

18/11/2024 to 10/02/2025

Seasonal Report Update



Report by

Lisa Quinton

Contents

Brief History Acton Park.....	3
Summary of the Acton Park.....	3
Storm damage in November and December	4&5
Leaf blowing in November	6
Exploring Bird species in Acton lake 8 th January 2025 with volunteers.....	6
5 TH December 2024 Making Improvements	7
Rose garden memorial bench	8
Making signs clear and accessible to the public of Acton Park	8
Location by the lake 16 th January before and after photo	9
Brass signs	9
December 23 rd 2024 Mud Clearing	9
Memorial tree	10
Storm Éowyn, 24 January 2025 Firth storm since 2024/2025 By Japanese Garden	10
Excavation of stone in Japanese garden.....	10
30 TH January 2025 Clearing leaves and edge paths	10
Daryl started	10
Maintaining and Clearing of tools in Bowling.....	11
Tennis Court	12
Biodiversity and Improvement	12&14
Common Toad Biodiversity.....	145
Events.....	146

Brief Summary of myself

I started as a Park Ranger on the 4th November 2025 but did not commence operation in Acton Park until two week after my start date, this was due to training which included trimmer, and blowing training and gaining knowledge of the role.

I studied Horticulture and have a qualification in Amenity Horticulture City and Guilds Phase 1 and 2. I also went to Pershore Horticulture College where I gained a National Certificate of Horticulture.

I have also had various Horticultural jobs, I was also self-employed.

Following on from the above I have also studied Business and Management degree gaining a 2.1.

Brief History Acton Park.

Acton Park Hall Estate was owned by the Jeffrey family, after that is was Philip Egerton and then Ellis Young. Following on from that is was the Cunliffe family who traded in slavery. It was used for hunting by the family and the original design was created by the family.

At that point World War One broke out and the grounds where then used for training. The next owner was Bernard Oppenheimer, after that part of the land was sold to Wrexham Council. The new owners that took over were William Aston he showed off his furniture making business to the public which gave access to the public of the ground of Acton Park for the very first time. The Second World War stopped everything and the grounds where taken over again and used as a training facility. After Second World War Wrexham Borough Council took over in 1947.

Summary of the Acton Park

The park is made up notable trees which some are around 500 years old. One of the trees which is the Sweet Chestnut is around that age and has won tree of the year by the woodland trust in 2023.

Acton Park has 64 acres of parkland. The park comprises of landscape paths and woodland area. The structure and landscape of the park is part formal and the rest has a natural feel especially around the stone circle by the Japanese garden as well as some parts of the park.

The lake is 1.75 acres and Acton Park is manage by Community Angling Club fishing club.

Storm damage in November and December

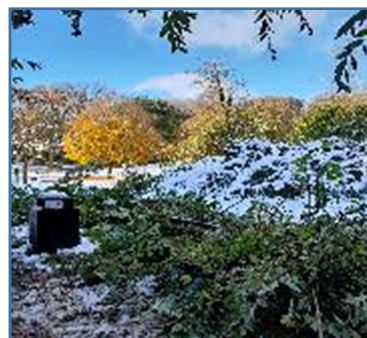
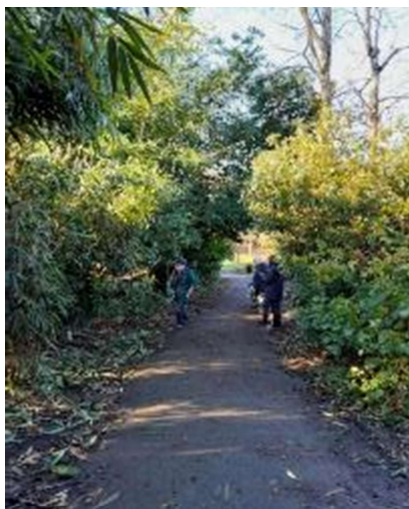
Since starting my new role in November 2024 as a park ranger. I have continually cleared paths of mud, branches and leaves from November to December after winter storms.

The storms have created havoc with strong winds snow and heavy rain, it has uprooted some valuable trees naming of Poplar, Cedar and Oak some of which are 200 years old as well as large shrub e.g. Portuguese laurel (Prunus), Cotoneaster.

