



War Memorial Park



Management Plan 2024 - 2034



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Declaration



Coventry City Council (the Council) recognises and accepts the need to provide the financial resources required to implement the Management Plan for War Memorial Park for a minimum period of ten years.

The Council agrees to up-hold the standards of management and maintenance indicated within the plan, to be evidenced by securing a Green Flag Award.

The 10-Year Management Plan, is formally adopted by the Council.

Tim Wetherhill
Parks and Open Spaces Manager
Coventry City Council

December 2024

Executive Summary



War Memorial Park is Coventry's premier park at almost 50 ha in size, it is the largest green space within the city boundary, which had the benefit of almost £3m lottery funding in 2010/11. It is a worthy site for investment to improve the range of facilities it offers to a culturally diverse city. The investment helped to protect, conserve, enhance and interpret the park's heritage value, both physical and social. It is recognised that previous capital investment there is a need also to review how the park is managed and maintained.

This is a 10-Year Management Plan that sets out standards of care for the period 2024- 2034. It builds upon the work completed during the lottery bidding process and will be further evolved as the plan progresses.

Improved standards of care are not solely about revenue budgets. The skills, training and 'sense of ownership' of park staff have an influence on the perceptions and realities of care.

Also having a clear focus and plan of work are key ingredients to successful park management. The roles and potential responsibilities of stakeholders also require investigation. This plan sets out a comprehensive review of all these factors. It assesses the financial needs matched to a training and volunteering strategy. It identifies those partners who can contribute to local capacity building and proposes a more inclusive decision-making process. Previous injection of Parks for People Funding into War Memorial Park has seen it transformed, becoming a park of regional significance. It requires high standards of care from the site-based maintenance staff who are now under the direct control of the Senior Estate Officer and Coombe and War Memorial Park Manager, to ensure that this significance is protected.

Supporting documents and further detailed information has been included in the appendices.



Part 1

Where are we now?

1. Introduction



1.1 What sort of management plan?

Parks Service and to meet Green Flag guidelines.

The main reasons for developing this management plan are to:

- Set out a clear vision for War Memorial Park
- Promote consensus through consultation and involvement
- Ensure continuity and capacity
- Prepare for change
- Ensure the site is properly described
- Provide a framework for making decisions
- Set clear standards
- Enable strategic planning
- Set out a clear and achievable action plan
- Establish a framework for monitoring achievement of the action plan

'The management plan needs to be a site-specific, working document that provides a clear vision of the site's development and should identify how the Green Flag criteria are managed and maintained.' – Green Flag Guidelines

1.2 Structure of management plan

This management plan is based on a structure that has been devised to meet the needs of the Council's

Where are we now?

- Introduction
- Policy Context
- Site Description

Where do we want to get to?

- Vision
- Assessment and Analysis
- Aims and Objectives

How will we get there?

- Work / Action Plan
- Finance and Resources

How will we know when we have arrived?

- Monitor and Review

1.3 Intended audience

This management plan is first and foremost a working document that will be a reference point to potentially all who have an interest in the management of War Memorial Park such as the Council, site contractors, and residents' groups. It has been written to clarify what decisions the Council and the sites' managers have made with regard to how the site should be used, and consequently how it will be maintained.

It also contains the background information and the reasoning behind the decisions.

1.4 Period of the plan and stages of review

This management plan has been written to cover a period of 10 years, from 2024 to March 2034, it supports the submission for the Green Flag Award. It has been re-written to include the changes to the park since the lottery funded project was completed. It will remain in circulation and as the foremost guide to decision making for War Memorial Park until 2034, unless subsequent review of the

whole document decides that revision is necessary. It is acknowledged that circumstances may change within Coventry City Council, and within the park. As a working document, it will have to react to such changes and be dynamic enough to accommodate change. It has therefore incorporated stages of review which will measure performance. The management team will meet to discuss the success and failure of any decisions and work. It will also be necessary for the management team to meet and write the next year's work plan. A review will take place annually to allow for monitoring of work in progress as well as work proposed.

1.5 Management Team

Environmental Services

Strategic Lead Environmental Services – Sarah Elliott

Parks & Open Spaces Manager – Tim Wetherhill

War Memorial and Coombe Park Manager – Emma Cosgrove

Senior Estate Officer – Roland Mackie

2 The Local Context



2.1 The Council

The Chief Executive is responsible for making sure decisions made by Councillors are carried out and that services are well run. They are supported in this work by two Executive Directors, each responsible for a group of Council services.

These are:

- People - responsible for a wide range of services including adults' and children's social care, education, libraries, and public health.
- Place - leads the services delivering highways, transportation, waste and street services, planning, inward investment, and regeneration.

The Council has a Cabinet and Scrutiny system. Each of the 10 Cabinet Members are responsible for one part of the Council's services.

Cabinet meets monthly and Members hold individual meetings throughout the year. These meetings are held in public. The current council members can be found in Appendix 2.

2.2 The Community

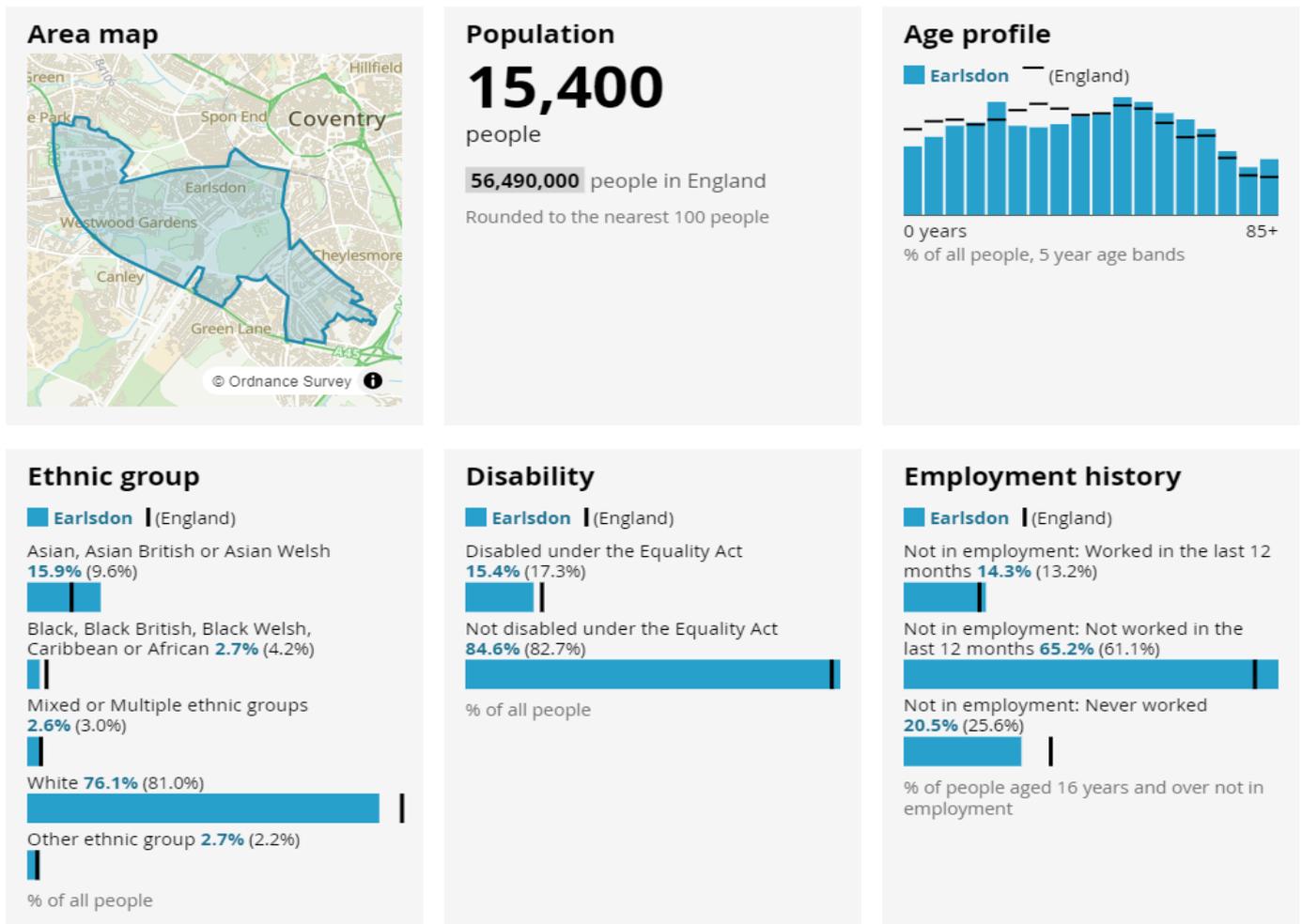
War Memorial Park is situated within Earlsdon ward. The neighbourhood is considered to be one of the most desirable districts of Coventry. With little redevelopment Earlsdon has managed to keep much of its natural scenery. Earlsdon has many neighbourhood groups who meet throughout the year to discuss local issues such as anti-social behaviour and crime issues, as well as successes within the area.



Figure 2: Council Wards

Coventry has a population of over 345,000 people, with just over 15,000 people residing in Earlsdon Ward.

Earlsdon



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

2.3 Other local green spaces

Coventry City Council own and manage numerous neighbourhood parks in the vicinity, including Top Green, Spencer Park, and Quinton Park. These are generally managed as open space with play areas or sports pitches.

More significant parks convenient for travel from the city centre include:

Allesley Park (a Green Flag park) - situated approximately 3 miles west of the city centre off the Allesley Old Road. The park is 36 Hectares in size, facilities include a golf course, play area, car park, crazy golf course, extensive footpaths and open grassed parkland.

Caludon Castle Park (a Green Flag park) - situated approximately 3 miles east of the city centre. The park is 10 Hectares in size and is the site of the partial castle ruin. Facilities include a play area, car park and open grassed parkland.

Holbrooks Park - situated approximately 3 miles north of the city centre. The park is 12 Hectares in size with sports pitches with changing room facilities, a play area, skate bowl and car park.

Longford Park (a Green Flag park) - situated approximately 4 miles north of the city centre. The park is 26 hectares, through which the River Sowe flows. Facilities include a changing room, MUGA (multi use games area), skate park, play area, football pitches, extensive footpaths, cycle way and formal gardens.

Spencer Park – located half a mile from the War Memorial Park, Spencer Park is a small sport pay and play site approximately half a mile south of the city centre, 1.6 hect- areas in size. Facilities include a play area, tennis courts and a bowling green. Facilities are managed by the Friends of Spencer Park.

2.4 Other local facilities

Educational facilities, community centres and places of worship within the catchment area of War Memorial Park include:

Educational facilities:

- Stivichall Primary School
- Grange Farm Primary School
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
- Coventry Preparatory School *
- Manor Park Primary School
- Davenport Lodge School *
- Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School
- Finham Primary School
- Finham Park School
- King Henry VIII School *
- Howes Community Primary School
- Earlsdon Primary School

(* Denotes private school)

Places of Worship:

- St James Church
- St Martin In The Fields C Of E Church
- St Martins Vicarage, Green Lane Coventry
- St Thomas More R C Church
- Quinton Park Baptist Church
- Quinton Park Coventry
- New Horizon Church
- St Barbara's Church
- Queens Road Baptist Church
- St Joseph The Worker R C Church
- Baginton Road United Reformed Church

Community Centres:

- Coventry West Indian Community Centre
- Whoberley Youth & Community Centre
- St Peter's Community Centre
- Hope Centre Coventry Ltd
- Hillfield Young Peoples Centre
- Horn Diaspora Community Foundations
- Cheylesmore Community Centre
- Stoke Aldermoor Community Centre

3 Policy Context and Strategic Significance



3.1 Coventry Partnership

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Coventry represents partners from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. The Partnership for Coventry priority is “Growing the city and Tackling Poverty”. This priority cannot be addressed by one organisation on its own, but together partners bring their combined resources, energy, and creativity to meet the economic, social, and environmental needs of Coventry by working together to improve the ‘quality of life’ of residents and to improve the city as a place to live, work and play.

