

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

1.1.1 This Conservation Statement for Lordship Recreation Ground was commissioned by the Parks Department of the London Borough of Haringey in 2006. Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) were appointed to prepare the Conservation Statement, in support of a Stage One application for funding under the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Parks for People Programme. The statement draws together what is already known about the park in historical and ecological terms as well as the key issues and vulnerabilities that impact on the park's fabric and activities.

1.1.2 The purpose of the Statement is four-fold. It is intended that the Statement will form part of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), it is a short, comprehensive document that can act as a central reference document for the Park's managers, it will form the basis for a full Conservation Management Plan should this be required by the HLF and it will be included as part of the Lordship Recreation Ground Master Plan Report, which CBA are currently working on.

1.2 Scope of the Conservation Statement

1.2.1 This Statement covers the Lordship Recreation Ground in its entirety. Therefore, all of the buildings, the river, landscape areas, playgrounds and open fields that are held within the parks boundaries are included. Figure 1.1 and 1.2 illustrates the location and extent of the park and identifies some of its main features.

1.3 Preparation of the Conservation Statement

1.3.1 The Statement draws together a number of strands that relate to the park, its development, past and current uses and issues that affect its structure and fabric. The Conservation Statement was produced following a desk-based analysis of existing documentation relating to the park, further historic research and a site-survey. Inevitably, there are a large number of gaps in our knowledge of the site and these would be explored more fully in the Conservation Management Plan. The Statement describes our understanding of the site, gives a Statement of Significance, on analysis of Issues and Vulnerabilities and lastly identifies next steps.

1.4 Consultation

- 1.4.1 In preparing this Conservation Statement, CBA has consulted with the Client's Project Steering Group, which consists of members from London Borough of Haringey, CBA, SES, Lordship Recreation Users Forum and other consultants, such as Halcrow, Fiona Baird Associates, Core Connections, Jenny Mant Consultant and Gemma Mudhu Play Consultant.

2.0 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.1 Location and Brief Description

2.1.1 Lordship Recreation Ground (the site) is a public park of 20 ha, situated in North London within the London Borough of Haringey. The area immediately around the park contains the Broadwater Farm Estate and dense low-rise housing development dating from the early 20C. The park itself is rectangular, with ten entrances. Many of these entrances are in poor condition, with broken railings and uneven pathways. Two of the entrances are formal with large gates, these are situated at Downhills Road and Lordship Lane (see Figures 2.1).

2.1.2 The Park is roughly rectangular and comprises two large areas of open grassland bisected by the line of the River Moselle (now culverted) and the Moselle Brook. A belt of trees and scrub along the brook divides the north and south half of the Park visually. A small lake lies directly adjacent to the Brook.

2.1.3 The topography varies with the southern half of the park falling from a high point on the south boundary down to the river. Panoramic views are available from this south boundary. The northern half is more gently sloping. Planting is limited to individual and rows of trees with two small areas of woodland. The Park boundary is partially formed by hedges.

2.1.4 The Park has paths around the perimeter and along the central river corridor. These connect the entrances and various play and sports facilities, including the Model Traffic Area.

2.1.5 The Park contains few built structures these include, the Shell Theatre and Mother and Toddler Building. Public toilets (now partially closed) are on the north boundary and the Broadwater Community Centre is adjacent to the east boundary.

2.2 Ownership and Management

2.2.1 Lordship Recreation Ground is owned and managed by Haringey Council. It is maintained as part of the Neighbourhood East area team of the Haringey Recreation Services Business Unit. In addition volunteers help with some maintenance activities including litter picking days, which are organised by the Lordship

Recreation Ground Users Forum. There are no permanent members of staff based in the park and the Park is not locked at night.

2.3 Uses and Activities

2.3.1 Lordship Recreation Ground is a public park, which serves a dense urban area. The park has a number of different facilities, which cater for a range of ages especially for children and teenagers. There are fewer facilities for older people and for the disabled. Photographs of facilities in the Park are shown at Figure 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. To the north of the park is a large expanse of informal playing field, the ground is relatively flat thus making the area suitable for all sorts of sports and activities. The east corner of the park is fenced off for formal football pitches, these are used by the local community and schools. There is a new multi purpose games area and a new adventure playground. The Shell Theatre is currently used as a skateboard park.

