

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 19 June 2018

## Calton Hill Management Plan

<b>Item number</b>	8.1
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Council Commitments</b>	

### Executive Summary

---

Calton Hill is a public park of national significance. However, much of its appearance, use and management does not match its importance to Edinburgh and Scotland's heritage. A Calton Hill Management Plan has been produced in partnership with Edinburgh World Heritage and other principal stakeholders. This redefines the cultural, recreational, and environmental merits of the Hill; appraises the condition of its features and the impact of its uses. It presents a vision for its future state and lays out a series of objectives and actions, the implementation of which by a newly formed Calton Hill Management Forum would realise the vision and secure a sustainable future for one of the nation's foremost treasures.

## Calton Hill Management Plan

### 1. Recommendations

---

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1.1 Recognises the need to produce a management plan for the care and maintenance of Calton Hill as a unique public park of national significance;
- 1.2 Welcomes the support of Edinburgh World Heritage in helping to produce the Calton Hill Management Plan;
- 1.3 Formally adopts the Calton Hill Management Plan;
- 1.4 Agrees to the establishment of a Calton Hill Management Forum to drive implementation of its objectives and actions; and
- 1.5 Appoint a member of the Culture and Communities Committee to chair the Forum.

### 2. Background

---

- 2.1 Calton Hill is a prominent public park in the centre of the city; a place for people; a place for nature; a geological wonder; a landmark; a viewing point; a focus of architectural, academic and artistic endeavour; a place of science; a place of remembrance and contemplation; a place of inspiration and through its topography, architecture and association with the Enlightenment, a potent symbol of national identity. This complex interaction of physical and cultural factors is said to create a sublime sense of place, and has been compared with the Acropolis of ancient Greece.
- 2.2 A number of improvements and upgrades to the hill have been carried out over the last five years. Most notably the redevelopment of the City Observatory Complex which, in partnership with the Collective Gallery, will be open to the public for the first time later this year.
- 2.3 To ensure a consistent and managed approach to the hill a cross service steering group was established in 2016. Members of this group include the City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh World Heritage and other principal stakeholders such as the Collective Gallery.

- 2.4 In 2016 and on behalf of this group, Edinburgh World Heritage commissioned the production of a management plan for the area of Calton Hill that forms public the parkland. It was agreed that this should also consider the historic buildings, structures and other features within this parkland setting.
- 2.5 Funding of £1.1 million has been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration and redevelopment of the historic buildings within the City Observatory complex. A condition of the funding includes a comprehensive management plan for the hill. This plan would fulfil this requirement.
- 2.6 The Calton Hill Management Plan was prepared by LUC (Land Use Consultants). A final report for consultation was completed in April 2017 following a series of stakeholder workshops and interviews with key individuals. A wider consultation on this report was undertaken between 10 October and 7 November 2017 and feedback from this exercise used to inform appropriate amendments to the management plan (see Appendix 1).

### 3. Main report

---

- 3.1 The Calton Hill Management Plan is attached at Appendix 2 and will shortly be placed onto the Museums and Galleries website ([www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk)). It reviews previous plans, studies and documentary research pertaining to the Hill; assesses its current condition, usage and management arrangements; presents a vision for the future of the Hill; describes a series of actions required to attain the vision; and identifies and makes recommendations on structures and responsibilities affecting management of the Hill.
- 3.2 The management plan re-confirms the unique cultural, visual, archaeological, geological, ecological, historical, political and recreational significance of Calton Hill. However, it identifies that the care and maintenance of the physical infrastructure on the Hill could be improved and recommends a number of upgrades.
- 3.3 The management plan recognises that the renovation of the former City Observatory into a gallery and restaurant is a positive step towards providing modernised facilities in an appropriate contemporary manner. There is also an awareness that the additional number of visitors drawn to the Hill once it is open to the public later this year will require a proactive approach in terms of visitor management, accessibility and site maintenance. A more integrated approach to the management of Calton Hill is proposed to help optimise the impact of these new facilities.
- 3.4 The vision for Calton Hill is “to create a parkland environment that is complementary to its inherent landscape characteristics and to its exceptional landmark buildings”. This will require a carefully considered programme of works that will enrich the experience of the park for its users, while safeguarding its important heritage and cultural values. ‘Realising this Vision’ requires that the

Council and its partners embrace changes to create a park which is notable for the quality of its public realm, the setting of its monuments, its panoramic views and its facilities for visitors.

- 3.5 The prominence of Calton Hill in physical, visual and cultural terms demands that this prominence is underpinned by a high-quality environment which is maintained to a high standard for the enjoyment and safety of all. It is essential that the picturesque qualities of the park, with its combination of rugged topography, semi natural vegetation and monumental structures be respected in all physical enhancements and in changes to maintenance regimes. Sustainability is also an important part of the vision which necessitates that future management moderates the impacts of visitor pressures and addresses the effects of climate change.
- 3.6 To this end the management plan describes a series of strategic objectives and prescribes a sequence of related actions. Some of these demand changes to how Calton Hill is managed, others require investment in the assets and/or site maintenance resources.
- 3.7 It is proposed that a Calton Hill Management Forum be created to drive implementation of the management plan. This would have clearly defined authority and leadership; be inclusive, responsive, accountable, and supportive; and enable good communication between different City of Edinburgh Council services and wider stakeholders. It will also afford the opportunity to seek external funds to support the strategic aims of the plan.

#### **4. Measures of success**

---

- 4.1 The establishment of a Calton Hill Management Forum.
- 4.2 The meeting of management plan objectives through the implementation of associated actions.
- 4.3 An improvement to Calton Hill's annual Park Quality Assessment score.
- 4.4 A Green Flag Award for Calton Hill.
- 4.5 The provision of a range of cultural and recreational activities that reflect Edinburgh's status as a global cultural city.

#### **5. Financial impact**

---

- 5.1 The Calton Hill Management Plan was funded through a partnership with Edinburgh World Heritage.
- 5.2 It is likely that many of the actions can be part-funded through third-party grants or via other external revenue sources.

## **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

---

- 6.1 There is a risk that insufficient capital and/or revenue resources can be secured to deliver the principal tenets of the Calton Hill Management Plan.
- 6.2 Failure to adopt a management plan may compromise the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund

## **7. Equalities impact**

---

- 7.1 Calton Hill has numerous access restrictions and challenges. The management plan contains proposals to improve access for less mobile visitors, including basic improvements such as repairs to steps, resurfacing of paths and the development of ramps. Other aspirations, such as the provision of access assistance devices and alternative options to transport visitors to the top of the hill, will also improve access to the site.
- 7.2 Improving access to the site with other infrastructure such as seating and lighting will promote inclusivity by encouraging people of all ages, walks of life and physical ability to visit this historic and beautiful site.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

---

- 8.1 Unless a strategic and integrated approach is taken to the long-term management of Calton Hill, its physical condition is likely to worsen. The Calton Hill Management Plan presents an opportunity to address current investment and operational shortcomings, and secure a sustainable future for its cultural and environmental assets for existing and future generations.

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

---

- 9.1 The draft Management Plan was online for comment on the Consultation Hub between 10 October 2017 and 7 November 2017. Twenty-six responses were received from a range of organisations, residents, and local groups. Feedback has been used to inform changes to the draft plan prior to it being presented for approval to the Culture and Communities Committee.

## 10. Background reading/external references

---

10.1 None

### **Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: David Jamieson, Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries

E-mail: [david.jamieson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:david.jamieson@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 7055

Contact: Frank Little, Cultural Venues Manager (Museums and Galleries)

E-mail: [frank.little@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:frank.little@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 3994

## 11. Appendices

---

Appendix 1: Consultation Summary

Appendix 2: Calton Hill Management Plan

# Appendix 1: Consultation Summary

## Calton Hill Draft Management Plan

### Introduction

---

In 2017, Edinburgh World Heritage commissioned the drafting of a management plan for Calton Hill on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council and Calton Hill Management Steering Group. The purpose of the management plan is to direct the future management and maintenance of the public park and the buildings and features within it.

The plan assesses the current condition and management arrangements at Calton Hill, presents a vision and strategy to address current requirements, along with a review of management roles and responsibilities.

The contents of the plan were drawn up from a series of stakeholder workshops made up of representatives from different service areas within City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH), the Collective Gallery and from local resident's associations.

The draft Management Plan was online for comment on the Consultation Hub between 10 October 2017 and 7 November 2017. Twenty-six responses were received from a range of organisations, residents, and local groups. Feedback has been used to inform changes to the draft plan prior to it being presented for approval to City of Edinburgh Council.

### Research Findings

---

#### Heritage Protection and Conservation

These objectives relate to the protection, conservation, and enhancement of Calton Hill's heritage characteristics:

- Protection of cityscape contributions and visual relationships;
- Building and monument care and conservation; and
- Preserving picturesque characteristics.

