



**CHIPPENHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**
Improving the quality of town life



Monkton Park

Green Flag Management Plan 2026 - 2030

Control Sheet

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1. Where Are We Now?

Introduction

Monkton Park (MP) is a large open space in the centre of Chippenham, approximately 30 hectares in size, that was one of the devolved assets transferred to Chippenham Town Council from Wiltshire Council in June 2019. With the River Avon sweeping along its southern flank, Monkton Park is not only a great respite from the bustling town centre, but also an important corridor for wildlife through Chippenham. It is broadly divided into two distinct areas: the formal park to the west and informal nature park to the east.

In 1150, the crown gave land at Cocklebury to the priory of Farleigh in Monkton Farleigh, which explains the origins of the name of the park. Since that time the land remained a manor and country estate. By 1800, the manor house had been rebuilt in the Georgian style that is still recognizable today.

Until the mid-19th century, the area around the estate had changed very little from the Middle Ages. However, In 1919 the estate was broken up and sold by Miss Carrick Moore. Part of the estate was sold to create a cattle market, whilst another area eventually became Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company.

By 1954, the owner, Lady Coventry, had left Monkton House and its surrounding parkland to the people of Chippenham in her will and the borough council (later to become Wiltshire Council) bought the rest of the estate. Some of the land was sold for housing to create what became known as Monkton Park Estate, which was finished in 1962. The council also built an open-air swimming pool and a golf course.

The swimming pool was opened on May 28, 1960, by the town mayor, R Archard. However, within 30 years it had been demolished and replaced with the Olympiad Leisure Centre. Monkton House, now a Grade II listed building, was converted into flats, and the golf course also opened at around this time.

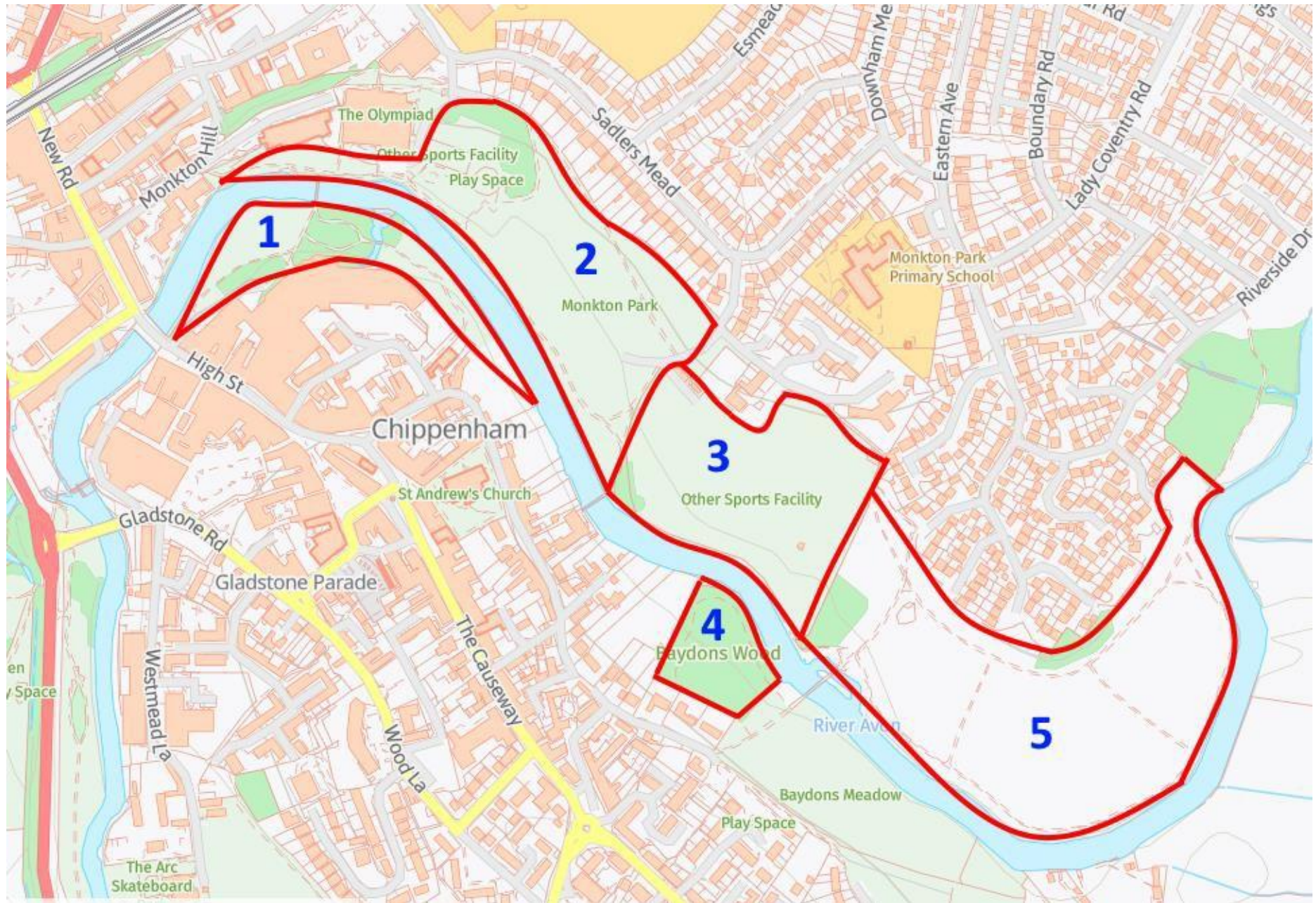
Monkton Park offers a wide range of leisure pursuits, including fishing and sailing with each having active local clubs with a good membership base. Children's facilities include a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA - football and basketball), and a large play area. The park is widely used for fitness and wellbeing activities, Chippenham Park Run takes place every weekend and for cycling, North Wiltshire Rivers Route (NCN403) is accessible here.

Chippenham Town Council regards the park as its 'flagship' site and are committed to a long-term plan of management and investment. The Council employs over 20 service delivery staff to look after its large estate including a number of parks, a cemetery, sports ground, allotments, flower displays, shrub beds and general open spaces. Monkton Park is just a small, yet very important, part of the Chippenham Town Council estate.

Upon the asset transfer in 2019, the Town Council sought to initiate a working partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to provide expert advice on biodiversity and environmental management matters. WWT created management plans, that focused on habitat management, for a range of CTC sites. The original Monkton Park management plan was one of these documents. However, this was created before the move towards the Green Flag Award. Therefore, this management plan builds on the previous document but uses the accepted Green Flag methodology.



