

## What is being proposed?

**A public country park on the doorstep of the new Manydown community will be a great asset that has already generated interest from residents across the borough.**

The proposed strategy for the country park created as part of the development draws on examples of existing country parks in Hampshire.

The initial proposals seek to achieve a balance between opportunities for recreational activities and ensuring existing natural habitats are protected and opportunities for ecological enhancements are realised. The country park is seen as a local facility that foremostly serves the residents of the borough rather than wider Hampshire.



Country park masterplan

## Get in touch

Call: **Freephone 08081 683 600**  
Email: [feedback@manydownbasingstoke.co.uk](mailto:feedback@manydownbasingstoke.co.uk)  
Visit: [www.manydownbasingstoke.co.uk](http://www.manydownbasingstoke.co.uk)

#### The initial proposals are likely to include:

- a country park hub, located at the existing Worting Wood Farm;
- existing mature and historic woodlands;
- traditionally managed coppiced hazel woodland;
- species rich meadows; and
- the retention of some areas as working farmland.

#### The country park hub is likely to include:

- a café with outdoor seating;
- indoor education space;
- specific areas that will be retained for farming activities such as growing crops and rearing livestock;
- sensitively equipped woodland themed play area; and
- an activity garden to include crafts, woodland education and a storytelling shelter.

The management of the country park will aim to encourage as many residents and their families to enjoy its recreational and educational benefits while balancing this with protecting and enhancing nature conservation and ecology. On this basis a detailed design proposal and a long-term management plan will be submitted as part of future more detailed planning applications. This will include the management of protected sites, habitats and species, landscape management proposals and visitor facilities and access arrangements such as car parking.

Initial work that has taken place supports the objective of the country park being a facility that benefits the wider town not just Manydown and providing an important environmental, educational, health and recreational resource for Basingstoke.

Work with local school children suggests there is enthusiasm for play and learning activities.

## Why have we adopted this approach?

### **Creating a large new public country park for Basingstoke is supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Local Plan which requires it as part of the development of the site.**

The borough council, as the authority responsible for planning, has requested details of how the site's biodiversity will be protected and enhanced over time and information on the delivery, timing and management of the country park.

In consultation feedback, there was general support for the overall approach for the country park. A number of people expressed a desire for natural woodland to be included, and a number stated that they would like to see a greater variety of trees provided within the country park. Other feedback emphasised the importance of the country park being well maintained, having adequate parking and ensuring it would be accessible for everyone. The detailed design of the country park will be a matter for future more detailed planning applications.

Since January 2016, a number of students from Basingstoke schools have been involved in workshops covering a range of aspects of the new Manydown development. This has included two workshops on what the students thought should be included in the country park. Ideas included play areas with natural, wooden equipment; alternative 'wild play' options; circular cycle routes for all the family; a designated route for a park run; bird watching hides; designated areas for photographers and artists; dog walking areas and a dog agility course.

## To read the full information

See the following outline planning documents below on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's website at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/manydownplanning](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/manydownplanning)

- Landscape Strategy

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