

## Chapter 6 Proposals

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## Introduction

6.1 This chapter sets out a comprehensive set of objectives for the enhancement of Victoria Park, based on the evaluation of the park's development, the importance of the park to the local community, the current condition of the park and the interaction of the park with neighbouring developments. A number of overall objectives is set for the park, which are the guiding principles for formulating enhancement proposals set out in the masterplan, shown in **Figure 6-1**. The masterplan seeks to reconcile the many pressures of a modern public park with the aspirations of the local community to create a park, which respects its history and provides facilities for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

6.2 Any potential impact of the objectives and proposals on the heritage of Victoria Park is examined in a Heritage Impact Assessment.

## Objectives

6.3 For clarity Use and Historical objectives for the whole park are separated out. These overall objectives guide the more specific objectives set out for each of the management character areas and the general proposals.

### Use Objectives

6.4 The following use objectives have been defined which have been guided by discussions with the Town Council, local interest groups and by the information collated in the Audience Development Plan, Access Plan, Consultation Report, Training Plan and Outline Management and Maintenance Plan:

- To promote the presence of the park in Newbury and the surrounding area;
- To create a park which is accessible to the whole community;
- To define and improve access and circulation for all;
- To improve connections between the town centre, canal/river and the park;
- To rationalise and enhance existing facilities;
- To integrate new facilities both within the park and along the park's boundaries;
- To encourage the continued use of the park for a wide variety of events, of all sizes and duration;
- To provide facilities and events which appeal to the widest range of potential park users;
- To encourage community participation in the on-going management of the park;
- To explore opportunities to ease management of the park and encourage sustainability;
- To promote opportunities for training in the park; and
- To conserve and enhance habitat diversity.

### Historical Objectives

6.5 From the research into the historical development of the park, the following objectives can be defined:

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- To maintain and strengthen the boundaries of the park;
- To improve and enhance the entrances into the park;
- To enhance the setting of the bandstand and the bowls pavilion;
- To include the park and its areas into the exiting NewburyTown Trail;
- To provide an appropriate setting for the statue of Queen Victoria; and
- To integrate existing and proposed features into the overall structure of the park.
- Park furniture including signage;
- Park boundaries and linkages;
- Lime avenues;
- Drainage;
- Provision for the disabled;
- Security;
- Sustainability;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing and promotion; and
- Assessment of visitor numbers and visitor satisfaction.

## Management Character Areas

6.6 The following sections develop the objectives above, and show how the proposals set out in the masterplan (Figure 6-1) can be realised. For ease of description the park has been divided into 5 management character areas, which are illustrated on Figure 6-2:

- Historic Core
- Sport and Recreation
- Sculpture Garden
- Ecology
- Activities

6.7 Beyond the management character areas are features, which occur throughout the park or just outside the park and overall management issues. These features are discussed under general proposals and include the following:

- Circulation;

## General Proposals

6.8 Paths around the park are generally well used with relatively few 'desire' lines. Evidence however, on site does indicate the wish of park visitors to occasionally move away from the surfaced paths. In addition, vehicle access for events and for maintenance has been identified as an issue and should be addressed in the enhancement project to provide suitably surfaced routes to key locations. Currently cycling is allowed within the park, and the Access Plan and Audience Development Plan have identified the conflict between pedestrians and cyclists as an issue, which also should be addressed in the enhancement project.

6.9 The condition of paths and furniture is varied, with the paths associated with the new ramp and along the canal, recently resurfaced with new benches and bins installed. In contrast paths and furniture in the heart of the park are in need of refurbishment. Signage is again

variable throughout the park with little on-site information, both for interpretation and for promoting events.

6.10 Though the park is generally accessible for the disabled, there are few specific facilities. The Access Plan has identified a number of issues and highlighted the need to consider the needs of the disabled in the overall design of the enhancement project. Particular issues identified include:

- Accessible surfaces both along paths and into grass areas;
- Accessible furniture including seating, play equipment and signage;
- Accessible toilets and other park facilities;
- Tactile and sensory stimuli; and
- Available equipment for the disabled such as an audio trail or portable induction loop.

