

Swanage Town Council



Greenspace Strategy

2025



FOREWORD

“The benefits of Greenspaces to people and nature cannot be underestimated and they greatly contribute towards making Swanage the very special place it is. I am proud of the range of Greenspaces we have and would like to offer my thanks to the volunteers, partner organisations and Council staff who do such a great job maintaining and enhancing them.

The Swanage Greenspace Strategy will form the basis of our work to build on the excellent provision we already have, improving and retaining these important spaces to be enjoyed now and in the future.”

- Cllr Mike Bonfield, Town Mayor



“We are truly grateful to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and experiences through the Council’s Greenspace questionnaire in early 2025. Your feedback will directly influence our decisions going forward, ensuring that the Swanage Greenspace Strategy reflects the priorities and aspirations of the people who use and love these green areas every day, and protects them for generations to come.”

**- Cllr Cliff Sutton,
Chairman of the Environment and Greenspaces Committee**

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INTRODUCTION



Swanage Town Council owns and manages a diverse and extensive range of greenspaces. These spaces, amounting to over 37 hectares, provide residents and visitors with a wide range of opportunities for being close to nature, socialising with others, relaxation and participation in sporting activities. These greenspaces have numerous benefits, not only to people through enhancing physical and mental wellbeing but also by supporting wildlife and biodiversity and mitigating climate change.

This strategy relates only to greenspaces that are owned and managed by Swanage Town Council.



We are proud of our greenspaces and want to recognise, protect and enhance them for now and for the benefit of future generations.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2023-2025 sets out 5 priorities for the Council over the life of the plan. Two of these directly link to Greenspaces. They are Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis and Providing Opportunities to Improve Health and Wellbeing.

Each greenspace is unique, and all are managed by the Council in different ways. There are however several principles which apply to all of them. This strategy will set out those principles, provide information on each of the greenspaces, how we manage them and how they can be accessed and enjoyed. It also contains an action plan detailing key milestones to ensure they are nurtured and well maintained.



This strategy is informed by feedback from local residents that participated in a Swanage Greenspace survey in early 2025. We thank them for their time and feedback and the results of the survey can also be found within this strategy.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

There are numerous recent studies containing evidence that spending time outdoors and close to nature results in benefits to both physical health, mental health and overall wellbeing.

Swanage greenspaces can make a major contribution to our health and happiness. They provide numerous opportunities for connecting with nature and with others on a formal and informal basis.



Swanage Town Council recognises the value of its greenspaces and this is strongly reflected in the development of the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan. A key strand of this plan relates to the environment, and the protection of green infrastructure and local Greenspaces.

Considerable work has been completed to date in relation to reviewing Greenspaces in Swanage in order to enable their future protection within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.





SUPPORTING LEISURE, PLAY AND SPORT

As well as numerous areas for informal play, the Council provides 3 separate children's play areas and a skate park, all of which are located within Greenspaces allowing young people opportunities to play and socialise. The play areas are extremely popular and are all designed with Play England principles at the heart of their design.

The Council is currently working closely with Swanage Community Skatepark Project to enhance the skatepark and create greater opportunities for challenge and connection.



One of the Council's objectives is to encourage participation in sporting activities. In support of this, Council land is provided to

- **Swanage Cricket Club**
- **Swanage Tennis Club**
- **Swanage Bowling Club**
- **Swanage Town and Herston Football Club**





In addition, Beach Gardens Sports Park provides a range of sports activities including:

- **6 tennis courts,**
- **a basketball court,**
- **an 18-hole putting green,**
- **outdoor table tennis**
- **and a bowling green.**

The Council also provides and maintains 7 football pitches, at a range of sizes to include all age groups, as well as six pieces of outdoor gym equipment used regularly by local health groups.

In addition, the Council provides a number of sports licences to local groups, giving permission and regularising the use of activities such as yoga and martial arts on the Town Council Greenspaces.

Numerous Public Rights of Way traverse land owned and managed by the Council and link to the local and regional footpaths including the Southwest Coastal Path. The Council commissioned a Rights of Way in Swanage survey in 2021. This provided full details of each of the 95 rights of way in Swanage, which amount to some 33.7 miles in length.

Recent (2021) data shows that 22.6 percent of survey participants from England stated that they go for a leisure walk at least five times a week.



SUPPORTING WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY AND MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

The Council aims to preserve and enhance biodiversity in locations that already provide benefit to wildlife and where possible, designate new areas of land.

There are a wide range of activities that the Council undertakes to achieve this objective through a variety of methods that include:

- **Increasing the amount of wildlife friendly perennial planting and reducing the volume of summer bedding**
- **Designating some areas as wildlife areas and managing them to increase diversity of flora and fauna**
- **Reducing the use of herbicides**
- **Providing new bat and bird boxes.**
- **Leaving log piles to attract bugs and other insects**
- **Maintaining and creating new wildflower areas through the introduction of native wildflower seeds and plugs**
- **Removing invasive plants**
- **Planting new hedgerow**
- **Planting new trees and managing the existing tree stock**





- **Leaving habitat corridors in locations where increasing biodiversity is more challenging due to use, for example adjacent to sports pitches**
- **Developing management plans for areas so that effort is focussed on delivering the best possible outcomes.**



The site-specific information within this document will provide more information on where and how these methods have been deployed.

In respect of tree management, the Council has clearly set out a framework for the stewardship of the Council's trees within the Swanage Town Council Tree Strategy and Swanage Town Council Tree Policy, both documents adopted in 2022



[\(Tree Strategy Download here\)](#)

[\(Tree Policy Download here\)](#)

In summary, these documents set out clearly the inspection and management regimes for trees and provide information on the volume and context of the annual tree planting programme.

SUPPORTING ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACES

The Council endeavours to deliver accessible Greenspaces whilst recognising the challenges of location and terrain. Many of the greenspaces are accessible and accessibility information is provided for each within the site-specific management plans set out later in this document.

Car parking both in car parks and on street, is also located adjacent to many of the Council's parks and gardens whilst many are situated on or near local bus routes. Numerous benches are provided to enable visitors to sit and rest, pathways are kept clear and maintained and public conveniences, including accessible conveniences are available in nine locations throughout the town.

The Council recognises the importance of signage welcoming visitors to areas, providing information on what they may see and how the area is used. Improving this and expanding it across the locations is a key aim. This signage also contains details of any restrictions that may be in places such as cycling, the use of BBQ's or keeping dogs on leads.





SUPPORTING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Working in partnership is key to achieving the Council's objectives. Through partnerships with a wide variety of voluntary groups and organisations, local Greenspaces are promoted and enhanced, and we recognise and thank these organisations for their work. Recent examples of this include the Prince Albert Memorial and surrounds, Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and the Cancare gardens, both in Prince Albert Gardens.

In addition, events and open days, organised by a range of organisations working together encourage local residents and visitors to come together and enjoy these spaces, providing opportunities to shape their future. Recent examples of this include the Herston Community Fields picnic in the park and the Swan Brook stream dipping at the skatepark workshop and skate jam.



Sustainable Swanage is a key partnership that has been significant and influential in the development of many Swanage greenspace related initiatives in recent years. Formed of local volunteers, this group has set up and delivered a series of initiatives and

enhancements and more recently community events and talks on matters such as Growing a Greener Swanage.



The Friends of Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve (LNR) are a group of volunteers that are important to the development and understanding of this location. Numerous people give their time and expertise to monitoring and encouraging the number and diversity of the flora and fauna in the LNR and an annual open day is held to inform and engage residents and visitors.

Delivered together with the support of:

- Beach Buddies
- Sustainable Swanage
- Swanage Landers
- Friends of Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve
- Swanage Cricket Club
- Greengage Community Garden
- Prospect Allotment Association
- Swanage Tennis Club
- Swanage Bowls Club
- Swanage Town and Herston Football Club
- Swanage Skatepark Community Project
- Cancare Purbeck
- The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust
- Friends of Swanage Bandstand





- Local residents
- Local businesses
- Swanage event organisers

Partner Organisations

- Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
- National Trust
- Environment Agency
- Play England
- Sport England
- ROSPA
- National Allotment Association
- Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management
- Planet Purbeck
- Durlston Country Park
- Litter Free Purbeck
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Dorset Council
- Swanage Streams Partnership
- Keep Britain Tidy



MANAGEMENT & RESOURCES



Management and maintenance of the Council's Greenspaces is undertaken by directly employed Council team members who are based at the Operations Depot at Prospect Business Park. The Council is committed to investing in the workforce in respect of training, tools, machinery and facilities to ensure a committed, skilled and supported team that take pride in their work.

