

King George's Playing Fields

**Management Plan
2014 - 2019**

Prepared for Brentwood Borough Council

BLACKWOOD
bayne
Ltd

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Introduction

About these Plans

These plans are part of a series of management plans produced for Brentwood's urban parks and cemeteries.

The plans cover the period 2014 – 2019. This plan is for King George's Playing Fields. Plans have also been produced for Bishop's Hall Park (incorporating Hatch Road Country Park), Hutton Recreation Grounds, Warley Playing Fields and the two cemeteries; Woodman Road Cemetery and London Road Cemetery.

The aim of these plans is to provide direction for the parks so that the provision of high quality open spaces for the residents of Brentwood is assured. This is done both in terms of presenting a strategic direction, or 'Vision', for each site and through detailing the capital and maintenance actions required to achieve this.

Set against a backdrop of limited funding, these plans will help to prioritise actions to those which meet the overall, long-term aim for the site. In order to ensure long term quality and to reduce ongoing maintenance costs it is important to adopt a principle of 'invest to save'. Aging infrastructure becomes a liability, incurring ongoing repair cost, whereas timely replacement with well-specified, long lasting infrastructure will reduce this ongoing maintenance liability. However, such investment requires an evaluated and targeted approach to ensure investment takes place in the areas of highest priority where the need, and the potential return on

investment, is greatest. These plans provide this, and form the basis for the future asset management of the parks and forward capital planning.

Strategic Objectives for Quality Spaces

All of the parks in this report serve many functions including, amongst many others, play, sport, walking, events and access to nature. In all of these parks several of these functions need to be provided at the same time and a balance struck between competing needs.

In order to help assess each park and to organise proposed actions, five management categories have been used:

- A welcoming place;
- A safe and secure place;
- A clean and well-maintained place;
- Sustainability;
- Conservation and heritage;

Taken together, ensuring attainment against all of these five management categories will ensure high quality service delivery to meet the needs of all users to the park.

A Welcoming Place

Objective: That the overall impression of visitors is positive and that the park is inviting.

People visit parks for many reasons. A welcoming site draws people and makes them feel welcome through its appearance, facilities and maintenance. This includes location of paths, provision of information, entrances and signing.

Signing

Signing should have the following features:

- Signs should be easy to read;
- Signs should be well-maintained and clear of graffiti;
- Ideally should have a coherent design rather than a mixture of styles;
- Should serve a purpose – avoid over-signing a park and remove redundant signing;
- Messages should be friendly and welcoming. It is necessary to tell visitors clearly what can and can't be done, but avoid too much signing 'forbidding' activities;
- Information provided on opening and closing times;
- Information provided on who owns and manages the park;
- Up to date contact details, including 'helpline' telephone number, web and email as appropriate;

Physical Access

Considering physical access around the site and links to it can greatly improve the experience of visitors. Elements can include:

- Links with public transport;
- Safe access from surrounding roads including, for example, pelican crossings;
- Links with cycle routes;
- Safe and secure car parking with facilities for those with disabilities;
- Limited access by vehicles to ensure safety (including maintenance vehicles);
- Attractive entrances, clear sightlines;
- Benches and seating around the site, also in quieter areas and overlooking views;
- Adequate control of dogs and dog fouling.

Good Design

Good design can make people feel welcome, can encourage them to explore and can visit more. Poor design can dissuade people from staying, visit less often or even compromise safety.

The adoption of a standardised form of design and style, for example in litter bins, benches and other furniture, can help to ensure that all Brentwood Borough Council sites belong to a 'family' and reach an adequate standard. However, individual features of some sites should also be respected in the design, for example heritage or natural features, which may require adjustment of this approach. A design standard is being introduced across all of Brentwood's formal parks.

A selection of some of the many elements which can be considered in design are:

- Choosing fixtures and furniture which are durable and have a low environmental impact;
- Screening working and storage areas;
- Creating interest and intimacy with tree planting, breaking up 'bleak' landscapes (for example sports pitches);
- Providing footpaths on the routes people wish to use;
- Choosing planting which can be maintained within available budgets, so that it remains attractive.

A Safe and Secure Place

Objective: To ensure that the parks are safe and secure places for all visitors to use.

People can be dissuaded from using greenspaces by safety fears. There are also a range of legal requirements which relate to the management of greenspaces, including the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, which encompasses those affected by what you do as well as those working for the organisation.

Some of the elements which can be considered include:

- Information on who to contact in an emergency on information boards;
- Tree planting to provide shade, especially around play areas;
- Consideration of sight lines and safe movement around the site;
- Emergency equipment where appropriate, e.g. lifebelts;
- High design standard for equipment and furniture;
- Child protection issues address in play policies and strategies;
- Risk assessments in place for staff and use of facilities;
- Encourage visitors to report problems and provide information on how to do this.

In addition, the control of dogs is an important issue in its own right. Fouling is unpleasant and can cause disease (toxocariasis) and dog aggression, or even simply dogs jumping up at visitors, can be off-putting to visitors. Brentwood's Open Space Strategy highlights dog fouling as a particular concern for park users.

Part of King George's Playing Fields is designated under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, which establishes a criminal offence if dog faeces is not removed by the person in charge of the dog.

In the past, dog zoning has been adopted at the Playing Fields, with areas where dogs must be kept on leads and areas where they are able to be let off. Enforcing such measures is, however, not possible without a staff presence on the site. A lack of enforcement renders zoning and bylaw approaches ineffective.

Work across the country has successfully created behaviour change amongst dog owners without the need for confrontational or enforcement, but rather through understanding why dog owners make the decision to allow their dog to behave in an anti-social way or to not pick up after their dog.

A key part of this is social pressure; will others judge me or how will they react if I do (or don't) behave in a particular way? It is important to create an atmosphere of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in the park.

The main factors influencing behaviour are, with the most effective first:

- Signing providing clear explanation for restrictions;
- Good behaviour by other dog walkers;
- Being seen by wardens/rangers/parks staff.

Signing and information provision therefore needs to be:

- Clear about what behaviour is expected of the owner and dog;
- Clear about why this behaviour is expected;
- Presented in an understandable and friendly way.

An example of such an approach has been developed in Dorset, where a 'Doggy Do' Code of Conduct has been produced.¹ It is proposed that a similar approach is adopted for Brentwood Borough Council sites. The main Code of Conduct should be displayed on or near all main orientation boards. Smaller 'reminder' boards or waymarkers can then be installed around the park to reinforce the main message.



It is not considered feasible to implement a requirement for dogs to be kept on leads at the park. However, good behaviour should be expected and dog faeces picked up. All play areas should be dog-free zones.

¹ <http://www.dorsetdogs.org.uk/>

Brentwood Borough Council Parks, Countryside, Cemeteries and Open Spaces Department has in place the following policies and operational guides:

- Risk assessments;
- Inspections programmes for play areas;

A Clean and Well-Maintained Place

Objective: To ensure high standards of maintenance and cleanliness.

A clean and well-maintained park is obviously important for visitors, and reflects well on the Council. A poorly maintained park can lead to misuse and will deter visitors.

The elements to be considered include:

- Well maintained litter bins, thoughtfully positioned to encourage use and regularly emptied;
- Regular litter picks;
- High standard of horticultural maintenance;
- Consideration of ongoing maintenance requirements in the design of beds and planting to ensure that maintenance of a high standard can be implemented;
- Furniture and fixings should be maintained and repaired if broken or damaged;
- Buildings and structures should be well maintained;
- Graffiti, flyposting etc. removed;
- Paths and car parks swept and edges maintained;
- Regular inspections.

Sustainability

Objective: To ensure that environmentally sound maintenance practices are implemented.

Managing green spaces in an environmentally sound way includes elements such as the choice of materials, use of chemicals, energy conservation and waste recycling.

Brentwood Borough Council Parks, Countryside, Cemeteries and Open Spaces Department is in the process of developing an Environmental Policy, which will include:

- Limiting use of pesticides and chemicals to that which is essential;
- Avoid using peat and tropical hardwoods;
- Timber certified by the Forest Stewardship Council;
- Use recycled materials where possible;
- Reduce waste;
- Provide bins to enable visitors to recycle
- Consider the future watering, chemical and replacement input when designing beds and planting;
- Reduce pollution, for example through proper handling of fuels and chemicals and reducing nuisance from noise or smoke from bonfires;
- Implement water efficiency measures in park maintenance;
- Implement energy efficiency measures.

Conservation and Heritage

Objective: To increase biodiversity in the parks and to protect, conserve and enhance the heritage components.

As well as often having a rich history themselves, all parks sit within a surrounding landscape which has particular cultural, ecological and landscape features. It is important when considering the design and management of a park to respect and incorporate these elements.

There are many benefits to enhancing biodiversity in parks. Maintenance of biodiversity habitats can be more cost-effective, for example through reducing the frequency of grass cutting. The wildlife which is attracted is not only beneficial in its own right, but will add interest to a park and enable visitors to experience nature. Moreover, local authorities also have a legal duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in their functions through Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006).

Elements to consider include:

- Improving biodiversity through linking with surrounding habitats, diversifying habitats on site and providing for species (e.g. through bird and bat boxes);
- Create new habitats where appropriate, for example wild flower meadows;
- Respecting and considering the historic character in design of the park;
- Where parks have specific and, in some cases, protected heritage features, ensure that management plans are in place to conserve these;
- Identify, protect and maintain elements of the built environment which are of historical or design importance.

