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Foreword

Daventry District Council, in partnership with Daventry Norse is committed to ensuring Daventry Country Park is a welcoming, safe and clean place for visitors.

The management plan sets out the partnership’s goals and expectations for developing Daventry Country Park over the next 5 years. Conservation and heritage of the site is important to the partnership and the management plan has been developed to assist in the planning of site maintenance to ensure that all methods are environmentally sustainable and in line with our Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.

The park is a popular place for visitors and regularly receives positive feedback from users. Organised activities are always well attended and the partnership has a good relationship with the Friends group who is also committed to supporting the work of the partnership in protecting, preserving and promoting Daventry Country Park.

We are proud of our park and have faith that we deliver a much-improved green space for all users whilst placing the park in a strong position to attract new users through our planned maintenance and improvement schedule.

Cllr Alan Hills
Community, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Daventry District Council
Partners
Whilst this Plan has been written by Daventry District Council, it has been developed following consultation and partnership work with key partners.

Daventry District Council, Community Team
The Community Team is committed to preserving and enhancing Daventry Country Park and network of green spaces. The team concentrates on community aspects within the park and future improvements, responsible for the parks refurbishment projects, either full or partial. In each project, the team sees the process through from inception to completion, including identifying and securing funding, managing contractors on site and liaising with project partners and the Friends group.

Daventry Norse
In June 2018, Daventry District Council entered into a partnership with Daventry Norse to carry out the Neighbourhood Environmental Services, including refuse collections, recycling, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and parks services.

With regard to Daventry Country Park, Daventry Norse are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the park such as grass cutting, litter picking, leaf collecting, structural maintenance, play equipment inspections and maintenance and the Ranger service, whilst Daventry District Council remain responsible for the infrastructure of the park and the maintenance of the buildings.

Friends of Daventry Country Park
Formed in 2000, the Friends of Daventry Country Park are an independent community organisation that has developed a strong working relationship with the Partnership.

The aims of the Friends of Daventry Country Park include
• To develop a broad spectrum of educational and cultural activities at Daventry Country Park for the whole community, near and far, to enjoy;
• To promote and support the work of the Rangers in wildlife care and woodland management;
• To ensure Daventry Country Park is a safe, clean and pleasurable place for visitors of all ages, especially young people and families;
• To help promote the knowledge of wildlife and nature in general at Daventry Country Park;
• To promote knowledge of traditional farming methods, rural crafts, rare breed animals, conservation and ecological issues of all types.

The Friends have been integral to the development of Daventry Country Park by supporting a range of activities and improvements.

Canal and River Trust
The Canal and River Trust is a charity entrusted to care for 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales. In 1994, Daventry District Council entered into a 25 year lease of land and sailing etc. rights at Daventry Reservoir. The lease comprises land an area of 23 acres surrounding the reservoir including Reservoir Cottage but excluding the sluice and overflow weir. The lease will be renewed in January 2020, any amendments to the lease may have an effect on the management plan and new provisions will be put into place.

The Canal and River Trust regularly maintains and monitors the reservoir and water levels while Daventry District Council has responsibility for the surrounding land and buildings.
Executive summary

This plan has been prepared by the partnership, led by Daventry District Council, and takes on the key issues for the service covering the period from April 2018 until March 2023. Consultation is an ongoing process with the key partners and service users and the management plan will be reviewed annually with regular updates to the work plans as required.

The plan is designed to cover the three key areas of management – Landscape Heritage, Environmental Conservation and Visitor Management. The plan sets out its principle management objectives and provides a detailed work programme of site management. The aim of the plan is to continue to improve and enhance visitor’s enjoyment and understanding whilst maintaining and improving the biodiversity of the site.

This Plan complements the wider strategic context of other Partnership plans, policies and initiatives. It seeks to achieve the objectives of the strategic framework by translating those that are appropriate to the park. Plans, policies and procedures listed below are available on the website (www.daventrydc.gov.uk)

- Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2020
- Daventry District Community Strategy 2017-2020
- Public Spaces Protection Order

1. Site Details

1.1 Location

Daventry Country Park is centred on the old Daventry Reservoir which is one of two reservoirs in Daventry. The site presents itself as a unique opportunity for recreational use, situated in the urban fringe and well located in relation to the principal traffic system, within walking distance of the town centre and a large part of the town. The Park adjoins the A425, Northern Way; the main entrance for vehicles. Pedestrian access is available from Northern Way, Osprey Drive and Eastern Way.

West Bay and South End of the reservoir and the area of land surrounding is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. This part of the park is particularly rich in natural resources and presents an opportunity for the maintenance of an area where local people and visitors alike can observe an abundant variety of plants and wildfowl in undisturbed surroundings.

Site Address: Daventry Country Park, Northern Way, Daventry NN11 2JB

Area: 67 hectares (28ha of Reservoir)

Grid Reference: SP57769642 (Visitors Centre)

Owner: Daventry District Council and Canal and River Trust

Planning Authority: Daventry District Council

Nature of Legal Interest: Reservoir and Reservoir Cottage leased from the Canal & Rivers Trust on a 25 year agreement from January 2020.

Access: There is full, free public access to the entire site.
1.2 Site proposals
September 2018, a reserved matters application for phase 4B country park extension was approved with conditions. More information on the application can be viewed on the planning portal using Reference number DA/2018/0475.

Plans to develop Daventry town to include a canal arm from the Oxford canal north of the country park towards Eastern way following the current path of the east side reservoir have now ceased.

1.3 Access & Signage
There is full, free public access to the entire site. As the population of Daventry town increases, a number of new housing estates have been built around the park. Careful liaison by the partnership and developers has ensured the provision of safe and attractive cycle ways, pedestrian footpaths, bridleways and an underpass all aiding easy and welcoming access to the Country Park. Local residents generally visit on foot via the main entrance off Northern Way or the southern entrance from the Eastern Way underpass, whilst other residents and visitors travel by car and parking and public conveniences are available onsite. The Monksmoor Park housing development to the north-west of the park includes the provision for green links into the country park; these have been approved and are being installed by the developers to include two additional entrances to the country park from Monksmoor Park (DA/2019/0005)
Vehicular access in the park is not permitted further than the main car park (except for works maintenance vehicles). During the summer months an overflow car park can be opened in Northern field, adjacent to the play area. There are 3 allocated disabled parking bays at the entrance of the car park. Brown and white tourist directional signs have been strategically placed to improve identification and are located at all main roads leading into Daventry and in the centre of Daventry the signs are located at roundabouts. The main entrance is clearly signed on Northern Way.

Cyclists are permitted to use the site, though cycling in front of the visitor centre and the café is discouraged in the interests of safety. There are bicycle stands available outside the visitors centre for the safe storage of bicycles while using this area of the park.

The park is well served by public transport on Wimbourne Place (125 metres from the country park entrance with buses running to and from Daventry town centre every hour).
Several miles of flat accessible footpaths are organised into three main routes allowing visitors into most areas of the Park. Access gates, toilets, visitors’ centre and cafe are opened at 9.00am and are closed at 5pm in summer and 4pm in winter. The café closes later during the summer months and at weekends if increased demand is evident.

In 2018, planning permission was submitted to Daventry District Council for the access routes to and from the Country Park from the new Monksmoor residential development. The proposals include two new access routes incorporating timber bridges to facilitate access over the existing ditch. It is proposed that the links will be constructed to the Monksmoor boundary with 6 months from receipt of approval and will be maintained by the Monksmoor Community Interest Company.

There are no current restrictions relating to access for dogs, although visitors are asked to keep their dogs under control at all times and on a lead whilst outside the visitors centre and café area.

There is a formally designated Nature Reserve, upon which access is restricted by a physical barrier of vegetation and is centred on the open water and the marshy margins of the reservoir.