A strong commitment to ongoing training ensures that the team retains relevant skills and master new ones to ensure that Greenspaces are safely delivered to the highest possible standard.

This is accompanied with investment in vehicles, tools and equipment that are well maintained and fit for purpose. Wherever possible, electric rather than petrol or diesel equipment is selected in accordance with the Council's environmental objectives. The Council's fleet comprises 4 electric, two diesel and one petrol vehicle and the Council has an ambition to switch the remaining two diesel vehicles to electric.





The Council provides dedicated budgets each year to maintain and invest in Swanage greenspaces, including new plants and trees.

Oversight relating to the Council's Greenspaces is provided by the Environment and Greenspaces Committee with the objective and remit, to consider measures to protect the natural environment, address the climate crisis and oversee the management of the Town Council's parks, gardens and Greenspaces. This committee meets three times a year, reports to Full Council and in addition to Councillors, has a range of outside representatives who contribute to the work of the committee.

SWANAGE GREENSPACE SURVEY

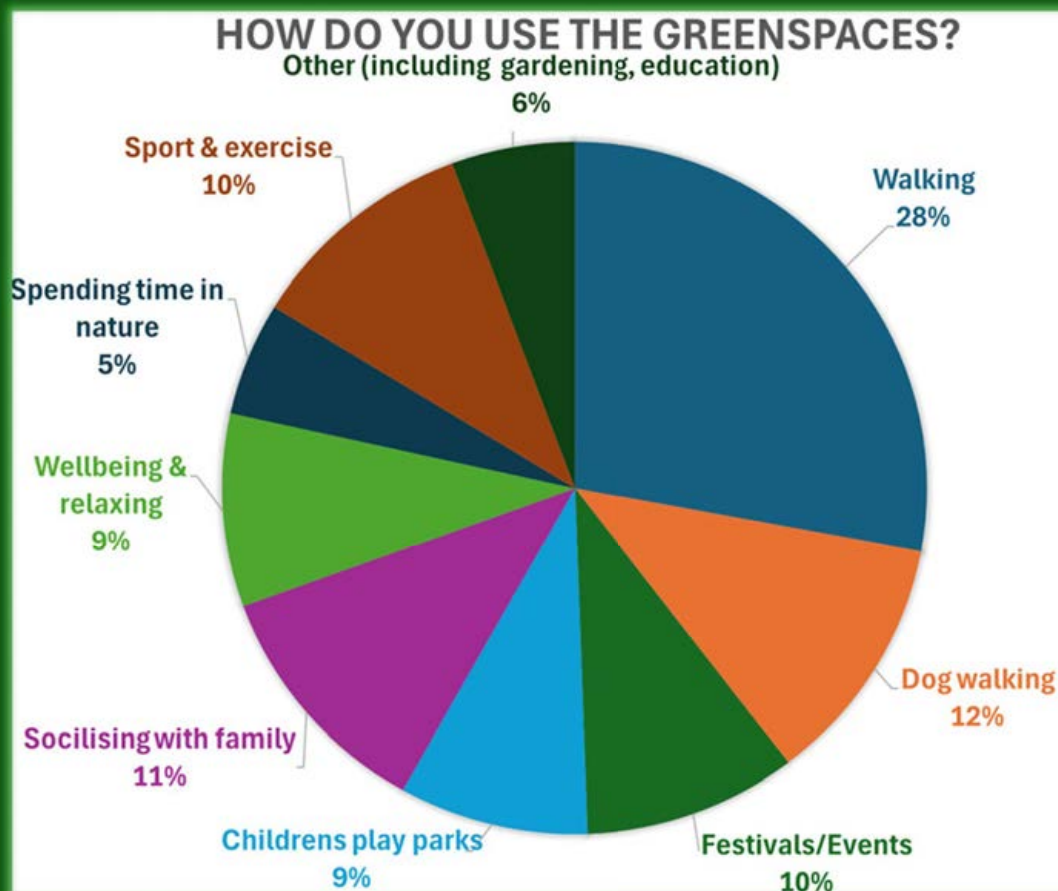
A greenspace survey was undertaken by the Council in early 2025 and received over 160 responses, over 90% of these from Swanage residents.

The purpose of the survey was to understand more about how Greenspaces are used, what factors may hinder their usage, how they are valued and how they can be improved. This feedback has been used to assist in the development of a greenspaces action plan that can be found later in this report.

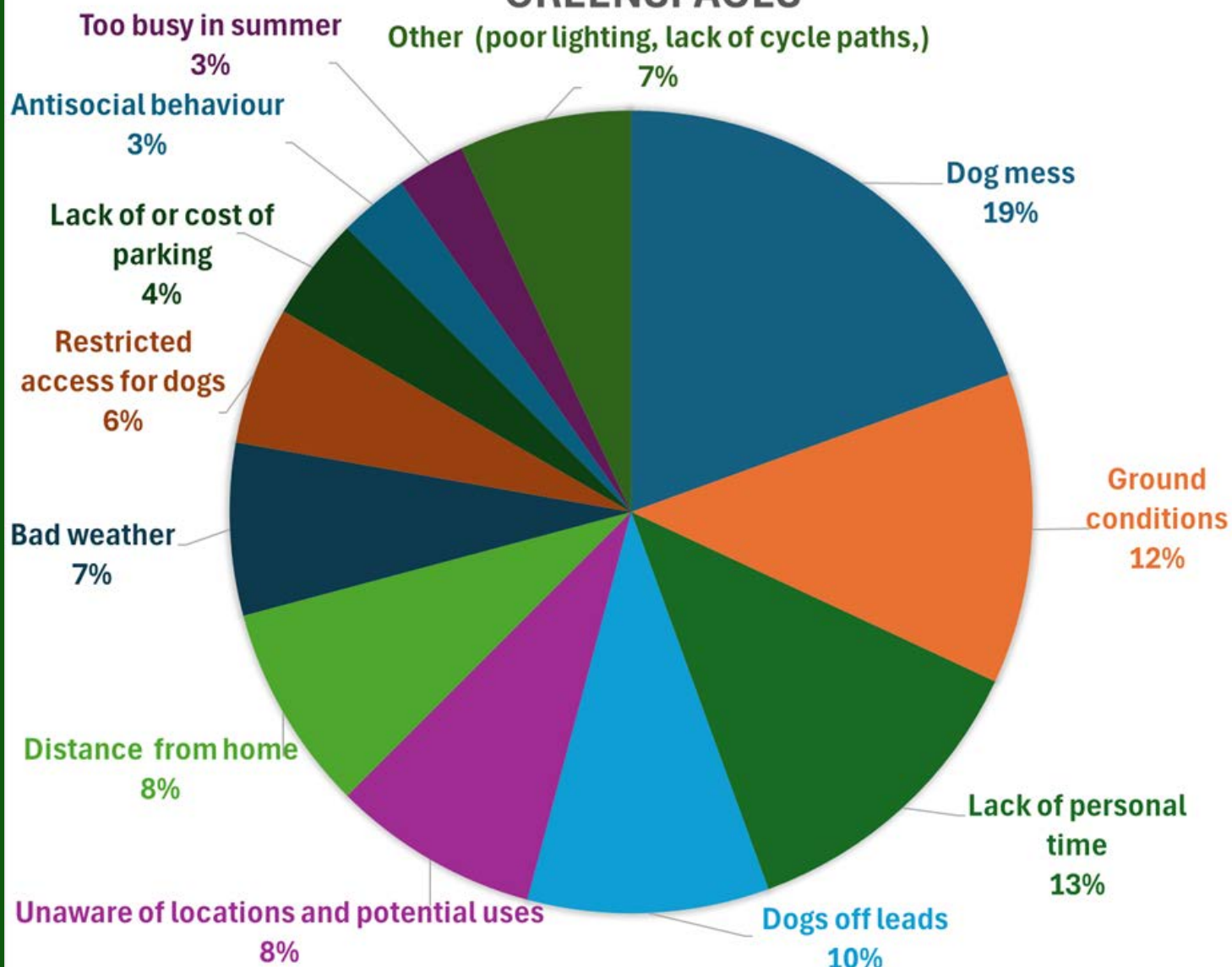
The results are set out in a series of pie charts below.

