



High Peak Borough Council

working for our community

Pavilion Gardens and Serpentine Walks Management Plan

2021 - 2031



1 Foreword

High Peak Borough Council together with its partners recognise the importance of the Pavilion Gardens and its value to the local and wider community and is committed to maintaining and developing where appropriate, the services and facilities offered and essential to this aim is engaging with the community to understand their needs and desires.

With limited resources it is of paramount importance that priorities for the development of the park are identified. This management plan will recognise the valuable work that has been done to date and focus on the future management and maintenance of the park. Taking into account sustainable considerations, it will ensure that any developments or refurbishment are completed in a manner which are sensitive to local community needs and the nature of the park in terms of its historic, ecological and environmental value.

2 Introduction

This plan will define the current and future management and maintenance of the Pavilion Gardens and Serpentine Walks for a 10-year period from 2021 to 2031. In compiling the plan we acknowledge the essential and valuable contribution from all key stakeholders, partners, councillors and community groups. Without their contribution this plan would be meaningless.

3 Purpose of the Plan

It is imperative that this management plan provides clear direction for the future management and maintenance of the park, ensuring that the park is conserved and enhanced in its entirety whilst balancing the needs of visitors and residents alike.

This management plan seeks to: -

- Take a holistic approach to the future management of the park by assessing professional and community needs and desires.
- To establish a shared vision and objectives for the park.
- Ensure community involvement within the development and management of the park.
- Establish standards that are effective and accountable to ensure clear management and maintenance objectives are identified and implemented.
- Benchmark the park and analyse the management regimes and policies against best practice.
- Prioritise resources and action to ensure effective management of the park and the success of any future developments.

4 Responsibility for the Plan

High Peak Borough Council is responsible for the overall management of all of our parks and open spaces. The Service Commissioning section of High Peak Borough Council working in partnership with all stakeholders and the community has compiled this plan. Implementation of the plan will also be led by the Service Commissioning section with specific project leads as shown in the Action Plan. Likewise, the monitoring and review of the plan will be led by the Service Commissioning section. It is recognised that regular effective monitoring and review of the plan will ensure that the document evolves to meet changing priorities. However, all key stakeholders and users of the park together with the wider local community will be engaged to ensure that future revisions reflect a combination of views, needs and aspirations.

5 Strategic Context

The Parks Strategy is the overarching document that sets out the strategic context which informs the management of all our parks. For this strategy to focus on the future effectively, it is important to recognise the key influencing documents and evidence base which frame the provision and development

of parks. It is also equally important for people to understand the current context in which parks are managed and maintained as this will play a part in decision making and delivery of future projects which aim to maintain and enhance the parks.

The purpose of our Parks Strategy is to bring these key issues into focus and by doing so:-

- 1) Set the overarching context and direction for the management and development of our parks and green spaces.
- 2) Outline the approach for managing and developing parks and green spaces which considers the Councils resources, management and maintenance responsibilities and the contribution of partners, community and interest groups.
- 3) Highlight a set of principles which will guide future maintenance, investment and community engagement in our parks and green spaces.
- 4) Agree a set of priorities and objectives which focus effort, resources and decision making to ensure that parks and green spaces remain high quality spaces for everyone to enjoy.
- 5) Help secure additional investment and external funding to enhance the parks infrastructure, facilities and opportunities for the benefit of the community.

Pavilion Gardens

6 Site Details

6.1 Site Address and access

The Pavilion Gardens is situated in the centre of Buxton and is a formal urban park surrounded by large Victorian houses, Guest houses and hotels. The park, which is 8.54ha, provides a valuable green space in an urban setting and in particular its physical links to the adjacent Serpentine Walks.

The postal address reflects the original main entrance being:

The Pavilion Gardens
St. John's Road
Buxton
SK17 6BE

It should be noted however that postal correspondence relating to the park should be directed to:

Service Commissioning
Buxton Town Hall
Market Place. Buxton SK17 6EL

Car parking is available from the main entrance to the park off Burlington Road, which is signposted from St. John's Road and is pay and display. The park is served by bus stops on St. John's Road and Buxton Train Station is five minutes walk from the park. There is on street parking in the surrounding area.

A plan of the site is shown below.



6.2 Ownership and Designations

The site is situated in the Buxton Central Conservation Area and is exclusively owned by High Peak Borough Council. The park is listed as Grade II* on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens maintained by English Heritage, which also include The Serpentine. Adjacent to the Gardens are the following listed buildings; The Octagon (Grade II), Paxton Suite (Grade II) and Opera House (Grade II*).

