Frogs Copse Management Plan

Produced by the Parks and Open Spaces of Southampton City Council

(FINAL) May 2022

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1 Vision

For Frogs Copse to offer an attractive, interesting and biodiverse district park. With the local community at its heart, working with the park team to continually improve recreation, biodiversity, events and involvement to ensure the park is welcoming, clean, safe and accessible for all.

2 Introduction

2.1 Management Plan

2.1.1 The purpose of this management plan is to set out a framework to guide the development of Frogs Copse for the future, ensuring that it meets the needs of the whole community, in line with a number of council policies. It should be considered as a "live", workable document that sets out the terms to be applied over the next five years, including an action plan which is subject to annual review and goal setting. This plan covers 2022 to 2026 and will be reviewed at the end of this period.

2.1.2 The management plan has been put together by council staff who have a good knowledge of the park, with input from SO18 Big Local and drawing on feedback from various residents and organisations within the local community.

2.1.3 Southampton City Parks department have adopted the Green Flag Award standard as the best way to manage the parks. This management plan is therefore prepared following the criteria laid out by the Green Flag governing body and follows a set format. It comprises 10 sections. Sections 1 to 10 provide background information to the park. Section 11 is a table of management actions and at the end of the plan is a series of appendices to support the document. This format of the management plan follows a standardised template to help those who are reading and interpreting the plan to understand how the management of the park fits into the Green Flag criteria.

2.1.4 This plan will inform the future running of Frogs Copse, combining City Council Policy and legal requirements with the views of those who live in, work and enjoy the local area around the park.

2.2 Aims

2.2.1 Frogs Copse serves a wide range of functions for the local community. It is a vital component to improving access to the natural environment. The overall character of the park should be recognised and enhanced whilst maintaining and improving the individual components that make it unique. There are four broad aims for the management of Frogs Copse, identified in accordance with the Green Space Strategy and other key city plans:

- Retain and enhance the distinctive quality of the park;
- Provide a park that meets and continues to meet user need, both locally and strategically, through the objectives of the City Council;
- Interpret and promote the park to ensure the benefits it offers are maximised; and
- Ensure the park is accessible to all people from the community.

2.3 Specific Objectives for 2022/23

2.3.1 The following key objectives have been derived from the Green Space Strategy, the draft Parks and Open Spaces business plan and community feedback and provide a focus for management in 2022/23. Specific actions to address these objectives are identified in the action plan in section 11.2.

- Increase community involvement in the management and maintenance of the park by continuing to work closely with SO18 Big Local
- To develop an active Friends of Frogs Copse/Townhill Park group
- To maintain and improve the unique character of Frogs Copse and enhance and interpret the varied biodiversity
- To increase visitor satisfaction in Frogs Copse
- To provide and promote key events in the park, raising environmental awareness and increasing community involvement
- Design and introduce an informal play area to encourage and increase use of the open space by local children

3 A Welcoming Place

3.1 Description of Frogs Copse

3.1.1 Frogs Copse is a seven-hectare open space in Townhill, on the eastern side of the River Itchen. The park is primarily managed to encourage wildlife including bats, birds, invertebrates and reptiles. It has close mown paths taking visitors through the otherwise un-mown grassland. The grassland is left unmown to allow flowers to set seed and flourish and encourage pollinator species such as bees, hoverflies and butterflies.

3.1.2 In spring, there are drifts of daffodils and lesser celandine at the entrances from Northfield Road and Woodmill Lane. There are a number of well-maintained access points into the meadow area of the site. Frogs Copse also has a copse with a woodland stream and a pond; once regularly coppiced, the copse is largely made up of alder, oak and larch. At the Pinefield Road entrance, there are a number of mature, impressive Monterey pines.

3.2 Recreation area

3.2.1 The meadow area of the open space has a small area of short mown grass which is currently used as a “kick-about” area near the Halstead Road entrance. The site is an informal space ideal for dog walkers. A formal play area is located at the Marlhill Close entrance. As part of the Green Infrastructure Management Plan (produced in relation to the Townhill Park re-development), it is proposed that a series of additional informal play features will be introduced across the site; at the time of preparing this draft plan, the locations and design of these is to be finalised. An informal picnic area is proposed which will allow people to take in the elevated views across the city from within the meadow area of the site.

3.3 Health and Safety

3.3.1 All work on Frogs Copse is undertaken in accordance with the health and safety measures set out in the (generic) management plan.

4 Clean and Well Maintained

4.1 Southampton City Council has developed a standardised approach to the ensuring green spaces are kept clean and well maintained and specific details can be found in the (generic) management plan.

