Heritage collaborated to produce an assessment of the Oxford view cones. The assessment forms part of the Oxford View Cones Study, which provides a starting point in understanding the views and their character as important heritage assets of Oxford. The study provides a basis of evidence and analysis, examining the significance of each of the ten protected views as set out in the Local Plan, one of which is the view from South Park. An annotated render of the view from the top of the park is shown on page 9.

The Oxford view cones assessment emphasises the dynamic, rather than static, nature of the views. This is especially relevant at South Park, where one of the joys of the view of the city centre is the way it changes lower down the park, becoming wider yet the spires and towers gradually disappear from the view. Also, the view changes with the weather and seasons. In winter, with bare trees, the view is more extensive, particularly to the north.



Oxford View Cones Study: annotated render of the view from South Park

1.4 Biodiversity

One of the aims of the City Council's Green Spaces Strategy (GSS) is: 'to promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city's biodiversity, sustainability and heritage'.

In 2012 South Park was one of a number of green spaces that took part in the first ever Oxford BioBlitz where 350 people surveyed the biodiversity of the park for a 24-hour period. Although this survey work has already been done, there is now a need to undertake a more detailed and scientific study of the park's biodiversity to ensure it is managed in a way which protects and encourages endangered or declining species.

The Oxford Brookes University Centre for Ecology, Environment and Conservation has developed an iPad toolkit for ecologists to efficiently conduct Phase One ecological surveys. It is proposed that volunteers and/or students will undertake surveys and set up projects in a number of the City Council's parks, including South Park. Once data has been obtained from the surveys it will be used to create a more detailed conservation strategy. There may also be the opportunity to tailor or create specific habitats to attract new species.

Grasslands

The areas of short grass are cut between March and October. During this period the park will receive 14 mowing visits depending on the weather and ground conditions. There are areas of the park that may benefit from some wildflower planting to encourage pollinators and biodiversity. However, the location of such an area needs to be chosen carefully.

Trees

- Trees are managed in line with the City Council's Tree Policy.
- South Park contains a number of fine specimen trees from the original agricultural use, mostly native with some ornamental. Species include oak, beech, pine, lime and ash.
- Tree planting needs to maintain the historical treescape and characteristics of the park. (During the 1960s and 70s sections of the park perimeter were planted with non-native sycamore trees.)
- It is important that the views are protected and improved when new trees are planted and existing trees are managed.
- The trees are surveyed every three years to measure the tree type, location, age, height, diameter, crown spread, vigour, condition, risk and any recommendation for tree surgery. All trees are plotted on a Geographical Information System and stored on the City Council's tree management system.
- The last survey was completed in spring 2016.



Oxford BioBlitz 2012 and survey area

1.5 Park features, buildings and infrastructure

Benches and picnic tables

- Benches of mixed design are located throughout the park and are generally in good order.
- Felled tree trunks are left as informal seating.

Bins (dog waste)

- There is a dog waste bin at most (but not all) entrances to the park.
- The dog waste bins are emptied at least twice a week. They are well used and dog fouling is not a major issue in the park. (See Section 4.8 for dog control policies.)

Bins (litter)

- Litter bins are provided at most (but not all) entrances and adjacent to some park benches. They are emptied at least once a day.
- To reduce the frequency of bin emptying, two Bigbelly solar compaction bins have been installed.
- To cope with the volume of litter an 1100 litre green wheelie bin is placed at the Union Street entrance. It is emptied twice a week.
- Night-time littering, particularly by foreign language school students, is one of the major challenges in this park.

- Barbecues are currently not allowed as they create litter, cause damage to the grass and can be a nuisance to residents and other park users.

Dark Sky Discovery Site

- In 2012 South Park was designated as a Dark Sky Discovery Site (Orion class). These are places that:
 - are away from the worst of any local light pollution;
 - provide good sightlines of the sky;
 - have good public access, including firm ground for wheelchairs;
 - are generally freely accessible at all times.

Fitness trail

- The original wooden fitness trail was a popular feature of the park which was located in the top half of the park only.
- In 2015, following consultation with the Friends of South Park (FOSP), Brookes University and users of the park, it was refurbished with modern fitness stations around the perimeter.
- The trail extends into Headington Hill Park on the opposite side of Headington Road.



Old trail



New equipment

Former Depot and Cheney Farm buildings

- The depot includes a residential property within its area.
- South Park Depot is no longer a working yard and planning permission has been granted for The Oxford Artisan Distillery (TOAD) to use the premises. A second phase of permission will be requested for a visitor centre which will include public toilets.

Paths

OPT's paramount intention is that the park be kept as an open space in its natural state and for forty years there were no pathways in the park. However, in the 1990s Brookes University students repeatedly made an entrance in the Cheney Lane fence and the associated erosion across the top of the park resulted in replacement of the damaged fence with a gate and creation of a gravel path across the top of the park to join the Warneford and Cheney Lane gates.

Experiments with leaving the perimeter of the park unmown in the early 2000s caused 'pinch points' to appear and wear paths to become established. Introduction of the Fitness Trail has

increased the number of people using the perimeter of the park with the result that an unofficial pathway has been worn.

Recent increase in the pedestrian use of the park from the Union St entrance towards Brookes' accommodation is causing 'desire line' erosion paths to form across the bottom of the park towards the London Road and Cheney Lane gates. Wear paths that cut diagonally across the park would be undesirable.

Play area

- The children's play area, located at the top (eastern end) of the park, was refurbished in 2012–13 as part of the City Council's Play Area Refurbishment Programme across the city.
- The play area is a popular and well-used facility.



Children's play area

Railings and gates

- The railings at South Park are of a variable standard, quality and design, and some are out of character. It is a priority to address this, see action plan section 5.
- The condition of the railings is variable: at the lower end they have been replaced and are generally in good repair, whereas along Cheney Lane and Warneford Lane they are in very poor condition and need urgent repair or replacement.
- Pedestrian gates are left unlocked overnight.
- It is important to keep vehicle access gates locked to prevent unauthorised vehicles entering the park.
- There is currently no prominent entrance/access gate to the park and some of the entrances are poorly located. All are unsightly. A review of the entrances will therefore be undertaken as part of a wider review on a boundary security scheme to replace the railings.
- When the gravel path was introduced between Warneford and Cheney Lane gates OPT recommended the gates were modified to prevent cycling across this route.
- There is an on-going problem of self-seeded saplings between railings.



The condition and design of railings and gates is variable

Signage

- To maintain the park's visual environment and prevent sign clutter signs are kept to a minimum.
- However, the park would benefit from sympathetic welcome signs which inform visitors about its key history and features.

Toilets

- There are no public toilets in the park.
- The nearest public toilets are in Penson's Gardens, St Clement's.
- There is a disused toilet building near the children's play area at the top of the park. This building has been closed for many years due to repeated vandalism and is due for demolition.
- The Oxford Artisan Distillery (TOAD) intends to create a visitor centre on the old depot site which will include public toilets.

2 Policy context

The City Council's mission is: 'Building a world-class city for everyone'.

The City Council's vision for South Park is: 'To work with the community to create a world-class, vibrant and safe city park that promotes biodiversity, health and learning, and is accessible to all.'

The park management plans contribute towards the City Council's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan for 2016–2020 including:

- A Vibrant and Sustainable Economy
- Strong and Active Communities
- A Clean and Green Oxford

The management plans are among of a number of tools used to deliver the objectives set out in the Oxford Green Spaces Strategy 2012–2026.

A five-year action plan designed to achieve the vision for South Park can be found in Section 5.

3 Neighbourhood, volunteering and community use

3.1 Stakeholders and partners

FRIENDS *of* SOUTH PARK



The Friends of South Park (FOSP) was established in 2013. They are an active and dedicated group helping maintain the park and have made a significant contribution to the creation of this management plan. They have organised litter clearing in partnership with OxClean and following the November firework display, as well as undergrowth removal. FOSP worked with the City Council to implement the new fitness trail; they have worked in partnership with other groups such as the East Oxford Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) to improve security arrangements and have been actively involved in efforts to reuse the barn and farm buildings at the top of the park. They have organised photographic competitions, and promote the park and the group throughout the area.

The introduction of NAGs, which co-ordinate the skills, powers and resources of the Police, local politicians, the City Council and numerous other agencies, has resulted in a significant reduction in the level of antisocial behaviour in the city.

The Council's Green Space Field Officers form an important element in the NAG Team and specifically target their resources to tackle issues highlighted as NAG priorities. They have been particularly successful in greatly reducing dog fouling, fly-tipping and littering which previously blighted several of the city's green spaces; they have achieved this through a combination of education and enforcement.

Since 2007 the City Council has worked with the Thames Valley Probation Service, under the Community Pay Back Scheme, to provide useful work for offenders, which also benefits the local community. In South Park this has included work to clear up after events and some grounds maintenance tasks.

The City Council works with Abingdon and Witney College to deliver an apprentice scheme. The apprentices gain experience in fine turf, horticulture, landscape work, arboriculture, countryside management, cemeteries, rangering and business administration. It is very successful and is a regular winner of the ASPE Apprentice of the Year competition and has also won the Freeman of the City of Oxford award for the best apprentice in horticulture.

