



# Bute Park Maintenance & Management Plan 2020 – 2025



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Green Heritage Site



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Appendix 2d	Bute Park Area by Area Management Schedule <i>Example</i> <b>Old Man's Wood and the Blackfriars site</b>
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Appendix 6b	Bute Park Event KPI data 2015/16 – 2019/20
Appendix 7a	Bute Park Education Centre SWOT Analysis
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Appendix 8a	Bute Park Education and Family Events SWOT Analysis
Appendix 8b	Bute Park Volunteering, Education and Family Events KPI data 2014/15 – 2019/20
Appendix 9a	Blackweir Sports Pitches and Changing Rooms SWOT Analysis
Appendix 10a	Bute Park Plant Shop SWOT Analysis
Appendix 10b	Bute Park Plant Shop & Nursery KPI data 2018/19 & 2019/20
Appendix 11a	Bute Park Nursery SWOT Analysis
Appendix 12	2019 Bute Park Consultation Survey & Summary of Results
Appendix 14a	Bute Park Green Flag Award Feedback 2018
Appendix 14b	Bute Park Green Heritage Site Award Feedback 2018
Appendix 15	Bute Park Business Plan 19/20 – 24/25
Appendix 18	Bute Park Entrance Plan
Appendix 21	Bute Park Communications Plan
Appendix 24	Bute Park Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
Appendix 25	Staff Briefing Note: Reporting & Recording of Incidents in Bute Park

The following appendices are included in the public version	
Appendix 12	2019 Bute Park Consultation Survey & Summary of Results
Appendix 14a	Bute Park Green Flag Award Feedback 2018
Appendix 14b	Bute Park Green Heritage Site Award Feedback 2018
Appendix 24	Bute Park Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

**Green Flag submission appendices and the additional  
appendices listed below can be requested at the discretion of  
the management team  
(Please e-mail [butepark@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:butepark@cardiff.gov.uk)).**

Appendix 2a	Bute Park Area by Area Management Schedule <b>Southern Lawns</b>
Appendix 2b	Bute Park Area by Area Management Schedule <b>North Gate and Castle Approaches</b>
Appendix 2c	Bute Park Area by Area Management Schedule <b>Cooper's Field</b>
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Appendix 2i	Bute Park Area by Area Management Schedule <b>Blackweir sports ground</b>
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Appendix 2k	Bute Park Area by Area Management Schedule <b>The Dock Feeder and Eastern Woodlands</b>
Appendix 3	Key Holding Agreement (Sept 2018)
Appendix 4	Bute Park and Cardiff Castle Joint Working
Appendix 13	Bute Park Restoration Project Evaluation
Appendix 16a	Tom Harvey Timber Sculpture Maintenance Schedule
Appendix 16b	Mark Folds Timber Sculpture Maintenance Schedule
Appendix 16c	David Lloyd Timber Sculpture Maintenance Schedule
Appendix 17	Pettigrew Planting List
Appendix 19	Bute Park Visitor Leaflet
Appendix 20	Tree management: a Strategic Overview 2007
Appendix 22	Bute Park Scatter Graph of Quality Value Audit
Appendix 23a	Bute Park Memorial Tree Scheme Conditions
Appendix 23b	Bute Park Memorial Bench Scheme Conditions
Appendix 26	Out of Hours Access Protocol Bute Park

## Preface with reference to the Green Flag and Green Heritage Key Criteria

***Mission Statement:*** We will maintain Bute Park & Arboretum as a high quality visitor destination and flag-ship city park. We will protect the legacy of the HLF restoration project by continuing to embed sustainable maintenance & management practices within available resources. We will develop opportunities and partnerships to achieve our potential.

The Council's vision statement for Bute Park encapsulates the holistic approach that has been taken in preparing this five year management plan for the park.

The management plan, which also contains conservation plans for specific heritage features, takes a systematic approach to dealing with all of the elements that make up the park.

It begins with overview descriptions of the site and a full consideration of the context for the site's management. This is followed by details on the current status and future vision for the park. Next there is a description of the delivery framework for the plan, followed by staffing and management arrangements, then details of the park's infrastructure (structures and hard landscape); environment (soft landscape and nature conservation); physical and intellectual access; people and partners; information sources and management (communication, marketing and interpretation). Finally, there are details how the team monitors performance, and measures and celebrates success.

The Management Plan contains a Development & Action Plan, structured to reflect the aims and objectives set out within it.

The eight Green Flag criteria underpin the management aims and objectives and these are addressed within the plan itself as follows:

### **1. A welcoming place**

Site access (**Section 8.1**), orientation (**Section 8.2**) and interpretive materials (**Section 10.5**) are all considered to improve public awareness and understanding of the site. People's use of the park is in **Section 9**. Our Marketing and Communication Plan is in **Appendix 21**. The Development & Action plan (**Appendix 1**) sets out a number of targets for further improving access for all in terms of both physical and intellectual access.

### **2. Healthy, safe and secure**

Site supervision and lines of responsibility are outlined (**Section 5**) with specific information on dealing with emergencies (**Section 5.2.4**), reporting incidents (**Appendix 25**), out of hours access (**Appendix 26**) and management of anti-social behaviour on an area specific basis (**Appendix 2**). Details are provided on the full range of built facilities within the park in **Section 6** and then on an area basis within **Appendix 2**. How the quality and value of the site is measured in **Section 11.2**.

### 3. Well maintained and clean

Details of staff roles are provided in **Section 5.2.1** and **Figure 2**. Maintenance and management of individual facilities is provided in **Section 6** as well as in individual character area schedules (**Appendix 2a – 2k**).

### 4. Environmental Management

The Council has achieved Green Dragon level 3, while the Bute Park Education Centre has achieved level 4 (since 2013). Specific mention is made of sustainable design (**Section 6.1.1**), energy use and management (**Section 6.5**), timber recycling (**Section 7.2.4**). The Council has a pesticide policy which is available upon request. The reduction of peat use is a service wide objective that is dealt with in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy but the latest position with respect to use within the Bute Park Nursery is provided in **Appendix 11a and Appendix 1**. Arboriculture and woodland management is outlined in **Section 7.2** as well as on an area specific basis with **Appendix 2a – 2k**. The corporate approach to sustainability is outlined in the Strategic framework document for green space management plans.

### 5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Bute Park has a documented history and this has been outlined as a timeline within the plan (**Section 2.1**). Conservation and heritage significance are outlined in **Section 2.2** and site designations are provided in **Section 2.3**. Specific mention is made of historic site features (**Section 6.4.3**). The character area schedules provide detailed site-specific information and get down to operational levels of detail about how biodiversity, landscape and heritage features are managed (**Appendix 2a – 2k**).

### 6. Community Involvement

Community involvement is detailed in **Section 9**. The latest user survey results are in **Appendix 12** and customer consultation is covered in **Section 11.4**.

### 7. Marketing and Communication

Marketing and communication work is linked to the implementation of the Bute Park Communications Plan (**Appendix 21**). The range of information available and provided in relation to the park is detailed in **Section 10**.

### 8. Management

The Development & Action plan (**Appendix 1**) indicates what the aspirations are for the future and how they will be delivered. **Figure 2** shows the current organogram. The park business plan is in **Appendix 15**. The character area schedules (**Appendix 2**) show how the site is managed operationally on an area-specific basis. **Section 11** outlines how this plan will be driven forward and the results monitored.

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Bute Park was the 4<sup>th</sup> of the city's Green Flag parks and was the first to be developed as part of the Council's Parks Partnership Programme when it benefitted from a significant investment through a Heritage Lottery 'Parks for People' grant award in 2009. The park first received a Green Flag award in 2008 and has retained the award every year since then.

The Heritage Lottery grant was for £3.1 million towards a total restoration project budget of £5.6 million with match funding provided by the Council and additional grants from Cadw and Landfill Community Fund. The capital phase of the project took place on site 2010 – 2014 and significant improvements and additions to the site's infrastructure were made.

In 2014 the site was designated a Green Heritage Site<sup>1</sup>. In 2013 the Bute Park Education Centre was awarded a Green Dragon Level 4 Award<sup>2</sup>. In 2019 the Education Centre was also awarded a Green Key Award<sup>3</sup> under the conference centre category. The Education Centre houses the site-based management team as well as drop in visitor facilities and two rooms available for private hire.

This is the second management plan to be written post-restoration project. The current document is an update of the 2015 – 2019 plan and follows the latest in-house Maintenance & Management Plan style to align with the requirements for Green Flag submission.

The Management Plan has been written to be read in conjunction with the "Parks and Green Spaces Strategy" the overarching Strategic Framework Document for Green Space Management Plans. This provides the strategic and policy context within which the Council's Parks Department operates.

The new development action plan covers the period 2019/20 – 2024/25 and there is an accompanying business plan for the same period.

In July 2017 the Council's Cabinet launched Capital Ambition, a new five year plan for Cardiff, with a renewed commitment to protection and

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<sup>1</sup> Green Heritage Sites are a specific accreditation within the Green Flag Award scheme and the aim of Green Heritage Site status is to promote the value of and best practice in the care and upkeep of historic sites

<sup>2</sup> Green Dragon is operated by [groundwork.org.uk](http://groundwork.org.uk) and is an environmental standard that is awarded to organisations that are taking action to understand, monitor and control their impacts on the environment. It is maintained through rigorous documentation and frequent audits

<sup>3</sup> The Green Key award is an internationally-recognised eco-label signifying a commitment that business premises in the tourism sector adhere to strict environmental criteria maintained through rigorous documentation and frequent audits

enhancement of the city's parks and green spaces and further development of the existing network of Friends Groups and volunteer working to maximise citizen participation. There is the aspiration to raise the current number of Cardiff green flag parks from 12 to 16 by 2022.

## **1.2 Purpose of plan**

The management plan helps provide documentary evidence of the site and its significance, gives a snapshot of current management practices and guides future development and sustainability of the park. It also enables the Council to submit the site for Green Flag assessment at the appropriate time.

## **1.3 Scope and structure**

This document has been laid out to show in simple terms:

Where we are now?  
Where we would like to get to?  
How we are going to get there?  
How do we know we are there?

To ensure that this document does not become too weighty it was decided that it should only include the key elements involved in the management of this park, and then signpost to additional or more detailed information, which includes a working A-Z site manual held by the management team based within the Bute Park Education Centre.

The scope and structure of this plan can be summarised as follows:

- To provide a brief description of the park including a summary of its history.
- To set out the vision for the park showing how these link back to the Council's higher level objectives, and how the short, medium and long term aims for the park are being delivered by the planned programme of work being carried out by the various operational teams.
- To create a reference document that can be used by other members of the management team or by senior management.
- To make available information such as the history of the site and a summary of the work programme to the frontline staff in a usable format key. Thus allowing them to use the document for reference to answer questions from the public that they may be asked whilst carrying out their daily activities (specifically, through the character area schedules).
- To effectively summarise the appropriate information in response to the criteria detailed in the Green Flag Award Scheme (summary provided in Preface (page 1) and updated annually).



**Appendix 1** of the plan sets out the five year Development Plan and annual action plan.

## 1.4 Site details and location

Site Name	Bute Park
Address	Cardiff CF10 3DX
Website:	<a href="http://bute-park.com/">http://bute-park.com/</a>
Electoral Division	Cathays
OS Map	Leisure Map 171
Grid Ref	ST 181 765
Tenure	Owned by Cardiff County Council and Catholic Church in Wales: Whole site managed by Culture, Leisure and Parks Service Tennis Club leased to Cardiff Tennis Club Castle mews leased to Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Area	Total land area: 59 hectares including leased land Council Owned land: 55.1 hectares Catholic Church owned Lands: 4.9 hectares Cardiff Tennis Club: 0.9 Hectares Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama: 0.4 hectares
Area Classification	Bute Park lies within the Cathays ward (least deprived on the WIMD <sup>4</sup> ) and is bordered by Gabalfa to the north (least deprived on the WIMD), and Riverside on the west and south (a ward that features areas of both least and most deprivation on the WIMD).
Maintained Areas	Details of the maintained areas are shown in <b>Figure 1</b> .

## 1.5 Site description

### 1.5.1 Brief summary description

Bute Park is a unique city centre park flanked by the river Taff on the west, Castle Street and the city centre on the south, North Rd (A470) on its east and Western Ave (A48) to its north. Cardiff Castle is

<sup>4</sup> Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, relative scoring was taken from the 2014 dataset, accessed 03-12-19. See <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Have-your-say/Area-Profiles/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/Pages/default.aspx>

adjacent to the park's south east corner. Its location at the heart of Cardiff makes it an essential "green lung" providing respite from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Bute Park was formerly the property of the Marquesses of Bute and a significant part of the area formed the formal grounds of Cardiff Castle. The land was in part given to the people of Cardiff in 1947 by the Marquess of Bute, along with the Castle.

In 2000, it was included, along with Cardiff Castle, on the Glamorgan Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Interest in Wales at grade 1 (ref: PGW (GM) 22 (CDF). As an arboretum the park also has the largest number of United Kingdom Champion Trees of any site in Wales.

The character of Bute Park is dominated by the nineteenth century plantings of mature trees which have been supplemented by subsequent development of Bute Park Arboretum and the memorial tree donation scheme. The setting of Cardiff Castle, when viewed from the park, is characterised by the foreground of mature Magnolias which have been extended over the years. The central open lawns of Cooper's Fields form the venue for many of the city's major concerts and outdoor events. The grounds are further enhanced with massed bulb planting beneath the tree canopies, and the herbaceous border, established in the 1950s provides a riot of summer colour.

The main ornamental grounds terminate around the walled garden, constructed at some time between 1906 and 1913. This was originally used for fruit and vegetable production for the estate and is currently used as the Council's production nursery for bedding plants and floral decorations as well as providing storage for shrubs and trees before planting elsewhere in the city.

North of the walled garden is the Blackweir Playing fields. Originally Blackweir farm, some of the original field pattern is still preserved in the layout of the fields.

Further north, the park narrows and becomes less formal in character, but still retains some spectacular tree planting, particularly the grouped *Metasequoia* (Dawn Redwood) and *Fagus Sylvatica* 'Purpurea' (Copper Beech). At this point, the Taff Trail follows the line of the park through Gabalfa Woods up to Gabalfa. The route is popular with students accessing campuses to the north and south from their Halls of Residences on the eastern boundary of the park.

At its most northerly point, Bute Park is a narrow access corridor between the river and the Tesco Superstore at Western Avenue bridge. However, even here it provides an important wildlife corridor as well as providing a green backdrop to the extensive car parking surrounding the retail units.

The park is diverse in its nature and to assist in maintenance and management the park has been divided into a number of character areas and compartments. See the Plan of the park at **Figure 1**.

### 1.5.2 Area by area descriptions

This section provides a list of the Park's management compartments and their character area subdivisions see **Figure 1**. Detailed descriptions are available in the document 'Tree management: a Strategic Overview 2007' with an updated summary description included in the area by area management plans in **Appendix 2a–k**.

#### a) Management Compartments

- A Southern lawns**
- B North gate and Castle approaches**
- C Cooper's Field**
- D Old Man's Wood and the Blackfriars site**
- E Herbaceous border**
- F Northern lawns**
- G Castle Nursery and Orchard Lawn**
- H Northern Arboretum**
- I Blackweir sports ground**
- J Gabalfa Woodlands**
- K The Dock Feeder and Eastern Woodlands**

#### b) Character Area Subdivisions

##### **A: Southern Lawns**

- A1 Pettigrew Avenue trees
- A2 Acer / Magnolia collection
- A3 Gorsedd Lawn
- A4 Path junction south of Blackfriars site
- A5 Gallery footings
- A6 Mill Leat
- A7 South western lawns

##### **B: North Gate and Castle Approaches**

- B1 Tulip Tree Avenue
- B2 Ginkgo Avenue and mews entrance
- B3 Lawn west of Ginkgo Avenue
- B4 East bank of Feeder

### **C: Coopers Field**

C1 Events field  
C2 Pine group  
C3 Oak collection

### **D: Old Man's Wood and the Blackfriars Site**

D1 Blackfriars' site  
D2 Old Man's Wood

### **E: Herbaceous Border**

E1 Herbaceous border  
E2 Island beds and River frontage  
E3 Summerhouse café

### **F: Northern Lawns**

F1 Sunken Lawn  
F2 Ornamental woodland A & B  
F3 Open ornamental lawn  
F4 Eastern arboretum collections  
F5 Pettigrew layout  
F6 Riverside walk

### **G: Castle Nursery and Orchard Lawn**

G1 Orchard lawn and Stuttgart Garden  
G2 Walled garden and Castle Nursery  
G3 North Road entrance and Sorbus collection

### **H: Northern Arboretum**

H1 Thorn and Ash collections  
H2 Blackweir woodlands, A, B & C Acer, Beech and Conifer collections  
H3 Redwood Plantation  
H4 Woodland west of flood bank

### **I: Blackweir sports ground**

I1 Upper field  
I2 Lower field

**J: Gabalfa Woodlands**

J1 Lime Avenue  
J2 Gabalfa Woodland south  
J3 Gabalfa Woodland north

**K: The Dock Feeder and Eastern Woodlands**

K1 A, B, C & D West Feeder bank  
K2 A, B & C East Feeder bank





## 2.0 Context for management and maintenance

### 2.1 Bute Park historic context and timeline

The records held for Bute Park were researched and compiled during the preparation of the HLF grant bid and now a good archive of material is held. There are also good links with other archives that hold relevant primary source material. Prior the preparation of the HLF grant bid there was no formally compiled written history of the park. The Parks Service continue to build on the archive held through research, recording information discovered through discussions with the local community (e.g. during historical walks and talks) and gathering information researched by volunteers.

The following timeline gives a brief outline of the site's history.

#### **The Romans**

**AD 55 – 60** First Roman settlement in Cardiff. This was the first in a series of earth and timber forts which extended north of the present Castle enclosure. At some point during this period, the route to the west would have crossed the river Taff.

**AD 260 – 280** Fourth Roman (stone) fort constructed, forming the base of the present Castle.

**AD 400** A settlement developed around the Roman fort, which seems to have remained after the Romans had ceased to occupy the fort.

#### **The Normans & the Middle Ages**

**1080** According to the Welsh Chronicles of the Princes, the building of Cardiff began

**1091** Robert Fitzhamon took possession of Cardiff Castle and the manors belonging to it

**1256** Blackfriars Friary founded by Richard de Clare

**1282 – 1283** King Edward conquers Wales. Llewellyn ab Gruffydd, the country's last prince is killed

**1404** Cardiff is sacked by Owain Glyndwr, and Blackfriars and West Gate are destroyed.

#### **Tudors & Stuarts**

**1538** Blackfriars handed over to the crown as part of the Dissolution of the monasteries which occurred during the reign of Henry VIII. Demolition of the building occurred almost immediately with building materials plundered for use elsewhere.

**1550** King Edward VI grants Cardiff Castle and the mills to William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke

### **Georgian**

**1766** Charlotte Jane Windsor married John, Lord Mount Stuart. Lord Mount Stuart created Baron Cardiff

**1776** John Mounstuart, 4th Earl of Bute (later 1st Marquess of Bute) acquires the Glamorgan Estate and Cardiff Castle.

Capability Brown and his son in law Henry Holland were employed to remodel the house and grounds – work which continued beyond Brown's death in **1783**.

**1796** Lord Mount Stuart created first Marquess of Bute, and was succeeded by his grandson in 1814

**1814 – 1825** David Stewart appointed by the second Marquess to carry out major survey of the Bute estates which identified the potential for the development of the Docks in Cardiff

### **Victorian**

**1837-41** From 1837-41, the dock feeder canal was constructed along the line of the former medieval mill stream, and the First Cardiff Dock opened in 1839.

**1848** Death of the second Marquess, who was succeeded by his son who was a year old at the time.

**1855-57** In 1855 the Trustees acting on behalf of the infant Marquess closed Cooper's Fields to public access. However in 1857, Sophia Gardens was opened to the public at the instigation of the young Marquess in compensation for the exclusion of public access from land on the east side of the river – now Bute Park.

**1860** Trustees acting for the Third Marquess commence work to build a new lodge and entrance to the Castle Grounds in Castle Street. Designed by Alexander Roos in gothic style, it was completed in 1863 and comprised of a living room kitchen and scullery on ground floor and 3 bedrooms above. It was occupied from 1881 – 1901 by the lodge keeper Fredrick Willis and his family.

**1866** Andrew Pettigrew entered the employment of the Marquess of Bute as head gardener at Dumfries House, Ayrshire. He was brought down to Cardiff as head gardener at Cardiff Castle in 1873 and worked closely with the Marquess and his architect William Burges to lay out the castle grounds, now Bute Park.

**1875** The Swiss bridge designed by Burges was constructed as a new exit from the castle to private grounds. It was modelled on the mediaeval bridge at Lucerne.

**1887-97** Blackfriars site was excavated by Kempson & Fowler at the instigation of the Marquess of Bute, and interpreted in modern materials in accordance with developing principles of historic building restoration.

**1890s** Construction of the Animal Wall, originally designed by William Burges, began in front of the castle.

### **20th Century**

**1901** Death of the Third Marquess who was succeeded by his son.

**1906-1913** The walled nursery was built at some time between these dates to replace the original estate nursery which used to be in Cathays Park following the sale of the site to Cardiff Corporation. The nursery was used to produce fruit and vegetables for the Bute family. Produce was regularly transported from Cardiff to their Scottish estate on the Isle of Bute as late as 1943.

**1921** J.P. Grant began to reconstruct the medieval West Gate and town wall alongside the castle

**1923** Animal Wall removed and relocated west of the Castle due to the widening of Duke Street

**1927** Swiss bridge relocated west of Castle mews to make room for the West Gate development.

**1937** Footings for a new art gallery were constructed behind the Animal Wall but in 1939, work on the gallery was abandoned due to outbreak of war.

**1947** On the death of the fourth Marquess of Bute, the castle and grounds were gifted to the people of Cardiff by the 5th Marquess. Additional lands, including Blackweir Farm were purchased from the estate by the Council. At the same time 11 acres of the park were gifted to the Roman Catholic Church for the purpose of building a new cathedral.

**1947** Cardiff Council established the arboretum at Bute Park under the direction of Bill Nelves, Chief Parks Officer

**1963** The Swiss bridge was demolished

**1970's** The Mill Leat was drained following a drowning and flooding in the basement of the Angel hotel across the road on Castle Street.

**1978** Gorsedd Stones were erected in Bute Park to commemorate National Eisteddfod in Cardiff

**1988** The wooden summerhouse was dismantled from the park and rebuilt at the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans. It is still there now.

**1999** The Millennium footbridge, linking the park to Sophia Gardens, was constructed as part of the preparations for the Rugby World Cup in Cardiff.

**2009** A new access bridge into Bute Park was constructed opposite Corbett Rd to rationalize traffic management in the site.

### **Bute Park Restoration Project**

**March 2009** The Bute Park Restoration Project, supported by a £3.1m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, begins (permission to start) Project Manager appointed Oct 2009.

**Jan 2010** First capital works of the restoration project begin on site.

**May 2010** The new Summerhouse Café, based on Burges' original design, is completed.

**Oct 2010** The restoration of the Animal Wall was completed. Graffiti was cleaned from the rear of wall, and all stonework repointed and repaired. The famous anteater gets his nose back.

**Oct 2011** Bute Park Education Centre, a hub of learning, training and education, opens to the public, along with the Secret Garden Cafe.

**March 2012** West Lodge opens as Pettigrew Tea Rooms after the restoration of the building. Beautiful Victorian tiles reclaimed from Blackfriars were used for the floor.

**March 2012** Bute Park Friends Group formally constituted.

**Dec 2013** The Mill Leat, which had been dry since the late 1970's, is re-flooded, providing new habitat for wildlife, and beautiful reflections of the castle. Works included excavating the leat and rebuild existing masonry including 2 new dams.

**July 2014** Blackfriars Friary site which has been fully conserved and restored, is opened to the public, including a 3D model depicting the site in its medieval heyday.

Throughout the project a range of other landscape improvements are made (upgraded paths, new bins, signs, seats, picnic benches, sculptural art and natural play, woodland balance trail, refurbishment of Blackweir Changing rooms, repairs to erosion of the Dock feeder western bank, website, as well as the establishment of an education and outreach programme)

During the project period the Millennium Bridge was fully refurbished (Dec 2013) and a trash screen was installed to catch debris historically blocking the tunnels behind the castle (Aug 2014). These were not funded by the HLF project.

**Oct 2017** Cardiff Salad Garden a Community Interest Company took up tenancy in an under-utilised glasshouse within Bute Park nursery. They work with disadvantaged volunteers from a range of backgrounds including

refugees and asylum seekers, people recovering from mental health problems and substance misuse and the unemployed. A wide range of salad leaves are grown throughout the year and salad is picked and packed 3 times a week then delivered to local restaurants and cafes by bicycle.

**March 2018** A Plant Shop within the polytunnel adjacent to the Bute Park Education Centre was opened to the public. The shop was open every Wednesday and Saturday 10 – 3pm, excluding winter months.

**A montage of early photographs of the site is provided at Plate 1.**



4<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Bute's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party, Coopers Field 1902



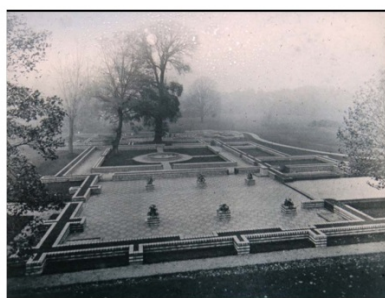
Andrew Pettigrew (1833-1903)  
Head Gardener for the Bute Family



Herbaceous Border, 1960s - both sides as a full border



Original Bute Park Summerhouse.  
Located at St Fagan's since 1988



Frame's interpretation of Blackfriars Friary, 1890



Swiss Bridge by the Castle Mews, 1927

Plate 1: A montage of early photographs of the site

## 2.2 Statement of significance for Bute Park

Bute Park is one of the largest urban parks in the UK, with a landscape ranging from 19<sup>th</sup> century gardens and planting in the south, adjacent to Cardiff Castle, to sports pitches and informal woodland in the north. The park is not just significant on historic grounds, but the combination of historic,

environmental, horticultural and other factors make this a unique and important site at a local, regional, national and international scale.

### **2.2.1 Primary significance**

The elements of primary significance relating to Bute Park are:

#### **a) Links to the Bute Family (along with Cardiff Castle)**

Bute Park, along with Cardiff Castle, is significant in its strong links with the Bute Family as one of a number of estates across the UK owned by the family between the mid eighteenth and mid twentieth centuries. Although the estate was never more than a temporary home for the family – the fact that the family's nineteenth century wealth was built on coal mined from the Welsh Valleys and exported from the docks in Cardiff (that had been built by the Bute family) means that there is a very specific link to Cardiff and in particular Bute Park and Cardiff Castle, in which the family invested heavily to create the landscape and architecture that is now very much part of Cardiff's distinctive heritage.

Scope of significance: International

#### **b) Visual setting for Cardiff Castle**

Bute Park provides the characteristic setting for many of the best known portraits of Cardiff Castle. Early views, where the foreground of West Street and the surrounding fields focus attention on the Castle itself, date back to 1678 (Francis Place, Cardiff from the west). The same image is repeated in a number of classic portraits of the town and castle during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, particularly the Buck engravings, 1741 and 1748. The laying out of the park in the late nineteenth century formalised the view up and down Cooper's Field both from and towards the castle as one of the primary viewpoints within the designed landscape.

The view of Cardiff Castle from Cooper's Field, with the Acer and Camellia collection in the foreground and the clock-tower rising from behind mature park trees is now one of the iconic images of Cardiff, alongside the Millennium Stadium, City Hall and Cardiff Bay.

Scope of significance: National

#### **c) Designed Landscape**

The laying out of the Castle Grounds by Andrew Pettigrew, between 1873 and 1903, is the only known example of a designed layout by this highly respected, nineteenth century gardener and horticulturalist. Despite the absence of any surviving master plan for



the estate, the broad layout of the grounds today reflects the structure indicated on the 1901 Ordnance Survey plan with its characteristic features of expansive lawns, clumps of trees, wooded areas and under-storey planting.

From descriptions of contemporary garden visits, the Pettigrew landscape style was understated, very different to the high Victorian layouts of the mid nineteenth century and more akin to the landscape style of the American designer Frederick Law Olmsted, whose work was referred to by Pettigrew in his written and spoken presentations on design.

The landscape takes advantage of the linear nature of the site, utilising this to best effect through the strong north – south axis, culminating in the dramatic silhouette of Cardiff Castle dominating the south eastern corner. The presence of the dock feeder on the eastern side of the park increases the natural buffer along the eastern boundary, reducing and even eliminating the impact of North Road on the park and creating an expansive, tranquil and beautiful place in the heart of the city.

The lack of any original layout plans for the gardens has left them vulnerable to intervention and modification through the passage of time and there is a particular conflict between the late Victorian / Edwardian layout and the more recent twentieth century Arboretum collection, established during the late 1940s.

Scope of significance: National

#### **d) Blackfriars site**

The mediaeval Blackfriars Friary dates from the twelfth century. The site is one of the few mediaeval friaries in Wales where the site layout is known and largely displayed – and is second only to Haverfordwest Priory in this respect. Its significance is elevated due to the fact that Cardiff's other Friary – the Greyfriars – was developed in the 1960s and is now beneath the 'Capital Tower' on the corner of Greyfriars Road. The Blackfriars site is the most obvious presence within the park of a history predating the Bute ownership of the castle and estate.

The partially restored and conserved visible remains of the Friary are not mediaeval, having been interpreted and reconstructed during the late nineteenth century as a result of archaeological excavation works carried out under instruction from the Third Marquess of Bute. It is this visible reconstruction that makes the site unique in Wales, and one of only a few sites of its kind in the UK. The re-creation of the Friary layout appears to follow the principles of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) which was formed in 1877 around the time that the excavations were being carried out. The archaeological investigations carried out in advance of and

during the restoration works have significantly increased the understanding of the interpreted site.

Scope of significance: National

#### **e) The Arboretum**

The Arboretum in Bute Park was developed by Bill Nelmes, Chief Parks Officer, from the late 1940s onwards. The tree collections were planted in species groups, initially within the landscape structure of the park, although the effects of WW2 food production had probably simplified some of the original layout. Planting dwindled in the 1960s, but was revived with a tree donation scheme in the 1980s, when the collections were extended and the planting was more widespread. New and replacement trees were added to the collections throughout the HLF restoration project and continue through a successful tree donation scheme in the post-HLF project period.

The site's tree collection database contains over 4,000 individually catalogued trees, though less remain *in situ*. Many are extremely rare and probably exist on a limited number of sites within the UK. There are currently 39 champion trees in the collection<sup>5</sup> (the widest or tallest of their type in the UK) – but these are not necessarily the oldest trees – some of the rarest trees and a significant number of champions are contained within the more recent plantings.

The collection is unique in a public park. It was surveyed in 2005 by Dr Owen Johnson of the Tree Register of the British Isles (TROBI), who has described the park as '*unique in public parks in Britain or Ireland for its scope and its quantity of rare material. Assessed in terms of the Tree Register's statistics, Bute Park has nearly four times as many Champion Trees as its nearest rival among public parks in Britain (Roath Park), and three times as many trees noted as being of national importance for stature or rarity.*'

Scope of significance: National

### **2.2.2 Other significance**

The elements of other significance relating to Bute Park are detailed below. The combination of these with the elements of primary significance elevates the status of Bute Park in terms of its overall significance as an urban park within the UK.

#### **a) History of the site**

This history of the land now referred to as Bute Park is intimately associated with the history of Cardiff as a settlement. Although no

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<sup>5</sup> Number of champion trees in December 2019

major Roman remains have been discovered on the site, it is likely that the site of the Roman river crossing and associated road lies within the park.

Mediaeval settlement along West Street continued through into the eighteenth century and is well documented. The alignment of the millstream, parallel to the River Taff, and its weirs, fisheries and mills, are all recorded. The development of the three bridge locations – the mediaeval, eighteenth and nineteenth century bridges, and concurrent movements of the Taff, provide a fascinating insight into the town's struggle with the natural elements.

A reminder of the link with the export of coal can be seen in the creation of the dock feeder along the mill stream line, which still feeds water to Cardiff's docks today and the layout of the southern park is the legacy of the wealth created by the coal export industry. Even the layout of the Blackweir Recreation Ground still provides clues about its agricultural roots.

The process of unravelling the site history is still ongoing,. This makes the site particularly valuable to historians and academics. The history of the site has been interpreted through the HLF project but further interpretation is possible. Given the right clues, the site can be easily understood because the park has never been built upon, and the spaces within the site allow visitors to appreciate the site's associations with Cardiff Castle and the way in which it has developed.

Scope of significance: Regional

## **b) Hidden Archaeology**

The lack of built development in the park has meant that much of the underground archaeology, which has never been properly investigated, is still likely to be '*in situ*'. Roman, mediaeval, post mediaeval and eighteenth century finds have been discovered within the park, although only a limited number of structures have been located and partially excavated<sup>6</sup>. Initial geophysical survey work along the eighteenth century line of West Street, carried out 2004/5, suggested that many of the buildings on the street are still present below ground, further evidence of this was discovered when a mature Holm oak in the area fell exposing masonry remains. Significant buried structures and high status items not previously found outside Cardiff Castle were also discovered during archaeological investigations associated with the re flooding of the Mill Leat In 2013.

Scope of significance: Regional

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<sup>6</sup> Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust, March 2001

### c) Built Structures

Bute Park contains a number of built structures dating back to the mid and late nineteenth century and associated with the park's use as the private grounds to Cardiff Castle. These are primarily associated with access to and enclosure of the grounds. These structures include the iconic Animal Wall along the southern boundary, the gateway entrance at West Lodge and the lodge itself, the gateway entrance north of Cardiff Castle, the boundary wall along North Road and collection of houses and former farm buildings at Blackweir Farm. At Blackweir, the houses and cottages are now in private ownership, as is the northern-most lodge at Gabalfa, in Gabalfa Woods.

All of these buildings and structures are significant in the fact that they help to retain the 'estate' character of the park, distinguishing it from other public parks in Cardiff with a more municipal character. In particular, the Animal Wall, although not seen from within the park, is one of Cardiff's most enduring images, and it creates a unique and tantalising southern boundary of universal appeal.

Scope of significance: Local

### d) Ecology and SINCs

Bute Park is a city centre park, yet it contains or abuts a number of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs):

#### **SINC 17: Gabalfa Woods**

A secondary woodland with mature Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) which originally bordered the lower reaches of the Glamorganshire Canal and now contains Drooping Sedge (*Carex pendula*).

#### **SINC 6: Blackweir and the Dock Feeder**

Secondary woodland managed as ornamental parkland with a varied natural and introduced ground flora and the Dock Feeder Canal and associated waterway vegetation. The woodland supports many woodland birds, including Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and the Dock Feeder supports a colony of Beautiful Demoiselle damselflies (*Calopteryx virgo*) near Cardiff Castle.

The Northern sections of the **Bute Park Arboretum** are also included within this listing, and contain a very small remnant of Waxcap grassland, including the rare UK BAP species Date-coloured Waxcap (*Hygrocybe spadicea*).

**SINC 97: The River Taff**

The river is important for migratory fish, Otters (*Lutra lutra*), wildfowl and bankside vegetation and acts as a main wildlife corridor, attracting fish eating birds such as Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) and Goosander (*Mergus merganser*).

The park is also home to all three UK woodpeckers, the Green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*), Great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) and the more rare Lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*), which is on the 2006 IUCN 'Red List' of threatened species due to its declining numbers.

The park supports colonies of Tawny Owls (*Strix aluco*) and Pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and on summer evenings, Noctule bats (*Nyctalus noctula*) and Daubentons bats (*Myotis daubentonii*) can also be seen along the river.

Full details are available in **Appendix 24** - Bute Park Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Scope of significance: Local

**e) Community use, events and filming**

Bute Park is a city centre urban park with environmental qualities more often found on the urban fringe or in a country park; however it is also an important venue for community activity and local, regional and national events.

In 2019/20 Bute Park hosted 51 events in total, 63% of these events were charged at a charity rate [32 events; 21 at the Tier 1 (lower charity) rate and 11 at the Tier 2 (higher charity) rate], whilst 0.5% [3 of the 51 events] were charged at the commercial rate. Although small in number, the commercial rate events generated 65% of the event income for the year. This hopefully demonstrates that the quantity of commercial events within the park is at an acceptable level but also how critical those events are to balancing the park's budget. The number of events per year is shown in **Appendix 6b, chart 1**. The annual income from event hire fees is shown in **Appendix 6b, chart 2**, and the public's perception of events and their management according to our latest user survey are shown in **Appendix 12, question 7**.

The park is also a location popular for filming and in 2019 the team fielded at least 72 enquiries for use of the park as a filming location which resulted in 10 fee invoices (a significant number of enquiries do not come to anything for various reasons). The annual income from filming fees is shown in **Appendix 6b, chart 4**.

In 2019/20 approximately 100,000 people attended events in the park. 44% attended commercial events including Inside Out music festival and Homeless World Cup (free for public to attend). 31% of people attended charity events (Tier 1 - 3% / Tier 2 – 28%) and 25% were to the RHS flower show (No Fee). The number of attendances at events is shown in more detail in **Appendix 6b, chart 3**.

The park is a popular short cut for pedestrian and cyclist access from the suburbs of Riverside and Canton to the city centre, and counters at entrances indicate the park receives approximately 2,500,000 visits each year (see **Appendix 5b**).

Pettigrew Tea rooms, The Summerhouse and The Secret Garden cafés, developed and leased during the restoration project have significantly helped to develop the sense of community in the park.

Bute Park does not function as a traditional, local, community park. It has a citywide catchment of users, supplemented by tourists, giving it a much wider range of users than any other park in Cardiff and increasing its significance as a major visitor attraction in the city. Bute Park has been the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked of “things to do in Cardiff” according to TripAdvisor for several years and maintains this at the time of writing<sup>7</sup> (see **Appendix 5b**).

Scope of significance: Regional

## f) Educational potential

The educational potential of Cardiff's parks is being increasingly acknowledged and promoted. Bute Park, by virtue of its facilities, location, qualities and associations with Cardiff's history has unique educational potential both within the city and in the South Wales region. The site and its education centre provide a venue for all levels of learning: basic skills, national curriculum delivery, adult education, specialist training, degree level coursework and post graduate research.

The wide range of themes that can be covered within the park (basic numeracy and language skills, linguistic courses, environmental, social and cultural education, history, biology, geography, ecology, botany, ornithology, archaeology, landscape development, horticultural, arboricultural, fine turf management training, art, photography, journalism etc.) makes the park significant in terms of its educational potential

<sup>7</sup> Bute Park was 3<sup>rd</sup> of 165 things to do in Cardiff with 1,790 reviews accessed at [https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction\\_Review-g186460-d187983-Reviews-Bute\\_Park-Cardiff\\_South\\_Wales\\_Wales.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186460-d187983-Reviews-Bute_Park-Cardiff_South_Wales_Wales.html) on 3rd December 2019

Scope of significance: Local

### **g) Health and Wellbeing**

The city-centre, highly accessible location of Bute Park plus the fact it is free to enter and has such rich natural content makes it an ideal Health & Wellbeing resource.

The park is used both formally and informally in ways that help promote health & wellbeing of visitors. On the informal side, people use the park for a casual lunchtime stroll and quiet sit on a bench to watch the world go by, or use of the trim trail as part of their regular fitness routine. On the more formal side people seek out opportunities to promote their health & wellbeing on a group basis by joining one of the sessions offered by parks staff or external providers.

It is our intention to further-develop and raise awareness of the walks park staff offer. The Bute Park Ranger already runs monthly lunchtime walks for staff at Cardiff University. We hope to develop the market for such use further plus reach the council's own staff e.g. by encouraging workers from City Hall and Cardiff Castle to join a lunchtime walking group in Bute Park.

Scope of significance: Local

## **2.3 Site designations, leases and covenants**

### **2.3.1 Statutory designations**

The Blackfriars site is listed as a scheduled monument; (GM173 – Dominican Friary) any alteration or addition to the restoration and conservation work carried out as part of the HLF project will require scheduled monument consent from Cadw within the scheduled area.<sup>8</sup> Horticultural works and operations within the cloister garth beds which do not exceed 200mmm deep are generally permitted without further formal consent.