There is a single public right of way (PROW) across the site, Footpath 73, but Footpath 83 runs next to the eastern edge at the park known as Broadwalk. The park is designated as a major park within the High Peak Local Plan. The Pavilion Gardens and Serpentine Walks are within Buxton Central Conservation Area and the trees are an essential element of the landscape setting of the Conservation Area. The council will manage the trees accordingly following the principles set out in the Tree Policy and good practice guides.

6.3 Area Information

The parks itself sits within Corbar ward and also within the Buxton Central Conservation Area. The town of Buxton lies within the High Peak area of Derbyshire, with a resident population of approximately 23,000. There have been several recent residential developments and as such it is likely that growth will continue strongly.



The welcome board on the corner with Broad Walk

7 Physical Assets

This area of Buxton is a focus for visitors from far and wide who come to see its historic attractions including the park. The very nature of the park's proximity to the Pavilion Complex managed by Parkwood Leisure, means that visitors are very well catered for and the during the summer months the park is extremely busy.

The park itself contains a range of assets and has a number of facilities for children, families, older people, visitors and locals, and these include:-

- **An historic parkland landscape**
Restored and enhanced as part of the HLF Programme.
- **Children's play facilities for both toddlers and juniors**
Both toddler and junior play areas have been refurbished since the restoration programme, in 2016 and 2011 respectively. This was through grant funding secured by the Friends group and s106 developer contributions and is an extremely popular part of the park used by locals and many visitors.
- **Young people's sports wall**
A popular sports wall located close to the play area which provides space for kickabout and basketball.
- **Outdoor gym equipment**
This equipment was installed as part of the junior refurbishment project in 2011 identified within the community consultation. Since its arrival, we have worked with the adjacent Leisure Centre to run outdoor gym sessions which proved very popular. All these facilities are co-located in the 'active zone' of the park, bearing in mind its historical nature.
- **Bandstand**
This original feature was refurbished as part of the HLF restoration programme and is a key asset in the park. Regular concerts are organised throughout the summer and it is used frequently for weddings due to its setting within the attractive formal parkland.



The bandstand

- **Lakes and the River Wye with Cascades and a fountain**
All form part of the historical features within the park and enhanced as part of the restoration programme.
- **A Promenade and several walks**
The park provides many opportunities for walks throughout the historical setting, taking in the views and vistas. The Promenade is a very popular route as it runs adjacent to the Octagon, Conservatory and Opera House and is frequently used to support events held within the Pavilion Complex.
- **A kiosk providing light refreshments with toilets**
Although managed by Parkwood Leisure, the kiosk is located close to the 'activity area' within the park and it is well used facility by families and children particularly in the summer months.
- **Miniature railway**
A miniature railway runs along a circular route through the park which is also managed by Parkwood Leisure, and is another very popular attraction for visitors to Buxton.
- **Floral displays**
Another key feature is the floral displays which are an integral part of the historic landscape of the park and are maintained as such.

8 Historical/Heritage Information

The following section details a brief history of the site, an understanding and acknowledgement of its heritage value, the Heritage Lottery Restoration Project, and interpretation of the heritage and how this is conserved and enhanced. This information is intended to give the reader a brief contextual flavour.

8.1 The history of the site as a public park

At the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Buxton had become a popular destination for adventurous travellers. At that time Buxton lay in the estate of the Dukes of Devonshire. Dr William Robertson in 1850 writes that Buxton had 'many and various pleasure grounds, and promenades and plantation walks.' It is at this time that Sir Joseph Paxton, employed by the 6th Duke of Devonshire as head gardener at Chatsworth, and produced plans for the development of the landscape and public spaces of Buxton including the Pavilion Gardens. Within the Gardens, Paxton's landscape contained rustic bridges, lakes and fountains and cascades. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that the gardens were richly planted with 'ornamental shrubberies'. Trees, too, were planted in variety including horse chestnut, elm, and silver birch as well as several varieties of weeping trees. Paxton's developments also included the creation of the Broad Walk that runs along the south eastern margins of the Gardens.

Evidence suggests that the Pavilions Gardens were extensively ornamented by the middle of the 19th century with not only ornamental planting and water features but also rustic seats, wildfowl, cast-iron fencing and well-surfaced paths. The formation of the Buxton Improvements Company in 1868 saw 12 acres of the gardens gifted to them by the 7th Duke of Devonshire, for the purpose of erecting a pavilion for concerts and balls. However, it was on condition that the pavilion would be embellished by landscape gardening. In 1870, Edward Milner started on the development of the Winter Garden or Pavilion and a year later, the new public gardens and pavilion were completed. What was notable about Milner's design was the emphasis on views across the site from various focal points such as the bridges and the bandstand, and this was complimented by his careful consideration of the layout of the landscape.