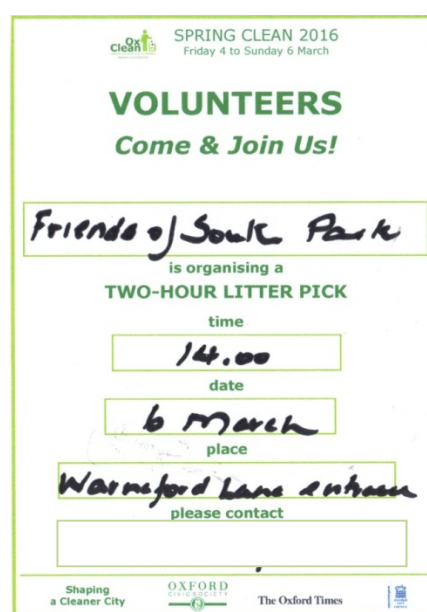
Stakeholders in the park include:

- Oxford City Council (OCC)
- Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT)
- Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)
- The South Park Friends Group (FOSP)
- Residents of the properties in Morrell Avenue, Granville Court, London Place, Cheney Farm, etc.
- Users of the Park (e.g. dog walkers, exercise and fitness trainers, language schools)
- Regular event organisers (e.g. Oxford Round Table fireworks, Foodies Festival, Hebborn's Fair)
- Activity organisers (e.g. Go Active, British Military Fitness, Regiment Fitness)
- Oxford Brookes University

3.2 Consultation

Since 2000 Parks Customer Satisfaction Surveys have been completed annually across parks and recreation grounds in Oxford, including South Park. Park users are interviewed using a standard questionnaire, or customers can complete the survey online. This identifies patterns of use and customer improvement ideas which are recorded in an annual report (see Appendix 1) and fed into the five-year action plan (Section 5).

3.3 Events and organised activities



- The City Council and OPT have drawn up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to manage conflict between use of the park as a venue and its conservation, and to highlight the importance to the wider city of the park as a venue. (See Appendix 3 for details of the MOU.)
- The number of events is limited through the MOU to protect the park's landscape and archaeology.
- Events of a political and faith-based nature are not permitted in the park by the MOU.
- The City Council has a team that helps event organisers to comply with relevant legislation, and to ensure their events are run safely. Parks staff play an important part in getting the park ready, supervising the event and returning the park to normal after an event.
- The Council's Events Team supports small-scale community events in the park, which are covered by the park's licence. Event organisers must seek approval from the Team.
- The proximity of residential properties is a significant factor to be taken into account when approving an event.
- Regular events held in the park include the annual Oxford Round Table firework display, Hebborn's fair and the Foodies Festival.
- The park's location and aspect mean that it is attractive for large commercial events and in 2016 it hosted the first 'Common People', a music event for local talent to play alongside world-class acts.
- Regular activities in the park include British Military Fitness and Military Fitness training sessions, cross country running competitions, organised games for language school students and other keep fit and sport activities.



3.4 Volunteering

The City Council promotes many different ways to volunteer including:

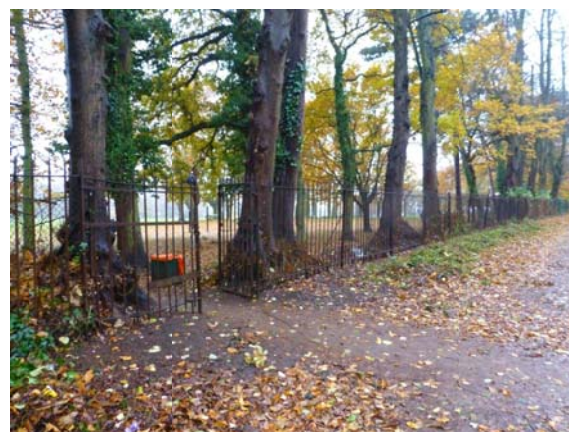
- Joining the Friends of South Park.
- Joining the weekly volunteering working group organised by the Countryside Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator.
- Receiving volunteers from the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), which is the foremost organisation protecting wildlife and enhancing iconic landscapes. Also from the Oxford Conservation Volunteers (OCV), a voluntary organisation that has been carrying out practical work conserving the wildlife and traditional landscape of the Oxford area since 1977.
- Since 2010 annually welcoming an undergraduate intern from a university in Holland studying Leisure Development. They provided a lot of support in the customer satisfaction survey analysis.
- Volunteering to be a Health Walk Leader which includes a free day of training by Natural England.



Friends of South Park Working Group November 2016



Before



After

3.5 Contribution to health and wellbeing

One of the aims of the Green Spaces Strategy is: 'To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city's health and well-being'. There are worrying trends relating to the nation's health. Obesity and less active lifestyles have led to a rise in preventable diseases, which is placing increasing pressures on the National Health Service.

South Park provides a wealth of opportunities for exercise and informal sport. Evidence shows a brisk walk in a local green space every day can reduce the risk of heart attacks, strokes and diabetes by 50 per cent, fracture of the femur by 30 per cent, colon and breast cancer by 30 per cent and Alzheimer's by 25 per cent. Add to this the positive impact of exposure to nature and green space on stress and mental health, on aggression and violence within inner-city communities and on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder amongst children, and the full picture in relation to health and wellbeing and access to green space can start to be understood.

South Park offers a variety of activities that contribute to the national and local health agenda:

- Grassed areas for informal sports
- Fitness trail
- Running trail
- Play area for younger children
- Opportunities to volunteer
- Feel part of a local community
- Summer rounders tournaments
- British Military and Regiment Fitness sessions



4 Current management

4.1 Vision for the park

One of the aims of the Green Spaces Strategy is: 'To achieve high-quality green spaces across Oxford, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions'. The management of South Park contributes towards achieving this aim.

Despite the current financial climate, the City Council has been very successful in obtaining capital funding to ensure the infrastructure of its parks is fit for the 21st-century and meets customer needs.

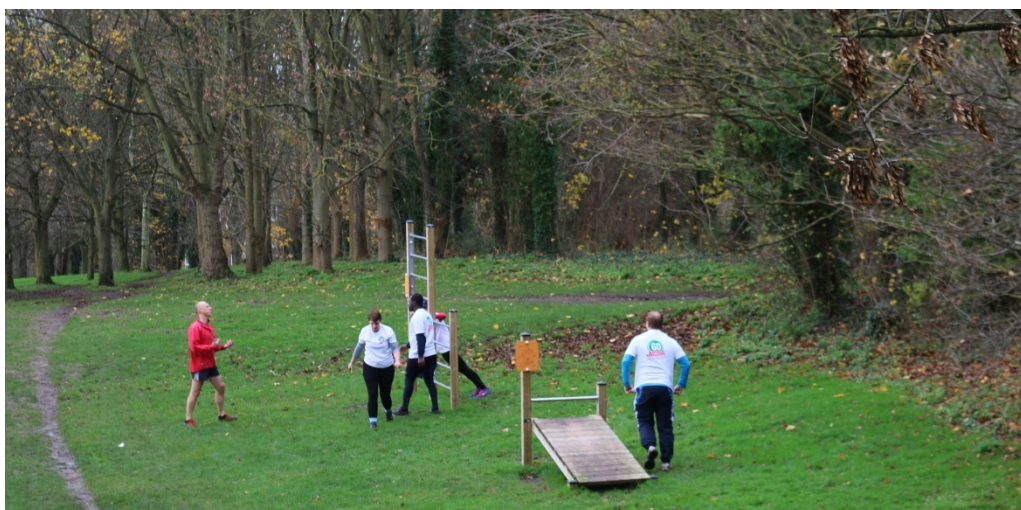
Improvements to South Park in the last five years have included:

- Refurbished children's play area
- Replacement of the Fitness Trail equipment
- Improvement to the Warneford Lane entrance to remove wet area
- Full tree survey undertaken (to be repeated on a three year rolling programme)
- Installation of two Bigbelly bins.

Over the next five years the most challenging management issue for the park is to continue to maintain, consolidate and improve its infrastructure and preserve its natural features, unique character and setting.

An outstanding priority is a detailed survey of the perimeter railings and gates. Some of the railings may need to be replaced; other stretches may simply need repair or restoration. The survey needs to assess which sections of the railing are more prominent and so should be of higher design quality and where it would be appropriate to have a simpler style of railing.

There is also a need to undertake a more systematic study of the park's biodiversity so that a more detailed conservation strategy can be created; arrangements are currently being made with the University and volunteers to undertake surveys of its wildlife and habitats.



4.2 Maintaining the parkland landscape and setting

- The park is part of the Headington Hill Conservation Area.
- The barn at Cheney farm is grade II listed (Listed Building number 1369356).
- Any repairs to, or replacement of, the depot buildings (Cheney farm) are in keeping with the rural character and historic parkland setting.

- New tree planting will (where possible) be indigenous species in keeping with, and appropriate to, the historic parkland setting.
- Planting styles and choice are chosen for their sustainability and appropriateness for the historic setting.
- Planting should be managed for a balance of views (inwards and outwards), landscape and biodiversity.
- Events and other activities in the park are closely monitored to ensure they do not cause damage to the historic fabric.