Twelve responses were received on this section of the consultation. In terms of protection, conservation and enhancement of Calton Hill's heritage characteristics, respondents mentioned that it was important to preserve The Royal High School, both materially and in terms of the views and visual relationship with Calton Hill. Mention was made of the proposed hotel planned for the area and the need to monitor the impact of this on The Royal High School. It was felt to be important that CEC adopted the recommendation H1 and it was highlighted that no mention is made that Calton Hill is designated as Open Space on the Local Development Plan Proposals Map and is covered by Policy Env. 18 Open Space Protection.

**Action:** *The former Royal High School building is situated outside of the Calton Hill park land and so no specific proposals are made to its management or future use in the management plan. However, Objective H1 remains: to safeguard Key views to and from*

*Calton Hill from impacts by new development (buildings, earthworks, and planting) and to ensure that townscape and visual impact assessments are undertaken for new developments around the city which could restrict or block views of Calton Hill. The latter should consider the impacts on the whole of Calton Hill (including the hill flank woodlands), not just the hilltop monuments. CEC should consider how such protection measures could be achieved through planning policies and/or guidance.*

*The Management plan has been amended to reflect Calton Hill's "Open Space" status within the LDP.*

There was a suggestion that conservation specialists should be consulted in all aspects of the management plan including building repair, new design development, landscape planning and management. This was a theme running through the consultation.

**Action:** *Objective M5 seeks to ensure that Calton Hill is subject to conservation and maintenance in a manner that is fitting to the elements of the landscape, and that appropriate conservation skills (and materials) are employed in the works. Conservation specialists will therefore be consulted where appropriate during implementation of the management plan.*

It was noted by respondents that there was no mention of improvements around access to the area for residents and visitors to Edinburgh, and that it was felt that this should feature in the objectives.

**Action:** *The management plan seeks to enhance access onto and throughout Calton Hill through improvements to the footpath network, particularly for those with mobility difficulties. Objective U1 seeks to improve accessibility for Calton Hill in physical terms without detriment to the landscape character and heritage assets of the site. This implies focused enhancements to surfaces, steps and associated orientation/ waymarking, together with management controls to permit essential vehicular access e.g. for disabled visitors and servicing. The management plan does not include actions for areas outside the boundaries of the park land, and so objectives pertaining to the wider Calton Hill are beyond its scope.*

It was also noted that the space should be protected as a meeting point year-round for significant and historical events.

**Action:** *Calton Hill is regularly used to host events and activities, and will continue to do so. The management plan references this and seeks to ensure a balance between events, other public uses, and the impact of events on nearby residents. It notes that an Events Programme and Framework is needed which responds to the carrying capacity of the park. The development of this programme will provide a more detailed opportunity to consider use of the Hill for significant and historical events.*

## **Public Realm Enhancements and Infrastructure Repair**

These objectives detail the essential need to conserve and repair the infrastructure of Calton Hill, the potential to improve the site for the benefit of users and to provide a setting appropriate for a site of such prominence and heritage value.

It includes recommendations such as:

- Repair of sewers;
- Repair of damaged walls;



- Repair and improvements to railings;
- Restoration of steps;
- Introduction, upgrading and re-surfacing of paths;
- Enhancement of entrances;
- Improvement of furniture, signage, and interpretation; and
- Upgrade of lighting.

Eleven responses were received to this section of the consultation. There was general agreement with these objectives from some respondents but a number of concerns were raised about lighting in terms of over provision or light pollution and the effect this would have on the natural aspect and environment of the area. There was a suggestion that other cities such as Holland be looked at for inspiration in this area.

**Action:** *Objective H4 considers lighting issues and opportunities, noting that consideration be given to changing column lighting types for a less intrusive format and upgrading floodlighting to monuments. It recognises that the introduction of sensitive feature lighting could enhance the nightscape of Calton Hill, and improve security. Specifically, there are opportunities for subtle feature lighting of rock cliffs, steps, walls and paved surfaces which could reduce the need for column lighting. Therefore, before any lighting replacements or additions are introduced, a lighting plan for Calton Hill be developed that conforms with the Edinburgh Lighting Strategy and Edinburgh Design Guidance. The management plan proposals have been amended to include this.*

There was agreement around improvements and repairs to railings. One respondent suggested that these be hip rather than knee high to increase safety and to reduce erosion. It was suggested that current railings be unified by painting them black.

**Action:** *Where feasible, railings will be unified across the Hill as part of repair and replacement works, and consideration be given to balance public realm and public safety concerns.*

The restoration of the steps was welcomed and the current intermittent stream of water on the steps was mentioned. However, in terms of improvements to paths, comments included that asphalt, particularly coloured asphalt, may not be appropriate, and tarmac was not favoured as a paving solution. Setted paving and whinstone top dressing of asphalt were suggested as alternatives that might be more in keeping with the character of the area and the Old Town.

**Action:** *Recognising that Calton Hill has a variety of footpath types and treatments, and that it is appropriate to retain some differences depending on usage and character, the management plan proposal to upgrade with asphalt has been replaced with the proposal “upgrade the unmetalled paths to a suitable quality surface”. Any surface treatment will conform to the Edinburgh Design Guidance.*

## **Archaeological Protection**

These objectives aim to reduce erosion of the site using specific surfaces and restricting access to affected areas.

- Introduction of protective surfaces; and
- Introduction of measures to protect vulnerable areas.

Nine responses were received to this section of the consultation. In terms of the proposals around the introduction of native trees there was a call for definition around what these would be. There was concern that replacing the current trees which have grown over centuries and have historic value would be an expensive exercise and high maintenance. However, there was some enthusiasm for the proposal of introducing exotic planting, particularly around Nelson's Column.

**Action:** *The management plan does not advocate the removal of historic trees. Rather, those that may be removed in forthcoming years are overgrown trees blocking historical views that are self-seeded, or are those that were introduced inappropriately into prominent locations on the Hill as part of late-20th century planting. Any tree removals and new tree planting will be subject to closer scrutiny of tree species, condition and impact on other management plan objectives.*

Mapping of the site to identify areas of archaeological interest was welcomed by a number of respondents, with support for excavation activity, where appropriate.

### **Natural Heritage Protection and Enhancement**

These works have been identified to support natural heritage protection and enhancement, they include:

- Realignment of desire line paths;
- Introduction of new surfacing;
- Introduction of new railings; and
- Restocking and management of trees.

There were thirteen responses to this section of the consultation. There was consensus amongst respondents that the introduction of additional railings was not favoured, concerns included that the area should be open to city residents and that additional railings would detract from the natural aspect and informal feel of the area. One respondent felt that additional railings should only be re-instated in areas where they had been removed during war time.

In terms of surfacing, there was scepticism amongst respondents that desire lines could be eliminated unless they were turned into actual paths. However, in terms of new surfacing gravel and asphalt were not favoured.

**Action:** *The proposal to introduce knee-rails to manage access to badly eroded areas of ground has been removed from the management plan. More subtle means of control will be considered and implemented, as advocated by the Edinburgh Design Guidance.*

### **Access**

The landscape and layout of Calton Hill presents numerous restrictions to access for less-mobile visitors and the heritage values of the site make certain types of interventions inappropriate (too damaging to the character and heritage of the site).

There are however a number of measures which could improve access within the site for all users, these include:

- Repair to steps;
- Resurfacing paths creating a surface for wheelchairs and prams;
- Development of ramps;
- Reinstatement of missing benches and introduction of additional benches in suitable locations;
- Introduce access developments within the Observatory compound;
- Improve signage and information; and
- Examine feasibility of entry control mechanisms at the Calton Hill Drive/Regent Road entrance.

Twelve comments were received in relation to this section of the consultation. Comments were, in the main focussed around entry control, signage and vehicle management.

In terms of entry control this was not favoured by the majority of respondents although further detail on what this would entail was required and there was a question around how this would fit with 'The Right to Roam'. One respondent noted that access control should not be used as a pretext for ticket-only, paid-for events which restrict public access to civic space.

In terms of access, there was support for improvements to access for visitors with mobility issues. Licensed taxis were favoured by one respondent in assisting with this. However, other comments included that access improvements should be site specific and as unobtrusive as possible with good vehicle management being noted as a priority.

**Action:** *Any entry control would be limited to restricting vehicles other than those transporting less-abled visitors. The level of control of vehicular access for the Observatory/Collective restaurant service vehicles and dinner-guest vehicles has still to be determined.*

*Pedestrian access to Calton Hill will remain open other than when there has been agreement to restrict public access using a Section 11 exemption under the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. This usually applies to large-scale events or activities that require temporary suspension of public access rights.*

It was felt that over provision of signage should be avoided, a suggestion here included providing leaflets at identified locations in weatherproof boxes rather than over usage of signage.

**Action:** *The provision of leaflets in outdoor locations is an expensive option, requiring regular reprinting, restocking, and regular litter collection. It is therefore not considered a viable alternative to interpretation signage and digital information.*

A specific suggestion from one local group proposed that a footbridge could be erected connecting the Omni Centre to the Calton Hill. This would allow the elderly and disabled to visit the observatory and the Nelson Monument. A lift would transport the visitors from the ground floor of the centre to the footbridge.