The Partnership for Coventry is well established in Coventry with good working relationships and effective participation of all partners. Partners recognised that joint ventures and cooperative and collaborative working will give better results, reduce duplication and lead to greater efficiencies. The Partnership will work together to deliver positive change within the city.

Priority:

- Growing the city and tackling poverty

Themes:

- Getting people into good jobs
- Raising Incomes and financial Inclusion
- Early action and communities
- Better understanding and evaluation

The Coventry Partnership feeds into the strategic direction for the council and contributes to all plans. It directly links with the Parks Service via the Feeding Coventry Group. The Park Service works with this group to promote sustainable food growing using community growing schemes such as at Glentworth Road and also by planting community orchards and fruiting hedges on our sites.

3.2 Council Plan 2016 - 2024

This plan sets out our vision for the city and our priorities for the next eight years - based on our commitments to the people of Coventry and the issues that residents have told the Council are the most important to them. It builds on the council's previous plan and reflects the progress that has been made since this was written some five years ago.

"The Council has an overall budget of £ 233 million a year to deliver hundreds of services across the city. But in this we have £95 million a year less in central government support than we did in 2010. By the end of the decade, this will rise to £120million a year; the equivalent of £234 less to spend on every person living in Coventry.

These government spending cuts are, of course, a major challenge to us and will mean we will have to make some difficult decisions about services over the coming months." (Leader, George Duggins, 2016)

The Coventry Plan sets out at a strategic level the key issues that need to be tackled in partnership by organisations throughout the city. Although based on the current Community Plan, the new Sustainable Community Strategy will have a longer timeframe and will look to 2026 to fit better with regional spatial and economic strategies and spatial planning timescales.

3.2.1 Coventry's Local Plan 2011 – 2031 and Local Plan 2021-41

The Coventry Local Plan was formally adopted by the Council on 6 December 2017 following receipt of the Planning Inspector's Report. The Local Plan is the statutory document used by the Council to determine planning applications. The Local Plan including the adoption statements and all evidence examined in public can be found in local libraries. Please use the interactive online policies map to view our Local Plan policies map.

The local plan designates War Memorial Park as Local Green Space. Thus, is seen as where green space is special to the local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of it's beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of it's wildlife. The park is protected through Local Plan policies on Green Infrastructure and Greenspace and those on Conservation and Heritage Assets.

The formal consultation stage of the Coventry Local Plan 2021-41 has just concluded. This maintains the Local Green Space designation for the park and it's protective policies.

View the Local Plan by topic or view our planning homepage if you are searching for a specific planning application or looking for other Development Management considerations. The City Centre Area Action Plan (CCAAP) has been in place following adoption on 6 December 2017. The CCAAP provides a blueprint for the development of the City Centre only across the next decade. It is a statutory document that provides planning policies to guide development in the City Centre.

The Inspector's reports, the Modified Final Plan, SA/SEA reports and Adoption Statement for all examined plans are available online for public inspection free of charge.

3.3 Cov Culture

The Park Service is fully engaged in the cultural life of Coventry by virtue of its incidental use of sites by citizens of Coventry daily, by use of its sites for city scale and many local community events, it's participation in the Positive Images Festival and, more recently, by its engagement with the City of Culture Team via our partnership and community engagement work.

The full Cultural Strategy can be supplied upon request and is available to download from the website [COV-Cultural-Strategy-Engagement-Final-2022.pdf](#)

(culturechangecoventry.com)

3.4 Green Space Strategy

The Green Space Strategy was developed to provide a strategic framework for the future management of Coventry's parks and green spaces. The strategy also addressed the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17), which sets out government guidance in relation to the development of clear and transparent planning policies for parks, open spaces, outdoor sports and recreational facilities. The guidance calls for local authorities to set standards for parks and open spaces that recognise both the present level of provision, and local people's views and aspirations regarding the present and future provision.

The vision of Coventry City Council for green space is:

'To provide attractive, high quality accessible green spaces that are well maintained, safe, clean and are important to local people. This will be achieved through clear, open and robust planning policies that ensure that green space contributes to local character and plays an important role in everyday life of residents whilst supporting the regeneration of the city.'

The City Council identified War Memorial Park as the Premier Park for the city on the grounds that significant numbers of people visit the park from all over the city. The park is easily accessible by public transport and is close to the city centre. The park includes many attractive features and is of a scale that provides a rich variety of opportunities.

3.5 Equality Strategy

Coventry City Council is committed to making a difference to the lives of the people of Coventry by improving equality of access to Council services and ensuring that our employment opportunities are fair and that our workforce reflects the demographics of our city.

We intend to achieve this by challenging discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

As a Council and as a city, we have come a long way but, we are still determined to make improving equality of opportunity in Coventry, an integral part of all that we do by placing equality at the heart of the Council's commitment to service quality and improvement.

During these difficult financial times, we need to ensure that the decisions we make on how we allocate resources, how we design or redesign our services and how we enable access to Council services, are taken in the knowledge and understanding of how these decisions advantage or disadvantage any community. This is challenging.

This Equality Strategy builds on the Council's objectives for Coventry set out in the Council Plan and is the result of a robust consultation process with people who work, learn and live in Coventry, and focuses on those areas of inequality which impact most on the lives of local people. We will continue to embrace this approach and focus on these key equality objectives and the things that matter to the people of Coventry. This will enable the Council to continue to make a very real difference to people's lives and help to increase equality of opportunity in our city.

3.6 Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

The Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Coventry City Council provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. It delivers:

- A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- A series of strategic recommendations.
- A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritise and can address key issues.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- Stage D: Develop the Strategy
- Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

- Recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises.

The following types of outdoor sports facilities are covered by the PPOSS:

- Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- Rugby league pitches
- Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- Golf courses
- Athletics tracks
- Outdoor bowling greens
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Outdoor netball courts

Other grass pitch sports (e.g., lacrosse and American football) are also included, where there is a presence within the City. Where no activity has been identified, the sports are not included, although that is not to say that they are not played informally.

3.7 Climate Change Strategy for Coventry

[Climate Change Strategy – Coventry City Council](#) is an important step for the city in its efforts to tackle the climate and nature emergencies, taking bold action will help create a better future for everyone

Tackling the climate and natural emergencies are arguably two of the biggest challenges we face as a city, and globally. The Council recognise the importance of our role as a leader in tackling the causes and consequences of climate change in Coventry, however we cannot do this alone so in November 2021 the Council led the development of an Independent Climate Change Board Chaired by Margot James, with Vice Chair Cllr Jim O’Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change.

The Board oversees implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan, as well as continuing to generate new ideas and opportunities, alongside establishing effective ways to engage and involve residents and organisations.



The Board and this Strategy will deliver against the [UN’s Sustainable Development Goals](#), which provides a holistic approach to tackling the climate and natural emergencies. To do this we have adopted (and tweaked) the principles of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives Five Development Pathways. Pathway Groups are working as part of the Climate Change Board to identify priorities and opportunities to ensure we deliver lasting and meaningful change.

3.8 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Local Biodiversity Action Plans are an effective mechanism for reviewing the local wildlife resource and setting out of the steps required to increase biodiversity. War Memorial Park is covered by the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local BAP.

The BAP sets out challenges to maximise habitats through Habitat Action Plans (HAP) while enhancing the recreational value of such sites. The core objectives included are:

- To identify the more ecologically important parks and open spaces and their ownership
- To maximise our knowledge of such sites and ensure they are appropriately designated (e.g. SINC, TPO, Conservation Areas)
- To maintain and enhance the extent and quality of semi-natural habitats in and around parks and public open spaces with priority given to those holding UK BAP Priority Species, Red Data Book Species, Nationally Scarce and Regionally Scarce Species
- To promote good management practice in parks and public open spaces which will maximise their wildlife value without compromising safety, and to share knowledge through the development of a network of regular communication between landowners and practitioners.
- To encourage local communities to undertake local action that enhances the contribution of parks and public open spaces to biodiversity.
- These objectives are highly relevant to the management of War Memorial Park, especially as the ecological value of the park is currently rated as low.

3.9 Rewards and Recognition

The War Memorial Park has retained the Green Flag Award since 2011

4 Legal issues



4.1 Ownership

The park was gifted to the people of Coventry in 1921, and it is owned and held in trust for Coventrians by Coventry City Council.

4.2 Byelaws and the Control of Dog Faeces

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and the Dog Control Orders Regulations 2006 allow Coventry City Council to require owners to clean up after their dog in areas designated under the order. The Council has designated all highways (including roads, footpaths, school playing fields, woodland, sports fields and parks). All dogs are excluded from entering children's play areas within War Memorial Park.

Dog owners who are caught not 'picking up' face receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice for £100. Non-payment of this notice could result in prosecution where magistrates can set much higher fines.

4.3 Concessions

The parks catering concessions were let to No Ordinary Hospitality Management in 2022. NOHM operate the Park Bistro, Park Gelato and Grab and Go.

4.4 Licenses

A licence to provide inflatable play equipment is granted annually at present.

A licence to operate the tennis courts facilities was granted to Inspire to Coach in 2021 for a 5-year term.

4.5 Listings and Designations

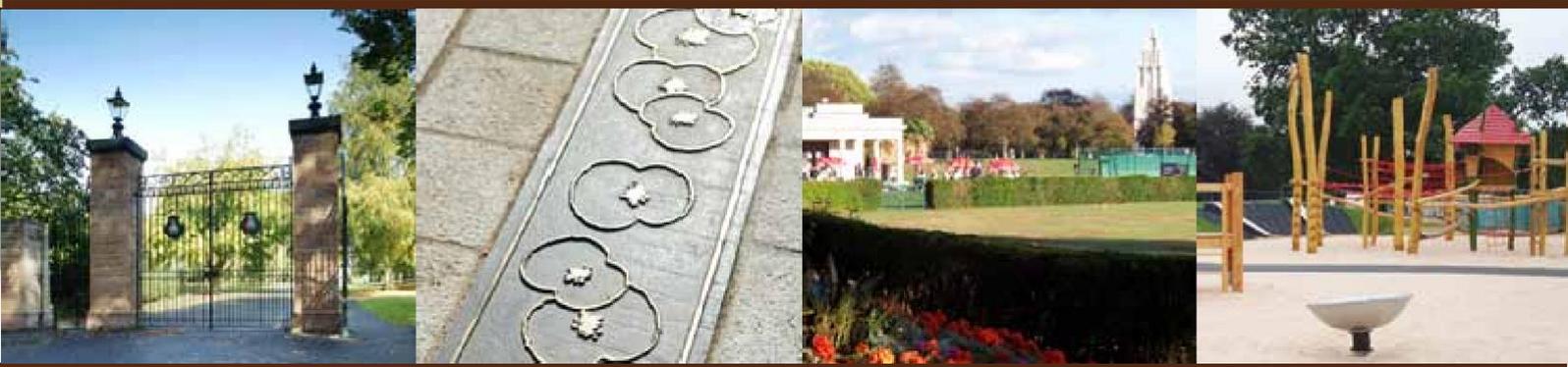
Buildings are listed by English Heritage to help protect the best of our architectural heritage.

Listed buildings are graded to show their relative importance:

- Grade I buildings are those of exceptional interest
- Grade II* are particularly important buildings of more than special interest
- Grade II are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them

In 2013 the Park was listed as grade II on the statutory register of Historic Parks and gardens of historic interest in England. The War Memorial is a grade II* listed building in its own right. In 2014 the Park became the first park designated in the national Centenary Fields programme. These designations are highly significant as an important part of the City's heritage. They should protect the Park from inappropriate development.