2.3.2 South of the Moselle brook lies the former boating lake and a paddling pool, which is drained in the winter months, but very popular in the summer. Situated next to the paddling pool are the mother and toddler building and children's play area.

2.3.3 To the west lies the historic Model Traffic Area and associated play area, part of which has been covered over by the BMX track to the south-west.

2.4 Designations, Policies and Strategies

2.4.1 The Park is covered by Haringey Unitary Development Plan, 2004. This plan identifies the park as having the following planning designations;

- Metropolitan Open Land,
- Area of Archaeological Importance,
- The Public Conveniences situated on the north boundary with Lordship Lane are listed Grade II,
- The Park is designated as one of only three District Parks in Haringey.

2.4.2 The Park is not on the English Heritage register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest, however, it does contain some elements of significant historic interest including the Shell Theatre and the Model Traffic Area. It is therefore worth noting the Council's policy regarding landscapes of historic interest.

2.4.3 Any proposals for development or changes to the landscape, which will affect the character or setting of a registered or borough designated historic park or landscape must enhance and conserve the current historic character of the designated site in question within its area. Any plan must have an environmental statement, which must include a survey of historical interest. The council will encourage the protection and restoration of a historic park.

2.4.4 The Tower Gardens estate is adjacent to the park north of Lordship Lane. It is classed as a Conservation Area. The council's policy on Conservation Areas is to preserve and enhance the historic character of the area and the protection of historic buildings.

2.5 Historic Development

17th Century

2.5.1 During the 17th century the area was largely agricultural with relatively large field divisions and a meandering river, the River Slype (now known as the River Moselle) running between two large parcels of land identified as 'Downehills' in the south and 'Broade Waters' in the north. Berry Lane (now known as Lordship Lane) ran from Wood Green to the west, past a large house called 'The Lordship House' (now known as Bruce Castle Museum) to what is now Tottenham High Street. This can be seen on Figure 2.4.

18th Century

2.5.2 During the 18C the field pattern for the area that became the park changed slightly, but still has five divisions. The land has been consolidated up to the river and a grand house is shown to the south, (see Figure 2.5). This map shows the house to be named as 'Mount Pleasant House', but we now know it as 'Downhill House'. At some distance to the north of the house is a formal rectangular shape, close to the River Moselle, which could possibly be a lake. This lake was thought by William James Roe, who wrote 'Homestead Moat' taken from 'Ancient Tottenham' in 1631, to have been built on the remains of an Anglo Saxon moat, however no archaeological work has been done to confirm this. In the northwest corner of the designated area is a small pond like area. Broadwater farm has been built by this

time on Lordship Lane, the River Slype has been renamed the Moselle and joins into the New River to the west. There is a path leading from Mount Pleasant house to Bruce Castle, there is also a drive and lane leading from the west of Mount Pleasant house, which connects with the turnpike. The high road to the east is more built up with dwellings.

19th Century

2.5.3 The 1864 OS map, shows developments in the 19th century (see figure 2.6). The house to the south of the site, which was called Mount Pleasant, has now been identified as Downhills House and has been expanded to the west. Formal gardens have been laid out to the north and south of Downhills House. The southern gardens now include a lake, other smaller ponds, an icehouse, a wilderness plantation, paths and formal gardens with a central pond and extensive boundary tree planting. Part of this garden remains today as 'Downhills Park'. To the east of Downhills is the house known as Mount Pleasant.

2.5.4 To the north of the house, the rectangular pond remains, this now has two square islands symmetrically placed in the pond. The River Moselle is shown directly north of the pond and appears to have been straightened in this area. There is a wide avenue of trees placed on the axis of the house and pond following the view from Downhills house towards the north, this area is fenced off from the surrounding field and the field boundaries have remained the same and are indicated as planted with trees.

2.5.5 The footpath leading to Bruce Castle is still present. Broadwater Farm has been extended since the 18th century and has some formal gardens and an area of orchard to the south of the farm buildings.