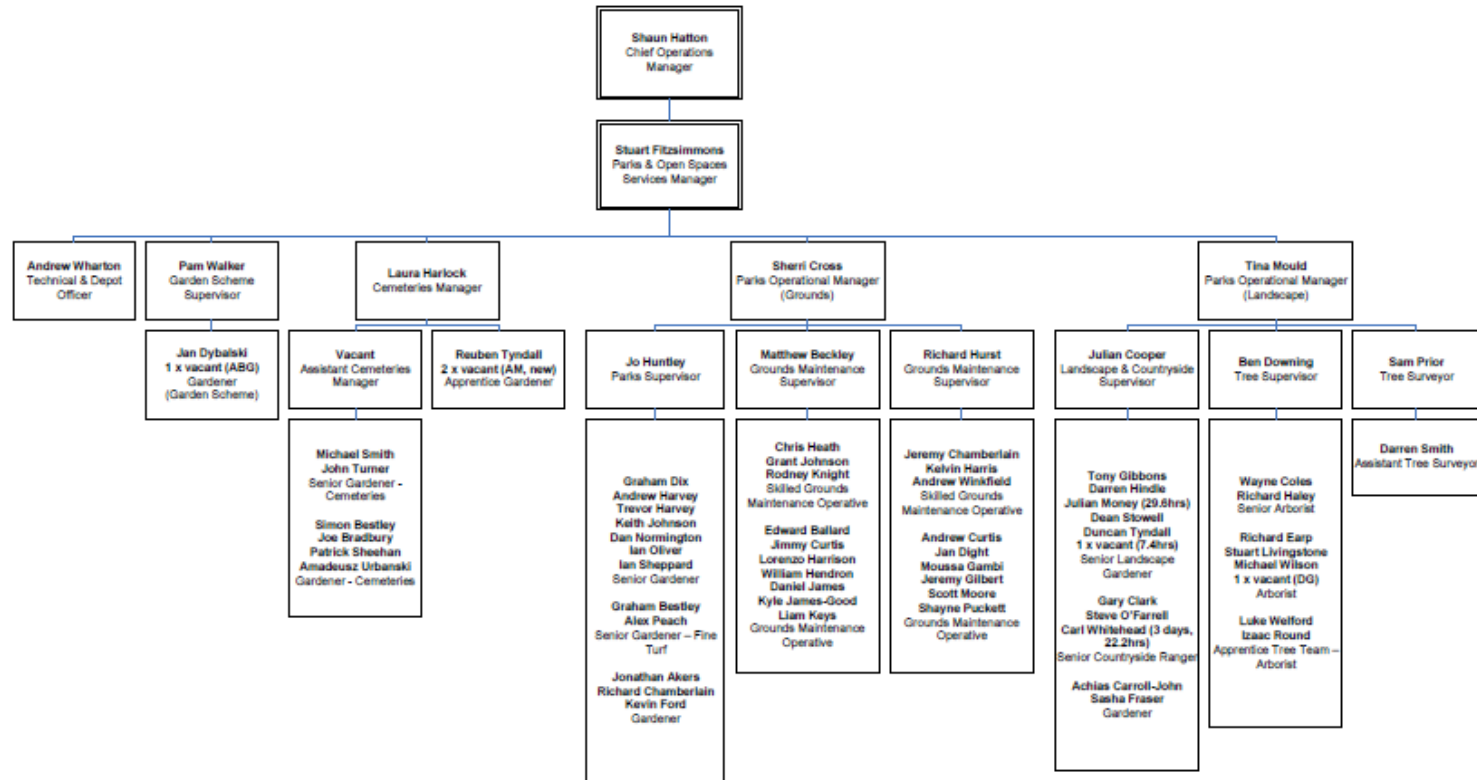


4.3 Parks management structure

A re-structure at Oxford City Council in 2015 resulted in the management & maintenance of green spaces being located with the Parks and Open Spaces Team within Direct Services. Green Space Development and community involvement in green space is located within Community Services. In 2018 Oxford City Council created a commercial arm called Oxford Direct Services to undertake external work in addition to statutory work.

Parks Direct Services

Parks & Open Spaces Services Team



Community Services



4.4 Maintenance specification

In 2010 a full grounds maintenance specification and standards was written and applied to South Park and is available on request.

4.5 Resources, expenditure and income

The current period of financial restraint means there is a need to be realistic and pragmatic, and to seek potential avenues of additional funding, such as capital bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme.

The City Council is investigating additional sources of income including:

- Sponsorship: for many years roundabouts have been sponsored, but more recently it has become possible to sponsor dog bins and benches, or adopt a tree.
- Private contracts from schools, businesses, Hospitals, etc.
- External funding from successful bids, e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund, WREN, etc.

4.6 Performance monitoring and standards

The Council has been accredited with IOS9001 management accreditation, and ISO14001 environmental accreditation.

4.7 Marketing

The Council's Green Space Development Team has a marketing plan that provides a full audit of the current marketing situation, available on request.

Detailed information, pictures and information about forthcoming events in the park are available at www.oxford.gov.uk. A copy of the South Park Management Plan (this document) is available from the City Council or to download from the Council's website.

The Council is increasing its use of social media, and now has a Facebook page and a Twitter account. It is including QR codes on new signage. FOSP also have a website and Twitter account used to publicise and promote the park.

4.8 Security, byelaws and dog control

Customers view the park as a safe and secure place because:

- The park is open with few hidden dark corners; so the lines of vision are generally good.
- The play area is located close to the entrance from Warneford Lane, which allows for good natural surveillance from the pavement.
- Patrols by the Green Space Field Officers monitor the park during the evenings and weekends. They enforce the byelaws, ensure dog owners act responsibly (and issue fines to those who do not), tackle environmental crime and ensure the parks are free of graffiti, fly-tipping and vandalism.
- Maintenance teams, including a litter picking team, grass cutting, and the landscape team also provide a presence throughout the week.
- Offensive graffiti on areas that the Council are responsible for is removed within one working day. All other graffiti is addressed within seven days.
- South Park is covered by the City Council's Byelaws which are available on the Council's website.

In 2011 the City Council and local Police teams were given new powers called Dog Control Orders to help deal with irresponsible dog owners. Any owner whose dog is out of control or causing a nuisance in a public place may be ordered to put the dog on a lead immediately or face an £80 fine or court action; and no one is allowed to walk more than four dogs at a time.

In addition, the fine for owners who fail to clear up after their dog fouls in a public place increased from £50 to £80 and owners can also be fined £80 if they allow their dogs to enter a fenced-off play area.

At the same time as adopting the act, 150 dog waste bins were installed in parks and recreation grounds across the city to provide a convenient means of dog waste disposal for dog owners. As a result dog fouling is not a major problem in South Park.

4.9 Environmental management and sustainability

A high number of environmental principles are demonstrated within the City Council and applied to South Park:

- The Parks Service works with the City Council Climate Change Action Team which aims to tackle the effects of climate change and reduce the overall carbon footprint of its buildings and services.
- In December 2011 the Parks Team was accredited with ISO14001.
- Pesticides are used only where there are no practical alternatives. Where more traditional methods can be used, such as the removal of thatch by hand over a small area, or the removal of weed growth within fine turf areas, these methods are carried out to minimize the environmental impact of using chemicals.
- A chemical log is kept in the Cutteslowe Park depot. When chemicals are delivered, their details are logged. When they are taken out, the user fills in a spraying log, recording when and where the pesticide was used, how much was used, the reason, the application method, the weather conditions and the protective clothing worn. All the contaminated items of personal protective clothing and containers are disposed of by an external registered company.
- Old play equipment and any other metal items collected from the park are taken to the Parks depot and put in a metal skip. All scrap metal is recycled and used as a source of income.
- The Parks Service utilises vehicles operated via alternative fuels including LPG and electricity and continually seeks to procure the most energy efficient and low-emission vehicles.

The City Council's Procurement Strategy states, when buying materials, we will:

- avoid ozone-depleting chemicals and those with a high global warming potential
- use durable products and materials
- choose low-maintenance building materials
- choose building materials with low embodied energy
- use building products made from recycled materials
- use salvaged building materials when possible
- use European softwood not hardwood; wood must come from schemes that have been certified as sustainable, e.g. by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC). We will not use tropical hardwoods such as teak, iroko and mahogany unless it has been reclaimed for reuse
- avoid materials that will give off gas pollutants
- minimise packaging waste
- During the tendering process companies are asked to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and those that comply are looked on more favourably.

4.10 Safety and risk assessment

- All staff who use equipment are trained annually by external specialists. Staff are made aware of the Council's Health and Safety Policy (available on request) when they begin work. Procedures are included in ISO9001:2008. Internal copies are made accessible to all staff.

- Staff undertake risk assessments on all equipment and machinery used.
- Cutting machinery is only used by trained staff.
- All staff are provided with, and are required to wear, appropriate safety equipment.
- All parks vehicles are included on a vehicle maintenance schedule, managed by the Council's Direct Services. Maintenance of vehicles is carried out in a dedicated garage within their depot.
- Fuel, equipment and machinery are all stored in a secure compound within Cutteslowe Park depot.

