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Section 1: Introduction and background
Section 1 – Introduction & Background

1.1 Uniqueness as a ‘Park’

University Park is the main campus of the University of Nottingham. It is both a park and a community in itself. Whereas most parks are contained within towns or cities, a university campus is like a small town located within a park where people live, work and ‘play’. University campuses experience all the problems of small towns such as traffic, vehicle parking, deliveries, service installations and logistics, vandalism, litter, building developments and roadwork’s, 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 of Nottingham has demonstrated its commitment to safeguarding its landscapes (including University Park) in many ways, particularly by protecting this green site. In 1999 the University opened the nearby Jubilee Campus, built on what was formerly a factory site, enabling the University to expand without overdeveloping University Park. Further development and expansion of Jubilee Campus took place during 2007. The University has also purchased the old Carlton Studios, which became our King’s Meadow Campus. All of these sites are also landscaped and maintained to meet high standards.

At University Park there are over 3000 students and about 150 staff resident on campus. During working days numbers are swollen with an invasion of 15,000 more students and 4000 staff. Very few parks have such a large number of users in proportion to their area and inevitably, on occasion, the pressure of this usage shows.

1.2 Location

University Park is situated just 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 a number of bus routes and the second phase of Nottingham’s tram system will pass alongside the edge of University Park giving excellent access.

1.3 Within Other Nottingham Green Spaces

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 which we have close links.

University Park is part of a large green space in this area of Nottingham. Increasing co-operation with the city council in recent years has meant that we are moving towards co-ordinated management policies regarding safety, pest control and conservation across these green spaces.
1.4 History

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 a number of 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. At the time, it was the largest swimming pool in the UK but is sadly no longer in existence.

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.’

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 Stuart Hall of Residence. The later Lenton Hurst was the home for the John Player family for some years and boasts the Jekyll garden.

(Further information on the history of University Park can be found in ‘Priory Demesne to University Campus’ by Frank Barnes).
1.5 The University of Nottingham Green Flag Perspective

The University of Nottingham has valued the landscape on all its sites for many years, particularly the 300 acre University Park, its main campus since the 1920’s. Over the years the University has won many awards for its landscaped environment and in 2003 it entered the Green Flag Award Scheme which tests the standard of the University’s grounds against national criteria. It achieved the Green Flag award and has succeeded in retaining the award and improving year on year since then. The University is proud to have its grounds rated as being of a high standard.

As a world class University with four campuses in Nottingham, one in China and one in Malaysia, the University is well known for its excellent academic reputation. The University is also known for its landscape and built environment, which receive large amounts of investment. The Grounds Staff rise to the challenges posed throughout the year and take great pride in their achievements, 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 this user group represent the bulk of the community for which this park exists. The Green Flag scheme has however enabled us to welcome the wider local community to explore and enjoy this fantastic campus. Information leaflets inviting the public onto our campuses are widely distributed, in both printed format and as a web download. The full colour ‘Gardens Guide and Tree Walk’ is available free of charge at our gatehouses.

The development of the Friends of University Park group in 2005 resulted in an ongoing series of events based around improving and maintaining the landscape, trees, gardens and wildlife of the park. Since then many more members of the local community have visited and enjoyed the park setting. The Friends Group hosts Picnic in the Park each year. 2010 was the most successful yet, attracting over 500 guests from the local community. The event was advertised in the Nottingham Community Arrow for the first time and attracted many local families.

The most common comments made by visitors were that they “did not know they were allowed to come in” and they “did not know there was anything to look at”. In every case visitors 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 residential communities but this community initiative has helped considerably to bridge this gap between ‘town and gown’.

The status and publicity that the Green Flag Award Scheme has gained has in itself encouraged further development and investment towards its goals. For example all new buildings benefit from a landscape design process, and large build projects participate in BREEAM Environmental Assessment and Award. This is now a strategic requirement of University development policy.

In December 2009 the University created a new post, the University Director of Sustainability, Dr Keith Pitcher. The Grounds Section is now within the new Sustainability Directorate.
In addition individual gardens have been developed or restored for their own unique value by Friends Group Volunteers, Community volunteers and Student Volunteers. Feature gardens within the site include the Millennium Garden, Jekyll Garden, Walled garden, restored Lenton Firs Victorian rock garden and wildflower meadows all set within 121ha (300 acres) of gently rolling landscape and thousands of beautiful trees.

The welcoming landscape of University Park, the visitor friendly environs created by the compact feature gardens and the Green Flag are regarded as a great asset within the University and the wider local community. Our Green Flag status has also attracted funding, including several donations, which has allowed for additional tree planting and restoration works which may not have been achievable otherwise.

In recent years the University has become increasingly involved in Nottingham in Bloom, the city’s entries to Britain in Bloom and is pleased to be associated with the city’s recent Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions award 2008. During 2010 the Grounds Section achieved a Gold Award in the Nottingham in Bloom Garden Competition.

Desmond O’Grady Grounds Manager January 2011
Section 2: Horticultural Highlights
Section 2 - Horticultural Highlights

2.1 An award-winning Landscape

University Park has always been regarded as an important open space within Nottingham and is 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 wholly 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. In particular 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, for example its recent success in the local Nottingham in Bloom, East Midlands in Bloom, and the achievement of local and National Civic Trust Awards and Bali Awards. Since 2003, we have annually achieved the much-coveted Green Flag Award status, being the first University to both enter and achieve this award. Since 2006 we have also received the annual Best Business Premises Award from the Nottingham in Bloom Garden Competition. In 2005 we were also awarded the Britain in Bloom Public Park Award, a judges’ discretionary award, ‘presented to the park designed for horticultural excellence, giving delight to the visitor through appropriate planting, high standards of maintenance, including infrastructure, conserving wildlife, cleanliness and features of interest.’ In 2008 the University Grounds Section received the RHS Britain’s Best Flowerbed Award for the summer display at the North Entrance.

The planting policy is fairly eclectic, emphasising the University’s wide interests and international status. Although native plants are used, in such an international community, it is very appropriate to use a range of exotics from around the world. In particular, special emphasis is placed on planting arrangements for autumn, winter and spring as these are the main periods when the majority of students are present on University Park.

Information is available on the following link:
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/values/environment/landscape.aspx

2.2 Millennium Garden

This is probably the jewel in our horticultural crown. It was conceived as a desire for a ‘secret garden’; to be a quiet, reflective place for students and staff amidst the ‘busyness’ of a major University campus. The project started in 1998, when a design competition was planned and entries were invited from landscape architects and registered students.

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 plat with clipped box hedges, which
overlooks the garden and provides views of the pool. The focal point of this feature is a stone sculpture by Peter Randall-Page entitled ‘Flayed Stone’ and carved from a single piece of glacial granite.

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 adjacent colour garden, with a focal point of an Armillary Sphere, is designed to have interesting flowers and foliage at all seasons. The current colour scheme expands the time theme into a Day/Night Scheme, with part planted in hot red, orange and yellow colours and the remainder in cool blues, whites and silvers. A circular grassed area serves as an informal seating area or open air performance site. Twelve sentinel clipped Yews, representing the hours of a clock, sit around the edge of the circle.

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.
Lord Dearing, Chancellor of the University formally opened the garden on Tuesday 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. Since 2002 the garden has been successfully ‘opened’ to the public twice a year under the National Gardens Scheme and has been used for many other events.

### 2.3 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 particular 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.
2.4 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. Two refurbishments have taken place in 1993 and 2003.

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. The overall cost of the project was £20k.
Restored Jekyll Garden Terrace West September 2010

Mid Terrace Jekyll Garden September 2010
2.5 Highfields Walled Garden

Highfields House, 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. For a while this house was the residence of some of the previous Vice Chancellors of the University but now houses an academic Department. Borders around the house exhibit various tender shrubs and a collection of penstemons.

Adjacent to the house is a walled garden, the remains of a much larger walled garden that was once filled with vineries, 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 1920’s 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 centrepiece of the garden is an ornamental wellhead which was restored in 2005 with funds supplied by the Development Office from donations to the University. Seats are set into niches in the planting. In summer 2004 this was successfully planted as an exotic garden in the style of William Robinson. There is a background of hardy bamboos and exotics with specimens of the hardy banana, Musa basjoo and pockets of seasonal tender planting. The long border is planted in hot colours with a mixture of shrubs, herbaceous plants and grasses, backed by wall shrubs and climbers. Interpretation signage has been installed.

The metal arbour on the North side of the garden was funded by donation to the University.
Highfields House Walled Garden Entrance Gates.

Highfields Walled Garden Summer 2010
2.6 Amphitheatre Dry Garden

The construction of the extension to Lenton and Wortley Hall created a surplus of excavated topsoil, enabling the construction of the amphitheatre. On this site were the remains of a derelict sunken garden that had for years been used as the site for the annual 5 November bonfire. Nothing of the garden remained and even the retaining walls were crumbling.

The excess soil was used to create a horseshoe shaped mound with a level ‘circus ring’ centre. When the topsoil was dug, it proved to be nearly 100% pure sand but amazingly has stabilised well. This led to planting of the site with species such as *Kniphofia, Cytisus, Eucalyptus, Hippophae* and *Elymus* that tolerate dry conditions. The planting is now maturing agreeably, creating shelter and enclosure. The garden has a fine collection of Eucalyptus trees which engender much interest from visitors. The garden requires no irrigation and is a good example of water conservation in the landscape.

Island beds of grasses and herbaceous plants in a prairie style have been added. These have proved low maintenance and a further bed was added in spring 2007. Plant species are carefully selected and no irrigation is required within the Dry Amphitheatre Garden following initial planting. The area was intended initially to be an outdoor theatre or music performance space. Although it has never been used for this, it is regularly used for barbeques and small events.

2.7 Water features

The park is richly endowed with water features. Facing onto University Boulevard is the end of the 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 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 Bimolecular Sciences Building has a series of canals with weirs, waterfalls and a fountain.

Each year many of these pools are frequented by nesting ducks in the spring, which tends to destroy other aquatic life and cause stagnant water.

2.8 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 Leisure services since 2008 to improve the North Shore of Highfields park, reducing undergrowth density and opening up waterside areas ahead of the full adoption of the Highfields Park Masterplan and Restoration for which the City Council awaits funding.

2.9 Courtyard Gardens

Courtyard gardens exist for the use of staff and building users. These are generally low maintenance designs with paving, gravel, seats and planting. All halls of residences have gardens, although some of these will be semi-private available only to residents for reasons of personal safety and security.

2.10 Display Planters

Each summer around forty substantial planters of summer bedding plants are produced, initially for display during Graduation week. Cannas, Grevillea and Eucalyptus are used with a range of flowering and foliage plants around the Sports Centre, which is transformed into our Graduation Hall for this prestigious event.

After the event, planters are relocated around campus at our main entrances and in key locations until October. These displays are part of our involvement in Nottingham in Bloom garden competition.
2.11 Spring Bulbs

During recent years, thousands of spring bulbs, in particular Narcissus, have been planted throughout University Park in a wide range of cultivars. Most of these are planted in a naturalistic style as drifts in grass areas. The earliest to flower are ‘February Gold’, running through the season to the late jonquils. These grass areas are left uncut until June and a succession of wild flowers take over the display as the narcissus finish. Tulips are also being trialled in grass areas to give a ‘poppy field effect’. During autumn 2010 a further 8,000 Narcissus have been planted to enhance spring displays on site.

2.12 The Old Botanic Garden

The origins of this area date back to times when botany was taught in a traditional way in the late 1950’s. 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 number of unusual plants.