Once in the park, notice boards are located giving up to date information, guidance and safety information. Daventry District Council has awarded additional capital funding to improve the signage around the country park installing a new woodland walk trail and replacing all finger sign posts to serve as way-marking for the circular walks and locates features in the park.

Equal access for all is promoted with the park by the following.

- A network of aggregate graded footpaths
- Toilet facilities (RADAR key access)
- Ample hardback seating
- Access ramps where possible
- Accessible play facilities
- Accessible picnic benches

The Country Park is maintained and developed taking into account the wide variety of users and as part of our continual improvement, the pond dipping platforms and bridge hide have been replaced and new access routes created to ensure good access for all. Further funding has been secured to resurface the circular paths and replace the bridges and Walkway Marsh.
1.4 Byelaws and Legislation
The Country Park has specific by-laws relating to it, Byelaws made under section 41 of the Countryside Act 1968 by Daventry District Council (copy available on request).

There is other legislation that enables enforcement action to be taken. Officers regularly patrol the park and have powers to issue on the spot penalty fines for issues such as dog fouling and the dropping of litter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Relevance to green space</th>
<th>Responsible organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dog Control Orders</td>
<td>Dog fouling, fines and disposal.</td>
<td>Daventry District Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime and Disorder Act</td>
<td>Community safety e.g. anti-social behaviour and ‘sight lines’</td>
<td>Northamptonshire Police and Daventry District Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupiers Liability Act</td>
<td>Health &amp; safety of visitors.</td>
<td>Daventry District Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Traffic Act (various)</td>
<td>Illegal access by motorcyclists.</td>
<td>Northamptonshire Police</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Rights of Way: There are no public rights of way across or within the park.

Opening hours: The Park is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and facilities are open between 9:00 and 16:30.

Covenants: There are no covenants associated with the park.

Designations: The entire site was designated in 1978 as a Country Park under the 1968 Countryside Act.
In April 2007, the site was designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
The entire site including the feeder stream to the nearby Grand Union Canal was designated as a Conservation Area in 2010.
1.5 Location map for Daventry Country Park
2. Landscape Heritage

The park is made up of a number of distinct ‘landscape’ (or character) areas, which display differing characteristics and serve distinct functions.

Grassland (meadows)
Ranges of grassland habitats are present at the Park and these represent the major terrestrial habitat in terms of area. Differences in soil type, water-regime and past and present management are the main reasons for the diverse selection of grassland communities in the Park. Many of the Park’s most rare plants are found in the grasslands, especially the hay meadow. As part of Daventry District Council’s Higher Level Stewardship, the Partnership has responsibility for the management of the grasslands within the park, following the general conditions of the agreement.

Woodland
Woodland is the second main habitat in the Park. The majority of the wooded areas within the Park were planted around the time that the reservoir was created and are therefore secondary woodlands; this means that it is not ancient woodland that have been present for many hundreds of years. The woodland areas contain a great mixture of species including Oak, Beech, Alder, Goat Willow and many more native species. The large amount of dead wood on old trees and on the woodland floor encourages a rich population of insects.

Hedgerows
The hedgerows around the park were created and contain most of the species present in the woodlands with a greater predominance of hawthorn and blackthorn. The original function was as stock barriers and land use boundaries and form excellent havens for wildlife especially breeding birds. The traditional management technique of hedge laying is in used and it is hoped to increase this throughout the park.

Wetlands
These include reservoir margins, ponds, streams, wet grasslands and marshes. These are very good wildlife habitats greatly adding to the rich mosaic of natural resources present in the park. Of particular note are the plants that grow on the foreshore when the water level drops and include marsh cudweed, orange foxtail and mudwort. The latter two species have been recorded at less than twenty sites in Northamptonshire and are the rarest species yet recorded in the Park. Margins of the ponds provide habitat for a variety of wet-loving plants including fool’s watercress, soft rush, marsh-marigold and water crowfoot. There are several sedge-dominated habitats in the Park, which are locally unusual. Notable by its absence is common reed that dominates most lake edges and marshes in the area. Other wildlife in the wetlands includes the common frog, common toad, common newt and grass snake.

Threats
The main threats to this habitat are degradation of and damage to habitat and species by;
- Introduction of alien species
- Nutrient enrichment
- Disturbance, including vegetation stripping
- Compaction
- Recreational use, if not sympathetic to the site
- Flooding
Site Protection

Daventry Country Park has been identified as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) on the basis of its habitats. As a LNR the site has no statutory protection, but is subject to byelaws, which are used to protect the site from damage and misuse.

The southern area of the reservoir, the area of land around it and the silt trap are designated as a nature reserve. This part of the park is particularly rich in natural resources and presents an opportunity for the management of an area where local people and visitors alike can observe an abundant variety of plants and wildfowl in undisturbed surroundings.

Comprising of some 70 acres of water at its fullest extent the reservoir is the park’s principal landscape component. At its deepest it is thought to have a depth of approximately 30 feet although all its margins, apart from the northern dam, are gently sloping and therefore shallow in nature.

Water levels follow a predictable sequence as water is drawn off during periods of intensive canal use i.e. during the summer. This exposes large areas of foreshore during the summer and autumn and full capacity is usually regained during early winter. Control and responsibility for reservoir water levels lies with the Canals and Rivers Trust.

Several inflow streams join the reservoir along its western and southern perimeter. Larger streams originating from run off in the nearby Southbrook area feed the reservoir via a pollution/interception trap (see below).

The reservoir and its associated foreshore support a large number of different species of birds, emergent plants and other wildlife. It also supports populations of coarse fish including Pike, Bream and Roach.

Site history

Work to dig out the reservoir began in 1796, taking eight years to complete. The purpose of the reservoir was to feed the top section of the Grand Union canal between Braunston and Long Buckby and this is still paramount. It now also serves as a balancing pond to hold excess water run-off from the hard-surfaced areas of the town and prevent flooding in the Nene Valley.

The southern area surrounding the silt trap of the site was the Daventry sewage works which was later filled and planning was sought in 1977 to change the use to a playing field.

The Country Park was created as part of the nationwide Countryside Act 1968, this movement sought to provide communities with green spaces to use and enjoy. Historically, the green space had been known as Daventry Reservoir; when it was designated a Country Park in 1978 it was renamed Daventry Country Park. Reservoir Cottage was opened to the public as a visitors centre in 1987 by then Council Chairman, Lady Pam Dent and was shortly followed by the building of the toilet block and café facilities.
The circular path was the first and only access around the lake and was built by a community service team in the early years. The park expanded in 1994 when Northern Way was built and areas that had previously been inaccessible were opened up to the public, including the meadows and wild acres, featuring the Community Orchard.

3. Environmental Conservation

Daventry Country Park consists of the following habitat types; open water, woodland, marsh, conservation grassland, short mown grass and man-made surface.

3.1 Geology and soils
The geology of this region of Northamptonshire is of middle Jurassic age, about 130 million years old. It consists mainly of Oolitic limestone with bands of clay.

3.2 Hydrology
There is a good deal of standing water on the site, forming most of the surface area of the park. The site lies within the indicative floodplain. The watercourse downstream of the reservoir is designated as Main River (from the confluence with the weir overspill channel down to the canal, where it siphons under the canal before continuing on its course). As such any work over, under or within 9 metres of the watercourse will require Land Drainage Consent from the Environment Agency.

3.3 Archaeology
The park occupies flood plain alluvium. The deserted hamlet of Thrupp was located near the reservoir towards Norton although no designated archaeological monuments are present. In the event of archaeological artefacts being found within the park, the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire will be informed.