Keeping paths clear has been an arduous task with tree trunks and shrubs lying on pathways due to the heavy storms, which has created difficulties clearing pathway of debris in time for the public to walk the paths.

(See below) of image of contractors and volunteers clearing paths.

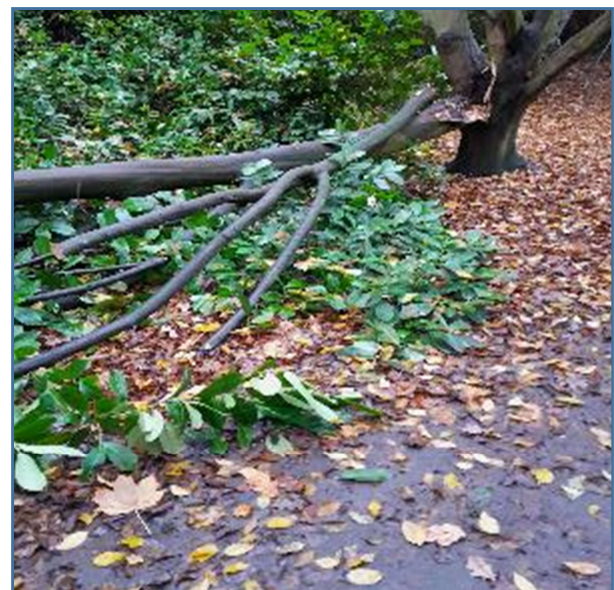
The image illustrates Hornbeam damage





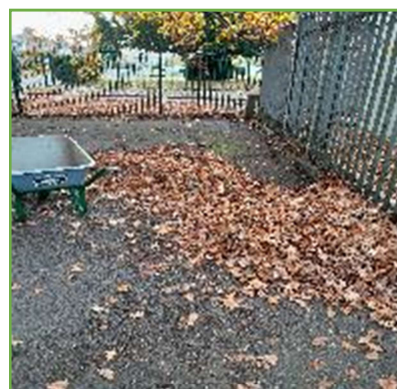
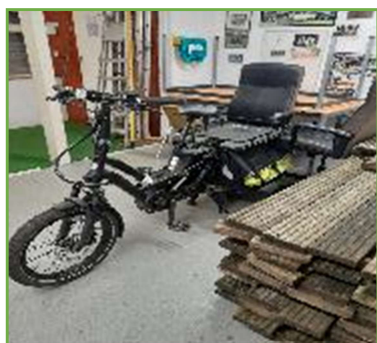
The image (See above photos) shows volunteers cutting down large clumps of grasses and Cotoneaster where the snow had damaged branches which covered pathways.

The sheer weight of the snow has pulled down Grasses and Cotoneaster which have blocked the pathways.



Leaf blowing in November

There have been many tasks during winter, one of those has been leaf blowing, keeping paths clear for the public to enjoy access to the park. As there are many paths in Acton Park this has been on going. I utilise the bike to get around park the whole of the park which I check first thing every morning to ensure there are no incidents that I have to deal with.



Exploring Bird species in Acton lake 8th January 2025 with volunteers.

Also on the 15th January we had a short reprieve of warm weather. Woodpeckers were seen and heard in the wooded area of the park, along with the species below.

Heron



Coot



Tufted duck



Meganser



Great Spotted Woodpecker



Canadian Geese

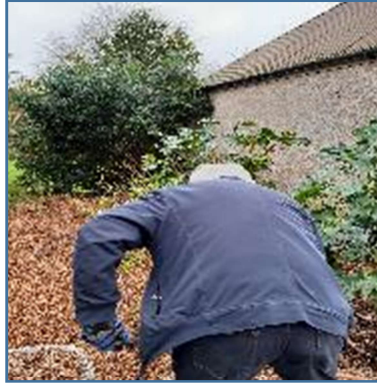


5TH December 2024 Making Improvements

The border by the Cunliffe bowling green, was overgrown and full of rubbish and needed attention, I pruned back Fatsia japonica and Hebei to ensure all the plants had light to grow.

The picture below shows the volunteers helping to clear the beds and bark mulch them, this was carried out on the 17th December.





