



University of
Nottingham

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University Park Landscape Management Plan 2024-2030





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Summary

This management plan follows a previous plan that was produced in 2018-2023. This covers 2024 to 2030. It intends to bring together the management, maintenance, and development of University Park in an overall framework. The plan is intended to be both a working document and a reference document. A working document in that it contains actions and timetables that will need to be implemented and reviewed, and a reference document in that the plan does not contain every piece of information needed to run the campus. It provides references to other documents, policies and strategies and explores their implications for the campus. As such, the plan must be read in conjunction with these documents to manage, maintain, and develop the campus.

The plan has been prepared for several audiences including University of Nottingham staff, visitors, partner organisations and users' groups, such as the Friends of University Park.

The revised plan has been brought together by several university staff. The following staff have been involved:

Lead Officer: Gregory Smith, Grounds Manager, with assistance from Dale Coates, Grounds Maintenance Manager

- Connie Parr Assistant Grounds Maintenance Manager
- Peter Bullimore, Grounds Maintenance Manager (Sport)
- Liam Jones and Simon Robinson, Team Leaders for University Park
- Alison MacDonald, Team Leader Jubilee
- Gavin Scott, Head of Sustainability
- Alison Clayton, Senior Environment Officer
- Stuart Croy, Head of Security



Location

University Park is situated three miles from Nottingham's city centre and is easily accessible from the M1. There are four main vehicular routes into the park and several minor pedestrian routes. It is served by several bus routes and Nottingham's tram system passes alongside the edge of University Park, giving excellent travel into the city centre linking to Nottingham railway station.

The postal address of the site is:

The University of Nottingham
University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

For visitor information and directions, go to:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/visitorinformation/mapsanddirections/universityparkcampus.aspx

If using a satellite navigation, use NG7 2QL.

There are three main entrances into University Park:

- North Entrance – off A52 Clifton Boulevard and Derby Road roundabout
- South Entrance – off A6005 University Boulevard
- West Entrance – off Woodside Road/Broadgate Road roundabout

The northern boundary of the park is the A52, which separates the university from the grounds of Wollaton Hall, another major green open space. To the south is the lake and Highfields Park, which is split by University Boulevard and then Beeston Sidings Nature Reserve. All of these are managed by the local authority, with whom we have close links.

At the south entrance to the campus lies the Lakeside Arts Centre, the university's public arts facility and performing space. The DH Lawrence Pavilion houses a range of cultural facilities, including a 225-capacity theatre space, a series of craft cabinets, the Weston Gallery (which displays the university's manuscript collection), the Waldner gallery, which exists as a platform for local and regional artists, and a series of visual arts, performance, and hospitality spaces.

Other nearby facilities include the Djanogly Art Gallery, recital hall, and theatre, which in the past have hosted recordings and broadcasting by television broadcasters.

Section 1: History and development

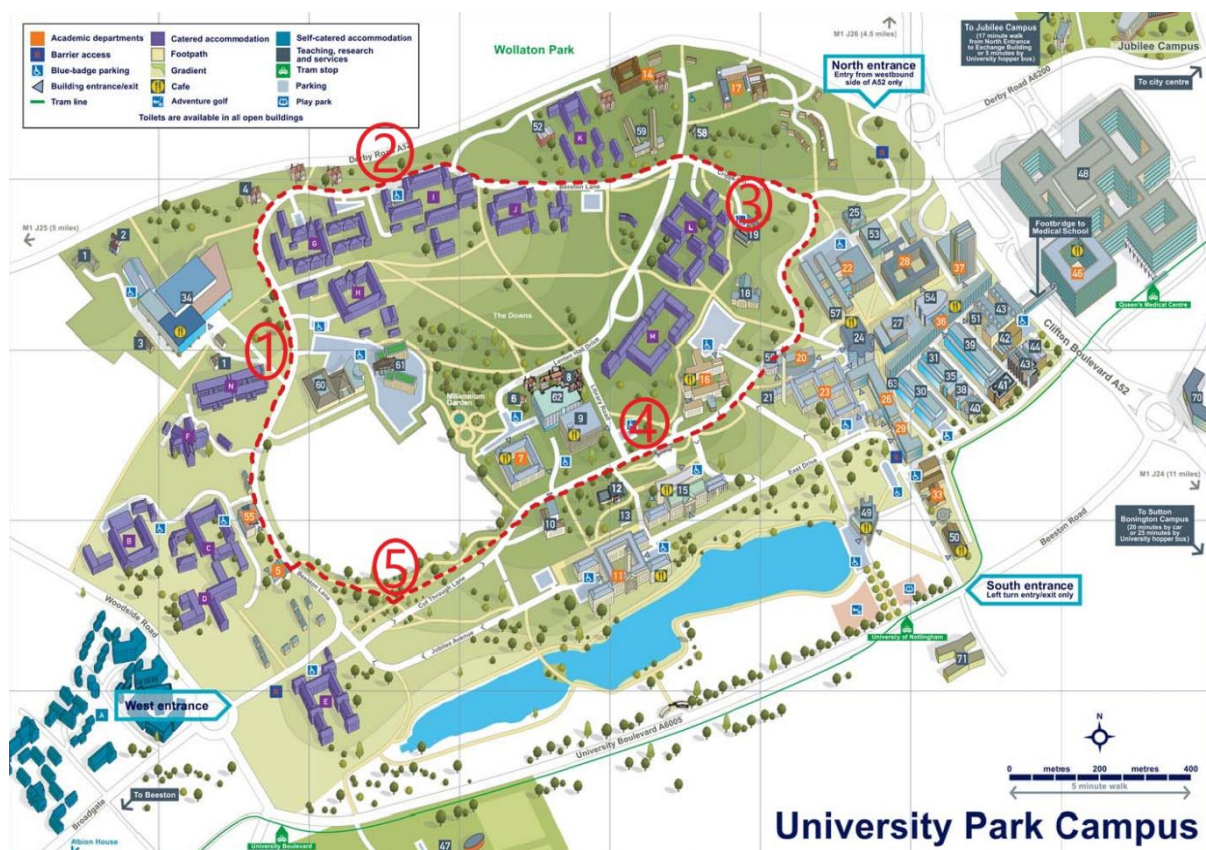
1.1 Introduction

University Park is the main campus for the University of Nottingham. Somewhat uniquely, it is both a park and a community. Whereas most parks are contained within cities or towns, a university campus is like a small town located *within* a park. University campuses experience all the issues of small towns such as traffic, vehicle parking, deliveries, vandalism, litter, building developments and roadworks, but inside a green, landscaped environment.

Equally there can only be a few 'garden cities' that have as much green open space as many university campuses. The university has demonstrated its commitment to landscape and University Park in many ways by protecting this green site.

On University Park there are over 2,686 student bedrooms and about Estates & Facilities 750 staff. During working days there are approximately 15,000 students and 4,000 staff. Very few parks have so many users in proportion to area and inevitably on occasions, the pressure of usage shows.

As a world class university with five campuses around Nottingham, and overseas with one in China and one in Malaysia, the university is well known for its excellence in many fields, and this extends to the landscape and built environment in which there is much investment and pride.





1.2 Site history



The origins of University Park date back to the 12th Century. The land was owned and managed by the Cluniac monks of Lenton Priory. Lord William Peveril, the custodian of Nottingham Castle laid the foundations of Lenton Priory in 1108, close to the river Leen and within sight of Nottingham Castle. The Priory was an 'alien house' in that the Cluniac monks were directed by the Abbot in Cluny, France, until they formally cut ties with France in 1393.

The Priory's land or demesne was predominantly used for crops and grazing. Highfields Park Boating Lake is thought to occupy the site of a former fishing pond. Over the next three centuries the monks of Lenton Priory grew in land, wealth, and power until the dissolution of the monastery by Henry VIII in 1538.



1538.ap Sir Michael Stanhope (Image Left) and Lenton Priory Church (Image Right).

In 1539 the Crown gave the priory's land to Sir Michael Stanhope. In the 17th Century the estate passed to absentee property owners and was let to local farmers for stock grazing.

In 1798, two Leicestershire bankers named Thomas Pares and Thomas Paget purchased much of the estate for £34,000. Pares and Paget set about subdividing and selling off the land to wealthy businesspeople to allow them to build their own houses and estates. The first buyer, on 5 April 1798, was James Green, who built Lenton Abbey House. By June, the Nottingham banker John Wright had purchased land for building Lenton Hall and Joseph Lowe had secured

land for the Highfield Estate. So began the residential development of the area known as Lenton Park.

A number of prominent buildings and villas such as Highfields House, Lenton Hall, Lenton Eaves, Lenton Abbey and Paton House to name a few, remain on University Park today. Many are listed buildings and are used by the university for teaching or accommodation. Of these, the Highfield Estate has played the most significant part in the history of the park. Its sale to Jesse Boot in 1919 marked the end of an era of subdivision and construction by wealthy businessmen, as in 1926 Boot donated the estate to the university.

1.3 The birth of University Park

The university received its charter in 1948 and was the first to be recognised in this manner after the Second World War. It was originally located in the city centre. Between 1919 and 1921 Jesse Boot purchased several adjoining estates on which he had planned to build a model factory community in the style of Bourneville or Port Sunlight. However, his fellow directors did not share his altruism and the project never went ahead. Instead, he gave half of the land to the city for the development of a public park, Highfields Park, and the other half to the then Nottingham University College.

Jesse Boot engaged with architects and engineers to plan and construct the adjacent University Boulevard, the lake separating the majority of Highfields Park from the earliest university buildings. These buildings included the Trent Building on the university site and the Lakeside Pavilion and Lido within the Highfields Park grounds.



The Trent Building under construction, prior to the iconic clock tower being added.

When the university commenced construction of its campus in the green area at the edges of the city, it was criticised by some for its elitism, as it was the first of the campus universities as we now know them. By others it was applauded, and the illustrated London News of July 1948 produced a two-page pictorial spread showing various facets of university life under the heading 'A Young University in a Park.' The new campus was officially opened on 10 July 1928 by King George V and Queen Mary.

Over the years various adjoining estates and farms were added, building the campus up to the size of the current site which is around 300 acres. Some historic houses with traditional gardens were added, most of which remain largely intact. One of the oldest is Lenton Hall, built in 1792 and now a part of Hugh Stewart Hall of Residence. The later Lenton Hurst was the home for the John Player family for some years and boasts the Jekyll Garden.



Trent Building on University Park lit up blue for NHS (National Health Service), 2020



Dig for Victory: University Park being used to grow fruit and vegetables for the war effort during the Second World War

When the university started to build its campus at the edge of the city, it was criticised in some quarters for its elitism, as it was the first of the 'campus universities' as we know them. In other ways it was applauded, and the illustrated London News of July 1948 gave a two-page pictorial spread showing various facets of university life under the heading 'A Young University in a Park.'

1.4 Modern development

In 1997 the university made a landmark decision not to overdevelop University Park and purchased the old Raleigh factory about two miles from the main campus. This brownfield site has been developed as a model new campus, with high environmental standards. The Queen opened Jubilee Campus in 1999.

In March 2005, the university took ownership of the old Carlton Studios site, which is now known today as King's Meadow Campus and houses many of the 10 administrative departments.

The result of these additional sites has been a considerable easing on development in University Park. Recent developments have concentrated on replacing older poor buildings with those of a higher standard. Well-designed, environmentally friendly, multi storey buildings have replaced old single-story buildings in the Science area. These include the Boots Pharmacy Building and the Bio-Molecular Sciences building, both fronting Clifton Boulevard with quality land the old Lakeside Pavilion was replaced by the Lakeside Arts Centre as part of an agreement with the city council. Its unique design resulted in a national Civic Trust award. This highly successful building offers a public centre midway.