There is a fine Medlar, Cedars, Ginkgo, Nothofagus, and Taxodium. An unusual and un-named fastigiate 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 up at points to give fine views over Highfields Park and the city of Nottingham.

2.13 Lenton Firs Rock Garden

Lenton Firs Rock Garden was restored by the Friends Group between spring 2006 and spring 2008. A grant award of £3000 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.
Recently additional seating has been added to the rock garden to enhance visitor enjoyment. The garden will be managed as a rock garden and there are further plans to increase bench units.

2.14 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.

The rock garden is in a state of severe neglect, the Friends Group adopted the site as a restoration project commencing autumn 2010. Not only will this add another fine feature to the University Grounds, but it is envisaged that the restored rock garden will form part of a short triangular walk for visitors including Hugh Stewart House and Grounds, the Millennium Garden and Highfields Walled Garden. It is anticipated that the restoration will be complete by spring 2012.

*Student volunteer and Friends Group Volunteer working on the first day of the project 24th November 2010*
Section 3: Activities and facilities
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 & joggers at any time of the day. Golfers occasionally practice in the more open spaces, although this is not encouraged for safety reasons. 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

Sport features highly at Nottingham University and on University Park there is a Sports Centre, a 25m swimming pool and a state-of-the-art Fitness Centre. All facilities are fully staffed by professional staff. Most turf sports facilities are on the Highfields Sports Ground and Grove Farm sites. University Park now provides extensive Astroturf and rubber crumb artificial pitches at Beeston Lane Sports Centre, these were completed in 2008 and are used by University members, Schools and local clubs. The facility is floodlit and open until 10pm at night, closing only on the Christmas and New Year Bank holidays.

The local community are encouraged to make use of these facilities which include soccer, rugby and tennis. Additional tennis courts exist at five locations in University Park, mainly linked to Halls of Residence. There is a top quality bowling green administered by the University Sports and Social Club and an active University Bowls Club, which in summer 2010 held a community fun day for people to experience bowls.
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 University 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 is available if required.

3.5 Arts Provision

The Lakeside Arts Centre provides an eclectic range of activities within it venues. Concerts regularly happen 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 http://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.

Tree Dressing for School Groups
3.6 Sculpture

The University actively supports many of 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 Randall-Page. A bespoke commission by Dan Archer is featured outside the East Midlands Conference Centre. Sadly the Barbara Hepworth sculpture that used to be displayed near the Geography Building has been recovered by the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and a replacement is unlikely. A bid for Lottery financing for sculpture was sadly not successful. In 2001 there was a short-lived outdoor exhibition of Elizabeth Frink’s work in conjunction with the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Unfortunately, an outbreak of vandalism cut short the exhibition, which was due to have lasted six months.

Additional free car parking is available for theatre and concert patrons in the evenings and at weekends. Car parks are monitored by our in-house security staff.

3.7 Signage

The University is clearly signed from all major routes leading to the four 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. The Millennium Garden is signed from most directions within the University. A number of major pedestrian routes that are not linked to roads are separately signed.

A series of interpretation panels have been installed at key points around the park. These include the walled garden, the Jekyll garden, the Downs, the Nottingham crocus site, amphitheatre, stone outcrop and the lakeside walk.
3.8 Car Parks

There are many car parks within University Park. The University operates a car parking scheme for staff and students, which requires the use of a pass for free car parking during the working week. During the week, visitors are directed to a number of areas where pay-and-display parking is available. The car park, adjacent to the Lakeside Arts Centre is dedicated for the use of park users and is not available for staff and students. There is free parking at weekends and bank holidays for all visitors, blue badge parking is free. The University intends to introduce a parking levy applied to all staff from autumn 2011, this is modelled on the workplace parking levy which Nottingham City Council is introducing in 2012. It is hoped that the use of car sharing schemes and greener methods of transport will be encouraged.

3.9 Toilets

With the nature of the University’s core business, most toilets are located within academic and residential buildings. There are however public toilets in the Lakeside Arts Centre and the Visitor Centre. Most catering outlets will also have associated toilets and these are available to visitors.

All toilets are maintained to a high standard and cleaned on a daily basis.

The location of toilets is detailed on the University Park Gardens Guide and Tree Walk available from the gatehouses or as a download from the Friends of University Park webpage.

3.10 Refreshments

There are restaurants and cafes throughout the campus. Most of these are available to the general public. In the Portland Building there is the Food Court, which offers a selection of traditional and world fare. The Portland Dining room specialises in vegetarian food and the Lakeside Diner offers student style breakfasts and fast food.

‘Aqua’ in the Lakeside Arts Centre offers an up-market creative menu with table service for both beverages and luncheons. The nearby Café L in the Visitor Centre produces wholesome ‘down-to-earth’ lunches with the emphasis on ‘bakes’ and salads, generally whole food but not totally vegetarian, plus cakes! All University catering venues are open to the public.

A new venture has been the introduction of Continental Cafes to four of our Halls of residence. These aim to change the emphasis away from the traditional Hall bar. These cafes offer quality coffees as well as alcohol and food and are also open to members of the public.

In late 2010 a Costa Coffee and snacks bar was installed in Blackwell’s’ bookshop in the Portland Building which has longer opening hours than the University Café facilities.
3.11 Accessibility & Disability Awareness

The University is strongly committed to accessibility and tries to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against in accessing its facilities. This includes buildings, transport and grounds. There are disabled parking places throughout the park and most buildings are accessible to disabled users. The University runs a fully staffed Office for Disability Issues.

Landscaping is designed with disabled users in mind, in appropriate gradients and unobstructed by unnecessary planting or street furniture. Any features which might cause a hazard are, where possible, identified by visual/tactile means. The Millennium Garden is fully accessible for disabled persons; the garden includes aromatic plants, running water, gravel footpaths and other sensory stimulants for those with diminished sensory awareness.

A phased programme of improvements to the pedestrian routes around University Park, costing £300k, was completed in 2006 as part of a £2M programme of works across campus both inside and outside of buildings. This provided clear, accessible routes around the park ensuring that all pedestrians, including those with a mobility or visual impairment, can safely move between buildings and to gardens and landscaped areas. The work included increasing pavement widths, providing rest areas with seating, dropped kerbs with tactile markers and pedestrian refuges and traffic tables to assist in crossing the roads. All our student bus services operate using DDA compliant vehicles and the Estate Office Logistics section operates two accessible minibuses, which are used regularly for students and visitors.

More recently in 2008 a disabled access ramp was constructed from the main visitors’ car park on Cut Through Lane to the area known as Cripps Hill and a further ramp was constructed during 2010 to service Derby Hall of residence from their car park.

3.12 Publications

Leaflets are reviewed every 3-5 years, this last took place in spring 2010 when the following publications were reviewed and reprinted in the form of booklets:

‘Heritage Walk’ (now one booklet)
Geology Walk ‘Rock Around the Campus’
‘Conifers on Campus’
‘Welcome Leaflet’

The University Park Gardens Guide and Tree Walk and other guides are available as downloads from http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/friends.htm

Printed copies of the Gardens Guide are available from the Lakeside Pavilion Highfields Park, Trent Building, Gatehouses and the local Library has booklets for visitors. Printed copies of the other pocket guides are available from the grounds manager.
Section 4: Safety, security and cleanliness
Section 4 - Safety, Security and Cleanliness

4.1 University Health & 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, Administrative or Support Services Section. Within the Halls of Residence and flats this responsibility is borne by the Director of Nottingham Hospitality 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 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 is very aware of Health and Safety and has its own Safety Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from all sections of the Estate Office including the Grounds Section and a representative from the University Safety Office. The committee has responsibility for overseeing all aspects of Health and Safety related to works undertaken by the Estate Office. During autumn 2006 an in-house review of all Estates safety has taken place and a programme of actions to remedy shortfalls is in place.

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 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 as opposed to staff 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, in particular those involving potentially hazardous volunteer work. A trained member of staff is always present when volunteers are on site.

4.3 Security

The University employs a 50 strong Security Team providing a 24-hour uniformed presence on all campus sites. Mobile and foot patrols are available to respond to incidents. The Park is well provided with high and low level lighting. The Grounds Section planting policy allows where possible for good visual permeability, in particular around car parks where hedges are maintained below 1.5m to discourage criminals from lurking behind these. CCTV monitors many of the more sensitive areas and is linked to the security control room. Intruder alarms are also installed at a number of locations.
The Gate House Security Staff welcome visitors to the site and provide information on various matters, Security are also supplied with maps and garden guides to issue to visitors as the gatehouses are often the first point of contact for visitors to the Park.

All crime incidents within the University are recorded and an annual report produced. This information is used to identify problem areas and develop policies to control these problems. Crime rates for the University sites are considerably lower than for general areas of Nottingham and it is therefore considered a safe site. There are telephone numbers available for the Security Office on car park information notices and on some other notices within the campus. The Security Section also provides best practice advice on crime prevention and detection of illegal activities. This service is available to students, visitors and staff. Traffic management and administration of the University’s traffic management policy, including car parking permit issues, is also the responsibility of Security.

4.4 Gritting and Snow Clearance

During the winter months road gritting and snow clearance is dealt with by the Grounds Section staff. Tractor mounted gritters are used for treating all areas defined as Highway before 7.30am in the morning and major pedestrian routes thereafter normally before 10.30am.

A call out system is in operation; when temperatures are low the Security staff call out the gritting team early morning or when necessary. A snow plough is available for heavy snowfall as the university site is, in places, steeply undulating and has established bus routes within it.

Car park areas and footpaths are treated by the grounds staff using a variety of smaller equipment to reach less accessible spaces within the campus. Grit bins are located at key places around the site, for example at steps and disabled ramps. Detailed gritting records are maintained for insurance purposes: https://estates.nottingham.ac.uk/intranet/docs/gritting_procedures.docx

4.5 Litter, Waste and Road Sweeping.

The University is committed to a safe clean environment. There are 5 staff who work on litter collection and road sweeping duties within the 120 hectare site. Tasks include litter picking, emptying litter bins and ash mounts and mechanised road sweeping using a Hako compact vehicle; larger contract vehicles are hired at busy times, or when special events, spillages or construction work are in progress. Collection of debris by the road sweeper also includes leaf fall in the autumn.

The University also aims for a high standard of litter freedom. We would expect most areas to achieve Grade A under the ‘Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse’ issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Students are not the tidiest of people and particularly in the summer month’s litter on grassy areas near food outlets can be a problem. In this context we work with the city council site, which adjoins ours, to ensure that bins are also emptied at weekends in summer.
Bins are provided throughout campus at strategic locations. These are lined with plastic liners and emptied on a daily basis. In addition, grounds staff collect litter as part of routine grounds maintenance. Staff dealing with litter and waste are trained to handle waste safely and have been on ‘Infectious Risks’ training courses. They are trained to know how to deal with potentially risky items such as used syringes for which sharps boxes are used. Additional bins are available for special events.

The University operates a ‘No Smoking’ policy in all of its buildings and therefore smoking has ‘moved outside’ with the inevitable problem of smoker’s waste. Entrances to major buildings are equipped with Ashmounts or Ashguards for cigarette ends which are emptied on a regular basis. The areas immediately in front of key building entrances are maintained in partnership by Domestic Services staff on a daily basis throughout the year.

4.6 Dog Fouling Policy

The frequency of dog walking during the past 3 years has increased considerably. Few dogs live on site and most visitors walking dogs are from the local community. There are no problems with dog fouling and the University enforces a ‘dogs on leads’ policy which seems to reduce the likelihood of fouling.

