



## **Wirral Council**

Regeneration and Environment Directorate

### **Parks and Countryside Team**

## **Grange Hill**

### **Management Plan**

June 2014



<b>Management Plan authorised by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Mary Worrall / Anthony Bestwick	2/06/14

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# Introduction

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Management Plan for Grange Hill.

The lead officer for this Plan and for the management of the site is Paul Greenslade, Senior Ranger, who is supported by Dave Grealis, local area Team Leader for this site. The Plan has been written to enable the Hill to be managed as a whole, taking into account all the potentially conflicting issues in order to ensure that the future management provides appropriate and sensitive management of the ecology, heritage and informal recreational importance of Grange Hill.

A tree survey (appendix 9) and phase one ecological survey (appendix 10) have been carried out as part of the development of this plan and input from the University of Liverpool regarding common lizards on site has also been taken into account. Work to be carried out by volunteers, contractors or staff, is set out in the action plan (Appendix 4). Given the sensitive nature of work at Grange Hill, detailed guidance for volunteers will be provided by the Senior Ranger.

The Management Plan gives recognition to the importance of Grange Hill for wildlife, including common lizards (see appendix 11). It also recognises the importance of appropriate care and maintenance for the Hoylake and West Kirby War Memorial (Grade II\*) (Appendix 13) and the remembrance garden located at the top of the Hill.

The open nature of the hill is greatly appreciated by many people, especially for the views that can be seen from the hill top and open views continue to be part of the character of the Hill. However, the Hill is subject to ecological succession and over time it will become more wooded, with a need for some tree maintenance work (see appendix 8). The plan acknowledges that some plant species, such as *Rhododendron ponticum*, need to be actively managed at Grange Hill, and in some cases removed, to prevent ecological dominance and associated negative impacts.

Open areas will be maintained both as part of the work required to keep footpaths from being overgrown by gorse and to create and maintain fire breaks. This will provide benefits for the common lizards on site which research work highlights require sufficient open areas close to dwarf vegetation, offering dappled light and shade and suitable habitat for invertebrates, which are a food source for the lizards.

Once again, thank you for contributions to this management plan. We look forward to working with all interested parties to help ensure the wildlife conservation, heritage and local informal recreational importance of Grange Hill can be cared for appropriately.

Mary Worrall

Senior Manager  
Parks & Countryside Team

Wirral Council has produced this document following consultation with partners including local residents, 'friends of' groups and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive framework for the future care, maintenance and management of Grange Hill.

We encourage suggestions from park users and the wider community to this plan.

If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions please contact the Parks and Countryside Service at Wirral Council on 0151 606 2004 or email [streetscene@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@wirral.gov.uk) or write to:

**Wirral Council  
Regeneration and Environment Directorate  
Parks & Countryside Service  
Cheshire Lines Building  
Canning Street  
Birkenhead  
Wirral  
CH41 1ND**

Minicom – 0151 606 2575 – for people with hearing difficulties

## The wider policy context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service is based within the Regeneration and Environment Directorate of Wirral Council.

A new 10 year Green and Open Space Strategy is in preparation. The draft strategy was released for consultation in Spring 2014. The strategy is currently being finalised and is scheduled for adoption in October 2014.

### Wirral's Corporate Plan

#### Corporate Plan 2013-2016

The refreshed Corporate Plan will ensure a robust approach to the Council's business planning; ensuring that our vision, priorities and spending decisions are based on sound evidence, through analysis and understanding of community needs.

**The Corporate Plan for 2014-2016 was agreed at Council on 2 December 2013.**

Vision:

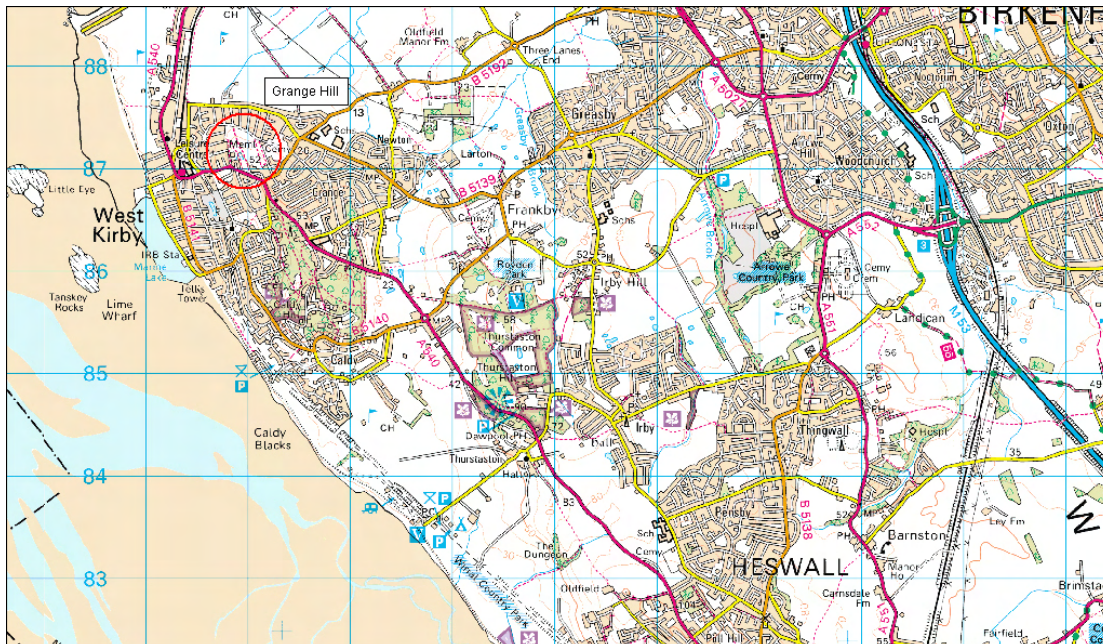
**"Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, where employers want to invest and local businesses thrive, and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives here"**

We pledge to support this vision and serve our residents, by further improving our organisation and becoming the outstanding Council that the people of Wirral deserve.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/council-and-democracy/council-performance/corporate-plan>

# Site Information

## Location Plan:



**Name:** Grange Hill

**Address:** Lang Lane, West Kirby, Wirral

**Grid Reference:** 321901 387143

**Primary classification:** Natural and Semi Natural Green Space

**Ward:** West Kirby & Thurstaston

**Size:** 9.43 Hectares

## Existing Facilities and Features:

- Areas of European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), criss-crossed by footpaths
- Mature deciduous trees and developing woodland
- Small area of informal grassland with seating
- War Memorial and garden.

## Tenure:

The site is owned and managed by the Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

## Brief description:

Grange Hill is an informal semi-natural open space, crossed by a number of footpaths. The Hoylake and West Kirby War Memorial (Grade II\*) is located at the top of the hill.

Mainly areas of gorse scrub, with patches of grassland, invasive bracken, and bramble.

Scattered trees are present in many locations throughout the site consisting of Oak, Sycamore, Silver Birch, Rowan, Whitebeam and a few Ash.

Heather, bell heather and western gorse occur in small amounts among European Gorse, close to the quarry edges and other places less accessible to people, mainly on the northern slope.

Deciduous woodland dominated by Sycamore and Silver Birch with Rowan occurs on lower slopes and hollows.

Geological interest centres on the exposures showing the contact between the Bunter and Keuper sandstones, along with interesting sedimentary features.

A number of public rights of way traverse the site: 41, 42, 43, 44, 45.

The site as a whole is set on a north-westerly slope overlooking the Dee estuary, Liverpool Bay and the Irish Sea.

### **Summary of Main Uses:**

- Informal recreation & dog walking
- War memorial/quiet reflection
- Nature conservation.

### **Partner Organisations/stakeholders:**

- Merseyside Police
- Fire Brigade
- 'Friends of' groups
- Wirral Wildlife
- Liverpool University

### **Access:**

The site is accessed from numerous surrounding roads with associated public footpaths. The main footpath routes lead off of Lang Lane in West Kirby with additional routes from Grange Old Road, Grange Road, Leigh Road and Claremont Road. There is no dedicated car park, but parking is available on surrounding roads.

### **History:**

Grange Hill is sited on a sandstone outcrop above the town of West Kirby. It may originally have been a lowland heath. Now the site is colonised by gorse, bracken in some locations, scattered trees and deciduous woodland. Small patches of heather remain in certain locations. The site has been designated a Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Site (RIGS) and a Local Site of Biological Interest (SBI). Hoylake and West Kirby War Memorial (Grade II\* - see appendix 13), located at the top of the hill was erected in 1922, designed by Messrs Hall & Glover, architects and the internationally renowned war memorial sculptor, Charles Sargent Jagger. The adjacent memorial garden commemorates those who fell in the second world war.

# Grange Hill Analysis and Assessment

Grange Hill's management plan is structured using the headings used in the Green Flag Award scheme:

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Overall management

For each heading, a summary of current issues is provided, followed by actions.

