

Friends of Westgate Parks

Report of the Trustees for the period 1st Jan 2018 – 31st Dec 2018 *including* Financial Statements for the period 1st May 2018 – 31st Dec 2018

Friends of Westgate Parks was established on 14th May 2018 as
Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Registered Charity Number: 1178364

CONTENTS

1. Charity Information	1
2. Trustees' Report	2
1. Responsibilities	2
2. Organisation	2
3. Origins	2
4. Objectives and Activities	3
5. Activities during 2018	4
6. Financial Review	5
7. Acknowledgements	6
3. Appendices (listed)	6
Appendix 1. Financial Statements	
Appendix 2. FoWP Constitution	
Appendix 3. Joint MOU	
Appendix 4. CCC Management Plan 2019–2024	
Appendix 5. Westgate Parks for People project summative evaluation report 2018	
Appendix 6. FoWP Newsletter June 2018	
4. Declaration	6

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

Governing Document:	CIO Constitution dated 1 st May 2018
Charity Number:	1178364
Company Number:	CE014082
Registered Address:	Friends of Westgate Parks 21 Whitehall Gardens Canterbury Kent CT2 8BD
Independent Examiner	Mrs Lesley Grove FMAAT, Accuracy Accounts, 27 Manor Close, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3XA
Accountants:	None assigned
Solicitors:	None assigned
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc, Canterbury City Centre Branch, 11 The Parade, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2SQ
Insurers:	Ansvar, Beaufort House, Brunswick Rd, Gloucester GL1 1JZ
Website:	https://www.westgateparks.co.uk/the-project/project-partners/friends-of-westgate/
Email:	friendsofwestgateparks@gmail.com
Telephone:	01227 761 178 (registered address only)

2. TRUSTEES' REPORT

Friends of Westgate Parks (FoWP) established its current Constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (association model) on 1st May 2018 and was entered on the Register of Charities, number 1178364, on 14th May 2018. The Trustees have pleasure in presenting this, their first formal report covering the period 1st January–31st December 2018, together with the Financial Statements for the period 1st May–31st December 2018. The financial statements (Appendix 1) have been prepared by an Independent Examiner, Mrs Lesley Grove FMAAT, Accuracy Accounts, 27 Manor Close, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3XA. This and future reports will be published on the Charity Commission's website.

2.1 Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for approving the activity plan, managing the funds, monitoring the performance, establishing and implementing relevant and necessary policies, and ensuring adequate insurance and risk management – in accordance with the Constitution (Appendix 2). The Trustees meet at least three times a year to execute the CIO's business, and at least three other times per year as part of the wider FoWP Management Committee (which includes other volunteers with particular responsibilities, and committee members elected at the AGM). Day-to-day operations and implementation of the activity plan are managed by the Trustees, in collaboration with the Management Committee. The Trustees are required to call a special general meeting of all Members only in the event of proposals for changes in the constitution, or dissolution or amalgamation of the organisation. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee, Committee Member or other Volunteer received remuneration in the period under report, nor are they expected to do so in future. Details of personal out-of-pocket expenses (e.g. travel costs) reimbursed to Trustees are disclosed in the accounts (none in the period under review).

2.2 Organisation

Friends of Westgate Parks is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association model), governed by its Constitution (Appendix 2). The members of the organisation are the Trustees, of whom there must be a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve, together with a free community membership which includes one or more members elected to the Management Committee. Other than potential alterations to the Constitution, decisions are made by a simple majority of votes cast at Trustees' meetings and Management Committee meetings, excluding members of the Management group that attend as non-voting representatives of Canterbury City Council. The key management personnel of the CIO are the Trustees. FoWP has no staff at present, and relies entirely on the voluntary work of the Trustees, the elected members of the Management Committee, and other Volunteers. The Trustees for 2018 were:

Terry Westgate, Chair (from 14.v.2018)
Michael Pocock, Hon Secretary (from 14.v.2018)
Richard Vane-Wright, Hon Treasurer (from 14.v.2018)
Colette Baumbach (from 14.v.2018)
Michael Walter (from 14.v.2018)
Peter Blackett (from 18.vi.2018), replacing Dawn Horne (14.v.2018) who resigned for personal reasons.

Patron: Ailsa Williamson (to 13.v.2018; ex-officio trusteeship vacant from 14.v.2018)

Elected Management Committee Member: Margaret Dixey (from 22.vi.2018)

2.3 Origins

Key dates in the history of Westgate Parks:

1876 Toddlers Cove developed as leisure area; 1886 Stephen Williamson, owner of the Canterbury Tannery, buys Tower House; 1935 Williamson family gift the house, its gardens, and Tannery Field to the City; 1937 Westgate Gardens open as a public riverside park; 1970 Canterbury City Council acquires Bingley Island; 1994 Bingley Island designated as a Local Nature Reserve; 2013 Heritage Lottery Fund application; November 2018 completion of the Heritage Lottery funded Westgate Parks project; 15th November joint CCC/FoWP Memorandum of Understanding signed.

In February 2013 Canterbury City Council, supported by the Friends of Westgate Parks community group (first formed in 2011) and Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP), submitted a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People Programme, for a sum of £770,000. This money was used, over a five year period that ended in November 2018, for improvements to the infrastructure, public interpretation, and creation of better wildlife habitat, including improvements to the ecological condition of the Great Stour River and

its margins, within the four contiguous council-owned public spaces that now form Westgate Parks (Westgate Gardens, Toddlers Cove, Tannery Field and Bingley Island). These endeavours were focused on generating a significant increase in public use and access. In addition, there was also a commitment to establish volunteer programmes aimed at gathering and disseminating knowledge about the rich, notably Roman history of the area, the ecology and biodiversity of the parks and river, and developing an education programme.

Over the five year period 2013–2018, with the benefit of a total £1.1 million budget, the City Council working in collaboration with the Friends group, achieved a great deal in Westgate Parks. The area known as Toddlers Cove was completely renewed with the installation of an outstanding children's adventure playground complete with picnic tables and a new toilet block. To combat anti-social behaviour CCTV was installed and great improvements were made to the Rheims Way (Westgate Gardens to Toddlers Cove) and Tannery Field underpasses (much of this carried out by volunteers). New planting and landscaping was undertaken to enhance various areas, and installation of new pathways and bridges gave visitors improved access throughout the parks. Old seating was replaced and signage installed to give information about the wildlife and local history. A wildflower meadow was planted and a striking, locally referenced sculpture of a bull commissioned and installed on Tannery Field. Local schools helped with creation and planting of a physic garden and lavender maze in an undeveloped part of Westgate Gardens. Two development officers employed by KCSP with HLF funds designed and delivered innovative educational programmes – these were fully subscribed and accessed by local schools and clubs, enabling children and others to learn about nature in an outdoor setting. The development officers, supported by FoWP and KSCP, also organised numerous special events to encourage the local residents and tourists to use and celebrate the parks, and also organised a group of volunteers to carry out a variety of conservation and enhancement tasks – including management of the river banks, creating a new pond for wildlife on Bingley Island, the mural painting to improve previously forbidding underpasses, and mitigation of anti-social behaviour by litter collecting and graffiti removal.

By late 2017 the Friends community support group acknowledged that, with the funded project due to end in 12 months' time, if there was to be an adequate legacy from all that had been achieved, it would be necessary to create a new management organisation. This would be needed to ensure that key activities and volunteer input in support of the parks could be continued in the short, medium and hopefully longer term. The decision was then taken to try to turn the community group into a charity. Papers were submitted to the Charity Commission in early 2018 and, following amendments, charitable status as a CIO was granted with effect from 14th May 2018.

2.4 Objectives and Activities

The formal, charitable objectives of FoWP CIO are 1) to preserve, protect and improve the Westgate Parks in Canterbury as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty; 2) to promote conservation of the natural plant and animal life of the Parks; 3) to advance the education of the public including school children in the subjects of natural history and geography, and by research into the biodiversity, geomorphology and archaeology within the Parks.

FoWP has the intention and expectation of serving objective 1) by attracting and mobilising volunteers to carry out agreed maintenance and conservation tasks in accordance with its MOU with Canterbury Council (Appendix 3; see also following paragraph), objective 2) by informing the Management Plan (Appendix 4) with respect to conservation needs, as well as engaging and working with Canterbury City Council, its contractors, and relevant local conservation organisations, and objective 3) by ensuring that a schools education programme is in place that makes use of the Parks, and is supported wherever possible by FoWP volunteers, and working with and encouraging other suitably qualified groups and individuals to carry out research on the wildlife, geology and archaeology of the parks, also ensuring that the results of such work are suitably recorded and disseminated for public record, use and access.

In addition to these charitable objectives, FoWP will take part in and organise a number of public social events in the Parks each year, for the purposes of promoting interest in the Parks and the CIO itself, and pursue fund-raising opportunities to sustain and further the basic charitable objectives. FoWP will also seek to identify projects that will increase the scope and public impact of its fundamental objectives, and endeavour to raise funds in support of such specific projects through grant applications or other appropriate means. In accordance with its mission and consistent with the MOU, FoWP will also promote the Parks as a natural public amenity by means of other outreach activities, including the preparation and publication of newsletters, reports, leaflets, press releases, websites, and the use of social media.

A key step to make these objectives achievable was taken during the reporting year by creating and signing a joint MOU with Canterbury City Council (Appendix 3). CCC not only owns all of the land included in the Parks, but is also responsible for all basic care, including formal planting, maintenance of paths, playground equipment and the toilets, health and safety issues, general public liability and security. The MOU determines what in future FoWP volunteers can do to enhance the parks and their ecology, promote conservation, and ensure that educational and appropriate research activities, all of which were advanced during the HLF-funded 5-year

programme, continue as far as possible given the budgetary resources available. The MOU also requires that an updateable joint Management Plan be agreed and frequently reviewed, and determines the necessary procedures whereby special events within the parks designed to increase public awareness and raise monies for the charitable purposes of FoWP can be carried out.

2.5 Activities During 2018

With registration as a CIO in May but the HLF-funded project not ending until November, 2018 was very much a transition year. Separation of the major activities led by the two HLF-funded staff, often supported by FoWP volunteers, from activities initiated or largely accomplished by FoWP itself is complex – made more difficult to account for by the fact that reportage on the last year of the HLF project was merged within the final 5-year project report submitted via Canterbury City Council to Heritage Lottery Fund. The focus here, as far as possible, is on the role of FoWP during 2018, particularly with respect to its change in status and emergent new relationship with the Council and its Officers. The former Management Committee structure, which included the Trustees and elected members, also comprised several delegates representing various stakeholder groups. This structure was maintained throughout, up to the last Management Committee meeting of the year, 15th November. From 1st January 2019 voting members on the FoWP Management Committee comprise only the Trustees and elected members.

Management Committee and Trustee meetings

The Management Committee met seven times during 2018 (20th Feb., 26th Mar., 11th May, 3rd July, 28th Aug., 2nd Oct. and 15th Nov.). Since registration in May, the Trustees met formally as a separate group on two occasions (18th June and 12th Dec.). All nine meetings were quorate; median number of trustees in attendance at the nine meeting = 5. Two other important meetings were a workshop with Heritage Insider on 23rd April to aid equitable development of joint MOU with CCC, and the last AGM held under the constitution of the former FoWP community group was held on 22nd June.

Social and fund-raising events

During 2018 over a dozen events that raised monies for FoWP were organised by the HLF-funded Westgate Parks Officers in collaboration with FoWP volunteers. These notably included the Easter Trail (31st March), Open Day (30th June – attended by over 2500 people), Scarecrow Trail (13th October) and Scary Scavenger Hunt (26th October). Other such events were birthday parties, duck race, river walks, explorer trails and a bat walk. FoWP volunteers organised archery, a presentation on the physic garden, and the Westgate Gardens 'stamping station' as their contribution to the 2018 Canterbury Medieval Pageant (7th July).

Objective 1 – preservation, protection and enhancement of the parks

During the year FoWP volunteers helped with maintenance of the physic garden, the two underpass murals (frequent focus of taggers and other antisocial graffiti), and litter collecting.

Objective 2 – promotion of wildlife conservation

The main practical work undertaken by FoWP volunteers was maintenance of the river banks and the Tannery Field flower meadow. Following the unfortunate necessity of extensive vegetation clearance on Bingley Island due to illegal camping and antisocial behaviour, ongoing steps have been taken to formulate, in collaboration with CCC and other interested groups (e.g. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and Love Hambrook Marshes), more detailed management plans for the parks that will take the need for wildlife conservation fully into account. FoWP volunteers also assisted with the national *Riverfly Partnership* and *Butterfly Conservation* monitoring schemes.

Objective 3 – advancement of education and research

Throughout the year all educational work was organised by the HLF-funded staff. School events were booked to capacity. During the year an agreement was made between the lead HLF-funded post-holder (Anna Bell) and Canterbury City Council for her to continue school educational work in the parks from 2019 onward as a private subcontractor ('Anna Outdoors'). In this she will continue to be supported wherever possible by FoWP volunteers and with access to FoWP equipment. This is a significant development as it ensures that the advancement of schools education will continue. Adult educational events included river walks, an evening bat walk in collaboration with *Kent Bat Group*, and a second visit to Bingley Island in collaboration with *Kent Field Club*. Research on the beetles of Bingley Island and non-biting midges, commenced in 2012, continued. A report on beetles and plants collected by during the 2017 FoWP/Kent Field Club Bingley visit to Bingley was published, and three further papers on beetle and midge research progressed. *Canterbury Archaeological Trust* is preparing an analysis of discoveries made by FoWP/CAT community digs during the 2013–2018 project, to appear in their journal *Archaeologica Cantiana*.

MOU with CCC, and the draft CCC Management Plan 2019–2024

From the start of 2018 FoWP Management Committee and Canterbury City Council engaged in a series of negotiations to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to how their joint interests, responsibilities and opportunities to build on what had been achieved by the 5-year HLF-funded project (for final review of those achievements see Appendix 5). Concerns raised by a number of volunteers resulted in a helpful workshop with Heritage Insider held on 23rd April. After several iterations the joint memorandum was eventually signed off by Canterbury City Council Chief Executive and the Chair and Hon Secretary of FoWP on 15th November 2018 (Appendix 3). This agreement lays the foundation for the future operation of FoWP, and elements were incorporated in to the Council's draft management plan for the coming five years [since published in Spring 2019 – Appendix 4].

Appointment of CCC Parks and Community Development Officer

By late 2017, with the end of the HLF-funded 5 year project in sight, discussions between FoWP and Canterbury City Council recognised that the loss of the two HLF-funded Westgate Parks Officers (from 2016 there being two part-time employees), some form of replacement was essential with respect to managing the 'legacy'. This came sharply into focus with respect to the other main public open space in Canterbury, Dane John Gardens, which had no community support group and was suffering from increasing levels of serious anti-social behaviour. CCC agreed to fund a new post, a Parks and Community Development Officer, with their time divided between the two parks. The new officer started on 16th July 2018, and has proved a great success – not only with managing anti-social behaviour, but also wholehearted engagement with both FoWP Management Committee and practical, on the ground volunteering. Although the main credit has to be due to CCC for making this far-sighted appointment, FoWP played a key role in the negotiations and formulation of the job-description, and has been closely engaged with the appointee ever since. Together with the MOU and moves to establish a joint Management Plan, the appointment of the Parks and Community Development Officer represents one of the most important steps taken in support of the Parks during the transition period, and gives optimism for the future.

Publication of first FoWP Newsletter

This four page leaflet (Appendix 6) involved intensive work by FoWP members. Over 2000 copies were distributed free of charge.

Other matters

- FoWP was represented at the recently formed East Kent Parks Forum.
- Discussion took place with CCC about the future of Ivy Cottage, possibly as a base for a much needed café within the parks; although inconclusive as yet there was a desire to find a way forward.
- The CCTV cameras installed at Toddlers Cove were out of action for nine months, but were finally repaired by autumn.
- GDPR issues affecting the members email list were managed, and included as integral to membership and donations forms.
- Discussions took place throughout the year with respect to the need for a secure storage facility for tools left over from the HL-project, and new equipment obtained subsequently. CCC generously sourced, overhauled and adapted a large container for the purpose, and had it installed at Toddlers Cove.
- The Hon Treasurer attended a one-day fund-raising workshop in November.
- FoWP members assisted with the HLF evaluation (Appendix 5), and contributed through their efforts to the successful 2018 Green Flag Award for the parks (<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/districts-triple-green-flag-success-2/>).
- An HLF-project completion celebration event was organised on 17th October.

2.6 Financial Review (1st May – 31st December 2018)

As the income for the CIO was below £25,000 during the period under review, an independent examination was not necessarily required (Charities Act 2011 section 145). However, in the interests of establishing best practice, the financial statements (Appendix 1) have been prepared by an independent examiner. In summary:

The charity's income gained over the period 1st May to 31 December 2018 was £2720.00, made up of donations from supporters, surpluses from fund-raising public events, fees for giving lectures and talks, and the sale of booklets. There are no figures for comparison as these accounts cover the period from CIO start-up in May 2018 to the close of the first financial period (31st December). Moreover, the sources of funds are likely to differ in subsequent years as, for example, there are no longer associated employees who helped to generate a significant part of the income during the 2018 transition period. The CIO also benefitted from transfer and receipt of the balance of the former Friends of Westgate Parks community group – £6193.98.

The CIO's expenses for the period were £1646.83, comprising activity costs (room hire, prizes at events, food and drink for volunteers etc.), together with the provision of branded tee-shirts for volunteers, display boards and other equipment, and honoraria for HLF-funded staff in recognition of their outstanding service. The balance at NatWest bank going forward from 31st December was £7267.15.

2.7 Acknowledgements

The Trustees of Friends of Westgate Parks wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the enormous support they have received from various organisations and numerous individuals during 2018. First and foremost the staff and elected councillors of Canterbury City Council. The Council own all the areas that make up the parks and are legally responsible for their upkeep and security. In this context we would specially mention Chief Executive Colin Carmichael, and staff members Rebecca Booth, Aidan Potts, Anna Stevens and Sadie Williams, who have offered exceptional support and encouragement. Much park maintenance is subcontracted to Serco, and we thank them also for their work. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, led by Jon Shelton in collaboration with Kent County Council, played a key role before and throughout the HLF-funded five year project, for which we are extremely grateful. Special mention must be made of Anna Bell and Lauren Baker, the two HLF-funded Westgate Parks officers employed through KSCP who both made outstanding contributions over the past 5 years, and will continue to do so in future – Anna as leader of Anna Outdoors (<https://annaoutdoors.co.uk/>), and Lauren as a member of the KSCP Our Stour project (<https://www.kentishstour.org.uk/the-partnership/staff/>).

Other very supportive organisations have included Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Enid Allison, Marion Green, Jake Weekes), Canterbury Society (Jan Pahl), Kent County Council (Ida Linfield), St Peter's Residents' Association (Christopher Millar), and the Umbrella Centre, Canterbury. Our thanks are also due to Sue Tucker (Red Zebra Community Solutions) who offered excellent guidance with our Charity application, and Kate Measures and Eleanor Forey (Heritage Insider) who, in collaboration with Anna Bell and Lauren Baker, did outstanding work in preparing the five-year report for HLF (Appendix 5), and also led two workshop during 2018. We also thank Lesley Grove (Accuracy Accounts, Canterbury) for preparing the Financial Statements for 2018 (Appendix 1).

FoWP volunteers contributed an enormous amount during 2018 – among the many, we note Gillian Bell, Neil Blackford, Neil Crampton, Dawn Horne, Paul Howe, Sian Pettman, Joe and Angie Lopez-Real, Clive Salmon and Kial Tyler.

The FoWP Trustees are greatly indebted to all these organisations and individuals for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Finally, we also wish to record our thanks to Hanscomb House, Canterbury, where many of our committee meeting were held and, in particular, Colin Pendlebury, who dealt with our bookings and, very sadly, passed away during May 2019.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Financial statements for FoWP, 1st May 2018 – 31st December 2018.

Appendix 2. Friends of Westgate Parks Constitution.

Appendix 3. CCC/Friends of Westgate Parks MOU.

Appendix 4. CCC Westgate Parks Management Plan 2019–2024.

Appendix 5. Westgate Parks for People project. Summative evaluation report 2018

Appendix 6. FoWP Newsletter June 2018

4. DECLARATION

This report has been received by members attending the Friends of Westgate Parks AGM held in Canterbury on 21st June 2019.

Signed:



Terry Westgate, Chair



Michael Pocock, Hon. Sec.

APPENDIX 1

**Financial statements for Friends of Westgate Parks,
1st May 2018 – 31st December 2018.**

Charity No. 1178364

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE PARKS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE PARKS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

TRUSTEES	Terance Westgate Chairperson Michael Pocock Dr Dick Vane-Wright Colette Baumbank Michael Frank Walter Peter, John Blackett
CHARITY ADDRESS	21 Whitehall Gardens Canterbury Kent. CT2 8BD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Mrs Lesley Grove FMAAT Accuracy Accounts 27 Manor Close Canterbury Kent. CT1 3XA
BANKERS	National Westminster Bank PLC Canterbury City Centre Branch 11 The Parade Canterbury, Kent. CT1 3LE
CHARITY NUMBER	1178364

CONTENTS

Page	
1	Index
2	Independent Examiner's Report
3	Profit & Loss Account
4	Balance Sheet
5 & 6	Notes to the Financial Statements

Trustees report is provided seperately

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Friends of Westgate Parks**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:



dated:

26th March 2019.

Mrs Lesley Grove FMAAT
Accuracy Accounts
27 Manor Close
Canterbury
Kent. CT1 3XA

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE PARKS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total 2018</u>
Activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objectives:-			
Fund raising events	2	2,532.50	2,532.50
Sales of booklets	3	20.00	20.00
Donations	3	57.50	57.50
Lecturers	3	110.00	110.00
Total incoming resources		<u>2,720.00</u>	<u>2,720.00</u>
 Charitable expenditure			
Employees/Sub-contracted assist:	4	0.00	0.00
Activity costs	5	803.72	803.72
Other expenses	6	843.11	843.11
Management and administration	7	0.00	0.00
Total resources expended		<u>1,646.83</u>	<u>1,646.83</u>
 Fund balance brought forward at 1st May 2018			
		6,193.98	6,193.98
 Transfers between Funds - Petty cash			
		0.00	0.00
 Fund balance carried forward at 31st December 2018			
		<u>7,267.15</u>	<u>7,267.15</u>

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE PARKS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Prior to 1st May 2018</u>
Current assets			
Debtors		0.00	0.00
Cash at bank		7,267.15	6,193.98
Cash in hand (Petty Cash)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		7,267.15	6,193.98
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net current assets/liabilities		0.00	0.00
Net assets		<u><u>7,267.15</u></u>	<u><u>6,193.98</u></u>
Represented by:			
Funds:			
General fund		7,267.15	6,193.98
Total funds		<u><u>7,267.15</u></u>	<u><u>6,193.98</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:-

Dated: Mar-19

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE PARKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2018</u>
2 Fund raising events			
Birthday parties	450.00	0.00	450.00
Small events	424.05	0.00	424.05
Open day	312.25	0.00	312.25
Scarecrow trail	640.19	0.00	640.19
Scavenger hunt	288.01	0.00	288.01
River explorers	219.00	0.00	219.00
Bat Walks	199.00	0.00	199.00
	<u>2,532.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,532.50</u>
3 Other income			
Sales of booklets	20.00	0.00	20.00
Donations	57.50	0.00	57.50
Lecturers	110.00	0.00	110.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>187.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>187.50</u>
4 Sub-contracted assistance and Employees			
Paid to sub-contractors	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Gross Pay	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employer NIC Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
The average number of employees during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis was Nil (2018).			
No employees received remuneration amounting to more than £50,000 during the year.			
No trustee received any remuneration during the year.			
5 Activity costs			
Hall Hire	35.00	0.00	35.00
Prizes	551.91	0.00	551.91
Food & Drink	216.81	0.00	216.81
	<u>803.72</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>803.72</u>
6 Other expenses			
Tee-shirts (volunteers)	256.26	0.00	256.26
Equipment	79.65	0.00	79.65
Miscellaneous including Honoraria	230.00	0.00	230.00
Display boards	277.20	0.00	277.20
	<u>843.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>843.11</u>

FRIENDS OF WESTGATE PARKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2018</u>
7 Management and administration			
Administration Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Independent examiner's fee	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Committee and meeting expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publicity	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
8 Debtors			
Grants due	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Deferred income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

APPENDIX 2

Friends of Westgate Parks Constitution.

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees

(‘Association’ Model Constitution)

Date of constitution (last amended):
1st May 2018

1. Name

The name of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“the CIO”) is:
Friends of Westgate Parks

2. National location of principal office

The CIO must have a principal office in England or Wales. The principal office of the CIO is in England.

3. Objects

1. The objects of the CIO are the preservation, protection and improvement of the Westgate Parks in Canterbury (hereinafter called ‘the parks’) as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty.
2. To promote conservation of the natural plant and animal life of the parks.
3. To advance the education of the public including school children in the subjects of Natural History and Geography and by research into the biodiversity, geomorphology and archaeology of areas of the Westgate Parks.

4. Powers

The CIO has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the CIO’s powers include power to:

- (1) borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed. The CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- (2) buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (3) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the CIO. In exercising this power, the CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 119-123 of the Charities Act 2011;

- 4) employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the CIO. The CIO may employ or remunerate a charity trustee only to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons) and provided it complies with the conditions of those clauses;
- (5) deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of the CIO to be held in the name of a nominee, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000;

5. Application of income and property

- (1) The income and property of the CIO must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.
 - (a) A charity trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the CIO or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the CIO.
 - (b) A charity trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the CIO's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (2) None of the income or property of the CIO may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the CIO. This does not prevent a member who is not also a charity trustee receiving:
 - (a) a benefit from the CIO as a beneficiary of the CIO;
 - (b) reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the CIO.
- (3) Nothing in this clause shall prevent a charity trustee or connected person receiving any benefit or payment which is authorised by Clause 6.

6. Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons

(1) General provisions

No charity trustee or connected person may:

- (a) buy or receive any goods or services from the CIO on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- (b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the CIO;
- (c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the CIO;
- (d) receive any other financial benefit from the CIO; unless the payment or benefit is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause, or authorised by the court or the prior written

consent of the Charity Commission (“the Commission”) has been obtained. In this clause, a “financial benefit” means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

(2) Scope and powers permitting trustees’ or connected persons’ benefits

- (a) A charity trustee or connected person may receive a benefit from the CIO as a beneficiary of the CIO provided that a majority of the trustees do not benefit in this way.
- (b) A charity trustee or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the CIO where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 185 to 188 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (c) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause a charity trustee or connected person may provide the CIO with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the CIO by the charity trustee or connected person.
- (d) A charity trustee or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the CIO at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
- (e) A charity trustee or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the trustee or connected person to the CIO. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The charity trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.
- (f) A charity trustee or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the CIO on the same terms as members of the public.

(3) Payment for supply of goods only – controls

The CIO and its charity trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (2)(c) of this clause if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in a written agreement between the CIO and the charity trustee or connected person supplying the goods (“the supplier”).
- (b) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
- (c) The other charity trustees are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the CIO to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a charity trustee or connected person. In reaching that decision the charity trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a charity trustee or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- (d) The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the

supply of goods to the CIO.

- (e) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of charity trustees is present at the meeting.
 - (f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the charity trustees in the minute book.
 - (g) A majority of the charity trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 6.
- (4) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause:
- (a) “the CIO” includes any company in which the CIO:
 - (i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
 - (ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
 - (iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;
 - (b) “connected person” includes any person within the definition set out in clause 29 (Interpretation);

7. Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

A charity trustee must:

- (1) declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the CIO or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the CIO which has not previously been declared; and
- (2) absent himself or herself from any discussions of the trustees in which it is possible that a conflict of interest will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the CIO and any personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest). Any charity trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the charity trustees on the matter.

8. Liability of members to contribute to the assets of the CIO if it is wound up

If the CIO is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

9. Membership of the CIO

(1) Admission of new members

(a) Eligibility

Membership of the CIO is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated his, her or its agreement to become a

member and acceptance of the duty of members set out in sub-clause (3) of this clause. A member may be an individual, a corporate body, or an individual or corporate body representing an organisation which is not incorporated.

(b) Admission procedure

The charity trustees:

- (i) may require applications for membership to be made in any reasonable way that they decide;
- (ii) shall, if they approve an application for membership, notify the applicant of their decision within 30 days;
- (iii) may refuse an application for membership if they believe that it is in the best interests of the CIO for them to do so;
- (iv) shall, if they decide to refuse an application for membership, give the applicant their reasons for doing so, within 21 days of the decision being taken, and give the applicant the opportunity to appeal against the refusal; and
- (v) shall give fair consideration to any such appeal, and shall inform the applicant of their decision, but any decision to confirm refusal of the application for membership shall be final.