4.7 Vandalism

The level of vandalism on University Park is relatively low. Most damage is thought not to be deliberate but student ‘high spiritedness’ usually stimulated by alcohol. Incidences of damage, when plotted, often occurred on routes between bars and Halls of residence.

Typical examples of damage or nuisance are broken trees, branches and litter bins emptied. The levels of damage are however mercifully low considering the area we manage and our open gate policy.

4.8 Graffiti

Graffiti occurs very occasionally and is not a major problem. On occasions fly-tipping occurs or cars are dumped. In all of these situations, the University Estates Department responds fast to reports to remove or repair such blemishes on the park.

A sporadic problem is the nuisance of fly-posting. Posters are not allowed within the park on any surface except formal notice boards, which are primarily located within University buildings. However the university population is a very attractive one, particularly to promoters of local events, bar owners and nightclub promoters.

In the past posters have been fixed on any and every surface causing nuisance and disfigurement, despite being cleared on a daily basis. The University authorities have worked actively to deter this nuisance and this problem has reduced substantially and almost disappeared.
Section 5: Maintenance and resources
Section 5 - Maintenance & Resources

5.1 Staffing

In-house staff employed by the University Estates Department carry out virtually all the work required in University Park. The Grounds Section completes all normal routine grounds maintenance work including arboricultural work. The exception to this is non-horticultural work such as hard landscaping. Buildings maintenance, fencing, repairs to roads, paths, or street furniture etc is done either by other sections of the Estates Department or by contractors.

There are 43 staff in the Grounds Section looking after the various sites. The Grounds Manager takes overall control with two assistants, one of which deals with day-to-day operational matters and the other who deals with technical matters such as safety, machinery, training and arboriculture. Twenty staff are routinely involved with the work on University Park with additional work by the Tree Team and some work by the Sports ground staff. Staff are divided into teams, under a team Leader, responsible for certain geographical areas. University Park is divided into a Central Area, Southern Area and an Outer area for operational purposes. Mechanical support is provided by two fitters, who operate the Grounds Workshop, dedicated to maintenance and repair of horticultural machinery.

5.2 Training Strategy Grounds

The University is committed to staff training and development and to this end 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 three basic levels of training:

- Training essential to complete the task to a required standard and to comply with appropriate safety legislation. This level is always approved.
- Training which is of benefit to both the University and the individual and will enhance the individuals performance in his job. This level is usually approved.
- Training which is of benefit to the individual but has no significant benefit to the University. This level is unlikely to be approved.

The Grounds Section has identified certain training as being essential for all staff to undertake their work safely,

- Moving and Handling
- Safety at Work
- Fire Safety Training
- Risk Assessment training
- First Aid Essentials
- Infection Risks for Grounds Staff
- Safe Use of Ladders

These courses are run internally and attendance is compulsory.

Further training requirements are determined according to the work undertaken by individuals. Where work is determined to be of a high technical nature, outside training providers are employed and the trainees are expected to
achieve satisfactory levels of competence under independent assessment. In this respect uniformity in training provided and skills developed is achieved amongst staff whether in gardens teams, sport or arboriculture.

This type of training is particularly effective when dealing with subjects such as specialist machinery and is an industry requirement for arboricultural operatives. The University Arborists are all trained and certificated to appropriate NPTC CS level including CS 38, 39 & 41 for aerial working and CS 47 for use of Mobile Work Platforms. All drivers of tractors, utility vehicles and ride-on mowers are required to undergo Lantra training and assessment for these units as a minimum.

Training agencies are also able to offer specific skills training on site for small groups of staff providing a high level of individual tuition. This has proved very successful: courses are tailored to our own needs and staff feel less threatened when undertaking training in familiar surroundings with their own equipment.

Occasionally other specialist courses have been arranged covering subjects such as:

- Dealing with Difficult Visitors
- Protection of Bat Habitats’
- BS5837 Trees in Relation to Construction Sites
- Pruning of woody plants
- Team Building Activities (provided by Nottingham University Professional Development).

Staff requiring more formal academic training, leading to BTEC or NVQs would attend an appropriate horticultural college on a day-release basis. There is an ongoing programme of staff attending these courses and usually two or three staff each year are at some stage in this training programme. Our team leaders in particular are all expected to achieve NVQ2 as a minimum with additional training aimed at achieving either NVQ level 3 or ILM Team Leader award. A team leaders training course is provided by University Professional Development.

In addition established staff are occasionally given the opportunity to further their educational knowledge in amenity horticulture and turf, with a view to gaining National Diploma, HND or degree level courses at Nottingham Trent University for which assisted funding and study leave may be provided by the University.

In addition we have access to three local horticultural colleges; Brackenhurst, Broomfield and Brooksby – all within reasonable distance. Staff requiring more formal training, usually leading to NVQ’s would attend one of these on a day-release basis.

*Grounds Staff attend a pruning course at University Park delivered by an external provider*
There are usually two or three staff each year at some stage in this training programme. In particular all our team leaders are encouraged to achieve NVQ3 and training to HND or First Degree level can be made available to team leaders if a formal request is made to the Directorate.

**5.3 Investors in People**

The Estates Department achieved IiP status in 2001 and tries to demonstrate the value it places on its workforce by its commitment to training and staff development and in other ways. All staff receive an annual appraisal at which they have the opportunity to discuss their own training and development and also any issue relating to their place in the workforce. They also have the opportunity to comment on practices or procedures, which they feel, could be changed to benefit themselves, the Estate Office or the University as a whole.

**5.4 Machinery**

The Grounds section is well equipped with good modern equipment, tractors and vehicles. Although certain equipment is allocated to certain teams, University Park teams have access to whatever is required from the overall pool. Most of this equipment is purchased and maintained by our own workshop; leased equipment is maintained by the supplier.

*Stronga Hook Loader Unit, purchased in December 2010 to improve collection and handling of green waste on University Park and other sites, there are 3 skips with this system, bulk collection has reduced multiple journeys by small tractors, reducing carbon emissions and lost time.*
5.5 The Leased Fleet

Leasing is the preferred option for vehicles and tractors primarily because the University does not have the facilities suitable to maintain these types of vehicles. It also means we are able to effectively predict and manage long term budgets and ensures we always have the reliability and efficiency of modern technology. Three Year Leasing also gives us the opportunity to review our practices over the period and determine whether changes are necessary. We are then able to alter vehicle or tractor specifications and requirements to suit.

The section runs 2 Peugeot Crew Cab Trucks with Flatbeds, 1 Peugeot Single Cab Truck with flatbed, 1 Peugeot Single Cab Truck with Beaver Tail, 2 Peugeot Partner small vans and 1 Peugeot Panel Van.

It is important to note that in common with all Estates Office vehicles all crew vehicles listed above run on Biodiesel Fuel achieving lower carbon emissions, following University Strategy on sustainability.

The Kubota tractors leased through FR Sharrock & Sons were last changed in summer of 2010. This lease was procured through an E-auction resulting in a considerable saving to the University. This includes 7 compact tractors and 6 agricultural tractors. Four compact and three agricultural tractors are used primarily on University Park. The compact tractors are able to access some of the more confined locations such as the quadrangles in halls of residence and also make less impact on ground conditions during landscaping and maintenance work.

The agricultural tractors are used primarily for haulage and winter gritting. The two largest are also used for waste processing, one using a loader and second powering a Wilberforce Shredder. The tractor fleet is maintained by the suppliers as part of the lease contract.

The section also has a fleet of 5 utility trucks leased through John Deere in 2009 and are used by the external cleaning team, the horticultural maintenance teams, the water features maintenance operative and the sports team. Unlike the other leased vehicles these are maintained by the Section Service Garage.

5.6 University Owned Equipment

Major grass cutting equipment and small machines are owned. We successfully changed to a set of Major Rotary Gang Mowers in 2004. These units have proved more effective for cutting grass early and late in the season when conditions are wet and the grass lush. We also run a Hayter LT324 triple mower and a Kubota F3680 up front mower with grass collector for the smaller areas. There are long term plans to change completely to rotary mowers on all the lawn areas.

The rotary mowers are proving to be less expensive to run and are able to deal with more varied grass lengths and ground conditions. The Kubota F3680 has also proven to be a very effective addition to the leaf clearing equipment.

The section has the usual range of smaller machinery available in the form of mowers, brushcutters and hedge trimmers. Various blowers, vacuums and leaf loaders are used to optimise leaf collection.
A tractor-mounted forklift is available for unloading heavy deliveries. A Greenmech, Chipmaster and Gandini Bio-matic Shredder 89TTS are used for green waste processing. The Gandini unit, purchased in March 2008, to replace the original Wilberforce shredder, is much more compact and mobile, enabling processing of green waste to take place at the point of origin. In December 2010 the University Purchases a ‘Stronga’ hook loader waste management system to enable collection of Green Waste on site into one large container rather than encourage many journeys across the site in compact tractors which was not environmentally friendly and too labour intensive.

There is an Agria cultivator, a Scag pedestrian flail for steep banks, a turf lifter and all the usual range of small mowers, strimmers and hedge trimmers. Various blowers, vacuums and leaf loaders were purchased for streamlining leaf collection but the recent wet autumns have made these difficult to fully utilise. A tractor-mounted forklift is available for unloading heavy deliveries. The Tree team have a Greenmech Chipmaster for processing the scraps from tree work.

### 5.7 Replacement Programme

A rolling replacement programme has been set up for replacing machinery to avoid undue peaks in expenditure. The program 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 Institute of Groundsmanship Show) to 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. The full replacement programme is available upon request.

### 5.8 Machinery Servicing and Health and Safety

The Grounds Section workshop is staffed by two fitters dedicated to maintaining and repairing horticultural machinery. The workshop is well equipped with a hydraulic ramp, modern Bernard Express dual grinder and Anglemaster, welding and lifting equipment and the usual workshop tools.

There is a van available for on-site repairs and a Beaver Tail truck for return to base repairs. Machinery is largely repaired in house, although as mentioned previously repairs on some leased equipment are included in the lease agreement.

All machinery is inspected annually as a minimum to ensure legislation compliance and complete service 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 suitability for purpose. Machinery is reassessed, every 2 years as a minimum, for Hand Arm Vibration levels by an external consultant. Where the findings of the review identify machinery levels as unacceptably high then the equipment is assessed for repair or replacement. This may impact on machinery replacement with some equipment being replaced earlier than scheduled.
5.9 Tree Survey

A comprehensive tree survey was completed in 2003 by external consultants Jonathan Cocking and partners. Trees on all sites including University Park have been plotted, identified, measured and inspected for soundness and safety. The results are held on a modified MS Access database linked to digital maps.

This enables the Arboricultural Manager Martin Lloyd to generate lists which require regular inspection or surgery, priority is given to trees close to roads, footpaths, buildings and other public areas.

The database also provides reliable information on tree location and species for developments subject to the Town and Country Planning Act. Two staff are trained to deliver reports for development to the BS5837 Trees in Relation to Construction standard and provide tree inspections professionally. Ongoing surveys of ‘at risk’ trees are carried out mainly by in house staff on the basis of tree risk assessment.

Where specialist tree advice is required consultancy services are provided by Symbiosis Consulting of Leicestershire, John Harraway Consultants FArborA of West Sussex or Tree Life Ltd Syston Leicestershire.

Key vehicle and pedestrian routes are visually inspected using VTA by the in house tree team on an annual basis for risk or formative pruning and action is taken when required at the appropriate level of priority.