## 1. A welcoming place

Grange Hill is a popular local open space. There are numerous public footpaths onto the site with 'finger' signs, three on Lang Lane, one from Grange Old Road and one on Grange Road itself. Access can also be gained from Gerard Road, Claremont Road, Leigh Road and Lang Lane South.

There is an agreed vehicular access across the property known as Grange Hill on Grange Old Road for maintenance, Remembrance Day services and the Emergency Services.

There are no public conveniences on the site.

Currently the site doesn't have a site name board or information board.

The site is not currently suitable for wheelchair users.



## Example entrances

The Footpaths throughout the site require regular cutting back of the vegetation, 1m each side of paths. Fingerposts indicate the designated routes across the site.



Typical footpath.

### **Actions:**

- An all ability path from Grange Old Road to the Memorial has been proposed as a project. This however must not damage any underlying sandstone (unless RIG permission is provided in advance) with all working specifications adhered to. The surface needs to be in keeping with the site and of a neutral substance.
- The footpaths throughout the site to be cut back regularly of over hanging vegetation and any large cuttings deposited in the allocated site.
- Agree and erect a site name board or information board at the main entrances and/or near the Memorial Garden.

## **2. Healthy, safe and secure**

Grange Hill is well used by dog walkers and other people and this is welcomed. Well-used Parks and Countryside sites are safer and importantly feel safer. Wirral Council's policy regarding dog fouling is to encourage responsibility in dog ownership and owners are expected to clean up after their pets. Dedicated dog waste bins are not provided; at informal countryside sites, owners are encouraged to take dog waste bags home or use the boroughs litter bins provided at various street locations.

The whole of the Wirral Borough is designated under Dog Control Orders (that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005) these provide increased levels of enforcement for five offences prescribed in a dog control order, these are - failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. Failure to comply can result in a prosecution and a maximum fine of up to £1,000. Alternatively offenders may be offered a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice. Wirral's Community Patrol Officers have been authorised

to issue notices. A media campaign 'Don't give a dog a bad name' was launched to highlight the new powers.

Wirral Council operates a 24 hour Community Patrol force, established to provide a response to any concern notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 666 5265.

Incident reports compiled by Wirral Council's Community Patrol are made available to the Parks and Countryside Service and are provided to the Area Team Leaders.

Parks and Countryside Staff record safety issues by means of an Annual Site Safety Inspection Checklist (appendix 7). The annual safety inspection will identify defects within the park that may present a risk to visitors and include footpaths, walls, fences, buildings, furniture and planted areas.

The Rangers also identify and undertake any minor repairs as part of regular site patrols.

Any major repairs or refurbishment can be included or considered as part of the council's planned preventative maintenance programme or included on the Council's capital programme.

**Actions:**

- Erect or paint dog 'clean it up' signage at entrances
- Undertake annual site safety inspection
- Refurbish and instigate seating, at agreed locations where previously placed.

### **3. Clean and well maintained**

The War Memorial and adjacent area is currently maintained by Wirral's Asset Management Team. Appendix 4 outlines the current maintenance programme for the site.

The existing footpath system receives regular maintenance to cut back vegetation, organised by the Rights of Way Officer.

The Memorial Garden adjacent to the War Memorial requires further attention to rejuvenate and/or replace the over mature memorial planting; however resources to maintain the garden are limited. The Friends of Grange Hill have begun a programme of pruning over-mature shrubs. A planting scheme to improve the shrub areas is attached (See appendix 7)

A number of benches require repair or replacement. There are currently no waste bins.

**Actions:**

- The War Memorial Garden
  - Keep paths open, overhanging vegetation needs to be cut back and the cuttings deposited in the allocated area.
  - Up grade paths using neutral substance such as grit stone or granite.
  - The existing laurels and rhododendrons to be pruned in the winter months.
  - The surrounding gorse to be continually cut so that these plants do not reach a height exceeding 2m.

- Replanting of the shrub beds to be undertaken with sensitivity to the natural environment – see planting map of Memorial Gardens in appendix 8:  
140 – *Genista hispanica*  
90 – *Senecio* ‘Sunshine’
- Manage the top viewing area to retain current views. Remove self set tree seedlings and cut any re-growth and if necessary poison stumps in the autumn/winter.

- Improve litter collection / site presentation
- Cut back vegetation from Lang Lane highway verge
- Produce an annual winter work programme to reflecting this document’s objectives.
- Replace the old lamp by the Memorial Garden with new energy efficient illumination in a style suitable for the heritage location.
- Maintain the War Memorial and adjacent amenity grass is maintained on a monthly frequency( Wirral's Asset Management Services)
- Provide a limited number of litter bins at entrances.

#### **4. Sustainability**

Grange Hill is served by public transport with bus stops on Grange Road and Greenbank Road.

Any brash will be chipped and recycled on site or taken to the district depot for recycling. Alternatively, green waste can be burnt in winter at the one allocated burning site.

Chemicals and records complying with current legislation (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) are kept at the district depot. Only enough chemical for immediate use is taken to site. Pesticide usage is confined to non-residual herbicide for the control of weed growth or regeneration of unwanted felled trees.

Any motorised equipment will be checked for emission levels and H&S compliance before use.

#### **Actions:**

- Ensure the Parks and Countryside Service waste management / recycling procedure is adhered to
- Continue to limit use of pesticides as much as is practical on site.

#### **5. Conservation and Heritage**

The Public Rights of Way at Grange Hill are managed by the Public Rights of Way Officer. The paths are cut back through a scheduled programme of work, which benefits walkers and wildlife such as common lizards

The character and visual amenity value of the site will be retained and maintained.

The site is a Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site (RIGS).

The site is also a Local Site of Biological Importance (SBI).

Grange Hill provides an excellent habitat for birds, insects and small rodents.

A tree survey has been undertaken to assess type, condition and maintenance requirements (see appendix 9).

Biodiversity audits have been carried out to establish and assess the sites current flora and fauna (see appendix 10).

Heathland species represent less than 5% of the site flora.

Rhododendron occurs on the hill in places will be controlled in the winter months. The plant is responsible for the destruction of many native habitats throughout the British Isles. The reason for this is simple. Where conditions are suitable, Rhododendron will out compete most native plants. It will grow to many times the height of a person, allowing very little light to penetrate through its thick leaf canopy. This effectively eliminates other competing native plant species which are unable to grow due to insufficient light. This in turn leads to the consequent loss of the associated native animals.

Gorse currently grows across the site. This has an effect on the phosphate levels suggesting they are high. Over time the gorse adds nitrogen to the soil, increasing the soil fertility so that it is easier for trees to grow and harder for the dwarf heathland shrubs to compete. Where fires do occur, the tree growth is unlikely to out compete gorse and this will create a matrix of gorse and wooded areas over the hill as time progress.

Where sycamores are causing issues at boundaries, these to be assessed and monitored. Any young sycamore regeneration can be removed in the winter months without any ecological damage, this will prevent too many sycamores on the site which are generally unfavourable to wildlife and support fewer invertebrates as opposed to oak, rowan, silver birch and whitebeam.

A good population of Common Lizards are present highlighted through a survey carried out by the University of Liverpool. Management of the hill needs to reflect this with sufficient open areas close to dwarf vegetation to allow dappled light and shade. Also old burnt gorse supports an invertebrate diversity supplying a food source for these animals. (see appendix 11).



Common Lizard



Common Lizard

As part of the ongoing biodiversity survey work, monitoring for bat activity and roosts will take place. Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle bats are species currently most likely to be seen on Grange Hill. To ensure good practice and protection for bats, tree work will be planned and carried out to maintain and establish a mixed age of trees and, where appropriate, identify 'key' trees that offer potential habitat or habitat development.

**Actions:**

- Carry out further biodiversity surveys (see appendix 10).
- Continue to update botanical surveys that have been carried out and are ongoing by the local Wildlife Group Wirral Wildlife and Liverpool University.
- Carry out a regular tree survey (see appendix 9) during summer months to identify type, condition, roost sites (bat and bird species) and any maintenance requirements. If any tree work is required such as crown raising or removal if dangerous this will be scheduled if possible for the winter. Any young regeneration sycamore should be considered to be removed in the winter.
- Subject to identification of a suitable bat group, the provision of bat boxes will be undertaken, identifying mature trees to erect boxes in.
- Leave most of the site excluding the war memorial gardens as it is, with gorse/bracken/heather and scattered trees thus allowing any trees to succeed into Oak/Birch woodland if unwanted fires do not occur - as suggested by notes from Wirral Wildlife (see appendix 8).
- Remove small self set sycamores with agreement from the wall base along boundary on Homestead Mews and any on Lang Lane South in the winter. Cut any re-growth and chemical treat in the autumn/Winter.
- On the wider Hill any rhododendron should be removed in the winter. Cut any re-growth and chemical treat the autumn/winter.
- The wider Hill is dominated by European Gorse. This needs to be cut back either side of any Public Right Of Way and any well defined permissive paths in the autumn/winter (out of the bird nesting season) to open up these and create fire breaks.
- The cuttings need to be removed off site or to an allocated burn site.
- The unwanted summer fires are always an integral part of this site and have to be managed as and when they occur.
- Cut gorse from paths will be carefully burnt gorse on the same day whenever possible to avoid the risk of unnecessary fires and damage to wildlife using the material for shelter or nests. Burning is allowed on site through derogation order from EA in the winter months.

