

An Open Space Strategy for Newhaven

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Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASA	Archaeologically Sensitive Area
DC	District Council
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NP&P	Newhaven Port and Property
NSN	Newhaven Strategic Network
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

1. Summary

The Open Space Strategy Project was conceived as a means of taking a strategic and co-ordinated approach to the development and ongoing management of open spaces in Newhaven, and the links between them. Carried out by the ESCC Landscape Group, the work is based upon the approach described in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG 17).

Open space policies and from central and local government are considered and outlined. Statutory designations are referred to and mapped. The benefits that an open space network conveys to a community are described.

A landscape assessment of Newhaven is summarised and the open space types found in the town described. The results of an open space survey are referred to, mapped, and a description of each major site appended. Existing management arrangements are discussed. The results of the recent Lewes DC Outdoor Playing Space Review as it refers to Newhaven are outlined and the English Nature Accessible Greenspace Standard applied to the town and mapped.

The results of community consultations over the last 2 years are summarised and appended, and the youth strategy outlined in respect of open space provision. The recommendations of the Outdoor Playing Space Review in respect of Newhaven are summarised.

A vision statement for Newhaven's open space network is proposed as follows -

To achieve a high quality, safe, accessible and biodiverse open space network for all local people and visitors to feel a part of, enjoy and delight in, which provides opportunities for formal and informal recreation, is sustainably managed, protected from development, and which reflects the special landscape character of Newhaven

Objectives are described to achieve the vision, covering five categories, landscape, management, ecological, facilities provision, and access provision.

2. Introduction and Background

The Newhaven Strategic Network (NSN) is a partnership of public, community and private organisations established to ensure the ongoing regeneration of the town. It succeeded the Newhaven Economic Partnership.

The NSN Open Spaces Action Group started meeting during 2003 and comprises District and Town Council members; officers from NSN, East Sussex County Council and Lewes District Council; and representatives from community groups. It seeks to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to open space development and management in Newhaven.

The Open Spaces Strategy Project was conceived as a means of taking a strategic and co-ordinated approach to the development and ongoing management of open spaces in Newhaven, and the links between them. This work has been carried out by the ESCC Landscape Group. The brief is attached as Appendix 1.

Newhaven Strategic Network are leading on the development of a master plan for Newhaven which will identify future regeneration priorities and sources of funding for these. The Open Space Strategy will be one of the thematic areas of the master plan.

The Strategy is based upon the approach described in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG 17), which defines open space as follows –

Open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as visual amenity.

In the Newhaven context, obviously the foreshore and the sea itself should be added to this definition, along with the Downs which surround the town to the north, east and west.

3. Open Spaces in Newhaven – The Strategic Context

3.1 Policies from Central Government

Current Central Government policy on open spaces results from the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce's work including the report *Green Spaces Better Places*, published in May 2002. This report set out the Government's approach to making cleaner, safer, greener public spaces and said -

The quality of public spaces affects all of us wherever we live and work. Safe, well-maintained and attractive public spaces have a critical role in creating pride in the places where we live which, in turn, is essential to building community cohesion and successful communities. That is why the Government is committed to action to make public spaces cleaner, safer, greener places that enhance the quality of life in our neighbourhoods, towns and cities.

3.1.1 Planning Policy Guidance 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG 17)

PPG 17 was updated as part of this process and sets out Government objectives for open space, sport and recreation. PPG 17 aims to deliver –

Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, both in urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors, are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable

An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision

Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision

Furthermore, the Government holds the firm view that audits of existing provision and assessments of future need should be carried out.

In order to maintain consistency, PPG 17 sets out to categorise open space types common in the UK. Although most spaces tend to be multi functional, PPG 17 also defines a primary purpose for each type. Categories are as follows –

- parks and gardens
- natural and semi natural spaces including urban woodland
- green corridors
- outdoor sports facilities
- amenity greenspace
- provision for children and young people
- allotment, community gardens and urban farms
- cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds
- civic and market squares and other hard surfaces areas designed for pedestrians

For the purposes of this piece of work, and due to the special location of Newhaven surrounded by open countryside and beside the sea, these have been modified and, along with their primary purposes are as follows –

- open countryside – agriculture or woodland, possibly with public access through the rights of way system
- natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces – wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness
- accessible countryside within urban fringe – small scale agriculture, woodland and scrub in an urban context, with official and unofficial public access possibly with occasional dwellings
- parks and gardens – accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
- amenity greenspace – opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
- allotments and community gardens – opportunities for those who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
- civic space – providing a setting for buildings, markets and community events
- cemeteries and churchyards – quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often with opportunities for the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity
- outdoor sports facilities – participation in pitch sports, countryside or water sports
- children and young people facilities – areas designed primarily for play and the interaction of children and young people
- greenways - walking, cycling, horse riding for leisure or travel purposes, wildlife corridors
- tree lined streets – enhancing amenity and providing links between greenspaces

3.1.2 Other PPG/PPS

Planning Policy Guidance notes will gradually be succeeded by Planning Policy Statements (PPS) as the new planning legislation takes effect, but current guidance generally requires local authorities to take a strategic approach to green space provision and management, and is likely to continue to do so.

The current PPG 1, General Policies and Principles, seeks an integrated approach to the provision of green space within the planning system. PPG 3 refers to Housing, which seeks a sustainable approach to the planning and building of new housing, and emphasises the importance of greening new developments. PPG 9, refers to nature conservation, and calls for the conservation of species and sites, requiring local authorities to prepare policies for their protection through networks of sites.

3.1.3 English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance

Many local authorities have adopted English Nature's guidance on minimum standards of provision for accessible natural greenspace, published in 1996. These are as follows–

An accessible natural greenspace less than 300metres (in a straight line) from home;

Statutory Local Nature Reserves provided at a minimum level of one hectare per 1000 population;

At least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 kilometres of home; one accessible 100ha site within 5 kilometres of home; and one accessible 500 ha site within 10 kilometres of home.

3.1.4 Landscape, Nature and Archaeological conservation designations

Many of the open spaces in and around Newhaven are covered by national and local designations and the policies which go with them.

These are as follows –

a) Landscape Designations

Figure 1 shows the relationships of the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (See also Appendix 4) and the proposed South Downs National Park (See also Appendix 5) with each other and the town of Newhaven.

b) Nature Conservation Designations

Figure 2 shows the location of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within and adjacent to the Newhaven town boundary (See also Appendix 6 for nature conservation citations).

c) Archaeological Designations

Figure 3 shows the location of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (ASA) within and adjacent to the Newhaven town boundary (See also Appendix 7 for brief descriptions of the SAMs and ASAs).

3.2 Policies from Local Government

The Lewes District Local Plan, adopted March 2003, has as a general guiding principle –

To conserve and enhance the special heritage of the natural and man-made environment of the Lewes District for enjoyment in the present and in the future, whilst providing for controlled development to meet the needs of the residents, the local economy and the wider economic, cultural and tourism roles of the District.

A number of policies stated in the plan are of direct relevance to the protection of the open spaces within the town of Newhaven and its surrounding countryside.

The protection of natural features and habitats generally is referred to in policy ST9, with badgers and their habitats specifically referred to in policy ST10.

The landscaping of development and the retention of natural features and trees is referred to in policy ST11 and ST12.

There is a general presumption against the granting of planning permission for new development in the countryside outside planning boundaries, with limited exceptions, described in policies RES6, RES7, RES10, RES18 etc.

Under policy RES19, provision of outdoor play space in line with policy RE1 will be required as part of any new residential development, again with limited exceptions, either as part of the development, or as a commuted sum for the local authority to allocate appropriately.

The aims of Chapter 7 of the Plan include safeguarding important countryside and coastal features from irreversible change, and the protection of agricultural land, and the need to achieve a balance between conservation and development within the district. Objectives include the maintenance of landscape character and the definition of planning boundaries.

Under policy CT1, the plan refers to the need to preserve the green gaps between settlements, whilst at paragraph 7.4, the importance of the open countryside around settlements to provide a landscape setting is emphasised. At CT2, policies protecting the AONB are described (See also above). Policy CT3 talks about the protection of countryside outside the AONB and the need to seek long term management. CT4 talks about the protection of agricultural land. CT6 and CT7 talk about the protection of coastal areas, and emphasise the importance of the undeveloped coast in the district.

Chapter 9 of the plan, Recreation and Community Services, is of direct relevance to this study in respect of urban open spaces. It aims to ensure an adequate supply of sports and recreational facilities throughout the district, by establishing and responding to demand in line with sustainable principles.

Policy RE1 sets standards for the provision of sport, recreation and play space as follows –

1.7ha per 1000 of population for outdoor sports, including pitches, courts and greens, and

0.7ha per 1000 population for childrens play, of which about 0.2 – 0.3ha will comprise equipped areas and 0.4 – 0.5ha will be of a more casual or informal nature

Policy RE2 offers protection to existing open space against development.

In the countryside, planning permission will only be granted for recreational and leisure uses appropriate to the area (RE4), whilst development will not be permitted which adversely affects public rights of way (RE5).

Existing allotments are protected against development through policy RE9.

At paragraph 9.31, the plan talks of the maximisation of school and other facilities to increase shared use, for example playing fields.

3.3 The Value of open space in urban and peri-urban areas

Newhaven's urban and peri-urban open space network is valuable to the town in the provision of a very wide range of services to it. These benefits are often linked and interdependent, but break down into two main categories; services provided by the network because of its existence and structure, and functions based on the uses to which it is put. Together, these benefits have been termed 'Open Space Services' and in the Newhaven context are as follows.

3.3.1 Landscape

The landscape of the Newhaven open space network can not only provide an attractive living and working environment for the town but also gives it much of its character and what makes it distinctive. It provides a green belt function, separating the town from adjoining towns and villages from one another and providing buffer zones between the town and open countryside.

3.3.2 Wildlife

A vital service provided by the open space network is in the provision of wildlife habitat and corridors. The flora and fauna present in the network acts as a genetic resource for the future, and can act as an environmental indicator of the natural health of the area.

3.3.3 Transport

Many constituent parts of the network contribute to a system of greenways. These are traffic-free routes for recreation and commuter use with the potential to link with initiatives such as 'Safe Routes to School'. Especially when used in conjunction with public transport, they can make a substantial contribution to the reduction of car use in the area and help in the achievement of sustainable transport policies.

3.3.4 Recreation

The Newhaven open space network provides a very wide range of recreational opportunities. The parks and recreation grounds offer the full range of formal team sports along with opportunities for kick about and other less formal activities. The sea and river offer a range of water sports. Most parts of the network offer opportunities for walking, dog exercising, jogging, cycling, picnicking or simply sitting and watching the world go by. Allotment sites allow for recreational gardening.

3.3.5 Tourism

Parts of Newhaven's open space network contribute greatly to the town's appeal for tourists and visitors and thus help to sustain the local economy and provide employment. These range from the sea, the beach and seafront on the southern edge, which cater for a range of traditional seaside activities, to open downland which surrounds the town, and provides countryside recreation opportunities.

3.3.6 Social

The network provides a number of social functions. As a focus for community activity, the Castle Hill Management Group concentrates on the management of the Castle Hill Local Nature Reserve, whilst local elected members and others have had involvement in other sites within the town. There is the potential for additional groups

to be set up thus continuing to empower local communities in line with the provisions of Agenda 21. Other groups such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) have worked at Castle Hill and elsewhere, and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) have been involved at the nearby Tidemills site. It is hoped to involve learning disabled adults and other disabled groups in the ongoing management of the new disabled accessible conservation area at Avis Road. This provides an opportunity for local people to carry out conservation and other similar work within their local communities and to contribute personally to the stewardship of their part of the world.

Many other less formal social activities are centred on the open space network, ranging from groups of walkers, to groups of parents with small children meeting in their local playgrounds.

3.3.7 Psychological

The need which human beings have to make regular contact with nature is now well recognised and the open space network meets this need ideally. Natural green space can provide a sense of place with a constant reminder of the passing seasons. Benefits to mental health have been measured following the exposure of people with long term mental health problems to both natural and managed open spaces. A sense of well being is promoted by contact with nature, with open space network components providing a contrast with the urban scene and a feeling of relative tranquillity.

3.3.8 Aesthetic

Connected with psychological values, some parts of the network have aesthetic functions in the provision of beauty and delight to residents and visitors. This may be wild and natural as with the sea or the Downs, or formal and contrived as with floral bedding displays.

3.3.9 Health

A recent departure in the promotion of good health, both physical and mental, is the idea of health walks and the 'green gym'. Courses of conservation works or walks in the countryside are prescribed for those suffering from a range of ills from heart disease and obesity to depression. The applications to the Newhaven open space network are obvious with its diverse topography, proximity to most residential areas, public transport network and need for conservation work.

The results of an East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Health Authority intervention project suggest a positive improvement to the mental health and sense of well-being of project participants who visited a range of open spaces and countryside locations. In nearby Brighton and Hove, a project known as 'A Breath of Fresh Air' was introduced where elderly people are taken for a stroll in various open spaces with health promotion in mind.

3.3.10 Air Quality

The contribution that open space networks make to the improvement of air quality is now well accepted. Air hygiene corridors were designed into many towns and cities in the 19th century to provide for a flow of clean air through the urban area. In Newhaven, the prevailing south-westerly winds bring clean air over the sea into the town.

Plants, especially trees and large shrubs, absorb atmospheric pollutants such as greenhouse gases and particulates from the atmosphere, and are particularly effective close to sources of pollution, e.g. along the sides of roads. Plants are responsible for oxygen production and the regulation of the chemical composition of the atmosphere.

3.3.11 Climate Regulation

The trees and large shrubs which make up the urban forest have a considerable beneficial effect on the urban climate. Cast shade reduces the urban heat island effect which in turn reduces the energy required to power air conditioning plant. Shelter belt planting reduces wind effects which can cool buildings in the winter thus reducing the energy required to heat them.

3.3.12 Water Management

The soils which surface the majority of the open space network are permeable to water, allowing rainfall to recharge the chalk aquifers below Newhaven, thus not only dealing effectively with storm water runoff, but also contributing to the water supply necessary for the town to run.

3.3.13 Noise Abatement

The open space network reduces the impression of noise in the city, particularly in areas of trees and large shrubs, with a tendency for sound to be scattered in dense vegetation. The association between green space and calmness gives an impression of reduced noise even when little measurable effect is discernible.

3.3.14 Light Pollution

The screening and absorption of light in the urban environment by tall vegetation is considerable. Likewise reduction of light reflection from “soft” surfaces rather than hard is a significant influence on the quality of life in the urban scene.

3.3.15 Waste Management

The open space network offers a number of waste management functions. Chipped waste timber has a function as mulch in new or existing planted areas, or as path or playground surfacing in appropriate situations. The use of composted domestically, commercially or park derived organic material as a soil conditioner in parks or in connection with new planting schemes within the network is a sustainable waste management option with the additional benefit of eliminating the need for peat or peat substitutes which have environmental disbenefits elsewhere.

The vegetation and soils of the network provide an important pollutant sink, absorbing, storing and processing airborne pollutants. The sea is currently used to dilute and disperse sewage and landfill leachate.

3.3.16 Economic

The open space network delivers a number of economic functions. Income can be generated for the Council through hire fees for sports pitches and other facilities, allotments, and when parks are used for events. Local employment is generated by the need to maintain and enhance the network.

Landowners and householders benefit from enhanced property values when property adjoins part of the open space network, indeed there is anecdotal evidence that, all other things being equal, house prices in roads with street trees adjacent to countryside and open spaces are higher than in those without. It may also be the case that as a result, Council Tax receipts are higher than they might otherwise be, as houses may fall into higher charge categories.

3.3.17 Nutrient Cycling

Vegetation in the open space network has a valuable function in the cycling of nutrients, including the locking up of carbon which would otherwise contribute to the greenhouse effect.

3.3.18 Topsoil

Vegetation and invertebrate life in the open space network have an important role in the formation of topsoil, and its preservation through erosion control. This is of particular relevance around Newhaven with continued soil erosion due to arable farming on the Downs

3.3.19 Raw Materials

Various raw materials are potentially available from Newhaven's open space network. The sustainable management of areas of woodland could yield timber products for construction, fencing or artistic uses. The management regimes necessary for this are likely also to have beneficial effects on local levels of biodiversity.

Any extension to areas of wildlife interest could employ locally derived propagation material e.g. seed or turf.

The native flora and fauna are a potential genetic resource, for example the area of East Sussex which includes Newhaven has one of the only substantial remaining populations of English Elm in the country.

3.3.20 Food Production

It is recognised that open space networks provide refuges for the insect pollinators of commercial crops, also of the predators of crop pest species.

The allotment sites which form part of Newhaven's open space network are used by many to grow food to supplement their diets and to save money. This is an important open space network function enabling people to retain control over their own food supply reducing transport costs.

Some people enjoy the opportunities for the collection of wild foods in the network, from blackberries and sloes on the Downs to fish from the sea.

Commercial fishing occurs in the sea off Newhaven, whilst much of the surrounding countryside is used for agricultural purposes.

3.3.20 Educational

Along with the research possibilities mentioned below, parts of the network provide a vital educational resource for all levels. In addition to the environmental, biological

and social sciences, history and a diverse range of other subject areas are potentially catered for.

Opportunities for those wishing to learn in their leisure time exist in a similar range of subject areas, with in addition, for example, landscape history, and conservation skills.

3.3.21 Scientific

Lying close to Brighton and Hove, a city with two universities along with other tertiary level educational establishments, the open space network provides many research opportunities, especially in the environmental, biological and social sciences. The University of Sussex has recently instituted its Sussex Ouse Research Project, which includes the Newhaven area.

3.3.22 Historic

The Newhaven open space network contains a number of archaeological and historic sites, along with other traces of past human activity. These have a function for archaeologists and historians in their analysis of the past.

4. Open Spaces in Newhaven – The Current Situation

4.1 The Landscape Context

A landscape assessment of Newhaven was carried out in 1996 by the County Council Landscape Group. It assesses the town in its landscape context, and looks at the landscape character and types which are features of it. It goes on to recommend priorities for protecting and enhancing its character.

Newhaven has a dramatic setting and a complex mix of landscape types. Backed by the Downs and fronted by the sea, natural features of the town are the chalk ridges and sweeping valleys between. The ridges are often occupied by scrubby vegetation sculpted by the wind. The floors of the valleys are often occupied by wetlands with a vegetation of mature Willow and Poplar. Industrial and residential development is crammed tightly into the drier levels and least steep slopes, often leaving small areas of relic wetland and downland on undeveloped land.

The harbour and river are the main character focus of the town itself, with the sea, the Downs, and the levels north of the town the main influences over character on the edges.

The landscape assessment's findings are clearly still relevant today and a strong impression remains of a town set in the context of a wetland influenced valley floor with its dominant vegetation type of reeded ditches and mature Willow, giving way to typical downland vegetation around the boundary, a character which could and should be reflected powerfully in any proposals for improvement.

The assessment's main conclusions with regard to open spaces call for

- The establishment of limits to development on the edge of the town
- the strengthening of the tree/scrub structure around the town to provide a defined edge
- additional tree planting where appropriate and the conservation of existing trees and tree groups within the town, with species themes to reflect local character
- the appropriate management of remaining ecological features
- the creation and enhancement of identity of particular character areas
- the improvement of green routes through and beyond the town
- the addition of sculptural features where appropriate, especially as gateway features on the edge of the town and to provide character focus within it
- the removal of eyesores, clutter and litter

Two of the assessment's main recommendations in respect of open spaces have already been implemented. The improvements to the West Quay have resulted in usable open space and a harbourside greenway which reflects the character of the surrounding area in its use of materials and features with a maritime theme. The Ouse Estuary Project area to the east of the town secures a strategic green gap between Newhaven and Seaford with a large area of developing wetland habitat reflecting the character of the levels to the north and east of the town.

4.2 The Existing Open Space Network

The existing open space network has been mapped and is shown on Figure 4.

4.2.1 Open space types in Newhaven

In the Newhaven context, the open space types referred to above at 3.1.1 are as follows. With the exception of the first, each is illustrated with an example.

Parks and gardens –

These are accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events, specifically designed as parks or gardens. High quality amenity horticulture is a feature of such spaces. Newhaven has no such spaces at present.

Open countryside –



This category covers areas on the edge of the town of agriculture, either arable or pastoral; woodland and scrub; and can include adjacent beach and intertidal zones. Such areas may have public access through the rights of way system or open access legislation. Examples are the Ouse Estuary Project Area and open fields to the north.

Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces –



These are areas mainly functioning as spaces for wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. They are mainly within the urban area, or on the edge acting as a buffer to open countryside. In the Newhaven context, they can again include the beach and intertidal zone. Examples are the area known as Riverside Park, and The Drove public open space.

Accessible countryside within urban fringe –



Small scale agriculture, woodland and scrub in an urban context, with official and unofficial public access possibly with occasional dwellings. These areas include the 'plotlands' areas to the west of the town and on the eastern edge of Denton, and the area of the golf course.

Amenity greenspace –



These often fairly small spaces provide opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or for the enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. In Newhaven, these are mainly areas of mown grass of various sizes, ranging from the Eastside Recreation Ground to wide highway verges which provide a setting for roads and residential and industrial development.

Allotments and community gardens –



These provide opportunities for those who wish to grow their own produce. Only two sites exist in the town.

Civic space –



These spaces provide a setting for buildings, markets and community events and are generally predominantly hard surfaced. The main such space is the pedestrianised area of the former high street.

Cemeteries and churchyards –



These provide for quiet contemplation, and the burial of the dead, often with opportunities for the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity

Outdoor sports facilities –



These provide for participation in pitch sports, countryside or water sports, and are areas permanently marked in some way for this purpose. Examples are Eastside Recreation Ground and various school playing fields around the town.

Children and young people facilities –



These are playgrounds and skateboard areas, designed primarily for play and the interaction of children and young people

Greenways –



These are wide foot/cycle paths with a green edge, primarily for walking, cycling, horse riding for leisure or travel purposes, but also with a function as wildlife corridors. A number have been identified within the town, for example The Highway, which passes Meeching Down, and Reed Walk, in the Avis Way Industrial Estate.

Tree lined streets –



These are streets planted with trees, typically in the pavement. They enhance amenity and can provide links between greenspaces. Fort Road is the only example in the town, planted in the past with English Elm, sadly being gradually lost through Dutch Elm Disease.

4.2.2 Open space types by area

The area enclosed within the town boundary of Newhaven is approximately 769 ha. Of that, approximately 430 ha is open space, or about 56%. Much of it is countryside on the edges of the town, the spaces within the town itself occupy a much smaller area. The areas break down into the various categories as follows –

Open Space Type (ha)	No. of areas	Approx total area
open countryside	3	203.23
natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces	9	114.77
accessible countryside within urban fringe	3	79.20
amenity greenspace	21+	11.00
parks and gardens	0	0.00
allotments and community gardens	2	1.51
civic space	2	0.73
cemeteries and churchyards	4	3.83
outdoor sports facilities	7	15.19
children and young people facilities	7	0.77
greenways	6	1573 m.
tree lined streets	1	489 m.

4.2.3 Open Space Survey Results

All major open spaces in Newhaven have been assessed as part of this project using a standard form (Appendix 2). The results of the individual site assessments appear at Appendix 3.

A number of general issues arise from the survey work. These appear below arranged according to Open Space Category.

Open countryside

The open countryside which surrounds Newhaven provides its downland and valley setting, excellent visual amenity, and establishes its landscape character. By its nature, it offers little in the way of formal facilities, but those accessing it through the rights of way network can enjoy the AONB countryside a matter of a few minute from the town centre. Generally appropriately managed and maintained by farmers and landowners, this mainly productive landscape tends to be free of many of the threats and problems which beset more urban spaces. As AONB and often some of the best agricultural land in the area, it is generally protected from development. In some cases the ecological interest is poor however, and inevitably access is limited.

Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces

These areas typically have a higher amenity and landscape value due to often free public access, a closer proximity to the town, and greater variety of spaces within them. The level and quality of management and maintenance tends to be lesser, which in turn reflects the often local authority ownership and lack of income which may be available from the land. One of these, the Castle Hill LNR is managed by a voluntary group, The Castle Hill Group. The freer access is reflected in the greater and different uses to which these spaces are put. The facilities found differ from site

to site, but can include path networks, litter and dog bins. Threats are often greater due to the greater use and proximity to the town. Apart from those covered by SNCI designations, protection against development is less, which makes them vulnerable. Ecological interest is amongst the highest of any category.

Accessible countryside within urban fringe

These areas differ for the previous category mainly in respect of the greater use by man and a lesser concentration on ecological interest. Again, the landscape and amenity value tends to be high. Typically, they incorporate isolated housing (e.g. the plotlands areas), small scale agriculture and 'horsyculture', and the Peacehaven golf course. Public access is generally high. Many areas under this category appear tatty due to their many and various uses. Threats are higher due to the multi uses, with tipping, vandalism and misuse common. These areas are unlikely to be covered by any planning designations, and, especially in the plotlands areas are very vulnerable to loss due to housing development.

Amenity greenspace

Generally less than a hectare in area, these areas provide the green spaces within the most densely populated part of the urban area. They vary from traditional recreation grounds to wide road verges, and are mainly mown green deserts with a few lollipop trees. Their amenity value lies in the visual break they give to the hard urban environment, and the opportunities some of them give for letting off steam in informal play. Many are very well used. They are sadly managed and maintained on low budgets, which is reflected in the general quality of the design and maintenance of the spaces. Threats such as vandalism, graffiti are common, along with misuse. They are typically of low ecological value. Again with no statutory protection, the larger sites are vulnerable to development pressure, despite Local Plan policies which talk of their protection.

Parks and gardens

No sites in Newhaven have been identified which fit this category.

Allotments and community gardens

Only two allotment sites exist in the town. Both are fairly well used probably because of this, despite being poorly connected to the town and necessitating a car journey to get to them. The overall impression given is of a tatty appearance, despite many individual plots being well managed with high quality structures. Ecological interest tends to be high, both due to their locations and their function. Allotments are well protected from development in the Local Plan under policy RE9, as long as they continue to be well used.

Civic space

The main area which falls into this category is the town centre. Well used, it has been upgraded recently in an attempt to give the area more character and a more cared for appearance. Low maintenance budgets are unfortunately evident, and the area suffers from vandalism and graffiti. Inevitably, ecological interest is poor, but facilities are generally good, with seating, litter and dog bins etc.

Cemeteries and churchyards

There is considerable variation between the sites which fall into this category. They have a fair to good amenity value, and a landscape character of their own, with a strong sense of place, history and cultural heritage. Lewes Road cemetery is well provided with facilities such as seating, bins, toilets etc, and is well managed and maintained, but the others less so. The cemetery at Denton has an air of dereliction and neglect in contrast. Generally threats such as litter or vandalism are minimal if present at all. Ecologically, they are all interesting, and have a number habitats present.