Images of the Downs' further wildflower area



Planting of summer bedding by Grounds team

Section 2: Landscape highlights

2.1 An award-winning landscape

University Park has always been regarded as an important open space within Nottingham and one of the best university campuses in the UK. It is well-endowed with horticultural features and its overall parkland style might be described as classic 'English Landscape.' Although not characteristic of classic 18th century parks, it has many of the main components such as rolling grassland, individual and clumped trees, various shrub groups and water features. It benefits from the adjoining lake that divides it from Highfields Park.

As with everything else it does, the university strives for excellence in its landscape. Over the years University Park won many awards for the landscaped environment and in 2003 a decision was taken to enter for the Green Flag Award and test the university's standards against national criteria. Since then, we have annually achieved the much-coveted Green Flag Award status, being the first university to both enter and achieve this award.

The status and publicity of the Green Flag & Green Flag Heritage Site 2023/2024 has encouraged further development and investment within landscape and grounds on University Park. It has attracted funding including donations allowing for additional tree planting and restoration works which would not otherwise have been achievable. Feature gardens within the site include the Millennium Garden, Jekyll Garden, Walled Garden, restored Victorian Rock Garden and wildflower areas at Monica Partridge Building.

The Grounds Staff rise to the challenge throughout the year and take immense pride in their achievement of providing a fantastic environment in which to live and learn. University campuses are different to most public parks; the landscape here has been valued by students and staff for years and in many ways, these represent the bulk of the community for which this park exists.

The Green Flag scheme has however enabled us to extend a welcome to the wider local community to explore and enjoy this fantastic campus landscape. Leaflets inviting in the public are widely distributed, printed or as a web download and the full colour 'Gardens Guide and Tree Walk' is available free of charge at our gatehouses and the Lakeside Pavilion. The development of a Friends of University Park group in 2005 resulted in an ongoing series of events based around the landscape, trees, gardens, and wildlife on the park. Since then, many members of the local community have visited and enjoyed the park setting.

The most common comments have been that people 'did not know they were allowed to come in' and they 'did not know there was anything to look at.' In every case they have gone away delighted with their visit and many return and walk the park and its gardens regularly.

Universities do not always sit easily within a residential community and this community initiative has considerably helped to bridge the gap between town and gown.

2.2 North Entrance

The most public horticultural showcase is the display garden located at the North Entrance, beside the main A52 roundabout. This area is passed by thousands of cars and pedestrians every day. It was originally adopted as a formal display area in 1993 and then subsequently redesigned in 2001 to a more contemporary arrangement of informal beds for seasonal bedding backed by a border of exotic style shrubs, bamboos, and grasses, these are complemented by white boulders and areas of cobbles.

The background is of value in winter months when there is less interest in the display beds. The bedding for this area is carefully designed to give maximum impact but to use a wide range of less common plants. It is widely appreciated and has won many awards in the local Nottingham in Bloom competition, most recently the Nottingham in Bloom Best Business Award.



North Entrance summer bedding plants for King Charles' coronation, 2023

2.3 Lakeside walk

The Southern boundary of University Park is the lake that adjoins Highfields Park North shore. The remainder of the lake is managed by Nottingham City Council. In agreement with the city council, the university constructed a lakeside walk which allowed pedestrians to circumnavigate Highfields Lake. The path has been of considerable benefit to visitors enjoying University Park and Highfields Park.

There are some excellent vistas from the North shore footpath that has increased use of the parks by the local community. The walk and interpretation units are just one example of partnership working with the city council. The university has been working in partnership with Nottingham City Council Park Services to improve the North shore of Highfields Park, reducing undergrowth density and opening waterside areas as part of the Highfields Park HLF project to restore the park, which commenced on site in 2017.

There are several themed gardens and particular areas of high horticultural interest which can be found at University Park, which include:

- Millennium Gardens
- Highfields Walled Garden
- High Stewart House Garden
- Old Botanic Garden
- Lenton Firs Rock Garden



- Jekyll Garden
- Trent Parterre Gardens
- Theatre Gardens
- Portland Hill Cascade Gardens



West Entrance bedding plants



West Entrance summer bedding plants

2.4 Millennium Garden

Lord Dearing, Chancellor of the University formally opened the garden on 4 July 2000. The garden has been recognised with a British Association of Landscape Industries' award, a local Civic Society commendation and a National Civic Trust Award.

The design, based on a time theme, is bold and exciting with lots to see and interesting places to sit. There is ample access for disabled visitors; consideration for wildlife and the overall scheme is quite unique. A central pathway leads the visitor into the garden and onto a series of interconnecting circular pathways.

The layout of overlapping circular areas forms a striking pattern within the centre of the garden. There is also a raised mound with clipped box hedges, which overlooks the garden and provides views of the pool.

The far end of the garden is finished off with a blue brick and turf maze. This ancient garden feature symbolises the rooting of knowledge in antiquity. Views from here look out across the meadows to the halls of residence and the distant housing. Here the design emphasises the University's open attitude to learning and knowledge and its involvement in the wider community.

There is a formal pool with fountains, which 'tell the time' And steel bridges to a central island. These are set low, almost on the water, creating a strange feeling of 'walking on water.' An existing specimen of *Ailanthus altissima*, the Tree of Heaven was retained as a centrepiece for the island and as a focal point of the garden.



The garden functions as a place of quiet contemplation and picnic areas for university members and the local community. The Friends of University Park hold their annual Picnic in the Park here and host open days for the National Gardens Scheme Charitable Trust.





2.5 Jekyll Garden

In contrast to our modern garden, there is also a formal garden, known as the Jekyll Garden. This is attached to Lenton Hurst, one of the older houses in the park. It was built for William Player, younger son of John Player of the tobacco empire. The sunken garden is recorded as being designed by Gertrude Jekyll in 1911. There are however no surviving plans of the original design suggesting it was one of her minor commissions.

The Jekyll Garden terraces were restored between autumn and spring 2009-2010 by Friends Group members, community volunteers and grounds staff. Work included hard landscape repairs to walls, steps, and footpaths.

2.6 Highfields House walled garden

Highfields House was designed by William Wilkins, sits in the centre of University Park, and was built about 1797 for the Lowe family and later extended. It has a fine old garden with many beautiful trees including a notable tulip tree and several cedars.

Adjacent to the house is a walled garden, the remains of a much larger walled garden that was once filled with vinerias, stove houses, and exotic plants. It was all part of an elaborate estate that ran down to the 'fishpond' that was later enlarged to form the current lake. The estate displayed the refined taste which Alfred Lowe possessed and exercised in bringing it to its state of beauty and perfection. Numerous rare and exotic plants were placed in the grounds showing that no expense had been spared, making it one of the most delightful and picturesque domains in the neighbourhood.

The walled garden is now a quiet oasis in the heart of the university. Access was improved a few years ago, when wrought iron gates were installed leading onto the path from the Trent building. The old gates had been originally set adjacent to the West Entrance gatehouses when the university buildings were first constructed in the 1920s but had lain derelict in a yard for many years.

Purely by chance, during their restoration they returned to the yard where they were originally made 80 years ago. The walled garden is used for small open-air meetings.



Walled garden, University Park



Walled garden in its current form – a place to relax



2.7 The Old Botanic Garden

The origins of this area date back to times when botany was taught in a traditional way in the late 1950s. Originally the botanic garden was laid out with formal systematic beds and a wide range of plants. It no longer has the same teaching function and has been simplified, remaining a quiet retreat for visitors near the centre of campus with a few unusual plants.

There is a fine Medlar, Cedars, Ginkgo, Nothofagus, and Taxodium. Unusual and un-named fastigate version of *Prunus padus* dominates the garden. The whole area is partially enclosed by a mature hedge of *Berberis x stenophylla*, which has been opened at points to give fine views over Highfields Park and the city of Nottingham.

2.8 Lenton Firs Rock Garden

Lenton Firs Rock Garden was restored by the Friends Group between spring 2006 and spring 2008. A grant award of £3,000 was received from the Nottingham Green Partnership and spent on restoration of the derelict summerhouse and rock garden cascade. The rock garden is one of the largest in the East Midlands and has an exposed natural sandstone outcrop, a pulhamite pool and cascade and an attractive summerhouse clad in timber laths. As the Friends Group first project it has been very successful and is received very well by visitors to the grounds.



Lenton Firs Rock Garden

2.9 Hugh Stewart House Garden

The oldest part of Hugh Stewart Hall was once a fine mansion known as Lenton Hall, designed by William Wilkins in a gothic style and built in 1792. The Hall was originally surrounded by extensive gardens, most of which have now disappeared. The area however immediately around the old house has been retained. Some fine trees screen the garden, which includes a metal arbour, an ornamental tunnel and a formal rose garden designed by William Barron, surrounded by an elaborate rock garden. Most of the garden sits in a hollow, which was once a marl pit, from which heavier clay soils were dug to spread on the adjacent light sandy soils. Recent attempts to replant the rose garden with historic roses have not been successful. In 2003 this was replanted using herbaceous plants, and silver foliage with clipped Yew to emphasise the formality.

The sundial that forms the centrepiece of the garden is included within the listing of the house although originally this appears to have been a bird bath.



Garden at Hugh Stewart Hall

2.10 Central area at Monica Partridge Building

The Monica Partridge Building had a wildflower turf lawn laid in July 2023. This was a collaboration between the Sustainability Team and Landscape & Grounds. This area was not maintained during Covid and became neglected. It is a well frequented area as it interconnects University Park's main area with the Downs and the Trent Building. Wildflower turf was considered an ideal solution for this space and will provide an attractive environment and habitat for visitors and wildlife. The area was prepared by the university's Grounds South Team, and a contractor laid the specially grown turf.



Rejuvenated area with newly laid specialist wildflower turf, 2023

2.11 Trent Building

Over time the Trent Building has lost its links to the landscape of Highfields Park. Not only physical connectivity but also visual. In addition, a sterile slope had evolved of mown grass that was extremely uncomfortable even for the ambient pedestrian to walk down. This sloping lawn whilst suited to the Palladian style of the grand architecture of Trent Building offered little to visitors seeking visual interest.

In 2015 circular planting beds were designed with formal yew hedges, flowering shrubs, perennial herbaceous plants, and bulbs to create washes of colour across the slope. Access down the slope to the Belvedere is achieved with resin bonded gravel footpaths introduced from the central terrace steps down the slope to meet the Belvedere and the steps leading down to Highfields Park.

When now looking out over to Highfields Park the foreground is a wash of colourful planting. In respect to the central Palladian pediment the slope was retained as open lawn to allow the view up surrounded by an elaborate rock garden. Most of the garden sits in a hollow, which was once a marl pit, from which heavier clay soils were dug to spread on the adjacent light sandy soils. Recent attempts to replant the rose garden with historic roses have not been successful.

In 2003 this was replanted using herbaceous plants, and silver foliage with clipped yew to emphasise the formality. The sundial that forms the centrepiece of the garden is included within the listing of the Trent Parterre although originally this appears to have been a bird bath.



2.12 The Theatre Gardens

Adjacent to Portland Hill is the Theatre Gardens; a more quiet and relaxing space with discrete gardens and lawns bounded by formal hedges and sculpted trees, which was landscaped in 2016. It provides places for groups to mingle and meet which are balanced by places for individuals to find quiet enjoyment. It was intended as a new destination to escape the hustle and bustle of the campus.



Spaces can also be used by theatre groups for small performances in an intimate outdoor environment. Around the gardens are quiet seating areas as well as spaces for outdoor chess, pétanque and table tennis.

The theatre entrance is now celebrated with a welcoming Entrance Plaza to give it a defined and more useable space to meet before performances and to spill out at the interval.

The adjacent Highfield House walled garden is a major destination in the area to which the Theatre Gardens is both responsive and respectful.

2.13 Djanogly Plaza

Djanogly Plaza landscaping was completed in January 2018. It is a grand gesture that completes the Portland Building and is a physical and emotional focus for the campus. It increased and established connectivity and is a destination space.