5 Environmental Management

5.1 Southampton City Council has developed a range measures to ensure green spaces are managed in a sustainable way and specific details can be found in the (generic) management plan.

6 Conservation and Heritage

6.1 General

6.1.1 It is important that the unique characteristics Frogs Copse are maintained and that the local history is preserved where possible. The park also has rich and varied wildlife interest that should be enhanced and appropriately managed.

6.2 Biodiversity

6.2.1 The Frogs Copse Biodiversity Management Statement is in Appendix 7 and is used to guide habitat management at Frogs Copse. The site is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and as such, is one of the best examples of open spaces within the city.

6.2.2 The meadow, shown as a field on maps dating back to circa.1866, was converted into amenity grassland and open space but has more recently been managed to encourage herbaceous species and develop a more “tussocky” nature. Areas of bramble and bracken scrub are allowed to develop around the meadow boundaries for additional structure. With less intensive grass cutting, over time, the site, will become more valuable for wildlife.

6.2.3 Part of the copse area of the site is classed as “Ancient Woodland”, meaning the copse has been wooded since at least 1600AD. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat and the copse contains a number of “Ancient Woodland Indicator Species” including bluebell, wood anemone and wild cherry. Vandalism of the woodland (including biking, fires and garden waste dumping) has unfortunately led to severe damage of the copse. Positive management however, including some coppicing in the northern part of the site, has resulted in a diverse ground flora and allowed the persistence of some ancient woodland indicator species.

6.2.4 A series of surveys, carried out as part of the Townhill Park Redevelopment project, have identified a number of potential bat roosts within mature trees in the copse and the meadow. There is suitability for a range of species including birds, invertebrates, small and large mammals and reptiles. Ad-hoc sightings of wildlife are diverse and include UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species, along with a number of local notable species including, song thrush, bullfinch, buttoned snout moth, various bat species, stag beetle and local priority species including slow-worm and green and purple hairstreak butterflies.

6.3 Heritage - Brief History of the Park

6.3.1 The area now known as Frogs Copse shows up on historical maps pre-1940 as being a large field, interspersed with trees and divided by hedgerows. It was once farmland attached Townhill House, managed by Lower Townhill Farm. The wet area of the site north-west of the woodland) was probably a farm pond which was culverted when the Cutbush housing estate was constructed. The land was sold to Southampton City Council in the 1940’s and the housing estate was built around Frogs Copse in the late

1950's. The wooded area of the site appears on maps dating back to 1870 and is likely it has been continuously wooded. Some of the site, particularly in the south near Cornwall Road, experienced bomb damage during World War 2.

7 Community Involvement

7.1 Friends' Group

7.1.1 A Friends of Frogs Copse/Cutbush Hidden Pond group will be developed with help from SO18 Big Local and SCC Hawthorns staff.

7.2 Feedback about the site

7.3 A "User Feedback Form" is included in this plan. This form ensures a consistent approach tis taken by the council to record feedback across all the council's Green Flag parks (see Appendix 8).

7.4 Public Consultation

7.4.2 The council ran a public consultation exercise in May 2021. Questions were designed to ascertain the reasons people visited the site, how often they visited and for what purpose. Comments were also invited in relation to the future management of the site and what people wanted out of Frigs Copse. The results of that public consultation have been taken on board within the Action Plan (11.1).

8 Marketing

8.1 Website and social media

8.1.1 Frogs Copse can be found on the Council website, with basic information being given about its location and what facilities are there.

8.2 Events

8.2.1 Events are advertised in local press and in posters, leaflets and newsletters. Events in Frogs Copse will be used to promote the park more widely.

8.2.2 All events are publicised through the Discover Southampton web site which is set up through a partnership with the Council and local businesses http://www.discoversouthampton.co.uk/visit/whats-on They are also locally advertised in the information boards in the park.

9 Management

9.1 Routine maintenance

9.1.1 Routine management work, which currently consists of regular mowing of the footpaths and picnic area and ensuring entrances are clear and the site is accessible is undertaken by the Ecology team.

9.1.2 The play area is maintained by the Landscape Team.

9.1.3 Bins are emptied and maintained by the Maintenance Team (eastern).

9.1.4 The Engagement and Ecology team also will/has undertaken a range of conservation tasks with volunteers which includes scrub coppicing, removal of tree saplings from the meadow and cutting back raspberries.

9.1.5 The information board is maintained by SO18 Big Local.

10 **Actions and Recommendations**

10.1 Measuring success and progress towards Green Flag criteria.

10.1.1 The following action plan provides targets and goals to work to ensuring continual improvement of the park. It includes actions for all stakeholders and our successes are recognised within the “Progress/Comments” section of the plan.