Play areas

- The Landscape and Play Team maintain the play facilities in South Park and have installed and maintained most of the city's playgrounds over the past 25 years.
- They carry out weekly equipment inspections and quarterly safety inspections of the play areas. These inspections test the fixings, supports and components of equipment, and report any faults or required repairs.
- Every member of the team is fully trained in play area maintenance to ROSPA standards, and all have achieved RPII (Register of Playground Inspectors International) Operation Level.
- They are also trained in the use of machinery, health and safety, and all are DBS checked.
- The Council's insurer carries out technical checks every six months.



5 Five-year action plan

	Action	How	Resources	Timescale	Review
1 Community					
1.1	FOSP to set up a Park Watch Scheme	Similar to neighbourhood watch schemes, a Park Watch scheme aims to protect parks from vandalism and improve safety and security.	Green Spaces Development Team working with FOSP	2018	
1.2	Minimise alcohol and drug use in park	NAG to monitor use of park by alcohol and drug users	Neighbourhood policing patrols, Green Space Field Officers working with FOSP and other park users.	ongoing	
1.3	Reduce littering in park with particular reference to student night-time parties	Work with the Oxford Language Schools Forum to reduce problems caused by visiting students	Patrols by Green Space Field Officers	ongoing	
1.4	Cycling	Consult on views of cycling and produce an options paper	Green Spaces Development Team working with FOSP	2019–20	
1.5	Barbecues	Consult on views of BBQs and produce an options paper	Green Spaces Development Team working with FOSP	2019-20	

	Action	How	Resources	Timescale	Review
2 Security					
2.1	Improve visibility on cross-park path: remove tree and ivy growth around north east gate into Cheney Lane	Working party to be co-ordinated by FOSP with support from Direct Services	Parks Direct Services Team and volunteers (Community Services Volunteers, Oxford Conservation Volunteers)	Annual volunteer party	First working party November 2016.
2.2	Remove ivy and tree seedlings from within railings	Volunteers/Council	Parks Direct Services Team and volunteers	Annual volunteer party	
2.3	Encourage Morrell Avenue householders to maintain boundary fences and not to deposit domestic rubbish in the park	OCC to contact all owners/managers of affected properties	Green Spaces Development Team	Periodically, as required	
3 Events					
3.1	City Events Team to liaise with FOSP, NAG and OPT regarding the number and type of events in South Park	Where possible, a forward calendar of events to be established and community involvement encouraged (to ensure events are successful and minimise disruption to local residents in line with the MOU)	Events Team, Parks Direct Services, NAG, FOSP and OPT	2018 events programme and thereafter	
3.2	Monitor forthcoming events and update Events Policy as necessary	Council and FOSP to monitor impact of events and propose changes to policy accordingly	Green Spaces Development Team and FOSP	Ongoing	

	Action	How	Resources	Timescale	Review
4 Grounds Maintenance					
4.1	Prevent damage to parkland in 'hot spot' areas	Monitor sections of affected areas and reseed to encourage grass regrowth if necessary	Parks Direct Services (funding implications)	ongoing	
4.2	Improvement to Union St entrance	Investigate options to possibly relocate entrance and/or raise entrance area to reduce mud and/or improve water management in lower park	Possible funding sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising • Sponsorship • Capital bid • Heritage Lottery Fund • Contribution from events revenue 	2018 (as part of perimeter survey)	
4.3	A study to understand groundwater management, water courses and spring lines so that they can be managed effectively	Investigate options for improving water management in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the lower park • the central park (area 1: the spring-line wet area adjacent to Morrell Avenue houses) • the central park (area 2: the central spring-line wet area adjacent to bonfire site) 	Possible Oxford student consultancy project Green Spaces Development Team, Parks Direct Services	2019	
4.4	Preserve viewing cone	Monitor grounds maintenance to ensure tree planting or other changes do not adversely affect viewing cone	OCC OPT FOSP	ongoing	

	Action	How	Resources	Timescale	Review
5 Infrastructure					
5.1	Investigate options to replace railings or options for an alternative boundary security scheme. This will also include a review of the character and location of entrances. Consult on the options and submit a funding bid to resource agreed scheme.	Report to be undertaken in-house by City Council GSD team in consultation with Friends and OPT.	Possible funding sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External funding sources • Capital bid • Contribution from events revenue 	Report by end of 2018 Funding application in 2019.	
5.2	Demolish derelict toilet building	Quote required	Parks Direct services	2020	
5.3	Improve litter bin facilities	Consider additional 1100 litre bin at play area and standard bins at all entrances. Any additional bins need to be placed sympathetically in the surroundings either with “camouflage” or bin shelters	Capital bid required. Parks Direct Services revenue implications	2019-20	
5.4	Toilet facilities	Public toilets are included in the depot planning proposals (TOAD)	TOAD to implement. FOSP and OCC to monitor	Ongoing	
5.5	Commemorative Monolith	Survey, possible cleaning and improved setting, with the possible option to include it as part of a new entrance where it would have greater prominence.	To be included as part of bid to replace boundary security scheme and improve entrances (see above)	2018	

5.6	Signage	Sympathetic welcome signs in keeping with the park. This could be included as part of the bid to replace the boundary scheme and improve entrances.	Included as part of bid to replace boundary security scheme and improve entrances. Ward/CIL Councillor funding	2019-20	
5.7	Table Tennis	Repair or replace the damaged ping pong table	Possible fundraising	2019	
5.8	Improve vehicle/pedestrian entrance opposite Heading Hill Park	Long term solution to event set up so that railings don't need to be removed each time	To be included as part of bid to replace boundary security scheme and improve entrances (see above) Parks Direct Services	2018	

FOSP Friends of South Park
 GSS Green Spaces Strategy
 MOU Memorandum of Understanding
 NAG Neighbourhood Action Group

OCC Oxford City Council
 OPT Oxford Preservation Trust
 TOAD The Oxford Artisan Distillery

	Action	How	Resources	Timescale	Review
6 Biodiversity & Heritage					
6.1	Biodiversity surveys	Survey selected groups of flora and fauna with the aim of identifying important habitat features and guiding their future management to maintain and, where possible, enhance the value of the park for wildlife	Volunteer led, working with: Parks Countryside Team, possibly in partnership with Oxford Brookes University Centre for Ecology	2019–21	
6.2	Consider areas of the park for wildflowers to encourage pollinators.	Location of such an area needs to be chosen carefully to ensure its success	Parks Countryside Team with advice from Judy Webb	2020–22	
6.3	Tree replacement	Ensure tree survey is up to date; identify planting areas and potentially use native tree varieties for tree replacement	Tree surveyor, Green Spaces Development Team, in conjunction with OPT and FOSP	Full tree survey to be repeated on a three-year rolling programme	Most recent survey undertaken spring 2016
6.4	Minimise vermin and pests: e.g. clear undergrowth and litter from litter hotspots: behind Morrell Avenue houses and Cheney Lane embankment	Maintenance from Direct Services Team to be supplemented by volunteer litter picks in co-ordination with OxClean	Direct Services, Patrols by Green Space Field Officers; Volunteer working parties	Annual volunteer working party	
6.5	Commission detailed survey and research of the park's historic earthworks to inform their on-going conservation and provide interpretation.	Approach East Oxford Archaeology Or Oxford Archaeology for quote to undertake the work	Included as part of the HLF bid to replace boundary scheme and improve entrances. Contribution from events revenue	2018 onwards	

6 Monitoring and review

A formal review of the management plan will take place once a year in autumn, where progress will be measured against the five-year action plan.

The review meeting will include:

- Friends of South Park
- Oxford Preservation Trust
- The Green Spaces Development Team
- The Parks Direct Services Management Team

All parks staff will be made aware of the South Park Management Plan. All teams (Fine Turf, Landscape and Play, Trees, Rangers, Grounds, Management) have regular meetings, and any actions relating to their respective teams will be monitored at these meetings.

User surveys will be carried out in the park on an annual basis and scores will be used to monitor changes in approval ratings amongst park users.

7 Appendices

Material in the following appendices does not form part of the park management plan and is provided for information.