Site Map



Legend 1= River Island, 2 = Formal Park, 3 = Golf Course, 4 = Baydons Wood, 5 = Nature Park

Park Description

Location

The park is located in between the River Avon in the centre of the town and a residential area to the north. It is easily accessible to all users arriving from a number of directions, by either walking, cycling or car. The centre of town, bus station and train station are all under a 5-minute walk away. There are a wide variety of facilities, shops, and amenities in the locality.

Opening Hours

Monkton Park is, in general, free to public access 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. However, there may be areas of the park that cannot be accessed during events. The golf course operates a specific opening hours schedule, which is shown in the relevant section below.

Car parking

Chippenham Town Council actively encourage visitors of the park to walk, cycle or use public transport. This is stated on the Council's website and promotional literature. Chippenham has a number of short and long-stay car parks all within a 5-minute walk. These include:

- Sadlers Mead, Wiltshire Council multi-storey car park - 233 spaces
- Emery Gate, Wiltshire Council surface car park - 77 spaces
- Emery Gate, Wiltshire Council sub-surface car park - 263 spaces
- Bath Road, Wiltshire Council partially covered car park - 233 spaces

Toilets

There is a free public toilet block on site behind the Tenth Hole Tea Room. It consists of a male block, female block, and a disabled toilet with RADAR facility. The facilities are cleaned twice daily by an external contractor, Healthmatic. This contractor also carries out a daily maintenance and safety check. Any issues are reported to the Service Team for resolution either internally, or by specialist contractor if necessary



The Formal Park

Interpretation Boards

Six interpretation boards to inform park visitors of the history and biodiversity of the park were installed in 2023. The location of the boards is shown by yellow stars in the map below.



Play Area and MUGA

The MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area), situated to the east of the Olympiad, is an enclosed, all-weather outdoor court designed for several sports like football and basketball. It was installed around the same time as the MUGA at John Coles Park and has proven to be a popular and well-used area throughout the year.

The large play area, to the east of the MUGA, is aimed at children up to 12 years old. It has a wide variety of play equipment to cater for all in this age range, including inclusive play. The Town Council operates a rolling replacement forecast across all of its play areas. Units range from the old-style Rocking Horse and new modern multi-play units.

Parkland Trees and Tree Planting

Monkton Park is a green space respite from the town centre, but also an important corridor for wildlife through Chippenham. The trees in the park play an important part in both of these aspects; typical riverside species such as willow and alder provide roosting sites for bats and reduces degradation of the riverbank. The mix of mature trees effectively screen out the surrounding built environment, with an occasional scenic viewpoint to a spire.

In the formal parkland, there was a sense of enclosure with trees around the majority of the park perimeter. However, most of the trees are old, with no planting within the last 30 or 40 years.

Through the 2020 WWT document, three areas shown in the diagram below were selected as appropriate for additional planting. Some more open planting was suggested in the areas marked with an asterisk.



Through Wiltshire Council's GAPS team and with funding from the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund, CTC's Tree Officer carried out this work in 2024. Low density tree planting was carried out in all three areas and asterisks as follows:

- Area 1 5 trees
- Area 2 7 trees
- Area 3 4 trees
- Asterisks 9 trees

Species list: Pedunculate oak, Sessile oak, Red Maple, Beech, Small Leaved Lime, London Plane, Flowering cherry, Swamp cypress

See Appendix 4 for further information about aftercare of this planting.

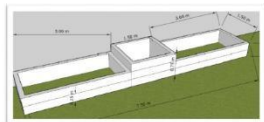
Pollinator Planters

In the 2020 WWT document, the formal parkland Area 2 was highlighted as an area that would benefit from an increase in annual and perennial wildflowers and bulbs, which would add colour and improve public interest, whilst also being beneficial to pollinators such as butterflies and bees. The proposed solution was to install a number of large wooden pollinator planters. However, public consultation dictated that there were a number of constraints upon where these features could be sited. The whole area is used periodically for public events which limits where features can be placed so as not to impede access.



In 2022, seven planters of two different designs were constructed by the Environmental Service team in the location shown above. These were then planted up by WWT Wild Landscapes team.

DESIGN #3



DESIGN #2



River Avon Bankside Habitat Management

There are two protected species that have been recorded using the river corridor at Monkton Park.

Six records of Otter were returned from within 250m of the site from Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre. Although the last WSBRC held record related to 2016 a member of the public provided anecdotal record of otter from 2019, confirming the continued presence of this species along the Monkton Park Avon.

Eleven records of Water Vole were returned from within 250m of Monkton Park. However, the latest record was dated 2006 and all eleven records were unverified. Therefore, an ecological survey to establish if this species is still present would be required.

To enhance the bankside habitat for this species (and others such as bats and invertebrates), over the last 5 years a change in management has been implemented. Historically, bankside vegetation was left uncut only up to where the bank starts to slope away to the river.

The previous management plan document called for an increase of uncut vegetation of 1-2m on flat ground away from the sloping bank to provide habitat that wildlife depends on for food, shelter, protection from erosion, and encourage native plants to thrive. Native trees with overhanging branches have been left in situ, unless a health and safety hazard. Dead wood in the river and on the banks has been left as long as it didn't interfere with water flow.

These management changes have led to an increase in growth of bramble in certain areas. A follow on from this was a number of complaints from the public regarding unkempt look and loss of riverside views.



Improvements to historic water course

The area known locally as the 'Black Lagoon', is the site of a historic watercourse that was urbanised during development of the town centre. It is now a site that lies wet but is disconnected from the river by a stone wall. This provides the opportunity for wet habitat which has high value for invertebrates, birds and amphibians.

The area has, at times, been over-shaded preventing herb layer vegetation growth, and the trees provided a secluded area for nuisance behaviour. During the last management plan cycle, some of the trees that were a H&S issue were removed, which let some light into the area. Debris was cleared, and the area landscaped to create a better wetland habitat. A range of native shrubs and plug plants were planted on the bankside.



Golf Course, Tea Room, and Monkton House

The Golf Course and Tea Room has been leased to a family-run business since 2003. Management of the golf course grounds is under the control of the lease holder. Therefore, whilst this area is an integral, and well-used, part of the park, it doesn't fall under the remit of this plan.