11.1 Action plan for 2022-2026

11.2.1 This action plan is a dynamic working document that is reviewed and updated annually. Some proposed actions are inspirational and will depend upon sourcing adequate funding, in collaboration with the Friends of Frogs Copse/Townhill Park. Some of the proposed management in the table is derived from Capita's Townhill Park Regeneration Green Infrastructure (GI) Mitigation drawing (reference: LA 000 700 dated 12th December 2015). Although the plan has been ordered according to Green Flag criteria, several of the actions fall under more than one heading.

Action	**Lead officer**	**Key partners and consultees**	**Estimated resource required and source of funding**	**Target Completion date** *(Reference to Phases is taken from the Capita GI Mitigation drawing)*	**Progress/Comments**
Welcoming Place					
Signage strategically located around the Townhill redevelopment area to direct people to Frogs Copse	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open Spaces	S106 funded	Phase 1, 2 & 3 mitigation – Before September 2022	Develop existing designs from Shoreburs Greenway
Waymarking signs. Located at Woodmill Lane and Marlhill Close entrances	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open Spaces	S106 funded	Phase 1 & 2 mitigation	Waymarking signs to include location of all access points into the site
Interpretation signs. To include "you are here" marker and biodiversity information (specific to where the sign is located) x 2 signs	Lindsay McCulloch	Hawthorns Engagement Officers, SO18 BL	tba	2022	Use same design as signs at Shoreburs. One sign to provide interpretation for the meadow area and another sign to cover the ancient woodland area
Regularly mown area near Halstead Road entrance to provide informal "picnic area"	Andy Welch	SCC Ecology Team	S106 funded	Phase 1 mitigation Ongoing	This area will need to be added to the mowing maps

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date *(Reference to Phases is taken from the Capita GI Mitigation drawing)*	Progress/Comments
Introduce a “nature trail”	Lindsay McCulloch	Hawthorns, SCC Open Spaces	HLS, S106 funded	Phase 1 mitigation	
Introduce natural play areas (three locations around the boundary – exact locations and design to be confirmed)	Matthew Lovell	Hawthorns, SO18 Big Local, SCC Open Spaces	S106 funded	Phases 1 (late spring 2022), 2 & 3 mitigation	Mill fully working and log grab in place to start producing these items and installing target for end of June 2022 to allow access to the site
Surface East/West footpath between Kingsdown Way and Woodmill Lane	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open Spaces, Lindsay McCulloch, Nick Yeats	S106 funded	Phase 1 mitigation	Completed 2020
Footpath from Meggeson Avenue to Frogs Copse	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open Spaces, Lindsay McCulloch, Nick Yeats	S106 funded	Phase 3 mitigation	
Improve existing north-south footpath along western edge of the copse to ensure it can be used all year round – install drainage in boggy area. Access by pushchairs and wheelchairs needed	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open Spaces, Lindsay McCulloch, Nick Yeats	Revenue	2022	Feedback from number of people points to the need for improving the surface of the path (where it dips the path gets too muddy to pass)
“Meadow” planting along northern, eastern and southern-eastern edges of the copse within the formal amenity grassland (at Kingsdown Way entrance, footpath entrance of Meggeson Avenue and Marlhill Close entrance	Matthew Lovell and Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open Spaces, Lindsay McCulloch, Nick Yeats	Green City Wildflower Capital Funding	2022/23	Cuckoo flower and other wildflower species suitable for damper conditions were planted during a volunteer event in April 2022

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date *(Reference to Phases is taken from the Capita GI Mitigation drawing)*	Progress/Comments
Review accessibility at entrance created at Old Farm Drive to stop motorbike access	Nick Yeats	SCC Open Spaces, Matthew Lovell, Cliff Brown, Nick Yeats	tba	2023	This is a city-wide issue that needs to be tackled with help from the police and City Welfare Officers.
Natural style benches around the edges of the site	Matthew Lovell	SO18 BL, SCC Open Spaces	SCC Open Spaces	2022	To be constructed from logs. To be located near to informal play areas – exact number and locations to be determined
Healthy, safe and secure					
Formal play area at Marlhill Close has been updated with play equipment from Ozier Road. This will be removed once it has come to the end of its life in terms of safety	Matthew Lovell	SCC Open Spaces	tba	Phase 2 mitigation	
Remove vegetation from steps leading up to fixed play area and along drainage gulley north of steps to improve drainage and reduce flooding	Matthew Lovell Martin Willcox	SCC Open Spaces	Area Ops Team Budget	2022	
Clean and well maintained					
Remove fly tipping in woodland	Community Campaigns Officer	SCC (Trees and Open Spaces), local community, SO18 Big Local, Campaigns Officer	n/a	Phase 2 mitigation	Could get volunteers to help once majority of fly tipping has been removed Need support from Area Team