6.11 Throughout its history the border identity of the park has varied along each boundary. Personal recollection in the 1920s recalled the park being fully fenced with estate railings. These railings however would have been removed along the western boundary for the original Parkway development in 1936 and possibly along the eastern boundary during World War II (WWII) for the installation of anti-tank defences 'dragon's teeth'. The current railings on a low brick wall along the western boundary were originally installed in 1936 during the construction of the original Parkway development, though they were temporary removed during WWII for the war effort. Whether there were estate railings along the other boundaries is unclear, as a photograph during WWII showed no fence along the canal.

Today, the railings along the western boundary provide an attractive boundary to the park and frame the main gateway into the park from the town.

6.12 The park's main link with the town centre is through the main entrance along Park Way. Marsh Lane, seen on the 1768 map, connects this entrance with the main shopping street, Northbrook Street. The view to the park gates from Northbrook Street is frequently blocked by parked cars and will be further blocked by the Parkway development.

6.13 The lack of a strong northern boundary detracts from the park entrances from St. Mary's Road and Park Lane. Historically the lime avenues were focused on the entrance from Park Lane, suggesting that this was intended to be a major entrance into the park from the north, rather than the relatively low key current entrance. These northern entrances serve the residential areas to the north and the path along the northern boundary is an important route through to the town centre. This route will be enhanced to the west in the Parkway development with public realm improvements to East Street and Park Street. In addition there is a proposal to create a controlled crossing on the A339 to the east of the park to facilitate pedestrians to access the park and the town from the east.

6.14 The A339 on an embankment dominates the eastern boundary and is both a visual and noise intrusion into the park. The canal provides an attractive river frontage along the southern boundary but this has been interrupted by the recent construction of the bridge over the canal and the ramp access to the bridge, resulting in the loss of the entrance from the canal towpath at the southern end of the eastern lime avenue. The canal towpath appears to have been historically separated

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from the park by a row of trees, remnants of which are still present. The canal towpath acts as a further link to the town to the west and also connects the park with open space and the open countryside to the east, forming a network of open space through the town.

6.15 The two lime avenues were planted in the 1880s along the main two paths through the park. The paths originally ran from the main entrance on Marsh Lane to the west towards the entrance in the north at Park Lane and from an entrance on the canal in the south to the Park Lane entrance. The result was the park was effectively split into three spaces. The central triangle became to house the main formal features of the park, including the bandstand and the bowling green. Benches and later shelters were installed between the trees along the lime avenue. Some benches are still evident along the avenue. The remaining lime trees are in a reasonable condition, though some trees in the avenue have been removed.

6.16 The park was historically named The Marsh and two streams are culverted under the park. North Brook along the northern boundary and a further brook along the alignment of the A339. Throughout its history the park has periodically been flooded and the northern half of the park is frequently flooded during the winter months. Even though the wetness of the park has occasionally improved the length of potential play of the football pitch, recent extreme wet weather conditions, has resulted in significant parts of the park being flooded and the culverted brooks to show signs of potential blockage or lack of capacity. With the potential to increase the use of the park for events, potential flooding concern should be addressed in the enhancement project through an analysis of the current drainage pattern and

the potential to improve drainage in specific areas in the past whilst exploring the opportunity to have some 'natural' standing water within the park from the existing water sources.

6.17 The park is in general well maintained with a strong sense of community ownership. Currently however, there are relatively few opportunities for community involvement in the day-to-day management of the park, though there is evident enthusiasm. Though the park is popular, concern was expressed from youth groups in regard to security with the majority of incidents appearing to be within the youth age group.

6.18 Currently maintenance of the park seeks to minimise wastage and chemical usage. Future aspirations are to increase sustainable maintenance practices and for the enhancement project to consider both sustainable construction and the long-term maintenance sustainability implications of the proposals.