Outdoor sports facilities

Well distributed around the town, these half a dozen or so sites' primary function is sport, and generally comprise areas set out for this purpose. Some are school sites and therefore not generally publicly accessible. Amenity value is high, not only for sports purposes but also social interaction and dog exercising, but landscape character is generally lacking. Management and maintenance is variable, and the tight budgets are again evident in the quality of the design and maintenance of the spaces. Litter, vandalism, dog fouling and misuse are a general problem, and ecological interest tends to be minimal. These sites are protected from development under Local Plan policies RE1 and RE2.

Children and young people facilities

Seven playground sites have been identified, including the new skateboard park/multi use games area at Fort Road Recreation Ground. Mainly contained within amenity greenspace areas, they provide a variety of play equipment catering for a range of ages. They are inevitably similar in character owing to the increased standardisation of equipment used due in turn to tighter and tighter safety regulations. Condition is variable, although all are subject to regular health and safety inspections. Some are positioned better than others within the spaces of which they are a part, and in some cases this should be reviewed. All are equipped also with seating and bins. Many suffer from abuse such as graffiti and vandalism, and litter is often a problem. As predominantly hard surfaced areas ecological interest is minimal.

Greenways

A number of greenways have been identified, which provide multi functional links, often between greenspace areas. Typically they are of high amenity value and strongly reflect the landscape character of the area through which they pass. Path surfacing and general condition is very variable depending on status, but most are public rights of way and therefore maintained to some degree by the highway authority. They are often subject to misuse, especially the tipping of garden waste from properties backing onto them, littering, graffiti and dog fouling. Signage is often poor, and seating, bins etc, lacking. They are of high ecological value in themselves as well as acting as wildlife corridors, and the cultural heritage interest is high as many are historic routes through the town. They receive protection under the rights of way legislation, and by implication as green network components, through the provisions of PPG 17.

Tree lined streets

Fort Road once featured a magnificent row of English Elm on the edge of the pavement, sadly many have now succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. The remainder

provide visual amenity and enhance landscape character, and also have an ecological function. Part of Fort Road is within an Area of Established Character as defined by policy H12 of Lewes DC Local Plan, and whilst the Highway Authority street tree policy is currently under review, it is likely to offer protection to and encourage the planting of street trees.

4.3 Existing management arrangements

Existing management arrangements for particular sites are indicated on the individual site survey sheets.

Most public open space in Newhaven is managed by the Lewes DC Parks Team, with works carried out by the term grounds maintenance contractor, currently Wyevale Grounds Maintenance. Some spaces are managed by Newhaven Town Council, with their own in house labour carrying out the works.

Schools grounds are managed by the Client Contracts management group at East Sussex County Council, with works being carried out by Kent Contract Services.

Rights of way are the responsibility of East Sussex County Council Rights of Way and Countryside Management Group.

There are a few major exceptions and additional inputs to the above. Part of the West Beach area is owned and managed by Newhaven Port and Properties. The Ouse Estuary Project area is currently being managed by East Sussex County Council through the County Ecologist, partly financed by a Countryside Stewardship Agreement. Much of the countryside is owned and managed by a variety of farmers and other landowners.

The influence of voluntary groups is increasing in the town, with the Castle Hill Management Group managing the LNR with support from the Lewes DC Parks Team, and the West Beach Improvement Group involved in the upgrading of the West Beach area.

4.4 Results of the Lewes District Outdoor Playing Space Review

This study, carried out by consultants PMP during 2004, reviewed the outdoor playing space in the Lewes District. It concluded that there was a current and future shortfall in the provision of cricket and junior football pitches, and noted that there was no provision for hockey or rugby, despite an apparent demand. They concluded also that there was a current and future shortfall in equipped and informal children's play space.

Regarding sports pitches, a current surplus of 0.4 adult football pitches was noted, but provision is expected to be adequate by 2006 with population growth. Currently 2 junior football pitches are required, but this is expected to become a 2.7 pitch deficit by 2006.

The current 1.5 cricket pitch deficit is expected to worsen to 2.3 pitches by 2006.

A requirement for rugby and hockey provision was noted. Newhaven Hockey Club currently has to play in Seaford.

Two floodlit tennis courts are currently required, this demand is expected to rise to 3 by 2006.

Regarding children's play areas, two new sites were identified since the previous study was completed in 2002, but the informal play space at Court Farm Road has now been developed for housing and therefore lost.

It was found that Newhaven has lower per capita provision of informal play space at 0.26ha/1000 than the District as a whole, at 0.28ha/1000, and the lowest provision of equipped playspace of any town in the district, at 0.02ha/1000, compared to a figure of 0.06ha/1000 for the district as a whole.

The consultants proposed local standards for the provision of informal playspace, in line with the provisions of PPG 17. A figure of 0.28ha/1000 for informal playspace and 0.1ha/1000 for equipped playspace was proposed. This means that Newhaven is deficient in both categories, needing a further 0.2ha of informal playspace, and 0.8ha of equipped playspace.

4.5 The English Nature Accessible Greenspace Standard

As a result of the amount of natural greenspace within the Newhaven town boundary and just outside it, the town satisfies many of English Nature's accessible greenspace standards.

The 300 metre standard

Most of the homes in Newhaven reach this standard and have an area of natural greenspace within 300 metres in a straight line. An 71 ha area of deficiency centred on the harbour from North Quay southwards, and including much of the residential area directly to the west of the West Quay development has been identified however. This is shown on Figure 5.

Local nature reserve standard

The English Nature standard for LNR provision calls for a minimum level of 1 ha/1000 of population. Castle Hill Local Nature Reserve, at approximately 15.5ha easily provides for the projected population of the town in 2006 of 13,534 (PMP 2004).

Larger sites provision

English Nature recommends there to be at least one accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home, one 100 ha site within 5km of home and one 500 ha site within 10km of home. Taking into account the large sites within the town boundary such as the Ouse Estuary Project area, the Castle Hill/Harbour Heights/West Beach area, and the South Downs on the town's doorstep, all three of the larger sites standards are again easily met.

5. Open Spaces in Newhaven – Community Needs and Aspirations

5.1 Community Consultations

A number of community consultation events have been held over the last 2 or 3 years on a spread of the main sites in the town, and also specifically on Riverside Park/Lewes Road Park.

The results of public consultations held in 2003 and 2004 were summarised by NSN and are at Appendix 8. Specific comments regarding particular sites are discussed under each site survey sheet (Appendix 3). The samples were fairly small, but a number of general comments were made. These included –

- The need to retain and improve sites, providing good, but appropriate facilities. The need for bins and toilets was stressed on a number of sites
- The need for good management and maintenance was stressed by many, with prompt action on litter, graffiti, dog fouling and vandalism
- Some people felt that some of the lesser known sites should be promoted more
- The value of many sites for wildlife was stressed by many, and a desire not to compromise this by over- or inappropriate development emphasised.

A further consultation exercise was held on 16 April 2005 at the Newhaven High Street market to seek further views on the Town's open spaces and to seek people's views on the recommendations contained in the initial drafts of this Strategy. The results were again summarised by NSN and are at Appendix 8.

The recommendations contained in the Strategy were broadly welcomed, and the comments made in previous consultations largely confirmed.

General and site specific recommendations have been checked and modified as necessary to reflect the results.

5.2 Young People of Newhaven – Their Views and Needs

The NCDA report, 'Young People of Newhaven – A Research Report into their views about Newhaven and future needs' was produced originally in 2001 as a Youth Strategy and has been regularly updated since. It concentrates on the age group 9 – 25.

It emphasises the relative deprivation of Newhaven in comparison to East Sussex as a whole, and highlights the levels of offending and misbehaviour in this age group. This piece of work aims to help to engage young people in the future of their town, and provides a useful means of seeking their views and making them feel included in the decision making process. It makes a number of recommendations.

Under the Recreation and Leisure section, recommendations have included the provision of a skate park and multi use games area (phase 1 now complete, phase 2 awaited); a review and upgrading of green spaces generally (ongoing); the review and upgrading of sports facilities (again ongoing).

Under the Regeneration section, improvements to the town centre are called for to make it more accessible; and, young tree wardens to look after new trees have been chosen. Planned is a young people's development management team for green space.

5.3 Older People in Newhaven – Their Views and Needs

A piece of work was carried out during 2003 by NCDA entitled 'Qualitative Research on the Perceptions and Suggestions of People Aged 55 years Plus to Enhance Their Lives in Newhaven'. This research used a focus group approach to seeking people's views.

Many groups appreciated the environment with the downs, sea, beach, wild life, harbour and ferries and recent developments in West Quay, Denton Island and East Side mentioned.

Many groups found the town centre depressing and shabby and all the groups complained that it is dirty, with litter and slippery leaves on the streets.

People complained of a general lack of amenities in Newhaven compared with neighbouring towns, for example, Peacehaven and Seaford.

There are a range of leisure activities available in Newhaven but many people are not aware of them and lack of transport is a barrier to using them for older people without cars.

Existing facilities used by older people specifically referred to were indoor and outdoor bowls. (considered expensive however); two rambling clubs, one offering gentle strolls, the other one longer walks; and the availability of the riverside, the Downs and the beach for walks.

Some people wanted more availability of cardiac rehabilitation exercise sessions. These could include walking or the carrying out of conservation work in the countryside or urban/rural fringe, possibly under the Green Gym or Health Walks banners.

5.4 Local Development Framework Evidence Base

The implementation of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 will see a Local Development Framework take the place of the existing Lewes DC Local Plan, which will remain the statutory planning document until then.

An LDF consists of a portfolio of local development documents which will set out the spatial planning strategy for the area. As part of the preparatory work for this in Lewes District, an evidence base is being produced. On 24 July 2004, an 'Open House' was held in Newhaven with residents to discuss Newhaven issues. The results which are of relevance to this strategy follow.

- Strengths

The importance and value of Newhaven's downland and coastal location, its natural assets were emphasised, along with its scale, sense of community and potential.

- Weaknesses

Conversely, Newhaven's weaknesses included many poor facilities, and a feeling that the town was a dumping ground, not valued by those outside, planned by those not living in the area. This included poor housing development as well as more obvious features such as waste developments.

- Opportunities

These were seen as maximising the town's assets through regeneration, maximising use of Newhaven's location, maintaining the sense of community, and developing the town's tourism potential.

- Threats

Threats were perceived as development of sites in multi ownership without master planning, developing too many brown and greenfield sites, and again the view of the town as a dumping ground for controversial developments not wanted elsewhere.

- Priorities

Priorities included the need to maintain a better balance between development and the conservation of existing open space areas, more leisure facilities, the protection of the Downs and coastline, and sustainable transport.

- Transport

Improved cycle facilities were considered important, along with better bus links. Improvements in the maintenance of cycle and footpaths was called for.

- Environment

There was support for more sustainable management of facilities, and also a call for more tree planting for the future.

- Housing

The protection of green space for its own sake and for the wildlife it can bring was emphasised. Developers were called upon not only to provide open spaces such as pocket parks for wildlife and recreation, but to finance the long term maintenance of such areas. New housing should not be permitted on the cliffs, downs, agricultural land or playing fields.

- Leisure and Recreation

Additional play and sports facilities were called for, especially for children and young people, and the preservation of existing open spaces and playing fields. There was support for the retention of allotments. More play areas were demanded by some, and better management and maintenance by others. There was a call for a camping site.

5.5 The Lewes DC Outdoor Playing Space Review recommendations –

The Lewes DC Outdoor Playing Space Review made 8 general recommendations –

It is recommended that all existing outdoor playing space is protected with consideration only given to disposal where alternative high quality provision is made available.

It is recommended that a local standard of 0.38 hectares of equipped and informal play space per 1000 population is adopted by the Council.

It is recommended that a local standard of 0.82 hectares of playing pitches per 1000 population is adopted by the Council.

It is recommended that contributions from developers should be sought under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 from all housing developments. Provision should also be made for sports development input and subsequent maintenance costs.

Current mini-soccer site should be retained. Identify central venues where mini soccer is played and investigate identifying areas dedicated to the mini game. Where possible, at least two mini soccer pitches should be located at each site.

Where possible, any new provision should be considered in multi pitch site format, rather than at single site locations.

A key priority for the future should be to place greater emphasis on improving the quality of pitches, ancillary facilities and outdoor play space in Lewes. Lewes District Council should introduce a 5 year rolling programme of improvements for council owned facilities.

Securing the use of a number of educational sites for community use is recommended. Formal agreements should be drawn up with schools that currently accommodate community teams at weekends. Formal agreements must not compromise curricular physical education for school sites.

With specific reference to Newhaven, the following recommendations are made in PMP's report Table 7.4, reproduced below -

Playing pitch issues and solutions: Newhaven Partnership Area

Issue	Solution
<p>Football</p> <p>Current surplus of 0.4 adult pitches, predicted to decrease to no pitches by 2006</p> <p>Current undersupply of 2.0 junior football pitches, predicted to increase to 2.7 by 2006</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop community-use agreements with schools (with suitable pitches and ancillary facilities), for example Tideway School. Investment in appropriate school provision may be needed 2. Continue to pursue developments at Fort Road Sports Park, improve quality of current pitches to improve carrying capacity to allow for increase in junior matches 3. Seek any possible developer contributions via Section 106 agreements 4. Improvements should be made to pitches as outlined in Table 7.2.
<p>Cricket</p> <p>Current shortfall of 1.5 cricket pitches. Predicted to increase to 2.3 pitches by 2006.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Develop community-use agreements with schools (with suitable pitches and ancillary facilities), for example Tideway School 6. Seek any possible developer contributions via Section 106 agreements for a minimum of one new pitch 7. Improvements should be made to the sites as listed in Table 7.2
<p>Rugby</p> <p>No rugby provision but population could support 3 rugby teams</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Continue to monitor the local population to establish whether there is the potential and sports development back up to form a rugby club
<p>Hockey</p> <p>No hockey teams but population could support 3 teams</p> <p>Newhaven hockey club, currently based in Seaford would like to relocate back to Newhaven</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Continue with plans for Fort Road Sports Park and the development of a STP. 10. Seek any possible developer contributions via Section 106 agreements for a minimum of one new pitch 11. Encourage the club to develop a junior programme
<p>Bowls</p> <p>The number of bowls greens is sufficient based on current supply and demand</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Continue to work with the bowls club to maintain the current facility
<p>Tennis</p> <p>Shortfall of 2 floodlit courts projected to increase to 3 courts by 2006</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Continue with the plans to redevelop Fort Road Sports Park to include three floodlit courts with a mix of club and community use
<p>Athletics</p> <p>No provision</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Track provision in Lewes and surrounding towns out of Lewes District is sufficient, no action required

6. Open Spaces in Newhaven – A Vision for the Future

6.1 Vision Statement

To achieve a high quality, safe, accessible and biodiverse open space network for all local people and visitors to feel a part of, enjoy and delight in, which provides opportunities for formal and informal recreation, is sustainably managed, protected from development, and which reflects the special landscape character of Newhaven.

In order to achieve our vision, we should aim to meet the following general objectives.

6.2 Landscape objectives

6.2.1 Control of urban/rural fringe development

To seek to control development on the edge of Newhaven through the planning system

Measures

- Seek to retain and extend planning policies to afford protection against built development on countryside and semi-natural greenspace areas and to limit development on the edge of the town
- A strategic green gap between Newhaven and Peacehaven should be maintained.
- The Ouse Estuary Project Area should be maintained as a strategic green gap between Newhaven and Seaford

6.2.2 Provide visual enclosure of the town

To soften the often hard urban edge of Newhaven as it meets the surrounding countryside and to provide a buffer and visual enclosure.

Measures

- Seek to encourage the planting of appropriate native trees and shrub species around the urban edge where no planting exists at present
- Seek to manage and maintain existing tree and shrub features which already enclose parts of Newhaven

6.2.3 Green Network

To enhance and maintain a green network throughout Newhaven

Measures

- Aim to connect existing green spaces through the enhancement of footpaths and greenways, and the planting of street and garden trees

- Ensure that all new development features new greenways, areas of greenspace, and street and garden trees designed to link existing and potential new greenspace
- Consider the production of an open space hierarchy and a hierarchy of playspace to guide future management and development
- In addition to the site by site comments at Appendix 3, carry out a thorough review of all major open spaces in Newhaven
- Consider the merit of enhancing one or more of the existing open spaces to create a high quality public garden

6.2.4 Landscape character

To enhance and reinforce Newhaven's special landscape character

Measures

- Maintain existing areas of distinct landscape character by ensuring that existing planting and hard building and surfacing materials are retained
- Enhance existing areas of distinct landscape character through additional appropriate planting, the use of appropriate hard building and surfacing materials, and the addition of sculptural features
- Create appropriate new character where none presently exists in the same way
- Consider the production of design guides to steer the selection of planting, and hard building and surfacing materials in particular places
- Add gateway features at the entrances to the town which reflect the local landscape character

6.3 Management Objectives

6.3.1 Local management

To introduce an element of local management of Newhaven's open spaces

Measures

- Consider the setting up of an overarching group of residents, local authority and community group officers to co-ordinate the development and management of Newhaven's open spaces
- Consider the setting up of 'friends of' groups or management groups like the Castle Hill Management Group for individual sites
- Consider the importance of young people and children in the management of open spaces and involve them also, either within the groups above, or in Junior Management Boards as at the Railway Land at Lewes
- Consider extending Junior Tree Warden and similar schemes
- Involve local people in the naming of new sites and renaming of revitalised ones
- Explore the best ways of engaging the community in the redevelopment of open spaces when this arises

6.3.2 Improve quality

To improve the quality of Newhaven's open spaces.

Measures

- Aim at the standards required for the award of Green Flag/Pennant at amenity sites, Blue Flag and Seaside Award at beach sites and English Nature management awards at nature conservation sites, applying for awards once standards reached
- Consider ways of increasing the quality of grounds maintenance and site cleanliness throughout the open space and greenway/foot/cycle path system
- Deal rapidly with episodes of vandalism, fly tipping, graffiti and littering
- Review the provision of dog and litter bins
- Remove clutter and eyesores

6.3.3 Improve the sustainability of management and maintenance methods

To minimise the impact that grounds maintenance activity has on the environment

Measures

- Review mowing regimes to minimise unnecessary mowing and encourage development of wildflower swards where appropriate
- Consider allowing grassed areas to succeed to scrub/trees where appropriate
- Minimise the use of pesticides and herbicides through the adoption of organic maintenance techniques where appropriate
- Encourage the use of locally sourced and recycled materials
- Encourage the recycling of waste products

6.3.4 Ensure that all important trees and groups of trees receive protection

To ensure that trees are protected within and on the edge of the town so that they continue to provide the landscape and other services they provide.

Measures

- Review Tree Protection Orders, where appropriate, throughout Newhaven
- Consider applying new Tree Protection Orders to trees of high amenity value

6.4 Ecological Objectives

6.4.1 Remedy the deficiency in the provision of natural greenspace

To ensure that all the residents of Newhaven have easy access to natural greenspace together with all the psychological and health benefits that this conveys.

Measures

- Remedy the deficiency in provision of accessible natural greenspace under English Nature's 300metre standard through a review of existing open spaces within and adjacent to the area of deficiency.

6.4.2 Improve and extend Management Planning

To ensure that sites are managed to an agreed plan.

Measures

- Carry out baseline ecological surveys on all sites of potential ecological interest where these do not already exist
- Prepare Management Plans for all areas of high ecological interest based upon ecological surveys.

6.4.3 Create additional wildlife habitat

To maximise wildlife habitat within and around the edges of Newhaven.

Measures

- Create additional and appropriate habitat where appropriate and possible to maximise availability of sites to wildlife, for its own sake and the benefit to the residents and visitors to Newhaven.

6.5 Facilities Provision Objectives

6.5.1 Increase Playspace availability

To ensure that future supply of playspace meets future demand

Measures

- Provide a further 0.8ha of informal playspace,
- Provide a further 1.1ha of equipped playspace.
- Develop community use agreements with Tideway and perhaps other schools for public use of their pitches
- Carry out improvements to existing pitches to improve carrying capacity
- Pursue developments at Fort Road sports park
- Seek developer contributions through Section 106 Agreements to help finance provision
- Seek sites for new 3 new junior football pitches; 2 new cricket pitches; 3 new floodlit tennis courts. Seek potential sites for hockey and rugby pitches.

6.5.2 Protect and promote allotment use

To ensure the protection of and greater use of allotments

Measures

- Review allotment needs in Newhaven
- Promote the benefits of allotment gardening to the residents of Newhaven
- Consider widening the remit of allotments as community gardens
- Promote the health and educational benefits of allotment gardening

6.5.3 Improve signage

To improve public knowledge of the open space network

Measures

- Improve and upgrade directional and information signage throughout the open space network
- Consider the benefit of interpretation strategies especially for sites of high ecological and historic interest

6.6 Access Provision Objectives

6.6.1 Improve accessibility

To improve access and therefore the usage of open spaces within, around and beyond Newhaven, both for the able and less able.

Measures

- Carry out an accessibility audit on all major sites.
- Carry out necessary works to bring sites up to standards demanded by the Disability Discrimination Act
- Enhance green routes through and beyond the town, for example to Seaford, Peacehaven and Lewes.
- Enhance greenways, cycle and footpaths throughout Newhaven, aiming at the provision of a network of routes linking key sites
- Extend bus services to major sites currently not connected with the network.
- Provide cycle parking extensively throughout the town

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8. Figures

Figure 1 – Landscape Designations

Figure 2 – Wildlife Designations

Figure 3 – Archaeological Designations

Figure 4 – Existing Open Spaces

Figure 5 – Area of Greenspace Deficiency

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Project Brief – NSN



newhaven strategic network

NEWHAVEN GREENSPACES MAPPING PROJECT BRIEF

March 2004

Background

NSN wish to appoint ESCC to put together a mapping project of existing and potential open/green spaces across Newhaven. This work will build on the existing landscape assessment which was undertaken in the late 1990's

For the purposes of this study Newhaven is defined as the two wards of Denton and Meeching, and Valley. However, it will be important that the study makes clear the relationship to neighbouring areas and the significant future potential opportunities such as the South Downs National Park.

Aim

To provide a clear assessment of open/green spaces across Newhaven to guide future planning, management and investment (using as a base the existing Greenspaces Matrix).

Outcomes

1. Clear mapping of the existing green/open spaces their functions and designations
2. Identification of ownership of key sites, current management responsibilities, work currently underway or proposed
3. Mapping of the current and potential relationships and links between spaces be they visual, pedestrian, cycle routes or bridleways
4. A mechanism for wider public consultation and engagement and partner buy in
5. Overview report outlining the hierarchy of spaces, the opportunities and constraints and a short, medium and long term strategy for achievement

Final Product

The output would be a concise report with an emphasis on visual illustration through plans, maps etc. There is potential at a later stage for this to be

refined into a leaflet format which could be used for consultation and promotion.

It is our intention that the final outcome of this study will form one of the basic elements providing additional local detail in the preparation of the Local Development Framework.

We would expect ESCC to be mindful of work underway, highlighted in the Greenspaces Matrix, on a number of key sites across Newhaven including Fort Road Recreation Ground and the Fort/Castle Hill/West Beach and for them to consult with appropriate agencies to ensure up to date information is included.

Steering Group

The Steering Group overseeing this project will be the Newhaven Strategic Networks Greenspaces Action Group. The membership of the group is currently as follows:

- Penny Shimmin – NCDA
- Emily Mottram – NSN
- Owen Clifford – LDC
- Debbie Portchmouth – LDC
- James Newmarch – ESCC
- Graham Amy – Castle Hill Group
- Councillor Judith Ost – NTC

This Group is able to co-opt members as required.

Consultation

In preparing this report we would expect ESCC in addition to the local steering group to consult with the Newhaven community and local specialists. The major forum for consultation will be the Greenspace Event being organised for 24 April. In addition we would expect 1:1 consultations to be held with then following in development of the report:

- X
- Y
- Z

We would look to ESCC to consult with appropriate District, County, Regional and National organisations once the draft report has been prepared. These are likely to include the following:

- English Nature
- Coastwatch

Timeframe

Outline mapping and analysis of spaces mid-April 2004

Final report mid-June 2004

Fee

An initial fee of £3,750 plus expenses has been agreed. It is understood that if a more comprehensive report is required as a final outcome these fees may increase. We would look to ESCC to advise us of these likely costs as soon as they are known.

Appendix 2 – Assessment Sheet.