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date *(Reference to Phases is taken from the Capita GI Mitigation drawing)*	Progress/Comments
Review the positions of the bins. At least one bin requires re-positioning as it was installed the wrong way round. Empty bins on frequent basis	Martin Willcox/ Matthew Lovell	SCC Open Spaces	SCC Open Spaces	Ongoing	These have tended to not be emptied on a sufficiently regular basis and have also become overgrown
Signs at Woodmill Lane and Marlhill Close entrances to include "clean up after your dog, no fires, bbq's etc".	Community Campaign Officer	SCC Open Spaces, SO18 Big Local, Cliff Brown	n/a	2022	Dog fouling is a significant issue
Mowing of pathways across the meadow and along edge of the copse, management of meadow and woodland, management of scrub encroachment and tree lines etc.	Andy Welch	SCC Open Spaces	n/a	First mow took place mid-Feb 2021 Ongoing	Confirmation needed and communicated of who is responsible for what management and maintenance aspects (ie. bins and entrances management – pathway and habitat management)
Mowing and maintenance of vegetation around bins and entrances	Martin Willcox	SCC Open Spaces	n/a	Ongoing	Confirmation needed and communicated of who is responsible for what management and maintenance aspects (ie. bins and entrances management – pathway and habitat management)
Provide additional bin at Kingsdown Way entrance	Martin Willcox	SCC Open Spaces	SCC Open Spaces	2022	
Sustainability					
All green waste is recycled. It is either collected and shredded for use as mulch or composted on site	Martin Willcox	SCC Open Spaces	n/a	Ongoing	

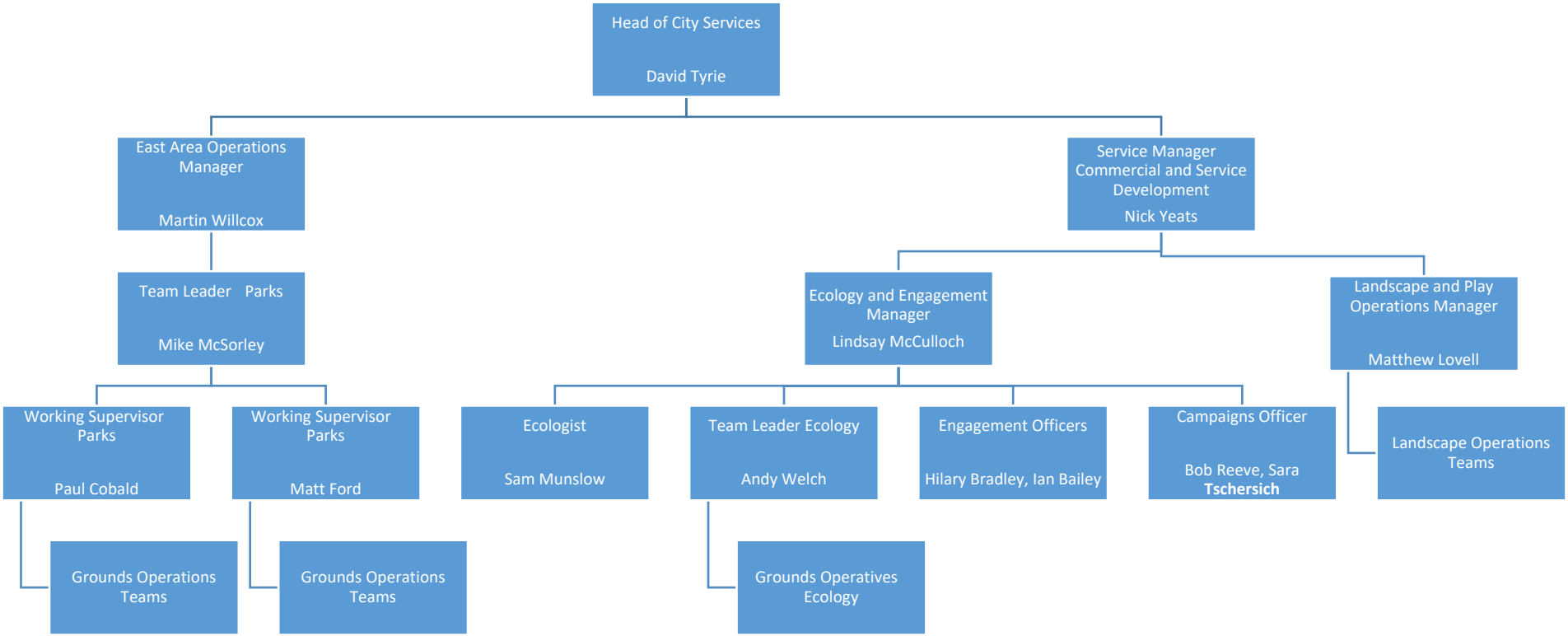
Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date *(Reference to Phases is taken from the Capita GI Mitigation drawing)*	Progress/Comments
The use of chemical products is minimised as much as possible by correct application	Martin Willcox	SCC Open Spaces	n/a	Ongoing	Council are revisiting their pesticide policy.
Safe working procedures are in place when using pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers	Martin Willcox	SCC Open Spaces	n/a	Ongoing	
Only chemicals from an approved list are used	Martin Willcox	SCC Open Spaces	n/a	Ongoing	
Conservation and heritage					
Strengthen planting along eastern woodland edge to discourage access into the copse	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open spaces	HLS part funded (HC16)	Phase 1 mitigation	
Coppice selected trees in copse to encourage development of a ground flora and successional areas of scrub to enhance habitat diversity	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open spaces	HLS part funded (HC16)		Check deer grazing pressure
Remove selected sycamore trees within copse	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open spaces	HLS part funded (HC16)		
Clear along western and southern boundaries of copse to encourage streamside vegetation to colonise	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open spaces	HLS part funded (HC16)		
Continue management of meadow for invertebrates and reptiles to ensure retains tussocky nature	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open spaces	HLS part funded (HK16)	Ongoing	
Removal of saplings within meadow areas to avoid succession into woodland	Lindsay McCulloch	SCC Open Spaces	(HLS part funded (HK16)	Ongoing	Volunteer task