The Golf Course offers 9-hole pitch and putt golf, foot golf, and crazy golf. The Tea Room offers a variety of light lunches, barista coffee, teas, cakes, and ice cream.

As of January 2026, opening times are:

Monday	9am - 6pm	Tuesday	9am - 6pm
Wednesday	9am - 6pm	Thursday	9am - 6pm
Friday	9am - 6pm	Saturday	8am - 6pm
Sunday	8am - 6pm		

A concrete structure in the middle of the course is a Second World War reinforced concrete shell-proof type 24 pillbox. It is one of several pillboxes in the locality, forming part of a line of defence on the western side of the River Avon.

Monkton House is an integral part of the Monkton Park landscape and views. However, after sell-off in the 1950's, Monkton House is no longer part of the Park estate owned by Chippenham Town Council. Therefore, it is outside the scope of this management plan.

Events

Chippenham Town Council promote venue hire opportunities and the park is regularly hired out for such events. Over the last few years, these have included:

- Chippenham Park Run (Adult and Youth) - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/chippenham/>
- Chippenham Folk Festival - <https://www.chippfolk.co.uk/>
- Chippenham Harriers River Run - <https://www.chippenhamharriers.co.uk/river-run/>
- Chippenham Pride - <https://chippenhampride.co.uk/>
- Chippenham Food and Drink Festival - <https://onechippenham.org.uk/event/chippenham-food-drink-festival-3/>
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Country Comes to Town - <https://www.chippenham.gov.uk/event/country-comes-to-town/>
- English Civil War Battle Re-enactment - <https://www.chippenham.gov.uk/battle-of-chippenham-re-enactment/>



The Nature Park

Monkton Meadow Habitat Mosaic

Area 5, Monkton Meadow, is a less formally managed piece of land. Historically, it has been maintained as a large expanse of open, rough grassland with some pockets of dense scrub (mainly Blackthorn) and a scattering of trees and standing dead wood. The 2020 WWT management plan document aimed to address this to create a mosaic of habitat across the area, offering a mix of quality scrub, woodland copse and botanically diverse grassland.

The aim is to reach a point where roughly 50% of the site is managed as open grassland, 25% managed as scrub, and 25% as woodland. Distribution will be key to ensure pockets, belts and islands of plantings rather than larger expanses of dense monoculture. The idea was to create a habitat mosaic, offering opportunity for people to walk between planted belts and islands, following meandering mown pathways, with lots of edge habitat.



To facilitate easier planting and creation, the area was split into three blocks as shown above. Block 1 was planted in winter 2023, then Block 2 followed in winter 2024. Block 3 is yet to be completed.

The bankside habitat Monkton Meadows is managed differently to the more formal areas of parkland. In this area, bankside vegetation is maintained at a minimum of 15m from the water's edge. These areas of vegetation require minimal intervention, with a very light touch annual maintenance schedule to reduce any dense vegetation such as Bramble that is encroaching on pathways. There are several pockets of dense scrub, mainly Blackthorn but also Bramble, along the bank which are beneficial for wildlife.



Tiny Forest

In conjunction with [Earthwatch](#) and [Siemens](#), Monkton Park became home to a Tiny Forest in 2023. Over 20 native tree species, including oak, wild service, birch, alder, hazel, blackthorn, rowan, and lime have been planted to provide an oasis for wildlife and connect people with nature in their local area.

Over the coming years, Earthwatch will collect data and assess the benefit of the Chippenham Tiny Forest. Alongside the help of the local community, they will use this site to monitor carbon absorption, flood mitigation, thermal comfort, and biodiversity, as well as measure environmental and social benefits gained.

Chippenham's Tiny Forest is used as an education resource, connecting children and teachers from local schools with their surrounding green spaces.

To maximise the Tiny Forest's chance of success, a group of local volunteers have become Tree Wardens and will help to maintain it for the first few growing seasons.



Baydons Wood

Baydons Wood was created by the Woodlands Trust and planted out by volunteers in the year 2000. The woodland covers 3.13 acres of land and 600 trees were planted on the site. Funding mainly came from the Millenium Commission, which planted out 250 new woodlands across Britain, at that time.

In the previous WWT document, the objective in this area was to improve the biodiversity of the woodland whilst enhancing the aesthetic appearance and the woodland experience for visitors. This was carried out by implementing changes to management practice that helped create a more natural and open woodland, and also to create opportunities for the public to engage with the site.



Prescriptions included the following:

- Implementation of a two zone cutting regime.
- Installation of an interpretation board.
- Pathways cut twice a year in the growing season.

Health and Wellbeing

Monkton Park hosts many activities that promote or enhance public wellbeing. The site itself is a green lung that enables the people of Chippenham to step away from the town centre and immerse themselves in nature. Some

events and activities have already been mentioned, such as the Chippenham Park Run, Chippenham Harriers River Run, and sports such as football and basketball. See below for the canoeing club and angling club.

The North Wiltshire Rivers Route (NCN403) is a cycle route that runs along the route of the Avon through the town. It links with the Millenium cycleway providing a safe and attractive route to walk, jog and cycle between Chippenham and Calne, and also out towards Lacock area.

Environment Agency River Avon Project

<https://www.chippenhamavonproject.com/about>

In the 1960s, river improvements were made to the River Avon through Chippenham. These consisted of extensive re-construction of the river channel through the town centre and building the Chippenham Gate - a radial gate with side weir and fish pass, to control upstream water levels. The current structure does not provide a flood risk function, and the purpose of the gate is to retain consistent water levels during low and medium flows for amenity purposes. However, under high flow conditions, the gate will open to ensure there isn't an increased flood risk to Chippenham.

The gate is becoming increasingly unreliable and is nearing the end of its residual life. In its current condition, there is a risk the structure could get stuck in a closed position. When the gate operates correctly, the flood risk to Chippenham is relatively low. However, if the gate failed to open partially or fully during a flood event, the risk would substantially increase, especially during frequent flood events.

Whilst there is an existing fish pass alongside the gate, it doesn't enable upstream migration of all fish species. In addition, the upstream habitats on the banks of the river are heavily influenced by the artificially retained water levels.

In the past two winters (23/24 and 24/25) there have been two gate failure events. In October 2023, during a high-flow event, the gate got stuck in a semi-closed position for six days. In November 2024, after the major flooding from Storm Bert, a large amount of material became stuck at the gate, preventing it from closing. This required emergency works to manually remove the debris and took almost two weeks. Fortunately, there were no subsequent storm events, as the gate in this position would have increased flood risk.