3.4 Arboriculture management
Thanks to the specialist skills of the Ranger’s we are able to conduct the majority of arboricultural maintenance within the park service. Any specialist issues are currently managed in conjunction with the Tree and Woodlands Department of Enterprise which will hand over to Daventry Norse once their contract begins. This is supported by the completion of daily visual inspections of high public use areas of the park and weekly inspections of trees within the remaining areas, identifying issues such as loose or damaged limbs as well as the need to encourage new growth and develop sight lines. These inspections are particularly important after periods of high winds or gales and are conducted immediately after such events, irrespective of the proximity in time to any previous inspections. Members of the public are encouraged to report any issues to the rangers or through the customer contact centre at Daventry District Council.

3.5 Habitat and species diversity
Marginal wetland habitats lie around much of the reservoir, particularly to the south and west, providing a suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife. A willow carr community is established around the southern fringes. Most of these wetlands are included in the informally designated Nature Reserve area.
Drier scrub and broad-leaved woodland habitats are established around Lovell’s Bay, along the disused railway line, much of the park’s eastern margins and around the silt trap. Mature scrub and young trees are also established in the area previously used as sewage works. Several areas have already benefited from substantial tree-planting programmes.
To the west of the reservoir are large areas of grassland that have been divided into five main fields. Various management histories have contributed to the present variety of grassland types present.
A high number of trees, shrubs and hedgerows within the park provide a range of nesting and feeding habitats for birds and small mammals. There is some evidence of foxes and badgers living on site. Some nocturnal activity of these species has been reported; the railway siding could potentially be a route to and from the park and animal tracks from fields to the north of the park are also in evidence. The maintenance and conservation of mature trees, evergreen trees and shrubs also provide breeding and feeding habitat for wildlife.

**Park Facilities**

**Visitors Centre, Classroom & Rangers Office (Reservoir Cottage).**
Reservoir Cottage, which was formerly the home of the British Waterways reservoir keeper was restored for use as a visitors’ centre and officially opened in October 1987. As well as providing space for interchangeable seasonal interpretive displays, meetings and talks, the building also includes office space for the rangers and an upstairs room available for meetings and class activities. A solar thermal hot water and photovoltaic system was installed in the visitors centre to help reduce energy costs and provide hot water for the café. A wind turbine generator was also installed to help carbon reduction.

In July 2011, the visitors centre was refurbished in partnership with Cummins in the Community, who completed repair and improvement works to the centre as well as providing a new television for the broadcasting of the parks bird nesting and informational DVD’s. Further improvements were made in 2016, where the centre was redecorate and the Love Daventry display was installed. Ongoing improvement and development is being undertaken to ensure it’s a welcoming and interesting place for visitors.

**Jetty**
The wooden jetty located opposite the cafe was built to enable members of the public to see the solar panels on the roof of the visitors centre, views of the park and get closer to some of the wildlife to be found around the reservoir. It is a popular area for families to feed the ducks and geese and is included in many photographs of the country park.

**Reservoir Cafe**
A purpose built cafe serving light meals, snacks and refreshments, was built next to the visitors centre. It includes a sheltered seating area for 14 people as well as outside seating for a further 8 people with extensive views of the reservoir for visitors to enjoy.
Toilets
In 1989 a purpose built toilet block was constructed adjacent to the Visitor Centre providing male, female and disabled toilet facilities as well as nappy changing facilities, housed separately in the ladies toilet block.

Bird hide
The parks timber built bird hides have been repeatedly damaged over the years therefor in 2013, the Friends group began a project to introduce a large metal structure bird hide within the park. The project was well supported by local companies and the hide was officially opened in September 2014. Work to introduce additional small hide shelters is being discussed by the group and it is hoped these will be installed and ready for use by summer 2018.

Community Hut
The Rangers and Friends group completed a project for a purpose built canoe hut on Lovell’s Bay with easy access to the reservoir. The community hut had been on lease to a local group who undertook outdoor pursuits but unfortunately the group has since closed and the Council is working to find an alternative group to run similar sessions for the community.

Play Area
The play area is a very popular feature within the park and has undergone many changes over the years. The majority of the equipment was updated in 2008 following a successful bid application from the Big Lottery Fund. In 2015 a selection of play equipment for younger users was installed following a consultation and the equipment has proven popular and the area is often busy. The play area has been designed to relevant ROSPA and British Standards and play equipment has been risk assessed by outside auditors and is inspected regularly. The equipment has been selected to take account of the variety of age groups who use the park from tiny tots to young teens. A wooden fence with self-closing gates prevents access by dogs and reduces the risk of children entering the car park unsupervised. The play area equipment suffered some significant damage and the decision was taken to close the play area and undertake a renovation project to replace the equipment with a new dynamic play area.

Northern Field
The area to the right of the entrance of the park has become known as Northern Field and is host to many of the parks large annual, one-off and private events such as the family cinema day, circus and Funtopia event. The area is also available as an overflow car park in the summer months if required.
Outdoor Gym
In 2012, Daventry District Council installed the outdoor gym equipment within Northern Field to help to tackle childhood obesity, social inclusion, engage with young people, crime and disorder and improve health and fitness. 8 pieces of cardio equipment has been installed offering a wide range of exercises which are suitable for users from 7 years old. The equipment has proven popular during the warmer months and is well used.

Dipping Pond
To the south of the park lays the educational ponds. These are man-made ponds that have been developed to provide a popular educational resource within the park. In 2017 the two pond dipping platforms were removed and replaced to provide a better educational facility and improved activities within the park.

Community Sensory Garden
The community sensory garden was first established by the friends group and is a popular area for visitors. A project to extend and develop the garden was undertaken in 2015, with the two areas linked by a footbridge and new paths, raised beds with a variety of sensory plants and flowers and wooden sculptures. Additional seating and exploratory items have been purchased to ensure the garden is inviting and will be used by local groups and schools as part of the educational programme. In October 2017, Daventry District Council worked with the Rotary Club Danetre Daventry to plant 1000 purple crocus corms as part of their annual Purple4Polio project to raise awareness for the efforts to end polio. In 2019 the project was awarded £2000 from Tesco Bags of Help. This funding has helped to develop the garden installing a sensory stream, educational signs and opened up the tree canopy to allow more light for additional planting. Future plans are being considered to develop the area further over the next 3 years.

Main Entrance and Car Park
The main entrance is wide to allow access and egress for larger vehicles and is open plan to give an inviting aesthetic appearance. There are 3 disabled parking bays well suited for ease of use and access to main areas of the park. The cattle grid was installed to discourage pedestrian access in the road and to stop animals running into path of oncoming traffic on the busy Northern Way road. New signage and notice boards have been installed at the entrances to make the park more welcoming and attractive to visitors and plans are in place to develop this further. The carpark was extended in 2016 with 30 additional hardstanding spaces to increase access to the park at busy times along with 3 new pay and display machines that take vehicle number plates to reduce incidents of ticket swapping and increase income to the park for future development and improvement.
Community Orchard & Wild Acres
South of the meadows is the Community Orchard; the first tree, a Spartan apple tree was planted on Sunday 17 October 1999 and the remaining trees and bushes were planted throughout 2000 as members of the public purchased fruit trees to be planted. Over the years many more trees have been planted as part of the parks “Trees for Memory - Commemorate and Celebrate” scheme which is still in operation today. To date over 40 trees have been planted including apple, plum, cherry, pear, hazel and mulberry.

Pollution Interception Trap (PIT)
Built as a pollution prevention measure aimed at restricting certain pollutants from entering the main Reservoir, this square shaped area of open water is situated to the south of the reservoir. A small-vegetated island provides opportunities for some birds to nest, whilst the relatively undisturbed nature of this feature has helped to attract a variety of other wildlife. A boom passes close to the southern perimeter of the water and prevents floating debris from reaching the reservoir and accumulated debris is periodically removed. Particulate matter which reaches the PIT, can settle out before inflowing water reaches the Reservoir. Public access to this area is discouraged through fencing and signage.