**6. Community involvement**

Grange Hill has a 'Friends' group which formed in 2012, to champion improvements to the public footpath to the War Memorial at the top of Grange Hill and restoration of the War Memorial garden. The group currently also assist with litter picking and other work as approved by the Senior Ranger.

Rangers organise public bird watching days, guided walks on the hill at certain times of year.

Rangers liaise with local wildlife advisory bodies to inform maintenance and improvement decisions on the site.

The Friends of Grange Hill organise guided walks and work party days. Work will be undertaken in agreement with the site manager.

**Action:**

- Continue partnership working with 'Friends of' groups and volunteers to assist with improvements on the site and help carry out some of the management activities outlined in this management plan
- Liaise with Wirral Wildlife and Liverpool University to inform and advise on maintenance and improvements
- Rangers to provide public events such as walks and bird watching days on the Hill

## **7. Marketing**

Grange Hill is a semi-natural greenspace which is highly valued by local people for a wide variety of reasons. Remembrance events also attract a wider audience.

Wirral Council's web site features Parks and Countryside information at:  
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/leisure-and-culture/parks-beaches-and-countryside>

The Council's What's On pages provide information about events at:  
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/whats-on>

### **Actions:**

- Improve Wirral Council website to provide information on Grange Hill.
- Erect new signage and interpretation.

## **8. Management**

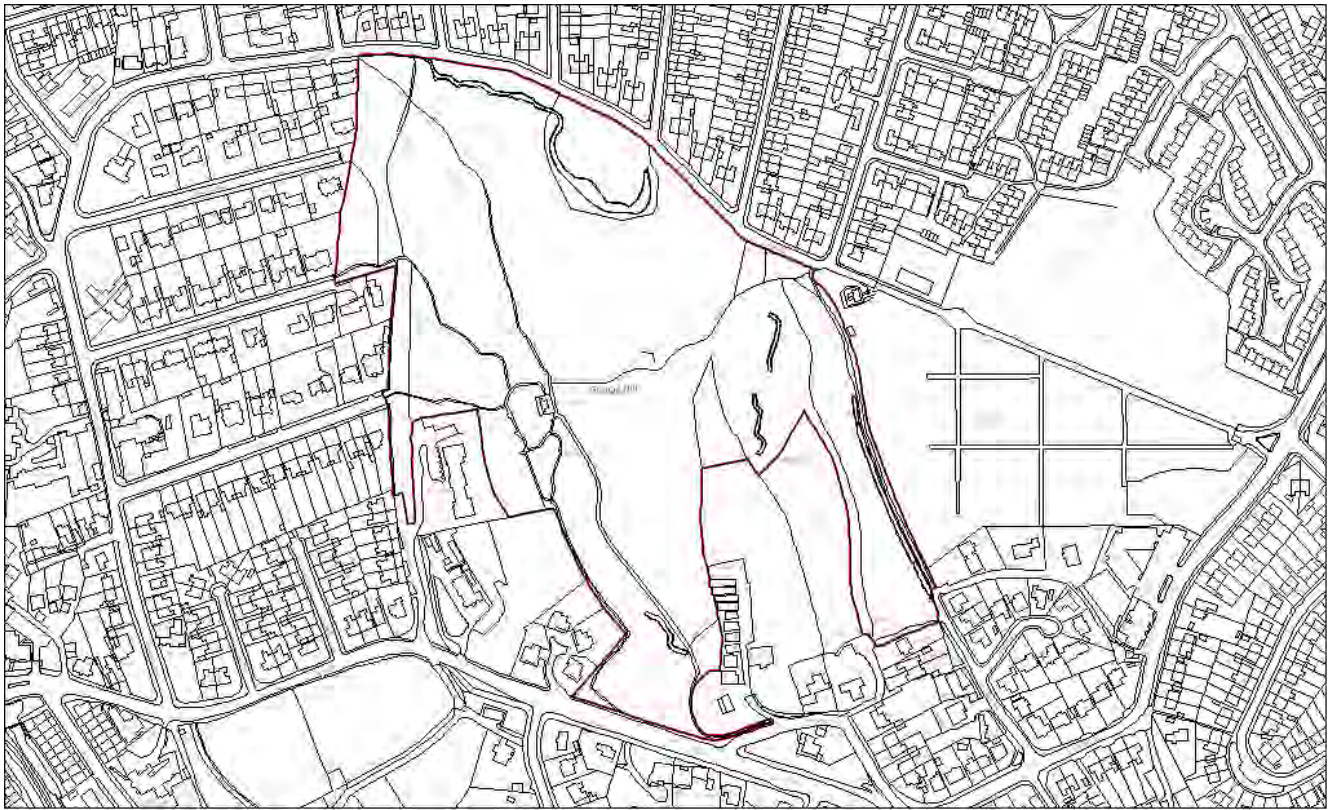
The Area Team Leader and the Assistant Area Team Leader are responsible for the management and maintenance of the site. The Area Grounds Maintenance Depot is located at Arrowe Park Depot. Enquiries regarding the management and maintenance of the site can be made to the Area Team Leader on: 0151 606 2004.

### **Actions:**

- Investigate and secure funding to facilitate improvement and development of the site
- Ensure Fire Brigade access from Grange Old Road is maintained.
- Provide Volunteers with detailed guidance and work programmes, supporting the directions set out in this management plan.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Location plan



## Appendix 2: Aerial photograph



### Appendix 3: Grounds maintenance schedule

Wirral Council's Asset Management Team (Department of Transformation and Resources) are currently responsible for the maintenance of the War Memorial and amenity grassland in which it stands. The contractor carries out monthly litter picking, grass cutting and removes any graffiti from the memorial and plinth.