5 Site description



5.1 Overview

Name of Site	War Memorial Park
Address	Kenilworth Road, Coventry CV3 6PT
Ownership	Coventry City Council
Management	Coventry City Council
Site Area	48.50 hectares
Map Reference	432492,277138
Ward	Earlsdon
Councillors	Antony Tucker, Dr. Kindy Sandhu, Dr. Lynette Kelly
Local Hierarchy	Premier Park

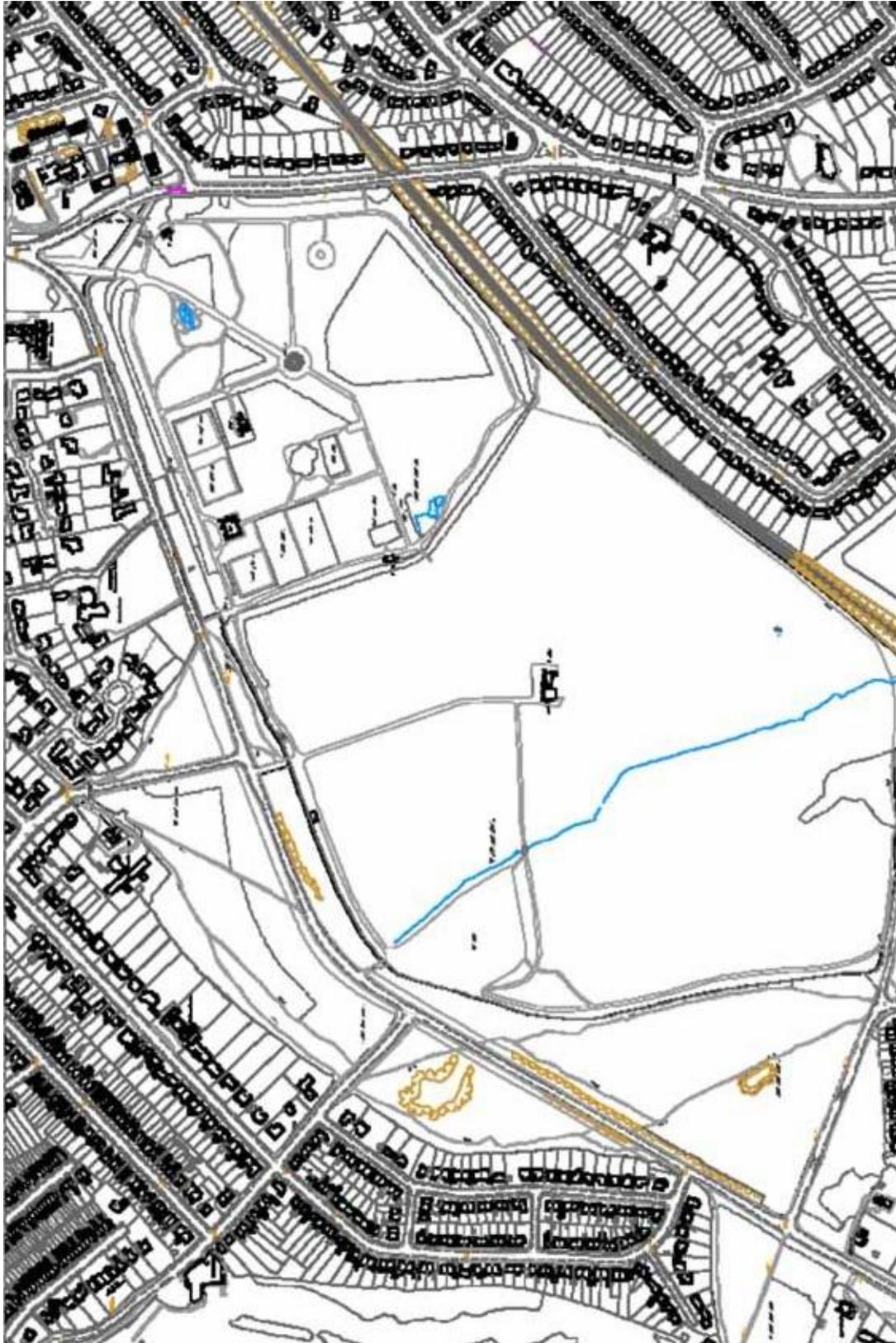


Figure 3: Plan of War Memorial Park

Figure 4: Aerial Views of War Memorial Park



52 A brief history of War Memorial Park

The War Memorial Park is located in the ancient parish of Stivichall, approximately 1.5 km south of the modern city centre of Coventry and occupies an area of approximately 48.5 ha. It is bounded to the north-west by the Kenilworth Road, to the east by the Leamington Road, to the south-east by the mainline Coventry and Leamington railway (built 1842, formerly LNWR) and to south and south-west by the Coat of Arms Bridge Road.

The medieval village of Stivichall developed along what is now the Leamington Road, though all trace of the original settlement has since been lost, first to farm engrossment in the 18th century, later to the construction of the railway in 1842 and to 20th-century suburbanization, only the Parish Church of St James survives, itself an early 19th-century rebuild of a medieval predecessor, demolished in 1810 though buildings of 17th-century date survive to the west at Stivichall Croft, near Coat of Arms Bridge.

The former closes which comprise the Park have their own local historical significance. Some of them were assarts from the wildwood, probably enclosed in the years around 1300; others were formerly part of the open fields of the village of Stivichall, informally enclosed before 1700. Remnants of the ridge and furrow of these fields survive in the archaeology of the park, as does the evidence of the mediaeval roads which cross the site, one of which forms the division between the formal park and the playing fields. The ditch which crosses the southern park represents the boundaries of ancient fields.

Medieval Period – 16th Century

Stivichall was not mentioned in Domesday but is thought may have been included in the entry for Coventry. It is first mentioned as one of several chapelries 'restored' to Coventry Priory by Ranulf de Gernon, Earl of Chester, in the early 12th century. Shortly after Ranulf's death in 1153, his son Hugh de Kevelioc, granted the estate to Walter Durdent, Bishop of Coventry (at the time styled Bishop of Chester), who remained lord of the manor until the mid-16th century when the estate was sold

to Thomas Fisher of Warwick in 1547. In 1160, it consisted of settled land with a manor house occupied by a local lord, a mixture of villain and free tenants and a well-developed system of open fields. Fisher sold much of this purchase to Thomas and Arthur Gregory of Coventry in 1563.

17th Century – 19th Century

Some land was retained and by 1619 had been sold by Fishers' grandson to Sir Clement Fisher (not a relative) of Packington. It is supposed that this is the land which was recorded in the eighteenth century as belonging to the Earl of Aylesford, descendant of Clement Fisher. Most of the closes which became the Park were the property of the Earl of Aylesford in 1787, and so are likely to be part of the land which had been retained by the Fisher family. It was sold to Arthur Gregory in 1842.

Early 20th Century

In 1919, an appeal was made to raise funds for a memorial fitting to the remembrance of the servicemen of Coventry, fallen during the First World War. The site at Stivichall Common was acquired by the City and opened to the public on 9th July 1921, though little work had been achieved by this time beyond the removal of hedge boundaries and the infilling of ditches.

The decision to purchase was clearly influenced by the long history of public enjoyment of Stivichall Common the Grove and the Kenilworth Road Spinneys, which were one of the most photographed areas of open land surrounding the city. The common, though always regarded as part of the Park, was never intended to be enclosed within it, and was proposed to retain its rustic character. The Spinneys were acquired a little later to protect the landscape quality of the much loved Common and the approach to the city from the south.



Figure 5: War Memorial Park
Opening Ceremony

1920s

Early works to the park concentrated on establishing an infrastructure of pitches and basic facilities which continued to develop throughout the 1920s.

1921 Jul 9	Formal opening of the park
1921	Drinking fountain placed on Earlsdon Lane
1921	First sports provision in the park
1922	Beginning of construction of footpaths
1922	Fencing railway boundary
1923 Feb	Decision on location of main entrance and War Memorial and to plant memorial trees
1923	Erection of temporary bandstand
1923	Hospital Carnival
1923 Jun	First hospital carnival to be held in the park
1923 Jul	First drumhead service held
1923 Sep	Approval of layout
1924	Design for War Memorial
1925 Feb	First planting of memorial trees

1925	First temporary dressing rooms
1926	First four hard tennis courts
1926	Rock gardens constructed
1926	First car parking in the park
1926	Purchase of Stoneleigh estate and the spinneys
1926	First tennis courts constructed
1927	Completion of bowling greens
1927	Sale of Stivichall estate to Coventry for housing development. Demolition of Stivichall Hall begins
1927 Feb	Gates completed
1927	Memorial completed and opened
1928	Extension of City boundary to include the park and Stoneleigh estate
1929	Removal of bandstand
1929	Playing fields leveled
1929	Car park near the Grove

1930s

1930	Oaks begin to be planted
1930	Golf Course and putting green
1931	Rose garden
1932	Acquisition of Stivichall Croft; extension of city boundary to include it
1933	Riding circuit (removed 1935)
1933-5	Planning and construction of pavilions and shelters.
1935	Aviary

1940s

1941 Nov	Use of park for anti-aircraft guns. Construction of road for military use from Coat of Arms Bridge road
Before 1945	Roadway from Beechwood Avenue
1948-52	Memorial tree planting
1949	Five additional hard tennis courts

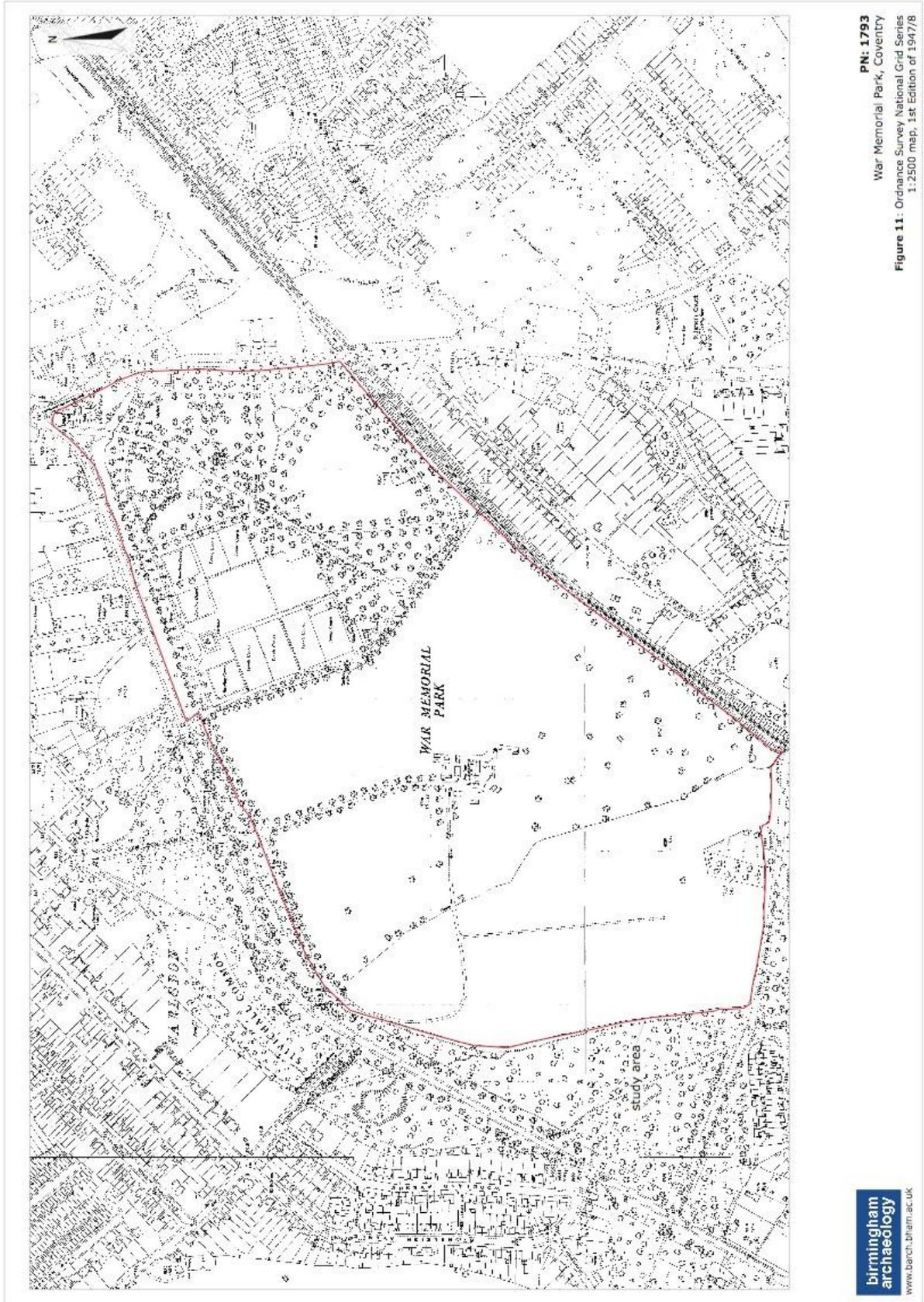


Figure 6: War Memorial park, OS Extract 1st Edition 1947/48

1950s

1951	Play equipment
1951	Miniature railway
1953-4	Proposals for Winter Garden on Stivichall Common
1954-5	Proposals for new restaurant and swimming bath

1960s - 2003

1963	German Garden of Peace
1964	Demolition of Toll House
1984	Discontinuance of old aviary and pets' corner New aviary building
1994	First Kite Festival
1997	Renewed playground equipment
1997	First Godiva Festival took place
2000	Restoration of memorial plaques
2000	Pavilion refurbished
2001-2	Skateboard Park
2002-3	Splash and Play
2010-11	Significant refurbishment works as part of a Lottery funded project
2011	Rededication ceremony takes place following repair work to memorial undertaken following HLF funding and investment.

