

# WHAT'S BEEN DONE SINCE FEBRUARY 2010...?

The initial activities involved in progressing the project include a series of site surveys and investigations. These services are being completed by specialist members of the consultant team and reports have been prepared to inform the design proposals and budget for the Gardens restoration scheme. The stated requirements for each survey were developed into firm research plans and progress in each area is detailed below:



## FURNITURE SURVEY

A survey of the current style and condition of furniture within the Gardens (seating, bins, signage and handrails) was undertaken between April and July 2010. The report, which is now being finalised, will include a site plan plus illustrations and notes on the origin, condition and appropriateness of the furniture. The report will inform a furniture and colour strategy for the Gardens. Initial findings suggest that the furniture is mostly in reasonably good condition, but has been added to and replaced over the years in an 'ad hoc' manner, so lacks unity and consistency in style and quality.

## TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

A detailed topographic survey of the Gardens was undertaken in March 2010 by EDI Surveyors of Ipswich. This included where possible, lean of walls, invert levels, manhole covers, pipe sizes, heights at top and bottom of walls and kerbs, drop kerbs and all tree locations. The final plan has been used as the base for all other survey work, the development of project designs and measurements for the cost plan. The survey has been prepared as a 3D model in an AutoCAD file and is linked to the Ordnance Survey MasterMap, which provides context to the site.

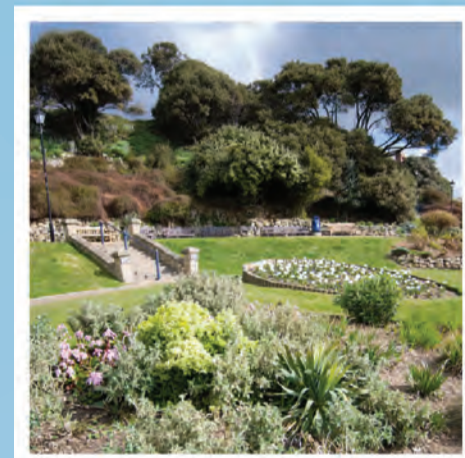


## SERVICES & UTILITIES STUDY

A desk study to locate the presence of any statutory services in, under and over the Gardens and define their approximate location was carried out by the project engineers and a report prepared in June 2010. Electricity, gas, telecommunications, cable, foul drainage water, surface drainage water and potable water service suppliers were contacted and details of any services within the site boundary were included within the report and indicated on plans.

## CLIFF ELEVATOR STUDY

A study was undertaken in May 2010 to explore the technical and financial deliverability of a cliff elevator within Felixstowe Seafront Gardens. The project team sought information from technical data sources, Local Authorities and private sector service providers who manage and maintain cliff elevators at other locations. On consideration of the paper, the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens Project Board decided that a cliff elevator was not to be included as part of the HLF scheme on the grounds of cost, adverse visual impact and unsuitability of the cliff structure in the area under consideration.



## HISTORIC GARDEN RESEARCH

Lanarca worked together with local volunteers to collate documentary and archival information on the history and development of the Gardens. A review of archival information available and a site visit were undertaken in April by John Sales, consultant historic gardens advisor. John provided an outline statement of significance, potential and threat, together with a list of principles of conservation and management and a gazetteer of plant recommendations. This advice and analysis was developed and incorporated into the draft Conservation Management Plan so that management guidance relating to the conservation of the historic Gardens can be effective in the long-term.

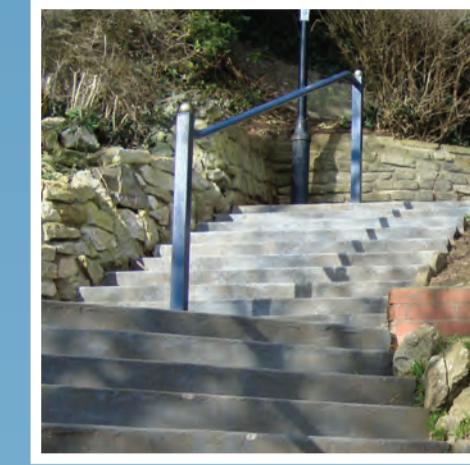


## MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE PLAN RESEARCH

Once the outline scheme proposals have been confirmed by the Project Board, work will commence to prepare ten year Management & Maintenance Plan (MMP) for the Gardens. This will consider the issues facing the Gardens, future management needs, and will propose a future maintenance regime. This regime will be described together with associated management requirements and costs, sufficient to sustain and maintain the Gardens to a high standard in future years. In due course the MMP will be submitted to the Project Board to be adopted, including the resource and revenue commitments it contains.

## ENGINEERING STUDIES

The team will be coordinating ground condition investigations to inform the design of potential structural elements to be included in the project (e.g. access improvements, buildings, walls). The investigations will include soil investigation, structural repairs and targeted opening up and trial holes.