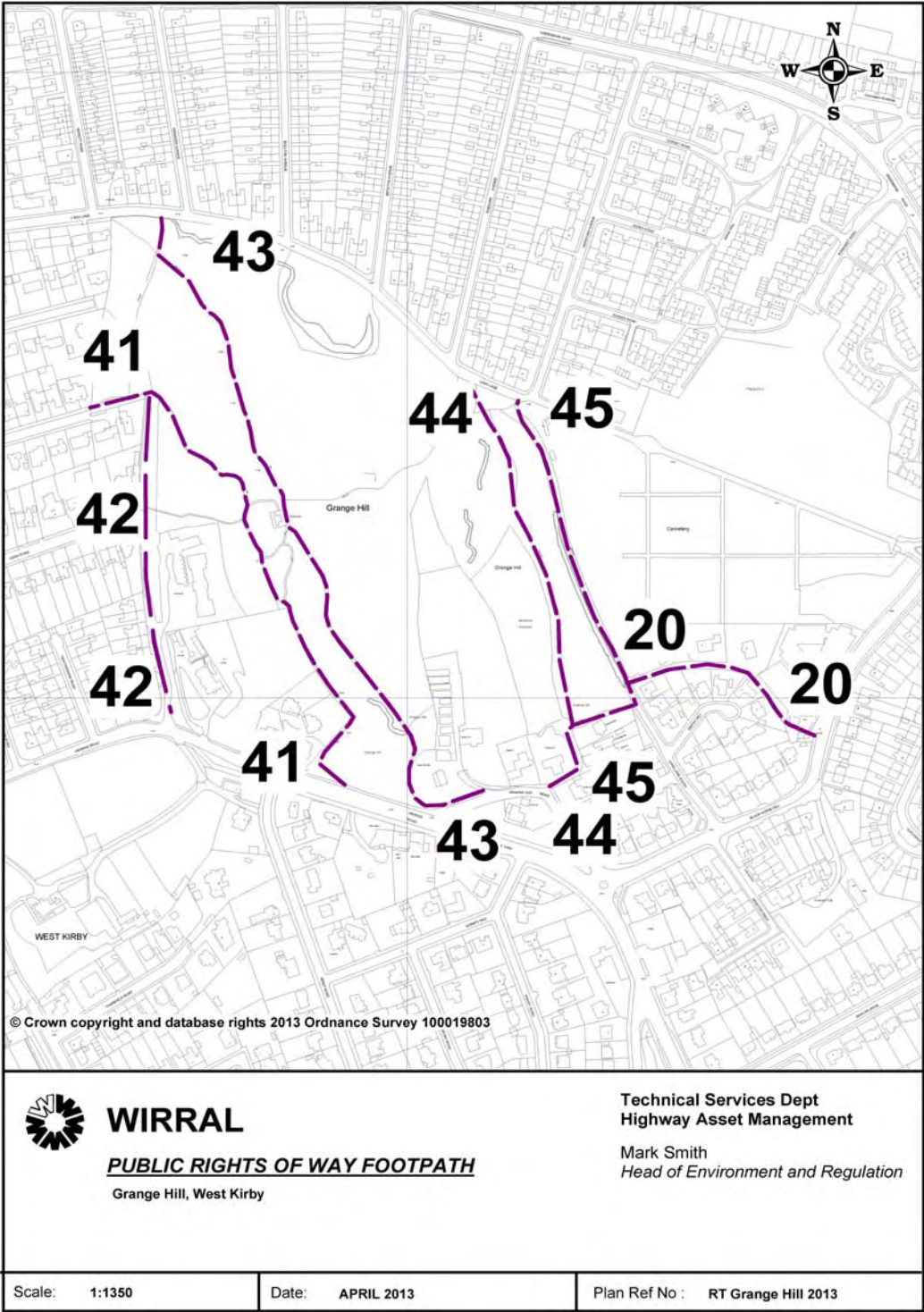
### Appendix 4: Action Plan

Actions	Lead Officer	Target date	Resource
<b>A welcoming site</b>			
Carry out facing back / clearance of footpaths	Area Team Leader / Ranger / footpaths officer	Every year from April - September	Volunteers /friends group
Phase 1 – All ability path from Grange Old Road to the end of concrete path (part of the route to the War Memorial). – Total cost estimate £3936	Phase 1 – path from Grange Old Road to end of concrete path	Summer 2014	£1000 funding has been provided to the Friends of Grange Hill for this project by the Love Wirral, West Wirral Community Fund – The guidance and approval for works will be provided by: Rights of Way Officer
Supply and erect a site name board or information board at the main entrances and/or near the Memorial Garden.	Area Team Leader / Ranger	TBC subject to funding and approvals	Funding approx £700
<b>Healthy, safe and secure</b>			
Erect / paint dog 'clean it up' signage to all entrances	Area Team Leader	End of 2014	Parks and Countryside Team
Annual site safety inspection	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Every year	Parks & Countryside Team
Refurbish and instigate seating on site where previously placed	Area Team Leader / Ranger		Funding approx £350 per seat
<b>Clean and well maintained</b>			
Refresh the planting at the Memorial Garden (See appendix 8)	Area Team Leader/Ranger	May/June 2014	From existing resources
The War Memorial Garden The paths need to be kept open at all times and any overhanging vegetation needs to be cut back and the cuttings deposited in the allocated site.	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Late June onwards	From existing resources/friends/ volunteers
Up-grade any paths using neutral substance such as grit stone or granite.		Any time	Requires Funding
The overgrown laurels and	Area Team	Winter months	Volunteers/friends groups

rhododendrons need to be pruned in the winter months.  The surrounding gorse to be regularly cut so that these plants do not reach a height exceeding 2m.	Leader / Ranger  Area Team Leader / Ranger	October – February.  Winter months October - February	From existing Volunteers/friends groups
Improve litter collection on site	Area Team Leader / Ranger	On going	Volunteers/Friends groups
Produce annual winter work programme	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Every September	Parks & Countryside Team
Face back vegetation along Lang Lane boundary	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Every year from late June onwards	Parks & Countryside Team
The top viewing area to be maintained – self set tree seedlings to be removed, remaining mature trees to be retained.	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Cut any re-growth and chemical treat in the autumn/winter.	Parks & Countryside Team
All Public Rights of Way paths are cut back under a scheduled programme of work.	Team Leader / Ranger / footpaths officer	Every year from April - September	Volunteers under guidance of Rights of Way officer
The War Memorial adjacent amenity grass is maintained on a monthly frequency by Wirral's Asset Management Services	Asset Management	Every year from April - September	Asset Management existing resources
<b>Sustainability</b>			
Ensure waste management recycling compliance	Area Team Leader		From existing resources
Limit use of pesticides	Area Team Leader		From existing resources
<b>Conservation and heritage</b>			
Carry out any required tree work	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Winter months October – February.	From existing resources
Carry out regular biodiversity audit to include bat survey.	Ranger	All year	From existing resources/volunteers
Leave Main Hill site to succeed to woodland to include bat habitat.	Area Team Leader / Ranger	All year	From existing resources
The provision of bat boxes will be undertaken identifying mature trees to erect boxes in.	Ranger	All year	From existing resources

Remove self set Sycamores	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Winter months	From existing resources/friends/ volunteers
Rhododendron removal on wider Hill.	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Winter months October - February	From existing resources/friends/ volunteers
Gorse cutting by paths and act as fire breaks	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Winter months	From existing resources
All cuttings need to be removed off site or to the one allocated burn site. Any burning needs to be on the same day.	Area Team Leader / Ranger	Winter months	From existing resources
Sufficient open areas and old burnt gorse to be retained to support Common Lizard population.	Area Team Leader / Ranger	All year	From existing resources
<b>Community involvement</b>			
Continue to provide guidance and work with the 'Friends' group	Area Team Leader / Ranger		Parks & Countryside Team
Liaise with Wirral Wildlife to inform maintenance decisions on site	Area Ranger		Parks & Countryside Team
<b>Marketing</b>			
Improve Wirral Council website			From existing resources
Erect new signage and interpretation	Area Team Leader / Ranger		Requires Funding £2K
<b>Management</b>			
Gain external funding for improvements as set out within the management plan	Friends Group		Friends groups to seek additional funding
Review improvements and update plan.	Area Team Leader	Annually in August.	From existing resources
Maintain Fire Brigade access	Area Team Leader	All Year	Additional funding required
Provide maintained litter bins at locations to be agreed	Area Team Leader		Funding required

Appendix 5: Public Rights Of Way



## Appendix 6: Annual Parks Safety Inspection Sheet



### Regeneration and Environment Directorate

Parks and Countryside Service

#### Annual Parks Safety Inspection Checklist (excluding children's play areas)

<b>Site:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Name:</b>
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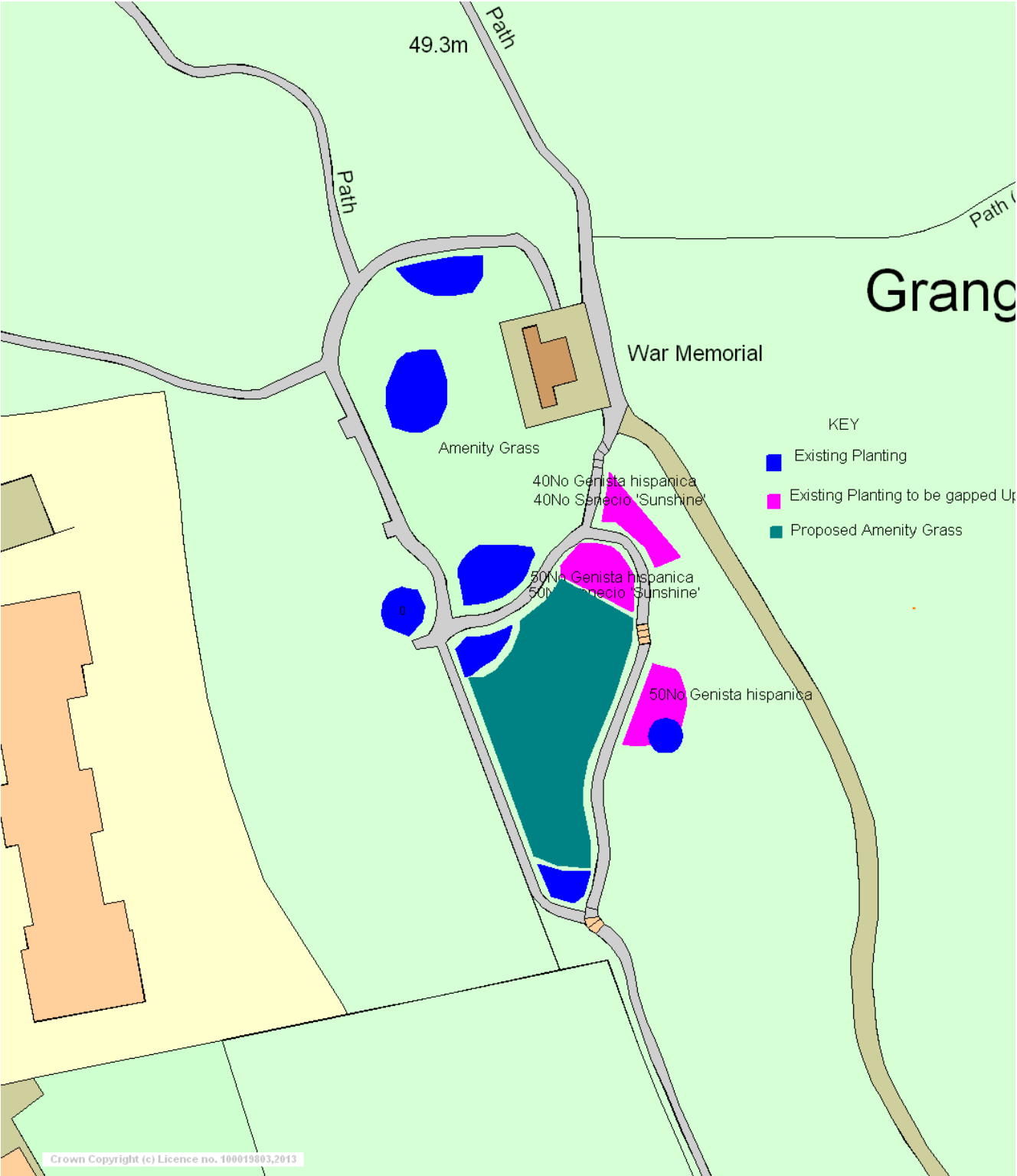
The inspection is not a condition survey but is intended to identify defects that present a safety problem for staff, users or adjacent residents. Site plans can be used to identify particular locations.