Appendix 1 2014 South Park customer satisfaction survey

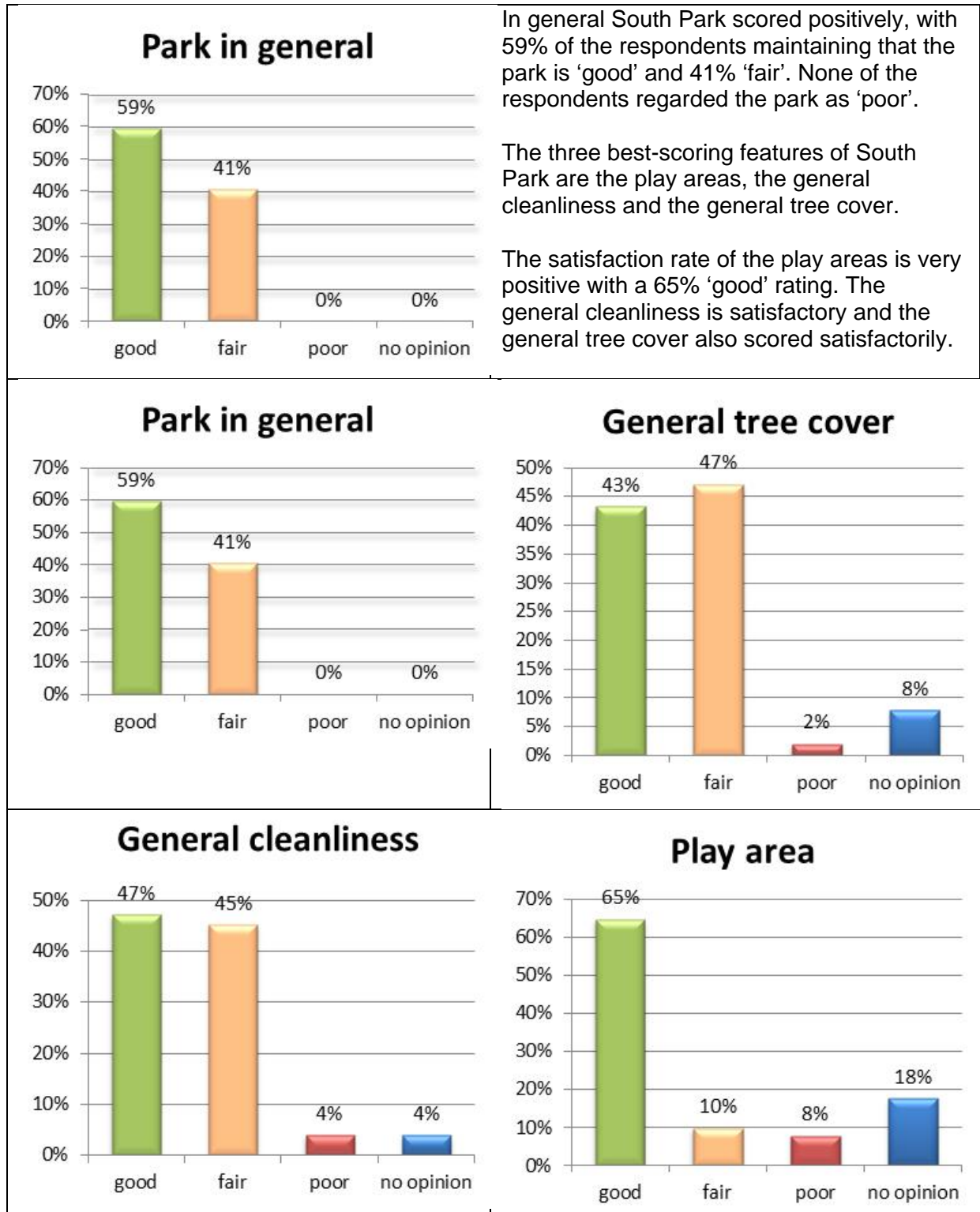
Appendix 2 Oxford Preservation Trust Covenant

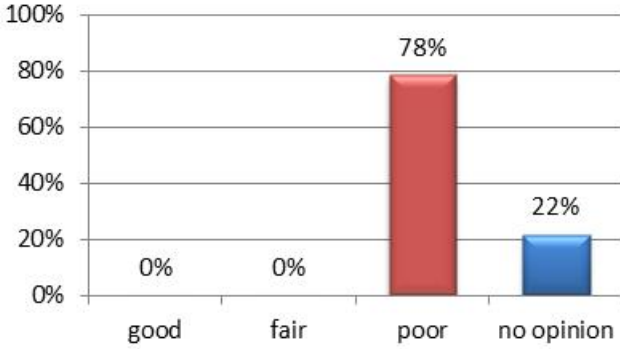
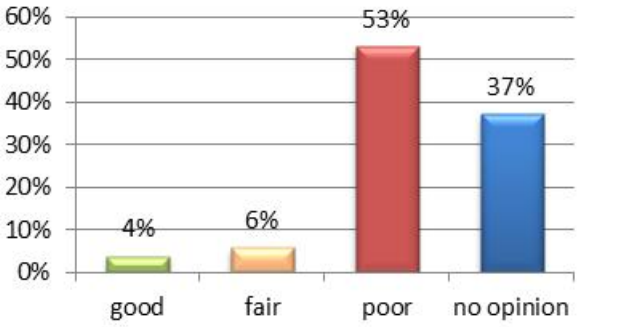
Appendix 3 Memorandum of Understanding (An agreement between Oxford City Council and Oxford Preservation Trust only)

Appendix 4 References and further reading

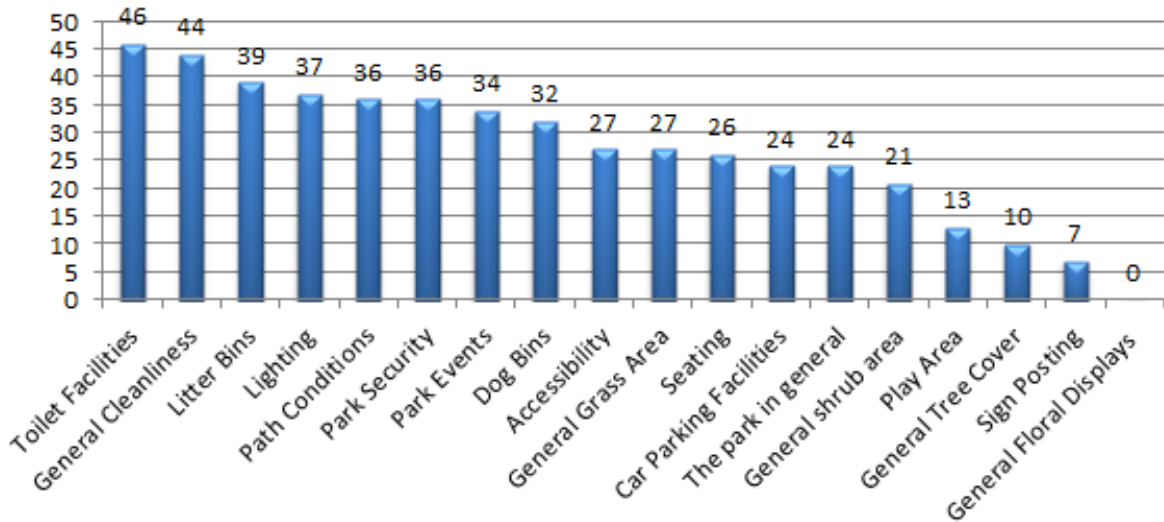
Appendix 1: 2014 South Park customer satisfaction survey

In 2014, 51 customer satisfaction surveys were completed.

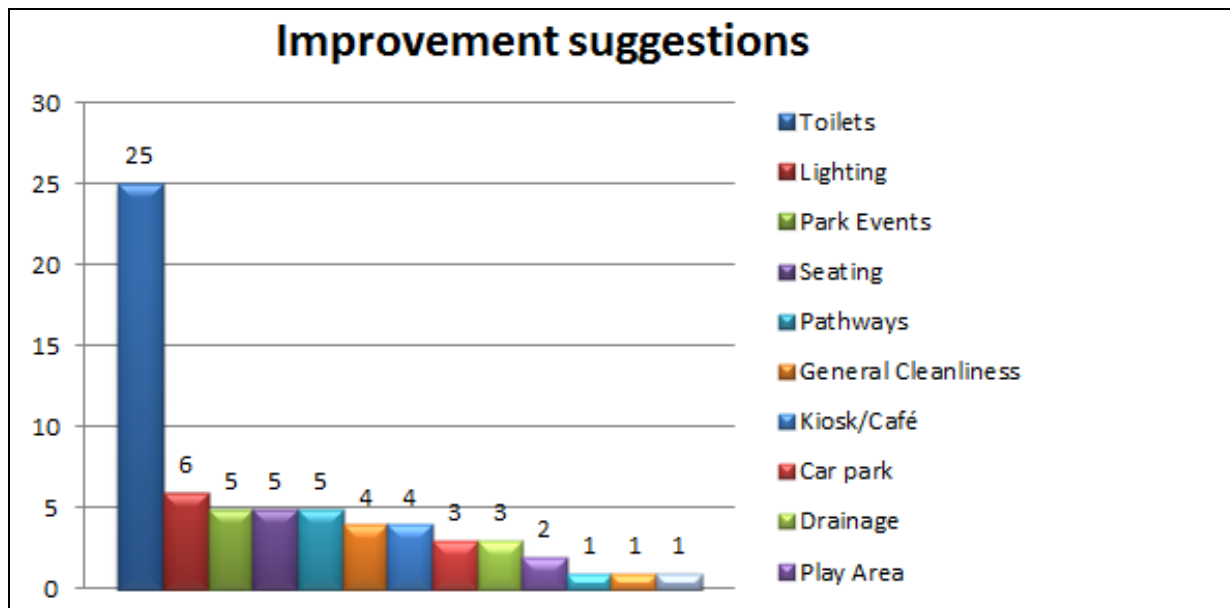


<h3 style="text-align: center;">Toilet facilities</h3>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>good</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>fair</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>poor</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>no opinion</td> <td>22%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	Percentage	good	0%	fair	0%	poor	78%	no opinion	22%	<p>The park's toilet facilities score a 78% 'poor' rating. This is because there are no toilet facilities in South Park. The surveys demonstrate that a demand for toilet facilities is very high.</p>
Rating	Percentage										
good	0%										
fair	0%										
poor	78%										
no opinion	22%										
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Car parking facilities</h3>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>good</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>fair</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>poor</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>no opinion</td> <td>37%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	Percentage	good	4%	fair	6%	poor	53%	no opinion	37%	<p>The park does not have its own car park and therefore received a poor score.</p> <p>However, parking is not seen as a priority.</p> <p>Toilet facilities and general cleanliness are seen as priorities.</p>
Rating	Percentage										
good	4%										
fair	6%										
poor	53%										
no opinion	37%										