**Action:** *This is not considered a viable proposal given the likely expense, and conflict with existing Planning policy.*

## Views

These objectives aim to ensure the optimisation and preservation of views from Calton Hill. They include regular inspections of key viewpoints, intervention measures to remove obstructions and open-up views and enhanced interpretation of the hill as a viewpoint.

Seven comments were received in relation to this section of the consultation. They were mixed and included comments relating to tree removal and camera installation.

It was noted by one respondent that in removing trees and vegetation, care should be taken that this was done proportionately given the contribution of the trees and shrubs to the sequestration of CO2 and minimisation of the adverse effects of climate change.

**Action:** *The removal of trees and other vegetation to enhance key viewpoints will be proportionate, seeking to balance the visual, landscape, heritage and biodiversity demands of site design and management.*

One comment related to the proposed installation of a camera on top of the Observatory for live broadcasting of images online. Further detail on this proposal was requested in terms of whether this was planned to go ahead and if so, exactly what it would entail. It was suggested that if this is no longer going ahead CEC should consider installation of a discreet camera atop Nelson Monument.

**Action:** *The Council has no plans to install a camera on either the Observatory or Nelson Monument. The proposal has therefore been removed from the management plan.*

## Safety and Security

Proposals have been made to achieve improved security on Calton Hill, and include the following actions:

- Minor adjustments to the ground level adjacent to the National Monument to deter/prevent climbing on the monument;
- Improvements to lighting and/or adjustment of column locations where there are currently 'black-spots'; and
- Prevention of access into gorse and broom scrub through the introduction of metal fencing above Regent Walk.

Thirteen comments were received in relation to this section of the consultation. Most responses focussed on the objective around deterring/preventing climbing on the National Monument. These were generally not in favour of preventative measures. Reasons included that measures taken may not prevent climbing but could in fact make it more dangerous. As well as that, people should have the right to climb on the monument if they wish to do so, and have done traditionally. It was suggested that detritus around the foot of the monument which is used for climbing on should be regularly removed. In terms of changing the ground level it was felt that this could increase the risk of danger to visitors and that by changing the proportions it may detract from the overall look of the monument.

**Action:** *On reflection, officers believe that although there should be no encouragement to climb the National Monument, the most practical means of deterring climbing is simply to keep the base clear of debris. The recommendation to lower the ground level around the monument has therefore been removed from the management plan.*

The response to the lighting objective was mixed, with preference for additional lighting from some but scepticism from others about the benefit of additional lighting to safety and security and a call for evidence that this would provide a benefit in advance of resources being spent.

**Action:** *Lighting will be considered as part of a Calton Hill lighting plan and in accordance with the Edinburgh Lighting Strategy and Edinburgh Design Guidance. This will include assessment of safety, the benefit to the aesthetics of the buildings, and the potential for light pollution.*

## **Facilities**

The development of the Observatory site and introduction of new restaurant and publicly accessible toilet facilities will improve the facilities for users of Calton Hill.

There are potentially other opportunities for improvements to facilities, which include:

- Extended access to the Nelson Monument museum;
- Introduction of fibre connectivity and extension of Wi-Fi provision in the park;
- Better, well sited furniture;
- Possible provision of access assistance devices/people-movers (e.g. electric wheelchairs/buggies);
- Introduction and sensitive location of cycle racks; and
- Introduction of alternative people-movers for transporting visitors to the top of the hill.

Fourteen comments were received in relation to this section of the consultation.

With reference to the introduction of fibre connectivity and extension of Wi-Fi provision in the park, respondents viewed this as unnecessary.

**Action:** *EdiFreeWiFi already provides an outdoor Wifi service across the city centre. Although its coverage extends to Calton Hill, the signal-strength is weak and only accessible from certain locations on the hill. Future visitor numbers and the potential for enhanced digital interpretation in the restored Observatory means that additional fibre connectivity may become a desirable aspiration for the Council, hill-top operators, and visitors. The management plan proposals have therefore been amended to reflect these positions.*

People movers also received objections from respondents, with concerns that this would be a wasted resource and that they would detract from the natural aspect of the area.

**Action:** *Calton Hill is a difficult location for the less-able to access and enjoy. It is therefore recommended that the proposed “possible introduction of alternative people-movers for transporting visitors to the top of the hill (e.g. electric minibus shuttle, cycle rickshaws, horse-drawn carriage)” remains. These means of transportation may also generate a new income source to help maintain the park land and its facilities, and merit further consideration.*

Although cycle racks were noted as being 'fine' there was concern raised about encouraging cycling in the area and the risk to pedestrians from cyclists as well as the potential erosion to paths from increased cycling.

**Action:** *A core objective of the Council's Active Travel Action Plan is "improving the city's walking and cycling infrastructure (maintenance, management, new provision, good design)". The provision of cycle racks on Calton Hill would accord with this objective. It is therefore recommended that the proposed "introduction and sensitive location of cycle racks for visitors to Calton Hill" remains.*

There was some enthusiasm for a car park and smooth surfacing to assist wheelchairs and buggies but with the caveat that some paths remain 'rough' to maintain the natural ambience of the area.

**Action:** *The management plan recognises that footpaths will continue to have differing surfacing treatments to reflect varying levels of usage and character.*

## **Cleanliness**

Proposals to improve cleanliness on Calton Hill include:

- A review of current litter bins and frequency of emptying; and
- Lighting columns and other furniture which are graffiti and fly posting resistant

Twelve comments were received in relation to this section of the consultation. Responses around litter bins formed the main body of responses to this section. The presence of a staff resource in the area was welcomed but noted that there was a call that this would also support the more frequent emptying of bins rather than only the deterring of littering. Other suggestions included facilities for recycling and facilities for disposal of dog waste.

These measures should be supported by a litter management plan and fines for non-compliance.

**Action:** *The management plan proposes that a review of litter management on Calton Hill be undertaken. This review will take on-board the comments made during the consultation exercise.*

## **Information and Interpretation**

Proposals to improve information/interpretation provision for Calton Hill include:

- Replacement of existing orientation and interpretation signs
- Use of other media to communicate the heritage of the Hill
- Upgrade of entrance signs

Six comments were received in relation to this section of the consultation. There were concerns from respondents about signage and calls for this to be kept to a minimum and where it is necessary to be discreet. Objections were made to other media, including multi-media screens as these are felt not to be area appropriate.

Suggestions in this area included where there is Wi-Fi provision using e-interpretation thus reducing the need for physical signage. Alternatively, a weatherproof box located near the collective gallery could house information leaflets, thus reducing the need for signs.

**Action:** *The management plan recognises that “new wayfinding and signs for Calton Hill should not be intrusive or formal installations unfitting to the character of the site”. It proposes that a wayfinding and interpretation strategy for Calton Hill be undertaken prior to any alterations to current information and interpretation provision. This strategy will take on-board the comments made during the consultation exercise.*

## **Management and Maintenance**

Following the recent re-structure of CEC, these objectives relate to how the management and maintenance of Calton Hill will be enhanced under the revised system.

- Clarity of management responsibilities;
- Integrated management;
- Stakeholder involvement;
- Prioritised management;
- Use of appropriate and specialist machinery; and
- Sustainable principles applied to maintenance.

Nine comments were received in relation to this section of the consultation. The introduction of performance monitoring was welcomed by respondents as a way of reviewing and responding to the changing needs of the plan.

Stakeholder involvement was also welcomed, with reference to involvement of community council's and community newspapers. However, concerns in this area were raised about individuals becoming involved through self-interest and wielding undue influence, as well as over reliance on volunteers over professional staff. In general, there was a question around the role of a stakeholder group and how this would be managed.

**Action:** *No changes to the management plan are proposed.*

In relation to maintenance, although it was acknowledged that this would take place, it was stated that people shouldn't be restricted by maintenance for long periods of time. Furthermore, in terms of specialist machinery there was an objection to cars and large vehicles being permitted on paths due to the risk they posed to children and potential degradation to the environment.

**Action:** *All vehicle and machinery operatives are trained to operate vehicles and machinery within strict health and safety guidelines. This will remain the case.*

Suggestions included the development of a costed programme identifying key/urgent actions as well as resource allocation.

**Action:** *Once established, the Calton Hill Management Forum will be tasked with costing a priority action programme.*

In terms of Management and Maintenance it was suggested that a notice board with key contacts should be displayed publicly.

**Action:** *Most Edinburgh parks have cabinets exhibiting relevant information, including contact details. Suitable locations for cabinets on Calton Hill will be investigated.*

### **Any other comments or suggestions**

Twenty-four comments were made in this section, covering a wide range of topics including events, accessibility, site attractions, general suggestions, and comments on the language of the draft plan.

In relation to events, it was highlighted that noise is currently an issue and it was suggested that there should be a presumption against noise both amplified and live, with consideration given to maintaining quiet space within the city.

