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MANAGEMENT PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

1.



BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Abbey Fields is an important green space within Kenilworth, steeped in history, bursting with wildlife, and well loved by many in Kenilworth and beyond. Following Covid-19 and the rise in people working from home, Abbey Fields has seen a marked increase in the number of users enjoying Abbey Fields. Understanding how Abbey Fields can adapt over the next 10 years and beyond is critical for the current and anticipated increase in home working, the expected rise in population, new housing growth in Kenilworth and the pace of climate change.

In order to adapt, but also safeguard Abbey Fields to the current and future pressures of our modern living and climate change, Warwick District Council instructed Idverde to prepare a Management and Maintenance Plan (Management Plan) for Abbey Fields.

The aim of the Management Plan is to outline how Warwick District Council will develop, maintain and manage Abbey Fields over the next 10 years. This will be undertaken in collaboration with all key stakeholders and the local population to create a green space that is truly embedded into the local community engendering a sense of local pride and ownership, as well as adapting to Climate Change and all the pressures expected over the next 10 years.



The overall vision for Abbey Fields is:

“Abbey Fields is a green space rich in wildlife and steeped in history that protects, conserves and sensitively adapts to the needs of the changing climate and increasing population, whilst providing a high quality welcome and inclusive experience for all users to enjoy the benefits that Abbey Fields has to offer, now and in the future.”

The Management Plan has followed the HLF Management and Maintenance Plan guidance (2012) and also the format and content provided in “Raising the Standard”, The Green Flag Award guidance manual (updated in 2016) with a view to achieving Green Flag Award Status for Abbey Fields, as well as complementing a future Phase One HLF National Heritage Lottery Fund Grant.

The Management Plan will be reviewed annually and updated in Year 5. However, it is intended to be a working document that can be flexible to changing demands, policies and climate requirements. As such it may be subject to change as required.



The structure of the Management Plan is a logical process. It begins by introducing Abbey Fields, its historical timeline and its present status within Kenilworth, and how planning policy has and will likely influence the current and future management of Abbey Fields. The Management Plan identifies current maintenance practices and service level agreements that are in place. Appraisals have been undertaken on the ecology, hydrology, accessibility, and the fabric and features of Abbey Fields, understanding this green space's current condition, and making recommendations where required.

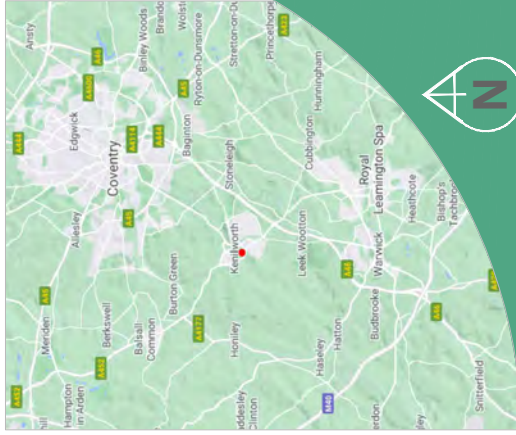


The Management Plan summarises key findings of public consultation undertaken in 2019 and also more recently its historical provenance. The issues and opportunities arising from these appraisals and consultations are summarized and formulated into clear aims and objectives for the Management Plan that have fed into the Vision of Abbey Fields. These have then been formulated into key actions required over the 10 year time frame to allow Abbey Fields to adapt to current needs and future demands, reviewing annually and when necessary over the lifetime of this Management Plan.