Country Park Extension
In 2012, Crest Nicholson put forward an application to develop the land north of the Country Park. The development includes the building of 587 dwellings and a proposal to extend the Country Park linking it to the Grand Union Canal. In January 2015 the application for the Country Park extension and associated landscaping, pathways, servicing and drainage were agreed by the Council and a further application has been submitted in 2018 to progress the plans.

Community Allotment
Included in the work of the service is the community allotment, located opposite the main entrance on Welton Road. Green Health, a local mental health group, assists with the maintenance of the allotments. In October 2016 there was also a project between Daventry District Council, Daventry Town Council and local partner Cummins to create a mini wild flower meadow to increase biodiversity. Tulips, daffodils, muscari and crocus bulbs were planted to provide an early source of nectar for insects. And further work was undertaken by Cummins in 2017 to replace the poly tunnel. Each year Green Health hosts an Open Day at the allotments for its members and their families to celebrate the work undertaken and the harvest grown. This year Cummins have
3. Visitor Management

The park is highly valued by the people of Daventry district, much of this result from the work of the Ranger Service and Community Team leading community activities, giving talks to local organisations and running exciting annual events with a broad appeal.

The Friends’ of Daventry Country Park group is highly active and the group helps through conservation work parties and by organising family activities including informative walks and bird box building. The Friends’ Committee has monthly meetings to elicit ideas and points of view from its members. The group also raises funds, which are used to contribute to the work of the Partnership.

Volunteers are always welcome to join the rangers and project officers with park maintenance and events and are encouraged to join the friends group as their involvement and ideas help the park to thrive and deliver fun-filled activities for all the family to enjoy.

Recent park user groups include:
- The Friends of Daventry Country Park
- Green Health
- BeNCH CRC (Community Payback)

Many other groups use the park on a regular basis for exercise and entertainment throughout the year e.g. mental health workers, dog walking groups and baby and toddler groups etc.

3.1 Knowledge of User Community

The population of Daventry and the surrounding parishes use the Country Park. The Country Park also attracts a wide number of people from all over the U.K. Locals will often bring relations to introduce them to a facility of which they are proud and feel a sense of ownership for.

Passive visitor surveys are routinely asked during events and throughout the year, this is where we invite comments and suggestions for improvement. An online visitor’s survey has been introduced to measure visitor satisfaction with the country park facilities and activities on offer including the option to make comments and recommendations. All responses received will be considered and where appropriate action taken.

Feedback forms are given to all schools and groups following a visit and to people attending events where practical. School consultations are used for feedback and inviting suggestions for improvements. No identifiable data is collected and all forms are destroyed after 3 years. The information provided is used to compile a lessons learnt/closure report to assess whether the event or activity was successful and identifies recommendations. The Council is responsible for compliance with the six Data Protection principles and must be able to demonstrate this to data subjects and the ICO.

More recently with the introduction of social media, the park receives comments on its Facebook page and shares photographs and information with the community. TripAdvisor is also widely used by visitors to feedback their comments for other users and we use these sources of information to plan improvements at the Park.

3.2 Community Events

The Park hosts a range of annual events designed to promote the park and the activities and facilities available.
The event programmes organised by DDC have been successful in attracting a broad range of visitors and have helped keep the park profile high locally.

Annual Park events hosted by Daventry District Council and the Friends of DCP include;
- Easter Eggsplorer Trail
- Love Parks Week
- Family Cinema Day
- Mini Adventures (School Holiday Activities)
- Halloween Spooktacular
- Santa’s Stop
- Guided Informative Walks (Birds, Flowers, Fruits and Fungi etc.)
- Volunteer work days
- Friends of DCP Open Evening and AGM

In 2018, new stand up paddle boarding lessons were introduced as part of the parks annual activities. The lessons are run by local company MAIZU SUP and have already proved a popular water based activity.

Additional externally organised events include;
- Family Funtopia
- Parkrun Daventry
- Scouts Raft Race
- Daventry Sprint Triathlon
- Wild Learning Forest School
- Octavian Droobers Orienteering
- Team Building Activities and Fun Days
- Charity Runs and Walks including Eddie Stobart’s ‘Wish upon a star’ Santa run
- Local company volunteer community days

The Park has the potential to increase its use as a venue for small to medium scale community events including fun runs, outdoor music, performing arts performances and sporting activities ensuring that any activities do not conflict with the current conservation management of the Park.

2019/20 Event Programme
The park has hosted less activities and events to allow for improvement works to be planned and delivered. The events hosted include;
- Easter Eggsplorer Event
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding lessons
- Forest School Training
- Wild Food Foraging Courses
- Crazy Fun Inflatables
- Funtopia at Daventry
Scout Raft Race
Love Parks Week
Family Cinema Day
Santa Stop
Eddie Stobart Santa Run

3.3 Marketing
Marketing of Daventry Country Park is mainly via word of mouth and positive experience. Many visitors live in the district or local area and visit and enjoy the park on a regular basis.

The park predominately uses on site notice boards to provide up to date, relevant information about the park, its facilities, attractions and the services and events on offer. Well maintained and regularly updated notice boards with high quality signs, convey an image of quality to users and contribute towards ensuring people have a positive visit to the park; and will consequently re-visit the park and potentially tell other people about their positive experience.

The Friends have an onsite notice board dedicated to providing information about the services they offer to both users and for the park.

The Council actively markets Daventry Country Park through its website (www.daventrydc.gov.uk). The pages include general information on the park including facilities available, location and events and activities on offer. In 2014, the council also took ownership of the Daventry Country Park Facebook page which has become extremely popular with 4,705 followers. Social media has become a very popular media for events and information and the Facebook page has highlighted this.

TripAdvisor has also become a popular tool for users to rate and comment on the park and their experiences. The Partnership finds this information useful and it is incorporated into feedback and user satisfaction reports to highlight areas for concern and compliments.

Emails with updated information and posters for activities at the park are also sent to local schools and local groups to ensure they are kept informed of up to date activities and events including the educational programmes and activities for families.

The Partnership works well with the local press and the councils’ communications team to deliver proactive press releases helping to promote the park and activities taking place.

The Partnership also uses the Green Flag Award website to advertise the parks events and invite feedback from users when available.

We understand that promotion of the park and an effective marketing strategy is vital in bringing new visitors and users to the park.
3.4 Sustainability

Financial Sustainability
Since 2011, when the Park management was changed to introduce the Partnership between Enterprise and Daventry District Council, the council's Community Project Officer has attracted additional external hire use and it is hoped that with further marketing and promotion the park can further increase usage to improve the future sustainability of the park and its facilities. Events and activities within the park have grown in popularity and the new Partnership hopes to further develop this in the future ensuring the park remains a top attraction in Daventry.

Environmental Policy and Investors in the Environment (iiE)
The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment and recognise that we are responsible for minimising the local and global environmental impacts that arise through the delivery of our services. As such, sustainability is a core objective for the Council; the Country Park plays a vital role in ensuring its implementation. This is ensured by the constant vigilance and good practice by the Partnership in their daily duties as custodians of the Country Park.

In 2013, the Council adopted the Investors in the Environment (iiE) scheme and has achieved the iiE Green Award; the highest level of an environmental accreditation scheme. The awards are presented to organisations that can demonstrate excellent progress in minimising their own impact on the environment and making improvements to their local community.