Policy Context

These plans link with several Brentwood Borough Council policy and strategy documents.

Brentwood Borough Council's Corporate Plan (2013-2019) recognises the importance of the environment and greenspace to the Borough. The environment is included in the first theme, 'Street Scene and Environment', with a medium term priority for a parks and playground strategy.

The Council's Open Space Strategy provides a thorough analysis of provision and actions across all of the open spaces in the Borough. The supporting consultant's report highlighted the need for review of maintenance and the adoption of quality criteria, both of which are being taken forward through these management plans.

Brentwood Play Strategy (2007-2010) sets out how the Council will address the play needs of children and young people in the Borough. In addition, Brentwood Council's Children and Young People's Strategy (2007-2011) set out to work with young people to develop a range of facilities that will benefit their leisure and play time.

Chapters I, Leisure and Culture, and II, Sustainable Development and the Local Environment, of the Brentwood Community Strategy (2004-2009) are both relevant to the delivery of parks. The first prioritises the provision of high quality and accessible leisure for all residents and the second highlights the importance of the environment, countryside and greenspace of Borough for local residents.

Brentwood's Environmental Policy (2009) sets out the actions that the Council will take in its operation to manage environmental impacts.

Site Description

Site Summary

Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area covered by this plan covers approximately 18 hectares (does not include Hartswood or Brentwood Golf Course); • Approximately 12.5 hectares of sports playing fields along eastern edge; • Formal gardens on western side near to Hartswood Road, approximately 3.5 hectares and including paddling pool, crazy golf, bowls, children’s play; • Adjacent to Hartswood SSSI, also owned and managed by Brentwood Borough Council; • Adjacent to Brentwood Golf Course with access through King George’s Playing Fields site.
Rights of Way and Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no public rights of way across the site but access is permitted throughout.
Access Points – Pedestrian and Vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main entrance off Ingrave Road, TQ 606 929; • Additional entrance and car park off Hartswood Road, TQ 601 929; • Pedestrian access from Hartswood, from Hartswood Road (2) and from The Avenue (2).
Bylaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.
Tree Preservation Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal gardens · Children’s play area · Paddling pools · A sensory garden · • Playing fields for football, cricket, rugby and kick about areas · Lawn bowling greens (2); • Skate park · Cycle path · Parkmobility · Car parks (4) · Adventure Golf Course; • Café; • Access to Brentwood Golf Centre.
Non-statutory designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Belt.

General Overview

This large park is Brentwood Borough Council's major outdoor recreation asset. It provides a wide range of facilities and opportunities for recreation including sport, formal gardens, children's play, paddling pool and crazy golf. The main features of the park are shown in Plans 1 and 2.

The park is centrally located just to the south of Brentwood town centre and, as the prime facility in Brentwood, serves a wide catchment area.



The Playing Fields were established in 1951. The park is one of 471 fields across the British Isles set up after the death of King George V in 1936. The fields were set up for 'outdoor games, sports and pastimes'.² All of the fields had to have 'suitably dignified' entrance for the setting of two heraldic stones. These stones are located in two brick pillars at the main pedestrian entrance on Harstwood Road.

² <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/KGV.aspx>

Sports Facilities

Sports pitches make up the largest area of the site. There are 10 sports pitches. These comprise of:

- 4 adult rugby pitches;
- 5 adult football pitches;
- 1 junior football pitch;
- Cricket square which utilises the rugby pitches during the summer months.

Formal Gardens

The formal gardens are located on the western end of the site near to Harstwood Road. The area has some annual and perennial flower beds. There are many trees in this area and some shrub bedding.

Surfaced paths cross the gardens, with seating in various places.

Within this wider area are located the sensory garden, the play area, the paddling pools, current crazy golf and skate park.

Paddling Pools

The paddling pools have been a feature of King George's Playing Fields for 25 years. There are two paddling pools and a small toilet. The facility is run by the same external operator as the café and the two concessions are currently tendered together. The facility is open only during the summer holidays and there is a fee to enter.

Play Area

The play area in King George's is the largest and most diversely equipped in the Borough. It was last fully refurbished in 2011 when the site was stripped of all equipment, ground levels contoured and new paths and equipment installed.

The play area has four sections. The top section has traditional play equipment, including swings, slides and roundabouts. Also on this top level is a toddler play area and nearby a grassed area for picnics and seating.

On the lower level is an area which used to be a pond. This area has now been adequately drained and is the location of a cable run, twin tower multi-play unit and multi-play area for younger children.

Sensory Garden

This small, secluded garden is located to the west of the Hartswood Road car park, adjacent to the formal gardens.

It was constructed in 1983/84 by the then Head Gardener and was designed by Tony Mitchell, then assistant Director of Leisure and Recreation. The garden was funded through the Brentwood Lottery and various donations from individuals and groups.

There is a grassed area in the centre of the garden with a surfaced path forming a circular walk around the garden. Around the perimeter are perennial and shrub beds, with plants selected to provide interest throughout the year and to provide a variety of scents, textures, colours and shapes. There is also a cascade water feature, designed to provide the sounds of water to those with visual impairments. There is seating around the garden. The whole garden is surrounded by tall hedging.

The garden provides a quiet, secluded area for all visitors.

Brentwood Borough Council is responsible for the maintenance of the garden. There is no dedicated budget for this part of the park. The 'Sensory Garden Club', formed in 2011, is a community group which has established itself with the aim of providing opportunities for adults, including those with learning difficulties, to help maintain and develop the garden.

Skate Park

The skate park is located on the former site of public tennis courts and opened in 2004.

The Brentwood Skate Park Association is fundraising to rebuild the skate park. To date the first phase, a concrete Bowl Complex has been completed. A Street section was completed in 2013 and the Association has a future ambition of adding a Park section.

Crazy Golf

The area which is currently crazy golf to be expanded and redeveloped as an Adventure Golf facility, run under a long term agreement with an outside operator.

Car Parks

There are four car parks:

- Adjacent to the Rugby Club House, accessed from Ingrave Road. Surfaced with capacity for 80-90 vehicles;
- Central car park adjacent to Café, accessed from Ingrave Road. Surfaced with capacity for 90-100 vehicles;
- Overflow central car park, adjacent to main Central car park, accessed from Ingrave Road. Unsurfaced with capacity for 300-350 vehicles;
- Hartswood Road car park, accessed from Hartswood Road. Surfaced with capacity for around 90 cars.

Currently, parking is free of charge, although charging regimes have been applied in the past.

Lawn Bowling Greens

There are two bowling greens. Brentwood Borough Council provides grounds maintenance services for the site, while the clubs are responsible for the maintenance of the two buildings.

Hartswood

To the north and linking to the site is Hartswood, also owned and managed by Brentwood Borough Council. This Site of Special Scientific Interest woodland, itself of around 40 hectares, leads onwards to Little Warley Common (also owned by Brentwood Borough Council) and Thorndon Country Park to the south and Donkey Lane Plantation to the west. King George's Park is therefore a potential gateway site to an extensive area of woodland and common land, all of which is open for recreation. Links between the two sites could be greatly improved, particularly through increased information on access opportunities and the value of the woodlands.

Brentwood Golf Centre

This is a pay and play 18 hole course owned and operated by Brentwood Borough Council. It is adjacent to the area covered in this plan and, together with Hartswood and King George V Playing Fields themselves, serves to create an extensive recreational area close to the centre of Brentwood.

About This Plan

King George V Playing Fields serves many purposes and provides many recreational facilities for all sectors of the community. There are numerous, and diverse, facilities in a relatively small park. The playing fields also join to a wider Brentwood Borough Council estate through Hartswood and the Brentwood Golf Course. Visitors therefore come to the park for many different reasons, with different expectations from their visit.

Whatever their reason for visiting and whatever facility they have come to enjoy, park users should expect to have a high quality experience. While each of the individual facilities has its own management requirements and areas of improvement, it is also necessary to view the park as a whole. This will reveal how the component parts work together and how well the park works for visitors.

Assessing the park as a whole will also set out an integrated approach to its future medium-term development. Inevitably in the years since its beginning in 1951 there has been some piecemeal development and improvement of facilities, as individual areas needed replacing or to address particular issues which arose. This management plan seeks to draw the park together and set out a co-ordinated approach to management for the future.

To do this, within this plan the park is primarily assessed as a whole against the management objectives listed in the Introduction. However, for some facilities there is also a need to give additional detail on specific management objectives and actions.

Vision and Objectives for King George's Playing Fields

VISION

For King George's Playing Fields to be the 'jewel in the crown' of Brentwood's recreational estate, providing the high quality sport, recreational facilities and green space befitting such a status, for all members of the community.

The over-arching objectives for King Playing Fields are:

- 1 To provide high quality facilities;
- 2 To provide a range of recreational facilities for all ages and a wide range of the community;
- 3 Invest in maintenance of assets to avoid future long-term costs to the Council;
- 4 To improve links with adjacent Hartswood, both for increasing recreational space and to improve nature conservation value;
- 5 To provide a greenspace and formal garden area for general enjoyment.

Site Assessment and Actions

An overview of the site is shown in Plans 1 and 2.

A Welcoming Place

Signing

There is a range of signing in the park. Some of this orientates and informs the visitor; some sets out behaviours which are prohibited.

The signing has clearly evolved in a piecemeal fashion. Some signs are newer and fit with a 'corporate image' for the park, while others signs have been added to deal with particular issues or as resources allow.