Djanogly Plaza

This is where the campus connects and where staff, students and visitors congregate. It is a place of celebration establishing an iconic landmark that respects the classic grandeur of the Trent and Portland Buildings through contemporary forms and materials.

The lower plaza extends the usable space at the rear of the Portland Building offering spill out space. The steps rising the slope draw people up the slope out of the shade to seat height steps, the 'campus steps' which draw people to left and right onto grass terraces across the slope. The steps continue up the slopes with regular landings. Each landing is celebrated by a set of water jets that form the central cascade. The jets can be switched off and the cascade steps can be used as seats. The landmark Sky Canopy that stands proudly above the upper plaza and the feature pool completes the classical motif set up by the steps.

New gardens along Cut Through Lane include formal hedges, evergreen and deciduous flowering shrubs, perennials and bulbs offering visual interest all year.

2.14 Arboretum

The university has a long-term vision of developing an arboretum in University Park. A strategy has been developed and the campus has been sub divided into 12 separate collection areas.

The vision of the arboretum is: *“To fully harness the academic reputation and expertise of the University of Nottingham with the scientific potential inherent within.”*

It has been identified, that given the overall age and condition of the current tree collection there is an ideal opportunity for removal of several trees in the over-mature and mature age categories to enable more selective re-planting to broaden the range of species and increase interest in the site.

There is significant potential to utilise the existing tree landscape to create a robust framework within which to develop an arboretum. The existing structure of the park, along with planned groupings of new trees, will establish an interesting and stimulating environment. By doing so, staff, students and visitors to the park would gain from a more diverse and accessible collection of plants. Part of this accessibility would include taxonomic labelling using a range of techniques based on up-to-date nomenclature.

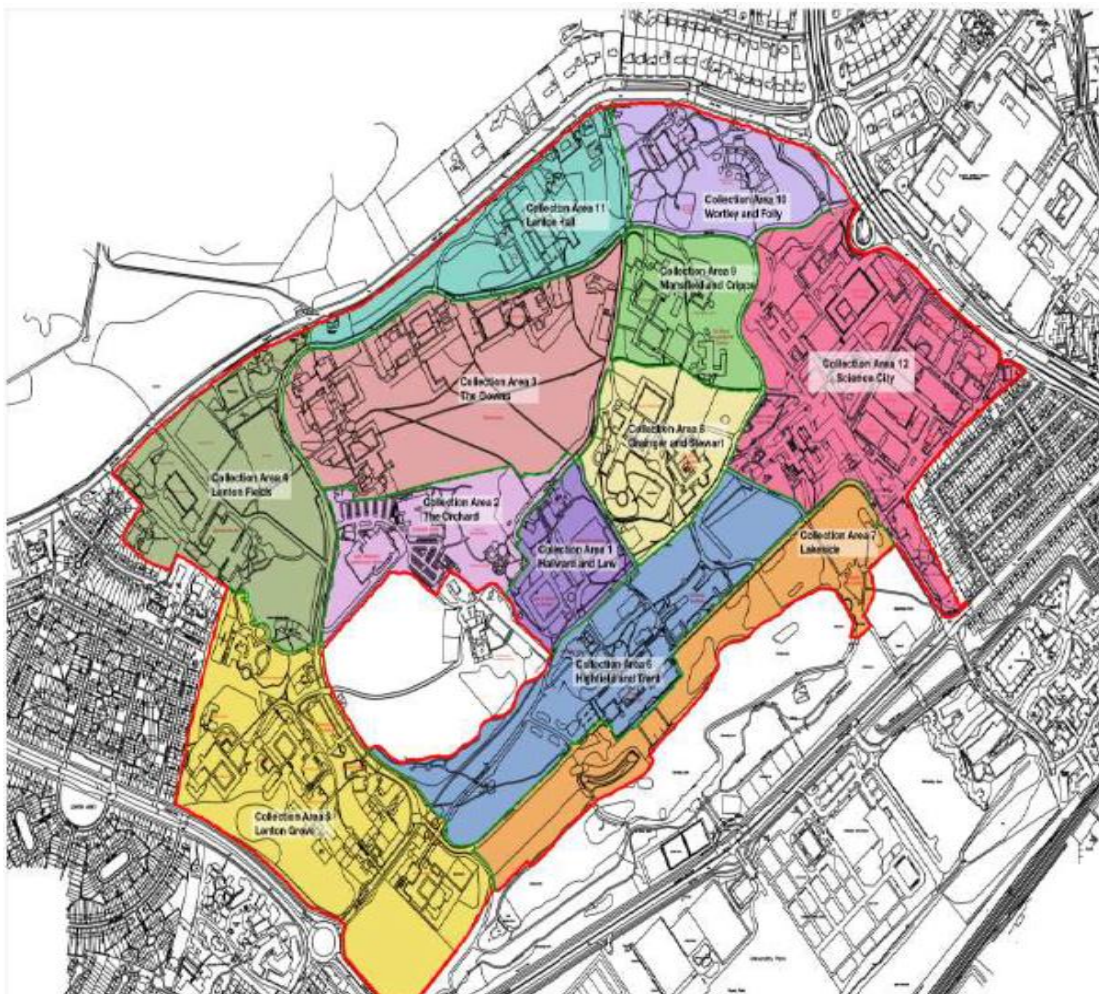
By the end of 2023, all collection areas will have been surveyed by a tree inspector and plotted on a GIS (Getting in Shape) mapping, to create a comprehensive tree database.

In 2016/17 the first phase of works went ahead, mainly in collection area 4, Lenton Fields, as to complement the landscape works already planned for the David Ross Sports Village. This included the creation of a new lime avenue of trees, as part of the *Universitas 21* annual network meeting and Presidential Symposium, as delegates from 16 different countries, that work together to promote global citizenship and innovation through research-inspired teaching and learning and student mobility each planted a tree, to form ‘*Universitas 21 Avenue*’ in celebration of the last 20 years of collaboration with partner institutions.





Lime Tree Avenue at David Ross Sports Village, planted in 2018 – looking well established in 2023



Arboretum collection areas

To diversify the existing plant collection, we are proactively collaborating with other botanic gardens. In 2017, we collected our first plant material from Wakehurst Palace, which is part of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



Section 3: Activities and facilities

3.1 Leisure provision

Much informal sport takes place in the park, and it is quite common to see walkers and joggers at any time of the day. Many people simply enjoy sitting quietly and reading in the park. University Park is part of the local 'Robin Hood Way' walk and is also used by 'Walk and Talk' and other organised walking groups.

3.2 Sport

The David Ross Sports Village provides excellent sporting and fitness facilities to approximately 15,000 facility users from the university community of staff, students, alumni, and associates, as well as members of the public. Membership is available for staff; students and the general public or facilities can be used on a PAYG basis.

More details about public membership packages can be found at:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/sport/membership/public-memberships.aspx

Since opening, the David Ross Sports Village has hosted several large events, such as European Sports Festival 2017, Corporate Games, Table Tennis England Grand Prix, British Gymnastics Tumbling Event, and the Association of Colleges Sport Games. The David Ross Sports Village is also used by local schools, and school sport organisations, such as Nottinghamshire Schools Football Association.

University Park also boasts a 1.7-mile Active Trail, a combination of running and various fitness elements dotted around the campus. For more details on the Active Trail visit:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/sport/sport-facilities/outdoor-gyms.aspx



Active Trail outside Hallward Library



Dojo at David Ross Sports Village

3.3 Play areas

University Park has no formal children's play areas. With an almost total absence of families on site and a distinct target age range, play areas do not feature as necessities. University Park is however adjacent to Highfields Park, owned by the local authority and there is a modern, well-managed play area readily accessible. A small play area exists at the Staff Social and Sports Club.

3.4 Events

University Park is used for a wide range of outdoor events organised by many sectors of the university community throughout the year. The Estate Office encourages the use of open space by the community and has a formal procedure for approving outdoor events. A full list of past, present, and future events are available.

3.5 Sculpture

The university actively supports the arts, and it has long been a desire to introduce sculpture into the landscape, currently we have three major items on display.

Outside the Arts Centre there is a Paul Mason sculpture created from polished black marble. The Millennium Garden contains a piece called 'Flayed Stone' by Peter Randal-Page. A bespoke commission by Dan Archer is featured outside the East Midlands Conference Centre.



3.6 Arts provision

The Lakeside Arts Centre is the University of Nottingham's public arts programme attracting 185,000 visitors every year. It provides an eclectic range of activities within its venues; regular concerts within the Djanogly Concert Hall, theatrical productions within the Lakeside Arts Centre and art exhibitions in the Djanogly Art Gallery.

A full programme can be viewed at, www.lakesidearts.org.uk and all events are open to members of the public. Certain events take place outside within the park such as the annual celebration of the Chinese New Year, which involves fireworks on the lakeside.

Below is a Student Art Project at Lenton Firs. The Nottingham art project was created in 2014, each letter is made by using images of student life around the university campuses, this has proved very popular and become a great back photo drop students are often seen having their picture taken here.

Each letter stands two metres high and includes images giving a flavour of life at the university – which are only visible on closer inspection. The sign has cost £10,000, with money coming from the university's Impact campaign, a fundraising drive which gives money for good causes and to improve university life. It has been built as part of celebrations of the university's Students' Union's centenary.



3.7 Signage and information

The university is clearly signed from all major routes leading to the three main entrances. These are clearly signed, together with key information such as parking regulations. Within the park there is a standard range of signage directing to car parks and major buildings. These are all painted in a corporate style with white lettering on a green background.

There are three Security gatehouses located at main public entrances acting as a welcome and information point for visitors. Campus plans and other information is available from the Security Officers 7.30am until 4.30pm. These are located at:

- South entrance off A6005 Beeston Road/University Boulevard
- West entrance off Woodside Road
- North entrance off A52 Roundabout between Derby Road and Clifton Boulevard



3.8 Information boards

A series of information boards are installed at key points around the park to provide information on key features. These include the Walled Garden, the Jekyll Garden, Lenton Firs Rock Garden, the Downs, the Nottingham crocus site, stone outcrop, and the Lakeside walk. These boards are being updated in 2024 with new information and interactive QR codes and will include a greater focus on the wildlife found on campus.



3.9 Car parks

There are many car parks within University Park. The university operates a car parking scheme for staff and students to use a parking pass during the week. Visitors are directed to pay-and-display parking areas. The car park, adjacent to the Lakeside Arts Centre is dedicated to visitors of Highfields Park and Lakeside facilities and is not available for staff and students. There is currently free parking across campus at weekends and bank holidays for all. Blue badge parking is free. Further information can be found at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/visitorinformation/carparking.aspx

3.10 Cafes and bars

There are restaurants, cafes, and bars throughout the campus. Most are operated by the university, and a few others by partners. Further details can be found at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/hospitality/cafesbars/cateringpartners.aspx

www.nottingham.ac.uk/hospitality/cafesbars/universitypark.aspx

www.lakesidearts.org.uk/visit-us/cafes.html

For opening times visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/hospitality/cafesbars/locationsopeningtimes.aspx



The Clubhouse, David Ross Sports Village

3.11 Publications

A few guides have been produced. These are reviewed every three to five years.

- University Park Garden Guide and Tree Walk
- Historic Houses Walk
- Geology Walk 'Rock Around the Campus'
- Conifer Walk

Electronic guides can be found at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/grounds/friendsofuniversitypark.aspx



Printed copies of the Gardens Guide are available from the Lakeside Pavilion Highfields Park, Trent Building, Gatehouses, and the local Library have booklets.