(2) Transfer of membership

Membership of the CIO cannot be transferred to anyone else except in the case of an individual or corporate body representing an organisation which is not incorporated, whose membership may be transferred by the unincorporated organisation to a new representative. Such transfer of membership does not take effect until the CIO has received written notification of the transfer.

(3) Duty of members

It is the duty of each member of the CIO to exercise his or her powers as a member of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO.

(4) Termination of membership

- (a) Membership of the CIO comes to an end if:
 - (i) the member dies, or, in the case of an organisation (or the representative of an organisation) that organisation ceases to exist; or
 - (ii) the member sends a notice of resignation to the charity trustees; or
 - (iii) any sum of money owed by the member to the CIO is not paid in full within six months of its falling due; or

- (iv) the charity trustees decide that it is in the best interests of the CIO that the member in question should be removed from membership, and pass a resolution to that effect.
- (b) Before the charity trustees take any decision to remove someone from membership of the CIO they must:
 - (i) inform the member of the reasons why it is proposed to remove him, her or it from membership;
 - (ii) give the member at least 21 clear days notice in which to make representations to the charity trustees as to why he, she or it should not be removed from membership;
 - (iii) at a duly constituted meeting of the charity trustees, consider whether or not the member should be removed from membership;
 - (iv) consider at that meeting any representations which the member makes as to why the member should not be removed; and
 - (v) allow the member, or the member's representative, to make those representations in person at that meeting, if the member so chooses.

(5) Membership fees

The CIO may require members to pay reasonable membership fees to the CIO. Fully paid up members will have the right to vote at the Annual General meeting or at an Emergency General meeting.

(6) Informal or associate (non-voting) membership

- (a) The charity trustees may create associate or other classes of non-voting membership, and may determine the rights and obligations of any such members (including payment of membership fees), and the conditions for admission to, and termination of membership of any such class of members.
- (b) Other references in this constitution to “members” and “membership” do not apply to non-voting members, and non-voting members do not qualify as members for any purpose under the Charities Acts, General Regulations or Dissolution Regulations.

10. Members' decisions

(1) General provisions

Except for those decisions that must be taken in a particular way as indicated in sub-clause (4) of this clause, decisions of the members of the CIO may be taken either by vote at a general meeting as provided in sub-clause (2) of this clause or by written resolution as provided in sub-clause (3) of this clause.

(2) Taking ordinary decisions by vote

Subject to sub-clause (4) of this clause, any decision of the members of the CIO may be taken by means of a resolution at a general meeting. Such a resolution may be passed by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting.

(3) Decisions that must be taken in a particular way

- (a) Any decision to remove a trustee must be taken in accordance with clause 15(2).
- (b) Any decision to amend this constitution must be taken in accordance with clause 27 of this constitution (Amendment of Constitution).
- (c) Any decision to wind up or dissolve the CIO must be taken in accordance with clause 29 of this constitution (Voluntary winding up or dissolution). Any decision to amalgamate or transfer the undertaking of the CIO to one or more other CIOs must be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011.

11. General meetings of members

(1) Types of general meeting

There must be an annual general meeting (AGM) of the members of the CIO. The first AGM must be held within 18 months of the registration of the CIO, and subsequent AGMs must be held at intervals of not more than 15 months. The AGM must receive the annual statement of accounts (duly audited or examined where applicable) and the trustees' annual report, and must elect trustees as required under clause 13.

Other general meetings of the members of the CIO may be held at any time.

All general meetings must be held in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) Calling general meetings

- (a) The charity trustees:
 - (i) must call the annual general meeting of the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (1) of this clause, and identify it as such in the notice of the meeting; and
 - (ii) may call any other general meeting of the members at any time.
- (b) The charity trustees must, within 21 days, call a general meeting of the members of the CIO if:
 - (i) they receive a request to do so from at least 10% of the members of the CIO; and
 - (ii) the request states the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting, and is authenticated by the member(s) making the request.
- (c) If, at the time of any such request, there has not been any general meeting of the members

of the CIO for more than 12 months, then sub-clause (b)(i) of this clause shall have effect as if 5% were substituted for 10%.

- (d) Any such request may include particulars of a resolution that may properly be proposed, and is intended to be proposed, at the meeting.
- (e) A resolution may only properly be proposed if it is lawful, and is not defamatory, frivolous or vexatious.
- (f) Any general meeting called by the charity trustees at the request of the members of the CIO must be held within 28 days from the date on which it is called.
- (g) If the charity trustees fail to comply with this obligation to call a general meeting at the request of its members, then the members who requested the meeting may themselves call a general meeting.
- (h) A general meeting called in this way must be held not more than 3 months after the date when the members first requested the meeting.
- (i) The CIO must reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by the members calling a general meeting by reason of the failure of the charity trustees to duly call the meeting, but the CIO shall be entitled to be indemnified by the charity trustees who were responsible for such failure.

(3) Notice of general meetings

- (a) The charity trustees, or, as the case may be, the relevant members of the CIO, must give at least 14 clear days notice of any general meeting to all of the members, and to any charity trustee of the CIO who is not a member.
- (b) If it is agreed by not less than 90% of all members of the CIO, any resolution may be proposed and passed at the meeting even though the requirements of sub-clause (3) (a) of this clause have not been met. This sub-clause does not apply where a specified period of notice is strictly required by another clause in this constitution, by the Charities Act 2011 or by the General Regulations.
- (c) The notice of any general meeting must:
 - (i) state the time and date of the meeting;
 - (ii) give the address at which the meeting is to take place;
 - (iii) give particulars of any resolution which is to be moved at the meeting, and of the general nature of any other business to be dealt with at the meeting; and
 - (iv) if a proposal to alter the constitution of the CIO is to be considered at the meeting, include the text of the proposed alteration;
 - (v) include, with the notice for the AGM, the annual statement of accounts and trustees' annual report, details of persons standing for election or re-election as

trustee, or where allowed under clause 22 (Use of electronic communication), details of where the information may be found on the CIO's website.

- (d) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted; or that an electronic form of notice was properly addressed and sent, shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after it was posted or sent.
- (e) The proceedings of a meeting shall not be invalidated because a member who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of accidental omission by the CIO.

(4) Chairing of general meetings

The person nominated as chair by the charity trustees under clause 19(2) (Chairing of meetings), shall, if present at the general meeting and willing to act, preside as chair of the meeting. Subject to that, the members of the CIO who are present at a general meeting shall elect a chair to preside at the meeting.

(5) Quorum at general meetings

- (a) No business may be transacted at any general meeting of the members of the CIO unless a quorum is present when the meeting starts.
- (b) Subject to the following provisions, the quorum for general meetings shall be the greater of 10% or twelve members. An organisation represented by a person present at the meeting in accordance with sub-clause (7) of this clause, is counted as being present in person.
- (c) If the meeting has been called by or at the request of the members and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the meeting is closed.
- (d) If the meeting has been called in any other way and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the chair must adjourn the meeting. The date, time and place at which the meeting will resume must be notified to the CIO's members at least seven clear days before the date on which it will resume.
- (e) If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the start time of the adjourned meeting, the member or members present at the meeting constitute a quorum.
- (f) If at any time during the meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting may discuss issues and make recommendations to the trustees but may not make any decisions. If decisions are required which must be made by a meeting of the members, the meeting must be adjourned.

(6) Voting at general meetings

- (a) Any decision other than one falling within clause 10(4) (Decisions that must be taken in a

particular way) shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting. Every member has one vote unless otherwise provided in the rights of a particular class of membership under this constitution

- (b) A resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) a poll is duly demanded. A poll may be demanded by the chair or by at least 10% of the members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.
- (c) A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair the meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately. A poll on any other matter shall be taken, and the result of the poll shall be announced, in such manner as the chair of the meeting shall decide, provided that the poll must be taken, and the result of the poll announced, within 30 days of the demand for the poll.
- (d) A poll may be taken:
 - (i) at the meeting at which it was demanded; or
 - (ii) at some other time and place specified by the chair; or
 - (iii) through the use of postal or electronic communications.
- (e) In the event of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall have a second, or casting vote.
- (f) Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is cast and the decision of the chair of the meeting shall be final.

(7) Proxy voting

- (a) Any member of the CIO may appoint another person as a proxy to exercise all or any of that member's rights to attend, speak and vote at a general meeting of the CIO. Proxies must be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which:
 - (i) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
 - (ii) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - (iii) is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the CIO may determine; and
 - (iv) is delivered to the CIO in accordance with the constitution and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- (b) The CIO may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.

- (c) Proxy notices may (but do not have to) specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- (d) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:
 - (i) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
 - (ii) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.
- (e) A member who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the CIO by or on behalf of that member.
- (f) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the CIO a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the member by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- (g) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- (h) If a proxy notice is not signed or authenticated by the member appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence that the person who signed or authenticated it on that member's behalf had authority to do so.

(8) Postal Voting

- (a) The CIO may, if the charity trustees so decide, allow the members to vote by post or electronic mail ("email") to elect charity trustees or to make a decision on any matter that is being decided at a general meeting of the members.
- (b) The charity trustees must appoint at least two persons independent of the CIO to serve as scrutineers to supervise the conduct of the postal/email ballot and the counting of votes.
- (c) If postal and/or email voting is to be allowed on a matter, the CIO must send to members of the CIO not less than 21 days before the deadline for receipt of votes cast in this way:
 - (i) a notice by email, if the member has agreed to receive notices in this way under clause 22 (Use of electronic communications), including an explanation of the purpose of the vote and the voting procedure to be followed by the member, and a voting form capable of being returned by email or post to the CIO, containing details of the resolution being put to a vote, or of the candidates for election, as applicable;
 - (ii) a notice by post to all other members, including a written explanation of the purpose of the postal vote and the voting procedure to be followed by the

member; and a postal voting form containing details of the resolution being put to a vote, or of the candidates for election, as applicable.

- (d) The voting procedure must require all forms returned by post to be in an envelope with the member's name and signature, and nothing else, on the outside, inside another envelope addressed to 'The Scrutineers for Friends of Westgate Parks', at the CIO's principal office or such other postal address as is specified in the voting procedure.
- (e) The voting procedure for votes cast by email must require the member's name to be at the top of the email, and the email must be authenticated in the manner specified in the voting procedure.
- (f) Email votes must be returned to an email address used only for this purpose and must be accessed only by a scrutineer.
- (g) The voting procedure must specify the closing date and time for receipt of votes, and must state that any votes received after the closing date or not complying with the voting procedure will be invalid and not be counted.
- (h) The scrutineers must make a list of names of members casting valid votes, and a separate list members casting votes which were invalid. These lists must be provided to a charity trustee or other person overseeing admission to, and voting at, the general meeting. A member who has cast a valid postal or email vote must not vote at the meeting, and must not be counted in the quorum for any part of the meeting on which he, she or it has already cast a valid vote. A member who has cast an invalid vote by post or email is allowed to vote at the meeting and counts towards the quorum.
- (i) For postal votes, the scrutineers must retain the internal envelopes (with the member's name and signature).
For email votes, the scrutineers must cut off and retain any part of the email that includes the member's name. In each case, a scrutineer must record on this evidence of the member's name that the vote has been counted, or if the vote has been declared invalid, the reason for such declaration.
- (j) Votes cast by post or email must be counted by all the scrutineers before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The scrutineers must provide to the person chairing the meeting written confirmation of the number of valid votes received by post and email and the number of votes received which were invalid.
- (k) The scrutineers must not disclose the result of the postal/email ballot until after votes taken by hand or by poll at the meeting, or by poll after the meeting, have been counted. Only at this point shall the scrutineers declare the result of the valid votes received, and these votes shall be included in the declaration of the result of the vote.
- (l) Following the final declaration of the result of the vote, the scrutineers must provide to a charity trustee or other authorised person bundles containing the evidence of members submitting valid postal votes; evidence of members submitting valid email votes; evidence of invalid votes; the valid votes; and the invalid votes.

- (m) Any dispute about the conduct of a postal or email ballot must be referred initially to a panel set up by the charity trustees, to consist of two trustees and two persons independent of the CIO. If the dispute cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the panel, it must be referred to the Electoral Reform Services.

(9) Use of electronic communications

(1) To the CIO

Any member or charity trustee of the CIO may communicate electronically with the CIO to a manner which is satisfactory to the CIO.

(2) By the CIO

- (a) Any member or charity trustee of the CIO, by providing the CIO with his or her email address or similar, is taken to have agreed to receive communications from the CIO in electronic form at that address, unless the member has indicated to the CIO his or her unwillingness to receive such communications in that form.
- (b) The charity trustees may, subject to compliance with any legal requirements, by means of publication on its website –
 - (i) provide the members with the notice referred to in clause 11(3) (Notice of general meetings);
 - (ii) give charity trustees notice of their meetings in accordance with clause 19(1) (Calling meetings); And
 - iii) submit any proposal to the members or charity trustees for decision by written resolution or postal vote in accordance with the CIO's powers under clause 10 (Members' decisions), 10(3) (Decisions taken by resolution in writing), or the provisions for postal voting under clause 8.
- (c) The charity trustees must:
 - (i) take reasonable steps to ensure that members and charity trustees are promptly notified of the publication of any such notice or proposal;
 - (ii) send any such notice or proposal in hard copy form to any member or charity trustee who has not consented to receive communications in electronic form.

(10) Representation of organisations and corporate members

An organisation or a corporate body that is a member of the CIO may, in accordance with its usual decision-making process, authorise a person to act as its representative at any general meeting of the CIO. The representative is entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation or corporate body as the organisation or corporate body could exercise as an individual member of the CIO.

(11) Adjournment of meetings

The chair may with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting to another time and/or place. No business may be transacted at an adjourned meeting except business which could properly have been transacted at the original meeting.

12. Charity trustees

(1) Functions and duties of charity trustees

The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO. It is the duty of each charity trustee:

- (a) to exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions as a trustee of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO; and
- (b) to exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to:
 - (i) any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself out as having; and
 - (ii) if he or she acts as a charity trustee of the CIO in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.

(2) Eligibility for trusteeship

- (a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.
- (b) No one may be appointed as a charity trustee:
 - if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
 - if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 15(1)(f).
- (c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.

(3) Number of charity trustees

Option 1

- (a) There must be at least **six** charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the

remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

- (b) The maximum number of charity trustees is **twelve**. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

(4) First charity trustees

The first charity trustees of the CIO are –

Terry Westgate

Michael Pocock

Dick Vane-Wright

Colette Baumbank

Sylvia Dawn Horne

Michael Walter

13. Appointment of charity trustees

Option 2

(1) Elected charity trustees

- (a) At every second annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the elected charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of elected charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;
- (b) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;
- (c) The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (e) of this clause;
- (d) The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause 12(3) on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;

- (e) A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (b) and (c) of this clause. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of his appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

(2) Ex officio charity trustee

The Patron for the time being (“the office holder”) shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office (“ex officio”), be a charity trustee.

If unwilling to act as a charity trustee, the office holder may:

- (a) before accepting appointment as a charity trustee, give notice in writing to the trustees of his or her unwillingness to act in that capacity; or
- (b) after accepting appointment as a charity trustee, resign under the provisions contained in clause 15 (Retirement and removal of charity trustees).

The office of ex officio charity trustee will then remain vacant until the office holder ceases to hold office.

14. Information for new charity trustees

The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- (a) a copy of this constitution and any amendments made to it; and
- (b) a copy of the CIO’s latest trustees’ annual report and statement of accounts.

15. Retirement and removal of charity trustees

- (1) A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:
 - (a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);
 - (b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
 - (c) dies;
 - (d) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
 - (e) is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this

clause; or

(f) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

- (2) A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause 11, and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.

16. Reappointment of charity trustees

Any person who retires as a charity trustee by rotation or by giving notice to the CIO is eligible for reappointment. A charity trustee who has served for **six** consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a seventh consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of **one** year.

17. Taking of decisions by charity trustees

- Any decision may be taken at a meeting of the charity trustees: or
- by a resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by all of the charity trustees, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more charity trustees has signified their agreement.

18. Delegation by charity trustees

- (1) The charity trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and, if they do, they must determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The charity trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation.
- (2) This power is in addition to the power of delegation in the General Regulations and any other power of delegation available to the charity trustees, but is subject to the following requirements -
- (a) a committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be a charity trustee;
 - (b) the acts and proceedings of any committee must be brought to the attention of the charity trustees as a whole as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
 - (c) the charity trustees shall from time to time review the arrangements which they have made for the delegation of their powers.

19. Meetings and proceedings of charity trustees

(1) Calling meetings

- (a) Any charity trustee may call a meeting of the charity trustees.

- (b) Subject to that, the charity trustees shall decide how their meetings are to be called, and what notice is required.

(2) Chairing of meetings

The charity trustees may appoint one of their number to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment. If no-one has been so appointed, or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting, the charity trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.

(3) Procedure at meetings

- (a) No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is five charity trustees, or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, which ever is greater, or such larger number as the charity trustees may decide from time to time. A charity trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which he or she is not entitled to vote.
- (b) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.
- (c) In the case of an equality of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote.

20. Saving provisions

- (1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all decisions of the charity trustees, or of a committee of charity trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a charity trustee:
- who was disqualified from holding office;
 - who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;
 - who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interest or otherwise; if, without the vote of that charity trustee and that charity trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the charity trustees at a quorate meeting.
- (2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit a charity trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the charity trustees or of a committee of charity trustees if, but for clause (1), the resolution would have been void, or if the charity trustee has not complied with clause 7 (Conflicts of interest).

21. Execution of documents

- (1) The CIO shall execute documents by signature.
- (2) A document is validly executed by signature if it is signed by at least two of the charity trustees.

22. Use of electronic communications

- (1) General

The CIO will comply with the requirements of the Communications Provisions in the General Regulations and in particular:

- (a) the requirement to provide within 21 days to any member on request a hard copy of any document or information sent to the member otherwise than in hard copy form;
- (b) any requirements to provide information to the Commission in a particular form or manner.

23. Keeping of Registers

The CIO must comply with its obligations under the General Regulations in relation to the keeping of, and provision of access to, registers of its members and charity trustees.

24. Minutes

The charity trustees must keep minutes of all:

- (1) appointments of officers made by the charity trustees;
- (2) proceedings at general meetings of the CIO;
- (3) meetings of the charity trustees and committees of charity trustees including:
 - the names of the trustees present at the meeting;
 - the decisions made at the meetings; and
 - where appropriate the reasons for the decisions;
- (4) decisions made by the charity trustees otherwise than in meetings.

25. Accounting records, accounts, annual reports and returns, register maintenance

- (1) The charity trustees must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, to the preparation and scrutiny of statements of accounts, and to the preparation of annual reports and returns. The statements of accounts,

reports and returns must be sent to the Charity Commission, regardless of the income of the CIO, within 10 months of the financial year end.

- (2) The charity trustees must comply with their obligation to inform the Commission within 28 days of any change in the particulars of the CIO entered on the Central Register of Charities.

26. Rules

The charity trustees may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the CIO, but such rules or bye laws must not be inconsistent with any provision of this constitution. Copies of any such rules or bye laws currently in force must be made available to any member of the CIO on request.

27. Amendment of constitution

As provided by clauses 224-227 of the Charities Act 2011:

- (1) This constitution can only be amended:
 - (a) by resolution agreed in writing by all members of the CIO; or
 - (b) by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of votes cast at a general meeting of the members of the CIO.
- (2) Any alteration of clause 3 (Objects), clause 28 (Voluntary winding up or dissolution), this clause, or of any provision where the alteration would provide authorisation for any benefit to be obtained by charity trustees or members of the CIO or persons connected with them, requires the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- (3) No amendment that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 or the General Regulations shall be valid.
- (4) A copy of any resolution altering the constitution, together with a copy of the CIO's constitution as amended, must be sent to the Commission within 15 days from the date on which the resolution is passed. The amendment does not take effect until it has been recorded in the Register of Charities.

28. Voluntary winding up or dissolution

- (1) As provided by the Dissolution Regulations, the CIO may be dissolved by resolution of its members. Any decision by the members to wind up or dissolve the CIO can only be made:
 - (a) at a general meeting of the members of the CIO called in accordance with clause 11 (Meetings of Members), of which not less than 14 days' notice has been given to those eligible to attend and vote:
 - (i) by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting, or

- (ii) by a resolution passed by decision taken without a vote and without any expression of dissent in response to the question put to the general meeting; or
 - b) by a resolution agreed in writing by all members of the CIO.
- (2) Subject to the payment of all the CIO's debts:
- (a) Any resolution for the winding up of the CIO, or for the dissolution of the CIO without winding up, may contain a provision directing how any remaining assets of the CIO shall be applied.
 - (b) If the resolution does not contain such a provision, the charity trustees must decide how any remaining assets of the CIO shall be applied.
 - (c) In either case the remaining assets must be applied for charitable purposes the same as or similar to those of the CIO.
- (3) The CIO must observe the requirements of the Dissolution Regulations in applying to the Commission for the CIO to be removed from the Register of Charities, and in particular:
- (a) the charity trustees must send with their application to the Commission:
 - (i) a copy of the resolution passed by the members of the CIO;
 - (ii) a declaration by the charity trustees that any debts and other liabilities of the CIO have been settled or otherwise provided for in full; and
 - (iii) a statement by the charity trustees setting out the way in which any property of the CIO has been or is to be applied prior to its dissolution in accordance with this constitution;
 - (b) the charity trustees must ensure that a copy of the application is sent within seven days to every member and employee of the CIO, and to any charity trustee of the CIO who was not privy to the application.
- (4) If the CIO is to be wound up or dissolved in any other circumstances, the provisions of the Dissolution Regulations must be followed.

29. Interpretation

In this constitution:

“connected person” means:

- (a) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the charity trustee;

- (b) the spouse or civil partner of the charity trustee or of any person falling within sub-clause (a) above;
- (c) a person carrying on business in partnership with the charity trustee or with any person falling within sub-clause (a) or (b) above;
- (d) an institution which is controlled –
 - (i) by the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clause (a), (b), or (c) above; or
 - (ii) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause (i), when taken together
- (e) a body corporate in which –
 - (i) the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (a) to (c) has a substantial interest; or
 - (ii) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (e)(i) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

Section 118 of the Charities Act 2011 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

“General Regulations” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012.

“Dissolution Regulations” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Insolvency and Dissolution) Regulations 2012.

The **“Communications Provisions”** means the Communications Provisions in Part 10, Chapter 4 of the General Regulations.

“charity trustee” means a charity trustee of the CIO.

A **“poll”** means a counted vote or ballot, usually (but not necessarily) in writing.

APPENDIX 3

CCC/Friends of Westgate Parks MOU.

This **Memorandum of Understanding** dated 15th November 2018 is made between the following parties.

Canterbury City Council of Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW (CCC)

And

Friends of Westgate Parks a registered charity whose charity registration number is 1178364 and whose contact address is Mr Michael Pocock, 21 Whitehall Gardens, Canterbury CT2 8BD (FOWP)

1.0 Definition.

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding sets out the general arrangements and responsibilities for the management of the area known as Westgate Parks, which includes Westgate Gardens, Tannery Field, Toddlers Cove and Bingley Island.
- 1.2 FOWP is a voluntary body being a charity which has been entered onto the Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1178364, whose membership is made up of local residents for the purpose of representing the interests of local people in the management of the Westgate Parks.
- 1.3 The management of Westgate Parks is defined in a Management Plan prepared by CCC in consultation with FOWP with the aim of retaining and enhancing the site as a natural and recreational environment for the enjoyment and education of the general public.
- 1.4 Westgate Parks is a public open space owned by CCC of approximately 7.5 hectares located between the West Gate, St Dunstons Street and Whitehall Meadow, Whitehall Road, as illustrated on the attached plan (attachment 1).

2.0 Joint Understanding

- 2.1. The Parties agree to co-operate together to protect enhance and maintain Westgate Parks for the benefit of its flora and fauna and for the environmental wellbeing of Westgate Parks and its surroundings.
- 2.2 The Parties will consult each other at a time agreed by both parties to produce and update a Management Plan for the Westgate Parks.
- 2.3 The Parties will meet together at least six times each year, at times agreed between the Parties, to discuss their progress with regard to the protection, enhancement and maintenance of Westgate Parks.
- 2.4. No work or development will be carried out to Westgate Parks other than that arising out of emergency or minor maintenance without the prior approval of the Parties.
- 2.5 The Parties will use their best endeavours to reach a consensus over any decision regarding the management of Westgate Parks. Where necessary those decisions will be recorded in writing.
- 2.6. In the event of any dispute that the parties cannot resolve between themselves the matter shall be referred to the Council's Director of Development in consultation with one of the elected councillors for Westgate Parks Ward for resolution.

- 2.7 This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed each year and may be modified at any time by agreement between the Parties provided that any such amendment is made in writing.
- 2.8 This Memorandum of Understanding sets out the basis of the proposed working relationship between the Parties and is not intended to form a binding contractual relationship between them.

3.0 Canterbury City Council Undertaking

- 3.1 CCC will nominate an officer representative of CCC as a main point of contact for Westgate Parks.
-
- 3.2 CCC is responsible for communicating with Westgate Parks regarding relevant rights of way and site access issues.
- 3.3 CCC is responsible for communicating with other public bodies.
- 3.4 CCC is responsible for boundary issues, land ownership and registration issues, unauthorised encroachment, security and other legal issues. (See paragraph 4.8)
- 3.5 CCC will provide advice and guidance to FOWP regarding appropriate CCC and public authority and government policies.
- 3.6 CCC will allow FOWP to promote the site as a natural public amenity through the publication of newsletters, reports, leaflets, press releases, nominated websites and social media accounts and other media coverage.
- 3.7 CCC will allow FOWP to use the site for educational visits and for running social events (subject to any statutory licence, events licence and agreement for the instruction of any third parties)
- 3.8 CCC will ensure that the following works are carried out at Westgate Parks:
- The grass cutting in accordance with the Grounds Maintenance Contract
 - The provision and maintenance of litter and dog bins and the regular collection of waste from the same
 - The collection of large items of litter and debris from fly tipping
 - Maintenance and general upkeep of the seating, boundary posts and information boards
 - Financial assistance with the payment of Public Liability Insurance (see paragraph 4.2)
 - Regular visits by the Parks Community and Development Officer
 - Visits by council enforcement staff on a regular basis
 - Graffiti removal in accordance with the ground maintenance contract.
 - Maintenance of the exterior of the CCC owned shipping container used by the FOWP for additional storage.

4.0 Friends of Westgate Parks Undertaking


- 4.1 FOWP will nominate a prime point of contact from the Committee for day to day issues and correspondence with CCC.
- 4.2 FOWP will hold suitable Public Liability Insurance and Property Insurance in respect of the equipment, works and services which they undertake at Westgate Parks. The Council will contribute half of the cost of any such insurance or the sum of £100, whichever is the lesser. FOWP will provide copies of Insurance documentation to CCC each year on renewal.
- 4.3 FOWP will ensure that anyone working or visiting Westgate Parks under their sole supervision shall take all measures that are reasonable in the circumstances in respect of Health and Safety, first aid provision and observance of their responsibility to volunteers and visitors to Westgate Parks. All participants taking part in activities to be trained appropriately and any relevant certificates to be provided to CCC on an annual basis. FOWP take responsibility for any necessary refresher training of volunteers. Support may be offered by CCC to cover costs of training on a case by case basis.
- 4.4 FOWP will seek approval from CCC in writing before instructing any third parties to undertake work, provide services or advice at Westgate Parks
- 4.5 FOWP will report any abuses of Westgate Parks to CCC and/or the Police, as appropriate.
- 4.6 FOWP will allow CCC access to the results of surveys and information gathered about the habitat and biodiversity of the site.
- 4.7 FOWP will arrange working parties as necessary to maintain the site in accordance with the Management Plan/Action Plan and any initiatives decided and recorded in the minutes of Committee meetings and any unforeseen issue affecting the general upkeep and preservation of the site. Working parties may include conservation tasks within Westgate Parks as agreed in advance with CCC.
- 4.8 FOWP will raise funds through events, donations and grants to pay for requirements decided and recorded in the minutes of Committee meetings.
- 4.9 FOWP Committee will provide direction, information and assistance to Contractors or third parties employed by either of the Parties on work at Westgate Parks as necessary.
- 4.10 FOWP will ensure that it complies with any appropriate legislation including, but not limited, in respect of the installation or removal of permanent structures and trees etc. Such installation and removal of permanent structures and trees shall be done in consultation with CCC or their nominated representatives.
- 4.11 FOWP will maintain the interior of the shipping container provided for their use by CCC for additional storage of FOWP's equipment.
- 4.12 FOWP will continue to maintain the HLF funded murals on the two under passes by carrying out graffiti removal as necessary.