5.10 Arboriculture

The University 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 arboricultural 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 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

There are very few TPOs 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 have to be made the local authority is involved as a matter of courtesy.

A code of practise for on-site contractors is established when working in the vicinity of trees to try and avoid damage to trees and their roots. On development sites Tree and Root protection areas agreed as Planning Conditions are placed by the contractor and monitored by the Arboricultural team.
5.12 Nursery

The nursery is a block of surplus research glasshouses that were passed over to the grounds section in 2002. As there were no staff skilled in nursery work, one member of staff has been trained specifically for this role. As well as producing all our bedding plants, we produce pot plants for floral decoration at our Graduation events twice a year. A plant sale is also held twice a year, selling surplus plants to staff and students.

The greenhouses have been opened to the public on various occasions as part of the Friends of University Park activities.

We have successfully used integrated control since 2005 and will continue to do so. This is linked with low toxicity pesticides over the winter months to reduce residue. Production is at a level of 50,000 plants each year. The use of peat free composites has been trialled in the past and a further trial is planned in 2011 using new materials now available.

5.13 Buildings

There are many buildings of varied ages and styles throughout the Park. Unlike most ‘normal’ park buildings, these will have very specific uses for teaching, research, administration or residential purposes not directly linked with the landscape as such. The park however acts as the setting for all our buildings, sometimes showing to advantage the best constructions or in other situations hiding the less attractive ones.

Buildings vary from the older 18th century and 19th century houses from the original estates, through to the early 20th century developments of Trent & Portland Buildings to the modern, generally well designed buildings. There are fifteen listed buildings. The recent Lakeside Arts Centre, replacing the original Lakeside Pavilion, achieved a national Civic Trust Award. All University buildings are well maintained by a team of in-house tradesmen and contractors under the direction of the Estates Department.

5.14 Footpaths

Most pedestrian routes through the park are constructed of red tarmacadam, which distinguishes them from roadways in black tarmacadam. In addition a number of recent footpaths have utilised block paving. Most of these are in Marshalls Keyblok, in the Brindle colouring, which marries in well to red tarmac. Where paving slabs are desirable, Marshall’s Silver Grey Granite Aggregate slabs are preferred in a 450x450 module. Some larger areas have recently used Marshall’s Tegula and informal areas such as the Lakeside walk have utilised Breedon Gravel for a natural finish. In general, the aim is now to use a tightly restricted palette of paving materials.
5.15 Street Furniture

Wherever possible, 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 Blocs from Townscape remain in the central area, refitted with green tops. All newer bins are of the Westminster style from Amberol in dark green with the University logo and hooded tops. Bollards are black recycled plastic from DPR. Cycle stands are the Sheffield style hoops again 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 3 types of bench can be used; the Wollaton and Grosvenor range from Redtree and the stainless steel Benchmark CL005 Range.

**Benchmark CL005** Seat Unit in stainless steel, used for modern areas and wherever Possible new developments.

**Woolaton** 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, pre-1950 areas.
This policy has enabled easier street furniture maintenance plans and better material choice for the great variety of historic and modern areas within the site, it is hoped the furniture will compliment the built environment. On occasions seating is donated and then bears an engraved brass plaque.

Cigarette ash stands are the approved method of collection for smokers’ waste and these are all of the same material and design, although some litter bins also include an ash tray in the design, e.g. model Ashguard 4L produced by Glasdon UK.

5.16 Finances

The Grounds Section of the Estates Office works to a fixed budget that is split between Gardens and Sports Grounds, this budget is further divided into pay and non pay. In addition project funding (capital funding) is routinely allocated for major and minor landscape works, which includes new buildings on site.

The Grounds Manager is responsible for financial accountability and monthly meetings are held to review expenditure.

5.17 Grounds Maintenance

In 2008 the first University Park Grounds Maintenance Manual was produced. The report was reviewed in 2010 and provides the essential targets and quality objectives for the maintenance of the grounds by management and teams.

The document primarily sets out strategic standards and quality objectives for University Park and policies for maintaining different areas of the landscape infrastructure. The manual is available as a document by request or to staff in the Estate Office on the following link:

J:\Sections\Grounds\Management Plans, Maintenance, Specs

5.17.1 Quality Assurance

The policy on University Park is for team leaders to produce a monthly quality checklist copies of which are passed to the Assistant Grounds Maintenance Manager for action. The checklists include a broad range of information including urgent work and health and safety aspects, these points are discussed with the team leaders and action taken where necessary.

Where tasks cannot be dealt with by the Grounds Team or Managers an Estates Office Helpdesk Works Request is made by the manager or team leader, these are usually passed to Building Services or Small Works teams, the helpdesk requests are monitored by administration staff until the job is completed.

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/helpdesk.htm
Section 6: Environment and sustainability
Section 6 - Environment and Sustainability

Foreword

The University of Nottingham has been recognised for its green credentials, taking second place in the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking, a league table of the world’s most environmentally-friendly higher education institutions. Information about The University of Nottingham’s environmental strategy and initiatives can be found on the web at

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/values/environment

The Downs Meadow in July 2010. The Downs is an SINC recorded site, reference 5/975 ‘Nottingham University Downs’, described as a group of acidic and neutral grasslands with characteristic species
Section 6 - Environmental Sustainability

6.1 Environmental Strategy

The University Council decided to appoint a University Director of Sustainability in December 2009. The Grounds Section has been transferred into the new Sustainability Directorate. The new structure includes the Grounds Team, Environment Team and the Energy Team and the section is led by Dr Keith Pitcher. In spring 2010 the Estates Office published its first Environmental Strategy, a document outlining sustainable achievements and policies in this strategic document. The document is available in printed form or on the website www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability

The Environmental Strategy includes key areas within the University and can be read in detail on the link above, or a hard-copy of the report can be provided on request. It includes the following information:

- Environmental Strategy Statement
- Environment Strategy Delivery
- Structure and Resources
- Strategy Operation
- Waste and Recycling
- Energy and Water Travel and Transport
- Procurement
- Campus Development
- Awareness Raising, Training and Communication
- Corporate Governance
- Information Services
- Landscape
- Teaching and Learning
- Research

6.1.1 Environment Strategy: Landscape and Grounds

This is detailed within the table on the next page, and provides broad objectives which will be interpreted within the Grounds Management Action Plan. A number of the key strategic recommendations have already been applied in the past, and the action plan will provide targets for improvement and timescales for the implementation of new initiatives.

6.1.2 Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Audit was completed in Autumn 2009, followed by a Biodiversity Management Plan completed in October 2010 by Mark Woods and team of Baker Gillespie Shepherd Ecological Consultants.

The complete document ‘The University of Nottingham Highfield Campus Biodiversity Management Plan’ is available on request.
ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY GROUNDS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
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<td>To improve the environmental performance of our buildings and the University’s physical infrastructure by moving towards carbon neutral energy performance, adopting an environmentally conscious procurement practice, reducing water consumption and waste output.</td>
<td>Awards</td>
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<td>Numbers attending events</td>
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<td>Recycling of grounds waste</td>
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<td>To act in an environmentally responsible way</td>
<td>To increase biodiversity on our sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>To continue the University’s Contribution to advancing the Environmental agenda within both the region and the Higher Education sector.</td>
<td>To foster greater partnership with other organisations</td>
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The statement below is a short assessment of the biodiversity value of University Park:

"The University of Nottingham Highfields Campus contains a mix of semi-natural and artificial habitat types that combine to provide a valuable resource for wildlife in an urban setting.

The campus supports stands on unimproved acid and neutral grasslands, combined with extensive tracts of amenity-managed grassland, all of which support a wide variety of native and non-native trees and shrubs in a parkland style setting. The grasslands and trees are complemented by mature stands of plantation woodlands of varying ages and sizes, orchards, hedgerows, ornamental gardens and water features including ponds and a boating lake. The ecological importance of acid and neutral grassland, mixed deciduous woodlands, standing waters and parkland habitats are recognised by their inclusion in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Surveys of the campus that were carried out as part of a biodiversity audit have confirmed that the site supports a wide variety of plant species including uncommon ornamental tree species such as the foxglove tree and county scarce native species such as deadly nightshade and Nottingham crocus. In addition, at least six bat species, badgers and a wide variety of birds have been recorded within the campus, which confirms the ecological importance of the campus."

Mark Woods, MIEEM Senior Ecologist October 2010.
6.1.2 Biodiversity Management Plan

Operational Objectives

The biodiversity management recommendations contain a number of important operational objectives to increase the site biodiversity; applying these objectives will form part of the University Park Action Plan 2011-16.

Objective 1: Habitat Management

Manage habitats and infrastructure to maximise and realise their potential for biodiversity without compromising the operational and amenity functions of the campus.

Objective 2: Species Management

Maintain and enhance habitats and infrastructure for species of ecological importance through a programme of targeted management actions.

Objective 3: Survey and Monitoring

Carry out a targeted programme of survey work that will improve knowledge of the biodiversity interest of the campus and help to inform future management planning decisions. Determine the extent to which the estate management works achieve the operational objectives of this management plan, by carrying out a targeted programme of monitoring work.

Objective 4: Sustainable Practice

Identify, implement and promote sustainable habitat management techniques. Identify commercial opportunities for the sale of estate management bi-products.

Objective 5: Promotion and Marketing

Promote student and public awareness of the University’s biodiversity work through use of appropriate media sources. Effectively manage and promote links with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, student and local community groups.

Objective 6: Administration

Record and retain details of habitat management, biodiversity events, survey and monitoring results.
6.2 Recycling

The number of street recycling units has increased during the last twelve months. The street recycling units managed by the Grounds Section have been a great success and more units are planned in the future. Street recycling units can be seen located on an interactive map at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/environment/recyclingmap.html

The University has set a new target for waste recycling of 40% for 2011/12

The University has continued to promote recycling across the campus with the installation of additional recycling facilities. September 2010 saw the start of a new waste and recycling contract in partnership with local waste company Wastecycle, the company is based in Colwick and provides waste and recycling services to the University. Under the new contract there are 3 main waste streams:

Food Waste
General waste
Mixed recycling

The food waste which is currently provided in all halls of residence is collected and through in-vessel composting is transformed into peat free compost – so remember next time you use peat free compost it could be made from your leftovers.......

Our mixed recycling scheme includes collection of glass, paper, card, plastic and tins. This material is taken to the centre at Colwick where the waste is sorted, bailed and sold on to the commodity market to be made into new products.

Traditionally general waste has been sent to landfill but now our waste goes through a sorting process to remove the maximum amount of recyclable material. The remaining waste is converted into an RDF material (refuse derived fuel) from which energy is recovered, resulting in very little waste going to landfill.
During the first month we generated a total of 304 tonnes of waste material, 9 tonnes of this was food waste that has been turned into compost, 90 tonnes of this we segregated on site through our mixed recycling schemes and the remaining 168 tonnes was recovered through the sorting process so that only 14% of the waste ended up going to landfill.

As well as the environmental benefits of recycling there are clear financial benefits with the increasing cost of landfill. The maximum savings come from segregating our waste on site via our mixed recycling bins, the financial saving as a result of this were £2,200 in September. Alongside our waste management and recycling work we have been working with our suppliers to ensure that the maximum amount of packaging material is returned to suppliers for reuse.

We have set ourselves targets for recycling over the next few years which include a target of 50% by 2014/2015, with an interim target set within the Environment Strategy of 40% 2011/12. We are aiming for 0% to landfill within the timeframe of the contract.