Friends of University Parks

The University of Nottingham welcomes members of the local community to enjoy University Park, for events and publications based on University Park, check out our website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/notes/friends

GUIDES BY PARK ZONES

- ▶ Rock around the Campus - A geological walk through University Park
- ▶ The Historic Houses of University Park
- ▶ Gardens on Campus - A Winter Tree Walk in University Park
- ▶ University Park Campus Guide and Tree Walk
- ▶ Welcome to University Park - 2010 guide

For further information:
The Parks Department
The University of Nottingham
Nottingham
NG7 2RD
Tel: 0115 951 3199
March 2015
Design: Apple Design

Rock around the Campus
A geological walk through University Park
compiled by Garry Shaw

Friends of University Parks

Nottingham and its parks were created with the help of the fine management of the Lakeside Estate, the Trent and Highfields Parks.

For a further introduction to the area, visit the Lakeside Pavilion, Trent Building, Gatehouses, or check out our website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/notes/friends

UNIVERSITY PARK ZONES

- ▶ Introduction to University Parks and its management
- ▶ The importance of planting trees
- ▶ The Lakeside Estate & Highfields Park
- ▶ Welcome to University Park - 2010 guide

For further information:
The Parks Department
The University of Nottingham
Nottingham
NG7 2RD
Tel: 0115 951 3199
March 2015
Design: Apple Design

Conifers on Campus
A winter tree walk in University Park



Section 4: Safety, security, and cleanliness



4.1 University health and safety

Safety is a line management responsibility and the immediate responsibility for safety within any work area is borne by the appropriate Head of School, or Administrative or Support Services Section. Within the halls of residence and flats this responsibility is borne by the Deputy Director of Estates & Facilities and through line management. The foregoing persons are responsible for ensuring that arrangements for safe working with their areas have been set up and published. These local arrangements form part of the university's Safety Policy.

The Safety Office has produced a detailed document, which is used as the basis for all Health and Safety Management within the university community.

4.2 Estates health and safety

The Estates Department has its own teams to deal with all aspects of health and safety. The Safety Committee is comprised of representatives from all sections of the Estates including the Grounds Section. The committee has responsibility for overseeing all aspects of Health and Safety related to works undertaken by the Estate Office.

The day-to-day responsibility for safe working practices within the Grounds Section is devolved to the Grounds Manager and Assistant Grounds Managers. Risk Assessments and safe working policy procedures are in place for all tasks and are constantly being reviewed. COSHH assessments are recorded and updated, as necessary. All this information is readily available for staff.

All staff have been trained in their responsibilities under health and safety legislation and are encouraged to contribute to updating COSHH, Risk Assessment and Safe Working Procedures.

Risk assessments for users of University Park have also been carried out. Measures are in place to ensure that all users can enjoy University Park with minimal risk of injury or accident. Risk assessments are also produced for Grounds events, particularly those involving potentially hazardous volunteer work. A trained member of staff is always present when volunteers are on site.

4.3 Tree safety

A tree hazard survey is carried out every two years by a contracted specialist tree surveyor. A report is produced for the Grounds Team to act on any findings and relevant work is planned.



Road closure for tree works on Derby Road (Brian Clough Way)



4.4 Hazard identification and Risk Management

In 2017, a new system of risk management was developed and introduced.

4.5 Security

The university employs a 74 strong Security Team, providing 24 hours uniformed presence on all campuses and is managed by the Head of Security. Mobile and foot patrols are available to respond to all incidents.

University Park campus is well provided for with high and low-level lighting. Hedges are kept to a maximum height of 1.5m to discourage people from hiding behind them.

The Security provision at the University Park has 24-hour provision all incidents and calls for assistance are responded to as per the Service Level agreement. The link to this is <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estates/security/servicelevelagreement.aspx>

There are four teams headed by a supervisor that provide the 24 hour, 365 days a year provision and are supported by the Operations and Planning, Gatehouse and Car Parking Enforcement and Covert teams. These Officers provide both foot and mobile patrols.

On an annual basis Security and Grounds, along with Campus Services Managers and students, attend an evening walk round campus to look at hot spots, such as dark areas that require better lighting protections. Improvement is made like new lighting, crown lifting of trees (this is all part of the student/public experience).

The Gate House Security Staff welcome visitors to the site and provide information on various matters. Security has campus maps and garden guides to issue to visitors. The gatehouses are often the first point of contact for visitors to the campus.

Intruder alarms are also installed at several locations. Security also can deploy temporary cameras to address issues such as theft of plant, damage to our Estate and anti-social behaviour.

There are 2,400 parking spaces available, including visitor parking, charges and restrictions apply, with extremely limited student parking. University Park Campus in common with all university campuses offers free parking outside normal working hours; this includes evenings, weekends, and bank holidays. This is a particularly popular given the attractions out of hours and at weekends around DH Lawrence Pavilion and Highfields Lake.

For a campus which is located within the city's boundary, crime levels are relatively low. Crime overall on university sites has reduced by some 70% over the past few years, attributable to the robust provision of Security resources and other crime prevention initiatives that have been introduced by the university with the full cooperation of the local Police. All crime incidents within the university are recorded and an annual statistical report is produced. This information is used to identify problem areas and used to develop policies to control these problems.

Crime figures for the university sites are lower than for general areas of Nottingham and they are therefore considered as safe sites. There are telephone numbers available for the Security Office at the Gatehouses, car park information notices and on other notices within the campus.

Further information can be found at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/estates/security/home.aspx



4.6 Gritting and snow clearance

During the winter months road gritting and snow clearance is dealt with by the Grounds Section staff during the working hours of 7.30am 3.30pm Tractor mounted gritters are used for treating all areas and pedestrian gritters used for footpaths. We store onsite around 80 tonnes of loose salt and 300 25kgs bags at nearby Jubilee Campus.

Highways are gritted before 7.30am in the morning and major pedestrian routes thereafter normally before 10.30am.

A call out system and rota are supported by Grounds Manager and Operations Manager & Security Team. a winter Gritting policy procedure is updated annually and shared with all Estates key stake holders.

The university appoints a contractor to carry out the out of hours gritting of car parks and highways on all Nottinghamshire campuses – this run during the key winter months of November through to March. They contractor sends out daily weather reports for all campuses. We then activate to progress the gritting operations if require.



Bag grit in dry store at the Jubilee Hub



4.7 Cleanliness

University Park benefits from both a frequency and performance-based cleaning and litter collection regime.

There are four full time external cleaners and a road sweeper operator who undertake a daily routine of cleaning and litter collection. There is also a university wide mobile external cleaner who can assist during busy periods or as holiday cover. The service is flexible and in terms of quality the university has a litter free policy, which although difficult to achieve has been very successful. All collected litter is dealt with by the university's waste contractor, aspects of which are in Section 6 of this document, Environment and Sustainability.

A small road sweeper, Scarab Azura, which was replaced in 2019, is used to clean the main thoroughfares. This is operated by the designated external cleaner. Frequency is daily, Monday to Friday 6am to 2pm to meet core use times of the site and Saturday/Sunday during large events.

There are ample external waste bins on University Park and ashes stands or combination bins for the collection of cigarette butts. There are four designated external cleaners who empty bins and ash mounts. The areas immediately in front of key building entrances are maintained in partnership with the Domestic Services team daily.

4.8 Graffiti

The university has a fast response to incidents of graffiti which can be reported to the Estates Office Helpdesk where a Works Request is raised. Response time can be stated as urgent or non-urgent.

The estates office helpdesk can be contacted on:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estates/estateshelpdesk/estateshelpdesk.aspx>

Phone: 0115 95 16666

Email: estates-helpdesk@nottingham.ac.uk

The helpdesk is open to all university members, staff and the public and is a vital tool in managing requests internally and externally on all university sites.

4.9 Water features

The park has many water features. Facing onto University Boulevard is the end of Lakeside Arts Centre with an informal lake, marginal planting, and a large floating fountain. The Millennium Garden includes a circular pond with an island, low aluminium bridges and twelve fountains that 'tell the time.' Nearby is a small dewpond left as a natural pond with deliberately overgrown margins for wildlife.

Formal ponds with fountains exist in the Sir Clive Granger Building Courtyard, the Pope Building Courtyard and outside the Coates Building. The Chemistry Courtyard also includes three bubbling fountains set amongst boulders and cobbles. On the eastern perimeter there is a formal pond with a geyser fountain outside the Boots Pharmacy Building. The nearby Biomolecular Sciences Building has a series of canals with weirs, waterfalls, and a fountain.

A water feature at Portland Hill consists of a series of landings with water jets that form a central cascade. The Sky Canopy stands proudly above the upper plaza and has a feature pool.



The formal water features are attended to by the in-house team twice a week during October to March and three times weekly during April to September.

On a quarterly basis, an external specialist attends site to service the plant/system.



Section 5: Maintenance and resources



5.1 Staff and labour

In-house staff are employed by the University Estates Department to carry out all the soft landscape work at University Park.

There are two main teams that undertake day to day maintenance, and they are:

- 1 x Assistant Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Manager
- 2 x Grounds Team Leaders (supporting North South Teams)
- 10 x trained staff in amenity horticulture
- 1 x Apprentice Gardener
- 3 x External Cleaners, who can operate the road sweeper if required.

Other teams also support the work at University Park. These include:

- Auxiliary Team consisting of four trained staff who maintain Science City and Lakeside along with all water features
- Tree Team x 2 trained staff covering all campus sites

- Sports Team x 7 – based at Highfield Sports Grounds to maintain the bowling green and artificial surfaces at the David Ross Sports Village
- 4 x External Cleaning Team who undertake road sweeping, bin emptying and litter picking on all campuses

All staff allocations across the sites allow flexibility for busy periods. Technical and managerial advice is available from the Grounds operations.

Operations Management Team, comprising of:

- 1 x Estates Landscape & Grounds Manager
- 2 x Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Manager—Landscapes and Trees
- 1 x Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Manager—Sport – Sutton Bonnington

5.2 Current grounds maintenance arrangements

Grounds maintenance works are carried out by the university's Grounds Department. The operations that are routinely carried out are:

Operations	Overview of works undertaken
Grass cutting	Amenity grass cutting is 10/12-day ongoing cycle on UP. Strimming around obstacles would be undertaken at the same time as a follow up operation.
Relaxed mowing and wildflower areas	Cut and collected twice annually May/October. Spider mower on slopes and banks mowing with controller on flat surfaces.
The Meadow at Lenton Hurst and the Downs wildflower areas along with wildflower turf areas	Cut and collected bi-annually to support reseeding of the area. Footpaths cut through areas.
Weed killer herbicide control.	Weed control kept at a minimum. Hard surfaces treated once a year. Trees are bark mulched, fence lines around campus are left to go wild through summer then mown with a Trimax Flail in autumn.
Litter removal	Road sweeper and litter bin and external cleaning collect emptying carried out daily over seven days a week including public holidays.
Leaf collections	Autumn leaf drop is cleared with the support of the North and South Teams, leaves and brash collected from all areas. It is recycled and used at the Sutton Bonnington Farm ploughed into fields. It is also used for landscape projects.
Shrub beds	Maintain all borders to a high standard, hand weeding and mulch in spring before planting.
Grass	Grass encroachment is removed annually as part of winter programme.
Artificial surfaces at sports centre DRSV	Maintained by Sports Grounds Team and outside contractors bi-monthly to carry out deep clean.

Operations	Overview of works undertaken
Bowling Green	Regular/weekly maintenance carried out – brushing/mowing/reseeding/scarification/feeding. End of season renovations September/October.
Tennis Courts University Park	Each hall has hard standing tennis courts which are annually cleaned, re-marked, and treated for moss.
All equipment to carry out these task	Maintained on an annual basis.

5.3 Grounds quality monitoring

The Grounds team leaders on all university sites, including University Park, are encouraged to monitor the presentation of their areas. At the same time, the detailed inspections of the Team Leader's area can provide an especially useful health and safety check on external landscaped areas.

Quality sheets are collated and dealt with by the two assistant grounds maintenance managers. A sample of the sheet for the University Park is shown in the appendices.