With the structure nearing the end of its design life, the main aim of the Chippenham Avon Project is to address the current issues with the radial gate and improve flood risk to the homes and businesses in Chippenham; whilst looking to provide additional improvements within and alongside the River Avon to benefit the community and wildlife that live and work alongside it.

The Environment Agency, in partnership with Chippenham Town Council and Wiltshire Council, are seeking to remove the existing radial gate structure and replace with a more sustainable solution which maintains amenity use of the River Avon, whilst delivering environmental and social benefits to Chippenham.

The scheme will result in a reduction in water level at Monkton Park of approximately 50cm under 'normal' moderate flow conditions, to a water depth of around 2-2.5m.

The proposed date to start the works is currently spring 2028. In readiness for this, trial pits were dug in Monkton Meadow, and an archaeological report was carried out in 2025. Some minor artifacts were found, but nothing that would affect the undertaking of the project.

Due to the possibility of major changes to the river landscape, this project has the potential to radically disrupt Monkton park and the work proposed under this management plan. The town Council are working alongside the Environmental Agency with the proposed plans but at this current time the plans have not been consulted on, agreed, or funding secured.

Chippenham Sailing and Canoeing Club

Chippenham Sailing and Canoe Club was founded on 25 March 1959. Today it's a volunteer run Community Amateur Sports Club with a community exceeding 200. The clubhouse and boat store are at Long Close, on the south bank of the River Avon. A range of club canoes, kayaks and paddleboards is available for members to use on the Avon and club sponsored trips away. In September 2024 the club constitution was changed to reflect that the club no longer sail.

The club could be adversely affected by any proposed changes of the Environment Agency River Avon Project. In 2020, the club were an active participant in the six management plan public consultation sessions that were run.

Chippenham Angling Club

Established in 1894, Chippenham Angling Club control the fishing rights on the Bristol Avon for approximately six miles upstream of Chippenham Weir. The stretch of river is split into 7 sections varying in depth, width and flow; and offers a wide choice for anglers to fish many different methods for various species.

The sections from Black Bridge to the Golf Course and then onto the Town Weir, run through Monkton Park. These areas benefit from Chippenham Angling Club installed and maintained platforms to make fishing as comfortable and safe as possible with minimum disruption to the surrounding environment.

Chippenham Angling Club could also be adversely affected by in-stream or bankside habitat management works and should be consulted on any proposed works.



November 2024 Flooding Event

On November 25, 2024, parts of Chippenham town centre, and almost the entirety of Monkton Park were flooded after Storm Bert caused the River Avon to burst its banks. Extremely heavy rainfall saw the town suffer its worst flooding since the 1960s.



Monkton Park suffered extensively from the flood water. Unfortunately, the flooding caused significant damage throughout both the formal part of the park and Monkton Meadow. This included damage to the raised beds, fences, path erosion, and the washing away of trees, stakes and guards from the recent planting in Monkton Meadow. Deposits of silt, rubbish and other debris were strewn across both parts of the park.



The Environmental Services team (and contractors where necessary) carried out the cleanup and repair work caused by the damage quickly and efficiently. This included:

- Repairs to the raised beds and new planting.
- Repair and replace the fence surrounding the pitch and putt golf course.
- Replacing the washed away tree stakes and guards (some items were recovered as residents kindly stacked them up for the team to pick up and reuse).
- Plant 300 whips to replace those that didn't survive.
- Remove silt and debris from pathways.
- Collect and dispose of rubbish.

A flood mitigation bund between the park and Monkton Park housing estate was nearly over-topped in several areas. Whilst the bund did hold, there were some reports of flooding from the southern parts of the estate. However, it is not known if this was water that came through the bund, or if it was back-up of water from further up the estate.

2. Where Do We Want To Get To?

Corporate Strategic Plan

Chippenham Town Council has for a number of years committed resources to improve all of its parks. The Green Flag criteria has provided a benchmark for this investment.

In 2018 Chippenham Town Council launched a Corporate Strategic Plan, which has 5 key priorities, each of which have a set of aims that have been placed into a 4-year timeline. These are reviewed annually where progress is tracked and evaluated regularly.

- Provide facilities and services which support and develop a well-connected town, which promotes health and wellbeing.
- An active role in the future development of Chippenham through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
- Maintain and enhance opportunities to create a green, clean and safe environment.
- To promote Chippenham as a destination Market Town based on our rich heritage, history and culture.
- Effective and efficient use of resources.

Green Flag status has contributed to all 5 key priorities.

Aims

To effectively manage our land, our aims for Monkton Park, and all other Chippenham Town Council maintained parks, are as follows:

- To provide a safe, healthy and secure park for all users
- To keep cleanliness and maintenance to the highest standard.
- To be environmentally friendly and enhance biodiversity wherever possible.
- To promote and protect any conservation and heritage features.
- Encourage community participation wherever possible.
- Enhance the reputation of Monkton Park by harnessing marketing and tourism.

Objectives

- Ensure the Park remains a fantastic area for recreation for all present and future users.
- Ensure the Park retains its identity for the people of Chippenham.
- Encourage continued public use.
- Ensure the Park remains a safe public place.

Vision

Monkton Park is a flagship site for Chippenham Town Council; a green lung and corridor for Chippenham that regularly attracts many people throughout all the seasons.

With the River Avon sweeping along its southern flank, Monkton Park is not only a great respite from the bustling town centre, but also an important corridor for wildlife through Chippenham. The trees in the park play an important role; some riverside species provide roosting sites for commuting bats, or reduce degradation of the bankside, whilst the mix of mature trees dotted around this green oasis effectively screen out the surrounding built environment, with an occasional scenic viewpoint to a spire.

With its many activities and events, ranging from sailing to basketball to the English Civil War, Monkton Park is truly a hub of public engagement and inspiration. The target audience for Monkton Park is the residents of Chippenham, visitors, people who live and work in the town, and the local community. With a mix of play area, Multi Use Games Area, open spaces for games, river walk for dog walkers, cyclists, and runners, and plenty of quiet spots for contemplation, walking and running, Monkton Park is a valued space for all, located in the very heart of Chippenham town centre.

Green Flag Criteria

A Welcoming Place

The formal park can be accessed by at least 6 different entrances. All entrances have tarmacked paths which are well maintained, making it accessible to all. Each entrance has either a welcome sign, an interpretation board, or both.