Animal Wall (Grade I), the restored Victorian interpretation of the Blackfriars site (Grade II) and West Lodge (grade II\*) are all statutory Listed Buildings requiring consent from Cadw in order to execute works.

Following the significant archaeological finds during works at the northern end of the Mill Leat it is understood that CADW are

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<sup>8</sup> See Bute Park: Restoration and Development Plan (March 2005), Figure 4, page 30 for extent of Scheduled site

considering extending the Cardiff Castle and roman fort scheduled monument (GM171) boundary to incorporate this part of the park. The detail of the extent of the extension is not known at this time. The archaeologically sensitive area has been identified in the maintenance schedules in **Appendix 2a-k**.

### **2.3.2 Covenants, land titles and existing leases**

#### **a) Existing covenants and restrictions**

The main body of the park, excluding the area owned by the Catholic Church in Wales is public open space held on trust by the Council for the citizens of Cardiff. Anything proposed on the site must be reasonable and be within the spirit of reasonableness of the operation of the land as public open space. This would prevent any area of the park being sectioned off or use of the site for a purely commercial venture unless the site was first advertised for disposal of public open space.

#### **b) Land titles**

The southern section of the park including West lodge is owned by the Catholic Church in Wales, having been given to them by the fifth Marquess of Bute as the site for a future Roman Catholic Cathedral in Cardiff. This area has been leased from the church since 1947<sup>9</sup>.

During the spring and summer of 2005, a new lease was negotiated with the Catholic Church in Wales which gives the Council a 250 year perpetuity lease on the property and removes previous clauses restricting use. The new lease allowed the Council to implement development works required to deliver the aspirations in the 2005 Restoration and Development plan without requiring any further consent from the Church. Under the terms of the current lease the rent is reviewed every 3 years and increases with RPI. This has proved onerous as the Council's core budget for the park is not increased to keep pace. There is a desire to re-negotiate this term of the rental agreement in order to maintain financial sustainability of the park and its management team.

#### **c) Existing leases**

##### **i) Cardiff Tennis Club**

The tennis club occupies land south east of the Castle Mews, north of the North Gate into the park. This area is held on a 999 year lease from September 1947.

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<sup>9</sup> See Bute Park Restoration and Development Plan (March 2005), Figure 5, page 31 for extent of land



**ii) Castle Mews**

Castle Mews is currently occupied by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama on a 99 year lease from 1998 at a peppercorn rent.

**iii) Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama**

The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama occupies an area of land south of the Fishers bridge entrance on a 125 year lease from 2012 at a peppercorn rent.

**iii) Blackweir Ambulance Station**

The former Blackweir Farm site was purchased by Cardiff Corporation in 1947 and searches by the Council's Legal department in Jan 2015 confirm that the land is still registered in the freehold ownership of Cardiff Council (excluding the site of the Blackweir farmhouse and cottages – shown in green, which are now private dwellings), see Plate 2.



Plate 2 – Extract from registered title plan showing land purchased by Cardiff Corporation adjacent to North Rd (former Blackweir farm site). Areas excluded shown in green.

In 1949 there was a lease of the ambulance depot itself granted by the Parks Committee to the Health Committee and a separate licence for the garaging and storage facilities. It is believed these 2 areas should have passed to the Health Service in 1974 upon reorganisation under the NHS Re-organisation Act 1973 (this was conceded by the Council in 1999), though it seems the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust have never formally registered their interest in the land.

Any requests to pass the freehold of the site to the Health Authority are considered unlikely in view of current site safety issues, and it will be for the Council to decide what should happen to the land when the Ambulance Depot vacate the site.

Land used for vehicle parking located to the north of the access route into the Ambulance Depot was dealt with by a further licence (dated 1979), and since it post-dated the NHS Re-organisation Act would not have automatically transferred at that time. However, the Council did not pursue the NHS/Welsh Ambulance Service Trust to enter into a further licence for the vehicle parking area (which terminated in 1992) and it could therefore be assumed that they have now claimed ownership of this area of land too. It is notable that “No Parking” signs were erected by the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust in 2014 and since then, the area has been used to park ambulances. This represents a change of use, since previously it was used as an informal area of public parking (with occasional film unit and event use) managed by the Council.

The accessways/bridge etc. into Bute Park would not have passed with the Ambulance Depot, though the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust have a right of way over the same to access their premises.

The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) occupy land at Blackweir for fleet maintenance workshops and an ambulance station. It is understood that the needs of the Ambulance Service are not being met at the Blackweir site and WAST are actively seeking new premises. The fleet maintenance and ambulance station functions have been split in recent years and the proposals for the two operations are being progressed separately. The latest position provided by WAST’s Regional Estates Manager is that an Ambulance MRD (Make ready depot) is being progressed to be located in Pentwyn. The plans for this have been finalised and scope of works completed. The scheme is currently awaiting funding from the All Wales Capital

allocation by WG. Subject to gaining approval, the new facility would be ready to transfer ambulance services from Blackweir in the second quarter of 2021. Progress is also being made to transfer the fleet workshop element to another location at Cardiff gate, however the planning for this is a stage behind the MRD and although the facility for this will be subject to the same process we do not yet have a more accurate programme but would envisage completion of this building in late 2021

In terms of the long term management of the park, the vacation of this site would potentially allow it to be used as a maintenance base for the horticultural/grounds maintenance operations or as a parking area to support the use of the Blackweir playing fields and park as a whole. However clearly, any future use would have to be informed by the costs (e.g. maintenance/ demolition/ entrance re-configuration) associated with it.

It should be noted that in 2006 an options appraisal for the Ambulance Depot entrance was prepared by Veryards Opus Ltd (now Opus Environment) titled Scoping of Options Report – Bridge 154 - Ambulance depot bridge. This was linked to proposals (now dormant/abandoned) to widen North road as part of transport corridor improvements. This sets out the indicative options and costs. Pursuing the recommendations contained within was not feasible within the life of the HLF restoration project, since the site was still occupied by the Ambulance Depot and there was a requirement for 24/7 access to be maintained throughout any works.

See also **section 8.1.2(b)** for further information.

## **2.4 The Bute Park Restoration Project 2010 - 2014**

The Bute Park restoration project still provides an important management context for this management plan. The council is required to ensure the park is a sustainable asset until at least 2024/25 following the significant investment made by both Cardiff Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is essential in ensuring the project legacy and potential of the park is realised.

A number of features and facilities were restored or introduced during the project and this management plan sets out how they will be managed and maintained in the future.

## **2.5 Shared use path issues**

Under the current Parks Byelaws, cycling in parks is not permitted but they allow the Council to designate routes for 'shared use' simply by the installation of appropriate signs to indicate the permission.

The recent increase in popularity of cycling for both commuting and pleasure has created a situation where cycling now takes place across the whole of the park, which has created some conflict between users groups. It is currently not possible to effectively enforce the byelaw on cycling within existing resources.

This issue and the new Active Travel Bill has prompted the Council to look at how cycling is impacting on park landscapes and park users. Following trials and consultation a Code of Conduct for Shared Use Paths was adopted across the city's parks. The key messages were turned into symbols and these feature on sign boards at several key locations within the park<sup>10</sup> road stamps with a 'Share with care' message have also been installed at all entrances<sup>11</sup>.

The latest annual user survey highlighted that park users are concerned about cyclists in the park and there were 49 of 375 (13%) responses that referred to this. These 49 responses can be broken down into the following categories:

- 'the presence of cyclists / inconsiderate cyclists' in the park (16 responses)
- the 'speed of cyclists' (25 responses)
- and 'concern for potential conflict with pedestrians' (8 responses)

In 2018 27 of 242 (11%) responses referred to these issues and 13 of 103 in 2017 (12%).

Results have been shared with the section leader for cycling policy and strategy to ensure they are accounted for in future policy and strategy decisions.

## 2.6 Use as a major civic and community event space

Bute Park features several event spaces which are used by various charity and commercial organisations to host a range of event types and sizes. This event use is a strength of the park but brings a number of issues and potential threats (**see Appendix 6a**). The effective management of events is essential to manage the interface they have with the wider use of the park.

There is a well-established application process for outdoor events in Bute Park, which includes scrutiny of organiser's plans by the city's Event Liaison Panel. Guidance documents, written to support safe and responsible use of the site, are available at [www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com). These are continuously reviewed and improved in light of operational experience and user feedback.

Event-related performance information is included in **Appendix 6b** and the fluctuations of event numbers, audience numbers and income provides an important management context for the site. The management team remain determined to strike the right balance between commercial development and protecting the integrity of the park's character. This topic was explored in

<sup>10</sup> See A-Z site manual under S for 'Signage' for the audit and locations

<sup>11</sup> See A-Z site manual under R for 'Road Stamps' for the audit and locations

relation to increased event use in the latest user survey and results can be found in **Appendix 12, question 7**

## 2.7 Sport and recreation use

Bute Park has significant sporting infrastructure in its northern section around Blackweir Fields. There is the “trim trail” (see **section 6.6.2**), a changing room block (see **section 6.2.1**), and football, rugby and cricket pitches. The pitches are also utilised from time to time for hosting community, charity and major events. In addition to the use of these facilities, the park’s paths are well-used by individuals and groups for running, walking and cycling.

A SWOT analysis of Blackweir Sports Pitches and Changing rooms is provided in **Appendix 9** and helps frame the management context for this particular aspect of the park’s use.

### 2.7.1 Blackweir Sports Pitches

#### Football

Blackweir has 3 football pitches available September – May though the season can extend depending on the number of cancelled fixtures during the winter season due to inclement weather.

#### Rugby

There are 3 Rugby pitches, which are available September – April.

#### Cricket

There are 4 cricket wickets, which are used May - September.

Use of these pitches is currently in decline and the possible reasons are explored further in **Appendix 9**.

**Section 6** provides further information and location plans of the sports facilities on site and describes how they are maintained. This information is also included in the Blackweir Sports Pitches area management schedule in **Appendix 2i**.

### 2.7.2 Cardiff Park Run

Cardiff Park Run is a 5K run managed and organised by volunteers and is free of charge for those who register their interest. Participants are provided with a bar code and their times are recorded electronically and uploaded to the Park Run website.

Cardiff Park Run is now one of the most popular courses in the UK with numbers regularly exceeding 700.

Park Run takes place every Saturday at 9.00am and finishes by 10:00am. During this time there is a ban on all vehicle movements along the course route. Participants take advantage of the retail park on Western Avenue for parking and facilities and the route starts from the north end of the site, see the Course page on the website <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/cardiff/course/> for full details.

The volume of runners on the paths, which remain open for other users has, led to minor incidents and some complaints from members of the public. The Council continue dialogue with the organisers of Park Run to ensure risks are adequately managed. The Council has recently permitted new Park Run locations across the city to help disperse numbers and allow the run to continue to grow.

### **2.7.3 Pedal Power**

The charity Pedal Power are based in premises adjacent to Cardiff Caravan site and use Bute Park to provide people with physical and learning disabilities the opportunity to safely cycle for health, fitness and recreation using modified bicycles. Unmodified bikes are also available for general hire from the site. Introduction of the park's cafés has been popular with these groups who regularly stop in as part of their journey. The Pedal Power premises are sign-posted from the park.

### **2.7.4 Regular annual sport events**

Bute Park is a very popular venue for sports events such as mass participation charity runs, walks and cycles. In 2019, 51 such events took place in the park and varied from less than 100 to over 2500 participants/spectators. There were 15 running events, 5 walks and 4 other (Homeless World Cup football, orienteering, sports day and a Welsh Cycling promotion day) sporting events.

The location and scale of infrastructure associated with these events varies, as does the impact to everyday park users. The most common issues are conflict on paths between event participants and other park users and damage to the fabric of the park caused either by the participants themselves, e.g. running over soft ground and causing the ground to become muddy, and/or by the events associated infrastructure – e.g. catering and production vehicles.

It is a challenge for the Park Manager to balance the competing needs and wants of the different user groups in the park, and they work with event organisers to adopt a continuous improvement approach in order to learn lessons and reduce impact wherever possible. Sporting events are treated in the same way as other events in the park and are managed through the same booking process.

### 2.7.5 Key holder arrangements

Historically, Blackweir Changing Rooms were used on a key-holder basis by home clubs, but following a reduction in pitch use over recent years this has become less regular. A copy of the standard key holder agreement is provided in **Appendix 3**.

## 2.8 Relationship with Cardiff Castle

The land now known as Bute Park was formerly the property of the Marquesses of Bute and a significant part of the area formed the formal grounds of Cardiff Castle. There is therefore a strong historic relationship between the two sites.

There are many examples of joint house and garden attractions in the UK so the relationship is also an intuitive one from a customer's point of view. However the relationship between the two venues is slightly complicated by the fact Cardiff Castle is a paid for visitor attraction and Bute Park is a free to access public park. Nevertheless, coordinating the management and operation of Cardiff Castle and Bute Park has been a long standing ambition of the Council.

The approved purposes of grants towards the restoration of Cardiff Castle and Bute Park mean the Heritage Lottery Fund also have a direct interest in encouraging appropriate public access and visitor management between the castle and park.

The Bute Park HLF grant award contract contained the clause *"Within three months of the date of the Grant, you will send to us for approval, detailed arrangements for a formal, co-ordinated management service for both Cardiff Castle and the Property. Thereafter you will implement the approved arrangements."* A statement of intent was submitted to HLF in 2009 to satisfy the clause.

Cardiff Castle and Bute Park are now both within the Economic Development Directorate, which is helpful in supporting management coordination between the two sites. A revised statement on the joint working arrangements between the two sites is set out in **Appendix 4** and updates the present position and aspirations of the Council. The Bute Park Development Plan contains an objective and the specific actions to this end.

## 2.9 Anti-social behaviour

The Urban Ranger service within parks is the team specifically tasked with dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime at an appropriate level. However it should be noted that all staff working on site are expected to take personal responsibility and appropriate action for incidents they are a personal witness to.

Incidents are recorded in the ranger's personal pocket 'pace' note books and also in the on-site diary. These are classed as legal binding documents and will be kept for five years and then destroyed.

In 2015-16 there were 16 FTE within the Urban Ranger Service, in 2019-20 there are 12.

### 2.9.1 Dog fouling

It is the Ranger Supervisor who organises dog-fouling patrols, which are carried out by the Urban Ranger Team. These are organised on a priority basis across the city based on the number of complaints received for individual sites and Ranger/Site management intelligence gathered through face-to-face contact.

There are 12 Urban Rangers at the time of writing, 6 of whom have the appropriate training to issue fines and enforce the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. The current Fixed Penalty Notice fine for dog fouling is £80. The Urban Rangers cannot issue a fine based on second hand information but the Ranger issuing the fine has to witness the incident themselves.

No formal complaints about dog fouling in Bute Park were received in the last year and only 3 people out of 326 responders to the 2019 user survey mentioned dog fouling as having negatively impacted their visit so this element of ASB is not a significant issue for the park. However, the Rangers continue to proactively combat dog fouling through education work with the public on a citywide basis.

### 2.9.2 Drug and alcohol use and anti-social litter

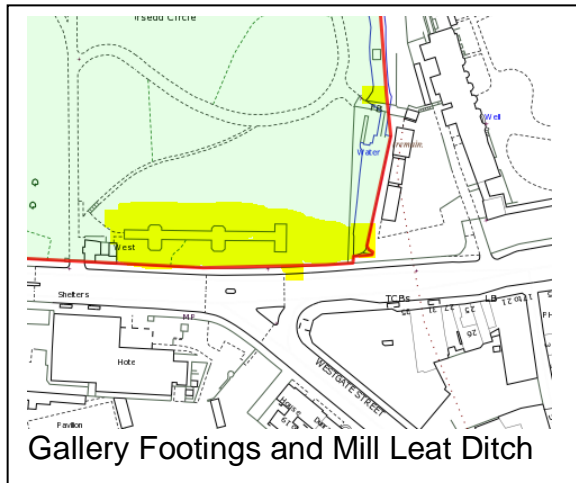
Bute Park, like any urban park, experiences a certain level of drug and alcohol use which generates litter classified as 'anti-social' (as opposed to general litter), the most problematic of which are needles and used condoms. The Urban Ranger team record the quantity of this litter and the locations in which it was found on a daily basis. This information is held in the on-site diary. As part of the most recent management plan update, a review of the data held for 2019 was made and compared to that from 2014. This shows there has been an increase in the volume of this type of litter recovered. The detailed results are presented in **Appendix 5b**.

It is worth noting that diary data for recovered needles and used condoms are always an underestimate as there is never 100% reporting of all items discarded. Some removals are carried out by members of staff not part of the Urban Ranger team or by members of the public and therefore not recorded.

Current known hot-spots for anti-social litter are shown in Plate 3 below and are also recorded in the character area schedules. Staff patrol and "sweep"



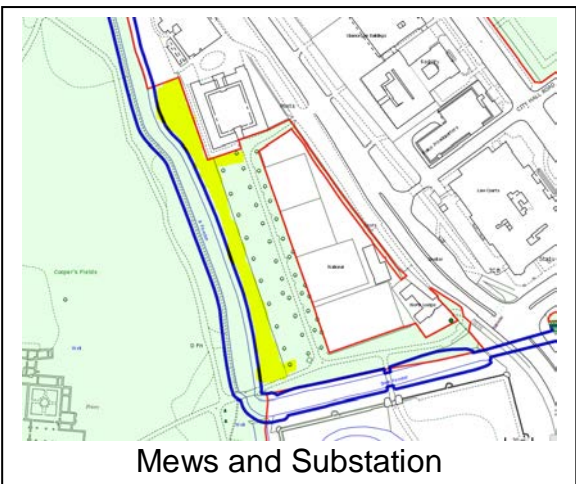
through these areas on a daily basis to help mitigate risks to members of the public. However, shift times and the levels of staffing within the Parks Service mean these patrols are not always carried out before peak visitor times. Any areas being used for staffed sessions (Education & Outreach Activities or volunteering) will always be sept through by staff in advance to mitigate risk. ASB litter is removed by trained staff using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and operating under a task-specific risk assessment.



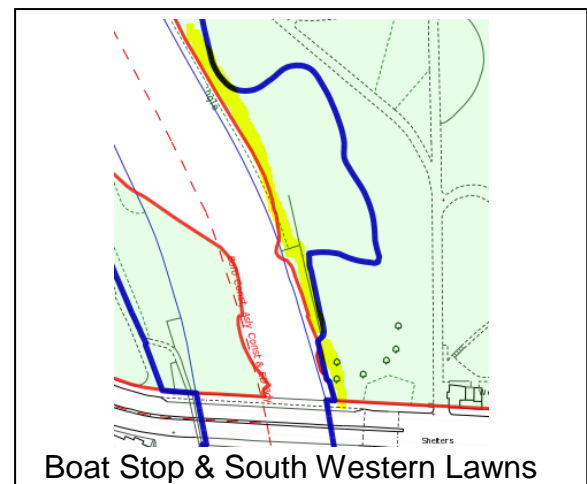
Gallery Footings and Mill Leat Ditch



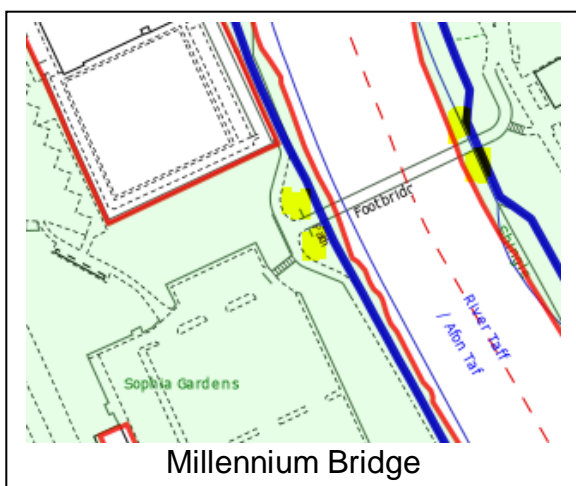
Camellia Woodland East and West



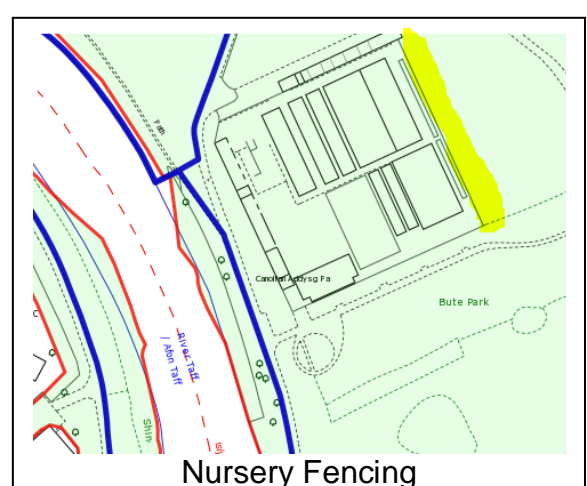
Mews and Substation



Boat Stop & South Western Lawns



Millennium Bridge



Nursery Fencing

Plate 3 - Current known hot-spots for anti-social litter



### 2.9.3 Unauthorised camping and rough sleeping

Again like any urban park, Bute Park experiences a level of unauthorised camping and rough sleeping. The level of this activity is notoriously hard to measure and ranges from year to year but it is notable that there has been a general increase in rough sleeping within Cardiff over the last few years, with the latest figures<sup>12</sup> suggesting there are around 100 rough sleepers in the city. There has been some major policy changes around tackling homelessness in recent years, e.g. “Housing First” Projects run by Cardiff Council and the Salvation Army the results of which are described as “very promising”. However, the latest National Assembly’s Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee Report still describes the situation in Wales as a “rough sleeping emergency” and there are significantly more rough sleepers than there are funded “housing first” places.

The Urban Rangers monitor sites as part of their regular patrols and work closely with the Police and Council’s Outreach Team. Homeless people are periodically removed from the park, which can be a complex multi-agency task. In 2019 the park rangers were publically criticised in the media for their removal of tents from parks including Bute, though the byelaw against pitching tents in parkland has been in place since 1964 and has always been enforced. Tents are served with 24hrs notice before being removed, but in the vast majority of cases this is not necessary as occupants will pack up and move on of their own accord, albeit to another site within the vicinity.

From 2020 onwards rangers will also record if and how many tents are present in the park each day. Accurately understanding numbers and future trends will provide another important management context for the park.

The Development Plan sets out further plans for tackling anti-social behaviour within Bute Park, though it is understood the urban rangers focus is on mitigating the risks rough sleeping encampments present to wider park users, and that they have only a supporting role in tackling rough sleeping itself.

## 2.10 Local government austerity

There has been unprecedented levels of budget cuts within Cardiff Council over the recent years and they continue at the time of writing. In 19/20 the council has to address a funding gap of £32.4m which comes on top of £218m in cuts over the past 10 years. The Parks Department budget specifically has reduced from £5.93m in 14/15 to £5.11m in 19/20. It is important to note that the Bute Park budget has been shielded from the worst of the cuts and in 19/20 the base budget stands at £83,540 compared to £90,260 in 14/15, see **Appendix 15 – Bute Park Business Plan** for further details.

<sup>12</sup> Taken from [https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-02/national-rough-sleeper-count-november-2018\\_1.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-02/national-rough-sleeper-count-november-2018_1.pdf)

The Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlements for 2020-21 were published on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 and indicate a 4.1% increase on a like for like basis compared to 19/20 for Cardiff. However, the Council is still facing a £9.48m shortfall in 20/21 and there is potential that the budget pressure will become greater over future years as the rising cost of delivering services outpaces any increases in funding. Therefore, time will tell whether the latest funding settlement really signals the end of local government austerity and what direction the new national Conservative government wish to take local authorities and Welsh devolution in. Relative funding levels and the evolution of discussions and decisions on local government will provide another management context for Bute Park over the life of the Management Plan.

## 2.11 Commercial considerations and business plan

Bute Park has a new business plan to accompany this management plan (**Appendix 15**), which provides detailed financial context. The new business plan records the 14/15 budget from the last management plan and actual yearly out turns figures for each year to date, in line with HLF contract requirements. The latest 19/20 budget is shown with forecast projections, based on current information, over the life of the management plan. It is important to note that the Bute Park budget discussed does not include all of the park's maintenance costs, many of which are contained within service-wide budgets. Significant cuts to the wider Parks Service budgets and the desire to maintain and develop upon the HLF-funded assets and further develop the site-based management team necessitated the increasing importance of external income to meet spending as predicted in the previous management plan.

The management team remain determined to strike the right balance between commercial development and protecting the integrity of the park's character. This topic was explored in relation to increased event use in the latest user survey and results can be found in **Appendix 12, question 7**

Further commentary on the business plan is given in **Section 11**.

### 3.0 Bute Park today and the vision for the future

#### 3.1 Health check of Bute Park

The Bute Park Management Team put evidence, provided through the compilation of useful management and performance information, at the centre of decision-making. In this version of the management plan a broader range of management and performance information has been considered alongside user and professional feedback.

##### 3.1.1 SWOT analyses and Key Performance Indicators

Management and performance information has been compiled for various aspects of the park and used to inform a range of detailed SWOT analyses. The details of these are provided below and contained within subsequent appendices.

##### a) Whole Park SWOT analysis

The below people were invited to contribute:

Bute Park Manager  
 Bute Park Education Officer  
 Bute Park Events & Communications Officer  
 Bute Park Ranger  
 Grounds Maintenance Manager  
 Urban Rangers  
 Bute Park Gardeners and Apprentices

This SWOT analysis is provided in **Appendix 5a** and is supported by KPI data presented in **Appendix 5b**.

##### b) Event Space and Event Management SWOT analysis

The below people were invited to contribute:

Bute Park Manager  
 Bute Park Events & Communications Officer  
 Cardiff Council Event Production Manager  
 Cardiff Council Event Safety Officer  
 Site Supervisor

This SWOT analysis is provided in **Appendix 6a** and is supported by KPI data presented in **Appendix 6b**.

##### c) Bute Park Education Centre SWOT analysis

The below people were invited to contribute:

Bute Park Manager  
 Bute Park Education Officer  
 Bute Park Events & Communications Officer  
 Bute Park Ranger  
 Education Centre Front of House Officer  
 Front of House Volunteers

This SWOT analysis is provided in **Appendix 7a** and is supported by KPI data presented in **Appendix 7b**.

**d) Bute Park Education & Family Events SWOT analysis**

The below people were invited to contribute:

Bute Park Manager

Bute Park Education Officer

Bute Park Events & Communications Officer

Bute Park Ranger

Education Centre Front of House Officer

Front of House Volunteers

This SWOT analysis is provided in **Appendix 8a** and is supported by KPI data presented in **Appendix 8b**.

**e) Blackweir Sports Pitches and Changing Rooms SWOT analysis**

The below people were invited to contribute:

Bute Park Manager

Grounds Maintenance Manager

Blackweir Groundsman

Sports Development Manager

Bookings Officer

This SWOT analysis is provided in **Appendix 9a**.

Users of the facilities have not been contacted for their feedback but consultation with users will be considered as an action in the Development Plan.

**f) Bute Park Plant Shop SWOT analysis**

The below people were invited to contribute:

Bute Park Manager

Nursery Manager and wider nursery team

Front of House Officer (works in plant shop)

Bute Park Education Officer (uses facility for educational purposes and supports volunteers who may work there)

Bute Park Events & Communications Officer (supports marketing and communication)

This SWOT analysis is provided in **Appendix 10a** and is supported by KPI data presented in **Appendix 10b**.

**g) Bute Park Nursery SWOT analysis**

The below people were invited to contribute:

Bute Park Manager

Nursery Manager and wider nursery team

Grounds Maintenance Manager

This SWOT analysis is provided in **Appendix 11a**.

### 3.1.2 Consultation feedback

In summer 2019 the Parks Service carried out direct consultation with users of Bute Park using the online Snap Surveys tool. The consultation was promoted through on site posters and social media channels, 375 surveys were returned. A copy of the questionnaire and a summary of responses is provided at **Appendix 12**. Findings from this survey were used to inform the SWOT analyses and particular findings have been highlighted in the Management/KPI data where relevant. The park carry out a user survey annually and have data going back to 2010 and beyond.

A final restoration project evaluation report was published shortly after the last version of the management plan was completed and has been included in **Appendix 13**.

A piece of detailed consultation was carried out in summer 2004 to inform the restoration project and this provides the pre-project baseline data. This report is also available on request.

### 3.1.3 Professional feedback

The feedback received from Green Flag and Green Heritage Site evaluation visits published in 2018 also provides context for management and provides potential drivers for the Development Plan. The Green Flag award feedback is included in **Appendix 14a** and the Green Heritage Site feedback is included in **Appendix 14b**

## 3.2 Mission statement

Using the direction provided by the SWOT analyses, context for management, public consultation and professional feedback, the below 2020 - 2025 mission statement for the park was agreed.

**We will maintain Bute Park & Arboretum as a high quality visitor destination and flag-ship city park. We will protect the legacy of the HLF restoration project by continuing to embed sustainable maintenance & management practices within available resources. We will develop opportunities and partnerships to achieve our potential.**

## 3.3 Aims and objectives

The aims of the management plan reflect the findings of the SWOT analyses and consultation and are presented under four strategic themes (aims) which link, albeit with minor modification, to those of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (sustainable management, quality, opportunity and people).



Objectives have been developed as initial drivers to take this park in the right direction. Actions under these aims and objectives are contained within the park's Development Plan. The full park Development Plan and action plan is provided in **Appendix 1**.

<b>Aim 1 Sustainable Management</b> - To embed effective processes and procedures to build resilience, maintain the site to the required standards and secure the legacy of the HLF restoration project.
<u>Objectives to support aim:</u>
1. Ensure effective knowledge transfer from HLF project to "business as usual"
2. Maintain the integrity of heritage features and the historic landscape by documenting standards, constraints, issues and aspirations that will ensure effective and appropriate site management
3. Ensure the park is financially sustainable and the budget is effectively managed within the constraints of the business plan
4. Ensure there is a process of continuous appraisal, review and improvement based on evidence from key performance indicators, user feedback and relevant management information
5. Ensure coordinated working with Cardiff Castle in all aspects of common operation between the two sites. Ensure the coordinated working achieves equal protection of the two site's respective interests and adds value to the Castle and Bute Park visitor
6. Develop the park and management practices in a way that reduces our environmental impact and increases biodiversity where possible

<b>Aim 2 Quality</b> - To make sure our various visitors consistently have a positive experience of the park and maintain our standing as a top class visitor destination and flag-ship city centre park.
<u>Objectives to support aim:</u>
7. To manage and develop the arboretum in an appropriate way and inform the public and staff about it
8. Maintain and develop the quality of horticultural content within the park
9. Provide a high-quality visitor experience by getting the basics right. Ensure the site is effectively sign-posted and promoted

<b>Aim 3 Opportunity</b> - To develop the potential of Bute Park and continue to drive the park forward in an appropriate direction based on the needs and aspirations of our users, sound management principles and our available resources. Use partners to help deliver our objectives where possible
<u>Objectives to support aim:</u>
10. Further develop the tourist potential of Bute Park and increase people's reasons to visit us

**Aim 3 Opportunity** - To develop the potential of Bute Park and continue to drive the park forward in an appropriate direction based on the needs and aspirations of our users, sound management principles and our available resources. Use partners to help deliver our objectives where possible

Objectives to support aim:

11. Identify common aims with other teams within Cardiff Council, the third sector, education establishments and adjacent land owners, and undertake collaborative working for mutual benefit
12. Explore further commercial development potential and alternative delivery models for facilities where management data and Council decisions support the need to do so

**Aim 4 People** - Put park users at the heart of all we do. Provide people with recreational and educational opportunities that maximise the enjoyment and learning potential of Bute Park. Recognise that staff and volunteers are a hugely valuable asset and support their development to achieve success. Increase the use of the park as a means to improve people's health & wellbeing

Objectives to support aim:

13. Understand the views of our park users. Identify and respond to issues having a negative effect on user experience
14. Further improve the accessibility of Bute Park. Identify and break down barriers to use by specific user groups
15. Develop and support a group of effective volunteers and partners to help us in delivery of Management Plan objectives
16. Provide a programme of educational sessions, events and activities linked to the park that are fun, help increase learning and understanding of the site and are financially sustainable
17. Respond positively to requests for work experience and training placements and accommodate/develop opportunities as resources allow. Utilise Bute Park as a key part of the Parks Service apprenticeship scheme for the benefit of both the apprentices and standards of site maintenance
18. Increase use of the park as a resource to support people's health and wellbeing by communicating benefits, opportunities, and through the development of partnerships
19. Support effective communication and coordination between staff teams. Ensure knowledge and information is shared between teams

## 4.0 Delivery framework

### 4.1 Responding to the aims of the management plan

Bute Park is a large and complex site affected by a variety of issues (relationship with wider city centre and Cardiff Castle, major event use, shared use path issues, anti-social behaviour, restricted opening hours, presence of concessions and working plant nursery, diverse and sometimes competing/conflicting uses etc.)

Fundamental to the success of the management plan is to understand and respond appropriately to change. Landscape is a dynamic environment which is constantly changing due to plant growth, animal intervention, the impact of weather and climate and (not least) as a result of human activity. It is therefore not possible to determine that a landscape is ever 'complete'. Landscape design intentions are achieved through construction, but they can only be sustained through continuous intervention and management.

The impact of change on the park – environmental, social and economic, underpins the maintenance and management plan. The relevant issues are interpreted and addressed through a framework of 6 key themes which provide the basic structure for the rest of the Management Plan as follows:

- Management structure and workforce
- Park infrastructure
- Park environment
- Movement and access
- People and partnerships
- Information management
- Achieving the goal and measuring success

### 4.2 Developing the approach

Bute Park is a large, complex site with a number of different character areas and a wide range of uses. The differing (often competing) demands and pressures put on the park makes a single approach to its management unsuitable. Rather, the park is managed on an area-by-area basis, under the strategic guidance of the over-arching management plan. This has been taken to a new level of detail in this version of the plan, as documented in **Appendices 2a-k**.

The approach to Bute Park's management is a consultative one since there are so many different stakeholders and user groups, and the challenge is to understand and satisfy these whilst maintaining the integrity of the site and its designations and significance. By actively consulting and communicating with the park's various stakeholders it is

hoped the site will gain increased resilience against the resource constraints that will likely be a continued feature of this plan period.

The approach is to provide good quality site and management information in order to enable an increasingly diverse group of people to support the effective maintenance and management of the site. However, the need for the Parks Department to hold the “casting vote” on any new interventions proposed is clearly stated, and the management plan action plan’s annual review cycle (coordinated by the Bute Park Manager) provides a formal mechanism for considering and agreeing changes based on stakeholder feedback.

### **4.3 Quality assurance and continuous improvement**

The park is managed by a dedicated site manager who has ultimate accountability for the success of the maintenance and management plan.

The Bute Park Manager will ensure there is a process of continuous appraisal, review and improvement of existing management practices. They will ensure this by:

- Undertaking an annual review of the Management Development & Action Plan in consultation with action owners and addressing the following questions: What progress has been made against open actions? What is the current status of each action? What new or revised actions need to be included?
- Undertaking an annual review of the area-by-area management documents. Addressing the following questions: Are the management schedules and map records still accurate? Are the management practices meeting the desired outcomes? What updates/changes are required to known area-specific risks and issues? What updates/changes are required to agreed area-specific actions? Are there changes needed to the current lists of area-specific volunteer work opportunities?
- Undertake annual review of the arboretum collection addressing the questions: Are records up to date (area by area schedules and database)? Does the tree wish list need revising/adding to? Have future tree works been scheduled/procured?
- Undertaking an annual review of the Bute Park specific operational risk assessment schedule in consultation with colleagues, addressing the questions: Are all risk assessments up to date? What revisions/additions are needed? Do any new risk assessments need to be added?

- Undertaking monthly monitoring of the maintenance and management plan budget (CP603) addressing the questions: Are there miss coding's that need to be rectified? Do income entries for events and use of the education centre reconcile back to our management records? Where are we exceeding cost or income budgets? What are the financial pressures in the budget and how can they be managed? Is the budget being managed to ensure best use of resources?
- Holding quarterly meetings with the Bute Park concession holders addressing the questions: What are current satisfaction levels of concession customers? What are current satisfaction levels of the concession operators themselves? Are the concession holders complying with the terms of their lease and their statutory requirements? What actions can be implemented to address any identified issues? What opportunities are there for further improvements in our working arrangements? What opportunities are there for further improvements to our customer offer?
- Seeking feedback from event organisers who use Bute Park to answer the questions: What are the things that work well and are valued by event organisers? What are the things that don't work well and could be improved? Are events being managed in a way that strikes the right balance between protection of the park's fabric, the need to generate income from events and the needs of the everyday park user?

The Bute Park Manager will take action as necessary once these questions have been answered. **Section 11** 'Achieving the goal and measuring success' further sets out how performance will be monitored and managed.

#### 4.4 Getting the basics right

In addition to the actions within the development plan, it is important that the Bute Park Manager has an interest in getting the everyday basics right. This will include things like:

Ensure staff are inducted thoroughly when they first start work, remain well informed and engaged, are clear of the expectations of them, and are motivated.

Ensure all site notice boards are professionally presented and up-to-date, including posters displayed in all toilets.

Having and agreed set of maintenance standards that are well understood by operational staff and that staff are equipped and appropriately trained to safely deliver them.

Ensuring volunteers are well catered for, have a positive experience with us and always work under appropriate task and site-specific risk assessments.

Ensure our communication channels are clear and meet the needs of our users. Do park users know how to report issues/provide feedback and do we communicate outcomes?

Ensure our online information is up-to-date and meets the needs of our users, including ensuring we communicate our achievements against this plan

#### 4.5 Adding to the knowledge base

There is already good collated documentary information about the development of the site, which was researched and compiled during the development and implementation of the restoration project. This information is held in the following documents, which are accessible from a Parks Service shared electronic computer drive (the Bute Park Manager can sign post people to the documents as necessary):

- Bute Park Restoration & Development Plan, March 2005
- Tree Management, A strategic overview, October 2007
- Archaeological reports
  - Bute Park Cardiff - Archaeological Geophysical survey, September 2004
  - Bute Park archaeological assessment – desk based assessment, October 2004
  - Bute park Cardiff – Archaeological evaluation, November 2004
  - Blackfriars, Bute park - Archaeological evaluation report, May 2012

- Blackfriars, Bute park - Archaeological watching brief report, March 2014
- Mill Leat, Bute park - Archaeological assessment report February 2014
- Bute Park A-Z
- Bute Park Master Tree Catalogue (MapInfo Database)

It is anticipated that the knowledge base about the site's history and tree collection will continue to grow and develop as staff, volunteers and others continue to research and produce new resources to aid in site interpretation. New additions to the knowledge base will be included in later editions of the Management Plan.

As the process of unravelling the site history is still ongoing it also offers opportunities for degree-level coursework and post graduate research and is particularly valuable to historians and academics.

## **5. Management structure and training**

### **5.1 General principles**

#### **5.1.1 Understanding change**

It is important that those involved in the activity of maintaining and managing historic parks are aware of the history of and intentions for the park (historic elements, significance of the site as a whole, landscape structure etc.) and the potential impact on the park of external influences such as anti-social behaviour, changing use patterns, increased pressure of use from events and variations in weather patterns and climate.

#### **5.1.2 Flexibility**

There needs to be a simple, flexible and robust management structure for the park in order to be able to withstand ongoing Council-wide changes of structure and respond to change within the park. Ultimately, a flexible approach to roles and responsibilities will also be encouraged within the site based staff structure in order to maximise the benefit of in house skills and expertise.

#### **5.1.3 Management framework**

There needs to be a clear understanding of the management structure and delegated authority amongst all who have involvement in the park. This designated overall Park Manager will need to be aware of all issues related to the park and will have ultimate responsibility for delivery and development of the maintenance and management plan for the site.