6.3 Composting

Horticultural waste is recycled to produce compost or mulching materials. We have a Gandini Bio-match Shredder 89TTS and a Greenmech Chipmaster. Composting takes place at a compound within our nearby Highfields sports ground. Shredding volumes reach 1000 cubic metres a year, generating some 200 cubic metres of compost. The material produced is used as a low cost soil ameliorant over all University sites, including the Student Allotment site. 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 surface mulch. Christmas trees are also recycled after Christmas.

Large tree sections that cannot be processed with our equipment are stock-piled at our Grove Farm sports facility and shredded with a hired tub grinder on an occasional basis. Recently the timber was purchased by a commercial wood wholesaler. In 2009 a large Cedar trunk was taken by a local sawmill for plank wood and wherever possible suitable timber will be sent to sawmill.

6.4 Pesticides

The use of pesticides on University Park is kept to a minimum, mainly to the use of herbicides for weed control in certain areas and some turf fungicides. The Bowling Green does require occasional applications of pesticides where cultural means are ineffective. These are applied on a responsive basis rather than the less-favoured frequency-based preventative method adopted in the past.

In 2009 a policy of ornamental bark mulching and cultivation by hand was introduced for areas of ornamental borders, this has been found to be very effective in terms of cost and visual amenity. The policy followed the withdrawal of diclofenil residual as an approved pesticide.

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.
6.5 Planting Policy

The University is committed to a planting policy which includes replacement of lost trees and landscape planting in mitigation of new developments which includes new buildings, and during 2010-11 a new cycleway network.

The site comprises of many late 19th and early 20th century landscaped areas and planting reflects the chronology of the existing tree and shrub Composition. The site is dominated by *Pinus nigra*, *Pinus sylvestris* and *Cedar sp*. These tree forms are an established part of the landscape Character of University Park. The more exotic trees, although ecologically not sound, provide roost and nesting places for birds (in particular Owls) and shelter all year around for birds including Wrens and Goldcrests.

It therefore follows that the University has a balanced policy of planting native species in native areas and exotic species in the more modern parts of the site.

All new building developments in the University have adopted the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREAM) since 2006. This values a sustainable and ecologically improved landscape within its award system; hence all new builds undergo this process of mitigation.

6.6 Scrubland

It is accepted that some areas of scrub, brambles and nettles may appear to be neglected but they do have a rich wildlife value. These areas will be contained and benefit from minimal disturbance, regarded as positive management to encourage biodiversity.

6.7 Grassland Policy

There has been an established meadow management regime at University Park since the mid-1990s allowing the grass and herbs to flower, seed naturally and support a rich habitat for wildlife.

In the centre of University Park is a 6.5ha area of managed meadow referred to as the ‘Downs’. The Downs is an example of species rich acid/neutral grassland, which is a threatened habitat included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Downs is the largest area of wildflower meadow in University Park and is recognised as the best meadowland in the Nottingham City area. It is acidic grassland and as such displays a limited range of broad leaved species and also a wide range of grass species which typify the range found in acid grassland in the county.

The Downs was previously mown as amenity grass, since 1997 has been allowed to develop as a summer meadow. Each July the area is mown by a local farmer who bales and removes the crop for use as animal fodder. Some areas are left totally uncut to provide food for seed-eating birds. No herbicides or fertilizers are used on the Downs or adjacent areas of mown grass and this policy is followed throughout University Park where grassland habitats are being established.
A list of plant species established on the Downs is available in the appendix. In terms of strategic objectives following the Biodiversity Management Plan October 2010, the grassland areas will be surveyed at intervals of 3 to 5 years to monitor the quality of the habitats. In addition the area of grassland managed as meadow, spring or summer will be substantially increased. This will not only improve site biodiversity, there will also be benefits in terms of Carbon Footprint, which will add to the benefits of the University Carbon Plan. The value of grassland in terms of worldwide carbon sequestration is considerable.

6.8 Peat

No peat based products are used for soil amelioration; instead garden waste composted on site is used as a soil ameliorant. For mulching borders processed bark or wood chip produced on site is used in a similar way. Within the last decade both coir and reduced peat composts have been trialled within the Glasshouse Unit, Keighton Hill, at this time the results were not very positive. Recognising new developments with peat free compost alternatives and the need for sustainable materials, it is intended to run a number of trials on various products with a possible peat free plant production media within a few years.

In terms of container plants purchased from external suppliers, the University has a wide planting policy and it is difficult to obtain plants from growers that do not use peat; it is also difficult to ask for ornamental crops to be contract grown since many projects have just a one year lead time.

From 2011 it intended as policy to request peat free alternative media for all container grown plants supplied externally. This should reduce the amount of peat growing media being consumed on University Park. The percentage of peat free container plants should therefore increase under this strategy.

6.9 Trees

University Park is well endowed with many trees of a wide range of ages and species. Most of these are located within grassed or landscaped areas. Because of the close proximity of so many of our trees to roads, footpaths, buildings and recreational areas, safety is of paramount importance. Trees that become unsafe in such situations have to be pruned or felled. There is therefore an active policy of planting to balance any losses and to provide a heritage of trees for the future. Due to safety considerations there are very few areas where old and derelict trees can be left to decline without creating a risk.

There are only a few small woodland areas; the largest of these is Portland Copse, located just below the Portland Building. It is the least accessible woodland, although the construction of the Lakeside Walk has brought the public into closer contact with it. A few years ago a refurbishment exercise took place. Excess sycamore and fallen timber was removed to make space for the planting of additional native species that have now established.

Other small areas of woodland exist near Hugh Stewart Hall, to the side of the Millennium Garden and near the Derby road boundary. In order to increase biodiversity it is important that new areas suitable for woodland habitats be identified on University Park during the next 5 years.
6.10 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, veteran trees are left as bat roosts or for wood boring birds and insects. However safety is of paramount importance and there are limited areas where this is possible. In some woodland areas, pruned material and felled timber are left as habitat piles, although the risk of summer fires has to be considered.

6.11 Water Conservation

All new projects are mulched for water conservation. New trees are all 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.

The Dry Amphitheatre garden was planned as a low water usage garden and shows what can be grown on almost pure sand. Where water resources are not readily available plants are selected for their ability to resist drought conditions once established, in addition bark gravel chippings and semi-permeable membranes are used to conserve water and reduce weed establishment.

6.12 Estates Strategy 2010-2020

The Estates Strategy is a leading report and action plan which will steer the University infrastructure and grounds through the next 8 years, the full report can be viewed online at:


Environment and Sustainability are key areas within the strategy and the relevant excerpt of the strategy is included on the next page of this report.
2.4 Environmental Sustainability

"The global imperative to reduce carbon emissions and to improve the sustainability of our activities is compelling. The University clearly must contribute by addressing our own operations..." (Vice Chancellor’s message, Environmental Strategy 2010)

Improved Energy and Water Performance

The Sustainability Team, based within the Estate Office, works with the Engineering Section to identify opportunities for enhanced energy performance. This includes further roll out of the Building Management System, electricity metering, and opportunities for improvements to lighting and heating across campuses (for example, the Estate Office has implemented a policy of installing automatic lights- PIR sensors - in toilets and corridors).

The Sustainability Team was successful in its bid to the HEFCE Salix fund for a revolving energy saving fund to enable further implementation of energy saving measures. The savings made from these are re-invested to extend the programme. The team has assessed the University’s carbon footprint and is developing a new investment programme to deliver carbon dioxide savings in line with UK and sector targets. This will include the installation of a wind cluster to provide part of the University’s energy needs.

Practical opportunities for effective water management have been and will continue to be implemented, for example, urinal controls (cisternisers), grey water harvesting and leakage detection.

As the University expands, both in terms of capital, students and research intensity, we will see increasing energy and water demands, and it is vital that the environmental impact of these activities is considered at all opportunities. We will continue to manage and develop our Carbon Plan to ensure it delivers performance improvements against set targets.

Waste and Recycling

As the cost of waste disposal (environmental and fiscal) increases, the University continues to minimise and actively manage waste through elimination, reduction, reuse and recycling. Over the last six years recycling rates have increased from 4% to 29%.

Travel and Transport

The University has a large community of staff and students, with several campuses across the region (as well as campuses in China and Malaysia). It is thus essential that there is a strong and adaptive travel plan in place to minimise our impact on the environment. Bus services linking the University to the city and hopper bus services linking the UK campuses are an important part of that. As part of the Masterplan for University Park, improved pedestrian and cycle routes in the central campus area will encourage people to choose sustainable transport options. The cycling infrastructure is being improved as part of a large scale sustainable travel programme partnered with Sustrans.

Information Services

The Estate Office is helping to minimise the environmental impact of the increasingly complex IT systems and services at the University in new IT contracts, working in partnership with Faculties, the Students’ Union and Central Support Services.

Aims:
- To improve the environmental performance of our buildings and the University’s physical infrastructure by moving towards carbon neutral energy performance, adopting environmentally conscious procurement practice, promoting renewable energy systems, reducing water consumption and waste output

Specific Objectives:
- Deliver carbon dioxide reductions in line with UK and sector requirements through a new carbon investment programme
- Continue programme of waste reduction and increased recycling, in line with sector best practice
- Continue developing sustainable transport programmes through our travel plan
6.12.1 Carbon Plan

The University is now committed to an ambitious Carbon Management Plan to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from 2005/6 levels by 13% by 2015 and 34% by 2020. A key element of this Plan is a large-scale wind turbine development that should reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7,000 tonnes per annum.

The Carbon Plan 2010-20 can be viewed on the following link:

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability.

6.13 Energy Management at the University of Nottingham

At the University of Nottingham we have been actively involved in Energy Management for over thirty years, and have publicly reported our energy performance since 1996. We operate one of the largest Building Management Systems in the country, with all of our principal buildings now connected. This system allows us to monitor and control building heating and ventilation systems remotely by computer.

We have worked to increase our internal sub-metering of utilities and now automatically gather data from over 400 electricity, gas and water sub-meters every half hour. This allows us to actively manage our energy and water consumption and track down waste.

All of our new buildings are designed to the ‘BREEAM excellent’ energy performance standard and incorporate a wide range of renewable technologies such as photovoltaic’s, heat pumps, biomass boilers and rainwater harvesting.

In addition, the Department of the Built Environment is involved in research into ‘green’ building techniques. Low carbon materials and minimal transport costs are important criteria for sustainability. This year students constructed a low energy house which was taken to Earls Court London and Barcelona for exhibition at Green Building competitions.

There are now four Eco Houses within the Faculty of the Built Environment, two of which were completed in 2010. One of the dwellings also sells energy back to the power supplier, a remarkable achievement. The energy houses are regularly opened to site visitors and members of the local community in the form of guided tours.

The University Annual Energy Report can be viewed on the following link:

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability.
6.14 Sustainable Transport

With a staff and student community of over 40,000 and campuses in Malaysia and China, the University generates a significant demand for travel. The University actively encourages staff, students and visitors to use greener transport options.

Over the past few years the University has worked to increase the range of transport options available, resulting in

- Investment in cycling infrastructure and extensive cycleway network under construction 2010-11
- A free Hopper bus service between Campuses to limit vehicle journeys between sites
- Discounted bus travel available for all staff and students
- Staff able to buy cycles through payroll and save on costs
- A car share scheme for staff
- Estate Office vehicles running on biodiesel
- Improved video conferencing facilities

There are 3000 cycle spaces across the campus, with some covered and secure stores. The University is a major partner with Ucycle Nottingham, a £3m project with Sustrans to encourage cycling among staff and students.