**Action:** *Most large events require a Public Entertainments Licence from the Council to operate. The Council will take cognisance of noise levels when considering whether to grant a licence. This will remain the case for events on Calton Hill.*

A suggestion of holding an annual One O'Clock Gun Day on Calton Hill was put forward as a potential visitor attraction.

**Action:** *This suggestion will be considered by the Council's Events Management Group.*

Respondents commented that the site should be accessible to all and that public accessibility should be a key principle within the plan and where anything is planned to take place that will impact on public access to the hill or across the paths on the hill then a requirement for appropriate advance notification to and consultation with Councillors and community councils should be written in to the plan.

**Action:** *Public access to Calton Hill will remain open other than when there has been agreement to restrict public access using a Section 11 exemption under the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. This usually applies to large-scale events or activities that require temporary suspension of public access rights. The process includes a statutory period of public consultation and notification.*

Particular site attractions raised in this area as not being covered in the plan included the time ball, transit house, rock-mounted plaque to Wilson, Templeton and Kennedy, as well as the art gallery, observatory and new restaurant. There were calls for clarity and further detail on all of these attractions and future plans for them.

**Action:** *The management plan does not reference every individual feature or attraction on Calton Hill. However, the principles of sustainable care and maintenance applies to all.*

Other suggestions included the introduction of improved catering facilities, removal of portacabins.

**Action:** *Once refurbished, the Observatory space will include a café/restaurant, and the temporary portacabins will be removed from Calton Hill.*



## Heritage Protection and Conservation

<p>The overriding aim of restoration and remaining close to the original plan should be more prominent in the brief.</p>
<p>H2: Human beings are innovative and determined when it comes to doing what they want. I don't like it, but I can see the sense in coloured asphalt surfacing of desire lines up to Observatory Walk. In seeking ways to prevent people climbing onto the National Monument, I think you need to be careful not to invent new problems for yourself as people seek alternative means of access.</p>
<p>People shouldn't be restricted for long periods by maintenance work.</p>
<p>Improved catering facilities.</p>
<p>That the appropriate Conservation Specialists are sought and involved throughout with all aspects of building repair, new design development, landscape planning and management. Also that the appropriate materials, including their constituent makeup and colour are used.</p>
<p>Protection of access to the space as an important meeting point in Edinburgh for significant moments in the year and at other more historical moments.</p>
<p>Buildings and anything else that will damage the views from Calton Hill should be subject to special consideration. The old Royal High School should not be altered significantly.</p>
<p>Most issues have been covered, but no mention is made that Calton Hill is designated as Open Space on the ELDP Proposals Map and is covered by Policy Env. 18 Open Space Protection.</p> <p>The last sentence of objective H1 is copied below, because of its relevance to developments that adversely affect the qualities of Calton Hill, like the proposed hotel on the adjoining old Royal High School site.</p> <p>"The latter should consider the impacts on the whole of Calton Hill (including the hill flank), not just the hilltop monuments. City of Edinburgh Council should consider how such protection measures could be achieved through planning policies and/ or guidance."</p> <p>It is important that the Council adopts and applies this recommendation</p>
<p>The protection of the city scape and visual relationships surrounding Carlton Hill should definitely take account of the proposed plans for the Old Royal High School. The plan for the St Mary's Music School preserves the the visual relationship of the historic buildings on Carlton Hill.</p> <p>When preserving the formal and informal elements of the landscape, the 'informal' should not mean that the landscape has an unkempt/scruffy and eroded feel as it does currently.</p>
<p>The objectives are focussed on the physical environment but make no mention of maintaining/improving access for all visitors to the Hill and in particular encouraging its use for leisure purposes by locals and visitors to Edinburgh</p>
<p>More mention is required on maintaining and improving access to Calton Hill, how this would be monitored, and how to encourage use for leisure by visitors and residents.</p>
<p>Please preserve the Royal High School and stop it deteriorating through misuse by hotel developer.</p>

## Public Realm Enhancements and Infrastructure Repair

Welcome!
I think there will be a temptation to over-illuminate Calton Hill. Improvements to the park will lead to calls for greater frequency of events for larger numbers, and this will lead to calls for improved (brighter) lighting. So, while I welcome your suggestion of dimmable lighting, bollard rather than column lighting in places, and import of lighting for special occasions, don't overdo it. Just as you recognise the attractiveness of perceived wilderness in the park, remember the value and attractiveness of dark and shadow.
Knee high fencing to stop vehicle over runs and footfall erosion should maybe be hip high to stop people falling over them and let drivers see them.
That all aspects of this procedure are in consultation with Conservation Specialists as before.  That any lighting of monuments and landscape do not turn Calton Hill into a Light Show i.e. a potential Disneyland Experience but are subtle and enhancing according to conservation standards.
What is meant by 'rationalise desire line paths' and 'redefine the viewpoint honey pots' - in plain English?  Also, has thought been given to low-level lighting such as is being used in some Dutch cities' cycle paths? <a href="http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2014/11/17/364136732/in-a-dutch-town-a-glowing-bike-path-inspired-by-van-gogh">http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2014/11/17/364136732/in-a-dutch-town-a-glowing-bike-path-inspired-by-van-gogh</a>
It is important to avoid over-improvement. For example, repair of damaged or rusting railings is good, but "improvements" may be undesirable, upgrading and re-surfacing of paths needs to be done with great care (the suggested coloured asphalt may not be appropriate). Enhancement of entrances is also dubious, and "improvement of furniture, signage and interpretation" are of concern, as these often degrade historic places, particularly the addition of signage and interpretation boards, which are harmfully proliferating in the city and our parks. Upgrade of lighting may also be a bad idea, as light pollution is already serious, and the romantic old city atmosphere should be retained.
Most issues appear to be covered, but the traditional colour for 'heritage' railings is black and no mention is made of unifying the colour of the railings by painting the 'green' railings black?
When improving the entrance opposite the Executive attention needs to be particularly paid to; Overflowing rubbish bins and rubbish bags at the entrance, Intermittent stream of water running down the steps leading up the hill, Smell from the bus stops nearby, provision of toilet facilities for bus drivers?
The plan is now more prescriptive than in earlier drafts. While repair and maintenance is required, it seems that the proposal is for a much more delineated path structure, which contradicts the informal and casual landscape.  The area is more 'countryside' than 'city' and that should be preserved.
I don't like tarmacking the paths
On the whole, I am in favour of these objectives but I am not in favour of increased railing.

## Archaeological Protection

Define 'native' trees.
A suggestion that different colours of asphalt could be used to guide visitors to highlight walkways etc should be dropped as this would not be attractive and not in keeping with the historical nature of the site.
Knee-rails maybe should be hip high to avoid injuries.
While protection from footfall is important. it is also important that the area is not blighted by knee rails and low fencing that distract from the 'natural' aspect of the Hill.
<p>It's unclear how introducing gravel and 'geotextile' to a purported archaeology site helps protect it. In addition, Triangulation Point knoll is as noted a popular place for local gatherings during events. How does cultural sensitivity chime with artificial preservation of the past by blocking current cultural activity? This is not the approach taken more recently at Stonehenge.</p> <p>I'm also concerned that 'removal of inappropriate non-native /formal tree planting from the parkland hill slopes and introduction of native trees and scrub species' again attempts to whitewash over an approach to landscaping which itself has a centuries-long historic heritage, replacing it with scrub species which will require much greater maintenance (at ongoing expense) in order not to overgrow the hill and disrupt the current and historical views.</p>
Paving should be avoided unless very high quality and in keeping with the old city style (i.e. grant setts). Modern paving would cheapen the environment.
Wonderful if any archaeological discoveries can be preserved and interpreted for the public. Good to have planting of trees including exotics by the Nelson Monument.
Given the historical importance of the site there should be an effort to map the entire site and where appropriate excavate areas of interest to ensure that our knowledge is enhanced and to aid in creating educational materials for visitors to the site.
<p>I like the informal aspect of Calton Hill. This should be retained.</p> <p>I would certainly not like fencing</p>

## Natural Heritage Protection and Enhancement

<p>I hope paths will be created where there is clear need/use.</p> <p>Gravel is surely unsuitable for heavily used public areas; dogs and children rapidly kick gravel. I may have missed it but is there a dog policy picking up, leads?</p>
see comment in 6
Although this is perhaps out of the remit here, there would be some merit in choosing/using measures and materials that would also be suitable for Old and New Calton Burying Grounds. Some level of continuity here would be less visually disruptive and more cost-effective.
Again railings should be hip high to avoid injuries. Strict control of access to vehicles.

As previous answers all surface materials, colours seating railings should be decided in consultation with expert conservators. Railings and seating should be limited to keep the 'natural' aspect of the site.

Although I agree that where railings currently exist they should be renewed or repaired I am not convinced of a need to introduce new railing to areas where they do not already exist. An exception to this is where railings may have been removed during war time.

ease of access - carpark should be reinstated

Not convinced that desire line paths can be eliminated, other than by turning them into actual paths. Not convinced that the use of coloured asphalt is in keeping with the character of the core area. Introducing new swathes of colour will affect the setting.