### **5.2 Management structure**

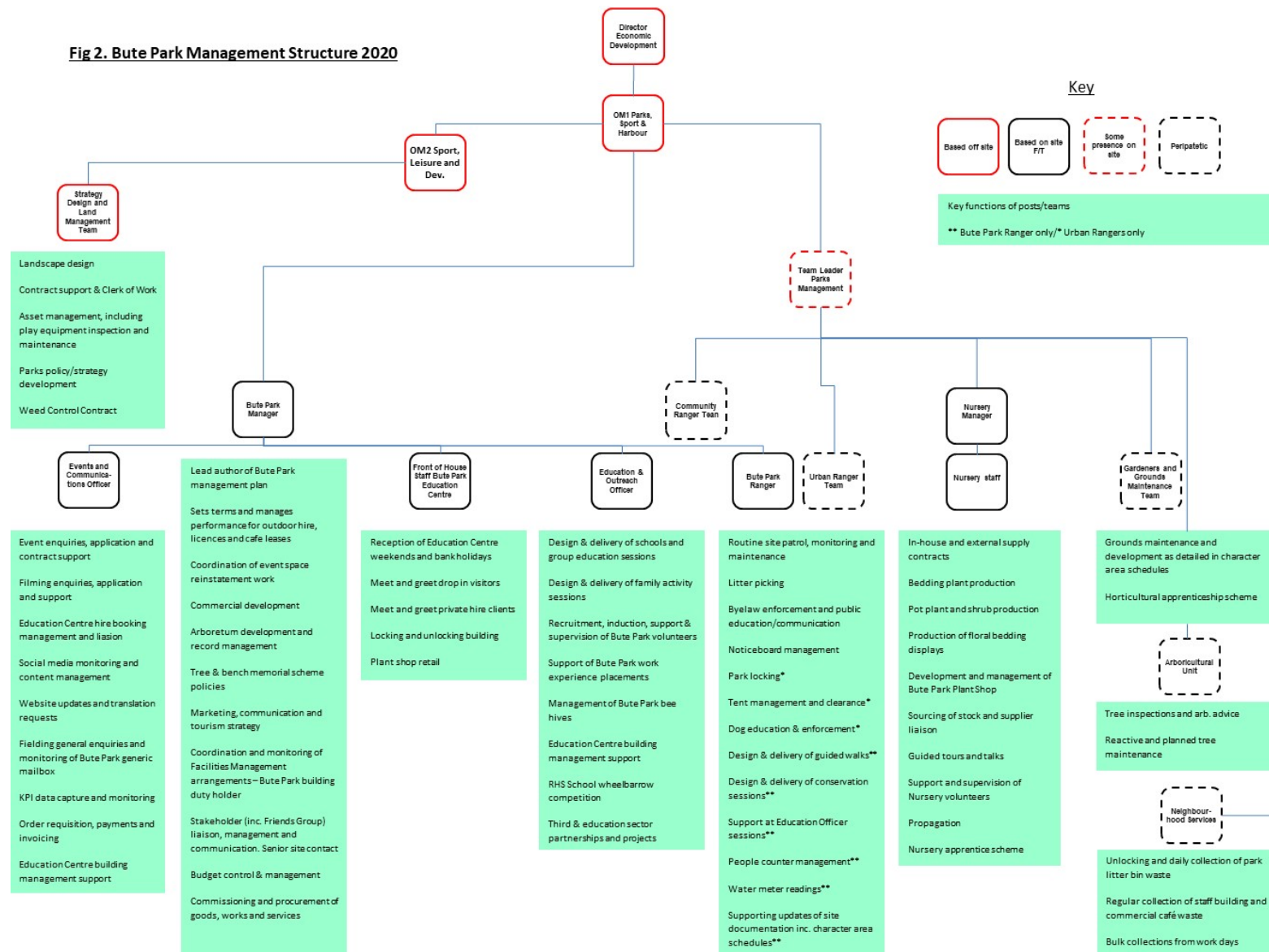
#### **5.2.1 Current position**

Bute Park is unique in Cardiff for having a dedicated Park Manager. This was a new post introduced in 2014 and the post-holder provides the energy, effort and leadership required to manage the site post-restoration project. The Park Manager does not have direct line management responsibilities for all staff involved in maintenance and management in Bute Park, but rather strives to achieve success through matrix management arrangements and the strength and effectiveness of their personal relationships.

The current management structure for Bute Park (2020) is illustrated in **Figure 2**, below.



Fig 2. Bute Park Management Structure 2020



### 5.2.2 Service Delivery Teams

**Figure 2** summarises the functions of the service delivery teams operating in Bute Park. In reality the lines dividing responsibility and function can be far more blurred as the park operates on a team approach. Staff in different teams help each other out to ensure the job gets done and so people's unique skills are utilised effectively. Such an approach is now increasingly important as capacity to fulfil the park's maintenance and management requirements gets limited by further reductions in staff levels, which makes managing sickness, annual leave and vacated posts a significant challenge.

Volunteers and partner agencies are an important compliment to the paid team but are necessarily reliant on the leadership and management of the Council's paid workforce to achieve their potential and the requirements of the management plan.

Any barriers to team and collaborative working will have to be broken down further in order to provide the park with resilience and ensure its continued success. The area-by-area working model as recorded and communicated in **Appendix 2** is designed to support this.

### 5.2.3 Future staffing aspirations

Bute Park has achieved a robust staffing structure to manage the park in the post-restoration project era. **Appendix 15** sets out the funding arrangements for key staff over the life of the business plan.

The Bute Park Manager is tasked with improving staff and management arrangements in the future and reacting to any changes to wider service area staffing levels, e.g. in light of future Council budget reductions.

The service area philosophy that site-based staff will bring added benefits to service standards remains, and any opportunities to move further towards this ideal will be pursued.

Recruitment and empowerment of the volunteer workforce will continue as an objective.

### 5.2.4 Dealing with emergencies

Routine problem reporting and responses are handled through established management procedures and normal health and safety procedures. All staff on site have either a phone or radio and can call for help or the emergency services if required.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to undertake risk assessments for operations which staff routinely

undertake in the park. These are kept on the Council's intranet site and reviewed and updated annually.

Contact details for the parks department and the non-emergency contact number are provided in park noticeboards.

Guidelines for incident reporting provided to all Council and Non-Council staff working in Bute Park as part of their site induction are contained in **Appendix 25**.

The guidance for Out of Hours emergency service access to the park are contained in **Appendix 26**.

The park is covered by the Council's Alarms Receiving Centre (ARC) team who receive and respond to any alarm calls out of hours via an internal contact number.

The park is covered by the Facilities Management Out of Hours Emergency Service Desk "D-Desk" via an internal contact number.

## **6 Park infrastructure**

### **6.1 General principles**

The Park's infrastructure includes its buildings and other structures, artworks, hard surfaces, fencing and furniture. The principles for the management and maintenance of infrastructure will be to:

- Protect and conserve the character of infrastructure and its contribution to the historic landscape and setting of the park
- Maintain features to the highest possible standard.
- Ensure that the site functions efficiently and fulfils the needs of its users

#### **6.1.1 Sustainable Design**

Sustainable development and operation are two key principles of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy therefore ensuring that site infrastructure is sustainable has been a key objective in the design and management of all buildings and hard landscaping in Bute Park. The following principles will continue to be applied, within the overarching constraints of the park's historic character and the available budget:

- The Council will pursue standards of excellence in design
- Recycled and locally sources materials will be used wherever practical
- Materials will be durable to maximise their lifespan
- Opportunities to conserve energy consumption and minimise carbon emissions will be maximised within the design and management of buildings and other on site features.

#### **6.1.2 Inspection Regime**

Daily inspections are undertaken cursorily by site based staff to identify obvious problems and damage and to ensure that repairs can be carried out as swiftly as possible following their detection. General inspections are undertaken annually to monitor condition. Detailed inspections are undertaken once every five years. There is a reporting protocol to the Park Manager e.g. via e-mail, WhatsApp or text message to ensure items are recorded and actioned.

#### **6.1.3 Asset Repair and Renewal**

The maintenance budgets for the parks buildings and assets, are set out in the Bute park Business plan. Responsibility for any repairs or maintenance to the assets outside the scope of the budgets identified within the business plan, and not subject to a lease agreement, is held

by Park Services with the exception of the changing rooms at Blackweir and the Castle Nursery complex which are held by the Council's Facilities management Service. These budgets are used for all running repairs; any major works require a bidding process for Capital contributions.

Repair and renewal work is undertaken in accordance with the following principles:

- Repair and renewal work will be undertaken using only approved materials and methods.
- Payment for repair and renewal work will only be made following an inspection of the works by a qualified member of staff and confirmation that they meet the required standards.
- Repair work will only be carried out by Council Staff or appointed contractors with proven expertise and capability.

## **6.2 Buildings and Structures**

The section details all existing built structures/facilities contained in the park and the numbers in brackets relate to the preceding site plans indicating their location in the park. Some buildings are managed by external parties through concessions agreements and are staffed during official opening times that will be specified within concessions contracts, the Council retains ownership of these buildings and therefore responsibility for the capital works which these buildings may require.

### **6.2.1 Building Management**

The Bute Park Manager will be the building duty manager and it is their responsibility to ensure compliance with statutory and agreed maintenance requirements either through their own action or the actions of others. All the requirements for the routine and cyclical maintenance and management operations for all the buildings in the park are detailed in the Bute Park buildings maintenance requirements schedule in held within the Council's RAMIS web portal and detailed in relevant character area schedules when within responsibility of the Parks Service.

The Council has achieved Level 3 certification under the Green Dragon Environmental Management scheme. Environmental management systems are in place for each of the buildings within the site, as part of the Council's progression through the Green Dragon scheme. In 2013 The Bute Park Education Centre achieved level 4.

The Bute Park Education Centre achieved a Green Key in the Conference Centre category in 2019.

Ensuring the Environmental Management Systems are monitored will be the responsibility of the Park Manager. Appropriate training and

information will be provided for all personnel involved in the operational use of buildings within the park, including concession holders.

#### **a) West Lodge/Pettigrew Tea Rooms**

Located adjacent the West Gate entrance to the park the grade II\* listed lodge was completed in 1863. Built in the gothic style in blue lias limestone with bath stone detailing the building was fully restored and refurbished as part of the heritage lottery project and opened to the public, as the now very popular Victorian themed Pettigrew tearooms, in 2012.

The building houses the tearooms and associated kitchens, a small shop, a gallery space (incorporated into the 1<sup>st</sup> floor seating area) office space and publically accessible toilets in the courtyard. Externally there is a disabled access ramp to the rear of the building and a large external seating area with cycle racks and litter bins

The building and its environs are generally in very good condition, there is some outstanding window repairs required on the ground floor following a break in in 2013, and ongoing maintenance and clearance of the parapet roof gutters is required to prevent water penetration during heavy rainfall. The external step edges occasionally work loose and need re fixing periodically.

A significant interior feature is the tiled floor which re uses original Victorian tiles recovered from the Blackfriars friary site. The Victorian tiles are based on the designs of medieval tiles discovered during the original 19<sup>th</sup> century excavations at Blackfriars.

The Concession holder is responsible for the day to day management of the facility and the public toilets in the external courtyard.



Plate 4: West lodge/Pettigrew tearooms

#### **b) The Summerhouse Cafe**

Constructed and opened in 2010 as part of the Heritage Lottery project this facility is inspired by and echoes the style of the original William Burgess designed summerhouse that was lost from the park in the 1980's. It provides a focus at one of the busiest entrances and path junctions in the park and provides external seating space adjacent the herbaceous border. The building has been designed to withstand and minimise the impact of a 100yr flood event in the park.

The building is timber frame construction with the lower section clad in dressed sandstone recycled from a demolished nearby derelict toilet block. Timber detailing on the gable ends and on the fascia boards reflect elements of the former summerhouse. The roof is natural slate. Unfortunately the lead flashing details have had to be replaced with a non-lead alternative following several thefts of lead from the building.

The building contains kitchen, storage and serving space, disabled toilet facilities (radar key access only), covered external immediately around the building (enclosed by solid shutters at night) and an external seating area, with cycle racks nearby.

The concession holder is responsible for the day to day management of the facility including the disabled toilets (radar key access). Due to site constraints the toilets have controlled access to limit their use and are not available to the general public.

There are some issues around disabled access to the toilets resulting from the operation of the concession which may be addressed with

additional paving to provide a wider path to the toilets from the adjacent main paths.

The building is in very good condition with some redecoration required to the security shutters, removal and timber cladding of the canopy support posts following graffiti removal and minor impact damage. The paving around the building is generally in good condition with some loose slabs and missing pointing requiring attention (see Plate 11).

### **c) Secret Garden Cafe**

Constructed and opened in 2012 as an integral part of the education centre the secret garden café provides refreshment facilities, at the northern end of the park and catering to the education centre.

Accessed through 'The Peoples door' (see **Plate 45**) The café consists of a separate kitchen, storage and serving area as part of the main education building with associated external public toilets accessible from the courtyard, a bin store and separate storage areas in adjacent Nursery compound through a secure, controlled access door. External spaces consist of a small courtyard seating area, contained within the walled garden of the Nursery complex and a larger external space linked to the adjacent Stuttgart garden which incorporates fixed seating and picnic benches, cycle racks are provided on the adjacent main path along with additional picnic benches on the nearby riverbank.

The concession holder is responsible for the day to day management of the facility including the public toilets (including those in the Education Centre).

There are issues around the management of access through 'the Peoples door' to the café and the education centre. Management of the secure access through to the nursery compound is also an ongoing issue (shared with parks services staff).

The building is in very good condition. There are a number of outstanding issues associated with the original construction contract that affect the quality of customer experience:

- Drip from canopy above serving hatch.

Discussions are ongoing with the principle contractor to resolve these issues. Unfortunately the lead flashing on the glazed street and the brise soleil has had to be replaced with a non-lead alternative following several thefts of lead from the building.

The paving in the courtyard and in the external seating area is generally in good condition with some loose slabs and missing pointing requiring attention.



An earlier issue with unpleasant smells from the sewage treatment plant, used to handle the foul waste from the education centre and public toilets, has been resolved by replacing the tank seals.



Plate 5: Secret Garden Cafe

#### **d) Education Centre**

Constructed and opened in 2012 the education centre is designed to be a hidden feature in the park. The building sits behind a newly constructed southern wall of the walled garden that contains the nursery complex and is accessed via a single door the 'People's Door'. A 'glazed street' separates the main accommodation in the building from the wall and provides natural daylight to penetrate the heart of the building. Glimpses of the external space from the glazed street are provided through three narrow slit windows.

Constructed from concrete block and reclaimed brick the building is clad in Western Red Cedar with a brise soleil also of western Red Cedar. The flat roof is constructed of concrete bison beams and is partly covered with a green roof and solar PV panels.

A feature of the building is the large windows and glazed sliding doors that afford views out into the adjacent working nursery complex.

The building has been designed to withstand and minimise the impact of a 100yr flood event in the park.

The education centre has achieved Level 4 certification under the Green Dragon Environmental Management scheme and incorporates many environmental features:

- High levels of insulation
- High efficiency Gas boiler
- Underfloor heating
- Use of natural light
- Sun tubes
- Low energy sensor controlled lighting
- Sensor controlled taps
- Solar PV panels
- Green roof
- Sewage treatment plant
- Passive ventilation

The main building provides the following accommodation and facilities:

- Large Class room (max 60)
- Small meeting room max
- Tea station
- Glazed street and reception area
- Office
- Rangers mess room
- Toilets
- Storage rooms
- Secret garden café (see 6.2.1c above )
- Enclosed external space overlooking the operational nursery

Ancillary buildings contain the following:

- Public toilets (see 6.2.1c above)
- Storage rooms
- Plant room
- Workshop
- Part of covered poly tunnel in the nursery complex.

Based at the education centre the Bute Park Manager is the duty holder for the day to day management of the building with the support from the Education Officer, Events & Communications Officer and Bute Park Ranger also based there.

The building fabric and internal decoration is generally in very good condition. There are a number of outstanding issues associated with the original construction contract that affect the quality of customer experience:

- Unpleasant smells from the sewage treatment plant used to handle the foul waste from the education centre and public toilets.
- Leak in the glazed roof.

Discussions are ongoing with the principle contractor to resolve these issues.



Plate 6: Education Centre

#### **e) Bute Park Nursery**

Established between 1910 and 1920 as the Bute Estate nursery it provided fruit and vegetables to Cardiff Castle and the Bute estates in Scotland. It is currently the Council's operational nursery with plant production, propagation and holding facilities. The main red brick building complex houses the office, potting shed, chemical shed, flower room, mess room, boiler room and toilets. A series of open side sheds along the western boundary provide covered storage. There are eight glasshouses, three poly tunnels, a derelict cold frame and storage areas south of the offices with a holding area for nursery stock and parking north of the offices.

Operations at the nursery include:

Growing from seed and cuttings

Propagation

Potting on

Production of approx. 400k seasonal bedding plants

Receipt, Holding and distribution of approx. 50k potted and bare root nursery stock

Storage and planting of seasonal bedding containers,

Storage of equipment for the park.

The office complex has had some external refurbishment in recent years with a new roof, windows and door and is generally in sound

condition externally. Internally it is serviceable but in need of upgrading.



Plate 7: Castle nursery offices and storage sheds

The open sheds are in serviceable condition with the northern end re roofed in 2012 to remove asbestos sheeting and southern end re built to accommodate toilets, storage, plant room and workshop associated with the Education Centre and Secret Garden Cafe.

Three of the glasshouses are in good condition with the remaining five in poor condition. The climatic control system computer needs upgrading; this has been hampered by procurement issues. Regular routine maintenance by a specialist contractor is required but hasn't been carried out for a number of years.

The complex is accessed through a new entrance created in 2010 via automatic gates. Despite numerous teething troubles with the gates they have been operating well for the last few years. They are in very good condition; however there is an issue with low resistance in the loop system which controls them requiring urgent attention to ensure their continued operation.

There is a maintenance contract in place for the gates.

The Nursery Manager is responsible for the day to day management of the Bute Park Nursery.





Plate 8: Bute Park nursery buildings and glasshouses

#### **f) Bute Park Plant Shop**

A Plant Shop was opened within the polytunnel adjacent to the Bute Park Education Centre in March 2018. The shop is open to the public on Wednesday and Saturday 10 – 3pm, excluding winter months.

The space includes a covered shop area, a standing out area for shrubs and a covered open-plan space behind the till for hosting workshops and demonstrations, which can also be utilised by the Education Officer to accommodate visiting school groups if the weather turns wet and shelter is required.



Plate 9: Bute Park Plant Shop, opened March 2018

#### **g) Blackweir Changing Rooms**

Managed by the parks service outdoor leisure team the facilities serve the sports pitches at Blackweir. Constructed in red brick with slate tiled roof; the building houses men's and women's changing rooms,

showers, toilets and a parks attendants office/mess. The interior of the changing rooms is in good decorative order following works to remove asbestos and redecoration during 2013. Externally the building is generally sound although there are some sections of missing/damaged rainwater goods, missing/damaged tiles on the roof, damaged sills, missing pointing and the windows are in need of repair or replacement.

The Sports & Facilities Manager is responsible for the day to day management of the building and the booking of the sports pitches.



Plate 10: Blackweir Changing Rooms

### 6.2.2 Park and Building Security

The park is locked during hours of darkness from 30 minutes before sunset until 7am so buildings within the park are closed to the public at these times unless by special arrangement. However, out of hours access to Pettigrew Tear Rooms/West Lodge is possible through the door to the shop off Castle Street and so this building is open to the public longer. The Pettigrew Tea Room tenants also facilitate extended opening hours of the single pedestrian gate at West Lodge by only closing this gate when they shut the tearooms. There is an Out of Hours access protocol for emergency vehicles needing entry to the park outside advertised opening times (see **Appendix 26**).

During the winter months there are extended opening hours on two park entrances at either end of the east west cycle route until 7pm to accommodate cycle and pedestrian commuters. There is also a stile at Blackweir Bridge, which means that the park is effectively open to pedestrians and cyclists 24/7. However, cyclists are discouraged from using the stile as you need to lift the bike over, and it is not advertised to pedestrians as it is not accessible, or suitable for buggies etc.

Furthermore, the route between Millennium Bridge (Sophia Gardens) and Fishers Bridge (Royal Welsh College Music Drama) is advertised as a “through route” only.

People counters installed at all the entrances enable hourly statistics of park use to be calculated. These indicate that there is significant night-time activity within the park throughout the year supporting the previously anecdotal and physical evidence that this was the case. See **Appendix 5b** for details.

The Education and Training Centre does not currently operate to the public outside the official locking times of the park. This does cause issues during the winter months when the park closes as early as 15:45 and therefore operation of the Education Centre outside of official park closing times will be kept under review.

West lodge and the Education centre are independently monitored by CCTV linked to recording systems at each facility allowing review of security footage. These are monitored in accordance with the Councils CCTV Policy & Code of Practice with the Bute Park Manager designated as the ‘owner’ of the systems as defined by the policy and responsible for its correct use and management.

Monitored alarm systems linked to the Councils in-house ARC Service are provided at West lodge, Education Centre/Secret Garden Café, and the Nursery complex. Details of the systems and their maintenance and management requirements are held within the Council’s RAMIS web portal.

In addition to the alarm systems physical security measures are incorporated at both two of the facilities:

- West lodge - internal security grills or shutters on all the ground floor and accessible windows of the main building and an external security grill on the door from Castle Street.
- Summerhouse Café – Security shutters enclose the entire exterior of the building.

### **6.2.3 Maintenance of building fabric**

The maintenance of buildings involves the following types of activities:

- Routine maintenance works (programmed operations undertaken one or more times per year).
- Periodic maintenance works - programmed operations undertaken at regular intervals as determined by inspection.
- Non programmed works – done reactively in response to urgent requirements.
- Non programmed works - responding to developing circumstances.

These inspections are undertaken by the respective team staff and specialist building surveyors as required. Other inspections include -

- Asbestos log
- Fire Risk Assessment
- Legionella Inspection and Monitoring
- Boiler Testing/Inspection ( Annual)
- Fire Extinguisher Inspection (Annual)
- Shutter Testing and Maintained (Annually)
- Portable Appliance Tests
- Fire Alarm and Security Testing (Annual)
- Energy Efficiency Monitoring
- Lifting Equipment Test
- COSHH Assessment

Full details of the programmed maintenance, inspections and testing for the buildings and systems within the park can be found on the Council's RAMIS web portal.

#### **6.2.4 Concession Buildings**

There are 3 concessions operating in the park providing a range of refreshment opportunities and experiences for the park visitor.

##### **a) Pettigrew Tea Rooms:**

Established within the gothic West Lodge as a Victorian style tearoom with associated small shop and 1<sup>st</sup> floor gallery space, the tea rooms opened in April 2012. It has become a significant and popular venue within the park and provides the only indoor sitting space for refreshments with ground and first floor seating areas as well as a large external terrace with additional seating. See Plate 3.

The tea room has a separate access from Castle Street allowing the concession to remain open outside normal park opening times, particularly beneficial during the winter months when the Park closes at 15:30. It is also available for private hire.

The operator manages the public toilets in the courtyard which are open to the public using the park as well as patrons of the tea rooms.

##### **b) Summerhouse Café**

The 1<sup>st</sup> concession established in the Park as a result of the Bute Park restoration project. At a busy junction The Summerhouse is a popular facility offering a wide range of quality refreshments. Limited under cover seating is provided by the canopy around the building with a large external terrace and adjacent picnic benches providing additional seating space.



The operator manages the RADAR key accessible toilets Associated with the facility (see 6.2.1b).



Plate 11: The Summerhouse Café

### c) Secret Garden Café

The Secret Garden Café is located at the Bute park education centre. It provides a wide range of quality refreshments and outdoor seating in a secluded courtyard or extensive external seating area adjacent the Stuttgart Garden.

They also provide an excellent and competitive catering service to the education centre for event bookings and assist with the management of the facility.

The operator manages the public toilets in the courtyard and the education centre which are both open to the public using the park as well as patrons of the facilities.



Plate 12: Secret Garden Café

The income generated by the concessions is built into the business plan for the Park and supports its ongoing maintenance and management. Procurement of concessions is undertaken in accordance with existing guidelines under the Council's Procurement procedures following the advertisement for expressions of interest. Submissions are assessed against quality and value criteria. Particular interest in an ongoing partnership with the Council in developing the facilities and/or providing long term investment in the park will be encouraged within concession submissions which will be expected to demonstrate added value

## 6.3 Watercourses and ponds

### 6.3.1 Bridges dams and culverts

Bute Park has 7 bridges and 2 dams. The bridges provide access to the park across the River Taff to the west and Dock feeder and Mill Leat to the east. The dams control the water levels in the Mill Leat (**see Figure 3**).

#### Bridge list and descriptions

Footbridges:

- West Gate bridge (masonry, over the Mill Leat, 1920's)
- Fisher's Bridge (Timber bridge north of the Royal Welsh College of Music and drama 1999) Reinforced 2010 to take 3.5T vehicle loading)
- Pontcanna / Blackweir bridge (suspension bridge, currently not in Council ownership)
- Millennium footbridge (Steel, single span, 1999)

Bridges suitable for vehicles

- Lady Bute's bridge (Brick north west of the Castle over the dock feeder 1840's strengthened in the 1980's, narrow 40T Weight limit)
- Vehicle access bridge (Concrete, main service entrance off North Road 2009, 40T weight limit)
- Ambulance station access Bridge at Blackweir (circa 1950's) 7.5 T Weight limit

Dams

- Mill Leat upper dam (Masonry clad mass concrete, northern end of Mill Leat, 2013)
- Mill Leat lower dam (Masonry clad mass concrete, southern end of Mill Leat, 2013)

All bridge surfacing and balustrades / parapets will be maintained in line with surfacing and boundary fence requirements for cleaning and repair. Bridges will be inspected within the Council's biennial bridge inspection routine and repairs executed accordingly.



**Figure 3:** Location and photographs of bridges, dams and culverts within the park



### 6.3.2 Dock Feeder

The dock feeder runs from Blackweir at the northern end of the park along the eastern boundary to culverts under north road on the north east corner of the castle. It is in a deep cutting at the northern section and the section that runs along the back of the castle at the southern end. Through the rest of the park is on an elevated bank.

Much of the original construction of the dock feeder in the mid 18 century utilised timber revetment to support the banks over time these have deteriorated and where these have failed the banks have been repaired using a variety of less attractive materials. Recent localised repair works to control bank erosion have been undertaken using recycled plastic planks providing a long lasting solution to the erosion problem.

A new trash screen was installed in 2014 to prevent the culverts exiting the park becoming blocked by debris brought down the feeder.



Plate 13: Dock Feeder bank repairs by Keep Wales Tidy 2013-15

### 6.3.3 Ponds and pools

The Mill Leat has been re-flooded as part of the recent heritage lottery Funded restoration project and now has 2 ponds lined with a bentonite liner, completed in 2013. The upper pond at the northern end is topped up from the dock feeder and cascades into the lower pond. A timer controlled pump system circulates the water via the adjacent well from the lower pond to maintain the cascade. There is an ongoing leak issue from the construction contract affecting the ability to achieve the designed water level.



The two sections of the leat are different in character and it is proposed that they are managed to enhance their different characters as follows:



Plate 14: Mill Leat

**a) Upper pond (Mill Leat)**

With stone revetment, banks and a dam with a cascade this pond will be maintained to keep the water largely clear of water vegetation to allow the cascade and circulating water system to work efficiently. Some open water vegetation will be allowed to establish along the edges. Water safety equipment is located on Lady Bute's Bridge adjacent this pond...

**b) Lower pond (Mill Leat)**

This is the deepest pond with a designed general depth of 1m with two deeper sections north of the west gate bridge which crosses this pond. Although there are no fish present at the moment this is the most suitable pond for fish and it will be monitored to see if they naturally colonise. If they don't then introduction may be considered.

There is a shallow margin on the western bank to allow the establishment of marginal planting to enhance biodiversity, it is anticipated that this margin will naturally colonise. Once issues surrounding the final maintained water level have been resolved some marginal and aquatic planting including native white water lilies will be carried out. Water safety equipment located south of the west gate bridge.

## 6.4 External hard landscaping

All hard structures excluding buildings are inspected at least once a year by the Land Management Team and their condition is assessed and recorded. This information is recorded on a database which is then used to develop a programme of work to keep them in a safe and serviceable condition, as funding is always limited this data is used to prioritise the work and to more effectively utilise additional funding sources when they become available. Also this information is also use to respond to any accident/insurance claims which may occur. This is in addition to the un-programmed visual inspections carried out by all staff and the public who report defects informally.

Small scale Graffiti removal is undertaken by the Park Rangers who are equipped with removal kits, larger areas of graffiti or graffiti on sensitive surfaces are dealt with by contacting Estate services housing management team (See A-Z manual).

### 6.4.1 Roadways paths and surfaces

The park contains a range of pathways and hard surfaced areas with a wide range of surfaces:

- Tarmacadam
- Resin Bonded gravel
- Resin bound gravel
- FibreDec
- Exposed aggregate Concrete
- Pattern imprinted concrete
- GrassCrete
- Sawn Pennant
- Riven pennant
- Sawn York Stone
- Slate tiles
- Granite setts
- Concrete block paving
- Brick
- Victorian encaustic tiles
- Specialist coatings ( Millennium bridge)
- Breedon Gravel
- Stone dust
- Bark chippings
- Informal soil tracks and desire lines

Details of path finishes and construction details can be found in the Bute Park Design guide (see A-Z Manual).

Maintenance of formal pathways and hard surfaces is limited to:

- Programmed periodic repair

- Programmed renewal
- Programmed maintenance operations
- Programmed cleansing
- Non-programmed repair/renewal
- Non-programmed cleansing
- Regular scarab sweeping
- Leaf removal

Details of the maintenance operations for each section of path and area of hard surface can be found in **Appendix 2 - Area by Area Management Schedules**

#### **6.4.2 Boundaries and gates**

The park includes a range of informal boundary types and access points including:

##### **Boundaries**

- Steel boundary railings
- Walls
- Chain link fence
- Timber fences

##### **Gates and access**

- Steel entrance gates
- Ornamental steel entrance gates
- Motorcycle barrier
- Timber gates and doors
- Turnstiles
- Automatic bollard

Whilst the park boundary is largely secure there are a few areas of weakness and breaches to the boundary. Several pedestrian gates are now open 24 hours:

- Millennium Bridge, open 24 hours
- RWCMD Gate, open 24 hours
- Stile at Blackweir entrance, installed to provide exit point after park locking, provides an access point.
- Gap in the fencing adjacent the Castle mews entrance.

##### **Maintenance of boundaries and gates**

Where maintenance of fence lines takes place, this primarily involves:

- Cleaning to remove stains and graffiti
- Treatment of timber and metal elements to maintain appearance and prevent decay
- Tightening of bolts on timber structures
- Oiling and greasing of moving parts



- Painting and staining as required
- Responsive repair works

### 6.4.3 Historic site features

A detailed history of the features listed in this section can be found in the Bute Park Restoration and Development Plan 2005

All the historic site features have interpretation signage or are linked to a web based heritage trail accessible via QR codes at key locations  
(**See Section 9.2.1f**)

The following historic site features will require specialist maintenance and management to ensure that they do not deteriorate.

Recommendations for their inspection and routine maintenance were developed during their restoration and are detailed in area by area schedules in **Appendix 2**.

#### a) **Blackfriars Friary**

Until recently the Blackfriars friary Scheduled ancient monument was classed as at risk. Restoration and conservation work completed in 2014 has restored the monument and listed structures that represent an early example of Victorian restoration philosophy to its former glory. The carefully designed turf capping to the restored walls is a key conservation feature designed to protect the walls from frost damage, shedding water from the surface preventing saturation of the earth core leading to frost damage, a major factor in the original decline of the structure.

There is evidence of people walking on the top of the walls causing erosion of the raised profile and regular monitoring and maintenance of this issue is required to ensure efficacy of the turf capping. Monitoring and routine protection of the original Victorian tiles is also required to prevent damage during periods of extreme cold. Careful selection of materials and techniques has ensured that the monument has been robustly restored, conserved and interpreted.



Plate 16: Blackfriars Friary

### b) Animal Wall

This grade 1 listed structure is an iconic feature of the Cardiff streetscape. Forming the southern boundary to the park the wall was relocated to its current position and extended with 6 new animals in the 1920's.

Extensive conservation and restoration work were completed in 2011. Regular inspection of the wall is required to monitor the condition of the stone coping and animal sculptures which are prone to delamination of the stone. Recently some of the repaired roll tops have become loose or fallen off and discussions are ongoing with the contractor over latent defects affecting these repairs. Specific recommendations for the removal of graffiti from the wall were established during the restoration project.

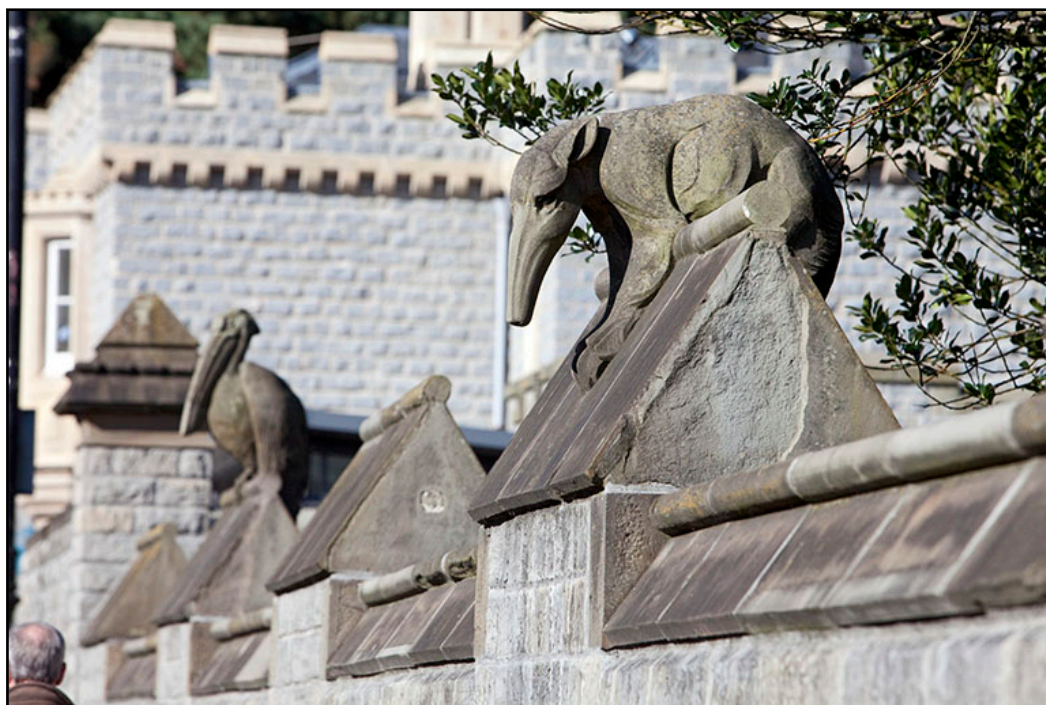


Plate 17: Animal Wall

### c) **Eastern Boundary Wall**

This wall runs the extent of the boundary from Blackweir farm house to Gabalfa lodge. Conservation works to stabilise and prevent further deterioration of the wall, large sections of which were in poor condition, were completed in 2013. Outline proposals were prepared, as part of the HLF restoration project, for the complete conservation and restoration of the wall along its entire length with a mixture of replacement wall and new railings. These were not fully implemented due to funding restrictions and ongoing conservation, restoration and repair of the wall will be required on a phased priority basis to complete the restoration of this historic boundary feature. Details of the proposals can be found in Bute Park Eastern Boundary wall – Condition Survey Report (Nov 2007) by Waterman Civils Consulting Engineers.





Plate 18: Eastern Boundary Wall

#### d) Lady Bute's Well

Originally constructed at the same time as the dock feeder the well was constructed in this location to preserve a spring of water at the request of the Marchioness of Bute. It was later adapted to draw off water from the feeder to top up both the Mill Leat and the moat around the motte in Cardiff Castle. During the restoration of water to the Mill Leat in 2013 it was further adapted as part of the top up and re circulation system for the Mill Leat. As can be seen from the photograph below (plate 19) it has attracted graffiti since restoration and regular inspection to ensure prompt removal is required. Groups of youths tend to gather in this location and localised soil erosion, graffiti and litter being pushed through the grill on top are all issues. Consideration should be given to providing a hard surface around the well, linking it to the path network and providing local interpretation.





Plate 19: Lady Bute's Well

#### e) West Gate Bridge

Re-constructed in the 1920's the West gate bridge and West Gate mark the original western approach to Cardiff. Opened to public access during the restoration project the bridge provides a good location to view the restored Mill Leat. Although not listed the bridge is classed as an associated structure with the Cardiff Castle grade 1 listing. There is a flooding issue on the bridge deck which needs to be monitored and the drainage holes regularly inspected and cleaned. The mortar pointing on the cobble stone surface is failing in sections and needs to be monitored.



Plate 20: West Gate Bridge

These structures will be subject to regular inspection to monitor their condition. Recommendations for inspection, repair and cleaning have been developed with specialist advice during the restoration and conservation of the features and information is detailed in the A-Z manual and Appendix 2 - Area by Area management schedules

In addition to the above, the following site features also require regular inspection, removal of self sown vegetation and ad hoc repair using appropriate materials. Specialist advice will be sought in the event of any repair work required.

#### **f) Gallery Footings**

Constructed in the early part of the 20th century the Gallery footings are the foundation and footprint of a large art gallery commissioned by the 4th Marquess of Bute. Work on the Gallery was interrupted by the 2nd world war, and never completed.

Currently an underused space, the gallery footings offer an opportunity to develop innovative uses for the space, and investigation of possible uses is ongoing.



Plate 21: Gallery Footings

#### **g) Eighteenth Century Bridge Abutment**

These mark the eastern end of the 18th Century Bridge across the Taff replaced with the current bridge in 1920's. Cleared of self-sown



vegetation during the restoration project the remaining stonework requires regular inspection with remedial works to remove vegetation, stump killing and re-fix/stabilise loose masonry undertaken as required.



Plate 22: Eighteenth century bridge abutment

#### 6.4.4 Signage

##### **General**

New information, wayfinding and interpretation signage has been installed throughout the Park during the restoration project  
(**See section 8.2 Internal orientation and the A-Z manual for details**)

##### **Maintenance regime**

Signs are cleaned and have graffiti removed on an as needed basis. All staff are responsible for monitoring their condition and reporting repairs or graffiti to the Bute Park Manager, who will action any work. All the signs are checked annually for safety and condition by the Land Management Team. The signs on buildings are managed by the respective building manager/concession holder.

Co-ordinating the management of the information board displays is the responsibility of the Bute Park Manager.

Tree tags and labels are inspected and maintained by the Friends of Bute Park with the support of the Bute Park Manager and Education Officer

#### 6.4.5 Site Furniture

The park contains a range of types of furniture including:

- Seats/benches
- Picnic tables
- Fixed litter bins
- Temporary litter bins
- Flag poles
- Directional and entrance signage (**see section 8.2.1**)
- Interpretation signs and posts
- Sculptures
- Fitness and play equipment

There is a limited palette of standard seat designs within the park extensive new seating provision has been provided through the recent heritage lottery project and a pallet of seats selected for ongoing replacement and addition through a memorial seat donation scheme. details of the seat types and installation guidelines are set out in the Design Guide (Please see A-Z Manual).

These are supplemented by sculpted seats which interpret themes of the parks history, natural environment and the Arboretum collection.

The range of existing seat types and litter bins are illustrated in Plates 23 and 24 below



Plate 23: Existing seat styles in Bute Park





Plate 24: Existing bin styles in Bute Park

### General Maintenance regime

Site furniture is cleaned and has graffiti removed on an as needed basis. All staff are responsible for monitoring their condition and reporting repairs to the Bute Park Manager, who will advise the Land Management Team. Work will be prioritised and implement repair work subject to funding being available. The timber is treated with a preservative to prolong its life and metal components are painted only when additional funding is available. All the seats and bins are checked annually and their condition recorded on a database by the Operational Support Team.

### Dog Bins

There are no specific dog bins in the park, when dog waste was declassified as toxic waste the decision was taken to introduce biodegradable bags and allow the disposal of dog waste in any litter bin on a citywide basis.

### 6.4.6 Artwork

The philosophy in Bute Park has been to use art, where possible, as a means to tell the story of the site and provoke interest, enquiry and engagement with visitors.

There are numerous carved tree sculptures and themed carved timber seats and play sculptures located throughout the park, each with a story to tell. See **section 8.2.3** for further details.

Details of their maintenance requirements are provided in the area specific schedules of **Appendix 2**. Furthermore, **Appendices 16a-c** give specific details of the individual sculptures installed as part of the restoration project.