As the results show, walking and dog walking are the main way in which the greenspaces are used representing 40% of responses.

The use of the Greenspaces for sports, family time and events is also demonstrated.



FACTORS THAT PREVENT USAGE OF THE GREENSPACES

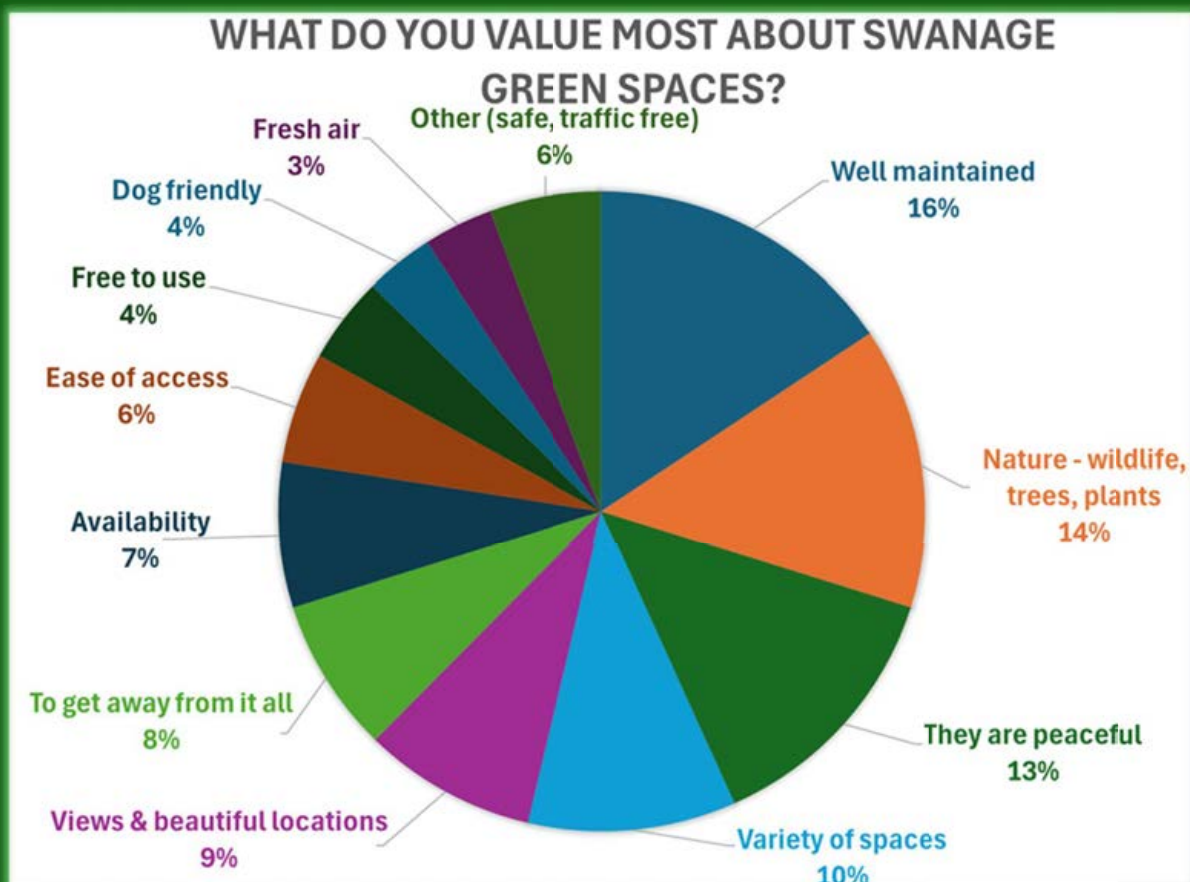


Dog mess and dogs off leads are reasons that 29% of respondents said prevented their usage of Greenspaces. Throughout the survey dog mess was cited on numerous occasions as a matter of concern. The Council are aware of this ongoing issue and have sought external support and installed signage to attempt to resolve this matter with very limited success. In addition, the Council provides over 60 waste bins in Greenspaces, with around half of these being dedicated dog waste bins in a variety of locations. These are in addition to street bins provided by Dorset Council.

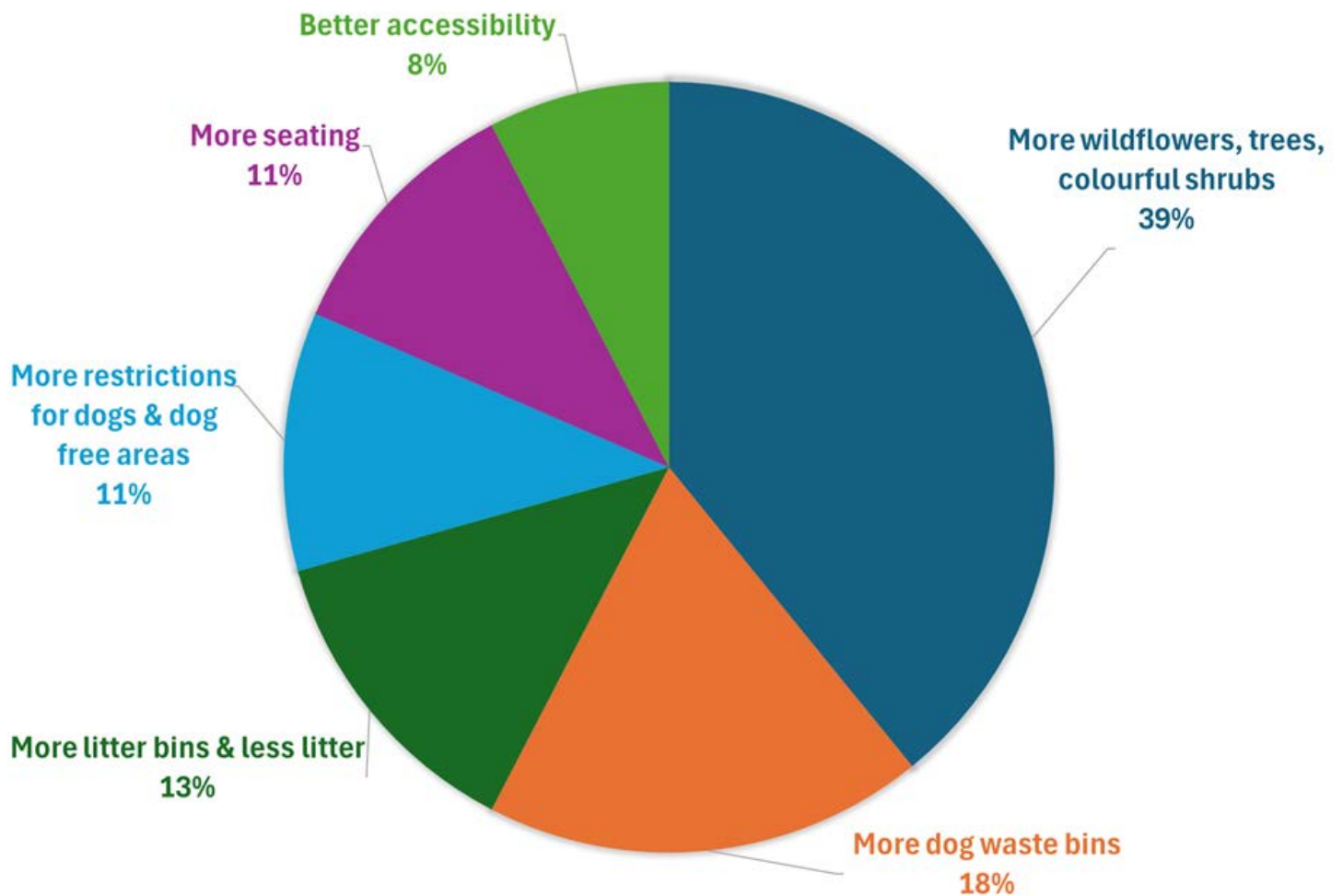
Despite this it remains a significant problem and is a major factor limiting usage of parks and gardens as well as a hazard to the Councils employees whose job it is to maintain these areas. Addressing the matter of dog waste remains a priority for the Council.