Please see the objections to paving outlined in the previous response.

Most issues appear to be covered, but the following could be considered:

Recommendation 5th bullet: To reinforce the rural and historic character of Calton Hill, consideration could be given to resurfacing paths with the 'original' whinstone. Where asphalt is required, this could be top dressed with whinstone chips to match the surface colour and texture of the non asphalt paths.

Consideration of anti-vandal measures for all surfaces. Including lighting and cameras?

I am very concerned with the idea of railings.

This is a free space, belonging to city residents and no areas should be railed off.

Don't like railings

## Access

Does the introduction of entry control mechanisms entail monitoring the rest of the perimeter / all entry points.  
How does this fit with "right to roam"?

The One o' Clock Gun Asscn would like to propose that a footbridge could be erected connecting the Omni Centre to the Calton Hill. This would allow the elderly and disabled to visit the observatory and the Nelson Monument. A lift would transport the visitors from the ground floor of the centre to the footbridge.

U1(j): I'm in favour of facilitating disabled access to the hill, so long as it does not end up with any parts of the site become a car park. (Besides, disabled badges are all too easily and frequently abused.) As a general rule, private vehicles should not be allowed on the hill. If disabled people need to get up, then this should be by a site-specific, site-restricted mode of transport, preferably as unobtrusive as possible. I would resist any thought of facilitating access for unfit but otherwise able people, for example with pony traps or rickshaws. These would distract from and clutter the site, and in any case – the effort of getting to the top and the sense of reward at the summit is a unique and valuable part of the park's appeal and worth. If you want urban elevators, go to Lisbon. This is Edinburgh: we require phlegm, breathlessness, sore muscles and moral rigour.

U1(k) I can see the point of controlling access and numbers to reduce erosion. But this should not become a pretext for ticket-only, paid-for events which restrict public access to civic space. Edinburgh citizens enjoy watching the fireworks for free from Calton Hill, and bitterly resent attempts to marshal and monetise their historic grandstand. I think you also need to be careful not to allow restricted access to become the norm: Calton Hill is a public good as much as it is a Council resource.

Good management of vehicles required.

There is a concern that the over provision of signage whether interpretation or directional can destroy historic sites and could be detrimental to the currently 'natural' aspect of the Hill. Site layout and information leaflets could be available at or close to the Collective Gallery in weatherproof boxes.

Vehicle access should include licenced taxis to drop off less mobile visitors to the top of the hill area.

Please see the previously expressed objection to increased signage and information boards.

Most issues appear to be covered, but not mentioned in para. 2.53 is that Calton Hill is also one of the main and popular areas in the city to view the evening fireworks display at Edinburgh Castle that marks the end of the Edinburgh International Festival in September.

Choice of language and tone, we acknowledge that that the action plan does seek to address many issues which may restrict access to Calton Hill by those with mobility issues. However, the language and tone of this section (and others relating to access) is rather dated. It is more about problems and challenges to be overcome rather than opportunities for improved access to be embraced. This may seem a minor point. But public spaces should be as inclusive as possible and so should the language used in their associated management plans.

What measures would be taken to restrict access at the Regent Road entrance?

Not sure of the importance of the last measure. The hill has been open to the public for a long time without needing to have an entry control mechanism.

Although it was covered earlier under a previous objective, the lack of adequate lighting is a deterrent to people visiting the hill in the late afternoon and evenings in winter. Lighting is essential for access.

I don't want entry control mechanisms at the Calton Hill Drive/Regent Road entrance

I'm keen to ensure that it is not closed at any point unless councillors and local community groups are consulted well in advance with enough information about reasons why etc to ensure an informed discussion takes place

Worried about too much interference with the paths. Is resurfacing really necessary?

## Views

Impact of planned hotel!!
I understand that as part of their regeneration of the Observatory, Collective Gallery intend to install a rooftop camera with which to broadcast live images to the web. I think this is a good idea, so long as it focuses on broad views/panoramas/dawns/sunsets rather than individuals canoodling in the meadows. It would be worth checking whether this proposal is still on the cards. If it's not, perhaps the Council could consider: (a) contributing to the cost of such an installation/maintenance/running; (b) installing a camera of their own, perhaps at the top of the Nelson Monument. Any such camera would of course have to be appropriately inconspicuous and not cause damage to the building structure.
Keep any lighting to a safe minimum!
info on security / safety is cut off the end of the document (which generally displays very poorly with frequent crashing)
The idea of enhanced interpretation is objectionable.
Most issues appear to be covered, but the removal of trees and other shrub vegetation to open up views should be proportionate and done with care, as trees/shrubs make a significant contribution to the sequestration of CO2 and to minimising some of the adverse effects of climate change.
One very important aspect of the view from the Calton Hill is the old Royal High School. It is essential that the hotel developer does not put up modern ugly buildings or annexes next to the Royal High School.

## Safety and Security

Add Security Lighting and Cameras
I have made points relevant to this in answering Questions 4 and 5.  Of all the areas of Calton Hill, Regent Walk is arguably the duller during the day. If people wish to enter the gorse and scrub at night for 'anonymous intimate activities', good luck to them.
Keep fencing to a minimum. This destroys the 'natural' aspect and general ambience of the site.
Not sure that I agree that we should deter climbing or that it can be done in a manner that will not make injury to those people who will climb up more serious.
Consider in-ground litter bins with covered cylindrical access chutes instead of bins

Climbing on the monument is enabled by items piled against the front of the Monument: on Sunday I saw two decent sized stones in front of it, making "steps" about 18" high. If you want to stop people climbing the Monument, you need to regularly remove similar items: changing the ground-level alone won't stop it. And you need to be careful changing the ground level as this will expose more of the pediment, changing the relative proportions of the elements of the building. Don't want to damage its elegance by lowering the ground too much.

Too much lighting should be avoided (see above). Evidence that more lighting increases safety is equivocal in general and unless well supported by evidence for this location it should not be assumed to be helpful, and resources should not be spent on it, given the other objections to more lighting in the city.

It would be a pity to prevent access to the monument

Changing the ground level to deter climbing up to the plinth may make what is not a very dangerous climb more dangerous - but not so difficult that people won't attempt it . The National Monument is for us all- why shouldn't people clamber on it - what damage does it do to the Monument? How many people are injured as a result of clambering on to it? The Community council do not think that, on the information given, a case has been made out for adjusting the ground level to prevent climbing , but support the lighting and new fence suggestions .

Not sure that it will be possible to stop people climbing on the National Monument - perhaps it would be better to provide safe access to part of monument.

The National Monument should be fully accessible, as in its present form.

People should be allowed to climb on to the national monument as they have done for years.  
I don't want metal fencing

I want people to be able to access the National Monument and climb up on to it if they so desire.

## Facilities

Cycle racks fine. Surely there will be no cycling? Highly dangerous to have cyclists whizzing round amongst pedestrians.

A glass fronted construction could be added to the front of the Nelson Monument. This would encourage visitors to climb the stairs to the front door.

I think extending Wifi provision in the park is an unnecessary expense.

I have made relevant points about access arrangements in answering Question 8.

Any form of transport up the hill should be carefully considered and not intrusive. CCTV and lighting for security and safety also should not be intrusive.

Cycles and people movers on Calton Hill + pedestrians?

Yes to a car park for disabled visitors and some smooth surfaces for wheelchairs and buggies. But it is important for the 'natural' ambience of the site that some paths and access points are left 'rough'. The idea of people movers is not good. the whole area will begin to look like a fairground attraction. This is already a big problem in Edinburgh in other locations.

All capital investment in the proposed facilities should be cost neutral in terms of future on-going running costs, maintenance and repair.

Please, no Wi-fi provision, no "shopmobility" type buggies, no cycle racks. Wi-fi is unnecessary, the steepness of some of the paths would make use of buggies dangerous, and encouraging cyclists would only result in more erosion as they cause their own desire lines.

The suggestion of "people-movers for transporting visitors to the top of the hill" is highly objectionable. Such things are almost always abandoned after short times and the resources wasted. Sloping paths to the top already exist, and the improvements to these paths will allow adequate access.

Please see comments for U1.

I am not sure whether the currently planned toilet provision is adequate for the number of visitors expected. Need to look at whether additional facilities outside of the Observatory area are required.

Improved facilities, but still to be treated as an open parkland, without vehicle transportation of visitors.

At all costs the Hill should not become a 'theme park' destination.

WiFi not necessary in the park

Not sure that WiFi is necessary in the park.

## Cleanliness

For compliance there will have to be a warden system/fines

I think the success of a revamped Calton Hill will be largely dependent on permanent staff being continuously employed here during daylight hours. Their duties should include frequent and regular emptying of more and unobtrusive litter bins. With current staffing levels and work practices, you cannot depend on the Council's Waste Management service to achieve a reliable or satisfactory level of service.

Plenty bins emptied often and strictly no BBQ allowed.