Another interpretive piece of public art is the 'People's Door' which is located at the entrance to the Secret Garden Café/Bute Park Education Centre (Plate 45). This feature door, designed by architect Michael Davies of Davies Sutton, contains a number of carved panels that depict scenes from the park's history by local amateur carvers. See section 8.2.1d below.

An artist was commissioned as part of the Blackfriars Friary project to depict in a scaled model how the medieval friary would have looked in its heyday. An image of the model is shown in **plate 48** in **Section 8.2.3b**

The Park Manager will be responsible for managing requests and commissions for any future artwork, and the same philosophy will remain.

## **6.5 Utilities and Services**

### **6.5.1 General**

Services to Bute Park are provided by the Council's utilities providers. Meter readings are regularly recorded by the Bute Park Ranger and entered on the web-based Council's Energy Monitoring system. This helps analyse usage patterns, supports resource conservation and also allows accurate financial forecasting and early detection of water leaks. When sufficient data is collected Energy Certificates showing annual usage will be displayed in various buildings.

### **6.5.2 Facilities**

The buildings, structures and facilities in the Park have the following services:

#### **a) West Lodge/Pettigrew Tea Rooms**

Connected to water, gas, electricity, telephone, CCC fibre optic, mains sewers and soakaway

There has been an issue with the mains drainage from the site. A survey of the drainage system in September 2014 by CCC drainage management team and Welsh Water identified a problem with the public sewer located at the junction of Castle Street/Westgate Street which may be the cause. Welsh Water has carried out some works to remove water from the drain serving west lodge but further investigation works are required by to ascertain the cause of damage and to repair.

#### **b) Summerhouse Café**

Connected to water, electricity, telephone, coaxial cctv

Services are connected across the Millennium Bridge from Sophia Gardens.

The water meter is located in Sophia gardens at the connection point to the water main; electricity is metered locally in the building.

Foul water is processed in a local sewage treatment plant and field drainage system (The system is cleaned annually and emptied 6 monthly or as required).

Surface water is directed to soak away

Free WIFI is provided by the concession

**c) Education Centre/ Secret Garden Café**

Connected to Gas, water, electricity, CCC Fibre optic. telephone

A Solar panel array on the roof provide some of the power requirements with surplus fed back into the National Grid generating an income for the Park through the feed in tariff scheme.

Foul water is processed in a local sewage treatment plant and field drainage system, The system is cleaned annually and emptied 6 monthly or as required.

Surface water is directed to soak away

Water and electricity are sub metered separately for the Education Centre and Secret Garden Café with the latter being invoiced for their usage by the council.

**d) Bute Park Nursery**

Connected to Gas, water, electric, BT and CCC Fibre optic.

Foul water is stored in a Cess pit.

Surface water is directed to soak away or natural percolation with some drainage from the glass houses being stored on site in water butts for re use.

Water, Gas and electricity supplies to the Education Centre and Secret Garden Café are sub-metered off the main supply to the Nursery

**e) Bute Park Plant Shop**

Connected to electric, BT, CCTV system

**f) Blackweir Changing Rooms**

Gas, water, electric, telephone, mains sewerage

**g) Mill Leat**

Electric, GSM

Power to the re circulation system is from Cardiff Castle and metered at the castle main distribution Board.

GSM unit located in the pump system control cabinet to override the operation of the pumps

**h) Coopers Field**

Services are provided for the use of events

Water supplies for events are accessible from 6 Pop-Up Pods  
 An earlier electrical supply system failed electrical safety tests in 2014 due to low cable insulation readings further investigation isolated the problem to water ingress to the sealed underground cable termination box on the pods and faulty cables. The current status of the system is "Decommissioned".

A Data connection is available for events, upon request, supplied from Cardiff Castle.

## **6.6 Play and Fitness Equipment**

The play and fitness equipment in the park is managed and maintained by the Parks Services Playground Team.

Park Services prides itself in the inspection and maintenance regimes that it has developed to ensure the safe day-to-day management of its 120+ playgrounds. These regimes are designed to comply with the guidelines given in the British Standards documents BS EN 1176 Playground Equipment and BS EN 1177 Impact Absorbing Playground Surfacing.

The regimes are focused around a 'state of the art' computerised asset management system 'Playsafe' that allows the Playground Inspector to record inspections and findings on site, using a hand held computer. The Inspector is also able to allocate each finding a risk value and consequently a priority rating for any necessary repairs. On returning to the office, the information is digitally transferred to the main computer system that generates works orders for completion by the maintenance team. The resulting database of information gives a historical record for every asset in every playground, the date of every finding and when the resulting works were completed. 'Playsafe' is a valuable tool for the effective management of the playgrounds and to secure funding for improvements.

Regular visual inspections will be carried out by the Bute Park and Urban rangers in the park and any issues reported to the Playground Team. The Playground Team will inspect all equipment annually.

Maintenance and repair is carried out by the Playground Maintenance Team and implemented on a priority basis.

Equipment is cleaned and has graffiti removed on an as needed basis.

In addition, every member of Park Services staff working in the park has a responsibility to ensure the safety of the public when using the parks and will report any vandalism or damage to the equipment to the Playground Inspector should they encounter it. Because the maintenance team are directly employed, they can respond immediately

to any serious safety issues that require equipment to be immobilised or removed.

#### 6.6.1 Balance Trail

Installed in 2013 the balance trail consists 10 pieces of low level timber and rope equipment snaking through old Mans wood near the Summerhouse Kiosk and marked at either end by 2 'upside down trees' There is no safer surfacing requirement for the equipment because of the low fall height, although installation of a bark surface around the equipment to address the erosion occurring in and around the equipment would be desirable. Details of the equipment can be found in the Bute Park A-Z manual and in 'Playsafe'.

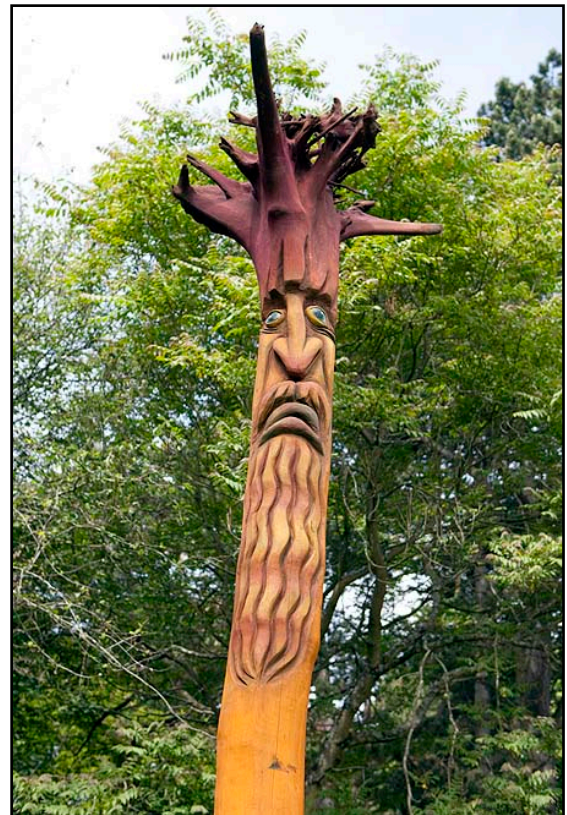


Plate 25: Balance trail

#### 6.6.2 Trim Trail

Installed in 2013 the fitness trail consists 8 pieces of metal static fitness equipment located along the path edge around Blackweir playing fields. Each piece of equipment has grass matt safer surfacing installed underneath to prevent erosion.

During the 2014 defects inspection issues were noted on 3 items these have been repaired and modified, further monitoring will be carried out



and if there is a recurrence of the problem the issue raised with the manufacturer. Details of the equipment can be found in the Bute Park A-Z manual and in 'Playsafe'



Plate 26: Trim trail

### 6.6.3 Play Sculptures

Where known, further details of specific sculptures are given in the relevant **Appendix 2** character area schedules. The maintenance regime for the carved play sculptures installed as part of the Bute Park Restoration project are provided in **Appendix 16**



Plate 27: Play sculptures

## 7. Park environment

*It is planned to reduce the length of this section of the management plan over time as some information is duplicated within the area-specific character are schedules of **Appendix 2***

### 7.1 General principles

#### 7.1.1 Managing the changing landscape

The complexity of the park landscape is such that a holistic approach to maintenance and management is required in order to achieve the full aims of the restoration and development plan (2005). Effective management of the trees in particular will ultimately define spaces, provide transition between spaces, create vistas and scenes and define the characteristics of different spaces – creating balance unity, harmony, variety, scale and contrast in the landscape.

Effective vegetation management will only be achieved if there is a thorough understanding of the dynamics of the site. The juxtaposition of equally significant features creates a tension that will require time, patience and long term vision to achieve a satisfactory result.

#### 7.1.2 The influence of a changing climate

The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy has addressed for the first time, the issues facing the parks service in dealing with a changing climate. In Bute Park, the long term effects could be devastating because the longevity of trees and the parks location on the floodplain makes them particularly vulnerable to climatic change. However, this can also make the park an obvious location to observe the impact of climate change and inform.

In the future, plant selection, management practice and habitat creation and management will all need to be reviewed to ensure that the future of the park is safeguarded.

The park is predominantly flood plain and is designed as a flood storage cell for Cardiff during significant flooding events; therefore it is expected to flood intermittently. Flooding events are uncommon although their frequency may increase in future years. A Development Plan action will cover the task of compiling the latest flood risk data to help inform the park's ongoing management.



## 7.2 Tree Management

### 7.2.1 Maintenance and Management of Trees

Bute Park contains in excess of 3,000 trees, mostly planted, or regenerated over the last 150 years, with the greatest proportion (around 2,200) having been planted in the latter half of the twentieth century as part of the Arboretum development since the 1950s, with many of the rarest trees in the collection planted over the last two decades since the re-dedication of the Arboretum in 1990's. The rest of the trees are either historic plantings dating back to the nineteenth century layout, or regenerated or planted woodland, particularly in the northern part of the site and east of the dock feeder.

The Bute Park Tree Management Plan (**Appendix 20**) sets out the principles for tree management throughout the park. The plan addresses the issues of conflict between the arboretum and the historic landscape and outlines a 'development over time' approach for the restoration of the historic landscape whilst preserving the integrity of the arboretum. The plan sets out parameters for the arboretum management and future development and provides a framework for the restoration and gradual renewal of the historic tree structure.

The tree management plan (2007) is a long term plan and the general principles are still relevant, however, the tree lists and work plan require review and updating to reflect changes to the park and the planting structure resulting from the restoration project and to identify those areas previously surveyed and managed.

A MapInfo database of the trees has been maintained throughout the restoration project and developed to include information that can be used in interpretative material for the arboretum collection.

The trees are also recorded on the Parks services Arbotrack system which is used to plot and record maintenance and management of all the trees within Cardiff's parks. The Arbotrack records will be updated through a rolling programme of condition inspections and management works to reflect changes in the park resulting from the restoration project.

Together with regular and on-going monitoring and review this ensures that there is a full and robust system for dealing with any maintenance requirements.

The following operations will be carried out routinely in order to maintain the quality of the planted areas:

- Weed control around base of trees (appropriate to location)
- Removal of dead and diseased plants
- Formative pruning as required to achieve the desired shape
- Removal of any basal shoots

- Annual rolling programme of inspection and tree maintenance work.
- Annual checks to newly planted trees until establishment to inspect and replace any trees ties and the eventual removal of stakes
- Reporting of any tree issues to the Arboricultural Officer for further inspections and resolution
- Trees identified for removal are assessed for suitability for either replacement or recycling of the trunk as in situ art work.

Where trees are subject to specific detrimental impacts on their immediate environment an assessment of the impact will be made and specific measures put in place to protect the trees and ensure they continue to thrive. Specific measures will include:

- Arboricultural impact assessment
- Tree protection plan
- Investigation of root plate
- De-compaction techniques

### 7.2.2 Maintenance and Management of woodland areas

The approach to Woodland maintenance and management is broadly covered in the Bute Park Tree Management Plan (**Appendix 20**). Woodland maintenance and management is more specifically detailed in the relevant Character Area Schedules (**Appendix 2a - k**).

Woodland maintenance and management city-wide is undertaken by the Community Ranger Team in conjunction with the Woodlands Biodiversity Team, Park Rangers, and the area grounds maintenance teams. This work is managed on a planned basis and often undertaken in conjunction with friends groups and other environmental volunteer groups although reactive work also takes place as problems arise.

### 7.2.3 Coppice Management

A hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice known as “Hutchins hazels” planted during the winter of 2007/8 is managed on a 3 year rotation to obtain hazel wands for use to support plants in the herbaceous border. Growth rates will be staggered by cutting on a three year basis i.e. cut 33% to ground level in the first year to encourage multi-stem growth allowing remaining 67% and cutting 33% respectively years 2 and 3 so that the growth will be staggered over a 3 year rotation.

As the coppice develops and the growth/harvestable hazel becomes greater, selective pants will be allowed to grow larger be coppiced on a 10-15 year rotation to improve the biodiversity of the stand and provide larger poles to be used as plant supports

### 7.2.4 Timber and Green Waste Recycling

All timber generated as a result of tree work in the park will be recycled at either the point the work took place, chipped and used as path toppings or deposited at a Green Waste facility. A small quantity of suitable timber is retained for use as informal play objects, stump seats or to protect areas from encroachment.

### 7.2.5 Hedges

The following hedges exist within the park:

#### a) Maintained hedges

- Beech hedge alongside herbaceous border
- Beech and Yew hedges around the tennis courts
- Beech hedges around northern part of Nursery complex
- Pleached hornbeam high level hedge to southern boundary of nursery complex
- Hornbeam high level hedge in the Stuttgart garden
- Cherry laurel hedge alongside North Road (cut back Hard 2011-2013)
- Photinia hedge around substation
- Clipped box hedges in Blackfriars cloister garth (Re planted 2013)

These hedges are cut annually to retain their shape and formative pruning carried out where required. All works are timed to avoid bird nesting season 1<sup>st</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> July.

#### b) Unmaintained and over mature hedges

- Conifer hedge along eastern side of nursery walled garden
- Conifer hedge line along the boundary of the gifted park (south of the Orchard Lawn)

These hedges have not been maintained or had limited management for many years.

The base of the conifer hedge has recently been cleared and crown lifted to address anti-social behaviour in the area and this will be maintained. The remnant over mature conifer hedge along the boundary of the gifted park will be gradually removed and replaced with linear tree planting that reflects the park structure without making a solid boundary

## 7.3 Ornamental planting

### 7.3.1 General principles

Unlike most of the city's other parks, Bute Park, as a private garden, was not laid out for the public 'consumption' of horticulture. However

the development of the exceptional herbaceous border along the River Taff in the 1950's and more recent introduction of broad leaved and grass beds and a new mixed border have added significantly to the horticultural interest. Formal gardens and small areas of seasonal bedding have also been developed.

The high points of horticultural interest are:

- The trees
- The herbaceous border
- The education centre mixed border
- The Broad leaved and Grass beds
- The spring bulbs
- The Stuttgart Garden

The longer term objectives set out in the Bute Park restoration and development plan (2005) which are still relevant to this plan seek to further broaden horticultural interest within the park without significantly altering the structure or appearance of the landscape, through:

- Developing a physic garden within the Blackfriars cloister garth
- Appropriate arboricultural management to redefine the structure of the site
- Extending the variety and extent of the permanent plantings
- Reintroducing the character and style of the Victorian plantings in appropriate locations where these can be seen in the context of the restored original layout.
- Developing and extending the seasonal bulb displays

Since the introduction of Best Value an annual assessment of all permanent planted areas has been undertaken across the city, to develop a coherent and systematic regeneration and replanting programme to extend and widen both the horticultural and botanical experience for the visiting public.

### 7.3.2 Permanent Planting

The existing shrub planted areas are based upon the Victorian layout and provide a variety of planting schemes giving seasonal variety in keeping with the park layout. Over the years a number of different cultivation techniques have been employed. The use of acid loving plants (Rhododendrons and Azaleas) west of the northern lawns area has proved to be unsustainable, despite these being a feature of the historic plantings (see **Section 7.3.3**). Other species such as Hydrangeas and Camellias have established well. In order to preserve ongoing health and perpetuate the desired effects through intervention, there will be ongoing trialling of shrub types within the larger planted areas. Replanting – particularly in some of the more shaded areas of the park, could be protected by estate fencing to prevent unwanted

incursion into the planted areas and opportunistic theft of newly planted specimens (which has been a major problem in the past).

All shrub planted areas are designed for low input, routine maintenance schedules. New plantings shall be:

- Appropriate to the location
- Well mulched to reduce weed growth
- Of the largest size possible to deter theft
- Fenced in vulnerable locations

The following operations are carried out routinely in order to maintain and improve the quality of the planted areas:

- Weed control (appropriate to location, a combination of hoeing and spray control)
- Edged annually (in lawn areas)
- Removal of dead and diseased plants
- Removal to be followed by quick replacement
- Formative pruning as required to achieve the desired shape
- Mulched annually with leaf litter collected from the park

### 7.3.3 Historic planting restoration

Bute Park Restoration and Development plan (March 2005), describes the Pettigrew style as far as could be interpreted in the context of the research carried to that date as follows<sup>13</sup>:

*‘During the 1860s there had been a reaction against the formality of the High Victorian Italianate gardens such as those designed by William Nesfield (1793-1881), often consisting of gravels, architectural detailing and extensive parterres. The end of Nesfield’s career saw a dramatic reversion to the more informal and naturalistic designs previously promoted by William Sawrey Gilpin (1762-1843), John Loudon (1783-1843) and others, enriched with naturalistic planting advocated by horticulturalists. At Cardiff Castle it was this approach that was adopted by Andrew Pettigrew after 1871, creating a landscape for Burges’s Castle and rejecting the architect’s more formal vision for the surrounding grounds.*

*Swathes of uninterrupted, open lawn formed a dominant feature in the landscape, punctuated with irregularly shaped clumps of ornamental trees and shrubs. As Brent Elliott puts it, this was the English landscape style as improved by nineteenth century horticulture. Consequently, within the naturalised picturesque landscape much care was taken over the location, variety and quality of individual choice plants. A circuit of paths encouraged admiration of the specimen plant collection and encouraged viewing of the scenery created by the*

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<sup>13</sup> Bute Park Restoration and Development Plan, March 2005. Page 113.

*landscape as a whole, supplemented with eye-catching glimpses of Burges's Gothic towers.*

*This description sums up the characteristics of Pettigrew's layout of the Castle grounds. Herbaceous borders and seasonal planting were foiled by manicured turf between the planted areas and the edge of the driveways and footpaths within the estate. Although there were ornamental areas adjacent to the Castle, in the main the effect was one of understated elegance and tranquillity which did not compete with the exuberance of Burges' Gothic architecture.'*

More recently, some descriptive evidence of Pettigrew's approach to landscape layout and planting has come to light through the scrapbook of his middle son Hugh – sourced via the Pettigrew family during the preparation of the Pettigrew Exhibition in the Old Library in Cardiff in Spring 2006. An article on 'Hardy Herbaceous Perennial Plants, delivered by Andrew Pettigrew to the Cardiff Gardener's Improvement Association makes strong reference to Frederick Law Olmsted, the famous American landscape architect, a contemporary of Pettigrew. In his article, Andrew Pettigrew extols the virtues of hardy herbaceous plants as a means of providing flowers throughout the year and many of the contemporary descriptions cite his use of herbaceous perennials with ornamental shrubs.

From contemporary descriptions of the Castle gardens during Pettigrew's tenure as Head Gardener<sup>14</sup>, we can derive the following characteristic features which have been translated into new planting designs, and should continue to inform further planting interventions to reflect his highly individual approach.

- Seasonal planting of Zonal Pelargonium in small, geometric beds
- High quality grass swards fronting all planted areas (new education centre border)
- Choice shrubs planted, with trees, in long borders or circular island beds
- Extensive herbaceous borders with shrubs at the back (new education centre border)
- Masses of flowering plants with muted tones (new education centre border)
- Willow trees along the dock feeder (replacement tree planted 2014)
- Rhododendrons and Peonies
- Hortensia hydrangeas
- Jasmine, Wisteria, Amelopsis and Vines on the castle walls
- Fernery on the Cathays Park side of the estate

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<sup>14</sup> Journal of Horticultures and Cottage Gardener, 27 September 1877; The Gardener's Chronicle, 1 July 1882; The Gardener's Magazine, 8 August 1891; The Gardeners Chronicle, 9 September 1893; Journal of Horticultures and Cottage gardener, 19 September 1895; Gardener's Magazine, 21 October 1899, Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener, 6 September 1900

It is interesting to note that in an undated article entitled 'South Wales Notes', again sourced from Hugh Pettigrew's scrap book, Andrew Pettigrew indicates that many of the shrubs in the grounds were actually raised in the glass houses for interior floral display, then transplanted to the grounds after they had finished flowering. He cites the use of *Hydrangea hortensia*, *Aralia sieboldii* and *Choisya ternata* in this context.

A full planting list of all the species and varieties mentioned in the articles is given in **Appendix 17**.

### 7.3.4 Herbaceous Plants

#### a) The Herbaceous Border

Bute Park's herbaceous border is the longest of its kind in Cardiff and is considered to be the horticultural gem of the park. Although there is no documentary evidence to suggest that this follows the line of Pettigrew's border, it is likely that it was established early in the layout of the park. The original border was on both sides of the path, but this was altered in the 1970s to produce the island beds on the river frontage, which allow more access to the river.

The border is characterised by the longevity of its bloom (April to October) and the neat mown grass edge which is a feature of Pettigrew's original plantings. The border is routinely replanted in sections to increase the variety and flowering period of the display.

Between 2010 and 2014 on the main border and 3 of the island beds all the plants were lifted and split, the borders single dug, and manured before re planting. This process will continue until all the island beds have been completed by 2015 and the whole process repeated on a cyclical basis to maintain the quality of the planting

#### b) The Education Centre Border

Established in 2012/13 planting season following the completion of the new education centre in the park this is a mixed shrub and herbaceous border with a neat mown grass edge which is a characteristic of Pettigrew's original plantings.

Plants were selected from Pettigrew's original palette for inclusion in the border with the emphasis on muted colours, extended seasonal interest and benefit to pollinators. The border is backed by a wall with climbing roses which reflect the original southern boundary of the nursery complex.

The following operations are carried out routinely in order to maintain and improve the quality of these planted areas:

- Weed control and forking through by hand
- Edged regularly
- Prompt removal of dead and diseased plants
- Removal to be followed by quick replacement
- Application of manure on a 3-5yr cycle

Coppiced hazel from the Hutchins Hazels' copse at the northern end of the park is used as plant supports.

Further improvements to the interpretation of the border through the use of plant labels and / or leaflets to provide information and aid identification are underway.

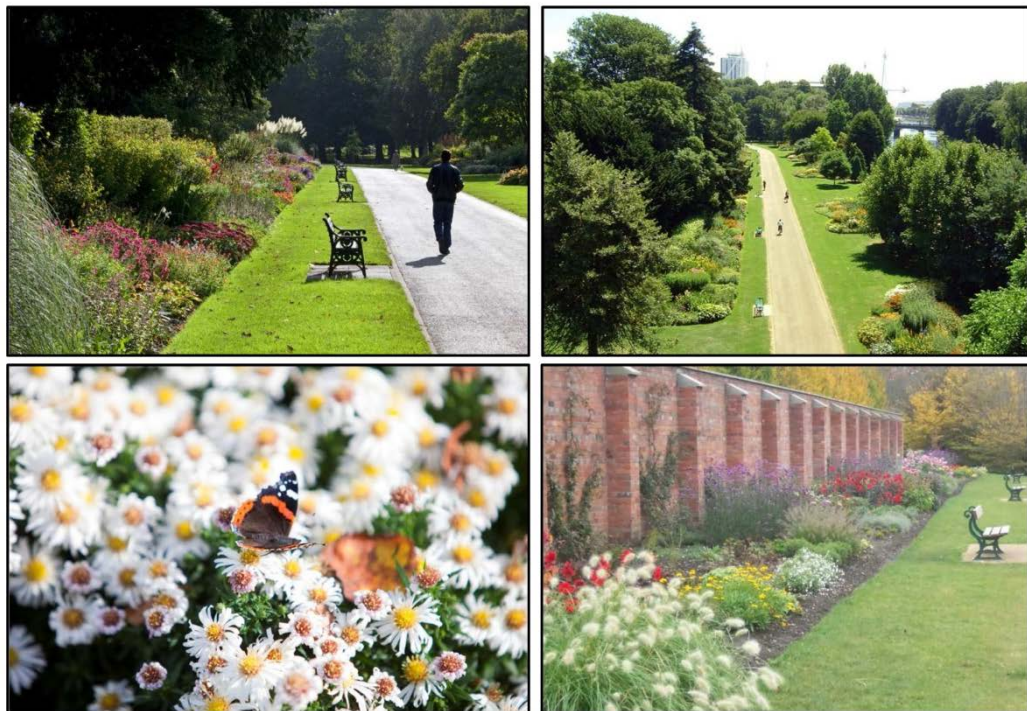


Plate 28: Herbaceous borders in Bute Park

### 7.3.5 Other planted features

To broaden the horticultural appeal and variety of the park a number of other planted displays and features have been incorporated into the park:

- 'Pumba' feature bed
- Grasses bed
- Shade tolerant large leaved herbaceous bed
- Stuttgart garden
- Physic Garden (to be planted winter 2014)
- Seasonal bedding (Stuttgart Garden, Green Flag bed, containers at the Secret Garden)



These additional features will continue within the confines of their immediate area where they add interest to the park without compromising the historic structure and layout of the park.

Additional temporary features may be introduced on a purely seasonal basis to add an element of surprise and variety, taking advantage of gaps in the canopy where trees have been removed.

The following operations are carried out routinely in order to maintain and improve the quality of these planted areas:

- Weed control by hand
- Edged regularly
- Prompt removal of dead and diseased plants
- Removal to be followed by quick replacement

More detailed information on the maintenance of planted areas can be found within the relevant **Appendix 2** character area schedules. These schedules also highlight the area-specific operations that can be carried out by volunteers under the direction of staff, which is envisaged as an area for development over the coming years to help the Council build resilience and further improve quality.

The development of a 'Secret Garden' style approach to the Bute Park Plant Shop is considered as a future development to help meet visitor expectation and complement the existing Secret Garden Café

#### **7.4 Bulb planted areas**

Bute Park is renowned for its displays of spring, and to a lesser extent, autumn flowering bulbs. Historically all bulbs have been planted in species groups in grass areas. Following flowering, bulb planted areas are left until the leaves have died back before implementing mowing regimes. A more recent trend has been to add mixed species groups of native bulbs and wildflowers into grass areas and beneath and around trees to extend the length of the season and to boost the biodiversity of woodland fringe ground flora.

The following bulb types are found in the park:

- Allium (Wild Garlic)
- Bluebell (pink and blue)
- Chionodoxa (Glory of the snow)
- Colchicum
- Convalaria (Lily of the valley)
- Crocus (many varieties)
- Cyclamen
- Daffodil (many varieties)
- Fritillaria
- Galanthus (snow drops)

- Hyacinths
- Muscari
- Ornithogalum (star of Bethlehem)
- Triteleia
- Tulip (naturalised form)

The location of naturalised bulbs are shown in the area by area management plans in **Appendix 2**. Bulbs are also incorporated into the herbaceous and mixed beds to add seasonal interest, notably the varietal groups of daffodils in the herbaceous border.

## 7.5 Grassland management

The finish of grassed areas strongly influences the character of landscaped areas. The majority of the park is mown as amenity grass, with some higher standard areas such as the herbaceous and education borders and Blackfriars and some lower standard areas such as the woodland margins and Dock Feeder banks.

Localised and individualised mowing regimes are used to define different areas to provide a greater range of contrast; on a 'macro' scale from south to north, with the southern end being generally more intensively mown and the northern end less intensive (apart from the sports pitches); and on a micro scale – with individual elements subject to different regimes, for example groupings of Arboretum trees with longer grass beneath separated by mown 'paths' or route ways; wildflower areas with mown walkways,

This creates a more coherent structure to the landscape and helps to delineate some of the past uses such as the sunken lawn and 'Pettigrew planting' which will both be mown to a higher standard.

Throughout the site, mowing regimes and finishes are determined by landscape character and the visual appearance of individual areas and the role played by the grassed areas within their overall aesthetic. Within the overall structure of the localised and individualised mowing regimes, specific management regimes will be adopted for the following:

- Naturalised bulb areas
- Wildflower areas
- Control of grass around obstacles and trees
- Mowing around individual trees
- Reinstatement of damaged or worn areas
- Selective weed control within grass
- Improvements to site drainage
- Sustainable fertilisation and irrigation as required

Full details for the existing and proposed grass maintenance regimes are given in the area by area schedules in **Appendix 2**.

In 2012 a baseline biodiversity survey of some of the key grassland areas where modified mowing regimes were introduced was carried out. This established the diversity of the grassland areas and identified appropriate species that should be included in future planting and seeding programmes to boost their biodiversity. The scope of the report was limited to specific areas as detailed in the report but the general principles of the information learned would apply to more general areas where increased biodiversity is desired within the heavily tree planted grasslands. To help establishment of more diverse grassland specific interventions to both suppress the vigour of the grass sward and increase the diversity have been introduced and are being considered such as:

Increasing diversity

- Plug and bulb planting of suitable species
- Scarifying and over seeding with suitable species

Suppressing the vigour of existing grass

- Sowing of parasitic yellow rattle
- Use of growth retardants on grass

Specialist reinforced turf surfaces are included in areas of high wear associated with events vehicle movements. These areas will be maintained in accordance with the general grass cutting regime for the area. The location of these areas and additional maintenance requirements to maintain the quality of the grass is identified in the area by area schedules in **Appendix 2**.

## **7.6 Management of water courses and aquatic areas**

### **7.6.1 Dock Feeder**

Responsibility for maintenance of the Dock Feeder (providing the main water supply for Cardiff Docks) rests with Associated British Ports (ABP). ABP carries out periodic de-silting, emergency works to remove blockages and are responsible for maintaining a flow of water in the channel. Intermittent access is required to carry out these operations. The Council has riparian ownership and is responsible for management, maintenance and repair of the banks as follows:

- Ad hoc repair of leaking sections
- Vegetation management and clearance

Vegetation management is carried out as part of the winter work programme in the park this is supplemented by volunteers work days.

The condition of the dock feeder banks has deteriorated over time work has started on a programme of revetment repairs funded through the restoration project to address the worst affected areas. The work has been carried out through a volunteer project managed by Keep Wales tidy and they are keen to remain involved in the management of the dock feeder working closely with the Cardiff Rivers Group and ABP.

A good working relationship has developed between the council and ABP during the restoration project with collaboration on de-silting, vegetation management, installation of the trash screen and management of water levels to facilitate work. This is an ongoing relationship.

### **7.6.2 Mill Leat**

The maintenance regime for the Mill Leat is contained within the relevant Character Area Schedule.

Water to top up the Mil Leat is obtained from the Dock Feeder with the agreement of ABP. The current agreement allows the extraction of up to 20 m<sup>3</sup>/day. Extraction above this level would require an extraction license from Natural Resources Wales. The ongoing leak issue would require an abstraction license for approximately 60m<sup>3</sup>/day to maintain the designed water level. However, at the time of writing discussions are ongoing about whether the Mill Leat can be used to capture and store cleansed water derived from surface water run-off from the Castle Street cycleway scheme which may also offer a solution.

### **7.6.3 River Taff**

The Council is responsible for vegetation management along the Taff, but is not responsible for the waterway or flood defences. Natural Resources Wales requires periodic access to the river from the park side to carry out dredging, flood defence vegetation clearance and other watercourse maintenance operations.

A good working partnership has developed during the Bute Park Restoration project with the Cardiff Rivers Group and Keep Wales Tidy who periodically organise volunteer work days to remove accumulated litter, rubbish and overgrown vegetation from the main watercourses through and adjacent the park.

## 7.7 Protecting and promoting biodiversity

### 7.7.1 General description

Bute Park is a landscape of contrasts, combining areas of formal parkland, unimproved grassland, secondary woodland and remnant ancient woodland. A number of features are of particular importance in nature conservation terms and three areas have been designated as Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC). The SINC Sites are addressed specifically below in **section 7.4** (see **Appendix 24** for full details of the SINC designations). Other areas within the park will be managed for biodiversity on an area-specific basis and documented using the character area schedules contained in **Appendix 2**.

### 7.7.2 Management Issues

Balancing the need to protect and promote biodiversity with the wider conservation and public access objectives of the management plan is and continues to be a key management challenge. It is essential that the park is managed in a way that does not compromise existing habitats or the future prospects of important flora and fauna whilst maintaining the integrity of the historic landscape and features. Efforts to safeguard biodiversity will focus on the following management objectives:

- manage woodland and vegetation to enhance biodiversity
- enhance amenity value of woodland areas
- achieve sustainable access through management - including designated areas of inaccessibility to protect habitats
- maintain sight lines
- control and eradicate invasive non-native species
- protect and develop migratory routes for seasonal migration
- create conditions to help species adapt to climate change

### 7.7.3 Management Measures

The above objectives are being implemented through work plans developed for specific sub areas (see Tree Management Plan and Area by Area management schedules in **Appendix 2**). These identify key issues and target species and include work schedules that detail each operation and the appropriate frequency. For example woodland management works:

- specific management measures for arboretum trees (in line with the arboretum management plan)
- management of timber arisings through extraction for re-cycling, creation of habitat piles or chipping

- controlled cutting of grassland and ground flora (and edges) to increase diversity wild flowers and fauna
- invasive species control
- litter picking
- path maintenance
- species monitoring

All management works are will be undertaken in full consultation with the Parks Conservation Officer. On-going education and training is provided to site operatives to ensure that all biodiversity requirements are respected within site maintenance operations and that the correct techniques are employed.

#### 7.7.4 SINC Sites

##### a) Blackweir and Dock Feeder SINC

The Blackweir woodlands dominate the northern area of the park with the dock feeder running through the eastern side of the woodland down the eastern side of the park. The woodland areas are designated for the habitat value of its varied understorey and mature woodland trees and the presence of all three Woodpecker species (Green, Greater and Lesser spotted) and the very rare Date Coloured Waxcap<sup>15</sup> that occurs within a small remnant area of unimproved grassland within the Bute Park Arboretum. The Waxcap hasn't been recorded at the site in recent years, but the management regime identified in the Area H management schedule will be continued in the hope that it will return.

Dock Feeder is designated for the value of its bankside trees and vegetation as a habitat for bats, otters, kingfishers and its role as a passage for aquatic species.

##### Protected and priority species

Banded Demoiselle, Crossbill, Date-Coloured Waxcap, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Song Thrush

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<sup>15</sup> Date Coloured Waxcap only occurs in ten 10km grid squares in Britain of which six are in Wales.



Plate 36 – Example of timber barrier and signage through Blackweir woodland SINC route

#### **b) Gabalfa Woodland SINC**

These dominate the far north of the Park outside the boundary of the listed park designated for the habitat value of its varied understorey and mature woodland trees)

##### **Protected and priority species**

Green Woodpecker, House Sparrow, Kingfisher

Various wild flower species, such as wood anemone, Spanish bluebells, red campion, green alkanet, common spotted orchid and fox glove populate the woodland areas as well as a wide range of indigenous tree species and non-indigenous trees introduced within the arboretum. Ground flora indicator species, including Bluebell, Dog's Mercury, Field Maple and Red Currant, suggest that the area once supported ancient semi-natural woodland

#### **c) The River Taff SINC**

One of the three main rivers within Cardiff, the River Taff flows from the north to the south of the city along the west side of the park. The river is important for migratory fish, otters, wildfowl and bankside vegetation and acts as a major wildlife corridor

##### **Protected and priority species**

Atlantic Salmon, Black-Headed Gull, Bullfinch, Common Pipistrelle, Grass Snake, Green Woodpecker, Herring Gull, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lesser Black-Backed Gull, Little Egret, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Otter, Pochard, Redshank, Red-Throated Diver, Reed Bunting, Sand Martin, Scaup, Sea Trout, Shelduck, Song Thrush, Soprano Pipistrelle, Speckled Bush

Cricket, Stonechat, Teal, Water Rail, White Letter Hairstreak,  
Yellow Wagtail

## **7.8 Noxious weed control**

### **7.8.1 General**

Known occurrences of injurious weeds and areas subject to regular control are shown in the area by area management schedules in **Appendix 2**.

Regular inspection of the site are carried out by the Bute Park Ranger and new instances of injurious and invasive species are reported to the Park Manager.

### **7.8.2 Japanese Knotweed**

The riverside location of the park and its proximity to the Taff Trail and the presence of the Dock Feeder makes the whole site vulnerable to knotweed incursion.

Management of knotweed in the Park is shared between the Highways Service (areas abutting the cycleway), the Harbour Authority (areas within 7m of the river Taff) and the Parks Service.

An active programme of knotweed control has been implemented throughout the park for the last 10 years following an initial treatment of the extensive large stands in the northern areas of the site and localised smaller stands and individual plants throughout the park identified in a survey of knotweed within the Taff corridor areas in the mid 2000's. The following techniques have been used:

- Autumn saturation spraying of large stands
- Spot treat isolated small plants
- Stem injection
- Weed wiping
- Encapsulation (Mill Leat)

Following the successful management of the succession species, Himalayan balsam, a resurvey of the all the previously treated areas was carried out in 2014. This confirmed that knotweed was still present in all the previously identified locations although in a significantly weakened state with generally very stunted re growth apart from the occasional small plant beginning to recover.

Ongoing management of the knotweed with an annual programme of spraying and spot treatment is required to maintain control and prevent its re-establishment alongside joint annual resurveys with the councils weed control contractor, monitoring the success of the treatment programme and identifying new occurrences of the weed throughout the park.



### 7.8.3 Other Noxious weeds

#### a) Himalayan balsam

Himalayan balsam used to be extensive throughout the park particularly in the northern sections and along the watercourses. It was the main successional species in the areas previously treated for Japanese Knotweed. Management has been carried out through volunteer activity days significantly reducing the extent of the balsam stands and allowing the natural woodland ground flora to re-establish. Continued vigilance and management of the balsam is required to prevent re- establishment.

#### b) Dock

A programme of dock control within grassland areas subject to modified mowing regimes used to be undertaken consisting of an annual summer spot treatment with herbicide prior to the plants setting seed to prevent them taking over the areas.

Dock produce a prolific amount of seed and the seeds can remain viable in the soil for decades so continuation of the programme is important for the successful establishment of the wildflower grasslands.

Dock treatment has not been undertaken lately but this weed will continue to be monitored and treatment undertaken where needed when resources allow.

#### c) Mare's Tail

Mare's Tail is visible in certain areas of the park, e.g. around Lady Bute's Bridge, and the standing out areas of the nursery. It is treated annually in the nursery where it represents a particular risk. It has also been seen to be emerging in the Education Border where treatment will be limited to hand pulling. This area is being actively monitored.

#### d) Bind Weed

Bind weed continues to be a stubborn problem in certain areas of the park, e.g. through some hedges and within Blackfriars Friary beds and the Herbaceous Border.

We plan to train and deploy volunteers to help us with the labour-intensive task of keeping on top of such weeds.

## **8. Movement and use**

### **8.1 Access to the park**

#### **8.1.1 Public Transport**

Bute Park is well serviced by public transport networks, which offer environmentally sustainable access options for visitors.

##### **a) Buses**

There are several bus stops within a 5 minute walk of Bute Park's entrances with services from Cardiff's suburbs and the local area. Nearby bus stops also service busses traveling to and from locations outside Cardiff including National Express (Sophia Gardens) and Megabus (Kingsway).

The park will also be only 10 mins walk from the new central bus station when it re-opens in 2023.

##### **b) Trains**

Entrances to the park are 8 minutes walk from Cathays Station, 12 minutes walk from Queens Street Station and 15 minutes walk from Cardiff Central Station.

##### **c) Nextbikes**

In 2018 Cardiff became one of 7 nextbike-cities in the UK. The public bike-sharing scheme is available across the city and there are numerous stands within a short distance of the park: St Johns Street, Sophia Gardens, City Hall and College Road (see Plate 50).

The scheme is growing in popularity and groups and individuals are able to rent bikes for short periods when they can enjoy the full extent of the park easily.