5.4 Key contacts and organisational chart

Gregory Smith

Landscape & Grounds Manager

Tel. 0115 95 13649

Email: gregory.smith@nottingham.ac.uk

Peter Bullimore

Grounds Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Manager—Sport Sutton Bonington

Tel. 0115 95 13605

Email: peter.bullimore@nottingham.ac.uk

Dale Coates

Assistant Grounds Maintenance Manager (based at Jubilee)

Tel. 0115 74 84547

Email: dale.coates@nottingham.ac.uk

Connie Parr

Assistant Grounds Maintenance Manager

Tel. 0115 95 13637

Email: connie.parr@nottingham.ac.uk

Simon Robinson

Team Leader University Park (North)

Tel. 07900 056 699

Email: simon.robinson@nottingham.ac.uk

Liam Jones

Team Leader University Park (South)

Tel. 07920 863 990

Email: liam.jones@nottingham.ac.uk

Michael Mounteney

Senior Arborist

Tel. 07768 953 469

Email: michael.mounteney@nottingham.ac.uk

Helpdesk

Tel. 0115 95 16666

Email: estates-helpdesk@nottingham.ac.uk

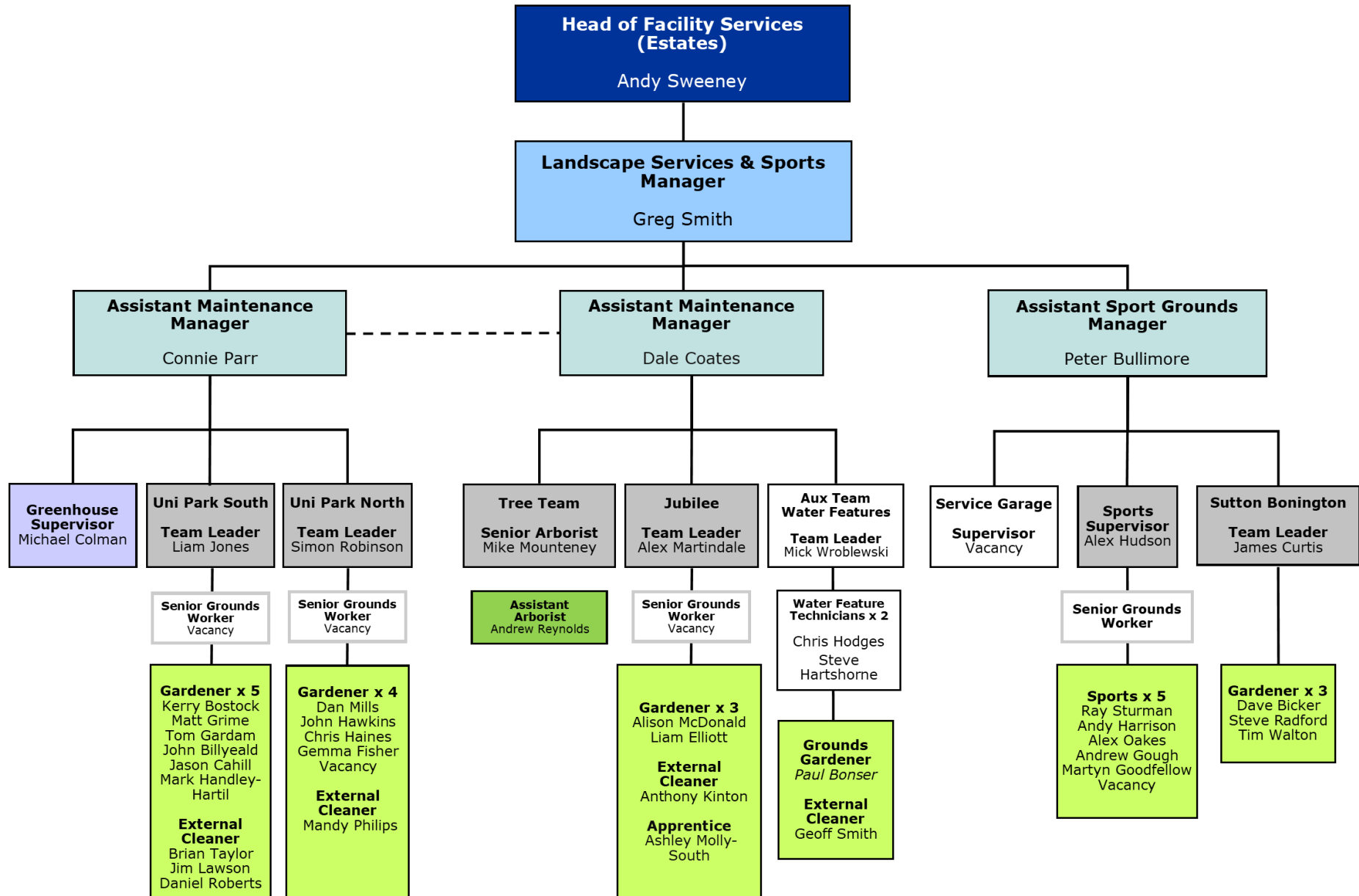
Security (24 hours)

Tel. 0115 95 13013

Security Reception

Tel. 0115 95 13599

5.5 Landscape Services & Sports Grounds Section – Organisation Structure 2024





5.6 Machinery and equipment

The Grounds staff at University Park have the following equipment available for use on a permanent basis. The grounds operation is supported by tractor mounted gang mowers and other larger ride on equipment.

North Team asset list

- 4 x Stihl strimmer/bush cutters
- 4 x Stihl backpack blowers
- 3 x Billy Goat pedestrian blowers
- 1 x Stihl handheld blowers
- 2 x Honda handheld blowers
- 4 x Stihl hedge cutter various lengths
- 2 x Husqvarna rotary mowers
- 1 x Honda rotary mower
- 1 x Toro rotary mower
- 1 x Allen hover mower
- 1 x Scragg flail mower (shared)
- 1 x Trimax 3 point link flail mower
- 2 x Tomlin salt spreaders
- 1 x Citroen flatbed vehicle
- 1 x Citroen flatbed vehicle
- 2 x Iseki compact tractor and trailer (also has mowing deck for all the mowing).

South Team

- 4 x Stihl strimmer/bush cutters
- 4 x Stihl backpack blowers
- 2 x Billy Goat pedestrian blowers
- 1 x Stihl handheld blowers
- 2 x Honda handheld blowers
- 5 x Stihl hedge cutter various lengths
- 3 x Husqvarna rotary mowers
- 1 x Etesia ride on rotary mower
- 2 x Cobra rotary mower
- 2 x Tomlin salt spreaders
- 2 x Kubota RTV 900 utility vehicle and trailers
- 1 x Scragg flail mower (shared)
- 1 x Trimax 3-point link flail mower
- 1 x 100ltr towed bowser
- 1 x compressor
- 2 x Iseki compact tractor and trailer
- 2 x Gators (also has mowing deck for all the mowing).

1 x Scarab Azura road sweeper is based at University Park and is shared with other sites.

1 x Kubota compact tractor and trailer also has mowing deck for all the mowing.



5.7 Machinery replacement programme

A rolling replacement programme has been set up for replacing machinery to avoid undue peaks in expenditure. The programme is flexible to ensure opportunities to review changes to grounds maintenance procedures which may require monies to be diverted to alternative purchases. Senior Grounds staff attend major events (such as the annual Saltex, GMA, BBC Gardeners' World live show) keep up to date with new equipment trends. They are then consulted on the most appropriate equipment available within budget to undertaken given tasks.

Major purchases are then put out for competitive quotation before purchase to meet sustainable procurement.

Large items of equipment are leased for a period of four years then replaced. The vehicle lease expires in 2023, utility/gator lease expires in August 2027 and the tractor lease has just been tendered and it is scheduled to commence in August 2023.

5.8 Machinery servicing

The Grounds Section workshop is based at Jubilee Campus and is staffed by one fitter dedicated to maintaining and repairing horticultural machinery. The workshop is well equipped with a hydraulic ramp.

Express dual grinder and angle master, welding and lifting equipment and all the usual workshop tools. There is a van available for onsite repairs and a van and trailer for return to base repairs.

All pedestrian machinery is serviced and repaired in-house, and all sit on machinery is serviced by an external provider. All lease equipment (vehicle, utility, and tractor) would be serviced as part of the agreement.

All machinery is serviced annually to comply with Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER (Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations)) Regs. The records are maintained by the Grounds Maintenance Manager.

Machinery is assessed regularly by the operator to ensure it remains safe to use. Hard Arm Vibration and noise are assessed at time of purchase to ensure.

5.9 Grounds training strategy

The university is committed to staff training and development and the Estate Office has evolved its own training policy. Internally there are various courses open to all staff in addition to which we use various training agencies.

There are two basic levels of training:

- Training essential to complete the task to a required standard and to comply with appropriate safety legislation.
- Training which is of benefit to both the university and the individual and will enhance the individual's performance in their job; in some cases, this has led to staff developing into Team Leaders, Landscape & Grounds Operations Managers within the current team.



5.10 Arboriculture

The university's Estates Department includes a dedicated Tree Surgery team. This is comprised of a senior and two assistant arborists, augmented, when necessary, by other members of trained staff. This team deals with virtually all arboriculturally work on university sites, and is fully equipped with chainsaws, climbing equipment and woodchippers.

In addition to the equipment above two members of the team are MEWP (Mobile Elevated Work Platform) trained and these are hired for specific tasks, which in addition to specimen trees include the maintenance of wall shrubs, climbers, and tall hedges.

5.11 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

There are very few TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) on University Park — the university is regarded as a conscientious landowner with the expertise and skills to manage its tree stocks in a professional manner.

University Park is within Nottingham City Borough and links are established with Tree Officers in the Council. Where difficult or contentious decisions must be made the local authority is involved as a matter of courtesy.

A code of practice for onsite contractors is established when working in the vicinity of trees to try and avoid damage to trees and their roots.

5.12 Plant nursery

The nursery is a block of surplus research glasshouses that were passed over to the Grounds section in 2002. Landscape & Grounds are proud to produce and grow plants in our greenhouses for display on campus. Spring, Summer and Autumn bedding plants and shrubs for Landscape Designs are grown for our other campuses. We also provide all the plant material for the Graduation award ceremonies held at the university.

A plant sale is also held once a year, selling surplus plants to staff and students. This year this was held at the July Picnic in the Park which was very successfully and raise money for the Friends of University Park Group.

2022 and 2023 saw some major improvements to the greenhouses with investment into heating and ventilation, irrigation, and water systems.



Poinsettias grown from plug plants in hot glasshouses



Cuttings in propagation greenhouse

5.13 Buildings

There are many buildings of varied ages and styles throughout the park. Unlike most 'normal' park buildings, these will have specific uses for teaching, research, administration, or residential purposes not linked with the landscape as such.

Buildings vary from the older 18th and 19th century houses from the original estates, through to the early 20th century developments of Trent and Portland Buildings, to modern buildings. There are fifteen listed buildings. All university buildings are well maintained by a team of in-house tradesmen and contractors under the direction of the Estates Department.

The Grounds Sections provide design services for new building refurbishments and renovations of existing buildings. The University of Nottingham achieved 'Best Outdoor Space' in the Academic Venue Awards and in the Grounds Manager Association (GMA) awards, the Best Maintained Artificial Pitch. also, University Grounds of the Year.

5.14 Street furniture

Wherever landscape elements used throughout the park are standardised to give a level of conformity. A standard green paint, 14C39 is used for all signs, streetlights, railings, and most other external surfaces.

Litter bins are of two types. A few Duo Bloc from Townscape remain in the main area, refitted with green tops. All newer bins are of the Westminster style from Amberly in dark green with the university logo and hooded tops.

Bollards are black recycled plastic from DPR. Cycle stands are the Sheffield style, hoops in dark green, often set in block-paved surrounds.