2000s

2018	BBC Biggest Weekend takes place in the park.
2018	David Moorcroft OBE and Lord Mayor opens Green Gym funded by Friends of War Memorial Park
2019	Footgolf course opens
2021	Inspire to Coach licence granted to operate the tennis courts
2021	Japanese Peace Garden opened by Lord Mayor and the Japanese Ambassador.
2021	Sensory Garden established by Friends of War Memorial Park
2021	Park celebrates its centenary and rededication event takes place.
2021	The first ever purple poppy wreath was laid alongside a plaque in memory of all the animals who gave their lives in wars since 1914.
2021	BBC Big Weekend takes place as part of City of Culture celebrations. A new bridge

construction was installed to ensure attendee safety on entry and egress.

2022	No Ordinary Hospitality Management take over operation of catering units on site.
2021	Car Park system introduced for Park and Ride car park.
2023	Bistro café extended due to popularity.
2024	Changing Places facility opens

5.3 Significance of the park

The significance of War Memorial Park can be quantified in many different ways, but key areas include:

- the parks value as a community leisure resource
- formal parks are rare as a form of memorial and of those that do exist, War Memorial Park is one of the most significant
- remnants of ridge and furrow and historic field patterns shed light on the development of the area.
- while not currently noted for its wildlife value, the park presents a significant opportunity for ecological enhancement, offering a refuge to wildlife on the edge of the urban area in 2026 there is a clear plan to change this by developing a former footgolf course into a biodiverse rich area that benefits wildlife those who visit.

5.4 Why the park needed restoring

Budget cuts in the 1980s and 1990s were a contributory factor to the decline in the physical condition and loss of detail (especially in the planning) within the park.

While funding is viewed as a low priority, physical deterioration of the park and consequently its value to the community are inevitable.

Much of the park's significance lies in its pre-park history and in particular the veteran hedgerow trees and ridge and furrow patterns.

It's modern significance is, of course, as a memorial to over 4'000 Coventrians killed in enemy action from 1914 to the present day.

represented in the park furniture or signage provided, for example, or in how they are managed and maintained, but they all contribute to and have been designed to be

5.5 What was restored and needs further restoration

The park was originally divided into two principal character areas, formal parkland and the active sports area. The objective achieved in delivering the improvement project was to create a third character zone, and this now focuses upon the natural environment and creates a 'country park' atmosphere.

Work was undertaken in 2010 on a multi-million pound refurbishment of the park, involving around 30 projects. The work was funded by a £2.8 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund together with money from Coventry City Council. Additionally, a grant of £50'000 was awarded in 2011 to create a new under-8's play area.

Built features within the original two character areas, including the Memorial and pavilions were enhanced and restored as part of the capital works completed in 2011.

5.6 Significant features and compartments

The 3 broad character areas are broken down further into a number of sub-divisions or compartments.

Whilst the boundaries are not wholly distinct between sub-divisions, and overlaps occur, the physical spatial or functional characteristics are sufficiently distinctive to warrant its character being recorded separately.

Each of these character areas has their own identity, whether this is

complementary to the overall management objectives.



1. Main Entrance

Well maintained mound outside park boundary with tall pine trees and under storey bulb planting. Double gates with elephant plaques and pedestrian gates to the side. The gate pillars have feature lighting to reflect the 1920's when the park was originally opened. Double row hedge along Kenilworth Road to the west with close mown grass in between. Approximately 5-metre gap between hedges. Site of former children's railway.

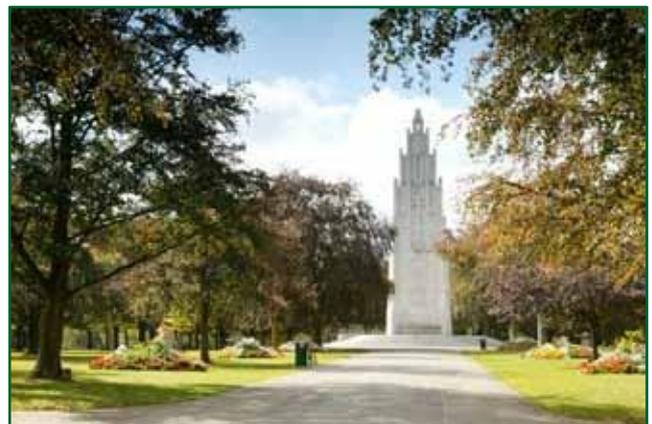
2. Vehicular and Pedestrian entrance off Leamington Road, signposted.

Pedestrians are guided through a "Learning Gateway" entrance pavilion, clad in Portland stone to match other park structures, it provides a strong visual statement of the park at this well used entrance. Free parking is provided for approximately 40 cars.



3. Avenue to Memorial

Grand axis/procession to Memorial from entrance gates. Sense of arrival with gleaming Memorial at the end of the vista, trees framing the view of the Memorial, seasonal bedding on either side.



4. Rock Garden

Restored sunken rock garden, with plenty of horticultural interest. This area once contained a pond feature but this no longer exists. We will look to restore this feature in future years.



5. Leamington Road Boundary

A native, deciduous hedge forms the boundary between Leamington Road and the Park. An avenue of Fagus and a procession of tall Ilex shrubs run parallel to the hedge along a broad macadam path.

6. Pedestrian Entrance on Leamington Road

There is a side entrance with gate and narrow macadam path leading to main macadam path, which ends in this corner where Leamington Road and the railway line intersect. There is an electrical substation within the site on this corner where palisade fencing (erected by Rail track on their boundary) continues along the full length of the site boundary southwest to the intersection of the railway and Coat of Arms Bridge Road.

7. Rose Garden

Hoggin path leads to and surrounds the rose garden. Box hedges create a formal pattern surrounding the rose beds. The area is not secluded or sheltered and views in and out are far-reaching. This area was refurbished as part of the Friends work programme in 2012/13. In recent years it has been decimated by box caterpillars, and there are plans to restore the hedge with a more resilient species such as miniature holly.

8. Open Grassland

A large open space with scattering maturing memorial trees, drainage is poor, mostly close-mown grass.

9. Railway Line

Palisade fence visible along the whole length of the line (erected by rail track on their boundary). Some mature trees along the fence and some shrubs. Some scattered bulb planting. The railway is below ground level where it meets the park, crossing below

Leamington Road, rises to ground level and up to the level of Coat of Arms Bridge. The path along this stretch was widened and re-constructed in tarmacadam in 2011.

10. Hedge Boundary

A native hedge separates the formal area from the games fields. At the bottom of the path running along the railway line a gap in the hedge allows access to the fields beyond.

11. Woodland

Informal paths along desire lines have created a compacted area with no under storey vegetation.

12. Stream and Pond

Stream, mound, pond & rockery were renovated and replanted to create an intimate space and to improve its value as a wildlife habitat in 2011.



13. Skateboard Area

Well used by children and teenagers, the adjacent pavilion was refurbished in 2011. A community campaign is now seeking funding for the upgrading and refurbishment of this popular feature.



14. Tennis Courts

The tennis courts were well used and received Beacon status following restoration in 2011 with funding from the Lawn Tennis Association. Inspire2Coach, tennis coaching organisation now operate these courts as part of a licence agreement which commenced in 2021 for an initial period of five years – pay and play offer, annual passes and coaching programmes are available.



15. Macadam Path to Kenilworth Road

A wide macadam path leads north from skateboard area along tennis courts to Kenilworth Road.

This corner marks the end of the double row hedge running from the Main Entrance. To the east, parallel to the double row hedge, lies a grand avenue of Blue Atlas Cedars. To the west is a macadam path running along the inside of the site boundary. Outside the boundary lies a wooded area with understory shrubs and ivy with informal path. There is access to this area from the park.

16. Bistro in the Park (again clad in Portland stone) – operated by No Ordinary Hospitality Management

Well used by all age groups. Seating and tables are provided. Wooden benches are provided. Toilets are situated in the same building as the Bistro, provided and maintained by park staff, there are also toilet facilities inside the Bistro cleaned and maintained by the Bistro. These toilets were refurbished in 2025 along with the introduction of the Changing Places facility a vital facility for the park.

A bowling green lies to the east of the café as does a Changing Places facility installed in 2024. A large stretch of close-mown grass lies between the tennis courts, café, children's play area and the aviary. 5 bicycle stands are available at this location.



17. The Aviary, Japanese garden and sensory garden.

The Aviary is fenced off within the park and sits next to the sensory and Japanese peace gardens. It is well used and of interest to many visitors. The aviary building visually jars with the Memorial and café pavilion, but its future will be the subject of review.

In 2021 the Aviary area was greatly enhanced by the opening of the Japanese garden and a sensory garden. The Japanese Garden was funded by Coventry City Council and several private sponsors, whilst the sensory garden was created by the Friends of the War Memorial Park with their own funds and grants such as the governments Pocket Park Funding. Both are well maintained and are well used by park visitors.

18. Children's Play Area

Two adjacent but separate areas, one a fenced off water park (currently not in use), the other a play area with sand surfacing.

The play area was refurbished in 2011, and an additional £50k funding to help provide this much needed improvement was secured by the Friends of War Memorial Park from the Changing Spaces lottery programme. The play area is very popular, attracting a large number of users with their families also using the adjacent grass area for picnicking. The play area is now looking tired and requires some investment.

19. German Garden

This is a semi-enclosed area with paving around it. It was laid out originally after WW2 by a group of people from Germany and was restored as part of the capital restoration works in 2011.

20. War Memorial

This 87 feet high structure, clad in Portland stone (as is the Cenotaph in London) is believed to be the highest war memorial in England. It is the focal point of the park and was refurbished in 2010/11 to include a complete exterior clean to remove decades of grime and environmental pollutants. To improve the setting of the Memorial new granite steps were provided in addition to a ramp to aid access to the Chamber of Silence. Hand railings were also installed.



21. Path along the Railway

A line of trees punctuates the palisade fencing along the railway boundary. There is some bramble on the railway embankment but not very vigorous. A macadam path runs along the site boundary lined with cherry trees. The trees become less frequent where the path skirts the pitch and putt course.

22. The Stream

The Stream separates the footgolf area from the bottom 1/3 of the park. The volume of water flowing is very low and the course of the stream is hardly visible through the narrow slit in the grass sward. The western bank has been improved with the provision of wildflower meadow seeding. There are pedestrian bridges linking the two banks. Some Ash trees are present along the length of the stream.

23. The Visitors Centre

This former central pavilion was completely refurbished in 2011 to provide an education room, reception foyer (with interpretation and exhibition space), sports changing rooms, park office, café and an outdoor performance space



to the rear of the building.

24. Footpath to Park & Ride

This is a cherry lined macadam path which is a busy thoroughfare linking the car park to the formal north eastern segment of the park and Visitors Centre.