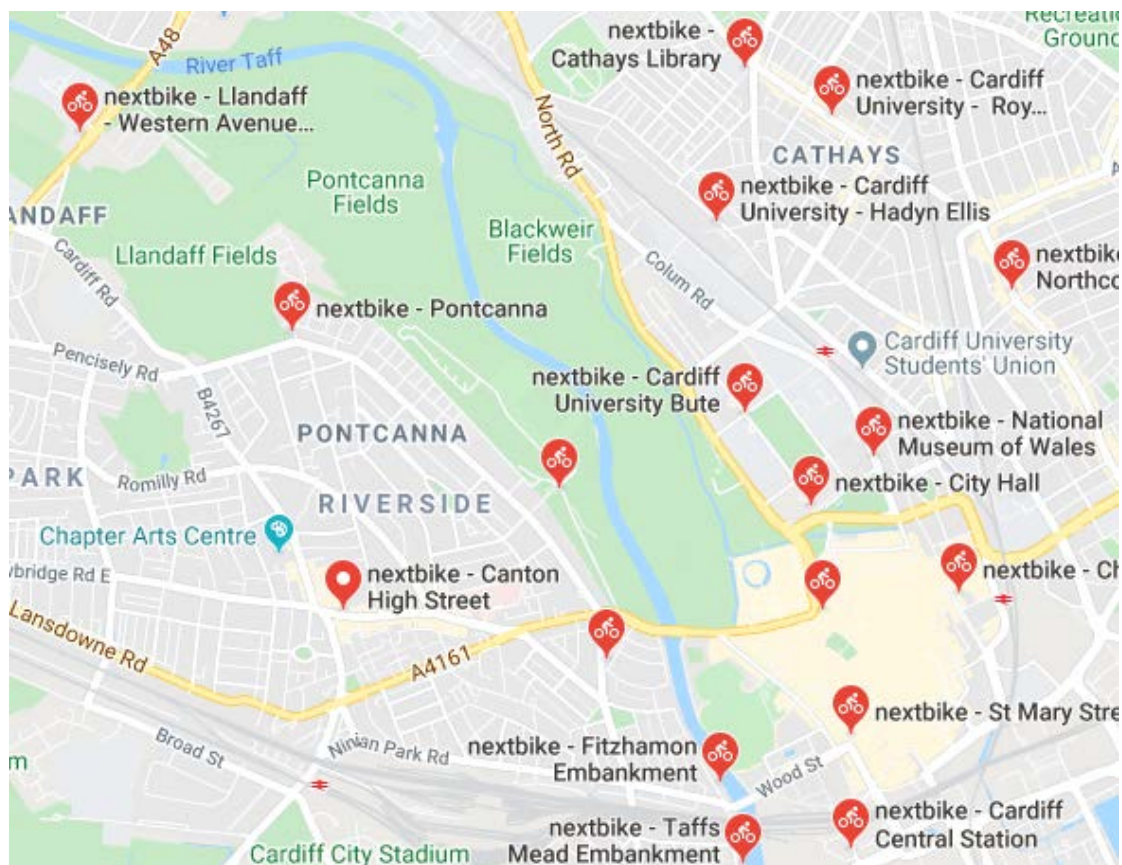


Plate 51 – Nextbike stations around Bute Park

### 8.1.2 Pedestrian access

There are 7 pedestrian entrances to Bute Park (**see Appendix 18 – Bute Park Entrance Plan**). Pedestrians also use the vehicle access bridge but this is discouraged through signage (**see Plate 29**) to avoid conflict with vehicles, and because design constraints on the bridge do not fully comply with highway standards for safe pedestrian use. However this bridge is not adopted highway.



Plate 29: Advisory signage on vehicle access bridge to direct pedestrians to RWCMD entrance

The map used on the site signage, the [www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com) website and visitors leaflet also provides guidance on the nature of surfaces so users can make informed decisions about which routes best meet their needs (**see Appendix 19**).

Access to the park is currently restricted to daylight hours, but a late night commuter route operates throughout the year to provide an east-west route through the park for pedestrians and cyclists. This route is open 24 hours.

People counters were installed in 2013 providing good information about the usage of the various entrance gates to Bute Park. The pedestrian entrances have been appraised and the following issues have been identified:

#### **a) Blackweir Bridge**

Stile installed to provide a safe means of exiting the park prevents entrance being fully secured.

In the past cyclists have complained that signage does not make it sufficiently clear that the entrances to the south are locked and they then have a very long way to turn around. There is also a misconception with some cyclists that National Cycle Network Route 8 passes through this entrance. Recent signage improvements along with information on the [bute-park.com](http://bute-park.com) website and visitor leaflet have sought to address the issue but the situation needs to be monitored.

### b) Ambulance Station

The pedestrian entrance uses the bridge over the Dock Feeder which is also used by Ambulances on the blue light. A safety report done 2006 identified this as a significant safety concern as the bridge's design (single lane, no pedestrian refuges) does not comply with current highway standards. However it is worth noting this is not adopted highway. Unfortunately due to operational and financial constraints this was not a situation that could be resolved through the Bute Park Restoration Project. The budget that was originally ear-marked for works to the Ambulance Station bridge in the HLF grant was diverted into other projects after it became apparent that:

- The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) would not vacate the site within the life time of the project
- The ambulance depot and maintenance depots could not be 'decanted' to other sites to allow the necessary closure of the bridge for works to take place
- If works were to take place in parallel to continued operation of the site a temporary bridge would have to be provided
- The required works would therefore significantly exceed the budget

The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) are still actively seeking vacation from the site (see **section 2.3**).

The bridge (number 154) has a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes and this is signposted on site (**Plate 30**). The sign was replaced in 2013 by Philip Turton contractors as a minor add on to the eastern boundary wall contract after it was discovered to have been vandalised/ inappropriately removed.



Plate 30 – Weight limit sign on the Ambulance Station Bridge

Sports pitch users, particularly cricket players, wish to stay on the field until after scheduled park locking if sufficient light is available for them to play. For this reason there is a desire to install a pedestrian exit-only turnstile in this location.

**c) Blackweir Farmhouse**

The boundary wall in the vicinity of the farmhouse was upgraded during the restoration project as part of the eastern boundary wall contract. There are no live issues regarding this entrance.

**d) Fisher's Bridge (Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama)**

This entrance was subject to reconfiguration and upgrade linked to the building of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama's new premises, theatre and concert hall in 2011.

This entrance is on the designated cycleway through the park and one of the entrances that is available for commuter access and remains open 24 hours.

Reflective advisory path stamps were implemented Dec 2012 to help manage the shared use between cyclists and pedestrians. Assessment of the current wear of the signs suggests they will need to be renewed every 5 years to keep them adequately legible. The cost of installation of the stamps / line marking along the whole designated cycle route (including Sophia Gardens side of Millennium Bridge) was £875 and carried out by Glamorgan White Lining.

In 2017 large "Share with care" road stamps were introduced at the main entrances to the park (see **Plate 31**). These stamps are to encourage fair use of paths throughout the site.





Plate 31 – Reflective advisory path stamps to help manage shared use and manage vehicle speeds

Interventions that make the route more visible to cyclists and pedestrians would be a welcome addition. This would need to be done in a way that is sensitive to the historic nature of the park.

The site furniture on the road side of the entrance is in need of rationalisation to take into account more recent design interventions.

This entrance further benefits from a flag banner pole (see **Plate 32**) which helps to promote the site to pedestrians and vehicles passing on North Rd and help address the fact Bute Park has poor views into it from many of its boundaries.



Plate 32 – Flag Banner Pole on North Road by RWCMD

#### e) **Castle Mews**

The hedge adjacent to the gate is damaged allowing people to enter and exit after park locking. This is a longstanding issue with attempts to improve the hedge repeatedly damaged. The urban rangers feel there is no great pressure to address this issue as no detrimental impacts are being felt.

The hedge and conifers forming the internal boundaries are maintained by the grounds maintenance team.

#### f) **Castle North Gate**

This entrance was upgraded during the restoration project and closed to vehicles following the completion of the Corbett Rd Access Bridge in 2009. Operational vehicles can now turn more easily at this entrance following the repositioning of the visitor sign in 2014. The entrance features two lockable bollards to allow vehicle passage by arrangement.

A private dwelling (the former North Lodge cottage) was redeveloped adjacent to this entrance (see **Plate 33**). The site now features a new larger two storey building with timber cladding and prominent large glazing. There is a misconception by some users that this plot is / was under the control of the Council (actually it was sold under the right to buy scheme in the 1980s).



Plate 33: Private dwelling on the site of the former North Lodge cottage

A plane tree was felled during the redevelopment and two replacement trees were planted. A tulip tree close to the original location of the plane tree, extending the existing Tulip tree avenue, and a Ginkgo to replace a tree lost from the northern end of the nearby Ginkgo avenue.

#### **g) West Gate**

This entrance exits onto Castle Street which has a relatively narrow footway adjacent to the end of a busy cycle path and a busy highway. This can create user conflict issues as sight lines are restricted by the pillars of the gate archways. This necessitates active management during events that use this as a high footfall exit.

#### **h) Millennium Bridge**

The Millennium Bridge was refurbished at the end of 2013 and the bridge deck was resurfaced in an anti-skid material. The adjacent bound gravel surfaces are in a relatively poor condition and showing signs of break up. Unfortunately there was not budget in the bridge refurbishment scheme to address this issue. The bridge forms part of the east-west designated cycleway and is part of the late night commuter route. Reflective advisory path stamps were implemented Dec 2012 to help manage the shared use between cyclists and pedestrians (see **Plate 34**). A “Share with Care” sign was added in 2017 (see **Plate 31**).

Assessment of the current wear of the signs suggests they will need to be renewed every 5 years to keep them adequately legible. The cost of installation of the stamps / line marking along the whole designated cycle route (including Sophia Gardens side of Millennium Bridge) was £875 and carried out by Glamorgan White Lining.





Plate 34: Reflective advisory path stamps for shared use on Millennium Bridge

Given the restricted width of the bridge and the sharp turn south made by some cyclists entering the park this entrance suffers the worst user conflict issues and a number of anecdotal reports of collisions and incidents have been heard by parks staff and staff at the near-by Summerhouse Café. This necessitates active management during events that use this as a high footfall exit.

This entrance is on the designated cycleway through the park and one of the entrances that is available for commuter access and remains open 24 hours.

### 8.1.3 Cycle access

Bute Park features one dedicated cycle route which is appropriately sign posted on site and in the site's visitor information leaflet.

However the park is also popular with cyclists who use other routes through the park. These routes are 'permissive' routes and use by cyclists has significantly increased since the last edition of the management plan (though comparative quantitative data is not available). Increased use by cyclists is unsurprising given the attractive relatively safe route the park provides and its excellent connectivity with the city centre and Taff Trail national cycle network route 8. There have also been a number of policy initiatives by Welsh Government and Cardiff Council Transport Team linked to the active travel agenda which actively seek to encourage people out of cars and on to bikes.

During the restoration project bike stands were installed at West Lodge, Blackfriars Friary, the Summerhouse Café and the Bute Park Education

Centre. These are very popular and on busy days demand for cycle stands outstrips supply.

In 2018 additional cycle racks were installed at Blackweir Bridge and at Blackweir changing rooms. The Council, as part of the corporate commitment to increase active travel, funded these.

When the park is in “event-mode” organisers are encouraged to increase provision for attendees – this is especially important for events such as RHS Show. Provision can be done cheaply and effectively as shown below during Homeless World Cup in 2019 (Plate 35)

The management team for Bute Park will continue to explore increasing cycle stand provision for the site within the resources available to them. Any new cycle stands will follow the standard design adopted through the project.



Plate 35: Permeant bike stands in use at West Lodge and temporary bike stands used during the Homeless World Cup 2019

A solar powered cycle counter was installed by Transport Services, before the project work commenced, to monitor the cyclist numbers using the shared use path. The data which has been collected shows the increasing popularity of this route with cyclists. The data will also inform the future development of cycling in the park.

The route through the woodland towards Blackweir north of the nursery site is popular with mountain bikers as it provides an 'off road' path experience with attractive scenery and varying topography. However

objections to use by cyclists have been made by members of the Friends Group who value the space as a tranquil walk in a part of the park that feels “more wild” because of the absence of hard surfaced paths. Use by cyclists has caused erosion of the ground flora and a widening of the path. In response to concerns raised by the Friends Group three timber barriers with signage were installed in early 2014 at the main entry points along the path.

Use by cyclists continues to occur but visitors are now informed that cycling is not permitted along the route and the signage allows members of the public to point to it if they wish to challenge the behaviours of others. The ignorance argument has now been removed.

#### **8.1.4 After dark and commuter access**

An analysis has been undertaken to look at usage of the park after the advertised locking times (see **Appendix 5b**). The gates analysed are those where pedestrian access is possible after the large vehicle gates are locked (North Gate, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Millennium Bridge and Blackweir Bridge).

#### **8.1.5 Vehicle access**

There is no public vehicle access into Bute Park and there are no tourist signs to direct visitors to any of the adjacent car parks. As the site covers a large area, post code navigation (e.g. by Sat Nav) is complicated with different car parks being preferential depending on what direction users are travelling from and what part of the park they wish to access. Improving information on what options are available e.g. through the new Bute Park website could increase the numbers of visits from people less familiar with the area.

Operational vehicles all enter and exit via the Corbett Rd bridge which narrows to a single lane over the Dock Feeder. An automatic bollard control system is in place at the access bridge linked to an intercom that allows vehicle drivers to contact all of the destination buildings within the park directly. Drivers can also contact park management and an out of hours number that rings through to the city’s central traffic/CCTV monitoring station.

A sign was installed on the vehicle bridge Oct 2014 to help guide drivers entering the park.





Plate 37 - Sign located adjacent to intercom system on Bute Park vehicle access bridge

Operational guidance on safe use of the bollard is available in the events section of the Bute Park website.



Plate 38: Satellite image showing position of Corbett Rd bridge into Bute Park

Vehicle access in and out of the Castle North Gate and Castle Mews Gate are by special arrangement only.

Since the completion of the Corbett Rd bridge, the Council's Events Team have established a standard method of traffic management for the site during 'event mode' and this generally works well when managed and enforced effectively. Traffic management in 'event mode' is supported by advisory signage and track mats purchased as part of the restoration project. Guidance about circulation routes for the different event areas are provided to external event organisers as part of the information pack available on the Bute Park website.

#### **8.1.6 Emergency vehicle access**

Provision for emergency vehicle access is entirely flexible, according to the area of the park where access is required in the event of an emergency.

Optimal access for emergency vehicles during major events is determined on the ground at the time by the events co-ordinator, according to the circumstances of the emergency and will be agreed and documented during the planning stage for events.

Contacts within the emergency services hold swipe cards for the bollard control system and can always raise someone on the 'out of hours' button on the bollard's intercom system should they not have a swipe card with them. If the gates are physically locked they may gain entry via the key held within a key box as described in **Appendix 26**.

#### **8.1.7 Promoting Equal Access for all**

This section details how the park seeks to ensure equality of access in every sense of the word and is driven by the corporate aims set out in the Economic Directorate Equality Action Plan.

The 2018-19 Economic Directorate Equality Action Plan aims are stated below and specific examples of how we meet them within Bute Park are given.

*Meet our Specific Equality Duties and build equality into everything we do*

We have objectives that seek to promote equality built into the Bute Park Maintenance and Management Plan. In this period we achieved installation of 'hang to the floor' emergency alarm pull cords in all our disabled toilets.

*Support wider access to Council information and environments and participation in Council services*

We continue to ensure that we are compliant with the Welsh Language Standards, with regular information communicated to employees

*Support wider citizen consultation and engagement with the Council and the decisions it makes*

We conduct an annual Bute Park visitor survey and give people the opportunity to share things that negatively affect their visit and make suggestions for improvements.

*Support people to challenge unfair treatment*

*Provide support to those who may experience barriers to achieving their full potential*

We host placements for volunteers and apprentices within Bute Park. We support people back into routine and attendance of a workplace environment. Bute Park hosts the Cardiff Salad Garden Project, which also uses volunteers who are seeking to build confidence in a workplace environment for a variety of reasons.

*Address identified pay gaps around Protected Characteristics in our workforce*

*Build strong and cohesive communities where people feel safe and able to celebrate Cardiff's diversity*

We help facilitate and host a number of large and small outdoor events celebrating interests and fund raising for different groups.

Further site-specific actions are stated in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.

## 8.2 Internal orientation

### 8.2.1 Visual

#### a) Entrance/orientation map boards

A suite of entrance/orientation map boards were installed in March 2014 as part of the Bute Park Restoration Project. Eight signs were installed in the following locations:

- West Gate
- North Gate
- RWCMD
- Blackweir Cottages
- Blackweir Bridge
- Millennium Bridge (Sophia side)
- Summerhouse
- Outside BPEC

The signs were designed to incorporate a method of clearly displaying the park closing time, which changes weekly throughout the year based on 30 minutes before sunset. The magnetic noticeboard feature is easily updated on a regular basis. Previously laminated notices are now printed on thin card which means they can be recycled once they are out of date.



Plate 39 - Example of orientation board within Bute Park

Signage is installed on the wall of the Sophia Gardens Coach Driver's Facility to help attract people from this key car parking location.



Signage is erected at the water taxi stop to provide the commercial operators with an appropriate means of displaying information about their services and to rationalise a steady proliferation of A-boards by commercial operators within the park. The sign is a modified version of the style used at the entrances.

### **b) Way-finding totem poles / finger posts**

A suite of way-finding totem poles / finger posts (11 signs, multiple directional flags) were also installed in March 2014 as part of the Restoration Project.



Plate 40: Example of finger post sign within Bute Park

The locations and facilities that feature on the signs were agreed through a consultation exercise with the Friends Group and in response to previous customer feedback.

The way-finding totem poles also feature a square section collar which displays information about the site code of conduct.



Plate 41: Image of the bespoke square section collar used to carry code of conduct information on the Bute Park way-finding totem poles.

The pictograms used were developed in consultation with the Friends Group and follow the principles of conduct messages used in parks throughout the city (e.g. Halley Park). Inclusion of the code of conduct symbols was in response to the shared use path issues known to occur in this park. They seek to educate people about the site's code of conduct and provide a reference point for park users and staff to refer to if they wish to challenge inappropriate behaviour by others. The square section collar also provides an area for a branded QR sticker promoting the new Bute Park website. This is currently in the final stages of design and production and will be installed shortly.

All signage was provided by DMA Signs with graphics designed by Celf Creative.

### c) Interpretation/information boards

Sixteen interpretation boards (see **Plate 42** for an example) exist throughout the site, all of which provide interpretative information on historical features and were installed as part of the restoration project. The signs cover the following features:

- Animal Wall (one A1 sign on Castle St near Castle Clock Tower)
- Gallery Footings (one A1 sign at rear of external seating terrace at West Lodge)
- People's Door (one A1 sign within internal courtyard of Secret Garden Cafe)
- General site history (one A0 sign in internal courtyard of Secret Garden Cafe)
- Tiled floor within West Lodge (one A1 sign within internal courtyard of West Lodge)



- Blackfriars Friary (one A1 sign on southern footpath, one A0 sign on western footpath)
- Mill Leat (six A3 signs on West Gate Bridge)
- Bat Meadow (two A1 signs near the paths for easy access)
- SINC interpretation (one A1 sign south of Blackweir woods)



Plate 42: Example of one of the interpretation boards featured throughout the site

An additional information sign exists to provide guidance on the U-Turn bird song box which is located near the Summerhouse Café and woodland balance trail (see **Plate 43**). This is specifically targeted at children and was designed by the Countryside Team to match the style used in other locations around the city. Following vandalism, the U-Turn part of this feature has been removed from site and awaits transport for assessment and repair back at the manufacture's workshop.



Plate 43: Picture of the information board adjacent to the U-Turn bird song box

A sign containing information about the park's arboretum collection (Plate 44) was removed in 2014 as it had fallen into disrepair. The sign was originally donated by the Roundtable and subject to funding and our production of an updated design they have agreed in principle to fund a replacement.



Plate 44: Old arboretum collection interpretation sign

#### **d) People's door**

In 2011 a competition was run by the restoration project team inviting professional and amateur wood carvers to design relief carved panels for inclusion in a feature door within the 'garden wall' of the Education Centre buildings. The carvers were asked to use historical information provided by the team as inspiration for their carvings. Following a public exhibition and display of the entries 8 winners were chosen and included in the final door.

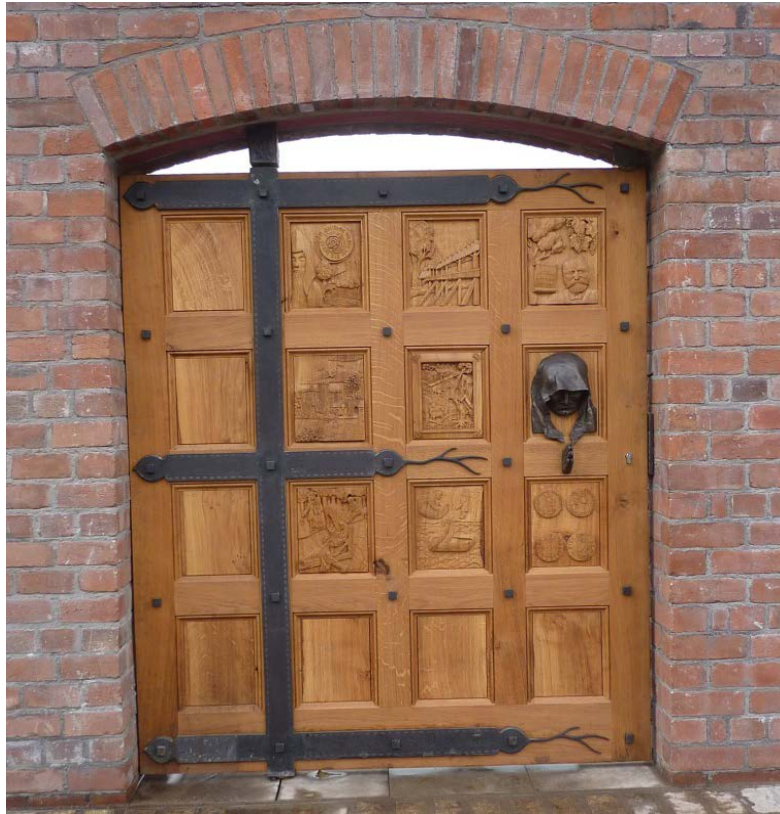


Plate 45: Photo of the 'People's Door' within the garden wall of the Education Centre building

Each image tells a story about the site's history and an interpretation panel on site within the courtyard of the Secret Garden Cafe tells the story behind each carving.

#### e) Flag banners

Two flag banner poles were installed in early 2013. One is located at the RWCMD entrance and one is located by the water taxi stop. The purpose of the banners is to raise awareness of the park through the use of strong images and eye-catching design from prominent city vantage points (**see Plate 32**).

#### f) QR Heritage Trail

A heritage trail in Bute Park was created in 2013/14 in conjunction with the website [historypoints.org](http://historypoints.org). The trail can be accessed either from a PC or on a mobile device via Quick Response (QR) codes located on plaques displayed at points of interest around the park (**Plate 46**).





Plate 46: Photo of a QR plaque by the People's Door

Both an adult and children's version of the trail is available and the trail has been narrated to allow users to play an audio clip of the text rather than having to read it off their screen if that is their preference. The text is available in English, Welsh and some other languages to make it as accessible as possible.

The children's trail was created in conjunction with the history club students at Ton yr Ywen primary school. There is a self-led "letter hunt" associated with it that sees children follow the trail around the park and collect letters to spell out a secret word. The trails are available free of charge from the Bute Park Education Centre.

### **g) Print literature**

There is a host of printed literature giving general visitor and specialist interest information about the park. These were mostly created during the restoration project but have continued to be built on. The print literature is available either free of charge or for a small charge. They can be collected from the Bute Park Education Centre or park cafés.

In summary, the following materials are available:

- General Visitor leaflet [Free]
- Family Tree Trail [Free]
- Seasonal Play Trails [Free]
- Bute Park "Wildlife Explorer" Rubbing Post Trail [Free]
- Champion Tree Trail North & South [Free]

## **h) Website**

A stand-alone website [www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com) was launched in 2014 and re-built and re-lunched in October 2019. The new website, which was redesigned by the Council's website team and contains a wealth of general visitor and specialist interest information about the park. There is also information and booking forms for hire of outdoor space within the park and hire of the indoor facilities at the Bute Park Education Centre.

There is an outdoor events and activities calendar which shows what's on in the park and Education Centre month by month.

The webpages are updated by the Bute Park management team and a parallel Welsh language version is available at [www.parc-bute.com](http://www.parc-bute.com)

Visitor numbers to the new website (in a 3 month period) are reported in **Appendix 5b**.

### **8.2.2 Oral**

#### **a) Guided walks**

Bute Park has a structured programme of guided walks which has become well established through the lifetime of the restoration project. The guided walks are delivered by parks staff (including now some urban rangers and gardeners), as well as members of the Friends Group and their invited speakers.

The guided walks are promoted by on-site posters, the Bute Park website, e-mail and social media. Weather continues to play a critical role in attendance figures but feedback is always good and the programme is valued by park users (e.g. see consultation feedback).

#### **b) Recorded information**

The webpages of the QR Heritage Trail feature audio narrations of both the adult and the children's versions. This means users can listen to audio interpretation of selected park locations via their handheld smart phone or tablet. The pages can also be accessed directly from a computer via the [www.HistoryPoints.org](http://www.HistoryPoints.org) website, which is linked and promoted from the [www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com) website.

### **8.2.3 Tactile**

#### **a) Natural Play / Sculptures**

In 2012 the restoration project team recruited three artists to undertake commissions to provide interpretative sculptures and natural play items within the park. One artist produced three pieces under the theme of the natural environment, one produced three pieces under the theme of

the site's heritage and one produced five pieces under the theme of natural play but was asked to use the site as inspiration for the work.

The following pieces were created and the provision of more seating was in response to user feedback

Item	Location	Artist	Concept
Acorn seat	Top of Blackweir Playing fields under large oak tree	David Lloyd	Reference to the oak tree in this location
Horse chestnut 'kissing' seat	Copse of trees on upper Blackweir playing fields	David Lloyd	Reference to the horse chestnut trees in this location and provision for users to sit and watch sports and bird life in this area of the park.
Walnut seat	Woodland adjacent to woodland balance trail	David Lloyd	Reference to the black walnut tree in this area and provide a seat for people, e.g. while children use balance trail.
Coracle seat	River bank on herbaceous border	Mark Folds	Historic record of people fishing using coracle boats on the river Taff e.g. Lucas family.
Blackfriars tomb stone bench	Adjacent to Blackfriars site	Mark Folds	Bench references key items found during the 19th century archaeological excavation of the Blackfriars site. Also provides the names of the last known Blackfriars to occupy the site and the dates of the friary occupation
Picture frame seat	Southern end of Gorsedd Lawn near the old gallery footings	Mark Folds	Picture frame designed in an ornate style references the third Marquess of Bute's abandoned art gallery project, the foundations of which are visible from this location. The piece also frames an iconic landscape view within the park and taking pictures of people within the frame has become an attraction within its own right



Item	Location	Artist	Concept
Leaf Bridge	South of the path leading to the water taxi stop	Tom Harvey	Piece can be walked over and crawled under. Treads of bridge steps show images and names of some common leafs within the park. Piece references the old bridge that used to cross the River Taff in this area. Footings of the old bridge can be seen when stood at the water taxi stop looking south
Otter and salmon	North of the path leading to the water taxi stop	Tom Harvey	Piece can be climbed on and crawled through. References the salmon run that occurs up the River Taff each year and the presence of otters along the river within Bute Park
Frog and fly	Adjacent to Old Man's Wood path to the south of the Summerhouse	Tom Harvey	Piece can be climbed on and a simple seat is provided nearby e.g. for parents to sit on while their children 'ride' the frog. Artist worked with a local primary school and ran a workshop where children made clay models. The idea for the frog came out of their session on what animals may live in the park
Stag beetle	Woodland behind Summerhouse Cafe	Tom Harvey	Piece can be climbed on. Reference to woodland mini beasts. Artistic licence used on species of beetle because of its aesthetic qualities
Hollow orchard log	Orchard Lawn near picnic benches	Tom Harvey	Piece can be climbed in and crawled through. Reference to historic record of orchard planting in this area, hollowed out log turned up on it's end features relief carving of orchard trees and fruit

These sculptures compliment earlier pieces created in Bute Park. There is an aspiration to create a printed self-led sculpture trail around the park that gives information on each of the pieces and any interpretative relevance of the designs. Each sculpture within the park will also be marked on the interactive map featured on the Bute Park website (still under redevelopment since the latest website launch).

In 2018 a new sculpture was added to the collection to celebrate 70 years of Bute Park being opened to the public. There are 2 hands

holding posts featuring 19 different leaves (the Gingko is featured twice). It is located north of the Bute Park Nursery and was made by local artist Chris Wood of Wood Art Works (**plate 47**).



Plate 47: Photo of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary sculpture

#### **b) Blackfriars Friary Reconstruction Model**

In 2013 the restoration project team recruited an artist to create a tactile bronze model recreating how the Blackfriars Friary site would have looked in its medieval heyday. The artist Rubin Enyon won the commission and the piece was installed in March 2014 (**Plate 48**).



Plate 48: Photo of the Blackfriars Friary tactile model

### c) Rubbing posts

The Wildlife Explorer Trail is a self-led fun trail where children can collect 16 rubbings of posts dotted around the park, while learning facts about the site and its wildlife (**Plate 49**). A fantastic hands-on way for families to explore the park.



Plate 49: Example of one of the 16 number of rubbing posts located around the park. A wildlife explorer trail booklet accompanies the trail.

### 8.2.4 Orientation Points

The following locations and buildings are the site's key orientation points:

#### a) West Lodge/Pettigrew Tea Rooms

- Orientation map board next to main entrance
- Interpretation board in external courtyard telling people about the feature tile floor within the building (using Victorian tiles rescued from theft and damage from the Blackfrairs Friary site)
- Users can pick up visitor leaflet and map
- Users can purchase or pick up self-led trails

#### b) Summerhouse Cafe

- Orientation map board nearby (accessible height)
- Users can pick up visitor leaflet and map
- Users can purchase or pick up self-led trails

#### c) Secret Garden Cafe

- Orientation map board nearby (accessible height)
- Interpretation board about the People's Door and interpretation board summarising the site's main historical periods
- Users can pick up visitor leaflet and map
- Users can purchase or pick up self-led trails

#### d) Bute Park Education Centre

- Site map on magnetic whiteboard inside building allows people to record recent wildlife sightings
- Interpretation panels inside building tell visitors in more detail about three main eras of Bute Park's history
- Users can pick up visitor leaflet and map
- Users can purchase or pick up self-led trails
- Display screen within reception available to play slide shows and show footage from the Bute Park wildlife cameras.
- General visitor information

## People and partners

### 9.1 General park usage

In 2013 a system of electronic counters were installed within the park to record visitor numbers. Different reports on usage data can be run from within the software programme supplied with the counter system.

The number of visits is reported in **Appendix 5b** and has increased steadily since 2014. The park receives the greatest number of visits in the spring (Quarter 1 (Apr – Jun)) and summer (Quarter 2 (Jul – Sep)). However, numbers are lower in summer than spring and this is likely due to the large number of university students in the proximity to the park. The number of students in Cardiff drops significantly during the summer holidays.

In 2019 there were 2,567,681 recorded visits to Bute Park, which is known to be an underestimate as not all visits will be counted. For example, when 2 or more people pass a people counter the beam may only be broken once and therefore only log 1 visit. The 2019 visit figures was the second highest number of annual visits recorded to date.

### 9.2 Educational Use of the Park

#### a) School visits

We offer a range of educational visits to schools based on the fantastic environment for learning that Bute Park has to offer. The Education Officer is passionate about outdoor learning and the opportunities the natural environment can offer pupils in an exciting and engaging way.

Bringing young people into close contact with the natural environment encourages an interest in the world around them. An educational visit to Bute Park can support their growing knowledge and understanding of plants and animals, and how and why these are so fundamental to our own existence.

A variety of topics are available and include: -

- Who lives in the park? – looking at the animals and mini beast living in Bute Park
- Art in the Park – exploring texture, colour and pattern, building a sculpture
- Trees, trees and more trees – what is a tree, how many do we have in the park?
- Bees – which bees live in Bute Park, what do bees eat?

The Education Officer is happy to design bespoke visit plans with tailor made learning sessions that cover a specific topic or theme.

Self-led information for schools visiting Bute Park is available on our website. Many schools have knowledgeable and skilled staff who are able to lead sessions exploring the park independently.

### **b) Groups**

We offer a range of fun and exciting activity sessions for groups such as cub scouts, brownies etc. These sessions can be about exploring the outdoor environment or tailored to meet the requirements of a badge that the group are working towards.

These sessions are available for any group including mother and toddler groups and the Education Officer has run sessions for parent groups on an adhoc basis. Recently United Welsh Housing Association have asked for outdoor learning sessions for their families and these have been well attended.

### **c) Home Educating Families**

In the last few years the Education Officer and Bute Park Ranger have run a number of outdoor learning/forest school based blocks of sessions, usually 6 sessions, that build on skills and learning experiences for the same families over a period of time. The attendees found these sessions very enjoyable.

### **d) Outdoor Learning 1 day Courses**

Cardiff and Vale College asked the Education Officer to run regular outdoor learning/forest school themed one day courses for some of their students. The Education Officer has led the sessions together with the Bute Park Ranger. A booklet to accompany the day was also put together and given to all students who attended. Again these sessions were very successful and have continued for a number of years.

### **e) Welsh Baccalaureate / Duke of Edinburgh Students**

The Education Officer has provided volunteering opportunities for students undertaking both Welsh Bacc and DofE qualifications. These opportunities allow the Bute Park Education Officer, Ranger and Events Officer to work together to provide high quality training for the students. Max checked the wildlife camera footage and collated clips for our YouTube channel and Lucy was trained as a front of house volunteer, she was looking for an opportunity to increase her confidence with meeting people and to help improve her communication skills.



## **f) Work Placements**

We accept a number of work placement students each year who are working a variety of projects. Again these involve the Education Officer, Ranger and Events Officer to ensure that the students are given a wide range of opportunities to meet their project objectives and also to make a useful and meaningful contribution to Bute Park.

A student from the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University, worked with us for a 8 week period contributing to a collaborative research project. The title of this project was 'Experiencing Nature in the City: Evaluating Outdoor Education in Bute Park, Cardiff'. This provided an opportunity for the student to engage with school pupils and family group members to observe and question them on their experiences of the outdoor education provided. The findings were very interesting and contributed to refinements and adjustments made to the educational opportunities provided in Bute Park.

An ongoing partnership for the last 5 years has developed with the senior lecturers on the BA Photography course at the University of South Wales. The first year students embark on an 8 week project focusing on Bute Park. 60+ students and lecturers visit the park for a walk and talk around the park led by the Education Officer. The group use the education centre for the rest of the day with further talks and discuss taking place. The Education Officer is then available as an information source and link to provide assistance and support to the students if they require historical information, guidance on permissions to film and also to put them in contact with people who they wish to interview or meet to fulfil their project objectives.

Jo a Cardiff Metropolitan University student joined us for approx. 6 months as part of her BA Education course work placement. She volunteered with school visits and family activity days.

A past BA photography student came to the Education Officer with a proposal to work on a photographic project called Native and was looking to apply for a Grow Wild grant.

Native is a series that demonstrates UK native flowers through the combination of fashion with nature, as well as neat studio shots and scanned images.

She was successful with the grant and the £500 was used to put together a small exhibition in the plant shop within Bute Park. As part of the exhibition As part of the exhibition a guest speaker from the park team to talk about what flowers grow within the park and what is native to UK and Liam Olds, Entomologist also gave a talk about pollinators to compliment the flower talk and exhibition.

### **g) Family Activity Sessions and Events**

Every school holiday and at other times during the year we run free family activity days and events. In January we run an event in partnership with the RSPB on the Big Garden Bird Watch. During the school holidays we run our own family sessions based on a story book such as Superworm or Stickman. The session begins with reading the story aloud, outdoor activities based on the book then a range of art and craft activities in the education centre to finish the session.

We host events for the Cardiff Science Festival in February. We run joint activity session with RSPB, Gnah team during the year. In July we run a moth event jointly with the Butterfly Conservation Trust. This is a very popular and well attended event popular with moth enthusiasts and families alike.

Later in the year we will be running events jointly at the education centre with the Wildlife Trust. Starting with wildlife gardening themed activities at the Bute Park Open Day and then other sessions in the autumn.

One of the highlights of the autumn is the pumpkin carving family event run in partnership with Pettigrew Tearooms. The pumpkins are kindly donated by the tearoom who also host the event in their gazebo. Our volunteers help families to carve the pumpkins to take home.

The Bute Park Education Officer run some family activity sessions with the Community Rangers. In August we run a day of river dipping sessions for families and in October half term run our weird and wonderful sessions which revolves around a display of curiosities from nature – skulls, bones, nests and much more. Attendees can dissect an owl pellet here to discover the bones and other things that an owl will regurgitate.

During 2019 the Bute Park Education Officer was invited by the National Museum to run a series of outdoor learning sessions for groups attending the museum to visit the David Nash exhibition. These session were tailored to work alongside the outdoor sculptures and artwork that David Nash is famous for.

### **h) Guided Walks and Talks**

We offer a range of unique walks and talks around Bute Park. The Education Officer and Ranger lead a variety of walks and talks sometimes on the historical features and points of interest in the park, a tree walk looking at our special collections of trees in our arboretum or a nature walk, exploring the amazing flora and fauna found in a city centre park. We run regular lunchtime walks for Cardiff University department staff and also as part of their positive health initiative week.

Walks and talks are also provided for visiting students from other countries, gardening groups and community groups such as gardening clubs, Women's Institute groups and other organisations.

Forest bathing sessions – relax, reconnect and refresh Cardiff health and wellbeing fortnight and for a group recovering from addiction mindfulness in the outdoors. Very inspirational.

### **i) Conferences and Workshops**

In the autumn of 2019 we hosted the Outdoor Learning Wales conference where 140 delegates spent the day in the park doing a range of workshops on the new curriculum. Demonstrating how all areas of the curriculum can be taught outside and gave the delegates lots of ideas and activities to take back to their own schools.

This was the third year that the Education Show had taken place at City Hall. The show focuses on celebrating education, teaching and learning, bringing together thousands of educational professionals to experience exhibitions by many companies and organisations and also to attend a range of seminars. There were 45 seminars on offer during the day.

As in 2018 I was invited to run 2 outdoor learning workshops at the show. The title of the session was 'How can we fit outdoor learning into our already packed school day?' Both sessions had been fully booked since June this year. I was the only person providing any outdoor learning workshops.

### **j) Bute Park Wildlife Camera System**

In 2018 a substantial investment was made to install a wildlife camera system within the grounds of the Bute Park Nursery. A series of 10 cameras record footage of the many visitors to the bird feeders and bird table, hedgehog house, fox den, bee hives as well as several nest boxes.

The system consists of a number of hubs (grey electrical boxes) which are all wired to the cameras and feed the footage back to the computer in the education centre. Cables run along the walls and other areas of the nursery grounds.

The cameras are located in the following places:-

1	Fox den camera is in the open shed next to the workshop
2 + 3	Bird feeder and bird table cameras are on the raised bed behind the centre
4 + 5	Hedgehog house and feeding station at the back of the plant sale area
6, 7, 8 + 9	Nest box cameras on trees along the perimeter of the nursery wall by the hornbeams and conifer hedge and one in the main nursery building
10	In front of the bee hives at the back of the plant sale area

The Footage is recorded on a hard drive so it can be edited and collated into sequences. A You tube channel is being set up to view footage and live footage will be available via our new website which is being launched in late spring.

The camera system has provided a new and exciting opportunity for volunteers to support the park. Volunteers assist by viewing footage and making recordings of particular sequences of interest (animals feeding, surprise visitors such as a cat in the hedgehog box or hedgehogs in the fox den area). Animals we have seen so far include regular visits from a fox, hedgehogs, a weasel, a mouse and many squirrels. Frequent bird visitors include dunnocks, robins, coal tits, great tits, nuthatches and woodpigeons.

As part of our community engagement the footage has already enhanced our education activities for schools children with hedgehog footage being shown as part of a hedgehog and hibernation session last November. Visiting families enjoyed footage of the many birds who visit us as part of the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch event at the end of January. Visitors to the centre can watch our wildlife and see animals close up on the screen showing live footage from four cameras.