View of the Promenade and Octagon

In 1927 the Buxton Corporation bought the gardens, and over the following years the character of the park changed quite dramatically. Landscape features and elements were lost and there were very few formal activities. There was conflict between pedestrians and vehicles as there was no restriction on access, and cars began to utilise the Promenade to use the services of the swimming pool, Pavilion and Opera House. By the mid 1990s, High Peak Borough Council recognised that although there had been several ad hoc developments in the Gardens, generally the park had begun to decline. It was decided that there was a real need to enhance the Gardens and put them at the heart of the regeneration of Buxton, to enable them to be relevant for today and for the next 100 years.

In 1996 the Council engaged the help of the Parklands Consortium to produce a Grounds Development Plan. The plan included historical, landscape and land use surveys, consultation with the public and recommendations as to how to enhance the Gardens and this provided a restoration 'blue print' which was costed and phased. The production of the Development Plan coincided with the launch of the National Lottery and its various grant giving bodies, and under the Heritage Lottery Fund programme the Council submitted an application for the restoration of the Pavilion Gardens.

8.2 The Heritage Lottery Fund Restoration Programme

After the funding application for £3.5 million was approved by the HLF, and £1.2 million from High Peak Borough Council was secured, a comprehensive restoration programme was initiated which due to its complex nature was phased over 7 years. Over the 7-year period, the council worked in partnership with The HLF and specialist restoration companies including local firms Dorothea and Leander, to restore many of the features in the park to their former glory. Extensive consultation with the local community, businesses and other stakeholders was undertaken in the development of the overall project, and each phase of work was also the subject of consultation focussing on the specific aspect of the work.

The project saw the construction of a new double storey car park, new kiosk and toilets, refurbishment of the lake and bridges, the erection of park railings and entrance gates, tree management and planting along with horticultural displays based on the designs of Paxton, Milner and Hogg, pathway re-surfacing including the Promenade, the installation of adventure play and toddler play area and 'Heritage' golf, new bandstand, seating, litter bins, lamp standards and signage. As well as the production of the Development Plan for the park, a Conservation Plan was also created and was largely based on repair and enhancement of what survived of the original fabric, which inevitably, involved significant restoration. Modern day usage of the park and other objectives of the Plan were also taken into account with a view to creating a high-quality park for the future as well as conserving the heritage of the past. There have been some minor changes in the years since the restoration programme, but the park remains a key green space for both Buxton's heritage and as an important place for both locals and visitors alike.

It should be noted that planned maintenance is co-ordinated with the results from inspections and may be altered according to actual and reactive requirements.



The Lower lake and fountain

9 Value Assessments

9.1 Heritage Value

The Pavilion Gardens is a nationally important public park, listed as Grade II* on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, with exceptionally high heritage. The site was formally a post-medieval garden, however, there are no longer any archaeological features evident. A separate Conservation Management Plan for the Pavilion Gardens sets out the historical value and heritage significance of the park.

Of particular note within the park include:-

The Bandstand

Old Bandstand plinth

The 6 bridges

Jordan's Walk

The Broad Walk

The large ornamental Urn

The Fountain

The original layout, landscape features and perimeter banking, lakes, water courses and vistas all set out by Edward Milner.

9.3 Educational Value

As a result of its heritage and culture, the educational value of the park is high, not only for children and young people but for the wider community. The park is mapped for orienteering with permanent markers. Many of the surrounding schools and nurseries use the park for educational visits, but this also combined when the schools use Buxton Swimming Pool for lessons. Local Cubs, Rainbows and Brownie groups also use the park to help with planting and litter picking. A Heritage Trail leaflet was developed for groups and families to use as part of a circular route around the park.

9.4 Recreational Value

The purpose of the park is very much about combining informal and formal recreation. This is through recreating how the park would have been used at the turn of the 20th century for walking, taking in the views and vistas, admiring the decorative planting and water courses but also balancing the needs of modern-day users. This includes not only the fixed facilities within the park such as the children's play areas, sports wall and outdoor gym equipment but also activities which promote health, physical activity and well-being. The park is used by numerous groups and organisations for activities and events such as buggy fit group, running clubs and boot camps. Options are currently being explored to create a permanent cycling route through the park, which links safer routes throughout the town. The management plan seeks to ensure that the park not only retains its historical integrity, but provides wherever possible the demonstrated needs of the local community and its considerable number of visitors.

9.4 Amenity Value

The park is situated in a highly accessible location, being adjacent to Buxton town centre and the historic core of the town. The Park has its own double story car park and virtually unrestricted pedestrian access on all sides. The park assists greatly in contributing towards local tourism and its associated economic benefits but is also an extremely important amenity resource to the local community. This amenity value has a significant impact on the quality of life for local residents.