20th Century

2.5.6 In the intervening years between the 1864 Os map and the 1936 OS map (see Figure 2.7) there was a significant amount of building around the park. Downhills house was demolished in 1903 but part of the formal gardens to the south was retained as a public park (Downhills Park). Because of the spread of housing during the 1930's there was fear that there would be little open space left for the

communities. By 1936 it has become a very dense urban area on the northwest and south boundary and to the east of the Moselle.

- 2.5.7 In 1902 the park was used for a large bonfire and party for the coronation of King Edward VII. In 1934 there was a three-day festival to celebrate Charter Day.
- 2.5.8 By 1932 part of the Moselle has been culverted beyond the site to the east and west to allow for new housing development. Part of the Townsend Estate (the owners of Downhills House and its estate) was sold to the Council in 1932 and opened as a Public Park in 1932. The surrounding urban development has taken a large corner out of the estate on the southeastern edge.
- 2.5.9 Part of the land along the northern boundary on Lordship Lane has been taken over for houses, with a new entrance with informal paths, gardens, a fountain and new Public Conveniences; this building is now grade II listed. The east part of the estate was taken up for allotments to alleviate food shortages during World War I and World War II. During World War II the park was hit by several bombs during the blitz. A number of people were killed when there was a direct hit on an air raid shelter in the park. The western boundary of the Park appears to be on the line of an old-field boundary. The footpath that led from Downhills House to Bruce Castle has disappeared. The River Moselle has been fenced off where it passes through the Park with two access points allowed from the northern half to the southern half of the Park.
- 2.5.10 The pond is still present, but there is only one island remaining. The avenue of trees has been removed and a path system laid out. A new Pavilion was built north of the river lining up with a crossing point. There are several new entrances to the park, 3 on the western boundary and 2 on the south side, one of which links directly across a new road to Downhills Park. There is no connection from the eastern side of the park to the allotment gardens, this can only be reached by a separate entrance from Lordship Lane outside the park.
- 2.5.11 Figure 2.8, the 1955 OS map, shows the park to have had several new facilities laid out. These are still in existence although no longer used as they were originally intended. The Pavilion remains with a new open-air theatre to the south the Shell Theatre. A large area has been designated as a Children's Playground and this contains the Model Traffic Area.

- 2.5.12 In 1936 there was a triple opening ceremony by the mayor of Tottenham for the Shell bandstand, boating lake and tennis courts. An account was published in 'The Weekly Herald'.
- 2.5.13 The Shell Theatre building and stage were opened on the 13th June 1936 and cost around £1, 410 to build. It had an elevated stage backed by a shell construction with a small building behind, timber screen walls flanked this. In front of the stage, a rectangular open space was enclosed by a small garden with planted beds, access paths and raised planters. This space could be used for seating or for dancing, and other activities (see historic photographs in Figure 2.9). The timber Pavilion to the south was slightly elevated with a surrounding terrace and offered refreshments and some covered seating on a veranda in addition to a tea terrace.
- 2.5.14 The Model Traffic Area was opened in 1938, and covered 4.5 acres, see Figure 2.10. It was designed to allow children to ride bikes and toy cars in a safe environment to educate them about road safety and to allow healthy outdoor exercise. The area was made up of a network of concrete roads and adjacent pavements deliberately downscaled to child size. There are about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of road in total; major roads are 9ft wide, minor roads are 6ft 6 ins wide with 4ft pavements. The whole area was bordered with low shrubs and small trees to emphasise the road system for the children and create blind corners. Miniature traffic lights and a police call box were added to the site, but these are no longer there. There were several play areas placed within and around the Model Traffic Area. These were designed so that children would learn to cross roads safely and use the pedestrian crossings. The Second World War brought the closure of the traffic area, but it was re-opened in 1947. At this time it had its own 'Highway Code'.
- 2.5.15 The area was opened by Dr Leslie Burgin who was the minister of transport at the time in 1938. Chief inspector Ernest Newark from Tottenham police station was asked to make a radio broadcast on the model traffic area and to explain the importance of road safety to children. At this time the motor car was becoming increasingly popular and taking over from the horse and cart. The MTA was thus not only a facility for the local community, but had a wider purpose to help educate children across London about the dangers of motor traffic.