Priorities



<h3 style="text-align: center;">Comparison accessibility</h3> <table border="1"> <caption>Comparison accessibility data (approximate values)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>good</th> <th>fair</th> <th>poor</th> <th>no opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>12%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>13%</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>15%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>25%</td> <td>35%</td> <td>18%</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>10%</td> <td>28%</td> <td>25%</td> <td>32%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>23%</td> <td>38%</td> <td>30%</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	good	fair	poor	no opinion	2008	12%	40%	13%	30%	2010	15%	50%	20%	12%	2012	25%	35%	18%	18%	2013	10%	28%	25%	32%	2014	23%	38%	30%	10%	<p>The two most positively increasing features of South Park are the play area and the accessibility of the park. Both features score strongly compared to the previous year</p>
Year	good	fair	poor	no opinion																											
2008	12%	40%	13%	30%																											
2010	15%	50%	20%	12%																											
2012	25%	35%	18%	18%																											
2013	10%	28%	25%	32%																											
2014	23%	38%	30%	10%																											
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Comparison Play area</h3> <table border="1"> <caption>Comparison Play area data (approximate values)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>good</th> <th>fair</th> <th>poor</th> <th>no opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>30%</td> <td>28%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>60%</td> <td>15%</td> <td>3%</td> <td>22%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>60%</td> <td>28%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>50%</td> <td>30%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>65%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>8%</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	good	fair	poor	no opinion	2008	30%	28%	2%	40%	2010	60%	15%	3%	22%	2012	60%	28%	2%	8%	2013	50%	30%	2%	9%	2014	65%	10%	8%	18%	
Year	good	fair	poor	no opinion																											
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2012	60%	28%	2%	8%																											
2013	50%	30%	2%	9%																											
2014	65%	10%	8%	18%																											
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Comparison transportation - Summer</h3> <table border="1"> <caption>Comparison transportation - Summer data (approximate values)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>on foot</th> <th>car</th> <th>bike</th> <th>bus</th> <th>other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>85%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>3%</td> <td>1%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>80%</td> <td>15%</td> <td>3%</td> <td>1%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>75%</td> <td>18%</td> <td>3%</td> <td>1%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>70%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>3%</td> <td>1%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	on foot	car	bike	bus	other	2010	85%	10%	3%	1%	1%	2012	80%	15%	3%	1%	1%	2013	75%	18%	3%	1%	1%	2014	70%	20%	3%	1%	1%	<p>Summer</p> <p>The majority of visitors arrive by foot, with a slight decrease in the use of car over time.</p>
Year	on foot	car	bike	bus	other																										
2010	85%	10%	3%	1%	1%																										
2012	80%	15%	3%	1%	1%																										
2013	75%	18%	3%	1%	1%																										
2014	70%	20%	3%	1%	1%																										
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Comparison transportation - Winter</h3> <table border="1"> <caption>Comparison transportation - Winter data (approximate values)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>on foot</th> <th>car</th> <th>bike</th> <th>bus</th> <th>Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>55%</td> <td>30%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>50%</td> <td>35%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>45%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>40%</td> <td>45%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	on foot	car	bike	bus	Other	2010	55%	30%	10%	2%	1%	2012	50%	35%	10%	2%	1%	2013	45%	40%	10%	2%	1%	2014	40%	45%	10%	2%	1%	<p>Winter</p>
Year	on foot	car	bike	bus	Other																										
2010	55%	30%	10%	2%	1%																										
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2014	40%	45%	10%	2%	1%																										



Clearly respondents want toilet facilities in South Park. 25 of the 51 respondents mentioned public toilets as an improvement point for this park.

Appendix 2: Oxford Preservation Trust Covenant

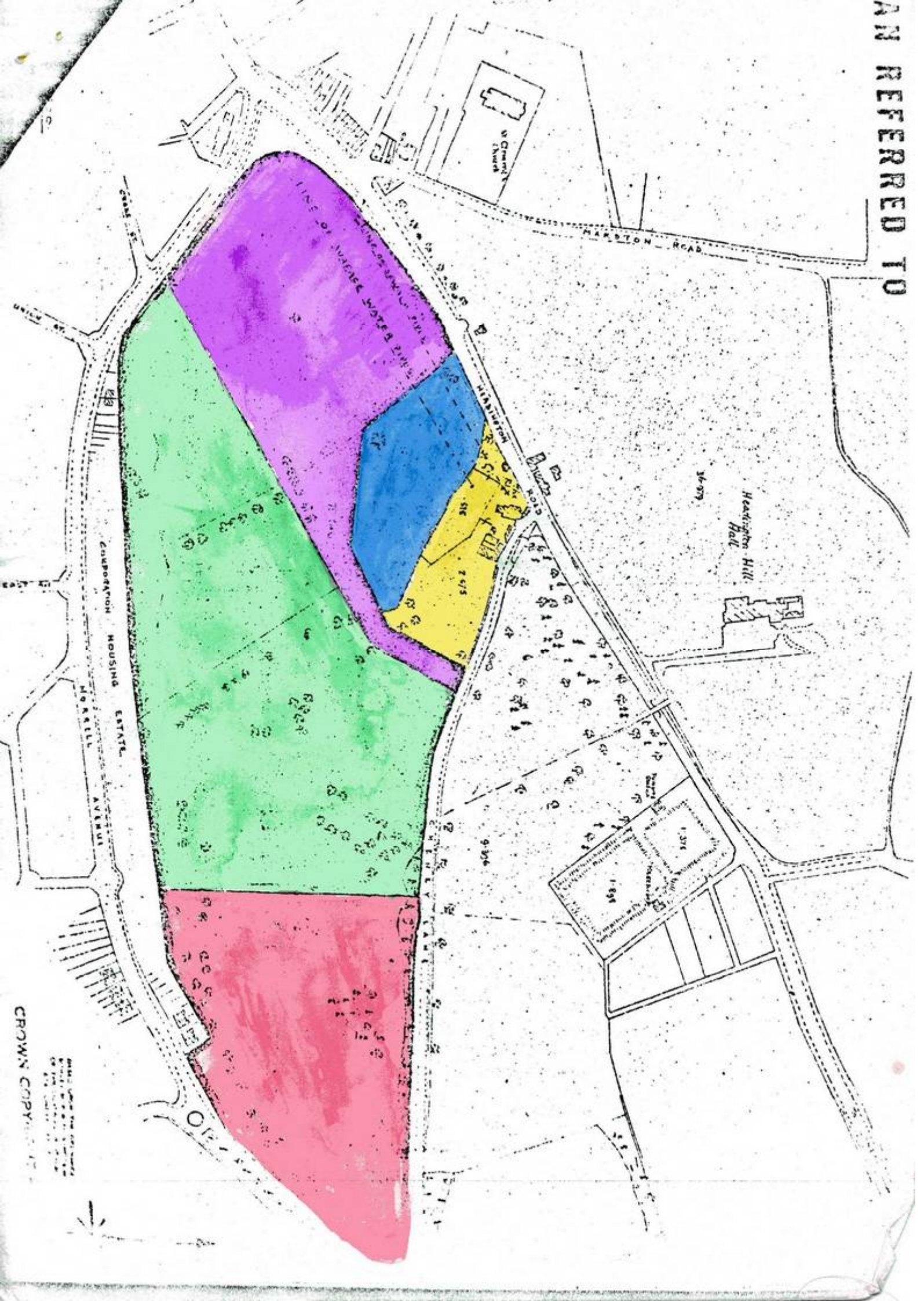
THE OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST

Historical Note for the information of the Trustees recording the purchase by The Trust from the Morrell family of part of The South Park, Headington Hill House, Oxford, and later the Conveyance of the property now usually known as South Park, Headington, by The Trust as a gift to the Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of Oxford

The Oxford Preservation Trust was incorporated on 14 November 1927 and in 1932 Mr. C. M. Attwood an Oxford businessman and one of the Trustees of the Trust negotiated the purchase of part of South Park by The Trust from the Morrell family and South Park with its 54 acres of immensely valuable amenity land was conveyed to the Trust by Conveyance dated 14 December 1932 for a consideration of £23,155, the extent of the property was delineated and coloured pink, green and violet on the plan annexed to the Conveyance. A reduced copy is annexed hereto.

The purchase was subject to certain rights of drainage et cetera in favour of the adjoining property coloured yellow and blue, the lines of the pipes are shown on the plan.