Graffiti is a plague on our cityscape.  
Provision of sufficient litter bins essential but they must be emptied on a regular basis to avoid overflowing and litter blowing around the hill. This has not even been achieved within the city centre so I am not confident Calton Hill will fare any better. When friends visit Edinburgh the common observation is that the city is badly served as regards litter collection, even in 'tourist dense' areas. This contrasts acutely with many other tidy UNESO sites around Europe.



Bins currently overflow regularly on sunny days and bank holiday weekends. The bins that are provided and the number of bins should be of such a size as to cope with extra waste at times of high use.

Facilities for recycling glass and plastic/paper/cans should also be available.

Facilities for dog waste disposal and children's nappies should also be available.

see previous comment

Lamp posts to be of traditional design in keeping with the site.

Everywhere in the city is spoiled by poor bin emptying, and all areas should have proper service.

It would be important to give a high priority to implementing these (low cost) proposals, as the current lack of cleanliness is a main contributor to the air of neglect that pervades parts of Calton Hill

The Western scrub woodland area is currently very neglected, and easily seen from the steps/offices leading down to Leith Street. Particular care will be needed to manage/improve this woodland and keep it rubbish/fly tipping free.

Need to have plan in place to pick up dropped litter and deter people from doing so.

Current bins and procedures to deal with rubbish and litter are woefully inadequate.

## Information and Interpretation

Please don't include a Gaelic version of the signs as this will just increase their size.

If you decide to increase Wifi provision etc, you might use provide e-interpretation, thus reducing the need for perishable signposting and boards.

Intrusive signs

As previously mentioned too may interpretation and information signage will destroy the 'natural' aspect of the site. Information and site plan leaflets could be available in a weatherproof box close to the Collective Gallery.

Again, any physical information points should be of traditional design, and visually non-intrusive. We do NOT want multi-media screens playing videos and blaring out music/commentary. The screens on the bus stops in Princes Street are a fine example of what would be inappropriate for Calton Hill.

Orientation and interpretation signs should be kept to an absolute minimum, and should be discreet. Entrance signs are necessary, but should also be discreet and in keeping with the old "furniture" of the park.

Use of other media to communicate the heritage of the Hill is highly objectionable, as it is a historic place and a sense of the real past (not fake versions) is highly important.

## Management and Maintenance

Will the stakeholder group have input to control of event noise nuisance to neighbours?
It's so vital that there is put in place a long-term maintenance and management plan this was asked for when the redevelopment of the Grassmarket but was not implemented and the result is a deterioration of the streetscape and undoing of the principle reason for its redevelopment.
The problem with stakeholder involvement here is that it will easily be infiltrated by self-interested local residents. You would need to build-in a quota/mechanism so that whilst their legitimate voice and concerns could be heard/respected/acted upon, they did not wield undue influence on use of the park.
Maintenance should on a regular basis by professionals especially in the summer months not just relying on volunteers.
The involvement in of or regular reporting to local Community Councils and Community newspapers should be considered.  A notice board, at the Royal Terrace entrance with Management and Maintenance information and contacts as distinct from "Hill History" information should be considered.
The concept of good management is, of course, a no-brainer. However, experience of the management of parks does not inspire confidence that this will be done.  Use of appropriate and specialist machinery should mean that no cars or other large vehicles should be allowed on the paths in this or any other parks in the city). They endanger children, and other park users, and the drivers often damage the grass.
Table 1 of para. 5.1 gives a very useful indication of the main capital and maintenance issues to be addressed. However, it would be helpful if the actions could be given a scale of priorities and the really key and urgent actions identified for priority allocation of funds.  In order to allocate funds effectively, it would be necessary to have a costed programme and an indication of the possible source of resources e.g. CEC, grants, volunteers, etc. It is not clear whether or not this formed part of the brief for LUC?
Need to have process in place to monitor and review the management of the Hill so that it can be updated on a regular basis in response to changing needs
Monitoring and management procedures must be in place.

## Any other comments or suggestions

Are there any issues to be addressed in terms of counter terrorist matters? (CCTV, hostile vehicle mitigation, visitor monitoring etc)
We are in touch with Gareth Jenkins. The One o' Clock Gun Asscn's main interest in the Calton Hill is the Nelson Monument, especially the history of the time ball. The transit house is also of interest as it supplied the time to the city.

Noise is a serious issue for properties adjacent. Events will need to have guidelines. We have just had a weekend spoiled by an event. It travels on the prevailing West wind and down slope.

This should be under the guidance of the originators of This improvement realm

A One o' Clock Gun Day could be held annually in June on the hill similar to Greyfriars Bobby Day in January. This would attract visitors from all over the world.

1. I would introduce a presumption of no amplification on the hill for music (live and recorded) or the spoken word. Amplified walking tours are an increasingly disruptive and annoying feature of the Old Town.

2. I found no mention in the documentation of the rock-mounted plaque to Wilson, Templeton and Kennedy on the east side of the steps leading up from Waterloo Place. I think this could be usefully included.

3. I'm glad to find the documentation recognises and respects the complex combination of wilderness and formality on Calton Hill. I think you need to respect also its historically rooted components of disorder, disobedience, informal and illicit behaviour. 'Anonymous, intimate activities' are as old as the hills, and this hill in particular. Such behaviours are part of being human and urban and Edinburghers. By all means improve Calton Hill, make it safer and more accessible, but don't attempt the (probably impossible) task of sanitising it. Law-abiding citizens need and will always find limited spaces to be variously anonymous and naughty in, and Calton Hill has long provided a useful outlet for such instincts.

Just better catering facilities.

The use of Calton Hill for 'events' must be in moderation and done sensitively at a time when the ECC seems to have rented out every open space it can to various commercial undertakings. Just look at the past mess in St Andrew Square more recently the roof of the Waverley Mall. The residents and visitors need some open quiet city centre space that does not involve making money, selling alcohol, or playing loud music. In this respect Calton Hill is unique.

Ensure that all furniture, lighting, signage and interpretation are kept to a minimum to maintain the 'natural' feel of the site and that Conservation Specialists are consulted and oversee work at all times.

Make it accessible to all

The Calton Hill is a significant meeting place and focal point in Edinburgh. Public access to the hill and rights of way across the hill should be enshrined as a key principal within the management plan.

Where anything is planned to take place that will impact on public access to the hill or across the paths on the hill then a requirement for appropriate advance notification to and consultation with Councillors and community councils should be written in to the plan.

Unclear how the Collective Gallery got away with its collection of portacabins next to the Observatory. If it had been for a few weeks over the Festival one year, fine, but they are starting to look permanent. A good management plan would remove their cabins and prevent a similar eyesore in future.

No. The Plan is very comprehensive. Adequate resourcing will be essential to implement and enforce the plan.

We believe LUC has produced a comprehensive and detailed account of a wide range of important issues that require to be addressed to restore the outstanding heritage of Calton Hill and improve its understanding and enjoyment by Edinburgh citizens and visitors.

It is positive and progressive that climate change challenges and opportunities are acknowledged in the plan. However, we do not feel that the plan has fully embraced the ideas and actions set out and agreed in the City of Edinburgh's comprehensive climate change adaptation plan: Edinburgh Adapts Action Plan. We would draw your particular attention to the sections covering 'Natural Environment and Greenspace Actions' and 'Built Environment and Infrastructure Actions'. Many of the actions listed in these sections are relevant to Calton Hill and could be rolled out there as part of ongoing city-wide programmes.

It will be important to regularly communicate progress about the implementation of the proposals to the public. It would be helpful identify 'quick win' proposals in order to emphasise the achievement of positive progress with implementing the improvement plan.

Outstanding is improvement of the visitor experience....currently not great due to rubbish lack of maintenance of the landscape and poor facilities such as public toilets.  
Most important as a near neighbour is the preservation of the historic buildings on Carlton Hill, particularly the Old Royal High School.

The New Town and Broughton Community Council welcome this as a timely and comprehensive updating of the previous Management Plan and urge that in order to clarify currently confused management roles (Para M1) the formation of the recommended "lead" party within the CEC, along with stakeholder input, should be expedited. This would permit speedy prioritisation of the daunting multitude of proposed actions.

No mention in the management plan about the art gallery or the new restaurant. Surely this needs to be integrated into the overall plan for the Hill

There is no mention of the Observatory & Collective, who are integral to the site, the way it will be used and visited.

Details of how both the Hill and the built environment will interact should be part of the plan.

Calton Hill is such an important iconic site and should be preserved in its entirety. There should not be too much interference with its unique characteristics. Fencing should be avoided. People should be able to climb up onto the National Monument, which is a symbol of Edinburgh and Scotland.

I like the aspect of Calton Hill. It is a friendly and pleasant place to visit and this should be conserved. I do not want too many obtrusive changes.

## **Historic Environment Scotland**

Apologies for the late response. We have had an initial look at the draft Calton Hill Management Plan and welcome its ambition.