6.19 The park is promoted through a variety of media on a relatively ad hoc basis. Currently there is no specific marketing material focused on the park.

6.20 The work undertaken during the development of the Audience Development Plan provided a snapshot of visitor information regarding the park, which built on early public consultation. Currently no regular assessment of visitor numbers and visitor satisfaction is undertaken.

### *Objectives*

6.21 The following objectives are made:

- Provide a circulation system through the park, which addresses the needs of all park visitors. Link circulation system to access routes to the park from neighbouring areas including nearby car parks, bus stops and other vehicle dropping off areas;
- Renovate paths in the park to provide surfaces suitable for all and for a variety of uses;
- Create a co-ordinated approach to furniture and signage and ensure it addresses the needs of all park visitors;
- Strengthen and improve all the boundaries to enhance the identity of the park whilst providing opportunities for visual links between the park and neighbouring areas;
- Create welcoming gateways into the park;
- Encourage the enhancement of key access routes into the park through adjacent areas;
- Maintain the lime avenues through the park and formulate a strategy for the future retention of the feature in the park;
- Improve facilities throughout the park to enable the effective staging of events;
- Improve drainage in the park and explore opportunities to open up existing culverts or have standing water in the park;
- Analyse security concerns and work with interested parties to reduce issue;
- Improve sustainability practices in the park both in the day to day maintenance and in the enhancement project;
- Encourage community involvement in the day to day management of the park;
- Provide management support for the enhancement project;
- Install an on-site park management presence to work with the community, improve security and co-ordinate events;
- Improve marketing and promotion of the park; and
- Assess the success of the Conservation Management Plan through the analysis of regular visitor number and satisfaction surveys.

### *Proposals*

6.22 The following proposals are identified:

- Identify the circulation routes into and around the park for the variety of park visitors;
- Resurface all paths in poor condition and provide suitable surfaces for the required use i.e. vehicles or pedestrians;
- If required, renovate or install drainage into paths;
- Provide power and water supply along key routes and in key locations to facilitate events and maintenance;
- Encourage the enhancement of access routes into the park. Link transport to the park with access routes to the park i.e. safe pedestrian route from adjacent car parks into the park. Where possible provide transport dropping off areas and limited car parking for a suitable period (minimum 4 hours) in close proximity to the park for the

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physically challenged. Ensure routes are of a suitable width and gradient to allow for all users including wheelchairs and carers with prams;

- Develop and implement a furniture and signage strategy for the park;
- Install entrance signs and information boards at key entrances into the park and other key locations to ensure the park has a welcoming atmosphere and provides a variety of information regarding the park and the town to park visitors;
- Renovate and install new site furniture to create a co-ordinated approach and provide facilities for all users including the disabled;
- Examine opportunities to develop specific facilities for disabled people with a variety of impairments and link to other initiatives within Newbury;
- Develop and implement a boundary strategy for the park;
- Undertake repair works to the retained railings and wall along the western boundary;
- Replace the kneerail along the southern section of the western boundary with railings;
- Adjust the main entrance to realign with the Parkway development and to open up and enhance the main gateway into the park;
- Relocate northern section of western boundary to run along retaining wall of access road to underground car park. If possible, reuse refurbished existing railings and install on low brick wall to match existing boundary;
- Remove the entrance beside the toilets on the western boundary and relocate;
- Install new railings along the northern boundary and establish boundary planting to reduce the impact of neighbouring buildings whilst allowing views to and from the park;
- Enhance the entrances along the northern boundary and create a gateway feature as a focal point for the northern end of the lime avenues;
- Establish boundary planting along the embankment of the A339 and the eastern edge of the park to reduce the visual impact of the road;
- Install a new entrance along the eastern boundary to connect with the new controlled crossing of the A339;
- Seek opportunities to re-connect the southern end of the eastern lime avenue to the canal and create a focal point for the lime avenue;
- Re-establish the row of trees along the canal frontage whilst maintaining views from the park to the canal;
- Undertake works identified in the tree survey to the limes in the lime avenues; and
- Replace lost trees in the lime avenue;
- Undertake a drainage survey, including an assessment of the condition of the culverts;
- If required, undertake repairs works to the culverts;