The Conveyance of 14 December 1932 imposed detailed restrictive covenants upon the Trust so as to bind the property into whosoever hands it might come, but in the later Conveyance dated 28 May 1951 by which The Oxford Preservation Trust conveyed South Park to the City, James Herbert Morrell then of The Rise Headington Hill joined in and in the last paragraph of the operative part of the said Conveyance released and discharged the Grantors (the Trust) and the Council and their successors in title to the premises (South Park) from the restrictive covenants contained in the said Conveyance of 14 December 1932.



CROWN COPY

COOPERATION HOUSING ESTATE

HEADINGTON HILL

MARTON ROAD

HEADINGTON ROAD

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

HEADINGTON HILL

Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet
Date: 1950

In the preceding paragraph, 'Clause 3 of the Conveyance of 28 May 1951, the Council covenanted with the Trust 'that the 'Council will at all times during the lives of the descendants now 'living of His Majesty King George the Sixth and the lives of the 'survivors for the time being of them and the life of the last 'survivor of them and twenty one years from the death of such 'last survivor observe and perform the said stipulations conditions 'and provisions contained in paragraphs (a) (b) and (c) of Clause 2 'hereof'.

The following is a full and true copy of the Council's covenants (a) (b) and (c) of Clause 2 in the Conveyance of 28 May 1951 :-

- (a) NOT to carry on or permit on the property hereby conveyed nor in any buildings or structures now or hereafter erected thereon the manufacture sale or distribution of intoxicating liquors other than such sale or distribution as would be permitted under the grant by the Magistrates of an occasional licence nor to use the same for the purpose of any noisy noxious or offensive trade manufacture or business
- (b) AT all times hereafter to use and preserve the property hereby conveyed as an open space or park in its natural state to which the public may be allowed access except that(in addition to user as aforesaid) -
 - (1) the portion of the property hereby conveyed coloured pink on the said plan may be used as playing fields

or sports grounds and

- (2) the property hereby conveyed may be used for the purposes of occasional fetes fairs and other public entertainments and in connection therewith marquees and tents may temporarily be erected

AND not to use the property hereby conveyed for any purposes whatsoever other than such as are permitted by this Clause 2 PROVIDED that user for the purposes of agriculture shall not be deemed to be a breach of the provisions of this Clause 2

- (c) NOT at any time to erect any buildings or structures of any kind upon the portion of the property hereby conveyed coloured violet on the said plan and not to erect any new buildings or structures on the remainder of the property hereby conveyed and coloured pink and green on the said plan except such pavilions shelters and kiosks which may be used (except as restricted by paragraph (a) of this Clause) for the sale of tobacco sweets cakes ices and similar goods and the provision of meals and refreshments and lavatories toolsheds and similar structures as may from time to time be required for the convenience of persons using the property hereby conveyed for any of the purposes permitted by this Clause 2 or in connection with the care and management of the property hereby conveyed

The above covenants contain the only remaining relative conditions legally controlling the use by the Council of South Park. The modus operandi of the approval of applications as between the Council and

the Trust has been for applicants to apply to the Council who refer applications to the Trust for approval or otherwise. It is recommended that this method be continued to be used, and that the Council and the Trust shall continue to keep in mind that the paramount intention and requirement is that the Park be kept as an open space in its natural state to which the public has access, except as where Clause 2, (b) (1) or (2) apply.

The annexures to the above Historical Note are as follows :-

1. Copy of Lord Halifax's Notes when presenting the City with the deeds of South Park following the Conveyance of 28 May 1951.
2. Photocopy of a letter by Lord Bullock to the Oxford Mail published on 14 October 1982 in criticism of proposal to make Pitch and Putt Golf Course at South Park.
3. Notice of Public Meeting containing well worded criticism by residents of suggested Pitch and Putt Golf Course.

GIFT OF SOUTH PARK.

Note of presentation speech by Lord Halifax

Body making the gift.

Appear, not as Chancellor of the University, but as a Trustee of the Oxford Preservation Trust, a voluntary association of individuals and of groups of individuals who wish to perpetuate, and to add to, all that is pleasant and beautiful in and around the City. Citizens and senior and junior members of the University, business firms and Colleges, individuals who love Oxford though they reside elsewhere, all these join together in this great purpose.

Amenity preservation.

Relevant to this purpose: reservation of open spaces of peculiar amenity (e.g. view-points over the City: property at Boar's Hill and Shotover; riverside land in the Cherwell valley).

Acquisition of South Park.

South Park early recognised as a key open space within the City.

- (a) Near to Magdalen Bridge, and to the centre of the built-up area.
- (b) Seen from main London Road, a grassy slope, gently rising to a crown of trees. Fifty-five acres of rural peacefulness.
- (c) Finally acquired in 1932, with the aid of generous donations from the late Dr. and Mrs. Randall-McIver and the Pilgrim Trust.
- (d) In the negotiations with the owners, the Morrell family, Mr. Attwood (a Trustee who will be present) played a most helpful part.

Interim period.

- (a) From the beginning intended for public use at the appropriate time.
- (b) Meanwhile, public service given by maintenance as open space.
- (c) 1942: proposed erection of Ministry of Food semi-permanent buildings fought successfully.
- (d) During these intervening years, land let on a farming tenancy. In part occasionally used for circuses, agricultural shows, and fetes.

Conditions of gift.

- (a) In the view of the Trust the appropriate time for public use of the Park has come.
- (b) With the co-operation of Mr. James Morrell, covenants attached to the property have been eased. In place of these, there are three main conditions of the gift (agreed by the Trust and the City Council) :
 - (i) continued preservation as an open space;
 - (ii) preservation of the lower slope, as seen from the London Road, in its natural state (to the pleasure of all, this rural scene will continue to delight the eye);
 - (iii) the upper, more level, space can be used for organised games (The City needs more playing fields).

Presentation.

With this Deed of Conveyance, the grassy slopes, the wooded land, the view of the City towers from the ridge of the hill, are given on behalf of the members of the Oxford Preservation Trust to the City and its Corporation for safe keeping in perpetuity.

OXFORD MAIL 14 OCT 1982

MEMBERS EXTRA

This threat to our precious park

From Lord Bullock

SOUTH Park, Oxford is in danger from a proposal to create a pitch and putt course in the centre of the park, which will alter the character of one of Oxford's most precious amenities.

The proposal is to be discussed at a public meeting organised by the recreation committee of Oxford Council at 7.30 pm tomorrow (Friday) at 196 Cowley Road.

I am prevented from being present myself, but hope that others will be there to voice their opposition.

Since I came to live in Cheney Lane two years ago I have come to appreciate how much people who live in Headington, East Oxford and St Clements make use of what is the finest natural feature in the city.

They use it to walk in (as I do myself), to take their children out, or to give their dogs a run.

It has always been understood that there would be a pitch for organised games at the top of the park, but the great attraction of the rest is that it is

open land with a unique view of Oxford and nothing at all except trees and grass.

The golf course which is proposed would stretch across the whole width of the park and would at once restrict access, making the park dangerous, especially to children, and introducing a feature which may be appropriate to a municipal park but not to an area which was given to the city under covenant as "an open space in its natural state to which the public may be allowed access."

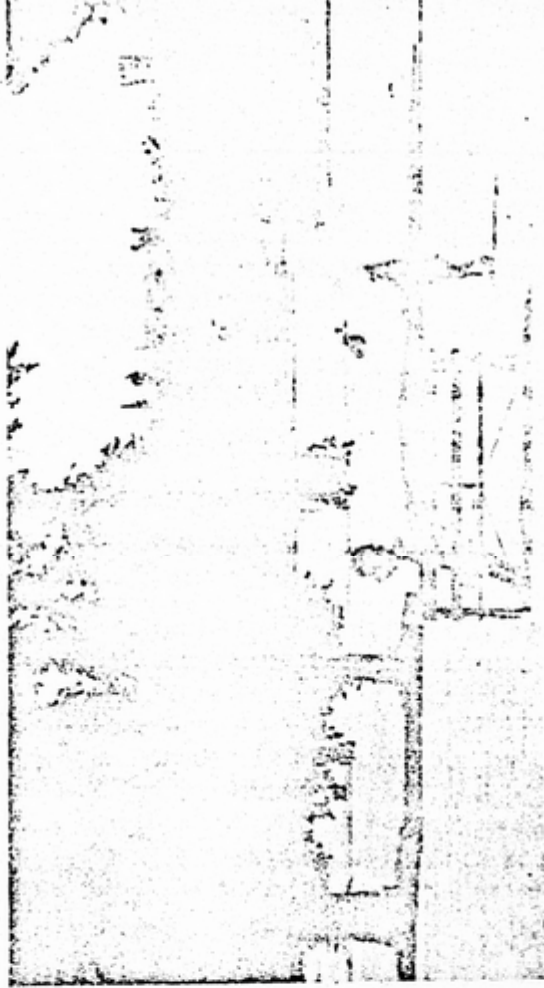
Frequent observation during walking in South Park has convinced me that what the majority of people enjoy about it is

precisely the freedom to walk in an open space so close to their homes.

The recreation committee would be sadly failing in its duty if it were to put the minority interest of those who might want to play on a pitch and putt course over the interests of the majority.

I am sure there are other places in Oxford which could be found to accommodate such a feature, but there is only one South Park, which the council should do everything it can to preserve for the community.