In respect of ground conditions, climate change is leading to increasingly wet weather which in turn is impacting the quality of both formal and informal paths for longer periods than previously. In key locations the Council has sought to address this by the introduction of grass matting. This in itself has not been successful in some areas as in periods of drought, this can become exposed and unfit for purpose. Installing hard surfaces across Greenspaces is not always feasible due to cost and ground suitability and, given the ongoing climate change predictions, this is likely to be a factor requiring further consideration in Swanage and across the UK.

As the chart shows, there are a wide range of factors that respondents stated they value about Swanage Greenspaces.



HOW COULD GREEN SPACES IN SWANAGE BE IMPROVED?



The responses to this question are extremely important in helping to influence and shape the Council's action plan set out in this report.

More wildflowers, trees and colourful shrubs is the main way in which it was felt Swanage Greenspaces could be improved. This is something that Council has sought to achieve and will continue to make a priority going forward. Every year in the past four years the Council has introduced additional perennial bedding in a variety of locations. The increase in this has been significant and has coincided with a reduction in the number of annual bedding plants. Perennial planting has been selected with the aim of increasing biodiversity, attracting wildlife and pollinators as well as appearance and all year colour. In addition, planting has been selected that is more suitable for the



changes in climate that are being experienced, for example their tolerance to drought conditions.

Tree planting has been undertaken annually in accordance with the Council's adopted Tree Strategy 2022

[\(Tree Strategy Download here\)](#)

Climate change continues to be a significant factor in tree selection and location as accessibility for watering for at least the first 12 months following planting is a key consideration.

The Council has sought to develop more wildflower locations in recent years with mixed results. However, recent planting of spring bulbs has been more successful. The feedback from the survey makes clear the importance of these features to Greenspace users.

As set out previously in this report, the Council provides significant numbers of waste bins and dedicates specific resources to the collection of litter. Despite this it remains a factor in responses regarding Greenspace improvements.

The location and number of litter bins is important however the behaviour of people is also a significant factor in the amount of dog waste and litter in our community.

Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

Appreciation of the Greenspaces in Swanage was a strong theme in responses alongside an emphasis on their importance for community well-being and a desire that they are retained and their biodiversity and appearance enhanced.



SWANAGE GREENSPACES

SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Information on some of the Council's key greenspaces is set out below.

This accompanies information including images, maps and accessibility information for each these.

Beach Gardens

Beach Gardens is one of the Council's most notable Greenspaces. Home to Swanage Bowling Club and Swanage Tennis club it provides a bowling green with six rinks, 6 tennis courts, a basketball court, an 18 hole putting green, table tennis and the Tea on the Green Café.

Holder of a Green Flag Award, it is a true community hub.



Full information on Beach Gardens, including its history, facilities, management plan and community facilities can be found here:

[Green Flag Management Plan 2024 Download here](#)

Information on how the wide range of public facilities offered in Beach Gardens can be found here:

[Swanage Town Council - Beach Gardens & 'Tea on the Green'](#)



Beach Gardens Sports Park



Location	Beach Gardens Sports Park
Size	1.6581 Hectares
Opening Hours	Site: Open access Café and Putting Green (Seasonal opening)
Parking	No parking provided within grounds On-street parking within 10 metres (Time restricted)
Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences on site. Accessible Public Conveniences on site.
Pathways	Tarmac pathways throughout.
Steps	13 Steps leading to Pavilion entrance. Accessible ramp leading to Café.
Accessibility	Tarmac pathways throughout.
Dogs	No dogs permitted
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

Godlingston Cemetery

This cemetery was opened in 1932 and extended in 1966 and again in 2022. It is a haven for wildlife with deer and a wide range of birds are often seen. There are many mature trees that have been supplemented in recent years with large numbers of new tree planting as well as natural hedging and living willow structures.

It comprises grave spaces and plots for the interment of ashes as well as a meadowland burial ground.

The meadowland is managed in such a way to encourage wildlife and therefore



grasses and wildflowers are allowed to grow tall and the area is cut infrequently.

Additional planting of wildflower seeds and plug plants is routinely undertaken to seek to enhance this area and in recent years new hedging has been laid.

Godlingston Cemetery



Location	Godlingston Cemetery
Size	2.8831 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	3 tarmac parking areas with potential for 15+ cars
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences: – North Beach Car Park – approximately 1.6km (Standard, Accessible & Changing Places facility)
Pathways	Tarmac roads and pathways around cemetery Grass pathways within grave sections
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Tarmac road throughout. Several grass pathways throughout (slightly uneven in places) Removable ramp available for entry to the Chapel (Enquire for further information)
Dogs	Dogs are permitted although must be kept on a lead at all times
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across the cemetery

Northbrook Cemetery

This cemetery was opened in 1856 and although no longer used for interments, contains many monuments, some of historic significance.



It is rich in flora and fauna and has been designated as a Living Churchyard by Dorset Wildlife Trust, recognition that it is cared for with wildlife in mind.

A management plan for the cemetery was developed in 2024 and can be found here:

[Northbrook Cemetery Management Plan](#)

This provides details on :

- the history of the cemetery,
- the key features and trees within it,
- information on how it is managed.



Northbrook Cemetery



Location	Northbrook Cemetery
Size	0.7814 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking provided within cemetery Main Beach Car Park less than 100 metres away (Charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences: – Main Beach Car Park – approx 200 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Tarmac pathways around cemetery Uneven ground in places
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Tarmac pathway through middle of site. Uneven ground off pathways with sloped areas in several places.
Dogs	Dogs are permitted although must be kept on a lead at all times
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across the cemetery

Prospect Allotments

Containing over 140 plots, Prospect Allotments provides space for growing for a large number of local residents, is extremely popular and often has a waiting list.

There are a range of plot sizes and plot holders are able to join the allotment association which operates independently from the Council.



Prospect Allotments



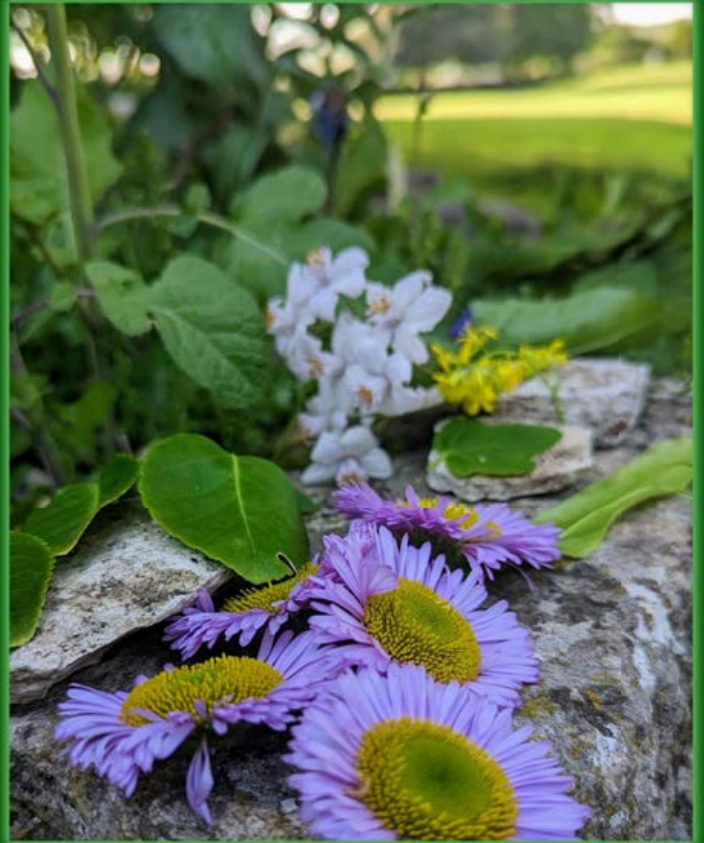
Location	Prospect Allotments
Size	3.2338 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	2 gravel parking areas with potential for approximately 10 cars
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Main Beach Car Park – approx 500 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Tarmac roadway through centre of site Uneven grass pathways between allotment plots
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Tarmac central roadway. Car parks: laid to loose stone and gravel. Grass pathways throughout. (Uneven and narrow)
Dogs	Dogs are permitted on site although must be kept on a lead at all times
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	Right of Way SE3/23 has entrances/exits in the NorthWest corner and along the Eastern edge of the allotments

Day's Park & Journeys End

Day's Park was given to the town in 1936 by James Day.