Newhaven Green Space Study - Survey Sheet

Site Name		Date/Time Weather
Location/Address		
Owner	Open Space Category	Description

Scoring - Excellent 4 Good 3 Fair 2 Weak 1 Poor 0

Location Landscape Character and Quality

- Amenity Value
- Appropriateness
- Convenience
- Connectivity

- Visual Amenity
- Local Distinctiveness
- Sense of Place
- History
- Delight
- Tranquillity

- Sense of Enclosure
- Entrances
- Boundaries
- Interior Space
- Wildlife Habitat
- Quality of Detailing

Access Facilities People

- Entrances
- Paths
- Proximity to Users
- Car Parking
- Disabled Parking
- Bicycle Parking
- Bus Stops

- Directional Signage
- Information Signs
- Café/Kiosk
- Public Toilets
- Seating
- Formal Sport Provision
- Litter Bins
- Dog Bins
- Lighting
- Site Furniture

- Educational Value
- Health
- Security
- Level of Use
- Use Out of Hours
- Disabled Access
- Elderly Access
- Children - Formal Play
- Children - Informal Play
- Teenagers
- Events

Management Maintenance Threats

- Appropriateness
- On Site Staff
- Contact Details on Site
- Information
- Community Involvement
- Sustainable Management

- Grass Areas
- Ornamental Planting
- Wildlife Habitat
- Site Buildings
- Site Furniture
- Boundaries
- Formal Sport Areas
- Path Network

- Tipping
- Litter
- Pollution
- Vandalism
- Dog Fouling
- Graffiti
- Noise
- Motor Cycling
- Inappropriate Use
- Clutter

Ecology Cultural Heritage

- Biodiversity
- Interpretation
- Wildlife Experience

- Value of Cultural Heritage
- Interpretation
- Art, Theatre or Sculpture
- Archaeology

Planning Status	Ownership	Public Access
AONB <input type="checkbox"/>	Local Authority <input type="checkbox"/>	Open <input type="checkbox"/>
SSSI <input type="checkbox"/>	Government/Crown <input type="checkbox"/>	De Facto <input type="checkbox"/>
SNCI <input type="checkbox"/>	Health <input type="checkbox"/>	Pay <input type="checkbox"/>
LNR <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
SAM <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Limited <input type="checkbox"/>
ASA <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation Area <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Habitats		
Intertidal <input type="checkbox"/>	Broadleaved Woodland <input type="checkbox"/>	Ornamental Trees <input type="checkbox"/>
Saltmarsh <input type="checkbox"/>	Scrub <input type="checkbox"/>	Ornamental Hedges <input type="checkbox"/>
Reedbed <input type="checkbox"/>	Roughland <input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetated Walls etc <input type="checkbox"/>
Ditches <input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Trees <input type="checkbox"/>	Shrubbery <input type="checkbox"/>
Running Water <input type="checkbox"/>	Hedges (Native) <input type="checkbox"/>	Herbaceous Planting <input type="checkbox"/>
Still Water <input type="checkbox"/>	Herb Rich Grassland <input type="checkbox"/>	Seasonal Bedding <input type="checkbox"/>
Flood Meadow <input type="checkbox"/>	Semi-improved Grassland <input type="checkbox"/>	Rough Grass <input type="checkbox"/>
	Ruderal/Ephemeral <input type="checkbox"/>	Mown Grass <input type="checkbox"/>
	Bare Soil/Rock <input type="checkbox"/>	Arable <input type="checkbox"/>
		Allotments <input type="checkbox"/>

Facilities		
Football Pitch <input type="checkbox"/>	Playground (Infant) <input type="checkbox"/>	Path Network <input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket Pitch <input type="checkbox"/>	Playground (Junior) <input type="checkbox"/>	Information Signs <input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis Court <input type="checkbox"/>	Teenage Facilities <input type="checkbox"/>	Directional Signage <input type="checkbox"/>
Bowling Green <input type="checkbox"/>	Skateboard Facilities <input type="checkbox"/>	Litter Bins <input type="checkbox"/>
Golf Course <input type="checkbox"/>	BMX Track <input type="checkbox"/>	Dog Bins <input type="checkbox"/>
Mini Golf <input type="checkbox"/>		Refreshment facilities <input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing <input type="checkbox"/>		Toilets <input type="checkbox"/>
Water Sports <input type="checkbox"/>		Seating <input type="checkbox"/>
Pavilion/Changing Rooms <input type="checkbox"/>		

Photographs
Three Key Words
Key Sentence
Comments

Appendix 3 – Individual Site Assessments

Open countryside –

Site:	Mount Pleasant
Location:	North-east of Denton to Newhaven Boundary
Area:	Approx 31ha
Owner(s):	Various
Open Space Category:	Open Countryside/Accessible Countryside within Urban Fringe
Planning Status:	Part AONB, part proposed South Downs National Park; Countryside policies apply to much of the area

Description

A landscape of great variety between the current built up edge of Denton and the town boundary of Newhaven comprising plotlands areas, downland trees and scrub, and farmland. Criss crossed with rights of way, the area has a dramatic downland location with wonderful views of the sea, the downs and the adjacent coastline.

Audit Results

Location

The area connects extremely well visually, functionally and ecologically with adjoining stretches of the downs to the east, south and north and to a green corridor running west through Denton as far as the Avis Road Recreation Ground and The Drove, and on to the Ouse Estuary project area. It has very high amenity value for recreation.

Landscape Character and Quality

The downland location lends the area a highly distinctive and strong sense of place. Tranquil and delightful, it provides an easy escape from the residential parts of Denton. The quality of the spaces are variable, with some of the plotlands areas and fields given over to 'horsyculture' appearing cluttered and tatty.

Facilities

No facilities are provided.

Access

Access into the area is through a variety of public foot and bridle ways, mostly unsurfaced and is convenient to large numbers of users.

People

The Mount Pleasant area is well used by a wide range of people for walking with or without dogs, horse riding, cycling, and informal play.

Management

Management is variable depending on the ownership and function of individual land parcels.

Maintenance

Maintenance is again variable and depends on land use.

Ecology and Habitats

Biodiversity is excellent in this area, with a wide range of habitats in close proximity to each other. These range from woodland through scrub to a variety of grassland types, and seasonal bare soil. The human experience of it is similarly excellent. There is no interpretation.

Cultural Heritage

The plotlands landscape is of value and interest as an example of pre planning legislation development.

Threats

Threats to the area include tipping of rubbish; leaving of litter and dog fouling, minor vandalism and graffiti. The area appears cluttered in places with a variety of structures, phone masts etc. Motor cycling and the driving of 4WD vehicles in inappropriate places is common.

Comments/Recommendations

This area is important as an urban/rural fringe landscape. Recommendations follow -

- **Seek to retain and extend planning policies to afford protection against built development**
- **Preserve the green corridor running down through Denton**
- **Provide/retain visual enclosure of the urban edge through new planting and the management of existing trees and scrub.**
- **Removal of eyesores and clutter where possible**
- **Consider the possibility of a friends group.**
- **Prevention of abuse of the more natural areas by motor cycle riders and 4WD drivers**
- **Enhancement of the wildlife habitats**
- **Enhancement of the public right of way network with surfacing and signage where appropriate, mindful of connections with Seaford and the open downland**
- **Consider the extension of the bus service and provision of cycle parking**

Site: Ouse Estuary Project Area

Location: South of A259 between Newhaven and Seaford

Area: 43.64ha

Owner(s): ESCC

Open Space Category: Open Countryside

Planning Status SNCI; The construction of the site follows policy NH11 in the LDC Local Plan

Description:

A new landscape developed from former arable land and ditches, the site provides a strategic green gap between the towns of Newhaven and Seaford and provides compensatory flood storage for the anticipated port access road and eastside industrial development.

The current Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) advocates a policy of managed realignment for this section of coastline. This policy obviously has implications for the ongoing development and management of this site.

Audit Results

Location

Of excellent amenity value, the design of the site responds well to the need for a new area of mainly wetland habitat between the 2 towns of Newhaven and Seaford, and connects very well to surrounding countryside. Until the new Port Access Road is built, and other infrastructure is put in place, its connections with rest of the town are only fair.

Landscape Character and Quality

Much of this landscape is immature, the reedbed areas for example, is designed to compensate for flood storage which will be lost when the new PAR and business park are built but will not be fully functional until this happens. Parts of the site are already maturing well and are being grazed. Away from the road, the site is relatively tranquil and it has a variety of habitats and types of space within it. There is a good sense of place and history with the retention of old features and the replication of the former wetland character. Detailing of new structures and features is good.

Facilities

A new cycle/pedestrian path exists on site as the first part of a route through it. Some permanent directional signing exists, along with temporary information signs. There are no bins or seating.

Access

New paths are to an excellent standard and the site is on a bus route. Improvements are planned to the links with other parts of the town. There is currently no parking provision at the site.

People

A bird hide is anticipated which will add to the educational value of the site. Access for disabled and elderly has been planned into the development.

Management

Management is highly appropriate to a conservation site, this being through the County Ecologist, part funded by a Countryside Stewardship scheme. A grazing agreement is in place, along with provision for arable areas designed for the benefit of wildlife. A temporary rangers arrangement is in place.

Maintenance

Maintenance is ongoing as part of both the original construction contract and under the grazing agreement, together with the temporary ranger.

Ecology and Habitats

A wide range of mainly wetland habitats exist on site, together with new wild flower areas and tree and scrub planting. A large area of reed bed is slowly developing. This site is an existing SNCI and a potential SSSI due to its populations of Great Crested Newts and wading birds.

Cultural Heritage

The Pargut Bank, a historic flood defence structure, exists on the site.

Threats

Threats to this site at present are few. There is noise from the road, and dog fouling is a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

- **Adhere to Management Plan, and review it at appropriate intervals. Ensure that it fully reflects the content of the Countryside Stewardship Agreement currently in force.**
- **Produce a design guide to be included in the plan**
- **Implement the interpretation strategy**
- **Continue to resist development pressure through the planning system**
- **Seek to keep the public away from core wildlife areas**
- **Consider the formation of an liaison committee involving local organisations**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**

Natural and semi-natural urban greenspace –

Site:	Castle Hill LNR
Location:	Cliffs and down surrounding Newhaven Fort
Area:	15.67ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Natural and semi-natural urban greenspace
Planning Status	SSSI; SNCI; LNR; Policies NH14 and NH15

Description:

Delightful, wild natural landscape, with abundant wildlife, open public access and wonderful views over the sea, and inland towards the downs.

Audit Results

Location

With excellent amenity value and connectivity with the cliffs and downs towards Peacehaven, this site is sufficiently far from most residential areas to restrict its use.

Landscape Character and Quality

This site scores very highly for visual amenity and delight, whilst its location by the sea and surrounding the Fort give it a very strong sense of place and history. Relatively tranquil, it offers an escape from the urban centre of Newhaven, with abundant and varied wildlife habitat. The quality of detailing of hard structures site furniture is variable, with much new work of a good standard, especially around the new car park, but a failure in some places to adhere to design standards set by much of the new work. For example, the timber shell bollard idea, and the dark green colour theme could have been followed where new provision has been made.

Facilities

Some directional and interpretive signage exists, many simple seats, and a small number of litter and dog bins.

Access

Entrances are mainly good, and ample car parking exists. The path network is variable but improving with a combination of capital works and continual improvements by the Castle Hill Management Group. Disabled access is particularly good with access to the cliff top having been constructed recently to BT Countryside for all standards. Cycle parking is minimal however and the site is not on the town bus route.

People

The value of the site for education and health is excellent, and it offers much in the way of informal play, and meeting opportunities for children and young people. The site offers much variety for activities ranging from sitting in the car park or on the cliffs watching the ferries, through nature study, walking and mountain biking, to hang

gliding.

Management

Management of the site is generally good with the site being run by the Castle Hill Management Group, comprising a number of local people and local authority officers, supported by Lewes DC Parks Team. There is a part time ranger employed by Lewes DC. A recently reviewed management plan is in place.

Maintenance

Maintenance is generally fair to good, and benefits from the guidance of the management plan. As with so many sites, tight funding is evident however.

Ecology and Habitats

A range of habitats are present from rough grass through to scrub and woodland. The underlying geology is of particular interest, hence the SSSI designation. The wildlife experience is excellent, but interpretation, though good in parts with signs courtesy of English Nature, could be improved.

Cultural Heritage

This is again excellent, with the history of human occupation of the site going back to the Iron Age, and many buildings and other features associated with the fort present. A thorough survey was carried out by the University of London Field Archaeology Unit in 2000.

Threats

Tipping, once a problem is now far less so, but litter and dog fouling are still a concern. Motor cycling and 4WD use are problems.

Comments/Recommendations

- **Ensure that the Castle Hill LNR Management Plan is adhered to and reviewed at appropriate intervals**
- **Produce a design guide to be included in the plan and review the provision of site furniture to adhere to the Castle Hill style and colour themes.**
- **Continue to resist development pressure through the planning system**
- **Investigate funding opportunities for the restoration and interpretation of historic features such as the gun emplacements**
- **Continue to explore funding opportunities to develop Coastguard Tower as a meeting room/interpretation centre**
- **Ensure that no operations are carried out which may damage the special interest of the SSSI (See schedule at Appendix 4)**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**
- **Improve access with cycle parking and inclusion of the site on the town bus route**

Site: Denton Drive Wood
Location: Denton Drive
Area: Approx. 1.01ha
Owner(s): Not known
Open Space Category: Natural and Semi-natural urban greenspace
Planning Status: Mostly within Denton Conservation Area

Description:
Area of unmanaged woodland dominated by Ash and Sycamore.

Audit Results

Location

The site has high amenity value and connects quite well with adjoining downland and other open spaces towards the centre of the town.

Landscape Character and Quality

An area of publicly accessible woodland, the site has an anonymous and uncared for feel about it. Typical downland woodland, comprising mainly Ash and Sycamore, with an understorey mainly of Hawthorn, with hazel and Field Maple. Excellent views from the edges. Landscape quality is poor with an air of dereliction and abuse.

Facilities

Facilities are minimal, and restricted to a network of muddy unsurfaced paths, and occasional finger posts indicating public footpaths. There are no signs of any description.

Access

Access is generally poor, there is no parking, except on the roadside, for either cars or cycles. The site is close to the number 145 bus route.

People

This wood appears to be used for dog walking and as an informal play and meeting space by children and teenagers. It has potential educational value.

Management

Little or no management is evident.

Maintenance

Again, little or no maintenance is evident.

Ecology and Habitats

Although mainly broadleaved woodland, other habitats such as scrub, grassland, dead wood and disturbed soil exist. There is an impression of a fairly high value for wildlife, partly due to its unmanaged nature.

Cultural Heritage

The site has become wooded in recent times.

Threats

Litter and dog fouling are a severe problem, along with deliberate and inadvertent vandalism. There is evidence of motor cycle riding on the path network.

Comments/Recommendations

There is no impression or evidence on the ground of ownership by anyone. It appears unmanaged and uncared for, and semi-derelict.

Recommendations are as follows

- **Ascertain ownership**
- **Commission full ecological surveys to ascertain the current and potential wildlife interest, and as the basis of a management plan**
- **Produce a management plan, which is then reviewed at appropriate intervals**
- **Consider the setting up of a friends group or similar including the younger users of the site**
- **Attempt to protect the site against further development (PP exists for a small area at the end of King's Avenue)**

The management plan should then be followed. Recommendations likely to be contained in a management plan include –

- **Review, rationalise and appropriately surface a path network**
- **Provide interpretative and information signage**
- **Consider adding seating**
- **Check, maintain and renew fencing as necessary**
- **Carry out safety inspections of trees which overhang paths and adjacent properties and carry out any minimal necessary tree work to ensure public safety and avoid damage to property**
- **Manage the woodland to maximise wildlife interest**
- **Provide dog bins to combat fouling problem**
- **Carry out litter picking regularly, and consider the possibility of providing bins**

Site:	The Drove
Location:	Avis Road
Area:	2.02ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Natural and Semi-natural urban greenspace
Planning Status	Policy NH17 covers part of site

Description:

The site comprises a largely complete new disabled accessible conservation area, a mature reedbed, and a cricket pitch. Bounded on one side by a drainage ditch and the Avis Way Industrial Estate, Avis Road, with its wide verge and mature Willows forms the other main boundary.

Audit Results

Location

Its proximity to the industrial estate and residential development makes the site convenient for a large number of users. It connects well with the surrounding landscape, and once mature, will be of high amenity value.

Landscape Character and Quality

A strong sense of place is evident and the site fits well with the local landscape character. There is a fairly strong sense of enclosure, although the appearance of the industrial units detracts from the quality of the experience somewhat. The valley habitats are well represented whilst the detailing on the new works is to a good standard.

Facilities

A disabled accessible path network designed in accordance with the BT Countryside for All guidance has been implemented together with seating. More seating is anticipated. There are currently no litter or dog bins.

Access

Although there is no dedicated parking, this can be obtained in the adjacent industrial area. No cycle parking is present, but the 145 bus passes close by. A new crossing into the Sainsbury's car park will improve the connectivity of cycle and pedestrian access in this area.

People

The newly developed part of the site has been developed with the disabled and elderly in mind, to give them a flavour of local wetland habitat, as well as providing an open space for industrial estate employees. There will be educational opportunities in the future. The cricket pitch which makes upper of the site is well used during the season.

Management

The new part of the site is currently under the management of ESCC through its contractor. It is anticipated that local disabled groups will be involved in the ongoing management along with Lewes DC.

Maintenance

As above.

Ecology and Habitats

A wide range of habitats exists on site, ranging from ponds, ditches and reedbeds, through to grassland sown with a conservation mix, hedgerows and trees. The wildlife experience is good now and should improve as the site matures.

Cultural Heritage

Threats

The ditch adjacent to the industrial area is badly littered and occasionally polluted. A certain amount of litter and dog fouling exists on the site, but graffiti and vandalism are minimal.

Recommendations

- **Produce and adhere to a Management Plan, and review it at appropriate intervals.**
- **Produce a design guide to be included in the plan**
- **Ensure uncompleted development work is completed as soon as possible**
- **Consider involving local people, and especially the less able, in the ongoing management of the site.**
- **Consider the educational potential of the site**
- **Complete the link with the Sainsbury's car park**
- **Consider further improvements to the path connections with the adjacent hotel and Denton**
- **Ensure the preservation of the fine line of Willows fronting Avis Road**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**

Site:	Harbour Heights
Location:	Cliffs and down west of Castle Hill
Area:	c.33ha
Owner(s):	Various
Open Space Category:	Natural and semi-natural urban greenspace
Planning Status	SSSI; Policies NH14 and NH15

Description:

Delightful, wild natural landscape, with some agriculture, abundant wildlife, much open public access and wonderful views over the sea, and inland towards the downs.

Audit Results

Location

With excellent amenity value and connectivity with the cliffs and downs towards Peacehaven, the open access parts of this site is sufficiently far from most residential areas to restrict its use.

Landscape Character and Quality

This area scores very highly for visual amenity and delight, whilst its location by the sea gives it a very strong sense of place and history. Relatively tranquil, it has abundant and varied wildlife habitat.

Facilities

A little directional and interpretive signage exists, some simple seats, and a small number of litter and dog bins.

Access

Relatively remote, the area is accessed through the public right of way system. Disabled access is not good.

People

The value of the area for education and health is excellent. The area offers much variety for activities ranging from walking and sitting on the cliffs watching the ferries, through nature study, and mountain biking.

Management

There is little management evident of this area apart from those parts under agriculture

Maintenance

Again, little maintenance.

Ecology and Habitats

A range of habitats are present from rough grass through to scrub and woodland. The underlying geology is of particular interest, hence the SSSI designation. The wildlife experience is excellent, but interpretation, though good in parts with signs courtesy of English Nature, could be improved.

Cultural Heritage

This is again excellent, with the history of human occupation of the site going back to the Iron Age.

Threats

Litter and dog fouling are a problem, along with motor cycling.

Comments/Recommendations

Continuous with the Castle Hill LNR, this area is delightful, and one of the few areas of unspoilt coastline along this part of the south coast.

Recommendations include –

- **Consider the management of the area and the possibility of the cliff top coming under the aegis of the Castle Hill Management Group.**
- **Consider extending the Castle Hill LNR Management Plan to the town boundary, adhering to it and reviewing it at appropriate intervals**
- **Continue to resist development pressure through the planning system**
- **Ensure that no operations are carried out which may damage the special interest of the SSSI (See schedule at Appendix 4)**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**
- **Improve access**

Site:	Meeching Down
Location:	Brighton Road
Area:	Approx. 6.87ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Natural and Semi-natural Urban Greenspace
Planning Status	SNCI; Lewes DC Countryside Policies

Description:

Area composed mainly of unmanaged scrub and woodland dominated by Hawthorn Ash and Sycamore on the western edge of Newhaven, surrounded on three sides by residential development.

Audit Results

Location

The site has high amenity value and connects well with adjoining downland and plotland to the west, and visually with downland elsewhere close by..

Landscape Character and Quality

An area of publicly accessible scrub and woodland within the boundary of Newhaven. Typical downland woodland, comprising mainly Ash and Sycamore, with an understorey mainly of Hawthorn, heavily influenced by the location close to the coast. Excellent views from the edges. Landscape quality is generally high.

Facilities

Facilities are minimal, and restricted to a network of muddy unsurfaced paths, and occasional finger posts indicating public footpaths. There are no signs of any description within the wooded area, but an information sign exists in the Meeching Down Open Space which occupies a position in the northern corner of the site.

Access

Access is generally by foot, there is no parking for either cars or cycles. The site is close to the bus route between Newhaven and Brighton.

People

Meeching Down appears to be used for dog walking and as an informal play and meeting space by children and teenagers. It has potential educational value.

Management

Little or no management is evident, except for the Open Space which is regularly mown.

Maintenance

As above.

Ecology and Habitats

Mainly broadleaved woodland and scrub, other habitats such as grassland, dead wood and disturbed soil exist. There is an impression of a fairly high value for wildlife.

Cultural Heritage

A remnant of undeveloped downland

Threats

Litter and dog fouling are a problem, along with deliberate and inadvertent vandalism. There is evidence of motor cycle riding on the path network.

Comments/Recommendations

The site appears largely unmanaged. The mown grass of the Meeching Down Open Space is on a steep slope and therefore of little value for games.

Recommendations are as follows

- **Commission full ecological surveys to ascertain the current and potential wildlife interest, and as the basis of a management plan**
- **Produce a management plan, which is then reviewed at appropriate intervals**
- **Consider the setting up of a 'Friends of Meeching Down' or similar including the younger users of the site**

The management plan should then be followed. Recommendations likely to be contained in a management plan include –

- **Review, rationalise and appropriately surface a path network**
- **Provide interpretative and information signage**
- **Consider adding seating**
- **Check, maintain and renew fencing as necessary**
- **Carry out safety inspections of trees which overhang paths and adjacent properties and carry out any minimal necessary tree work to ensure public safety and avoid damage to property**
- **Manage the woodland to maximise wildlife interest**
- **Reconsider the management of the Open Space area**
- **Provide dog bins to combat fouling problem**
- **Carry out litter picking regularly, and consider the possibility of providing bins**

Site: Riverside/Lewes Road Park
Location: Lewes Road
Area: 15.80ha
Owner(s): Lewes DC/ESCC
Open Space Category: Natural and Semi-natural urban greenspace
Planning Status: SNCI; Policy NH18 covers the site

Description:

Much of the site is a semi derelict former tip which nature has taken over. Now vegetated with a mosaic of vegetation types it has become very interesting ecologically.

Audit Results

Location

Its proximity to the industrial estate and residential development makes the site convenient for a large number of users. It connects well with the surrounding landscape, and once mature, will be of high amenity value.

Landscape Character and Quality

A unique largely brownfield landscape with a strong sense of place. At the fringes the site blends well into the local wetland landscape character of the lower Ouse Estuary. There is a fairly strong sense of enclosure within the site, although the panoramic views lend a feeling of openness and space. The new cycle path is well detailed, but the loose stone ones work less well.

Facilities

A disabled accessible foot/cycle path designed in accordance with the BT Countryside for All guidance has been implemented leading north towards Piddinghoe. More seating is anticipated. There is one dog bin.

Access

No car or cycle parking is present, but the Lewes - Peacehaven bus passes close by.

People

The site is widely used by dog walkers, and for informal play, including BMX riding.

Management

The site is currently managed jointly by ESCC and Lewes DC and has a temporary ranger presence with part time rangers from both local authorities.

Maintenance

As above

Ecology and Habitats

A wide range of habitats exists on site, ranging from ponds, ditches and reedbeds, at lower levels, and bare ground through herb rich grassland, scrub and trees on the top and sides of the former tipped area. The wildlife experience is excellent now and should be borne strongly in mind as the site is developed.

Cultural Heritage
Insignificant

Threats

The ditch adjacent to the river is badly littered and occasionally polluted. A certain amount of litter exists on the site, partly due to the proximity of the amenity tip. Dog fouling is a very severe problem, but graffiti and vandalism are minimal.

Comments/Recommendations

A major review of the design and functions of the space is underway, and this has been subject to much public consultation.

Important considerations include the following -

- **Consider the site as a unit with the adjacent Lewes Road Recreation Ground**
- **Move on the design process as rapidly as possible, mindful of Lewes DC planning policy NH18 and the results of public consultation to date**
- **Consider the production of a Design Guide as part of the Development Plan, and ensure that a Management Plan is produced and reviewed regularly.**
- **Consider the relocation of the amenity tip**
- **Consider the current and potential ecological value of the site and its SSSI status**
- **Consider the formation of a friends/users group, to include representation of the children and young people who are current major users of the site**
- **Consider the implications of the PMP report in its requirement for major new playing pitch provision within Newhaven**
- **Consider the**
- **Deal rapidly with incidents of vandalism, litter, graffiti etc.**
- **Review the provision of toilets, seating, bins etc.**
- **Consider the provision of access including car and cycle parking**

Site:	Valley Ponds
Location:	Valley Road
Area:	1.02ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Natural and Semi-natural urban greenspace
Planning Status	SNCI, policy ST9 covers the site

Description:

Relic wetland habitat featuring a chain of ponds and a number of mature Willows, urbanised with closely mown grass.

Audit Results

Location

Its proximity to much residential development makes the site convenient for a large number of users. It connects well with the Riverside Park area and open countryside beyond, functionally and visually.

Landscape Character and Quality

A strong sense of place is evident and the site fits well with the original local landscape character. Its tamed appearance detracts somewhat from this character however.

Facilities

These are few. One or two litter bins exist. There is no seating or path network. No dog bins exist. A sign indicates its ownership.

Access

Parking is available on the surrounding road network. No cycle parking is present, but the 145 bus passes close by. The site is level and accessed from its open edge.

People

There is potential for educational use of the site, but current use appears to be restricted to dog walking and informal play.

Management

The site is managed by Newhaven Town Council under an informal agreement. There is no community involvement.

Maintenance

Maintenance to the pond areas and trees seems to be fairly non-interventionist. The grass areas are mown regularly. Many of the trees have in the past and continue to collapse.

Ecology and Habitats

A range of habitats exists on the site, ranging from the ponds, ditches and small patches of reedbed, through to mature native trees. The wildlife experience is good with a range of common water birds.

Cultural Heritage

A remnant of the wetland past of this area.

Threats

A certain amount of litter and dog fouling exists on the site, along with graffiti and vandalism. There is noise from the adjacent Lewes Road. The broken trees lead to an air of dereliction in some areas.

Comments/Recommendations

Although the site is a SNCI there is little impression of it being a nature conservation site. A management plan is required which considers the way forward. It is likely to include the following –

- **Commission full ecological surveys to ascertain the current and potential wildlife interest, and as the basis of the management plan**
- **Produce and regularly review the management plan**
- **Consider the setting up of a ‘Friends of Valley Ponds’ or similar including the younger users of the site**
- **Manage the site to maximise wildlife interest, including varying the mowing regime**
- **Review, rationalise and appropriately surface a path network**
- **Provide interpretative and information signage**
- **Consider adding seating**
- **Consider fencing the boundaries of the site**
- **Carry out safety inspections of the trees and carry out any necessary tree work to ensure public safety, avoid damage to property, and to ensure their longevity**
- **Provide dog bins to combat fouling problem**
- **Carry out litter picking regularly, and address any episodes of vandalism and graffiti promptly**

Site:	West Beach
Location:	Beach and other areas at base of cliffs west of River Ouse
Area:	c.26.5ha
Owner(s):	NP&P; LDC; Crown Estates
Open Space Category:	Natural and Semi-natural Urban Greenspace
Planning Status:	SSSI (Brighton – Newhaven Cliffs SSSI); Lewes DC Local Plan Policies NH14 and NH15 apply

Description

Dramatic seaside location backed by rugged cliffs, with sea, sand and shingle, with a large car park and associated seasonal facilities. Wonderful views of the sea, the working port, and the adjacent coastline.