ALAN BULLOCK
45 Granville Court,
Cheney Lane,
Oxford

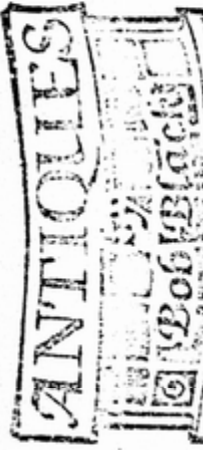


South Park and in the background Oxford's dreaming spires

Death of a college

AT the end of the 1960s the principal of Cuiham College was wondering how long it would be before he had to in-

day belongs to hidden feelings, sensitive under-towards the end on your destiny. exciting. and your occupation to relax this evening you will tend to worry. like depending into ing so make sure



MANY Oxfordshire ornithologists will be acquainted with the artistic accomplishments of Charles Tunnicliffe R.A. and perhaps compare his work with that of an-

BIRDMAN'S GEM

AMERICAN TREASURES

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The Threat To South Park - Public Meeting

South Park rises to the right of Headington Hill. It is a superb area of natural parkland. It is used a great deal by the people of Headington, East Oxford, and St Clements, by Polytechnic students and families and children. The sweep of grass and trees down to the city offers the finest single view of Oxford's roofs and towers.

The Recreation and Amenities Committee of the Oxford Council proposes to turn the whole of the central part of the park into a "Pitch and Putt Course". This would stretch across the entire park, from the football pitches at the top to the flatter and wetter ground at the bottom.

This would prevent safe and unrestricted access to the park. It would make it dangerous to children and walkers, and impossible to rest or picnic or stroll around the main part of the Park.

It would ruin the natural landscape by crowding it with greens and tees and bunkers.

It would completely ignore the conditions with which the park was given to the city "as an open space or park in its natural state to which the public may be allowed access"

The same committee has attempted to turn other parks in Oxford into "pitch and putt" courses, motor cycle scrambling areas etc. These proposals have been defeated but only by community action

You can help

Attend the public meeting with the councillors involved at 7.30 pm on Friday 15th Oct (this Friday) at 196 Cowley Rd. (The former Co-Op hall)

Make Your views known to

The Chairman of Recreation and Amenities (Councillor Andrew Smith (243433, work; 62292 home)

The Local Press and Radio Oxford

Your local councillor

The City Landscape Architect, City Engineer etc.

Tell everyone you know. Only immediate residents were told of this plan. The wider community deserves to have thie views known, and their feelings about the Park must be shown.

Simon Blackburn
219 Morrell Avenue
243798

Mark Warner
97 Morrell Ave.
246814

Appendix 3: Memorandum of Understanding

An agreement between Oxford City Council and Oxford Preservation Trust only.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Oxford City Council, Oxford Preservation Trust regarding South Park and Shotover Country Park

The Vision

South Park and Shotover Country Park were given to the City Council by the Oxford Preservation Trust in 1951 for the benefit of the people of Oxford.

A key clause from the conveyance for South Park states:

The Council covenants: At all times hereafter to use and preserve the property hereby conveyed as an open space or park in its natural state to which the public may be allowed access..(2 (b).

except that the property hereby conveyed may be used for the purposes of occasional fetes fairs and other public entertainments and in connection therewith marquees and tents may be temporarily erected (2 (b) (ii).

A key clause from the conveyance for Shotover Country Park states:

The Council covenants: At all times it will use and preserve the property and also the land for the purpose of an open space or park in its natural state to which the public may be allowed access and will not use the property in any other manner or at any time erect any building of any kind except which is suitable for agricultural purposes (3)

Introduction

The signatories to this agreement have a common interest in the use of these open spaces for free access and enjoyment by the public.

This Memorandum of Understanding confirms the basis of the relationship between the two organisations, clarifying frequency of meetings and establishes an agreed basis to preserve the Parks.

The City Council wishes there to be clarity over the nature and scale of organised events that it is able to permit at the Parks. It believes that permitting a limited number of organised events brings benefits of the parks to a wider public and enables it to sustain its management of the parks. However it wishes to ensure that such events do not damage the inherent attributes and landscape of the parks nor overstep the bounds of the clauses in the conveyances.

This Memorandum of Understanding relates to the open spaces but excludes the farm buildings and associated properties at the parks, which warrant specific consideration.

Maps are attached as appendices

The Objectives

The objectives of the Partnership are to:

1. support the original vision
2. produce Heritage Asset Management Statements for both parks
3. review the criteria for organised events from time to time
4. ensure that all departments of Oxford City Council whose work engages with the parks are aware of Heritage Asset Management Statements

Evidence base for South Park

South Park Heritage Asset Management Statement (HAMS).

Evidence base for Shotover Country Park

The Heritage Asset Management Statement for Shotover (awaited)

Criteria limiting organised events to be held in South Park

Number:

No more than 4 large events pa. (500 people or more)

No more than 4 circuses or fairs pa.

Type agreed:

Community events

What excluded:

Political rallies and public rallies (demonstrations or protests)

Single Interest Group events

Commercial events

Use of barriers to exclude free access from more than one third of the park

Use of consecutive bank holidays

Controls or conditions

Flow from the Heritage Asset Management Statements

Standard conditions given to event organisers (e.g. notification of neighbouring residents if event 200 people or more)

Exceptions to above can be considered at the annual meeting

Criteria limiting organised events to be held at Shotover Country Park

There will not normally be any large scale or commercial events at the Country Park.

Any permitted events should facilitate and encourage an interest in the countryside and park useage.

i.e. normally organised walks, orienteering, demonstration of countryside pursuits

Physical Management of the Parks

The Physical Management of the Parks is undertaken by the Parks and Leisure Services section.

The South Park HAMS includes recommendations towards improving the physical management of the Park. These recommendations will be used to inform future management by City Council staff. In particular there are recommendations on:

1. Tree planting
2. Landscape management and biodiversity
3. Events: The use of lower park by contractors
4. Events: Significant ground works

It is anticipated that the awaited Shotover Country Park HAMS will contain similar management recommendations.

Decision making

Oxford Preservation Trust recognises that Oxford City Council will manage and take decisions as agreed by the original conveyance and this Memorandum. The Trust agrees not to interfere in day-to-day management and related issues

However, should the Trust wish to raise an issue or highlight a problem that can not await the Annual meeting then the Director of OPT will write to the Head of Leisure and Parks.

Point of contact

OPT: Director: Debbie Dance

OCC: Head of Leisure and Parks; Ian Brooke

Public Statements

OPT and OCC agree:

1. OCC should usually be the first point of contact for the press.
2. Contact each other before making any statements to the Press.
3. To consider publishing proactive press statements.

Annual meeting

To be held in November each year.

Draft agenda to be prepared by City Council two weeks before the meeting

Items to be covered –

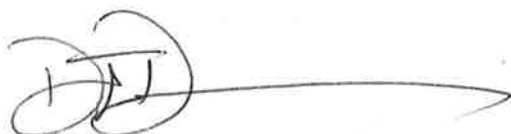
1. feedback on previous year's event and maintenance programmes,
2. consider events as exceptions to the criteria above
3. agree future events programme
4. agree future repair & maintenance programme,
5. agree any future improvements and other issues;
6. AOB.

Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding



...
M Crofton Briggs ...Head of City Development: Oxford City Council

.....



D Dance, Director, Oxford Preservation Trust

.....

Dated  2012

V 7

Map of South Park



Scale: 1:4,000

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Ordnance Survey 100019348.

South Park

Appendix 4: References and further reading

Below are links to resources referenced in the management plan.

Archeox Geophysical Survey of South Park

<http://www.archeox.net/sites/www.archeox.net/files/reports/Southpark%20geophysical%20survey%20report.pdf>

Byelaws

South Park is covered by the Oxford City Council Byelaws which are available on request.

See: www.oxford.gov.uk/parksbyelaws

Dark Sky Discovery Site

For more information regarding Dark Sky sites see:

www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk

Finance

For further information of the Council's finances see:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/site/scripts/google_results.php?q=Financial+information

Graffiti

Offensive graffiti on areas that the City Council are responsible for will be removed within 1 working day. All other graffiti will be addressed within 7 days. See: www.oxford.gov.uk/graffiti

Grounds Maintenance Specification and Standards

In 2010 a full grounds maintenance specification and standards was written and applied to South Park and is available upon request. See:

www.oxford.gov.uk/groundsmaintenancespec

Headington Hill Conservation Area

The Park is part of the Headington Hill Conservation Area. Further information is available at: www.oxford.gov.uk/headingtonhillconservationarea

and http://www.headington.org.uk/history/listed_buildings/cheney_barn.html

Oxford City Council Corporate plan 2016–2020

The park management plans contribute towards the Council's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan for 2016–2020:

www.oxford.gov.uk/corporateplan

Oxford City Council's Green Spaces Strategy

www.oxford.gov.uk/greenspacesstrategy

Oxford Heritage Statement

www.oxford.gov.uk/oxfordheritagestatement

Trees

Trees are managed in line with the Council's Tree Policy:

www.oxford.gov.uk/treemanagementpolicy

Viewing Cones

The view from South Park is documented in chapter five of the Oxford Preservation Trust's assessment of the Oxford view cones. See www.oxford.gov.uk/oxfordviewconesstudy

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