It is a large and popular park and contains sports fields, a play area and outdoor gym equipment and is home to Swanage and Herston Football Club and Swanage Cricket Club.

In recent years it has become the focus for additional tree planting by the Council.



Day's Park & Journeys End



Location	Day's Park & Journeys End
Size	1.6581 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking provided within grounds On-street parking within 10 metres of Northbrook Road entrances North Beach Car Park next to Journeys End entrance.(Charges may apply).
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – North Beach Car Park – approx 100 metres from Journeys End (Standard, Accessible & Changing Places facility)
Pathways	Partial tarmac pathways throughout Concrete and paved stone pathways around central garden area
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Partial tarmac pathways throughout.
Dogs	Dogs permitted. Dogs not permitted in playpark within Days Park. Dogs must be kept on leads within 5 metres of marked sports pitches
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

King George's Field & Forres Field

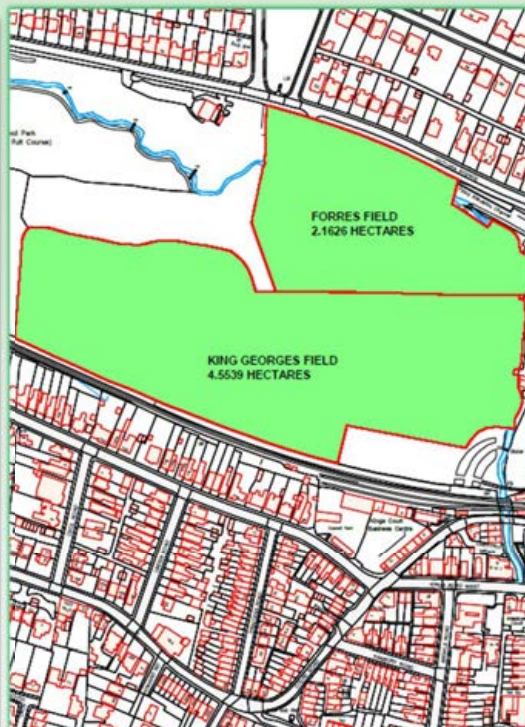
The King George's playing field was dedicated by the Urban District Council in memory of King George V on 15th May 1951.

The King George's Swanage Charitable Trust, Charity No. 1085459, is managed by the Town Council. It contains a play area, skate park, wetlands area and numerous football pitches used by youth teams from Swanage and Herston football club. It is also bordered to the east by the Swan Brook with the Swanage railway running along the southern border.

This is a large and popular area adjacent to a large public car park and public conveniences.



King George's Field



Location	King George's Field
Size	4.5539 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	Main Beach Car Park less than 100 metres away (charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Main Beach Car Park – within 100 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Loose stone and gravel pathways around outer edges of field.
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Grass pathways throughout. Occasional loose stone and shingle pathways. Uneven ground in places.
Dogs	Dogs are permitted on site although must be kept on a lead at all times. Dogs not permitted in King George's playpark.
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

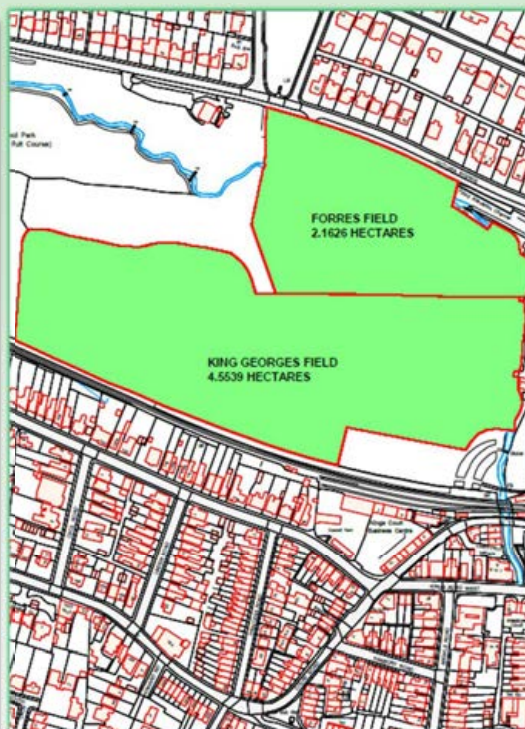
Queen Elizabeth II (Forres) Field is a protected Greenspace, the Town Council having dedicated it as such with Fields in Trust, situated directly adjacent to King George's Field. It also contains football pitches used by youth teams.

In early 2025 the Council commissioned Planet Purbeck to undertake a user engagement consultation to better understand usage of both King George's and Forres fields and explore improvements for both people and wildlife.

The outcomes from this engagement are anticipated later in 2025 and will form the basis of an action plan for these locations.



Forres Field



Location	Forres Field
Size	2.1626 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	Main Beach Car Park less than 100 metres away (charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Main Beach Car Park – within 100 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Loose stone and gravel pathway to one side of field.
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Grass throughout. Occasional loose stone and shingle pathways. Uneven ground in places.
Dogs	Dogs are permitted on site although must be kept on a lead at all times. Dogs must be kept on leads within 5 metres of marked sports pitches.
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

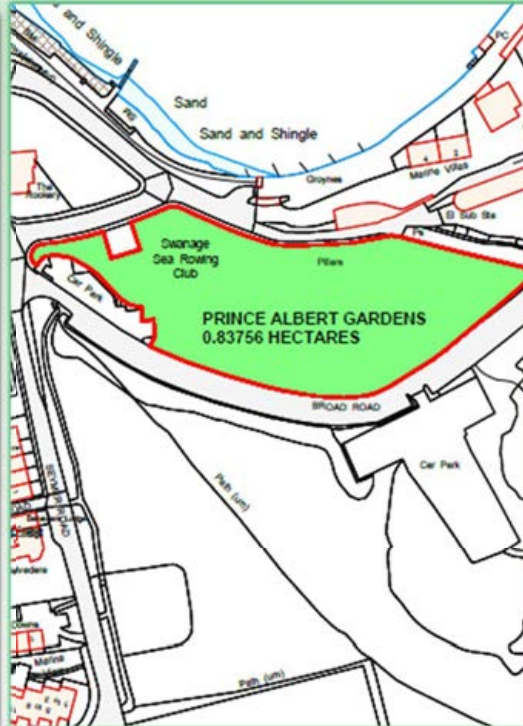
Prince Albert Gardens

Developed in 1996, this landscaped public garden contains an open-air amphitheatre and has wonderful views overlooking Swanage Bay. It is a popular park, transitioning the edge of the town to the Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve.

In recent years it has been enhanced through projects led by partners. These include the reinstatement of the Prince Albert Memorial along with new paths, seating and planting and the Cancare sanctuary garden opened in 2024 comprising a beautifully designed and landscaped area to sit and reflect.



Prince Albert Gardens



Location	Prince Albert Gardens
Size	0.8376 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking provided within grounds On-street parking within 10 metres (Charges apply) Broad Road Car Park within 100 metres (Charges apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Peveril Road - within 400 metres (Standard) – Heritage Square – within 400 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Tarmac pathways throughout site
Steps	Small sections of steps around amphitheatre and at entrances to site from Broad Road car park
Accessibility	Tarmac pathways throughout Slopes and slightly uneven ground in places
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

Sandpit Field

Situated adjacent to the beach, Sandpit Field is the town's most important events field, home of the Swanage Carnival and numerous other large events that are so important for the local economy.