Signed on behalf of the Council


Authorised Officer

Signed on behalf of the Friends of Westgate Parks


Chairman


Secretary



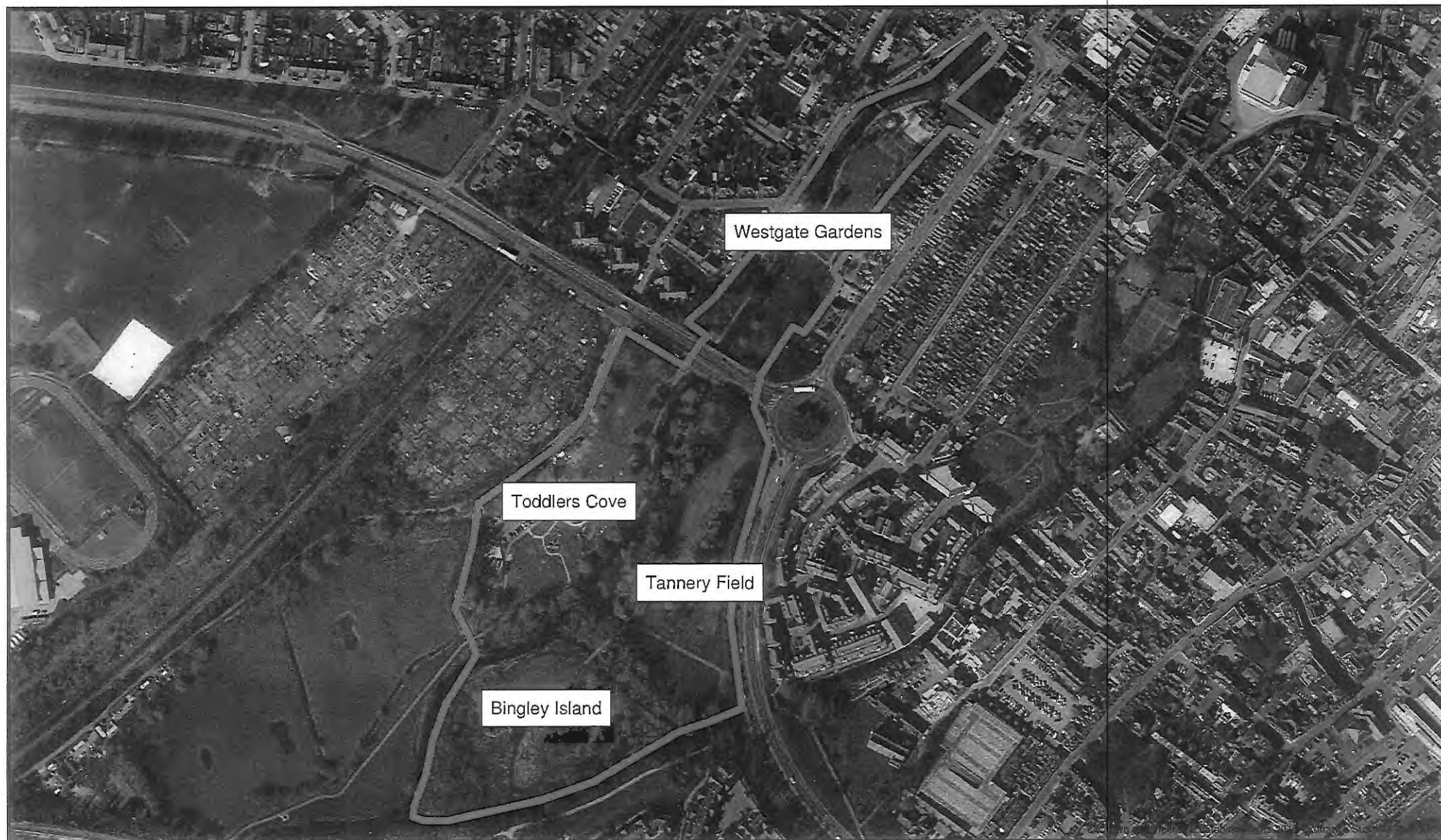
Westgate Parks - MOU plan - including Westgate Gardens, Toddlers Cove, Tannery Field and Bingley Island

Scale 1:3,899

Date: 13/07/2018

Canterbury City Council
 Military Road
 Canterbury
 Kent
 CT1 1YW





Westgate Parks - MOU plan - including Westgate Gardens, Toddlers Cove, Tannery Field and Bingley Island

Scale 1:3,899

Date: 13/07/2018

Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 1YW



APPENDIX 4

CCC Westgate Parks Management Plan 2019–2024.



Westgate Parks Management Plan

Five year management and maintenance plan
2019-2024



Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
Location maps	5
A Welcoming Place	7
Healthy, Safe and Secure	8
Well Maintained and Clean	9
Environmental Management	10
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	11
Community Involvement	18
Marketing and Communication	20
Management	21
Action Plan	22



Introduction

This is the Management and Maintenance Plan for Westgate Parks Canterbury. It has been written by Canterbury City Council (CCC) in partnership with the friends of Westgate Parks (FOWP) following investment by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People programme. The aim of this plan is to protect the investment of the HLF and continue to provide a fantastic green space for the community to use.

The management plan will help the council and project partners to:

- Manage and maintain the parks over the next five years
- Continue to develop ways of involving people in the heritage
- Build on existing partnerships
- Outline management/maintenance costs

This plan was prepared by the Transport and Environment team at Canterbury City Council with the Parks and Community Development Officer in consultation with key project stakeholders.

The parks are currently managed by:

- Canterbury City Council – grounds maintenance is carried out by Serco, Toilets are maintained by Monitor.

- Senior Environment Officer and Parks and Community Development Officer (Canterbury City Council funded)
- Friends of Westgate Parks

As part of the council's Parks and Open Spaces strategy, the Westgate Parks identified as Canterbury City's premier open space, an important gateway to the city and the Stour Valley and there is an aim within the strategy for the park to achieve 'Green Flag' status. The parkland is also strategically important as a step off point into the riverside walk that connects to other green spaces within the city and countryside beyond.

Westgate Parks play a key role in sustaining a quality of life for local people. Canterbury is a city that has World Heritage Status is a popular destination for tourists, and also has a large transitory student body of around 40,000. The city's parks and open spaces provide a green backdrop to this.

In 2013 Canterbury City Council received £766,000 of Heritage Lottery funding along with £408,544 developer contributions over five years.

This was used to improve the park's infrastructure and provide a new Parks and Community Development Officer post to work within the park alongside city council staff and volunteers.

The project came to a close in November 2018, however work is still carried out daily to maintain high standards.

Open space strategy:
www.canterbury.gov.uk

Revised Riverside Strategy:
www.canterbury.gov.uk



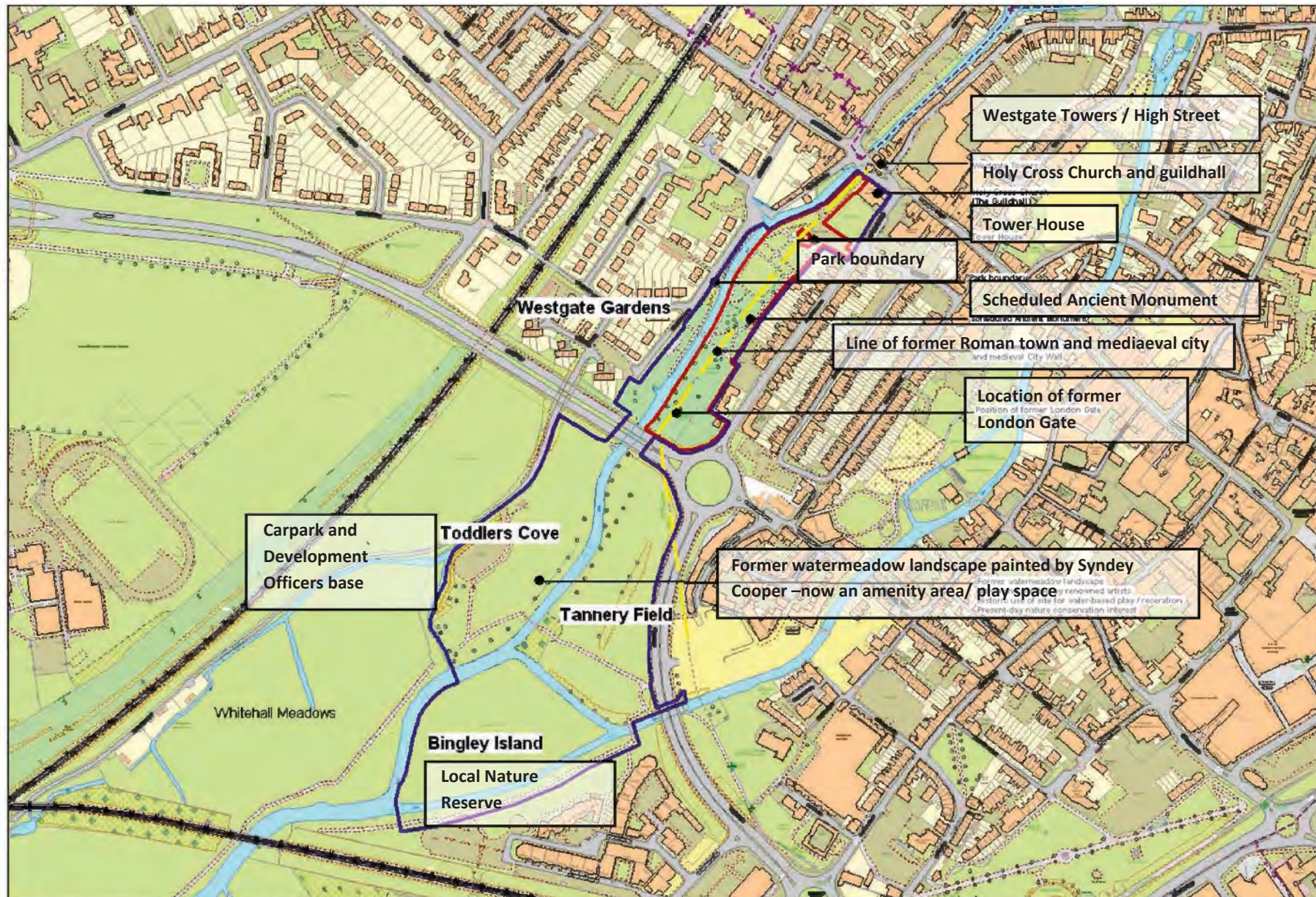
Image: River Great Ouse and the Westgate Tower

Vision statement

"To develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces which meets the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to Canterbury. To conserve the natural and built heritage for current and future generations. To develop working relationships with the community and local user groups. To help local people find out more about their parks and open spaces"



Location maps



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Location of Westgate Parks, Canterbury



A Welcoming Place

Westgate parks is a wonderful place to visit. The park sits within the heart of Canterbury and is enjoyed by many visitors each year. Parks staff work within the park year round to make the park a welcoming, safe and healthy place to be. The park is opened from 8am on a daily basis. The park is open until dusk each evening, closing around 4pm in the winter months and staying open as late as 9pm at mid-summer in June. Parks users are informed of the daily opening and closing times on each of the gates to the parks including the main entrance near Westgate Towers.

Notice boards at the Westgate Towers entrance and the Toddlers Cove car park display maps of the park to help users to plan their routes as well as displaying any upcoming events within the parks.

Site facilities include...

- Public conveniences are situated at Toddlers Cove managed by Monitor contractors (open/close and cleaned twice daily).
- Pay and display parking: 34 spaces, two disabled spaces. Charges apply 7am-9pm including sundays and bank holidays. First 30 mins are free and is £1.50 an hour for up to 12 hours.
- Toddlers Cove play area - a bespoke, challenging and inclusive play area for 0-18 years.
- Physics garden and lavender maze



- Directional signage and information boards
- Tower House courtyard cafe -open during summer months
- Bingley Island nature reserve

The park is close to Canterbury City Centre with a range of shops, museums and restaurants.

The beautifully landscaped Westgate Gardens will inspire visitors of all ages whether you are after a gentle stroll over a lunchtime or are escaping the hustle and bustle of city shopping.

Made up of four equally special and relaxing areas, a visit to Westgate Parks should be on the top of your 'to do' list when visiting Canterbury!

Westgate parks is easily reachable from Canterbury railways station and a short walk from the bus station of around 10-15 minutes




Healthy, Safe and Secure

Westgate Parks is a healthy and safe place to be and has held a green flag award since 2016. Parks users regularly report on trip advisor that it is beautiful, with attractive surroundings and often receives five star reviews. Westgate Parks is currently listed number 2 on trip advisor for things to do in canterbury.

The park benefits from CCTV cameras in Toddlers Cove which are monitored by Canterbury City Council. The Parks and Community Development Officer can be seen in the parks daily Monday to Friday alongside Serco contractors who operate seven days a week.

The park is also patrolled regularly by PCSOs and enforcement officers on their routes in and around canterbury. The Parks officer liaises with all of the above agencies to ensure the parks are well managed and cared for. Thus creating a healthy and safe place to be for visitors, students and residents alike.

The Parks officer carries out daily inspections of the park looking at contract standards and promptly resolving any antisocial behaviour or issues through partnership working with other agencies.



LadyBeeTravel
Brisbane, Australia
193 likes


Reviewed 4 days ago

Beautiful

It 's worth finding these gardens and taking your time walking through lime. So pretty with the water flowing through.

Date of experience: December 2018

Thank LadyBeeTravel




charliethereviewer97
Canterbury, United Kingdom
35 likes

Reviewed 1 week ago via mobile


Gorgeous!!!! I live very close and it is divine.

Beautiful. Nothing to not like about it. Just stunning. Amazing scenery. Very very lovely walk!!!!



Date of experience: December 2018

Thank charliethereviewer97



nicholasreed2017
Folkestone, United Kingdom
25 likes

Reviewed 2 weeks ago

Attractive surroundings

In sunny weather, it is lovely to walk alongside this branch of the River Stour, with the gardens next to it. You also pass on old mill, and have an unusual view of the Westgate, the same view which Turner painted in about 1800, in a watercolour now in the National Gallery of Ireland

Show less

Date of experience: June 2018

See all 5 reviews by nicholasreed2017 for Canterbury
Ask nicholasreed2017 about Westgate Gardens

Thank nicholasreed2017

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC

Well Maintained and Clean

The park is well maintained and clean by our contractor Serco. The garden boasts a dedicated gardener and apprentice gardener who manage the horticulture and planting within the parks. The flowerbeds and grass are maintained and cut regularly on a rolling schedule. Other parks staff include the serco contractors who do daily litter picking, playground inspections, maintenance and graffiti removal.

The Parks Officer and Friends of Westgate also do regular litter picks of the park to ensure high standards are maintained.

The murals on the Toddlers cove underpass and the tannery field underpass are cleaned and maintained by the friends of Westgate park and the Parks Officer. When graffiti occurs in these areas it is removed swiftly and in a sensitive manner so as to not damage the murals further. Members of the public regularly report that they hardly ever see any graffiti, this is down to the swift action of parks staff.

Before and after pictures showing Heritage Lottery funded projects

Area of Park	Before	After
Underpass	Art in the underpass 2014 BEFORE painting, lighting and re-surfacing works	Art in the underpass 2016 AFTER painting, lighting and re-surfacing works
Toddler's Cove	Toddler's Cove toilets 2014	Toddler's Cove toilets and store room 2016
Toddler's Cove	Toddler's Cove play area 2013	Toddler's Cove play area 2015
Toddler's Cove	Toddler's Cove bridge 2013	New bridge Toddler's Cove 2015
Toddler's Cove	Toddler's Cove car park 2013	Toddler's Cove car park 2015, with newly planted native hedgerow

Area of Park	Before	After
Bingley Island	Bingley Island Local Nature Reserve 2014 prior to pond creation	Bingley Island Local Nature Reserve 2016 after pond creation
Toddler's Cove	Toddler's Cove underpass entrance BEFORE works 2013	Toddler's Cove underpass entrance after works 2015
Westgate Gardens	BEFORE Westgate Gardens landscaping	AFTER Westgate Gardens landscaping works
Tannery Field	Tannery Field prior to wildflower meadow creation 2013	Tannery Field wildflower meadow and Bull sculpture 2016
Westgate Gardens	Westgate Gardens prior to the development of the Physic Garden	The Physic Garden 2015

Environmental Management

Ecological Surveys

Volunteers, local groups, consultants and specialists carry out regular surveys

including the following:-

- River Fly Partnership monitors water quality/ collects data. Volunteers were trained by River Fly Partnership and now do monthly surveys.
- UK Butterfly Conservation Trust– volunteers conduct surveys April to September.
- Bird Surveys– volunteers carry out regular surveys
- Kent Bat Group– bat walks along the river corridor and foraging areas
- Small Mammals– Kent Mammal Group have trained volunteers in the use of Longworth traps
- School surveys– children and young people are learning about survey techniques including testing water quality (indicator species pond dipping) and mini-beast hunts
- Citizen Science– Invertebrate surveys led by Professor Dick Vane-Wright papers published scientific journals
- Canterbury Archeological Trust– extensive archeological surveys including imaging and soil samples related to ecology surveys alongside community digs.



Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

The parkland is 12 acres in size and is owned and managed by Canterbury City Council. The park is formed of four distinct areas:

The river Great Stour runs through the Westgate Parks. The river is the longest chalk river in Kent and rises from chalk springs fed by aquifers. Chalk rivers are sensitive habitats mainly restricted geologically to the southern parts of England and have their own UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Clear waters, river bed gravels and a diverse assembly of plants are characteristic of chalk rivers. The River Great Stour and its floodplain have seen many changes over the centuries such as the straightening and deepening of the river, creation of new channels, the management of vegetation and upstream gravel extraction.

The river is a well vegetated channel with aquatic, emergent and marginal species throughout. River water drop wort, shining pond weed, perfoliate pond weed, water crowfeet and unbranched bur-reed are present. Wild trout are present in the main channel and eels are recorded in the main river and the smaller channels.

The park provides foraging habitats for bats and the native mature trees around the park offer good roosting habitat. Bat surveys have revealed seven species including Common Pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle and Daubentons. Extensive grasses and nettles on Bingley's Island provide breeding habitat for a number of widespread butterfly species and the small pond attracts dragonflies associated with still water. Goat Willow provides a valuable source of nectar and supports a wide range of moths in springtime.

Mature trees, willow scrub and areas of dense herbaceous vegetation provide foraging, sheltering and nesting habitats for common birds. There are regular sightings of mallard, moorhen, grey wagtail and kingfisher along the riverside.

Grass snake and amphibians favour the dense vegetation along the river banks. Smooth newt is recorded at Bingley Island where the areas of scrub to the west provide natural hibernacula.



Work to enhance the landscape and natural heritage has also been successful and has resulted in the Parks being awarded a Green Flag Award. This has included creation and management of a pond on Bingley Island to create a habitat for wildlife, as well as coppicing willow on the Island to improve nesting habitats for birds. The creation of the wildflower meadow has also aimed to improve Parks biodiversity as well as making a pleasant area for walking. The meadow was identified as one of the most beneficial additions for biodiversity of the whole project by some of the stakeholders due to the range of wildlife relying on meadow habitats.

Riverside planting has also been diversified, further improving the condition of the natural heritage within Westgate Gardens. This has been achieved through the installation of river bank service stations and wildflower plugs at Toddlers Cove to Rheims Way Bridge.

The project has contributed to the reduction of environmental impacts in the Parks. The project team have consistently considered ways to do this and have implemented some changes such as Serco now composting 100% of green waste on site.

Part of the Great Stour Way Cycle Route runs through Westgate Parks, and this both acts to draw more visitors in and helps to reduce environmental

impacts through encouraging people to cycle rather than drive. Additionally, local people can benefit through the health and wellbeing advantages of recreational cycling. On average 5932 people use this section of path within the Parks each year.

The biodiversity in the parks has flourished since the project began. Monthly riverfly monitoring now takes place in the Stour to monitor the health of the river and its invertebrate inhabitants. This is not something which happened prior to the project so, whilst there is no data to compare results to, it does demonstrate the project impact on levels of wildlife recording. Over 15 riverfly monitoring sessions have taken place over the course of the project and the project team have concluded that the river is healthy. This will continue beyond the life of the project to ensure the river stays in good health to monitor the species living within it.

Bird species have also been monitored during the course of the project, with surveys being carried out in 2012, 2013-14, and 2016. 49 species of bird were recorded in the 2012 survey, with 28 new species identified in the 2013-14 survey. This demonstrates a significant improvement in the habitat of the Parks as a large number of new birds sighted in 2013-14 were birds which make use of the Parks in some way, either through hunting, feeding, or using it for roosting. This includes

sparrow hawks, kestrels, and peregrines. No new species were recorded in the 2016 survey. As of 2018, a total of 83 different bird species have been identified within the Parks.

Butterfly monitoring is undertaken by some of the volunteers, including Clive Salmon, contributing to the outcome of heritage being better identified and recorded. Clive has identified 17 different species of butterfly within the Parks across the 5 years of the project.

Westgate Gardens

Situated next to the Westgate Towers, the Westgate Gardens are ornamental formal gardens created by the Williamson family who lived in Tower House.

Bought by Stephen Williamson in 1886, Tower House was given to the City of Canterbury in 1936 by his grandson Stephen, together with wife Catherine.

The gardens are steeped in history.

Tower House incorporates one of the ancient city wall bastions and hidden beneath the lawns and borders lie part of the roman city wall, a section of Roman Watling street and London gate.

The amazing Oriental Plane tree *Plantanus orientalis*, recognised by its distinctive trunk, is believed to be over 200 years old and rumoured

to have swallowed a circular bench which once surrounded its base The River Great Stour runs through the Westgate Gardens and provides habitats for fish, invertebrates and bats. The lawned area outside Tower House is used for weddings and events.



Image: Westgate Towers showing municipal bedding planting and open lawns c.1950s

Toddlers Cove

Toddler's Cove has been a place of leisure and family enjoyment for decades. This site was transformed into an open air swimming pool in 1876. The pool was very popular, and remained so until well into the 20th century. Up until the 1970's Toddler's Cove provided the city with its own 'riviera.' As well as the swimming pool, there was a boating lake and paddling pool. There was a beach made of sand brought in from Margate – complete with donkey rides.

Thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding the area is now state-of-art children's play area and riverside picnic site. There is a kick about area and outdoor gym facilities for adults. For many, Toddler's Cove has become a starting point for the Great Stour Way, a path shared by pedestrians and cyclists which follows the river to Chartham.



Image: Toddlers Cove sand and water play area beside river c. 1960

Bingley Island

'Bingley,' which means 'within a river,' is an area of protected grassland formed between two branches of the Great Stour and a connecting channel. Together with Whitehall Meadow it is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The area has a willow copse, man-made pond and is characterised by damp-loving grassland plant species. Bats, common reptiles, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies are just some of the

wildlife that have been seen in the meadows.

Documentary evidence and successive cartographic surveys show that the fields formed part of an ancient patchwork that dates back at least to the early medieval period. The land was mentioned in the Domesday Book as riverside grazing meadow.

Tannery Field

As its name suggests Tannery Field was once part of St. Mildred's Tannery. The Tannery was owned by the Williamson family. They gave Tannery Field to the City in the 1930s, along with Tower House and Westgate Gardens. The tanning industry may be gone, but it's not forgotten.

When transforming the space into a wildflower meadow in 2014, Westgate Parks volunteers uncovered part of the Tannery rail track.

Enhancing the heritage of the Parks has been a key aim of the HLF project. We wanted to conserve both natural and cultural heritage within the parks. This has taken the form of improvements to existing heritage features as well as new additions to encourage learning, such as the Canterbury Bull in Tannery Field. Project activities have aimed to help visitors appreciate and discover more about the heritage simply by walking through them, with events and activities to conserve, improve, and encourage learning also being held.

The Canterbury Bull is a representation of the tannery which used to be located very close by and was linked to Tannery Field by a railway track which was used to dispose of the waste from the tannery. The Canterbury Bull is constructed from old railway tracks so as to interpret this portion of the Parks history. The Canterbury Bull helps to draw more people into the Parks as it is a part of the Canterbury Sculpture Trail, and is also appreciated by people in or passing by the Parks.



Scheduled Monument

From the Westgate Gardens, to the south of the River Great Stour, to where the Rheims Way bisects the park, the site is designated as a Scheduled Monument (SM). The site is protected and managed by a partnership of the following organisations: Canterbury City Council and

English Heritage. Canterbury City Council is responsible for managing the setting while English Heritage manages its protection and preservation. Any proposed changes require Historic England consent.

Great Stour Local Wildlife Site

Nearly all the Westgate Parks are within the Great Stour Local Wildlife Site designation. This is not a statutory designation but conveys a level of biodiversity interest and most local authorities would take this into account in planning decisions.

Local Nature Reserve

Bingley Island is part of Bingley Island and Whitehall Meadows Local Nature Reserve. This is a statutory designation intended to protect an area for its natural interest but also to promote it as an educational resource.

Public Open Space

Westgate Parks is within a Conservation area and held as Protected Open Space within the Local Plan.



Photo: Psychic Garden - wildflowers

There are broadly three types of heritage associated with Westgate Parks:

- Visibly built heritage-including Westgate Towers, Holy Cross Church and churchyard, Tower House and bastion, Norman archery and Gothic archery. Thought to have been brought into the 'Victorian pleasure' garden.
- Buried archaeological heritage - including a section of the Roman city wall which runs through the Westgate gardens and former London Gate in the wall and a late Iron Age settlement and Roman Watling Street. As part of the interpretation project this is now marked by different path surfacing and two bronze plaques.
- Visible landscape heritage - the River Stour which flows through the site, the ornamental park landscape (formerly private garden) and water meadow flood plains bordering open countryside, which provide a habitat for biodiversity.



What the Romans did for us

Archeological surveys suggest that the land now occupied by the park area has attracted interest in since Stone Age. The Romans built Watling Street as their main route from the Kentish coast to London and used this part of the Canterbury to ford the river.



In the 1950s archaeologists revealed the remains of the ancient Watling Street gateway near the Rheims Way flyover. During the Roman era the city was encircled by defensive walls and gates with a section cutting across the south-west side of the gardens. A hoard of silver discovered at Tannery Field included silver spoons, rings and ingots. Pagan offerings associated with the river, were revealed during the Victorian era at Toddlers Cove during the development of the swimming pool and leisure area.

Canterbury Archeological Trust have carried out extensive surveys of the parks as part of the HLF programme between 2013 and 2018. The river is a key feature in the park and has its own unique heritage associated with the many mills dotted along its course, the re-alignment of the river channels for this purpose and in later industrial times the nearby Tannery.

Memorials are erected to the Burma Star and Italy Star Associations in the tranquil formal gardens. Today the park is a popular destination and the second most popular attraction in Canterbury after the Cathedral (Trip Advisor).



Image: Reconstruction of the late Iron Age settlement, possibly centred on a Stour crossing that was to become the focus for Roman Watling Street (© Canterbury Museums)

Key Dates

First century BC to First century AD

Late Iron Age settlement on the banks of the Great Stour and establishment of a Roman settlement

AD 270 to 290

First town wall and gateway erected on the site with main gateway to London

14th century

Defensive walls rebuilt to protect the city from possible French invasion using same alignment as the earlier Roman walls

15th century

In the 1400s, this area was called the Rosier with 5 gardens and meadow land. During this period many disputes arose between the residents and the Prior of Christ Church concerning the site's ownership and fishing rights. The city won its case through the Star Chamber and this established the importance of the river and milling activities.

18th century

The defensive walls were no longer needed and were quarried for building materials. By the 1830s the city wall was robbed of stone to Roman levels. At the same time the Holy Cross Church was built.

1830s

Tower House built as a private residence. Lawns and planted borders were laid out to the west over the line of the Roman town and mediaeval city walls.

1882

Sydney Cooper opened the art studio now known as Sydney Cooper Gallery. Cooper was a renowned artist exploring the pastoral landscapes of the Stour Valley. The Beaney in Canterbury holds some of Cooper's most well-known paintings. Others are held in London galleries.

1876

Development of Toddlers Cove as leisure area with the development of an open air pool.

1886

Stephen Williamson a prominent Canterbury businessman and owner of the Tannery bought Tower House. The Williamson family lived in Tower House from 1886-1835 and cultivated the gardens into what you can see today.

1937

Gardens opened as a public riverside park

1970

Canterbury City Council acquired Bingley Island

1994

Bingley Island designated as Local Nature Reserve

2013

Heritage Lottery application/ Friends of Westgate Parks

2018

Completion of the Heritage Lottery Fund project

Community Involvement

The park hosts a variety of community events, conservation activities and an extensive outdoor learning programme with schools and locally based groups.

The following infographic summarises volunteer activity and user surveys. Between 2013-2018 18,190 volunteer hours have helped transform the park!



The friends of Westgate Parks have worked really hard to help transform the park in partnership with Canterbury City Council and the Heritage Lottery fund.