A new 3 year contract for University hopper bus service has resulted in a brand new fleet of low emission vehicles. Partnership with Nottingham City Transport has established a number of public bus services that provide direct links between campuses and city.
6.14 Sustainable Transport

The Government has given the go-ahead for extension of the Nottingham tram network (NET Phase Two). The proposed route from Nottingham City centre to Toton Lane Park and Ride will provide additional travel options for staff, students and visitors, with this development includes three tram stops close to the Medical School and University Park campus.

*Cycleways under construction*
Section 7: Conservation and heritage
Section 7 – Conservation and Heritage

7.1 Archaeological Interest

The principal site of the deserted medieval settlement of Keighton lies near the Portland Building, bounded by four roads, Portland Hill, East Drive, Keighton Hill and Cut Through Lane. The site was first discovered in the 1940’s during the ‘Dig for Victory’ campaign, when pottery fragments were discovered. The earliest investigations started in 1949 when three brick kilns were discovered during construction of the nearby Life Sciences Buildings.

Various excavations by the Department of Archaeology have taken place since then. These point towards timber framed buildings on stone foundations dating from the 13th or 14th century. The amount of pottery discovered at the site suggests that it was an industrial settlement used for the production of pottery and tiles. Because of the history of this site, no landscape or other development is permitted and the strange contours of the site are testament to its long history. An interpretation panel has been installed explaining the importance of this site.

7.2 Geology and Soils

Much of University Park is contoured, greatly adding to its visual interest. A ridge of high ground runs from the Trent Building above the lake, through the park to Lenton Firs and Derby Road. The escarpment is of interest, as it is comprised of “Nottingham Castle Sandstone”. The stone is never far from the surface as excavations regularly show. A small outcrop of rock near the Institute of Engineering and Space Geodesy building has recently been cleared of gorse and exposed as a feature. A new Mathematics Faculty is being built on the site of this outcrop, however Planning has allowed for most of the outcrop to be preserved as a feature underneath the West end of the new building.

A major cliff face is present beneath Lenton Firs and was exposed in 2006 giving another alternative wildlife environment. These rock formations mark the meeting of the Nottingham Castle formation with Red Lenton Sandstone. Resultant soils on the site are generally light sandy soils, varying from sandy to light loams, although pockets of heavier clay loam soils are also present particularly in the centre of the park and towards the North West. This is derived from a band of Mercian Mudstone which can more clearly be seen near the lakeside.

7.3 Landscape Planning

The University has always regarded long term planning as of importance and in 1949 it appointed Sir Percy Thomas as consultant architect. He produced a detailed scheme and model for future development of the whole site, which by now had extended almost to the extent of the current site. His broad allocation of areas for residential and academic functions has been the starting point for all later development.

In 1955 Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe produced a report entitled ‘A Landscape Design for the University of Nottingham’. The twenty two-page report is accompanied by a detailed plan showing the proposed location of major buildings, roads, footpaths,
clumps of trees and other features. Little of this scheme was ever implemented.

The early part of the report is in the form of an essay on landscape principles and outlines the basis for the later more specific proposals. Although rather ethereal, some of his words are a challenging basis for the design of a modern campus landscape;

"The art of landscape architecture comprehends and weaves together the opposing arts arising from geometry and biology..............the total environment must be so composed that like a painting or a symphony it conveys, creates and constantly encourages an emotion that is indescribable in words and textbooks. These designs adopt the premise that it is emotion that actuates all activities of the mind, and engenders all creative thought”.

Although the development of the campus as we see it today does not mirror Jellicoe’s plans, many of his principles have been used. There is a strong outer perimeter road with the Halls of residence placed around the outer regions of campus. Academic buildings are concentrated in the centre of campus and on the Science area to the southeast. The vast open grass area known as the Downs broadly corresponds to Jellicoe’s meadowland.

In various places Jellicoe refers to a ‘landscape in the English parkland style’ with trees, grassland and water and it is this informal style, which generally threads through the overall campus landscape. He refers also to the value of ‘precious and unusual’ trees within the gardens and we do indeed have a valuable heritage of exotic trees that have been planted at various stages. Some of Jellicoe’s ideas would seem fanciful and it is not surprising that with so many other demands, the University has never developed them. His Beech Grove corresponding to ‘Xystus’, the Vice Chancellor’s Bridge with its ‘richly coloured ceilings’, the Botanical Gardens with fountain jets, and the greenhouses shining at night ‘like industrious glow-worms’ sound enthralling. However one can imagine the difficulty with which long-gone committees considered such proposals and decided that they were not a high priority in the development of a young University.
A few of Jellicoe’s ideas are however far reaching and it is interesting to see that in 1955 he included a site for a hotel. Whether he foresaw the importance of the University’s conference trade we shall never know but he does emphasise the importance of the University’s ongoing ‘town and gown’ ethos.

Jellicoe certainly had vision, the Conference trade forms a valuable part of the University income, there is a conference centre known as the East Midlands Conference Centre and during 2011 a new hotel is to built on land acquired in 2010 from Boots Plc adjacent to Lenton House the property once owned by Jesse Boot.

**7.4 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, designed by Sir Michael Hopkins with high environmental standards. The Queen opened the new campus in 1999. Further development continues on this new site and in 2007 new building will commence on the opposite side of Triumph road, which bisects the land. Major new buildings will be constructed within extensive landscape leading down to the River Lean.

In March 2005 the University took ownership of the old Carlton Studios site, which is now known as King’s Meadow Campus and houses many of our administrative departments. Considerable investment has taken place in the landscape here with new meadows and woodlands developing and a courtyard garden completed in 2006.

The result of these additional sites has been a considerable easing on development in University Park. Recent developments have concentrated in 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 landscapes and water features.

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 between University Park and Highfields Park. It offers a number of public arts events in its small theatre as well as galleries, a restaurant and public toilet facilities. It was extended in 2005.

All new buildings are complemented by landscape schemes, mainly designed in-house. Developments in the Science area have introduced landscaping and trees, where previously there was none. A major extension to the Portland building was completed in 2003 and this was followed by the demolition of the old wartime single storey Cherry Tree Buildings during Spring 2004. The cleared area is steeply sloping and has been landscaped with turf, trees and wildflowers with picnic benches for rest and dining during good weather.
7.5 Five Year Landscape Plan

During the late 1980’s and early 1990’s there was a period of landscape stagnation and little new landscaping and planting took place. In 1994 the University appointed a Grounds Manager after a gap of eight years. In 1995 a detailed 5 Year Landscape Plan was produced, analysing the landscape on University Park and providing detailed proposals and targets. As well as considering the park by area and recommending improvements, the plan set out clear standards for paving and street furniture to achieve a new cohesiveness. New standards of environment awareness were suggested and practical proposals such as areas for meadowland introduced.

Over an intensive period of ten years of landscape renovation, the majority of the worst problem areas have been dealt with. Areas of poor, moribund or inappropriate planting have been replaced. Most of the poorest footpaths have been replaced and the majority of environmental targets have been achieved. Many areas have been streamlined for low maintenance, replacing small grass areas with groundcover plantings and reducing the need for pedestrian mowing.

In general terms the targets were all achieved, although any such programme is inevitably a rolling programme and renovation and replanting continues largely within the framework outlined within that document.


Over the latter months of 2006, another major landscape survey was undertaken on University Park resulting in a detailed report. This concentrated on the achievements over the last ten years and also outlines additional developments for the future. In full colour and A3 format it is intended to be a document that can be circulated to showcase our achievements and flag policy objectives. The report can be viewed following the link below, and a hard copy can be made available on request.

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/docs/landscape_report.pdf

The above Landscape Report provided the principal strategy document for Landscape Planning within the Park and is still relevant in terms of policy. From this document evolved the University Park Management Plan 2007 and the current plan (2011-16) provides a more active review of Landscape Management within University Park.

A brief fungus survey was undertaken in the autumn of 2006 and a Fungus Foray was organised in October 2010 by the Friends Group as a community event.

A number of successful bird and bat walks have been organised by the Friends of University Park and the Environment Section, several species have been observed and recorded. Many bird and owl nesting boxes have been installed throughout the woodland areas within University Park. In the appendix are lists of birds and bats recorded during visits and Surveys.

More comprehensive information is contained within the Biodiversity Management Plan which can be viewed online at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability. The document is also available as a printed copy on request.
7.6.1 University Park Campus Masterplan Strategy

In February 2009 Hopkins Architects completed a new Masterplan Strategy for University Park Campus. This strategy supersedes earlier strategic documents. The purpose of the document is to set out a new masterplan strategy for University Park Campus that addresses key pedestrian, cycle and vehicle routes.

Through the analysis of existing traffic flows across the site, the document proposes ways of reducing the impact of vehicular traffic whilst placing a greater emphasis on cyclist and pedestrian priority. This site-wide review also identifies potential development sites across the campus, for either new buildings or additional car parking.

Finally landscaping strategies are proposed for the central campus zone, (the area behind Trent and Portland Buildings) and also the central area of Science and Engineering.

The document can be viewed on the following link:

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/docs/up_masterplan.pdf

The document is important in terms of the environmental aspects of Landscape Management, its sustainable approach to transport, recreation and the design of space.

The University Park Campus Masterplan therefore forms an overall strategic document for the landscape at University Park within which its framework the Landscape Management Plan 2011-16 will reside.

7.7 Historical Conservation

It is recognised that University Park has not been truly ‘natural’ for many years and both horticultural and agricultural practices have altered it many times. Some areas such as the rose garden behind Hugh Stewart Hall, the Jekyll garden at Lenton Hurst and the Rock Garden at Lenton Firs have a specific historical value, which should also be conserved in its own right. Part of University Park is included within the English Heritage listing of the adjacent Highfields Park. Such historical conservation should sit alongside wildlife conservation.

7.8 Wildlife

The completion of the Biodiversity Audit 2009 and Biodiversity Management Plan in October 2010 has enabled the site to be assessed accurately for biodiversity, enabling more strategic BAP objectives to be included in the 2011-16 Landscape Management Plan. The BAP is discussed in more detail within Section 6.1.2 of this report. A list of plant species recorded on the Downs is available within the appendix of this document.

University Park is one of the few sites in Nottingham for the local Nottingham Crocus, a form of *Crocus vernus*, it is naturalised near the Swimming Pool to the north of the site.
7.9 Wildlife Corridor Development Project

During December 2010 the concept of a Wildlife Corridor (to be established on land owned by the University and City Council) evolved and initial discussions have taken place.

It is envisaged that a wildlife corridor can be developed between Beeston Sidings/Dunkirk Pond south of the University to link with Wollaton Hall on the north side of Derby Road.

Beeston Sidings is a Local Nature Reserve managed by Nottingham City Council which receives some local use but is not well known. Wollaton Hall is one of the largest park areas in the City and it has established conservation and biodiversity objectives in its management. The route is aimed at visitors who enjoy flora and fauna or a simple walk in the park. Dunkirk Pond rests south of the Science Park and access to the pond is poor at this point, however good access exists from a side road to the East of the site.

Dunkirk Pond and Beeston Sidings Nature Reserve, the Southern extent of the Wildlife Corridor concept.
Dunkirk Pond and Beeston Sidings Nature Reserve, the Southern extent of the Wildlife Corridor concept.
Section 8: Community and marketing
Section 8 – Community Involvement

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 each day for their studies. A few members of staff live on campus but numbers are relatively small and there are very few families with children. There will also be large numbers of staff that will 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 30,000+ students and 5000+ staff.

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

“I have most liked the campus with its beautiful open spaces and nice architecture”

“The environment of the campus is very suitable for me. It’s very beautiful!”