- If possible open a section of the North Brook culvert in the north east corner;
- Develop and implement the security strategy developed with interested parties to overcome security issues. Possible implementation may include lighting along key routes, CCTV at key entrances and locations and increased police or park ranger patrols;
- Seek opportunities to improve sustainability maintenance practices in the park through composting, reduction in chemicals and peat use and recycling of materials, particularly water;
- Include sustainable construction in the design of the enhancement project;
- Establish a friends group or appropriate forum for local people to be involved in the future management and development of the park;
- Develop a marketing plan that sets out a planned and co-ordinated approach to the promotion of the park and events in the park, based on the needs of all the park users and non-users within the identified catchment area;
- Consider the production of information on the park targeted at key audiences. For example develop worksheets or teachers' packs to assist school visits;
- Develop a strategy for establishing baseline data on the levels of daily use, use during events, annual visitor numbers and satisfaction levels. Maintain and monitor information on a regular basis;
- Continue consultation with a variety of stakeholders to ensure facilities and events are provided and appeal for a range of park visitors, including black and minority ethnic groups and visitors with disabilities;
- Employ a Park Warden and install within a purpose built base on site to work with the community, improve security, co-ordinate events and undertake minor maintenance; and
- Employ a Project Development Officer to coordinate and deliver both audience development works and physical improvements as part of the enhancement project.

### Historic Core

6.23 The bandstand, bowling green, statue of Queen Victoria plus four lions and surrounding area and the railings on the western boundary are the most recognised historic features in the park. They also form the backdrop for a variety of events in the park, principally concerts in the bandstand and 'Art in the Park' use the railings. The bowling green is well used and is the home green for Newbury Bowling Club. The club manages the pavilion and green, which are owned by the Town Council.

### Objectives

6.24 The following objectives are made:

- Provide a suitable location for the statue of Queen Victoria and her attendant lions;
- Relocate 'Symphony of the Trees' sculpture into new Sculpture Garden and reinstate temporary location back into bandstand and pavilion garden;

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- Open up visual access to the bowling green to allow views across the park and to re-integrate this important historic feature back into the park;
- Enhance event space around the bandstand to improve audience experience and cater for the expanding numbers;
- Provide adequate seating arrangements for a variety of events both formal and informal to increase audience numbers, improve accessibility for the physically challenged and enhance audience experience;
- Reconnect the bowls pavilion into the park;
- Provide opportunities for floral displays; and
- Open up vistas to the Parkway development to create visual links between the park and the town.

### *Proposals*

6.25 The following proposals are identified:

- Relocate the statue of Queen Victoria and the lions on to the key view line from the main entrance along the lime avenue;
- Re-establish the statue of Queen Victoria on its plinth;
- Provide a seating area around the relocated statue;
- Re-position the main gates to provide a visual link between the new Parkway development, the Town Centre and the key view line along the lime avenue;
- Remove the surrounding hedge around the bowling green and replace with a secure

fence and flowering shrubs and perennial planting;

- Rationalise the flower beds around the bandstand to maximise open grass around the performance area whilst providing a setting to the adjacent bowls pavilion;
- Open up the frontage of the bowls pavilion to improve access to the building and allow it to be re-established as a focal point in key vistas;
- Improve both daily and emergency access into the bowls pavilion; and
- Ensure the retained flowerbeds have sufficient space and are in the appropriate location with a suitable backdrop for the popular floral displays to continue to be appreciated.