External seating is an important provision. To enable some uniformity of design and materials on the site it has been agreed that three types of benches can be used – the Wollaton and Gravenor range from Redtree in the stainless steel.

Benchmark CL005 – seat unit in stainless steel, used for modern areas.



Wollaton – 1.8m bench manufactured by Redtree, Derbyshire, used in non-heritage areas of University Park a durable design and the preferred choice where a more robust unit is required.



Grosvenor – 1.8m bench, manufactured by Redtree, Derbyshire, installed in heritage areas of the site.



5.15 Recycling units

There are recycling modules on campus. The current contractor is Enva. The modules are owned by the university and emptied twice weekly. The onsite/street external recycling facilities are supplied and managed by the Landscape & Grounds Team daily seven days a week including bank holidays. The onsite/street external recycling facilities are supplied and managed by the Grounds Section.



Section 6: Environmental management



The university is committed to maximising the positive impact it has on the local and global environment whilst reducing the environmental impact of its activities. There are several policies and strategies relevant to environmental sustainability (listed below and found on the university's sustainability webpages).

- Environmental Sustainability Strategic Delivery Plan
- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Carbon Management Plan 2030
- Sustainable Food Policy
- Estates Development Framework
- Biodiversity Action Plans
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Baseline Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- Travel plan

Our Environmental Sustainability Strategic Delivery Plan (ESSDP) sets out our priorities to deliver against the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and The Environmental Sustainability Policy sits alongside and compliments the ESSDP, setting the overarching principles regarding how we will protect and improve the environment, and embed sustainability. These principles include:

- Drive reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in line with our science-based carbon reduction target.
- Actively promote and facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport.
- Reduce resource consumption through a circular economy approach and minimise waste.
- Prevent, limit, and control any pollution or emissions that could be harmful to human health, air, land, and water, as a result of university operations.
- Reduce water consumption whilst increasing the efficiency of our water systems.
- Make space for nature on our campuses to ensure that biodiversity can survive and thrive, whilst promoting carbon sequestration via our green spaces.
- Ensure that all new development and refurbishment projects utilise best practice environmental sustainability standards to drive a greener campus-built environment.



The policy helps ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation and aligns with international principles of environmental management. The university operates Eco Campus, an Environmental Management System (EMS) specific to higher and further education. This is a structured framework to identify, manage and control an organisation's activities that impact on the environment. As of December 2023, the university has achieved silver status and is working towards Gold and then Platinum.

As part of the ESSDP, an accompanying Action Plan sets the objectives and targets for environmental improvement. It incorporates actions from across Estates & Facilities, including the Grounds team.

Grounds and landscape actions include:

1. We will work with partners across the region to develop Biodiversity Action Plans integrated into our landscape strategy and management plans for each of our campuses, including a phased investment plan.
2. We will provide opportunities for students and staff to participate in biodiversity studies.
3. Continue with and expand the reduced mowing regime.
4. Link with students to facilitate onsite biodiversity surveys.

The ESSDP and Action Plan are overseen by the university Environmental Sustainability Committee.

All new buildings benefit from a landscape design process, large build projects adopt the BREEAM Environmental Assessment and Award. The Grounds Section provide design services for the new buildings.

6.1 Energy and renewables

In 2021 the university committed to a science-based approach to setting carbon reduction targets for its UK operations. We have established the following ambitious carbon reduction targets:

2030 – 63% reduction in emissions

2040 – Net zero carbon target (with offsetting)

2050 – Absolute zero carbon target (without offsetting)

The [2030 Carbon Management Plan](#) sets out the pathway to achieve these targets. This includes the prioritising of refurbishing existing buildings above undertaking new builds as much as possible and deep refurbishment must include high levels of thermal insulation to all the main building elements. Any new build projects will be designed without natural gas supplies. Overall, low carbon principles are embedded into processes and policies.

6.2 Transport

The university has a travel plan and actively encourages staff and students to choose low-carbon, healthy transport options when travelling to University Park. The university has worked to improve sustainable transport options for staff and students, resulting in:

- Investment in cycling infrastructure
- Free bike maintenance checks with Dr Bike
- A semester bike hire scheme for students and staff
- Staff able to hire/buy cycles through payroll and save hundreds of pounds
- discounted bus travel available for staff and students
- As carshare scheme for staff



- Increased provision of the inter-campus buses

More information on these initiatives is available on the sustainability webpages.

6.3 Waste minimisation

The university aims to minimise waste and its associated environmental impact. Only 10% of the waste that the university produces are sent to landfill. The university has co-mingled recycling bins, which are clearly labelled across our campuses, inside and outside. There are separate streams for construction, hazardous, glass, batteries, and other specialist waste. Food waste is collected by the appointed waste contractor and processed locally by an anaerobic digester. We utilise the Warpit platform to reuse and redistribute office furniture and equipment.

The municipal waste contract is part of an East Midlands waste consortium with other local universities. The internal bins are emptied twice weekly. The onsite/street external recycling facilities are supplied and managed by the Landscape & Grounds Team daily, including bank holidays.

6.4 Grounds waste

Horticultural waste is recycled to produce compost or mulching materials. We have a Gandini Bio-Match Shredder 89TTS and a Greenmech Chip master. Shredding volumes reach 1000 cubic metres a year, generating some 200 cubic metres of compost. The material produced is used as a soil ameliorant over all university sites, including the student community garden. Grounds staff aim to segregate softer material, including autumn leaves, for composting into a rich soil ameliorant. Woody material is processed separately into a coarser product used as a surface mulch. Christmas trees are also recycled.

6.5 Chemical use

The use of pesticides is kept to an absolute minimum. Herbicide use is limited to hard surfaces and derelict land, glyphosate is the preferred contact systemic pesticide for all purposes. This is applied on a performance or need basis rather than the less-favoured frequency-based preventative method adopted in the past.

Pesticides are not used on interior plants; these are replaced if problems develop because of the lack of suitable controls. Biological control can be considered in some situations. The glasshouse unit uses integrated pest control and has a low input of insecticides, relying on living predators to control a variety of pests. Biological control is supplied under contract by Syngenta who also provide a consultancy service to the university.

6.6 Peat use

No peat-based products are used for soil amelioration. Instead, university garden waste (composted on site) is used. For mulching borders, processed bark or wood chip produced on site is used in a comparable way, although insufficient amounts are produced to meet demand. Where container plants are purchased from external suppliers, the university has a wide planting policy, and it is currently difficult to obtain plants from growers that do not use peat. From 2018-2023 we have been using peat free alternative growing media for all externally supplied container grown plants, where available. This should reduce the amount of peat being used on university sites. The percentage of peat free container plants should therefore increase under this strategy.

6.7 Climate Change Adaptation

The university is considering the risks and opportunities to our built and natural environment posed by the impacts of a changing climate, including floods, extreme temperatures, wildfires, increased storm intensity and drought.

The university commissioned a project to increase its understanding of physical climate risk to the built environment over the short, medium, and long term. The assessment considered the risk of extreme precipitation, wildfire, heat stress, drought, mass movement, and extreme cold, so that we have a full picture of the climate risks and opportunities across our whole campus estate. The map below is a visual summary of priority risk for built assets at University Park:



The findings of this study will be used to inform a wider Adaptation and Resilience Strategy for the university, from future maintenance programmes, to how we build new buildings in the future, to how we landscape our campuses. Regarding the natural landscapes on our campuses, this should include considering measures such as:

- Exploring opportunities for de-paving and green infrastructure across our campuses to reduce surface water run-off and flood risk.
- Considering strategic planting and landscaping to reduce the risk of wildfires.
- Considering strategic planting to enhance shading for buildings and green spaces.
- Exploring drought resistant planting to cope with higher summer temperatures and any resulting water scarcity.
- Exploring options to capture and retain rainwater on the campuses, so that it can be used for irrigation of the playing fields during the drier periods.

Utilising nature-based solutions will enable us to delivery co benefits, for people, for plant and for place.

Section 7: Biodiversity

The rich biodiversity of our campuses is of strategic importance to the university and is a key component of our Environmental Sustainability Strategic Delivery Plan. The university is a founding signatory of the Nature Positive University Alliance (see 7.5). With both academic and operational expertise within the university, this work is being overseen by a Biodiversity Action Group, with resource within the Sustainability Team prioritising this work.

In 2023 we carried out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Baseline Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) of all our campuses. This established that University Park has on-site baseline habitat units equating to 745.97, with a further 19.81 hedgerow units. The next phase of this work will be to develop policy and an enhancement plan that will enable us to meet our biodiversity commitments. This work will form part of and help guide our approach to landscape management and annual action plans for the whole site.

7.1 Habitats and species

Our university campus grounds feature many diverse habitats and as such support a wide array of flora and fauna. They are a valued asset, and our green spaces are often cited as the reason students and staff choose to study and work here.

Habitats on University Park include woodlands, hedgerows, ponds, scrub, and grassland, all set within 121ha (300 acres) of gently rolling landscape and thousands of beautiful trees. Further details of specific habitats, their condition and species can be found in the PEA and BIA report for University Park. It also details recommendations for improving each distinct habitat type and for the benefit of the flora and fauna found within them.

University Park has a designated Local Wildlife Site known as the Downs. This is group of acid and neutral grasslands with characteristic species and botanical interest. It is one of the most biodiverse, distinctive habitats the campus and is managed as a wildflower meadow.

In 2023 a new 'wetland' environment as created between Cut Through Lane and Beeston Lane. Pre-existing depressions in the ground were enhanced and lined to capture water and planted with marsh and water-loving plants. Once established, this will give a valuable home to a variety of wildlife, whilst several hibernacula will provide underground chambers for amphibians and reptiles to overwinter.



7.2 Management strategies

The management techniques employed across the estate consider impacts on flora and fauna and ensure that the potential for biodiversity is maximised. See sections 5, and 6 and as detailed below. See the Biodiversity Action Plan for University Park for more information on managing the site for the benefit of wildlife. For example, the university actively takes part in the national initiative 'No Mow May' annually. This involves leaving grassed areas unmown throughout the month of May to encourage flowers and provide habitats for pollinators. The



number of areas left in this way has steadily increased since 2021 and the campaign is used to engage staff and students with nature on campus. Since 2021 areas now have a relaxed mowing schedule. In 2024 this will increase

7.3 Tree surgery

Trees are encouraged to develop a natural form and surgery takes place as a response to tree inspection, silvicultural needs, thinning of new plantings and safety risk.

Where possible and safe to do so, dying trees are left as bat roosts or for wood boring birds and insects. In some woodland areas, pruned material and felled timber is left as habitat piles, although the risk of summer fires must be considered.

7.4 Water conservation

All new projects are mulched for water conservation. New trees are fitted with water tubes to direct water to the essential root zone. Tubs and hanging baskets used throughout the park in the summer months contain water-retaining granules to reduce the amount of watering needed.

7.5 Nature Positive Universities

In 2022, the university became a founding signatory of the Nature Positive University Alliance. This initiative, co-led by the UN (United Nations) Environment Programme and the University of Oxford, is driving the world's higher education sector towards a nature-positive future. By pledging to become a Nature Positive University, Nottingham has committed to:

- **Reducing** negative impacts on nature
- **Restoring** species and habitats
- **Renewing** ecosystems

Work is underway to establish a baseline to enable us to develop meaningful targets that benefit and increase the nature on our campuses in line with this initiative.

7.6 Hedgehog Friendly Campus

The university has so far achieved a silver award in the [Hedgehog Friendly Campus scheme](#). This initiative aims to raise awareness of the plight of hedgehog whilst taking practical steps to improve habitats and circumstances for hedgehogs across university campuses.