Environmental Stewardship
The park has a commitment to maintaining the Higher Level Stewardship from Natural England and has in place an agreement for maintenance and works to be completed at the park including the non-use of pesticides and peat and all waste plant material produced is reused through compost or habitat piles around the park. Wild Acres demonstrates the standards of sustainability and woodland is managed to encourage diverse breeding and feeding habitat, where this does not conflict with site safety.
4. Management and Partner Responsibilities

4.1 Aims and objectives

- To provide a safe and clean country park.
- To provide the highest possible standards of accessibility, ensuring the park remains accessible for all.
- To operate to the highest quality standards of visitor services, estate management, staff and visitor safety and environmental sustainability.
- To develop the full recreation potential of Daventry Country Park without detriment to its essential landscape character and biodiversity.
- To maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the park through positive habitat management.
- Continue to provide a range of countryside and environmental activities and events catering for a wide range of ages and abilities.
- Develop full potential, as a venue for environmental education, cultural and community events that are not of detriment to the ethos of the park including events celebrating culture and the arts.
- To involve the community as fully as practicable in the management and development of the park and providing opportunities for volunteer involvement at different levels.
- To continue to develop the visitors’ centre as a gateway to Northamptonshire and a source of information on where to go and what to do in the Northamptonshire countryside.
- To make Daventry Country Park as financially self-sustaining as possible.
- Broaden and enhance our customer offer with a view to retaining existing park users whilst attracting new ones from the local community; encourage and provide opportunities for all people to get involved in park based activities which improve their health and overall sense of well-being.
- To ensure the health, comfort and safety of all visitors and staff.
- Identify existing wildlife habitats and heritage features and ensure that they are preserved, managed and enhanced where appropriate.
- Increase awareness among existing and potential park users of the opportunities on offer at the park through effective on and off site marketing methods, identify people's perceptions of the park and act on findings as appropriate.
4.2 Daventry District Council management
Daventry District Council is responsible for the infrastructure of the Park and the maintenance of the buildings.
4.3 Daventry Norse management

Daventry Norse are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the park such as grass cutting, litter picking, leaf collecting, structural maintenance, play equipment maintenance and the ranger service.

The rangers are front line workers, multi-skilled, enthusiastic with a proactive ‘can do’ attitude. The rangers not only enhance the security and maintenance of the site but also add a greater sense of individual personal pride and ownership to a front line role. This pride is present in a shared sense of staff responsibility towards the park, with the rangers often undertaking unscheduled works as and when required, rather than being requested to do so by officers. This has been particularly beneficial in tackling graffiti and vandalism (criminal damage). Rangers will remove all traces of vandalism within a few hours of it appearing and this has had the desired effect, sending out a clear message of removing the vandals’ motivation.

Health and safety issues are systematically addressed within the service during the course of day-to-day maintenance and any development projects. As part of the Partnerships commitment to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, a specialist officer has the key responsibility of Health & Safety and monitors internal compliance and staff training or development needs accordingly.
### 4.4 Equipment and Facility Schedule for Daventry Country Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility/item</th>
<th>Outline description</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Play &amp; outdoor gym equipment</strong></td>
<td>In accordance with BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177, the play area is to be inspected daily with an annual inspection carried out by a specialist not connected with the playground operator or manager. Staff are to undertake regular litter picks and complete a record of written inspection on a form provided with a copy returned to the office. Daventry District Council arranges monthly inspections for all equipment and ancillary items.</td>
<td>Ranger Service, DDC &amp; RSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toilets, office and visitors centre</strong></td>
<td>Daily inspection and cleansing to ensure all public areas are clean and well maintained. Any issues to be reported to the responsible partner.</td>
<td>Ranger Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings</strong></td>
<td>5 yearly survey by a qualified surveyor to assess the building structures. Any defects to be reported and rectified appropriately.</td>
<td>Business Team, DDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General park infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Daily inspection and quarterly risk assessment to be completed for all public areas of the park to help reduce the risks of incidents. Triennial structural surveys to be completed by qualified engineer.</td>
<td>Ranger Service, Community, DDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reservoir including sluice and overflow</strong></td>
<td>Canal and River Trust carry out a daily visual inspection of the sluices and overflow and valves. There is an annual inspection of the reservoir by credited inspector on behalf of trust. The Rangers carry out daily visual inspections of the life buoys with monthly inspection to ensure that they are in good order.</td>
<td>Canal and River Trust, Ranger Service, DDC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Litter and waste management
Cleansing and litter control is the responsibility of the Ranger Service. In addition to the above, the Partnership has made a commitment to recycling as much waste and litter as possible by removing the litter bins in the car park encouraging people to recycle their litter at home, via the doorstep recycling service that the Partnership runs. Litter bins encourage more rubbish, require regular maintenance and emptying, pose risks to wildlife, are unsightly in a natural outdoor area as rubbish often gets thrown outside the bin receptacle and adds additional financial costs of rubbish collection and disposal.

As a minimum standard the following protocol is observed:
Cleansing of infrastructure - the cleaning of benches, bins, artwork, play equipment, notice boards, signage and buildings (toilets, visitors centre, and rangers’ office including all floors, doors and windows) is the responsibility of Daventry Norse and the rangers. The teams are charged with ensuring that all items are clean and free of debris, graffiti and any defects.

Litter picking - Each morning the rangers are required to walk the busiest areas of the park, litter pick and make visual inspections of the children’s play area and general infrastructure. Whilst litter picking, they are also required to record and notify the Partnership of any defects, vandalism, ad-hoc repairs that may be required.
Dog fouling – The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which contains enhanced powers has been formally approved by Daventry District Council and came into force on 1st December 2015. The new powers, which replace and add to powers previously provided for in Dog Control Orders - make the following offences:

- failing to pick up after your dog. This will now include all land to which the public can gain access including agricultural land
- failing to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer - this allows Council officers to direct that a dog is put on a lead when it is causing nuisance and/or danger to other persons and their dogs
- failing to exclude dogs from designated children's play areas
- failing to keep dogs on leads in the designated dogs on leads area around the Visitor Centre/Café in Daventry Country Park
- failing to provide at the request of an authorised officer the means to pick up after a dog

Eight dog bins are located around the park allowing dog owners to dispose of waste in an appropriate manner. To continue to encourage dog owners to dispose of waste appropriately, the poop scoop bins are emptied regularly to ensure that they never become full or jammed. The rangers are required to check the children's play area for dog faeces at a frequency of at least once per day, if dog faeces is found it is removed immediately from the area, and disposed of safely in one of the dog bins.

Fly tipping - historically the park has not suffered adversely from fly tipping. However, fly tipping is the responsibility of the Partnership and the rangers are aware of reporting procedures to ensure that any fly tipping is addressed immediately. PCSOs are also required to report any incidences that are supported by reporting procedures. Fly tipping is an area of priority for the Partnership; systems are in place to support the swift removal of tipped items.

Abandoned vehicles - the park has a permanently open car park and occasionally abandoned vehicles have been recorded within the park. When abandonment of a vehicle does occur it is the responsibility of the rangers to remedy the situation. They are aware of reporting procedures, ensuring that any abandoned cars are addressed immediately. PCSOs are also required to report any incidences which are supported by reporting procedures. Abandoned vehicles are also an area of priority for the Country Council under the ELVIS scheme (End of Life Vehicle Impound Scheme).

Grounds maintenance and conservation management
Grounds and conservation maintenance is delivered by the dedicated on site rangers, student placements and the Friends Group and are responsible for:

- park monitoring and daily inspections
- daily play area inspection
- byelaw enforcement
- assisting members of the public
- providing guided environmental education activities
- reporting and repairing damage/vandalism
- conservation management of the park’s habitats
- providing conservation and wildlife advice
- providing health and wellbeing themed activities
**Finance & Income generation**

The daily maintenance of the park is undertaken by the Partnership and budgets have been set to enable repairs and maintenance of the park and its facilities as required. The council has a financial sustainability plan in place to enable to park to become and remain self-sufficient considering activities to assist to generate income for the continued development of the park, including obtaining grants and funding, working in partnership with local businesses such as Cummins for improvement projects to increase footfall and overall visitor satisfaction.