A proportion of the signing has been replaced in recent years and is of a consistent style, providing clear information for visitors. However, in places, a plethora of older, poor quality signing remains. The result is that the signing does not present clear information to the visitor, neither in terms of what they can do, where and when, nor what is prohibited and in which areas.

The key issues which need to be addressed are:

A Coherent Approach: The park needs to be considered as a whole, with a view to the visitor experience. Visitors enter the park from several entrances and, while it is not appropriate to provide all information at each entrance, the key messages need to be displayed along with guidance on what facilities are available. Signing around the park is useful, especially the fingerposts.

Several new signs have been installed which has started to implement a 'corporate style' for the park. These are on a rust brown background with white lettering, as shown below. All new signs should match this style.



Welcoming and Orientation: There is a lack of information on what facilities are in the park, opening times/seasons and who to contact.

Permitted Activities and Prohibited Activities: Clear information is required on what is permitted and what is not. This includes cycling, which is permitted in some areas and not in others, as well as information on information for dog owners. There are a few 'Drinking Control Area' signs.

An assessment of the signing is detailed in Table 1, with current signing shown in Plan 2.

Plan I: Site Overview – Whole Park



Plan 2: Site Overview – Core Park Excluding Pitches

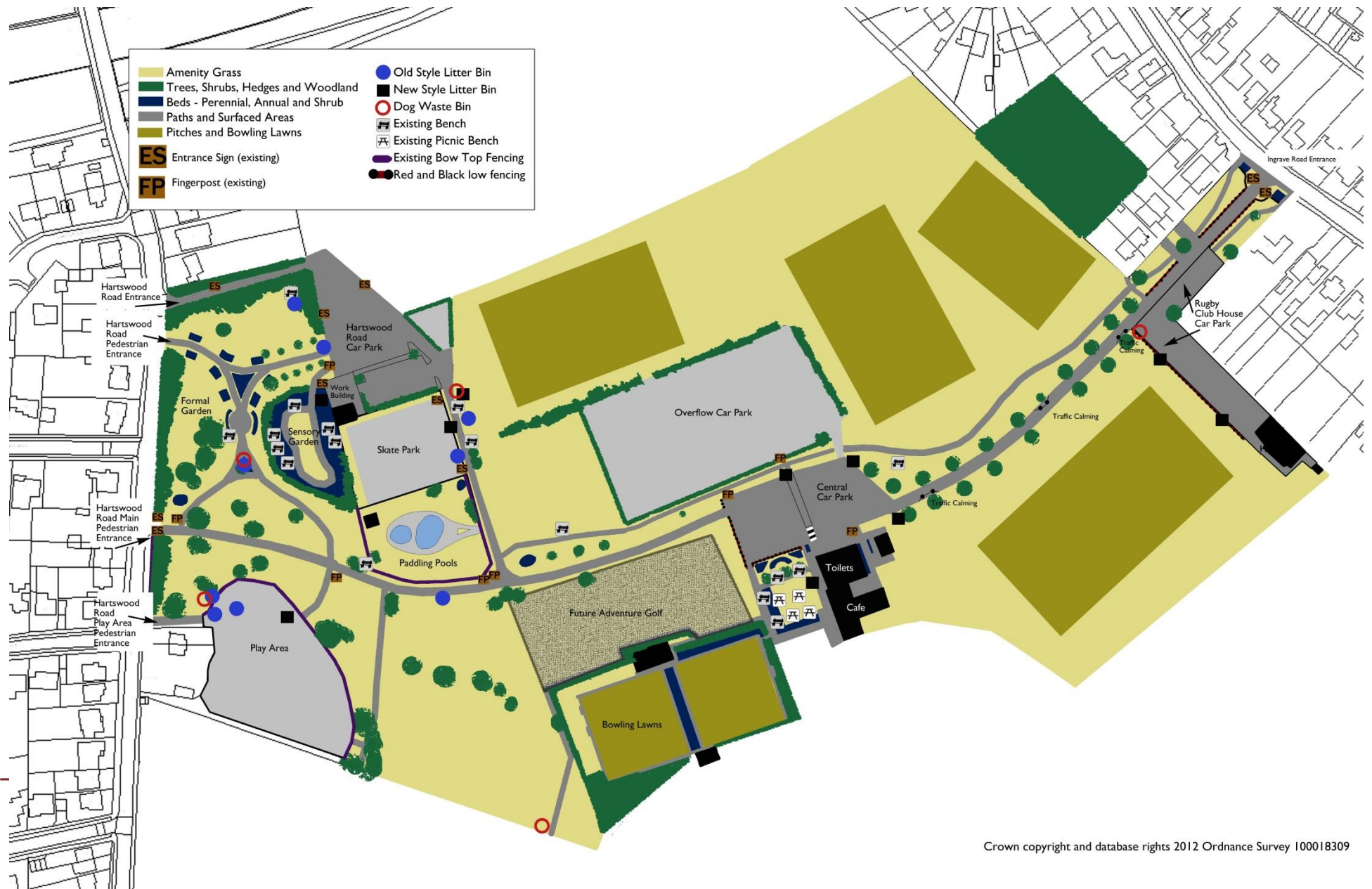


Table 1: Signing Assessment

	Assessment	Actions Required
Entrance Signs	<p><u>Ingrave Road – Main Entrance Point</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the main entrance to the park and should set the standard for the park; • There are new entrance signs on both sides of the entrance which fit with the overall corporate style for the park. These welcome visitors to King George’s Playing Field and Brentwood Golf Centre and which also list the other facilities and concessions in the park; • There is also a proliferation of advertising signs (‘Discount Golf Store’, ‘Café in the Park’) attached to the railings and on the entrance greenspace which detracts from the entrance, does not create a high quality impression and is confusing for the visitor. <p><u>Hartswood Road – Car Park Entrance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an entrance sign on the driveway, in the corporate style. This informs visitors of the name of the park and closing time; • There are three additional signs in the car park informing of seasonal opening times. <p><u>Hartswood Road – Pedestrian Entrance (Adjacent to Vehicle Entrance)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no sign welcoming visitors to the park; • ‘No dog fouling’ is only sign in place. Whilst this is not particularly welcoming, it is also important to retain this message as Hartswood has no restrictions on dogs, whereas fouling is not permitted in the park. <p><u>Hartswood Road – Pedestrian and Cycle Path Entrance (Middle Entrance)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two new corporate style signs on either side of the entrance to match the Ingrave Road entrance signs. • There is a shared use cycling sign. <p><u>Hartswood Road – Pedestrian Entrance to Play Ground</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no sign welcoming visitors to the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingrave Road - Remove advertising signs. • Install smaller name sign at pedestrian entrance in corporate style. • Replace ‘No dog fouling’ sign with new corporate dog signing outlining dog Code of Conduct and that dog fouling is not permitted in the park. • Install smaller welcome sign at pedestrian entrance in corporate style.

	Assessment	Actions Required
	<p><u>The Avenue – Pedestrian Entrances</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two more informal entrances from The Avenue. Both are clearly used, but at a lower level than the main entrances; • Entrance track used by golfers to cross The Avenue – no signing, apart from small ‘no dogs’ waymarker; • Informal path through the woodland bordering The Avenue – close this route (see later). <p><u>Pedestrian Entrances from Hartswood</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no entrance signs at the entrances from Hartswood; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install smaller welcome sign at pedestrian entrance close to golfers’ entrance in corporate style; • Signing to state that dog fouling is not permitted and remove existing small waymarker. • Install small welcome sign at the pedestrian entrances in corporate style; • Signing to indicate to dog owners that now entering a ‘pick up’ area in new corporate dog signing style.
Car Park Signing	<p>The car parks are the key locations in which to install orientation signs showing the whole park, to set out information on ‘do’s and don’ts’, for example for cycling, dog behaviour etc., and to provide contact information.</p> <p><u>Ingrave Road Entrance – First Car Park and Rugby Club House Car Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These car parks are separate but adjacent and so can be considered as one car park; • There is no welcome or orientation signing. <p><u>Ingrave Road Entrance – Central Car Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the main entrance point to the park; • There is currently no welcome or orientation sign; • This car park is the location for the primary welcome and orientation sign. <p><u>Ingrave Road Entrance – Overflow Car Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No signing in place; • A sign located in the central car park would also cover this car park, therefore no additional welcome signing required. <p><u>Hartswood Road Car Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no orientation signing only signs informing of opening times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install orientation and information sign in Central Car Park. This should be the main sign for the park and should contain information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park plan and orientation map; • Opening times of park and various facilities; • That BBC manage the site and contact details; • Where dogs are permitted/prohibited, need to be kept on leads and areas fouling not permitted; • Map showing links into Hartswood; • That cycling is only permitted on the cycle route, with this route being marked on the plan. • The Rugby Club car parks and Hartswood car park should have smaller orientation and welcome signs;

	Assessment	Actions Required
Signing Around the Park	<p>There are various other signs around the park, some of which help to orientate the visitor, some of which indicate behaviour which is prohibited.</p> <p><u>Finger Posts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 6 finger post locations in the park, see Plan 2, which provide useful orientation to the main areas; • There is no fingerpost at the Rugby Club car park. <p><u>Cycle Path:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a shared pedestrian/cycle path linking the central car park with the central Hartswood Road entrance and with the Hartswood Road car park; • Signing is required is in place at various points but further signing is required. However, design standards since construction have been amended and the widths and guidance on segregation of pedestrians has altered. Therefore the cycle path is considered later in this plan in its entirety. <p><u>Other Signs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two 'Drinking Control Area' signs, on in the Hartswood Road car park and the other near the café; • There is a Hartswood Access Trail sign on the corner of the Bowling Green marking the entrance, but this is now unreadable; • Skate Park – entrance sign outlining opening times and conditions of use. Second sign board has been removed and requires replacing. • Play Area Signing – no signing in place. Small 'no dogs' waymarker at Hartswood Road entrance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional fingerpost on cycle path. • Further signing of the cycle path is required but is considered later in this document. • Reinstate second sign outside of skate park.