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date *(Reference to Phases is taken from the Capita GI Mitigation drawing)*	Progress/Comments
Actively manage raspberry bushes along eastern edge of meadow (and western edge of the copse)	Community Campaigns Officer	SCC Open spaces, Campaigns Officer, Hawthorns Engagement Officers, SO18 BL	n/a	2022 and ongoing	Volunteer task
Community involvement					
Develop and support a Friends of group and be guided by them to prioritise spending of S106 money	Hilary Bradley	SO18 Big Local, Hawthorns Engagement Officers, Campaigns Officer.	n/a	2021/2022 – ongoing	Various community engagement events during 2021 and 2022 to try and establish contacts for Friends of group (in part)
Participation in wildlife species surveys such as reptile, butterfly, moth, bird, bat walks, other invertebrate surveys and a Bioblitz	Ian Bailey	Hawthorns, SO18 Big Local, Friends of, SNHS (and/or other local group/s), Better Neighbourhoods	n/a	2022/2023	Bat walk taking place in August 2022
Nature days	Ian Bailey	Friends of, SO18 Big Local, Hawthorns	n/a	Ongoing	Three nature-focussed community engagement events took place on 5th, 12th and 19th August 2021 – lead by SO18 BL, supported by SCC
Encourage local schools to use parks as a learning resource	Ian Bailey	SO18 Big Local, Hawthorns	n/a	Ongoing	

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date *(Reference to Phases is taken from the Capita GI Mitigation drawing)*	Progress/Comments
Regular litter picks	Community Campaigns Officer	Friends of, SO18 Big Local, Hawthorns Engagement Officers	n/a	Ongoing	Timing dependant on formation of Friends of group
Marketing					
Ensure the council website is kept up to date with Frogs Copse information and event updates and advertise where appropriate	Hilary Bradley	Hawthorns Engagement Officers, SO18 BL, Comms	n/a	Ongoing	Social Media, website, Facebook - identify all appropriate marketing methods
Leaflet drop to local residents of new estate to raise awareness of Frogs Copse as an amenity resource	Hilary Bradley	Hawthorns, SO18 Big Local, Friends of	n/a	Phases 1, 2 & 3 mitigation	
Inclusion of Frogs Copse on permanent local area maps within Townhill redevelopment	Nick Yeats	SO18 Big Local, Hawthorns Engagement Officers	tba	Phases 1, 2 & 3 mitigation	
Management					
To be developed					

Appendix 1 – Staff Structure

Staff Structure



Appendix 2 – Example Risk Assessment

Volunteer Risk Assessment										
Description of Job/Task being assessed:	Volunteer Conservation & Monitoring Tasks									
Directorate	Transactions & Universal Services		Division	City Services	Section	Environment and Ecology	Risk Assessor(s)			
Ref no	001	Location/Site	Various				Date	November 2021		