25. Green Strip along the Stream

Native planting is present that will improve its wildlife value, with species such as Hawthorn. The area is being more actively managed to ensure more vigorous growth.

26. *Footgolf

Predominantly mature trees set in an undulating landform, with close-mown grass and no under-storey vegetation. Declining public use led to its closure in October 2025 and the Council to consider its abandonment and the reversion of the area to nature, with new paths mown through the emerging woodland. The transformation of the former golf course represents a rare opportunity to create a large, interconnected mosaic of habitats in the heart of the landscape. Once maintained through intensive mowing and limited planting, the site will evolve into a rich, diverse environment shaped by natural processes. We plan to introduce meadows of native wildflowers, expand scrub, and pockets of wetland which will support an increasing variety of birds, insects, and small mammals. By reducing artificial management and embracing seasonal, ecological stewardship, the land is steadily returning to a more natural state—one that is more resilient, more beautiful, and far more valuable for wildlife and the local community



27. Sports Pitches

The park supports many pitches, the area to the front and left of the Visitors centre was remodeled in 2011 to provide three pitches that conform to Sport England criteria. The drainage from these, discharge into the adjacent stream helping to increase the limited water flow.

28. Green Buffer

A strip of green with similar characteristics to Stivichall Common, with mature trees and native under storey vegetation provides a suitable habitat for wildlife, including birds.

29. Park & Ride

Large car park with CCTV cameras and a bus shelter, taking passengers to the city centre. This is one of the main entrances to the park.

An illuminated macadam path starts on the west edge of the car park and curves around it towards the south and then to the east, joining the main path that leads from the car park towards the Visitors Centre. A cherry avenue lines the circular path. On the outside of the path there are beds of native planting with small trees and shrubs such as Crataegus, Salix, Corylus, Cornus and Sorbus. Northwest boundary has new black cast iron fencing with pedestrian gates on either side of the vehicular entrance.

A new car park payment system was introduced in 2021.

30. North Footpath

Wide macadam footpath in good condition. Narrow strip of Stivichall Common continues outside the park boundary. Pedestrian entrance passes through the Common.

The pavilion to the east of this footpath is finished in Portland stone to match other structures in the park, and was refurbished to create a functional building as the previous one did not serve a particular use.

Built of brick construction and not matching the Portland stone of the other structures in the park (built at the same time) it's future use is under consideration.



31. Path to Visitors Centre

Mature avenue of mainly Fagus with some Betula. Broad macadam path with some patches.

32. West Field

Wide expanse of close mown grass, which slopes towards the stream at its southern boundary. The field is bounded by a native hedge to the west and the south with intermittent gaps created by pedestrians working their way through. This part of the park is surrounded by Stivichall Common to the west and part of the south, but the character of the fields is very different to that of the Common.

Pedestrian entrance without gate at southeastern corner and wide gated vehicular entrance along southern stretch. A macadam footpath starts on the southwestern corner of the field and continues along the southern boundary to meet the path that passes the footgolf course up to the formal section of the park, parallel to the railway line. Along the southern boundary are 3 no 1m³ concrete cubes (believed to be wartime protection of gun emplacements sited in the park) has now been added to with a further eight "learning cubes" to create an outdoor learning space. Also along this stretch is a wooded area with mature trees and an underground munitions bunker.

33. Stivichall Common

This is outside the park boundary but forms a backdrop to the west and north of the site. The Common contains native trees such as Quercus and Fagus, with Bramble, Ivy and Ilex shrubs and woodland bulbs. The area is a Local Nature Reserve. In 2024 Volunteer Action removed much invasive Holly and opened the woodland to encourage a new understory and ground plants. New paths link the Common to the park.

Benches and Waste Bins

Benches and waste bins are located throughout the park in prominent positions. Their size and type vary over the three character areas by design, however, this park furniture may change over time as new products come onto the market. Any updates will be managed to be cost effective i.e. if a bench is in a good serviceable condition it will not be removed just because it doesn't match others in that zone.

5.7 Main uses

The major works undertaken during 2010/11, delivered a balance between restoration and renewal, combining facilities for local park users with those for visitors in order to widen the park's appeal, the park was re-zoned into three areas which includes the following:



Area 1: Formal Park Zone

- Leamington Road Car Park
- Main Entrance Gates & Piers
- North East Pavilion
- West Pavilion
- War Memorial
- Cafe Pavilion
- Ornamental Rockery Garden
- Theme Gardens
- Tennis Courts
- Site Furniture & Signage
- Tree Planting
- Bowling green

Area 2: Sports/Events Zone

- Footpath Links
- North Pavilion
- Machinery Store
- Visitors Centre
- Adventure/Active Play Area
- Playing Fields (football)
- Site Furniture
- Skate Park
- Cricket
- Former footgolf course – to be returned to nature.

Area 3: Country Park Zone

- Ecological Enhancement Works
- Education
- Access Improvements
- Event space
- Biodiversity offset

5.8 Who are the users?

The existing audience is drawn principally from 3 sources:

- Local residents living within close distance to the park
- Less local residents who visit the park from across the city
- Those attracted by the programme and events held within the park

The park is situated close to the urban centre of Coventry and a 1 km radius from the park would encompass approximately 27,000 residents, 9% of Coventry's population.

The site is located in the Earlsdon Ward with a population of 15,400.

Within 1-mile radius of the park, there are 8 state schools catering for the ages 4-11. In the 11-19 year age group there are 2 state schools, and in addition, there are a further 6 independent schools teaching students between the ages of 5-18.

Slightly beyond the 1-mile radius is the University of Warwick to the south and City College to the north, and Coventry University within the City Centre boundary.

The park's immediate catchment area is largely residential; however, parking at the park and ride facility, ease of access to the city centre and being within walking distance from the central railway station means that the potential for audience development is considerable.

A key factor in attracting a citywide audience is the range of events and activities held in the park. These can account for visitor numbers to the park annually in the hundreds of thousands. Estimated in 2020 as 400,000, rising to 900,000 during lockdown in 2021 and maintaining this figure to date.

5.9 Stakeholders

The list below details bodies and organisations that have a vested interest in the successful management of War Memorial Park. Each stakeholder has different degrees and levels of interest in the Park however each is important in the management of the site.

- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
- Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Football League
- Coventry and District Sunday Football League
- Coventry Ethnic Minorities Action Partnership
- Coventry Mind
- Coventry Minor Football League
- Coventry Outdoors
- City Council Events Team
- Coventry Youth Service Democracy Project
- Disabled People's Advisory Panel
- Earlsdon Residents Association
- Friends of the War Memorial Park
- Grapevine
- People In Action
- New Communities Forum
- No Ordinary Hospitality Management
- Rochester Road Residents Association
- Stivichall Primary School
- Stivichall and District Residents Association
- U3A Bowling Club, History, Art, French, Crafts, Quiz groups.
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- West Midlands Police

The park is actively engaged with local community and volunteer groups who also used the park regularly for their events.

The following City Council officers also have an interest in the park:

- Mark Adams, Director, Interim Director, City Services and Commercial
- Sarah Elliott, Strategic Lead, Environmental Services
- Tim Wetherhill, Parks and Open Spaces Manager
- Emma Cosgrove, War Memorial and Coombe Park Manager

5.10 Geology, Topology and Hydrology

Between Tamworth, Kenilworth and Nuneaton is an anomalous island of older carboniferous coal measures. The older rocks, which contain layers of sandstone and coal, have been pushed upwards through the softer Mercia mudstone of the Triassic period. The coal seams are nearest to the surface in the north of this broad island and run progressively deeper to the south, towards Coventry. The rocks within this area date from 300-350 million years.

The site slopes gently from the western edge towards the southeast, ranging from 97.5 AD along the Kenilworth Road boundary and falling to 82.5 AOD at the intersection of the railway with Coat of Arms Bridge. The broad curve of the contour lines appear to be defined by the course of the small stream running along the south western boundary of the pitch and putt golf course.

The park incorporates two small ponds within the rockery areas. Comparisons with early edition OS maps would appear to confirm that these ponds existed within the agricultural landscape and were utilised for amenity purposes when the park was being laid out.

A small stream/open culvert runs across the park broadly west to east. The surrounding land and newly re-modeled pitches drain into the stream.

5.11 Conservation of natural features, wild flora and fauna

Ecological Issues

Ecological appraisals were undertaken in the early 2000's. The survey categorised the park into eight habitat types. Each type was accorded an ecological value based upon the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM Guidelines, July 2005). The habitat types were recorded with the following values:

- Plantation Woodland: Lower Value
- Parkland & Scattered Trees: Lower Value
- Hedgerow: Lower Value
- Introduced Shrub: Lower Value

- Grassland, Amenity: Lower Value
- Grassland, Improved: Lower Value
- Standing Open Water: Lower Value
- Buildings & Hard Surfaces: Negligible Value

In spite of its proximity to extensive areas of ecologically rich landscapes the park is itself largely devoid of any value. There exists tremendous scope to tailor the current management and maintenance regimes within the park to significantly increase ecological diversity. Whilst this will be targeted primarily towards those species listed within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), other opportunities for increasing the range of habitat diversity will be explored on an ongoing basis.

6 Current maintenance arrangements



6.1 Overview

Following a review of the service in 2024, grounds maintenance works are now carried out by a site-based estate team under the direct instruction of the Senior Estate Officer and War Memorial and Coombe Park Manager, having previously been undertaken by the Streetpride ground team(s). Existing operations are largely based on a schedule of work although there is a 'static allowance' that enables staff to undertake non-scheduled work as necessary. This provides the budget holder with a degree of flexibility and cost effectiveness to maintain a large site cost effectively. Operations that are routinely carried out by Streetpride are those that involve larger machinery and equipment which is not cost effective to be solely based in the park. These maintenance functions include gang mowing and side arm flail cutting of the perimeter hedging.

All major arboricultural work is undertaken by the council's external arboricultural contractor under the direction of the council's Urban Forestry Officer.

Operation	Overview of works undertaken
Grass cutting	<p>Amenity grassland cut by various types of pedestrian and ride-on mowers at various frequencies, as per maintenance schedule, to meet the set standard.</p> <p>Amenity mowing is carried out weekly through the main cutting season and as necessary the remainder of the year dependent on weather conditions.</p> <p>Tractor mounted gang mowing approx. - 14 times per year carried out by Streetpride.</p> <p>The wild flora areas are cut after seeding has been completed using a flail collector and tractor, usually September/October</p> <p>Strimming is carried out as necessary, varying in different areas of the park</p>
Ecological areas	The wild flora areas are cut annually in September/October by site-based staff, as above.
Arboricultural works	Minor tree works are undertaken by site-based staff, major works are undertaken by the council's external arboricultural contractor under the direction of the Urban Forestry Officer.
Shrub Beds	Traditionally maintained by site-based staff together with an annual winter clean up
Annual Bedding	The bedding areas are planted up twice a year, weeding and edging up undertaken on a weekly basis by on-site staff.
Ornamental Areas (Rose Garden, heather beds, bulb areas, herbaceous, aquatic areas)	These traditional horticultural features are maintained on a much more regular basis as and when required. They are also focal points for both volunteer and gardening group activity.
Hedges	This park contains both field and ornamental hedges. The field hedges are maintained on one occasion per year using a tractor mounted flail. The ornamental hedges are cut on three occasions per year by the site-based team. These include bowling green hedges.
Paths and hard standings	Grass encroachment is removed annually within Zone 1, the formal part of the park and on a three-year cycle elsewhere.
Weed control	Herbicide usage is kept to a minimum within the park, however, this is the most cost-effective means to control weed growth around buildings and on hard standing areas. Occasionally footpaths and obstacles within grass areas are also treated.
Waste Bins	Litter and dog bins are emptied daily and as necessary in the Summer. In the Winter months these are monitored and generally emptied 3 times per week.
Litter removal	Litter collection is undertaken at least daily all year round. This is increased as necessary particularly around high footfall areas during the summer months, high days and holidays.