Volunteers have painted murals, planted wildflower meadows, managed the riverbank, run countless community events including the very popular scarecrow trail.

Westgate Parks volunteers help to maintain the park through removal of graffiti from murals and interpretation signage alongside the Parks and Community Development Officer. Westgate Parks is a vibrant park and continues to be Canterbury's number one green space.



Marketing and Communication

Increasing awareness of the park's historic and environmental importance is a key part of the Westgate Parks project. In doing so the park is promoted in a variety of ways:

Westgate Parks website

www.westgateparks.co.uk Friends of Westgate Parks – welcomes new members and holds regular meetings and supports volunteering. Westgate Parks officer provide guided walks/talks to clubs and societies to raise awareness.

Facebook page and Twitter – promotes events and activities and provides regular updates for volunteers and visitors. You Tube – students from Christchurch College visited the park and filmed volunteers working in the park and explored with them their experiences of volunteering. Park and events listed on [visitCanterbury](#), [visitKent](#), Park in Canterbury, local residents guide and District Life.

Press Cuttings archive – extensive press cuttings from 2014 kept as a paper record and digital file. The project has had widespread support in the local press and working together with the local media has helped to promote the project to a wide audience.

Explore Kent – www.explorekent.org the park is listed on the website working in partnership with Kent County Council

Trip Advisor – Westgate Parks is listed as the second most popular attraction in Canterbury in 2019 (number one is Canterbury Cathedral, a national attraction) and has gained a Certificate of Excellent for consistently good reviews.

Events – the Friends of Westgate parks and the community regularly hold events in Westgate Parks. It is an opportunity to additionally reach a wider audience that may not have visited throughout the year. Events are promoted widely locally and through the Canterbury Business Improvement District. All schools/residents within a one mile radius of the park leafleted each year.

Park adheres to Canterbury City Council's good neighbourhood policy. Leaflets local residents a month in advance of key events. Banners/Posters displayed on park notice boards with upcoming events.

Education

Our educational offer is delivered by Anna Outdoors who operates in the Parks under license to provide an extensive outdoor learning programme and river dipping for schools and groups within the park setting. She offers creative opportunities to learn about the environment and natural surroundings.

Anna Outdoors offers fun-filled bespoke outdoor learning programmes which can be linked to the National Curriculum and learning outcomes for early years and key stages 1, 2 and 3. creative opportunities to learn about the environment.



Management

Since 2013, significant investment has occurred through Heritage Lottery Fund. This has provided two elements of improvement: onsite infrastructure enhancements and the development of community activities and participation. As part of the legacy of the HLF project a full time Parks and Community Development Officer has been employed to manage the area. The Parks officer works alongside the senior Environment officer at Canterbury City Council to manage the land.

The Parks and Community Development Officer support the the Friends Of Westgate Parks Group through events and conservation tasks within the park.

Volunteers are an essential element of the success of the project, providing friendly faces for the public and lots of people power to deliver the many events, conservation works, arts projects. The friends of Westgate Park work in Partnership with Canterbury City council through a memorandum of Understanding.

Canterbury City Council continues to own the park and is responsible for daily park management and maintenance through the grounds maintenance Contractor Serco and Monitor who manage our Public toilets

The contract includes:

Litter collection/cleansing, removal of graffiti, grass cutting, planting and maintenance of formal gardens, daily inspection of playground and repairs, management of paths and hard surfacing, hedge management, tree management, repairs to benches, cleaning signs, opening and closing of gates, emergency response if required by the council.

RSPOA also inspect the play equipment annually to ensure standards are maintained.

Action Plan

Objective	Actions	Timing	Monitoring	Review
Create a Welcoming Place	Ensure there is clear and easy access for everyone. Welcome signage, interpretation panels to be maintained and cleaned regularly.	Seasonal	Daily	CCC Transport and Environment and Serco, Friends of Westgate Parks, CCC Parks Officer.
	Information about events to be kept up to date in notice boards	Ongoing	Ongoing	CCC Parks and Community Development Officer and the Friends of Westgate Parks.
	Carry out access audit and identify areas for improvement. Consider new directional signage for drivers to Toddlers Cove.	October 2019	Annual	CCC Contracts and Transport and Environment
A Healthy, Safe and Secure place to visit	Prompt and effective action in dealing with Antisocial behaviour issues. Parks officer to liaise with Enforcement, Community Safety Unit, Police and Serco (as necessary) to tackle any antisocial behaviour or graffiti.	Daily	Ongoing	CCC Transport and Environment
	Increase positive presences in the park- Parks officer to patrol area daily. Enforcement officers and PCSOs to walk daily through the parks.	Daily	Ongoing	CCC Transport and Environment and Parks and Community Development Officer
	Public toilets to be cleaned twice daily. Increase frequency of cleansing during large events.	Daily	Ongoing	CCC Transport and Environment and Monitor
	Obtain and maintain Green Flag award in recognition of high standards.	Annually	Ongoing	CCC Parks and Community Development Officer
Maintenance of Parks Standards	Agree maintenance schedule for ongoing maintenance. Including horticultural maintenance, routine cleansing, grass cutting and response times for clearing graffiti. (See attached Schedule of works carried out by Serco)	Annual	Ongoing	Monitored by CCC Contracts team, Parks and Community Development Officer.
Sustainable Management	Zero use of pesticides and peat. 100% of all green waste to be composted, mulched and reused in the Parks.	Ongoing	Ongoing	CCC Contracts and Serco
	Great Stour Way Cycle route- Continue to promote the Great Stour way cycling as a sustainable transport option.	Ongoing	Ongoing	CCC Transport and Environment

Objective	Actions	Timing	Monitoring	Review
Promote biodiversity and obtain records of diversity	Regular river fly monitoring	Monthly	Monthly	Anna Outdoors and the Friends of Westgate Parks
	Butterfly surveys	April to September yearly	Annually	Friends of Westgate Parks
	Invertebrate surveys	Ongoing	Annually	Friends of Westgate Parks
	Maintenance of Riverbank between Toddlers cove and the Physics garden.	Seasonally appropriate events	Annually	Our Stour Project
Encourage sustainable and healthy lifestyles and promoting access for all	Promote walks and cycle events	Ongoing	Ongoing	CCC Transport and Environment
Marketing and Communication	Promotion of events and activities on Facebook/Twitter through friends of Westgate Parks page and CCC Facebook page.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Friends of Westgate Parks, CCC comms team
	Promotion through Local partnership with KCC, CCC, Canterbury Business Improvement District (BID)	Ongoing	Ongoing	CCC Comms and CCC Transport and Environment

This action plan provides a framework for the monitoring of the Management and Maintenance Plan.

The action plan will be implemented not by the city council acting alone, but by working closely with the Parks and Community Development Officer, partner organisations, interest groups and the community.

This plan should always be thought of as a work in progress, able to accommodate changing circumstances, political and organisational change and new or different funding opportunities.

Annual reviews, carried out with a forum representing a wide range of local interests will be carried out with opportunity created to amend, add or delete actions in line with what the city council and community wish to achieve.

Contacts

Parks and Community Development Officer:

Sadie Williams

07542 266 715

Canterbury City Council:

Senior Environment Officer

01227 862 187

APPENDIX 5

Westgate Parks for People project. Summative evaluation report 2018



Westgate Parks for People project

Summative evaluation report



LOTTERY FUNDED

Prepared by: Kate Measures, Lead Consultant
Eleanor Forey, Research and Evaluation Officer

On: 05/11/2018

Contact: inspireme@heritageinsider.co.uk
+44 (0) 7966 298516
www.greedysquirrel.co.uk



Registered address: 'Bethany', Ashton Hill, Corston, Bath BA2 9EY VAT Registration No: 905 2033 67
Mobile: 07966 298516 inspireme@heritageinsider.co.uk

Table of Contents

Executive summary	6
1. Project overview	8
1.1 Westgate Parks	8
1.2 Background to the project	10
1.3 Funding breakdown	11
2. The evaluation approach	12
2.1 Key questions for the evaluation	12
2.2 Monitoring and evaluation methodology	12
2.3 Limitations.....	13
3. Were the aims met?.....	14
3.1 Increasing the range of audiences	14
3.1.1 Increasing participation	14
3.1.2 Raising the profile of the Parks	18
3.1.3 Making the Parks safer.....	18
3.1.4 Activities programme.....	20
3.1.5 Working with the local community.....	22
3.1.6 Access audit	23
3.1.7 Web presence	23
3.2 Conserving and improving the heritage value	26
3.2.1 Landscape and biodiversity.....	28
3.2.2 Archaeology	31
3.3 Increasing the range of volunteers involved.....	33
3.3.1 Increased confidence and personal development.....	33
3.3.2 New skills and training	34
3.3.3 Challenges faced during the volunteer programme	35
3.3.4 The volunteer programme post-project	35
3.3.5 Friends of Westgate Parks	35
3.4 Improving skills and knowledge through learning and training	38
3.4.1 Work with schools.....	38
3.4.2 College and university students.....	41
3.4.3 Explorer Trail	41
3.4.4 Volunteer upskilling	42
3.5 Improving management and maintenance	43
3.5.1 Physical improvements	43
3.5.2 Ongoing maintenance.....	47
3.6 Meeting the HLF outcomes.....	49

3.7 Project legacy	52
4. Main findings of the project evaluation.....	54
4.1 What were the major impacts?	54
4.2 What could have been improved?.....	58
4.3 Who benefitted and how?	61
5. Lessons learnt	64
6. List of appendices	67

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Rectangle diagram of the four areas of Westgate Parks	8
Figure 2: Map of Westgate Parks and surrounding features.....	8
Figure 3: Photo of Westgate Gardens.....	9
Figure 4: Photo of Tannery Field	9
Figure 5: Circle diagram of five project aims	10
Figure 6: Graphic of target project audiences	11
Figure 7: Pie chart of the project funding breakdown.....	11
Figure 8: Diagram of the five aims of the project	14
Figure 9: Table of activities programme for each year of the project.....	15
Figure 10: Table of results from 2011, 2015, and 2017 Parks user surveys	16
Figure 11: Photo of volunteers holding up the 'what's most important to you about the Westgate Parks' board, which asked visitors what they valued most about the Parks.....	17
Figure 12: Photo of some of the volunteers in the newly painted underpass at Tannery Field	18
Figure 13: Photo of the scarecrow trail taken from the Westgate Parks website.....	20
Figure 14: Photo of river dipping participants, taken from the Wild About Westgate Facebook Page.....	21
Figure 15: The top of the Parks 'home' page	24
Figure 16: 'Wild About Westgate' Facebook page header	24
Figure 17: 'The Original Toddlers Cove' Facebook group header	25
Figure 18: Photo of some of the Parks volunteers and staff with the newly achieved Green Flag Award.....	26
Figure 19: Photo of a project volunteer with the donkeys at Toddlers Cove.....	26
Figure 20: Interpretation board in the Parks	27
Figure 21: Photo of an interpretation board in situ.....	28
Figure 22: Photo of volunteers coppicing on Bingley Island.....	28
Figure 23: Photo of volunteers planting the wildflower meadow.....	28
Figure 24: Photo of Parks Officer, Anna Bell, participating in Riverfly monitoring	29
Figure 25: Bat roost map of Westgate Parks and surrounding areas	30
Figure 26: Photo of a group of volunteers participating in butterfly monitoring training	30
Figure 27: Collage of photos from the community archaeology	33
Figure 28: Photo of some of the Westgate Parks volunteer team and staff	33
Figure 29: Case study of volunteer, Clive Salmon.....	34
Figure 30: First edition of the Friends of Westgate Parks newsletter	36
Figure 31: Collage of photos of the volunteers.....	38
Figure 32: Photo of school children participating in activities in the Parks.....	38
Figure 33: Photo of a group of school pupils participating in Forest School activities.....	38
Figure 34: Word cloud of feedback from Year 4 pupils participating in a river dipping activity	39
Figure 35: Photograph of the Physic Garden when newly planted	40
Figure 36: Photo of participants in the Talking Trees programme from Cranmer House and Simon Langton School.....	40

Figure 37: Explorer Trail booklets	41
Figure 38: Example of a brass rubbing panel	42
Figure 39: Photo of the Canterbury Bull's head with ongoing maintenance activities taking place in the background	43
Figure 40: Table of improvements of sample of areas within the Parks	45
Figure 41: Photo of volunteer, Clive Salmon, holding the feedback board about the Toddler's Cove underpass project	46
Figure 42: The post-it note feedback board for the public to provide feedback on the Toddler's Cove underpass project	46
Figure 43: Word cloud of Parks visitor descriptions of the Toddler's Cove underpass post-project ...	47
Figure 44: Photo of project team members Anna Bell and Lauren Baker participating in the Great British Spring Clean	47
Figure 45: Photo of volunteers cleaning graffiti from the Tannery Field underpass	48
Figure 46: Table demonstrating how HLF outcomes have been met during the project	51
Figure 47: Graphic of seven primary legacy outcomes of the project	53
Figure 48: Photo of children participating in a forest school session at the Parks	61
Figure 49: Photo of a child holding a sign explaining that he loves the Parks because 'there's always something fun to do'	62
Figure 50: Photo of Cranmer House residents in the Parks	63
Figure 51: Bar chart of gender of Parks users	77
Figure 52: Pie chart of age ranges of Parks users	77

Westgate Parks - Parks for People

VOLUNTEERS

Events
1571
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



TOTAL HOURS =
4539.6
DAYS = 645

VOLUNTEERS
HOURS
adding up to a total
of **£49,775**
in-kind time

Conservation tasks

1380 VOLUNTEER HOURS



EVENTS

Number of
events

92



NUMBER OF VISITORS
ATTENDING EVENTS

23,176



Friends of
Westgate Parks
are now a
**REGISTERED
CHARITY**

Education

487 VOLUNTEER
HOURS



**Westgate
PARKS**

EDUCATION

3285 LEARNING EXPERIENCES

IN 108 ACTIVITIES

FROM 32 ORGANISATIONS

Schools, cubs,
beavers, brownies,
universities:



A licensed outdoor learning company:

annaoutdoors.co.uk

continuing to design and deliver Wild About
Westgate Parks outdoor learning experiences
to schools and community groups

Full time CCC Parks and Community
Development Officer has been
appointed as a direct result of the
HLF project and will continue in-post
after the end of the project

GENERAL

83%

of people
rated their enjoyment
of the parks as 4 or 5
out for 5

50%

of those asked
felt that the parks had
improved in recent years



Westgate Parks achieved
its first ever Green Flag
Award in 2017/2018

Increase in estimated visitor
numbers (including people
passing through) from 150,000
in 2013 to 260,000 in 2018

canterbury
city council



LOTTERY FUNDED



Executive summary

The **£1,092,061** Westgate Parks HLF-funded Parks for People project ran from 2013 to 2018 and aimed to develop an **interconnected network** of **diverse**, high quality open spaces in Canterbury which met the needs of **local people** and contributed to significantly improving the **quality of life** for Canterbury residents. The **Parks**, the project's **events**, and the **activity programme** celebrated both Canterbury's rich **heritage** and abundant **biodiversity**, whilst having successfully raised the profile of the Parks to engage a much broader spectrum of audiences.

The improvements to the **condition, maintenance and safety** of the Parks have contributed to an estimated **73% increase** in visitor numbers between 2013 and 2018. Many areas were in a **poor condition**, such as the Toddler's Cove underpass, they have been improved so that the Parks are a safer, more pleasant space to be in. The underpass, for example, was **decorated** by the local community to make it a nicer space to walk through, as in initial consultations it was identified as a key barrier to public enjoyment of the Parks. Parks visitors now feel that the underpass is 'amazing' and 'inspiring', and adds some **beauty** into their walk through the Parks where it previously evoked feelings of **fear**.

The project has also significantly raised the **profile** of the Parks through the programme of regular **events and activities** which have reached a wider audience beyond those usually engaged with the Parks. **92** public events and activities have been held over the course of the project, engaging over **23,000** people in trails, walks and talks, river dipping, arts activities, and more throughout each year of the project.

The project has been a marked turning point in the **perceptions** of local people of the Parks. Where previously they had a **negative reputation** as an unsafe area frequented by drug users and anti-social behaviour, the events programme and the maintenance improvements have transformed the Parks into a **lively venue** where there is something for everybody, and as an ideal spot to **relax** and spend time with family. Visitors are coming from further afield than ever before to attend the events, many of which have become a fixture in Canterbury's **social calendar**, and to bring children to play in Toddlers Cove.

The improved conditions have also led to an **increase in biodiversity** in the Parks, as the physical works have created **new habitats** with a pond, a meadow, and Physic Garden, and have resulted in **better maintained land** for a variety of species. Species monitoring schemes have been introduced as a part of the project, including the Riverfly Partnership monitoring scheme, volunteer butterfly monitoring, an invertebrate project in partnership with the University of Kent, bird monitoring, and regular bat walks. Through this monitoring it has become evident that the project has had a significant **positive impact** on Parks **wildlife**, with **28 new species of bird** having been identified in the Parks since the start of the project, and **70 new beetle species** being located on Bingley Island.

The project has been highly beneficial for the local community, both through the successful **volunteering programme** and the way it has enhanced **community wellbeing**. The volunteer programme saw over **4539 volunteer hours** contributed across the course of the project. The

volunteering has been a central part of some of the volunteers' lives for the duration of the project, enabling them to gain a range of **practical skills** whilst also **growing in confidence** and providing opportunities to make new friends.

The project has also had significant **impacts for wellbeing**, both on volunteers and other members of the community through opportunities to get involved in **outdoor projects** and encouraging **integration** with the local community. The Parks generally contribute to bettering the **wellbeing** of people in Canterbury through their availability as a free, green area of the city, offering people the chance for **relaxation** in a space which is now **cleaner, safer, and better-maintained**.

The project legacy will be secured through **six key methods**, which will ensure continued support for the volunteer team, and the continuation of the strong **education programme**. The appointment of a full time **Canterbury City Council Parks and Community Development Officer** has come about as a direct result of this project, and will help to ensure that the Parks continue to go from strength to strength after the project's end.

The project has also helped the Parks to be 'greener' and more **sustainable** through:

- The programme of **species recording** and **habitat improvement** works to encourage and protect biodiversity
- The new **toilet block** and **play area** in Toddlers Cove, designed with **long-lasting** materials which are easy to **maintain**, as well as the long-lasting nature of the **new interpretation** panels and the Canterbury Bull
- Encouraging the reduction of **carbon emissions** through promotion of the Great Stour Way cycle route and through encouraging **sustainable travel** amongst children and young people participating in the outdoor learning programme
- Composting of **100% of green waste** on site
- Engaging local people in the care and **stewardship** of the Parks.

This programme of ongoing **sustainable management** and maintenance will ensure that all involved in the Parks, from those in upper management to the volunteers on the ground, will continue to strive for **sustainable Parks** which are **welcoming** to all.

1. Project overview

1.1 Westgate Parks

The parks are four distinctly different landscape character areas which sit just outside Canterbury City Centre and follow the Great Stour river through from the heart of the city centre into the countryside. The parks are 12 hectares, and comprised of the following areas:

Westgate
Gardens

Toddlers
Cove

Tannery
Field

Bingley
Island

Figure 1: Rectangle diagram of the four areas of Westgate Parks

The park is laid out as follows:

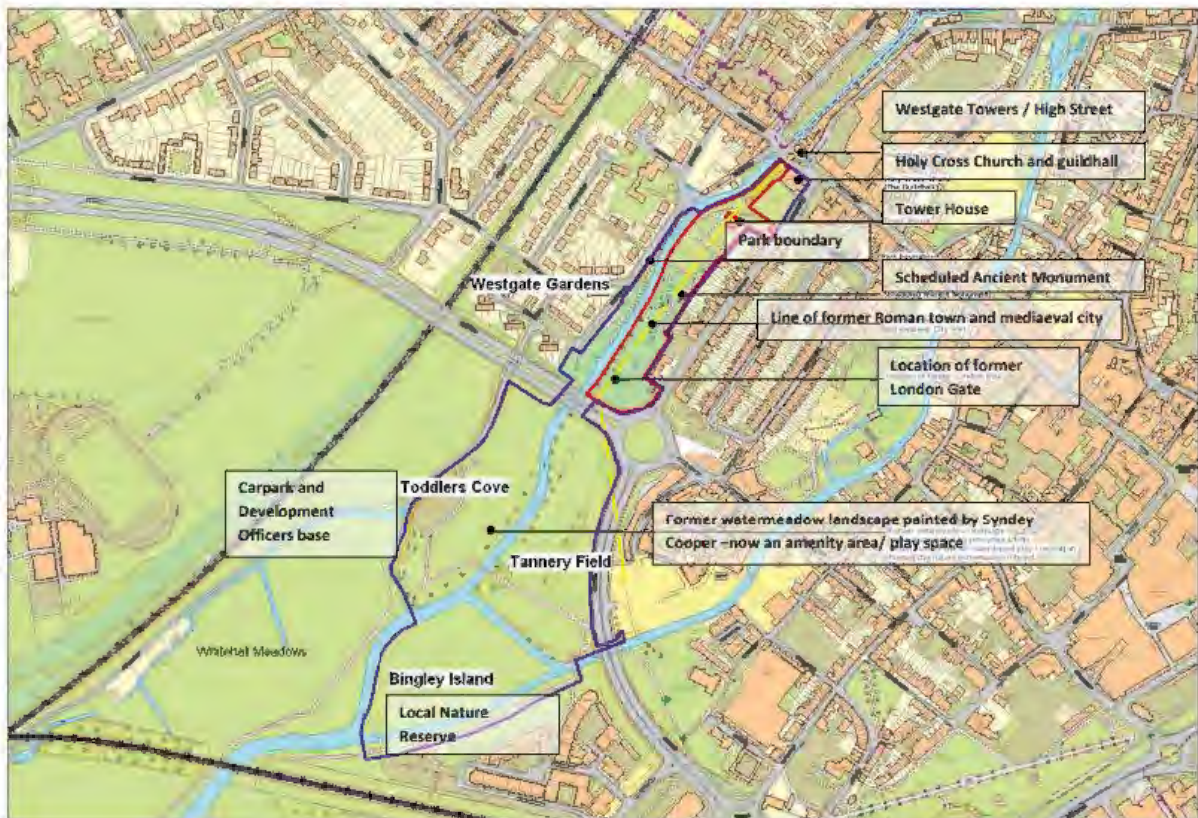


Figure 2: Map of Westgate Parks and surrounding features

Westgate Gardens is an area of stunning ornamental gardens which were originally created by the Williamson family, living in Tower House. The gardens are steeped in history, with Tower House incorporating one of the ancient city wall bastions. Hidden beneath the lawns and borders lie part of the Roman City wall, a section of Roman Watling Street and London gate. The gardens are also home to the Oriental Plane tree, which is believed to be over 200 years old.

Toddler's Cove has been a place of family leisure and family enjoyment for decades. The site was transformed into an open air swimming pool in 1876, which was very popular and remained so well into the 20th Century. There was also a boating lake and a padding pool, as well as a beach made from Margate sand, complete with donkey rides. This area closed in the 1970s, and the area is now a play area, as well as kick about area and outdoor gym facilities for adults. Toddler's Cove is also a starting point for the Great Stour Way, a path shared by cyclists and pedestrians which follows the river to Chartham.



Figure 3: Photo of Westgate Gardens

Bingley Island is an area of protected grassland formed between two branches of the Great Stour and a connecting channel. Together with another area of the Parks, Whitehall Meadow, it is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The area has a willow copse and man-made pond, and is characterised by damp-loving grassland species. Bats, common reptiles, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies have all been identified on the Island.

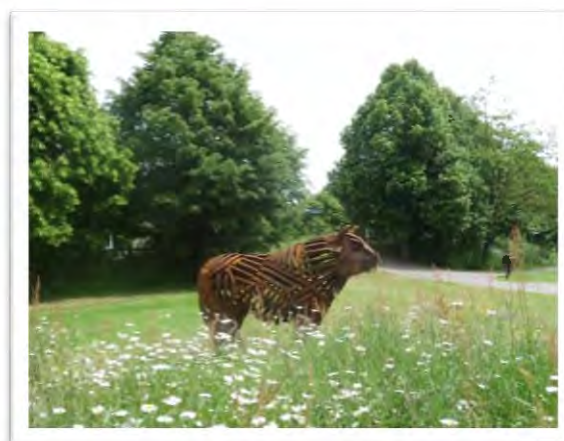


Figure 4: Photo of Tannery Field

Tannery Field was once part of St. Mildred's Tannery, which was owned by the Williamson family. The tannery was given to the city in the 1930s along with Tower House and the Westgate Gardens. The field was once covered in a foul smelling pile of waste products from the tannery and was known as 'Slub Bank'. This space has been transformed thanks to the project, and now includes a wildflower meadow and the Canterbury Bull sculpture, inspired by the site's past life.

1.2 Background to the project

This five-year Canterbury City Council project, which ran from 2013 to 2018, aimed to engage a wider range of audiences through the new and improved interpretation of the Parks' rich heritage, a varied programme of events and activities and through taking action to improve biodiversity within the Parks. It also aimed to upgrade the visitor experience through restoring the landscape, appropriate interpretation, and a lively programme of activities and events. The project has been centred around five aims:

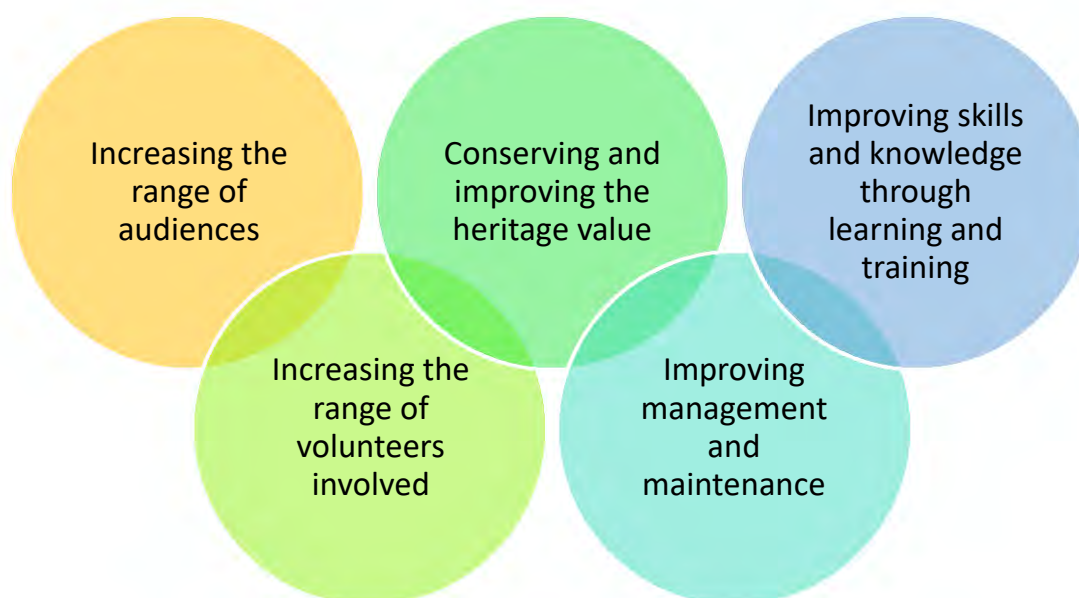


Figure 5: Circle diagram of five project aims

The project's overarching vision was threefold:

1. To develop an **interconnected network** of **diverse, high quality** open spaces which meet the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the **quality of life** for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District.
2. To conserve the **natural and built heritage** for current and future generations.
3. To develop working relationships with the **community** and **local user groups**, including through the volunteer programme.

The eight target audiences were identified in project plans as:



Figure 6: Graphic of target project audiences

1.3 Funding breakdown

The total delivery cost for the project was £1,092,061, with 67% provided by the primary funder – HLF. Additional income was provided by Canterbury Council, non-cash contributions from Christchurch University and volunteer time, and increased management and maintenance funding for the Parks. The pie chart below summarises the funding breakdown.