Item	Defect	Action taken
Paths, Steps, Ramps		
Walls, Fences, Gates		
Buildings		
Furniture - Signs, Seats, Litterbins etc.		
Soft Landscape - Grass, Planted areas, Water features etc.		
Trees		
Other		

Signature:

Appendix 7: Memorial Gardens Planting

Grange Hill Memorial Garden Planting Scheme



## **Appendix 8: Comments from Wirral Wildlife - January 2014**

### **Grange Hill Site of Biological Importance**

I understand there are arguments going on about how to manage Grange Hill in future. It has been designated a Site of Biological Importance since 1983, with the reasons given as:-

"Former remnant lowland heath, now mainly gorse scrub (*Ulex europaeus*) and grassland. Bracken, heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), western gorse (*U.galii*) and bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) occur in very small amounts among gorse, on quarry edge and other places which are inaccessible to people.

Broad-leaved woodland occurs on lower slopes and hollows, particularly west, south and old quarry (north). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is dominant with silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). Fires occur, sometimes frequently, during the summer.

Geological interest centres on the exposures showing the contact between the Bunter and Keuper sandstones, along with interesting sedimentary features. "

Over the last 30 years our surveys have shown that the amount of European gorse has increased, and the amount of heathers decreased, making it less like heathland. More trees have also been colonising. When the new SBI criteria are ratified, hopefully later this year, we will be reviewing whether Grange Hill should keep SBI status.

### **The ecological background**

Lowland heathland is, except on a few coastal cliffs, a semi-natural habitat that develops on acid, nutrient-poor soils where people have cut down trees and shrubs, and grazed animals such as cattle, sheep and horses, which discourage new trees from growing. European gorse was traditionally removed for animal feed and bedding, and for firing for stick ovens, as it leaves almost no ash. Heathland is a habitat that depends on continual management by removal of woody species and (preferably) grazing, otherwise natural succession soon returns it to secondary woodland.

In the absence of grazing, continual removal of trees and European gorse and control of bracken are needed. We are attempting this on our nature reserve at Cleaver Heath, Oldfield Road, Heswall, but this is rather smaller than Grange Hill. It forms part of the much larger Heswall Dales SSSI. Currently in Wirral only National Trust, on the larger part of Thurstaston Common, is making a good go of retaining lowland heathland in good condition. They have put in a lot of money, manpower and some grazing stock to achieve that (and are still not entirely happy about how it is going).

Grange Hill has a particularly large amount of European Gorse, which suggests that soil phosphate levels are high enough to encourage it (legumes need some phosphate to be able to fix nitrogen from the air). Over time, legumes such as gorse add nitrogen to the soil, increasing the soil fertility so that it is easier for trees to grow and harder for the dwarf heathland shrubs (heathers, heaths) to compete. So the soil on Grange Hill is probably now more fertile than is suitable for heathland.

### **Management Options**

The options that I think need to be considered for Grange Hill are similar to those for Thurstaston Common, Heswall Dales, Caldy Hill and Bidston Hill.

The formal area of Grange Hill round the war memorial obviously has to be retained in formal condition with space for the annual remembrance service. I have no comment on proposals for the formal area, except that obviously species that might easily invade the rest of the hill should be removed if possible and certainly not planted.

These options are not mutually exclusive, given the size of Grange Hill. However small habitat patches are less useful to animals than large ones.

1) Restore significant areas to lowland heathland. This would need:-

- removal of trees, except for a few left as perching points for birds and insects, shelter, nesting etc
- removal of European gorse
- removal of top 10cms of soil, to return the soil to the infertile condition needed for heathland and remove the gorse seedbank. Dispose of this soil off-site or into woodland areas.
- continual management to prevent tree regrowth and control European gorse re-invasion.
- cutting suitable fire-breaks annually to limit the effect of fires, as heathland is inevitably fire-prone. Maintaining these as grassy rides.

2) Create appropriate woodland by a mix of planting and natural succession. Oak and birch would be the appropriate dominant species, with some rowan. This would need:-

- European gorse removal to encourage existing appropriate trees
- removal of unwanted trees eg thin out sycamores
- possible tree planting, following removal of European gorse from selected areas.
- managing the European gorse by cutting and removal as necessary: it gets leggy under shade and becomes a fire hazard
- cutting suitable fire-breaks annually to limit the effect of fires, as gorse is inevitably fire-prone, until tree shade is sufficient to replace the gorse with other ground flora. Maintaining these as grassy rides.
- removing trees in unsuitable places eg damaging walls.
- deciding where views need to be kept from the Hill out over the North Wirral plain and sea, and managing trees accordingly. If this is not done, views get lost - as happened on Bidston Hill.
- Eventually looking to add woodland species such as native bluebell into the ground flora, once trees have created enough shade

3) Some minor modification of the existing state and leave natural succession to gradually create a woodland of mixed composition. This would require:-

- cutting suitable fire-breaks annually to limit the effect of fires, as gorse is inevitably fire-prone, until tree shade is sufficient. Maintaining these as grassy rides.
- accept a mix of trees with sycamore likely to become dominant. Gorse and heathland plants will be gradually shaded out.
- deciding where views need to be kept from the Hill out over the North Wirral plain and sea, and managing trees accordingly. If this is not done, views get lost - as happened on Bidston Hill.

Obviously there are cost differences to these - 1 is much more expensive in capital and revenue than 2; 3 costs least but may have the least good result for wildlife and amenity. Obviously no-one concerned has much money at present.

A small amount of heathland is of limited use to wildlife, as it will support the plants but not be big enough to support the specialist invertebrates and birds. This is the reason why we have accepted that there is little point in continuing to try to retain heathland at Heswall Beacons or Poll Hill, and many years ago agreed with National Trust that they give up trying to maintain heathland at Irby Hill. In a time of climate change, making it necessary for wildlife to move, large sites and corridors/stepping stones are most important. So Thurstaston Common and Heswall Dales come top of the list, with Caldy Hill next as an important link. On Grange Hill, stuck out on the end, is harder to argue for heathland re-creation.

I hope that can help contribute to the debates.

Best Wishes  
Dr Hilary J Ash  
Hon Conservation Officer  
Wirral Wildlife  
The Wirral Group of Cheshire Wildlife Trust

January 2014



Wirral Council

Regeneration and Environment Directorate

Parks and Countryside Service

Grange Hill

Tree Survey

April 2014

**Compiled by Ian Roberts, FdSc arb, HND arb, RFS cert arb.**

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## 1. Scope of Survey

### 1.1 Purpose of the report

This report has been undertaken for inclusion in the Grange Hill management plan.

To provide a formal inspection of the trees contained within Grange Hill to assess and record the variety of species and to give recommendations for any essential maintenance requirements using best arboricultural practices for tree risk management using guidance published from The National Tree Safety Group (NTSG).

### 1.2 Limits of investigation

A formal inspection of the trees was made at ground level using visual assessment of the tree canopy and stems.

## 2. Site analysis

### 2.1 Inspected by

Tree inspection and report compiled by Ian Roberts, FdSc arb, HND arb, RFS cert arb.

### 2.2 Date of inspection

Site visit with a formal inspection on 08/05/14

### 2.3 Location

Grange Hill, Lang Lane, West Kirby, Wirral, Grid reference 321901 387143

## 3. Tree Inspection

Grange Hill occupies an area of approximately 9.43 Hectares, and for the purpose of the management plan the site has been divided into seven zones: these zones or compartments have been replicated for the tree survey.

### 3.1 Zone 6 (Grange Road entrance)

The dominant species of trees within the canopy of this zone are Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Birch *Betula pendula* with an understory of Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia*, Common Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, Common ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Holly *Ilex aquifolium*.

In addition to these trees there are noted individual species of English Elm *Ulmus procera*, Yew *Taxus baccata*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Common Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Horse Chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum* and Pear *Pyrus sp.*

In summary there are 12 species of trees within this zone.

### 3.2 Recommendations for tree works zone 6 Grange Road entrance

Along the boundary of Grange Road there are low branches that are obstructing the footpath and highway (see plate 1) which require crown lifting to comply with pedestrian height clearance (approx. 2-3 metres) and for vehicle highway clearance (approx. 5-6 metres). Please see section 4 for guidance on legal responsibilities.