More footage will be collated into a video showing the many animals who live in the park as part of our half term family event – who lives in the park?

We are hoping that birds will chose our nest boxes to build a nest and raise a family again this spring. This will be very exciting to watch. A number of blue tits and great tits have already visited the nest boxes regularly and even stayed overnight. One family raised a family in a bird box and they successfully fledged in spring 2019.

#### **k) Bute Park Honey Bee Project**

Bee hives in Bute Park once supplied honey to the wealthy Bute family and their guests in Cardiff Castle. Over 60 years ago, on the orchard lawn a number of hives underneath the apple trees assisted with pollination.

During a conversation with a local resident who is a daily visitor to the park she mentioned she was looking for a project to fund something she could be involved in and enjoy. Our beekeeping journey began shortly after with us both attending a beekeeping course in spring 2016.

Our bees arrived from Natures Little Helpers, in September 2016, a bit late in the season so not much to do. I had joined the local beekeeping association, Cardiff, Vale and Valleys group earlier in the year as I felt it was really important to have the wisdom and friendship of other beekeepers although every beekeeper you meet has a different solution to your problem.

At my second honey show I decided to enter the novice light honey class and was very pleased to win first prize. A proud moment for me and the Bute Park bees.

Thankfully both hives survived the winter and when we checked them in early spring 2018 they were looking good.

We harvested 150lbs in weight of honey from the 2 hives. The bees were very busy but they are spoilt with 56 hectares of park to forage in. We sold honey at the centre and Pettigrew Tearooms who also used it in their cakes and bread. We also made the evening news on ITV and BBC Wales, our 5 seconds of fame. This was a historic moment as it was the first time Bute Park honey had been produced in over 60 years.

My plans for 2018 were to increase to 4 hives and produce honey to sell at the education centre and Pettigrew Tearooms. 150 lbs honey were produced again, which sold out by Christmas. Luckily I had saved a few jars just in case. The Royal College of Music and Drama came to buy some Bute Park honey for Prince Charles when he visited there in late 2018.

2019 was a challenging year for the honey bees but we have managed to get 3 hives through to the end of the season and again produced 152 lbs of honey. This has sold out again before Christmas.

### **I) RHS Wheelbarrow competition**

The Education Officer is the organiser of the wheelbarrow competition for schools and groups at the RHS Show Cardiff. Working in partnership with the RHS Cardiff Team to ensure the competition is accessible to all who are eligible. The competition is open to schools and groups in Cardiff, the Vale and Caerphilly and is well supported with more than 50 applicants each year. The maximum is 60. The wheelbarrows are a highlight at the show for many visitors and an important attraction of the show.

### m) Future Plans

The Education Officer plans to continue to provide all the above sessions and maintain and develop the working relationships and partnerships that have been established.

The Education Officer is looking to promote the forest bathing/Shirin-Yuko sessions to a wider audience. There is a focus and interest in mindfulness as well how we can improve our health and wellbeing in work and in our lives generally.

Based on the popularity and success of the education show workshops and outdoor learning conferences, the Education Officer is planning to run a series of one day introduction to outdoor learning courses. An opportunity for educators to build their confidence in the outdoors and learn new skills.

### 9.3 Volunteers and volunteering

Volunteer involvement has significantly increased in Bute Park in recent years and at the time of writing we have 25 volunteers working regularly with us. The longest attending volunteers have been coming for over 5 years, which gives us confidence that we are providing enjoyable opportunities that help enrich people's week, whilst also benefiting the park.

We offer a range of unique volunteering opportunities in Bute Park.

**Front of House Volunteers** at the Education Centre have a varied role. From greeting individuals and groups, providing visitors with assistance and information about Bute Park, to helping publicise events and assisting with tasks to support the day to day running of the centre.

**Educational Event Volunteers** assist the Education Officer with educational visits and family events at the Education Centre and in the park. Activities include mini beast hunts, orienteering and outdoor learning.

**Wildlife Camera Volunteers** view the footage from the cameras and snip interesting section of the footage and these are then uploaded onto our YouTube channel.

**Bute Park Nursery volunteers** are interested in horticulture. They assist the nursery staff with planting, watering and weeding and other general duties.

**Volunteer photographer** The Education Officer recruits a volunteer photographer from the BA photography students who are attending the University of South Wales.

**RHS show volunteers** The Education Officer recruits over 50 volunteers to work in teams to give out voting tokens to visitors to the RHS show as they walk around the wheelbarrow display and to explain what the competition is about.



**Site Maintenance Volunteers** - Bute Park has a number of volunteers who help out with general maintenance duties around the centre and in the park. Some of these volunteers are on work placement as part of their university course, Welsh Baccalaureate or Duke of Edinburgh award.

**Conservation Volunteers** - The Bute Park Ranger leads regular conservation sessions for companies in the park. These include sessions for Barclays, Lloyds, British Council, Companies House and Apple. Many companies now offer and encourage their staff to volunteer at least one day a year.

Regular conservation sessions such as hay raking in the wildflower meadow and clearing over grown paths is done with the Greening Our City Project.

Details of the volunteer hours gifted and their in-kind monetary equivalent is provided in **Appendix 8b, chart 4**. During Q1 – Q3 in 19/20 a monetary equivalent of £22,904 was given. Accurately recording all volunteer involvement in the park is difficult because some is arranged without our knowledge. Therefore the figures represent minimum estimates.

There are 3 value levels recognised (unskilled, skilled and professional) and the vast majority of the 2,304 person hours given Q1 – Q3 in 19/20 fell into the unskilled category. The park offers a wide range of volunteer roles and the breakdown of time across the various roles is given in **Appendix 8b, chart 5**.

## 9.4 Friends of Bute Park

The Friends of Bute Park are passionate about the park and actively work to improve it and keep it special.

The Friends work closely with the Bute Park Team:

- Carrying out conservation, litter picking, tree labelling and the removal of invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam.
- Organising walks, nature rambles, bird watches and wildlife surveys to show the public the natural and historic interest in the park.
- Providing feedback on new ideas and initiatives.
- Offering advice and a park-user-perspective to the Council.
- Regularly meeting to discuss and support the park's maintenance & management plan.

The purpose of the Friend's group as stated in their constitution is:

- To celebrate the environment, wildlife and history of Bute Park
- To protect, conserve and enhance Bute Park as a place of freedom, recreation and safe enjoyment for the long-term benefit of all sections of the community
- To promote Bute Park to the local and wider community
- To increase, protect and publicise the biodiversity of Bute Park

- To work in partnership to these ends with Cardiff County Council, statutory bodies and voluntary groups
- To inform and seek the views of local people and representative groups so that the park may best serve the local community.
- To ensure the actions of the Friends work with reference to Cardiff County Council's Maintenance and Management plan for the Park.

Contact:

[www.friendsofbutepark.com](http://www.friendsofbutepark.com)

Download an application form from the website.

If you want to know more please get in touch: [friendsofbutepark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbutepark@gmail.com)

[www.twitter.com/friendsbutepark](https://www.twitter.com/friendsbutepark)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/484290895076832/>

The Friends also have a noticeboard and letter box in the Secret Garden Café.

*Note: The original Friends of Bute Park group has disbanded as of autumn 2019. A new group has been established and will be re-launching at the Bute Park open day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020.*

## **9.5 Work experience and training, including apprenticeships**

Park Services offer high school pupils work experience opportunities in Cardiff parks including Bute Park. Pupils spend a week working alongside staff at various locations and with many different teams from Urban Rangers to Gardeners. Fitzalan High School pupils (30) visited Bute Park in July 2014 for the day, an event led by the Community Rangers.

Two 4 year funded horticultural apprenticeships were provided through the restoration project and led to the successful completion of a National Certificate and Higher National Certificate in Horticulture, respectively, for two individuals, both of whom have now secured full-time work within the Parks Service.

Cardiff Council are committed to providing apprentice training in Bute Park into the future and it is planned that the Parks Service area will now recruit 4 apprentices to work within the service (recruitment currently planned to be phased in in 14/15 and 15/16). The new apprentice scheme will see a more rounded programme of training across the service so there is the range of skills required to meet the demands of a modern parks workforce. All apprentices will receive training within Bute Park and one Full Time Equivalent

apprentice cost will be funded through the Bute Park business plan (**see Appendix 12**)

In addition to this the Parks Service will continue to support other apprenticeship schemes such as the Heritage Horticultural Skills Scheme and the Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme by providing structured placement opportunities to students.

## **9.6 Funding partners**

### **9.6.1 Memorials and donations**

#### **a) Memorial Trees**

Bute Park currently has in excess of 150 memorialised or donated trees in the collection, many of which were donated from 1988 onwards as part of the establishment of the Bute Park Arboretum. A significant proportion of the original donated trees can no longer be identified - this could be for a number of reasons:- they may have been poorly located and are in over-planted areas, they may have died and / or been removed or the original memorial plaque may have disappeared. Where we have records they are held and maintained on the tree database.

The Bute Park Management Team have been operating a site-specific memorial scheme for the last few years, which has proved very popular and successful. The vast majority, if not all, of the money spent on development of the arboretum is funded through sponsorship or memorial purchases on behalf of loved ones. The Bute Park Team will:

- Generate and maintain an annual planting list from which new trees can be donated. This list will comprise trees that have been individually selected to enhance the collection in the park and will be reviewed and updated regularly.
- Identify specific planting locations for trees to enhance the landscape structure and the collections
- Continue to provide opportunities for individuals to memorialise existing trees within the Arboretum that do not currently have an existing memorial or sponsorship.

Memorial/donated trees are recorded on the tree database for the park. Plans can produced from graphical database indicating the location of memorial trees. Additional work is required to build up the information in the database and to ensure correct recording of appropriate data to make the information more user friendly.

The memorial tree scheme conditions can be found in **Appendix 23a** and provide clear and concise details of the obligations both of the donor and the Council in respect of memorial trees.

**b) Memorial benches**

There are a number of memorial seats and benches throughout the park.

Opportunities for further memorialisation exist, but this needs to be carefully managed in terms of both their location and the type of seats supplied.

Options for memorialisation include provision of a new seat, replacement of an existing seat and memorialisation of an existing seat

New seats and benches are selected from the design palette for the park.

There is a programme of replacing the steel and cast iron seats from the southern section of the park moving them to the northern sections and replacing them with seats of the new designs adopted during the restoration project.

All donors of memorial benches removed as part of this programme will be informed of the relocation of benches and be given the option of either having the bench and plaque relocated in the north of the park, or of having the plaque replaced on a new seat in the original location. The memorialised seats and benches scheme conditions can be found in **Appendix 23b**.

It should be noted that the costs for new memorial benches in the general parks scheme do not apply to Bute Park where specific design details for the seat bays and specific seat types are required. Details of the costs for Bute Park are available on request.

**c) Friends Group funded projects**

It is envisaged that the re-emerging friends group will actively seek funding to support improvement projects within the park. This was stated as an ambition of theirs in an early development meeting of the new group.

**9.6.2 Grant funding****a) Heritage Lottery Fund**

Following the £3.1m investment made by HLF to undertake the restoration project (2009 – 2014), it is not envisaged that further bids will be submitted for lottery funding at this time.

**b) Small grants**

The Friends of Bute Park and the Education & Outreach Officer are tasked with scoping the availability of grant funding for small projects

within the park that the Friends can pursue. The Development Action plan identifies a number of projects that could be developed in this way.

The Friends themselves also have monies provided through their membership subscriptions that can be donated towards projects within the park as long as they meet their constitutional objectives.

#### **c) Landfill Community Fund**

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is a tax credit scheme that enabling operators of landfill sites to contribute money to organisations enrolled with ENTRUST as Environmental Bodies (EBs). EBs carry out projects that comply with the objectives set out in The Landfill Tax Regulations 1996: Two of these are relevant to the park:

Objective D The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or another public amenity

Objective DA The conservation of a natural habitat or of a species in its natural habitat

In 2014, funding was awarded by Community Funding resources Ltd towards new signage in Bute Park through this scheme.

#### **d) Cadw**

During the HLF restoration project Bute Park was a recipient of grant funding from Cadw for two of the schemes; scheduled monument grant funding for Blackfriar, and listed building/structure grant funding for the Animal Wall. There are no plans to approach Cadw for further funding in the park at present.

#### **e) Woodland Trust**

The Woodland Trust provided grant funding towards the parks “art & Heritage” themed Tree Charter pole and its unveiling event in 2017

### **9.7 Non funding partners**

The following organisations have been involved in or contributed towards the ongoing management and development of the park. These have been supported by the Education & Outreach Officer, Bute Park Ranger and also the Community Ranger Team:

- RSPB (Give Nature a Home in Cardiff project)
- Keep Wales Tidy (Green Key and Green Flag)
- Cardiff Rivers group (cleansing of park waterways)
- Greening our city project (Innovate Trust) (conservation activities)
- Cardiff Bat group (wildflower meadow project and family events)
- RHS (wheelbarrow competition at Cardiff RHS show)

- Cardiff, Vale and Valleys beekeeping Assoc/Natures Little Helpers (honeybee support and mentoring)
- Outdoor Learning Wales, Cardiff networking group (events and courses)
- British Council (monthly volunteering sessions)
- Cardiff University (work placements, wellbeing walks, CUROP student placements, lunchtime walks for pharmacy staff)
- National Museum (family activity sessions – David Nash and Dippy)
- Cardiff Science Festival (family activities and events)
- Business in the Community (volunteering and venue hire opportunities)
- National Education Show (Workshops)
- Duke of Edinburgh (volunteering placements)
- Pettigrew Tearooms (pumpkin carving family fundraising event)
- Companies House (volunteering opportunities and walks/talks)
- Wildlife Trust (hosted wildlife garden and family events)
- Welsh Government (event with nursery)
- University of South Wales (BA photography student project and work placement)
- Butterfly Conservation Trust (moth family event)
- Ramblers Association (Cambrian Walk)
- Cardiff Met University (work placements)
- Cardiff and Vale College (student outdoor learning days)

## **9.8 Live Partnership Projects**

### **a) RSPB Give Nature a Home Project**

In autumn 2014, RSPB Cymru and Cardiff Council began a collaborative and exciting new project called “Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff”. Give Nature a Home in Cardiff aims to encourage young people and their families to spend more time, more regularly outdoors enjoying the wildlife in their gardens, school grounds, local parks and green spaces. The project aims to inspire thousands of young people and their families over the next couple of years through outreach sessions in schools and events in parks and green spaces across Cardiff. The project was delivered in partnership with the RSPB and Cardiff Council and funded by Tesco through the Welsh Government’s carrier bag levy until March 2017. The official launch of the Give Nature a Home in Cardiff Project took place at the RHS Show in April 2015.

After a very successful start, the project secured further funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and ALDI (until July 2019). The 3 themes for the funding outcomes were: Connect - working with nurseries, primary schools and families to enjoy nature in the outdoors; Collaborate - offering a range of volunteer roles and internships, and



Change - working with communities to encourage interest in biodiversity and action for nature.

The partnership now includes Buglife and is working with local communities to create 30 pollinator-friendly sites (Urban Buzz sites) in Cardiff.

The Bute Park Education Officer has been part of the project team since 2014 together with the Community Rangers and RSPB team. A programme of joint family activity sessions and events take place in parks and green spaces throughout the city every year. The project team have a themed garden at the RHS Cardiff each year. Bute Park events include the Big Garden Bird Watch event, Easter activity session and Wild Wednesday Challenge. The Give Nature a Home in Cardiff Team will be coming to the Bute Park Open Day in March 2020.

#### **b) Wildlife Trust**

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales are looking to build stronger links in Cardiff and are working in partnership with the Community Rangers and Bute Park Education Officer to collaborate on events and activities for families. In 2018 they built a wildlife garden just outside the Education Centre and for a month promoted wildlife gardens to the public and gave out information about how to encourage wildlife into your garden. This was a very successful event. A series of joint events will be taking place in Cardiff during 2020 including the Bute Park Open Day in March 2020 and an autumn wildlife gardening workshop is planned for October 2020.

#### **c) Woodland Trust**

The Charter for trees, woods and people was launched on 6 November 2017. Bute Park was honoured to be asked to site one of the 11 Tree Charter poles there were installed across the UK. The pole is for the Art and Heritage principle. To celebrate the event a number of workshops and activity sessions were held in the park including the unveiling ceremony celebration in November 2017.

#### **d) Wildflower Meadow – Cardiff Bat Group**

In 2016 Cardiff Bat Group approached the Education Officer with a project proposal to apply for a Tesco carrier bag levy grant.

The project would involve the creation of bat friendly wildflower meadow areas, habitat piles for a variety of wildlife. The project would include purchasing wildflower seed and plug plants and equipment for planting and maintenance of the meadow as well as interpretation boards.

The work would involve volunteers from Cardiff Bat Group, Friends of Bute Park and Greening our City project volunteers.

The wildflower meadow was created in 2018 and the interpretation boards were installed shortly after. The boards explain to visitors why the meadows were established and what creatures may be living in the area.

## **10. Information**

### **10.1 Information management**

Ensuring that the park is properly maintained and becomes a successful visitor facility will require effective management of information. This will include communications within the Council, with external partners and with the wide audience of park users.

### **10.2 Internal information management**

Information flow internally will be determined largely by the new management structure for the park, given in **Figure 2**. This clearly defines:

- Roles and responsibilities of key personnel in respect of different maintenance and management operations including events
- Lines of reporting and briefing on all operational issues, programmed and non programmed works

#### **10.2.1 Procedures for problem resolution**

Depending on the nature of the problem and initial source of identification different procedures may be used. The Urban Ranger team have day-to-day responsibility for site monitoring and will respond to directly resolve problems, or report problems when other teams or external agencies are required.

Common problems include: incidents of graffiti, tree falls and hung up branches, lost property, injured wildlife, damaged infrastructure and anti-social behaviour.

The Bute Park Manager is on hand to coordinate and lead on resolving more complex problems.

#### **10.2.2 Procedures for responding to customer feedback**

Bute Park receives customer feedback through a variety of sources:

##### **a) Ad hoc verbal**

Staff receiving feedback have the opportunity to share with the Bute Park Manager as necessary either verbally or via the Bute Park staff WhatsApp Group.

##### **b) Direct written**

This can arrive by e-mail to the ButePark@cardiff.gov.uk mailbox or via the webform on [www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com) 'contact us' page which also gets sent as an e-mail to the generic mailbox. This mail box is regularly monitored by the Events & Communications Officer with alternative staff cover provided when necessary. The receiving staff member will

respond directly or forward on to colleagues for response as necessary.

**c) Formal written (e.g. e-mail to C2C or via a Cllr)**

The Bute Park Manager will be the primary point of contact for providing a response within corporate target deadlines. Feedback of a specialist nature (e.g. tree issues) will be provided by specialist officers as appropriate but the Bute Park Manager will coordinate as necessary and should be copied in to all outgoing responses. A record of the subject of the complaint should be logged in the Bute Park issue log.

**d) Social media (Twitter, Facebook etc.)**

The Bute Park Events & Communications Officer and the Bute Park Manager, supported by other site-based colleagues, monitor the park's social network feeds and provides a response in as close to 'real time' as possible.

### **10.3 External information management**

In line with Council policy Bute Park is committed to producing all its external information bilingually in Welsh and in English.

Information for external audiences will be managed to fulfil the following objectives:

- To attract people to the park – from the local area and further afield
- To enable people to travel to the site and physically access it
- To enable people to move around the site with ease and enjoy their time there
- To enable people to understand and appreciate the various features of interest and the stories behind them

### **10.4 Marketing**

The Bute Park Marketing and Communications Plan acknowledges the park's Unique Selling Points (USPs) and marketing assets. It also details how the wide range of amenities, events, opportunities and activities are promoted to target audiences (see **Appendix 21**).

Below the main target groups are identified

#### **10.4.1 Resident target audiences**

- Local people from Cardiff within the county boundary – regular users or occasional day visitors
- Educational visitors - local schools and other educational users

- Business visitors - organisations and companies who wish to hire the education centre or undertake Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities within the park.

#### 10.4.2 Resident audience marketing media

The various resident target audiences will be reached through the production and distribution of the following media:

- **Bute-Park.com website** - detailed visitor information on Bute Park, education and outreach opportunities and latest news and events.
- **Social media feeds** - general information service and promotion of park events, education and outreach opportunities. Can be targeted to specific user groups as required.  
Bute Park social media channels have become increasingly popular with the numbers of followers increasing steadily annually, reported in **Appendix 5b**.
- **Free Leaflets & Specialist Publications:** downloadable from the park's website and distributed at visitor orientation points and at parks events:
  - Bute Park Discovery Trails – Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter
  - Bute Park Family Tree Trail
  - Bute Park Map
  - Champion Tree Trail – North and South
  - Herbaceous Border Leaflet
  - Outdoor Cardiff Event listings
  - Wildlife Explorer Trail
- **Parks Events Guide:** published on the council's website and distributed in libraries, leisure, community centres and at parks events
- **Local Press** – features and news articles generated by press releases, 'what's on' features' school holiday 'things to do' listings etc. As well as features and what's on/events listings
- **OutdoorCardiff.com website** – is run by Cardiff Council. It features specific information on Bute Park's features, facilities, events etc. with a link to the main external Bute Park website where the Bute Park Manager has full editorial control.

#### 10.4.3 Tourist target audiences

Tourists will provide an important stream of income to help support the ongoing maintenance and management of the park, so developing information to attract them and facilitate their needs will be very important.

Research undertaken for the Wales Tourist Board<sup>16</sup> suggests that people do not visit Wales only for its heritage, but are attracted by its general environment (landscape quality and tranquillity) and opportunities for city breaks. With its spectacular setting and connections to Cardiff Castle and the city centre, Bute Park embraces this broad spectrum of visitor appeal. It therefore has the potential to become an important attraction.

While Bute Park may not provide the primary reason for people visiting Cardiff, it is likely to appeal to both the domestic and overseas tourists who wish to include a visit to the park as part of their holiday and short break itineraries. This potential will be unlocked through marketing at both a national and regional levels. The following sub-sets of tourist visitors are recognised:

- Visitors from the rest of South Wales – occasional day visitors
- Visitors from elsewhere in Wales and the UK
- Visitors from overseas

It is worth noting that because of its proximity to both the Principality Stadium and Sophia Gardens Cricket Ground Bute Park is a convenient destination for tourists visiting the city linked to major sporting events. Indeed visitor numbers can be seen to significantly spike when major sporting events are taking place within the vicinity of the park.

#### 10.4.4 Tourist audience marketing media

The tourist audience for the park will be informed via various marketing and communication channels:

- **Trip Advisor** - Bute Park enjoys a high star rating on the site. At the time of writing Bute Park was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> of 165 things to do in Cardiff and had 1,219 Excellent ratings, 508 Very good ratings, 57 average ratings, 7 poor ratings and 1 terrible rating (see **Appendix 5b**). The Bute Park Manager will be responsible for utilising Trip Advisor to the best effect for the park in line with actions in the development plan.
- **Visit Wales** – Since Sept 2014 Visit Wales have commissioned an external company to be responsible for tourist attraction data management. As part of that arrangement, regional data providers have been appointed and Cardiff's data is currently managed by the company GuestLink. The Bute Park Manager will ensure the company has up-to-date copy and content so the park is adequately promoted on the Visit Wales website.

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<sup>16</sup> South Wales Industrial Heritage Action Plan Final Report to Wales Tourist Board and Partners, L&R Management Consultants, November 2001



- **Visit Cardiff** – is run by Cardiff Council. There is a website which features Bute Park as a key attraction for visitors: <https://www.visitcardiff.com/highlights/bute-park/>

The Bute Park Manager is tasked with identifying and pursuing other information channels and networks to ensure the park receives maximum coverage within the resources available.

## 10.5 Interpretation

Information provided through interpretation will determine how people move around the site and experience it and is therefore a very important management tool. The following paragraphs indicate how this will be approached as the amount of interpretative material continues to develop.

### 10.5.1 Interpretive media

Interpretation will continue to be provided in a variety of media – physical on-site information (panels etc), printed leaflets and guides, information accessed through the internet, and potentially, other digital and audio media. Information will be provided in various levels of detail in order to facilitate different ‘layers’ of intellectual access. For example leaflets will be provided at two levels:

- 1) General visitor information, high quality, simple, easily updated and reproduced. Distributed from key orientation points within the park (**see section 8.2.4**)
- 2) Specialist information leaflets available on request from onsite staff, or from key orientation points within the park (**see section 8.2.4**). Some may also be downloaded from the Bute Park website. These will be provided at reproduction cost or free of charge when resources allow.

### 10.5.2 Parks style

A layering approach will be applied across all forms of interpretation media, printed, web-based and event based which will also incorporate the following principles:

- Simple, non-technical language and a direct, active style
- A minimum of text
- Colourful visual material (with consistent use of colour theme), including photographs, illustrations, graphics and symbols
- A co-ordinated approach to graphics to cover every aspect, from signage, to badges, to website, to daily notices
- Opportunities for interactivity

- Links to other sites of interest

## **10.6 The Parks and Plants web site**

Specific specialist information about the plants in Bute Park and other parks across Cardiff, can be found in the Council's web-based plant database which can be accessed at:

<http://apps8.cardiff.gov.uk/plantguide/>

## **10.7 Cardiffparks.org**

This website contains a wealth of historical and tree information about several cardiff parks and Bute Park is one of the featured sites. At the time of writing the website was still being kept regularly-up-to-date by its authors.

## 11.0 Achieving the goal and measuring success

### 11.1 Cost of managing the park

**Appendix 15** provides the outline maintenance and management budget/business plan for the park for the ten year period 2020-21 to 2024-25. This is based solely on the cost centre CP603 which was set up for the maintenance and management of Bute Park linked to the Heritage Lottery grant and the Council's commitment to an increased maintenance budget for the park. This will maintain the new assets and support a site-based staff structure for the ten year period required as a condition of the grant. The business plan is reliant on an ear-marked reserve that was established by the council to support the park over the agreed period and in recognition that the park will not become a self-financing asset. Protection of this ear-marked reserve is critical to the success of the Bute Park business plan and this management plan.

The outturn costs for the previous three years are also provided for reference.

It is important to note that significant extra expenditure and budget related to Bute Park are held within other cost centres. For example expenditure and budget for horticultural maintenance, weed control, urban and community rangers, litter crew, the late-locking regime, event management, the arboriculture team and nursery operation are held elsewhere. Given these often represent city-wide operations and teams it is difficult to accurately split out the costs for Bute Park alone.

The expenditure, income and budget for Blackweir Changing rooms is also currently held elsewhere.

It may be an action for the Bute Park Manager to analyse these budgets further and update estimates related to Bute Park so a more accurate picture of expenditure, income and budget for Bute Park as a discrete entity can be made. Clearly erosion of these wider service area budgets in light of local government austerity (**see section 2.10**) will impact on standards of maintenance and management achievable in Bute Park and the Bute Park Manager will lead on mitigation measures and ensuring the best standards of maintenance and management are achieved within the available resources.

### 11.2 Quality and value assessment

The quality value assessment for Bute Park has not been significantly updated since 2005. During the life of this management plan there is an aspiration to conduct an up-to-date analysis to assess the impact of the interventions made since the start of the restoration project. The parks department hold a database that allows all the city parks to be plotted on

a scatter graph for comparison and this will be included with the plan when available.

### 11.3 Key performance indicators

A number of key performance indicators for the success of the management plan and success of the park have been identified. These will be monitored and reported annually by the Park Manager as an action within the development plan. This may then trigger the creation of new actions to address any issues/opportunities identified or celebrate success.

The key performance indicators agreed for inclusion within the action are:

1. Income achieved from Education Centre – performance against business plan targets **(see Appendix 7b)**
2. Usage numbers of the Bute Park Education Centre - Maintain or improve visitor numbers from 2014 levels **(see Appendix 7b)**
3. Income achieved from Bute Park Events Programme – performance against business plan targets **(see Appendix 6b)**
5. Number of volunteer hours and equivalent monetary value of volunteer involvement in Bute Park – performance against service area target for Bute Park **(see Appendix 8b)**
5. Income achieved from Education Sessions - performance against service area targets **(see Appendix 8b)**
6. Number of Education Session and Attendance at Education Sessions in Bute Park - - Maintain or improve visitor numbers from 2015 levels **(see Appendix 8b)**.
5. Number of visits to Bute Park- Maintain or improve visitor numbers from 2019 levels: **2,267,681 (see Appendix 5b)**
6. Customer satisfaction levels for Bute Park as recorded through:

User consultation surveys – maintain or improve performance against 2019 levels (95%) **(see Appendix 5b)**

Trip Advisor ratings – maintain or improve performance against 2019 levels **(see Appendix 5b)**

## 11.4 Customer consultation

The Parks Service is committed to ongoing customer consultation. The council will ensure a user survey is undertaken at least every two years for Bute Park. This will most likely utilise a web survey tool which provides a cost-effective solution to user consultation for the council. The surveys will be promoted through online and social media channels and also through on-site posters.

Results of the customer consultation undertaken during summer 2019 are provided in **Appendix 12**, and have been used to inform the preparation of this management plan. It is intended that ongoing customer feedback will assist in the process of determining future actions and priorities for restoration and development within the park.

**Appendix 5b** details analysis of responses to the question “What have you seen recently that has had a negative impact on your visit to the park?” The open response question has been asked in the same way in three consecutive years. Responses are grouped by set categories to allow simple comparison.

## 11.5 Achievements and celebrating success

Achievement against development plan actions will be recorded in the updates provided by action owners. These are all collated within the Parks Service Management Plan database.

The Park Manager will identify and celebrate success using positive achievements as a means of raising/maintaining the park’s profile and fostering staff and public engagement.

Press releases, the [www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com) website and social media channels will be used to celebrate and communicate success.

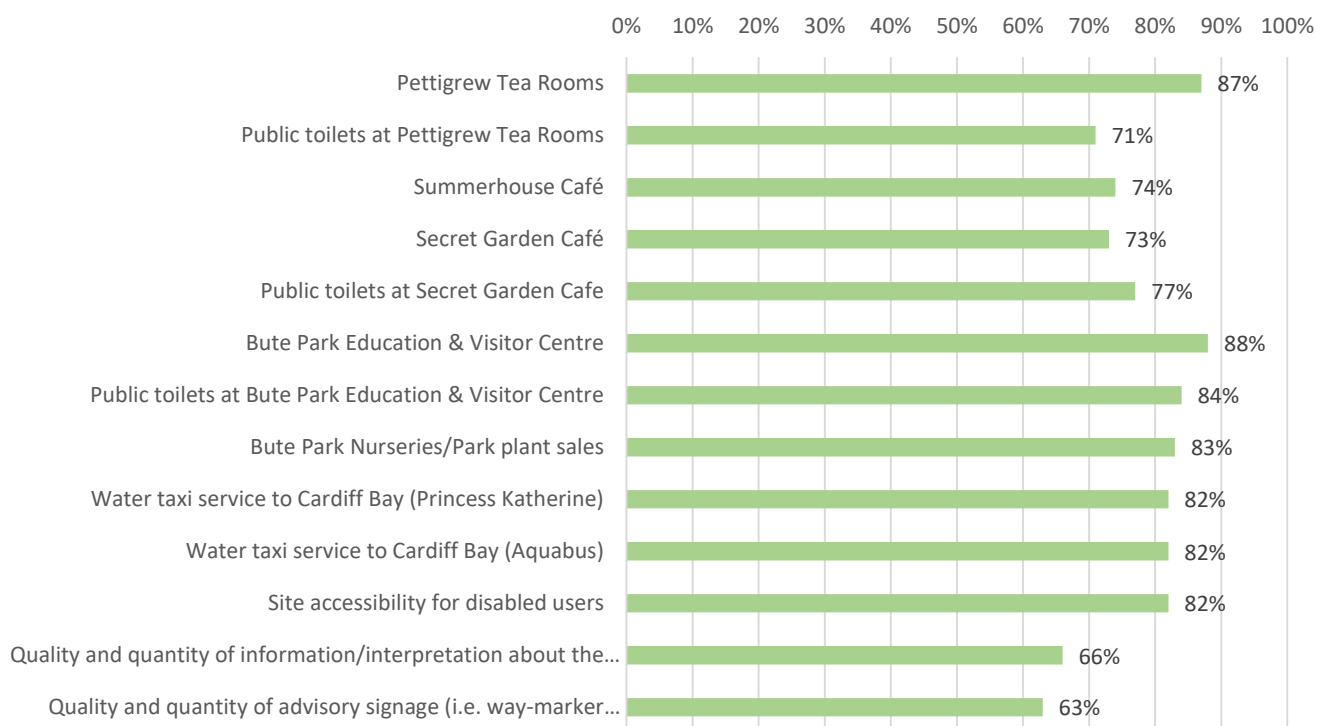
Established communication channels within the council will also be used to keep staff across the wider service area and directorate informed of achievements and key developments.



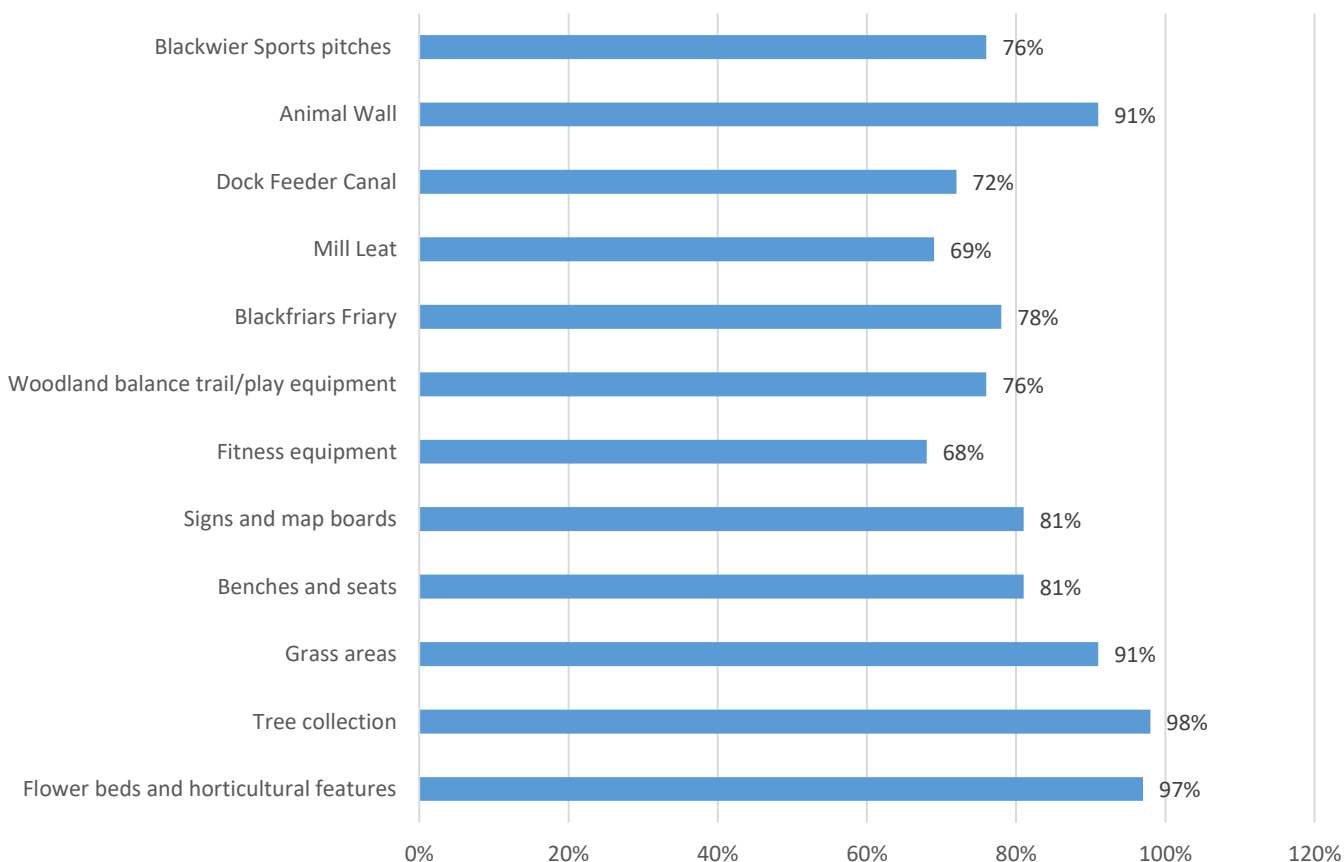
Some people fed back that the survey was quite lengthy and took a while to complete. This may be addressed in the future by reducing the number of questions in the annual survey, asking certain questions bi-annually or promoting poles or short surveys on specific topics on an ad-hoc basis throughout the year.



## Question 1: How would you rate the following park attractions and facilities? Rated Excellent/Good



## Question 2: How would you rate the presentation and maintenance of the following park features? (Rated Excellent/Good)

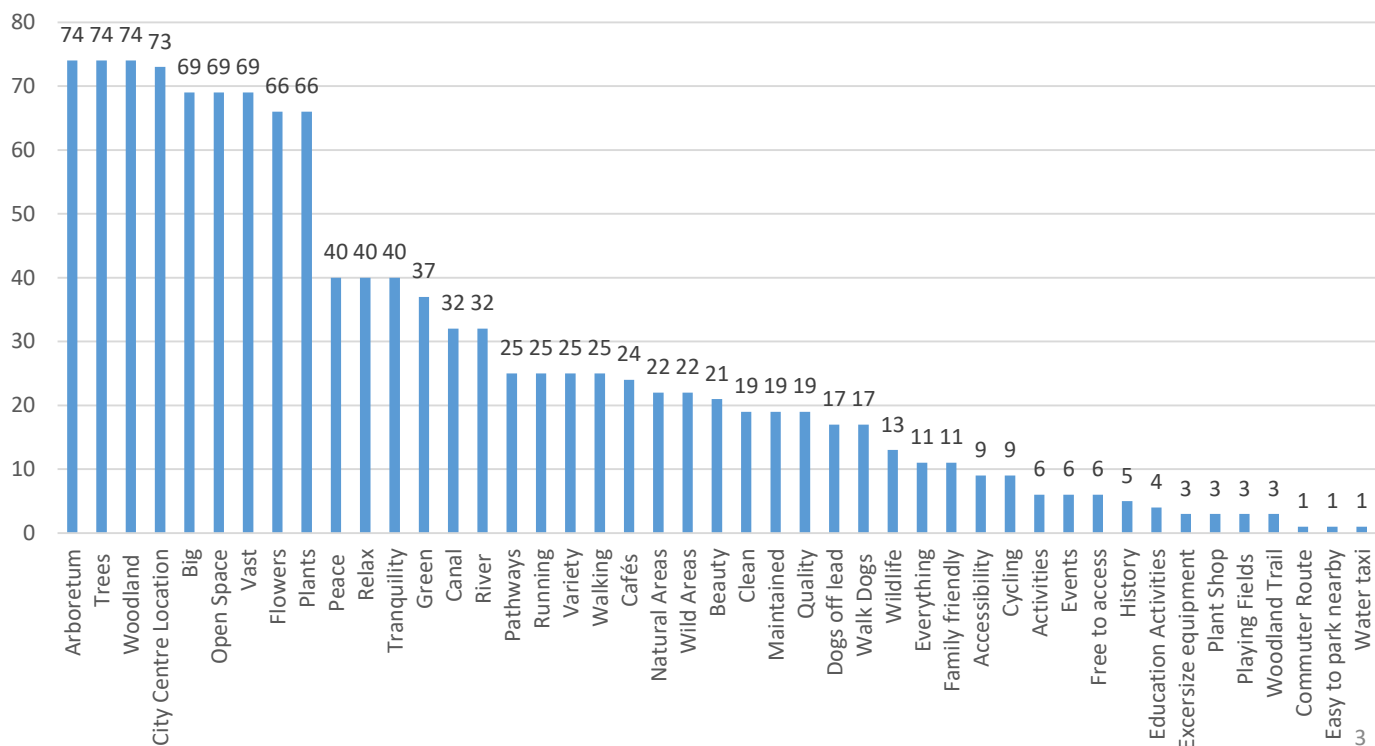


**Question 3: What is the thing you like the best about Bute Park?**



This picture and the tree graphic on the survey cover were produced using a word cloud generator. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. The words were weighted based on the responses to the question **“What is the thing you like the best about Bute Park?”**.