- 2.5.16 The area had a hut where children could rent out bikes and cars, a teashop, and public toilets, all of which are no longer there. During World War II the traffic area was closed, but in 1947 it was to reopen as well as other former attractions of the park.
- 2.5.17 A formal watercourse identified the main axis from Downhills House to the lake on the east side of the MTA. This appears to have been fed by a natural spring near the southern boundary. A small circular pond in the south discharges into a narrow straight canal, which is divided at the midpoint by a circular pond and surrounding path. The path connects the west and east part of the playground. The lower end of the canal discharges into a rectangular pond placed centrally on the axis to the south of the lake. The two areas of the canal are each divided by 2 cascades.

Present day

- 2.5.18 The outline of the main pond is still visible together within one remaining island. The canal and cascades have disappeared and where the small pond at the foot of the canal was situated, there is now a paddling pool and asphalt surface children's play area. The formal gardens that would have been laid out around the Shell Theatre and Pavilion are no longer present nor is the Pavilion. A skateboarding park has recently been built in front of the theatre (see Figures 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3).
- 2.5.19 The Model Traffic Area fell into decline during the 1970's and the 1980's because of a lack of funding. Part of the south section has now been covered by a new BMX track. Part of the listed toilets are no longer in use by the northern entrance. A mother and toddler building was built next to the paddling pool as well as a new children's play area.
- 2.5.20 In 1992 a new Community Centre was built for the Broadwater Farm Estate on the east boundary of the Park. New sports facilities have been built for older children and teenagers near to the community centre. These include a multi use sports area, adventure playground and skateboarding park in the Shell Theatre. Lighting was installed on the path between Lordship Lane and the Community Centre in 2004.

2.6 Ecology

2.6.1 There is ecological potential at Lordship Recreation Ground, with habitats provided by the buildings, wooded areas and water bodies. It is suggested that an ecological survey be conducted as part of a wider conservation management planning exercise to explore this aspect of the park further. Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan from 2004 identifies areas in the park for ecological potential as;

- Secondary Woodland
- Hedgerow
- Neutral Grassland
- Lake
- Park/ Amenity Grassland

2.6.2 This however would have to be explored more fully if required in a Management Plan for the park.

2.6.3 The River Moselle runs the width of the park separating the main open playing fields and the lake area. The River Moselle originates at Muswell Hill and runs underground beneath Haringey until it gets to Tottenham Cemetery and Lordship Recreation Ground, only in these two areas does the river surface. The river was not always underground, it has only been because of the direct impact of urban development that the Moselle has been culverted. Prior to this, it meandered through relatively low lying undeveloped areas of water meadows and pasture. If the River Moselle was deculverted in the Park, there would be enormous potential for ecological enhancement, increased biodiversity and educational potential.

2.6.4 The lake is currently in poor condition with very poor water quality, degraded banks and paths and unmanaged planting. A variety of water birds come to the area and are of ecological interest.

2.6.5 The Moselle Brook with its mature willow trees may support bats (a European protected species), and the pond supports a number of water fowl. Odonata species and also amphibians, namely smooth newt and common frog, have also been recorded. The areas of secondary woodland and hedgerows support more common species of birds such as corvids and numerous passerines. Invertebrate interests include lesser stag beetles and Lepidoptera.

2.6.6 The wooded area situated by the River Moselle includes a mix of native British trees such as, English Oak, Alder, Hazel, Hornbeam, Hawthorn, Rowan and Willow. As native British trees they are important to the biodiversity of the park as they attract a number of insects and bird life.

2.6.7 The table below shows which priority Local or National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species have been recorded at Lordship Recreation Ground.

Table 1, Lordship Lane Recreation Ground: ecological value Biodiversity Action Plan priorities.

Priority habitat or species	National BAP	Local BAP
Common frog	No	Yes
Robin	No	Yes
Wren	No	Yes
Blackbird	No	Yes
House sparrow	No	Yes
Kestrel	No	Yes
Long-tailed tit	No	Yes
Sparrow hawk	No	Yes
Grey heron	No	Yes
Bats	No	Yes
Speckled wood	No	Yes
Rivers and streams	Yes	No*
Woodland (secondary)	No	Yes
Standing open water and canals	Yes	No*
Urban (managed green spaces)	Yes	No

- Indicates will be added at the next revision of Local BAP.