The university's Hedgehog Friendly Campus group was set up in 2019 with volunteer members from across staff and student areas. The group is actively working to enhance campus environments for the benefit of hedgehogs and has undertaken activities such as hedgehog surveys, litter picks and installed hedgehog road crossing signs. The group is aiming for the gold award in 2024.

Section 8: Community involvement and marketing



8.1 Our customers

As a university, our primary customer base is quite different from most public parks. The majority are our students, both those that live on campus and those that live elsewhere but come onto the park for their studies. Some staff live on campus, but numbers are small and there are very few families with children. There are large numbers of staff that come onto campus for their daily work. This report will go on to refer to other visitors, but it must be emphasised that our main customer base is, and will remain, our 33,000+ students and 5,000+ staff.

Results of surveys made within the university community show that the external environment is valued by most students and in some cases was instrumental in choosing to come to Nottingham.

An important aspect of university income is our conference business and throughout the three vacation periods, the campus is busy with conference delegates. One of the major selling points of the university as a conference venue is the landscaped park and however short the conference, most delegates notice and appreciate at least some aspects of University Park.

University Park has unrestricted public access. The main entrances are:

- North Entrance, off A52 Clifton Boulevard and Derby Road roundabout
- South Entrance, off A6005 University Boulevard
- West Entrance, off Woodside Road/Broadgate Road roundabout

There are also many other pedestrian access routes onto the campus grounds. Freedom of access by the local community is encouraged. There are cafes, a sports centre offering community use on a booking basis, active trail, various walking trails, ample outdoor seating, outdoor chess, and table tennis in the halls of residence areas.

8.2 Friends of University Park

This group was established in January 2004 with the specific aim of encouraging members of the public to use and enjoy University Park.

The Friends Group is managed by a steering group that has specifically chosen not to adopt a formal constitution and committee. Instead, they have analysed the roles needed to continue and develop this work and several individuals have accepted responsibility for different tasks. It is felt that the group functions well in its current format without being unduly onerous to those organising it. The formal support of the university and its financial systems are available to support the group.

The group organises an annual comprehensive public events programme which is marketed throughout Nottinghamshire. The events consist of several specialists talks and tours and practical workshops that all relate to the diversity of the campuses.



They also organise a family day in June entitled 'Picnic in the Park,' which is an afternoon of fun for the local community to visit campus and enjoy the beautiful surroundings, where there is music, children's activities, heritage and garden tours and food, centred in the tranquil grounds of the Millennium Garden. The 2023 event was once again phenomenally successful, attracting 500 guests from the local community. The event was advertised in the Nottingham Events & Days Out which attracted many local families.

We have hosted jazz, brass and dance bands in the gardens and opened the greenhouses to the public on several occasions. The gardens are opened as part of the National Garden scheme (NGS).



The Friends also offer guided walks for groups from Horticultural Societies or Social Clubs. On average 12-16 of these guided tours take place each year and include Garden Walks, Tree Trails, and Heritage tours.

More details about the Friends of University Park can be found at <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/grounds/friendsouniversitypark.aspx>

8.3 Volunteers

Previously, the Friends have been involved in various projects around campus, which has included the restoration of the Jekyll Garden and Lenton Firs rock garden.

A Students' Union group, the Conservation Society, also undertake volunteering sessions on campus in collaboration with the Grounds Team. These sessions aim improve the natural environments of university campuses for the benefits of wildlife and park users. It also provides the students with hands-on conservation experience and helps them develop new skills. Activities undertaken include tree planting, bulb planting, bug hotel building and creating new habitats. These regular sessions are also now open to everyone – students, staff, community groups and the Friends group.

Recent projects include the creation of a ditch and bund at Florence Boot Hall (below image) and assistance in creating a new memorial woodland walk.



Florence Boot Hall bund

8.4 Lakeside community engagement

Nottingham Lakeside Arts (NLA) is the university's public arts programme and offers people of all ages the chance to engage with high quality, diverse arts, and heritage through our year-round programme of visual arts and crafts, theatre and dance, music (chamber, world, folk, and jazz), museum of archaeology, and participation programmes.

The Arts Centre is situated in the beautiful surroundings of University Park and Highfields Park, providing an accessible cultural hub for communities to engage with free/subsidised performances and programmes throughout the year. The extension of the Nottingham tram has enabled new and different communities to access Lakeside much more easily, with a tram stop adjacent to the venue.

With the tram's arrival, NLA were able to develop new education programmes targeted at the 60 schools within walking distance of a tram stop; titled A Grand Day Out. Classes are offered the opportunity to participate in curriculum-related and fun activities over the course of one school day including archaeology, environmental science, biology in the park, drama, and visual arts.

Audiences and participants who visit NLA's broad programme are drawn from all over Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire to experience major exhibitions, festivals, and performances by visiting UK and international theatre and dance companies, musicians, and artists. We work closely with a range of external agencies and partners to seek funding to develop exciting outreach, education, and community programmes which extend opportunities and to advantage of arts and heritage programme.

The Chinese New Year/Spring Festival in January/February sees up to 5,000 visitors/participants visit for free. The Spring Festival is the most widely celebrated event in the Asian calendar. Traditionally a family celebration, each year we invite Chinese artists to work with community groups, schools, and other professional artists in a series of workshops, classes, and rehearsals culminating in a performance.



8.5 Marketing

The university has made deliberate efforts to make the local community aware that the park is open to all those who wish to enjoy it. This started with the production of a free leaflet 'University Park – Gardens Guide & Tree Walk.' This is available from our Visitor Centre, the Lakeside Pavilion, the East Midlands Conference Centre and at the gatehouses at each entrance. There are also electronic versions of this and other guides: Historic Houses Walk, Geology Walk, and Winter Tree Walk are available on the [university's website](#)

A smaller leaflet is produced and distributed more widely in public libraries, local tourist information centres, and shopping centres. Each year events leaflets are produced and also distributed through local libraries and to gardening societies.

The Friends have an extensive mailing list, as well as events being advertised in the Nottingham Community Arrow and Lenton and Wollaton Community Arrow publications, Beeston Express, and the Nottingham Post. University Park and its facilities are marketed on the [university's website](#). The website contains information for visitors including:

- Directions and map
- Academic buildings
- Sustainability
- Awards
- Restaurant and cafeteria facilities



The staff and students of UoN make up the largest number of daily users of the park. There are specific communications channels and tools used to communicate to them the news, events, activities, and features occurring on University Park. The Sustainability Team has strong relationships with the UoN staff and students' communication teams and work closely to ensure key opportunities for involvement are advertised to all e.g. via email, newsletters, webpages, blogs, posters, and talks.

The Sustainability Team uses social media daily – Instagram, Facebook, and X (Twitter) – to promote and encourage engagement with our green spaces to a broad audience, including over 1,700 X followers and over 2,080 Instagram followers, as of January 2024. A monthly newsletter 'Sustainable Nottingham,' emailed to subscribed staff, students, and wider stakeholders, carries stories and updates on landscape and biodiversity initiatives, as well as wider issues such as reducing the university's carbon footprint and encouraging sustainable behaviours.

The activities organised by the Friends of University Park are currently advertised through the following link: www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/grounds/friendsouniversitypark.aspx

Local media is also used for advertising activities and events:

- Nottingham Post Newspaper
- The Beeston Express Newspaper
- Radio Nottingham
- Nottingham City Council Area Officers
- Nottingham Arrow Community Magazine
- Green Flag Park Website

8.6 Commemorative trees and benches

For many years, the university has encouraged the planting of commemorative trees. Sometimes these may be just generous donations from those with an interest in trees and a love of University Park. More commonly they will commemorate a member of staff or student who has died. These living memorials to the deceased are welcomed.

The wishes of the donors or interests of the person being commemorated are always considered but within the framework of the overall landscape. In this way many interesting trees have been added in recent years, some planted by notable personalities. Brass plaques are allowed, but wherever possible these are affixed to the nearest building rather than set next to the tree to avoid the 'graveyard' style. Benches are sometimes donated in an equivalent way to commemorate an occasion or person.

Memorial Garden

In 2023 two memorial projects were designed and progressed on University Park. The current walled garden is being developed into a memorial garden as an area for reflection and contemplation. The development will be in sympathy with the history of the walled garden and Highfields House and incorporate a new planting design.



Image of walled garden design

The second area is at the south side of the Millennium Garden. Adjacent woodland is being redeveloped into a memorial woodland walk, a beautiful space to take time to remember members of our community whom we have lost. It will feature new bark walkways through the woodland with mixed hedges, additional spring bulbs and dead hedging habitats to the boundary. Bird and bat boxes and other homes for wildlife will be installed in 2024 alongside seating for visitors to enjoy the space.



Image of construction of woodland footpaths

Section 9: Action Plan 2024-2029



How will we get there?

Update December 2023

The Action Plan has been developed to cover 2024 onwards and will be monitored quarterly, and progress reviewed and reported annually.

An updated action plan for University Park is generated during December when the plan is reviewed as part of the university's submission process for the Green Flag Award.

9.1 Action Plan – objectives and update

Key:

GS (Greg Smith) Greg Smith, Landscape & Grounds Manager

DC Dale Coates, Assistant Grounds Maintenance Manager Jubilee

CP Connie Parr, Assistant Grounds Maintenance Manager University Park

PB (Peter Boseley) Peter Bullimore, Sports Grounds Manager, Sutton Bonington

AM Alex Martindale Interim University Park Operations Manager

GS Gavin Scott, Sustainability Manager

AC (Activated Carbon) Alison Clayton, Senior Environment Officer

AS Amy Scoins, Senior Environment Officer

WK William Kent – Capital Projects Manager

LJ/SR Grounds Team Leaders

CONSOC Conservation and Nature Society – University of Nottingham Students' Union

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
Welcome	Design, grow and plant an attractive seasonal bedding schemes at West and North Entrances on an annual basis.	Annually	CP	£3k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designs completed. ▪ Plant material currently being grown. ▪ Summer bedding scheduled to be installed in June 2024.
	Design, tender, and deliver new soft landscape at Safety Office at Faculty of Engineering, University Park.	2024	CP/WK	£5k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building completed work. ▪ Completion of raised border area. Topsoil adds, and plant material ordered and delivered late December 2023. ▪ Planting early January within boarder and re planting of surrounding area as part of project to up lift the area.
	Work in partnership with contractor Fine Turf and Sustainability Team to install wildflower turf at Central area of	September 2023	GS/AC	Contractor responsible for initial replacements preparations of site as per specification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional replacement landscaping works in 2023. ▪ Wildflower turf to be regularly monitored and managed whilst it establishes.

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
	University Park, Monica Partridge building.			Replacements agreed and laid within budget £2k.	
	Memorial woodland between the Downs and Millennium Garden.	November 2023 through to February 2024	WK/CP/DC/GS	£50k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground works undertaken. Additional planting, habitat creation and seating to be done in 2024.
	Knee rail improvements around Sherwood and Rutland Halls.	August 2023 further works 2024		£25k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is to reduce vehicles parking on grass areas this further works 2024.
	Walled garden project	May 2024	GS/WK/CP	£60k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff consultation on plans and Planting design underway.
	Two bug mansions/hotels were constructed through this summer at Highfields House and north entrance. Florence Landscape around this hall of residents February 2024 re seeded areas in front of the building and removal of five conifers trees and replace with Cherry trees or snake bark maple to allow light on north facing wall.	July 2023 February 2024	AM/EMEC GS CP	Sustainability Team meet the cost Landscape and Grounds Team working with a contractor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have supported project to incorporate this across how campus. . This is part of the refurbishment of the Hall of residents which started in 2020 we have taken over the landscape works.
Health, safe and secure	Review training database.	Annually August/September	PB/GS/DC/CP	Training budget £17k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going last updated January 2023. Review annually following staff appraisals ADC (Appraisal and Development Conversations) (Appraisal and Development Conversations) in August/September 2023.
	Inspect lifebuoy stations.	Weekly	CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going weekly checks and reporting system.