“I like the beautiful green campus and picturesque landscape”

“I have enjoyed being on a campus university with exceptionally kept grounds”

With the large number of students, the average age of users will inevitably be low and the appeal of the park different to that of many public parks. The customer base is also quite unique in that the majority of students move away at the end of a three year study period so there is always a shifting population. This does mean that interests and needs can change quite quickly. One year there can be a group interested in open air theatre, then next year croquet and so on. Such interests wax and wane with the changing population. Inevitably activities are often related to current fashionable crazes such as skate boarding or roller-blading.

The population shifts even more so within the year, in that students are in the majority only present during term times, some thirty weeks of the year. However that is not to say that there are no customers during vacation time. An important aspect of University income is our conference business and throughout the three vacation periods, the campus is busy with an ever changing population of conference delegates. One of the major selling points of the university as a conference venue is the landscaped park and however short the conference, it is obvious that most delegates notice and appreciate at least some aspects of University Park.

An increasing number of members of the local community also come to University Park, to use it just as a ‘park’. Throughout the year large numbers of people can be seen walking or jogging in the park, particularly in summer and many eat lunchtime sandwiches outside. Certain areas such as the Millennium Garden, the Lakeside walk and the many courtyard gardens attract users during all seasons. In recent years the University has welcomed this and made particular strides to welcome the local community.
8.2 Friends of University Park

This group was established in January 2004 with the specific aim of encouraging members of the general public to use and enjoy University Park. This is part of the University wide Active Communities initiative, which aims to enhance the University’s role in the wider community. It is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council and encourages staff and students to become engaged in the local community. It has grown rapidly in strength and numbers since then. Meetings of a steering group take place regularly to plan events, garden openings and walks for the general public. Most are free to guests.

The gardens are opened for the National Garden scheme. A BBC Gardeners’ World programme in July 2005 resulted in a record 650 attendance at our opening that weekend. Various themed tree and garden walks have been organised. We have hosted jazz, brass and dance bands in the gardens and opened the greenhouses to the public on several occasions. Community, bulb and wildflower plantings have taken place. Other events include bird walks, fungus forays and heritage walks and talks. Events for 2011 are detailed in the appendix of this report. These events have all been generally well attended and received. Newsletters are printed twice a year and distributed to a mailing list. 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.

A training programme was organised by the Grounds Manager for Garden Guides so that group events could be hosted by a range of volunteers and this has proved very successful and enabled us to welcome a larger number of visitors. Refreshment facilities for visiting groups have been made available. Funding for the Friends Group is generated by plant sales which provide most of the income but donations are also received. The funds are spent on public events such as Picnic in the Park or garden improvements and are decided by the Friends Steering Group Committee.

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 a number of 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 help the group. The group’s initiatives were recognised by the University’s Active Communities organisation in 2005, with an award for their ‘exceptional contribution to the local community’. In 2006 they were also short-listed for a national award by the HEACF.

8.2.1 Volunteer Projects

During the period 2006-10 The Friends Group Volunteers worked on following garden restoration projects:

Lenton Firs Rock Garden
Jekyll Garden
Hugh Stewart House Rock Garden (current project in conjunction with student volunteers).
8.2.2 Partnership Working and Community Involvement

The list below is a brief summary of the Community Partnership in which the Friends Group and University Grounds Section is taking an active role during 2009/10:

- Annual programme of events for the Community to enjoy organised by the Friends of University Park FoUP Picnic in the Park FoUP annual
- Free event for the community
- Organised tours of University Park and the Jubilee Campus FoUP
- Friends of University Park Volunteers organising events and supporting projects within University Park.
- Summerwood Day Centre Clifton, Grounds Section working in partnership with Local Authority day centre to provide work experience for adults with learning difficulties (2009 ongoing)
- Dart Training, NVQ Work Experience Placement volunteers, Grounds Section, 2009 ongoing.
- Nottingham in Bloom, Friends Group and Grounds Section with Nottingham City Council, 2009/10/11 ongoing annual partnership.
- Community Taster Day, Friends Group Volunteers and Grounds Section 2009/10/11 ongoing annual event.
- School Science Week supporting activities at the Lakeside Pavilion
- Highfields Park 2010, with NCC Rangers /Lakeside and Biology School
- Abundance Project Distributing unpicked surplus fruit to the local Community 2009 ongoing.
- Student Volunteers join the Friends Group to work on garden restoration
- Project 2010/11 ongoing
- Friends Group support the restoration of NCCs Highfields Park Cascade by making a donation during 2010 toward planting costs, the donation for the benefit of Park visitors and the local community.

'Go Wild Walk’ 2010 organised by the Friends Group, photo at Beeston Sidings
8.2.3 Donations

The Friends Group accept donations from a variety of sources, the University Registry is the most regular source. However during 2010 a single donation of almost £1000 was received. The Friends Group then made a donation of £500 to Nottingham City Councils Highfields Park toward the restoration costs of the lake cascade, refer to the appendix for correspondence, recognising the importance of this feature to the local community.

*The Cascade at Highfields Park (Nottingham City Council)*

*Plants with Attitude’ Ian Cooke FI Hort, hosts an ‘open’ garden tour on behalf of the Friends Group June 2010*
8.3 Schools Work

The Friends Group produced a Schools Pack in 2004, the pack has been used by various local schools, the University Community Partnership Directorate and recently by the education team at the Lakeside Pavilion, the pack is designed to target primary schools in the area.

This science pack is available to local schools who are invited to bring classes into University Park to study various themes such as habitats, bees & flowers, creepy crawlies, plant growth and trees.

The Grounds Section and Friends Group are in discussion with staff at the Lakeside Pavilion to review the schools pack. It is intended that partnership working with Lakeside Education, the Faculty of Biology, Community Partnerships and Nottingham City Council Leisure be developed further.

In recent months the Grounds Section have been involved with a number of school events at the Lakeside Pavilion such as School Science Week and the Forest Production. Help was given in terms of providing materials and advice. One of the grounds staff who keeps birds of prey brought in a Tawny Owl for the Forest Production. The Grounds Section also worked in partnership with Nottingham City Council Park Rangers during ‘Schools Science Week’ in March 2010 which was very successful.

A new member of the Friends Group Dr Amy Rogers is a Community Science Officer for the Biology Department and an OPAL Scientist dealing specifically with schools on various projects. Amy supervised children’s pond dipping at the 2010 Picnic in the Park held in the Millennium Garden and the results were published on a national register. Water quality and biodiversity is one resource being surveyed by OPAL in four national surveys:

http://www.field-studies-council.org/projects/opal/water.aspx

8.4 Marketing

Over the last 5 years 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 full-colour 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. The response to this has been very encouraging with many more individuals using the park. There is an electronic form of the Gardens Guide, Heritage Walk, Geology Walk, and Winter Tree Walk all available on the University website. It is intended to request links to this from other horticulturally-related sites. These guides were revised and reprinted in 2007.

A smaller leaflet has also been produced, which is distributed more widely in public libraries, the local tourist information centres and shopping centres. Each year events leaflets are produced and these are also distributed through local libraries and to gardening societies. The Friends have an extensive mailing list, also events are advertised in the Nottingham Community Arrow and Lenton and Wollaton Community Arrow publication, Beeston Express, the Nottingham Post and the Dunkirk and Lenton Times; all community targeted publications. The adjoining Highfields Park has a glass fronted community notice board and the
University has been invited by the City Council Leisure Dept to display University Park events in this.

A member of the Friends group has taken responsibility for marketing and issues information to local newspapers and radio stations. In particular BBC Radio Nottingham and Smooth Radio have been very supportive and regularly advertise our events. Events are also widely publicised via email to the University community of staff and students. The University has its own communications and marketing departments which are very supportive of Friends Events and Grounds Section news, preparing and releasing advertising and press information.

The Friends group has a web site

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/friends/

giving full details of membership, events, past newsletters and pictures of the site. The main University has recently commissioned a five minute virtual tour of University Park

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/campuses/campusvideo.htm

which can be found right at the front of the University website. There is a link to this from the Friends site.

Details of events are regularly posted on the Green Flag calendar and on the http://www.wherecanwego.com/ site.

### 8.5 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 a similar way to commemorate an occasion or person.

As part of the University’s celebration of its Jubilee in 1998, an avenue of 50 London Planes were planted either side of the East Drive, which was renamed Jubilee Avenue. Sponsors were invited for these trees as a means of generating income. Most have now been dedicated and the surplus funding accrued has been used for other grounds projects.
Sited at the Staff Club, this unique ornamental hand-forged bench and surfaced surround was donated to the University by the family of the late Professor G Warburton during autumn 2010, a commemorative Beech tree was also gifted to the University.

The Friends of University Park planting a commemorative tree during August 2010
Section 9: Action plan
Section 10: Additional documents
Section 10 - Additional Documents Available on Request

University Park, Landscape report, 1996 - 2006


Friends of University Park – events for 2006 – also available at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/friends/events.pdf

Friends of University Park Newsletter – also available at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/friends/newsletter.htm

Lakeside Arts Centre – events programme – also available at http://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/

University Park – Welcome Leaflet

University Park – Schools Pack

The Millennium Garden – detailed information

Summer Bedding Schemes 2010

Exotics in Highfields Walled Garden

The Historic Houses of University Park

List of Awards achieved since 1994

Tree Survey – Sample Information

Code of Practice – Working in Landscaped Areas

Code of Practice – Installation of Services

Statement of Access Policy

Gritting Procedures 2010

Environmental Strategy 2010

Landscape & Buildings Sub Group – Terms of reference

Report from the Landscape & Buildings Sub Group

Staff Organisational Chart

Staff Training Schedule

Estate Office Business Plan

Machinery Inventory

Machinery Replacement Programme

Nursery Production Schedule 2010
Events and Community Involvement – list of past events

Grounds Section - Service Level Statement

Annual Security Report 2010

Grounds Maintenance Specifications 2010

Grounds Maintenance Manual University Park 2008

Environment Report 2011

Carbon Plan 2011-20
Dunkirk Pond and Beeston Sidings Nature Reserve, the Southern extent of the Wildlife Corridor concept.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>University Park – Bird Life</strong></th>
<th><strong>Highfields Lake</strong></th>
<th><strong>Highfields Sports Ground</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackbird</td>
<td>Cormorant</td>
<td>Mistle Thrush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin</td>
<td>Coot</td>
<td>Redwing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparrow</td>
<td>Moorhen</td>
<td>Fieldfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wren</td>
<td>Grey Heron</td>
<td>Gold Finch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Tit</td>
<td>Great Crested Grebes</td>
<td>Pied Wagtail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Tit</td>
<td>King Fisher (reported and not seen by MAL)</td>
<td>Magpie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Tailed Tit</td>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>Little Gull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Crest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldfinch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenfinch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nut Hatch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Woodpeckers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaffinch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collared Dove</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feral Pigeon</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood Pigeon</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied Wagtails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magpies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackdaw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rook</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mistle Thrush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bat Information of University Park**
The following information was supplied by Paul Stone who is a member of the local Bat group, records were gathered from two bat walks within University Park in August 2007, September 2008/2009 and Bat Survey carried out in 2010 by BSG Ecology..

- *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* Common Pipistrellus
- *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* Saprano Pippstrelle
- *Myotis daubentonii* Daubentons Bat
- *Myotis mystacinus* Whiskered
- *Nyctalus noctual* Noctule
- *Plecotus auritus* Brown Long Eared Bats

paul.stone@terramicus.com
The Downs consists of acid grassland with a moderate soil nutrient status that has encouraged the presence of species more typically associated with neutral grassland. Typically the grassland community is of relatively low diversity, but lowland acid grassland is a very scarce resource with less than 5000 hectares left in lowland Britain. Therefore, any areas of acid grassland have a high nature conservation value.