9.4 Ecological value

The park is within an urban area but has linkages with the other significant woodlands that surround Buxton, as well as the open moorland, countryside and the Peak District National Park. The Wye River comes from the moors through the park before being culverted under the crescent. The park provides valuable green space in the centre of town that can be by used by wildlife such as birds, small mammals and invertebrates. Pavilion Gardens is closely linked to the Serpentine Walks being part of the same grade II* listing, and which although was also formally laid out, does have some areas which lend themselves more readily to naturalisation for the benefit of biodiversity. The links between Pavilion Gardens and these other areas are strengthened by the corridors of mature street trees and the predominantly large garden areas close to the park. This management plan seeks to protect and enhance the habitats within the park, and the range of flora and fauna they support.



Spring Flowers

Serpentine Walks

10 Site Details

10.1 Site Address and transport

Serpentine Walks is situated in the centre of Buxton and is a formal urban park surrounded by large Victorian houses, Guest houses and hotels. The park, which is approx. 2ha, provides a valuable green space in an urban setting and in particular its physical links to the adjacent Pavilion Gardens.

The postal address reflects the original main entrance being:

Burlington Road
Buxton
SK17 9AR

It should be noted however that postal correspondence relating to the park should be directed to:

Service Commissioning
Buxton Town Hall
Market Place
Buxton
SK17 6EL

A plan of the site is shown below.

Car parking is available within the Pavilion Garden Complex from the main entrance off Burlington Road, which is signposted from St. John's Road and is pay and display. The park is served by bus stops on St. John's Road and Buxton Train Station is five-minute's walk from the park. There is on street parking in the surrounding area.



Burlington Road Entrance



10.2 Ownership and Designations

The site is situated in the Buxton Central Conservation Area and is exclusively owned by High Peak Borough Council. The park is also listed as Grade II* on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens maintained by English Heritage, and both Serpentine Walks and Pavilion Gardens are included as one area under this listing.

There is one vehicular right of way along the south of the site which allows access to the privately owned Serpentine House and the Serpentine Community Garden. There are no designated tree preservation orders on account of the fact that the local authority, which has clear policies to protect the environment, manages the park and as such further protection is not required.

10.3 Area Information

The park itself sits within Corbar ward and also within the Buxton Central Conservation Area. The town of Buxton lies within the High Peak area of Derbyshire, with a resident population of approximately 23,000. There have been several recent residential developments and as such it is likely that growth will continue strongly.

11 Physical Assets

This area of Buxton is a focus for visitors from far and wide who come to see its historic attractions, and particularly the adjacent Pavilion Gardens. Serpentine Walks is not used as much by visitors due to its limited physical attractions and in some part due to the lack of knowledge of its existence. However, it is very well used and appreciated by the local community. It was laid out for informal recreation and its key features include:-

- **An historic parkland landscape**
The park was formally laid out for visitors to enjoy walks around the site taking in the views and vistas, and at that time (see historical information in section 4) was very much seen as an extension of the Pavilion Gardens. Serpentine Walks was not included as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund restoration project with Pavilion Gardens, and as such the nature of the site has become more informal in parts.
- **The River Wye with cascades and an island**
All form part of the original historical features within the park and the creation of the island was key to developing an interesting infrastructure.
- **Several walks**
The park, by the very nature of its name 'Serpentine Walks' traditionally provided opportunities for walks around the historical setting. It also now caters for a green route through to the town centre from this side of Buxton incorporating the Pavilion Gardens.
- **Wildflower area and naturalised parts**
Due to the way in which the park has been managed over the years, this has led to the site becoming more informal in parts. In 2005 a wildflower meadow was created alongside the river edge at the entrance to the park of Burlington Road. Whilst this area provided much colour and visual impact during the first two years, due to a lack of deliberate intervention on a regular basis, it has changed in nature. Its future management requires further discussion. There are other areas which over time have developed a more natural appearance and there is scope to look at developing these areas to enhance and increase nature conservation and biodiversity.



Wildflower area – created c 2005

12 Historical/Heritage Information

The following section details a brief history of the site and an understanding and acknowledgement of its heritage value. It is intended to give the reader a brief contextual flavour as the Serpentine Walks are not well documented.

The New Buxton Guide by D. Orme, first published in 1821, contains a section on the Cold Bath. This was situated adjacent to Bath House on the present junction of Macclesfield Road and Burlington Road and the guide gives directions to the Cold Bath, 'The foot-road leads through the Grove or Serpentine Walk, and over two meadows', and the Guide contains a sketch of the Serpentine Walks which is shown below. This sketch is not very clear but demonstrates that the Serpentine Walks were landscaped as early as 1821.