2.6.8 The park needs a more detailed ecological survey done to identify any priority species present. Existing evidence for the area indicates the park is most likely to contribute to the following ecological plans, Woodland Habitat Action Plan, (to

increase woodland in woodland deficient areas) and Bats Species Action Plan, (to increase the number and knowledge of bats, to protect and create more roost sites).

2.7 Archaeology

2.7.1 There has been little archaeological investigation of Lordship Recreation Ground and its various features. The Local Plan shows the Park as a Site of Archaeological Potential. It has been suggested that the lake was built on an Anglo Saxon moat, but no excavations have been carried out to date. In the preparation of a wider conservation management planning exercise, a more in depth initial desk study, together with an assessment of Bruce Castle Museum's collections, and a full exploration of the site's archaeological potential are suggested.

2.8 Social Context and Community Links

2.8.1 The main users of the park live predominately in the two estates bordering the park, Broadwater Farm Estate to the east and Tower Gardens to the north of the park. The area around the park is a dense urban area with close-built houses with little open space or back gardens, which makes this park even more vital for the local community. Haringey's PPG17 audit highlighted the lack of Open Space in Haringey, particularly in the east of the borough, this is also the most deprived area within the borough. The park is the only District Park in the east of the borough. It suffers from under resourcing and needs conservation and upgrading.

2.8.2 The Friends of Lordship Recreation Ground hold events at the park to involve the community in activities and for them to gain a greater understanding and respect for the environment around them. The park is used for many sports and other activities especially during the summer months, this combined with the heritage features in the park make it an important park. Below are some of the principal involvements of the community to date;

- Lordship Recreation grounds Users Forum – Meetings held monthly and involves park users, stakeholders and the parks service.
- The renovation of the lake by the Friends of LRG in association with BTCV.
- Trees for Cities Woodland, which was planted by volunteers through BTCV

- Maintenance of Graham Lee Memorial Trees
- Clean up days for the lake and park organised by BTCV and the Friends group.
- Festival and events held throughout the summer months.

2.8.3 Even though the area is well used for sports and recreation, the park is seen by some as a problem area within the community. There are concerns about security related to teenage gangs in the park, muggings and the occasional instance of an attack. It is hoped that restoring this park and bringing new activities to the area will help to increase visitor numbers and improve the quality of life for the currently deprived community.

2.8.4 The area is famous for the Broadwater estate riots in the 1980's.

2.8.5 The building of the estate started in 1970 and was completed in 1973. At this time the area had already gained a reputation for crime, insecurity and poor services. Many of the tenants were from ethnic minority groups and there were the increased lack of prospects in the area, drug problems and unemployment. In 1976 it was concluded that the estate should be knocked down because of the design faults and the social problems of the area. This caused trouble between the local community and the local authority. By 1982 the council had set up an office to deal with the complaints of the estate and to base a repairs team on the estate. Jobs for the estate were given to the local community and the area began to improve. However in 1985 the Broadwater Farm riots broke out bringing to a head tension between the police and the local community.

2.8.6 Since these riots funding has been made available and work done to improve relations. One year after the riots crime had fallen in the area and race relations had improved. The Youth Association secured European funding for training and community development as well as other funding. In the 1990's the community health centre was opened, together with the neighbourhood office and children's play areas.

2.8.7 The community has now become more involved in the area around the estate. The park has been a main focus for this as it is the only open green space in the area and a focal point for the Broadwater estate. The Friends of Lordship Recreation

Ground and Lordship Recreation Ground Users Forum were formed to help improve the park and relations with the local community. There have been many projects set up to encourage the community to get involved in the park. These included improvements to the lake, local festivals and the development of the Adventure Playground. This was designed and partly constructed by children from the local community.

3.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 General

3.1.1 The purpose of the statement of significance is to set out what is important about Lordship Recreation Ground and why it is valued. A full conservation Management Plan will reveal the significance of the site more fully but the work carried out in the preparation of this Conservation Statement can help to provide an indication of the parks value.