Going through the document we might suggest other sources of information could be examined and sourced for the hill and its place in Edinburgh's townscape and history e.g. books on Edinburgh topography, history, architecture and gardens etc.

Some additional work on the buildings surrounding the hill would be useful, in particular the work of William Stark and William Playfair in the Calton scheme (Royal and Regent Terrace); the work of Elliot in Waterloo Place and Thomas Hamilton's Royal High School and Burns Monument.

2.20. The former Royal High School also served as a City Art Centre for a spell.

2.23. The former Royal High School has been subject to several major applications recently. We would suggest that this section might usefully be updated to record the outcomes, namely that the two hotel proposals have been refused by the City Council's Development Sub-Committee (not just an objection from Historic Scotland) and that the music school scheme currently has both LBC and PP (we don't understand the 'application expired' line).

2.32. We believe there should be additional explanation of the links between the majority of the hill's monuments and those around its base to Greek Revival architecture, in particular Athenian antiquity. Many monuments were directly modelled on similar structures on the Acropolis e.g. Dugald Stewart's and Burn's Monument, and there is a direct link between the National Monument as the Parthenon and the former Royal High School as a gateway building to it. The terraces of the Calton scheme and Waterloo Place continue this Athens of the North theme.

Elsewhere;

The presentation and use, illicit or otherwise, of the National Monument might benefit from further analysis.

We note the Cultural significance statement has stayed largely the same and on page 5-6, the table of cultural significance has got the same ratings (A,B or C) as the one from the 1999 plan.

On page 7, in the relevant Edinburgh Policies and documentation section, there is no mention of the Old and New Towns WHS Management Plan (2011-2016) and Draft Management Plan (2017-2022).

On page 17, the objective H1: Protection of cityscape contributions and visual relationships is the only objective that alludes to "development", their action against the objective is to "ensure the townscape and visual impact assessments are carried out to not obstruct key views".

## **CEC – Planning Team**

1. The document should start with an executive summary of the management intent. The summary of existing research should become an appendix. It is necessary to read through a lot of background text to reach section three to find out what is proposed.
2. Recent planning decisions – it should be checked that paras 2.23 – 2.25 are up-to-date. 2016 hotel application and music school application went to Committee.
3. 2.12 – reads 'site' should this be 'city'?

4. Figure 1 and 2 – Do these reflect views identified in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal, Skyline Study etc. If so cross-refer. Figure 1 – key should read ‘Dugald’ not ‘Dungald’.
  
5. 2.33-2.52 needs updating.
  - [Edinburgh Local Development Plan](#) is referred to but 2.51-2.52 covers the Review of Local Landscape Designations. These designations are now adopted through the LDP and Policy Env 11 Special Landscape Areas applies. The paragraphs on pressures and opportunities from enhancement relate to the Statement of Importance. I don’t think the reference to LUC preparing the review that informed the designations should be in the main report but this could be included in the references.
  - Policy Env 1 – refer to the World Heritage Site Management Plan, its review and key outcomes from consultation e.g. raising awareness of the ONTE WHS, repair and maintenance of historic structures and streets, managing visitor pressures. EWH will be aware of these.
  - The New Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal (2005) has been recently revised.
  - The Edinburgh Skyline Study has been transposed into the Edinburgh Design Guidance – now second revision.
  - Open Space 2021 – Edinburgh’s Open Space Strategy identifies Calton Hill as one of three large greenspace actions to improve the city’s Premier Parks, with the requirement for a new management plan and engagement on site improvements to be prepared (est £5 million scheme). Policy Env 18 applies to the hill in terms of Open Space Protection.
  - The hill is also a Local Nature Conservation Site Env 15 as well as the national designations referred to (relevant to management regimes and LBAP)
  - Check that all relevant policies have been referred to such as Env 12 Trees and statutory protection through Conservation Area status.
  
6. Other policies: refer also to the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance which also includes in scope paths etc within greenspaces, the Council’s Lighting Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, Core Paths Plan.
  
7. In relation to waymarking at the hill’s main entrances, the Plan should refer to the forthcoming Council’s Wayfinding project (link to U6c). In terms of Green Flag criterion for safe and welcoming access. Does some thought need to be given to approach street quality, levels of natural surveillance e.g. Waterloo Place, lighting and pedestrian experience e.g. use of Observatory at night? The document is rightly focussed on access in terms of topography and safety within the park but if the approaches are not inviting then the upgrades to the hill may not achieve their potential. Might be useful to highlight number of residential properties within 10 minute walk of the park, given Edinburgh’s particular city centre population.
  
8. 3.6 seems to conflict with 3.12 statement on cycling?
  
9. 3.16 – Collective Gallery – updating text from ‘proposals’ to ‘development underway’?

10. Objective H1 – currently measures already exist in the form of Local Development Plan policies and related guidance to achieve the stated aims.
  
11. Objective H2/M1 – organogram should set out relevant team around place required to achieve appropriate maintenance and repair of historic fabric. Currently only Localities, P,G &C, culture, waste and cleansing etc. However, if this is a key objective, it would be useful to identify property conservation and specialist support from EWH as well as those involved in the day-to-day running of the park. This house-keeping should not be presented in an a Council/EWH document but put forward as a positive outcome of the review process. Also clarity is already given in section 6.5.
  
12. H4/h – removal of boulders positive but is introduction of knee-rails any better? A trip hazard with large crowds and more visual clutter. Vehicle over-run to be investigated in more thought. Perhaps identify the issue but not the solution at this stage.
  
13. H4/k – stone paved forecourt to Observatory. If to accommodate heavy vehicle traffic more thought is needed to achieve a proposal capable of withstanding such use. Link to U4 – alternative measures for transporting people to the top of the hill to reduce impact of vehicles, improvement of entrances and wider approaches to the hill.
  
14. H6 – refer to EBAP objectives or how the management objectives contribute towards these.
  
15. Figure 9 refers to Capital Works proposals but there are no cost estimates for these key items.



# Calton Hill Management Plan

Edinburgh World Heritage  
& City of Edinburgh Council  
January 2018



# Contents

## Introduction

### Part One: Executive Summary of Existing Research

Purpose and Scope of Previous Plans	2
Chronology of Calton Hill's Development	3
<b>Royal High School (New Parliament House)</b>	4
<b>City Observatory</b>	4
Composition and Context of Calton Hill	4
Cultural Significance of Calton Hill	4
Role and strategic significance of Calton Hill in City of Edinburgh policies and documentation	7
Current Uses / Activities	8

### Part Two: Appraisal of Calton Hill Park Introduction

Condition	9
Uses & Access	12
Assessment	14

### Part Three: A Vision for the Present and Future of Calton Hill

<b>Vision Statement</b>	
Objectives	15

### Part Four: Operational Management

### Part Five: Management Structures & Responsibilities

Introduction	25
Current Management Structures & Responsibilities	25
Proposals for Future Management	25

### Appendix 1

Photographs	27
-------------	----

### Appendix 2

Review of the 2007 Landscape Management Plan	29
--	----

### Tables

Table 1	17
Table 3	29

### Figures

Figure 1 Site Names
Figure 2 View and Context
Figure 3 Access Network
Figure 4 Structure
Figure 5 Furniture
Figure 6 Trees and Shrubs
Figure 7 Management Zones
Figure 8 Landscape Improvements
Figure 9 Proposal Plan



LUC

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Edinburgh World Heritage, on behalf of the Calton Hill Management Steering Group, has appointed LUC to develop a coordinated Management Plan for the Calton Hill hilltop park. This is required to build on and review significant previous plans, notably the Calton Hill Conservation Plan (LDN1999) and the Calton Hill Landscape Management Plan (Peter McGowan 2007).
- 1.2 This Management Plan is required to review the previous studies and documentary research; assess the current condition and management arrangements at Calton Hill, and prepare a management Vision and Strategy which addresses management and conservation requirements, and management organisation and responsibilities.
- 1.3 The Plan has also been informed by stakeholder workshops with City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) service representatives, Edinburgh World Heritage, the Collective Gallery and representatives from the local resident's associations.

## 2 Part One: Executive Summary of Existing Research

2.1 This Part of the Management Plan provides a summary of the existing Research on Calton Hill and seeks to distil the nature heritage values of the site, drawing on the significant body of research and plan development undertaken over the last decade. This Executive Summary addresses the following subjects:

- Purpose and Scope of Previous Plans
- Chronology of Calton Hill's Development
- Cultural Significance of Calton Hill
- The Policy Context and Role of Calton Hill

### Purpose and Scope of Previous Plans

#### Calton Hill Conservation Plan (August 1999)

2.2 This Conservation Plan was developed in accordance with the brief for the preparation of a *Conservation Plan for The Calton Hill Buildings and Surrounding Area* issued by the City of Edinburgh Council and dated December 1997.

2.3 The research and survey work demonstrates that Calton Hill, its buildings, monuments, burial grounds and landscape is a Scottish cultural asset of international importance, which should be cared for and promoted as such. Calton Hill derives its cultural significance from a number of different sources, all of which help us to understand the past, enrich the present, and which will be of value to future generations.