The 'Gem of the Peak' by W. Adam, published in 1838 contains a section on the Serpentine Walks, 'Along the course of the Wye, towards its source, northward (here reduced to a small but beautiful rivulet) these walks have been most judiciously formed, and afford an agreeable ramble to the Buxton Visitor. The stream is made highly interesting by being deepened in places to give a greater expanse of water and banked up in others to form miniature cascades. At suitable and convenient distances seats, alcoves, or rustic summer-houses, are made for the comfort of the invalid. The whole is admirably laid out and enriched with shrubs and luxuriant plantations'. Further work seems to have been carried out as the description continues in the 3rd edition of the book (published in 1843).

In 1854 Dr William Henry Robertson produced his 'Guide to Buxton and the Peak of Derbyshire' and describes various areas within Buxton at that time. This Guide included the Serpentine and after describing the Slopes Dr Robertson continues, 'Almost contiguous to these walks, at the west end of the Crescent, opposite to the Hall and the Square, are still more extensive walks and pleasure grounds, maintained and kept in order for the free use of the public. These walks, which have been much extended and improved of late, are carried through a long belt of plantation, on both sides of the river Wye; the stream being crossed and re-crossed by rustic bridges, diversified by waterfalls, and in other ways subjected to the requirements of ornamental grounds. Thoroughly drained throughout the whole extent of these plantations, the walks having been rendered remarkably dry by these means, and by having been carefully made; and most having been made of an originally great capability; these walks are sheltered and pleasant and are much resorted to. These plantation walks, which are sometimes called the Serpentine Walks, and sometimes the Winding-walks, furnish a circuit of dry, well-gravelled, and well-kept footpaths, of considerably more than a mile in extent'.

Bates views of Derbyshire', published by the proprietor of the Buxton Advertiser, contains a number of etchings of the Serpentine Walks several one of which is shown below - the dates of these etchings are not known.



In 1871 a joint stock company was formed known as 'Buxton Improvements Company' which began buying and leasing land in Buxton from The Duke of Devonshire, and after various transference of parts of the Serpentine over the following years, the site was eventually taken on by the Company, and by 1876 whilst the Pavilion Gardens was enclosed by a fence and there was a charge for admission, the Serpentine Walks remained open to the General Public. The conveyance of the land in 1920 from the Duke of Devonshire states that, 'the Corporation shall and will within two years.....lay-out and plant and for ever maintain in a suitable and proper condition the lands and premises as public walks and pleasure grounds.....for public walks and pleasure grounds only and for no other purposes whatsoever.'

Whilst Joseph Paxton was heavily involved in the layout of the Pavilion Gardens, the definitive book on his work, 'The Works of Sir Joseph Paxton 1803 -1865' by George F Chadwick published in 1961, has no mention of the Serpentine Walks being designed by him despite implications in a number of published works including Buxton Conservation Areas Character Appraisal in April 2007. This Appraisal discusses the Rustic Bridges in some detail but does not give any references to prove they were designed by Paxton. Paxton came to work at Chatsworth in 1826 and Orme's Guide of 1821 shows landscaping had already been carried out on the banks of the Wye, and Paxton may well have carried out these improvements.



View of the Serpentine c 1942

13 Value Assessments

13.1 Heritage Value

Serpentine Walks is a nationally important public park, listed as Grade II* on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, along with the Pavilion Gardens. The management plan seeks to ensure that the park not only retains its historical integrity, but provides wherever possible the demonstrated needs of the local community. Of particular note within the park:-

- Rustic bridges
- Cascades
- The original layout, landscape features, watercourses, walks and vistas.

13.2 Educational Value

The educational value of the park is high with its historical interest. Also, in recent times the site has provided opportunities for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Nestle Waters to run an annual 'A Day of Action' involving the community and three local primary schools, around habitat enhancement and wildflower planting. Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire have also organised several community tree planting events.

13.3 Recreational Value

The purpose of the park is very much about informal recreation around the original laid out walks, taking in the views admiring the cascades, water courses and rustic bridges. The site does not include any fixed facilities but very much provides a green route for the local community from that part of Buxton accessing the town centre and linking into the Pavilion Gardens. The park is also included as a safer route for cycling and walking which is a new initiative being led by Buxton Town Team.

13.4 Amenity Value

The park is situated in a highly accessible location, being close to the historic Buxton town centre and the Pavilion Gardens. It is an extremely important amenity resource to the local community and has a significant impact on the quality of life for local residents.