The park charges for car parking and makes substantial contribution to its finances through the sales of season tickets and day tickets. No increases to daily charges have been applied since 2012 when the all-day standard charge was introduced.

Listed below are the current fees and charges for the hire of facilities and activities within the park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Hire</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Use (e.g. children’s party, group activities) 2 hours</td>
<td>£25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Use (e.g. fun run, bike ride) Per Hour</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Activities (e.g. forest school) Per Day</td>
<td>£60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom hire (max 34 people) Per Hour</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Visits (per child, min 20 children) 2 hours</td>
<td>£2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees for Memories (includes tree, planting and certificate) Each</td>
<td>From £50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering Maps Each</td>
<td>£1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hire of Equipment</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pond Dipping (nets, identification cards &amp; use of pond) Per Hour</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Beast Hunting (nets, identification cards &amp; use of meadows) Per Hour</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishing (Env Agency Rod licence required)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (max 2 rods) Per Day</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession/Junior Per Day</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Season Ticket Per Day</td>
<td>£60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession/Junior Season Ticket Per Year</td>
<td>£30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence Agreement</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Use licence (e.g. circus) Per Day</td>
<td>On application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal fitness training licence Per Year</td>
<td>£50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal grazing licence (conservation grazing) Per Year</td>
<td>On application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Car Parking</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car Parking - Daventry Country Park Per Day</td>
<td>£2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season Ticket - Daventry Country Park Annual</td>
<td>£70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Parking - Borough Hill Per Day</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Friends of Daventry Country Park generate income through their successful second hand book stall operating from the Reservoir Café. The annual membership subscription for the Friends group is £10.00 (£5 concession) and all money raised is used to support projects for the park.
5. Work Plan 2018 - 2023

The following work plan sets out the intended actions required to ensure that the park is able to retain its Green Flag status and continues to improve from both a conservation and visitor attraction point of view.

The Community Team, in partnership with the Rangers, will co-ordinate and lead on the implementation of the work plan.

As the plan is intended as a live document that is responsive to change, amendments are continually made and updated depending upon available resources and consultation with users and the wider community.

The work plan clearly numbers each action to make it more user friendly, practical in meetings and allow easily identification for those actions which are complete, on hold, in progress or outstanding.

DCP01 (Red)  Action outstanding
DCP01 (Blue)  Action on hold
DCP01 (Orange) Action in progress or ongoing
DCP01 (Green) Action complete
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project Plans and Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 20,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 20,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 20,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP02</td>
<td>Improved toilet facilities including improved cleaning schedule to reduce complaints and provide better facilities.</td>
<td>New equipment. Improved cleaning regime by Norse. Refurbishment program.</td>
<td>May 18,</td>
<td>New mirrors, toilet seats and urinal installed May 18. Funding agreed to refurbish toilet block. Work commenced December 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jun 18,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP03</td>
<td>Improve information and directional signage.</td>
<td>Complete audit of signage. Install circular way marker signage.</td>
<td>Apr 18,</td>
<td>Audit complete and phase 1 signs installed. Circular walk markers and finger posts ordered December 2019 to be installed January 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP04</td>
<td>Identify opportunities to increase revenue.</td>
<td>Increased revenue directed to fund park improvements.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Prepare informal tender for fairs and circuses. Increase annual private events – 2019 introduced Food Foraging Courses. 2020 consider options for forest school activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP05</td>
<td>Develop the Community Sensory Garden.</td>
<td>P1 Seasonal planting and features. P2 New entrance path from car park through sensory garden (desire line).</td>
<td>P1 Mar 19,</td>
<td>P1 Application for Tesco Bags of Life Fund submitted. Promote once available in store for voting. Project to include woodland floor planting and a water feature using current inlet stream. COMPLETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P2 Jun 19</td>
<td>P2 Report to Council July 2018 to agree funding. Works to begin Mar 19. COMPLETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP06</td>
<td>Develop the Community Allotment Garden.</td>
<td>Provide an improved educational resource for all ages and abilities.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Continue partnership work with Green Health to develop the allotment garden and apply for funding. 2020 - Working with Cummins to develop the allotment garden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP07</td>
<td>Maintain play equipment to recommended standards.</td>
<td>Daventry Norse to inspect and maintain equipment. DDC to explore funding options to install additional equipment.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Regular inspection and maintenance. HAGS SMP to complete installation of bridge rails following accident. DDC to explore funding options for new equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP08</td>
<td>Develop visitors centre with additional activities and displays.</td>
<td>Prepare new informative boards.</td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Visitors centre to be incorporated into Café seating area as part of development plans. DDC to prepare informative boards to display and continue to work with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Reviewed November 2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DCP09</th>
<th>Install additional seating to improve visitor experience. Consider additional seating areas around the park e.g. pond area.</th>
<th>P1 Review current seating P2 Purchase new high quality, robust furniture.</th>
<th>P1 Jul 18 P2 Apr 20</th>
<th>P1 Complete audit of furniture. P2 Furniture ordered in small quantities to allow for storage and installation. 10 installations. 10 to be ordered and installed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCP11</td>
<td>Monitor and maintain wooden fences and structures within the park.</td>
<td>Ensure all fences and structures are fit-for-purpose.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Rangers work plan. DDC to complete annual audits. New stock fencing installed in meadows 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP12</td>
<td>New facilities within the park e.g. educational hub/outdoor classroom, jetty platform, bird hide etc.</td>
<td>Research facilities suited to the park. Secure funding (internal/external). Install facilities.</td>
<td>Apr 19 Apr 20 Jul 20</td>
<td>June 18 - Friends complete project for bird hide at BridgeHide. Friends undertaking project to install 4 new bird hides around the park. Funding secured and 2 hides built and installed. Remaining 2 hides to be installed early 2020. DDC obtaining quotations to replace the jetty pier and install new boat launch jetty from Lovell’s Bay as part of improvement programme funding secured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP13</td>
<td>Work with all stakeholders to deliver an improved park service for the community.</td>
<td>Successful examples of partnership work.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>June 18 - Worked with Tompkins Joinery to replace damaged bridge. Continued work with Daventry Norse to develop new trails, open up views, stock fencing for grazing and general improvements for visitors and wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP14</td>
<td>Deliver activities and events within the park and increase partnership working.</td>
<td>Deliver successful events working with partners.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Fewer activities were delivered in 2019 to allow additional time to develop plans for improvement programme. Successful events include Easter Eggsplorer Trail, Love Parks Week and Green Flag Award Celebrations (20th year) with Daventry Norse, Family Cinema Day with Crest Nicholson, Funtopia Inflatables with Pick’n’Mix Events, Daventry Triathlon with Rugby Tri Club, Santa Stop with Daventry Rotary Club and introduction of new Food Foraging Courses with the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DCP15 | Monitor and maintain wildlife habitats with minimal intervention. | P1 Complete ecological site surveys.  
P2 Create new habitat in Old Meadow | TBC | P1 Work with Partners to complete surveys. Bird ringing completed with Friends group.  
P2 Rangers to develop meadows for field and dormouse habitat as grazing no longer undertaken on site. - The Ranger preparing this habitat has now left and the grazing reinstated. Will consider again if viable. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCP16</td>
<td>Chip or stack in habitat piles, all organic waste on site for re-use within the park.</td>
<td>Organic waste used with the park.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Rangers work plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP17</td>
<td>Monitor and maintain car parking facilities. Reduce incidents of vandalism and theft.</td>
<td>Ongoing monitoring of facilities and equipment.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>No issues reported. Continue to monitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP18</td>
<td>Reduce instances of dog fouling.</td>
<td>Continue to support proactive programme targeting dog owners.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>December 2018 additional regulations included to PSPO with full enforcement from April 2019. Continuing to support campaigns led by Environmental Improvement team and educated users of the regulations and requirements whilst using the park. Working with the café staff to reduce instances of dog attacks and being off leads whilst in the café area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP19</td>
<td>Establish a maintenance plan for the country park extension.</td>
<td>Maintenance of the extension undertaken as required.</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Waiting for confirmation of completion date and characteristics of extension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP20</td>
<td>Encourage park users to offer feedback on service quality.</td>
<td>Ongoing and event feedback received.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Team obtains regular user feedback to inform service improvements. Will explore potential for additional user feedback through café services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DCP21 | Explore the provision of an enhanced, extended and enclosed café facility. | P1 Complete viability assessment.  
P2 Source funding opportunities. | 2020 | Funding application submitted and agreed. Funds available from April 2019. Work with Café licensee to develop plans. Work commenced December 2019 to be completed by April 2020. |
| DCP22 | Explore opportunities for an event to celebrate our 20th year of the Green Flag. | Delivery of celebratory event. | 2019 | Celebratory event was hosted at the park on 16 July 2019 with stakeholders and users. COMPLETE |
LNR Work Programme
To protect and enhance the Local Nature Reserve at Daventry Country Park through the application of habitat management led by professionals, with the purpose of retaining and increasing the diversity of flora, fauna and habitats.

