



Gazetteer of Park Features

Memorial Park, Padiham

prepared by Ryder Landscape Consultants on behalf of Burnley Borough Council for:

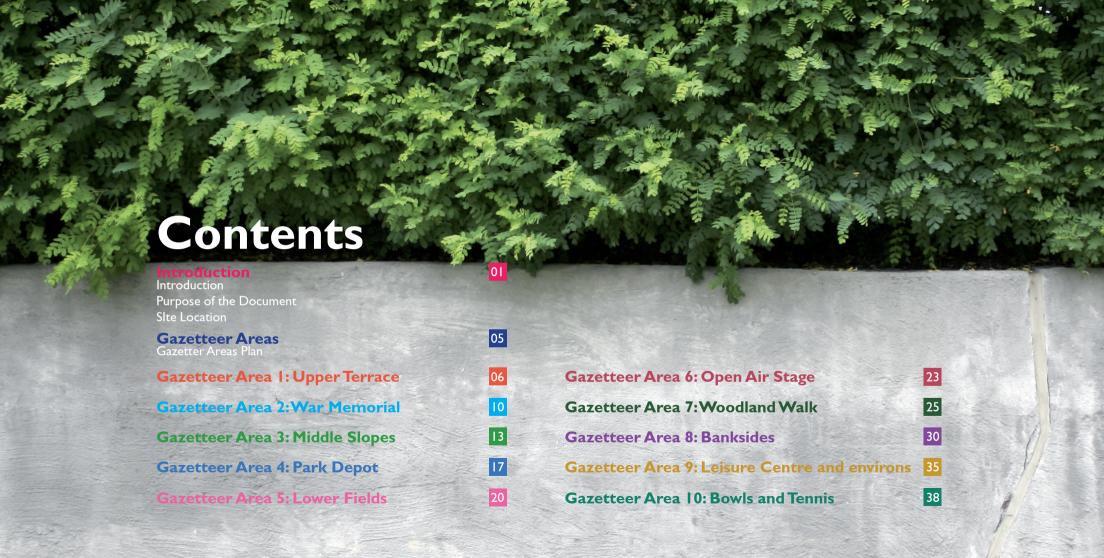
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Draft



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Introduction

A Gazetteer of features for Memorial Park, Padiham

Establishing a baseline of existing Park content with an initial appraisal of their Current and Potential Conservation Value

Since the Victorian era the creation, preservation and enhancement of urban green space has been fundamental in making modern conurbations more attractive places to live, work, play, visit and invest in. Parks and Green Space provide focal points for a town-wide community to congregate and interact, exercise and relax as well providing spaces for individual expression and access to nature.

However, modern pressures have resulted in an under-investment in Urban Green Space throughout England that has resulted in a lack of realisation of the potential of so many great spaces despite the enormous value that the general public place on Parks both culturally and physically. In proactive response to this decline Burnley Borough Council has commissioned Ryder Landscape Consultants to undertake landscape design consultancy in preparation for a bid to the Parks for People programme, administered by the Heritage Lottery Fund, for support in renewing the important community feature of Memorial Park, Padiham.

In response to the rapidly expanding industrial development of Padiham in the latter 19th and early 20th Century the Urban District Council acquired land by donation from Lord Shuttleworth and Thomas Clayton for the laying out of a park aimed at the improvement of public health. The Park was laid out on the basis of local fundraising, in particular the Memorial for men of Padiham who died in the First World War, and to this day has retained its standing as central element within Padiham life.

A way forward for Memorial Park

As well as the War Memorial the Park contains numerous features held within the public consciousness and which are currently under popular public use. It is considered that a thorough and robust methodology for the regeneration of the Park should hold at its core a process of extensive Public Consultation and a thorough appreciation of the heritage value of the Park. The Public Consultation will be undertaken in the appreciation that a Park is an intangible concept beyond its existence as a sum of its features whilst holding the belief that it is the features that deliver a tangible sense of its character and potential futures.