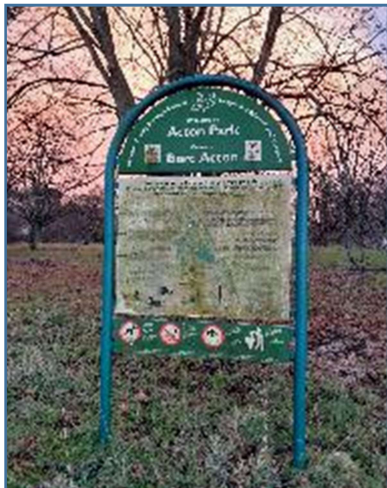
Rose garden memorial The seat was broken and needed to be taken out for health and safety reasons.



Making signs clear and accessible to the public of Acton Park

Signs were cleaned to ensure visitors can read them clearly. This is vital as it was one of the points picked up in the Green Flag Report.

Before and after photos. Location Acton Walk road signs 20th January.



Location by the lake 16th January before and after photo



Brass signs need attention

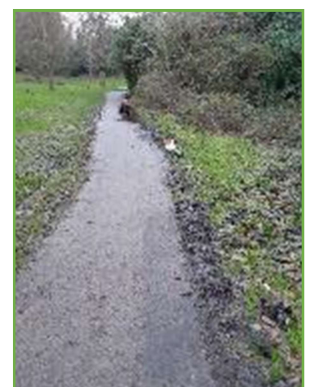
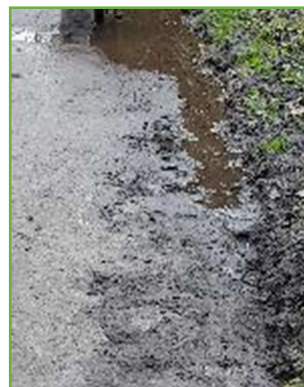
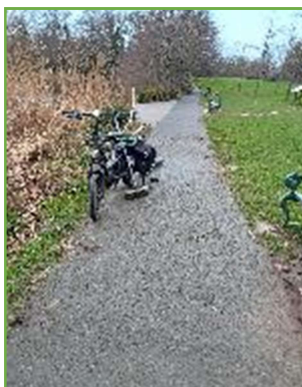
This is an ongoing project I have tried using Basso however I have now found a product that will bring the signs back to their originally brightness. I feel it is important to bring back original historical imagery within the park, so that the public that visit can see its history as they walk around the lake. Before and after (see photo)



December 23rd 2024 Mud Clearing

Clearing a large amount of mud and debris off the paths which is ongoing maintenance (see photos)

Contractors Tree Hogs and Man Coed have been called into Acton Park in states of emergency where trees are about to fall or have fallen over the paths. This has created pockets of mud which I have had to maintain.





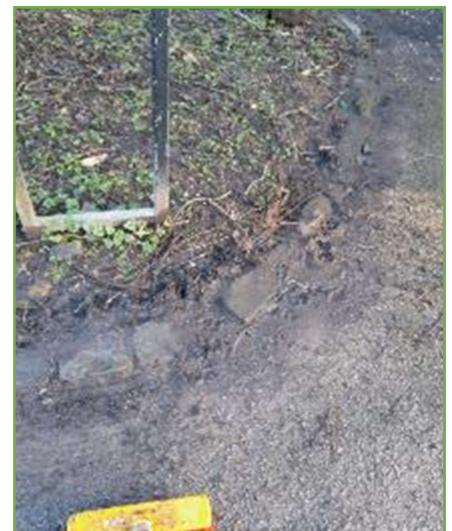
Memorial tree

A tree was planted on the 15th January, a Sorbus aria (whitebeam) was planted by Jacinta (Open Spaces Horticultural Officer), Alasdair and John (Park Ranger)



Storm Éowyn, 24 January 2025, fifth storm since 2024/2025 By Japanese Garden

During this storm we had high gusts of wind reaching 81 mph which was a red warning. Clearance of mud on paths has been ongoing however whilst clearing back the paths I have also started to clear back the edges to reveal the overgrown parts of the paths.