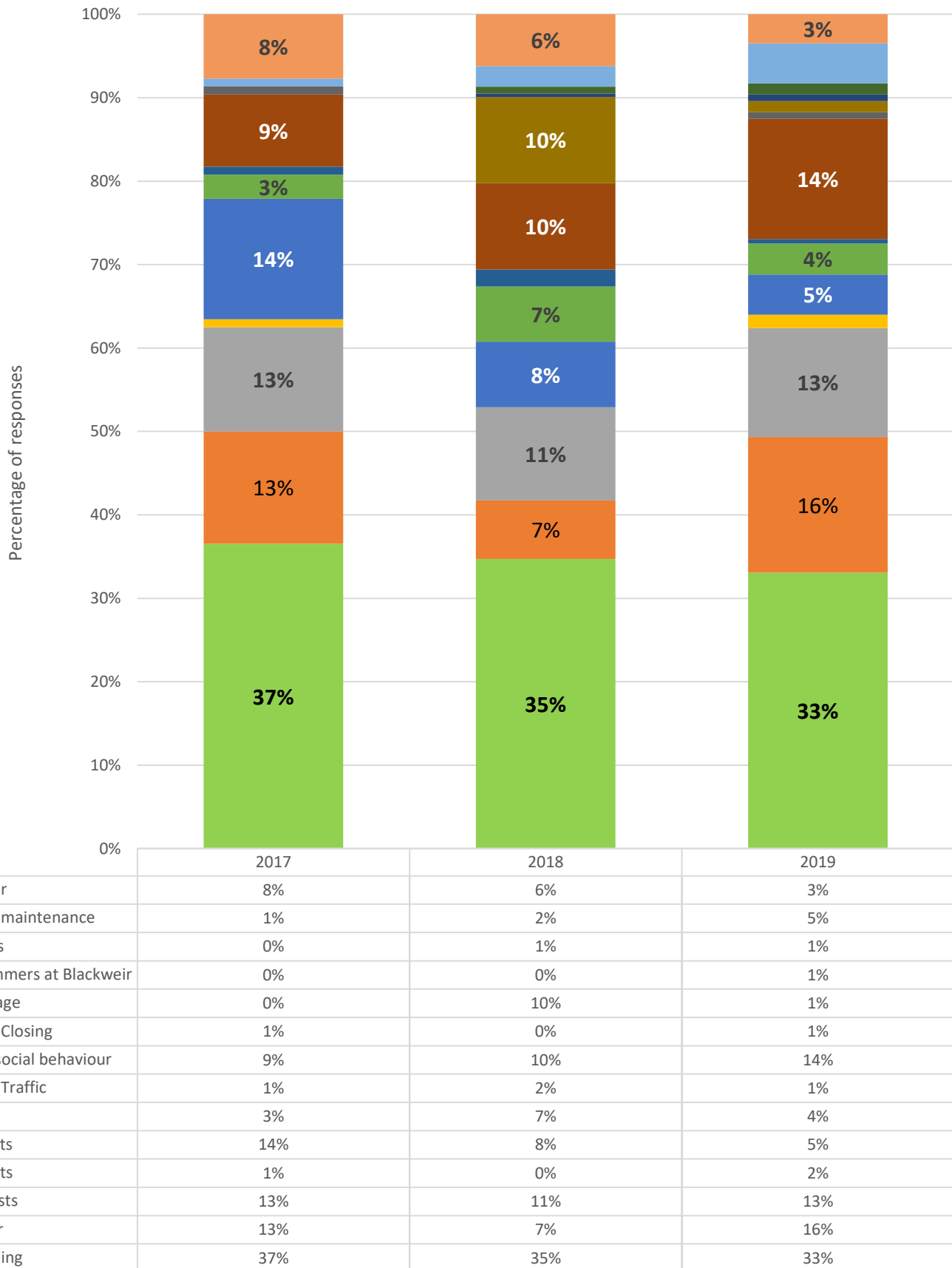
### Question 3: What is the thing you like the best about Bute Park?



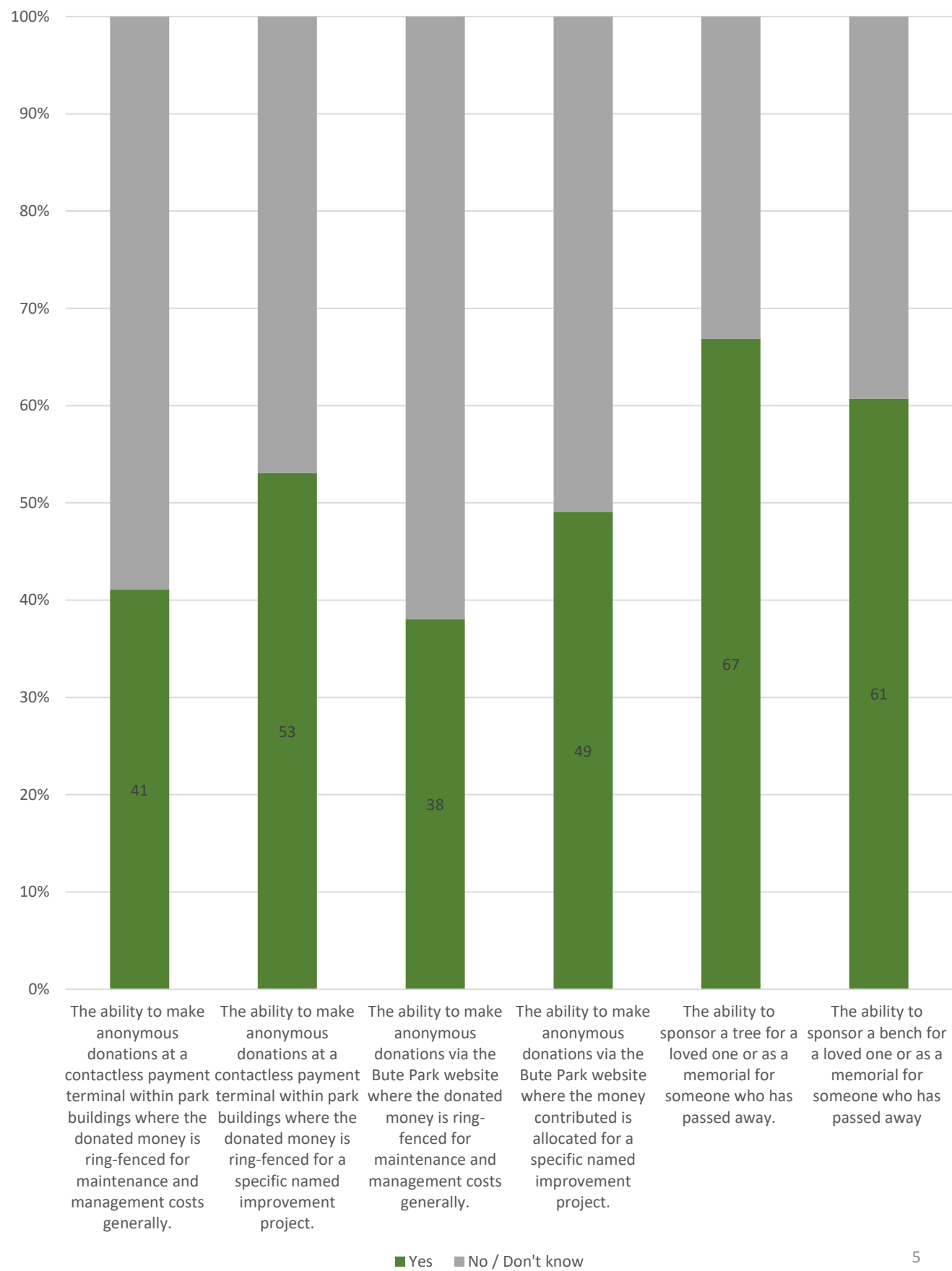
## Question 4: What have you recently seen in the park that has had a negative impact on your visit?

Note: Data shown as percentage per year. For the last 3 years.

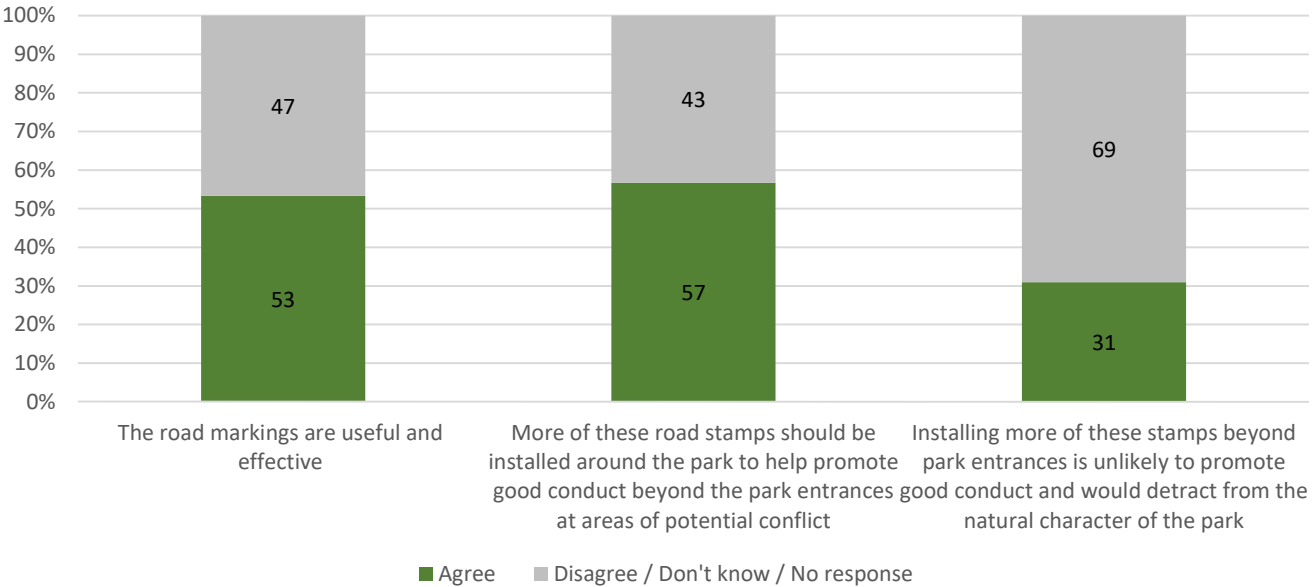
Number of responses per year: 2017 – 104, 2018 – 242, 2019 – 375 (some people give more than one response and each response is counted).



Question 5: Bute Park is always looking for innovative ways to generate additional revenue to help support the park financially in the long term. Would any of the following schemes be of interest to you?

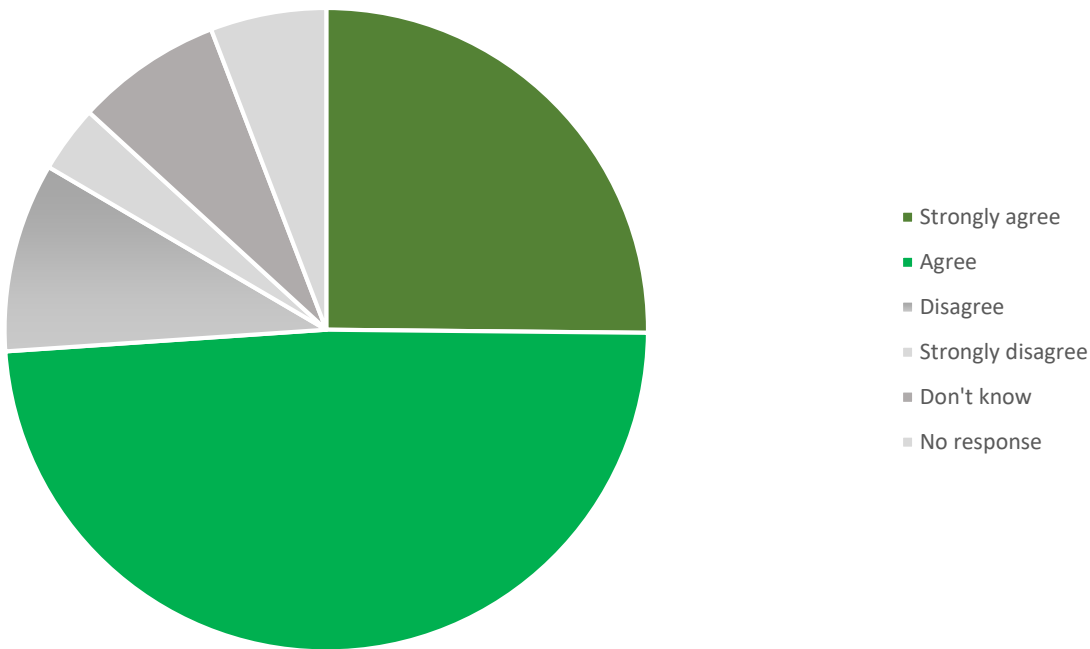


**Question 6: You may have seen this road stamp  
“Share With Care” that was installed at all entrances  
to the park in 2017. Do you agree or disagree with  
the following statements?**

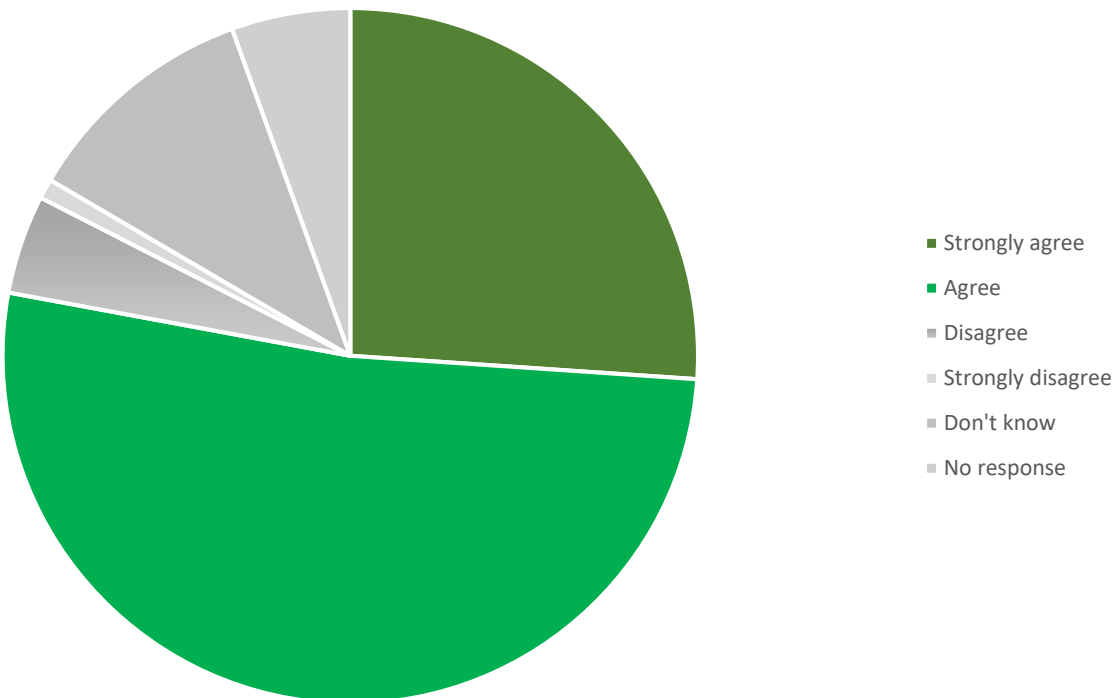


**Question 7: Coopers Field in Bute Park is a popular city centre outdoor venue with a varied programme of events throughout the year.**

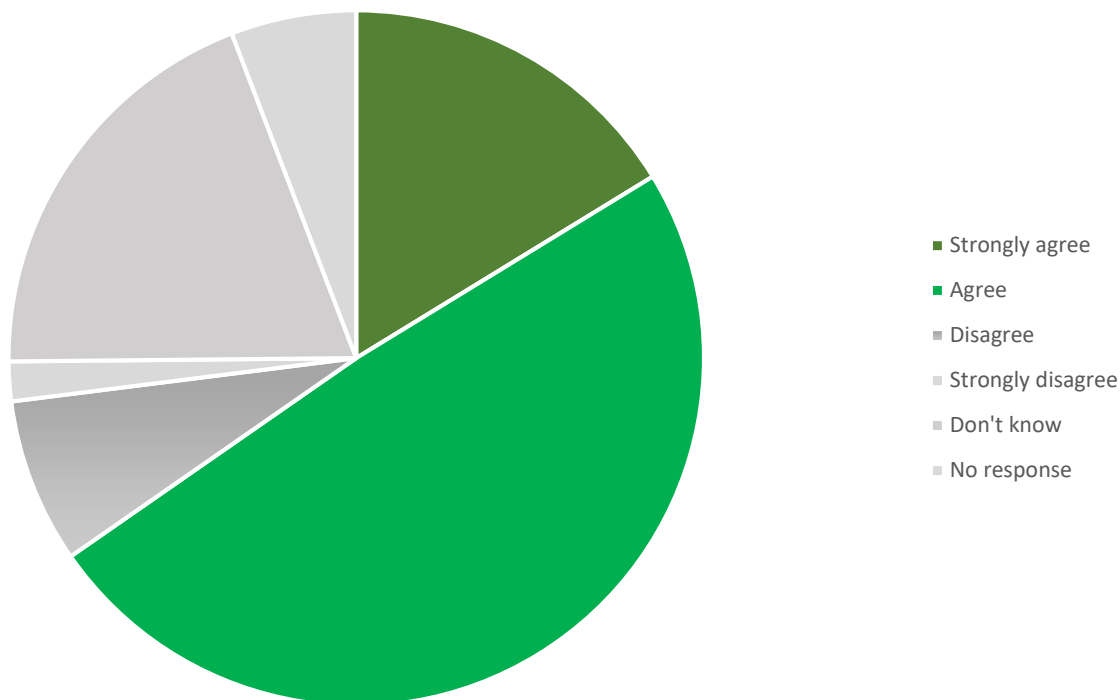
Question 7a: There is still adequate peaceful open space within easy access when major events occupy Coopers Field in Bute Park



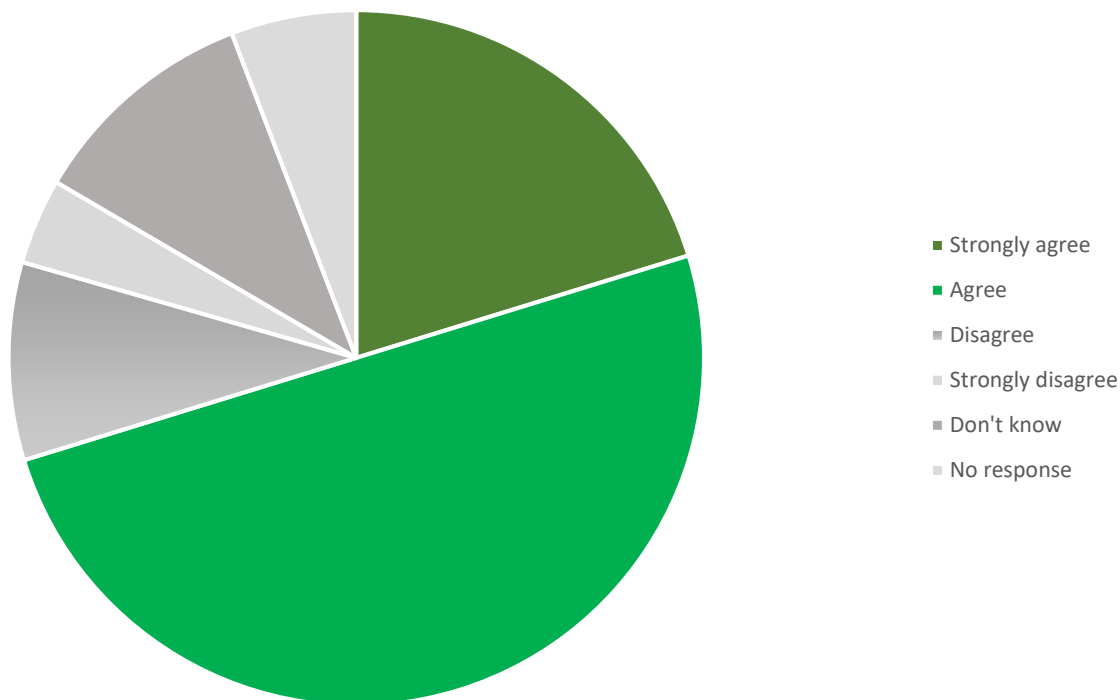
Question 7b: Events held in Bute Park are generally well managed on site



Question 7c: Diversion routes are adequately signed when an event is operating in the park

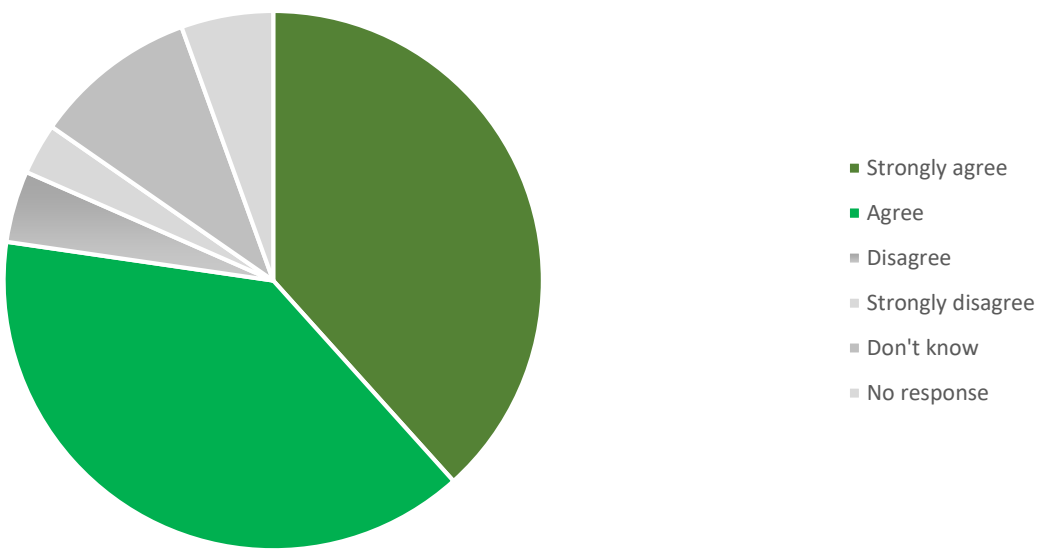


Question 7d: The event areas are generally adequately reinstated after each event season



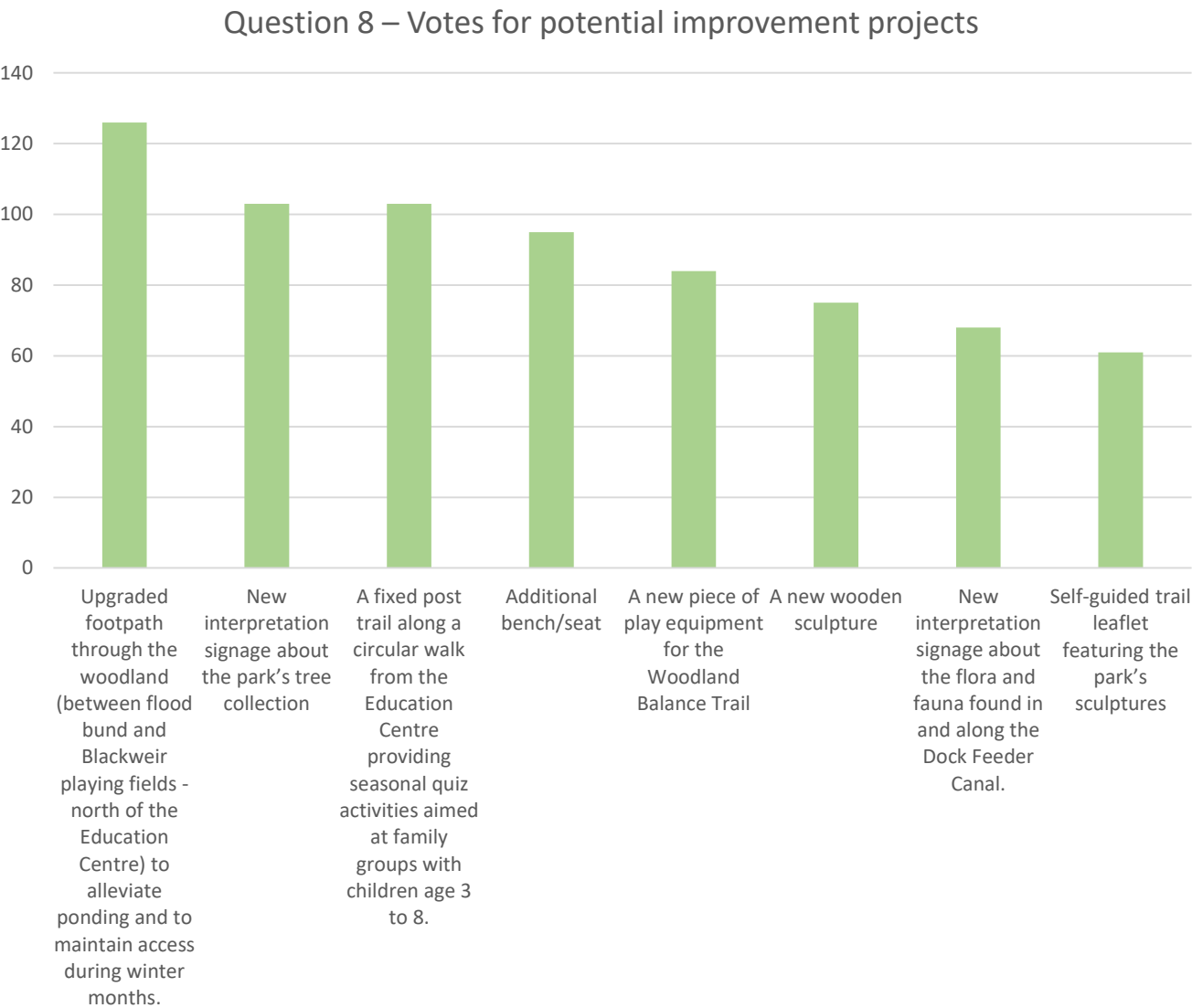


Question 7e: Overall it is worth the short-term disruption from hosting major events in Bute Park when the enjoyment of the events, the hire fee income (which is re-invested into the park), current event management practices and reinstatement programme ar



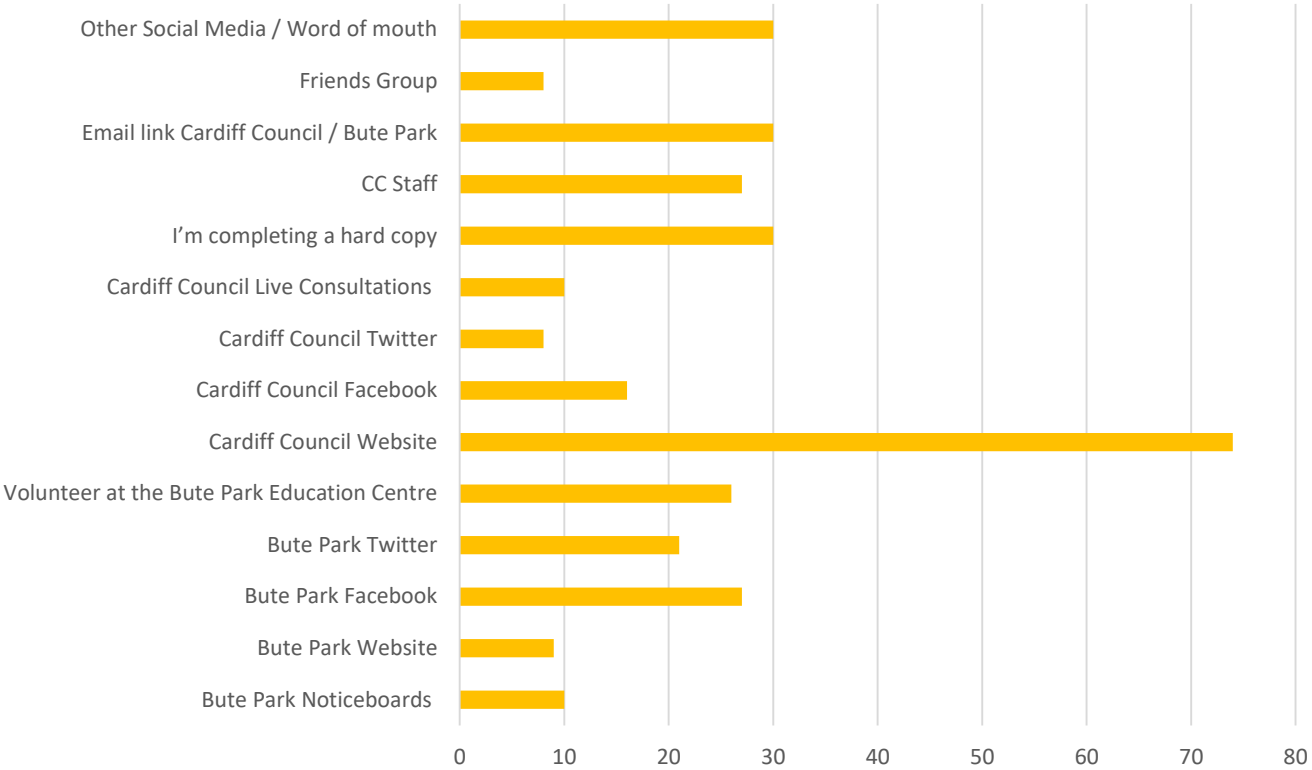
**Question 8: Bute Park has the financial resources from time to time for improvement projects. This money may be available as a result of event income, developer contributions, grant money, private donations or through the Friends of Bute Park.**

Some suggestions currently under consideration are listed below, choose your favourite options that you would support being progressed:

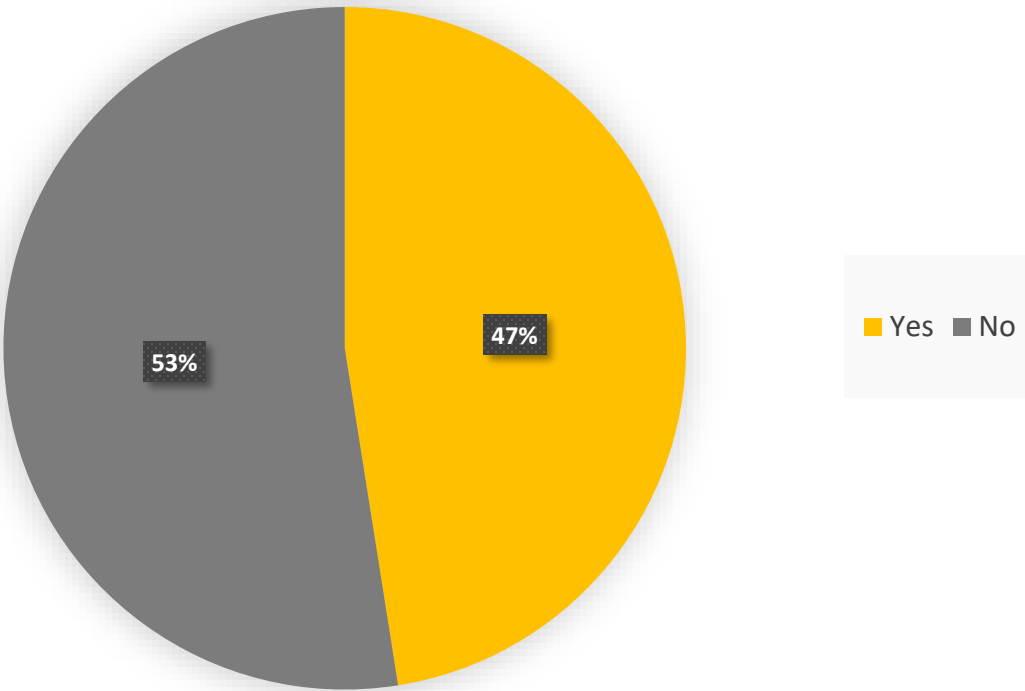


**Question 9: See Appendix 10b**

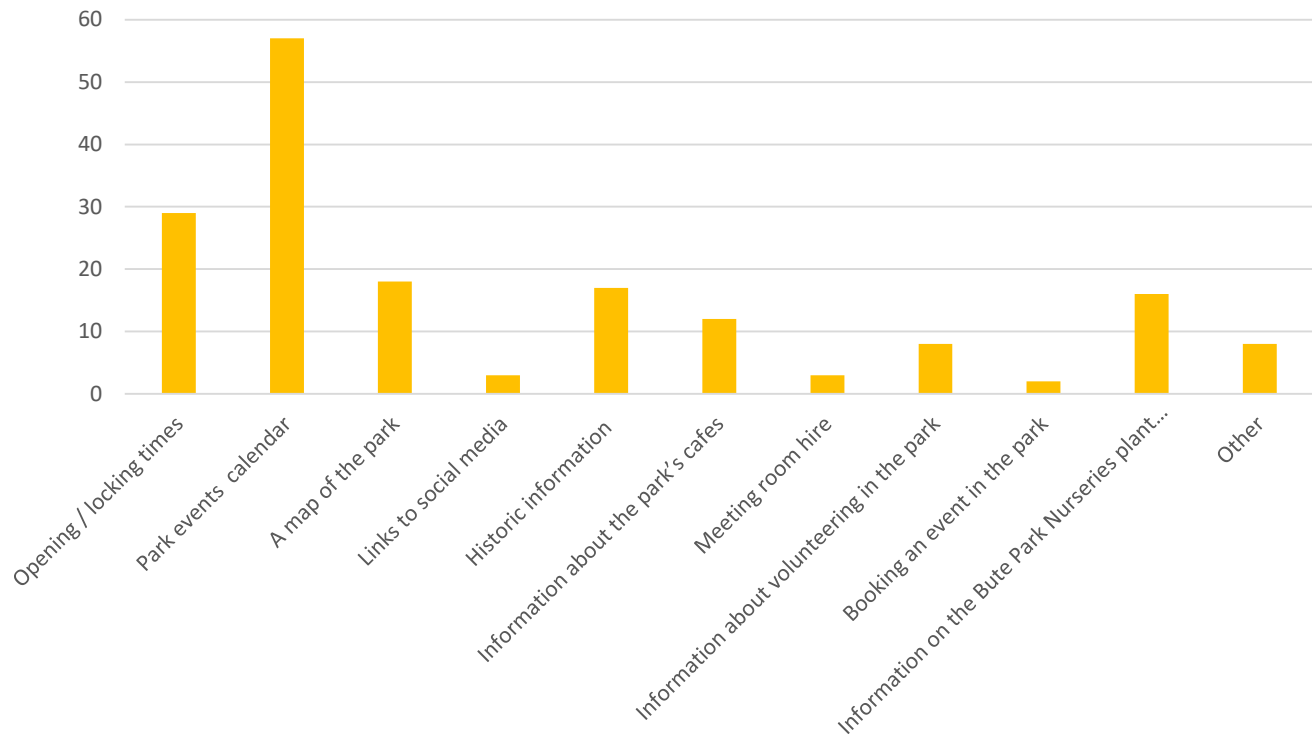
Question 10: How did you find out about this year’s survey?



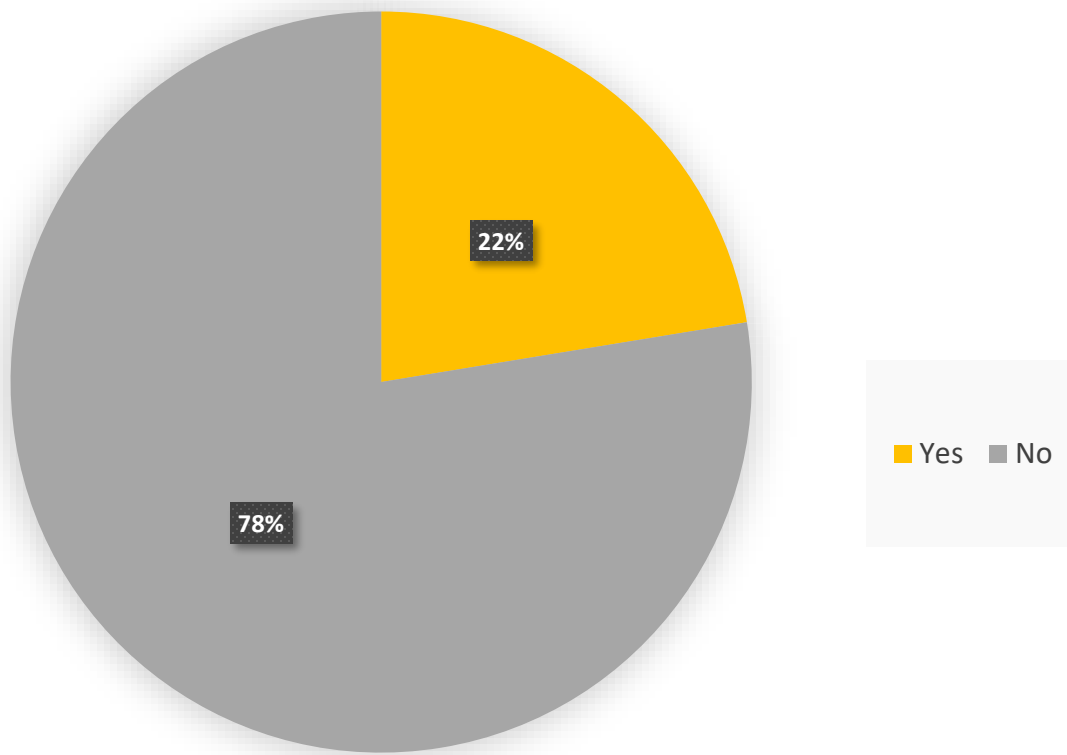
Question 10: Have you visited our website  
[www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com)?



Question 10: Have you visited our website [www.bute-park.com](http://www.bute-park.com)?  
If yes, what information were you looking for?



Question 10: Do you follow us on social media?



**Question 11: Bute Park has a Friends group, which was established in 2012.**

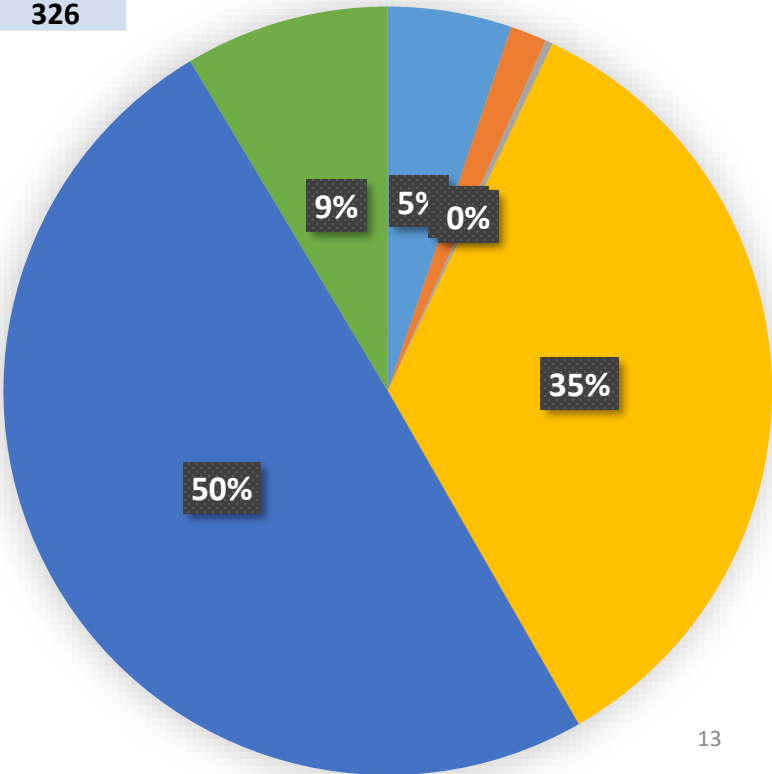
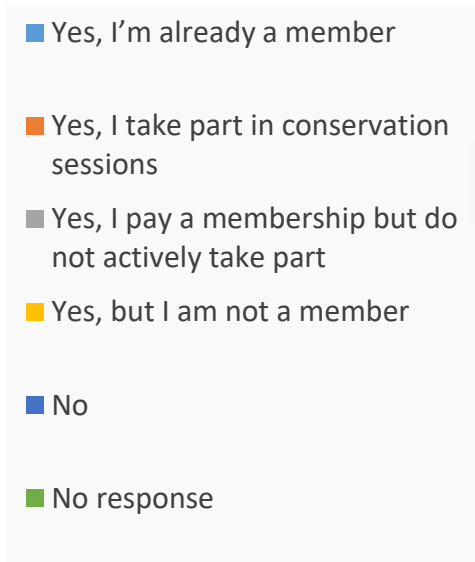
**The group’s constitutional aims are:**

- To celebrate the environment, wildlife and history of Bute Park
- To protect, conserve and enhance Bute Park as a place of freedom, recreation and safe enjoyment for the long-term benefit of all sections of the community.
- To promote Bute Park to the local and wider community
- To increase, protect and publicise the biodiversity of Bute Park
- To work in partnership to these ends with Cardiff County Council, statutory bodies and voluntary groups
- To inform and seek the views of local people and representative groups so that the park may best serve the local community.
- To ensure the actions of the Friends work with reference to Cardiff County Council’s Maintenance and Management plan for the Park.