The current Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) advocates a policy of no active intervention for this section of coastline, but maintaining the western breakwater, or replacing it if it fails to be maintained. This policy obviously has implications for the ongoing development and management of this site.

Audit Results

Location

The site connects extremely well visually, functionally and ecologically with adjoining stretches of cliffs and beaches to the west and to Castle Hill Local Nature Reserve to the north. Natural coastal open spaces are at a premium in this area, it is therefore highly desirable that it continues to be so. It has high amenity value for seaside recreation, although its location far from the centres of population in the town mean that it is mainly accessed by car by residents and visitors alike.

Landscape Character and Quality

The location lends the site a highly distinctive and strong sense of place, not only due to the maritime location, but also because of the historic features associated with Newhaven Fort which overlook it and the breakwater which reaches out into the sea. Tranquil and delightful in calm weather and dramatic otherwise, the more natural parts of the site seem detached from the built up parts of Newhaven. The quality of the built parts of the space, especially the amusements area, are tatty however, with much clutter and a lack of maintenance apparent, leading to an overall air of neglect.

Facilities

Many of the facilities provided at this site are of a seasonal nature, only open in the late spring to autumn. The car park is open all year round and is charged for during the season. Signs and formal seating are sparse, but oil drum litter bins and dog bins are plentiful.

Access

Entrances are clear and level, and much of the site is hard surfaced with concrete and thus easy to negotiate for all. Car parking is extensive but there is no dedicated parking for the disabled. There are no facilities designed for bicycle parking, and the site is not on a bus route.

People

West Beach is well used by a wide range of ages for a variety of activities, many dependent upon weather and the time of year. Uses include enjoying the view; typical beach activities in the summer when the tide is out; walking; and, sea fishing.

Management

Management appears to be somewhat minimal. The amusements and car park kiosk are manned seasonally. There is community involvement through the West Beach Improvement Group who carry out regular litter clearance, especially of the shingle beach to the west of the car park, and have lobbied for improvements to the area.

Maintenance

Maintenance is poor overall, leading to the area looking tatty and neglected. In some habitat areas, this is not a problem, but the general appearance of the site suffers.

Ecology and Habitats

Biodiversity is excellent at this site, with its intertidal habitat, shingle, mix of scrub and rough grass, and cliffs, and the human experience of it is similarly excellent. Interpretation however is restricted to one English nature sign.

Cultural Heritage

The value of the cultural heritage at the site is high, with its range of historic structures. Interpretation is non-existent however.

Threats

Threats to the site include tipping of rubbish; leaving of litter and dog fouling, despite the provision of bins; minor vandalism and graffiti. The site appears cluttered with a variety of site furniture and in some cases derelict (but sometimes historic) structures. Motor cycling and the driving of 4WD vehicles in inappropriate places is common.

Comments/Recommendations

On the whole, this site appears tatty, neglected and abused, and a generally wasted opportunity. Consideration should be given to a major review of its design, functions and appearance and include the following –

- **Environmental enhancement of the approach to the West Beach**
- **Restoration where appropriate and interpretation of the Lunette Battery and other historic defence structures**
- **Consideration of linking the site with the Fort and Castle Hill**
- **Review of the extent and design of the car park and its furniture, to reduce its impact and enhance its character**
- **Review and upgrading of the amusement/café facilities**
- **Consider the provision of toilet facilities**
- **Consider the provision of seating, litter and dog bins**
- **Removal of eyesores and clutter**

- **Prevention of abuse of the more natural areas by motor cycle riders and 4WD drivers**
- **Enhancement of the wildlife habitats**
- **Provision of a bus service and cycle parking**
- **All works and management to be carried out so as not to conflict with the SMP**
- **Aim for ENCAMS Seaside Award standard and apply for award**

Accessible Countryside Within Urban Fringe -

Site:	Bollen's Bush
Location:	West of Lewes Road Cemetery
Area:	Approx. 6.71ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Accessible Countryside Within Urban Fringe
Planning Status	Lewes DC Countryside Policies

Description:
Area of unmanaged woodland dominated by Ash and Sycamore on the northern edge of Newhaven.

Audit Results

Location

The site has high amenity value and connects well with adjoining downland.

Landscape Character and Quality

The main area of publicly accessible woodland within the boundary of Newhaven, the site has an anonymous and uncared for feel about it. Typical downland woodland, comprising mainly Ash and Sycamore, with an understorey mainly of Hawthorn. Excellent views from the edges. Landscape quality is poor with an air of dereliction and abuse.

Facilities

Facilities are minimal, and restricted to a network of muddy unsurfaced paths, and occasional finger posts indicating public footpaths. There are no signs of any description.

Access

Access is generally poor, there is no parking, except on the adjacent allotment site, for either cars or cycles. The site is close to the numbers 23 and 123 bus route between Lewes and Newhaven.

People

Bollen's Bush appears to be used for dog walking and as an informal play and meeting space by children and teenagers. It has potential educational value.

Management

Little or no management is evident.

Maintenance

Again, little or no maintenance is evident.

Ecology and Habitats

Although mainly broadleaved woodland, other habitats such as scrub, grassland, dead wood and disturbed soil exist. There is an impression of a fairly high value for wildlife, partly due to its unmanaged nature.

Cultural Heritage

Although believed by many to be Semi natural Ancient Woodland, it does not appear on the English Nature inventory, despite woodland having existed on the site certainly in the mid 19th century.

Threats

Litter and dog fouling are a severe problem, along with deliberate and inadvertent vandalism. There is evidence of motor cycle riding on the path network.

Comments/Recommendations

Although seemingly valued by the community, there is no impression or evidence on the ground of ownership by anyone. It appears unmanaged and uncared for, and semi-derelict.

Recommendations are as follows

- **Commission full ecological surveys to ascertain the current and potential wildlife interest, and as the basis of a management plan**
- **Produce a management plan, which is then reviewed at appropriate intervals**
- **Consider the setting up of a 'Friends of Bollen's Bush' or similar including the younger users of the site**

The management plan should then be followed. Recommendations likely to be contained in a management plan include –

- **Review, rationalise and appropriately surface a path network**
- **Provide interpretative and information signage**
- **Consider adding seating**
- **Check, maintain and renew fencing as necessary**
- **Carry out safety inspections of trees which overhang paths and adjacent properties and carry out any minimal necessary tree work to ensure public safety and avoid damage to property**
- **Manage the woodland to maximise wildlife interest**
- **Provide dog bins to combat fouling problem**
- **Carry out litter picking regularly, and consider the possibility of providing bins**

Site:	Western Plotlands and Peacehaven Golf Course
Location:	Western fringes of Newhaven
Area:	Approx 68ha
Owner(s):	Various
Open Space Category:	Accessible Countryside within Urban Fringe
Planning Status:	Part AONB, part proposed South Downs National Park; Countryside policies apply to much of the area

Description

A landscape of great variety on the western fringe of Newhaven, comprising plotlands areas, downland trees and scrub, and farmland. Criss crossed with rights of way, the area has a dramatic downland location with wonderful views of the downs and the Ouse Valley.

Audit Results

Location

The area connects extremely well visually, functionally and ecologically with adjoining stretches of the downs to the west. It has very high amenity value for recreation.

Landscape Character and Quality

The downland location lends the area a highly distinctive and strong sense of place. Tranquil and delightful, it provides an easy escape from the residential parts of western Newhaven. The quality of the spaces are variable, with some of the plotlands areas and fields given over to 'horsyculture' appearing cluttered and tatty.

Facilities

No facilities are provided.

Access

Access into the area is through a variety of tracks, public foot and bridle ways, mostly unsurfaced and is convenient to large numbers of users.

People

The area is well used by a wide range of people for walking with or without dogs, horse riding, cycling, and informal play.

Management

Management is variable depending on the ownership and function of individual land parcels.

Maintenance

Maintenance is again variable and depends on land use.

Ecology and Habitats

Biodiversity is excellent in this area, with a wide range of habitats in close proximity to each other. These range from woodland through scrub to a variety of grassland types, and seasonal bare soil. The human experience of it is similarly excellent. There is no interpretation.

Cultural Heritage

The plotlands landscape is of value and interest as an example of pre planning legislation development.

Threats

Threats to the area include tipping of rubbish; leaving of litter and dog fouling, minor vandalism and graffiti. The area appears cluttered in places with a variety of structures, phone masts etc. Motor cycling and the driving of 4WD vehicles in inappropriate places is common.

Comments/Recommendations

This area is important as an urban/rural edge landscape. Recommendations follow -

- **Retain robust planning policies and extend to afford protection against built development**
- **Provide/retain visual enclosure of the urban edge through new planting and the management of existing.**
- **Removal of eyesores and clutter where possible**
- **Consider the possibility of a friends group.**
- **Prevention of abuse of the more natural areas by motor cycle riders and 4WD drivers**
- **Enhancement of the wildlife habitats**
- **Enhancement of the public right of way network with surfacing and signage where appropriate, mindful of connections with Peacehaven and the open downland**
- **Consider the extension of the bus service and provision of cycle parking**

Amenity greenspace –

Site:	A259 and ring road verges
Location:	A259 between Denton Roundabout and Lewes Road
Area:	c.2.15ha
Owner(s):	ESCC
Open Space Category:	Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status	None

Description:

Areas of highway verge either side of the A259 and ring road, mostly grassed but with varying amounts of planting.

Audit Results

Location

Due to their width, the verges in this location provide a certain visual and functional continuity along the road whilst connecting open spaces along the way.

Landscape Character and Quality

Variable character and quality, mostly mown grass but with much planting. The planting varies from tidy well maintained shrub and ground cover plantings in sponsored areas, to badly maintained and overgrown trees and shrubs in other areas.

Facilities

Litter and dog bins, information and directional signs, and a foot/cycle path network exist throughout.

Access

Level and free access.

People

Used for walking and cycling.

Management and Maintenance

Managed mainly by ESCC, typically on the basis of 5 cuts a year to grass areas, and pruning back of trees and shrubs to clear path ways etc only as necessary.

Ecology and Habitats

Some value as green corridor, especially where mature trees and shrubs exist.

Cultural Heritage

None

Threats

Most areas suffer from a general lack of care and feature litter, dog fouling, minor vandalism and graffiti, and noise and pollution from road vehicles.

Comments/Recommendations

Generally poorly maintained soft areas, with no overarching theme in the planting. A negative impression is left upon visitors and residents alike.

- **Consider developing a planting theme to cover all areas, perhaps picking upon the maritime influenced wetland vegetation found in adjacent areas based upon Willow and Poplar where space permits.**
- **Review use of seasonal bedding displays to ensure that these are placed only in the most appropriate areas of highest impact where maintenance will be adequate.**
- **Consider introducing sculptural and gateway features at appropriate points**
- **Attempt to extend sponsorship and maintenance arrangements with local businesses and other organisations and seek licenses to cultivate from ESCC**
- **Consider varying the maintenance of embankments and other areas to allow wild flowers to develop**
- **Aim to increase input into these spaces to raise their quality and improve their appearance**
- **Consider involvement of local people**

Site:	Avis Road verges
Location:	Avis Road
Area:	c.0.54ha
Owner(s):	ESCC
Open Space Category:	Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status	None

Description:

Areas of highway verge either side of the Avis Road. Some are wide grass verges, and drainage ditches exist within others. A fine strip of mature Poplar and Willow lines the south west side of Avis Road alongside The Drove public open space.

Audit Results

Location

Due to their width, the verges in this location provide visual and functional continuity along the road whilst connecting open spaces along the way.

Landscape Character and Quality

Variable character and quality, much mown grass but some areas with much planting. The wide, often reed filled ditches and the existence of much mature Willow and Poplar strongly reinforces the area's former wetland character

Facilities

Some litter and dog bins exist, along with information and directional signs. A foot/cycle path network exists in sections.

Access

Level and free access.

People

Used for walking and cycling. The more mature areas provide considerable visual amenity.

Management and Maintenance

Managed mainly by ESCC, typically on the basis of 5 cuts a year to grass areas, and pruning back of trees and shrubs to clear path ways etc only as necessary.

Ecology and Habitats

Great value as green corridor where mature trees and shrubs, and reeded ditches exist.

Cultural Heritage

None

Threats

Most areas suffer from a general lack of care and feature litter, dog fouling, minor vandalism and graffiti, and noise and pollution from road vehicles.

Comments/Recommendations

Generally poorly maintained soft areas.

- **Consider adding planting to grassed areas to reinforce the wetland vegetation character which already exists in some areas based upon Willow and Poplar where space permits**
- **Consider introducing sculptural and gateway features at appropriate points**
- **Attempt to extend sponsorship and maintenance arrangements with local businesses and other organisations and seek licenses to cultivate from ESCC**
- **Consider varying the maintenance to allow wild flowers to develop**
- **Aim to increase input into these spaces to raise their quality and improve their appearance**
- **Consider involvement of local people**

Site:	Other wide road verges
Location:	e.g. Fullwood Avenue; Metcalfe Avenue; Ash Close etc
Area:	various
Owner(s):	ESCC
Open Space Category:	Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status	None

Description:

Areas of wide highway verge mainly around new and other post war housing development.

Audit Results

Location

Due to their width or size, these verges offer potential landscape benefits.

Landscape Character and Quality

Generally wide mown grass verges, with very occasional lollipop trees.

Facilities

None

Access

Generally level and free access.

People

Tend to be little used

Management and Maintenance

Managed mainly by ESCC, typically on the basis of 5 cuts a year to grass areas, and pruning back of any trees and shrubs to clear path ways etc only as necessary.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal value

Cultural Heritage

None

Threats

Many areas feature litter and dog fouling, and noise and pollution from road vehicles.

Comments/Recommendations

Generally maintained simply as mown grass.

- **Consider adding tree and/or shrub planting to grassed areas to reinforce an appropriate vegetation character to that which already exists in the area**
- **Attempt to introduce sponsorship and maintenance arrangements with local businesses and other organisations and seek licenses to cultivate from ESCC**
- **Consider varying the maintenance to allow wild flowers to develop**
- **Aim to increase input into these spaces to raise their quality and improve their appearance**
- **Consider involvement of local people to adopt a verge**

Site: Bay View Amenity Area
Location: Bay View Road
Area: 0.18ha
Owner(s): Newhaven TC
Open Space Category: Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status: Policies RE1 and RE2 apply

Description:

Narrow grassed strip of with trees and scrub.

Audit Results

Location

Convenient to the residents of the area and users of the Hillcrest Centre, and moderately well connected in landscape terms to other open spaces locally.

Landscape Character and Quality

Facilities

Access

People

Management

Managed by Newhaven TC.

Maintenance

Ecology and Habitats

Cultural Heritage

Threats

Comments/Recommendations

An area badly in need of enhancement. Recommendations as follows –

- **Consider possibility of establishing as a pocket park/garden to provide for quiet recreation**
- **Consider varying the maintenance of the embankment and elsewhere to allow wild flowers to develop, perhaps enhanced with native tree and shrub planting**
- **Provide seating, planting, bins etc.**
- **Consider involvement of local people in the design and management of the area. Good site for a pilot as so close to the Hillcrest Community Centre**

Site: Denton and Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground

Location: Denton Road

Area: 0.42ha

Owner(s): Newhaven TC

Open Space Category: Amenity Greenspace

Planning Status: Policies RE1 and RE2 apply

Description

Flat and featureless recreation ground, but with equipped children's playground.

Audit Results

Location

Of reasonable amenity value, this site connects well from a landscape point of view with other nearby sites, especially Avis Road Recreation Ground and the playing field at Denton School.

Landscape Character and Quality

A functional landscape, it scores poorly for visual amenity and general landscape character and quality. Entrances are unattractive and boundaries poor with a variety of fence types. The site is very open with no sense of enclosure. On the other hand it appears continuous with the two sites mentioned above. Wildlife habitat is largely non-existent and the quality of detailing is generally poor.

Facilities

The site has a few facilities, as follows –

- Community Centre
- Equipped children's playground
- Seating
- Litter and dog bins
- Information signage

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the roadside only. There is no cycle parking, but the 145 bus stops nearby.

People

The site is fairly well used and benefits from the location on the site of the Community Centre.

Management

The site is managed by Newhaven Town Council. Management is largely appropriate.

Maintenance

The site is moderately well maintained.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal – restricted to mown grass and occasional trees, although a dry ditch and wide hedgerow on the roadside provides some habitat on the boundary of this site.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal

Threats

The site scores well in this category, but with some minor vandalism and graffiti, litter and dog fouling. Road noise is a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

Appears to be a fairly well used site, but somewhat tatty in places like many others in the town. A review of the design and functions of the space is recommended to improve the experience of using the site. Proposals which should be included in any review include -

- **Use planting of indigenous and locally abundant species such as Willows to connect the site visually with the Willow fringed Avis Road and The Drove open space, and to enclose it, lessening the impact of Avis Road.**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Consider other ways of managing the ditches to increase and vary wildlife interest**
- **Deal rapidly with incidents of vandalism, graffiti and excess littering**
- **Increase amounts of seating**
- **Consider community involvement in the management of the site**

Site:	Denton Island
Location:	Space to south and west of South Downs College
Area:	0.60ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC; Southdown College
Open Space Category:	Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status	Policy NH9 applies

Description:

Public open space, foot/cycle path and car parking as setting for new college building.

Audit Results

Location

Convenient to residents of and visitors to the area, and well connected in landscape terms to other, especially undeveloped open space around Denton Island.

Landscape Character and Quality

New landscape using some maritime themes in hard detailing, e.g. planters made from redundant harbour timbers, and planting with a maritime theme. Strong sense of place with the surrounding landscape with small areas of saltmarsh and mudflat vegetation and the tidal nature of the river. Landscape quality variable.

Facilities

Car parking, seating, dog and litter bins, and signage. Café in the college building.

Access

Good level access throughout, car and cycle parking. Bus service to nearby Lower Place.

People

Good use by college users and others.

Management and Maintenance

Management recently taken over by Lewes DC. Amenity areas currently managed formally, with large wild flowers areas mown incorrectly. Wilder areas largely unmanaged and unkempt.

Ecology and Habitats

A thin fringe of intertidal habitat exists around the edge of the island. Other areas have been sown with wild flowers. Some scrubby areas around the island.

Cultural Heritage

Although Denton Island is currently going through a process of gradual redevelopment, the adjacent boatyard and port activity provide a constant reminder of Newhaven's maritime heritage.

Threats

Small amounts of graffiti and vandalism are evident. Dog fouling and litter are a problem. The noise from port activity on North Quay is ever present.

Comments/Recommendations

Areas of green space around the island are somewhat variable, ranging from the new open space around the college to areas of comparative dereliction.

Recommendations as follows –

- **Ensure that the provision of high quality open space remains an important part of new development on the island**
- **Consider the production of a landscape development/management plan to guide the development and management of the island's open spaces**
- **Consider introduction of a design guide for ongoing landscape work**
- **Consider the introduction of a circular foot/cycle path around the island**
- **Consider enhancing and managing the wildlife interest of the area to help to remedy the area of accessible greenspace deficit under the English Nature definition e.g. through varying mowing regimes etc**
- **Carry out additional tree and shrub planting with a river valley theme where space permits**
- **Consider involving more local people and island based organisations in the management of the site**
- **Increase number of litter and dog bins**
- **Improve litter picking performance**
- **Deal promptly with episodes of vandalism, graffiti and fly tipping**

Site: Grays County Infant School
Location: Brooks Close
Area: 0.84ha
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status: Nil

Description

School set in landscape of trees and grass, with hard play area and open spaces.

Audit Results

Location

Of good visual amenity value, this site connects very well from a landscape point of view with the surrounding large gardens.

Landscape Character and Quality

The site reflects the character of this area of Newhaven with a suburban feel and many fine trees. Good interior spaces and well enclosed with strong boundaries.

Facilities

The site has an infant playground, path network, bins and signage. Obviously these are open to schoolchildren only.

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the site.

People

The site is very well used by the members of the school itself.

Management

Management is carried out by ESCC and is largely appropriate for a site such as this. There is no evidence of community involvement. Habitat areas could be improved upon and increased.

Maintenance

The site is generally well maintained to a good standard.

Ecology and Habitats

The site features grass areas, a native hedge and many fine trees, with one particularly outstanding Elm.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal.

Threats
None.

Comments/Recommendations
A delightful small school site.

- **Ensure the site's very fine trees are receiving the protection they deserve through careful management.**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Ensure the high standard of this site is maintained.**

Site: Hillcrest Court Open Space
Location: Between Hillcrest Court and Western Road Area (ha.) 0.47
Owner: Lewes District Council
Open Space Category: Amenity Greenspace

Planning Status:

Description:

A steeply sloping site with some terracing and a poorly developed network of paths. Mainly vegetated with mature Hawthorn and rough grass. Children's playground situated on level ground within the site.

Audit Results

Location

A small area of relic downland within a densely populated residential area and backing onto Hillcrest Court, a development of local authority flats. Of high amenity value, especially due to the lack of provision in the area, and conveniently placed for a large number of potential users. The site connects visually with downland at Castle Hill and Harbour Heights, but is isolated functionally.

Landscape Character and Quality

As a break from the surrounding built environment, the site provides a reminder of the downland past of the Newhaven, with scrubby natural vegetation and rough grass areas. The general quality of the area is poor however, is badly maintained and with no designed form.

Facilities

A fairly well equipped childrens playground sits centrally on the site. Other facilities are minimal and restricted to a few signs conveying basic information, and one or two dog and litter bins. The path network is poor, and a number of well established desire lines exist.

Access

Entrances are poor and uninviting. There are flights of steps in poor condition. Parking is available on Western Road and within Hillcrest Court. None is designated for disabled use, and there are no bicycle parking facilities. The site is not on a bus route.

People

The site is valuable for formal and informal childrens play, and, to an extent as visual amenity.

Management

Management is somewhat minimal, the grass is all cut under that same regime, litter picked and the playground inspected.

Maintenance

Maintenance is generally poor.

Ecology and Habitats

The areas of scrub and native trees and shrubs, along with the rough grass provide a certain level of wildlife habitat and experience.

Cultural Heritage

None.

Threats

Threats to the site are mainly litter and graffiti. Dog fouling is not a severe problem. There is an air of lack of care by users who generally do not appear to value the site.

Comments/Recommendations

The site appears unkempt, tatty and uncared for, a wasted opportunity to provide a quality open space in a densely populated area.

- **Thoroughly review the design and functions of the space and produce a development plan**
- **Remove graffiti, tipping and litter on a regular basis**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**
- **Involve local people in the development process and ongoing management**

Site:	Neill's Close Open Spaces
Location:	Neill's Close
Area:	0.66ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status	None

Description:

Wide grassed verges and open areas fronting Neill's Close housing.

Audit Results

Location

Convenient to the residents of the area, and moderately well connected in landscape terms to other open spaces locally. Potential for forming part of a green corridor between Meeching Down and the West Quay.

Landscape Character and Quality

Dull and featureless areas of close mown grass with tarmac paths and occasional trees.

Facilities

None

Access

Level access to tarmac paths and grass areas.

People

Little apparent use.

Management

Managed by Lewes DC.

Maintenance

Well mown grass.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal, apart from the maturing trees.

Cultural Heritage

None

Threats

Litter a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

**A very boring and featureless area badly in need of enhancement.
Recommendations as follows –**

- **Consider possibility of establishing at least one pocket park/garden to provide for quiet recreation**
- **Consider varying the maintenance of other areas to allow wild flowers to develop, perhaps enhanced with native tree and shrub planting**
- **Provide seating, planting, bins etc.**
- **Consider involvement of local people in the design and management of the new areas**

Site:	Rose Walk Amenity Area
Location:	Between Church Hill and The Rose Walk
Area:	0.18ha
Owner(s):	ESCC
Open Space Category:	Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status	None

Description:

Narrow grassed strip of land connecting two roads with paved path.

Audit Results

Location

Convenient to the residents of the area, and moderately well connected in landscape terms to other open space locally.

Landscape Character and Quality

Dull, tatty and featureless area of close mown grass with paved path, redundant and broken steps, and one or two very poor lollipop trees.

Facilities

One dog bin.

Access

Level access to paved path.

People

Little apparent use apart from as part of a route.

Management

Managed by Newhaven TC under an annual licence granted in 1983.

Maintenance

Well mown grass.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal, apart from the mature trees shared with the adjoining hospital site.

Cultural Heritage

None

Threats

Litter a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

A very boring and featureless area badly in need of enhancement.

Recommendations as follows –

- **Consider possibility of establishing as a pocket park/garden to provide for quiet recreation**
- **Consider varying the maintenance of the embankment and elsewhere to allow wild flowers to develop, perhaps enhanced with native tree and shrub planting**
- **Provide seating, planting, bins etc.**
- **Consider involvement of local people in the design and management of the new area**

Site: Valley Court
Location: Valley Road
Area: 0.36ha
Owner(s): Lewes DC
Open Space Category: Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status: None

Description:

Areas of level and embanked mown grass around Valley Court.

Audit Results

Location

Convenient to the residents of the area, and moderately well connected in landscape terms to other open space locally.

Landscape Character and Quality

Dull and featureless area of close mown grass around housing. Two trees and signs reading 'No Ball Games'. Provides a setting for the flats and bungalows.

Facilities

None

Access

Level access to much of the area.

People

Little apparent use

Management

Managed by Lewes DC. No doubt cost effective, the result is soulless and dull.

Maintenance

Well mown grass.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal.

Cultural Heritage

None

Threats

Little or nothing in the way of threats, the site is tidy and without litter, graffiti, etc.

Comments/Recommendations

A very boring and featureless area badly in need of enhancement.

Recommendations as follows –

- **Consider possibility of establishing the level western area as a pocket park/garden to complement facilities available over the road at Valley Road Open Space and provides for quiet recreation**
- **Consider varying the maintenance of the embankment on the south east of the buildings to allow wild flowers to develop, perhaps enhanced with native tree and shrub planting**
- **Provide seating, planting, bins etc.**
- **Consider involvement of local people in the design and management of the new area**

Site: Valley Road Open Space
Location: Valley Road
Area: 0.55ha
Owner(s): Lewes DC
Open Space Category: Amenity Greenspace
Planning Status: Policies RE1 and RE2 apply

Description

Bleak and largely characterless recreation ground with minimal path network. A small children's playground is situated on level ground close to the south east boundary. Functional, but uninspiring.

Audit Results

Location

Of reasonable amenity value, this site connects reasonably well from a landscape point of view with other nearby sites. It is centred in an area with a high population. I

Landscape Character and Quality

A largely functional landscape, it does not score well for visual amenity and general landscape character and quality. It is freely accessible and some boundaries are poorly defined. The site is very open with little sense of enclosure. Wildlife habitat is largely non-existent apart from scrappy lines of scrub on two boundaries. The quality of detailing is generally poor.