13.5 Ecological value

The park is within an urban area but has linkages with the other significant woodlands that surround Buxton, as well as the open moorland, countryside and the Peak District National Park. The Wye River comes from the moors, through the Serpentine and into the Pavilion Gardens before being culverted under the crescent. The park forms part of a valuable green corridor through the town that can be used by wildlife such as birds, small mammals and invertebrates. Due to changes in the management of this site over the more recent years, areas of the park have become more naturalised and a wildflower area was created along the northern edge of the river. Whilst this area provided a colourful variety of species, lack of formal management has led to a significant change in its floral structure and content. There has been a lot of community interest in this particular area, and other more naturalised areas within Serpentine Walks, and with the commitment to tackle climate change, this plan seeks to protect and enhance areas for nature conservation and biodiversity where it is both appropriate and suitable. The links between Serpentine Walks, Pavilion Gardens and other open spaces are strengthened by the corridors of mature street trees and the predominantly large garden areas close to the park. This management plan seeks to protect and enhance the habitats within the park, and the range of flora and fauna they support.

14 Management Responsibilities

High Peak borough Council is responsible for the overall management of the Pavilion Gardens and Serpentine Walks. We work with partners, community and interest groups to develop and deliver projects that improve the green space.

Alliance Environmental Services (AES) is contracted by the Council to undertake the day-to-day maintenance of the park and they also have the budgetary responsibility. A schedule for the associated standards of maintenance is defined by the contract with AES, and each park has a specific maintenance schedule found in Appendix 1.

Community and interest groups including 'Friends of the Parks' are a vital and valued support network and play an important role in assisting with maintenance and development projects. These groups also can provide additional capacity, undertake selected maintenance tasks and can attract additional funding to improve the parks.

15 Health and Safety

Health and safety is of primary concern for the Council. AES are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and management of the site and this includes keeping the park safe for the public to use. Daily visual inspections, six monthly in-depth surveys and regular tree inspections are all part of the suite of checks and procedures, which are in place. These will ensure that all issues, repairs and replacements are identified quickly and scheduled into the work programmes as necessary.

The risk assessment for Pavilion Gardens and The Serpentine, which is joint, is attached in Appendix 2, and is reviewed and updated annually by the Operations Service Lead (AES). All AES staff are given specific training to ensure they are always operating in a safe manner. Any work on our parks and open spaces, which are carried out by external contractors, partners, community groups/volunteers are governed by the Council's health and safety policies, which they must abide and follow.

16 Involving Communities

It is well recognised that for any park to be successfully managed it must respond to the needs of the local community and park users. Actively engaging and encouraging community participation and involvement is essential in the continued development of the park.

The Friends of Pavilion Gardens are a very long-standing dedicated group who formed in late 2004 and who aim to:

- Provide a community focus for the park
- Take practical action to improve the park
- Raise the profile of the park
- Continue to raise funds to improve the park

The group, who has seen new members join and others leave to progress other projects, has a core committee who work proactively to promote the Pavilion Gardens as a key historical green space in the heart of Buxton, tackle issues and desires highlighted by park users and visitors, as well as undertake a variety of community projects. Over the years, the Friends have secured significant external funding to deliver a variety of community projects, as well as organising many events and activities and undertaking practical works in the park. The Friends have a Facebook page to promote their work and are always looking at ways to engage with other groups to enhance and improve the park.



The Friends of Pavilion Gardens ready to take on the Sport Relief Mile in the park

There is no specific Friends of Serpentine Walks group, but the Friends of Pavilion Gardens very much see their role as encompassing this site, particularly with both parks being listed on the Register as one site.

Buxton benefits from a wealth of community organisations, many of whom see the park as integral to projects which enhance the town. Serpentine Walks has also benefitted from support from biodiversity interest groups who are keen to enhance some of the more natural areas of the site for nature conservation with a view to tackling climate change. We are keen to work with and support community involvement and initiatives which protect, enhance and promote the town's green spaces.



The Friends of Pavilion Gardens tackling the railings in Serpentine Walks

The use of parks for events is something we are keen to encourage and the Pavilion Gardens benefits greatly from the adjacent Pavilion Complex and Octagon which has a vast events programme, and which compliments the use of the park by locals and visitors. The park itself has also hosted numerous events over the years and has played a central role in the Town's summer Festival.

17 Marketing and Communications

High Peak Borough Council is responsible for managing Pavilion Gardens and has a variety of communication mechanisms that can be utilised to give feedback on the performance and continued relevance of this Management Plan. As the Council is committed to reducing the need for paperwork there is an increased reliance on the use of the relevant sections of the High Peak Borough Council Website.

The Council has both a Facebook page and Twitter account

- Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/highpeakbc>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/HighPeakBC>

For anything specific to the Pavilion Gardens and The Serpentine, the link below gives a number of options for how you might get in touch

- <https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/article/1669/Pavilion-Gardens-Buxton>

The Council can also be contacted by writing to **Service Commissioning, Buxton Town Hall, Market Place, BUXTON. SK17 6EL.**

18 Action Plan

The Parks Strategy provides the guiding principles and headline priorities for the management and development of our parks and following on from this, we can develop specific site action plans. These plans identify our priorities, linked to the Strategy, and ensure they are appropriate, relevant, resourced and provide a flexible and realistic approach to realising the aims of the Management Plan.