Play area	Daily visual inspection by on-site parks staff, visual weekly safety inspections are undertaken by Streetpride play area inspectors. Operational inspection undertaken quarterly and an annual inspection undertaken by an external company. Inspections are electronically recorded for audit purposes.
Water Play Area – not currently in use.	This was commissioned and de-commissioned annually by a specialist external contractor as it is only operational from April to September annually. Daily surface monitoring and cleaning was undertaken by site-based staff, in addition to water quality checks. The Parks team, who have a swimming pool plant room maintenance certificate, undertook all daily/weekly plant maintenance, and were on call to react within an hour to emergencies. This feature was closed permanently in the Summer of 2024 and plans for this area are yet to be determined.
Site furniture	Boundary fencing, footfall counters, lighting columns, notice boards, signage, benches and bins are formally inspected on a quarterly basis, any damage is recorded and repairs requested.
Buildings and structures	All buildings and structures in the park are informally inspected by park staff formally inspected annually by a contractor with repairs recorded and orders placed to rectify these.
Leaf collection	Fallen leaves are cleared and removed for composting in the "stable yard" during the autumn. Larger open areas are cleared using a flail collector behind a tractor. This mulches the leaves and twigs into a material that will compost easily.

Note: In providing this work schedule the Parks Service has moved away from the traditional “contract speak” to working with a more flexible schedule that outlines works but has a degree of flexibility built into it to cope with variable workloads, weather conditions, events and other day-to-day ‘happenings’ in the park that influence the works schedule.

Fly tipping

Fly tipping outside the park is either reported by members of the public, park staff or by Streetpride operatives. Residents can either report to the Council's hotline number 08085 834 333, to the onsite staff or to the rangers. Reports to the hotline number are logged and forwarded to an appropriate supervisor in Streetpride who arranges for removal. In cases of fly tipping any evidence connecting the waste left on sites to any individual or business is kept and reported to Environmental Crime who will investigate with a view to prosecuting the offender if sufficient evidence would support such action.

6.2 Inspections - infrastructure

Infrastructure items such as the fences, gates, benches, bins, etc. are covered by a general visual inspection carried out by park staff to identify any basic hazards. These are carried out on a quarterly frequency. At the time of writing this plan ownership and frequency of this task is under review.

Residents also report incidents of vandalism/damage or anti-social behaviour. There is a central number for all reporting: 08085 834 333.

Emergency Services Unit (ESU)

When the City Council's contact centre closes at approximately 5.00pm on weekdays, and during bank holidays and weekend periods, emergency calls are diverted at all other times to Coventry Communications Centre.

ESU operates out of the Whitley Depot on a city-wide basis and has a comprehensive communication network. Many mobile staff are connected through this network which provides fully integrated communications and safety support at all times. Should any incidents occur they provide a manual or electronic logging facility.

During any 24-hour day, 365 days a year ESU provides a communications link for any person, including other local authorities, that may require contact with Coventry City Council. Call 024 7683 2222.

Out of hours 024 7683 2222

Help desk (normal office hours) 024 7683 2960.

6.3 Health and safety procedures

Coventry City Council has produced a Corporate Health and Safety Manual that sets out the duty of care by the council to its employees and citizens. In addition to this document each service provider has a specific health and safety plan covering that area of work.

The Environmental Services Management Team discuss health and safety issues monthly and on a quarterly basis undertakes a "trend analysis" of recorded accidents within all parks and open spaces. The section below is a guide to how we address both the physical safety of the park's infrastructure and also the safety of people in the park.

6.4 Safety of equipment and facilities

War Memorial Park contains a range of facilities that require regular inspections due to their potential hazard to parks users. Different agencies take responsibility for items as follows (see also monitoring regimes below):

Children's playground – the play facilities are checked visually daily by parks staff. In addition, a weekly visual inspection is undertaken together with an operational inspection quarterly by Streetpride staff who record all inspections on the City Council's PSSLive play area inspection recording system. In addition to this an independent playground inspection is carried out annually identifying compliance with appropriate EU standard risk assessment. Both inspection processes are complementary and identify "findings" that require rectification within a pre-set timescale depending on the issue identified.

6.5 Safety of users and staff

User safety is a prime concern for all those involved in the management and development of War Memorial Park and is addressed on several levels.

The site-based staff operate on a shift system to ensure that regular monitoring of the park is undertaken. These staff are trained in basic health and safety awareness and first aid. All staff are provided with uniforms so that members of the public can clearly identify them when needed. They are equipped with mobile telephones and radios and operate seven days a week.

All accidents or incidents are reported according to Council procedures entitled “The reporting of accidents, near misses and incidents”. These are all recorded on IAN. Copies of non IAN occurrences are held locally and electronically filed. The Environmental Services Management Team monitor incidents, accidents and near missed on a quarterly basis.

6.6 Tree safety

A new approach to Hazard Tree Surveys was undertaken in 2009 by the Parks Service covering parks, woodlands and open spaces. An external consultant assisted in preparing our Tree Risk Management (TRM) strategy (see Appendices) which moves away from the compulsion to tag and survey every tree and moves towards a hazard

and target driven approach. Individual sites are assessed on usage level in the proximity of large trees and then categorised into red, amber or green zones with red equating to high risk, down to green, low risk. The professional surveyor makes this assessment which is logged onto a handheld data collector using MapInfo GIS linked to the council’s Asset Management System, Confirm. The nature of the zone dictates the frequency of inspection and during the inspection process tree defects are noted and corrective orders raised through Confirm with the instruction going to the council’s arboricultural contractor to complete the work in an agreed time frame.

At War Memorial Park, the formal areas are designated as a red zone with a frequency of a 42-month rolling inspection programme. The remainder of the park is either an amber or green zone with a 60-month inspection rolling programme or green zone with hazards assessed as they are discovered.

6.7 Hazard identification and risk management

This is set out in the table below:

Management	Specific element	Park Services responsibilities	Partner responsibilities
Risk Management	Play area safety	Daily visual inspections Weekly recorded inspections undertaken by on site staff. Annual independent inspection commissioned by the amenities team.	Quarterly operational inspection and repairs undertaken by the amenities team.
	Building safety	Inspection by park staff and reported through defect management process as necessary. Minor repairs undertaken by parks staff. Minor graffiti removal undertaken by park staff.	Overall building safety examined by Building and Consultancy Services including compliance checks to ensure building and equipment safety. An annual fire risk assessment is undertaken by an external contractor commissioned by Building and Consultancy Services.

Management	Specific element	Park Services responsibilities	Partner responsibilities
Risk Management	Water safety	Risk assessments for water safety undertaken by site staff and approved and reviewed by site manager.	A water safety policy is currently under development. Major repairs to water safety infrastructure undertaken by City Services or Building and Consultancy Services.
	Infrastructure safety	Infrastructure bins, benches, gates, barriers, footpaths and fencing inspections are undertaken by site staff. Any minor works will be initiated by the Senior Estate Officer.	Major repair works undertaken by contractor.
Site maintenance	Grounds maintenance	All grounds maintenance operations apart from gang mowing are undertaken by site-based staff under the supervision of the Senior Estate Officer.	Streetpride undertake gang mowing. Operational risk assessments for these tasks are undertaken by Streetpride.
	Tree maintenance	Tree hazard management system in place. Inspection coordinated / inspected by the Urban Forestry Officer.	Majority of tree maintenance is undertaken by an external contractor through tendered contract. .
	Play area maintenance	Inspection, fault reporting and some small repairs and maintenance undertaken by park staff. Daily cleansing by site staff.	Minor repairs to equipment and surfacing undertaken by site-staff or the amenities team. Major vandalism repairs coordinated by the amenities team. Annual inspection undertaken by independent contractor.

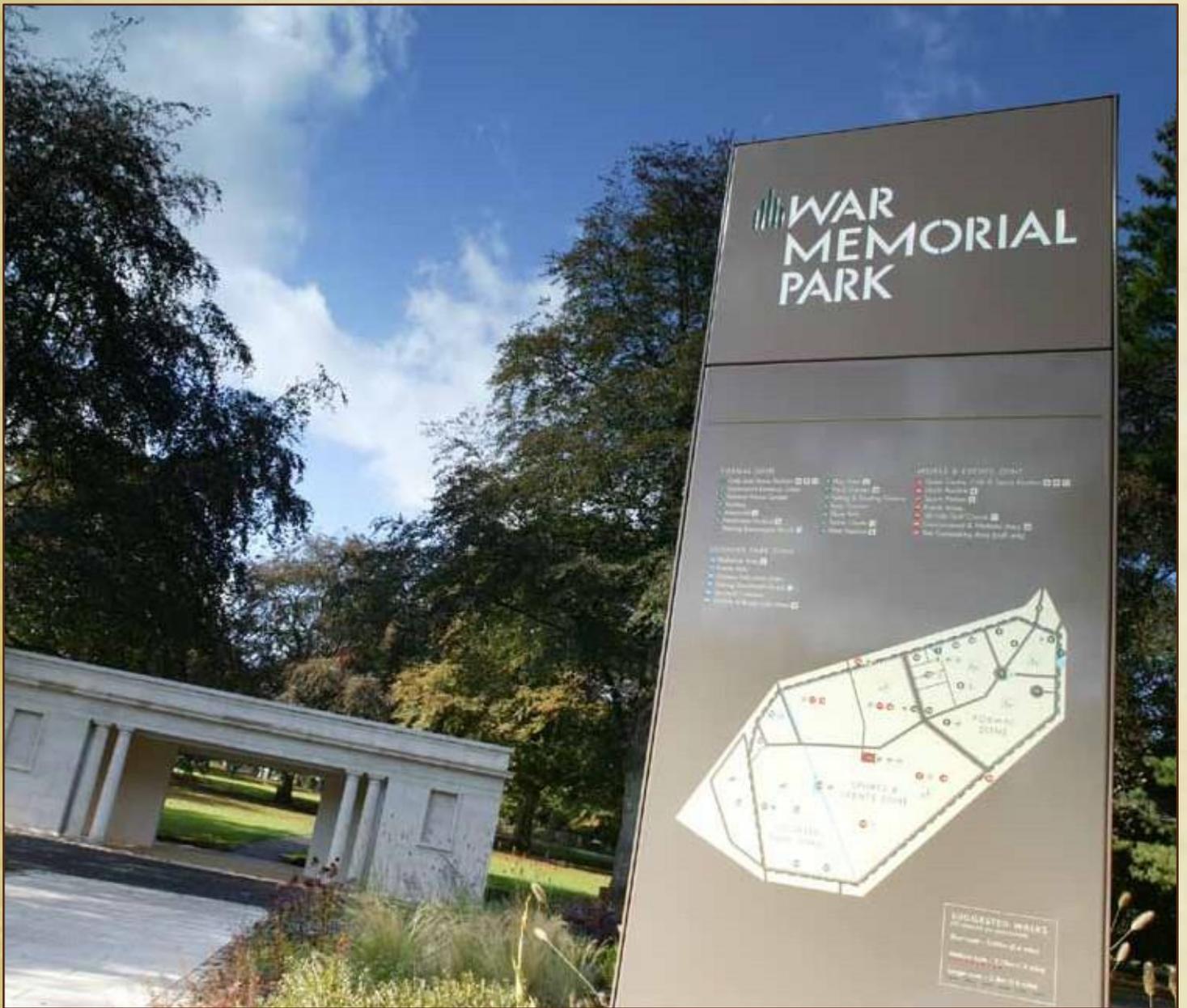
Management	Specific element	Park Services responsibilities	Partner responsibilities
Site maintenance	Building maintenance	Minor repairs undertaken by parks staff. Minor graffiti removal undertaken by parks staff.	Major building repairs undertaken by Building and Consultancy Services through the property maintenance account. Major graffiti removal undertaken by park staff with assistance from Streetpride if necessary.
	Sport facility maintenance	Site-based staff undertake all maintenance operations on the sports pitches.	Streetpride undertake gang mowing operations, the amenities team undertake line marking, goal erection and removal. Maintenance of bowling greens as required by on-site staff. External contractor for major defects (i.e. vandalism).
Facility Use	Event bookings	Small events are delivered by park staff. Education Room bookings are organised and administered by park staff.	Bookings and administration of all outside events undertaken by the events team; events booked via the Councils online booking enquiry portal EventApp.