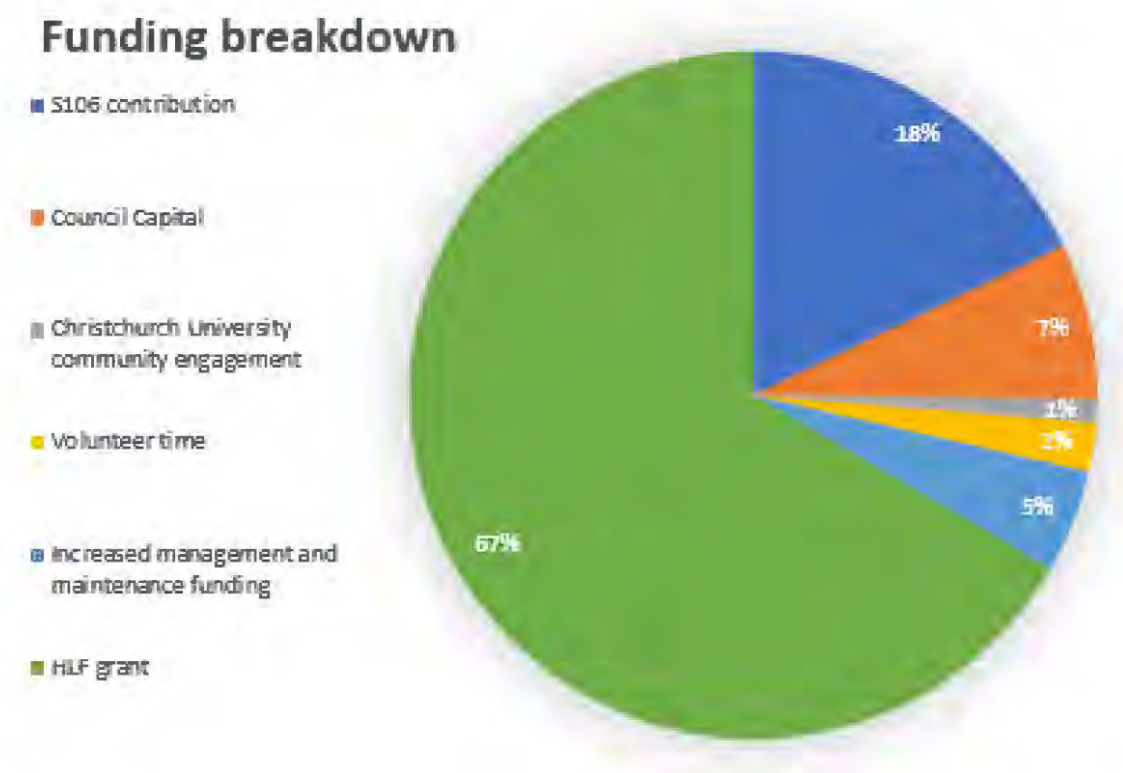


Figure 7: Pie chart of the project funding breakdown

2. The evaluation approach

Canterbury City Council commissioned Heritage Insider Ltd, an independent specialist consultancy, to conduct the summative evaluation as well as an interim health check report on the project, which was completed in 2016. Data for this summative evaluation has been collected by the project team and Heritage Insider.

2.1 Key questions for the evaluation

None were in place prior to the project, however the following questions were formulated for the purposes of the project evaluation:

1. Has the project vision been attained?
2. What has worked well and why?
3. What could have been improved?
4. Who benefitted from the project and how?
5. Has the project resulted in local communities feeling an increased connectivity to the heritage of the Parks?
6. Are a wider range of people using the Parks, and how are they using them?
7. Has the range of volunteers increased?
8. What are the longer-term impacts of the project?
9. What are the learning outcomes of the project?

2.2 Monitoring and evaluation methodology

The evaluation approach for this project took the form of a mosaic approach¹ of many different evaluation techniques. This was followed by the triangulation² of the data to create a rounded view of the project and its outcomes and to investigate in detail to what extent each aim and objective has been met.

The list below presents the data collection methods which have been fed into this summative evaluation report:

- Desk-based review of project documentation
- April 2018 summative scoping meeting between the project team and Heritage Insider
- Interim report and review of project health check from 2016, completed by Heritage Insider
- Event and activity photographs
- Volunteer monitoring spreadsheet
- Activity and event monitoring spreadsheet
- Biological monitoring records
- 32 feedback postcards from 1 x event in the Parks and 1 x outdoor learning session

¹ Utilising a variety of methods of evaluation to build up a picture of a project

² Triangulation is a technique which facilitates the validation of data with the use of multiple sources

- ‘Love Parks’ signs completed by 6 x volunteers and visitors
- Telephone interviews with 6 x of stakeholders
 - Anna De-Brauwer, Canterbury Umbrella Centre
 - Don Clark, 14th Canterbury Cub Scouts Leader
 - Felicity Tasker, London Road Estate Youth Club
 - Jon Linnane, Friends of Westgate Parks
 - Neil Blackford, PCCM Supervisor at the Toddlers Cove public conveniences
- Face-to-face and telephone interviews with 2 x Friends of Westgate Parks group volunteers
 - Terry Westgate
 - Peter Blackett
 - Clive Salmon
 - Kial Tyler, Friends of Westgate Parks
- Face-to-face and telephone interviews with 2 x teachers
 - Elisabeth Sherwin, St Edmund’s School
 - Louise Beard, St Peter’s Methodist Primary School
- Feedback from teachers – informal and feedback forms (see appendix 6)
- Face-to-face interview with Hannah Costin, Canterbury Umbrella Centre
- Face-to-Face interview with Jon Shelton, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership
- Online presence analysis
- Post-it note feedback from Parks visitors about the Toddler’s Cove Underpass project
- Parks visitor instant voting on most important aspects of the Parks to them.

2.3 Limitations

Interview numbers – One limitation on the data collected for the evaluation has been the numbers of people participating in interviews with independent evaluators, Heritage Insider. Although the evaluators have made every effort to speak with as many project participants as possible, some were not interviewed due to not replying to contact from the evaluators, lack of availability, or lack of willingness to participate in an interview. This means that the picture of the project is not as representative as it could have been.

Recording of volunteer roles – Volunteer role rates were not recorded along with the volunteer hours and activities which were recorded, so it has not been possible to accurately attain a clear picture of how many volunteers were skilled, unskilled, or professional. Although the project team has been able to provide an estimate, the financial benefit of the volunteering activity is not definitive due to these rates not being recorded.

Statistical differences in Parks surveys – A further limitation has been caused by the Parks surveys, which were carried out with users of the Parks between 2011 and 2017. The numbers surveyed in 2011-2015 were relatively similar, however a much larger number were interviewed in 2017. This means that a clear comparison between all surveys cannot be conducted as the numbers are so different. There were also some concerns from the project team that the interviewers had self-completed some of the surveys in 2017 – skewing the data and further limiting the understanding of how the Parks may have changed across the project – however this cannot be proven.

3. Were the aims met?

As outlined in Section 1, there were five overall aims of the project:

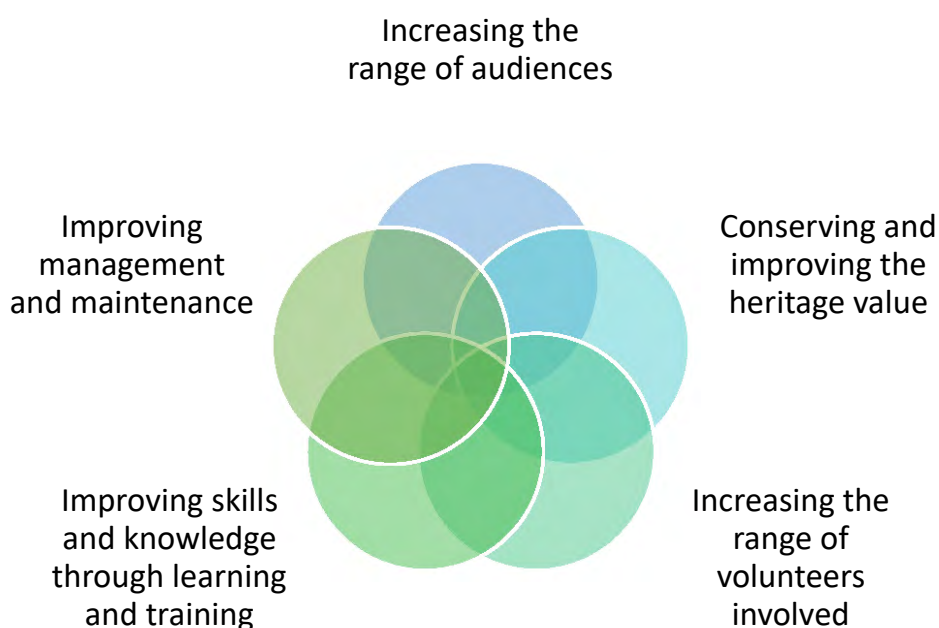


Figure 8: Diagram of the five aims of the project

The extent to which each of the aims have been met will now be explored in turn.

3.1 Increasing the range of audiences

Increasing the range of people visiting the Parks was a key aim for this project which has been successfully achieved in a variety of ways. For instance, through the high number and range of events and activities which have taken place throughout the project, some of which have become embedded in the social calendar of Canterbury – such as the well-attended annual scarecrow trail. Improving the safety of the Parks has also helped to change perceptions and subsequently increase the range of audience visiting. The project has succeeded in increasing the number of visitors to the Parks from an estimated 150,000 in 2013 to an estimated 260,000 in 2018³.

3.1.1 Increasing participation

Increasing participation in Parks activities and events, as well as increasing numbers of visitors to the Parks independently, was a key aim of the project. The programme of events and activities increased audiences as follows⁴:

³ This figure is an estimate based upon Great Stour Way cycle route surveys, event attendee numbers, and headcounts of people visiting the Parks

⁴ Includes planned events for remainder of 2018 and estimated visitor numbers. Cancelled events not included





Year >	2014		2015		Attendee total % increase from previous year	2016		Attendee total % increase from previous year	2017		Attendee total % increase from previous year	2018		Attendee total % increase from previous year
Activity type	No.	Attendees	No.	Attendees		No.	Attendees		No.	Attendees		No.	Attendees	
Trails	3	234	3	1,646		4	1,549		3	1,330		3	1,780	
Walks and talks	4	85	3	96		4	101		2	50		2	51	
Art activities	2	69	3	1,119		3	958		5	1,374		1	300	
River/pond dipping and explorers	0	0	2	52		2	47		4	65		4	51	
Open days	1	1,000	1	2,000		1	1,200		1	3,000		1	2,770	
Other	10	1,062	8	612		3	455		5	660		0	150	
Total	20	2,442	20	5,525		17	4,310		20	6,479		11	5,102	

Figure 9: Table of activities programme for each year of the project

It is evident that the project has really raised the profile of the Parks and encouraged a wider range of people to participate, with total numbers of activity participants increasing from 2,442 in 2014 to 6,479 in 2017⁵. The table clearly demonstrates the rise in popularity of the Parks as the number of attendees at the 2017 events has increased by 50% on the previous year, despite only three further public events or activities being held. The same number of events and activities were held in 2017 and 2014, but the number of attendees in 2017 was up by 165% compared to 2014. Similarly, despite fewer events being held in 2018, this was the third-highest year for attendee numbers.

⁵ Fewer events have been held in 2018 as the project draws to a close.

The total number of visitors to the Parks has increased from an estimated 150,000 per annum pre-project to an estimated 260,000, demonstrating that the project has had a real impact on the number and range of people engaging with them. The 2011-2017 visitor surveys also reveal a lot about engagement levels and the ways in which people engage with the Parks pre and post-project.

These figures have been taken from the User Group surveys conducted in the Parks annually from 2011 – 2015, using the surveys conducted in October of each year. See Appendix 4 for the survey questions.

Data	Pre-project - 2011	Mid-project - 2015	Post-project - 2017
Most popular purpose for visiting	Enjoy nature	Enjoy nature	Relaxation
Most popular aspect bothering participants	Public drunkenness	Graffiti	Public drunkenness
Most mentioned issue	Drug users	Cutting of trees	Play area needs to be enclosed
Most popular aspect of the Parks with visitors	Closeness to city	Closeness to city	Closeness to city

Figure 10: Table of results from 2011, 2015, and 2017 Parks user surveys

The sample sizes do differ significantly, with 68 visitors interviewed in 2011, 35 in 2012, 37 in 2014, 21 in 2015 and 271 in 2017. The sample size for 2017 is much larger which could account for the higher number of negative issues named by respondents⁶.

However, as discussed previously, these responses were generally less serious in nature, with the key issue in 2011 being drug users compared to the feeling that the play area in Toddlers Cove should be enclosed in 2018. Public drunkenness and drug users were major issues faced in the Parks prior to the project and, through looking at the user survey results, it is clear that this is still viewed as an issue by visitors. However as discussed below, this issue has been considerably lessened throughout the project.

"Yes, once upon a time it was a dodgy area of Canterbury, it has since changed and it's now a place to enjoy and join in."

- Project stakeholder

The Parks are seen as a location suitable for relaxation, with this named as the most popular reason for visiting by those who completed the user surveys. This is reinforced by an instant voting activity carried out by visitors to the Parks, who were asked to vote on what was most important to them about the Parks.

⁶ Refers to issues named which were not included in the multiple choice question 'most popular aspect bothering participants'



Figure 11: Photo of volunteers holding up the 'what's most important to you about the Westgate Parks' board, which asked visitors what they valued most about the Parks

Visitors primarily valued the Parks as a space to relax in, as a nature conservation area, for the Toddlers Cove play area, and for the volunteering opportunities presented. The Parks are seen as a good space for relaxation due to the increased safety and maintenance making it a more pleasant space to be in. Additionally, the project events and activities programme has helped to raise the profile of the Parks and make more people aware that the space is there for them to come and relax in and walk through.

It is generally felt by project stakeholders that the project has resulted in public perception of the Parks changing for the better, with it now being viewed as more of a functional space, as opposed to a somewhat dangerous area as in the past. Jon Shelton, Partnership Manager, Kent Stour Countryside Partnership, commented that he could not go ten minutes in the Parks without hearing positive comments from visitors. Previously, he often heard negative comments about vandalism or drug users, and feels perceptions have definitely changed for the better as a result of the project. This change in perception has led to a higher number of people engaging with the Parks, with stakeholders feeling this is particularly the case with families.

"I love my park because...there are so many different events that go on. They are all amazing and really get me interested in nature and conservation work, and the park is beautiful!"

- Noah, Love Parks feedback

When some members of the public and project participants were asked at a recent open day what they loved, responses revolved around the Parks being a nice open space for all with an exciting programme of events and activities. Participants were pleased that there was such a wide range of interesting and educational activities, with some having particular favourite things to do such as the volunteering or the nature and conservation activities.

3.1.2 Raising the profile of the Parks

It was felt by project stakeholders and volunteers that raising of the profile of the Parks, which has contributed to the increase in number and range of audiences engaging with them, was one of the greatest successes of the project. This has occurred through the programme of regular events and activities, the project team working with a wider range of different groups, and the improvement of the condition of the Parks and their heritage. Friends of Westgate Parks members feel that the profile has been so successfully raised that they are always surprised by the high number of people attending events.

Another important impact has been the profile of the Parks being raised within Canterbury City Council. Despite some initial issues with communication between the council and other partners involved in the project, the project has enabled the council to really understand the value of the Parks. Some of the capital works for the project were carried out by the city council, such as the new toilet block, and project partners feel that this has been very successful.

"Even I was surprised at just how busy it has become, we even get outside visitors coming to spend time here. It's very well known."

- Parks employee

The children's play area in Toddlers Cove has been greatly improved as a part of the project, as discussed in section 3.5 and some stakeholders feel that this has been a key contributor to bringing new people in to the Parks, both from within Canterbury and from further afield than pre-project.

"It enticed us in and we've seen parts of the parks that we never knew existed."

- London Road Estates Youth Club

The project has not only drawn in new people and visitors to Canterbury, but has also encouraged people who already knew about and visited the Parks to explore new areas they had never been to before.

3.1.3 Making the Parks safer

The safety of the Parks has been increased which has further encouraged people to visit. These improvements have helped to make the local area a nicer place to live in and visit.



Figure 12: Photo of some of the volunteers in the newly painted underpass at Tannery Field

This is another element of the project which was named as a great success by project stakeholders and volunteers. Prior to the project there were a number of issues which the project has helped to minimise, with drug users and public drunkenness, as well as anti-social behaviour such as graffiti, groups of youths loitering around the Toddler's Cove underpass and Tannery Field underpass⁷, and vandalism. These issues did discourage people from entering specific areas of the Parks, putting some people off of entering altogether, and also resulted in a cycle of further anti-social behaviour and crime due to the broken window theory⁸.

As discussed by Friends of Westgate Parks group members, project works to improve the condition of the Parks (as discussed in Section 3.2 and 3.5), particularly areas such as the underpasses and the toilet block, have considerably lessened the frequency of activities such as graffiti within the underpasses.

This has included a new mural being painted in the underpass between Toddler's Cove and Westgate Gardens as a part of the Art in the Underpass 2016 project. This underpass was previously covered in graffiti, with new marks appearing very regularly, but following the introduction of the mural new graffiti now only appears once or twice a week – and usually affects a much smaller area than previously. The Friends group ensure that the graffiti is cleaned off quickly and efficiently as soon as possible, resulting in a much nicer area to walk through and helping Parks visitors to feel safe. The graffiti cleaning operation also has some small impacts on gang crime within the city due to some of the graffiti tags being used to mark drug drop-off points or gang territories.

The project team have also joined the Canterbury Skyguard system, which enables Parks staff and local business owners to report/alert each other to any risks or dangers such as shoplifters or violent incidents.

The improvements of paths and directional signs have also helped to make them feel safer.

There are, however, still some issues with drug and alcohol users in the Parks, with stakeholders naming this as one of the biggest issues to consider going forwards. The Parks have been used by drug and alcohol users for a long time, so to lessen this usage so considerably in the five years of the project is a great achievement. This is an issue which will continue to be tackled going forwards, particularly helped by the involvement of the new Parks Development Officer, Sadie Williams, who has connections within the council with the Public Safety Unit. This link ensures access to the CCTV centre if things in the Parks escalate so that she is able to receive back-up support in a timely manner. To further ensure the Parks are a safe space, Sadie wears a body cam for personal safety and so that any escalations can be effectively recorded.

"The alcoholics and drug users is the biggest barrier. It needs to be managed and policed better."

- Project stakeholder

⁷ Additional, non-HLF funding was sought for the delivery of Tannery Field underpass improvement projects, although the HLF project was the catalyst for these improvements.

⁸ A criminological theory that visible signs of crime, anti-social behaviour, and civil disorder create an urban environment that further encourages crime and disorder.

3.1.4 Activities programme

The activities programme has, as discussed, been one of the key elements contributing to engaging a wider range of audiences with the Parks. The 92 activities and events have engaged 23,176 people, with the programme resulting in local people seeing them as a place where something new and exciting is always happening. People also value the educational benefits and enjoyment offered by the events. Both individuals and groups have been able to benefit from the activities programme, with the local Cub Scout pack getting involved in a range of new activities and feeling more a part of the community, and local children and young people being given opportunities to cultivate their interests, such as nature, through participating. Generally, it is felt that there is something for everybody at the Parks thanks to the project.

"The diversity of events that go on there plus the educational stuff is fantastic, the progress is now much more apparent."

- Cub Scout pack leader

"It was a super well organised event, very glad to be a part of it and there were some fantastic creations everywhere."

- Staff, St John's Primary School

Trails – A total of 16 trails were held across the project, engaging 6,539 people. The trails have included the Tree Trail, Easter Trail, Christmas Trail, Halloween Trail and the Scarecrow Trail at Halloween – which was mentioned by many interviewees as a highly enjoyable element of the project. The scarecrow trail has been a key activity at engaging new audiences and bringing the local community together to use and appreciate the Parks. It has been a creative activity in which groups of people submitted scarecrows to create a trail. This activity brings together schools, scouts and guides groups, care homes, community groups, as well as individuals from the community.



Figure 13: Photo of the scarecrow trail taken from the Westgate Parks website

Although the scarecrow trail is a large event each year, comments from attendees demonstrate how well organised and enjoyable it is. Winners and runner ups are decided through a public vote, with prize money being presented to the winners. This further benefits the local community through, for example, a dance school won first prize and was able to spend the money on improvements to the studio. Volunteers and project stakeholders participating in interviews feel that the scarecrow trail has become a real fixture of the city and would like to see it continue to grow after the life of the project.

"Thank you so much for an exciting and well organised day. We had great fun and the pupils were quite overwhelmed by winning our section."

- Staff, Next Generation Dance Studio

Walks and talks – 15 walks and talks have been held throughout the life of the project, engaging 383 people. The walks and talks helped people to learn more about the Parks, their wildlife and plant species. The bat walks were particularly popular and comments from participants show that they consistently found them interesting and exciting, pleased to have had an opportunity to get involved, which may not have happened without the project.

"A big thank you for the opportunity you gave my son and I to come along on our first bat walk, it was extremely interesting."

- Local resident

Arts and craft activities – These activities provided opportunities for a variety of audience groups to get involved in enjoyable creative activities. 14 arts activities engaged 3,820 people. These activities were particularly positive for Umbrella Centre users, who were able to paint and exhibit art alongside professional artists during the Art in the Park sessions. This helped them to better integrate with the community whilst boosting their confidence in their own abilities.

"[I loved] the chance to dip in the river with my child."

- Local resident

The Art in the Park events, like the scarecrow trail, have been very popular due to the fact that they are enjoyable, well organised days offering something for everybody. Some volunteers and stakeholders feeling confident that these events are now firm fixtures of the city.

River and pond dipping and Explorers – 12 public river dipping and River Explorers sessions have taken place during the project, engaging 215 people. These sessions provide educational activities for families to participate in. 100%⁹ of those surveyed said they had enjoyed the session they participated in. Participants had found the whole experience of the informative, feeling that the friendly and knowledgeable staff and the community spirit of the activities had all really contributed to the high level of enjoyment. They had been surprised about the diversity of the species found in the river, and had learnt a lot through participation.



Figure 14: Photo of river dipping participants, taken from the Wild About Westgate Facebook Page

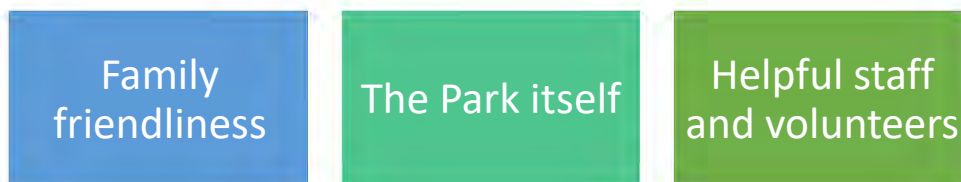
Open days – The Parks Open Days hosted by Friends of Westgate Parks have consistently been the best-attended events. One open day has been held per year of the project – for a total of five – engaging

"What an absolutely fantastic day once again. My grandchildren loved it."

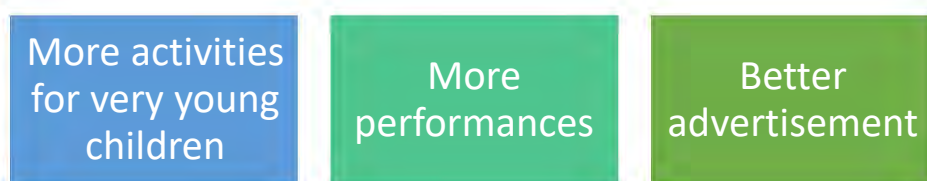
- Local resident

⁹ N=13

approximately 9,900 people. They have been highly successful at widening the range of people engaging with the Parks through offering a variety of stalls and activities for all ages. 100%¹⁰ of those surveyed at the 2018 open day enjoyed the day to at least a mid-level, 'three' or higher on a scale from one to five. The primary aspects which visitors enjoyed were:



Aspects of the open day which visitors felt could have been improved were:



It is evident that the open days present an excellent opportunity for local people to engage with the Parks who might not otherwise visit very frequently. The days provide opportunities for a variety of people to enjoy the setting of the Parks.

3.1.5 Working with the local community

The range of audiences engaging with the Parks has further been increased due to the project team's work with local community organisations. This has not only included schools and other groups for children and young people, but also work with the Canterbury Umbrella Centre¹¹, Kent Autistic Trust, local care homes, gardening and horticultural societies, and other community societies.

The work with Canterbury Umbrella Centre has been particularly successful as it has resulted in the centre users not only gaining new skills, but has also helped to boost their wellbeing through being outdoors in nature, working as a group, and helping them to integrate back into the community.

Centre users have carried out activities such as planting in the gardens, helping to paint the underpass, geocaching, and educational activities which enabled them to learn more about the wildlife and trees in the Parks. The activities have helped them to feel that they are giving something back to the community whilst also helping them to integrate with other local people and enhancing their social skills.

"We use the gardens frequently, it helps them with their anxiety and in return our members are happy to give something back to the community."

- Umbrella Centre staff

¹⁰ N=20

¹¹ A community centre providing support for a range of people, particularly those with mental health problems and learning difficulties

The partnership with the Umbrella Centre has also helped to keep centre users safe outside of activities time. This open and honest relationship between centre staff and the project team has meant that the project team are able to alert centre staff if they find anyone they feel might be in need of help in the Parks. This also allows the centre staff to alert the project team to be on the lookout for anyone who may be at risk or despondent who the centre staff believe could be in or around the Parks.

Centre staff view this as one of the biggest successes of their partnership – and it was completely unexpected. Vulnerable people are now able to get the help they need much more quickly and the project team know what to do if they find anyone they are concerned about in the Parks. It also lessens the involvement of the police in such cases, which the centre staff explained is often frightening for vulnerable people and escalates the situation beyond what is needed. The new Westgate Parks Development Officer, Sadie Williams, will take on some of the project team roles going forwards, including links with the Umbrella Centre.

3.1.6 Access audit

An access audit was carried out to make the Parks more accessible for a wider range of visitors, with improvements to the paths and general maintenance taking place as a result of this, making it easier for people with varying access requirements to engage with the Parks heritage.

3.1.7 Web presence

A part of encouraging more people to engage with the Parks has been the project web presence, which is particularly strong. The Parks' website contains a range of useful information and is always kept up-to-date with news and events, making it easy for people to find out what's happening and what they might like to participate in.

People can also find information about getting involved with the project, such as through volunteering, download trails, and find out about booking birthday parties in the Parks. The website is a comprehensive, one-stop location for everything project related, which makes it as easy as possible for audiences to get involved.

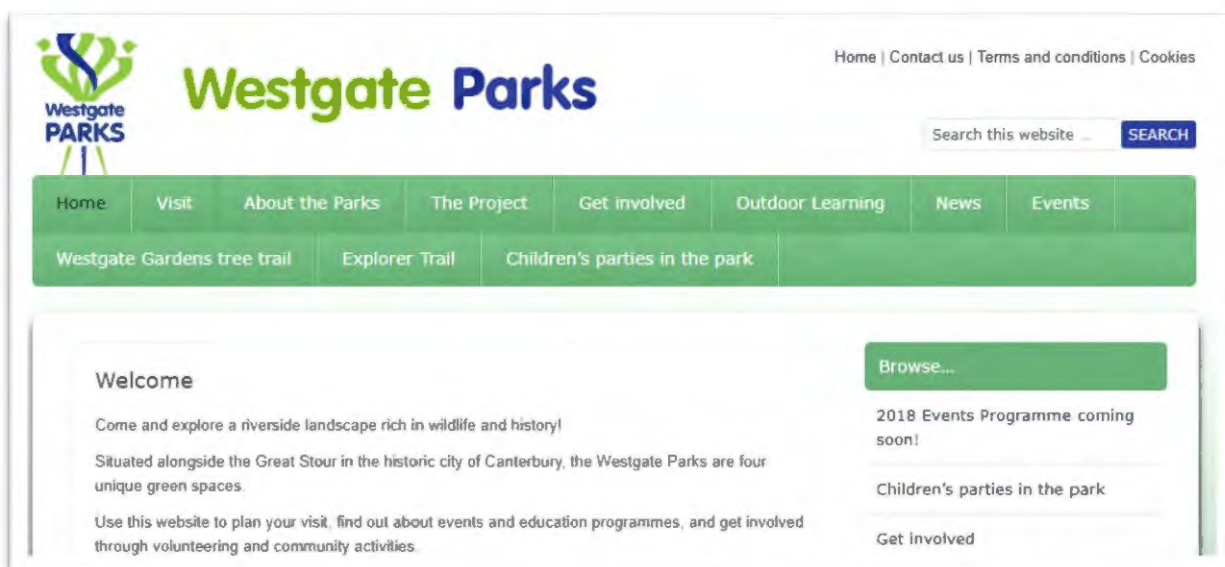


Figure 15: The top of the Parks 'home' page

There are also multiple Facebook groups and pages, including a 'Friends of Westgate Parks' Facebook group, enabling exchange of information and publicising of Parks events. This has 509 members. A 'Wild About Westgate' page documents and advertises educational project activities and has 324 'likes'.



Figure 16: 'Wild About Westgate' Facebook page header

There is also a group for sharing memories and history of Toddlers Cove which provides reminiscence opportunities and encourages further learning about the heritage of the Parks. This group has 252 members who discuss the Cove as it was in the 1940s – 1960s.