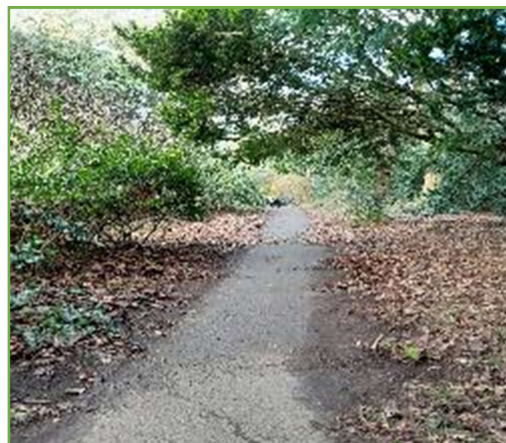
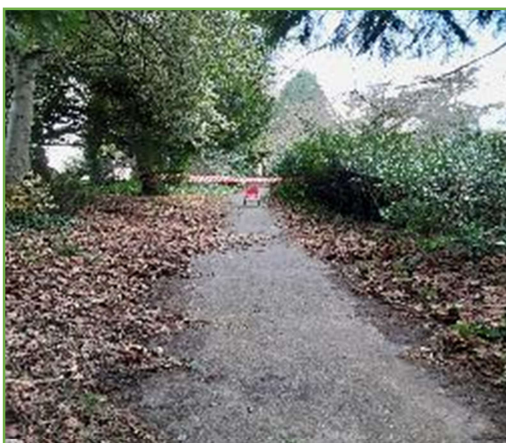


Excavation of stone in Japanese garden

Parts of the stone have been overgrown through time, so the task was to clear mud and grass off the stones to show the beauty of the stone work carried out on the 30th January 2025.



30TH January 2025 Clearing leaves and edging paths



[Daryl started](#) with me a couple of weeks ago, he is employed by Wrexham Council and has worked with the Rangers for a number of years. Daryl is with me for two days a week, he does have minor learning difficulties but can assist me with certain tasks. Under my

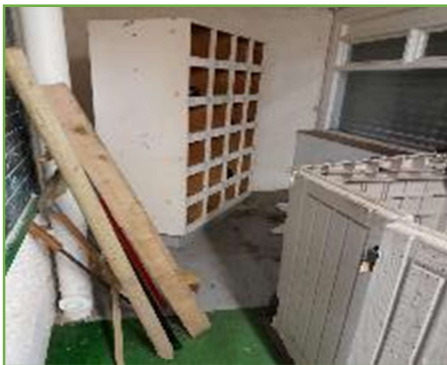
guidance he is gaining confidence and helps me around the park. I feel he has achieved a lot in his role and is gaining confidence every day and is enjoying his role.



Maintaining and Clearing of tools in Bowling

Daryl has helped me move, lift and organise the Bowling Green furniture into a different position as I have struggled with gaining access to tools in the bowling green. I felt for Health and Safety reasons it was paramount that the tools could be seen and made accessible as it was shady part of the bowling green and not very well lit,

I did discuss the new arrangement with Erly Jones to confirm the Bowling club were happy for me to move the furniture around. Furthermore I wanted to ease of access for volunteers to easily gain tools without hurting themselves.



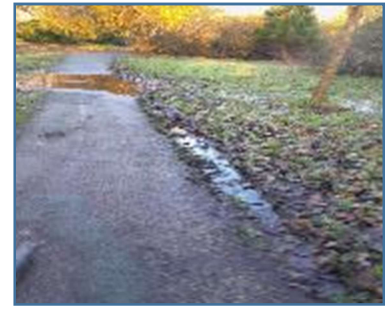
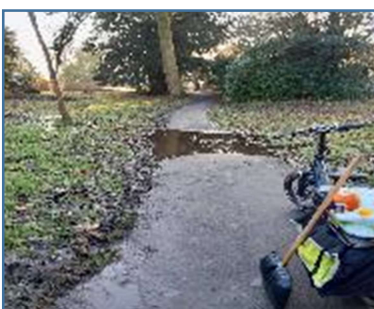
Tennis Court

Cleaning out leaf litter and rubbish inside tennis club enclosure. I have removed graffiti that has been drawn onto the Tennis Club posters.