The site was surveyed by Mark Woods on September 2010, the following species were recorded:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>English Name</th>
<th>Abundance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agrostis vinealis</td>
<td>Brown Bent</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achillea millefolium</td>
<td>Yarrow</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrostis capillaris</td>
<td>Common Bent-grass</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthoxanthum odoratum</td>
<td>Sweet Vernal-grass</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrhenatherum elatius</td>
<td>False Oat-grass</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campanula rotundifolia</td>
<td>Harebell</td>
<td>LF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conopodium majus</td>
<td>Pignut</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynosurus cristatus</td>
<td>Crested Dog's-tail</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylis glomerata</td>
<td>Cock's-foot</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festuca rubra</td>
<td>Red Fescue</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festuca ovina</td>
<td>Sheep's Fescue</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galium verum</td>
<td>Lady's Bedstraw</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holcus lanatus</td>
<td>Yorkshire Fog</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypochaeris radicata</td>
<td>Common Cat's-ear</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leontodon autumnalis</td>
<td>Autumn Hawkbit</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa pratensis</td>
<td>Smooth Meadow-grass</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa trivialis</td>
<td>Rough Meadow-grass</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranunculus bulbosus</td>
<td>Bulbous Buttercup</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumex acetosella</td>
<td>Sheep's Sorrel</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanguisorba officinalis</td>
<td>Great Burnet</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stellaria graminea</td>
<td>Lesser Stitchwort</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taraxacum aggregate</td>
<td>Dandelion</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica chamaedrys</td>
<td>Germander Speedwell</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abundance is recorded by use of DAFOR
D = Dominant
A = Abundant
F = Frequent
O = Occasional
R = Rare
LF = Locally Frequent
Desmond O'Grady
The University of Nottingham
The Estate Office
University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

10 November 2010

Dear Desmond,

**Re: Donation from the Friends of University Park**

Please could you pass on my thanks to the Friends of University Park for their kind donation of £500 towards the Highfields Park cascade garden.

Since the cascade has been restored, a large number of people have contacted the council to show their appreciation of the works. The garden around the cascade will now be fully planted to complete this project, providing a fantastic feature for park users to visit.

I look forward to continually working with you in the future to improve both Highfields Park and University Park which are so closely linked.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Fliss Walker
Parks Development Officer

Direct line ☏: 0115 915 2709
As promised. We used part of the FOUP Nature Trail Science pack on the above date. The project was organised in partnership with the St Anns and Sneinton Education Improvement Partnership (EIP) and was aimed at Gifted and Talented pupils from 2 schools within this EIP area. The schools involved were Edale Rise Primary and William Booth primary both in Sneinton. Approximately 30 children attended on the day.

As they were only year 3 we tailored the pack and only used some of the activities. I am attaching the programme for the day and also a full description of the route taken and the activities in each area. I informed security in advance that they were coming and obviously the whole session was fully risk assessed.

I hope this helps. Let me know if you need anymore information.

Best wishes

Lisa

Lisa Owen
Primary Schools Engagement Manager - Community Partnerships
University of Nottingham
King's Meadow Campus
Lenton Lane
NG7 2NR
0115 846 8114
University Park has yet again retained its Green Flag status. The Green Flag represents a benchmark standard in recreational and community open space provision. Congratulations to the Grounds Team and Friends Group at University Park for maintaining the high standards required to receive its 8th Green Flag in succession. Nottingham remains the first and only University to hold a Green Flag award and will continue to enhance and develop its campuses for the enjoyment of the wider community.

In addition to retaining the Green Flag status the University Grounds was Highly Commended in the Green Gown awards. The Green Gown awards scheme exists to recognise & promote Environmentally Sustainable Practices and Carbon Reduction initiatives within Universities and Higher Education Institutions. Nottingham received the Commendation for showing continuous improvement in its grounds management practices with moves towards more environmentally friendly practices such as the creation of further flower meadows and reusing its green wastes as composts.

University Park has again achieved a gold award in the Best Business category of the Nottingham in Bloom Garden Competition with this display at the North Entrance. The award was presented to the University by the Chair of Nottingham in Bloom Cllr Malcolm Wood and Sponsors Gala Coral Group during a ceremony for all City entrants held at the Council House in September.
**Picnic in the Park & NGS**
The annual Picnic in the Park was held in the Millennium Garden on the 4th July. Live music was again provided by the Newstead Welfare Brass Band, and a wide range of activities held for families. The event had an even higher attendance than 2009 with everyone again enjoying a warm, sunny and dry!! Afternoon. With only one opening the National Gardens Scheme opening still raised an impressive £1,067.00 in gate fees and plant sales. The 2011 calendar is looking just as busy with extra events being added.

**Go Wild Walk**
The wildflower walk in June, led by local ecologist Mark Woods visited Beeston Sidings, Highfields Science Park, the Tottle Brook’ Highfields Park and University Park. Mark, a consultant with BSG Ecology gave his usual thorough and informative tour of all the sites listed identifying many species of wild flowers both common and rarer species. Next year Mark is considering widening the scope of his walk to include Jubilee Campus with its newly developing water and wetland habit which shows wonderful potential.

**Friends Projects 2010-11**
The Friends are involved each year in a restoration project on University Park. During 2009-10 the Jekyll Garden Lenton Hurst house has been fully restored by Friends Group Volunteers and grounds staff. The next restoration project will be Hugh Stewart rock garden. The group are seeking volunteers from both local community, University students & staff to help. It is hard work but great fun! Volunteer work days will be arranged over the winter with the first due to take place on Wed’s 24th November 2010. exciting project see the last paragraph.

**Forthcoming Events**
**Thursday & Friday 16th & 17th December 10.30am-2.30pm**
Christmas Plant Sale, Grounds Glasshouses Keighton Hill, University Park. NG7 2RD

**Sat 19th February 10.30am-12.30pm**
‘Winter Tree Walk’ meet at the visitors car park Cut Through Lane Free Limited Numbers pre-booking essential.
To book call 07825 753993

**Can you help? Would you like to know more about the Friends Group?**
The Friends Steering Group is looking for volunteers to help at various activities throughout the year, which include Restoration Projects, community open days, National Garden Scheme Openings and educational activities. Additional garden guides are also required for University Park and other campus sites and training is provided. The Friends Group are very friendly, knowledgeable and welcoming.

*Enquiries to…….. Desmond O’Grady 0115 951 3649*
*Email: desmond.ogrady@nottingham.ac.uk*
Friends of University Park Events 2011

Saturday 19th February, 10.30am-12.30pm 'Winter Tree Walk'
Meet at the Visitors Car Park Cut Through Lane. Free, limited numbers pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Saturday 16th April, 10am-12noon 'Explore Jubilee Campus'
Guided walk around the lakes and landscape at Jubilee Campus. Meet at the Visitors Car Park inside Wollaton Road entrance, near Raleigh Island. Free, limited numbers, pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Thursday 21st April, 10am-4pm 'Nottingham in Bloom Launch'
The Old Market Square Nottingham, Friends of University Park Information Point and garden advice.

Saturday 7th May 11am-5.30pm 'Community Open Day'
Explore the many faces of the University of Nottingham as it opens its doors to the community. Visit the Walled Garden and Millennium Gardens. Friends Group Garden Tours and information point. Free. For further information tel 0115 951 3296 clare.anderton@nottingham.ac.uk

Saturday 14th May 10.30 am-1.00 pm 'Rock Around the Campus'
A Geology Walk on University Park, led by geologist Mr Gerry Shaw, meet at the main Visitors Car Park, Cut Through Lane. Free, limited numbers, pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Thursday 26th May 6.45pm 'Sutton Bonington Arboretum'
A tree walk in Sutton Bonington Campus Arboretum, meet at the Visitors Car Park near Reception off College Road, tour of this little known yet fine collection of trees. Free, limited numbers, pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Wednesday 22nd June 6.45pm, 'The Time Machine Walk'
Wednesday 22nd June, 6.45pm. Starting at the Millennium Garden, Ian Cooke will lead a garden walk picking out some of the older historic gardens on campus, the walled garden, Lenton Hall garden, the Jekyll garden and Lenton Flrs rock garden. Free but limited numbers pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Sunday 10th July, 12noon-3pm 'Picnic in the Park'
Live music once again from the Newstead Band together with activities for all the family. Venue the Millennium Garden. Just bring a picnic. Free

Saturday 16th July, 1-4pm 'Go Wild Walk'
A wildflower walk, Beeston Sidings, the Tottle Brook Highfields Park and University Park. Led by Ecologist Mark Wood, meet at the Lakeside Pavilion Highfields Park. Guests are asked for a £2 charity donation for Nottingham Wildlife Trust. Limited numbers, pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Sunday 7th August, 12noon-5pm 'Summer at its Best' National Gardens Scheme
A feast of summer colour in the Millennium Garden, Walled Garden, Jekyll Garden and throughout the Park. Bus tours, plant sale and refreshments. £2.50 charity donation.

Saturday 20th August, 12 Noon-4pm U.N.S.S.C Bowls Club 'Family Open Day'
An opportunity to give Bowls a try, target bowls, coaching, how to play Bowls, flat shoes required. Refreshments available. Free pre-booking essential ring Frank Clifton on 0115 929 9498

Saturday 3rd September, 2pm 'Heritage Walk'
A short walk looking at some of the old houses and gardens on University Park. Led by local historian Janet Jones. Meet in the main Visitors Car Park. £1.50 limited numbers, pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993
Friday 16th September 7.30pm ’Bat Walk’
A bat walk led by expert, Paul Stone, meet at the Lakeside Pavilion Highfields Park. Please bring appropriate clothing, footwear, a torch and insect repellent. Free, limited numbers, pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Saturday 1st October 10am-12 noon, ’Fungus Foray’
Do you know your Bryophytes from Ascomycetes? A Field Fungus Walk led by Lee Scudder. Meet in the main Visitor Car Park, Cut Through Lane. £2.00, limited numbers, pre-booking essential. To book call 07825 753993

Wednesday 26th October 2.00pm to 3.30pm, Autumn Colour Tree Walk
Sutton Bonington Arboretum
A chance to see the Sutton Bonington Campus Arboretum in a final blaze of colour before winter. The meet at the Visitors Car Park near Reception off College Road, an end of year tour of this little known yet fine collection of trees. Free, limited numbers pre-booking essential.
To book call 07825 753993

Friday 28th October 2.00pm to 2.30pm, Autumn Colour Tree Walk University Park
A chance to see the University Park trees in a final blaze of colour before winter. Meet at the Visitors Car Park Cut Through Lane Free, limited numbers pre-booking essential.
To book call 07825 753993

Group Visits and Guided Tours

Did you know you can have a Garden Visit round the Gardens of University Park campus or a Heritage Walk to look at some of the historic buildings there?

The Friends of University Park are pleased to offer guided visits around the gardens of our award winning University Park.
These are suitable for horticultural societies, social clubs and other interested organisations. In addition for those interested in the history of the campus there is now the opportunity for a Heritage Walk to see some of the older properties. If you are interested and for more details please contact: Christine Ward cmward87@mac.com

Estate Office University Park Nottingham NG7 2RD
For more information about the Friends and directions to University Park, visit our website
www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/friends
Grounds Manager 0115 951 3649