3.2 Overall Significance

3.2.1 In the early 20 century the Park was bought by the council to provide much needed open space for the newly created communities around it. Because the area around the park is highly developed with Broadwater Farm Estate and Tower Gardens Estate and an area of high deprivation, the park is an important asset to the local community. It is also important to the borough as a whole as one of only three District Parks in Haringey. The park has significance in terms of its heritage, social history, amenities, historic fabric, amenities and ecology, which can be more clearly defined under the following themes. It is designated Metropolitan open land and is therefore recognised as an important area of open space.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 The Park has significant heritage interest; early features that still survive are the historic field boundaries, the lake and its island and the Moselle Brook.

3.3.2 The Shell Theatre and the Model Traffic Area, both of which are in relatively good condition, are fine examples of imaginative new facilities built by the council to meet the needs of the new community in the immediate area. The restoration of these areas and ensuring their sustainability will allow them to continue to be of use to the local community and will encourage greater use of the park.

3.3.3 Although not officially listed both the Shell Theatre and the Model Traffic Area are unusual rare features in Public parks. These examples have survived relatively intact and offer the potential to be conserved and restored to allow an active

sustainable use for the 21C. The public toilets, built at the same time, are now Grade II listed.

3.4 Open Space, Amenity and Sports Value

3.4.1 Haringey's PPG17 audit highlighted the lack of Open Space in Haringey, particularly in the east of the borough., this is also the most deprived area within the borough. As Metropolitan Open Land, therefore the recreation ground provides essential open space in a densely built up area of North London. The park is therefore significant in providing a green space amongst the flats and houses that dominate this highly deprived area. There is also a clear amenity and sporting value attributed to the park with the informal and formal sports and play areas.

3.5 Ecology

3.5.1 More work needs to be done on the ecology of the park, but key habitats include:

- the Moselle brook and its associated trees;
- the Pond (Lake) and its associated planting;
- areas of secondary woodland and hedgerows.

3.6 Social History

3.6.1 Up until the early 20th century the area was predominantly pasture and arable farmland. The area around the park changed drastically to become a dense urban area. The rapid expansion of housing around the park meant that it became vital as an open green space for the community. The park has played an important role in the social history of the local people as it was a place for entertainment and celebration. In 1902 the park was used for a large bonfire and party to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII, and in 1934 the park was used as a venue for the celebration of charter day when there were 49 floats, a fun fair and much more. It is important to note this as it confirms that the local community were using this park space for social activities before it was officially opened as a park.

3.6.2 The park also played an important role during both World Wars where part of the park was made into allotment gardens to alleviate the food shortage. There were

two public air raid shelters in the park. One of these was destroyed whilst occupied during the Blitz. The Friends of Lordship Recreation Ground are working towards a memorial for the many people who were killed in the park in this incident.

3.6.3 The friends of Lordship Recreation Ground have been working for a number of years to try to bring the community together and restore community spirit. Many events have been held for the local community, including activity days. Volunteers working in the park, helping to fund raise to provide new sports facilities for children. This culminated with the opening of the skateboarding park and BMX track in 2005. The space for playing fields for formal and informal games meant that the community could come together and use these facilities and schools could benefit from the sports facilities that the park offers.

3.6.4 During the late 20th century there was a decline in park resources. The Broadwater riots in the 80's made the government reconsider the area and work to improve facilities for the community. Since these riots the council in partnership with the community have achieved a great deal. New initiatives include the community centre, sports area and adventure playground.

3.7 Historic Fabric

3.7.1 The historic fabric of Lordship Recreation Ground is at risk of being eroded and lost. The park itself is well used, but there is a growing worry about vandalism and crime in the park. The Shell Theatre is a main historical focal point in the park, but the area around it has now changed from the early Park layout. The theatre would have had a space for seating and a Pavilion, but this has been replaced by a skateboarding park. There is no boundary between the skateboarding park and the theatre and these new contrasting uses may put pressure on the historic fabric.