Parks Strategy Objectives

- Objective 1** We will review maintenance regimes to ensure our parks and green spaces are maintained to a high standard, in an affordable and sustainable way and consider improvements to increase and enhance biodiversity and positively affect climate change. (addresses priorities 1, 2 and 4)
- Objective 2** We will ensure that infrastructure and heritage features are protected and well maintained, in accordance within the resources available to the Council. (addresses priority 1, 2, 3 and 4)
- Objective 3** Encourage and enable positive physical and mental wellbeing by developing strong partnerships with community groups, sports clubs and other stakeholder groups to ensure parks fulfil their potential for enabling healthy lifestyles for all ages. (addresses priority 3 and 4)
- Objective 4** Ensure that parks are safe, welcoming and accessible places for the whole community and that the highest possible standards of health and safety are maintained by our service providers, event organisers and when engaging the community in projects. (addresses priority 3 and 4)
- Objective 5** Actively encourage community engagement and involvement in the protection, maintenance and development of our parks. (addresses priority 3 and 4)
- Objective 6** Effectively manage internal budgets and attract external funding wherever possible towards the ongoing maintenance and the future development of our parks. (addresses priority 1,2,3 and 4)
- Objective 7** We will review park management plans and their associated actions plans annually to ensure these objectives are being delivered against effectively. (addresses priority 1,2,3 and 4)
- Objective 8** We will create a Parks Development Fund to be used to make improvements to our parks and green spaces. (addresses priority 1,2,3 and 4)

Pavilion Gardens Action Plan 2020-2030

Objective 1 To protect and enhance biodiversity, address the effects of climate change and ensure the park is sustained for the future

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Explore opportunities for creating naturalised areas across the site, where appropriate.	Autumn 2021	unknown	HPBC	Existing and external funds	AES/DWT/Friends group/BB&BFC	Press release Social media Friends FB page	
Review current maintenance regimes to identify best practice that reflects emerging principles which address climate change	Spring 2022	unknown	HPBC	Existing/ External funds	AES/DWT/Friends group/BB&BFC	Signage on site/PR	

Objective 2 To protect and preserve our heritage features

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Ensure that the overall heritage significance of the park is protected and conserved for the future	Ongoing	Tbc	HPBC	Existing/External Funds	AES/Friends group/External Funders	Press release Social media Friends FB page	
Undertake repairs to the weir (near to the Octagon)	2021-22	Tbc	HPBC	Existing	AES/Friends group	Press release Social media Friends FB page	
Repaint Milner Bridge and other footbridges within the park.	2022-23	Tbc	HPBC	Existing	AES/Friends group	Press release Social media Friends FB page	
Clean and re-paint the perimeter fencing (phased)	2021-25	Tbc	HPBC	Existing/Volunteer	AES/Friends group/Buxton Town Team	Press release Social media Friends FB page	

Objective 3 To identify opportunities for encouraging physical activity

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to promote and maximise the opportunities for physical activity within the park	2021 - 2025	Unknown	HPBC	Unknown	Friends group/Public Health/Active Derbyshire/Lex Leisure	Press release Social media Friends FB page	

Objective 4 To ensure our parks are safe, welcoming and accessible for the communities they serve

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to explore ways to improve water quality of upper lake.	2021/22	Tbc	HPBC	External funds	AES/Friends group/Parkwood Leisure	Press release Social media Friends FB page	

Objective 5 Actively encourage community engagement and involvement

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to support the Friends of the Park	Ongoing		HPBC	Unknown	AES/External organisations/other stakeholders		
Continue to engage with other key stakeholders	Ongoing		HPBC	Unknown	Other stakeholders		

Objective 6 To ensure effective financial management of resources

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to work with the Friends to develop old bandstand mosaic project	2021/22	Tbc	Friends group/HPBC	External funding to be secured	High Peak Community Arts/local artists/ Lottery	Press release/Social media/Friends FB page	
Continue to seek external funding where appropriate	Ongoing	Tbc	HPBC/Friends group	External funding to be secured	External organisations	Press release/Social media/Friends FB page	

Objective 7 Review and Monitoring

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Annual condition review of park infrastructure including seating, bins, paths	Annual	Unknown	AES/HPBC	AES/HPBC/Friends	Friends group	n/a	
Annual review of action plan for the park	Annual	n/a	HPBC	Existing	AES/Friends group/wider community	n/a	