Plate 1 Low branches obscuring the footpath and highway, Grange Road.

### 3.3 Zone 5 War memorial grounds

There are very few trees within this zone; however individual trees include Common *Whitebeam Sorbus aria* and Evergreen Oak *Quercus ilex* with evidence of some felled sycamore from the remaining stumps.

One interesting feature of this zone is an evergreen shrub known as *Griselinia littoralis* that has grown into a sizable tree for this exposed site, which is more often grown as a shrub or hedging plant on exposed coastal sites (see plate 2). This tree is a focal point of this site and should be preserved in its present form and excluded from other shrub pruning works identified for this zone.

In summary there are 3 species of trees within this zone.



Plate 2 *Griselinia littoralis* War memorial ground

### 3.4 Zone 1 (South)

The dominant species of trees within the canopy of this zone are Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* with Birch *Betula pendula*, Common Oak *Quercus robur*, Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia*.

In addition to these trees there are noted individual species of Common Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Holm Oak *Quercus ilex*. In summary there are 8 species of trees within this zone.

### 3.5 Zone 1 (North)

The dominant species of trees within the canopy of this zone are Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* with English Elm *Ulmus procera*, Common Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Holm Oak *Quercus ilex*.

In summary there are 6 species of trees within this zone.

### 3.6 Recommendations for tree works zone 1 (North)

At the footpath entrance to Grange Hill (number 41) and Claremount Road house numbers 21 & 20, there are two dead Elm trees (see plate 3) that require felling as they may present a potential risk to the highway and to residential property. Please see section 4 for guidance on legal responsibilities.

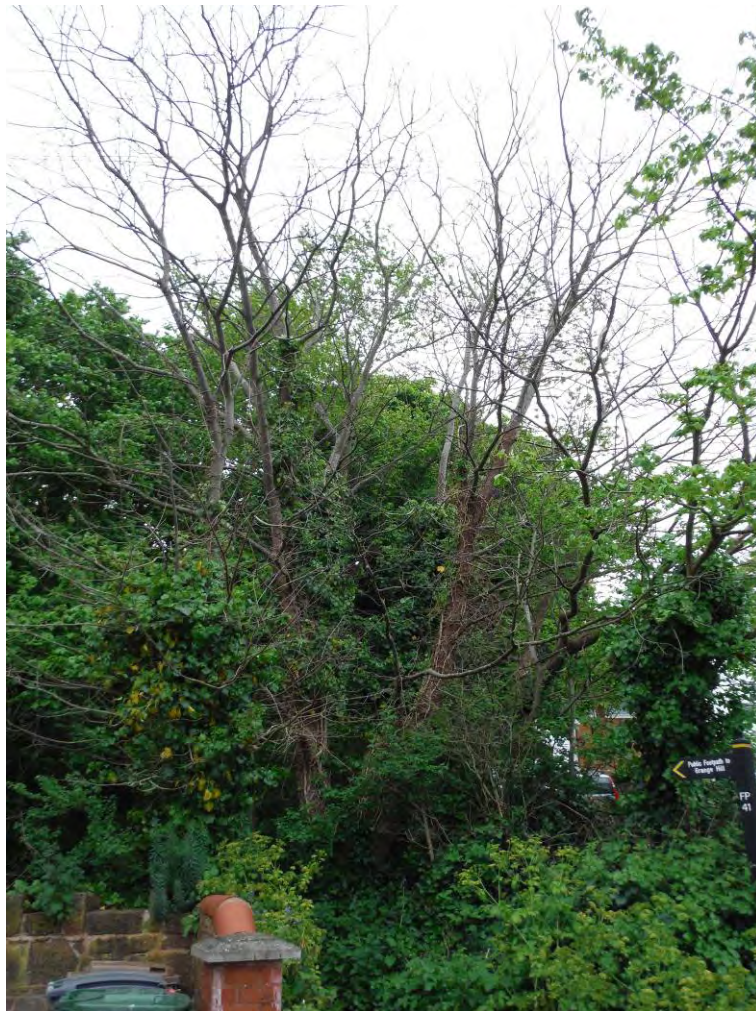


Plate 3 Dead Elms Grange Hill footpath entrance No. 41 Claremount Road

### 3.7 Zone 3 Old Quarry

The dominant species of trees within the canopy of this zone are Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* with Common Oak *Quercus robur* and Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia*. In summary there are 3 species of trees within this zone.

### 3.8 Zone 6

This large zone dominated with the presence of Gorse contains small groups of trees with individuals widely distributed to include; Common Oak *Quercus robur*, Birch *Betula pendula*, Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Common Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Common ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Elderberry *Sambucus nigra*, English Elm *Ulmus procera* with individual species of Fir *Abies sp* and Black Poplar *populus nigra sp*. In summary there are 11 species of trees within this zone.

Due to the large presence of Gorse, this area of Grange Hill suffers from infrequent fire damage as noted during the site visit on 08/05/14 (see plate 4).



Plate 4 Fire damage Zone 6

### 3.9 Zone 2

This smaller zone noted for remnants of the indigenous heather species contains individual trees of Common Oak *Quercus robur*, Birch *Betula pendula*, Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia* and Holly *Ilex aquifolium*.

In summary there are 5 species of trees within this zone.

### 4. Legal responsibilities

In the UK, the occupier of a site has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property from the presence of any tree on the site and from the damage resulting from any breakage or uprooting under both the civil and criminal law. This duty of care is clearly defined by the Occupiers Liability Act (1957 and 1984) for England and Wales. The early Act concerns the duty of care that occupiers have towards their visitors, whilst the later Act concerns their duty towards other persons. In addition, the Highways Act 1980 gives rise to a duty “to maintain the highway”.

### 5. Risk management of boundary trees

Many of the trees identified within Grange Hill are located on perimeter boundaries to include the Highway and residential properties.

The assessment of risk therefore needs to be addressed for the trees within these boundaries in relation to their location using guidance published from The National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) on tree risk management to include:

- Zoning (Areas of land defined by landowners according to levels of use)
- The probability of mechanical failure
- The severity of any impact in the event of failure
- The probability of one or more persons or property being present at the time of failure.

The boundary trees within Grange Hill have been classified as potentially medium/high risk zones that require a formal inspection based on a 3 year cycle of those trees that are located within 25 metres of the highway and to residential property.

The potential for damage and severity of any mechanical failure both to people and to property is of medium/high risk, in particular the probability of one or more persons or property being present at the time of any failure has the potential to be high.

## 6. General Recommendations for Tree Works

All tree work as specified in this report to be carried out by skilled arboricultural staff to BS 3998:2010.

## 7. References

National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) Common Sense Risk Management of Trees.

Vegetation Survey

Grange Hill

Wirral Council

Regeneration and Environment Directorate

Parks and Countryside

May 2014

Compiled by Paul Greenslade Senior Area Ranger



Plate 1 Mixed vegetation of Grange Hill

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3	Survey method
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## 1. Location and physical relief

Situated on Bunter and Keuper sandstones the hill reaches a height of 52 metres. Grid Ref SJ 219 871. Situated  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile east of West Kirby railway station. The site is surrounded by residential housing.

## 2. Description

The site comprises an area of 9.8 ha and protected under the local or regional importance to wildlife. In Wirral these sites were known as Sites of Biological Importance or SBI, now known as Local Wildlife Sites.

Consisting of mainly gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) grassland and invasive bracken. Once thought to be a former lowland heath and heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) western gorse (*Ulex gallii*) and bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) occur in very small amounts among the gorse. Broadleaved woodland occurs on the lower slopes, particularly in the west, south and by the old quarry in the north.

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is dominant with Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

Fires occur, sometime frequently, during the summer.

Geological interests centres on the exposures of sandstones, along with interesting sedimentary features.

## 3. Survey method

A walk over survey was carried out over two days in May. This included a visual assessment of the area.

A general note of the most dominant vegetation was noted along with target notes of any important or unusual species and relevant management issues.

## 4. Zone 1

This comprises of two areas on the north-west of the site and consists primarily of woodland. Zone 1 (north) is dominated by Sycamore (*Acre pseudoplatanus*) with a mixture of Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

An understory of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and younger trees of the above is present and a field layer of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) in places, Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Alexander's (*Smyrniolum olusatrum*), Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*), and Bluebell (*Endymion non-scriptus*) in patches. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) present on the edge next to the main zone 6

#### Zone 1 (south)

Here the western side comprises of woodland with Sycamore (*Acre pseudoplatanus*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*)



#### Plate 2 – Zone 4

Here Bracken is present in the field layer with Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*). European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) becomes dominant to the east of this compartment merging into the main compartment 6.

#### 5. Zone 2

This has been identified as a small area within the main matrix of zone 6 with Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) present in small patches. Also in this zone Rosebay Willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), Bracken, some Bramble and various grasses are present. Regeneration Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) occurs. Small scattered trees fringe this zone to the north consisting of Common Oak (*Quercus robur*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*).