4.0 ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

4.1 General

4.1.1 A number of aspects of Lordship Recreation Ground's significance are under threat, particularly its heritage value. The park has had new modern facilities built to try to encourage the local children to come and use the park. In some instances, these new uses conflict with the historic fabric. There are plans for further development of the site and for the restoration of the park, but these need to be balanced with an understanding of its historic significance and value.

4.1.2 The following section sets out the key issues and vulnerabilities of Lordship Recreation Ground that could detract from the parks significance and if not addressed, will continue to speed the decline of its fabric.

4.2 Management Structure and Funding

4.2.1 The decline of public parks in local authority ownership during the 20th century is due to a lack of funding, this is a recognised trend throughout the country. LBH and the local 'friends' group are working together to try to source additional funding for the Park.

4.3 Maintenance and Repair

4.3.1 Lordship Recreation Ground is maintained as part of the Neighbourhood East area team of Haringey Recreation Services Business Unit. Currently around £75000 is spent on park maintenance per annum. This includes cutting grass, emptying of bins and the general maintenance of play equipment. There are no permanent members of staff present at the park. Some maintenance is done by volunteers and Lordship Recreation Users Forum. Some areas however receive little maintenance. These include the Moselle River and semi natural areas, the woodland and areas around the BMX track. Some features in the park are in need of repair and this gives the park an appearance of neglect.

4.4 Management Planning

4.4.1 The site needs a single document that sets out a site-wide vision and strategy or action plan for development and management of the Park. Securing such a document is vital if proposed developments in the park are to proceed. LRUF have done valuable work to produce a 'Vision' for the Park. This will now be incorporated with earlier work to provide a masterplan for the park as a separate project. However, the site wide vision and masterplan should be supplemented and supported by a Conservation Management Plan.

4.5 Gaps in Knowledge

4.5.1 There are several areas in which additional work should be undertaken, particularly relating to further historic research, ecology, archaeology and developing a greater understanding of visitor numbers and make-up.

4.6 Vandalism

4.6.1 Lordship Recreation Ground is a publicly accessible park and suffers from vandalism. The park is accessible at night but only one path is lit. The park is used as a through route but is an unsafe area to be in at night and some areas are perceived as 'no go' areas in daylight hours. The buildings can also attract anti-social behaviour.

4.7 Community Engagement

4.7.1 Lordship Recreation Ground has already had developments in the grounds to encourage the community to use the area more. It is proposed to build on the existing links to develop and grow community involvement.

4.7.2 Although there is an active Friends Group for the recreational ground, it is vital that the needs of all local users and the wider community are understood and addressed. Their representatives should be involved in the development of any proposals that are made for the park. The preparation of a Conservation Management Plan will support this. It is also essential that the community be engaged in learning about the parks past so that the message of the parks significance is taken out into the wider community, helping to support the parks sustainability into the future.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

5.1 General

5.1.1 Over the years a large amount of work has been undertaken to understand Lordship Recreation Ground and to identify a strategy which will secure a sustainable future for the park, its landscape and buildings. LBH and LRUF have been working together to secure a better future for the park. They have agreed a series of themes (Play, Education and Ecology) but these need to be embodied in an overarching vision and master plan, which can form a framework for future development. It is important that this Vision should also respect the unusual and significant historic elements remaining in the Park.

5.1.2 This Conservation Statement draws together what is known about the park and identifies gaps in our knowledge. These relate to the historic development of the park, current and potential audiences, ecology and archaeology. It is clear that more work in these areas needs to be undertaken.

5.2 Conservation Management Plan

5.2.1 This Conservation Statement has been written to identify the significance and value of Lordship Recreation Ground and its areas of vulnerability. There is a need for the conservation of the heritage, archaeological and ecological values of the site. These must be balanced with the requirement for a sustainable and well-used area of public green space in Tottenham, which serves its local community and the wider area beyond. There are areas in this statement that need to be more fully explored. These could be investigated in a Conservation Management Plan.

5.3 The Heritage Lottery Fund

5.3.1 This Conservation Statement will be used as part of a Stage 1 application to the HLF for a grant as part of the 'Parks for People' funding programme. It is hoped that funding will be made available to enable this valuable area of open space to survive and continue to service and improve the quality of life for the surrounding community.