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
	Review Grounds maintenance health and safety arrangements for mandatory courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trees – DC ▪ Sport – PB ▪ Landscapes – CP ▪ Nursery – CP ▪ Management – GS 	2024 Annually	PB/CP/DC/ GS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff are supported with IT equipment, such as mobile phones, iPad, laptops, PCs for the day-to-day work but also where there are training needs.
	Undertake an external furniture audit and upload data on the new GIS asset management software. Produce drawing containing data.	2024	GS/DC/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scheduled for Autumn 2024 Planon System – New Asset Management system not yet online. ▪ Review Street Furniture Policy when software available. ▪ Plan to carry out site assessment Summer 2024 in preparation for new system integration with support of project Team.
	Implement monthly inspection of external furniture.	2023/24	DC/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damage to external furniture reported through Helpdesk requests by staff and public. ▪ Also monitored by External Cleaners.
	HAVS – implementation of new Handheld Vibration management system and monitor teams daily and create reports weekly. Daily reports (this is an upgrade of current system Reactec System which was implemented 2018).	June 2023/ February 2024	PB	£10k per year subscription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On-going monitoring. ▪ Rolled out to all Teams. ▪ Run along Ellesmere System of replacement kit.
	Accident reporting process to be included.	2024			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refer to Management Plan at 4.2
	Review and implement gritting rota. Out of hours call out covered by Nurture Gritting	October 2023/	CP/DC/GS/ PB		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing during Autumn/Winter monthly meeting with Contractor Nurture.

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
		2024 annually			
	Implement the annual tree risk management inspection, level 4 tree surveyor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Red zones – annually/eighteen months ▪ Amber zones – three yearly ▪ Green zones – five/six yearly In-house staff to undertake inspection in their own areas.	July to November annually	GS	Within £50k budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive survey of all trees being undertaken via contractor consultant using PEAR Technology. 2024/2025 ongoing.
	To deliver tree works that have been identified via the annual tree risk management process and any other surveys in a timely manner.	August/ March 2023/2024	GS/CP/DC	Within budget uplift of £50k across all campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree work being progressed on site.
Well maintained and clean	Review grounds maintenance schedules and quality control sheets.	2024	GS/DC/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality control sheet updated to include the reporting of damage to hard landscaped areas and external furniture/features.
	Review road sweeping and litter collection – consider opportunities to utilise existing resources, especially through nonpeak times. Share maps of all areas that External cleaners cover.	Ongoing	DC /CP/GS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Litter collection and removal in heavy periods, i.e. University Open Days, Graduation, Events. We support the External Cleaners by implementing road-sweeping contractors. ▪ As we have come out of lockdown, we have implemented smarter and agile working practices within the External Cleaning Teams, we now operate the teams in a more proactive way, the teams now come in earlier and this enables them to deliver the litter collection service before peak times.

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter collection is also carried out at weekends.
	Water features – inspect/maintain three times per week from April to September, winter one or two times per week depending on climatic conditions as per written procedures including cost of sundries and chemicals.	2024	DC	£5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From January 2021 our two-man Pond Team now cover all our existing ponds and water features across all our campuses on a weekly basis, this includes University Park, Jubilee, KMC (King's Meadow Campus) and Sutton Bonington.
	Water features – servicing of features by external specialist contractor (Tills Innovation) three times per year.	2023/2024	DC	£18,000 in-line with annual budget August to September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As we now have a fully formed two-man pond team, we have reduced contractor visits. We feel this gives us more control of our water features. Additionally, we have other staff who have confined space training and can support if required, all updated in 2023.
	Water feature – WCF to risk assess for legionella management.	Spring 2023	SC/GS/DC/CP/PB		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently the water features legionella testing by outside contractor WCS Limited.
	Quality site monitoring – these are reviewed to assess quality levels and actioned, as necessary.	Monthly	DC/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed via Team Leader and Line Manager monthly walk around. Although we have plans in place time is allocated to carry work out, i.e. new projects we are tasked to do, such as planting of new building landscapes and wildflower areas.
Environmental management	Continued expansion of on-street recycling Bins Grit bins.	2024	GS/CP/DC	£15,000 annual budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process of renewal and replacement. As the campuses evolve, we are replacing aged bins and gritting storage bins annually where required.
	Additional cycle facilities in the Life Science and Engineering area of campus. Spring 2024.	2023/2024	GS/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional facilities both covered and non-covered installed around the CBS building. We have also significantly improved access and egress to that area of campus with a new shared path.

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing cleaning of existing cycle shelters to be carried out by External Cleaners.
	electric vehicle charging points, reduced parking spaces for a greener campus.	2024/2025	GS/WK		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 additions charging points will be put in place.
	University-wide waste reduction targets.	2024	GS/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within our greenhouse practices we are working towards reducing plastic use and replacing plastic containers and pots with bio-pots.
	Environmental Management System	2023/2024	GS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working towards the Eco Campus Gold standard.
	Natural environment actions within the Adaptation and Resilience Strategy	2024/25	AS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Adaptation and Resilience Strategy is currently being drafted and actions are to be agreed.
	Exploring opportunities for de-paving and green infrastructure across our campuses to reduce surface water runoff and flood risk.		AS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue/green infrastructure is currently being explored on the Downs to mitigate flooding because of surface water runoff during extreme rainfall events.
	Considering strategic planting and landscaping to reduce the risk of wildfires.		AS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Adaptation and Resilience Strategy is currently being drafted and actions are to be agreed.
	Considering strategic planting to enhance shading for buildings and green spaces.		AS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Adaptation and Resilience Strategy is currently being drafted and actions are to be agreed.
	Exploring drought resistant planting to cope with higher summer temperatures and any resulting water scarcity.		AS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Adaptation and Resilience Strategy is currently being drafted and actions are to be agreed.
	Exploring options to capture and retain rainwater on our campuses, so that it can be used for irrigation of the playing fields during the drier periods.		AS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Adaptation and Resilience Strategy is currently being drafted and actions are to be agreed.

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
	Glasshouse nursery biological control to reduce the use of pesticides.	2024	GS/CP/DC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of chemical reduction throughout landscape and grounds, to be combined with waste management collection of empty containers and surplus chemical (with the change of regulations).
Biodiversity, landscape, and heritage	Develop and implement the actions from the Biodiversity Action Plan.	2024-2030	GS/DC/CP/PB/AC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Action Plan 2024.
	Develop and achieve biodiversity and Nature positive targets as part of Nature Positive Universities commitment.	2024-2030	GS/DC/CP/PB/AC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart targets to be agreed with Biodiversity Action Group in 2024.
	Improve habitat condition ratings and increase habitat units based on PEA and BIA reports.	2024-2030	GS/DC/CP/PB/AC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions to be incorporated into Biodiversity Action Plan.
	Continue introducing and improving wildlife habitats such as bird boxes and log piles as well as shelters for a wide range of invertebrates and insects.	2024-2030	AC/GS/DC/E MEC	£2k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining existing stock of bat, bird and insect homes and wildlife cameras to be installed in 2024, with help from external ecologists.
	Meet all biodiversity legislation including Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.	Review annually	AC/GS/GS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Net Gain legislation delayed in 2024. Approach to be agreed as part of Biodiversity plans.
	Run volunteering projects to improve biodiversity and nature connectedness of our community.	Review annually	CONSOC/DC/CP/GS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Society/Grounds staff create annual plan for Wednesday afternoon sessions during term time. Plus ad hoc events.
	Develop further wildflower areas and reduced mowing areas around University Park East Drive area overlooking Highfields Lake.	May 2024	GK/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the area by reducing mow to twice a year do inspections to check on plant growth.
	Develop and deliver events programme that promotes access to the local community and allows visitors to engage and enjoy the landscape.	December 2023	GS/DC/FOUP	£165	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar of Events established and to be printed in January 2024.

Objective	Action	Year	Lead officer	Budget/resource	2023/24 update
Marketing communication	Annual review of Grounds and FOUP website.	2023/2024	GS/CP/DC/GT FOUP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Group has a fresh approach to communications through yearly event calendar new web address.
	Develop innovative marketing for FOUP Group.	2023/2024	GS/DC/GT FOUP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has progressed with UoN Events Manager joining the FOUP Group.
	Develop a leaflet to allow visitors to know more about FOUP and to promote heritage/garden tours.	January 2024	GS/DC/GT FOUP	£150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be published January 2024.
	Develop campaign to promote the Nature Positive Universities and biodiversity work	2023/2024	AC/GS/CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work will commence following biodiversity planning process.

Section 10: Appendices

Appendix 1: George Green Library Wildflower area



Appendix 2: Landscape Grounds awards and accolades

Year	Award Body/Group	
2019/2020	University Grounds Team of the Year, Award for Sports Grounds	GMA National award
2021	Green Flag Award	University Park Jubilee Campus
2022	Green Flag Award	University Park/Jubilee Campus
2023	Green Flag Award	University Park/Jubilee Campus
2023	Professional Services Awards	University of Nottingham awards



Appendix 3: Quality Monitoring Form

Estate Office - Monthly - Grounds Quality Sheet Month JANUARY 24

Quality Level : **A** = Meets Standard : **B** = Below standard/work required

Page 1									Manager inspected
Area : Uni Park South		Quality Level		Action Planned		Completion Target			Yes
		A	B	Yes	No	High	Med	Low	Yes
1	Millenium garden	✓		✓			✓		
2	Hemsley Staff Club		✓	✓			✓		
3	Orchard house	✓			✓			✓	
4	Hallward Library & Library road		✓	✓		✓			
5	Law & Social Sciences	✓			✓			✓	
6	Cut through lane	✓			✓			✓	
7	Boots HA HA Path	✓			✓			✓	
8	Gate House		✓		✓		✓	✓	
9	E.M.C.C.& Hotel	✓			✓		✓		
10	Cripps Hall		✓		✓			✓	
11	Cripps Wardens Garden		✓		✓			✓	
11	Cripps Health Centre <i>N/A</i>								
12	MRI Centre	✓			✓			✓	
13	Clive Granger and surrounds	✓			✓			✓	
14	Visitors Car Park		✓	✓		✓			
15	Hugh Stewart Hall		✓		✓			✓	
16	Hugh Stewart wardens & Drive	✓			✓			✓	
No	Item Reported								Action By
1	Hanging branch in cedar at entrance to Hemsley								GS
2	MRI clear budliea from cooling units								CP
3	libery rodd shrubs encroching over curb onto road.								CP
TL Signature.....		Date..... <u>12/01/24</u>							




Estate Office - Monthly - Grounds Quality Sheet

JANUARY 24

Quality Level : A = Meets Standard : B = Below standard/work required

Page 2									
Area : Uni Park South		Quality Level		Action Planned		Completion Target			Manager inspected
		A	B	Yes	No	High	Med	Low	Yes
17	Orchard		✓	✓			✓		
18	Walled Garden		✓	✓		✓			
19	Theatre	✓			✓				✓
20	Cherry Tree Hill	✓			✓				✓
21	Admissions Office	✓			✓				✓
22	Trent & Car Parks	✓			✓				✓
23	Jubilee Drive & Car park	✓			✓				✓
24	Florence Boot Hall & Houses		✓	✓			✓		
25	Cut through Lane	✓			✓				✓
26	Highfield House	✓			✓				✓
27	Portland Building	✓			✓				✓
28	Portland Hill		✓		✓		✓		
29	Botany Garden / Keighton Hill		✓		✓		✓		
30	Lakeside, paths and Terrace		✓		✓		✓		
No	Item Reported								Action By
4	Orchard - Plant new Fruit trees and bark tree circles								GS/LJ
5	Walled garden ivy removal because leaking roof								GS/CP
6	Portland hill tree encroaching onto road opposite subway								LJ/CP


LIAM JONES