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
Unfamiliar location **General emergency**	Staff & Volunteers	Task Leaders to give a full Health and Safety briefing at the beginning of each session with a designated muster point decided and communicated Volunteers are reminded to stay in sight of the group Task Leaders to be aware of nearest accident emergency hospital First aid kit and first aider must always be on site. First aid kits are checked to ensure all items relevant to the task are present and in date		Task Leader Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Med	

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
		A charged mobile phone should always be available All Task Leaders to ensure volunteers have understood and confirmed receipt of safety instructions in writing before they start work by signing in with their arrival time. Monitor activity and adherence to safety instructions throughout the task All accidents/incidents and near misses should be reported and recorded in appropriate log. A member of staff must log any incidents reported on to SCC's HSMS						
Lone Working	Staff and Volunteers Injury/personal attack	Lone working should be discouraged wherever possible Ensure Task Leaders know where volunteers are working Any volunteers that are asked to work alone should have a fully charged mobile phone Volunteers are told to avoid any confrontation with members of the public, refer them to the task leader if applicable and leave the scene immediately Keep personal valuables out of sight Task Leader to carry out a head count when changing location, at break times and at the end of every session if applicable Any violence or abuse should be reported to the Task Leader and then a member of		Task Leader Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Med	

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
		staff must log this incident on SCC's HSMS						
Manual Handling	Staff & Volunteers Musculoskeletal injury	Volunteers to be briefed prior to commencement of task, explain basic manual handling techniques. Volunteers to avoid lifting heavy loads on their own and ask for help or use mechanical aids. Avoid twisting/straining Volunteers to take regular breaks during the session		Task Leaders Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Med	
Slips Trips & Falls	Employees and volunteers Cuts, grazes, bruising and fractures Wet or uneven ground	Staff to wear safety footwear. Volunteers advised in writing prior to event to wear appropriate, sturdy footwear Safety talk to advise of risks and any areas that should be avoided Site surveyed prior to starting task. Task Leaders to discuss terrain and any areas of the site that volunteers should be aware of		Task Leaders Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Med	
Hand tools	Employees and volunteers Cuts, skin punctures, bruising, crushing	Inspect hand tools before and after each use, tools to be maintained in good working order Provide users with any safety information and only use the correct tool for the task being carried out Wear appropriate hand protection for the tasks. If wet, leather gloves are not permitted for use with swinging tools		Task Leaders Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Low	

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
		Ensure a firm and stable stance/base and wear appropriate footwear for the task All unused equipment to be stored in a designated place; volunteers to use only what is necessary to avoid excess equipment lying around First aid kit available						
Working near power tools	Employees, volunteers and members of the public Injury from flying debris Noise	Cone/tape or cordon off area where power tools are being used. Volunteers to maintain a safe distance from marked area All to take particular care to keep area safe and tidy	Volunteers to be issued with earplugs for use when near machinery	Task Leaders Volunteers	Before next applicable task		Low	
Removal of vegetation at low level and above ground level	Employees and volunteers Puncture wounds from hidden hazards i.e broken glass Scrapes, puncture wounds, cuts from vegetation Eye injury from low vegetation, including grasses, low branches and saw dust Strains from overreaching	Appropriate protective gloves and goggles to be issued to all volunteers Site checked for potential hazards prior to starting task by Task Leaders		Task Leaders	Each volunteer task		Low	

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
	Injury caused by falling vegetation (branches) Improper use of tools, including loppers and sawsAllergy to some plant types							
Working by water	Employees and volunteers Slips, trips and falls causing drowning, ingestion of dirty water, cuts and abrasions Injury from submerged items Hypothermia Weil's disease	Survey site prior to activity. Check bank for hazards and ascertain depth of water and any uneven ground or vegetation that may be a trip hazard No lone working around water sites a minimum of two volunteers and buddy system in place Throw bag to be available if water is above 1 metre or is moving water Do not undertake work if water levels are abnormally high or fast Sturdy footwear with good grip and appropriate clothing must be worn Any existing cuts and abrasions must be covered with waterproof dressing, use of barrier cream Close supervision by Task Leader to ensure volunteer welfare Hand washing facilities available and thorough hand washing at home strongly advised Information provided for signs of infection that could occur after the event	If work is taking place after dark there must be a separate risk assessment	Task Leader Volunteers	Each volunteer task			