Serpentine Walks Action Plan 2020-2030

Objective 1 To protect and enhance biodiversity, address the effects of climate change and ensure the park is sustained for the future

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Explore opportunities for creating naturalised areas across the site, where appropriate.	Autumn 2021	unknown	HPBC	Existing and external funds	AES/DWT/Friends group/BB&BFC	Press release Social media Friends FB page	
Review current maintenance regimes to identify best practice that reflects emerging principles which address climate change	Spring 2022	unknown	HPBC	Existing/ External funds	AES/DWT/Friends group/BB&BFC	Signage on site/PR	

Objective 2 To protect and preserve our heritage features

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Clear some of the overgrown formal beds at the entrance to the park, and re-plant appropriately	2021/22	n/a	HPBC/AES	Existing	Friends group/ BB&BFC/Buxton TT	Press release Social media Friends FB page	

Objective 3 To identify opportunities for encouraging physical activity

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to promote and maximise the opportunities for physical activity within the park	2021	Unknown	Council/AES/Friends	Existing/external funds	Council/ Friends/ Active Derbyshire/ Town Team/Public Health	Press release Social media Friends FB page	

Objective 4 To ensure our parks are safe and accessible for the communities they serve

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Look to re-surface small section of muddy footpath at western end of the site	2021	Tbc	AES/Council/Friends	Existing	AES/Council/Friends	Press release Social media Friends FB page	

Objective 5 Actively encourage community engagement and involvement

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to support the Friends of the Park	Ongoing		HPBC	Unknown	AES/ Buxton Biodiversity & Buxton Field Club/External organisations/other stakeholders		
Continue to engage with other key stakeholders in the park.	Ongoing		HPBC	Unknown	Buxton Biodiversity & Buxton Field Club/ other stakeholders		

Objective 6 To ensure effective financial management of resources

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Seek external funding	Ongoing		HPBC		External organisations		

Objective 7 Review and Monitoring

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Annual condition review of park infrastructure including seating, bins, paths	Annual	Unknown	AES/HPBC	AES/HPBC/Friends	Friends group	n/a	
Annual review of action plan for the park	Annual	n/a	HPBC	Existing	AES/Friends group/wider community	Annual review of action plan for the park	Annual

Appendix 1 – Routine Maintenance Schedule for Pavilion Gardens (Serpentine Walks below)

An asterisk Indicates As Required

Feature	Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
General Amenity Grassland	Mowing (to include specification for formal parkland ie weekly if this is achievable)			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			16
Fine Lawn	Mowing - weekly				1	1	1	1	1	1	1			7
	Fertiliser Application				1		1							2
Shrub Beds - Formal	Weed/delitter (routine pruning)			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			15
	Winter Cultivation			1							1			2
Herbaceous	Spring maintenance			1										
	Summer maintenance				2	2	2	2	2	2	2			14
	Winter maintenance											1		1
Rose beds	Weed/delitter			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			15
	Winter/Spring prune			1								1		2
	Pest and disease control ((natural methods only)				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
	Mulch											1		1
	Fertiliser Application			1										1
Seasonal bedding	Preparation spring bedding										1			1
	Maintenance spring bedding	1	2	2	2	2						1		10
	Preparation summer bedding						1							1
	Maintenance summer bedding						1	4	4	4	1			14
Autumn Leaves	Clearance												1	1
	Mulch											3	3	6
Paths / hard Surfaces	Blowing/Sweeping (category A)	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	30
	Blowing/Sweeping (category B)				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
Water Courses	Inspect and keep clear of detritus	Daily (working week)												
Hedges	Hedge cutting							1				1		2
Whole Site	Litter Collection - Daily				1	1	1	1	1	1				6

	Litter Collection - Weekly	1	1	1							1	1	1	6
	Graffiti remove as and when it is identified within 24 to 48 hours													
	Dog fouling - remove and dispose when identified													
	Vandalism - make safe and either repair or report for remedial action within 24 hours													
Playground Equipment (inc. MUGA wall)	Inspections - visual	Daily (working week)												
	Inspections - playground inspector	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Litter Bins	Empty - Daily				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
	Empty - Weekly	1	1	1							1	1	1	6
	Wash Down				1					1				2
Benches	Wash Down				1					1				2
	Repaint Iron Work/Re-treat Timber with Solignum													*
Signage	Wash Down				1					1				2

	Vandalism - make safe and either repair or report for remedial action within 24 hours													
Litter Bins	Empty - Daily				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
	Empty - Weekly	1	1	1							1	1	1	6
	Wash Down				1					1				2
Benches	Wash Down				1					1				2
	Repaint Iron Work/Re-treat Timber with Solignum													*
Signage	Wash Down				1					1				2