This area was managed in the winter of 2012/13 with the removal of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and some young regeneration Silver Birch, Rowan and Oak to allow the heather stands develop.



Plate 3 showing zone 2.

#### 6. Zone 3

This comprises of the old quarry area with mature trees forming as stands on the quarry edge. These consist of Sycamore (*Acre pseudoplatanus*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and English Oak (*Quercus robur*)

The field layer from the quarry face to Lang Lane Road comprises a large patch of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with some Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and a Dog Rose (*Rose canina*).

Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Alexanders (*Smyrniolus olusatrum*) by the road edge.

#### 7. Zone 4

This is the War Memorial with no vegetation present.

#### 8. Zone 5

The War Memorial Grounds

Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) Laurel, Cotoneaster, Prickly Holly grow here within planted beds.

Also occurring is Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).

## 9. Zone 6

This zone is the main area of the site with the dominant species consisting of European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

This zone is interspersed with trees throughout, some in clumps and a woodland in the south west corner. Otherwise most are single trees growing in a matrix of European Gorse.

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is dominant within the woodland in the south-west corner and also within the clump of trees growing due south of the quarry (zone 3)

The scattered trees consist of a mixture of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Common Oak (*Quercus robur*), Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) growing in the main matrix of the European Gorse.

There are patches of other vegetation such as the path leading from the War Memorial down to Lang Lane, exiting on the east of zone 3. Here patches of Borage sp. and Labiate sp. occur with Bracken and Bramble.

A patch of Tufted Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Alexanders (*Smyrniolus atrum*) grow close to the path near to the War Memorial.



Plate 4 Tufted Vetch

An open patch is present between two paths leading from the War Memorial west and north west towards zones 1. Here Shallon (*Gaultheria shallon*) grows in a patch with Rosebay Willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), various grasses and Bramble lower down.

The open area where the old playing fields once existed to the north of the lawn private area off from Grange Old Road, now comprises of rough grasses, Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*), docks, Bracken and Rosebay Willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*).

The path on the east side of the site leading from the service road off Grange Old Road to Lang Lane, supports Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*), Alexandria (*Smyrnum olusatrum*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) and some Nettles (*Urtica dioica*). The lower path passing the cemetery supports Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and patches of Bluebells mixed with the matrix of European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

On the sides of some paths Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) is evident.



Plate 5 Path on east side of site

#### 10. Zone 7

This is a block of European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) situated west of the Memorial Gardens. Few trees grow here and has little field layer species.

Fires are an integral part of the whole site and occur unwanted in most summers. The vegetation dynamics is affected by these fires, limiting some species to develop and/or succeed.



Plate 6 Recent fire in zone 6

#### 11. other species

These are all primarily birds noted on the survey days.

- Greenfinch
- Chaffinch
- Blackbird
- Magpie
- Carrion Crow
- Blue tit
- Great tit
- Coal tit
- Robin
- Swift
- Swallow
- Willow warbler
- Chiff chaff
- Blackcap
- Whitethroat
- Linnet

Also some butterfly species were noted. These were Specked Wood, Orange Tip, Large White, Peacock.  
Common Lizards present.

## 12. Report

The European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) forms the main homogenous habitat with patches of woodland and other field layer community species in patches or areas.

If the site was left unmanaged and unaffected by outside influences then the climax ecosystem would be Oak/Silver Birch woodland. However as this site has a heavy use by people these actions have a wide reaching affect on the site such as fires, vandalism, dog faeces, and garden escapes and introductions.

These actions will limit the climax of the site, the fires retaining a main matrix of European Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) with interspersed trees.

## VEGETATION DISTRIBUTION



### KEY

- Site boundary
- Public Rights of Way
- Emergency Access (Fire)



Gorse



Woodland



Bracken



Grassland (including  
Rosebay willow herb)

## Appendix 11: Common lizard survey and location map

### Recorders – Keith Hatton and Richard Burger. Common Lizard Sightings 2013

These records indicate SIGHTINGS of Common Lizard, *Zootoca vivipara*, on Grange Hill, West Kirby in 2013. Each sighting was recorded on a hand-held Garmin GPS and photographed if possible.

Date	Time	Grid	Ref	Habitat	Age
01/08/2013	11.40	SJ 21887	87290	charcoal/grass	male
01/08/2013	12.29	SJ 21864	87305	grass	adult
01/08/2013	12.30	SJ 21858	87307	grass	juvenile
01/08/2013	12.42	SJ 21857	87305	grass	juvenile
01/08/2013	12.50	SJ 21881	87241	grass	female
01/08/2013	12.50	SJ 21876	87241	grass	juvenile
01/08/2013	12.56	SJ 21878	87240	grass	juvenile
01/08/2013	12.56	SJ 21878	87240	grass	juvenile
01/08/2013	13.26	SJ 22058	87196	grass	adult
01/08/2013	13.40	SJ 22040	87126	bracken	adult
01/08/2013	14.02	SJ 21997	86985	grass	sub-adult
01/08/2013	14.04	SJ 21991	86990	grass	juvenile
01/08/2013	14.04	SJ 21993	86998	grass	male
02/08/2013	11.00	SJ 21895	87168	garden	female
02/08/2013	11.05	SJ 21865	87245	grass	female
02/08/2013	11.34	SJ 21851	87229	bracken	sub-adult
02/08/2013	11.47	SJ 21862	87288	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	11.49	SJ 21866	87298	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	12.23	SJ 21995	87054	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	13.03	SJ 21967	87025	grass	male
02/08/2013	13.46	SJ 21815	87190	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	13.48	SJ 21841	87194	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	13.51	SJ 21838	87196	bracken	juvenile
02/08/2013	13.55	SJ 21821	87232	bracken	female
02/08/2013	13.55	SJ 21822	87228	bracken	male
02/08/2013	14.05	SJ 21821	87229	grass	male
02/08/2013	14.13	SJ 21803	87262	grass	male
02/08/2013	14.23	SJ 21801	87261	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	14.33	SJ 21794	87301	gorse	female
02/08/2013	14.35	SJ 21796	87305	gorse	female
02/08/2013	14.50	SJ 21813	87355	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	14.51	SJ 21816	87360	gorse	juvenile
02/08/2013	14.52	SJ 21814	87361	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	14.57	SJ 21815	87378	grass	juvenile
02/08/2013	14.59	SJ 21816	87376	gorse	juvenile
06/08/2013	12.08	SJ 21993	87058	grass (together)	juvenile
06/08/2013	12.08	SJ 21993	87058	grass (together)	juvenile
06/08/2013	12.13	SJ 21982	87037	grass	female
06/08/2013	15.27	SJ 21938	87092	bracken	female
06/08/2013	15.35	SJ 21938	87094	grass	adult
06/08/2013	15.38	SJ 21884	87200	grass	juvenile