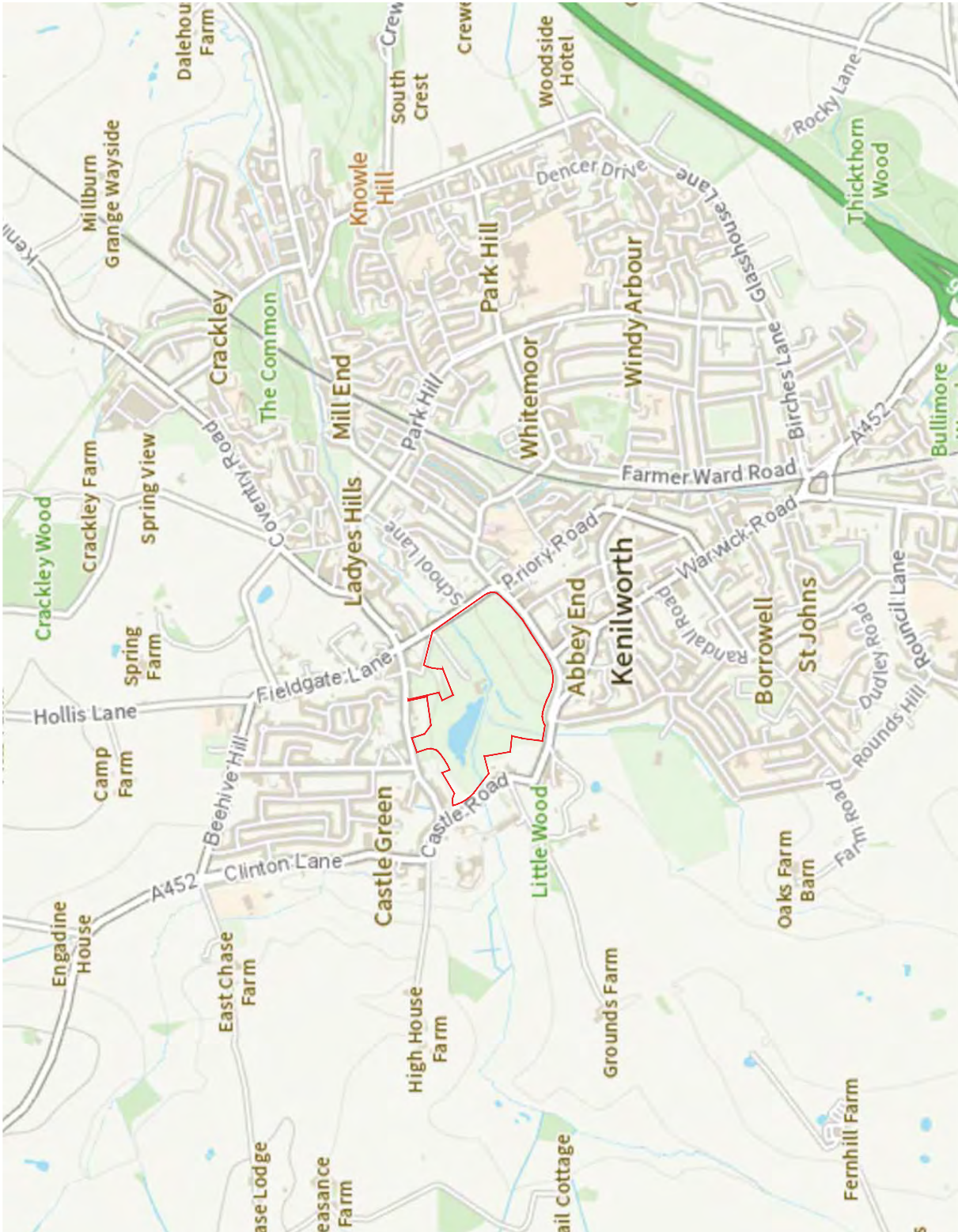


Abbey Fields boundary



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Abbey Fields
 Management and Maintenance Plan
 Site Layout



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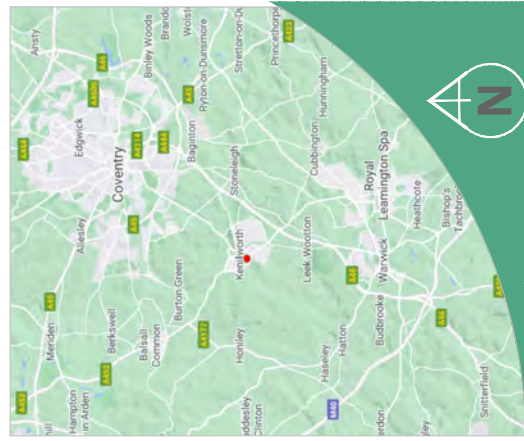


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- A Kenilworth Castle
- B Kenilworth Town Centre
- C Kenilworth Station
- D Parliament Piece
- E Castle Farm Recreation Centre
- Abbey Fields boundary



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Abbey Fields Management and Maintenance Plan Surrounding Features




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