



Day's Park & Journeys End Management Plan June 2026



Introduction

Day's Park & Journeys End is situated in North Swanage, offering an open and accessible green space for public enjoyment. Gifted to the town in 1936 by James Day, its boundaries are clearly defined: Northbrook Road forms the western perimeter, Bonfields Avenue and residential properties borders the southern perimeter, Ulwell stream borders the eastern perimeter with Compass Point and the Swanage Cricket Club bordering the northern perimeter.

Access to the site is straightforward. On street parking is available when accessing the site from Northbrook Road or visitors can utilise the parking facilities at the nearby North Beach car park (charges may apply) when accessing the site from Journeys end. Public toilets and a fully accessible Changing Places facility can also be located within North Beach car park.

The landscape is predominantly level ground but features a gentle slope in places. The site comprises a mixture of maintained grassed areas, hedgerows, mature trees, ornamental trees, with many additional young trees added over recent years, tarmacked pathways, seating areas, and several notable features, including:



Day's Park Playground

A popular destination throughout the year, this popular spot for local families and visitors features a grass play area, a variety of children's play equipment, including swings, multiplay structures with slides and balance elements and rocker seesaws.

Outdoor Gym

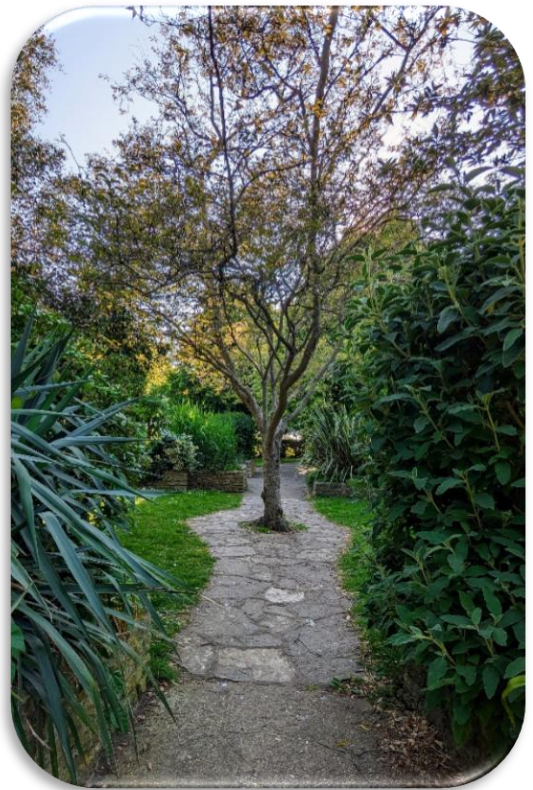
An adult outdoor gym area has been positioned next to the playground, to encourage a healthier more active lifestyle. A variety of equipment has been provided including: Leg Press, Rowing machine, Chest Press, Walking machine, Ski machine and a Cross Trainer.



Accessible Garden

In the centre of the park there is a garden that was created from an idea of the 'Swanage In Bloom' committee, particularly to provide easy access for people with disabilities. The committee promised Swanage Town Council that it would be built at no cost to the town.

The work commenced in Spring 1990 with all the work and materials donated by local contractors and suppliers. Volunteers from all areas of expertise carried out the work, and the planting was done mainly by



members of Swanage Hoteliers Association with the help of other townspeople. Swanage Town Council also gave a donation. In the garden there is a plaque which details who was involved with the project.

Sports Facilities

Day's Park is home to Swanage Cricket Club. There are two pitches for the use of mens, ladies, youth and seniors teams.

Swanage & Herston Football Club is situated between Day's Park and Journey's End with the open green space of Journey's End regularly used throughout the football season as additional football pitches for youth football training and matches.





Swanage Grammar School Commemorative Stone

At the entrance to Day's Park from Northbrook Road sits the Swanage Grammar School commemorative stone. This was erected by the Swanage Grammar School Association in 2014 in recognition of the education provided by the school to local children.