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
Hot / Cold Weather Injuries **Strong winds**	Employees and volunteers. Sun burn/Heat Stroke Chills/excessive cold Falling dead wood, swaying trees	Sun block provided Drinking water available Information sent with details of task. Appropriate clothing advised - Layers of warm, waterproof clothing in winter, or thin light clothing preferably with sleeves, sunhat in the summer	A dynamic risk assessment should be carried out prior to stating any task and throughout. In severe weather work should be stopped. Woodland work to be avoided in strong winds Volunteers to be monitored and advised to stop work if too hot/cold	Task Leader Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Low	
Working after dark	Employees and volunteers: Injury by hidden hazards including trips and falls Eye injury from vegetation Activities of others	Area to be checked in daylight and potential hazards to be identified or removed When able torch or other artificial light should be used No lone working, groups to stay together at all times Task to be abandoned if risks deemed too high	High visibility jackets to be worn	Task Leader Volunteers	Before next applicable task			
Dogs and other animals	Employees and volunteers: Bites Toxocariasis caused by ingestion of faeces	All staff and volunteers to be made aware of possible dog activity Hand washing facilities made available at all tasks. Care should be taken before eating/drinking/smoking. Seek medical attention if any symptoms occur		Task Leader Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Low	
Insect bites	Employees and volunteers Swelling Allergy/Anaphylactic shock	Cone/tape or cordon off any areas with known nests Volunteers to report any allergies before task commences including necessary treatment/emergency contact		Volunteers Task Leader	Each volunteer task		Low/med	

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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
	Lyme's disease	Advise against bare skin and thorough check after task Safety talk to include risk of Lyme's disease and how to safely remove ticks Volunteers advised to monitor area of skin and general health closely for up to six weeks after task has finished if they get a tick bite and to seek medical attention if any symptoms occur						
Working near the road	Noise Pollution Accident with a moving vehicle	Minimise time spent by the roadside Banksman required for vehicle movement Work signs and cones to be used to set up work site	High visibility jackets to be worn	Task Leader Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Med	
Litter	Cuts, scrapes infections	Appropriate gloves to be issued to all volunteers Litter pickers and hoops to be used If larger items have to be picked up by hand they need to be inspected for hidden sharps, soiling or vermin beforehand by using a litter picker or other suitable equipment (e.g. spade/fork) Volunteers to alert Task Leader to any sharps (such as needles) that need removing. Any suspicious bags/items should also be reported to Task Leader and not touched/moved by volunteers Sharps box to be available Hand washing facilities to be available		Task Leader Volunteers	Each volunteer task		Low/med	

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done	Residual Risk	RAG
Line manager (print/sign):		Date	November 2021	Next Review Date		September 2022		
Line manager (print/sign):		Date	September 2022	Next Review Date				
Line manager (print/sign):		Date		Next Review Date				
Volunteer Lead (print/sign)		Date						

Appendix 3 – Key Stakeholders

List of Key Stakeholders in Frogs Copse

Local Councillors

Friends of Frogs Copse/Cutbush Pond (to be developed)

SO18 Big Local

Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

The Police

Southampton City Council Parks Department

Southampton City Council Open Spaces Department

Appendix 4 – Location Map

Frogs Copse

Southampton City Council

20/12/2021

Appendix 5 – Phase 1 Habitat Map

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Appendix 6 - Existing Mowing Regime Map

Plan showing approximate locations of footpaths on Frogs Copse

Appendix 7 - Biodiversity Management Statement

Site name: Frogs Copse and Meadow

Boundary: Woodmill Lane (west), Cornwall Road (south), Northfield Road/Old Farm Drive (north), Marlhill Close/Copse Road/Longmead Road/Kingsdown Way (east).

Central Grid Reference: SU44791478

Area: 7 hectares

Bedrock: Sand (meadow). Bagshot sands/London clay (woodland)

Neighbourhood area: East

Designation: Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Public Open Space. Natural Greenspace. HLS.

Legally Protected species: Bat species (various), badger, slow-worm, nesting birds (various).

UK BAP Species: Song thrush, bullfinch, buttoned snout moth, bat species

Hampshire BAP species: Buttoned snout moth, bullfinch, song thrush and stag beetle

Hampshire Priority Habitat: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (part of the woodland is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory)

Local Priority Wildlife: Slow-worm, large trees, butterfly species (including green and purple hairstreak, meadow brown, marbled white and red admiral) and bird species (including carrion crow, robin, chiffchaff and blackbird)

Other noteworthy species regularly recorded: Breeding common frog, golden ringed dragonfly, grey wagtail. A total of 14 ancient woodland indicator species were recorded in the 2017 HBIC SINC survey (mainly limited to the ancient woodland area of the copse)

Species recorded as occasional visitors/vagrants: Waxwing, redpoll, white admiral butterfly, hummingbird hawkmoth, small grass emerald moth

Important habitats: Remnant ancient woodland, alder woodland, wet flush, acid scrub, rough improved grassland

Notes on Public use:
The lack of any on-site lighting (although there is considerable night-glow from surrounding areas) enables bats to feed and (likely) roost across the park. High levels of disturbance (including vandalism) have led to habitat degradation in the copse. The entire site is used by dog walkers/walkers and there are currently a number of entrances (both formal and informal) around all site boundaries. Dog fouling is common across the meadow area.