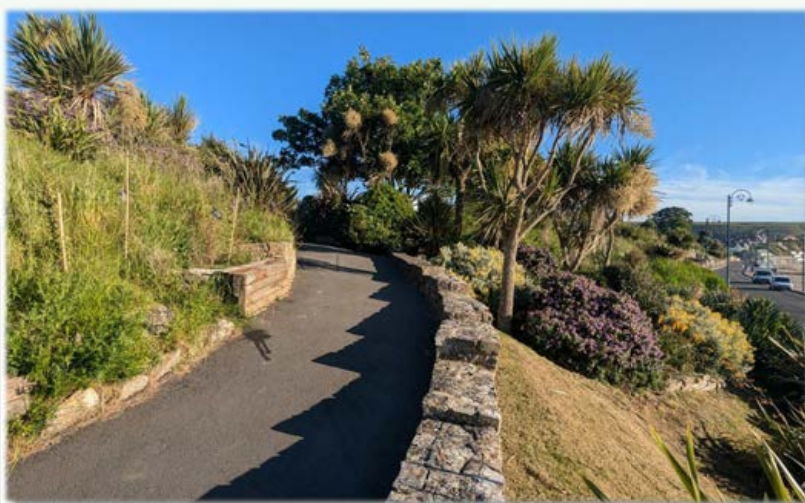
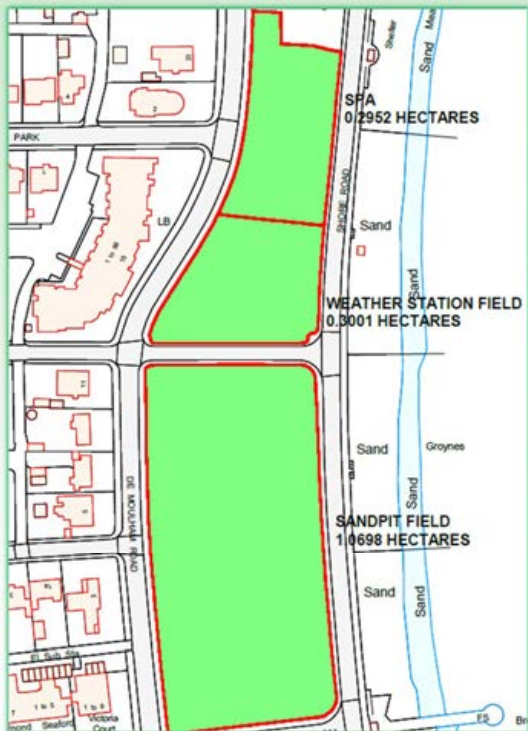
It contains a small number of notable trees and planted areas on the seafront side.

This area, along with Weather Station and the Spa is subject to ground movement that is impacting upon the use of this area and the Council are seeking to undertake significant ground stabilisation works.

Options for this contain opportunities for enhancement of the field and are the subject of public engagement.



Sandpit Field



Location	Sandpit Field
Size	1.0698 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access.
Parking	No parking provided on site On-street parking within 10 metres Mermond Place Car Park within 400 metres (Charges may apply).
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Mermond Place Car Park – within 350 metres (Standard & Accessible) – Shore Road – within 400 metres (Standard & Accessible) – Battlegate (Shore Road) – within 300 metres (Standard)
Pathways	Tarmac pathways and ramps on east side of site through landscaped gardens.
Steps	Some steps on east side entrances to site leading to tarmac pathways. Accessible entrances on west side.
Accessibility	Slopes and slightly uneven ground in places
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

Weather Station Field & Spa

Weather Station Field and the Spa are adjacent areas on the seafront. Along with Sandpit Field they are also subject to ground movement and require significant ground stabilisation works, with options for this again the subject of public engagement.

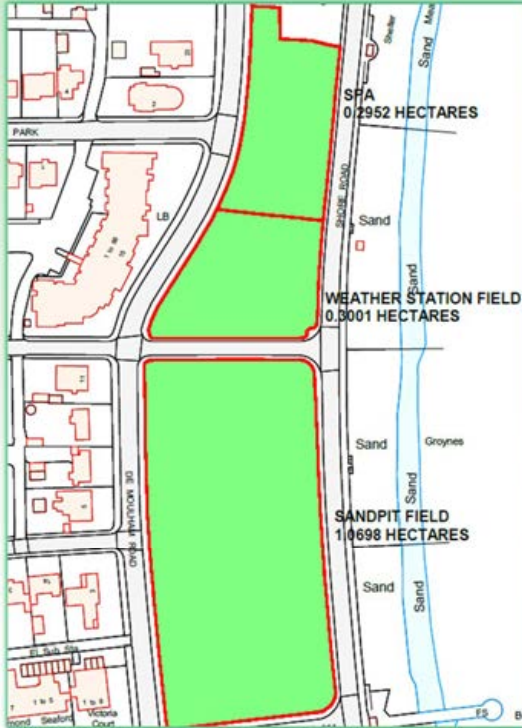
Weather Station Field is as the name suggests, home to Swanage Weather Station that has been in this location almost 100 years.

The Spa area contains terracing and was formerly the site of numerous beach huts until access to the area was restricted as a result of ground movement.

Some small number of beach huts remain offering far reaching views over Swanage Bay. It also contains green areas, steeply banking towards the beach.



Weather Station Field & Spa



Location	Weather Station Field & Spa
Size	0.3001 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access. NOTE: Sections of Spa closed to public due to ground instability. Refer to safety signs on site.
Parking	No parking provided on site On-street parking within 10 metres Mermond Place Car Park within 400 metres (Charges may apply).
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Mermond Place Car Park – within 350 metres (Standard & Accessible) – Shore Road – within 400 metres (Standard & Accessible) – Battlegate (Shore road) – within 300 metres (Standard)
Pathways	Grass pathways (uneven in places) Some tarmac pathways on Spa. NOTE: Sections of Spa closed to public due to ground instability. Refer to safety signs on site.
Steps	Some steps on east side entrances to site leading to tarmac pathways. Accessible entrances on West side.
Accessibility	Slopes and uneven ground in places
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

Recreation Ground

Subject to large scale stabilisation works in 2014, the Recreation Ground contains a popular play area, Swanage bandstand, a statue and memorial to Trevor Chadwick and the Town's War Memorial.

It also contains a number of smaller ornamental trees and many benches.

With views over the beach and bay it is a popular and well used park close to the town.



Recreation Ground



Location	Recreation Ground
Size	1.1733 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking provided on site. On-street parking within 100 metres (Charges may apply). Mermond Place Car Park within 50 metres (Charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Mermond Place Car Park – within 50 metres (Standard & Accessible) – Shore Road – within 200 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Tarmac pathways throughout site
Steps	Steps at North and Southern entrances to site. Steps leading into Bandstand area.
Accessibility	Tarmac pathways throughout. Accessibility ramps at North and South entrances around site.
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site. Dogs not permitted in Trevor Chadwick playpark.
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site.

Peveril Point and the Downs

Local Nature Reserve

In 2020 the Town Council resolved to apply to Dorset Council for the delegation of powers necessary to designate this area as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Sustainable Swanage, working in partnership with the Town Council undertook significant work to achieve this designation including significant public engagement, ecological inspections, detailed zonal mapping and the development of a management plan.

A launch event held in Spring 2023 celebrated this achievement and marked the inception of the Friends of Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve, a group of volunteers committed to understanding and improving this area, undertaking a variety of tasks to improve and enhance the location including regular butterfly and wildflower surveys.

The management plan for the LNR can be found [here](#)

[Peveril Point and the Downs](#)
[Local Nature Reserve](#)
[Management Plan Download here](#)

This sets out detailed information on the history, aims, objectives, geography and accessibility of the area and sets out detailed ecological information and a comprehensive management plan.



Downs and Peveril Point Local Nature Reserve



Location	Downs & Peveril Point Local Nature Reserve
Size	11.5765 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	Broad Road Car Park (Charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Peveril Road – within 400 metres (Standard) – Heritage Square – within 500 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Tarmac Road leading through site to car parking and to Boat Park entrance. Tarmac pathways in places. Loose gravel/stone pathways in places.
Steps	5 stone paved steps at North entrance (Broad Road/Seymer Road junction)
Accessibility	Slightly uneven ground in places and slopes throughout.
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site.
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	Multiple Right of Way exist across the site. SE3/26, SE3/27, SE3/30, SE3/31, SE3/32, SE3/33, SE3/34, SE3/35, SE3/36 and SE3/37

Prospect Green

Situated directly adjacent to Greengage Community Garden, this area was enhanced in a project led by Sustainable Swanage.

Several fruit trees have been planted, and swathes of grass have been left uncut and enhanced with wildflowers to increase biodiversity and improve appearance.