Path and lighting

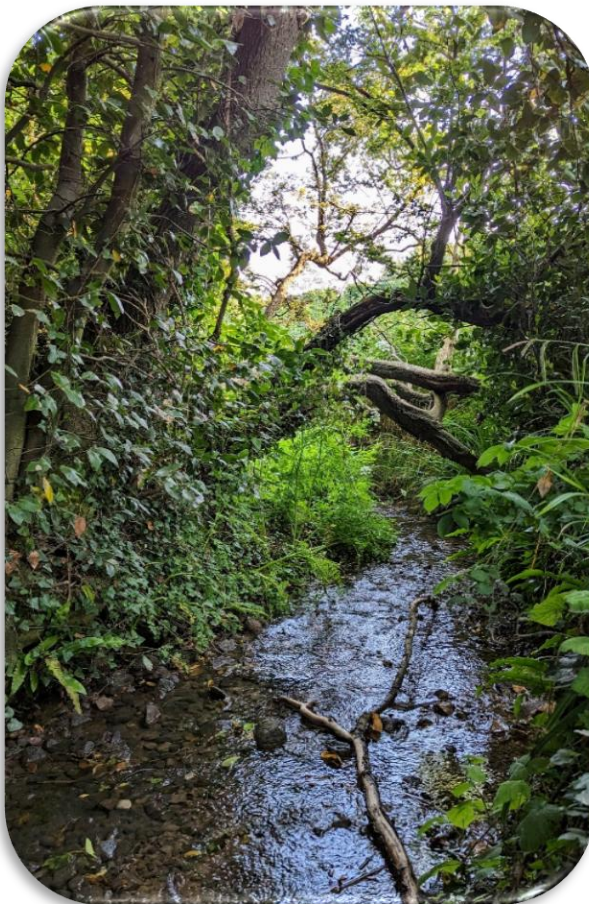
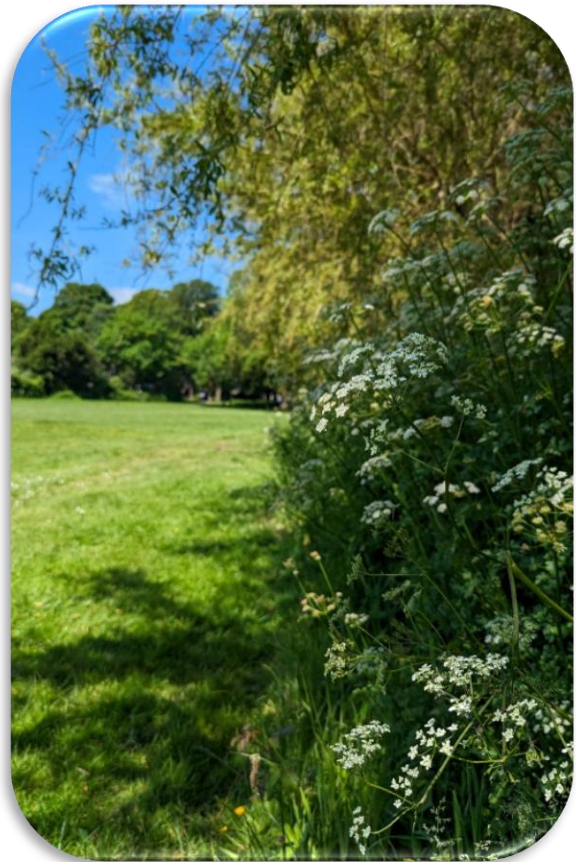
In 2023 the Council installed lighting on the footpath that runs through the park from Ulwell Road to Northbrook Road. These works were part of a Safer Route to School Project in conjunction with works undertaken by Dorset Council to improve crossings on Ulwell Road.



Grounds and Landscape Maintenance

Grass Management and Conservation

- **Routine Mowing:** Turf maintenance is conducted year-round on an as-needed basis, primarily utilizing ride-on mowers and trimmers to maintain optimal height and appearance. During the winter months, when the ground is highly saturated, traditional mowing is suspended in favour of manual trimming within the play area to prevent turf damage and soil compaction.
- **Wildlife Corridor Initiatives:** Along the eastern perimeter of the Journey's End, vegetation is intentionally left uncut to establish natural wildlife corridors. This managed overgrowth provides a vital privacy buffer for the resident badger population nesting in the embankments and fosters habitat for invertebrates adjacent to the stream.



- **Waterway Management:** To ensure optimal drainage and mitigate flooding risks during prolonged winter rainfall, the Ulwell stream channel is thoroughly cleared of debris and obstructions each autumn to maintain an unobstructed, free-flowing current.

Hedge Maintenance Protocols

- **Nesting Season Restrictions (February – August):** In compliance with wildlife protection standards during the avian nesting season, hedge maintenance is restricted to light, superficial trimming. Consequently, maintaining a perfectly uniform aesthetic across all boundaries is occasionally compromised to prioritize and protect active nesting sites.
- **Winter Rejuvenation:** During late winter, hedges undergo more intensive structural pruning to reduce both height and width. This proactive measure preserves the long-term shape of the hedgerows and ensures summer maintenance remains manageable.

Arboricultural Care and Management



- **Inspection Regimes:** Day's Park accommodates a diverse and significant population of tree species. These assets are subject to routine safety assessments by council staff, supplemented by a comprehensive professional inspection conducted by a certified arboriculturist every three years.

- **Trees:** Active arboricultural interventions focus on public safety and tree health. This includes removing deadwood from the canopy, crown lifting over pedestrian walkways, and the prompt removal of diseased or structurally hazardous trees.





- Sapling Establishment: Recent tree-planting initiatives within Day's Park have yielded high survival rates. To ensure successful establishment, newly planted trees receive targeted watering during dry spells for the first two years, alongside routine maintenance such as mulching and structural checks on stakes and tree ties. Once a tree is fully established, these supporting structures are systematically removed.

Recently interpretative signage, part funded by the Dorset Community Tree Fund has been installed providing information on the wide variety of trees that can be found within the park and the wildlife that these help to support.



Footpath and Walkway Maintenance

- **Safety Inspections:** Pedestrian pathways are routinely monitored for potential trip hazards to ensure public safety.
- **Debris Clearance:** Seasonal accumulation, particularly leaf litter during autumn, is cleared using mechanical blowers.
- **Winter Edging:** When soil conditions are soft during the winter season, edging is undertaken along the paths to maintain clean boundaries and prevent encroaching turf.