Autumn/Winter Programme (September – February)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work to completed</th>
<th>By Whom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AW1 Foreshore and grazing parcel; remove willow and saplings. Extract arisings and remove to a safe burning area. Maintain marginal wetlands habitat mosaic as per Environmental Stewardship guidance.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW2 Winter Prune Orchard and Sensory Garden</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW3 Foreshore, south end of reservoir, bridge hide view; Coppice all willow, fell large willow trees. Extract arisings and remove to safe burning area. Construct habitat piles. Maintain marginal wetland habitat mosaic as Environmental Stewardship guidance.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW4 Hazel coppicing, hazel tunnel on circular path near boardwalk.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW5 Hedgerow thinning and clearing alongside Orchard “cut through” path</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW6 Maintain meadow habitat mosaic as per Environmental Stewardship guidance. If coppicing saplings required, do so after berries have fallen.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW7 Ponds; identify silted ponds and clear if beneficial. Remove any significant tree growth from the south side of the ponds.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW8 Tree inspection, identify and mange standing deadwood, windblown, squirrel damaged, ivy bound and hung up trees.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW9 Selective thinning and pruning of trees along paths.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW10 Sycamore control, identify and pull up sycamore saplings, coppice to ground larger young trees.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW11 Clear culverts, drainage ditches of leaves and silt for flood prevention.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW12 Lovells Bay bird hide; coppice willow and other saplings to maintain view.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW13 Tern raft; retrieve for repairs/improvements.</td>
<td>Ranger/Friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW14 Nest boxes; ongoing monitoring</td>
<td>Friends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring Programme (March – May)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work to completed</th>
<th>By Whom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sp1 Creation of four viewing screens in steel spaced to give a variety of viewing positions around DCP. Installation and coppicing of trees, control of vegetation.</td>
<td>Friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp2 Vegetation control on all paths and around structures and furnishings</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp3 Mow path edges early spring. Extra care must be taken to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds, small mammals, and important feeding and breeding habitat. Inspect area on foot prior to mowing.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp4 Bramble control in meadows. Retain bramble thickets, remove hazardous growth.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp5 Maintain meadow habitat mosaic as Environmental Stewardship guidance. Remove invasive species, prevent vigorous vegetation from dominating; selective mowing and strimming.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp6 Sycamore control, identify and pull up sycamore saplings, coppice to ground larger young trees.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp7 Spring prune in orchard.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp8 Tree inspection; identify and manage standing deadwood, windblown, squirrel damaged, ivy bound, and hung up trees.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tern raft repairs and relaunch

Lovell’s Bay bird hide; coppice willow and other saplings to maintain view.

### Summer Programme (June – August)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work to be completed</th>
<th>By Whom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1 Vegetation control on all paths and around structures and furnishings.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2 Bramble control in meadows.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3 Tree inspection; identify and manage standing deadwood, windblown, squirrel damaged, ivy bound, and hung up trees.</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4 Maintain meadow habitat mosaic as per Environmental Stewardship guidance. Remove invasive species, prevent vigorous vegetation from dominating; selective mowing and strimming</td>
<td>Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S5 Lovell’s Bay bird hide; maintain viewing screens free of obstructive vegetation</td>
<td>Friends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Seasonal updates will be included in the Local Nature reserve meeting minutes.*

**Additional Management Information:**

- Where instruction is given to protect feeding/breeding habitat, this refers to the methods of managing flora that preserve and promote such vital habitat as the common nettle patch. Required by the "aristocrat" family of butterfly species to live and breed successfully as well as more than forty other species of insect.
- Where instruction is given to avoid disturbing nesting birds, this refers in part, to the times at which mowing can occur. A first cut in early spring before the birds have chosen nest sites and a second cut in late summer when the young have fledged. Furthermore, before mowing, a check should be made for any nests in the area to be mown, should a nest of any kind be discovered, the operative should avoid the nest site by at least a 2 metre radius.
- Where instruction is given to selectively prune pathways, this refers to a method of removing flora only when this benefits both visitors and the biodiversity of the LNR. Brambles should be removed from across paths but the patches should not be destroyed, in the interest of preserving vital feeding and breeding habitat.
- Hazel coppicing refers to the management method existent at DCP LNR whereby the hazel is cut on a 5 yearly cycle. Harvest hazel five years old or above only, wherever possible.
- Where instruction is given to manage ivy bound trees, this refers to the process of identifying trees, which due to the subsequent removal of the ivy will significantly increase public safety. Trees immediately adjacent to paths, where the ivy has grown into the crown, shall be the only trees that qualify for inspection, in regards to the removal of ivy.
- Where instruction is given to manage deadwood, this refers to the practice of risk assessing every mature living tree, which has a significant component of dead wood, and all dead trees. The intention of the LNR work plan in relation to dead wood is to balance the safety of visitors with the desire of the management to increase the amount of standing deadwood in the LNR. Currently standing deadwood is scarce due to small woodlands and proximity of said woodlands to pathways. This scarcity may result in the loss of species diversity.
6. Annual Review
The purpose of the annual review is to record the progress made by logging achievements and successes, measuring user satisfaction, acting proactively to feedback from public consultation and Green Flag Award judges. The chapter also outlines how we intend to build upon these successes and keep improving dialogue between all stakeholders.

6.1 Achievements and Successes

Events 2019/20
- Easter Eggsploerer Trail
- Octavian Droobers Orienteering
- Friends AGM
- Friends Bird Walk
- Scouts Annual Raft Race
- Family Cinema Day
- Pick N Mix Funtopia
- Daventry Sprint Triathlon (Run Section)
- Wild Learning Forest School Training
- Friends Canal Walk
- Eddies Stobart’s Santa Dash
- Santa Stop Grotto
- Daventry Park Run
- Food Foraging Courses
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding lessons

Other activities have taken place within Daventry County Park included charity walks, memorial tree planting, tern raft building and workplace volunteer days.

6.2 Park Improvements 2019/20
- New play equipment
- Site clearance of bramble and overhanging branches
- West entrance inlet and tree clearance
- Installation of new trails and views
- Installation of 10 new seats and picnic benches
- New

6.3 Public Satisfaction Results 2018/19
In order to ensure that the park meets the needs and expectations of our users requires a commitment to listening to users through a variety of channels and acting upon their comments.

In 2018 only a few visitor surveys were completed although we received positive feedback through our event surveys.