Facilities

The site has a few facilities, as follows –

- Children's playground
- Small hard surfaced multi use games area with basketball hoop and 5-a-side goal post
- Seating
- Litter and dog bins
- Information signage

Access

Entrances are level and accessible at the top and bottom of the slope on which the site is situated and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the roadside only. There is no cycle parking, but the 145 bus stops nearby.

People

The site is very well used for formal and informal play and dog walking, whilst the site also connects areas of housing.

Management

Management is largely appropriate, although there is no evidence of community

involvement. The play area is managed by Newhaven Town Council under an informal agreement. Vegetation management needs to be reviewed.

Maintenance

The site is generally fairly well maintained, apart from areas of planting which have been pruned and cleared untidily.

Ecology and Habitats

Restricted to the scrubby vegetation along the south west and north east boundaries.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal

Threats

The site scores well in this category, but with some minor vandalism and graffiti, litter and dog fouling. Road noise is a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

Appears to be a very well used site, but somewhat tatty in places like many others in the town. A review of the design and functions of the space is recommended to improve the experience of using the site. Proposals which should be included in any review include -

- **Use planting of indigenous and locally abundant downland species to connect the site visually with the downs and to enclose it, lessening the impact of Valley Road. Plant especially on less usable parts of the site such as the steeper slopes**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Review the playground equipment provision**
- **Deal rapidly with incidents of vandalism. Litter, graffiti etc.**
- **Review the provision of seating, bins etc.**
- **Consider the provision of cycle parking**

Site:	West Quay
Location:	West side of harbour south of ring road
Area:	0.78ha
Owner(s):	NP&P and Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Amenity Greenspace and Greenway
Planning Status	Policies NH5 and RES2 apply

Description:

Public open space, foot/cycle path and car parking as setting for new housing development and to provide public and fisherman's access to harbourside.

Audit Results

Location

Convenient to residents of and visitors to the area, and moderately well connected in landscape terms to other open space locally. Potential to link with Meeching Down through green corridor.

Landscape Character and Quality

High quality new landscape using maritime themes in hard detailing, from luxury yacht through to old fishing port. Strong sense of character and history as a result, but with the loss of the feel and soul of the old west quay. Soft works to a lower standard.

Facilities

Car parking, seating, dog and litter bins. Excellent signs of old harbour timbers, sculpture, and sculptural features.

Access

Good level access throughout, car and cycle parking. A number of bus services stop at the northern end of the site.

People

Well used by a variety of people for a number of leisure and work pursuits.

Management

Managed by Lewes DC.

Maintenance

Well maintained to a good standard.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal, apart from a thin fringe of intertidal habitat on the harbourside, and of course the sea itself.

Cultural Heritage

The remnants of the local fishing industry remain on the edge of the site.

Threats

Small amounts of litter and dog fouling are evident. The noise of the working port may disturb the peace of some.

Comments/Recommendations

A generally successful open space, albeit somewhat gentrified and tamed compared with the old west quay.

Recommendations as follows –

- **Consider possibility of increasing and varying the horticultural interest in order to enhance the site as a high quality park/garden for Newhaven**
- **Consider enhancing the wildlife interest of the area to help to remedy the area of accessible greenspace deficit under the English Nature definition**
- **Enhance links with the potential green corridor west towards Meeching Down**
- **Consider adding to the young tree warden concept involving more local people in the management of the site**

Allotments and community gardens –

Site: Eastside Allotments
Location: East of Eastside Recreation Ground
Area: 0.31ha
Owner(s): Glynde Estates leased to Newhaven Town Council
Open Space Category: Allotments and Community Gardens
Planning Status: Countryside policies and policy RE9 apply

Description:

Mature and partly used allotment site. Many vacant and not fully used plots. Air of neglect and abandonment.

Audit Results

Location

Connects well in landscape terms with surrounding countryside and other green space. Not a convenient location as too far away from areas of housing.

Landscape Character and Quality

A highly distinctive landscape type with a strong sense of place and history. Very variable quality of landscape within the site, ranging from highly cultivated to derelict. The mix of cultivation styles, structures and approach leads to considerable variety. Generally an air of neglect on this site however.

Facilities

Plot holders tend to provide their own facilities. There is a path access and perimeter fencing, but no access road and car park. A water supply exists for plot holders' use.

Access

Car parking and access generally is inadequate. Unfortunately, owing to the distance from the town, a car would seem to need to be available to a plot holder.

People

Allotment sites are of high value to people for recreation, health, education and for many, economic reasons.

Management

Management methods are various within the site. The site is managed by Newhaven Town Council.

Maintenance

Again, very variable.

Ecology and Habitats

Variable once again due to the differences in approach adopted by plot holders. Some areas are of high wildlife value, others less so. The site's proximity to the adjacent open countryside increases the value.

Cultural Heritage

The value of this must be considered high due to the traditions of allotment use.

Threats

Threats are few, possibly due to the nature of use and the isolation of the site. Some may score allotments as poor for clutter, however others may find this an attraction. There is anecdotal evidence that thefts of equipment and crops have led to this area being less popular than the Lewes Road site.

Comments/Recommendations

A number of recommendations are proposed –

- **Improved signage, information, security and paths**
- **Improved publicity to encourage take up of unused plots**
- **Consideration of adopting the idea of allotments as leisure gardens to provide relief for those without gardens living in crowded urban areas**
- **Car and cycle parking**
- **Consideration of providing for disabled gardeners**
- **Continue to maintain planning policies protecting allotments from development**

Site: Lewes Road Allotments
Location: West of Lewes Road Cemetery
Area: 1.20ha
Owner(s): Newhaven Town Council
Open Space Category: Allotments and Community Gardens
Planning Status: Countryside policies and policy RE9 apply

Description:

Mature and well used allotment site. Some vacant and not fully used plots but generally popular, and with many fine sheds and other structures.

Audit Results

Location

Connects well in landscape terms with surrounding countryside and other green space. Not the most convenient location as too far out of town.

Landscape Character and Quality

A highly distinctive landscape type with a strong sense of place and history. Very variable quality of landscape within the site, ranging from highly cultivated to derelict. The mix of cultivation styles, structures and approach leads to considerable variety.

Facilities

Plot holders tend to provide their own facilities. There is however an adequate path network and perimeter fencing, and an access road and car park. A water supply exists for plot holders' use.

Access

Car parking and access generally is adequate. Unfortunately, owing to the distance from the town, a car would seem to need to be available to a plot holder.

People

Allotment sites are of high value to people for recreation, health, education and for many, economic reasons.

Management

Management methods are various within the site. The site is managed by Newhaven Town Council.

Maintenance

Again, very variable.

Ecology and Habitats

Variable once again due to the differences in approach adopted by plot holders. Some areas are of high wildlife value, others less so. The site's proximity to the woodland of Bollen's Bush, the downs and countryside increases the value.

Cultural Heritage

The value of this must be considered high due to the traditions of allotment use.

Threats

Threats are few, possibly due to the nature of use and the isolation of the site. Some may score allotments as poor for clutter, however others may find this an attraction.

Comments/Recommendations

Generally well used but a number of recommendations are proposed –

- **Improved signage and information**
- **Improved publicity to encourage take up of unused plots**
- **Consideration of adopting the idea of allotments as leisure gardens to provide relief for those without gardens living in crowded urban areas**
- **Cycle parking**
- **Consideration of providing for disabled gardeners**
- **Continue to maintain planning policies protecting allotments from development**

Civic space –

Site:	Memorial Garden
Location:	South east side of town centre by ring road
Area:	0.11ha
Owner(s):	Lewes DC
Open Space Category:	Civic Space
Planning Status	Policies E3 and E4 apply

Description:

Public open space, a setting for war memorials and commemorative occasions.

Audit Results

Location

Convenient to the town centre and moderately well connected in landscape terms to other open space locally alongside the main roads.

Landscape Character and Quality

High quality new hard landscape adjoins and forms part of the site, but the lawned soft area has simply happened in a random way. Strong sense of history as a result of its function.

Facilities

None.

Access

Good level access throughout, car parking on adjacent streets. A number of bus services stop at the southern end of the site on the ring road.

People

Seemingly used solely for commemorative purposes. Little obvious use otherwise.

Management

Managed by Newhaven TC under a 5 year licence.

Maintenance

Well maintained to a good standard.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal, apart from the few randomly placed trees.

Cultural Heritage

The memorials on the site tell an important part of the history of the town..

Threats

Small amounts of litter and dog fouling are evident. The noise of the road shatters the peace which would be desirable here.

Comments/Recommendations

A space which should allow for peaceful contemplation doesn't due to the proximity of the ring road. Tree and shrub planting is without structure or intention to create usable space. The new hard landscape work relates poorly to the space as a whole.

Recommendations as follows –

- **Pursue the new design carried out for the Town Council.**
- **Consider possibility of increasing and varying the horticultural interest in order to enhance the site as a high quality park/garden for Newhaven as part of this**
- **Enhance visual links with potentially enhanced adjacent highway verges with additional tree and shrub planting**
- **Consider involving more local people in the management of the site**

Site:	Town Centre
Location:	High Street, South Lane, Newhaven Square
Area:	0.62ha
Owner(s):	Various
Open Space Category:	Civic Space
Planning Status	Policies E3 and E4 apply

Description:

Pedestrianised open space, a setting for shops, offices and the weekly market

Audit Results

Location

Conveniently located and well connected by road, foot and cycle path to the rest of the town.

Landscape Character and Quality

High quality new hard landscape in places, but much depressing older work in others. Recent work has lifted parts of the area with new street furniture, but much is old and alien to the new. Many parts tatty and poorly maintained. Little locally distinctive character.

Facilities

Well provided with facilities, shops, cafes, toilets etc, and seating bins and signage.

Access

Good level access throughout, with car parks adjacent. A number of bus services stop at the main bus stop area at Lower Place.

People

Busy during the day, far less so and sometimes threatening at night.

Management

Maintenance

Maintenance variable.

Ecology and Habitats

None.

Cultural Heritage

One or two sculptural features.

Threats

Varying amounts of litter, graffiti and dog fouling are evident. There is noise from the road system. There is extensive urban clutter with a wide range of often unrelated street furniture.

Comments/Recommendations

A variable selection of hard surfaced spaces

Recommendations as follows –

- **Review the design and management of civic spaces in the town centre with the aim of improving quality and local distinctiveness, possibly using some of the themes used at West Quay**
- **Consider producing a design guide to steer future design and upgrading of the area and especially the use of street furniture and other materials**
- **Consider the addition of bold and imaginative sculptural features reflecting Newhaven's character and maritime history**
- **Consider possibility of softening the hard feel of the spaces with additional tree and shrub planting**
- **Enhance visual links with other local open spaces and potentially enhanced adjacent highway verges**
- **Consider involving more local people in the management of the site**
- **Carry out litter picking regularly, and address any episodes of vandalism and graffiti promptly**

Cemeteries and churchyards –

Site:	Denton Cemetery
Location:	Denton Road
Area:	0.30ha
Owner(s):	Newhaven Town Council
Open Space Category:	Cemeteries and Churchyards
Planning Status	Countryside policies apply

Description:

Unsigned and anonymous cemetery surrounded by mature trees with an air of dereliction.

Audit Results

Location

The site connects well with adjacent green areas and the open countryside beyond in landscape terms. Its visual amenity value is fair.

Landscape Character and Quality

This cemetery has an air of anonymity and dereliction. There is a strong sense of history and a certain peace, despite intermittent road noise. Visual amenity and boundaries are fair due to the mature trees surrounding the site.

Facilities

There are litter bins and an overgrown network of paths.

Access

Due to the sloping nature of the site, access is variable. A lay by at the entrance allows for limited parking. Paths are overgrown and generally poor. No cycle parking is provided. A bus route passes the site.

People

The nature of the site precludes play opportunities and similar, but it serves its purpose well as a place for the burial of the dead and quiet reflection. Its semi rural location and natural appearance enhances the sense of peace.

Management

Managed by the Town Council, management seems somewhat minimalist.

Maintenance

The site appears to be mown periodically.

Ecology and Habitats

A variety of habitats exist on the site ranging from woodland edge through scrub to rough and herb rich grassland. As such the wildlife experience is fairly high.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage value is high with local history represented in those buried here.

Threats

Threats to the site are few, no graffiti or dog fouling was noted, but periodic road noise detracts from the otherwise peaceful and contemplative nature of the site. Litter and the air of dereliction are a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

No signage makes it difficult to guess who is responsible for this site. It seems totally uncared for.

Recommendations are as follows –

- **Consider enhancing the natural feel of the site by managing it for wildlife, producing a management plan with this in mind.**

Any such plan should include –

- **Consider varying the mowing regime to encourage downland flora amongst the gravestones**
- **Consider managing unused areas as wildflower meadows**
- **Survey the trees for safety reasons**
- **Review the path network and upgrade where necessary**
- **Improve signage and bin provision, and consider the provision of seating**
- **Consider the provision of cycle parking**

Site:	Lewes Road Cemetery
Location:	West of Lewes Road
Area:	3.05ha
Owner(s):	Newhaven Town Council
Open Space Category:	Cemeteries and Churchyards
Planning Status	Countryside policies apply

Description:

Open cemetery on the northern edge of the town.

Audit Results

Location

The site connects well with surrounding green areas and the open countryside beyond in landscape terms. Its edge of town location means that it is not convenient to visit. Its amenity value is fair.

Landscape Character and Quality

Lewes Road Cemetery has a grand entrance but is typical of its type in its appearance and general quality. There is a strong sense of history and a certain peace, despite the road noise. Visual amenity, boundaries and detailing are fair. There are stunning views to the east over the Ouse valley.

Facilities

Seating, bins and signage are fair, and reasonably well provided.

Access

Access is generally fair to good with adequate parking. The path network is fair, some areas having grass paths only. The Lewes – Peacehaven bus passes the site. No cycle parking is provided.

People

The nature of the site precludes play opportunities and similar, but it serves its purpose well as a place for the burial of the dead and quiet reflection. Its edge of town semi rural location enhances the sense of peace.

Management

Managed by the Town Council, staff are generally on site. Information and contact details are available on site. There is little sign of sustainable management techniques being used.

Maintenance

The site is traditionally maintained with plenty of close mown grass. Site buildings and facilities are all adequately maintained.

Ecology and Habitats

Wildlife interest and the experience of it is fairly minimal except around the edge where there are mature trees and hedgerows.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage value is high with a wealth of local history represented in those buried here.

Threats

Threats to the site are few, no graffiti or dog fouling was noted, but road noise detracts from the otherwise peaceful and contemplative nature of the site.

Comments/Recommendations

A fairly well maintained site, appropriate for its purpose.

Recommendations are as follows –

- **Strengthen the tree structure around the edges of the cemetery to create a more sheltered and enclosed site, and enhance a retreat character**
- **Strengthen tree planting within the site**
- **Consider varying the mowing regime to encourage downland flora amongst the gravestones**
- **Consider managing unused areas as wildflower meadows**
- **Review the path network and upgrade where necessary**
- **Improve signage**
- **Consider the provision of cycle parking**

Site: St. Michael's Churchyard
Location: Church Hill
Area: 0.38ha
Owner(s):
Open Space Category: Cemeteries and Churchyards
Planning Status: Conservation Area (Conservation Policies apply)

Description:

Churchyard in Church Hill Conservation Area.

Audit Results

Location

The site links well with nearby green areas in landscape terms forming part of the basis of a potential green corridor between Meeching Down and the West Quay development .

Landscape Character and Quality

The churchyard forms the setting of the Norman parish church of Newhaven. It has a grand entrance but is typical of its type in its appearance and general quality. There is a strong sense of history and peace, despite occasional road noise. Visual amenity, boundaries and detailing are fair. There are stunning views to the north and east over the Ouse valley.

Facilities

Minimal apart from the path network.

Access

Access is by steps and hard paths around this sloping site. Car parking exists on the road. No cycle parking is provided.

People

The site serves its purpose well as a place for the burial of the dead and quiet reflection.

Management

Managed conventionally, no information and contact details are available on site. There is little sign of sustainable management techniques being used.

Maintenance

The site is traditionally maintained with close mown grass.

Ecology and Habitats

Wildlife interest and the experience of it is fairly minimal except around the edge where there are mature trees and hedgerows.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage value is high with the Norman church at its heart, and a wealth of local history represented in those buried here.

Threats

Threats to the site are few, no graffiti or dog fouling was noted, but limited road noise can detract from the otherwise peaceful and contemplative nature of the site.

Comments/Recommendations

A fairly well maintained site, appropriate for its purpose.

Recommendations are as follows –

- **Consider varying the mowing regime to encourage downland flora amongst the gravestones**
- **Consider managing unused areas as wildflower meadows**
- **Review the path network and upgrade where necessary**
- **Improve signage**
- **Consider the provision of cycle parking**

Outdoor sports facilities –

Site: Avis Road Recreation Ground
Location: Avis Road
Area: 1.67ha
Owner(s): Lewes DC
Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports Facilities
Planning Status: Policies RE1 and RE2 apply

Description

Bleak flat and featureless recreation ground with no path network and a variety of fences. Functional, but uninspiring.

Audit Results

Location

Of reasonable amenity value, this site connects well from a landscape point of view with other nearby sites. Its level nature makes it highly suitable for sports uses.

Landscape Character and Quality

A purely functional landscape, it scores poorly for visual amenity and general landscape character and quality. Entrances are unattractive and boundaries poor with a variety of fence types. The site is very open with no sense of enclosure. Wildlife habitat is largely non-existent and the quality of detailing is generally poor.

Facilities

The site has a few facilities, as follows –

- 5-a-side football pitch
- Multi use games area with basketball hoop and small hard play area
- Seating
- Litter and dog bins
- Information signage

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the roadside only. There is no cycle parking, but the 145 bus stops nearby.

People

Judging by the amount of wear on the pitch areas, the site is fairly well used. Dog walkers were observed at the time of the site visit.

Management

Management is largely appropriate, although there is no evidence of community involvement.

Maintenance

The site is generally fairly well maintained, although the pitch area is badly worn.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal – restricted to mown grass and occasional trees, although a dry ditch and wide hedgerow on the roadside provides some habitat on the boundary of these site.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal

Threats

The site scores well in this category, but with some minor vandalism and graffiti, litter and dog fouling. Road noise is a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

Appears to be a fairly well used site, but somewhat tatty in places like many others in the town. A review of the design and functions of the space is recommended to improve the experience of using the site. Proposals which should be included in any review include -

- **Use planting of indigenous and locally abundant species such as Willows to connect the site visually with the Willow fringed Avis Road and The Drove open space, and to enclose it, lessening the impact of Avis Road.**
- **Interplant existing ‘lollipop’ trees with shrub species to increase and vary habitat types**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Consider rotating football posts to vary pitch wear**
- **Deal rapidly with incidents of vandalism, graffiti and excess littering**
- **Increase amounts of seating**

Site: Denton County Primary School
Location: Acacia Road
Area: 0.55ha
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports Facilities
Planning Status: None.

Description

School set in landscape of trees and grass, with hard play areas and open spaces.

Audit Results

Location

Of reasonable visual amenity value, this site connects well from a landscape point of view with the surrounding open spaces.

Landscape Character and Quality

A typical school landscape of trees, grass, with hard and soft sports and play areas.

Facilities

The site has junior and infant playgrounds, a playing field area, a path network, bins and signage. Obviously these are open to schoolchildren only.

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the site.

People

The site is very well used by the members of the school itself.

Management

Management is carried out by ESCC and is largely appropriate for a site such as this. There is no evidence of community involvement. Habitat areas could be improved upon considerably and increased.

Maintenance

The site is generally fairly well maintained to a reasonable standard.

Ecology and Habitats

The site features grass areas, native and ornamental hedges and trees.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal.

Threats

Generally free of litter etc.

Comments/Recommendations

A reasonable school site.

- **Enhance visual and functional links with the surrounding landscape**
- **Raise quality of landscape generally**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase and vary habitat types**
- **Ensure the good standard of maintenance of this site continues.**

Site: Eastside Recreation Ground
Location: Eastbridge Road off Norton Road
Area: 2.35ha
Owner(s): Lewes DC
Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports Facilities
Planning Status: Policies RE1 and RE2 apply

Description

A bleak and largely characterless, urban edge recreation ground with minimal path network. A children's playground is situated at the north end. Functional, but uninspiring.

Audit Results

Location

Of good amenity value, this site connects well from a landscape point of view with other nearby sites.

Landscape Character and Quality

A largely functional landscape, it does not score well for visual amenity and general landscape character and quality. It is freely accessible and some boundaries are poorly defined. The site is open with some sense of enclosure due to a native tree feature on the north and east sides, housing to the west, and a factory building to the south. Wildlife habitat is restricted to the northern and eastern boundaries. The quality of detailing is generally poor.

Facilities

The site has facilities, as follows –

- Children's playground
- Full size football pitch
- Changing rooms
- Largely derelict public toilets building
- Seating
- Litter and dog bins
- Information signage

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the roadside only. There is no cycle parking.

People

The site is very well used for formal and informal play and dog walking. Informal play mainly takes place in the wooded edge between the recreation ground and the adjacent allotments.

Management

Management is largely appropriate, although there is no evidence of community involvement. Vegetation management needs to be reviewed.

Maintenance

The site is generally fairly well maintained.

Ecology and Habitats

Restricted to the north and east boundaries.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal

Threats

The site scores well in this category, but with some minor vandalism and graffiti, litter and dog fouling. Factory noise is a problem. Golf is a problem to some users, and signs have been put up asking people not to use the site for this purpose. The public toilets are in poor condition and subject to regular vandalism apparently.

Comments/Recommendations

Appears to be a very well used site, but somewhat tatty in places like many others in the town. A review of the design and functions of the space is recommended to improve the experience of using the site. Proposals which should be included in any review include -

- **Use planting of indigenous and locally abundant wetland species to connect the site visually with the levels and to enclose it, lessening the impact particularly of the nearby factory estate.**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Consider the formation of a friends/users group**
- **Review the playground equipment provision**
- **Review the sports pitch provision**
- **Improve pitch drainage**
- **Deal rapidly with incidents of vandalism, litter, graffiti etc.**
- **Review the provision of toilets, seating, bins etc.**
- **Consider the provision of cycle parking**

Site: Lewes Road Recreation Ground
Location: Lewes Road
Area: 1.82ha
Owner(s): Lewes DC
Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports Facilities
Planning Status: Policies RE1 and RE2 apply

Description

A dull and flat urban edge recreation ground with a football pitch in the centre, adjoining the amenity tip. A children's playground, now unused and with the equipment dismantled, is situated at the south end.

Audit Results

Location

Of reasonable amenity value, and conveniently located to a highly populated area, this site connects well from a landscape point of view with other nearby sites.

Landscape Character and Quality

A largely functional landscape, it does not score well for visual amenity and general landscape character and quality, although the ditches and trees on the edges hint at the wetland landscape character beyond. It is freely accessible and some boundaries are poorly defined. The site is open with some sense of enclosure due to tree planting on the northern boundary, and a drainage ditch to the east. Wildlife habitat is restricted to the northern and eastern boundaries. The quality of detailing is generally poor. The site lies very wet in the winter.

Facilities

The site has facilities, as follows –

- Children's playground (now unused)
- Half size football pitch
- Changing rooms in wooden building
- Seating
- Litter and dog bins
- Information signage
- Foot/cycle path leading to Riverside/Lewes Road Park

Access

The main path entrance is level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the roadside only. There is no cycle parking.

People

The site appears not very well used except for and dog walking.

Management

Management is carried out by Newhaven Town Council under an informal

agreement. It is basically appropriate, although there is no evidence of community involvement. Vegetation management needs to be reviewed.

Maintenance

The grass areas are generally fairly well maintained, the boundary areas less so.

Ecology and Habitats

Restricted to the north and east boundaries.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal

Threats

There is minor vandalism and graffiti, a serious litter problem from material blowing over the site from the adjacent amenity tip, and severe dog fouling. Road noise can be a problem.

Comments/Recommendations

Appears not to be a very well used site, and tatty in places like many others in the town. A review of the design and functions of the space is recommended, especially in view of the very wet nature of the site in the winter, the closure of the playground, and the ongoing development of Riverside/Lewes Road Park. Proposals which should be included in any review include -

- **Consider the site as a unit with the adjacent Riverside/Lewes Road Park and move on the design process as rapidly as possible**
- **Consider the relocation of the amenity tip**
- **Use planting of indigenous and locally abundant wetland species to connect the site visually and functionally with the levels and to enclose it, lessening the impact particularly of the adjacent amenity tip, if it is to remain in this location.**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Consider the formation of a friends/users group**
- **Review the position of and design and provide a new playground somewhere within the wider Riverside/Lewes Road Park site**
- **Review the sports pitch provision within the wider site, considering the implications of the PMP report in its requirement for major new playing pitch provision within Newhaven**
- **Improve pitch drainage in short term**
- **Deal rapidly with incidents of vandalism, litter, graffiti etc.**
- **Review the provision of toilets, seating, bins etc.**
- **Consider the provision of cycle parking**

Site: Meeching Valley County Primary School
Location: Valley Road
Area: 1.07ha
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports Facilities
Planning Status: Within AONB, but not Proposed National Park

Description

School set in landscape of trees and grass, with hard play areas and open spaces.

Audit Results

Location

Of good visual amenity value, this site connects very well from a landscape point of view with the surrounding landscape, especially the plotlands area to the west.

Landscape Character and Quality

A typical school landscape of trees, grass, with hard and soft sports and play areas. Bold linear planting of Leylandii are out of character with the area. Many fences within the site and strong boundaries.

Facilities

The site has junior and infant playgrounds, playing field areas, a path network, bins and signage. Obviously these are open to schoolchildren only.

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the site.

People

The site is very well used by the members of the school itself.

Management

Management is carried out by ESCC and is largely appropriate for a site such as this. There is no evidence of community involvement. Habitat areas could be improved upon considerably and increased.

Maintenance

The site is generally fairly well maintained to a reasonable standard.

Ecology and Habitats

The site features grass areas, native and ornamental hedges and many trees.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal.

Threats

Generally free of litter etc, but appears very cluttered with many picket fences.

Comments/Recommendations

A reasonable school site.

- **Enhance visual and functional links with the surrounding landscape**
- **Raise quality of landscape, especially mindful of the current AONB status of the area and proximity of the site to the proposed National Park**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase and vary habitat types**
- **Ensure the good standard of maintenance of this site continues.**

Site: Southdown County Junior School

Location: Church Hill

Area: 0.31ha

Owner(s): ESCC

Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports Facilities

Planning Status: None. Adjacent to Church Hill Conservation Area

Description

School set in landscape of trees and grass, with hard play areas and open spaces.

Audit Results

Location

Of reasonable visual amenity value, this site connects well from a landscape point of view with the surrounding open spaces, and has the potential to be a link in the green corridor linking Meeching Down with West Quay.

