

## Operational Plans

### Baffins Pond Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements for Baffins Pond to protect the area for wildlife and also as a public open space. The site is protected from development and particularly as the site provides habitat for Brent Geese.

The Plan has seven aims:

- To manage Baffins Pond as a quality, safe and accessible park;
- To maintain and enhance the nature, value and biodiversity of the park;
- To manage the park sustainably;
- To promote community involvement in the park;
- To promote the park as a resource for exercise and healthy living;
- To reduce anti-social behaviour;
- To promote the park as an educational resource.

There is a management action plan for each aim.

Current projects for Baffins Pond include:

- Introduction of the Council's sustainable bedding scheme involving the replacement of the current shrub beds with sustainable planting of herbaceous perennials and grasses so that year round interest is provided.
- Introduction of wildlife interpretation boards.
- Continued development of the wildflower meadow and tree area.
- The undertaking of a wildlife survey of the pond.

In addition to these Council projects, the Friends group known as the **Baffins Pond Association** has its own programme of complementary projects, including year round activities and volunteering including work undertaken by 'Men's Shed'.

### Southsea Rock Gardens Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements to protect the Southsea Rock Gardens both as a horticultural feature and public open space. The site is protected from development and the gardens are notable for their diverse planting scheme including alpine plants.

The Plan for this site has the same seven overarching aims as the Baffins Pond plan.

Current projects for Southsea Rock Gardens include:

- Completion of renovation of mixed beds, to enhance diversity and reveal the rocks which have been in places partially hidden by previous planting choices. Future planting will also be reassessed in conjunction with the Southsea Defences strategy.
- Encourage the Friends group, including assisting with advertising / promoting their activities.
- Repair lighting to discourage anti-social behaviour and enable gardens for winter usage. This will be subject to a successful capital bid for Council funds.

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- Installation of CCTV to discourage anti-social behaviour (subject to the success of a capital bid as above).
- Re-establishment of the bog garden.

One advantage of the Friends group at this site includes the ability to attract external funding. As a community organisation, there is potential to attract sources of funding that will not be possible for the Council as a local authority.

## Milton Park Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements to protect Milton Park both as a public open space and focus for the local community. The site is protected from development and is notable for its community facilities including local library, community centre, café and provision for outdoor activity / sports.

The Plan for this site has the same overarching aims as the above two sites except it does not specifically include the promotion of the park as an educational resource.

Current projects concern accessibility of the Park:

- Improve path quality and quality of hard surfaces
- Improve entrances including installation of appropriate signage.

There is a Friends group for this park, who have their own dedicated area for maintenance. The park is also notable for a number of mature trees and management of the park includes support to Portsmouth & Southsea Volunteer Tree Wardens. There has been considerable planting of new trees in this park.

## Farlington Triangle Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements to protect this area of coastal grazing marshes. It is recognised as a rare habitat and is therefore under protection by special conservation measures. There are three strands to the management plan:

- Management of the grazing marshes to prevent encroachment by rank vegetation and subsequent damage to important fauna and flora species;
- Protecting the biodiversity of the site, reporting in regularly to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. Protecting species at the site include water vole. Managing grassland at the site for winter grazing wading birds and wildfowl, at a height to provide shelter for invertebrates and nesting sites.
- Managing the site as a quality destination for informal education and recreation. This includes interpretation of the site for visitors and promotional material. In addition, developing community / voluntary interest and support in the site and broadening the use of the site as an educational resource moving forward.

## Milton Common Management Plan

This site is comprised of reclaimed intertidal land and provides a broad species diversity of almost 200 species recorded within the site. It includes nationally scarce and county scarce species. The site has been awarded a Higher Level Stewardship grant from Natural England for its management. The management plan has three over-arching objectives:

- Improve the visitor experience, including: educating the public with regard to the hazards of litter and dog fouling; maintaining amenity grassland for family/friend groups; maintain safe infrastructure; appropriate interpretation, signage and safety measures; developing volunteer/ community interest and support in the site and promoting the site as an educational resource.
- Improve the quality of habitat, including: protecting the diversity of the site by monitoring species, (reporting to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre), restoration and management of the grassland for target species.
- Divert recreational pressure away from the coastal path by developing the inland footpaths and cyclepaths, to minimise disturbance to species such as wildfowl.

The plan notes the previous use of the site as a municipal refuse site in the late 1960s. This generates particular requirements with regard to the above objectives.

## Hilsea Lines Management Plan

This site originally comprised military defences which, having fallen into disrepair, now offer a diverse habitat for wildlife, including the only woodland on Portsea Island. The area is protected as both a scheduled monument, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and under a number of other designations.

The management plan comprises the following objectives:

- To manage the site as a quality destination for quiet informal recreation, including: a high standard of visitor facilities and infrastructure, encouraging volunteers and community involvement, providing for the site to be a safe environment and providing signage and interpretation.
- To maintain and enhance the diversity of the site, including: undertaking a coppice-glade regime to create a varied woodland to benefit a variety of plants and animals, manage reed beds to provide nesting cover, control invasive weeds, monitor and report species with Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.
- To promote awareness and interest in the natural world, including: holding events, promoting Hilsea Lines as an outdoor classroom, developing the skills of volunteers and Friends of Hilsea Lines, use of interpretation boards for wildlife and historical information.
- To protect, enhance and promote the ancient monument, including: restoration of casements for use (large scale restoration dependent on capital funding).

## Fort Cumberland Management Plan

This site comprises both a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) due to the biodiversity on site and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) due to historic fortifications in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The management plan comprises the following objectives:

- To maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the site including: monitoring species and habitat development, updating Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, control of invasive weeds, managing grassland, gorse and scrub to maximise species diversity including nesting birds and invertebrates.
- To manage the site as a high quality destination for quiet recreation and education, including: a high standard of visitor facilities and infrastructure, providing for the site to be a safe environment, providing signage and interpretation, developing volunteer and community involvement, practical conservation groups, annual consultation and encouraging the use of the site as an educational resource.

## Portsmouth Hill Management Plans

The management of Portsmouth Hill is documented in two separate plans, one concerned with the area that is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and one covering the non-SSSI open space.

The SSSI plan comprises the following objectives:

- To improve, maintain and increase (to 60%) the species rich calcareous grassland dominated habitats;
- To retain existing habitats (unless dominated by invasive non-native species);
- To safeguard notable species, including a review of site biodiversity, particularly as relates to invertebrates.

The non-SSSI plan comprises the following objectives:

- To maintain, improve and increase the species-rich grassland area;
- To maintain and increase biodiversity on the areas not managed as species rich grassland, such as ongoing scrub control, control of invasive species and diversifying tree stock.

Within both plans:

- To provide for public access, awareness and educational use of the site including work with groups such as Forest Schools. This includes working with [Friends of Portsmouth Hill](#) and conservation volunteers.
- To incorporate environmental considerations such as sustainable management, including the potential to join up wildlife supporting land management across Portsmouth.

## Victoria Park, 'The People's Park' project

The National Lottery Heritage Fund invited Portsmouth City Council to develop a vision for the future of Victoria Park in autumn 2019. The park is a flagship example of a late nineteenth century design and is key to the history of the city.

Funding has enabled a new project for the park. Round 1 of funding enabled extensive consultation, survey work and design plans to go ahead, concluding in Round 2 funding submission in August 2021.

Notification of the success of the Round 2 bid was received in December 2021. Receipt of the delivery phase funding will allow ground works and capital works to take place in 2022-2023 and a full activity programme will follow, which will include:

- Volunteer recruitment programme
- Community garden
- Park community clean days
- Pop up community events
- Fairs and festivals
- Wildlife workshops