Hannah Reed, structural and geotechnical engineers, reviewed the available information and carried out initial visual site inspections during April-June 2010. Proposed methodologies were submitted to the Council for approval, scoping and review before detailed work will be commenced by the consultants.

## STRUCTURES - CONDITION SURVEY

The Round Shelter and Octagonal Shelter were inspected in March 2010 by Whitworth Co-Partnership's conservation architects. Their resulting report includes a scheme of repairs and improvements.



The condition of the shelters on detailed inspection was found to be fair, but repairs needed include brickwork tying, re-pointing, replacing decayed bricks and decayed timber post feet and soleplates. Roofing materials need replacing with original red day tiles or another appropriate material. The report also revealed that surrounding planting should be reduced where it may adversely affect the shelter roofs or block views.

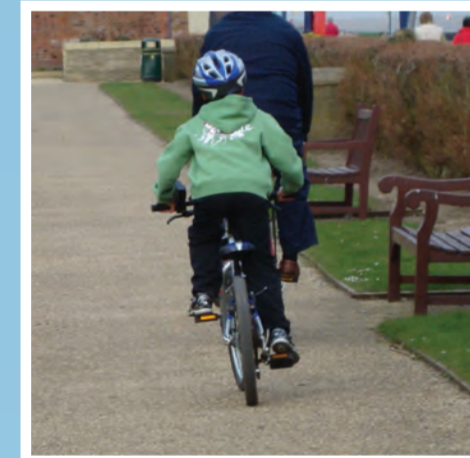
## CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN RESEARCH

A draft of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was completed in June. The CMP describes the historic development, current condition and heritage value of the Seafront Gardens and provides a statement of the Gardens' historic significance, put into context with relevant local and national planning policies such as heritage, environment and community strategies. The Plan identifies risks and opportunities for the Garden's future and develops heritage landscape-led principles and policies for the future conservation and management of the Gardens. The CMP will provide overarching guidance for the restoration, conservation and enhancement of the Grade II listed Gardens for the long-term.



## ACCESS PLAN

The Access Plan will provide an assessment of visitor expectations, off site and onsite promotional information, transport links, arrival experience, entrances, way finding and routes, interpretation, sensory richness, quality of experience, gradients, surfaces and steps, seating, shelter, toilets and natural, historic and visitor-related features. Since March, we have been collating relevant information through site survey, desktop research, GreenSTAT visitor surveys, data loggers and consultation with access groups. This work is ongoing.



## STONE & ROCK IDENTIFICATION

The project architects undertook a site survey in March and April 2010 to record the extent and location of different natural stone types used within built features in the Gardens to record their condition and function. The original source of each stone type was identified, cross-referencing the Directory of Natural Stones. Recommendations for conservation, repair and the identification of sources for replacement were included in the report which was completed in June 2010.



## HYDROLOGY INVESTIGATION

Project engineers Hannah-Reed commenced their investigation in April 2010. The ongoing study is assessing existing arrangements for the passage of surface water across the site, either through natural features or engineered systems. The report will consider flow rates and flow sustainability, water quality, health and safety implications, issues of supply to water features and watering points and outline proposals for any remediation or enhancement proposals.



## ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

The specialist ecological input to the evolving project design proposals is being co-ordinated by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the project ecological consultant. Survey visits commenced in April and will conclude in July 2010 with a bat survey, unless the survey findings indicate the need for further work. The surveys undertaken include:

Habitat Survey – broadly an extended Phase 1 survey  
Ornithological Survey and Breeding Bird Survey  
Reptile and Amphibian Survey  
Bat Surveys – including an evening emergence survey

## TREE SURVEY

A survey carried out in April recorded the species, location, canopy spread, diameter at breast height, condition, estimate of age, amenity and heritage value, and recommendations for work for every tree in the Gardens. 183 individual trees and 12 groups of trees were surveyed and marked on a plan. Of these, 42 individual trees were classified as category A (high quality and value) and 89 as category B (moderate quality and value). These trees are the most important trees on site.



## ACTIVITY PLAN RESEARCH

We are preparing an Activity Plan for the project in accordance with HLF guidance. The Activity Plan will set out proposals for activity for and with the public, designed to meet HLF's learning, training, volunteering, audience development and participation aims.

The plan is currently in production and will continue to evolve as the project proposals and designs are advanced over the coming months.

## PROJECT COSTING

In March 2010, the team undertook a review of the Round 1 HLF Scheme costs for capital works. Through April to June, we have continued to work with the project Quantity Surveyor to update the cost plan as the project develops. This close work will assist with Project Board decision making, to ensure the restoration proposals are developed within the budget set by the Round 1 HLF application.



## ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL STUDY

Mechanical engineers have surveyed the existing lighting and electrical infrastructure within the Gardens, and analysed light levels taken during a night-time survey in May 2010. This report, supported by plans and photographs, was followed by the preparation of a lighting strategy for the Gardens, informed by the evolving outline design proposals and consultation feedback. Proposals will consider the potential impact of new lighting on residents, wildlife and the general environment.