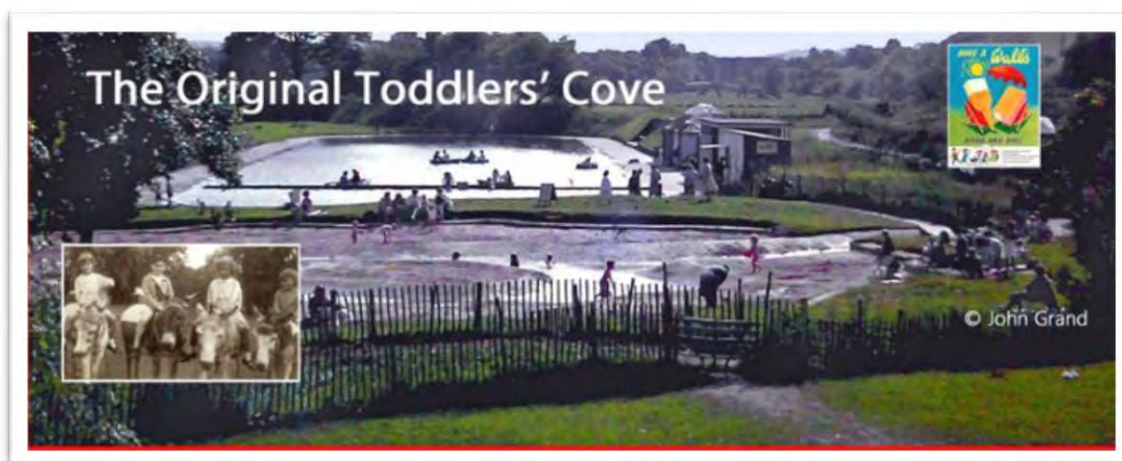


Figure 17: 'The Original Toddlers Cove' Facebook group header

3.2 Conserving and improving the heritage value

Enhancing the heritage of the Parks has been a key aim of the project, with the team having plans to conserve both natural and cultural heritage within them. This has taken the form of improvements to existing heritage features as well as new additions to encourage learning, such as the Canterbury Bull in Tannery Field or the re-introduction of donkeys to Toddlers Cove on an open day event. Project activities have aimed to help visitors appreciate and discover more about the heritage simply by walking through them, with events and activities to conserve, improve, and encourage learning also being held.



Figure 18: Photo of some of the Parks volunteers and staff with the newly achieved Green Flag Award

One way in which the heritage has been better interpreted is through the construction of the Canterbury Bull. The Canterbury Bull is a representation of the tannery which used to be located very close by and was linked to Tannery Field by a railway track which was used to dispose of the waste from the tannery. The Canterbury Bull is constructed from old railway tracks so as to interpret this portion of the Parks history. The Canterbury Bull helps to draw more people into the Parks as it is a part of the Canterbury Sculpture Trail, and is also appreciated by people in or passing by the Parks. The Canterbury Bull was seen by one stakeholder as one of the project's greatest legacies as it is such a long-lasting piece of interpretation which will help people to learn about the history of the Parks for generations to come.



Figure 19: Photo of a project volunteer with the donkeys at Toddlers Cove

The additional interpretation throughout the Parks, such as the interpretation panels, has also been seen as a great project success by stakeholders. These make the history, wildlife and plant life more accessible for visitors, helping a wider range of people to learn something on a visit. They also help people to notice and appreciate wildlife which might not be so obvious to them at first. Seven different panels have been introduced, each with their own educational elements about the history or natural heritage of the Parks. The panels are as follows:

"I think the bull and the story behind it will be there for years and years, it will outlast most of the fantastic improvements that we have seen transpire before us. The bull will definitely outlast us all."

- Project stakeholder

"There's plenty of boards around showing what you can see in the river and the trees, pointing out the wildlife."

- Project stakeholder

- All roads lead to Rome
- A towering abode
- A pungent prescription
- Seaside by the Stour
- Step through time
- Waste to Wildflowers
- Great Stour Wildlife.

Two of the interpretation boards are presented below.



Figure 20: Interpretation board in the Parks



Figure 21: Photo of an interpretation board in situ

People are able to discover more about the heritage of the Parks through the programme of events and activities, particularly walks and talks. These are discussed in section 3.1 and have generally acted to make local heritage more accessible for people within Canterbury.

3.2.1 Landscape and biodiversity

Work to enhance the landscape and natural heritage has also been successful and has resulted in the Parks being awarded a Green Flag Award. This has included creation and management of a pond on Bingley Island to create a habitat for wildlife, as well as coppicing willow on the Island to improve nesting habitats for birds. The creation of the wildflower meadow has also aimed to improve Parks biodiversity as well as making a pleasant area for walking. The meadow was identified as one of the most beneficial additions for biodiversity of the whole project by some of the stakeholders due to the range of wildlife relying on meadow habitats.



Figure 22: Photo of volunteers coppicing on Bingley Island



Figure 23: Photo of volunteers planting the wildflower meadow

Riverside planting has also been diversified, further improving the condition of the natural heritage within Westgate Gardens. This has been achieved through the installation of river bank service stations and wildflower plugs at Toddlers Cove to Rheims Way Bridge.

The project has contributed to the reduction of environmental impacts in the Parks. The project team have consistently considered ways to do this and have implemented some changes such as Serco now composting 100% of green waste on site. Part of the Great Stour Way Cycle Route runs through Westgate Parks, and this both acts to draw more visitors in and helps to reduce environmental impacts through encouraging people to cycle rather than drive. Additionally, local people can benefit through the health and wellbeing advantages of recreational cycling. On average 5932 people use this section of path within the Parks each year¹².

The biodiversity in the Parks has flourished since the project began. Monthly riverfly monitoring now takes place in the Stour to monitor the health of the river and its invertebrate inhabitants. This is not something which happened prior to the project so, whilst there is no data to compare results to, it does demonstrate the project impact on levels of wildlife recording. Over 15 riverfly monitoring sessions have taken place over the course of the project and the project team have concluded that the river is healthy. This will continue beyond the life of the project to ensure the river stays in good health to monitor the species living within it.



Figure 24: Photo of Parks Officer, Anna Bell, participating in Riverfly monitoring

Bird species have also been monitored during the course of the project, with surveys being carried out in 2012, 2013-14, and 2016. 49 species of bird were recorded in the 2012 survey, with 28 new species identified in the 2013-14 survey. This demonstrates a significant improvement in the habitat of the Parks as a large number of new birds sighted in 2013-14 were birds which make use of the Parks in some way, either through hunting, feeding, or using it for roosting. This includes sparrow hawks, kestrels, and peregrines. No new species were recorded in the 2016 survey. As of 2018, a total of 83 different bird species have been identified within the Parks.

Bat surveying also takes place during some of the bat walks, with eight different species being identified in the Parks across the project. These are Soprano, Common Pipistrelle, Daubentons, Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Noctule Bat, Serotine, Long-Eared Bat, and Natterers' Bat. A bat roost map has been created of the area by Project Officer Anna Bell, including the Parks and surrounding areas.

¹² Source: counters placed along the cycle route

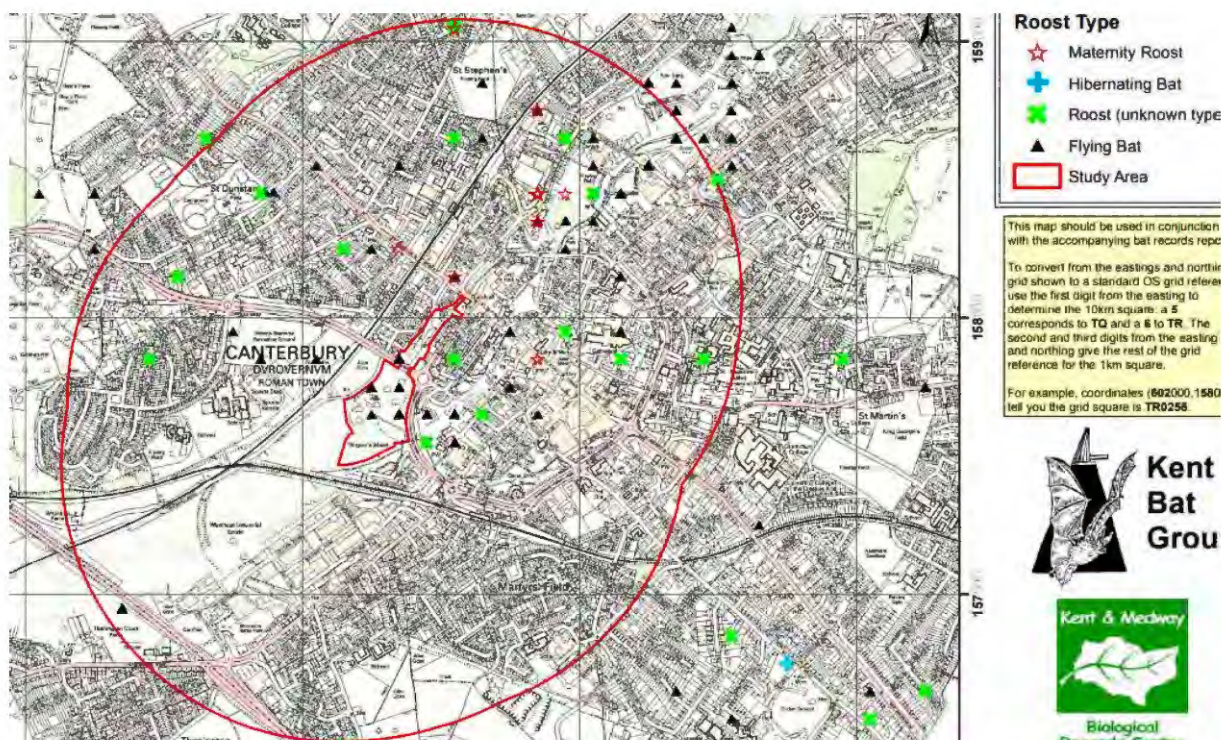


Figure 25: Bat roost map of Westgate Parks and surrounding areas

Butterfly monitoring is undertaken by some of the volunteers, including Clive Salmon, contributing to the outcome of heritage being better identified and recorded. Clive has identified 17 different species of butterfly within the Parks across the 5 years of the project.

Biologist Dick Vane Wright has carried out research on invertebrates living in the Bingley Island area of the Park. A beetles project has been established with the aim of working towards a baseline for the beetle diversity of the island. Once this has been achieved, regular monitoring can commence to ensure that the beetle population is better recorded and understood. The beetle project has demonstrated that the Westgate Parks project has had a positive impact for beetles species. The establishment of the new pond on the island in 2014 has been colonised by several species of water beetle, and general scrub clearance and habitat improvements have further encouraged new beetle species onto the island. In 2012 – pre-project – 160 beetle species were recorded, and a further 70 species have been identified since intensive sampling begun in May 2015. Although some of this increase is likely to be attributed to the intensive levels of sampling, the research team believe that the habitat improvements are a significant contributing factor to the increase in beetle species on Bingley Island.

Dick Vane Wright also leads the midge project within the Parks, although this is currently on hold whilst the research team analyse and write-up results. The midge project focused on a family of insect named Chironomid midges.



Figure 26: Photo of a group of volunteers participating in butterfly monitoring training

The midge project has resulted in a much better understanding of the midges within the Parks, with 20 genera of Chironomid midges identified in the Stour out of the 140 genera in Britain.

This will be continued going forwards with a much more systematic and extensive approach, which will include regular sampling of the Great Stour non-biting midges and will provide the opportunity for Parks volunteers to get involved. This project, again, results in better recorded heritage which is better understood by the project team, research team, and the wider scientific community through the sharing of results in published papers and academic talks.

Further demonstrating that the Park is in a healthy condition for wildlife are the sightings of other interesting creatures, not included in wildlife surveys, including newts, frogs, grass snakes, weasels, hedgehogs, bank voles, buzzards, and kestrels.

3.2.2 Archaeology

Community archaeology has also contributed to the conservation and improvement of the heritage value of the Parks, whilst also providing learning experiences for local people who were able to participate. Two separate community archaeology digs were held, in

"Thank you so much for the wonderful experience you gave to Thomas on the community dig. He was so excited at being able to take part and at uncovering some artefacts."

- Dig participant

2014 and 2015, engaging a total of 850 people in the 2014 five-day dig, and 2,000 in the 2015 combined Friends of Westgate Parks open day and community dig. The digs were arranged with Canterbury Archaeological Trust, who felt that they had been a success both from the range of people involved and the information the dig had revealed about the Park heritage.

Local people and visitors alike found the digs enjoyable and it was a particularly exciting experience for children and families in the area. It led to one family being inspired to create their own 'archaeological dig' at home through burying a mixture of items in their garden, extending the learning potential of the experience. See figure 28 below for a photo collage of the Parks archaeology.

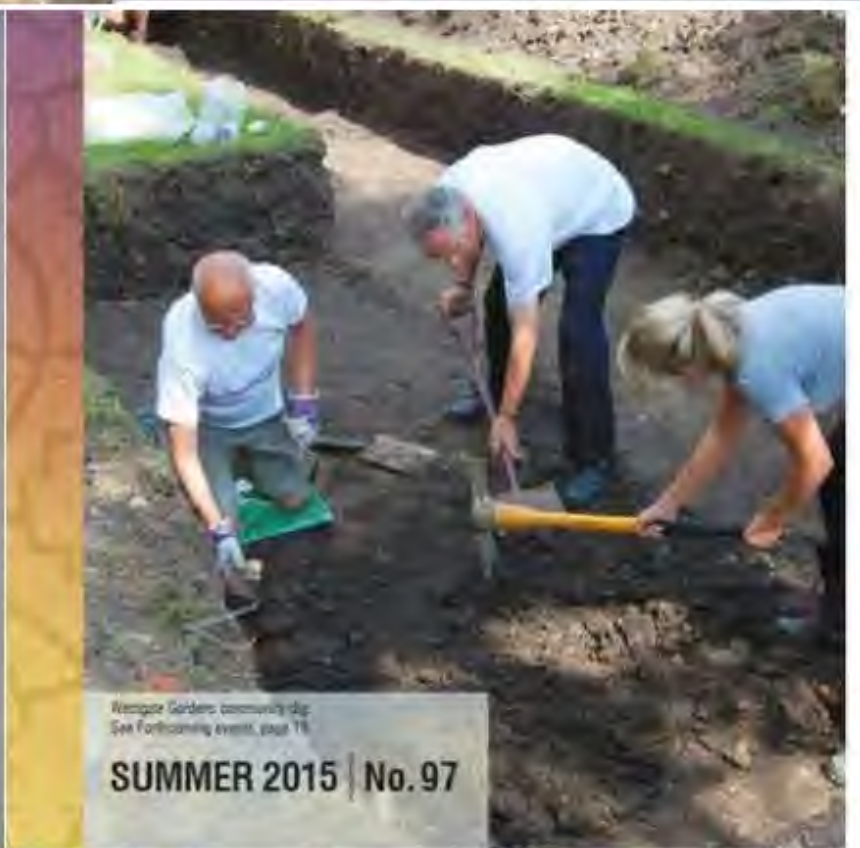


Figure 27: Collage of photos from the community archaeology

The collage above demonstrates some images from the project community archaeology:

- Top left – Group of archaeology participants on the dig
- Top middle – Child participating in the dig
- Top right – Roman coins uncovered in the dig
- Middle left – Some of the items uncovered in the dig
- Middle right – Anna Bell with some of the volunteers on the dig
- Bottom left – A find in situ
- Bottom right – Volunteer with an artefact he uncovered.

3.3 Increasing the range of volunteers involved

This has been achieved successfully through the project's volunteer programme, which has seen over 120 volunteers completing 4539.6 hours. The activities have been very varied and have provided the opportunity to try lots of new things and gain a host of new skills. Tasks have primarily taken the form of education activities, conservation tasks, and events. The volunteers have been able to make significant contributions to the project, through helping to run the education programme for children and young people, helping to conserve and maintain the Parks, and to plan and run the events. They have also been able to benefit greatly themselves.



Figure 28: Photo of some of the Westgate Parks volunteer team and staff

They have gained a lot through volunteering; both professional and personally. This is evident through speaking with the volunteers themselves as well as stakeholders, who can see that the volunteers have gained confidence and self-belief through their time with the project.

"The volunteer numbers its brought are huge, the volunteers gain confidence and self-belief - to go on to work, to join in with new groups, to learn, all sorts of things."

- Project stakeholder

3.3.1 Increased confidence and personal development

This has been the primary outcome of the Parks project, with a number of volunteers undergoing significant personal development as a result of it. One volunteer who particularly gained a lot is Clive Salmon, who joined the project in his retirement. His experience is highlighted in the case study below.



Figure 29: Case study of volunteer, Clive Salmon

3.3.2 New skills and training

Volunteers have been able to gain a range of new skills through the project, such as practical skills in maintenance and painting, river monitoring, species identification, and first aid. The training has benefitted them all through providing new sets of skills, but has also benefitted the natural heritage of the Parks through equipping the volunteers with skills necessary to carry out tasks such as species monitoring, land maintenance, and grafting apple trees.

"I already had a mixture of practical skills and I've been able to pass them on to other people."

- Project volunteer

Volunteers have also been able to pass skills amongst each other, with some older volunteers bringing their own skills to the project and enjoying being able to share them with less experienced volunteers.

3.3.3 Challenges faced during the volunteer programme

There have been some challenges faced through the delivery of the volunteer programme. Stakeholders feel that the volunteer programme may have been even better if the project team had more time and resources to deliver it. There were further difficulties as the project drew to a close, as discussed below.

It has also proved challenging to retain long-term volunteers, with many people volunteering for a short period of time due to only having a short time available, such as university students or people volunteering to gain experience for job roles. This is a concern going forwards as some project stakeholders fear that volunteers will leave due to the lack of high-level coordination or leadership they have been used to during the project. Anna Bell will continue to work with the volunteers in her capacity as an outdoor learning provider, and they will also be working with the new Parks Community Development Officer, who will be splitting her time between Westgate Parks and the nearby Dane John Park.

3.3.4 The volunteer programme post-project

The regular volunteers have been concerned about the project's end and what will happen when project officers Anna and Lauren leave post. A Memorandum of Understanding has been reached with Canterbury City Council which enables the volunteers to continue on with their work, store tools and equipment in a storage unit, and work unsupervised. This memorandum was reached with the help of a Memorandum of Understanding meeting, facilitated by Heritage Insider, which enabled the volunteers, including Friends of Westgate Parks group, to discuss their thoughts and concerns on continuing to volunteer at the Parks. This has been instrumental in continuing the legacy of the project and ensuring that people are still able to volunteer time.

There are, however, some concerns about the future of the volunteering programme from volunteers and Friends of Westgate Parks members. Some of the volunteers are concerned that they will not be able to successfully continue without the support of Anna and Lauren. Despite there being a replacement to take over the facilitation of the volunteers, one volunteer in particular is concerned that this support is not enough.

3.3.5 Friends of Westgate Parks

The Friends of Westgate Parks group is a voluntary group which was established to make a difference in the Parks. It consists of a range of individuals, public bodies, community groups, businesses and educational establishments, and the group has been successfully awarded charitable status as of 2018. This means that they can continue the work they have carried out across the duration of the project as they move forwards.

The Friends group will be taking on a lot more of the responsibility for Parks events following the departure of the project team, however there has been a difficult start to this with the group being

given two events to organise in the final year of the project and only successfully arranging one. The group have learnt from the issues which prevented their success with the first event and chair, Terry Westgate, feels confident that future events will be better organised.

There has been some disconnect between the Friends group and the Parks volunteers. The Friends do not see themselves as a hands-on group who would carry out tasks and activities in the Parks as the volunteers would. However, it has been challenging for the volunteers to understand this and understand what the purpose of the Friends group is. This is due to a lack of communication between the two groups which, going forwards, needs to be improved.

This group is partly responsible for continuation of the project legacy along with Anna Bell and Canterbury City Council, and as a part of this have started up a Friends of Westgate Parks newsletter. The newsletter aims to keep people informed and engaged with the Parks whilst also encouraging donations and new members.



Figure 30: First edition of the Friends of Westgate Parks newsletter



Figure 31: Collage of photos of the volunteers

Photo collage:

- Top left – A group of volunteers with Anna Bell with new volunteering white shirts on
- Top right – Volunteers taking a break during a conservation task
- Middle left – Volunteers and local people participating in the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean
- Middle right – Volunteers with bags of litter after a litter pick
- Bottom-middle left – A volunteer in the Westgate Parks volunteering video
- Bottom left – Volunteers participating in the archaeology
- Bottom right – Volunteer Clive Salmon participating in a conservation task.

3.4 Improving skills and knowledge through learning and training

Whilst this element has been a success in its own right, as discussed within this section, it has also led to the establishment of Anna Outdoors – an outdoor learning organisation set up by the project's Development Officer, Anna Bell. Anna will be continuing to deliver education sessions to schools and other children and young people at the Parks through her outdoor learning organisation. This means that the educational portion of the project is able to continue going forwards.

3.4.1 Work with schools

The project work with schools and universities has been a very successful element of the project due to the wide range of establishments involved and the diversity of the project learning. 32 different educational establishments for children and young people have been involved, including schools, scouts, brownies, and the Kent Autistic Trust. The project originally aimed to work with 150 pupils per year of the project, striving for a total of 750. This has been massively exceeded, with a total of 3285¹³ learning experiences taking place across the 5 years. Although repeat visits account for some of these numbers, it is clear that the target of 750 has been well exceeded. This is due to the high quality of the sessions conducted by the project team, which led to teachers bringing additional classes in and recommending the sessions to other teachers.

Project activities with these groups have been varied and enabled learning on a range of



Figure 33: Photo of a group of school pupils participating in Forest School activities



Figure 32: Photo of school children participating in activities in the Parks

¹³ Learning experiences = total number of children recorded as participating in all learning activities at the Parks, including repeat visits

The activities have been high quality and in-depth, and teachers felt that these were not activities which they could have set up themselves. Teachers were able to benefit from the programme as it helped them to discover some new techniques for use in the classroom and through the provision of resources for pupils to use to follow-up on their visit. This helped to further tie the activities in with curriculum learning.

Forest school sessions have been delivered for children and young people as well as training sessions for educators on how to deliver their own forest school sessions. Participants in these activities felt that they were of an excellent quality and that they were able to learn a lot. The forest school sessions helped children and young people to connect with the natural heritage of the Parks whilst also providing something enjoyable and exciting.

School pupils have also been able to benefit through helping with the creation of the Physic Garden. Pupils have learnt about horticulture and natural heritage as well as local history, as a physic garden was first recorded in Canterbury in 1165. The garden has primarily been cultivated by pupils from Simon Langton Girls Grammar School, and they have learnt about various plants through helping to design the garden. The garden is split into various sections with plants linked to ancient remedies, for example one raised bed with plants thought to aid digestion and one with plants thought to help those with bone ailments. The garden has also helped the pupils to feel like more of a part of their local community.



Figure 35: Photograph of the Physic Garden when newly planted

Some Simon Langton students were also involved in the 'Talking Trees' programme, which was partnered with Westgate Parks. The programme saw students working with older people in the community to facilitate arts activities, working alongside local artists. A highlight of the programme was working with Westgate Parks to devise and launch the Tree Trail in the Parks, which was designed by the students with older people in mind. The students helped older people to explore the trail by guiding them around.



Figure 36: Photo of participants in the Talking Trees programme from Cranmer House and Simon Langton School

The programme helped the students to not only learn more about the Parks and gain practical skills through helping to develop the trail, but also helped them to form genuine friendships with the

older people involved. Following the programme, the students had a much better understanding of the challenges, vulnerabilities, values, and needs facing older people in Canterbury. The students themselves were also able to increase their confidence, communication and team-working skills, and some of them continued on with befriending and volunteering following the programme's end.

Some organisations would have liked to have been involved even more and were a little disappointed that there hadn't been more opportunities for this.

"As soon as we got back Jordan (student) stayed on at college and was telling every member of staff that went past about the different trees and the history of Westgate Parks!"

- College tutor

3.4.2 College and university students

The project team has also worked with college and university groups and individual students on various activities. Canterbury College students were able to benefit particularly well from the project, with high needs students taking part in organised visits to the Parks, and travel and tourism students participating in short-term volunteering opportunities. The high needs students were able to get a lot out of working with the project as activities pushed them out of their normal comfort zones. These students have struggled with building friendships, resiliency, confidence, and overcoming anxiety, and the Parks sessions helped them to build on all of these as well as helping them to learn new things.

"I found yesterday very beneficial and enjoyable and so thank you for providing me with the opportunity to come out."

- College student

The students from the college carrying out work experience found this opportunity very beneficial.

3.4.3 Explorer Trail

The new self-led Explorer Trail provides an excellent opportunity for families to learn about local history together. It does so through guiding families around a trail of brass rubbings, each with some information on Parks history. Trail booklets are available to purchase for £2.50 each, with the funds going to the Friends of Westgate Parks and further helping to made improvements. Booklets come with a set of crayons to enable children to complete the brass rubbings and learn historical facts.



Figure 37: Explorer Trail booklets



Each of the rubbings are tied to the Parks' rich Roman history through trail guide character, Julius – a Roman centurion.

3.4.4 Volunteer upskilling

Figure 38: Example of a brass rubbing panel

Volunteers have also been able to benefit from the project through upskilling, as discussed in section 3.3.

3.5 Improving management and maintenance





The improvements to the management and maintenance have been instrumental in the achievement of other project aims, such as making the Parks feel safer and more welcoming to encourage a wider range of people to visit. Various activities have been carried out which have generally improved the way the heritage is managed and boosted its condition.













Figure 39: Photo of the Canterbury Bull's head with ongoing maintenance activities taking place in the background

3.5.1 Physical improvements

The project included a range of physical improvements to the fabric of the Parks which have made a marked effect upon it. See below for some examples:

Area of Park	Before	After
Underpass	<p>Art in the underpass 2014 BEFORE painting, lighting and re-surfacing works</p> 	<p>Art in the underpass 2016 AFTER painting, lighting and re-surfacing works</p> 
Toddler's Cove	<p>Toddler's Cove toilets 2014</p> 	<p>Toddler's Cove toilets and store room 2016</p> 

Toddler's Cove	<p>Toddler's Cove play area 2013</p> 	<p>Toddler's Cove play area 2015</p> 
Toddler's Cove	<p>Toddler's Cove bridge 2013</p> 	<p>New bridge Toddler's Cove 2015</p> 
Toddler's Cove	<p>Toddler's Cove car park 2013</p> 	<p>Toddler's Cove car park 2015, with newly planted native hedgerow</p> 
Bingley Island	<p>Bingley Island Local Nature Reserve 2014 prior to pond creation</p> 	<p>Bingley Island Local Nature Reserve 2016 after pond creation</p> 
Toddler's Cove	<p>Toddler's Cove underpass entrance BEFORE works 2013</p> 	<p>Toddler's Cove underpass entrance after works 2015</p> 

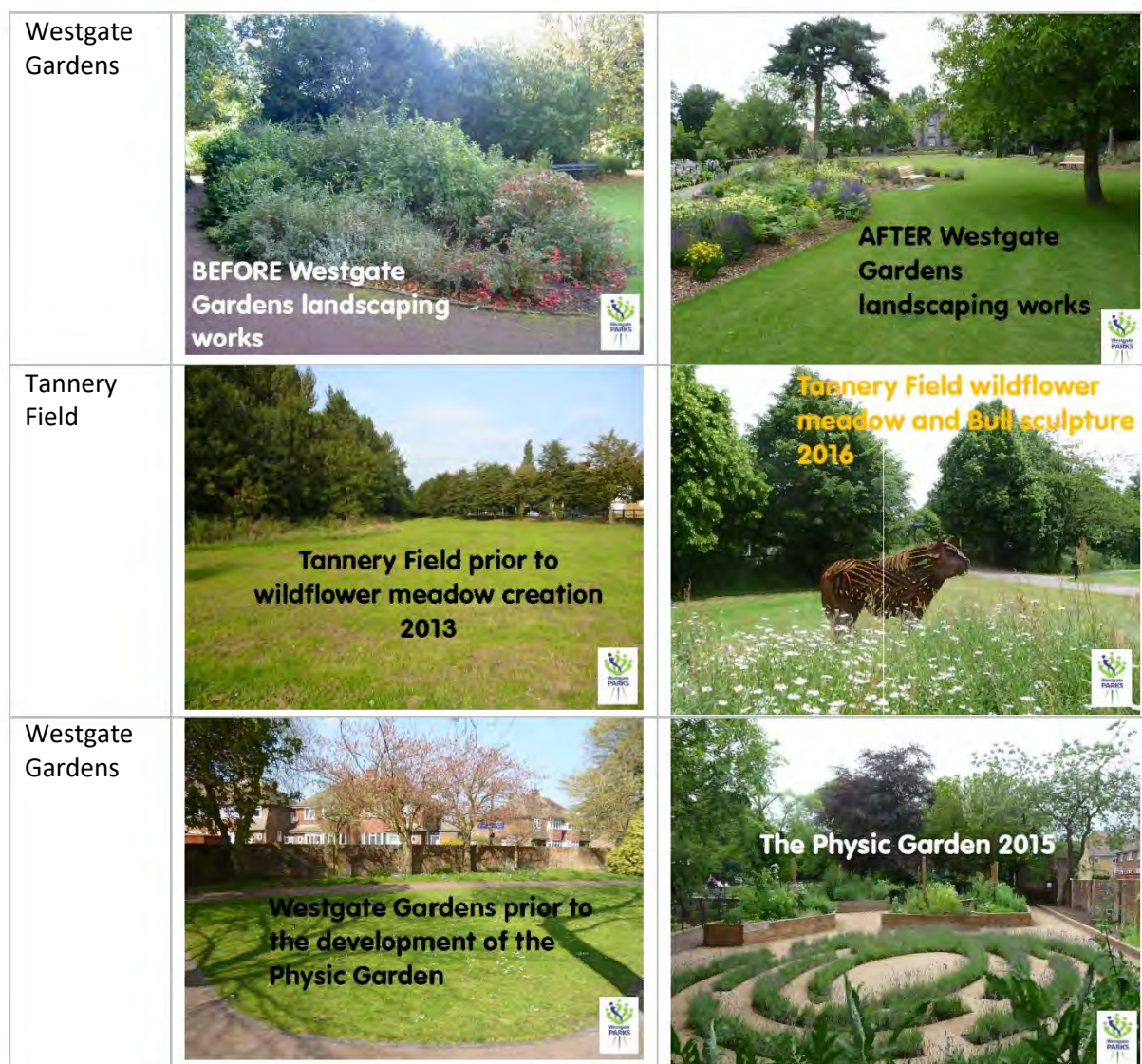


Figure 40: Table of improvements of sample of areas within the Parks

The works have made the Parks a much more enjoyable place to be, with the project team frequently receiving comments from visitors about the improvements and how much they have enjoyed being there. The newly planted Physic Garden, flower beds, and wildflower meadow have been some of the most popular improved areas of the Parks, with local people commenting that these were 'lovely' and feeling that they were something that had been missing previously. The improvements also act to encourage people to visit when they see pictures on the Parks' social media pages and website.