Purpose of the Document

Aim of the Gazetteer

Whilst issues of Public Consultation will be discussed elswhere within the PfP submission the aim of the Gazetteer is to:

"... identify the features of importance within the Park landscape that are considered intrinsic to conserving and enhancing the unique character of Memorial Park as well as providing a basis for expansion of potential to deliver a Green Space to be held central to the development of Padiham as a thriving community in the North-West of England."

Objectives of the Gazetteer

- to implement outside consultant historical and archaeological research to be presented in concise report format;
- to employ outside consultant Access
 Surveys to determine the quality of existing access and circulation routes throughout the Park;
- to undertake a thorough site survey of the existing landscape condition of the Park with respect toits extant features; and
- to produce an authoritative report on the extant features including a consideration of Conservation and Potential Value for the Park's regeneration strategy.

Site Survey

The Site Survey was initially undertaken during January 2008 with a revisit of extant conditions during June 2008 further to a drop-in Public Consultation session held within the Park for local users and further mebers of the Padiham community.



Site Location

Where is the Park ?!?

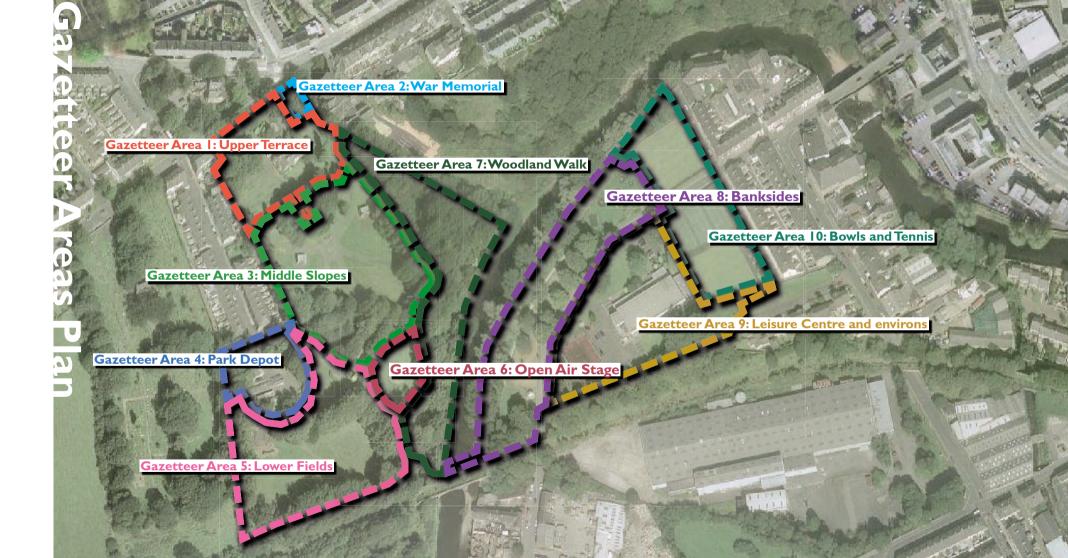
Padiham is a small town to the north-west of Burnley in the former industrial heartland county of Lancashire, England.

Memorial Park is located to the western edge of Padiham split into two sections by the River Calder that flows through Padiham in an east-to-west direction. The northern section of the Park is situated between Blackburn Road in the north and the River Calder to the south at an elevation of between 106m and 75m AOD. The southern section is located to the opposite bank of the River Calder, is bisected by Park Road and is predominantly flat in topography.

Gazetteer Areas

Outline character areas of the Parkland landscape

Establishing a baseline of existing Park content with an initial appraisal of their Current and Potential Conservation Value



Gazetteer Area 1: Upper Terrace Location: Northern most area of Memorial Park adjacent to Blackburn Road (A678).

Boundary Description: The extent of this area is defined by the largely flatter areas at the top of the Park adjacent to Blackburn Road (A678).

Current Usage: This area serves as the Park's main entrance and is used as a thoroughfare to the main body of the Park. The area contains features of community memorials, formalised planting and a former residential property now under use by Age Concern.