Now that the entrances have the required infrastructure, the next priority is to ensure that everything is kept clean and maintained. This particularly applies to the interpretation boards, as they can quickly become soiled and dirty. The board at the Town Bridge entrance is particularly at risk from soiling by birds.

Visitors can easily find relevant information about the park and events at town information points and boards, on social media, and on the Chippenham Town Council website. This information should be continued and enhanced where possible.

Through habitat management work undertaken in the last management plan cycle, some of the bramble patches in the formal park have become large, and untidy. Whilst this has benefits for wildlife, in this cycle a better balance between a tidy, welcoming park, and ecological benefits must be found.



Healthy, Safe and Secure

Operationally, through the existing park safety and maintenance schedule, all infrastructure, equipment, MUGA, and play area are inspected every day, including Bank Holidays. All the environmental services team operatives that carry out this work are ROSPA trained. Inspections are recorded weekly.

The toilet block is inspected by an external contractor. A new schedule should be put in place for the inspection and reporting of issues with the building itself.

Life buoys are located along the bank of the river, and they are visually checked daily by the environmental services team and recorded weekly on the same inspection form as above. There have been no known incidents where a lifebuoy has been required.

Risk assessments are available, and in use, for all aspects of the park's safety and maintenance. These include, but are not limited to play areas, general parks, open spaces and parks, and maintenance to ponds and rivers. The entire team are fully trained in how to use them, and how to minimise risk. All risk assessments are reviewed on a yearly basis, or upon an accident, incident, or near miss.

Currently, there is no free, public, drinking water fountain in Monkton Park. Within this plan cycle, it is advised that opportunities should be explored to install one.

Following on from the flooding in November 2024 which was at least a 60-year event, opportunities should be sought to commission a full hydrology survey of Monkton Park. This should take in the whole park but focus on the area around the bund and Monkton Park Estate. The resulting report and recommendations should inform any future flood mitigation work in the park.

Well Maintained and Clean

The park is litter picked multiple times daily by the Environmental Services team.

Annual budget is allocated to play areas for the 15 play areas that the Town Council own and manage. The budget is prioritised to the play areas that receive the most wear-and-tear during the year. This is often wet pour repairs and grass wear.

Capital budget is also set aside for continuous replacement of play equipment across all sites. Similarly, the sites with highest footfall and wear-and-tear are prioritised. It is difficult to predict the exact replacement dates of play equipment, but the regular inspection checks inform this decision-making process.

The cleaning contractor, Healthmatic, reports any damage or repairs that are required for the Toilet block, these are either repaired in house or specialized contractors are engaged.

The pollinator planters are maintained under the Annual Maintenance Schedule. Weeding and clearing take place throughout the growing season as required. Replacements for dead plants usually takes place in the early autumn, or as is necessary. Newly planted trees receive aftercare according to the existing New Tree Planting Aftercare Schedule.

All green waste is removed to London Road Cemetery, where it is chipped or composted. This material is then used as mulch for plantings across the CTC estate.

The existing Annual Maintenance Schedule is shown in Appendix 1.

An example Risk Assessment is shown in Appendix 2.

A template Play Equipment Inspection Form is shown in Appendix 3.

The existing New Tree Planting Aftercare Schedule is shown in Appendix 4.

Environmental Management

Chippenham Town Council announced a climate emergency in 2019. A list of actions was produced to be rolled out across the estate. Actions relevant to Monkton Park include the following:

- Take measures to protect the green spaces that the Council currently owns, and any adopted in future, against physical development, destruction or degradation, as well as creating additional green space when the opportunity arises.
- Enhance biodiversity on the Council's own estate through introduction of trees, hedges, shrubs and wildflower meadows, biodiversity friendly mowing and ecological enhancements such as bird boxes and bat boxes.
- Promote habitat creation and restoration, so as to benefit biodiversity, whilst also helping to store carbon and build natural resilience against the impacts of climate change.
- Aim for 19% woodland cover on the Council's own land, in line with the Woodland Trust's target and as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change.
- Plant the right species in the right places and optimise carbon sequestration, natural flood management, habitat creation and public amenity benefits.
- Cease use of insecticides, fungicides and harmful herbicides (including glyphosate) on the Council's estate, and where possible in contracts with Wiltshire Council or other third parties.
- Cease use of single-use plastics on Council premises and throughout its operations. Cease generating waste that will be sent to landfill or incineration, by procuring reusable, recyclable and naturally biodegradable products and materials.
- Work with the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, Wiltshire Council and other relevant authorities to substantially improve water quality in the River Avon and its tributaries within the parish.

The announcement of a climate emergency, and the follow-on need to complete the above actions, led directly to the implementation of a service-level agreement with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust in 2020 to provide ecological advice and consultancy services directly to the head of Environmental Services.

Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Chippenham Town Council developed a [Green Space Management Strategy in 2024](#). Twenty-one sites have land designated as a Wildlife Area, one of which is Monkton Meadow. A map of these areas with photos and a description can be found on the [Town Council's website](#).

The grass cutting regime is dynamic and both adapts and evolves each year. In partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, the Town Council is working towards managing some sites in a more relaxed way. This will be achieved by having two cuts annually (usually in late summer and again in late autumn) with only footpaths cut more often. These areas also have signs to help the public understand why they are being managed in a different way.

Baydons Wood is the only part of Monkton Park on the southern bank of the River Avon and is fairly distinct from the rest of the park. Over the course of the last 5 years, Baydons Wood has been managed in accordance with the WWT management document. This should be reviewed and updated in 2026. The objectives in this area are to improve the biodiversity of the woodland, enhance the aesthetic appearance, enhance the woodland experience for visitors, and enable the woodland to reach maturity.

The Tiny Forest is still monitored and managed by Earthwatch. CTC should continue to liaise with Earthwatch until such a time as management is handed back.

Management decisions within Monkton Meadow cannot be developed until a confirmed decision is reached on what work will take place under the River Avon Project. Until that time, the current grassland/scrub/woodland mosaic schedule has been paused. WWT will revise the work schedule when appropriate to do so.

Community Involvement

The park is used by a diverse range of people, dog walkers, runners, families, sports enthusiasts, young adults in the MUGA, and lots of other recreations.

Chippenham Angling Club have been fishing the River Avon for 132 years! They control the fishing rights throughout Monkton Park, and they maintain their own platforms along the river edge.