The green also contains a planted shrub bed and the 'Winstone Churchill Tree', a Coast Redwood planted in 1965 in honour of Winston Churchill and featured in the Trees of Swanage tree trail which can be accessed here:

[Swanage Tree Trail leaflet Download here](#)



Prospect Green



Location	Prospect Green
Size	0.2682 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking on site. On-street parking within 10 metres. Main Beach Car Park within 350 metres. (Charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Main Beach Car Park – within 350 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	No designated pathways. Level ground throughout laid to grass
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Level ground throughout
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site
Public foot-paths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site

Northbrook Copse

Northbrook Copse, a small area of woodland situated between D'Urberville Drive and Cauldron Barn Road, was given to Swanage Town Council by Purbeck District Council some years ago. It was near derelict woodland but showed promise.

A management programme was drawn up to improve the structure, especially the ground flora of the woods.

In late 2023, a new management plan for the Copse was developed which can be downloaded here:

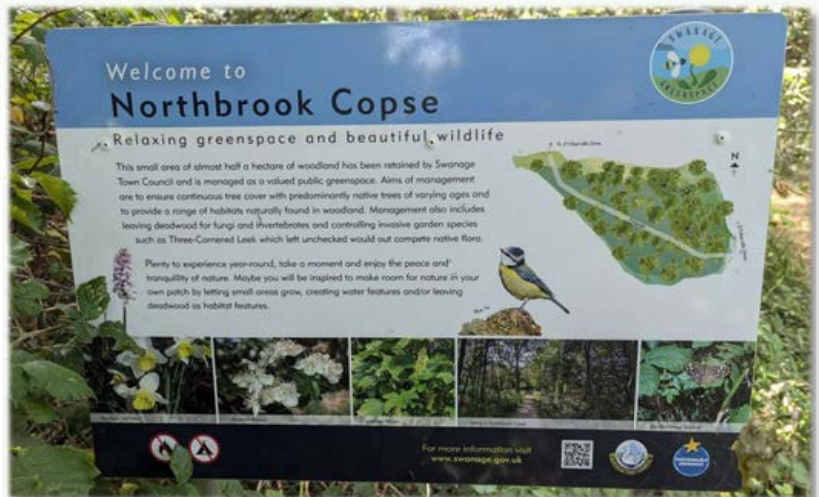
[Northbrook Copse Management Plan Download here](#)



This provides information on the history of the site, information on ecological surveys that have been undertaken, and sets out a clear set of recommendations to retain and enhance this important habitat.

New signage has also been installed to provide information on the history, flora, and fauna of the Copse.

Northbrook Copse



Location	Northbrook Copse
Size	0.4791 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking on site. On-street parking within 10 metres. North Beach Car Park within 450 metres. (Charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – North Beach Car Park – within 450 metres (Standard, Accessible & Changing Places facility)
Pathways	Loose earth and woodchip pathway through site
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Pathway level although slightly uneven in places
Dogs	Dogs are permitted on site although must be kept on lead at all times
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	Right of Way SE3/95 has entrances/exits on the North side and the East side of the site

Queens Mead & St Mary's Graveyard

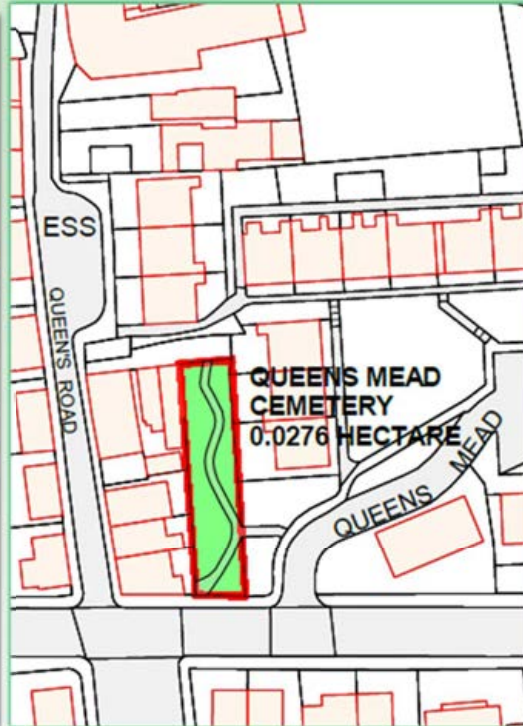
Queens Mead cemetery, (Swanage Congregational Burial Ground) is a small stone walled closed cemetery containing a small number of mature trees and shrubs.

Headstones, moved from their historic position many years ago are set against the stone walls.

A section of St Mary's Graveyard is maintained by the Town Council, surrounded by mature trees it contains a number of historic headstones and memorials.

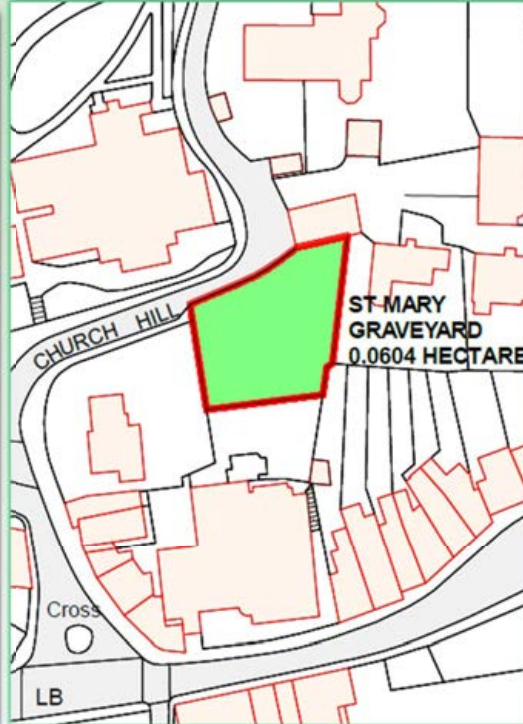


Queens Mead Cemetery



Location	Queens Mead Cemetery
Size	0.0276 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking provided within cemetery On-street parking within 30 metres
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Shore Road – approximately 900 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Flagstone paved pathway Level ground throughout
Steps	5 stone steps at entrance to cemetery
Accessibility	Not wheelchair accessible
Dogs	No dogs permitted
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this cemetery

St Mary's Graveyard



Location	St Mary's Graveyard
Size	0.0604 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking provided within cemetery On-street parking within 100 metres (Time restricted) Co-op Car Park 300metres away. (Charges may apply)
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Shore Road – approximately 700 metres (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	No designated pathways Uneven ground throughout.
Steps	6 paved stone steps at entrance to cemetery
Accessibility	Not wheelchair accessible
Dogs	Dogs are permitted although must be kept on a lead at all times
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across the cemetery

Herston Community Field

Formerly the playing field used by St Mark's school, the Town Council hold a 21-year lease on this Greenspace from Dorset Council effective from 2019. Since commencement of the lease, the Town Council has:

- opened the area for public use
- removed redundant and unsafe natural play equipment
- upgraded fencing to make the area secure
- undertaken tree works, planted trees, installed picnic benches and bird boxes
- added signage

It is one of the few Greenspaces that does not permit dogs.

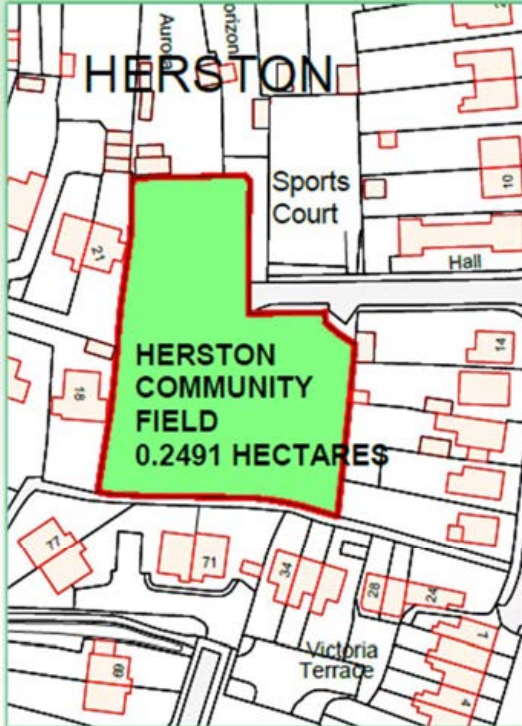
In recent years it has been the venue for an annual picnic in the park, a well-attended local event attended by residents, community groups and partners.

