

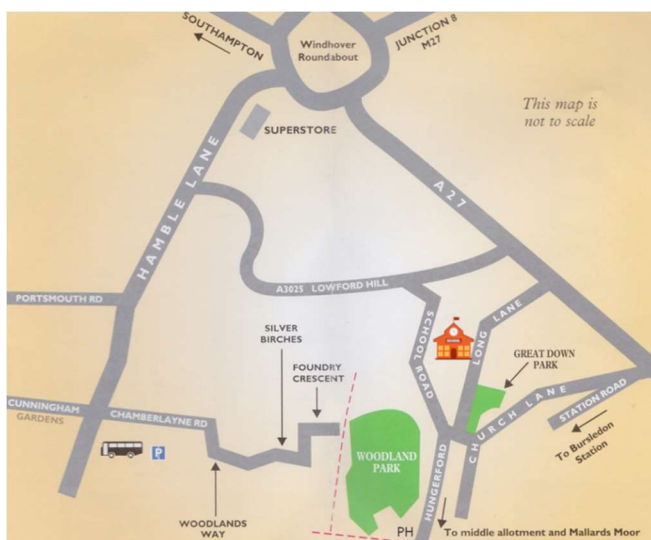
BURSLLEDON WOODLAND PARK

ANNUAL REPORT June 2022- June 2023

INTRODUCTION

The land known as Woodland Park is located in the Hungerford valley in Bursledon at the rear of the *Fox and Hounds* car park and east of Pilands housing estate open space. The woodland is an area of about 1.7 hectares (4 acres). It lies within the Old Bursledon Conservation Area and Special Policy Area and forms part of a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) extending down to Mallards Moor and Badnam Creek. Back in times past, it was believed to be the location of a 17th century foundry pond which formed part of Hungerford iron works where iron was smelted for use in connection with the local ship building.

The land was acquired from The Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance in July 2002, then land title was registered with The Official Custodian for Charities on behalf of Woodland Park Community Group (WPCG) charity in August 2006, title no.HP616188.



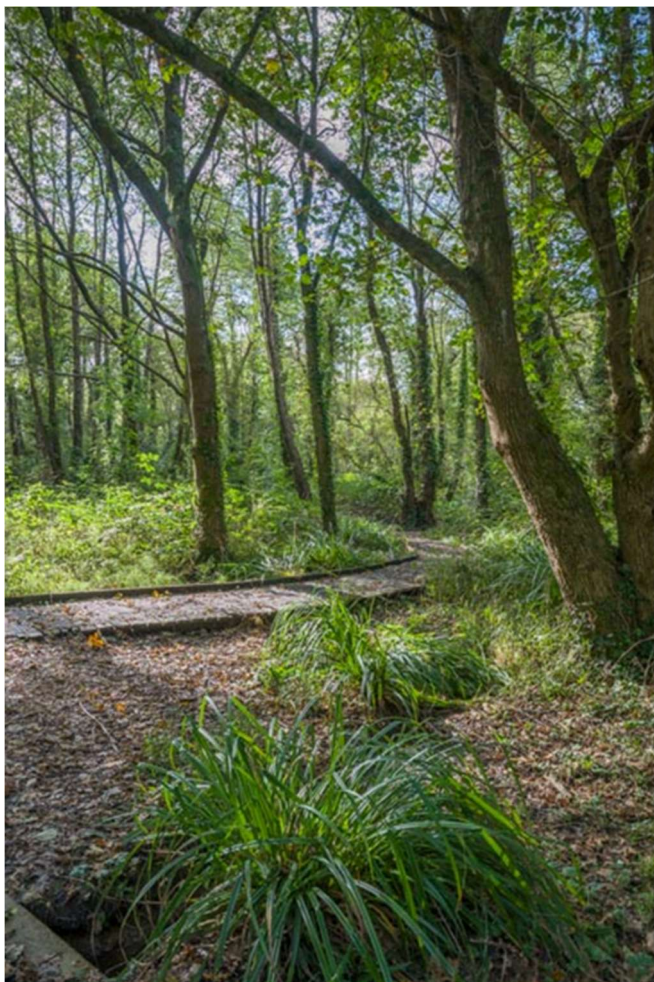
The charity's aim is to conserve and improve the Woodland Park for public benefit. The terms of the land transfer from the church to WPCG were that the land remain solely for the purposes of public recreation as a nature reserve; not to access the

property other than on foot; not to erect any buildings or structures on the land. However the Park provides a useful link in the green network, and leads to community facilities such as schools, post office, shops, community centre, play areas etc.