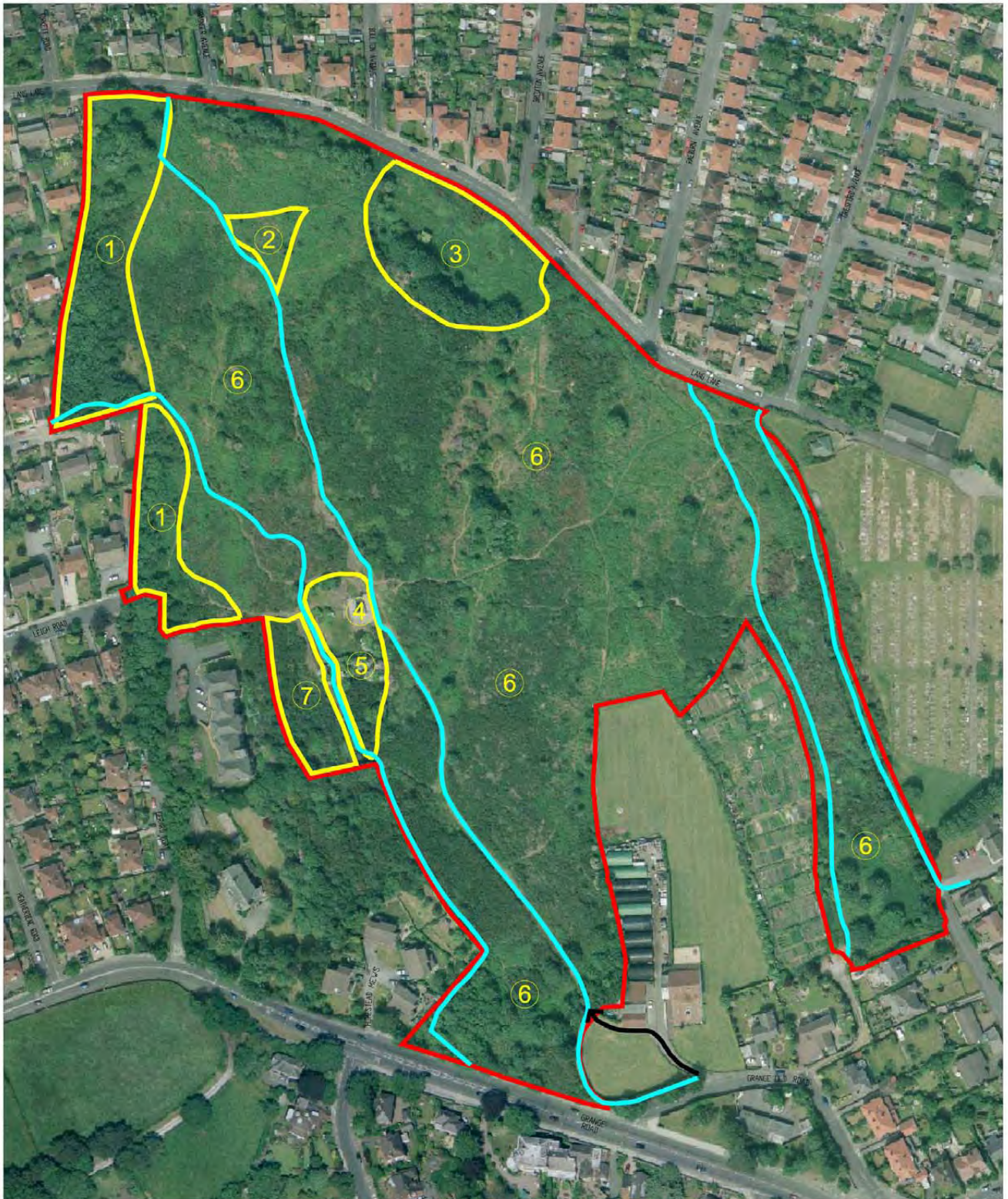
06/08/2013	15.40	SJ 21867	87272	grass	juvenile
06/08/2013	15.44	SJ 21849	87225	bracken	male
06/08/2013	16.01	SJ 21862	87281	bracken	juvenile
06/08/2013	16.06	SJ 21894	87267	rock	female
06/08/2013	16.26	SJ 21883	87212	grass	juvenile
06/08/2013	16.31	SJ 21983	87029	grass	adult
06/08/2013	16.33	SJ 21981	87033	grass	juvenile
06/08/2013	16.35	SJ 21993	87058	brash/dead wood	juvenile
06/08/2013	16.39	SJ 21996	87063	brash/dead wood	male
06/08/2013	16.44	SJ 21992	87054	brash/dead wood	female
06/08/2013	16.47	SJ 21980	87018	grass	female
07/08/2013	11.05	SJ 21877	87228	gorse	female
07/08/2013	11.39	SJ 21863	87294	grass	sub-adult
07/08/2013	11.45	SJ 21885	87200	grass	juvenile
07/08/2013	11.47	SJ 21896	87177	grass	juvenile
07/08/2013	11.48	SJ 21900	87173	grass	juvenile
07/08/2013	11.48	SJ 21903	87168	grass	adult
07/08/2013	11.55	SJ 21970	87025	grass	adult
07/08/2013	12.08	SJ 21868	87267	gorse	adult
07/08/2013	12.12	SJ 21850	87224	bracken	male
08/08/2013	11.42	SJ 21884	87324	grass	male
08/08/2013	11.42	SJ 21881	87315	grass	adult
08/08/2013	12.24	SJ 21985	87060	brash/dead wood	juvenile
08/08/2013	12.27	SJ 21989	87054	brash/dead wood	juvenile
08/08/2013	12.32			brash/dead wood	male
08/08/2013	12.37	SJ 22004	87065	bracken	adult
20/08/2013	13.07	SJ 21864	87284	grass	juvenile
20/08/2013	13.08	SJ 21867	87297	grass / bracken	juvenile
20/08/2013	13.30	SJ 21896	87166	grass	female
20/08/2013	13.36	SJ 21996	87061	grass	juvenile
21/08/2013	13.20			grass / gorse	juvenile
21/08/2013	13.39	SJ 21885	87196	grass	juvenile
21/08/2013	13.50			bracken	female
22/08/2013	12.12	SJ 21869	87263	grass	juvenile
22/08/2013	12.21	SJ 21996	87057	grass	juvenile
30/08/2013	14.10	SJ 21995	87059	brash/dead wood	juvenile
30/08/2013	14.35	SJ 22009	87181	bracken	juvenile
01/10/2013	14.00	SJ 21993	87056	brash/dead wood	sub-adult

# Grange Hill Lizards 2013



## Appendix 12: Map of zone numbers

### MANAGEMENT ZONES



#### KEY

- Site boundary
- Public Rights of Way
- Fire vehicle access

- ① Boundary trees
- ② Heather
- ③ Old Quarry
- ④ War memorial

- ⑤ War memorial grounds
- ⑥ Gorse, Birch and Oak
- ⑦ Gorse

## HOYLAKE AND WEST KIRBY WAR MEMORIAL (SUMMARY NOTE)

- Grade: II\*, Listed: March 2011

### HISTORY

Hoylake & West Kirby War Memorial was erected in 1922 to the designs of Messrs Hall & Glover, architects, and the renowned War Memorial sculptor, Charles Sargeant Jagger, who began working on the commission in 1919. The memorial was produced at the foundry of Messrs A.B. Burton and cost approximately £7,500. Jagger was recommended to the Hoylake & West Kirby War Memorial committee by the sculptor, Sir George Frampton, and it was his first monument after previously designing two massive bronze reliefs entitled 'The First Battle of Ypres (1918-1919, now in the Imperial War Museum) and 'No Man's Land' (1919-1923, presented to the Tate in 1923).

The 'Soldier on Defence' figure, which forms a key part of the Hoylake & West Kirby War Memorial was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1921, and it led to many commissions for Jagger around the world, including the Grade II\* listed Royal Artillery Memorial, which was erected at Hyde Park Corner, London in 1925. A re-casting of the 'Soldier on Defence' was also subsequently used as part of the 'Driver and Wipers' memorial at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Australia.

### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Hoylake & West Kirby War Memorial, erected in 1922 to the designs of the architects, Hall & Glover and the sculptor, Charles Sargeant Jagger, is designated at grade II\* for the following principal reasons:

- \* Artist: it was designed by the internationally renowned War Memorial sculptor, Charles Sargeant Jagger and represents his first monument commission where he established his approach to figuration used on his subsequent memorials, including the Royal Artillery Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, London;
- \* Design quality: it is a powerful monument with a superior level of design and craftsmanship incorporating a colossal shouldered obelisk with a pairing of realist and symbolic larger than life-size bronze figures, 'Humanity' and 'Soldier on Defence', representing redemption, sacrifice and heroicism;
- \* Artistic interest: both figures have significant artistic interest; 'Soldier on Defence', in particular, is a rugged and masculine figure in the pose of a human shield that contrasts sharply with the romantic and idealistic portrayals of other sculptors of the period, and references the manual workers and working-class ('worker-soldiers') that Jagger believed were fundamental to Britain's success in WWI;
- \* Historic & commemorative interest: it has strong cultural and historic significance within a local and national context, and forms a poignant reminder of the effects of tragic world events on this local community;
- \* Setting: its dramatic setting at the top of Grange Hill, with views out to Liverpool Bay, Liverpool, Wales and the surrounding areas, provides an impressive sense of monumentality and acts as a fitting tribute to those commemorated.

### MORE INFORMATION

- Compton A, 2004, 'Jagger, Charles Sargeant (1885-1934)', in Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Available on HTTP: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/34146>, accessed 25 October 2010
- Pevsner N & Hubbard E, The Buildings of England: Cheshire, (2003) 380 Shrine of Remembrance Education Program, Background Information, Page 15, Available on HTTP: <http://www.shrine.org.au/files/documents/background-information.pdf> accessed 25 October 2010
- <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/war-memorials>

## Appendix 13: Projects bank

PROJECT BANK		
Project	Cost estimate (inc design and contract management fee)	Justification, policy fit and evidence of need
Phase 2 All Ability Path from the end of the garden by Old Grange Road to the War Memorial.	Phase 2 – £15/20K Some money has already been raised by the Friends Group, requires additional funding	<p>An all ability path would be of benefit to local people who are not currently able to access the top of Grange Hill to see the sea views and attend remembrance events at the Hoylake and West Kirby War Memorial.</p> <p>The surface needs to be in keeping with the site and of a neutral substance. The route must not damage the RIG status of the site – re underlying sandstone features – guidance will be required.</p> <p>Lead Officer: Rights of Way Officer, working with the Friends of Grange Hill Group. Specification options to be provided by Landscape Officer, Parks &amp; Countryside Team</p>
Replace old lamp by the Memorial Garden with new suitable energy efficient illumination.	Cost estimate and suitable designs to be explored	<p>To enhance the visual and heritage appearance of the area.</p> <p>Lead Officer, Senior Ranger, working with the Friends of Grange Hill and other key stakeholders</p>