Community group stakeholders:
SO18 Big Local involvement to date (there is currently no Friends of group - this needs developing). Bitterne Park Secondary School and the Schools Conservation Volunteers have carried out some work in the past.

Major concerns for management:
The eastern boundary of the woodland is particularly vulnerable to increased access with associated dumping of garden rubbish, vandalism (including fires), severe ground erosion from cycles and motorbikes and is also subject to rough sleepers resulting in “make-shift” camps. This extensive access into the woodland has led to significant damage to the majority of the ancient woodland flora and pond and significant disturbance to the badger sett (many sett entrances have been blocked up with logs/rubbish). Topography of the woodland floor has been altered to make “cycle jumps”. Lack of woodland management has resulted in sycamores taking over from the native hazels and alder, with saplings shading out the acid scrub and grassland and species supported by these habitat types (ie. Green hairstreak and common blue butterfly).

Management change opportunities:
Creation of “edge” effect around the boundaries of the “meadow” and wooded areas (north-east and east).

Varied mowing regimes of the “meadow” to encourage wild flowers and provide refuge areas. Positive management is already taking place but more regular mowing in some areas of the site would create greater structural/habitat diversity and lead to a higher herb presence. Sowing of yellow rattle would reduce dominance of grasses. Increase mowing in some areas of meadow to two/three times per year to encourage herb species. Scarifying some areas of the grassland to break up the thatch and soil surface to provide greater opportunities for herbs (discreet areas only to ensure site retains suitability for slow-worm population). Removal of tree saplings within meadow areas is, and will continue to be needed, to ensure meadow remains open and does not succeed to scrub/woodland.

Infill planting with scrub species between the existing hedgerows to provide a more continuous habitat and protect boundaries (focussing on the eastern woodland edge in the first instance to reduce access into the copse). Restoration of stream and pond by removal of silt. Removal of invasive species including

sycamore from the woodland to encourage alder woodland and acid scrub regeneration, (particularly along the edge of the stream) and removal of Himalayan balsam from the copse. Consider removal of oaks in the centre of the site which are part of a remnant central hedgerow.

Community involvement opportunities:
Pond restoration and clearance of saplings from the stream and acid scrub areas. Himalayan balsam pulling. Participation in wildlife species surveys such as reptile, butterfly, moth, bird, bat walks, other invertebrate surveys, a bioblitz.

The site needs a Friends of Frogs Copse group.

Biodiversity Statement

In order to improve the biodiversity on this site the following actions are recommended:

Continue with the current height of mowing across the majority of the grassland areas of the site to encourage a longer sward and therefore species diversity of flora and fauna. The sward height grades from short to longer along the edges of the informal “pathways”. The width of these informal pathways should be around five metres (depending on the space available and the species present).

Clear along western and southern boundaries of copse to encourage streamside and acid scrub/grassland flora and fauna.

Thin the canopy in the woodland around the two ponds (flushes) to enable wetland habitat to develop. Coppicing to take place within the southern and western areas of the woodland (this has been carried out in the norther and north-western sections of the copse already).

Remove selected sycamore trees to encourage native species regeneration and to reduce seed drop.

Strengthen the boundary along the southern and eastern boundaries to reduce public access and levels of vandalism. Encourage access to the meadow area by installing “informal” play areas around the edges, away from the tussocky grassland).

Remove fly tipped rubbish and garden waste. Encourage local awareness of the importance of the site for wildlife and to provide a sense of pride. Friends of Group will help deliver this aim.

Other proposals: Interpretation boards (x4) within the meadow and edge of woodland. Signs to the site to lead residents to Frogs Copse. “Meadow” planting along northern, eastern and southern-eastern edges of the copse within the formal amenity grassland. (Refer to Capita drawing reference 000-700-P3 dated 21st December 2015).

Consider how the site could be linked to Riverside Park/Townhill Park/Bitterne Park/Meggeson Pond via signage and planting – link actions to Green Grid (part of Green City Plan).

Appendix 8 – Green Flag Feedback

If you would like to make any comments about this park or green space or would like to make specific suggestions and recommendations for the management plan, please complete this form or email comments to parksandstreetcleansing.services@southampton.gov.uk

Name of Park _____

Comments

If you would like to be involved in the ongoing development of this management plan and the park then please provide your contact details, which will be used solely for the purpose of contact with regards to your input into this park.

Your Name:_____

Please return this form FAO Lindsay McCulloch, Parks and Open Spaces, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY

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