Improvements to the quality and management of the Parks have been seen as the greatest success of the project by some of the project stakeholders. The improvements to the play area in particular have brought in new audiences, with one stakeholder

"Oh Lovely, great to see a wild meadow again, makes one realise what we've been missing."

- Local resident

"Must see this. Lovely."

- Local resident

"The impact is massively positive, the visitors that are coming here, they come specifically for the toddler play areas and the gardens."

- Project stakeholder

discussing how people from all over Canterbury, and sometimes further afield, now visit the play area as a destination of its own, rather than somewhere to pop into whilst passing through. This stakeholder feels that the Parks as a whole now have a reputation for being 'clean' and 'lovely', and that they have become a good attraction, available for everyone to use.

The works to improve the Toddler's Cove underpass have been particularly popular amongst Parks visitors, who provided post-it note feedback – presented below. The underpass is now viewed as colourful and bright which makes it more pleasant for people to walk through. The works have also had a positive impact on people's perceptions of the Toddlers Cove/Rheims Way area of the Parks, as where previously this was viewed as unpleasant and sometimes 'scary' to walk through, it is now seen as an inspirational area which visitors enjoy walking through.



Figure 41: Photo of volunteer, Clive Salmon, holding the feedback board about the Toddler's Cove underpass project



Figure 42: The post-it note feedback board for the public to provide feedback on the Toddler's Cove underpass project

The word cloud below summarises the words Parks visitors are now using to describe the underpass following the project.



Figure 43: Word cloud of Parks visitor descriptions of the Toddler's Cove underpass post-project

One issue raised by stakeholders with some of the works was that, despite the toilet block being refurbished and of a much better standard following the project, the number of actual toilets available in it has lessened. One stakeholder felt that consultations with users and carers of the convenience could have been carried out prior to the project team making this decision, as now there are often long queues.

"We used to have more toilets, now we have less, and we have queues out the door. Two toilets just aren't enough. It's a real pain for everyone."

- Project stakeholder

Generally, however, the improvements have been successful due to the improved appearance of the Parks, the improvements in safety, and the fact that they are able to now draw a greater number of visitors in. The success of the improvements are reflected in the way the Parks were instrumental in Canterbury winning the Gold Award in Britain in Bloom 2017. The city was also awarded gold in 2016 and 2017 for the South and South East in Bloom awards.

3.5.2 Ongoing maintenance

The general maintenance of the Parks has also improved due to the project, with the introduction of such volunteer tasks as regular litter picking. The project team and over 60 volunteers, including members of the Friends group, also participated in Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean events where they



Figure 44: Photo of project team members Anna Bell and Lauren Baker participating in the Great British Spring Clean

collected over 60 bags of rubbish from the Parks. This contributed to the improved condition of the Parks whilst also raising awareness of the issue of litter.

Graffiti removal has been another aspect of the ongoing maintenance, as discussed in section 3.1. Volunteers are able to quickly remove it when it appears – which it does much less regularly than pre-project.

The management and maintenance of the Parks has also improved thanks to the regular programme of weeding and grounds maintenance carried out by the volunteers.

The regular maintenance activities contribute to an overall tidy appearance of the Parks, making the area more pleasant to be in and discouraging criminal activities such as vandalism and graffiti.

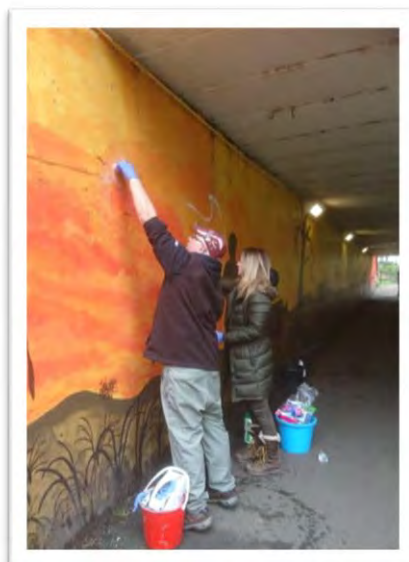


Figure 45: Photo of volunteers cleaning graffiti from the Tannery Field underpass

3.6 Meeting the HLF outcomes

The table below explores how each of the HLF outcomes have been met by the project.

HLF outcome	How has it been met?
For heritage	
Heritage will be better managed	The volunteer programme at the Parks ensures that this outcome has been met, as volunteer activities frequently contribute to park maintenance. For example, litter picks, garden maintenance, and coppicing all help with the management of the Parks. A memorandum of understanding with the city council ensures this management regime will be able to continue going forwards with the volunteers being provided with a container for storing tools and being adequately supported by the council and Anna Bell in her continuing role with her outdoor learning company, Anna Outdoors. The volunteers and Friends group also all work together to ensure that physical structures in the Parks are better managed, for example continually removing graffiti from the underpass if it appears.
Heritage will be in better condition	The heritage is also in a better condition due to the project. This is partly due to the improved heritage management ensuring that the heritage condition is improved and maintained, and partly due to the physical works such as the new play equipment in Toddlers Cove, creation of a pond on Bingley Island, the Tannery Field flower meadow and the introduction of the Physic Garden. The heritage is able to flourish due to the project works.
Heritage will be better interpreted or explained	Heritage is better interpreted and explained thanks to the new interpretation panels, covering a variety of 'hidden history' topics relating to the Parks. The Canterbury Bull in Tannery Field also helps to interpret the Parks heritage, with stakeholders feeling that this will be one of the greatest legacies of the project due to its long-lasting nature. Heritage is also explained through the variety of project activities, such as informational talks and outdoor learning sessions. Furthermore, the self-guided Explorer Trail helps families to discover more about local history through the brass rubbings positioned throughout the Parks and other educational activities.
Heritage will be better identified or recorded	A number of schemes have been put into place to better identify and record heritage in the Parks. Anna Bell has been carrying out a riverfly monitoring scheme in the River Stour, and will continue to do so following the project's end. Volunteers have been trained in and now carry out butterfly surveying. The project team have worked alongside a researcher from the University of Kent's Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology to monitor and record invertebrates in the Parks.
For people	
People will have developed skills	A wide range of people have been able to gain new skills as a part of the project. This includes the volunteers, whose range of tasks have meant that there have been a lot of opportunities for gaining new skills. Skills have been gained in conservation tasks, first aid, forest school skills, and practical skills such as painting. Volunteers were also able to share their existing skills amongst themselves.

	Children and young people were also able to gain new skills, both through participation in the outdoor learning activities such as river dipping or forest school, and the public events and activities programme. Some young people were also able to gain new skills and experiences through work experience placements at the Parks, and there were opportunities for young people with additional needs to boost their personal skills such as confidence and team working through visits to the Parks as a part of a college course.
People will have learnt about heritage	The events and activities programme has been a strong offer in terms of opportunities to learn about heritage. People have been able to discover the natural heritage of the Parks as well as learning about its rich history through such activities as guided walks, talks, the community archaeology digs, and river and pond dipping. The new interpretation has also helped people to learn about the heritage of the Parks.
People will have changed their attitudes/ behaviour	This has been achieved through the physical improvements to the Parks, making the Parks safer through discouraging alcohol and drug users from loitering there, and through the programme of events and activities which have helped people to see them as a lively venue with something there for everybody. 50% of visitors who were asked at events and activities feel that the Parks have improved in recent years. Some project stakeholders feel that the changed perceptions of the Parks are the project's greatest achievement as a greater number of people now visit and gain a lot of enjoyment from them.
People will have had an enjoyable experience	People have been able to enjoy the Parks through the events and activities programme – with 83% of those surveyed at the 2018 open day and an outdoor learning activity rating their enjoyment of the Parks as a 'four' or higher, out of five. Visitors enjoy the diversity of activities available. Volunteers are also able to gain significant enjoyment from their roles, with older volunteers particularly finding that the volunteering helped them to get out and socialise and gain new experiences.
People will have volunteered time	Volunteers have contributed 4539.6 hours over the course of the project, resulting in in-kind time of £49,775. Volunteer activities have primarily taken the form of education, conservation, and events activities, and have helped the volunteers to gain new skills and to develop personally, particularly increasing in confidence.
For communities	
Environmental impacts will be reduced	The project team have consistently considered ways to reduce environmental impacts and have implemented some changes such as Serco now composting 100% of green waste on site. Part of the Great Stour Way Cycle Route runs through Westgate Parks, and this both acts to draw more visitors in and helps to reduce environmental impacts through encouraging people to cycle rather than drive.
More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	This has been successful through engaging people with the events and activities programme – much of which revolves around the heritage of the Parks. 23,176 people have engaged with the events and activities over the five years of the project from a range of backgrounds, such as local families, people with mental health

	issues, school pupils and older people. The number of people visiting the Parks has also increased from an estimated 150,000 per annum at the start of the project to an estimated 260,000 per annum post-project.
Local area/community will be a better place to work, live, or visit	The project has led to the Parks being safer, reducing the fear of crime felt by some visitors pre-project, and improving the appearance of some areas. This makes them a nicer area to walk through on a commute or for leisure purposes, and generally makes the areas immediately surrounding the Parks a better place to live due to access to a safe green space. They are also a better place to visit due and are now second in the 'things to do' list on TripAdvisor for Canterbury.
Local economy will be boosted	The local economy has been boosted through the Parks being a visitor attraction drawing more people into the area. Project stakeholders are aware of people visiting from further afield than they may have pre-project, particularly to visit the play equipment at Toddlers Cove. This means that the businesses around the Parks will be able to benefit from increased footfall and revenue. The project has also enabled people to gain new skills and experience for employment, such as college students on work experience placements or volunteers gaining a range of experiences.
Organisation will be more resilient	The project has enabled the city council and project partners to better understand how to improve the Parks. Some of the lessons from this project can be applied to the Dane John park, also in Canterbury.

Figure 46: Table demonstrating how HLF outcomes have been met during the project

3.7 Project legacy

The project work has given rise to a strong legacy which will see the Parks' improved condition being maintained and visitors continuing to have opportunities to discover wildlife, history, and to have an enjoyable experience. The seven primary legacy outcomes are as follows:



Figure 47: Graphic of seven primary legacy outcomes of the project

4. Main findings of the project evaluation

4.1 What were the major impacts?

Improvements to condition, maintenance, and safety of the Parks

This has been one of the major impacts in its own right and has also contributed to a variety of other positive impacts being achieved, for example a greater range of people using the Parks. Many areas were in poor condition at the start of the project, particularly the structures of the toilet block in Toddler's Cove and the Toddler's Cove underpass – both of which were run down and covered in graffiti, with the underpasses – both of which were in a run-down condition. The playground in Toddler's Cove was also in poor condition. Many of the comments received by the project team from visitors to the Parks at the start of the project were about the poor condition and the fact that visitors felt unsafe due to the alcohol and drug users and groups of youths loitering around the underpass.

"The new underpass looks amazing – many congratulations to you and the team!!"

- Lisa Carlson, Canterbury Bid Team

Project improvements have had a major impact on these things, and are reflected in the much more positive nature of comments from Parks visitors in the later years of the project. Improvements have included new toilet blocks and play equipment in Toddler's Cove, murals being painted on the underpass and new graffiti being cleaned off swiftly, and a programme of maintenance and management implemented by the volunteers. These improvements have also helped to cut down anti-social behaviour in the Parks through the 'broken window theory'.

The improvements have generally made the Parks a nice space to be in, both cleaner and safer. These have encouraged new people to visit, repeat visitors, and have helped to upskill volunteers who have been instrumental in the upkeep of the Parks throughout the project.

The improved condition of the Parks has contributed to Canterbury winning the Gold Award in the South and South East Britain in Bloom in 2016 and 2017, and the city winning the national Britain in Bloom Gold Award in 2017. Additionally, the Parks have been awarded a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, and the Physic Garden was also nominated for a Canterbury Society Design Award. There are plans to apply in future for further awards, including Green Heritage, Fields in Trust, and Institute for Outdoor Learning awards.

Volunteer programme

The volunteer programme has been another key success of this project. A diverse range of volunteers were engaged with the project, from retired people to exchange students at local universities. The volunteers were able to gain a range of practical new skills, which for some have helped them to go forwards into employment, and for others have simply enhanced the whole volunteering experience for them.

The personal development which volunteers have undergone has been a highlight of the project for them. The project has helped volunteers to boost their confidence, make new friends, and improve their wellbeing through socialising and being outdoors.

Volunteering has been an integral part of some of the volunteers' lives for the duration of the project. It has helped some of them to feel more comfortable talking to people they don't know and encouraged them to stay active.

Volunteers also feel that they have been adequately supported by the project team throughout their experience, and that if they needed any equipment or felt any additional training was needed, this would all be provided for them.

Clive Salmon, Parks volunteer, was the runner up for a Love Parks volunteering award for his contributions to volunteering in the Parks.

Improving wellbeing

This is something which has been particularly successful for the Canterbury Umbrella Centre users who suffer from mental health issues. The project has provided a range of opportunities for these service users to participate in outdoor activities, which the Centre had been looking for, including using the garden, geocaching, and painting the underpass.

"It's a relaxing and calming space for them which we regularly use."

- Canterbury Umbrella Centre staff

The project has had real impacts on the Centre users, particularly through the use of the gardens which helps the users with their anxiety and enables them to give something back to the community. This has been just one way in which the project has helped to integrate the users back into the community – it has also been achieved through their participation in the arts activities, being a part of the Parks volunteer programme, or through the fun challenges and various competitions which have been available to them.

The project has helped others to feel more integrated, such as some of the volunteers who have been able to improve their wellbeing through the socialisation and routine afforded by the volunteer programme.

Raising the profile of the Parks

This has been well achieved through the programme of events and activities which have reached a wider audience than usually may have engaged with the Parks. The events and activities and associated marketing, including social media marketing, have resulted in Westgate Parks taking the number two spot for things to do in Canterbury on TripAdvisor, which stakeholders feel wouldn't have happened without the project. The project's cohesive branding used throughout marketing materials and project documentation/materials has also helped to raise the profile of the Parks.

The project has helped local people to rediscover the Parks, or to discover them for the first time, with a number of event and activity attendees reporting that they had never visited prior to the

project, or had only visited once or twice. School pupils participating in the education programme had also helped to raise the profile of the Parks through returning outside of school time for visits with their families.

Some stakeholders feel that raising the profile of the Parks has been one of the greatest legacies of the project as it has enabled a wide range of people to visit and discover what a fantastic local resource they are and succeeded at increasing the number of annual visitors. It is hoped that this trend will continue post-project.

The work of the project team

The work of the Parks Development Officers, Anna Bell and Lauren Baker, has been the root cause of a lot of the most positive impacts of the project. When speaking with stakeholders, partners, and volunteers, all were very quick to praise their work and felt that they had been organised and gone above what was expected of them. When speaking with some of the Friends group who had been involved in appointing Anna Bell to her role, they felt that she had been an outstanding candidate from day one and had well exceeded expectations in her job performance. They felt similarly about Lauren Baker when she joined the team later on in the project.

Their work has also been praised by teachers, some of whom felt that their enthusiasm and knowledge was the highlight of the whole education programme. One teacher in particular discussed Anna's ability to pitch the outdoor learning sessions at exactly the right level and to challenge the pupils just the right amount so that they learned new things without finding activities too difficult.

"The highlight has been Anna herself. She is so knowledgeable and the lessons have been outstanding. They were pitched at exactly the right level, Anna was never patronising and was able to naturally introduce scientific and geographic ideas and vocabulary."

- Teacher, St Edmund's school

Umbrella Centre staff also feel that working with Anna and Lauren has been a highlight of the project, feeling that they have always been professional and helpful and have made it a joy to work with the project.

Parks visitors have been very complimentary of both project officers, always feeling that they have been able to go to them with any issues or concerns in the Parks. This was partly because Anna and Lauren were not council staff, so visitors felt that they would be unbiased and felt comfortable coming to them with problems.

Following the end of the project, Anna and Lauren will both be continuing their working relationship with the Parks, with Anna continuing to work in the Parks with her outdoor learning company, Anna Outdoors. She will continue to offer some support to the volunteers, making their transition from being heavily supported during the project to being a more independent group smoother. She will continue to be a presence in the Parks for visitors who have become familiar with her and feel that they can go to her with any issues they have. Lauren will also continue to be a familiar presence as

she is mid-way through working on the 'Our Stour' project which involves some tasks in the Westgate Parks.

4.2 What could have been improved?

Volunteer programme towards the end of the project

The volunteer programme towards the end of the project could have been improved. Although the volunteers were made aware that the project was only five years long, it did still come as a shock to some of them when, in the final year, they realised the consistent support from the project team would be coming to an end.

There was some ambiguity about the level of support volunteers would be provided with upon the ending of the project, as the project team weren't completely certain who would be on the ground working with the volunteers and did not want to inform volunteers of what could be happening until they were certain themselves. For example, the new Parks Development Officer role was borne out of issues at Dane John Park, also in Canterbury, and the project team were not sure what role the new officer would take up within Westgate Parks and how much work they would be doing with the volunteers.

Changes in leadership within the council also made it challenging for the project team to know what the long-term plan for the volunteers in the Parks would be. Generally, more open communication both within the council and between the project team and volunteers would have helped the volunteers to prepare to become a more independent group following the project's end.

There has also been some reluctance amongst volunteers to take on a greater amount of responsibility once their levels of supervision decrease after the project ends. For example, the volunteers have opportunities to put on events but, when asked about this, were concerned about the high level of responsibility it would necessitate.

The Friends of Westgate Parks have also taken over responsibility of staging some of the events, and will continue to do so following the end of the project. They are able to fundraise more effectively as well as acquire more support from local businesses due to the fact that they have recently become a charitable Trust. However, there have been challenges during the early days of the Friends taking over the running of events. This group was asked to put on two events in the final year of the project but, due to organisational problems, these did not take place. The Friends group are aware of what went wrong and are taking steps to prevent this sort of challenge in the future.

A memorandum of understanding meeting was held, facilitated by project team members Anna Bell, Lauren Baker, and Anna Stevens, as well as evaluators Heritage Insider, to establish a memorandum between the Parks volunteers and the city council. The aim was to ensure the volunteers would have everything they needed, such as tools and training opportunities, going forwards, and to minimise any barriers to the continuation of the volunteering programme. This was successful and a memorandum has now been created to enable the volunteers to continue their work, and they have been provided with a container for tool storage in the Parks.

The council hope that, eventually, the Friends of Westgate Parks group and the Parks volunteers will merge into one single unit. One reason they still exist as two groups is because not all of the Friends are interested in completing practical works in the Parks, and not all of the volunteers are interested

in attending meetings and being involved in governance. However, if the two groups were to merge, each individual could decide on the capacity in which they were involved. This would also help the Parks volunteers to have a better overview of the group's governance and to play a more prominent role in future decisions for the Parks.

More work to prevent alcohol and drug abusers from using the Parks

Alcohol and drug use in the Parks has been a persistent issue. This has been improved due to the project through, for example smartening up previously run-down areas of the Parks such as the Toddler's Cove underpass to discourage people from using it for rough sleeping, anti-social behaviour or drug use. Whilst this has contributed towards safety, which was commented on by Parks users, volunteers and stakeholders, some of these people do feel that there is still a way to go before this issue is completely resolved.

Some stakeholders feel that there is scope to work more closely with the local police force to reduce the presence of drug and alcohol users as well as further reducing the anti-social behaviour in the Parks.

This issue will also be helped going forwards by the links the new Parks Development Officer, Sadie Williams, has with the Public Safety Unit within the council, which means that there is a quick link to the CCTV centre and that if things in the Parks escalate, she is able to quickly acquire back up support. Sadie has also implemented some additional new measures to help prevent anti-social behaviour and issues caused by drug and alcohol users, for example having a personal alarm and wearing a bodycam for personal safety and to have a record of events if things were to escalate. There is also the Skyguard radio system which enabled Parks staff, local business owners, and the authorities to communicate with one another and make each other aware of any risks or dangers in the area, for example shoplifters.

Sadie is also continuing to develop the relationship started by the project team with local PCSOs, which has sometimes been challenging due to the high turnover of PCSOs. However, the relationship with PCSOs has been a positive one, with the individuals in these roles being made aware of crime 'hotspots' within the Parks and even giving members of the project team their personal contact numbers in case of emergencies.

Communication between groups

There have been some challenges with the relationship between the Parks volunteers and the Friends group. This is due to the volunteers misunderstanding what the role of the Friends group was, feeling that the Friends would be carrying out physical maintenance to the Parks along with the volunteers. However, the Friends saw their role as overseers of the Parks rather than physically being involved with the improvements. Improved communication between the Friends and volunteers groups at the start of the project, including a more open relationship, could have improved this relationship.

There were also some challenges with the communication within the council, as at the start of the project some of the council staff were unaware of the project which meant that it sometimes took the project team longer than anticipated to get started on some aspects of the project.

Communication with Serco was also something which could have been improved as instructions did sometimes get misinterpreted or failed to reach them, for example Serco cleared the Tannery Field meadow without waiting for clear instructions on what to do.

Lines of communication generally between management and the people on the ground in the Parks could have been improved, which would have improved even small things such as ensuring mowing was not going on near a visiting school group. A clear way forward to improve this has been formulated as Sadie, the new Parks Development Officer, has strong links within the council and is well aware of the roles within the council and who she needs to contact for particular issues.

Additionally, the council are making it a focus to build upon internal resilience going forwards, meaning that all employees are aware of what is going on within the council and are well aware of what each other's roles involve. This means that if an employee is unable to continue their role or be present, such as due to sickness, another employee can easily take over their duties, either for one day or on a longer-term basis. This will mean that communication is improved between different work streams and between all levels of employees, from senior management to people working on the grounds.

4.3 Who benefitted and how?

Schools

There have been a variety of benefits for pupils at local schools, as well as for their teachers. A strong offer for primary schools was developed as a part of the project, involving activities such as a tree trail, pond and river dipping, and arts and crafts activities. These were offered to primary schools either on a one-off or regular basis, with activities led by either Anna Bell or Lauren Baker.



Figure 48: Photo of children participating in a forest school session at the Parks

Participating teachers were generally very pleased with what was offered as a part of the project, feeling that the offer had complemented the national curriculum and in-classroom learning very well. This has included the pupils learning about some topics, such as creature adaption in ponds, which class teachers hadn't covered yet as they weren't sure the pupils were ready for this, however the way in which the topic was covered in the Parks sessions made it simple for the pupils to understand.

As well as complementing curriculum learning, the education offer helped the school pupils to develop personally. This included encouraging resilience and increasing their confidence in out-of-the-classroom environments. One teacher felt that the sessions had helped quieter pupils in her class to really shine and they had been given lots of opportunities to take leadership roles to grow their confidence.

The teachers themselves were able to benefit as they gained some new ideas for lessons back at school and picked up some new techniques for teaching the children about the natural world from Anna and Lauren. The sessions also helped the teachers to see what a fantastic resource their local environment can be for teaching.

Secondary students were also able to benefit from the education offer through gaining practical skills in their work on the physic garden, and have been able to gain experience working with older people through the 'talking trees' project, which incorporated activities in Westgate Parks.

Students

Students at Canterbury universities and colleges have also been able to benefit from the project. This has largely been through the work experience opportunities provided to them which have helped to support their courses of study. Some college students with special educational needs have also been involved in the project, and this experience was highly positive at helping to develop their independence and confidence.

Opportunities were also provided for university students on teacher training courses to visit and find out more about the outdoor learning provision at the Parks and the benefits of outdoor learning for school pupils. Direct outcomes of this are now being witnessed, with the learning the students did having impacts on their teaching as fully qualified teachers. One student who came on a learning opportunity in the Parks in 2014 is now a teacher of her own class and is currently making arrangements to bring them for an educational session at the Parks.

People living locally to the Parks

The project has been highly beneficial for people living locally. Primarily, these benefits have been in the form of the improvements to their local green space. Where some areas were once viewed as somewhat run down and/or unsafe, the project has ensured that they are now in a much better condition. This includes the new toilet block in Toddlers Cove and the murals in the underpasses, as well as work to prevent alcohol and drug users from loitering in the Parks and generally working to cut down the amount of anti-social behaviour. Thanks to the volunteer programme, the Parks are also neater, tidier and generally more enjoyable to be in.

This improved condition means that the biodiversity of wildlife has also increased, and is also being better recorded, meaning that local people have more opportunities to engage with it on visits.

A number of opportunities for local people to get involved with the project have also been provided, whether through short or long-term volunteering opportunities or attending events and activities. Some events and activities have become a firm part of Canterbury's annual events calendar, such as the scarecrow trail, which is very popular with local groups and residents generally. Activities have been provided to benefit a wide range of residents, from older people to families to people with mental health problems.

Young families

Families have been able to benefit in a number of ways. The improvements to the condition and management of the Parks is one way, for example the new play equipment and facilities in Toddlers Cove. These make the area much more pleasant to be in and, from comments received by the project team, parents are much happier to take their children to visit the play area now.

The improved condition and management has also made the Parks safer, further benefitting families. This includes the work to improve the underpass to prevent anti-social behaviour and use by alcohol and drug users.

Finally, the events and activities programme is able to benefit families as many of the project activities are at least partially aimed at children and



Figure 49: Photo of a child holding a sign explaining that he loves the Parks because 'there's always something fun to do'

family groups. Children and families have been able to engage in enjoyable activities, such as the Halloween and Christmas trails, discover more about the Parks and their history through the new Explorer Trail and take part in other activities such as geocaching or guided walks.

Older people

Older people have also benefitted from the project. The project team have engaged with residents at Cranmer House, a care home, to help them discover more about the Parks. The topics of talks have included the scarecrow trail and work with Simon Langton Girls School for the 'Talking Trees' project. Engaging with the project has helped the older people to engage with a variety of different local community members.

Making the Parks safer also benefits older people as visitors, this having been achieved through improving management and maintenance and working to prevent drug and alcohol abusers from loitering.

The project has also offered older people chances to get involved in the active events and activities programme as well as the volunteering opportunities. Volunteering has proved particularly beneficial for older people and has helped them to combat loneliness and make new friends as well as remaining active in their retirement.



Figure 50: Photo of Cranmer House residents in the Parks

People with mental health issues

People with mental health issues have been able to benefit through the project partnership with Canterbury Umbrella Centre. This partnership has enabled them to get involved in activities at the Parks which have improved their wellbeing such as working on the Physic Garden and geocaching. These have also helped the centre users to feel more connected with the local community.

The improvements to the Parks have benefitted the centre users further through making the space the centre overlooks much more appealing, as the centre backs onto them.

The partnership has further benefitted people with mental health issues as an arrangement is now in place for the project team to contact centre staff if they find a despondent person in the Parks. Similarly, the centre staff can alert the project team if they know or suspect a despondent person to be in the Parks, enabling the project team to be on the lookout and ready to contact centre staff should they find them.