	Assessment	Actions Required
Dog Signing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are permitted on the site, but it is designated under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, whereby dog fouling is not permitted; There is some old signing on site including small 'dog posts'; small waymarker type posts around 30cm high. Some of these have been in place for some time and are now obscured by vegetation. These waymarkers would have a useful role in reinforcing and reminding visitors to pick up, but in themselves and without more comprehensive signing they are insufficient in clearly setting out expected behaviour. Some of these posts relate to the now abandoned 'dog zoning' which was previously in place, for example this post at entrance from Hartswood which states no dogs are allowed. The inconsistency in signing has the result that there is no clear message on what is permitted or not and what is acceptable behaviour with dogs (see Introduction). Acceptable behaviour also includes respect for other users, not allowing dog's to jump up and keeping dogs under control, as well as picking up fouling. New signing should be installed as part of a wider programme of corporate information for dog owners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include information at all entrances indicating that dog fouling is not permitted and promoting the corporate dog Code of Conduct. Include this information on the main orientation board in the main Central car park, along with the additional smaller welcome boards at the Rugby Club House and Hartswood Road car parks; Ensure visitors are clear on the distinction between Hartswood and King George's Park.
Style, Clarity and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need for coherent design across the park, as outlined in the introduction; The fingerpost fingers are susceptible to being bent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all new signing fits with BBC corporate style across all the park; Ensure messages on new signing are welcoming and friendly.
Signing around the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed from Hartswood Road; Signed from Ingrave Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing adequate, no action required.



Physical Access

As the prime park for Brentwood the site should be as accessible as possible for a wide range of people.

Many visitors use this park; for sport, visitors with physical impairments, families with pushchairs, young children, cyclists and of course pedestrians.

This range of visitors means that the park is at times very busy. Particular consideration must therefore be given to accommodate these multiple uses.

Access to the Site

Table 2: Access to the Site

Assessment	Actions Required
<p><u>Public Transport:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus stops on South Drive and Woodman Road to south of park; • Bus stops on Ingrave Road to the north and south of entrance. <p><u>Cycle Routes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle route through the park; • No linking cycle route outside of the park. <p><u>Road Crossings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zebra crossing of Hartswood Road, south of Mount Crescent and close to main pedestrian entrance from Hartswood Road; • Chicane on Hartswood Road entrance near to play area; • Sight lines along Hartswood Road are good with double yellow lines removing the hazard of parked cars; • Pelican crossing close to Entrance of park on Ingrave Road; • Ingrave Road is a busy road, but pedestrian footway on both sides of road; • The entrances from The Avenue are less well used, but clear paths indicate regular use by some visitors. There is a pedestrian footway along The Avenue but this is very narrow in places. In addition the bridge to access the minor access is in poor condition. Therefore access through this route should not be encouraged and the bridge removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close minor access from The Avenue, remove bridge.

Access for Disabled Visitors

Access to and around the site for disabled visitors is important for this site. The Equality Act 2010 also means that there must be reasonable provision made for people with disabilities.

Generally the site provides good access for disabled people as the numerous paths are surfaced with tarmac and the site is virtually level, with few barriers and obstructions. There are, however, some areas which warrant further attention in order to make the site as accessible as possible.

Table 3: Access for Disabled Visitors

Assessment	Actions Required
<p><u>Ingrave Road Entrance and Car Park:</u></p> <p>There is poor disabled access from the entrance. The issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both entrance paths either side gateway too narrow; • On northern side lack of dropped kerbs crossing access drives to the properties, tree roots lifting path and path too narrow; • On southern side the path is too narrow. A dropped kerb is present but this exits directly into a parking bay which would make it unusable for wheelchair access; • There are two disabled parking bays close to the Rugby Club House. These provide good access to the Club House but access onto the main cycle path/surfaced path requires crossing the road and there is no pedestrian crossing. <p><u>Hartswood Road Entrances and Car Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main access drive is not suitable for disabled, or pedestrian, access and pedestrians should be discouraged from using the drive as an access route; • There is a pedestrian access point adjacent to the drive which provides a safer route into the park. However there is no dropped kerb at this access point. There is a dropped kerb nearly opposite and although this is to provide driveway access to a property it is sufficiently close to the pedestrian access to be used. There is a bollard in the centre of the path which reduces the width; • The central (main pedestrian) access is fully accessible, with a fully accessible zebra crossing nearby. This should be the main route for disabled people. • There is a dropped kerb on the southernmost pedestrian (play area) but the chicane may make it more difficult for disabled users to access this route, although it is of sufficient width; • There are 3 disabled parking bays close to the Council works building, with good access from here to the formal and Sensory Gardens and the main park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access for disabled visitors as part of wider improvement of access at Ingrave Road entrance, see Plan 5. • Provide dropped kerb at pedestrian access adjacent to main drive and remove bollard.

Assessment	Actions Required
<p><u>Central Car Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5 disabled parking bays in the south east corner of the car park; • Although this is good provision, access from the parking bays into the main park is difficult due to steps and lack of paths and wheelchair users are required to use the car park. <p><u>Overflow Car Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no bays marked at all in this car park and the surface makes it difficult for disabled visitors to use. <p><u>Café and Toilet Area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled toilet provided near café but retainer required on ramp; • Paved paths around café in poor condition and un-level, with steps; • Slight lip on café door entrance; • Any steps should have handrails to support those with limited mobility. <p><u>Sensory and Formal Gardens:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paths through the formal gardens are all surfaced and provide good access. The only area which may present difficulties to some users is the central crazy paving area, but this section of path is short. Some of the paths are in poor condition with tree roots creating an uneven surface; • Good surfaced path through Sensory Garden. Seating provided throughout, with backs and armrests. Double gates provide wide entrance. <p><u>Main Paths and Cycle Path:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For one way traffic a minimum width of 900mm is recommended or for two way traffic a minimum width of 1800mm is required.³ Most of the paths exceed the minimum width, the exception being the path linking the main cycle route to Hartswood and the play area. This path is also almost completely obstructed by bamboo; • Given the high number of visitors and mix of users in the park, the widest possible path should be provided. It is recommended that all paths are a minimum of 2m. Shared use with cycles will require greater width and is considered separately; • The path which currently links the Parkmobility scooter to the Hartswood Access Trail will be removed when the proposed Adventure Golf facility is constructed. A new access path is therefore required to link the cycle route with Hartswood. • Path improvements are shown in Plan 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve disabled access through improvements to paths around the café area, see Plan x. • Provide disabled access as part of improvements to the car park. • Improve disabled access through improvements to paths around the café area, see Plan x. • Retainer kerb required on ramp to disabled toilet. • Resurface paths through formal garden as part of wider upgrade programme. • Resurface and widen path which links cycle path to Hartswood and the play area. • Provide new path to link to Hartswood if Adventure Golf proceeds.

³ http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/information/factsheets/outdoor_ip.html

Assessment	Actions Required
<p><u>Benches and Resting Places:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are benches and resting places located around the park and most are accessible to mobility impaired people; • All benches should have backs and arms to make them easier to use; • Areas which would benefit from more benches are along the entrance track from Ingrave Road and around the formal garden in particular. <p><u>Bowling Lawns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new disabled access ramp has been installed inside the bowling area. • Main entrance is current down a flight of steps. • Secondary access at Club House too narrow for disabled access. • Create new ramp at existing pedestrian access and make Club House entrance the main entrance, widening paths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install further benches around the site, particularly along the entrance drive from Ingrave Road and in the formal gardens. • Steps to be removed from existing pedestrian entrance and ramp installed. • Main entrance to facility moved to Club House entrance and widen paths.

Cycling

Cycling is permitted in the park and there is a cycle route which links the main pedestrian entrance on Hartswood Road through the park to the Central car park, and from the Hartswood Road car park to link to the main cycle route by the paddling pools. This route is segregated along both of these lengths, but the segregation demarcation lines are now worn and require repainting.

There is also a surfaced path from the Central car park to the Ingrave Road entrance which is used by cyclists, but which is not segregated.

The routes through the park are useful to connect the Ingrave Road and Hartswood Road safely for cyclists and there is a benefit in retaining them.

Since construction of the cycle route guidance on segregated cycle routes has been updated.⁴ The Equality Act 2010 also requires that all facilities are assessed for their suitability for disabled visitors. Given these changes and the need for repainting, it is timely to reassess the suitability of the cycling infrastructure in order to ensure that all visitors can safely and conveniently use the path network.

⁴ Local Transport Note 1/12, Shared Use Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists, September 2012, Department for Transport.

Segregating cyclists from pedestrians is a key decision. Previously it was considered good practice to segregate all routes, but there are both advantages and disadvantages to segregation. Segregation can be useful where:

- Flows are linear without too many junctions or crossings;
- There are high numbers of cyclists;
- There are high numbers of vulnerable users;
- There are high numbers of non-travelling users, e.g. people congregating.

Although cycling traffic flows are not particularly high, given that there are a high number of vulnerable users, which would include children, in addition to the providing for disabled visitors, it is recommended that all cycle routes are segregated.