**Q: Do you already know about the Friends of Bute Park group?**

**Q: Would you be interested in supporting the group in the future?**

Do you already know about the Friends of Bute Park group?	Responses
Yes, I’m already a member	17
Yes, I take part in conservation sessions	5
Yes, I pay a membership but do not actively take part	1
Yes, but I am not a member	113
No	162
No response	28
	326



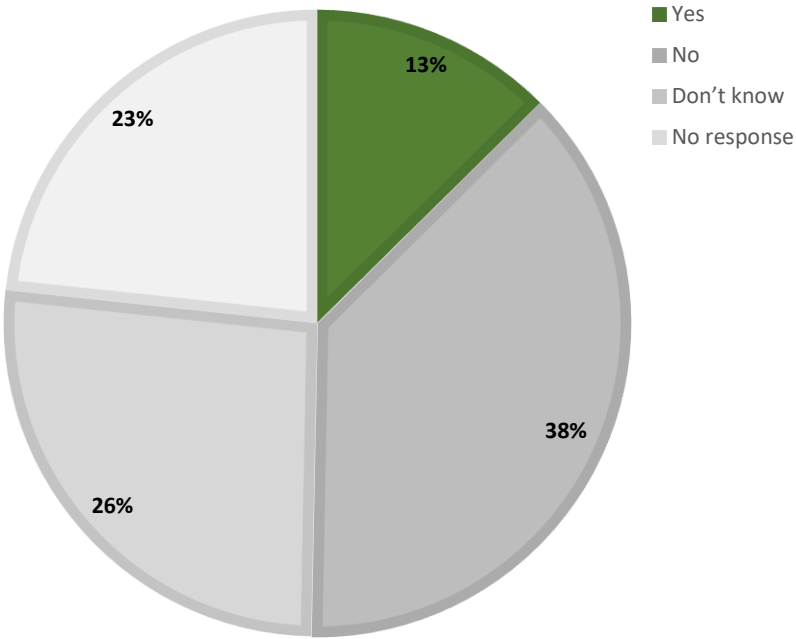
Question 11: Cont.

I would like to know more about the Friends of Bute Park....  
50 people provided names and email addresses

Making a donation = 13  
Becoming a member = 28  
Conservation sessions =38  
Other = 11

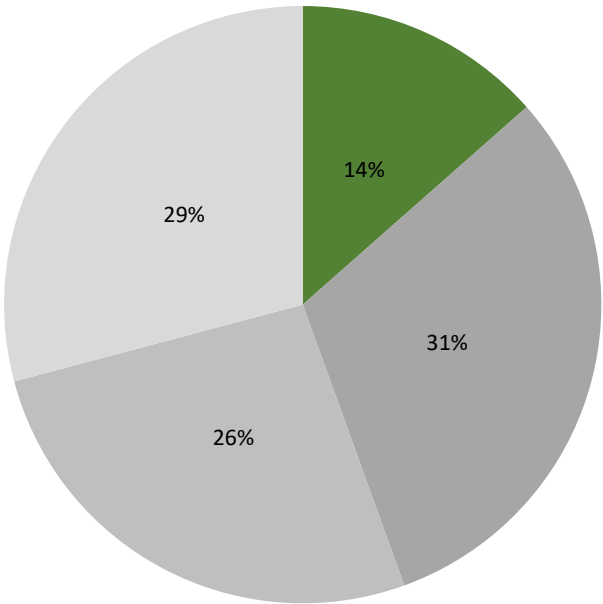
I would like to take part in **monthly conservation sessions** to support the park

	Responses
Yes	41
No	123
Don't know	86
No response	76
	326



I support the aims of the groups and would be willing to make a small **anonymous one-off donation** (e.g. £5) to help them

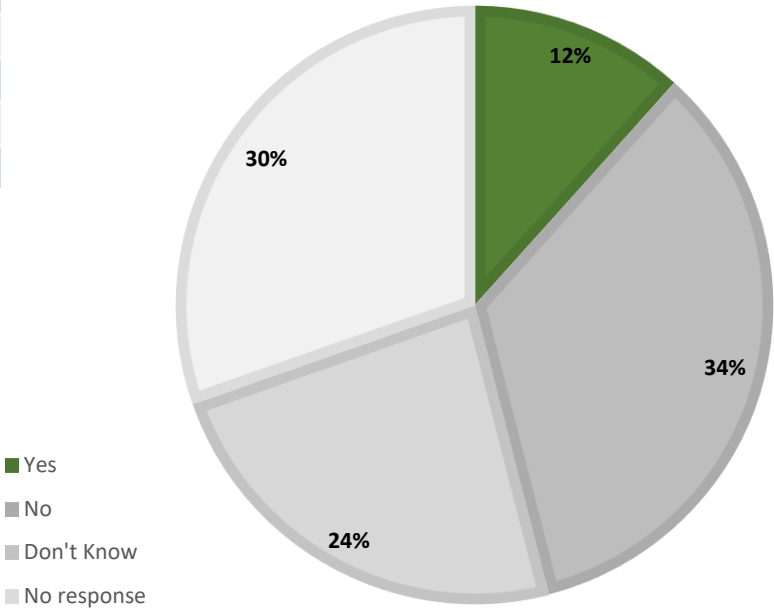
	Responses
Yes	44
No	101
Don't know	86
No response	95
	326



Question 11: Cont.

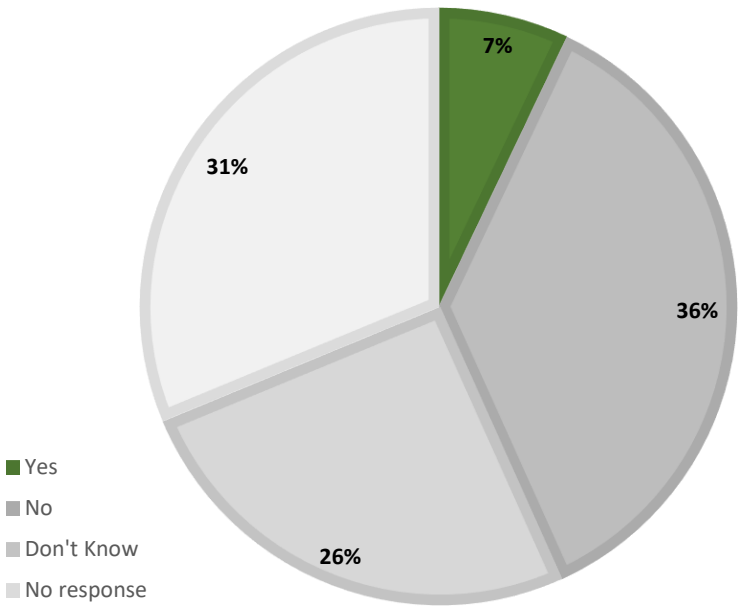
I support the aims of the group and would be willing to join as a **passive member** so I can receive communications from them and have the opportunity to vote at AGM's. (Membership Fee £5/year)

	Responses
Yes	38
No	112
Don't know	77
No response	99
	326



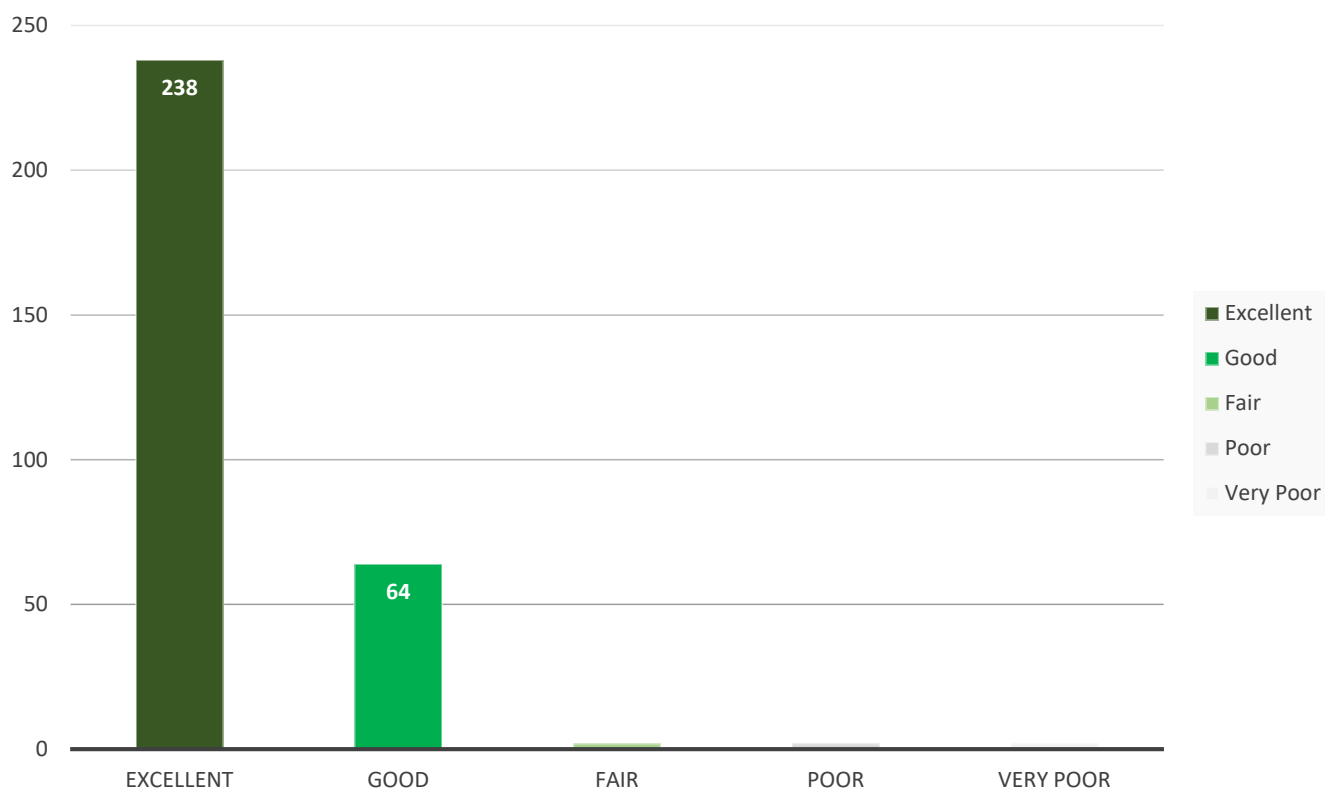
I support the aims of the group and would be willing to join as an **active member** and attend meetings/events/join the committee etc. (Membership Fee £5/year.)

	Responses
Yes	23
No	118
Don't know	83
No response	102
	326

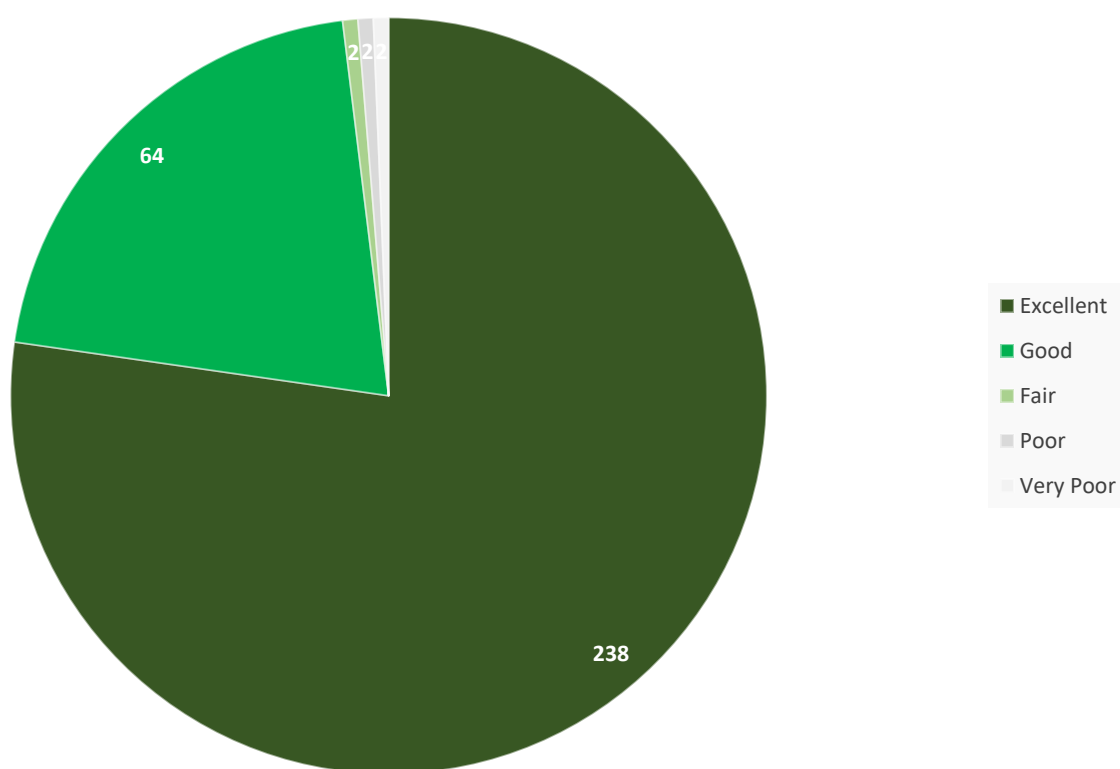




Question 12: Overall, how would you rate the park out of 10?



Question 12: Overall, how would you rate the park out of 10?





## Green Flag Award

**Name of Site: Bute Park**

**Managing Organisation: Cardiff County Council**

<b>Band scores</b>								
<b>Desk Assessment</b>	0-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-30			
<b>Field Assessment</b>	20-29	30-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-70
<b>Overall score</b>	30-44	45-54	55-59	60-65	66-69	70-74	75-79	80+

**Status: Awarded**

**Overall band score: 75-79**

### **Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and supporting documentation)**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
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<b>Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough well presented, easy to reference</li> <li>• Lot of information in appendices</li> <li>• Lot of historical information giving background context.</li> <li>• Helpful visual elements/photographs and Plans</li> <li>• Supporting Action Plan – very helpful to see clear sets of actions/target dates /teams responsibility – helps drive progress and provides clarity on roles and responsibilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make clear the different roles of the Development Plan and Action Plan – overlap in places.</li> <li>• Lot of old dates limited progress made in a number of area – if this is significantly out of date It would be helpful to provide clarity on why.</li> <li>• Figure 2 hard to read – quality of graphics.</li> </ul>
<b>Health, Safety &amp; Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All H&amp;S and risk assessments referenced and a comprehensive approach taken for such a large city centre location.</li> <li>• Significant changes taken to limit access from north road to reduce vehicular movements.</li> <li>• Close working relationship with police and homeless shelters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot of the information relating to this section is included in the appendices it would have been useful to have had these prior to inspection.</li> <li>• Continue to review how homeless and after-hours access affect the park, data for the latter has stopped at 2014.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance of equipment, buildings &amp; landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well managed team approach from park staff and county grounds department.</li> <li>• Clear strategy on maintenance of buildings and landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot of actions in the Development and Action plan not delivered and aborted – needs updating, perhaps consider identifying these as future potential projects rather than undelivered actions.</li> </ul>
<b>Litter, cleanliness, vandalism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated rangers allocated responsibilities for variety of activities.</li> <li>• Comprehensive plan in place.</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive Green Dragon level 4 award for education centre.</li> <li>• Pesticides policy referenced.</li> <li>• Positive reduction in Peat.</li> <li>• Invasive spp programme.</li> <li>• There's a commitment to sustainable design and planning for climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider including an outline of policies on peat reduction in main Management plan.</li> </ul>

<b>Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear range of projects, management proposals and actions that seek to support and enhance Biodiversity and Landscape and Heritage. The multi-functional nature of the park is clear as a Green Infrastructure asset to Cardiff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of the heritage goals: it would be particularly beneficial to see the completion of the management plans for the Landscape Character Area zones to ensure the long term sustainability of the historic parkland.</li> <li>• Would be helpful to have greater emphasis on the key designated assets e.g. SINC, Historic Park and Garden, etc which are primary designations of the Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive engagement with local community, together with work experience, training and apprenticeships provided. RSPB, Vision 21, KWT, Buglife, Forest Farm, Cardiff Rivers Group, the Probation Service and a Friends Group, comprising representatives from the local community, all help maintain the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to increase Volunteers and Friends group to support park staff in regular management duties.</li> <li>• Management Plan needs updating in places actions are out of date re section 9 park usage, volunteering financial figures stop at 2014/15.</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing &amp; Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent website – covering all events</li> <li>• Wide range of social media engaged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure events are marketed through conventional means as well as social media avenues to capture full market audience.</li> </ul>
<b>Overall management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall a positive approach towards sustainable management that embraces and delivers a multi-functional Green Infrastructure asset working with and for the benefit of, locals and visits alike.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to update the Management Plan, Development Plan and Action Plan. Consider how the Development Plan and Action Plan overlap.</li> </ul>

**Additional comments**

Overall a comprehensive and thorough plan that has reflected the significant HLF funding input and the desire to continue its aims and aspirations going forward. A clear council commitment evidenced in the day to day management and delivery of opportunities, which reflects a well-run and organised park. The plan should consider how it is embracing the Well Being and Future Generations goals particularly in terms of the potential health benefits such a varied and well organised and centrally located park is offering the communities of Cardiff and its visitors and seek to strengthen.

**Field Assessment Feedback**

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	Clean well maintained open and accessible entrances. Orientation excellent. Open views and vistas that make users feel safe and secure entering the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple signage in places consider removing and combining signage to reduce visual vertical clutter – in places this has already started so process to be continued.</li> <li>• Consider increasing understanding and awareness about the Historic Park and Garden designation and multiple SINC designations.</li> <li>• Look at opportunities to improve connectivity between the castle and the park rather than visitors being forced to walk around the front to get to the park grounds.</li> <li>• Consideration for signage at entrance points to the park for cyclists to slow down.</li> </ul>

<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant council staff presence from dedicated on site staff to Council grounds maintenance both embracing different aspect of the parks management.</li> <li>• Changes to access has meant the park remains unlocked now at night – where after-hours movement through the site occurs, a clear visible route through has been encouraged to facilitate speedy movement.</li> <li>• Homeless numbers have been increasing over the years as has been the case throughout the city. Violence and graffiti is monitored and a strong relationship with police and homeless shelter has been developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor after hours usage, homelessness and look at ways of reducing incidences of antisocial behaviour by working with police and charities.</li> </ul>
<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well maintained grounds and facilities by both the Council and private operators. Generally a high standard of cleanliness during the visit and as a regular visitor this seems to be the case throughout the year.</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education centre has achieved a level 4 Green dragon accreditation which is a reflection of the operation of the centre, this in combination with the park grounds augments the overall offering; the centre and grounds are clearly well used by schools as evidenced on the day and a range of other groups listed on the website.</li> <li>• Expansion` of the centre through the development of garden shop, with recycling of timber for the use of stands/ trays, with the aim to supply the shop with all on-site stock.</li> <li>• Positive re-use of hazel coppice as plant support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to become Peat free.</li> <li>• Aim to supply shop with all on-site stock rather than bought in varieties – it was acknowledged this was done initially to get stock into the shop as part of the start-up exercise.</li> <li>• Aim to increase stock from seed rather than buy plugs.</li> </ul>

<b>Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage</b>	<p>Great range of opportunities being offered that embraces a strong multifunctional Green Infrastructure approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health benefits through - the trim trail and other recreational/sporting opportunities e.g. improvements to the cricket grounds attracting new clubs increasing income generation.</li><li>• Opportunities for biodiversity (evidenced through the multiple SINC designations) – through a pollinators friendly approach delivering: low maintenance wildflower swathes throughout the park, deadwood left in-situ, woodland undergrowth managed for foraging and woodland canopy supporting a strong bat populations.</li><li>• Well maintained heritage landscape having been supported and brought into excellent condition through the HLF funding and continuation by staff to maintain standards. Lots of information scattered throughout park. Rich woodland arboretum and Tree champion scheme being supported by the friends group and promoted through a leaflet and on the website.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider strengthening links beyond the park boundaries in particular seeking opportunities for connectivity with new developments proposed along the old Llantrisant road – through s106 contributions for improved active travel connections to the Park and delivery of projects not completed in the Development and Action Plan.</li><li>• Consider development of a dedicated Conservation Plan to support the Heritage features.</li></ul>
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<b>Community Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse volunteer base and support groups as Identified in MP.</li> <li>• A huge range of schools activities and interest groups, talks and activities being offered by council staff. Dedicated and knowledgeable staff helping to provide exciting and diverse range of activities.</li> <li>• Engagement with friends groups and volunteers for management of woodlands.</li> <li>• Volunteer programme has led to recruitment of staff as part of the council's grounds maintenance team.</li> <li>• Member of community recently taken on veg growing using the glass house</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target volunteer input to help support council staff in day to day management and delivery of key actions– capitalise upon the number of enquires offering volunteer support.</li> <li>• Seek to increase support and numbers in friends group by engaging with a range of established groups to help support conservation and educational activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>	<p>A range of avenues used to attract and cater for a wide range of visitors and events from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website, social media, the newly introduced QR codes and leaflets at the education centre and interpretation and signage throughout park.</li> <li>• Visitors were seen to be using and enjoying the facilities provided.</li> <li>• A huge range and scale of events from music festivals to RHS shows to Bat evenings etc</li> </ul>	<p>Look at increasing information on Its primary designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 1 historic park and garden</li> <li>• Multiple SINCs</li> <li>• SAMs</li> <li>• Park forming the setting of the listed building.</li> </ul> <p>Consider incorporation of a nature &amp; heritage trail emphasising these assets. There was mention of guided heritage walks so perhaps these could be tied together.</p>
<b>Management</b>	<p>The park is clearly being well managed and maintained, during the visit there were large numbers of staff actively managing the borders and cricket pitches as well as an organised schools activity programme. The nursery not only provides all the bedding for Cardiff but this has recently extended to the Vale of Glamorgan, such contracts together with the development of the plant shop also help provide clear commercial opportunities to help balance the income for the park and allow opportunities to progress the Action Plan.</p>	<p>Consider growing vegetables and supplying onsite food and cafes.</p>

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**Additional Comments**

Overall a very well organised and dynamic city park having clearly benefited from a significant HLF investment in recent years taking the park to a new standard. Staff have a clear and strong commitment to maintaining standards and there are clear and innovative methods of income generation to help support the parks finances being developed alongside allocated council resources. The Park has a huge ranges of natural and heritage assets and its central location puts it at the heart of the city centre as a major tourist attraction as well as an amenity and recreational asset for local residents; these opportunities need to be capitalised upon further to help maintain and drive standards forward for future generations.

## Green Heritage Site

Name of Site: Bute Park

Managing Organisation: Cardiff Council

### Desk Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation of conservation plan or statement	<p>A well structured document. Easy to read. Text broken up well with titles, numbering, images and plans with images and plans illustrating the text well. Good use of cross-referencing and hyperlinks.</p> <p>The heritage significance of the site is indicated. There is reference to a document which explains more about the heritage features. In reading how the site is managed it is easy to relate this back to the heritage assets of the site.</p>	<p>This isn't a traditional conservation plan, but a park management plan for a site containing a number and variety of heritage assets. It would be useful to explain that this document acts as both a conservation and management plan.</p> <p>It would have been useful to have included a hyperlink to the document which explains more about the heritage features and the appendices that are relevant to conservation of heritage features - such as maintenance requirement schedules (appendix 13).</p> <p>Reference is made to landscape character area plans. These are not available/have not been undertaken. These would be a useful management tool and would help promote the Parks status as a Grade1 Historic Park and Garden.</p> <p>On first reading, it wasn't clear what the difference between the development and action plan was. The development plan appeared to be a programme of works with a lot of target deadlines missed. The action plan appeared to be similar with an update of progress. It would be beneficial to add a line to each plan explaining its purpose.</p>

Strategic & policy background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The site's heritage informs objectives, aims, management regimes and action programmes.</li> <li>•The Plan sets out the mechanism for funding the management of the park, the directorate for its responsibilities and where it sits in relation to overarching documents.</li> <li>•The plan reflects the financial support from HLF in restoring the park.</li> <li>•A key thing that comes through is the support of the staff that manage the park on a day to day basis.</li> <li>•It appears that there is no separate conservation plan. The management plan and conservation plan appear to be the same document. As such, the site's heritage is at the heart of the management plan, informing objectives, aims, management regimes and action programmes</li> </ul>	<p>There is clearly a message of austerity coming through the document with looking at different ways of delivering high standards for Parks, including increasing commercial input. (2.10, 2.11).</p> <p>In spite of the message of lean times, a situation for every local authority, it would be reassuring if in 2.10/2.11, there is a repeat of the content of the letter at the beginning of the document - a commitment at a strategic level to maintaining the standards of the park. Ultimately this needs to be a financial commitment, in recognition of the park's heritage value, value as a green space to Cardiff residents and as a tourist facility.</p>
Community involvement & marketing	<p>It is noted that organisations such as KWT, RSPB, Vision 21 the Probation Service and a Friends Group, comprising representatives from the local community, help maintain the park.</p> <p>The site attracts a wide range of users who are catered for through various facilities, events and character areas of the park.</p> <p>Bute Park and its features are promoted through various web-sites, on site signage and leaflets. It is noted that there is heritage info on the Bute Park website and there is a heritage trail with QR codes on the ground.</p>	<p>Can there be links made from Cadw 's website and other groups known for dealing with heritage places and space?</p>
Integration of Heritage Management	<p>The management plan states there is training identified so that all staff, volunteers, etc understand the significance of heritage. There is evidence that the Friends group value this, being opposed to another cycle way in an area they identify as a quieter area.</p>	<p>None</p>

## Field Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Condition of Historic Features		
Good conservation standards	The park has received a HLF grant in relatively recent years to restore various elements within the park. As part of this grant, works would have had to have met conservation standards and it is clear to see this throughout the site, particularly structural elements. Staff met understood the conservation standards. The management plan is clearly relevant to the maintenance of these elements.	There is a commitment in the management plan that repairs to structures, when required, will maintain the standards, techniques/materials used in undertaking restoration work - detailed in the buildings maintenance requirements schedule in Appendix 13 and the area by area schedules in Appendix 2. It would have been useful if these appendices had been supplied to demonstrate the commitment to and implementation of conservation standards.
Historic features given prominence	Historic features are integral features of the park that are readily accessible. Some such as the animal wall, Gorsedd stones, friary footprint, are obvious, others such as the leat are less obvious as historic features, such as the leat and gallery (not because they are hidden but because they are more ordinary in appearance). However, there is good interpretation of features.	There is good interpretation on site for some features - such as an interpretation board. Other features rely on a post with QR codes. Not everyone has a device to read codes and some people like following leaflet trails. In the education centre there are leaflets but none was seen about the historic features of the park. Although leaflets have a cost element, they are still a useful way to promote and interpret features and to navigate a route around the park to discover the park's heritage.
Restoration / re-creation of historic features	Historic features in the park have been restored well. The summerhouse cafe is based on Burges's original design.	Restoring/recreating historic features is not the end point. As well as a schedule for future maintenance, it is important that there is an appropriate budget to implement such works. As previously stated, a firm financial commitment to implementing high quality maintenance should be provided in the management plan.
Use and enjoyment of historic features		

Historic features intact & in use	Historic features have been retained and restored having regard to sustainable usage and are accessible by the public.	No comment
Historic features integrated into the life of the site	Parks will always be needed as the built environment grows. In restoring historic features, their future use has been considered to ensure not only are they conserved for what they are but where possible have a sustainable current/future use to ensure their longevity	No comment
Information available & evidence that historic features are enjoyed by the public	In the education centre leaflets are available about things in/associated with the park and helpful and knowledgeable volunteers. There is good info on line about the historic features of the park and info boards and a QR trail. People were seen to enjoy interacting with historic features.	There doesn't appear to be a heritage trail leaflet or a leaflet linking the castle to Bute Park, formerly its grounds. Neither is there a regular periodic heritage walk and talk programmed. It is worth considering these.  The slice of tree story book is a good opportunity to visually display the park's heritage in one feature.
Maintaining historic character and appearance		
Relevance of Historic Landscape design- integrated understood and interpreted	Bute Park has been divided into character areas. staff met were well aware of historic landscape design and their importance for long-term management.	Bute Park is a Grade 1 historic park and garden. This doesn't come across strongly in onsite or website information which is a shame as a grade 1 designation is a rare and important designation. Whilst the arboretum and champion trees are promoted as are the historic structures, the Historic park and garden designation encompasses all these and links the park to the castle structure to which it was originally the garden. More should be made of this.
Horticultural displays contribute to historic character	There are several well-tended herbaceous borders which in themselves are a feature of the park. It is understood that there were herbaceous borders (not necessarily in exactly the same location) when the park was the garden for the Bute family. Herbaceous borders are well-known, expected and admired features of parks and are an asset to Bute Park, marking in particular the Park's later history as a public park. It is good to see the use of coppiced hazel from elsewhere on site to act as plant support. This being less intrusive than bamboo for example.	No comment
Recognition and appropriateness of historic tree and plant collections	The park has a woodland, arboretum and champion tree collection which are well promoted on site, in leaflet form and on line. There are measures to check trees.	There is a separate tree management plan which needs updating. This would be interesting to see as the park's trees are an important historic and visual feature.

New and replacement features enhance or conserve the historic character and appearance	It is known that under HLF rules and Council procedures there would have been appropriate consultation and decision making undertaken in developing plans for new/replacing/restoring features within the park.	No comment
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# Blackweir & Dock Feeder

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

**Ward:** Cathays, Gabalfa

**Grid Reference:** ST171776

**Area:** 17.73

**Reason for SINC selection:**

H1 Woodland



# About the Blackweir & Dock Feeder SINC

## Site description:

An area of secondary ornamental woodland bisected by the abandoned dock feeder canal with a variety of natural and introduced ground flora. The SINC runs from the back of Talybont Sports centre near Blackweir, in a southerly direction, the canal follows the eastern boundary of Bute Park to the back of Cardiff Castle. The woodlands alongside the River Taff from Blackweir to the education centre in the middle of Bute Park are also included within this SINC. The River Taff gives the site importance for waterfowl. Ground flora indicator species suggest that the area once supported ancient semi-natural woodland including Bluebell, Dog's Mercury, Field Maple and Red Currant.

## Species recorded at this site leading to SINC selection:

Bluebell, Common Figwort, Dog's Mercury, Field Maple, Giant Fescue, Gelder-rose, Pendulous Sedge, Ramsons, Red Currant, Wavy Hair-grass, Wood Anemone, Wood Millet, Wood Speedwell, Yew

## Protected and priority species recorded:

Banded Demoiselle, Crossbill, Date-Coloured Waxcap, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Song Thrush

## Priority habitat:

Wood pasture and parkland

## Recommendations for management of the site:

WOODLAND: Heavy grazing can suppress the shrub layer and ground flora and hinders natural regeneration and growth of new shoots. Fallen timber can be left for wildlife such as insects, slugs, snails and woodlice, which then provide foods for birds, bats and small mammals. Thinning (the removal of a proportion of the trees) allows the strongest trees to grow in more space, whilst regular rotational coppicing (cutting trees down to stumps to regenerate) helps regeneration producing new shoots to improve structural diversity of the woodland.

## Please note:

This area has been designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation by Cardiff Council. This does not formally protect the site or place any restrictions upon the landowner. This information given is used to ensure that nature conservation is taken into account in planning decisions. This designation itself does not confer any rights of access to the site and places no restriction on the management of the land. □□□ Common plant species names taken from: Stace C (1997), New Flora of the British Isles (second edition), Cambridge University Press



# Gabalfa Woods

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

**Ward:** Gabalfa

**Grid Reference:** ST165783

**Area:** 5.77

**Reason for SINC selection:**

H1 Woodland



# About the Gabalfa Woods SINC

## Site description:

A linear area of secondary broadleaved woodland on the banks of the River Taff that also originally bordered the lower reaches of the Glamorgan Canal before its infilling. The site is contiguous to the south with the Blackweir and Dock Feeder SINC, which supports similar habitat. The site is isolated to the north and east by development, and is crossed by numerous paths, principally the Taff Trail. Several small streams also flow into the River Taff, adding variety to the habitats within the site. The river, together with the woodlands and green spaces that adjoin it, forms an important corridor for the dispersal and movement of plant and animal species within Cardiff.

## Species recorded at this site leading to SINC selection:

Aspen, Barren Strawberry, Bluebell, Common Figwort, Dog's Mercury, Field Maple, Guelder-rose, Pendulous Sedge, Ramsons, Wood Anemone, Wood Millet, Wood Speedwell, Yellow Pimpernel

## Protected and priority species recorded:

Green Woodpecker, House Sparrow, Kingfisher

## Priority habitat:

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

## Recommendations for management of the site:

WOODLAND: Heavy grazing can suppress the shrub layer and ground flora and hinders natural regeneration and growth of new shoots. Fallen timber can be left for wildlife such as insects, slugs, snails and woodlice, which then provide foods for birds, bats and small mammals. Thinning (the removal of a proportion of the trees) allows the strongest trees to grow in more space, whilst regular rotational coppicing (cutting trees down to stumps to regenerate) helps regeneration producing new shoots to improve structural diversity of the woodland.

## Please note:

This area has been designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation by Cardiff Council. This does not formally protect the site or place any restrictions upon the landowner. This information given is used to ensure that nature conservation is taken into account in planning decisions. This designation itself does not confer any rights of access to the site and places no restriction on the management of the land. □□□ Common plant species names taken from: Stace C (1997), New Flora of the British Isles (second edition), Cambridge University Press



# River Taff

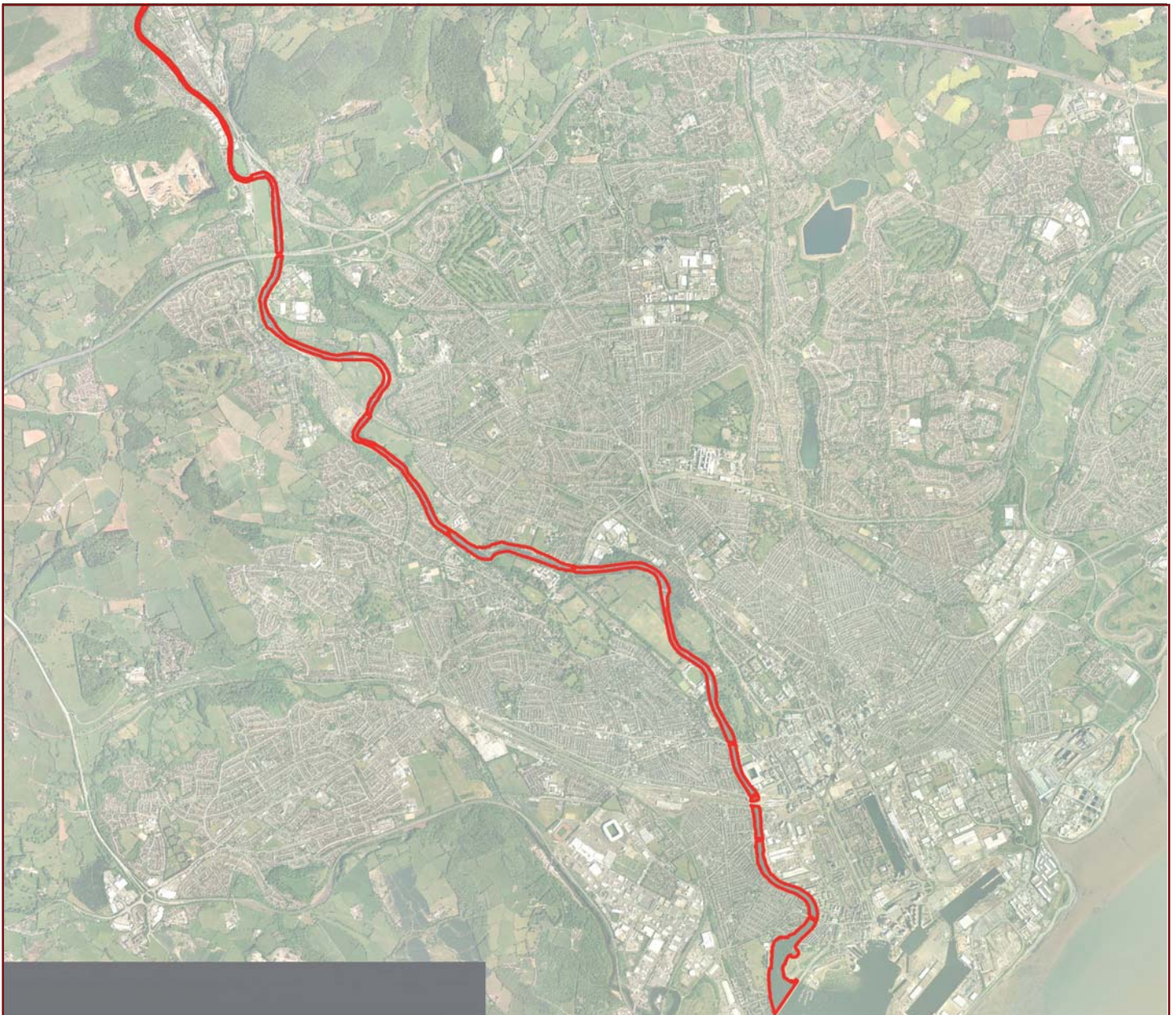
## Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

**Ward:** Butetown, Cathays, Gabalfa, Grangetown, Llandaff, Llandaff North, Pentyrch, Radyr & Morganstown, Riverside, Whitchurch & Tongwynlais

**Grid Reference:** ST17 & ST18

**Area:** 90.44

**Reason for SINC selection:**



# About the River Taff SINC

## Site description:

One of the three main rivers within Cardiff, the River Taff flows from the north to the south of the city, entering Cardiff at Taffs Well and flowing south through Forest farm, Hailey Park, Bute Park and then on through the City finally flowing into Cardiff Bay. The river is important for migratory fish, otters, wildfowl and bankside vegetation and acts as a major wildlife corridor. Bats, otters, Atlantic Salmon, Trout, Grass Snakes and Kingfishers are amongst the diverse species recorded in and around the River Taff SINC. The river is heavily used for recreation with the Taff Trail running alongside much of the river.

## Species recorded at this site leading to SINC selection:

An example of a stretch of a main river where the river bed and bank remains comparatively unmodified and the water is not grossly polluted by long-term sources

## Protected and priority species recorded:

Atlantic Salmon, Black-Headed Gull, Bullfinch, Common Pipistrelle, Grass Snake, Green Woodpecker, Herring Gull, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lesser Black-Backed Gull, Little Egret, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Otter, Pochard, Redshank, Red-Throated Diver, Reed Bunting, Sand Martin, Scaup, Sea Trout, Shelduck, Song Thrush, Soprano Pipistrelle, Speckled Bush Cricket, Stonechat, Teal, Water Rail, White Letter Hairstreak, Yellow Wagtail

## Priority habitat:

River

## Recommendations for management of the site:

WATERCOURSES: Planting vegetation on the bank side helps to stabilise stream and river banks and to act as a barrier in preventing sediment, nutrients and pesticides from entering the watercourse. Excessive undergrowth, trees and tree roots from growing in the channel should be prevented, and livestock kept out of watercourses to reduce bacterial contamination.

## Please note:

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