Landscape Character and Quality

A typical school landscape of trees, grass, with hard and soft sports and play areas with strong boundaries.

Facilities

The site has junior and infant playgrounds, a playing field area, a path network, bins and signage. Obviously these are open to schoolchildren only.

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the site.

People

The site is very well used by the members of the school itself.

Management

Management is carried out by ESCC and is largely appropriate for a site such as this. There is no evidence of community involvement. Habitat areas could be improved upon considerably and increased.

Maintenance

The site is generally fairly well maintained to a reasonable standard.

Ecology and Habitats

The site features grass areas, native and ornamental hedges and many trees.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal.

Threats

Generally free of litter etc.

Comments/Recommendations

A reasonable school site.

- **Enhance visual and functional links with the surrounding landscape and especially as potential link on green corridor between Meeching Down and West Quay**
- **Raise quality of landscape generally**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase and vary habitat types**
- **Ensure the good standard of maintenance of this site continues.**

Site: Tideway School
Location: Southdown Road
Area: 3.51ha
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports Facilities
Planning Status: Countryside policies apply to playing field areas

Description

School landscape with sports fields and open spaces.

Audit Results

Location

Of fair visual amenity value, this site connects very well from a landscape point of view with adjoining open countryside..

Landscape Character and Quality

The cliff top location gives the landscape of Tideway School an exposed and bleak character. The school dominates the cliff top downland in this area from every surrounding viewpoint. The lack of a strong boundary allows the school landscape to merge with its surroundings. Wildlife habitat is restricted, and the quality of detailing is variable.

Facilities

The site has sports facilities as follows –

- 2 full size football pitches
- 1 5-a-side football pitch
- 1 cricket pitch
- sundry athletics facilities
- Indoor hall

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car and cycle parking exists on the site.

People

The site is very well used by the members of the school itself. Community use of the school's sports facilities by others is currently unsecured.

Management

Management is carried out by ESCC and is largely appropriate for a site such as this. There is no evidence of community involvement.

Maintenance

The site is generally fairly well maintained.

Ecology and Habitats
Restricted to the southern boundaries.

Cultural Heritage
Minimal.

Threats
Some minor vandalism, graffiti and litter.

Comments/Recommendations

A large school site in an exposed position, tatty in places.

- **Establish bold groups of downland scrub around the school to reduce its impact upon the landscape**
- **Strengthen boundaries with similar planting**
- **Vary the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Deal promptly with episodes of vandalism, littering etc**
- **Consider community use of sports pitches to relive anticipated shortages in the town, ensuring that maintenance standards are raised to accommodate this**

Children and young people facilities –

Site: Fort Road Recreation Ground
Location: Fort Road
Area: 4.34ha
Owner(s): Lewes DC/Variety of leasing arrangements
Open Space Category: Outdoor Sports/Children and Young People Facilities
Planning Status: Borders SNCI/LNR

Description

Bleak flat and featureless recreation ground with a poor quality path network of a variety of materials, and patched fences. Functional, but tatty. The newer facilities such as the skate park are excellent.

Audit Results

Location

Of high amenity value, this site connects well with other social facilities in the area, e.g. Shakespeare Hall. Its level nature makes it highly suitable for sports uses.

Landscape Character and Quality

A purely functional landscape, it scores poorly for visual amenity and general landscape character and quality. Entrances are unattractive and boundaries poor with a variety of often patched fence types. Wildlife habitat is largely non-existent and the quality of detailing is generally poor, except for the new skateboard park and games area.

Facilities

The site is well provided with facilities. These include –

- County size football pitch and derelict stand
- Clubhouse
- Toilets
- Area of grass laid to football pitch with cricket table and outfield
- Changing rooms
- Bowling green and pavilion
- Skate park and games area
- 2 childrens play areas
- 3 tennis courts
- Seating
- Litter and dog bins
- Information signage

Access

Entrances are level and accessible and the area is convenient for users. Car parking exists on the roadside and in a lay-by, and in the lower car park at Castle Hill. There is no cycle parking, but the 145 bus stops nearby.

People

The site scores highly for level of use by all sections of the community, catering for a

variety of users and age ranges and providing formal and informal opportunities for play, sport and social interaction.

Management

Management is largely appropriate, although there is no evidence of community involvement.

Maintenance

The formal sports areas are generally fairly well maintained, some of the other areas of amenity grass and the small area of formal garden less so.

Ecology and Habitats

Minimal – restricted to mown grass and occasional trees, and a boundary hedge shared with the Castle Hill LNR. Possible value as a buffer between residential development and the LNR.

Cultural Heritage

Minimal

Threats

The site scores well in this category, but with some minor vandalism and graffiti, litter and dog fouling.

Comments/Recommendations

A well used site of great value to Newhaven, but somewhat tatty in places like many others in the town.

- **Pursue the Meeching Sports Park proposal as a means of improving sports provision generally in the town and upgrading this site in particular**
- **Consider varying the maintenance of grass areas to increase habitat types**
- **Look to upgrade and improve the quality of maintenance**
- **Consider the formation of a friends/users group**
- **Review the playground equipment provision**
- **Deal rapidly with incidents of vandalism, litter, graffiti etc.**
- **Review the provision of toilets, seating, bins etc.**
- **Consider the provision of cycle parking**

Greenways –

Site: Denton Drive
Location: Between Denton Road and Denton Drive
Length: 175m
Owner(s): ? ESCC
Open Space Category: Greenway
Planning Status: Rights of way legislation

Description:
Greenway through derelict woodland but with abundant wildlife.

Audit Results

Location

Good amenity value and continuing Denton Drive.

Landscape Character and Quality

This site scores reasonably well for visual amenity and delight, although with potential for further improvement. Entrances are poor however, and uninviting.

Facilities

None.

Access

Entrances are poor, and the path is unsurfaced.

People

The site is potentially valuable as a green through route.

Management and Maintenance

Management of the site appears minimal, but the path is easily passable.

Ecology and Habitats

Mainly broadleaved woodland, but with some scrub and rough grass.

Cultural Heritage

Originally an old lane.

Threats

Litter and dog fouling are a concern, and some tipping occurs.

Comments/Recommendations

Attractive and little used greenway.

Recommendations include –

- **Provide signage**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**
- **Consider providing surfacing**
- **Attempt to control fly tipping**
- **Review management arrangements**

Site: The Highway
Location: Between Church Hill and Upper Valley Road
Length: 550m
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Greenway
Planning Status: Rights of way legislation

Description:

Greenway between the backs of gardens from Church Hill towards the downs at Upper Valley Road, passing Meeching Down. Abundant wildlife.

Audit Results

Location

Good amenity value and providing a connection between other open spaces.

Landscape Character and Quality

This site scores highly for visual amenity and delight, and the quality of internal spaces, although with potential for further improvement. Entrances and surfaces are poor however, and uninviting.

Facilities

None.

Access

Entrances are poor, and the path is unsurfaced.

People

The site is potentially valuable as a green through route.

Management and Maintenance

Management of the site appears minimal, but the path is easily passable. Some householders backing onto the site appear to carry out work on their sections.

Ecology and Habitats

A range of habitats are present from rough grass through to scrub and trees.

Cultural Heritage

Originally an old path leading from the Parish Church to the Downs.

Threats

Tipping of garden rubbish is a problem, and litter and dog fouling are a concern. Uneven maintenance treatments are a problem visually and ecologically

Comments/Recommendations

Mostly attractive and well used greenway.

Recommendations include –

- **Provide signage**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**
- **Consider providing surfacing**
- **Attempt to control fly tipping**
- **Review management arrangements**

Site: Nun's Walk
Location: Between Meeching Rise and Bay Vue Road
Length: 260m
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Greenway
Planning Status: Rights of way legislation

Description:
Delightful greenway between the backs of gardens leading from Parish Church, with abundant wildlife.

Audit Results

Location

Good amenity value and providing a connection between other open spaces.

Landscape Character and Quality

This site scores highly for visual amenity and delight, and the quality of internal spaces, although with potential for further improvement. Entrances are poor however, and uninviting.

Facilities

None apart from one dog bin.

Access

Entrances are poor, and the path is unsurfaced.

People

The site is potentially valuable as a green through route.

Management and Maintenance

Management of the site appears minimal, but the path is easily passable. Some householders backing onto the site appear to carry out work on their sections.

Ecology and Habitats

A range of habitats are present from rough grass through to scrub and trees.

Cultural Heritage

Originally an old path leading from the Parish Church.

Threats

Tipping of garden rubbish is a problem, and litter and dog fouling are a concern. Uneven maintenance treatments are a problem visually and ecologically

Comments/Recommendations

Attractive and little used greenway.

Recommendations include –

- **Provide signage**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**
- **Consider providing surfacing**
- **Attempt to control fly tipping**
- **Review management arrangements**

Site: Reed Walk
Location: Between Avis Way and New Road
Length: 265m
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Greenway
Planning Status: Rights of way legislation

Description:
Greenway linking across part of the Avis Way industrial area, with much wildlife interest.

Audit Results

Location

Good amenity value and providing a natural break in a densely developed area.

Landscape Character and Quality

This site scores well for visual amenity and delight, and the quality of internal spaces, although with potential for further improvement. Entrances are poor however, and uninviting.

Facilities

Limited.

Access

Entrances are poor, but the path is tarmac surfaced.

People

The site is valuable and well used as a green through route.

Management and Maintenance

Management of the site appears minimal, but the path is easily passable.

Ecology and Habitats

A range of habitats are present from rough grass through to scrub and trees. A reed filled drainage ditch provides valuable wetland habitat

Cultural Heritage

Originally a section of an old path of at least nineteenth century origin .

Threats

Litter and dog fouling are a concern. Pollution of the ditch occurs occasionally.

Comments/Recommendations

Attractive and well used greenway.

Recommendations include –

- **Improve signage**
- **Review the provision of bins to combat litter and dog fouling**
- **Attempt to control ditch pollution incidents**
- **Review management arrangements**

Tree lined streets –

Site: Fort Road
Location: A section of Fort Road
Length: 489m
Owner(s): ESCC
Open Space Category: Tree Lined Street
Planning Status: Fort Road Area of Established Character

Description:

Street with street trees in western pavement

Audit Results

Location

Provides something of a connection between other open spaces.

Landscape Character and Quality

Street trees provide visual amenity and improve the quality of the streetscape. The use of Elm is locally distinctive and provides a sense of history, as some of the only substantial populations of English Elm which remain in England are on this part of the south coast.

Facilities

Various.

Access

Good level access for all.

People

Major through route and residential street.

Management and Maintenance

Managed by ESCC, the trees are periodically pollarded.

Ecology and Habitats

The trees provide habitat for a number of invertebrates and birds, as well as having something of a wildlife corridor function.

Cultural Heritage

Street trees are part of what makes up the character of the Victorian streetscape.

Threats

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) is a constant threat, along with the attentions of statutory service providers with underground and over ground service runs.

Comments/Recommendations

Unique as the only tree lined street in Newhaven.

Recommendations include –

- **Ensure the preservation of the existing trees making up this feature**
- **Ensure that DED monitoring continues**
- **Consider replanting in gaps where trees have been lost through DED using disease resistant varieties of Elm**
- **Ensure that NJUG guidelines for works around street trees are followed when service runs are worked upon**
- **Monitor tree management e.g. through Parish Tree Warden system**

Appendix 4 – Sussex Downs AONB (Background information)

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (cont'd)

The countryside of England contains extensive areas that are outstandingly beautiful. The hills, valleys, woods and water combine to form a rich diversity of scenery that is of great value to the nation. Accordingly, the Government decided in 1949 to provide legislation to protect these areas as something precious - a beautiful countryside to be passed on to future generations. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was enacted.

The wilder, more dramatic landscapes became National Parks. But much countryside of the highest scenic quality cannot be selected for National Park status - not because the landscape is any less beautiful but because opportunities for extensive outdoor recreation (an essential objective of National Parks) are lacking. It is these sweeps of countryside, often of lower, more gentle scenery, that have become our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

From the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) a particular set of objectives developed for AONBs:

- the primary purpose of AONB designation will be to conserve natural beauty;
- recreation will not be an objective of designation but AONBs should be used to meet the demands for recreation as far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other users;
- in pursuing the primary objective of designation, account should be taken of the need to safeguard agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities.

Since 1949, 37 tracts of countryside have been designated as AONBs in England. The South Hampshire Coast AONB was recently de-designated as the majority of it now lies within the newly designated New Forest National Park, leaving 36 areas.

In 2000, it was recognised that the management arrangements for AONBs were insufficient to guarantee their continuing protection. Agriculture had changed dramatically in the previous 50 years and there had been massive growth in recreation and tourism. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 brought in new laws to help protect AONBs further. Local authorities now have even greater responsibility for their protection and must prepare management plans to set out how they will care for them. All public bodies now have a duty of regard for the purposes of AONBs when undertaking their work and there is now an ability to set up special managing bodies known as Conservation Boards. In parallel with the new legislation, the Countryside Agency put in place new funding to help develop further action and delivery of AONB objectives.

www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/DL/aonbs/aonbs2.asp

Sussex Downs

The AONB encompasses the full rolling sweep of chalk downland in East and West Sussex plus an extensive area of the Weald to the north-west.

The landscape is dominated by the prominent north-facing downland scarp which runs almost continuously from Eastbourne to Hampshire. From the crest, more gentle slopes fall away south to the coastal plain and to the sea. The chalk is characteristically cut by dry valleys or combes and in the east the downs meet the sea as magnificent cliffs, including Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters, which are managed as Heritage Coast. The AONB also protects the pastoral, wooded and richly farmed landscapes at the foot of the downs and extends north-west onto the hilly, wooded sandstones and clays of the Weald.

The AONB contains many important habitats including lowland heath and chalk grassland and four National Nature Reserves. The steep chalk scarps with their rare remnants of ancient downland turf are rich in flowers and butterflies and were designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area in 1986. Much of the downland has been ploughed for arable farming and only five per cent of the chalk turf survives. Prehistoric field patterns and remains dating back to earliest civilisations are another integral and vulnerable part of the AONB landscape with ancient hill-forts, barrows, Roman roads and deserted medieval villages representing the long continuity of human influences.

There are two modestly sized towns in the AONB, Petworth and Midhurst, plus other sizable settlements whose traditional buildings in brick, flint, chalk and timber contributes to the landscape character. This is a prosperous area, with a rural economy based on large arable holdings together with horticulture, commercial forestry and mineral working. The AONB is also an important commuter area for Eastbourne, Brighton, Portsmouth and London.

The AONB attracts both local, day and holiday visitor use from the nearby South Coast resorts and from the London catchment area to the north. Heaviest demand focuses on nationally known sites such as Beachy Head and Devil's Dyke and on popular viewpoints such as Ditchling Beacon. The intensively used South Downs Way passes through the AONB.

[Management arrangements in the Sussex Downs](#)

Contact Information

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www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/DL/aonbs/aonb_sussexdowns.asp

Appendix 5 – Proposed South Downs National Park (Background information)

National Park awaiting confirmation - the South Downs

The Countryside Agency began the process of designating the South Downs as a National Park in April 2000.

The South Downs are a special place, providing a sense of wildness within the busy and pressurised south-east. We believe that national park status is the best way to protect the Downs for future generations. It will allow us to build on past achievements to further conserve and enhance the area. As a landscape, the Downs are under huge and increasing pressure. The South East region where they are situated is one of the busiest and most populated areas in Europe. This means increasing demands for the development of new homes, roads and businesses. There is also an increasing need for the people living and working in the region to be able to access beautiful and peaceful countryside and to get away from the pressures of modern life. The Downs is a major resource to provide this sense of escape. It currently receives around 39 million day visits a year.

Designation will establish a new body, a National Park Authority, that has new powers and is resourced specifically for conservation and visitor management on the South Downs. It will work in partnership and encourage joint action to conserve its unique landscape qualities. It will be able to manage the large number of visitors so that the Downs themselves are not damaged and remain a resource for all to enjoy. It will also be best placed to protect and enhance the Downs so that its special qualities can be enjoyed by future generations.

The designation process

The Countryside Agency has two main tasks - to identify a boundary for the National Park and to prepare advice to government on the arrangements needed for a South Downs National Park Authority.

The Countryside Agency ran a statutory consultation with all affected local authorities (including town and parish councils) on its proposals from May to August 2001. This was followed by widespread public consultation which ran from November 2001 through to February 2002. We received over 6,500 written responses from interested organisations and individuals. This gave people an opportunity to comment on the proposed boundary and administrative arrangements for the National Park Authority.

On the 14th of November 2002, the Countryside Agency agreed to make a designation order which was signed in December of that year. This was placed on deposit for public inspection at all local authority offices and at the Countryside Agency's headquarters in Cheltenham. The Secretary of State, on the basis of objections and comments received during the consultation on this document called a public inquiry.

The public inquiry started on 10 November 2003 and ended in December 2004. A large number of interested parties appeared at the inquiry, presenting evidence and commenting in detail on the principle, boundary and administrative arrangements for the National Park. Even more took the opportunity to make their representations to the inspector in writing. The inquiry also heard

representations on the [South Downs National Park \(Variation\) Order 2003](#) and on two Orders revoking the two existing AONB designations.

The inspector will now prepare a report on his findings and submit this to the Secretary of State for the Environment, who will then make a final decision on whether to confirm the South Downs National Park Designation Order, the Variation Order and the AONB Revocation Orders. This decision is expected sometime in 2005.

www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/DL/new_designations/SouthDowns/index.asp

Appendix 6 – SSSI/SNCI designations within Newhaven

Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI

COUNTY: EAST SUSSEX SITE NAME: BRIGHTON TO NEWHAVEN CLIFFS

DISTRICT/BOROUGH: LEWES; BRIGHTON

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: BRIGHTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, Lewes District Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 390015 Area: 167.5 (ha.) 413.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 198 1:10,000: TQ 30 SW, SE, TQ 40 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):-

Peacehaven Cliff - Castle Hill 1961

Black Rock 1951

Date of Last Revision:- Peacehaven

Cliff - Castle Hill 1965

Black Rock 1965

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of last Revision:-

Other Information:

This site includes the two sites formerly known as Black Rock and Peacehaven cliffs to Castle Hill.

Reasons for Notification:

This coastal site comprises the length of chalk cliff stretching from Black Rock, Brighton in the west to Castle Hill, Newhaven in the east and includes the wave cut platform at the cliff base.

Although the main interest of the site is geological some rare and uncommon plants grow both on the cliff face and in the narrow strip of cliff-top chalk grassland. The cliffs support a locally important colony of breeding seabirds and a diverse community of beetles.

Unimproved chalk grassland grows in small pockets between the cliff top and the adjacent fenceline, and also as a larger expanse in the landslip area at Castle Hill. Amongst the red fescue *Festuca rubra* and sea couch *Agropyron pungens* grow herbs such as wild carrot *Daucus carota*, common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*. Several uncommon maritime plants grow both on the top and face of the cliff. These include the rare species hoary stock *Matthiola incana*, rock sea-lavender *Limonium binervosum* and sea-heath *Frankenia laevis*.

At Castle Hill and Friars Bay there are outstanding assemblages of beetles (Coleoptera), including the nationally rare species *Polistichus connexus* and *Phytobius quadrimaculatus*. The Meeching Court Farm area supports the only colony of breeding kittiwakes in Sussex together with breeding fulmar and herring gull.

The wave-cut platform is worn into a characteristic pattern of gullies and ridges at right angles to the sea, and supports a variety of typical invertebrates and algae. Geology Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs provides the best and most extensive exposure of the *Offaster pilula* Zone in England. The gentle folding and the superb accessibility of the base of the cliff make this an important collecting site for faunas of the upper Santonian and lower Campanian. It is a nationally important reference section for the upper Cretaceous.

Black Rock is a key section of outstanding importance for Quaternary Stratigraphy which has attracted scientific interest for over 150 years. The modern sea cliff at Black Rock obliquely intersects a fossil cliff and abrasion platform cut in the Upper Chalk. The platform is overlain by raised beach deposits of sand and shingle which contain shell fragments. The beach and cliff are generally thought to date from the second half of the last (Ipswichian) interglacial. The angle between the beach and the old cliff is filled by great quantities of coarse chalk rubble apparently derived from the weathering and erosion of the cliff in Devensian times. Chalk muds and fine chalk gravel and grit, are banked against the rubble on the west and may represent fan deposits. The muds contain appreciable quantities of loess and are overlain by further, coarser solifluction deposits. The chalk rubble and solifluction deposits are particularly notable for their fossil remains of many Devensian mammals, including *Elephas primigenius*, *Tichorhinus antiquitatus* and *Equus caballus*. The landforms, stratigraphy and mammal remains at Black Rock provide an extremely valuable record of former sea levels and changing environmental conditions.

An area of the cliff at Saltdean provides probably the finest example of conjugate normal faults in the Chalk of southern England. This exposure of Upper Chalk lies on the southern flank of the Weald Anticline, an upward flexure of the crust and the major geological structure of south-eastern England. The faults run in a north-north-easterly direction, at right angles to the trend of the anticline. These structures were probably formed by stretching of the crust parallel to the axis of the anticline during an episode of crustal compression in the mid-Tertiary Period, at the time of the Alpine mountain building episode.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs, East Sussex

O LD1003033

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	Grazing or changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock or intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3	Stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4	Mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation and changes in the mowing or cutting regime (including hay making to silage and cessation).
5	Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning.
9	The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10	The killing or removal of any wild animal*, including pest control.
11	The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould and turf.
12	Tree and/or woodland management + and changes in tree and/or woodland management +.
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
14	The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
15	Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
16b	Coastal fishing or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection including the use of traps or fish cages, and changes in coastal fishing practice or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection including the use of traps or fish cages.
17	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
18	Bait digging in intertidal areas.
19	Erection of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslide drainage or stabilisation measures.
20	Extraction of minerals, including shingle, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil and chalk.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials on or against rock outcrops.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24	Modification of natural or man-made features, clearance of boulders, large stones,

- loose rock or scree and battering, buttressing or grading rock-faces and cuttings.
- 26 Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
- 27 Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb features of interest .
- 28 Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices and changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.
- * 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.
- + including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management .
-

SITE NAME : TIDE MILLS
GRID REF. : TQ 455 005
AREA : 155.1 ha
DISTRICT : LEWES
DATE : -
SURVEYORS : Report written by Marion Finch & Louise Clark
and compiled from various reports on ESCC files

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Mill Creek is an important feeding ground for a good number of ducks and wading birds. Redshank feed there, Little Grebes winter there, Shelduck use the area for feeding and sheltering their young and in winter, a flock (30-50) of Ringed Plovers can be found there. Additionally; in the water can be found Grey Mullet, Gobies, Shrimps, Prawns and Flounder. In the mud, there are Nereid Worms, Cockles and Peppery Furrow Shells. Amongst the stones on the banks, there are Shore Crabs and Edible Periwinkles.

The shingle beach exhibits a good variety of shingle flora and is the best example of this habitat in Lewes District. Typical plants include Sea-Kale (Crambe maritima) and Yellow Horned-poppy (Glaucium flavum). This is also home to the spider (Pardosa agricola forma arenicola), Ringed Plovers nest here, Skylarks and Meadow Pipits can be found breeding here and occasionally Back Redstarts can be found wintering here.

The Industrial Waste Land area is a depository for rubble, soil, derelict machinery and industrial junk. It has a ruderal plant community of no particular note excepting the presence of Oxford Ragwort (Senecio squalidus).

The salt marsh area is partly tidal. On the grassy-edge, Grasshoppers, Common Lizard, Slow-worm and Grass-snake can all be found. In the mud, Nereid worms and the amphipod Corophium can be found. On the wet mud surfaces, the snails Hydrobia and Littorina saxatilis, and the isopod Sphaeroma occur. On the dry mud surfaces, notable species include the bug Saldula and the spider Pardosa purbeckensis.

There is a marshy, meadow area which is mainly very poorly drained grazing land. Species of note found there include Brookweed (Samolus valerandi).

Also, there is a chalk embankment where numerous common downland plants can be found, and around the remains of the Tide Mills Sea Clover (Trifolium squamosum) occurs.

The majority of the fields behind Mill Creek are cultivated (only a small number remain as species-poor rough pasture). They are generally open and bounded by ditches. During the winter months, in the wetter, flooded areas of the fields, there commonly occurs:-

- Flocks of duck, Wigeon, Teal and Mallard
- Flocks of Snipe (200)
- Dunlin (100)
- Redshank (70)
- Curlew (50)
- Lapwing (3000)

One uncultivated field is particularly important, as the following birds breed there: Redshank, Lapwing, Ringed Plover, Yellow Wagtails, Skylarks and Meadow Pipits. Additionally, short-eared Owls occasionally visit these fields.

There are 2 herb-rich meadows which support a variety of Sedges, Rushes and Wetland Larks. These are good invertebrate habitats and support a notable colony of Orange-tip butterflies.

The ditches in this area are dominated by Phragmites australis. Some are dry with only a small number still containing open water. The northern part of the site has ditches supporting a richer plant life. The ditches support good populations of Sedge Warblers, Reed Buntings and Reed Warblers (if water is present!)

There are numerous ponds dotted about the fields. Several are overgrown by Scirpus maritimus. Some still have open water which is often dominated by Potamogeton and edged by Scirpus or sparganium. Some have water lilies. Several ponds support Newts and active damsel and dragonfly populations. In others, the 19-spot Ladybird has been found and also the large beetle (Dytiscus semisulcatus). In winter, the ponds attract Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal and Mallard, and in summer Yellow Wagtails and Moorhens can be found.

Finally of note, is the 24 species of Butterflies and Moths that have been recorded in this area.

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SITE NAME : NEWHAVEN CLIFFS
GRID REF. : TV 435999
AREA : 13.8 ha
DISTRICT : LEWES
DATE : 1990
SURVEYORS : G STEVEN & N MUGGERIDGE
FURTHER INFORMATION : Site information from the English Nature publication: 'A Botanical Survey of Unimproved Chalk Grassland on the South Downs in East Sussex' by G Steven, 1990.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This site lies adjacent to the eastern end of Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI. Throughout, the chalk is overlain by Tertiary sands and clays to a depth of several metres in places and only a few small areas of grassland are more than moderately calcicolous. Most of the grassland is predominantly mesotrophic in character. Of greatest interest is the presence of clay minerals in the soil and localised formation of an iron pan on top of the chalk at Castle Hill gives rise to waterlogging and occasional springs. This means that species not normally associated with chalk grassland such as Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) occur here.

The site is heavily used by the public and consequentially has an important amenity and landscape function as well as wildlife interest.