Biodiversity and Improvement

Long term plans of managing the pathways would be to create drainage either side of paths to stop collection of mud lying in pools of water on the path.



Prune back all the over grown areas of shrubs eg Portuguese Laurel and Cotoneaster which have become far to large in size by stone circle. This densely populated area of the park is overgrown and needs more light, as it has become shaded. I am looking to encourage flora and fauna on the ground by bringing more biodiversity of flowers attracting insects, bee's and butterflies. This will then increase food supply for the birds giving rise to the population being able to feed their young with invertebrates which is advantageous. Furthermore generating an opportunity for the trees to become more established and not having to compete with large shrubs for light and space creating stronger root systems for the trees. Finally providing a pleasurable airy light space to the park, ensuring a safe place and making walking a pleasurable experience around the park.

Also making sure we are improving the woodlands we already in the park

<https://forestrycommission.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/19/biodiversity-net-gain-what-can-we-expect-for-trees-and-woodlands/>

Grasses around the lake will need to be thinned out and divided where it has become far too invasive around the lake. Whilst doing this we need to ensure biodiversity where birds are nesting around the lake every spring. I had a meeting with Acton Park Anglers Club on 26th January 2024 where I spoke with Dave the head of the club. We are going to have further meetings to discuss how we can work together to improve the park.

I have had a discussion regarding the bins near the lake. I have been around the park with Dave Jones, the Councils Tree Officer to discuss the trees around the park. We will also be replacing all of the trees that have come down in the storms. I have consulted with the fishermen about the path on lake which needs repairing (please see image below) along with the repair to the fishing bay. Alasdair and John have now repaired the fishing bay because it was not steady and rocking around See Photo.



Common Toad - Biodiversity

Having watched a segment on Spring watch on the BBC there has been a 68% decline of toads since 2022. Having found toads in Acton Park I feel that this is an area which I should continue to progress with.

New research has shown that toads having been living in trees with the reason being toads are protecting themselves from predators, along with avoiding parasite toad flies which lay eggs onto toad virtually eating them alive.

I recommend building boxes for not only birds but also for toads, ensuring they are living in Acton Park undisturbed. This is a project that we can involve school children with.

[Scientists surprised to find toads living in trees - BBC Newsround](#)



Having listened to members of the public walking around the park they have told me that they feel the piles of branches which have been left for biodiversity are unsightly, and do not have the desired effect. I feel that it would be beneficial for us to build bug hotels in areas around Acton Park that members of the public cannot see. This would make the park look tidy but also creating safe havens for bugs. I would also like to build hedgehog boxes and install them around the park, again where public access is limited such as the banks on Jeffrey's Road side.

Events

Unfortunately the Christmas event that was planned had to be cancelled due to the weather. I do however have an even planned for the 16th February 2025. I have already started to look at future events for the park and will produce an events program in the next couple of months, the next event will be the Easter event.

Below is the poster for the next event

The poster is for a community event titled 'Caru eich Coed' (Love your Trees) and 'Digwyddiad Sant Ffolant Arbennig' (Special Valentine's Event). It features a central illustration of a tree with heart-shaped leaves. The event is scheduled for 16 Chwefror / 16th February, from 1-3pm, at Acton Park, specifically at the Bowling Green. Activities include a self-guided Valentine's inspired tree trail, a Valentine's craft, and a tree planting session. The event is free and organized by Wrexham Council and Acton Community Council.

Caru eich Coed
Digwyddiad Sant Ffolant Arbennig

Rhannwch eich cariad at goed gyda llwybr coed hunan-dywys wedi'i ysbrydoli gan Ddiwmod San Ffolant o gwmpas Parc Acton

Love your Trees:
A Valentine's Special

Share your love of trees with a self guided Valentines inspired tree trail around Acton Park

Crefftau San Ffolant

Valentine Craft

16 Chwefror / 16th February
1-3pm
Cyfarfod wrth Lawnt Fowlio, Parc Acton
Meet at Bowling Green, Acton Park

Digwyddiad am ddim
Free event

wrexham
Wrexham Council

Cyflwynir gan Geldwaid Parciau Wrecsam a Chyngor Cymuned Acton
Hosted by Acton Community Council