Such segregation has implications for the required width of the route. As segregating users decreases the width of each path, wider paths are required. Department for Transport (DfT) guidelines⁵ state that the minimum effective width required is 2m for each user group, i.e. a path of 4m width. A width of 1.5 for each user group may be possible for short sections but would not be recommended for longer lengths of path, especially given the need to accommodate disabled visitors.

DfT guidelines also state that cyclists should have priority where the route crosses private accesses to properties. This has particular relevance to the improvement of access from the Ingrave Road entrance which crosses the

⁵ Local Transport Note 1/12, Shared Use Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists, September 2012, Department for Transport, para 7.57.

driveways of the park lodges. However, cycle routes can only be signed to give cyclists priority at a crossing if the route is on a road hump.⁶

This option would be more expensive and it is considered would cause substantial inconvenience to the residents in the park lodges. It may also have safety implications as the residents would have to remember that they do not have priority when entering or exiting their property and would also need to wait on the access drive if visitors were crossing, potentially causing traffic issues around the Ingrave Road entrance.

It is considered that the safer alternative is for the access driveways to retain priority, with no hump. This will, however, require clear signing to ensure all users, including those with disabilities, are clear that the route crosses a private access and that they (pedestrians, cyclists and disabled visitors) do not have priority and that cars could be entering the properties.

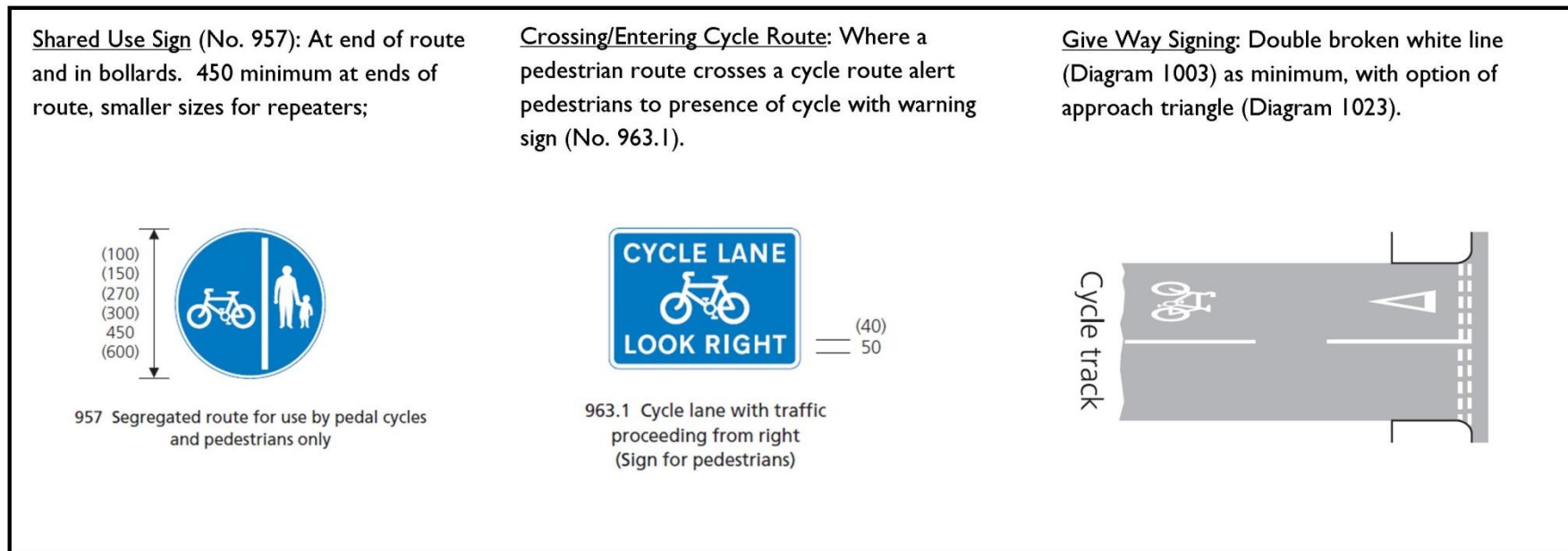
The current form of segregation, with a white line, is preferable for disabled people in that it does not create a trip hazard or barrier to cross with a wheelchair. However, it could be less effective as a means of segregation due to users crossing the line or the markings not being clear to the disabled user themselves. Clear signing around the park is therefore required to ensure all users are clear which paths are cycle routes.

⁶ Direction 34(2) Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (2002).

The existing paths and their suitability for cycling is assessed in Table 4.

From this assessment it is proposed that one main cycling route through the park is provided, with upgrades as required by the new guidelines and in consideration of the Equalities Act 2010. This is shown in Plan 3.

Signing of the route is also important so that all users know where cycling is permitted and where it is not, in order to avoid conflict and create safe conditions. The route is not a highway,⁷ therefore the route does not need to comply with the strict signing requirements as set out by the DfT. However, it would be advisable to follow best practice in this area, shown in the diagram below.⁸



⁷ As the path is not a designated highway, is not a definitive right of way and has not been designated under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984, the route remains a permissive cycle route.

⁸ Department for Transport Local Transport Note 2/08 Cycle Infrastructure Design and Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 3, Section 17, Cycle Facilities.

Table 4: Cycling Assessment

Assessment	Actions Required
<p><u>Ingrave Road Entrance to Central Car Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between entrance and end of houses/Rugby Club House car park the same issues as detailed in the disabled access assessment: both entrance paths too narrow for shared use (approx. 1m), on northern side lack of dropped kerbs crossing access drives to the properties, tree roots lifting path, on southern side a dropped kerb is present but this exits directly into a parking bay; • Between end of houses/Rugby Club House car park path is 2.5m wide, which is insufficient for shared use; • Path crosses entrance to Overflow car park. Give priority to cars and mark give way markings on cycle path; • Path between Overflow car park and Central car park is too narrow. This is a key route and the only route by which disabled visitors can access the main park from the Central car park (see Plan x). It may not be possible to achieve the full recommended width of 4m due but the path should be widening to the fullest extent possible; • The short linking spur onto the main cycle path also needs to be widened and segregated. <p><u>Central Car Park to Hartswood Road Main Pedestrian Entrance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cycle path is 4.5m wide; • Segregation white lining requires reapplying throughout. <p><u>Assessment of Other Paths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The path from Hartswood Road car park is currently marked as a segregated cycle route. However, this path is only 2.5-3m wide and therefore is of insufficient width. Cyclists can in any case gain access from the main pedestrian entrance, which is no less convenient than entering through the Hartswood Road car park; • All other routes, including through the formal garden and paths linking to Hartswood, are of insufficient width and therefore cycling should not be permitted on these paths. <p><u>Cycle Signing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent signing is required on the route and on approaches, as shown on previous page; • In addition, the orientation boards should clearly show the cycle route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access for cycling as part of wider improvement of access at Ingrave Road entrance; • Widen path between end of houses/Rugby Club House car park to 4m and install segregation markings. • Make priorities clear where cycle path crosses entrance to Overflow car park. Give way markings on cycle path, warning signs on both cycle path and entrance to car park. • Widen path between Overflow car park and Central car park to 4m (or widest extent possible), including short spur to link with the main cycle route and segregate with white lining. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reapply segregation white lining. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove segregation white lining from current cycle path linking Hartswood Road with Paddling Pools and make path pedestrian only; • Signing to indicate that cycling is not permitted on other paths. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install additional signing; • Include cycle route on orientation boards.

Car Parks

The three main car parks (Central, Rugby Club House and Hartswood) are generally in good order. The condition of the white lining and surfacing requires monitoring and repair as necessary.

The main issue for the car parking is the condition of the overflow car park. This car park can hold 300 cars and, while termed the ‘overflow’, this car park is constantly used by visitors. When there are events at the park this car park is essential to accommodate visitors and, as new attractions are installed such as the Adventure Golf and Water Park, this car park will be required on a daily basis.

At present this car park does not reflect well on the Council and is not a quality facility for visitors. There are piles of waste (rubble and tree waste) in the car park and the surfacing is poor. This car park requires levelling and surfacing along with other works.

It is also proposed that the Hartswood Road car park is extended. There is a triangular hedged area on the eastern side, which is currently used as a dumping area. This area is unsightly and is not currently in use. The car park size could be increased into this area.

Actions for the car parks are shown in Table 5. Although these do not all relate to physical access and some are related to general maintenance, they are included here for the convenience of listing the actions in one place.

Table 5: Car Parks – Actions

Area	Actions
Rugby Club Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This car park has been improved in the last few years. No actions required.
Central Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove bollards adjacent to path which runs alongside overflow car park (as part of cycle path widening); Bollards at base of slope by changing rooms to prevent cars rolling onto footway and into building;
Overflow Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levelling and surfacing Coppice and replant hedge Remove dumped waste Paint entrance gate black.
Hartswood Road Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove basketball net adjacent to Skate Park; Lower hedge adjacent to Skate Park to 1.8m; Re-fence Council works compound with close boarded fencing to prevent viewing into compound; Plant 4 trees in raised island; Prune/re-plant overgrown shrub bed on eastern side of Council works compound when fencing installed; Extend car park into hedged compound.



Good Design and Infrastructure Improvements

King George's is a green space with distinct areas. The largest part of the park is taken up with sports pitches. Although well-used by sports clubs, the general public do not use these areas heavily, apart from some dog walkers.