6.8 Monitoring regimes

Coventry City Council sets out a clear system of responsibility for monitoring regimes within key parks including War Memorial Park. This is set out on the table below:

Name of Site/ Building	Type of Inspection	Frequency	Completed by
Visitor Centre	Building & Facility Checks	Weekly	By staff on rota electronically filed
Visitor Centre	Building Checks	Quarterly	Supervisor
Visitor Centre	Fire Risk Assessment	Annually reviewed	Undertaken by independent contractor.
Tennis Pavilion	Building & Facility Checks	Weekly	By staff on rota electronically filed
Tennis Pavilion	Building Checks	Quarterly	Supervisor
Tennis Pavilion	Fire Risk Assessment	Annually reviewed	Undertaken by independent contractor.
Compound	Building Checks	Monthly	Supervisor

Name of Site/ Building	Type of Inspection	Frequency	Completed by
North Pavilion	Building & Facility Checks	Weekly	By staff on rota electronically filed
North Pavilion	Building Checks	Quarterly	Supervisor
North Pavilion	Fire Risk Assessment	Annually	Undertaken by independent contractor.
Northeast Pavilion	Building and Facility Checks	Weekly	By staff on rota electronically filed
	Building Checks	Quarterly	Supervisor
	Fire Risk Assessment	Annually	Undertaken by independent contractor.
West Pavilion	Building & Facility Checks	Weekly	By staff on rota electronically filed
	Building Checks	Quarterly	Supervisor
	Fire Risk Assessment	Annually	Undertaken by independent contractor.
War Memorial Chamber & Surrounds	Building and Facility Checks	Weekly	By staff on rota electronically filed
	Building Checks	Quarterly	Supervisor
	Fire Risk Assessment	Annually	Undertaken by independent contractor.
Structures: Benches, bins, bollards etc.	Inspections	Weekly	By staff on rota electronically filed
	Inspections	Quarterly	Supervisor
Play Area	Visual Inspections and Litter Pick	Daily	By staff on rota hard copy filed
Water Play	Inspection	Daily (when in use)	By water play operating staff and Parks Team
Water Pond	Inspection	Quarterly	Supervisor
Whole Site	Inspection	Quarterly	Supervisor



Part 2

Where do we want to get to?

7 Management Analysis



7.1 Environment, sustainability, community engagement, structures

The Climate Change Strategy in Coventry and the Green Space Strategy will have a profound impact on current management practices in War Memorial Park. In terms of adapting to climate change, there are implications for grounds maintenance and other landscape management activities. New ways of working will be developed, ranging from species choice in landscape planning reflecting the changing conditions, to rescheduling of mowing regimes to reflect longer growing seasons. The use of herbicides, pesticides, peat and waste minimisation will also be subject to a comprehensive review, although it is recognised that in some cases where the use of herbicides may not be avoided altogether.

The maintenance and provision of facilities in public open spaces, especially parks, may have resource implications in our future climate. Keeping areas litter free, supplied with shade and water, and absorbing the impact of increased visitor numbers may require a review of service provision.



7.1.1 Arboriculture and Woodland Management

A tree survey categorised the park's trees at War Memorial Park in line with the city's tree management and inspection regime, into red, amber and green status. The survey made various recommendations, and immediate work was undertaken.

Budgets are set for emergency works, tree replacement works, safety inspections and tree work. Ongoing tree works are included in the action plan.

7.1.2 Conservation of natural features

The main habitats found within War Memorial Park include plantation woodland, parkland & scattered trees, hedgerow, introduced shrub, amenity grassland, improved grassland and standing open water. These are all currently rated as of low ecological value.

There are significant opportunities to re-establish a more diverse under-storey planting and to contribute towards a programme of biodiversity enhancements in all areas.

In 2025 the footgolf course was closed permanently with a plan to return this area back to nature. This represents a rare opportunity to create a large, interconnected mosaic of habitats in the heart of the landscape. Once maintained through intensive mowing and limited planting, the site is now evolving into a rich, diverse environment shaped by natural processes. Meadows of native wildflowers, expanding scrub, and pockets of wetland have begun to support an increasing variety of birds, insects, and small mammals. By reducing artificial management and embracing seasonal, ecological stewardship, the land is steadily returning to a more natural state—one that is more resilient, more beautiful, and far more valuable for wildlife and the local community

Conservation of landscape features

The park's landscape significance lies in its pre-park history and in particular the veteran hedgerow trees and ridge and furrow patterns.

7.1.3 Conservation of buildings and structures

Although none of the pavilions and shelters are listed buildings they contribute to the overall aesthetic of the park. In 2013, the park was listed at Grade II on the statutory Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. The war memorial is a Grade II* listed building in its own right.

7.1.4 Community involvement in management and development

Coventry City Council recognises that community involvement in public parks is essential for long-term sustainability. By involving local people, it is possible to clarify their needs and aspirations for the park. The resourcing issues for such engagement must be considered, as must the development of an appropriate methodology by which the communities can be identified and included in moving the site forward.

Extensive consultation was carried out prior to the restoration works in the early 2000's, to inform the public of the development, and to identify preferred choices.

Initial consultation with the public took place over two main periods, first in 2002, and then later in 2005. These events provided an overview of the 'community wish list'. Further consultation was undertaken in 2006, following which the WMP Friends Group was established in July 2006. Regular liaison meetings are held between the Council and the Friends Group to ensure that they are included in decision making process.

7.1.5 Marketing and Promotion

Major events held within the park such as the Godiva Festival are heavily publicised and promoted through a variety of local media and these attract upwards of 200,000 visitors per year in addition to year-round park users.

Specific events, such as fun days and local community events are also publicised with specific leaflets and within on-site noticeboards. A web page for the War memorial Park exists on the Council's website at: [War Memorial Park – Coventry City Council](#)

The park also has its own Facebook and Twitter/X account.

Community engagement online is active and growing daily, with social media and websites being the main communication tool for the majority of our service users and it is hoped to harness this growing engagement for future consultation and development opportunities.

7.1.6 Service Structure

The Parks Service was restructured in 2024 to provide increased efficiency and to meet the increasingly demanding local and central government requirements.

The Parks Service Management Team is as follows:

- Parks & Open Spaces Manager – Tim Wetherhill
- War Memorial and Coombe Park Manager – Emma Cosgrove
- Parks and Open Spaces Manager – Corinne Muir
- Urban Forestry Officer – Andrew Jones
- Commercial and Visitor Experience Manager – Abi Foster

Each manager, in addition to delivering site/area specific outcomes, will also have a strategic role in assisting in managing the service. These roles cover Health & Safety, property asset management, community engagement and managing the city's tree stock.

The service is structured for the future, with clearer roles and responsibilities, and will better meet current legislative requirements and Council priorities. The roles are intended to support each other and the Strategic Lead and it is hoped will also provide a robust structure to support future service demands.

The Ranger Service is a City-Wide service. On non-staffed key sites, each Ranger has responsibility for site audits, quality and maintenance assessments, conducting user surveys and linking up in a coherent manner with other area-based officers to deliver a better service to our customers. Community engagement and

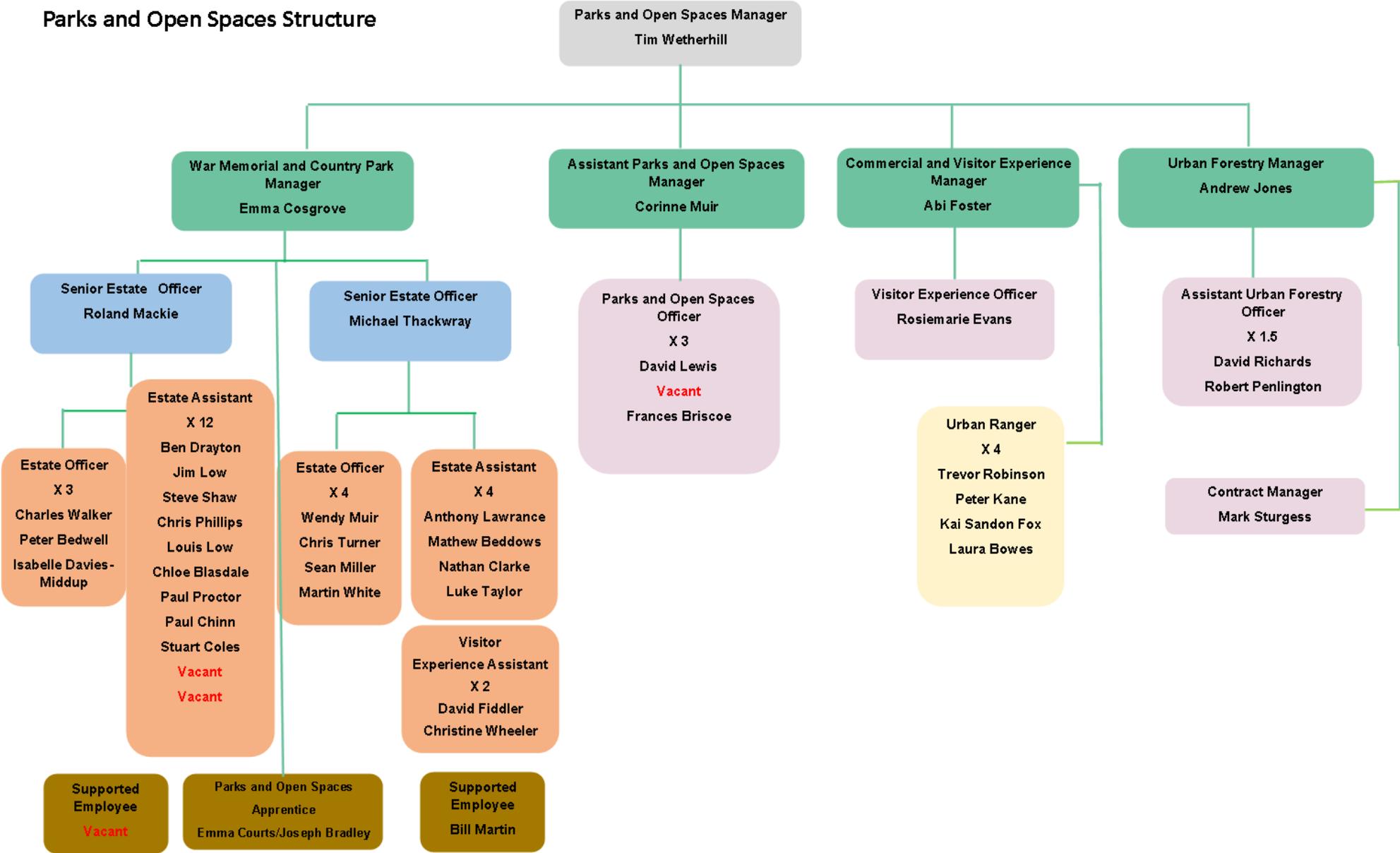
assisting volunteer initiatives are also covered by this team of officers, who both meet and liaise with other service managers to ensure that a joined-up approach in delivering these services is achieved.

7.1.7 Restructure 2024

The Parks Service transferred to City Services & Commercial in 2024 following a directorate restructure. Our new division is called "Environmental Services".

Parks and Open Spaces Structure Chart

Parks and Open Spaces Structure



72 SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On site supervisor. • 10 Year Management Plan • Varied facilities and attractions • Established tennis and bowls clubs • Active site-based stakeholder/user groups • Large friends' group • Good open-air event venue • Historical significance • Ridge and furrow remnants • Well maintained Kenilworth Road entrance • Mature/established trees • Committed staff and volunteers • Community support • Size of site • Basic infrastructure • Large user base • Central location • Café's • Signage • Capital investment programme and more focus on audience development • Green Flag site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism problems • Security • ASB • Continuing budget pressures • High visitor wear and tear
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase friends group involvement • Improve signage from transport hubs • Increased biodiversity/nature conservation • Green flag accreditation • Sponsorship • Better revenue resources • Development of volunteer working groups in park • Future development plans offer chance to re-arrange and review aspects/facilities offered in Park • Developing education programme with Coventry Outdoors • Exploit commercial opportunities. • Apply for Green Heritage Award in 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security vs biodiversity • Lack of cohesion between stakeholders could hinder progress • Change in policy towards parks status and management. • User needs versus heritage • Balancing commercial opportunities with needs of the visitor and biological and heritage conservation.