SITE NOTES

1. The sward is tall and rather coarse. Most of the north side of Castle Hill is occupied by gorse scrub. Patches of very sandy soil near the top of the hill support an acid sward with frequent Agrostis capillaris. There is occasional Plantago coronopus, Daucus and Carex hirta. Pulicaria dysinterica is present in a few places. The sward has little calcicolous character here. Within a metre or so of the cliff edge the sward is often extremely short and bare with high cover of Leontodon taraxacoides, Bellis, Plantago coronopus and Armeria.

The Bloody Nose Beetle, Tamarcha tenebricosa, which feeds on Galium spp., is believed to occur here.

MANAGEMENT

No management

COMMENTS

Very important as part of the only example of unimproved grassland on deep Tertiary deposits in the county.

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SITE NAME : NEWHAVEN PONDS
GRID REF. : TQ 441 018
AREA : 0.6 ha
DISTRICT : LEWES
DATE : 8.9.92.
SURVEYORS : MARION FINCH & LOUISE CLARK
FURTHER INFORMATION : URBAN SNCI

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The site consists of a series of ponds, set within improved, mown grassland on the north-west edge of Newhaven. This urban SNCI forms a wildlife area in the middle of housing and is regarded as a wildlife refuge by the residents.

There are five linked ponds, all of which have some marginal vegetation and cover from overhanging trees. There is no obvious aquatic vegetation, and the water of each pond has been enriched by ducks.

It is reported that Common Toad (Bufo) breeds in the ponds.

SITES NOTES

1. The largest pond is completely surrounded by a marginal vegetation consisting of Common Reed (Phragmites australis) and some Yellow Flag Iris (Iris pseudacorus). The water is shaded in places by large, old White Willow (Salix alba) which overhang the pond and there are several others set back from the water's edge. One tree has died but has been left in place, thereby providing a valuable roosting site for birds and a suitable habitat for a variety of insects, fungi and hole-nesting species. The branches and trunk are also covered in lichens. The area between the marginal vegetation and the mown verge of the minor road has a tall herb community of Fleabane (Pulicaria dysenterica), Hairy Willowherb (Epilobium hirsutum), Nettle (Urtica dioica) and Hedge Bindweed (Calystegia sepium).
2. This pond is smaller but generally similar to (1). It is surrounded by a wide stand of Common Reed. Some Yellow Flag Iris occurs, but there is no obvious aquatic flora, either submerged or floating. Large, old White Willows overhang the water on the southern bank. There is a tall herb community between the reeds and the mown road verge to the north, just as described before. This pond was most heavily used by the ducks at the time of the survey.
3. A roughly circular pond, very similar to (1 and 2) in that it is surrounded by Common Reed and some Yellow Flag Iris, with a tall herb community below the reeds on the north-west edge. The pond also has White Willows on its south-east bank, but these are set back and do not overhang the water much. The Common Reed is starting to grow out towards the middle of the pond, but there is no aquatic vegetation apparent. This pond is linked to (2) by a large drain pipe.
4. This pond is smaller than (3) and square in shape. Otherwise, it is very similar. The trees on its banks are very young Willows, and there are a huge Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) and several Elder (Sambucus nigra) bushes on the bank.
5. The southern-most pond is slightly different from the others. The water is not completely surrounded by Common Reed as parts of the banks are heavily shaded by large old White Willow, some of them pollarded. There is a bed of Common Reed at the south-west end of the pond, and stands growing around the open banks, but not the complete cover of the other ponds. The steep banks by the minor road are covered in Bramble (Rubus spp.), Nettle and Hedge Bindweed. There are some large old Hawthorn, Elder and White Willows on the south-east banks, and the bank itself is shallower than those of the other ponds, allowing access to the water by ducks. There is no obvious aquatic vegetation and the water is murky.
6. This must have been a stream or channel originally, as there is a double row of huge, multi-stemmed Willows, now growing over re-seeded grass. There is a dry channel between this area and pond (5), which is full of

Nettle, Hedge Bindweed and some Himalayan Balsam (Impatiens glandulifera).

The ponds are set in an area of re-seeded, close-mown grassland and are separated from each other by narrow causeways of similar mown grassland.

MANAGEMENT

The area around the ponds has been reseeded and is closely mown. Signs have been put up, asking people to drive slowly as the site is a wildlife area. A large, dead tree has been left in place.

The site has great potential for wildlife. Unfortunately, the ponds are poor in terms of their vegetation, as Reed and Iris are the only species present. This could be improved by landscaping the ponds to create shallow banks and beaches at the water's edge, and very gradually sloping areas of wet mud. These will allow for the establishment of a much more varied flora on the shallow banks and in the marshy ground of the wet mud. The beaches will provide exit points for young frogs and toads, and sunning sites for amphibians and insects. Unfortunately, the presence of ducks is difficult to reconcile with a wildlife pond.

The grassy surrounds to the ponds are mown short. It might be an idea to leave areas to grow longer, especially around trees or on boundaries, to provide a more varied structure to the vegetation. The Hawthorn and Elder bushes are valuable food sources for birds and insects. Planting native bushes such as Guelder Rose and Blackthorn and non-native berry-producing bushes such as Firethorn, Cotoneaster and Barberry will increase this food source, as well as adding to the attractiveness of the site.

COMMENTS

A valuable site for wildlife in an urban context and one which could be greatly enhanced by appropriate management.

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SITE NAME : NEWHAVEN REFUSE TIP

GRID REF. : TQ 440020

AREA : 25.8 ha

DISTRICT : LEWES

DATE : July 1991

SURVEYORS : Simon Davey

FURTHER

INFORMATION : Site information from 'Ecological Survey of the Newhaven Domestic Refuse Tip Site', report in ESCC files.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The site consists of disturbed ground on the surface of the tip itself; meadows to the north and the brackish edges to the channel to the east.

The disturbed ground is a mosaic of habitats. Patches of vigorous grasses are interspersed with worn, species rich areas and more recently colonised areas. This part of the site is exceptionally rich and supports several rare plants.

The meadows vary from a dry, tall sward in the north-west to damper grassland with brackish channels and pools in the east. The fields have been under-grazed, but contain some interesting species such as Pepper Saxifrage (Silaum silaus) and the brackish pools and ditches are of considerable value.

The edge of the channel to the east supports typical brackish flora with several saltmarsh plants.

SITE NOTES

1. Species occurring on the brackish channel and its banks include Mud Rush (Juncus gerardii), Sea Plantain (Plantago maritima), Sea Aster (Aster tripolium) and the uncommon Divided Sedge (Carex divisa).
2. The south-eastern section of the tip has a more mature vegetation, including species such as Cinquefoil (Potentilla reptans), Wild Carrot (Daucus carota), Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa) Bird's-foot Trefoil (Lotus corniculatus), Cocksfoot (Dactylis glomerata), Common Vetch (Vicia sativa), Creeping Thistle (Cirsium repens), Sallow (Salix caprea), Elder (Sambucus nigra) and Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa). 114 vascular plant species were recorded in all.

Common Whitethroat were abundant and breeding and a list of Lepidoptera, Bryophytes and lichens is available.

3. The north-western section of the tip has a less eutrophic vegetation, including Viper's Bugloss (Echium vulgare), Pale Flax (Linum bienne), Black Medic (Medicago lupulina), Weld (Reseda luteola), Wild Carrot (Daucus carota), Bristly Ox-tongue (Picris echioides), and Ox-eye Daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare). 111 vascular plant species were recorded in all.
4. The meadow to the North-west contains a range of species typical of semi-improved pasture, such as Creeping Thistle (Cirsium arvense), Creeping Buttercup (Ranunculus repens), Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea), and Curled Dock (Rumex crispus). However, it also includes species of more interest, such as Brown Sedge (Carex disticha) and Pepper Saxifrage (Silaum silaus).

5. The bank from the tip to meadow (4), including the drain at the bottom, is covered with tall sward vegetation, dense bramble and scrub. Sea Clubrush (Scirpus maritimus) and Divided Sedge (Carex divisa) are found here.
6. The middle field is mature pasture, but containing a ditch and pond with brackish influence. Species of interest include Pepper Saxifrage and Cowslip (Primula veris) in the meadow, with the uncommon Water Crowfoot (Ranunculus circinatus), Divided Sedge, Sea Milkwort (Glaux maritima), Mud Rush (Juncus gerardii) and Sea Clubrush (Scirpus maritimus) in wetter areas.
7. The north-east field contains brackish depressions containing plants which are rare in East Sussex. The field itself is also more diverse than the others, containing Wild Carrot, Yellow Oat (Trisetum flavescens), Germander Speedwell (Veronica chamaedrys), Lady's Bedstraw (Galium verum), Pepper Saxifrage, Sorrel (Rumex acetosa), Hairy Buttercup (Ranunculus sardous) and Sea Plantain (Plantago lanceolata) amongst others.

The brackish depressions are a rare habitat in East Sussex and are of particular wildlife importance. They include the Nationally Scarce Bulbous Foxtail (Alopecurus bulbosus), Puccinellia fasciculata, Distant Poa (P. distans), the Water Crowfoot (Ranunculus distans), Divided Sedge, Sea Arrow Grass (Triglochin maritima) and Sea Aster (Aster tripolium), amongst others.

COMMENTS

A varied site of very considerable wildlife importance. Includes 17 vascular plant species which may be described as rare or uncommon in East Sussex, some of which are also 'Nationally Scarce' according to English Nature. A detailed invertebrate survey of the brackish areas could potentially discover many more rarities.

n.b. The Davey report gives more comprehensive species lists and details of all the rare plants found.

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SITE NAME : DENTON HILL DOWNS

GRID REF. : TQ 479027

AREA : 40.0 ha

DISTRICT : LEWES

DATE : 1991

SURVEYORS : G STEVEN & N MUGGERIDGE

FURTHER INFORMATION : Site information from the English Nature publication: 'A South Downs in East Sussex' by G Steven and N Muggeridge, 1992.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A collection of three north-facing downs around Denton Hill, south of Firle Beacon. All three areas are similar in having fairly deep soils so that the sward tends to be rather mesotrophic but parts are very species-rich. Sward composition approaches NVC type CG2b in places. Tor Grass (Brachypodium pinnatum) dominates several large patches, however.

Species of interest present include Autumn Lady's Tresses (Spiranthes spiralis), Chalk Milkwort (Polygala calcarea) and Horseshoe Vetch (Hippocrepis comosa).

SITE NOTES

1. Where Brachypodium is scarce or absent the sward tends to be dominated by Festuca ovina with frequent Cynosurus, Dactylis, Holcus, Phleum bertolonii and Trisetum with smaller amounts of Avenula pratensis, Briza, Koeleria and Festuca rubra. The sward is usually species-rich but the range and proportion of calcicoles varies. Some patches are markedly calcicolous with high cover of calcicoles such as Thymus praecox, Plantago media and Cirsium acaule. Leontodon hispidus, Plantago lanceolata, Bellis and Pseudoscleropodium tend to have high cover throughout in the short sward. Asperula, Gentianella and Spiranthes occur locally in a few of the more calcicolous patches.
2. There is a marked contrast between this short sward and the tall, essentially ungrazed patches dominated by Brachypodium pinnatum. These areas are poor in species with only occasional Centaurea nigra, Galium verum, Phyteuma, Pimpinella, Filipendula etc.
3. The southern area in Devilsrest Bottom has a fairly uniform, predominantly mesotrophic sward with Bromus erectus scattered throughout.

4. The northern area has large Brachypodium pinnatum-dominated patches, particularly towards the east end but calcicolous patches scattered through the area. This part is not fenced off from the improved base of the coombe.
5. The middle area is fairly uniform with smaller Brachypodium pinnatum patches. There is a suggestion of nutrient input of some kind here as Dactylis is unusually prominent giving the sward a rather coarse appearance.

MANAGEMENT

On the whole the sites are well grazed by sheep.

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Appendix 7 –

Archaeologically Sensitive Areas

These are areas that have been designated because of their high archaeological potential and where an appropriate archaeological response will be necessary whenever changes in land-use are proposed, for example through the implementation of PPG16. (Government Guidance on Archaeology and Planning)

Archaeologically Sensitive Areas within the Newhaven Parish

143 ~ Castle Hill an area of Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Comprising of an Iron Age hillfort, Neolithic settlement, two areas of Romano-British occupation and a 19th century fort. The eastern end of this designated area is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ES SM430)

155 ~ Area of Romano-British occupation, consisting of buildings and enclosures associated with either a villa or farm. Excavation in this area has also uncovered Pleistocene geological features containing Palaeolithic flint implements

156 ~ Area of Romano-British occupation, probably in the form of a villa

158 ~ Area of Prehistoric activity, comprising of Mesolithic occupation evidence and Bronze Age cremation burials

418 ~ Medieval village of Denton, probably founded in the late Saxon Period and continuing to be occupied throughout the medieval and post medieval periods. The designated area contains an 11th century parish church, medieval buildings and medieval occupation features (recorded during housing development)

419 ~ Area containing the remains of Prehistoric and later fieldsystems and occupation debris recovered during fieldwalking projects

421 ~ A large designated area enclosing the block of Downland around Rookery Hill and Bishopstone. This area has produced evidence of multi period occupation and land use, including the important Neolithic to early Saxon settlement and cemetery site at Rookery Hill, large areas of

fieldsystems, Bronze Age burial mounds, and worked flint concentrations indicative of Mesolithic to Bronze Age occupation

422 ~ Tide Mills a series of 18th century sea and wind powered mills, partly destroyed during the 2nd World War

611 ~ Area of Bronze Age activity in the form of a large burial monument consisting of three concentric ring ditches enclosing burial pits which were probably originally covered by a burial mound. The area of the ring ditches is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ES SM12800)

Appendix 8 – Reports of Consultations



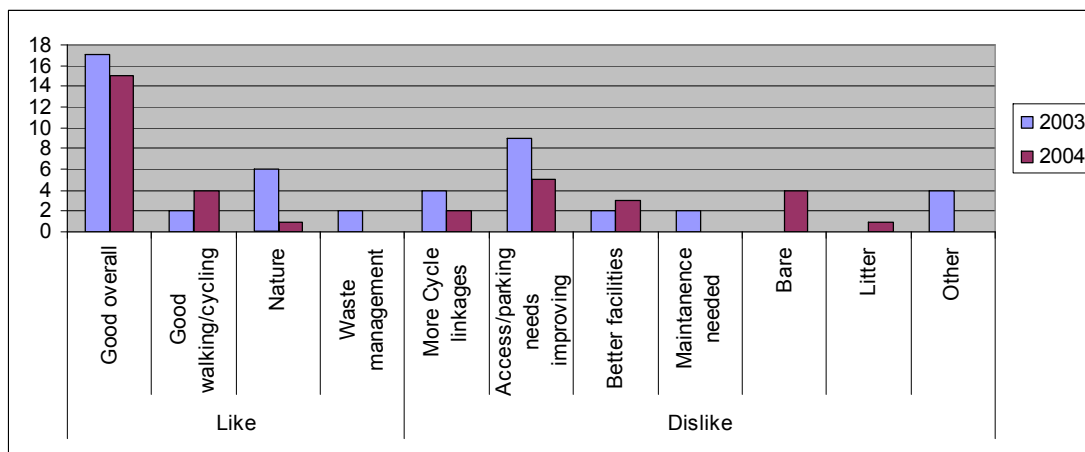
Analysis of the Greenspaces consultation event held on Saturday 26th April, 2004

- The consultation took place at Newhaven Fort from 12-5pm and included, along with the survey, an exhibition, walks and cycle rides to display the plans for the sites.
- The survey asked people what they thought about the improvements underway and to suggest further improvements that could be made. People recorded their answers under columns entitled things they do, or do not like about each site.
- Over 60 members of the public attended the event and 29 Questionnaires were returned in total. Attendance was skewed towards those coming from a more professionally based background.
- A relatively good rate of response from attendees was recorded for each site. The most commented upon sites were larger and more prominent including Castle Hill, Fort Road Rec, Ouse Estuary and West Beach. Lesser commented on were more remote sites including Meeching Down and Bullens Bush.

Larger Sites

Ouse Estuary

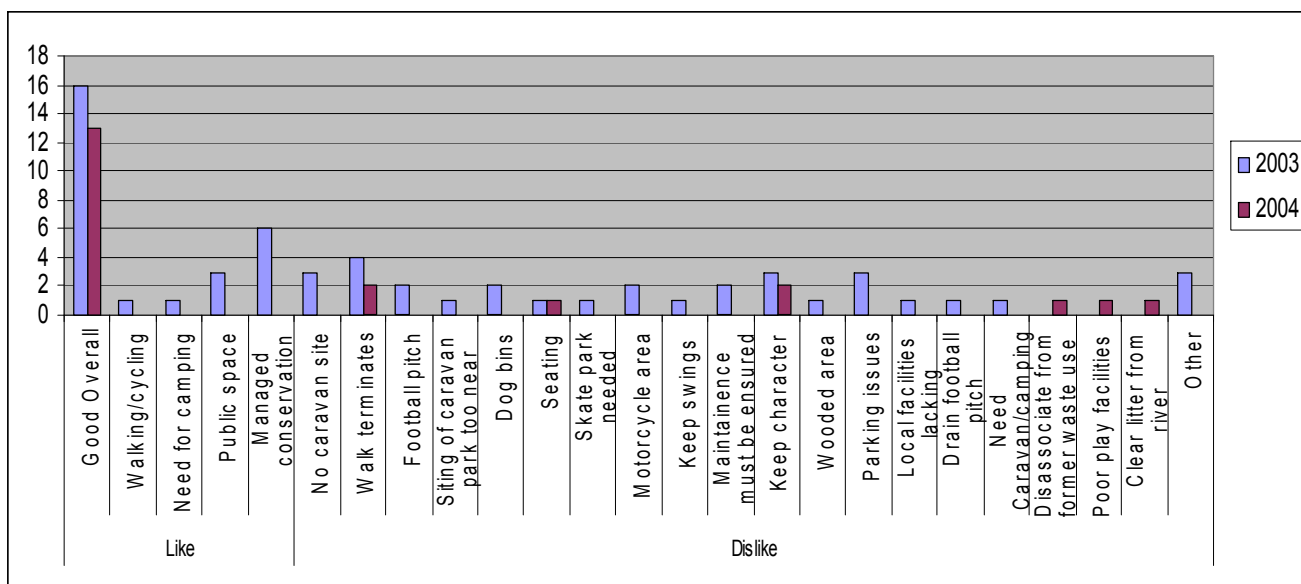
24 respondents (2004)



- There was generally a high degree of acceptance of this scheme. Out of the 24 people who commented on the scheme, 23 had something positive to say and 17 said it was good overall.
- Dislikes included the lack of access or parking although this had improved since the last survey with only 5 respondents seeing this as a problem. Other recurring concerns were cycle linkages between the site and Seaford in particular. There was also a desire for better facilities including snack venues, information and toilets.

Riverside Park

15 respondents (2004)

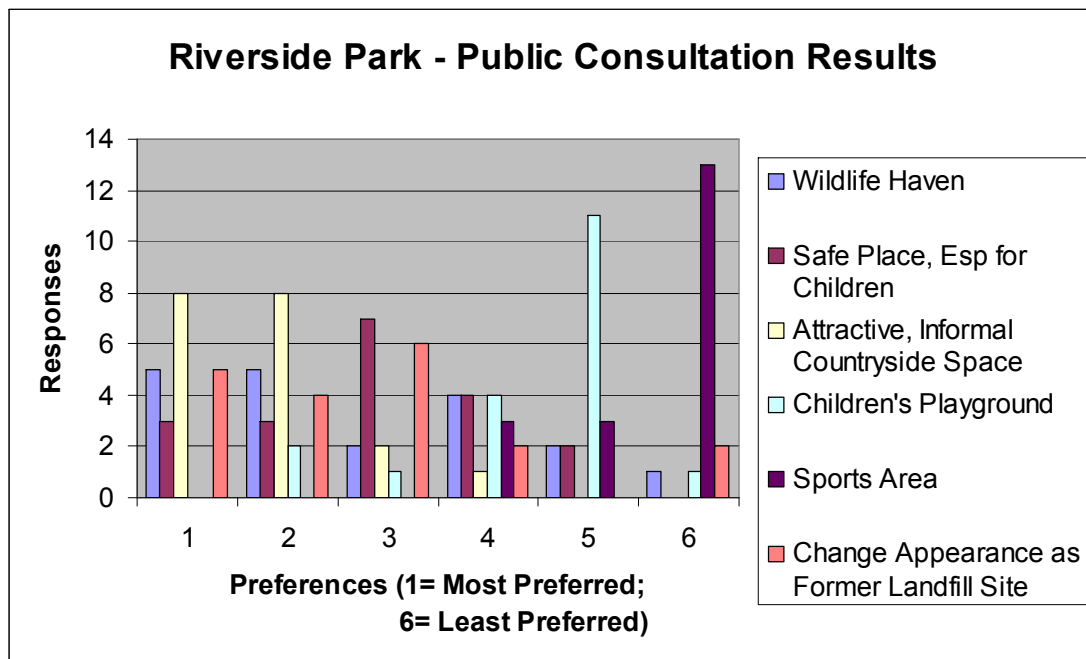


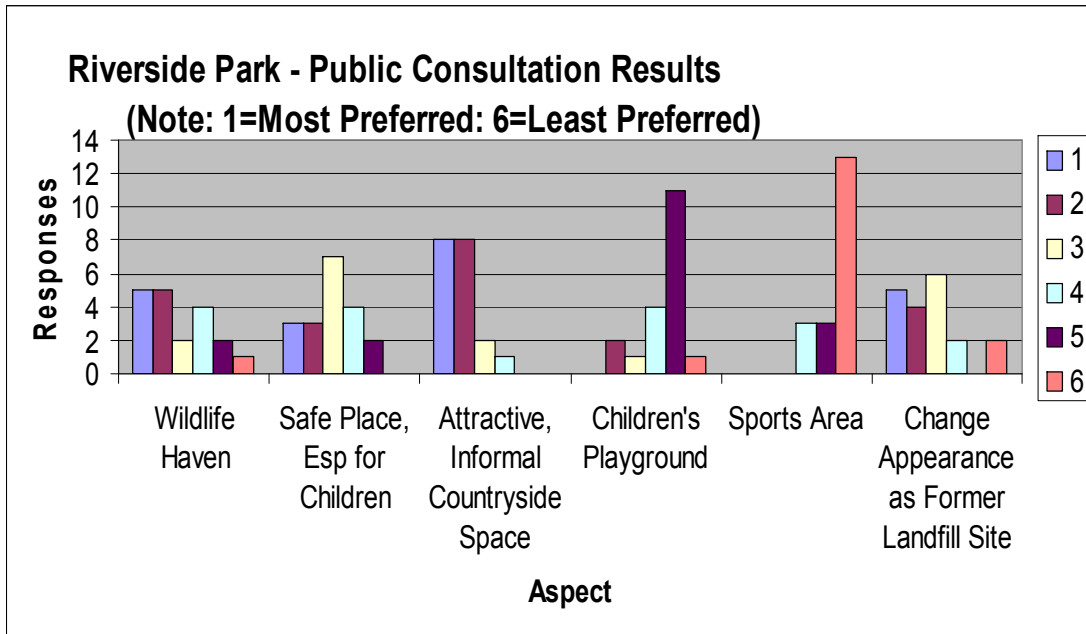
- Riverside park recorded the greatest range of answers. Most people were supportive of the plans. There was not much interlinking between 2003 and 2004 apart from a similar amount of general support. 2 points did stand out however. There was an agreement that the site should keep its character, 3 (2003), 2 (2004) and there was concern over how the walk terminated suddenly before Piddinghoe, 4 (2003), 2 (2004)

- In addition the Landscape Group at East Sussex County Council conducted a separate survey on Riverside Park.

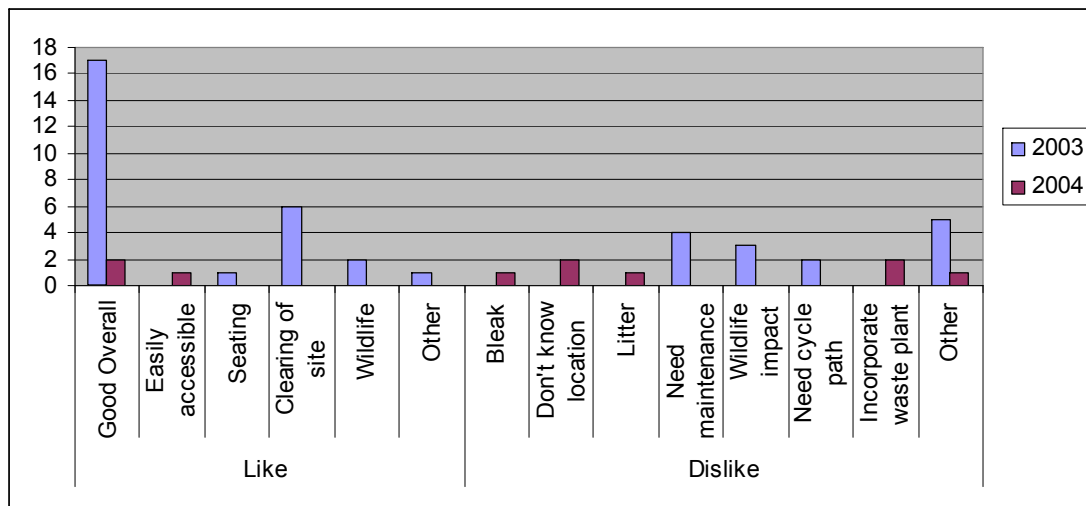
	Note 1=Highest Priority; 6 is Lowest Priority					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Wildlife Haven	5	5	2	4	2	1
Safe Place, Esp for Children	3	3	7	4	2	0
Attractive, Informal Countryside Space	8	8	2	1	0	0
Children's Playground	0	2	1	4	11	1
Sports Area	0	0	0	3	3	13
Change Appearance as Former Landfill Site	5	4	6	2	0	2

Two different ways of presenting the results.