This is in place of contacting the emergency services, which can prove distressing and frightening for people with mental health issues, but the project team are now able to alert centre staff to allow them to intervene in the situation.

5. Lessons learnt

How much can be achieved with the natural space of the Parks

One lesson which had been learnt by those involved surrounded the amount which could be achieved within the natural space of the Parks. Some of the project participants had viewed Parks prior to the project as a space for recreation and relaxation but had not considered all of the other potential activities and events which could be held in the natural space. This includes the education programme and the busy events calendar, as well as all of the smaller activities for different audiences.

When discussing the project achievements with Friends of Westgate Parks, they felt that a real success of the project was that the Parks were always so busy with a range of different uses, including yoga, volunteering activities, outdoor learning, weddings at Tower House, foreign tourists exploring, and families enjoying Toddlers Cove. It had come as a surprise to some of the Friends group just how many people participated in and benefitted from the project.

Local people were also able to learn just how much the Parks could be used for, with some of them being somewhat negative about the project initially. However, now that they have been able to see how well managed the Parks are and the amount which has been achieved, project stakeholders and participants feel that local people are a lot more positive about how the project has gone, and about the Parks in general.

Using the Parks for wellbeing

Lessons have also been learnt about how the Parks can be used for wellbeing. Friends of Westgate Parks members discussed the use of the space for enhancing mental wellbeing, which wasn't something they had considered the Parks could be used for previously. They are pleased that Canterbury has the resource of the large, safe green space which they feel is calm and an excellent space for recharging batteries, particularly as they feel mental health is an important issue to tackle currently.

"I've learnt about how good the Park is for wellbeing. Mental health is a massive problem and the green space is nice, it's calm and recharges your batteries."

- Friends of Westgate Parks member

Staff at the Canterbury Umbrella Centre had also learnt about how the Parks can be used to enhance wellbeing for people with mental health issues, particularly how useful they can be at helping these people to reintegrate with the community. This was achieved in the project through a variety of activities, including helping with the upkeep of the Physic garden and being a part of the larger events such as Art in the Park. The Umbrella Centre staff would like to continue their relationship with the Parks and use it, and other green spaces, to enhance the mental wellbeing of their users in the future.

"A lot of our members have used it as a tool to integrate themselves back into the community, whether it be via the arts schedule, the volunteering programme, the fun challenges or competitions."

- Umbrella Centre staff

Working with volunteers

Further lessons were learnt surrounding the work with volunteers, particularly as the project draws to a close. The project team have learnt that it is important to communicate well with the volunteers and to make them aware that projects have an end point and that things will be changing. Some of the volunteers have been unwilling to take on any kind of responsibility as the project ends, as they prefer to be led and directed by project team members. There are also concerns that without the consistent level of leadership the volunteers have become accustomed to, many of them may leave their positions. The project team feel that potentially making volunteers aware that the project has an end point would have helped this transition from being project led to more of an independent volunteer team.

Communication

Lessons about project communication were also learnt. This includes the communication between the Friends of Westgate Parks group and the Parks volunteers, which volunteers and project team members feel could have been improved. There was an element of disconnect between the two volunteer groups, as the Parks volunteers are a more hands-on group and the Friends have been more of an overseeing group, and understanding between the two groups and of each other's roles was something which could have been improved. The volunteers have learnt that keeping the relationship between the two groups as open and honest as possible from the start would have been a better way to ensure that the two could work together cooperatively throughout the project.

"The communication between the friends group and volunteers could be far improved. It should be a more give and take relationship between the two parties."

- Friends of Westgate Parks member

Project partners also feel that the communication at the start of the project could have been improved amongst different delivery teams. Different teams within the city council were involved with the project, but one partner feels that the communication between them was limited and that in future it would be important to keep each other informed and up-to-date with progress. It was felt that this limited communication was a barrier at the start of the project as some of the council teams weren't aware of who Project Officer, Anna Bell, was at first. One partner feels this made things challenging for Anna due to all of the form filling and procedures she had to go through, which cut back on the time Anna could spend on the practical element of the work.

Analysis and report prepared by:

Heritage Insider Ltd
'Bethany' Ashton Hill
Corston
Bath BA2 9EY



inspireme@heritageinsider.co.uk



www.greedysquirrel.co.uk



07507 337513

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6. List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Stakeholder telephone interview framework.....	68
Appendix 2 – Volunteer telephone interview framework	70
Appendix 3 – Blank events feedback card.....	72
Appendix 4 – Parks user surveys	73
Appendix 5 – Parks user surveys collated results	77
Appendix 6 – Teacher feedback form	78

Appendix 1 – Stakeholder telephone interview framework

Hi, I'm Nikki and I am one of the external evaluators for the Westgate Parks project.

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this telephone interview today – it includes 13 questions and will take no longer than 20 minutes, is that ok?

This is really an **informal chat** and a chance for us to get **your thoughts** on the project. The information we gather will be fed into the **final evaluation** of the project and will help the project team to learn from the work and build on this experience for **future projects**.

We are not looking for just positive comments but an **honest reflection** on the journey of the project.

Everything you say today will be kept **anonymous**. We may quote you in the final report, but these quotes **will not be attributed to you**. Does that sound ok?

Name:

Role:

So, to start off with I'd just like to ask you some **overall questions** about your experiences with the project.

1. Could you tell me how you **initially got involved** in the project, and what **your role** involves?
2. Have you found the volunteering **enjoyable**?
3. What has been the **highlight** of your time as a volunteer?
4. Is there anything you feel could have **been improved** about the volunteering programme, or any **barriers** which might stop you or somebody else from volunteering **in the future**?
5. Has volunteering with the project helped you to feel more like a member of your **local community**?

Skills, training, and support

The next questions relate to your **personal development** throughout your time as a volunteer, as well as the support you have received from the project team.

6. Do you feel that you have received **adequate support**, training, and equipment to **effectively** carry out the volunteering?
7. Do you feel that you have enough **support and resources** to effectively **continue volunteering** beyond the life of the project?
8. Do you feel that you have **gained practical skills** or developed personally during your time as a volunteer? If so, could you **talk a little bit more** about that?

9. Has the volunteering **led to anything else** for you? This might include getting a new **job**, starting a **course**, volunteering with another organisation, or something else.

Finally, the next couple of questions relate to the **project itself**, and your views on it.

10. How successful do you feel the project has been at **physically improving** the Parks?
11. How successful do you feel the project has been at **building up relationships** with **local communities**?
12. What do you think the project's **greatest legacy** is and what would you like to see happen in the future to build on all of the project work?
13. Do you have **anything else** you would like to add?

That's the **end of the questions** – thank you for taking part, we really appreciate it.

Appendix 2 – Volunteer telephone interview framework

Hi, I'm Nikki and I am one of the external evaluators for the Westgate Parks project.

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this telephone interview today – it includes 12 questions and will take no longer than 30 minutes, is that ok?

This is really an **informal chat** and a chance for us to get **your thoughts** on the project. The information we gather will be fed into the **final evaluation** of the project and will help the project team to learn from the work and build on this experience for **future projects**.

We are not looking for just positive comments but an **honest reflection** on the journey of the project.

Everything you say today will be kept **anonymous**. We may quote you in the final report, but these quotes **will not be attributed to you**. Does that sound ok?

Name:

Organisation:

Role:

1. So, to start us off, please could you describe how you were **involved with the project**?
2. How much has the project **met your expectations**?
Please could you rate this on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'it has not met my expectations at all' and 5 being 'it has exceeded my expectations'.
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5

Could you **tell me more**?

3. What do you feel the project's **greatest success** has been?
4. **What impacts** do you feel the project has had on the **Parks** and wider **Canterbury**?
5. Do you feel that people's **perceptions and uses** of the Parks have changed due to the project?
6. Has **anything positive** happened over the course of the project which was not originally included in **project plans**?

Project achievements and challenges

I'm now going to ask you some questions about what the project has achieved.

7. So, how successful do you feel the project has been at **meeting its vision**?

- To develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces which meet the needs of local people and makes a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District
- To conserve the natural and built heritage for current and future generations
- To develop working relationships with the community and local user groups, including through the volunteering programme.

8. As far as you're aware, have there been any **delays or challenges** to progress?

9. Is there anything about the project that you feel **could have been improved**?

10. How well do you feel the **project team** (including contractors, partners, volunteers, and Friends of Westgate Parks) have been **working together**?

Looking forward

I'm now going to ask you some questions about **future impacts** the project might have.

11. Do you feel there are any **barriers** to taking the project work further? And what do you feel the project's **greatest legacy** is?

12. And finally, what do you think are the major **lessons learnt** from this project?

Do you have **anything else** you would like to add?

That's the **end of the questions**, **thank you** for completing this telephone interview. All of your feedback is **really useful**, and we really appreciate you **taking the time** to provide it.

Appendix 3 – Blank events feedback card

Tell us what you think!

- Have you **visited Westgate Parks** before?

Yes, lots of times
Yes, on occasion
No, never
- Write about or draw **one thing you loved** about today:

First part of postcode: Age Range: Under 15 15-24 25-44 45-64 65+

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes ☐ No ☐

Ethnicity: Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, other) Asian (Chinese) White

Black (Caribbean, African, other) Mixed ethnic group

- How much did you **enjoy** the event today? *Please tick on the scale from one to five. 1= I did not enjoy it at all, 5= I enjoyed it very much.*

1

Did not enjoy at all


2


3




4




5

Enjoyed very much


- What is the one thing you would **change or improve** about the event?
- Did anything **surprise you** about Westgate Parks?
- Has the way you **view and use** the parks **changed** in any way over the last few years?



LOTTERY FUNDED

Appendix 4 – Parks user surveys

Public user group survey

The Canterbury City Council are redeveloping the Westgate Gardens and Toddlers Cove through grants from Lottery groups and as part of the process the Council wishes to find out more about what people do and don't like about these areas. To help gather this information we would like to ask you to complete this survey which has a section for adults and a section for children because their views are important too.

Please circle the answer that fits you the best

Adult Section

1. Gender : Male Female

2. Age : 16 – 18 19-23 24 - 29 30 -35 36 – 40 40-49 50-64

60-69 70-79 80-89 90-100 Do not wish to answer

3. Origin : (Place of birth) Canterbury Kent UK Europe Asia Africa
Middle East North America South America Oceania

4. Currently residing : Canterbury Kent UK Europe Asia Africa
Middle East North America South America Oceania

5. Are you a parent or carer for children between 0-3 years Yes No

Number of children 1 2 3 4 5 6

6. Are you a parent or carer for children between 4-9 years Yes No

Number of children 1 2 3 4 5 6

7. Are you a parent or care for children 10-12 years ☐ Yes ☐ No

Number of children 1 2 3 4 5 6

8. Are you a parent of teenagers ☐ Yes ☐ No

Number of children 1 2 3 4 5 6

9. Are you a resident of : ☐ Canterbury ☐ Kent ☐ Southeast England

10. Home ownership : ☐ Owner/Mortgage ☐ Private Rental ☐ Public Rental

11. How often do you visit Westgate Gardens ?

☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ A few times a year ☐ Never been

12. How would you get to Westgate Gardens ?

☐ Foot ☐ Bicycle ☐ Mobility Scooter ☐ Skateboard ☐ Bus ☐ Train ☐ Car

13. Purpose of visit

☐ Play with children ☐ Allow children to play ☐ Meet friends ☐ Enjoy nature

☐ Relaxation ☐ Formal sport/exercise ☐ Informal sport/exercise ☐ Fishing

☐ Bird-watching/animal spotting

14. What bothers you about the Westgate Gardens ? (circle all which apply)

Litter Graffiti Public drunkenness Loutish behavior Poor maintenance of area
 Lack of Toilets State of Toilets Uncollected rubbish/overflowing bins
 Lack of parking Lack of a café etc No-one to report problems to No
 organized activities Boring layout or facilities Distance from town / public
 transport Disabled access Cycle access

Other (please state)

15. What do you like about Westgate Gardens (circle all that apply)

Open space Closeness to town Closeness to public transport Parking
 Layout of area Maintenance of area Facilities of area Closeness to Nature
 Place to see animals and hear birds Access to river Quiet space
 Open space to exercise /play (for yourself) Open space to exercise / play (for
 children) Other (please state)

16. If you were at Westgate Gardens alone what would encourage you to stay longer and what would make you wish to leave ?

17. If you were at Westgate Gardens with children what would encourage you to stay longer and what would make you want to leave ?

18. How important is it to you for parks to be available to people of all ages ?

Not Important

Fairly important

Very Important

Essential

19. Should the Westgate Gardens have different areas for noisy and for quiet activities ?

Yes

No

No Opinion

Depends how it's done

Appendix 5 – Parks user surveys collated results

This is a collation of results from 2011-2017 Parks user surveys. This survey was commissioned in order to assist with determining the layout and furniture of the Westgate Gardens and Toddlers Cove, and to canvas any possible issues for the public regarding use and management of the renovated parklands.

Surveys were carried out within the park in 2011-2017, although data from 2013 is unavailable.

Results

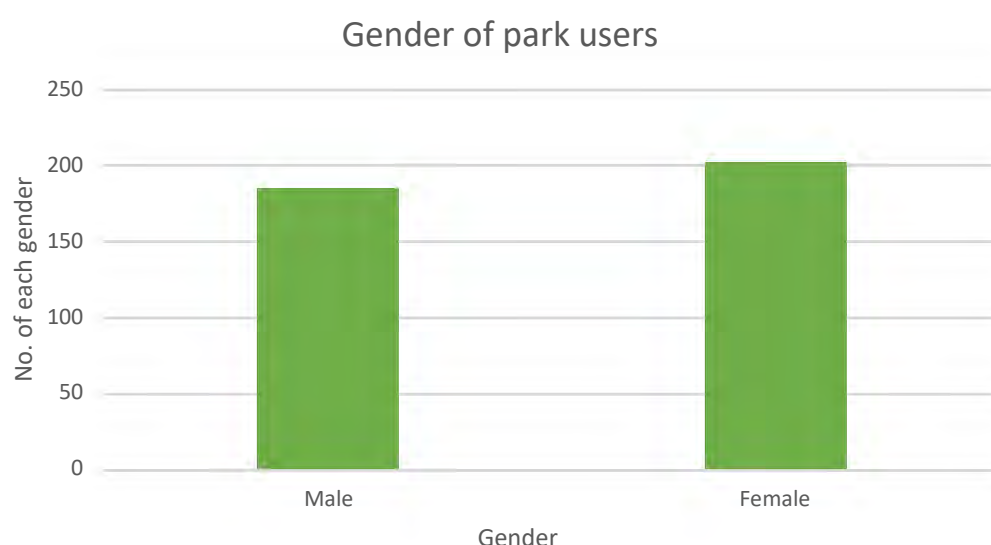


Figure 51: Bar chart of gender of Parks users

Male – 185

Female – 202

Age range

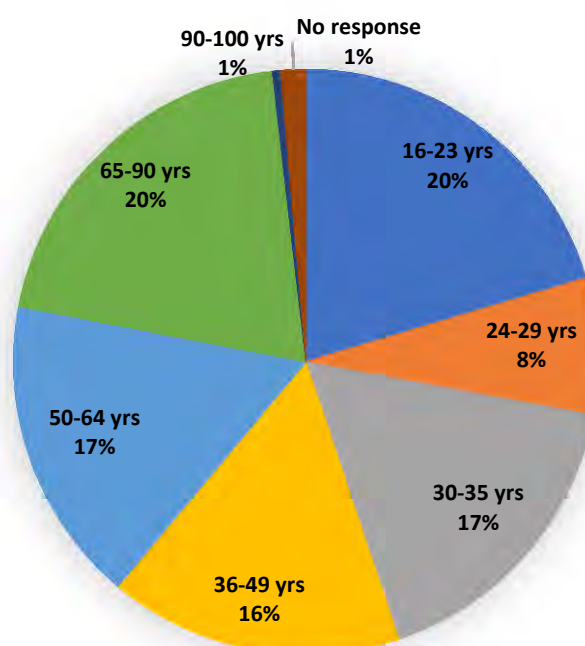


Figure 52: Pie chart of age ranges of Parks users

- 89 people (16-23yrs)
- 33 people (24-29yrs)
- 74 people (30-35yrs)
- 71 people (36-49yrs)
- 74 people (50-64yrs)
- 88 people (65-90yrs)
- 0 people (90-100)
- 6 people (Does not wish to answer).

Place of birth

- Canterbury – 85 persons
- Kent - 99 persons
- Wider UK – 151 persons
- Europe – 41 persons
- Asia – 20 persons
- Africa – 20 persons
- South America – 2 persons
- Oceania – 2 persons
- Middle East – 4
- North America – 1.

Current Residence

- Canterbury – 272 persons
- Kent - 115 persons
- Wider UK – 32 persons
- Europe - 6
- Africa – 2 persons
- North America – 2 persons
- Asia – 2 persons
- Middle East – 1 person
- South America – 1 person
- Oceania – 1 person

Question Five – Parent / Carer of a child 0-3 years

Yes –100 persons

Question Six – Parent / Carer of a child 4-9 years

Yes – 69 persons

Question Seven – Parent / Carer of a child 10-12 years

Yes – 29 persons

Question Eight – Parent / Carer of teenagers

Yes – 50 persons

Question Ten – Home Ownership status

- Owner / Mortgage – 71 persons
- Public Rental – 35 persons
- Private Rental – 42 persons
- No answer given – 20.

Question Eleven – Frequency of visiting parklands

- Daily - 110 persons
- Weekly – 113 persons
- Monthly – 64 persons
- A few times a year – 57 persons
- Never previously been – 66 persons.

Question Twelve – Means of getting to parklands

- Foot – 289 persons
- Bicycle – 41 persons
- Mobility Scooter – 11 person
- Bus – 28 persons
- Train – 18 persons
- Car – 56 persons.

Question Thirteen – Purpose of Visit

- Play with children – 120 persons
- Meet Friends – 63 persons
- Enjoy Nature – 115 persons
- Relaxation – 114 persons
- Sport /Exercise – 47 persons
- Having lunch – 28 persons
- Attending an event – 10
- River trip or trail - 10
- Bird/Animal watching – 18 persons
- Tourism – 4 persons
- Walking through - 42 persons
- Dog walking – 19 persons
- Shopping – 8.

Question Fourteen – What bothers you about the parklands

- Litter – 85 persons
- Graffiti – 78 persons
- Public Drunkenness – 116 persons
- Loutish behaviour – 33 persons
- Poor maintenance of area – 14 persons
- Lack of toilet/state of toilets – 92 persons

- Uncollected rubbish /overflowing bins – 34 persons
- Lack of parking – 17 persons
- Lack of a café – 44 persons
- No-one to report problems to – 26 persons.

Issues named by respondents

- Need safety fence by river – 1 person
- Recent fireworks display disturbed swans – 1 person
- Football being played in formal gardens – 2 persons
- Dogs off leads – 4 persons
- Leaves not removed from lawns – 3 persons
- Exits not clearly signed - 3 persons
- Locked gates impeding access and use as thoroughfare – 3 persons
- Drug Users – 6 persons
- Lack of activities – 12 persons.

Question Fifteen – What do you like about the parklands

- Open Space – 153 persons
- Closeness to Town – 190 persons
- Closeness to Public Transport – 31 persons
- Parking – 24 persons
- Landscaping and maintenance of area – 131 persons
- Facilities of area – 26 persons
- Closeness to Nature – 133 persons
- Access to river – 145 persons
- Quiet Space – 44 persons
- Open space for self to exercise – 105 persons
- Nice for children – 110 persons.

Appendix 6 – Teacher feedback form



Westgate Parks Feedback Form

Visit led by:

1. Name of school /organisation:

.....

2. Name of Teacher:

.....

3. Year group and number of students:

.....

4. Programmes studied:

.....

5. Date of visit

6. How satisfied were you with your overall visit?

Very satisfied ☐

Satisfied ☐

Dissatisfied ☐

Very dissatisfied ☐

7. Please rate the following aspects of your learning experience?

Teaching: Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐

The Westgate Parks: Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐

Booking procedure: Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐

Organisation of the day: Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐



8. How relevant were the Westgate Parks programmes to the National Curriculum objectives ?

Highly relevant ☐

Relevant ☐

Partially relevant ☐

Not relevant ☐

Comments.....

9. Was the level of teaching appropriate for the age group/ability of your pupils?

.....

10. How might your visit to the Westgate Parks be improved?

.....

11. What other programmes would you like the Westgate Parks to offer?

.....

12. How did you find out about the Westgate Parks outdoor learning programme?

Friends of Westgate Parks website ☐

Email ☐

Leaflet ☐

Other ☐

If other, please state

Any other comments:

.....

.....

APPENDIX 6

FoWP Newsletter June 2018

Westgate Parks the story so far



In February 2013 Canterbury City Council, supported by the Friends of Westgate Parks submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Parks for People programme, for a sum of approximately £770,000. This money was to be used for improvements to infrastructure, public interpretation, and creation of better wildlife habitat, including improvements to the ecological condition of the river and its margins. These endeavors were focused on generating a significant increase in public use and access. In addition, there was also a commitment to establish volunteer programmes aimed at gathering and disseminating knowledge about the rich, notably Roman history of the area, the ecology and biodiversity of the parks and river, and developing an education and learning programme.



LOTTERY FUNDED

The Canterbury Bull sculpture stands in the Tannery Field wildflower meadow. The huge bull is a sculpture designed to reflect the industrial and agricultural heritage of the landscape. Made from old railway tracks by Steve Portchmouth, who specialises in animal sculpture, it's design drew inspiration from the former St. Mildred's Tannery and the train tracks that still exist on the site.



Our achievements to date

Since 2013 so much has been achieved in the Westgate Parks: The area known as Toddler's Cove has been completely renewed with the installation of a wonderful children's play area complete with picnic tables and new toilet block.

To combat anti social behaviour CCTV has been installed and there have been great improvements to the Rheims Way and Tannery Field underpasses. As well as wonderful planting and landscaping, installation of new pathways and bridges allow visitors to access the different areas. Old seating has been replaced and signage installed that gives information about the wildlife and history of the parks. A wildflower meadow has been planted in the Tannery field and the Canterbury bull sculpture commissioned and installed on the meadow. Local schools helped with the creation and planting of a wonderful physic garden and lavender maze. The Development Officer Anna Bell designed and delivered a range of innovative educational programmes - these are accessed by local schools and clubs, enabling children and people to learn about nature and the environment in an outdoor setting.



The Williamson family lived in Tower House from 1886 and created the picturesque gardens and riverside walks we appreciate today. In 1936 Stephen Williamson and his wife Catherine gave the house and gardens to the council on condition they continued to be used for the benefit of residents.

The Future of Westgate Parks

By the end of this year the Heritage Lottery Funding will have ceased. This will mean that we will no longer have the Development officer in post, and money for improvements and projects will need to be sourced from other areas. With this in mind The Friends of Westgate Parks have been working towards planning for the future, as we very much want to continue this project because it has been so beneficial to the local community.

We need your support to maintain the great work that has taken place. We are looking to increase the Friends group so that we have access to more community support and volunteers, we are fundraising, asking for donations and seeking to gain sponsorship and support from local businesses.

In March of this year we submitted an application to the Charity commission to obtain charitable status, which has the following advantage of public recognition and trust. Charities are also widely recognised as existing for social good and this can assist greatly with fundraising.



Volunteering in Westgate Parks

If you walk around the parks any time of the year you are likely to see The Westgate Parks Volunteers out and about. They get involved in all kinds of activities, helping out with the annual program of events and conservation tasks, also working alongside the Westgate Parks Officer hosting school visits. The volunteers have undertaken a wide range activities from painting murals to conducting visitor surveys in the park. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, their commitment, community spirit and hard work are vital to the success of this project. The benefits of being a community volunteer are endless, as well as meeting new people you can gain skills and experience, access new opportunities and discover new interests. You can become part of this exciting community project and make a difference. Can you spare a few hours a week to become a Westgate Parks Volunteer? If you are interested in this opportunity or would like to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact:

anna.bell@kent.gov.uk

Volunteering at Westgate Parks has totally changed my life, I didn't know anybody when I moved to Canterbury, but now my calendar is full of activities and my life is full with friends. - Dawn Horne, Volunteer.





Make a DONATION

The Friends of Westgate Parks are now officially a Charitable Trust, this is great news as the Heritage Lottery funded project is coming to an end. This will now enable us to attract outside funding to continue the enhancement and sustainability of the parks. You can help by making a donation now, please make cheques payable to:

**Friends of Westgate Parks and send to The Treasurer,
Dick Vane-Wright, 42 Cromwell Canterbury, Kent. CT1 3LE**



To keep up to date
with what is
happening,
follow us on
facebook

Friends of Westgate Parks



Don't forget
to post your
photos!

We need your help - NOW!

You can help the Friends of Westgate Parks in several ways: from attending and supporting events, volunteering at any of the tasks we undertake throughout the year, or by making a donation to help us to continue to enhance this much loved area of Canterbury. We are keen to carry on all the good work that has taken place over the past few years and we owe a great deal to Anna Bell and Lauren Baker, the Westgate Parks Development Officers, for their tireless leadership and dedication throughout the project. For more information visit the Westgate Parks website at:

www.westgateparks.co.uk

The Volunteering experience

Marta Jugusiak began to volunteer at the Parks as she wanted to gain experience in project management and event organising, as well as staying close to nature. Volunteering at the Parks has really helped Marta to progress her career, and she has gained confidence in addition to gaining skills that she uses in her job, including organisation and project management. It is contact with other people and with nature which she finds so rewarding about volunteering, and she likes working to make the Parks better.

In ten years' time, Marta hopes that people will still be happy to come to the Parks and take part in all of the events.

AMAZING

Between 2014 -2016
Community
volunteers
completed a total of
4,512 hours

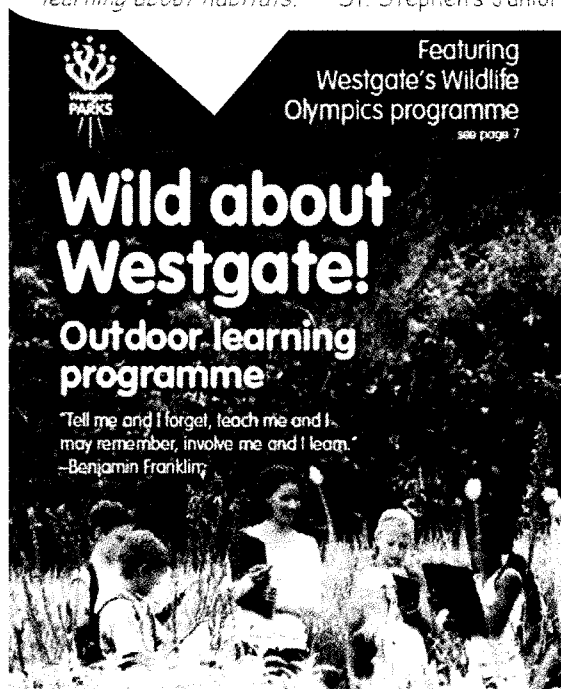
Become a FRIEND - FREE MEMBERSHIP

When you become a member of the Friends of Westgate Parks you will receive regular newsletters and information about events taking place within the Westgate Parks. We will let you know about volunteering opportunities and how you can get involved in continuing all the good work that has been achieved over the past five years. Please complete the form overleaf to become a member and have your say!

"It was a fantastic experience had by both pupils and staff. I would definitely recommend the activities learning about habitats." - St. Stephen's Junior School

PAGE 4

Wild about Westgate



The Westgate Parks 'Wild About Westgate' programme is packed full of exciting outdoor educational activities linked to the National Curriculum.

This innovative programme which was designed by Anna Bell (Westgate Parks Development Officer) has been a great success it includes activities such as River Great Stour Study, Westgate's wildlife Olympics, Mini beast safari and river dipping!

The Friends of Westgate Parks are delighted that this fantastic educational programme will continue into the future.

Become a FRIEND of Westgate Parks

FREE MEMBERSHIP - Please fill in and return the Form



Friends of Westgate Parks – Membership Form

Please complete using BLOCK CAPITALS and return to: The FoWParks Membership Secretary, Mr. T. Westgate, 32 St Michael's Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 7HG Or email to: stdancegate@aol.com

* Required fields. Telephone Numbers & Donations are optional.	
*	Name
*	Address
*	Email
Telephone / mobile	



DONATIONS WELCOMED - Please make cheques payable to: Friends of Westgate Parks.

I enclose a donation of: £

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ, then sign and date in the boxes below.

GDPR: Your data will be stored in line with the new General Data Protection Regulations that will be in force from 25th May 2018 and will not be shared with any third party without your prior permission. To become a member of the Friends of Westgate Parks please sign and date to agree to your data being stored and used to communicate with you regarding events and distribution of information regarding the Westgate Parks and the Friends Group. Once you have registered to become a member you will receive a copy of our GDPR Privacy Policy Statement.

Signature	* <input type="text"/>	Date	* <input type="text"/>
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