Intended Usage: To be completed after preliminary consultation









Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
Α	Boundary wall along Blackburn Road	Good	High – original feature wall constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained at all costs	High - Creates a strong and emotive character to the northern boundary face of the Park as well as providing an excellent edge definition
В	Boundary wall piers	Good	High – original features to be retained	High - Frame the entrance and provides solid bases to (possible) entrance gates but consideration should be given to creating a grander entrance to the Park from Blackburn Road especially if car parking is to be considered to serve Knight Hill House
С	Bitumous macadam driveway entrance to Knight Hill House	Poor	Low – modern, overly practical response to access requirements to Knight Hill House	Low – this should be replaced and rethought in conjunction with car parking requirements at access to Knight Hill House and the wider Park
D	Planted area to north-west corner of Park	Poor	Medium – some mature trees worthy of conservation further to the findings of a tree survey	Medium / Low – some specimens worth keeping but the bulk could be removed to open the Park up to views from Blackburn Road





Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
E	Air Crash Memorial	Good	High – a feature of high local importance and relevance	High – a rigorous maintenance plan will be required as well as potential for new planting. Consideration could be given to relocation as a feature in the Park separate from the War Memorial in whose shadow it is located less well served by access or views.
F	Knight Hill House	Good	High — a structure of little architectural merit but of good local vernacular and integrity	High – although possible redevelopment ideas have been discussed in the past the House offers many opportunities. Possible remodelling could occur to give the House a better sense of entrance and consideration should be given to constructing areas of hardstanding (i.e. terrace, patio) linking to the house to allow for greater diversity of use.
G	Formal Rose Beds in lawn area	Good	Medium – a classic landscape feature from the period of the Park's creation the Rose Beds are a well liked feature in the Park	Medium / High - well maintained and worthy of retention but open to opportunities of relocation and establishing new relationships with Knight Hill House Medium / High - well maintained and worthy of retention but open to opportunities of relocation and establishing new relationships with Knight Hill House









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Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
Н	Mature Tree Stock	Good	High – some specimens appear to have survived from the Park's creation	High – selectively retain and thin out specimens to provide better setting for Knight Hill House and memorial
I	Herbaceous borders to south face of Knight Hill House	Poor	Medium – conceptually well worth retaining but physically in need of a rethink and better maintenance	Medium / High – a potentially highly attractive feature, especially in conjunction with the stone walls throughout the Park. Possible expansion of planting areas should be considered in proximity to Knight Hill House if new terracing created
J	Air Raid Shelter	Good	High – a feature of historical interest, although limited in size and features well worth conserving	High – with appropriate management possible avenues of use on event days are readily conceivable
K	Boundary walls with stone copes	Good	High - original walls constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained at all costs	High - Create a strong and emotive character to the boundaries of the Park and provide an excellent edge and setting for features.
L	Kiosk and walled lawn area	Good	High – Kiosk of medium aesthetic merit set amongst attractive stone walls and lawn areas provides an excellent practical feature for the Park	High – Currently used as a cafe on event days and throughout the summer the extant power supply provides a diversity of possible use











Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
М	Toilet facilities	Poor	Medium – a useful feature that would require refurbishment if retained	High – a useful feature for event days that could become more fitting in appearance for its location
N	Finger posts	Good	Medium / High – useful features of attractive and fitting appearance in need of cleaning and retouching but well worth retention	High – flexible, useful features that would represent a useful cost saving if retained as well as providing a street furniture theme style
0	Bench seats	Poor	Low – the seating for the entire Park needs to be rethought and a single approach and style taken rather than the chaotic appearance that the piecemeal specimens currently create in the Park	Medium – some of the seating frames are attractive and could be reseated with timber slats as long as new frames could be constructed to create a suite throughout the Park
P	Steps leading up to Rose beds	Poor	Low – stone steps with a timber handrail that could be lifted, retained and relaid but this location needs to be considered	Medium – features of possible re-use value that should be retained and used in the Park to retain a heritage aesthetic
Q	Bitumous macadam footpaths, varied width	Poor	Medium – the paths provide attractive and well-used circuitous routes although in poor condition and unlikely to meet modern access requirements	High – resurfacing work needs to be undertaken with possible consideration of use of differing materials to establish route hierarchies and staging posts for views, street furniture and disambulant users

Gazetteer Area 2: War Memorial

Location: Small rectangular area to north-east corner of the Park on Blackburn Road (A678).