TripAdvisor Rating 4.5 / 5.0 (248 reviews)
114 rated excellent / 100 rated very good / 25 rated average / 5 rated poor / 4 rated terrible

Facebook Rating 4.5 / 5.0 (from 136 people)
Daventry Country Park has been recommended by 406 facebook users.
Building on our success.
We believe that we can build upon the park’s successes by a clear commitment to:

- see the plan’s life span through to 2023
- a commitment to continue working with the local community to engage them both within the management and development of their green space and by engaging them in using their green space
- seeing the award of a Green Flag as a sign of continual improvement rather than a sign of site completion and
- an intent to keep the dialogue open with the community, principally through supporting the work of the Friends of Daventry Country Park. By responding to users through these processes we can continue to build and increase our user confidence in our service.

Also through continued sustainable and balanced management of the area and ensuring visitor interests are met, it is hoped that Daventry Country Park will continue to be a clean, safe and welcoming place for visitors to spend their precious outdoor leisure time.
Appendix A - Formal safety & maintenance inspections in Country Parks

- There is a daily patrol of main recreation areas and a weekly patrol of less intensively used areas with a checklist of features to inspect. Patrols will be recorded when necessary remedial action is identified.
- Children’s Play areas will receive a recorded daily visual inspection and a weekly-recorded inspection by the Park Rangers and an annual safety inspection by a competent independent specialist such as ROSPA.
- Pay and display machines will be checked at the beginning of each day. Faults requiring an engineer will be ordered immediately on the same working day. (Engineer must attend within 48 hours).
- Lifesaving equipment for water safety will be inspected weekly.
- Structural inspection of buildings and fixed electrical installations will be arranged annually.
- A program of structural surveys of outdoor facilities such as bridges, culverts, and bird hides will be maintained with a competent structural engineer.
- Canals and Rivers Trust will undertake a schedule of inspection in accordance with the requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1975.
- All portable electrical equipment will have a combined test and certification. A schedule of formal visual inspections will be maintained as defined in the equipment register.
- Mature trees will be subject to an annual formal tree inspection. Daily visual inspections of high public use areas of the Park (zone 1) and weekly inspections of trees within zones 2 and 3 are conducted by the Ranger Team, identifying issues such as loose or damaged limbs, as well as the need to encourage new growth and develop sight lines. These inspections are particularly important after periods of high winds or gales and are conducted immediately after such events, irrespective of the proximity in time to any previous inspections.
- Formal quarterly Health and Safety inspections will be undertaken for every work area.
- Toilets will be inspected twice a day and cleaned once a day.
- Toilet rolls, soap dispensers etc. will be replenished immediately.
- Sanitary waste bins will be provided in public female and unisex disabled toilets and emptied by an appropriate contractor providing the appropriate waste transfer note.

Litter
- Car parks, building surrounds and main recreation areas will be litter picked every day.
- Litter will be picked up as soon as seen.
- Secondary recreation areas will be litter picked once a week.
- Public litter bins will not be provided, except next to the cafeteria and will be monitored and emptied by café staff.
- Office waste recycling facilities will be provided.
- Notices are displayed on the Park notice board and by the main entrance, asking people to take litter home and recycle.

Vandalism and Repairs
- Damaged or hazardous facilities will be repaired or made safe immediately.
- Arrangements for repairs will be made within 48 hours of becoming aware.
- Final repairs will be completed within 4 weeks if at all possible.

Graffiti
- Graffiti of an offensive nature will be removed within 24 hours of discovery.
- Other graffiti will be removed within 7 working days.

Fly tipping
- Will be made safe to the public immediately with adequate barriers.
- Arrangements for disposal will be made the same working day following assessment of hazards.
- Fly tipping will be cleared from site within 5 working days.

Abandoned cars
- Will be made safe to the public immediately with adequate barriers.
• Police and relevant District Council environmental Health department will be informed the same day and requested to display 7-day notice for disposal.
• Truly hazardous vehicles may be moved to a safe storage area immediately.
• The toxic residue from burnt vehicles will be cleared up before area reopened.

Dog Waste
• Will be emptied a minimum of once per week. Overflowing bins will be dealt with immediately.
Appendix B - Local Nature Reserve Committee, Terms of reference

NAME
The name of the Association shall be Daventry Country Park Local Nature Reserve Committee, hereinafter referred to as the LNR Committee.

OBJECTIVES & POWERS
The LNR Committee shall act as an independent body:

- to support and assist Daventry District Council and its partners in the effective running of Daventry Country Park and other associated areas, with particular reference to conservation work and opportunities to study, research and enjoy nature.
- to protect and enhance natural resources, local environment and open spaces to provide cleaner, safer, greener public spaces that highlight advantage of healthy outdoor life style.
- to ensure that the needs of conservation and recreation are balanced and that the management methods and proposals identified are appropriate and represent the best practice and best value in country park management.
- to demonstrate quality management to award bodies such as Natural England, grant agencies and potential sponsors.
- LNRs are of local, not national importance, and they set out the vision for development and principles for the management of Daventry Country Park.
- LNR committee will assist in research in matters relating to flora and fauna of Great Britain and conditions where they live.  Ensure preservation of flora fauna or geological features of special interest in the area.
- the LNR committee will discuss the annual action plan and forward recommendations to DDC for action to and ensure this the schedule is followed

MEMBERSHIP
Membership shall be open to any appropriate persons, by invitation of the Committee wishing to assist the objectives of the LNR Committee.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE
The LNR Committee shall be managed by Daventry District Council Community Projects Officer
The LNR committee will consist of chair and six other members include representatives from partners Daventry Norse
The members will have local knowledge and special interest in the Park
Each member should have a specialist area of expertise/knowledge to include rare breed management, flora and fauna, ornithology and countryside management.

SUBSCRIPTIONS
No subscriptions shall be payable for membership of the LNR committee.

FINANCE
No finance should be taken or considered at these meetings, this shall be managed in the general day to day running by Daventry District Council and Norse.

FREQUENCY
Meeting shall take place quarterly and will be arranged by the Community Projects Officer.
Appendix C - Daventry Country Park Visitors Survey

Daventry District Council is keen to gain the views of park users to assist with the continued development of the park, its facilities and the activities available.

All responses are confidential and any personal details will not be passed to any third parties and will only be used by Daventry District Council.

Please rate your visit to Daventry Country Park

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How often do you visit Daventry Country Park?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Visit</th>
<th>Once a year</th>
<th>2-5 times a year</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Other (please specify)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

How do you normally travel to the park?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On foot</th>
<th>Car</th>
<th>Bicycle</th>
<th>Bus</th>
<th>Other (please specify)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

How far do you travel to the park?

Please provide your postcode or residential area/village

Why do you normally visit the park? (Please select all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Dog walking</th>
<th>Play Area/Children</th>
<th>Leisure/Relax</th>
<th>For Events</th>
<th>Wildlife watching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have you attended any of the following events hosted within the park?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer Days</th>
<th>Easter Eggplorer Trail</th>
<th>Funtopia Fun Day</th>
<th>Family Cinema Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halloween Spooktacular</td>
<td>Santa Stop</td>
<td>Mini Adventures</td>
<td>Friends Group Walks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How would you rate the following at Daventry Country Park?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Play Area and Equipment</th>
<th>Visitors Centre</th>
<th>Reservoir Café</th>
<th>Design &amp; Appearance</th>
<th>Cleanliness</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Ease of getting around</th>
<th>Range of visitor facilities</th>
<th>Care and protection of wildlife</th>
<th>Facilities and services for children</th>
<th>Facilities and services for adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you have any comments about the any of the above?

What facilities, events or activities would you like to see at Daventry Country Park?

If you are happy to be contacted about events and improvements at the park, please provide your email address.

Thank you for your time, your comments are valuable to us.

Version 6
Reviewed November 2019