## Sport and Recreation

6.26 The Sport and Recreation area consists of the football pitch and tennis courts. The area used as a football pitch in the winter months provides a large area for informal recreation when not used for football and for staging larger events not accommodated around the bandstand. The area is subject to flooding in extreme weather.

6.27 Park Terrace to the north provides an attractive boundary to the football pitch, with views from the properties and the neighbouring Nursery School across the pitch into the heart of the park. The tennis courts are located in the heart of the park, bounded by two lime avenues and the Bowling Green. The tennis courts are well used, but currently provide no opportunities for alternative use.

### Objectives

6.28 The following objectives are made:

- Enhance the football pitch area whilst retaining space for a football pitch, informal recreation and events;
- Improve the appearance of the tennis courts in views through the park; and
- Increase range of sport opportunities within the tennis courts.

### Proposals

6.29 The following proposals are identified:

- Install land drains into the football pitch to improve drainage. All drainage works to be co-ordinated with overall drainage strategy;
- Repair the fencing around the tennis courts and establish flowering shrubs around the outside of the fence to reduce the visual impact of the fence, and
- Convert the tennis courts to a multi-use games area.

### Sculpture Garden

6.30 The tennis courts are located in the heart of the park, bounded by two lime avenues, to the north of the courts is a triangular area currently headed by the statue of Queen Victoria and to the south is the bowling green. The triangular green is not used and the enclosing fencing discourages casual use of the area for informal recreation. The area forms the backdrop for views into the park from the north and is an important element in vistas across the park.

6.31 The area around the bandstand is highly valued within the park as a location for floral displays and for quiet relaxation. These activities however, compete with more active events and space is limited. The existing underused central triangle provides an opportunity for developing a more formal garden in the heart of the park and a more appropriate setting for the ‘Symphony of the Trees’ sculpture. The sculpture provides a focus for the garden that could be developed as a sculpture garden with further sensory experiences in keeping with the sculpture. It would also provide another link in the Newbury Town Trail that would encourage integration of the park into this activity.

### Objectives

6.32 The following objectives are made:

- Create a formal garden on the site of the central triangular green;
- Ensure formal garden is accessible to all and provides opportunities to engage the physically challenged;
- Enhance views into the park from the north and vistas across the park; and
- Provide an appropriate setting for the ‘Symphony of the Trees’ sculpture and other opportunities for installing further public art.

### Proposals

6.33 The following proposals are identified:

- Install a sensory sculpture garden;
- Frame and improve key views into and across the park;

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- Relocate the ‘Symphony of the Trees’ sculpture into the garden and use the sculpture as inspiration to create a sensory sculpture garden; and
- Seek further opportunities to install further public art.

### Ecology

6.34 The north east corner of the park is currently under utilised. The area is dominated by the neighbouring properties and the A339. The area however, provides an opportunity for developing part of the park specifically for nature conservation.

6.35 Access across the A339 is limited, however an informal entrance has been forced through the boundary fencing.

### Objectives

6.36 The following objectives are made:

- Manage access through the area; and
- Encourage habitat diversity including an area of open water and marsh.

### Proposals

6.37 The following proposals are identified:

- Create a formal entrance into the park along the eastern boundary in conjunction with existing desire lines and proposed new A339 crossing;
- Connect new entrance with existing paths through the park and a possible new path through the nature conservation area;
- Establish suitable planting mixes to increase habitat diversity; and

- Alter the current management regime to encourage habitat diversity.

### Activities

6.38 The play area and boating pond were part of the earliest formal development of the park in the 1930s. The features however, do not appear on the 1933 plan, but the report of the official opening of the park in 1935 lists a paddling pool, boating lake, sand pit and play area amongst the park features. Since their original construction, these features have evolved with new play equipment installed, including a skateboard ramp and boating only now permitted in the circular pond.