The Park is currently managed by Trustees who are appointed at annual general meetings and supported by Bursledon Rights of Way and Amenities Protection Group.

JUNE 2022- JUNE 2023 ACTIVITIES

In the past year June 2022/23, programmed quarterly workdays and other inspections/work sessions and bird surveys were undertaken. The regular programmed workdays were held on 12 June 2022/ 4 September 2022/ 3 November 2022/ 4 March 2023/ 3 June 2023. Committee meetings took place following on from work sessions. Work days mainly involved volunteers for an hour or so carrying out routine maintenance, any repairs needed and litter picking. Attendance was mainly committee members/ trustees and friends.



Board Walk

Alan Mather

More clearance works alongside the footpath from the Fox & Hounds car park to the boardwalk were undertaken. In June 23 Eastleigh Mens Shed assisted with replacing collapsed supporting timbers on the boardwalk and bridge handrail repairs. More freely obtained material was used to fill in and level up undulating sections of the dirt path which had previously become muddy and difficult to use in winter months.

This has assisted create a more user friendly surface, particularly for persons such as parents from Pilands Wood pushing youngsters in prams and pushchairs to and from schools.

Removal of some defective lengths of mesh, and mesh repairs on the boardwalk were undertaken.

Cherry laurel cutting on the northern side of the park was undertaken in accordance with the "Woodland Management Advice" report prepared by Arcadian Ecology in 2020.

The report recommended removal of non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed; Himalayan balsam and montbretia. Growth of these non-native species was again not so prodigious this year, but some plants were removed when spotted. Time spent removing these plants previously has helped reduce growth this year.



The Glade

Alan Mather

The Group have been endeavouring to maintain Woodland Park in a safe condition for the benefit of the public to use, whether it be for recreation as a nature reserve; dog walking or through walking. The recommendations in the Woodland Management Advice report and the "Arboricultural Report" produced in July 2021 by Peter Yeates Arboriculture have been taken account of.

For the future we are looking to maintain the boardwalk and footbridges for as long as possible before full replacement becomes necessary, periodic inspections and repairs have been a successful regime in past years.

Other works needed will be to help control drainage to prevent waterlogging of the woodland glade and to keep invasive species under control.

Fly tipping has not been significant in the past year and hopefully this will continue to be the case.

It is intended that by using social media messaging, other persons will become interested in participating with maintenance of Woodland Park.

New works being considered are to create a more level link path between the southern boardwalk and the link path to the Fox & Hounds, for which we will seek potential funding contributions .

BIRD COUNTS

Some bird counts have been undertaken and observations reported on the Woodland Park website. Sightings show that Woodland Park is a good home for birds, with more species observed than might be found in surrounding urban gardens.

WOODLAND PARK COMMUNITY GROUP STRUCTURE

Consideration was given to the possibility of changing WPCG structure from an unincorporated association to becoming a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Following meetings with Charlotte Walker of One Community about the work involved and the incapacity of the former Honorary Secretary this matter has not progressed. It is proposed to defer any decision on changing the structure.

FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

A WPCG Facebook group was set up in March 2022 by Alan Mather, in addition to the existing WPCG website managed by Steve Porter. Items have been added to each of these media to raise awareness of Woodland Park and WPCG activities.

Lin Essaye
Chair
Eric Reed,
Hon. Secretary
November 2022



Ditch

Diane Andrewes



Glade clearance

Diane Andrewes



Trustees

Diane Andrewes



Steve Porter