8.0 Vision

8.1 Vision

A vision for parks in Coventry was set within the Green Space Strategy and stated:

'To provide attractive, high quality, accessible green spaces that are well maintained, safe, clean and are important to local people. This will be achieved through clear, open and robust planning policies that ensure green space contributes to local character and plays an important role in everyday life of residents whilst supporting the regeneration of the city.'

The vision for War Memorial Park has been set as:

A park that is safe, clean and welcoming. A park that is dynamic and exciting; that engages people of all ages and backgrounds, especially children and young people. It is an environment where educational activities and interpretation bring alive the hidden heritage of the park and articulates the social significance of its origins.'

9.0 Aims and objectives

9.1 Management aims and objectives

The following management aims and objectives identify how the management vision for War Memorial Park will be met. The aims unite Coventry City Council's corporate policies with the criteria set out by Green Flag, and which are recognised as an up-to-date agenda for public open space management.

MA1	Ensure that War Memorial Park is accessible and welcoming to all members of the public. MO1, MO2, MO3
MA2	Provide a safe environment for all users and staff - MO2, MO3
MA3	Maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness, grounds and building maintenance. MO3, MO4
MA4	Ensure that management operations reduce the impact on the environment – MO4
MA5	Protect and enhance the built heritage of War Memorial Park – MO1, MO2, MO3
MA6	Protect and enhance the natural and ecological heritage of War Memorial Park – MO1-4
MA7	Encourage community involvement in War Memorial Park through consultation, events and management activities – MO1, MO2, MO3
MA8	Provide a flexible, proactive and high-quality management service – MO1, MO2, MO3
MA9	Actively promote the variety of War Memorial Park to all potential users – MO1, MO2, MO3

MO1 - Survey and Strategy

Allow all users to interpret the site to their own desired level

MO2 – Managing the site

Better understand baseline data that informs on how War Memorial Park should be managed.

MO3 – Be aware of current best practice

Ensure that the site is working in line with current policies. Encouragement of staff PDP.

MO4 - Promotion and Community Involvement

Seek to promote War Memorial Park facilities and features in a more structured and holistic approach, with the incentive of hosting more diverse activities and involving the community in events and management operations.

MO5 - Ongoing Maintenance and Management

The management team for War Memorial Park will seek to develop and improve sustainable management methods.

MO6 – Monitor and Review Progress

Regular and formalised periods of review will be programmed during the course of this management plan to enable the management team to review any success or failure, and to act appropriately.

Part 3

How will we get there?

10. Finance and resources

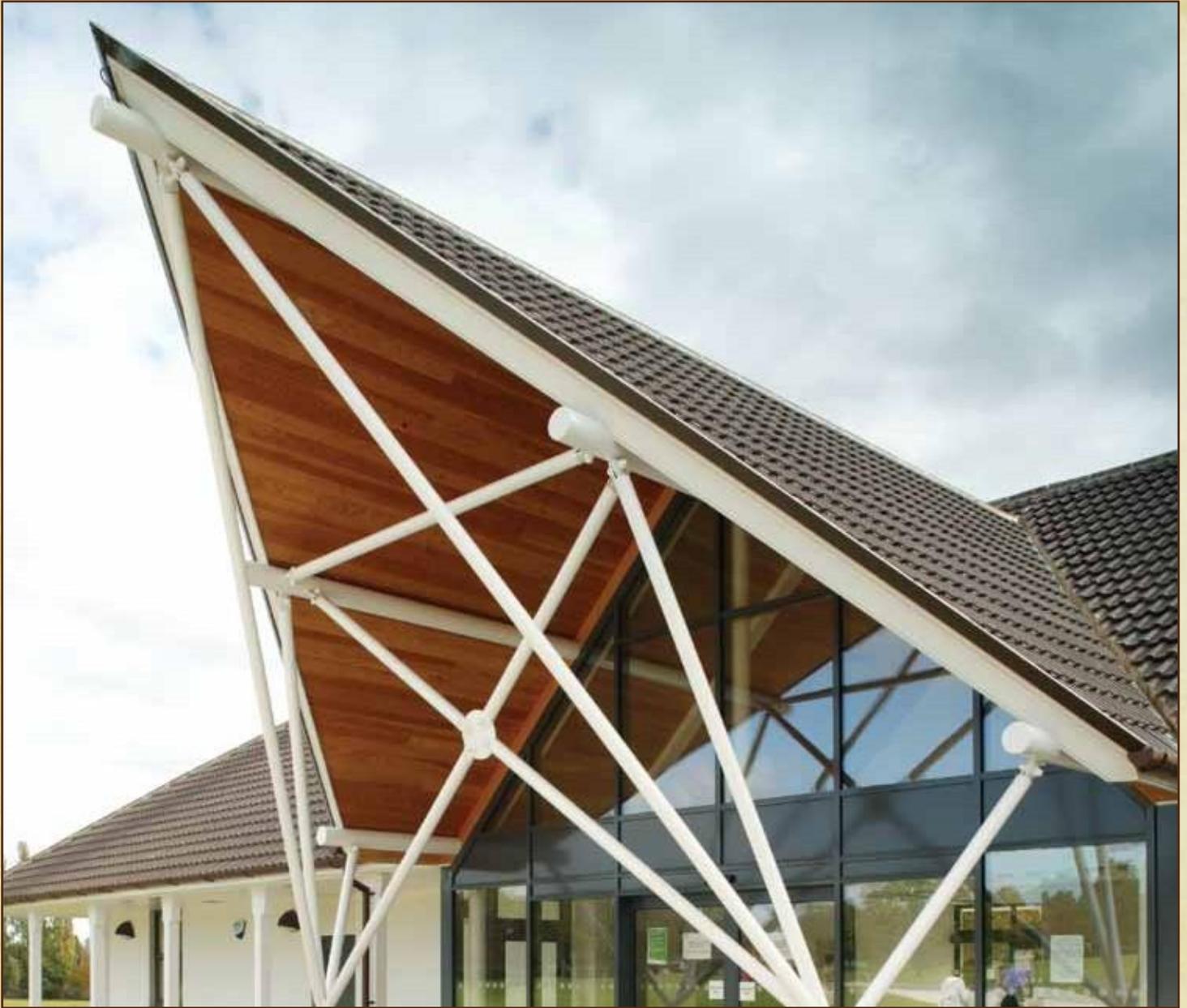
10.1 Park Action Plan 2024 – 2034

This section provides more detail for the tasks that are programmed to take place in coming years. This section will need re-viewing on an annual basis, to enable the management team to bid for finance to carry out tasks in the forthcoming year.

Ongoing / annual actions						
Aim	Objective	Action	Responsible Officer	Finance	Date	Complete
MA1 MA2 MA3 MA5	MO1	Keep signage on site current	EC	Core budget	Annual review / in line with changes	Ongoing.
MA1 MA2MA3 MA4	MO3	Collate and analyse user surveydata/benchmark	EC & RM	Officer time	Quarterly	Under review with visitor experience team.
MA1 MA2MA3 MA4	MO1 MO2	Meet with Friends of War Memorial Park	EC & RM	Officer time	Quarterly/project based	Ongoing
MA1 MA6	MO2	Collate BiodiversityData	RM, PB, IDM, CW	Officer time/Volunteers	Under review – meet with Biodiversity team	Under review with biodiversity team – January 2026
MA1 MA2MA3 MA4MA5 MA6	MO1 MO2, MO3 MO5	Review & develop Commercial Strategy	EC, RM, TW, AF Finance	Officer time	Quarterly/project based	Ongoing

Aim	Objective	Action	Responsible Officer	Finance	Date	Complete
MA2 MA3 MA4	MO2, MO5	Continuing staff training and development	EC, RM	Officer Time, Core budget	Annual review / in line with changes. Health and safety/mandatory training as required. Staff induction Appraisals 1 to 1 meetings Team meetings	Newly appointed staff trained from January 25 onwards Mandatory training - upon recruitment Appraisals annually with mid-year review 1 to 1's - as recorded Team meetings - as recorded
MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4	MO2	Carry out regular user surveys	All operational staff	Officer time	Target of 24 per month April-September and 12 per month October-March	Under review
MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4	MO1 MO2	Meet with key stakeholders	EC, RM, AF, RE	Officer time	Quarterly/project based	Onsite and online promotion through face-to-face meetings and awareness. Partnership working with No Ordinary Hospitality Management and FWMP
MA3 MA4	MO5	Reduce use of chemical solutions to issues.	EC, RM all operational staff	Core budget	Adhere to CCC climate change/carbon reduction policy	Ongoing
MA3 MA4	MO5	Reduce amount of general waste and educate visitors and staff that is an everyday normal activity to recycle.	All staff	Officer time Core budget	Godiva Festival – waste collection hubs to educate festival goers of the correct way to recycle.	Ongoing

Aim	Objective	Action	Responsible Officer	Finance	Date	Complete
MA5 MA6	MO1 MO2 MO3 MO4 MO5	Review and update maps, plans and leaflets – incorporate heritage trail	EC, RM	Officer time, core budget	Project based Under review	Under review/ongoing
MA5 MA6	MO1 MO2 MO3 MO4 MO5	Meet with Historic England reference lost heritage features. Investigate potential to restore lost/hidden features. Meet regularly with Friends of War Memorial Park	EC, RM	Officer time	Project based EC, RM attendance at monthly FWMP meeting.	Under review/ongoing
MA1- MA10		Annual review of management plan – in year review as necessary	EC, RM	Officer time	Annually and in year as necessary	Ongoing



Part 4

How will we know when
we have arrived?

11 Monitor



11.1 Introduction

Part two of this management plan sets out clearly the vision for War Memorial Park and the aims and objectives which will deliver this vision. The actions and associated work plans set out in detail for how the objectives will be delivered in the context of the site.

The Park Service will be responsible for ensuring that the actions and work plans are delivered, and the Parks and Open Spaces Manager will take responsibility for this. The management team will also review progress in achieving the actions and work plans on a regular basis. To enable them to do this, a monitoring framework will be put in place and this is described in this part of the management plan.

The monitoring framework seeks to ensure that:

- Service standards are met
- Outputs and timescales identified in the action plan are achieved
- Financial control is maintained

Monitoring itself is categorised into 3 main areas:

- Service standards
- Achievement of action plan
- Green Flag Assessment

11.2 Service Standards Monitoring

This includes routine health and safety checks, which are done on a daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly basis according to inspection sheets developed as part of preparing the risk assessment.

Cleanliness, grounds maintenance and other maintenance checks are made on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, with occasional spot checks and the results will be recorded with handheld technology.

The results of these inspections are discussed at team meetings, one to one meetings. Health and safety is a standing item on the agenda of Management Team meetings and service Management Team Meetings.

11.3 Achievement of Action Plan

All of the actions have been designed to be SMART (i.e. specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timed) and the outputs have been clearly identified. Review of progress will be made with the lead officer through the half-yearly appraisal process and monthly one to one meetings.

Monthly budget monitoring takes place between the cost centre manager and the Parks and Open Spaces Manager and the Strategic Lead for Environmental Services who also meets regularly with the Lead Accountant for the service. Budget monitoring is also a standing item on the agenda of Management Team meetings.

11.4 Green Flag Assessment

As well as continuous assessment by the management team, annual Green Flag judging will be valuable in providing a reality check against which the assessment of the management working group can be compared. Weaknesses which are identified through the Green Flag judging process will then be addressed as part of the annual review process.

12 Review



12.0 Review

A review of the management plan has been programmed into the action plan.

**If you need this in another language or format
please contact:**

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