The smaller area of the site is the formal gardens and other facilities and these receive the heaviest use.

Access and car parking is rationally laid out, with car parks in convenient locations. The paths are of good quality throughout and, apart from some minor exceptions as listed previously, link the park adequately.

The greatest area of improvement required for the park in terms of general design is to update ageing infrastructure and facilities and to implement a single design standard across the whole park.

In several areas it is clear that signing, bollards, fencing etc. have been added in an *ad hoc* manner, and perhaps without great consideration for the overall design of the park. This is understandable due to the need to respond to particular issues as they arise or due to budget limitations. However, when this infrastructure requires replacement, this should be done in keeping with the design style of the park.

Some trees and areas of shrubs and bedding have become overgrown or the plants over-mature and which now require more intensive management or replacement. A more structured programme of replacement of shrubs would ensure the longevity of the planting and ensure that the park continues to maintain its high standard of visual appeal for the visitor.

The key areas for improvement are set out in Table 6.


Table 6: Good Design, Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvements

Area	Actions
Formal Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubs next to paddling pools are overgrown. Thin shrubs and replant, re-shape holly; • Improve pedestrian entrance from Hartswood Road car park - tidy shrub bed on northern side, replace litter bin, remove bollards, replace kerbing; • Plant bulbs under trees in new avenue from Hartswood Road entrance; • Install more benches in formal gardens and move existing benches away from trees to limit levels of debris; • Re-surface all paths; • Replace old-style litter bins with black bins; • Lift lower branches of all trees.
Sensory Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce height of holly hedge to and remove chain-link fence in the hedge 2m; • Install second entrance/exit; • Remove conifer behind Council works building and crown lift cedar.
Open Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant bulbs either side of main pedestrian entrance from Hartswood Road; • Remove bamboo from shrub bed near play area entrance and lift holly; • Widen path to play area from main cycle track; • Widen path from cycle track to Hartswood; • Install new track from cycle track to Hartswood when Adventure Golf installed; • Replace wooden rail and mesh fencing adjacent to Hartswood Road car park with 4' bow top fencing to match rest of park; • Replace Skate Park fencing with 5' bow top fencing; • Remove old style litter bin opposite Skate Park. • Sign outside Skate Park? • Remove dog bollard outside Skate Park and incorporate 'no dogs' into Skate Park signing and remove graffiti'ed bollard. • Remove redundant and vandalised 'wishing well' feature outside play area. • Plant a few (around 5) trees on open grassland to south of cycle track.
Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace old style litter bins in play area with black bins. • Install clearer 'no dogs' signing.
Entrance Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bollards along the access track are in very poor condition and of a variety of different styles and materials as gaps have been filled. Replace with low bollard/red fencing as around Rugby Club House car park. • Plant bulbs in drifts along main track.
Café and Surrounding Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to paths as detailed; • Replant perennial beds around café terrace; • Repair cracked wall and repoint.

A Safe and Secure Place

The following table provides an assessment of safety and security.

	Assessment	Actions Required
A Safer Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is some antisocial behaviour in the park, but this is sporadic and generally at a low level; • There is no lighting in the park; • There is signing around the park indicating it is a 'Drink Control Area', but this reflects historic misuse and there is no specific enforcement of this; • There is no warden presence, but a grounds maintenance team is dedicated to this site and therefore there is a Brentwood Borough Council presence on site at most times; • There is no CCTV at the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider solar powered lighting in key areas if anti-social behaviour increases.
Entrance Roads and Access	<p><u>Central Car Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement for additional bollards in Central car park at base of slope, as outline previously; • Signing of crossing of Overflow car park, as outline previously; • Existing pedestrian crossing needs warning signs; • Improve disabled access around café as previously outlined to reduce need for disabled people to transit through the car park. <p><u>Ingrave Road Entrance:</u> improvements required as previously outlined, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian crossing. At present there is no safe crossing place of the main drive, with signing; • Improvements to path on northern side to accommodate cyclists and disabled visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install bollards at base of slope. • Implement improvements to cycle path. • Install warning signs at existing pedestrian crossing. • Improvements to paths around café to provide safer access for disabled visitors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install pedestrian crossing as part of entrance improvements, including warning signs.

	Assessment	Actions Required
	<p><u>Entrance Driveway from Ingrave Road:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system of bollards is inadequate in terms of highway infrastructure standards. This could be a particular issue as the driveway is used at night and is not lit. Specific issues to address are: Double yellow lines are obscured by more recent patching; Build-out bollard visibility is low and inadequately signed; The speed and priority flow signing is not within the driveway and competing with parking signing and other furniture as it is placed to one side. Build outs are required and the signing placed within the build out. build out. <p><u>Entrance Driveway from Hartswood Road:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no footway along the drive and it is unsuitable for pedestrian access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remark double yellow lines. Construct build out, install bollards and speed hump, locate signs in speed hump (Priority signing, Give Way to Oncoming Vehicles signing, Keep Right signing and 12 mph speed limit signing). Required at both ends of access driveway.  <p style="text-align: center;">Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install sign indicating no pedestrian access along drive. Ensure pedestrian access is signed and welcoming to encourage visitors to use this route.
Safe Design	<p><u>Sight lines</u> throughout the park are good, except in a few locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern exit from play area, which is obscured heavily by bamboo; Path between bowling lawns and current crazy golf (this is likely to be removed if Adventure Golf proceeds). <p><u>The Sensory Garden</u> is a secluded area with limited visibility into the garden and only one exit/entrance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to retain this as a quiet area, but an additional exit/entrance would improve safety; Lower high holly hedge around garden to 2m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove bamboo from shrub bed outside play area and lift holly. Create additional entrance from Sensory Garden. Lower holly hedge around Sensory Garden.
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need for a Brentwood Council dog Code of Conduct has been outlined previously; The acceptable behaviour of dogs should be displayed clearly on the main orientation boards at all the car parks; It would be useful to have smaller reminder signs, similar to the old waymarkers currently in place, at various locations across the site; The play area needs to be more clearly marked as a dog free area as currently only the smaller waymarkers are in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a dog Code of Conduct; Include information on dogs at entrances and clearly distinguish dog zones. Install reminder posts at key locations.

A Clean and Well-Maintained Place

The maintenance and inspection programme for this park is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Regular Maintenance, King George's Playing Fields

Area	Maintenance
Amenity Grass Areas	Cut every fortnight with ride on mower.
Formal Gardens	Floral displays planted with seasonal bedding in May/June and October. Rose beds pruned in October. Shrub bed along drive pruned annually. Maintenance of perennial beds throughout the season, with post-season maintenance in the winter.
Sports Pitches	Cut fortnightly with ride on mower.
Sensory Garden	Cut fortnightly with pedestrian mower. Shrub beds maintained by the Sensory Garden Club.
Café	Floral displays planted with seasonal bedding in May/June and October. Shrub bed pruned annually.
Lawn Bowling Greens	Fine turf maintenance regime. Hedges cut twice a year. Shrub bed maintained and pruned annually.
Play Area	Grass area cut every two weeks.
Paddling Pools	Grass cut and boxed fortnightly. Rose beds pruned in October.
Headlands	Flail annually.
Ditches	These will require regular maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift overhanging trees over ditches; • Clear culverts; • Clear silt from ditches.

Improvements to Reduce Maintenance and Improve Quality

There are some improvements which could be implemented to retain visual appeal of the formal areas, but which could help to reduce ongoing maintenance:

- Several specimens in the shrub beds along the drive into Hartswood Road car park and along the Hartswood Road frontage are over-mature. It would be preferable to replace these and replant the beds in a structured programme rather than when the shrubs die (as this leaves unsightly gaps). This will also spread the cost of replacement;
- Increase sustainability and reduce maintenance with perennial planting and grasses, whilst retaining some areas for the 'traditional' King George's floral bedding;
- Increase perennial bedding in the Sensory Garden, while retaining a good mix of appropriate plants to provide texture, scent and colour.

Boundaries with Neighbouring Land

There is a small woodland owned by Brentwood Borough Council on the north eastern boundary, adjacent to properties on the Ingrave Road and Bridge Close. Although there is no promoted public access, the residents of these properties clearly use the woodland as an access route to the park. Therefore the trees in this woodland should be annually inspected, with particular attention to those close to the boundaries of properties.

The property ownership boundary line along the eastern side of the site is the ditch line. Most of the trees bounding the site are on the eastern side of the ditch line and are therefore the responsibility of the owners of the adjacent properties rather than the Borough Council. As these trees

overhang the pitches they should also be inspected annually. Any works to be carried out will be the responsibility of the neighbouring landowner.

All other boundaries are with other Brentwood Borough Council owned land (Hartswood, Brentwood Golf Centre, allotments).

Conservation and Heritage

King George's Playing Fields are intensively used with little 'spare' space for wildlife enhancement or for creating specific areas of habitat. However, those natural features which are on site should be managed to promote their wildlife value.

Existing Native Hedgerows

There are native hedgerows along the boundary with Brentwood Golf and separating the most southerly two pitches.

Both the clipped hedge and the overgrown hedge which bound the Overflow car park are comprised of native species. The hedge bounding the car park is in poor condition and requires coppicing and replanting.

Native species should be used when gapping up these hedgerows.

Small Woodland behind Properties on Ingrave Road

This small area of woodland has a high quantity of holly in the understorey and it would be beneficial to remove this.

Safety inspections should be carried out as previously outlined.

