Welcome to Holly Hill
Woodland Park
Local Nature Reserve

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
Holly Hill Woodland Park is a beautiful example of late-Victorian landscaped parkland surrounded by mature woodland. The site, located between Sarisbury Green & Warsash, covers an area of 35 Ha and stretches down to the River Hamble from the car park on Barnes Lane.

The Park is divided in two halves known as Cawtes Copse and Winnards Copse. Winnards encompasses the original ornamental landscape and is the only known site in Hampshire that features Pulhamite Stone, which creates the lakes and waterfalls. As well as other Pulhamite follies, such as the Grotto, this area is home to many exotic trees & shrubs including Swamp Cypress and Coastal Redwood.

Cawtes Copse is native woodland and is managed to conserve and increase its rich diversity of wildlife, including the Yellow-Necked Mouse, Roe Deer, Bluebells and woodland dependant butterfly species. The River Hamble can be reached by a short ramble through the woodland.

Managed by Fareham Borough Council and volunteers, Holly Hill offers visitors a unique combination of heritage interest and attractive wildlife.
Welcome to HOLLY HILL Woodland Park

History

Holly Hill Woodland Park was once part of a large estate which had a succession of owners throughout the 19th Century. It was during the latter part of the 19th century that the grand Salisbury Court was built, the gardens were planted with exotic species, and the Pulhamite stonework was installed. In 1960, George Wrin bought estate and then built Holly Hill Mansion and created the Sunken Garden, both of which survive today.

In 1917, Salisbury Court was sold to the US Government, and after the war was sold back to the British Government. The neglected building was eventually demolished in the 1930s. In 1954, the land was bought by Forham Borough Council, but there was little management of the gardens until the 1990s. Since then, Forham Borough Council, with the excellent assistance of a dedicated volunteer group, has reclaimed the site from the dilapidated state of old. In 20 years, the volunteer group and rangers have re-established paths, restored the lake, and created the lake environment. Holly Hill is now recognised as a Local Nature Reserve, and has achieved the Green Flag Award since 2008. The Council aims to continue to manage and sustain the ecological resource and community value of the park for future generations.

River Hamble Viewpoint

The River Hamble is an internationally important area for wildlife, as well as a thriving boating industry. The meadows and reedbeds are ideal spots to spot birds such as Reed Warbler, Lapwing and Little Egret.

Cowtys Copse

Management of this native woodland is vital to retain existing wildlife interest and maximise the biodiversity potential. Illy removing some of the invasive sycamore and laurel stands that are detrimental to native tree regeneration, sunny glades have been established which ensure that more wildflowers, birds and insects flourish across the Park.

Pulhamite Stone

Pulhamite is a synthetic hard, sandstone, produced by the Pulham brothers in the 1900s. Made from Portland stone, cement and rubble (although the exact recipe was lost when the brothers died), all the rock features around the lakes are artificial. This includes the Grotto, which originally would have allowed guests to sightseeing boats in the cave and row onto the lake.

Exotic Species

There are many exotic ornamental plants and trees around the lakes. These include Swamp Cypress, Tree Ferns, Gunnera (giant rhubarb) and the mighty Coastal Redwoods. Native to California and subject to regular forest fires, Redwoods have fire resistant soft bark. The largest Redwood in the lake is one of the oldest trees in the Park.

Sunken Garden

This area previously contained glasshouses which once covered the beautiful Carmelita in the centre of the garden. The Carmelita is estimated to be about 175 years old and the glasshouses had to be removed to allow it to grow. Some of the brickwork still remains. George Wrin subsequently created the Sunken Garden in 1936, which was then restored in 1998 based on photos donated by his daughter, Miss Katherine Wrin.

Winnards Copse

Encompassing the original ornamental garden and lakes, Winnards Copse is shown on an 1838 map as Winnards Wood. However, due to lack of management in the past, it became overgrown with Rhododendron and Laurel (originally planted by the Victorians as ornamental plants). This is where extensive work is being carried out by the volunteers. As well as maintaining the paths, such as the Old Carriageway (where once horse drawn carriages were driven to Salisbury Court), the volunteers are systematically reducing the invasive species.

The Lakes

The lakes and waterfalls were created from Pulhamite stone and are one of the most striking attractions for visitors (see also 5). They are fed from several sources helping to ensure water is retained throughout the year. Unfortunately, due to the increased amount of silt that now enters the Park, the lakes have to be dredged to clear the deposits.
How to find
HOLLY HILL
Woodland Park

From the M27, exit at Junction 8, take the road to Hamble, and then take the first left along the A27. Drive over the Hamble Bridge through Swanwick and turn right into Barnes Lane at Sarisbury Green. Follow this road until you see the signpost right for Holly Hill. A free car park and toilets are located at the entrance. A disabled access car park is available further along Barnes Lane.

Access Information

♿ Much of the park is accessible to all, although there are some steep slopes. There is an easy access route from the Barnes Lane entrance and accessible parking bays in the main car park.

🐶 Dogs are welcome provided that they are kept under control. They MUST be kept on leads around the lakes.

🚲 Cycling is not permitted around the lakes.

 الخي : Horses must keep to the trail provided.

⌚ Entrance to Holly Hill Woodland Park is free and and open all year round.

Contact Information

Countryside Service
Tel: 01329 824784
Fax: 01329 821770
Text: 07876 131415
Email: conservation@fareham.gov.uk

Or write to

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www.farehamgov.uk/hollyhill