In early 2025 the Council commissioned Planet Purbeck to undertake a user engagement consultation to better understand usage of Herston Community Field and explore improvements for both people and wildlife.

The outcomes from this engagement are anticipated later in 2025 and will form the basis of an action plan for this location.



Herston Community Field



Location	Herston Community Field
Size	0.2491 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking on site. On-street parking within 10 metres
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Main Beach Car Park – within 1.3km (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	No designated pathways. Laid to grass throughout
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Gentle slope throughout and slightly uneven ground around trees in North corner.
Dogs	No dogs permitted on site
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across this site

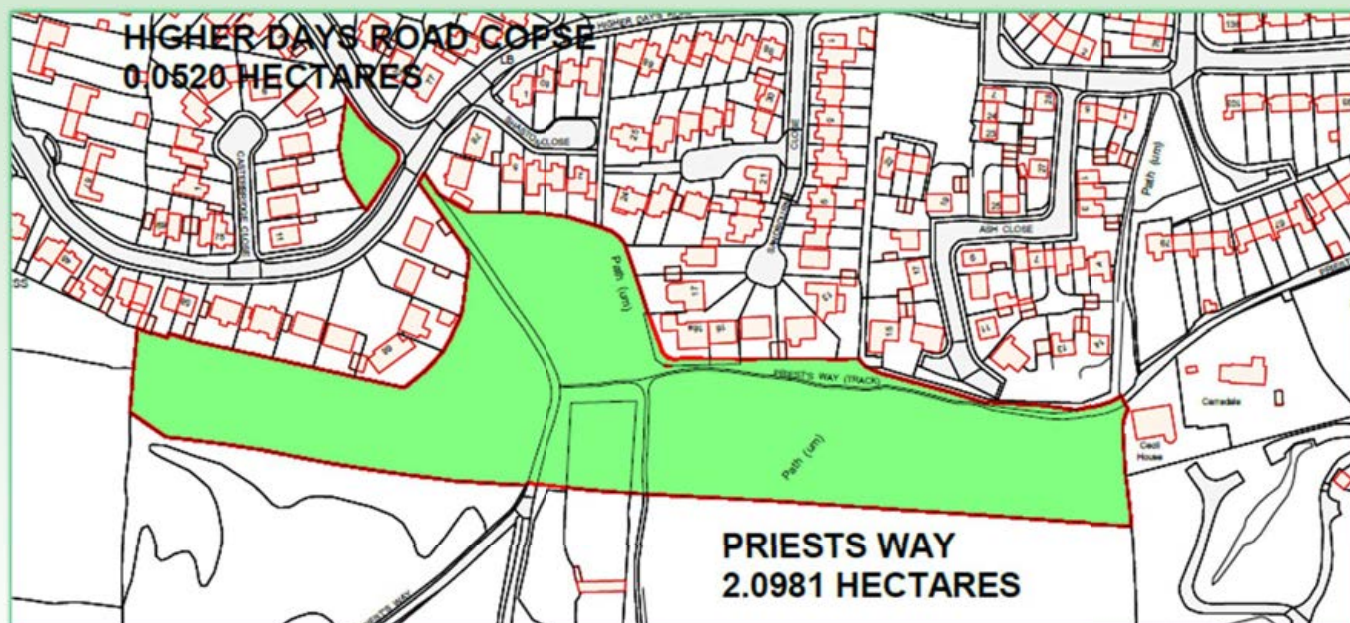
Priests Way

Incorporating a number of well used footpaths and Rights of Way, this area is managed to encourage wildlife and nature.

In recent years, Dorset Council, the lead authority for Rights of Way, have undertaken works to improve the footpaths in this location.



Priests Way



Location	Priests Way
Size	2.0981 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking on site. On-street parking within 100 metres
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Main Beach Car Park – within 1.9km (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Grass pathways through site
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Grass pathways. Crossing Stile leading to fields at West end of site.
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	Multiple Right of Way exist across the site. SE3/66, SE3/70, SE3/73 and SE3/74

Marsh Way **& Ash Close**

Ash Close comprises a large Greenspace used for informal play, bordered with trees, hedges and shrubs.

Marsh Way is a smaller area of Greenspace with a small number of trees and informal hedges.



Marsh Way & Ash Close



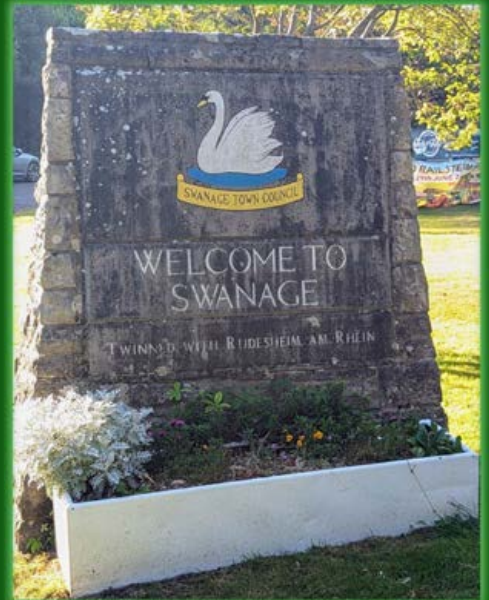
Location	Marsh Way & Ash Close
Size	0.2882 Hectares
Opening Hours	Open access
Parking	No parking on site. On-street parking within 5 metres
Public Conveniences	No Public Conveniences on site. Closest Public Conveniences – Main Beach Car Park – within 1.75km (Standard & Accessible)
Pathways	Marsh Way: Tarmac pathway through site Ash Close: Grass throughout. Tarmac path along north side of site.
Steps	No steps on site
Accessibility	Slightly sloped within Marsh Way area but generally level ground throughout
Dogs	Dogs permitted on site
Public footpaths / Rights of Way	There are no public footpaths/Rights of way across these sites

OTHER GREENSPACES



In addition to the locations set out previously, there are numerous smaller pockets of greenspace owned and maintained by the Council.

These include roadside verges, footpath boundaries, shrubs & flower beds distributed across the Parish.



ACTION PLAN

It is proposed that the following forms an action plan for the next 12 months at which point a progress review be undertaken, overseen by the Environment and Greenspaces Committee, to enable a revised action plan for the following 12 months to be developed.

	Timetable 2025/6		
Action	Environment and Greenspaces Committee October 2025	Environment and Greenspaces Committee March 2026	Environment and Greenspaces Committee June 2026
Develop an initiative to tackle dog waste and owners not picking up after their pets		Proposal to be presented	Proposal to be implemented
Prioritise locations for accessibility improvements such as footpath enhancements		Locations identified	First round of accessibility improvements implemented
Seek opportunities for external funding to deliver Greenspace actions set out within this plan	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Install signage at greenspaces setting out the key features of the location	Present proposals		Signage implemented
Planting of additional wildflower areas / shrubs / bulbs		Bulb planting completed	Wildflower / shrub planting completed

	Timetable 2025/6		
Action	Environment and Greenspaces Committee October 2025	Environment and Greenspaces Committee March 2026	Environment and Greenspaces Committee June 2026
Complete management plans for Day's Park and the Recreation Ground		Management plan completed for the Recreation Ground	Management plan completed for Day's Park
Review options for additional seating			Proposal to be presented
Continue tree planting in accordance with the Council's Tree Strategy 2022	Numbers/ locations identified	Planting completed	
Receive and review Planet Purbeck engagement reports in respect of King George's and Forres Field and Herston Community Field	Reports received	Proposals to be presented	
Explore proposal to enter Godlingston cemetery into Cemetery of the Year award		Decision taken on entering cemetery for award	
Retain Green Flag award for Beach Gardens	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue to monitor and revise if appropriate, existing greenspace management plans	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

PICTURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All images used within this document were taken by a Swanage Town Council staff member with the following exceptions:

Front cover - Aerial view of Beach Gardens taken by Paul Dimarco Photography

Page 10 - Cancare garden Moon rings taken by Caltef Designs