Implementation

Action Table

A spreadsheet of all the required actions has been provided alongside this document. This spreadsheet is intended to be a live, working document to be updated by Brentwood Borough Council staff. Provided here is a summary of actions at the time this plan was produced.

The actions are show in Plans 3 - 6.

Area of Site	Code	Description	Internal or External Contractor	Financial Year 2014/15	Financial Year 2015/16	Financial Year 2016/17	Financial Year 2017/18	Financial Year 2018/19
Year I 2014/2015								
Ingrave Road Entrance	KGPF1	Remove temporary advertising signs	Internal	✓				
Ingrave Road Entrance	KGPF2	Remove and replace pathway to create cycle path and disabled access (widen path to 4m, locate towards park lodges)	External	✓				
Ingrave Road Entrance	KGPF3	Install Pedestrian crossing and signing as per Plan x as part of entrance improvements	External	✓				
Ingrave Road Entrance	KGPF4	Install additional fingerpost to guide into main park	Internal	✓				
Café	KGPF12	Install toe rail on disabled toilet ramp	External	✓				
Café	KGPF13	Install wheelchair accessible picnic bench	Internal	✓				
Café	KGPF14	Repair wall and replant perennial bed surrounding picnic plateau	External	✓				

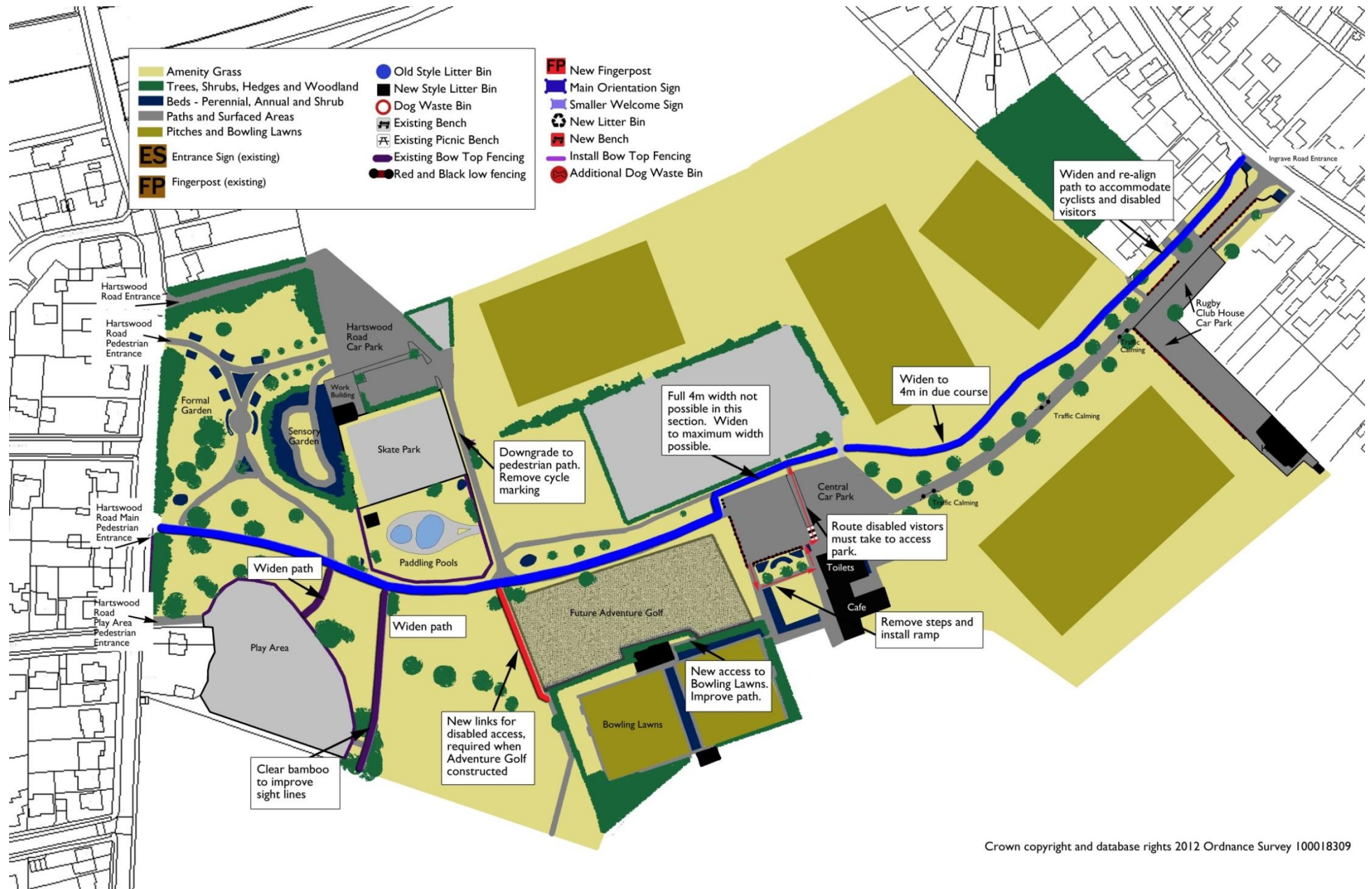
Area of Site	Code	Description	Internal or External Contractor	Financial Year 2014/15	Financial Year 2015/16	Financial Year 2016/17	Financial Year 2017/18	Financial Year 2018/19
Café	KGPF15	Remove unreadable sign for Hartswood Access Trail. Install new signing after new routing following installation of Adventure Golf	Internal	✓				
Central Car Park	KGPF16	Install signing for pedestrian crossing	Internal	✓				
Central Car Park	KGPF19	Install additional dog waste bin near main park entrance	Internal	✓				
Overflow Car Park	KGPF23	Paint gate in black to match rest of park	Internal	✓				
Formal Gardens	KGPF24	Plant a maximum of 5 trees on the grassed area to the east of the Overflow car park	Internal	✓				
Formal Gardens	KGPF26	Install dog waste bin at pedestrian entrance on Hartswood Road, adjacent to vehicle entrance.	Internal	✓				
Formal Gardens	KGPF29	Replace old style litter bins	Internal	✓				
Parkland	KGPF37	Western exit from play area - remove bamboo and lift and thin holly.	Internal	✓				
Parkland	KGPF38	Remove old style litter bin between benches	Internal	✓				
Parkland	KGPF40	Install dog waste bin at entrance from Hartswood	Internal	✓				
Bowling	KGPF41	Widen path to Bowls House and make this the main facility entrance	External	✓				
Sensory Garden	KGPF45	Reduce holly hedge to 1.8m	Internal	✓				
Sensory Garden	KGPF46	Lift trees adjacent to works depot and remove conifer	Internal	✓				
Hartswood Road Car Park	KGPF47	Plant trees in island between car park areas	Internal	✓				

Area of Site	Code	Description	Internal or External Contractor	Financial Year 2014/15	Financial Year 2015/16	Financial Year 2016/17	Financial Year 2017/18	Financial Year 2018/19
Hartwood Road Car Park	KGPF52	Remove basketball net	Internal	✓				
Skate Park	KGPF54	Replace old style litter bin	Internal	✓				
Play Area	KGPF55	Replace old style litter bins	Internal	✓				
Year 2 2015/2016								
Ingrave Road Entrance	KGPF5	Install orientation sign	Internal		✓			
Entrance Drive	KGPF9	Plant bulbs in drifts along Entrance Drive	External		✓			
Café	KGPF11	Replace all paved paths, install ramp and re-site benches	External		✓			
Central Car Park	KGPF17	Remove bollards between car park and path adjacent to Overflow car park, widen path to maximum available width	External		✓			
Overflow Car Park	KGPF20	Level car (or create split level) and surface with	External		✓			
Overflow Car Park	KGPF22	Improve access points to pitches through hedge	External		✓			
Formal Gardens	KGPF33	Lift all trees	External		✓			
Formal Gardens	KGPF34	Thin shrub bed to east of paddling pools, re site bench away from trees	Internal		✓			
Bowling	KGPF42	Install ramp at existing main entrance	External		✓			
Sensory Garden	KGPF43	Create additional exit/entrance on eastern side between benches	External		✓			
Hartwood Road Car Park	KGPF51	Replace wooden post and mesh fencing with 1.2m bow top fencing to match	External		✓			
Skate Park	KGPF53	Replace chainmesh fencing with bow top	External		✓			