6.39 In 2004, West Berkshire Council published a Vision for Newbury Town Centre called ‘Newbury 2025’. The Vision is aimed at enhancing the vitality and economic prosperity of the town. The Vision is supported by a broad partnership of local interests and since its publication a number of projects have been completed to make the Vision a reality. Newbury 2025 identifies a number of quarters across the town centre. One of these, the Recreation, Leisure and Cultural Quarter, is centred on the canal, the library, Market Place and new cinema. A major element within this quarter is the redevelopment of the area between the library, the Granary Building (the Museum) and the canal known as the Wharf. It also includes the area immediately to the north of the canal within Victoria Park.

6.40 In the past, Newbury was a main centre along the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Wharf area included a canal basin. As part of Newbury 2025, it is proposed to develop this area; to re-establish the canal side as a focal point for both residents and visitors to the town, to provide new community facilities, a venue

for regular weekend activities and a wider set of attractions for Newbury. The Wharf development details are provided in **Appendix 7**. Phase one of the development is proposed to include the construction of a park pavilion to provide a range of community facilities including rehearsal space, a gallery, a performance space, a café and public toilets. Outside, the existing boating pond would be redeveloped to provide both a performance arena, which could become a winter ice rink and a boating pond.

6.41 At present, West Berkshire District Council is undertaking a feasibility study to determine if they wish to proceed with the Wharf development. The proposal however to develop a park pavilion is in keeping with the park’s enhancement project as this will provide modern purpose built facilities in a single location and release space in other areas of the park. Funding is available to develop a more limited park pavilion as part of the enhancement project, in a similar location to that proposed in the Wharf development. The park pavilion could then be extended if the full Wharf development proceeds.

### Objectives

6.42 The following objectives are made:

- Create play facilities for a wide age range for the 21st century;
- Provide a park pavilion beside the boating pond to include a kiosk, toilets, park information point, park warden facilities, changing rooms, boat and seating storage, minor equipment storage and an indoor classroom to assist with education visits to the park;

- Integrate the park pavilion into the park; and
- Rationalise existing buildings in the park.

### Proposals

6.43 The following proposals are identified:

- Install a new play area for 0 to 12 years incorporating a sculptural dragon play feature;
- Replace the existing skateboard ramp with a modern facility and carefully screen to reduce visual intrusion into the park;
- Install a youth shelter and basketball hoop for older children adjacent to skateboard ramp;
- Construct a park pavilion to provide a kiosk, toilets, park information point, park warden facilities, changing rooms, boat and seating storage, minor equipment storage and an indoor classroom. Design building to allow for possible extensions if Wharf development proceeds. Accommodation schedule of park pavilion provided in **Appendix 7**;
- Improve the boating pond and install a new water supply;
- Remove toilets on Parkway interface once replacement toilets have been provided in the park pavilion and in the Parkway development. Restore to grass and shrubs;
- On completion of the park pavilion, remove the kiosk, boat storage and changing rooms. Restore to grass and shrubs; and

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- Ensure the continued design development of the Wharf development considers the needs of the park and integrates into the park's layout.

## Heritage Impact Assessment

6.44 A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) examines how the proposals will affect the heritage asset. The assessment considers the following:

- The need for the proposal;
- The benefits of the proposal;
- Potential risk of the proposal on the heritage;
- Further information required to fully understand the proposal or the potential risk; and
- Balance between the benefits of the proposals and the potential risk.

6.45 The HIA for Victoria Park is broken down into general proposals and the proposals for each Management Character Areas.