Boundary Description: Enclosed and defined by iron railings and ashlar piers to the north, beech hedge and boundary stone wall to the east, ashlar stone walls and piers to the south and beech hedges and planting to the west.

Current Usage: This area serves as the focus for events on Armistice Day and is a landmark within the wider town structure.

Intended Usage: To be completed after preliminary consultation





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Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
A	Boundary wall and railings along Blackburn Road	Good	· ·	High - Creates a strong and emotive character to the northern boundary face of the Park as well as providing an excellent edge definition along this main entrance point
В	Wall piers on Blackburn Road	Good	High – original features to be retained	High - Frame the entrance and provides solid bases to (possible) entrance gates
С	Cast iron pedestrian access gates to Blackburn Road	Good	.	High – retain and establish regular maintenance regime to maintain appearance to a 'face' feature of the Park
D	Stone steps leading to Gates (Item C)	Good	.	High – retain and establish regular maintenance regime to maintain appearance to a 'face' feature of the Park





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Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
E	Stone wall to eastern site boundary with stone copes	Good	High - original walls constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained at all costs	High - Creates a strong and emotive character to the boundaries of the Park as well as providing an excellent edge definition and setting for features. Some repairs required.
F	Stone wall and piers to Memorial southern boundary	Good	High - original walls constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained at all costs	High - Creates a strong and emotive character to the boundaries of the Park as well as providing an excellent edge definition and setting for features.
G	Stone paving	Good	High – attractive flooring to Park's named feature	High – retain and replace with like for like when required
Н	War Memorial	Good	High – attractive and highly prized feature of local importance	High – focal feature for the Park to be subject to high level of maintenance
I	Inscription stone	Good	High – attractive setting feature at the foot of the Memorial	High – retain and be subject to high level of maintenance

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Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
J	Hedge planting to eastern and western boundaries of the Memorial area		High – healthy hedging, well maintained that creates an attractive frame to the Memorial	High – retain and maintain to current levels to maintain visual aspect
K	Shrub planting to eastern and western boundaries of the Memorial area	Poor		High – greater consideration to be given to this area as it is the first that many pedestrians see of the Park

Gazetteer Area 3: Middle Slopes Location: The central region of the Park this area joins the formal areas surrounding Knight Hill House to the informal play areas in the south of the northern section.

Boundary Description: Defined to the northern section.

Boundary Description: Defined to the north by the commencement of park slopes at the edge of the upper terrace, to the west by a stone wall fronted by shrub planting, to the south by tree lined paths and to the east by timber fences protecting against falls down to the lower level Woodland Walk.

Current Usage: Open, sunny areas of grass create informal usage patterns, in conjunction with the two stone shelters, including sitting, strolling, enjoyment of views and play. Intended Usage: To be completed after preliminary consultation





Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
A	Mature tree planting to area surrounding, and above, air raid shelter	Good	High – many specimens appear to have survived from the Park's creation	High —retain and selectively thin out specimens (according to an Arboricultural Management Plan [AMP] for the Park) to open up views to the hills and countryside beyond Padiham to the south and provide views up to Knight Hill House from the Park. Care is to be taken to maintain visual screening of Shuttleworth Mead Estate.
В	Mature tree planting aligning path edges	Good	High – many specimens appear to have survived from the Park's creation	High –retain and selectively thin out specimens (according to the AMP) to open up views to the hills and countryside beyond Padiham to the south. Care is to be taken to maintain visual screening of Shuttleworth Mead Estate for views obtained from the lawns and shelters.







Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
С	Stone shelters	Good	High – stone construction creates features of local vernacular that offer shelter and practical use year-long	High – ideal locations from which to base the selection of tree thinning regimes to create from views to the countryside
D	Bitumous macadam footpaths 2.75m wide	Poor	Medium – the paths provide attractive and well-used circuitous routes although in poor condition and unlikely to meet modern access requirements	High – resurfacing work needs to be undertaken with possible consideration of use of differing materials to establish route hierarchies and staging posts for views, street furniture and disambulant users
E	Stone Fountain	Good	High – possibly an original feature, a stone construction ornamental fountain retained from its original location in the southern section of the Park and moved to a location agreed with the Friends Group	High — a feature of local interest and import it acts as a focal point in the Park whose location could be considered but is currently considered to be good
F	Formal bedding planting beds	Poor	Low – scattered and chaotic bare earth areas that add seasonal colour but need a location and structure redesign	High — a holistic planting scheme for the Park should be undertaken which includes prized areas of annual plantings creating seasonal displays that retain elements of year-round interest







Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
G	Boundary stone wall with stone copes	Good	High - original walls constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained at all costs	High - Creates a strong and emotive character to the boundaries of the Park as well as providing an excellent edge definition and setting for features. Some repairs required.
н	Timber fencing aligning footpath to eastern edge	Good	High – of fairly recent construction and good integrity the fencing is unobtrusive and is a discrete element in the landscape	Medium – practical and efficient design response to safety issues that should be retained with thought possibly given to a new access from the Middle Slopes area down to the former Bandstand located on the Woodland Walk through the ruined Terraces
1	Stone steps to Bridge Street	Good	High — integral stone riser and treads match boundary walling and create a bijou feature although the doubling up of access on Bridge Street offers the opportunity of relocating steps to elsewhere in the Park	High – the material and character of the steps require they be retained at all costs either in their current location or put to use elsewhere in the Park within areas of heritage character





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Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
J	Shrub planting to western boundary wall	Poor	Medium – uninspiring areas of shrub planting that are maintained well and represent solid structural specimens but require a rethink in terms of concept, colour, form and relationship to the boundary walling and integrity	High – the quality of the existing specimens require their retention in situ as a solid existing structure but the beds need substantial additions with some existing specimens in need of division and thinning
К	Grass lawn areas	Good	High – well maintained and neat lawns that provide much needed amenity open space for Padiham residents	High – good open space character for passive, informal use year-round with consideration to be given to the obtaining of views to the country-side to the south of Padiham, planting schemes and AMP
L	Bare banks aligning footpaths to the west- ern edge of the area	Poor	Medium – conservation to be considered in conjunction with Tree Survey for impact on root systems if grading out of the banks is proposed	Low – unimportant facet of the landscape of little positive impact that could be considered for grading out into the lawns

Gazetteer Area 4: Park Depot Location: Adjacent to the Western boundary of the Park in the northern section at the end of Bridge Street residential road.

Boundary Description: A roughly rectangular area bounded to the north by stone wall, to the east and south by mixed shrub planted banks and to the west by stone walls dividing the Park from the neighbouring cemetery.

Current Usage: A maintenance yard used as storage and base of operations for the Park.

Intended Usage: To be completed after preliminary consultation





Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
A	Stone wall to Bridge Street entrance	Good	High - original walls constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained at all costs	High - Creates a strong and emotive character to the boundaries of the Park as well as providing an excellent edge definition and setting for features. Consideration should be given to maintaining vehicular access from Bridge Street and whether the height of the wall can be raised to tie into adjoining walls
В	Stone piers to Bridge Street entrance	Good	High – original features to be retained	High - Frame the entrance and provides solid bases to (possible) entrance gates. Should this vehicular access be stopped up then the piers should be lifted and used elsewhere in the Park befitting their lower height