Chippenham Sailing and Canoe Club are based on the opposite bank of the River Avon from Monkton Park. They have provided a community amateur sports club to the people of Chippenham for 67 years.

The Friends of Monkton Park group are not directly affiliated with Chippenham Town Council but are involved in a range of environmental and social projects in both Monkton Park and Monkton Park estate. They were one of the groups that were consulted with regards to the initial Monkton Park management plan in 2021.

The park is used by a large variety of groups to enhance the Community involvement, some of these events are run by the community others external hires for the community. Little is known about numbers of people that use the park or attend events. This is something that could be explored during this management plan cycle.

Marketing and Communication

Monkton Park is promoted via the Town Council's marketing team on the Town Council's website, social media pages, customer service points in Town Council venues and posters on 18 community noticeboards, one of which is located in Monkton Park.

Monkton Park has its own page on the Town Council's website, [Monkton Park • Chippenham Town Council](#)

Facebook, Instagram and You Tube are used to promote events.

We produce a bi-annual newsletter which is sent to over 21000 residential postcodes in the town to promote the Town Council services, facilities and events, Monkton Park is often included, promoting what's on. The newsletter is also available on the website [Talk Chippenham • Chippenham Town Council](#), and paper copies can be obtained at Chippenham Museum, Stanley Park Sports Ground and Customer Services at the Town Hall.

The Town Council takes part in Keep Britain Tidy's The Great British Spring Clean every year encouraging local groups to take part, and there is often a group in Monkton Park.

We receive local feedback mostly on our Facebook page with people commenting on events and how the park is managed. These comments are always taken into consideration and discussed as part of the officer team looking to make improvements.

3. How Will We Get There?

The 5-Year Plan 2026 - 2030

Criteria: A Welcoming Place	Proposed Actions
Impressions	- Ensure all entrances are tidy and well-kept to create an immediate good impression. - In the formal park, enhance riverside views by cutting three windows into the bankside vegetation. - In the formal park, maintain all bankside scrub by trimming or rotational coppicing to keep tidy and away from paths. - Clean and maintain all interpretation boards and signage.
New Visitors can easily find MP	Provide information at town information points, on social media, and on the CTC website.
Activities for all	Provide and improve the MP public offer, making sure there are activities and events with an interest for all.

Criteria: Healthy, Safe and Secure	Proposed Actions
A safe and secure park	- Maintain play equipment, picnic benches, benches, sports facilities and footpaths under the existing park maintenance schedule. - Deal with any Anti-Social behavior, graffiti, or vandalism incidents, quickly and effectively. - Tree officer to carry out biennial tree safety survey. - Use arborists to carry out remedial tree work where identified by survey. - Implement building maintenance checks and recording for toilet block. - Commission a hydrology report to investigate the bund and its ability to provide adequate flood protection to Monkton Park estate.
Health and Wellbeing	- Explore the possibility of installing a free drinking water fountain. - Promote and diversify events that focus on health and wellbeing, such as the Chippenham Park Run. - Promote the golf course, MUGA, and River Route cycleway.

Criteria: Well Maintained and Clean	Proposed Actions
Planting	- Maintain pollinator planters, weed and clear as necessary, replace plants when required. - Carry out aftercare of newly planted park trees in accordance with the existing New Tree Aftercare Schedule.
Maintenance	- Litter pick and maintain the park in accordance with the Annual Maintenance Schedule. - Maintain and repair the play area in line with the CTC Play Area Budget and Schedule. - Replace play equipment in line with the CTC Play Area Budget and Schedule
Waste	- All green waste will be removed to London Road Cemetery for chipping or composting. - Reuse the chip and compost as mulch for planting across the estate.

	Assess the number of recyclable bins and stations around the park and increase if possible.
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Criteria: Environmental Management	Proposed Actions
Climate Emergency Actions	- Ensure that Monkton Park plays its part in reaching Net Zero Carbon across the CTC estate by 2030. - Increase the use of electric hand tools if financially and practically possible. - Increase the use of electric vehicles if financially and practically possible. - Refrain from using chemical herbicides and pesticides. - Only buy in plug plants and annuals that are peat free. - Use a greater range and amount of perennial pollinating plants across the site to benefit insects.

Criteria: Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	Proposed Actions
Heritage and Landscape	- Ensure Monkton Park retains its historic parkland identity. - Conserve and protect the mature parkland trees. - Encourage Park users to notice and enjoy the natural world through community engagement activities. - Maintain the differences between the formal park and the nature park. - Enhance those features that make each of them special.
General Grass Cutting Regime	- In the formal park, cut the grass on a weekly basis as per the annual maintenance schedule. - In the nature park, cut the grass up to two times a year, in August and October if conditions allow. - In the nature park, survey for areas which could possibly be cut and collected in the future. - Monitor all areas of grassland designated as wildlife areas using annual Rapid Grassland Assessment.
Baydons Wood	- Mow pathways to 1.5m width monthly between April and October. - Strim approximately 25% of the path verges annually or when vegetation overhangs path. - WWT to produce new management prescription document for Baydons Wood in 2026. - Update this management plan when document is published.
Tiny Forest	- Mow 1m width around the outside of the fence monthly between April and October. - Liaise with Earthwatch to keep informed on monitoring and maintenance of the Tiny Forest. - Continue to work with local wardens regarding monitoring and maintenance.
EA River Avon Project	- Liaise with EA where appropriate to ensure that CTC views are incorporated in any plan for a wetland in Monkton Meadow. - Await confirmed decision and plan for River Avon Project

Monkton Meadow	- Maintain planted saplings as appropriate. - Monitor saplings to ascertain take-up. - Maintain scrub areas as appropriate. - Mow pathways monthly between April and October.
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Criteria: Community Involvement	Proposed Actions
Public Engagement	- Promote Monkton Park via the website, social media and information points. - Listen to, and act on, feedback on how improvements to Monkton Park could be made. - Carry out a satisfaction survey. - If feasible carry out a survey to record park user numbers. - If feasible carry out a survey to record event user numbers.
Community Groups	- Continue to liaise with and seek feedback from the Friends of Monkton Park group. - Continue to liaise with and seek feedback from Chippenham Sailing and Canoe Club. - Continue to liaise with and seek feedback from Chippenham Angling Club.

Criteria: Marketing and Communication	Proposed Actions
Marketing	Continue with current marketing strategies via website, social media and press releases.