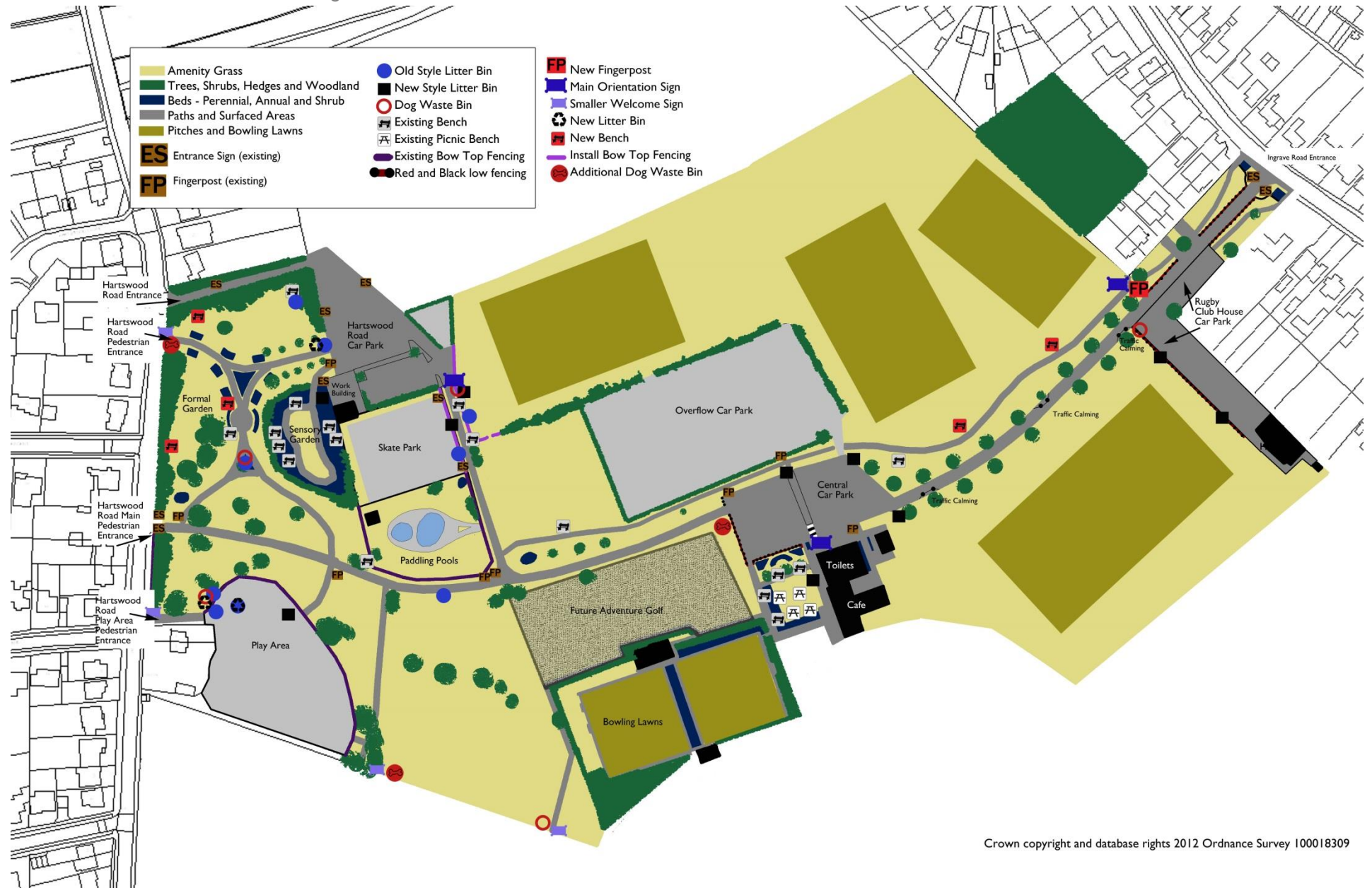
Area of Site	Code	Description	Internal or External Contractor	Financial Year 2014/15	Financial Year 2015/16	Financial Year 2016/17	Financial Year 2017/18	Financial Year 2018/19
Year 3 2016/2017								
Entrance Drive	KGPF6	Replace bollards along both sides of main drive with fencing to match	External			✓		
Entrance Drive	KGPF7	Replace traffic calming with build outs	External			✓		
Entrance Drive	KGPF8	Widen path between park lodges and Central car park to 4m, segregation marking and signing	External			✓		
Entrance Drive	KGPF10	Install benches near to path	Internal			✓		
Central Car Park	KGPF18	Install main orientation board for the park in prominent place	External			✓		
Formal Gardens	KGPF27	Install additional benches in formal gardens	External			✓		
Formal Gardens	KGPF28	Replant perennial bed closest to Hartswood Road main entrance	Internal			✓		
Formal Gardens	KGPF30	Plant bulbs under new trees outside Sensory Garden	External			✓		
Sensory Garden	KGPF44	Remove chainlink fence	External			✓		
Hartswood Road Car Park	KGPF48	Replace fence around works building with close boarded or similar	External			✓		
Hartswood Road Car Park	KGPF49	Install orientation board	External			✓		

Area of Site	Code	Description	Internal or External Contractor	Financial Year 2014/15	Financial Year 2015/16	Financial Year 2016/17	Financial Year 2017/18	Financial Year 2018/19
Year 4 2017/2018								
Overflow Car Park	KGPF21	Coppice hedge on northern side and replant	External				✓	
Formal Gardens	KGPF25	Improve pedestrian access next to vehicle entrance from Hartswood Road. To include removing bollards and replacing with rail to match, removing dog fouling signs and replace with Welcome sign, dropped kerb. Clear signing for pedestrians to use this entrance not main entrance drive.	External				✓	
Formal Gardens	KGPF31	Plant bulbs either side of main Hartswood Road pedestrian entrance (central entrance)	External				✓	
Formal Gardens	KGPF32	Improve entrance from Hartswood Road car park (remove old bollards, install Welcome sign, remove litter bin, tidy up shrub bed, install low red rail)	External				✓	
Parkland	KGPF35	Widen path between central cycle route and play area to 3.5m	External				✓	
Parkland	KGPF36	Widen path between central cycle route and Hartswood to 3.5m	External				✓	
Parkland	KGPF39	Install additional path to Hartswood Access trail to link with cycle path when Adventure Golf is installed	External				✓	
Hartswood Road Car Park	KGPF50	Extend car park into current waste compound	External				✓	
Cycle Path	KGPF56	Rationalise and upgrade cycle path; widening, lining and signing throughout	External				✓	

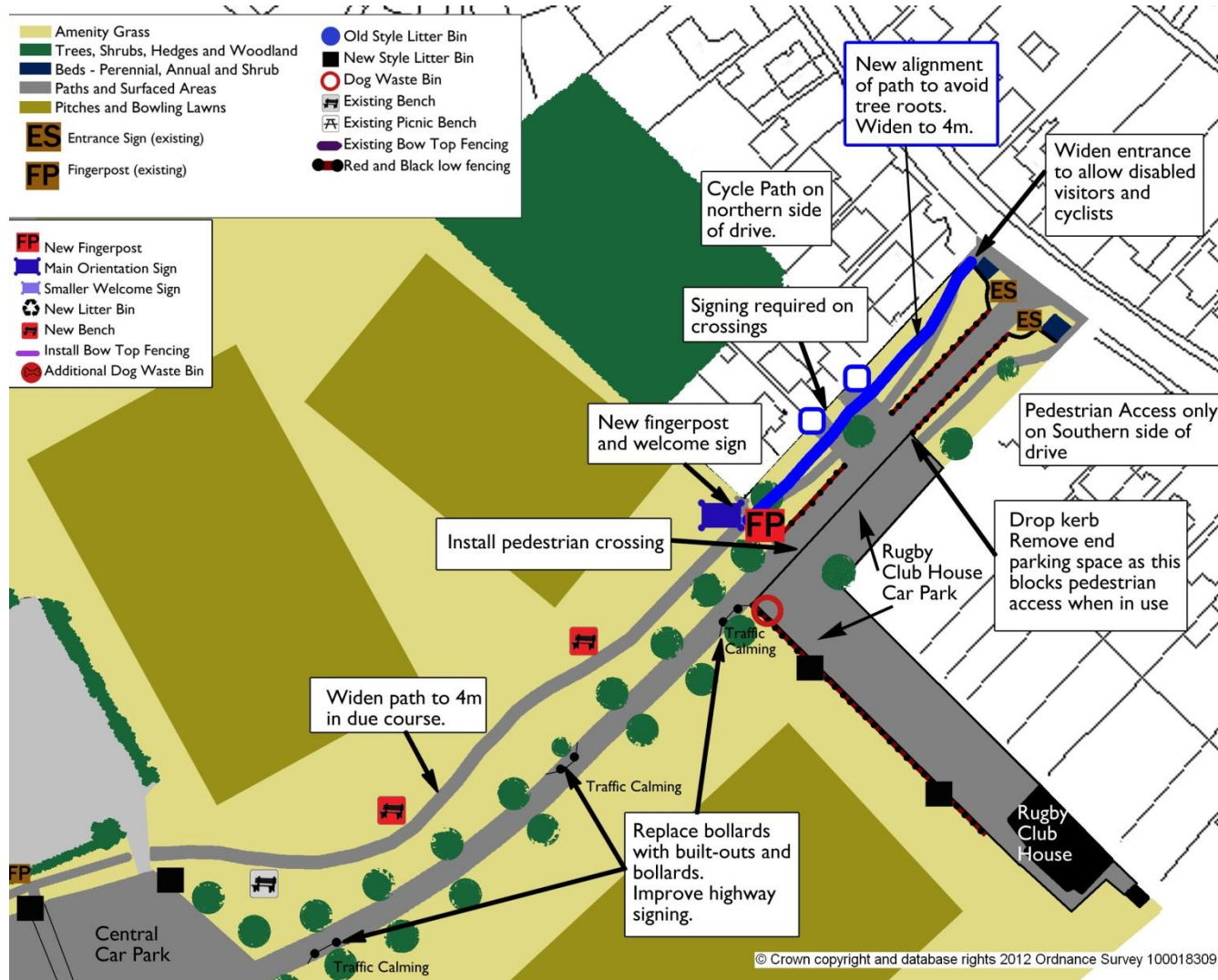
Plan 3: Main Improvements to Path Network



Plan 4: Additional Benches, Bins and Signs



Plan 5: Ingrave Road Entrance Improvements



Plan 6: Café Area Improvements