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Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
С	Stone wall dividing park from cemetery including stone copes	Good	High - original walls constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained at all costs	High - Creates a strong and emotive character to the boundaries of the Park as well as providing an excellent edge definition and setting for features.
D	Gate between park and cemetery	Poor	Low – practical and suits purpose but should be subject to consideration of access from Park to the cemetery	Low – of a simple aesthetic creating low key access but there would be no requirement for retention if the access is redesigned or removed
E	Bitumous macadam footpaths 1.75m wide	Poor	Medium – the paths provide attractive and well-used circuitous routes although in poor condition and unlikely to meet modern access requirements	High – resurfacing work needs to be undertaken with possible consideration of use of differing materials to establish route hierarchies and staging posts for views, street furniture and disambulant users
F	Maintenance depot buildings	Poor	Low – functional, single-storey buildings of no merit but currently in use by BBC Parks Dept. Greenhouses offered out for use to local community but no interest received	Low – depot clearance should be considered with relocation of maintenance operations to a site on Park Road. Resulting space would only be to the benefit of the Park and residents on Bridge Street.
G	Bitumous macadam access to maintenance depot	Poor	Lowl – modern, overly practical response to access requirements to maintenance depot and as an informal access to the cemetery	Lowl – to be considered in conjunction with depot removal and stopping up of vehicular access to the Park from Bridge Street







Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good or Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
н	Mixed shrub planted bank to depot edge	Poor	Medium — uninspiring areas of shrub planting that represent solid structural specimens but require a rethink in terms of concept, colour, form and relationship to the space they define. Also maintenance appears to be an issues as large areas of scrub are appearing throughout	High — the quality of the existing specimens suggest their retention in situ (dependant on the possible redesign of the existing depot and its proposed new use) as a solid existing structure but the beds need substantial additions with some existing specimens in need of division and thinning
I	Mature Tree Stock	Good	High – some specimens appear to have survived from the Park's creation with some more recent additions of structural and aesthetic interest	High –retain and selectively thin out specimens (according to the AMP) to open up views to the hills and countryside beyond Padiham to the south. Care is to be taken to maintain visual screening of Shuttleworth Mead Estate

Gazetteer Area 5: Lower Fields

Location: A The south-western most corner of the northern section of the Park.

Boundary Description: A roughly rectangular area bounded to the north by the Depot area, to the east by stone walls dividing the Park from the neighbouring cemetery, to the south by wire and timber fencing beyond which lies Padiham Linear Park and to the west by tree-lined bitumous macadam paths leading to other Park areas.

Current Usage: The area comprises open grass lawns and a constructed play area that defines the space as separate from the more formal areas of the Park.

Intended Usage: To be completed after preliminary consultation







Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
A	Children's Play Area	Poor	Low – a well used but uninspiring layout that requires a complete redesign to integrate better with the other Park areas and provide better play opportunity	High – well used by the local residents the potential exists for an exciting play space making better use of level changes, sheltered location and possible relocation for visual integration with other areas of the Park
В	Children's play equipment in Play Area	Poor	Low – practical and uninspiring a redesign of the Play Spaces would require new equipment	Low – the equipment requires replacement
С	Sports equipment (goal posts)	Poor	Low — current siting on a semi-steep sloping site, lack of maintenance and lack of evident use suggests removal or relocation	Medium – the sloping nature of the northern section of the Park suggests that sports pitches are unusable although the equipment could be repaired and reused elsewhere







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Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
D	Bitumous macadam footpaths 1.75m wide	Poor	Medium – the paths provide attractive and well-used circuitous routes although in poor condition and unlikely to meet modern access requirements	High – resurfacing work needs to be undertaken with possible consideration of use of differing materials to establish route hierarchies and staging posts for views, street furniture and disambulant users
E	Bay for former Toilet block	Good	High – retain surface and research integrity of existing services and sewers that previously served this location	High – possible rebuilding of facility to be investigated to provide additional services in the Park
F	Community Orchard	Good	High – a recent community action the orchard specimens are young and of good evident growth	High – the concept and planting area could be expanded upon to create a unique character area and one of possible wildlife interest
G	Stone wall aligning southern boundary of the Park	Good	High - original walls constructed of local stone, in a local vernacular, to be retained	High – although largely obscured by boundary planting the walls create an emotive character to the Park boundary as well as providing an excellent edge definition and setting for features. Some repairs required.
н	Mature Tree Stock	Good	High –specimens appear to have survived from the Park's creation with additions considered to have been planted over the life span of the Park	High —retain and selectively thin out specimens (according to the AMP) to open up views to Padiham Linear Park. Care is to be taken to maintain visual screening of Shuttleworth Mead Estate.





Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good or Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
1	Grass lawns	Good	High – spaces of good amenity and active recreation use	High – well used spaces to be retained with possible consideration to subtle reprofiling for play and amenity purposes
J	Mixed shrub planting to southern Park boundary	Poor	Medium – uninspiring areas of shrub planting that are maintained well and represent solid structural specimens but require a rethink in terms of concept, colour, form and relationship to the boundary integrity	High – the quality of the existing specimens require their retention in situ as a solid existing structure but the beds need substantial additions with some existing specimens in need of division and thinning
К	Mixed coniferous planting adjoining Open Air Stage area	Good	High – attractive aesthetic providing year-round colour	High – possible expansion of concept and planting area into a pinetum creating seasonal interest throughout the Park

Gazetteer Area 6: Open Air Stage Location: A visually discrete parcel of land located in the central southern area of the Park's northern section.

Boundary Description: A roughly circular area surrounded to the north and west by grass banking forming an amphitheatre feel to the space with the eastern and southern boundaries defined by bituminous macadam pathways beyond which are the steep slopes falling away to the River Calder.

Current Usage: The area comprises an open grass lawn with an octagonal bandstand foundation at its centre currently used for events in the Park as a stage location. **Intended Usage:** To be completed after preliminary consultation







Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
A	Octagonal stone bandstand foundation	Good / Poor	High – sourced from Gawthorpe Park the stone edgings are worthy of retention and cleaning but the centre requires removal	High – creates a heritage aesthetic although could be moved to another area more befitting of its smaller size and scale
В	Grass lawns and internal facing banks	Good	High – well maintained and strong sward ideal for amenity and performance space and informal gathering and seating	High – purpose-made amphitheatre that requires possible rethink for flexibility of use and consideration of all-weather, year-round conditions
С	Stone steps at western boundary with side walls	Good	High — integral stone tread and riser of heritage aesthetic to be retained in situ or for use elsewhere in the Park	High — consideration should be given to creating a grander entrance to the performance space on this axis using the steps with new handrails or for re-use of the steps in the Park, possibly on the Bandstand Terraces











Ref	Characteristic or Feature	Good on Poor	Conservation Value	Potential Value
D	Mature hedge to northern, western and eastern boundaries	Good	High – good quality, mature hedge of healthy vigour	High - retain as boundary to performance space and include as major feature within Management Plan
E	Bituminous macadam footpaths 1.75m wide	Poor	Medium – the paths provide attractive and well-used circuitous routes although in poor condition and unlikely to meet modern access requirements	High – resurfacing work needs to be undertaken with possible consideration of use of differing materials to establish route hierarchies and staging posts for views, street furniture and disambulant users
F	Timber fence to south-eastern boundary	Good	High – of fairly recent construction and good integrity the fencing is unobtrusive and is a discrete element in the landscape	Medium – practical and efficient design response to safety issues that should be retained with thought possibly given to a new access from the Middle Slopes area down to the former Bandstand located on the Woodland Walk through the ruined Terraces
G	Signed entrance to Woodland Walk	Good	High – retain and include within Management Plan	High – retain, maintain and consider possible addition of mapping if the Walk can be expanded to link to the Riverside Walk to be constructed
Н	Mature Tree Stock	Good	High –specimens appear to have survived from the Park's creation with additions considered to have been planted over the life span of the Park	High –retain and selectively thin out specimens (according to the AMP) to maintain health of stock as a verdant backdrop to the Performance space retaining the current sense of enclosure