## Proposals – Victoria Park, Newbury

Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
<i>General Proposals</i>				
Resurface all paths, install drainage, water and power supplies. Make accessible for all.	Key paths follow original path layout others are more recent additions. Paths connect major features in the park and are in variable condition.	Disturbance of underlying archaeology, adjacent vegetation including historic lime avenues	Detail condition survey of paths. Develop detail of path improvements to determine exact nature of proposals.	Careful design and implementation
Renovate and install furniture and signage	Current furniture and signage has little to no heritage value and is in variable condition.		Detail design	
Renovate and install a boundary fence around the park. Realign along the western and eastern boundaries. Block disused entrances.	Some sections of boundary fence are remnants of the original boundary. The railing on the western boundary was replaced after WWII. Boundary fence missing in places. Existing fence is in variable condition.	Inappropriate fencing style installation and poor repair detailing to existing historic railings	Detail design	Careful design, specification and implementation

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Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
Realign main entrance	The main entrance was positioned to allow a view along Marsh Lane to Northbrook Street, the main shopping street in Newbury. This view is currently interrupted by parked cars and other street clutter. The view will be interrupted further by Parkway Development	Severance of view from Northbrook Street	Detail design	Careful alignment of main entrance to allow view along Marsh Lane whilst also allowing a view along the lime avenue
Create a gateway feature on the northern boundary	Map evidence suggests the two lime avenues focused on a gateway entrance on the northern boundary, which is no longer in existence.	Inappropriate feature not in keeping with surrounding treatment of boundary and adjacent streets	Further research to determine if any photographic evidence of original feature	Careful design and consultation with adjacent landowners
Establish boundary planting along key boundaries	Map evidence suggests along the western, northern and southern boundaries, a row of trees marked the boundary with the brook along the eastern boundary	Inappropriate planting not in keeping with the historic evidence, poorly located, blocking views in and out of the park	Further research and analysis to design appropriate planting style	Careful detail design and implementation

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Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
Install a new entrance along the eastern boundary	Historically it was agricultural land to the east, necessitating no entrance along this boundary. Today, an unofficial access point has been created to service businesses and residential areas to the east.	Poorly located resulting in continued use of unofficial access point	Investigate pedestrian routes through areas to the east to identify the appropriate location for the entrance	Careful design and implementation to create an entrance appropriate to this importance boundary along the A339
Reconnect the southern end of the eastern lime avenue to the canal a	The lime avenue running north south through the park ended in an entrance as the path met the canal towpath. This formed the focus for the avenue. This entrance was lost with the construction of the new bridge across the canal	Inappropriate feature at the end of the lime avenue and poor connection with the canal towpath	Further research to determine the nature of the original entrance	Careful design and consultation to provide an appropriate feature and connection
Re-establish the row of trees along the canal frontage	Remnants of the row of trees seen on old maps are still in place	Row of trees impair movement between the canal towpath and the park, and block important views	Identify appropriate location and species by analysis of evidence	Careful design to establish appropriate locations for new trees to focus views and maintain movement along key routes

● **Proposals – Victoria Park, Newbury**

Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
Undertake works identified in the tree survey and replace trees where required	Tree resource is an important historic feature of the park, particularly the lime avenues and the remnants of rows of trees along the key boundaries. Many trees require maintenance works to sustain tree and a strategy to determine replacement policy.	Poor arboricultural works resulting in further loss of trees. No tree replacements or long-term strategy for managing the tree stock	Develop long-term tree strategy for the park and build into Management and Maintenance Plan	Use only suitably qualified tree surgeons to undertake the arboricultural works
If possible open a section of the North Brook culvert in the north east corner	The brook is seen on early maps and suggested the north east corner of the park has been traditionally more natural than other areas in the park	Poor water quality and poor design creating an eyesore rather than a potential rich habitat feature	Assessment of water quality and quantity	Careful design and appropriate permissions for opening up culvert
<i>Historic Core</i>				
Relocate the statue of Queen Victoria and the lions and place on plinth. Create seating area around	Queen Victoria originated in the Market Square and was relocated via Greenham House, to the park in 1996. At that time the plinth and the statue of fame that were around the base of the plinth were removed	Damage to statue during relocation works and poorly designed new location	Identify location of lost feature and determine feasibility of it being reunited with Queen Victoria statue	Careful design and implementation