Criteria: Management	Proposed Actions
Management tasks	- Ensure this management plan is followed. - Collate and store all site inspection and monitoring data. - Review and action Green Flag feedback as necessary. - Review plan and budget annually.

Annual Maintenance Schedule

Please see Appendix 1.

Risk Assessments

Please see Appendix 2 as an example of one of the current risk assessments in use. Others can be provided upon request. Current risk assessments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Manual handling
- Icy surfaces and conditions
- Litter picking
- Use of chainsaws, hedge cutters and leaf blowers
- Mowing and strimming
- Open spaces and parks

- Play Areas
- Play equipment
- Chemical & combustible fuel, use and storage
- Splashpad
- Use of contractors

4. How Will We Know When We Have Arrived?

Monitor and Review

Regular site inspections are undertaken. The 'Play Equipment Inspection Form' that park staff use to demonstrate areas are deemed 'fit-for-purpose' can be found in Appendix 3.

We will review the Green Flag mystery shopper feedback and the judges feedback from site visits as they become available. This feedback will inform updates our management and action plans.

The Management Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis, with updates showing completions and items not yet achieved.

To respond to fiscal changes, an annual action plan is generated in October every year. The management plan will be reviewed at this time. This approach to management will provide a more flexible and realistic approach to meeting the aims of the plan.

Some of the actions can be achieved within the existing budgets; however, others will only be achieved with additional resources.

A financial plan for the full 5-year plan term is available upon request.

The Town Council would be happy to discuss and provide further clarification on any aspect of this management Plan. It originated as part of Chippenham Town Council's application for the Green Flag Award, which was achieved in 2023, and work carried out in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust since 2020.

Green Flag Feedback

A Green Flag desk assessment of the previous management plan and supporting documents was carried out in October 2024. The recommendations from this assessment and notes on their completion are shown in the table below.

Criteria	Recommendations	Notes on Completion
Presentation	It would be beneficial to produce one site management plan rather than what looks like a woodland and scrub management plan with the wildlife trusts and a separate document of information for a Green Flag Application. All the other accompanying documents can just be hyperlinks to the full management plan. Please see resource HUB on GFA website for examples and guidance management plan 7	Complete - the recommendation for a management plan that follows the prescribed Green Flag methodology has led to the creation of this completely new version of the Monkton Park management plan. Other documents are linked as required.

Criteria	Recommendations	Notes on Completion
	This should include an overall site plan along with how it links to other corporate documents (this can be via info graphics) The action could be expanded to wider site aspirations.	
Health, Safety & Security	Ensure this information is included in a new management plan. Are any of the activities fitness based to encourage a healthier lifestyle. Is there a free source of drinking water?	Complete - See sections on Health and Wellbeing and Healthy, Safe and Secure. There is no source of free water in the park currently. This is something that could be addressed in this plan cycle.
Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings & Landscape	It would be good to include any building maintenance schedules, and to reference within a new management plan.	Maintenance schedule for toilet block to be implemented in 2026.
Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism	It would be good to understand where any residual litter goes. Is there are policy on the removal of graffiti / dealing with vandalism.	More information is required to answer this point. CTC does not have a specific policy on graffiti and vandalism, but these are dealt with under the annual maintenance schedule and checks.
Environmental Management	What is the policy on the recycling of green / tree waste / composting Are electric hand tools or vehicles being used?	Complete - both these issues are addressed in the section Environmental Management.
Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage	It would be good to understand what actions have been highlighted within the climate emergency declaration that affect the park.	Complete - Climate Emergency Declaration actions are highlighted in the section Environmental Management.

Criteria	Recommendations	Notes on Completion
Community Involvement	It would be good to understand the extent of the involvement of the friends group. It would be good to understand if there is any data on the number of park users. How many people do the events attract? Are there links to local schools?	Complete - These points are addressed in the section Community Involvement. There are currently no links to local schools.
Marketing & Communication	Is there any notice boards / interpretation boards on site?	Complete - See Park Description. Six interpretation boards were installed in 2022.
Overall Management	Review the management plan documentation and bring everything together into one document which should follow. - Where are we now. - Where do we want to get to. - How will we get there. - How will we know when we have arrived.	Complete - this document follows the prescribed layout.



Appendix 1: Annual Maintenance Schedule

Monkton Park Annual Maintenance Schedule	Description	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Grass cutting	Keep clear of bulb planted areas.	Weekly							As Required					
Grass cutting of nature park wildlife areas	Up to twice per year as required in Aug and Sep					Twice Aug & Sep								
Hedge cutting	All hedge cutting to be completed by end of Feb including late tidy ups.						As Required							
Litter picking	Staff patrol regularly. Pick up on demand.	Daily												
Bin emptying	Staff patrol regularly. Empty bins on demand.	Daily												
Footpaths, MUGA, play area wet pour bases	Keep clear of debris, leaves, mud, weeds and moss.	As Required												
Toilet Block Building	Cleaning and health and safety inspections.	Cleaning Daily, Inspection and Recording Weekly												
Infrastructure and benches	Structural inspections, any defects repaired. Refurbishment in winter months.	Inspections Only							Refurbishments as Required					
Pollinator Planters	Maintain and weed in the growing season, plant up in September.	Monthly							As Required					
Parkland Trees	Visual inspections undertaken. Crown lifting. Maintenance work.	Inspections Only							Maintenance Work					
Newly Planted Trees	Visual inspections undertaken. Crown lifting. Maintenance work.	Inspections Only							Maintenance Work					
Play areas	Inspections, maintenance, replacement.	Daily Inspections Maintenance as Required							Inspections, Maintenance and Replacement as Required					

Appendix 2: Risk Assessment Example



CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

Activity:	Litter Picking	Date:	June 2023
Author:	Health and Safety Group	Reviewed by:	My Skills for Life  Signed Matt Kirby, Feb 2025
Next Review Date:	June 2026	Page No:	

Please note that the general principles of this risk assessment should be followed at all times. However, where a task-specific assessment is issued the contents thereof should take precedence. If in doubt, the individual(s) involved should cease work and seek the advice of their Line Manager/Supervisor.