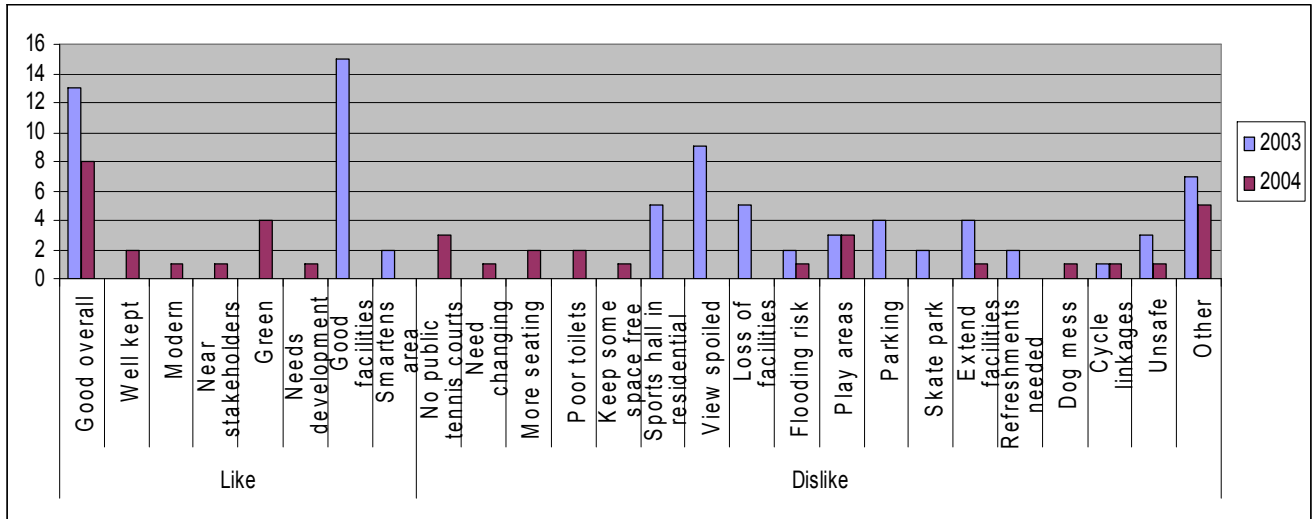


The Drove
(12 respondents 2004)



- There seems to have been less commentary this time about the Drove. There is little overlap between the concerns. Maintenance scored highly last time but does not seem to have been mentioned this time.

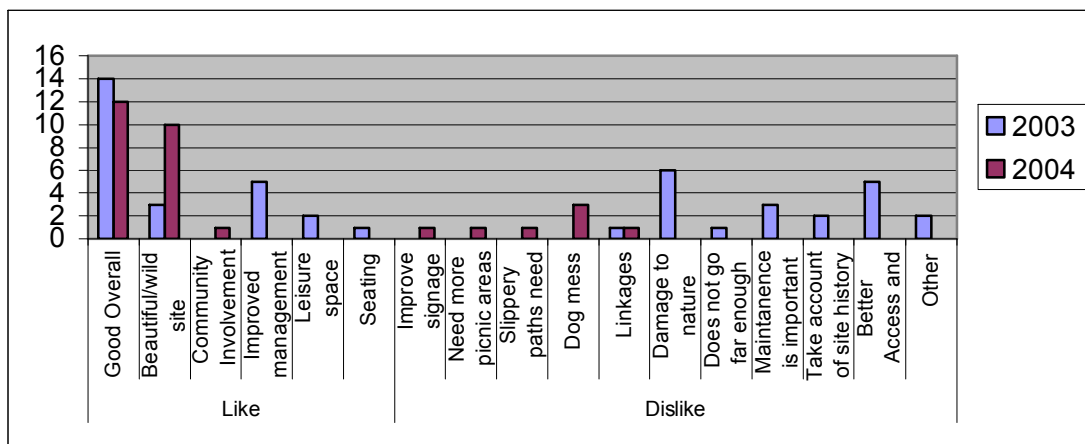
Fort Road
(22 respondents, 2004)



- There was a general endorsement from the plans. Concerns last time particularly centred on views being spoiled and a loss of facilities whilst work has happened. It seems this has not been brought up this time, perhaps because consultation has occurred. The comments received were multifaceted and covered many issues some of which could not be distilled down further.

Castle Hill

(28 respondents, 2004)



- There was a general endorsement for these plans. Many people believe that the site should remain wild. In 2003, concerns were raised that new development would compromise this although there was no mention of these concerns in 2004.

West Beach

(This attracted the most commentary with all 29 respondents commenting on this, 2004).

Like

West Beach		
------------	--	--

	No overdevelopment		2
	Nice location		13
	Sand		8
	Peaceful		1

Dislike

Poor facilities (including toilets, 12)			19
Poor appearance			10
Traffic congestion			1
Peak season parking charges			3
Need storage huts			1
More public events			1
Other			3

- Whilst most saw West Beach's location as a natural asset, there was a strong belief that its appearance and lack of facilities let it down. Most frequently mentioned were litter and lack of toilets (12 people specifically mentioned this). A smaller number of people thought there should be a refreshment area or a children's playground.

Smaller sites

Bullens Bush

(13 respondents 2004)

- A good overall endorsement (6). Some concerns about protecting the site from off road motorcycles were expressed (3)

Valley Ponds

(19 respondents 2004)

Likes

Valley Ponds				
	Good Overall (including nice wildlife/nature)			14

Dislikes

		Need more seats			4
		Litter			3
		Replace lifebuoy			1
		Dog bins needed			2
		Keep some space free			2
		Other			2

- There was general support for the plans. The main feeling seemed to be retain and improve. People liked its wild natural feel and wanted to protect against overdevelopment.

War Memorial

(23 respondents 2004)

Likes

War memorial				
Historical				3
Good overall (support for move)				12
Well kept				3

Dislikes

Don't move				1
Cut trees				1
Little known site				1
Other				1

- There was good overall support for the consolidation of both memorials on to one site. (12 responses).

Meeching Down

(16 respondents 2004)

Likes

Meeching Down				
Good overall				6
Secluded				1
Provision of dog bins				1
Trees				1
Good dog walking area				1

Dislikes

Access difficult in wet weather				1
Access issues from Church Hill				1
Dog mess				2
Don't like name change				1
Unsure of location				3
Too many trees				1
Slippery when wet				1
Need Youth space				2
Boring				2
Other				3

- 6 of the respondents found the plans for the site good overall. There was seemed to be minor conflicts of interest between some respondents. One liked the secluded feel but another believed there were access problems and more felt that youth

facilities should be provided. There was also a perception by some that the site was boring and should be changed conflicting with those who liked its wild/untampered feel. Some people did not seem to know where the site is.

Eastside Recreation Ground

(10 respondents 2004)

Likes

Eastside Rec			
Good overall			3
Good facilities present			4
Toilets			1
Linkage with Ouse Estuary			1

Dislikes

Poor facilities			2
Youth development needed			2

- Respondents were split on this with some believing that a good base of facilities already existed here and others believed more development was needed. One person expressed both sentiments.

Summary

- Relatively small sample
- Issue of approval for site *or* approval for plans hard to distinguish.
- Need to promote certain less well known sites such as Meeching Down and Bullens Bush.
- Facilities (especially toilets) at West Beach a real issue.
- Retain and improve were common issues with people wanting good site management and facilities but not over development.



Openspaces Consultation feedback 16th April 2005 at Newhaven Market

The event was held from 9am- 3pm on 16th April at Newhaven market. The aim was to get feedback about what improvements people feel are needed and what people think of the recommendations suggested in the Openspaces strategy. People were asked to complete questionnaires to find this out.

Representatives on the day:

Polly Coupland- NSN

Penny Shimmin- NCDA

Sally Foote – NCDA

James Newmarch – ESCC

Owen Clifford – LDC

Graham Amy – Castle Hill Management Group

Liz Ford – West Beach Group

Ginny Smith - West Beach Group

Boards were displayed with information, photos and recommendations for each of the following sites:

- Bullen's Bush
- Castle Hill Nature Reserve
- Eastside Recreation ground
- Fort road Recreation ground
- Meeching Down
- Ouse Estuary Project area
- Riverside park
- The Drove
- Valley Pond
- War memorial
- West beach

A map with all the sites labelled was also displayed.

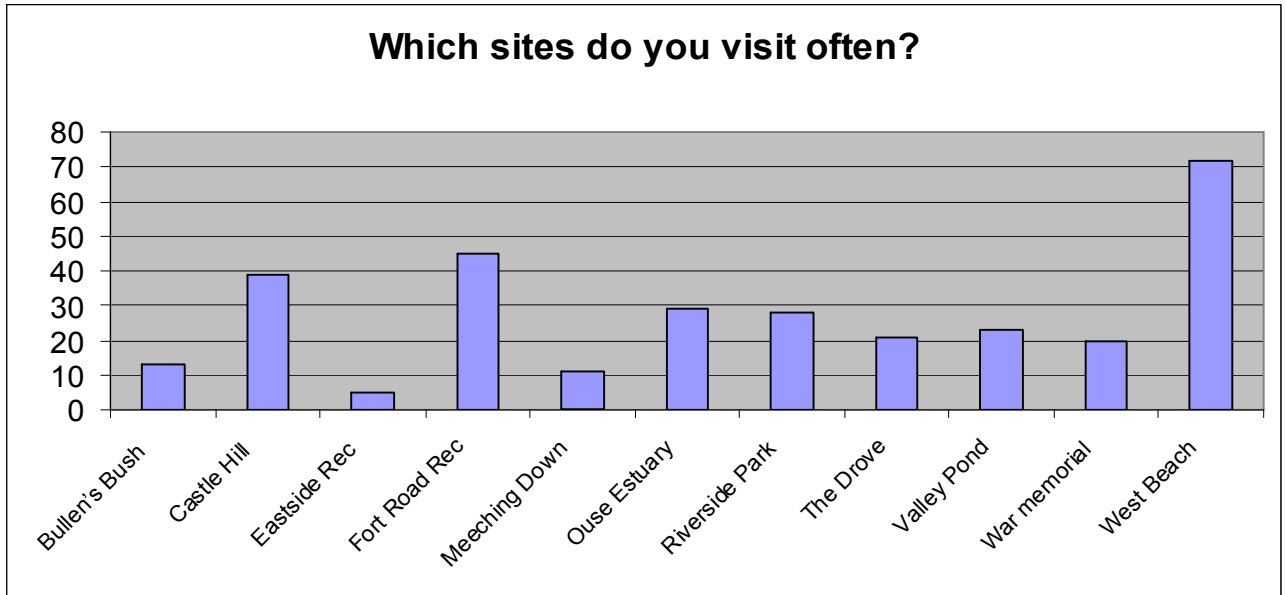
In total we received 96 completed questionnaires, as well as a lot of general interest from people about the work we are doing. 53 people gave us their contact details to receive further information. 18 people showed an interest in joining a 'friends of' group. In general there was most interest about improving West beach.

The findings should be used to gain a general feel for what people think rather than used as hard statistical analysis. People often completed just the parts of the questionnaire they were interested in. For example, where one person ticked three boxes under 'what three sites most need improving', some people ticked only one, or up to five or six. There are also not enough respondents to analyse site by site information in any depth.

On the day there was some confusion about names of the sites. For example, Meeching Down is known by many local people as The Union. The number of representatives helping people and maps showing the locations of sites helped people.

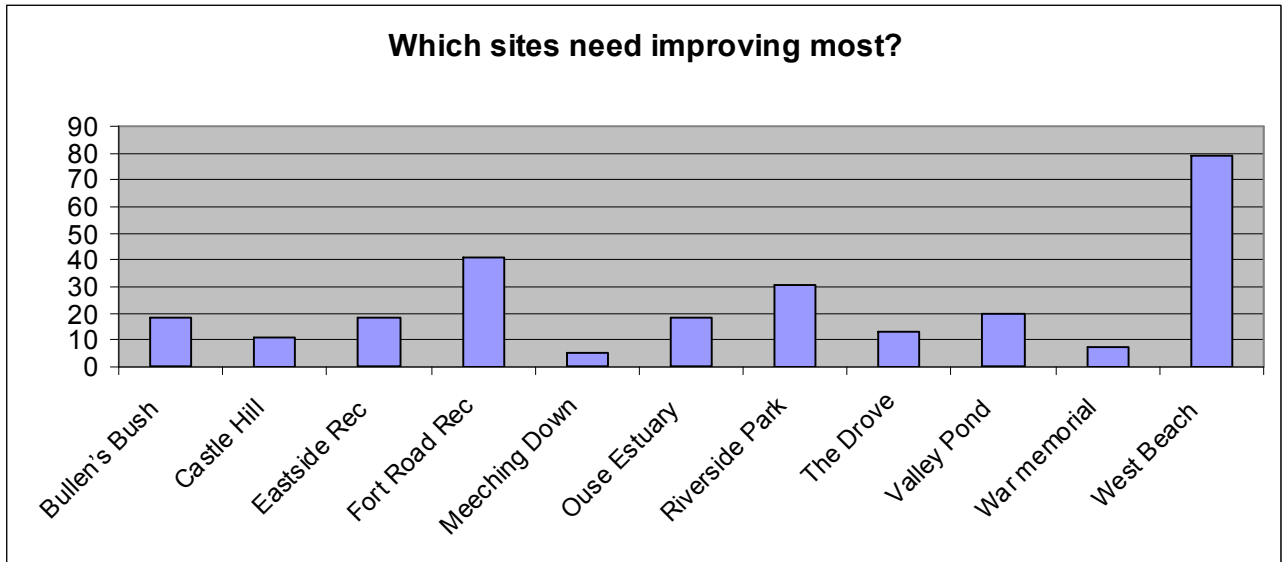
Questionnaire responses

Question 1



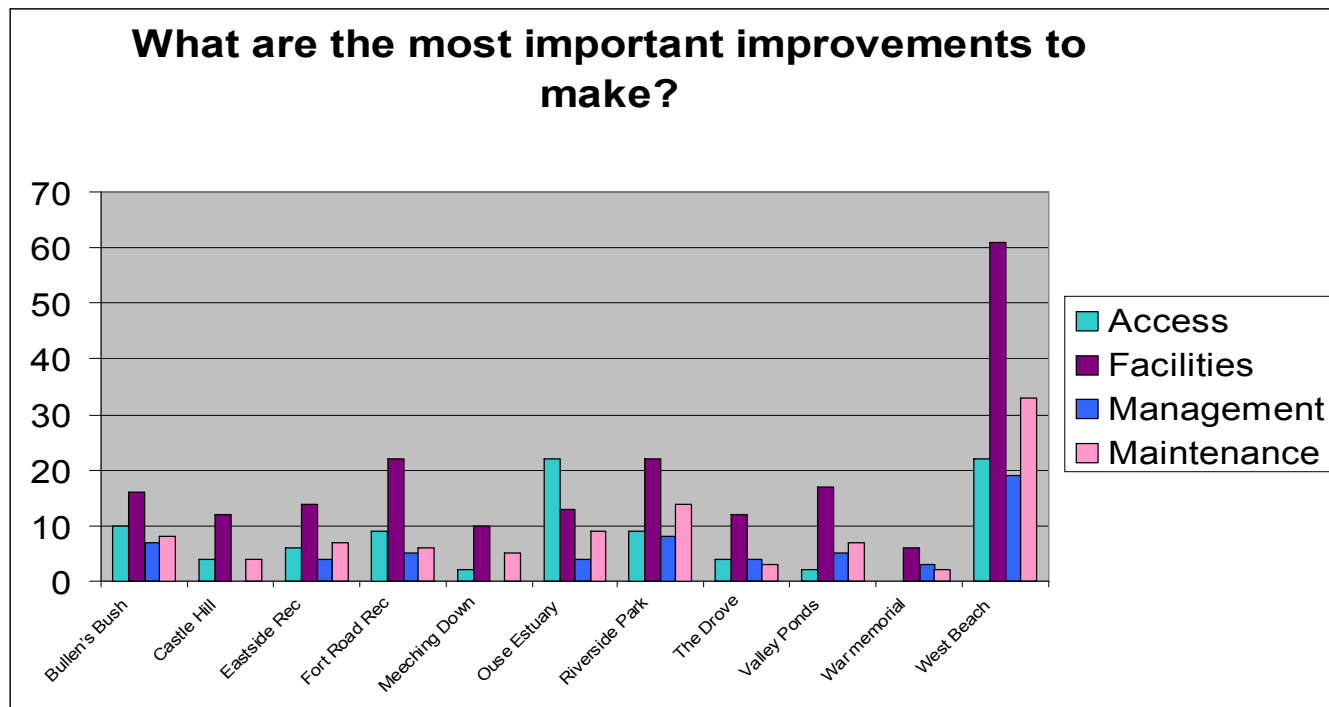
75% of respondents said they visit West Beach often and almost 50% of people visit Castle Hill and Fort rd rec. often. Eastside rec. was the least visited, only 5 people questioned visit it often.

Question 2



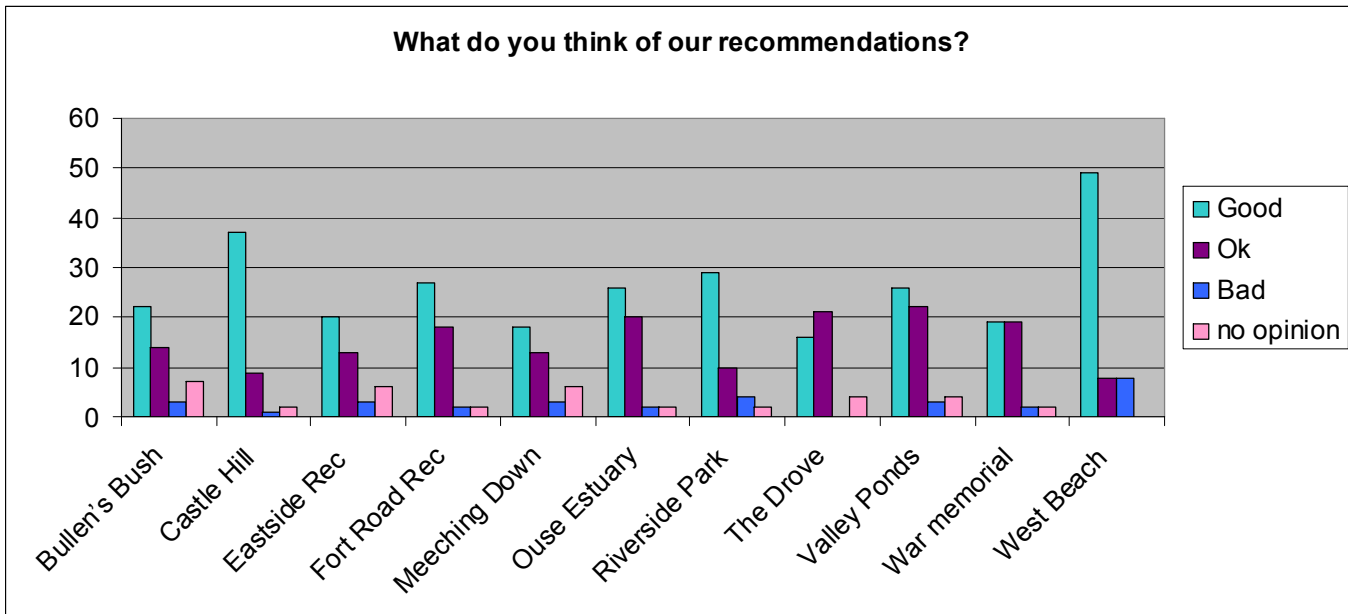
Over 80% of people said that West beach needs improving most, many people also said Fort Rd rec. and Riverside Park need improving.

Question 3



Over 80% of people felt that West beaches facilities need improving, maintenance at the site was also mentioned by many people. Improving facilities at Fort Rd rec. and Riverside Park were seen as important as well access at the Ouse Estuary and West beach. Overall, improving facilities was seen as the most important improvement to make.

Question 4



The majority of people thought that the recommendations from the Openspaces Strategy were good. People in particular thought that the West beach and Castle Hill Nature Reserve recommendations were good.

Site by Site Analysis

West beach attracted by far the most number of comments. The West beach attracts large numbers of visitors and people are therefore very aware of the lack of facilities, access and maintenance of the site. Fort Road Recreation Ground and Castle Hill Nature Reserve are also well used sites and received many comments and suggestions. Other larger sites all attracted about the same slightly lower level of comment as each other, suggesting a more local response to each of them. The suggestions for improvements are in general very similar to the site by site recommendations made in the Openspaces Strategy.

Bullen's Bush

Just over 10% of respondents said they visit Bullen's Bush often and almost 20% thought that it needs improving. Improving facilities, particularly signage, was seen as most important, consistent with responses for most other sites. Most people thought the recommendations for Bullen's Bush were either good or ok. The only suggestion not made in the Strategy's recommendations is for toilets at the site.

No. responses	Access
5	Pathways
5	General

No. responses	Management
2	Information
2	Community Involvement
1	General

No. responses	Maintenance
2	Pathways
1	Grass areas
4	Wildlife habitat
1	Site furniture
4	Litter clearance
3	General

No. responses	Facilities
7	Signage
3	Litter bins
3	Seating
1	Dog bins
1	Toilets
1	General

Castle Hill Nature Reserve

40% of respondents visit Castle Hill often and only 11% thought that it needs improving. This perhaps shows that people recognise the improvements that have been made to the site over the past few years, and its success in meeting people needs. Of the suggestions for improvement, people wanted more facilities such as more litter bins. No respondents thought that the management needs improving. Most respondents thought that the recommendations for Castle Hill were good; only one person thought they were bad.

No. responses	Access
3	Pathways
1	General

No. responses	Management
0	-

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Litter clearance
2	Dog mess clearance
2	General

No. responses	Facilities
5	Litter bins
3	Toilets
2	Seating
2	Signage
2	Dog bins

Eastside Recreation Ground

Only 5% of respondents said that they visit this site often. This is perhaps due to its tatty state or could be because respondents were not aware of the site. Both reasons may explain why only 18% ticked Eastside Rec. as needing improving, even though it clearly needs it. Also, people may use Fort Road Recreation ground more so prioritised this site above Eastside Rec. for improvement. Of the suggestions for improvements toilets, pathways and seating were the most suggested. A new pitch was suggested by just one respondent, a review of the sports pitch provision is suggested for this site in the Openspaces Strategy.

No. responses	Access
3	Pathways
2	Parking
1	General

No. responses	Management
1	Information
1	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Wildlife habitat
1	Site furniture
1	Litter clearance
3	General

No. responses	Maintenance
4	Toilets
3	Seating
2	Litter
2	Signage
2	Dog bins
1	New pitch
1	General

Fort Road Recreation Ground

This site is well visited. Over 46% said they visit Fort Rd Rec. often and over 40% of respondents think the site needs improving, the second highest response after West Beach. People want general facilities to be improved, particularly toilets but also seating, litter bins, a café and a better sports building. These suggestions are in line with recommendations made in the Openspaces Strategy.

No. responses	Access
3	Pathways
2	Parking
2	Bus Stops
2	Cycle routes
2	General

No. responses	Management
3	General
2	On site staff
1	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Wildlife habitat
1	Litter clearance
3	General

No. responses	Facilities
6	General
5	Toilets
3	Seating
3	Litter bins
2	Signage
2	Café
1	Sports building

Meeching Down

11% of people said they visit Meeching Down often, a response you would expect from a smaller site. Only 5% of people thought that the site needs improving. Facilities, particularly seating, were the most suggested areas for improvement.

No. responses	Access
1	Pathways
1	General

No. responses	Management
3	General
2	On site staff
1	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Pathways
1	Grass areas
2	Wildlife habitat
2	Litter clearance
2	General

No. responses	Facilities
5	Seating
2	Signage
2	Toilets
1	General

Ouse Estuary Project Area

General access improvement was suggested above anything else for the Ouse Estuary Project. Many people would like parking at the site. However, this conflicts with the recommendations made in the Openspaces Strategy, which states that the site is a potential Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its populations of Great Crested Newts and wading birds. Therefore, increased public access should be discouraged and access generally controlled. It is then surprising that most people thought the recommendations were either good or ok. Considering the Ouse Estuary Project's aims to conserving wildlife it was perhaps also surprising that only one person commented on this. Seating and general improved facilities as well as general maintenance of the site were also suggested.

No. responses	Access
3	Pathways
1	Cycle Routes
6	Parking
2	Crossings
2	More entrances
8	General

No. responses	Management
1	General
1	Information
1	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Wildlife habitat
2	Litter clearance
5	General

No. responses	Facilities
5	Seating
2	Signage
5	General

Riverside Park

Riverside Park is quite well visited but was the third most suggested site for needing improving. Facilities were the most suggested area to improve, especially seating. A few people suggested a playground at the site. General maintenance and access were also seen as important. Some people mentioned wanting the amenity tip away which is a recommendation made in the Openspaces Strategy.

No. responses	Access
3	Pathways
1	Cycle routes
5	General

No. responses	Management
1	General
1	Information
2	On site staff
2	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Pathways
2	Wildlife habitat
1	Litter clearance
5	General

No. responses	Facilities
6	Seating
4	Signage
2	Toilets
4	Litter bins
3	Dog bins
2	Playground
4	General

The Drove

The Drove is quite well visited for a smaller local site, about 20% of respondents said that they often visit the site. The most suggested improvements were signage, litter bins and improved pathways. These are all suggestions made in the Strategy.

No. responses	Access
3	Pathways
1	Cycle routes
1	Bus stops
1	Parking

No. responses	Management
1	General
1	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Grass areas
1	Litter clearance

No. responses	Facilities
1	Seating
3	Signage
2	Litter bins
1	More trees
2	General

Valley Ponds

Over 20% of respondents said they visit Valley Ponds often, quite a high number for a smaller site. It received the fourth from highest number of people suggesting that it most needs improving. Seating was mentioned above any other improvement, people also suggested having toilets and some information boards. Maintaining the wildlife habitat of Valley Ponds was seen as important too. Again, these make up many of the suggestions made in the strategy.

No. responses	Access
1	Parking
1	General

No. responses	Management
4	Information
1	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
4	Wildlife habitat
1	Site furniture
2	Litter clearance
1	Dog mess clearance
2	General

No. responses	Facilities
7	Seating
3	Signage
4	Toilets
2	Litter bins
1	Dog bins
3	General

War Memorial

Almost 20% of people said they visit the War Memorial often. Very few people thought that it needs improving, however, some people suggested that it needs to be moved altogether to a quieter site with more space. Of the responses that we did get a few people wanted seating and information signage.

No. responses	Access
1	Disabled

No. responses	Management
1	Information

No. responses	Maintenance
1	Litter clearance

No. responses	Facilities
2	Seating
2	Signage

West Beach

West Beach received by far the biggest response from people. 75% of people visit often and 82% said that it needs improvements. A high number of people gave suggestions for improvement, mostly for improved facilities. 34 people would like toilets. Seating, litter bins, free parking and general maintenance were the other top suggestions. There was a very good response to the strategy's recommendations, 49 people thought they were good.

No. responses	Access
1	Pathways
1	Cycle routes
2	Bus stops
3	Parking
8	Free parking
1	Keeping cars off beach
8	General

No. responses	Facilities
13	Seating
34	Toilets
11	Litter bins
6	Signage
5	Café
2	Playground
1	Remove arcade
1	Beach huts
20	General

No. responses	Management
6	General
4	Information
1	On site staff
2	Community involvement

No. responses	Maintenance
3	Pathways
5	Grass areas
3	Wildlife habitat
8	Site furniture
8	Litter clearance
1	Of toilets
1	Dog mess
15	General