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Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
Remove the surrounding hedge around the bowling green	Traditionally there were views through the park across the bowling green that are currently blocked by the hedges.	Poor removal works, disturbing underlying archaeology	Further research to determine locations of potential archaeological importance within the park	Careful specification and implementation
Rationalise the flower beds around the bandstand to maximise open grass	Historic evidence shows flower beds around the bandstand.	Removal of too many beds or inappropriate retention changing the character of the bandstand setting	Use historic maps to identify appropriate removals and retentions	Careful detail design
Open up the frontage of the bowls pavilion and improve access	Historic evidence show flower beds and path system around bowls pavillion	Change of character for the setting of bowls pavilion	Use historic maps to identify appropriate removals and retentions	Careful detail design
<i>Sport and Recreation</i>				
Install land drains into the football pitch to improve drainage and increase potential use throughout the year.	Football has been played in this area of the park since the park was opened. Currently pitch is subject to seasonal flooding	Destruction of underlying archaeology		Careful design and implementation
Repair the fencing around the tennis courts and establish flowering shrubs.	Tennis courts have been an important feature of the park since the 1930s and the fence is in a variable condition and visually intrusive.	Destruction of underlying archaeology		Careful design and implementation

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Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
Convert the tennis courts to a multi-use games area	Traditionally tennis courts have been a facility provided in the park but they have a limited audience	Proposal not accepted by the public	Consultation to determine if proposal is acceptable	Careful consultation
<i>Sculpture Garden</i>				
Install a sensory sculpture garden	Area identified has traditionally been used as a putting green. In recent years, putting has become less popular and a sensory garden would be a new facility in the park	Proposal not accepted by the public	Consultation to determine if proposal is acceptable	Careful consultation
Frame and improve key views into and across the park.	Vistas into and across the park are part of the original and evolving design of the park. At present views are occasionally blocked or interrupted.	Key views identified to enhanced not in keeping with other park proposals		Careful detail design
Relocate the 'Symphony of the Trees' sculpture i	New feature in the garden that will temporary be located adjacent to the bandstand. The new sensory garden will provide a purpose built setting for the sculpture.	Relocation not accepted by public	Consultation to determine if proposal is acceptable	Careful consultation

Proposals – Victoria Park, Newbury ●

Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
<i>Ecology</i>				
Install new paths	The northeast corner is currently not linked to the path system, discouraging access. Creating a nature conservation area will increase interest in this area encouraging visitors	Destruction of underlying archaeology		Careful design and implementation
Alter the current management regime	Park managed as formal park with no nature conservation area reducing habitat diversity and ecological interest.	Inappropriate management to historic layout of park		Area of park recent addition and contains none of the formal park landscape. Careful consultation to create management regime appropriate for this area and not at conflict with adjacent formal areas
<i>Activities</i>				
Install a new play area, youth shelter, basketball hoop and replace skateboard ramp	Park has always provided a range of facilities in the south east corner. Many are now in poor condition or are in need of updating	Inappropriate features that interrupt the historic layout and features of the park, particularly key vistas.	Careful consultation to determine what facilities will be acceptable	Careful detail design and implementation

● **Proposals – Victoria Park, Newbury**

Proposal	Significance	Potential Risk	Further Information Required	Avoid Risk
Construct a park pavilion	Currently various facilities are housed in a cluster of small buildings poorly located along the eastern lime avenue	Location and design that interrupts the historic layout, and disrupts key vistas	Careful consultation to determine the range of facilities to be accommodated in pavillion	Careful detail design and implementation
Improve the boating pond and install a new water supply;	Circular boating pond was installed in the 1934 and is fed by the canal. The pond is in poor condition, under used and has poor water quality	Proposal disrupts historic feature and use of pond	Assess water quality and alternative appropriate water sources	Careful design and implementation
Remove toilets, kiosk, boat storage and changing rooms. Restore to grass and shrubs	The various buildings have been gradually built in the park and several are poorly located and disrupt the historic layout	Demolition works disrupt underlying archaeology and adjacent historic features		Careful design, specification and implementation