L = LIKEIHOOD THAT HAZARDOUS EVENT WILL OCCUR	C = CONSEQUENCE OF HAZARDOUS EVENT	R = RISK RATING	ACTION
1 VERY UNLIKELY	1 INSIGNIFICANT - NO INJURY	1 - 2	NO ACTION - NO FURTHER ACTION BUT ENSURE CONTROLS ARE MAINTAINED AND REVIEWED
2 UNLIKELY	2 MINOR - MINOR INJURIES NEEDING FIRST AID	3 - 6	MONITOR - LOOK TO IMPROVE AT THE NEXT REVIEW OR IF THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE
3 FAIRLY LIKELY	3 MODERATE - UP TO 3 DAYS ABSENCE	8 - 12	ACTION - IMPROVE WITHIN SPECIFIED TIMESCALE
4 LIKELY	4 MAJOR - MORE THAN 7 DAYS ABSENCE (RIDDOR)	15 - 16	URGENT ACTION - TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION & STOP ACTIVITY IF NECESSARY. MAINTAIN EXISTING CONTROLS RIGOROUSLY
5 VERY LIKELY	5 CATASTROPHIC - DISABILITY/DEATH	20 - 25	STOP - STOP ACTIVITY & TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF HAZARD & HAZARDOUS EVENT	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	WHAT RISK CONTROLS ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE?	CURRENT RISK RATING			ARE FURTHER CONTROLS NEEDED?	DATE TO BE COMPLETED	RESIDUAL RISK RATING		
			L	C	R			L	C	R
Litter picking, contact with hypodermic needles, animal faeces, broken glass, leading to infection	Employee	Hand held litter picker issued and used. All staff issued with protective gloves. Shovel and broom provided to aid clearing of spillages. Staff monitored to ensure they are using gloves and equipment provided. Wash facilities or similar available. Good hygiene followed, First aid kit readily available. Sharps clear up kit provided, with instruction on how to safely handle needles and other sharp objects. Hepatitis B vaccination programme in place for employees. PPE at work regulations must be adhered to and used as a guide. Bio Waste Training has been completed (October 2022), refresher training provided when required. Should CTC employee come into contact with any bio hazard medical	2	5	5					

		attention will be sought immediately with relevant support from CTC.								
Emptying litter bins, injury	Employee	Employees given manual handling training. Bins emptied regularly to prevent them becoming too heavy. Gloves provided and worn. PPE at work regulations 1992 must be adhered to.	1	3	3					
Outdoor working, exposure to elements	Employee	See specific risk assessment. Appropriate PPE worn. PPE at work regulations must be adhered to. Staff supplied with sun block, take regular breaks in extremes of weather, and take plenty of refreshments and fluids in both hot and cold weather.	2	4	8					
Working on or adjacent to highway, traffic injury	Employee	See specific risk assessment. High visibility clothing worn. Work done in daylight only. PPE at work regulations must be adhered to.	2	5	10					

Appendix 3: Site Inspection Check Sheet

INSPECTION REPORT

Monkton Park

Date

Time

Inspector

Weather Conditions

√ boxes

Site Check

COMMENTS		ACTION TAKEN
	ACCESS:	
	Road Barriers:	
	Pathway:	
	Owner Signs:	
	Dog Signs:	
	Fences:	
	Gates:	
	Seats:	
	Litter Bins:	
	General Surface:	
	Cleanliness:	
1	Item: SPRINGY	
	Support members:	
	Seat/stand parts:	
	Moving parts:	
	Means of access:	
	Safety features:	
	Other features:	
	Surfacing:	
1	Item: TRAMPOLINE	
	Support members:	
	Seat/stand parts:	
	Moving parts:	
	Means of access:	
	Safety features:	
	Other features:	
	Surfacing:	
1	Item: SEESAW	
	Support members:	
	Seat/stand parts:	
	Moving parts:	
	Means of access:	
	Safety features:	
	Other features:	

	Surfacine:	
1	Item: TALKING FLOWERS	
	Snnnortmemben:	
	Seat/stand narts:	
	Movingnam:	
	Meansof access:	
	Safetv features:	
	Other features:	
	Surfacine:	

	COMMENTS	ACTION TAKEN
1	Item: BASKET s,VING	
	Snnnort Members:	
	Seat/stand narts:	
	Movingnom:	
	Meansof access:	
	Safetv features:	
	Other features:	
	Surfacine:	
4	Item: FLAT SWINGIDDA s,VING	
	Snnnortmemben:	
	Seat/stand narts:	
	Movingnom:	
	Meansof access:	
	Safetv features:	
	Other features:	
	Surfacine:	
1	Item: HOOPED CLIMBING UP<IT	
	Snnnortmemben:	
	Seat/stand narts:	
	Movingnom:	
	Meansof access:	
	Safetv features:	
	Other features:	
	Surfacine:	
2	Item: CRADLE s,VINGS	
	Snnnortmemben:	
	Seat/stand narts:	
	Movingnom:	
	Meansof access:	
	Safetv features:	
	Other features:	
	Surfacine:	

	COMMENTS	ACTION TAKEN
1	Item: ROUNDABOUT	
	Support Members:	
	Seat/stand parts:	
	Moving parts:	
	Means of access:	
	Safety Features:	
	Other features:	
	Surface:	
1	Item:TODDLER MULTIPLAY	
	Support Members:	
	Seat/Stand Parts:	
	Moving Parts:	
	Means of access:	
	Safety Features:	
	Other Features:	
	Surface:	
	Item: SLIDE	
	Support Members:	
	Seat/Stand Parts:	
	Moving Parts:	
	Means of access:	
	Safety Features:	
	Other Features:	
	Surface:	
2	Item: ACTIVITY BOARDS	
	Support Members:	
	Seat/Stand Parts:	
	Moving Parts:	
	Means of access:	
	Safety Features:	
	Other Features:	
	Surface:	

Appendix 4: New Tree Planting Aftercare Schedule

Year 1-5

- Watering - giving trees adequate water in the summer months, watering around the root plate to encourage roots to grow outwards.
- Weed control - controlling weed competition with tree roots by mulching and then replenishing mulch in years 1 to 3.
- Hand weeding of shelters.
- Guard, stake, tie maintenance - monitor tree protection, adjust tree ties with each annual growth

Year 6-15

- Guard, stake, tie maintenance - monitor tree protection, adjust tree ties with each annual growth
- End of use removal of tree guards and appropriate disposal

Notes

There is likely to be very little in the way of maintenance required after years three or four. Guards may be kept on longer. The trees probably won't require much protection at this point, but aesthetically, they do give the area more of a parkland feel.