2.4 Calton Hill is a semi-natural wilderness in the middle of the city; a public park; a landmark; a viewing point; a focus of architectural, academic and artistic endeavour; a place of science; a place of remembrance and contemplation; a place of inspiration; and, through its topography, architecture and association with the Enlightenment, a potent symbol of National Identity. This complex interaction of physical and cultural factors is said to create a sublime sense of place, and has been compared with the Acropolis of ancient Greece.

2.5 This Conservation Plan highlights that the condition of Calton Hill is currently in decline; which will continue until serious remedial action is taken. It concludes that the following issues must be addressed:

- the protection and enhancement of the hill's cultural significance through the development and implementation of a long-term sustainable integrated Buildings, Monuments, Collections, and Landscape Management Plan;
- the development and implementation of an Interpretative Plan;
- the identification of compatible uses for its unused buildings in order to secure their future;
- the strengthening of pedestrian links with the surrounding city;
- the development of appropriate visitor facilities and access.

#### Draft Landscape Management Plan (2007)

2.6 This Landscape Management Plan was undertaken as a stand-alone exercise (though a Management Plan should have been completed to carry forward the broad conservation strategies established in the Conservation Plan).

2.7 It notes that the buildings on Calton Hill, especially those within the compound of the City Observatory, are in urgent need of action. A Management Plan and Feasibility Study for their restoration and future

use as a public asset and visitor facility. In addition, the continuance of their current ideal use by the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, is a necessity.

2.8 Calton Hill is often spoken of as the most culturally important place in Edinburgh after the Castle. However, in comparison it is a neglected and deteriorating resource. The proposed landscape improvements will go a long way to reversing the neglect of the landscape, but the larger task of conserving and reusing the buildings remains. Even in a city with a plethora of significant 18th and 19th century Classical buildings the lack of care for this group is notable, matched by the lack of visitor facilities on Calton Hill. Considering that this group of buildings is chiefly responsible for the city's appellation Athens of the North, the deterioration of the fabric should be a trigger for immediate action.

2.9 This Landscape Management Plan goes on to outline the management issues which Calton Hill faces including:

- the management of the condition of the fabric of Calton Hill;
- visitor and traffic management;
- visitor management and wider issues.

2.10 It notes a set of Landscape Conservation and Management Objectives which incorporate and develop the policies established for the landscape in the Conservation Plan. The Landscape Management Plan then sets out a number of policies, which deal with the role of Calton Hill and Gardens within the city, as well as the needs for site management and improvement. These policies fall under the following broad topics:

- Picturesque Character
- New Town Garden Character
- Urban Form and City Views
- Repair, Restore and Upgrade Designed Landscape Features
- Panoramic Viewpoint
- Remove Intrusive Features
- Facilitate Easy Access
- Provide Good Signage
- Planned Programme of Interpretation
- Develop Nature Conservation Value
- Conserve Archaeological Value
- Encourage Appropriate Uses
- Safe and Attractive Environment
- Good Conservation Practice
- Environmentally Sustainable Principles
- Priorities, Programmes and Resources

#### *The Genius Loci of the Athens of the North: The Cultural Significance of Edinburgh's Calton Hill (2013)*

2.11 This thesis discusses, in great depth, the role of Calton Hill and its monuments in the representation of Scotland's identity within the British State and the Imperial idea of the British governing system. Split into the following sections this piece of work draws a number of conclusions.

- Section 1: Rural Urbanism to Urban Arcadia
- Section 2: Death Commemoration and Memory
- Section 3: Unionism to Nationalism

2.12 Section 1 notes that the complex nature of the development of Calton Hill from an urban periphery to an integral part of the city was influenced by a number of factors which encompassed 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup>

century aesthetic thinking, and also the political aspirations of Great Britain as an imperial power during this period.

- 2.13 Numerous architects, engineers, opticians, artists and all-round visionaries also contributed to the development of the hill during this period. Edinburgh, in assimilating itself to London in terms of its architectural aspirations, did so to prove its legitimacy as a key city in the northern part of Great Britain. As such it chose Greek rather than Roman Architecture.
- 2.14 By including key communication links to London, and a key route to the Port of Leith, as well as establishing the port as a place of navigation in the North Sea, Edinburgh was also asserting its presence as a city of the Empire. The establishment of the monuments on Calton Hill, within this matrix, supported this display of State and Imperial power and further asserted Edinburgh's newly defined role within the British Empire. The arrangement of monuments reinforced the city's cultural aspirations and associations with the Acropolis of ancient Greece. The visual relationship between the Port of Leith and the 'acropolis' of Calton Hill was significant, and the development of the Royal High School as gateway, mimicked the relationship between the temple and the Parthenon in Athens.
- 2.15 Section 2 explores the shift from private to public, through an investigation of the development of the commemorative landscape of Calton Hill during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It provides a background to the changing idea of memorial and its relationship with religion and state, from the post Medieval period up to the 19<sup>th</sup> century; while also discussing the idea of commemoration in both a public and private context within the broader landscape (including commemorative architecture of the urban form in Scotland).
- 2.16 The monuments on Calton Hill, with the exception of the monument to Lord Nelson, mark the significance of the Scottish contribution to the British idea, glorifying Scotland's role within the success of the British State. However, through the influence of the literature of Sir Walter Scott and the increasing industrialisation of the city there was a move away from the use of Classical allegory towards gothic romanticism. The result of this was that within a decade of being conceived, the classical landscape of Calton Hill was out of touch with Scottish notions of what represented Scottish identity.
- 2.17 The third section focuses on how Calton Hill's identity was challenged through the heightening discourse surrounding class issues, Scottish national identity and the role of Scotland in the British Empire during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 2.18 During this period, the elite of the city attempted to take control of Calton Hill, and its structures. However, it is evident that people from all tiers of society continued to use the area, highlighting the stark contrast between the classical architecture, and its symbolism of elite power and influence, with the slum dwellings of Edinburgh's Old Town and the abject poverty of those in the lower classes of society.
- 2.19 Among the conclusions which this thesis draws is the idea that the cultural significance of Calton Hill is in its continual representation of, and dialogue with, the definition of Scottish national identity throughout the last 250 years.

## Chronology of Calton Hill's Development

### Key dates in Chronology of Calton Hill & Environs<sup>1</sup>

- 1456 Greenside Amphitheatre gifted by James II to the city for sport, tournaments and dramatic performances.
- 1462 Trinity College Church founded by Mary of Gueldres.
- 1520 Carmelite Friary founded.
- 1591 Greenside Carmelite Monastery converted to leper colony, following the suppression of the Carmelite Order.
- 1675 Calton Hill denoted usual place of execution.
- Much of the pre-1800s development in the vicinity of Calton Hill was of residences that made up small hamlets surrounding the hill (predominantly to the southwest foot of the hill in the hamlet of Calton, and at the western side, near Greenside, in the hamlet of Craigenfelt).
- 1718 Incorporated Trades purchase half acre of ground from Lord Balmerino for a burial ground.
- 1722 Town Council of Edinburgh began legal process to purchase the hill for £4083-6-8. Land on the western side of the summit (North Craigs or Neils Craigs – Calton Craigs by 1765) was sold by Lord Balmerino to Edinburgh Town Council between 1722-25. At this point the eastern side of the hill was held by Heriot's Hospital, and the lands in the north split between the large institutes of Trinity and Heriots Hospitals, with few smaller individual farmsteads located at specific sites.
- 1750 Quarries on Calton Hill exploited for stone for public works.
- 1762 Burial ground extended southward.
- 1775 First circulatory pleasure walk built round Calton Hill after Council receive petition from David Hume and others.
- 1776 Council received petition from Thomas Short to build an observatory on Calton Hill. Construction work started in the same year.
- 1777 David Hume Mausoleum, designed by Robert Adam, built.
- 1793 Observatory opened in the Keeper's House Tower.
- 1807 Foundation stone of the Nelson Monument, designed by Robert Burn, laid.
- 1812 Transit House built.
- 1814 Competition to plan New Town between Leith Walk and Easter Road held.
- 1815 Governor's House and New Gaol completed.
- 1815-1819 Waterloo Place, Regent Bridge and Regent Road completed. These developments split Calton Burial Ground in two, with disturbed bodies being re interred in the New Calton Burial Ground.
- 1816 Nelson Monument completed by Thomas Bonnar.
- 1820 New Calton Burial Ground opened.
- 1821 Royal Terrace development commenced, followed by Regent and Carlton Terraces.
- 1822 City Observatory, designed by W.H. Playfair, completed.
- 1822 Foundation stone of the National Monument laid on behalf of George IV.
- 1825 New walk built around the west of Calton Hill.
- 1825-9 The Royal High School, designed by Thomas Hamilton, built.
- 1826 Building work on the National Monument, designed by WH Playfair, began (work stopped 1829).
- 1826 John Playfair Monument, designed by W.H. Playfair, completed.
- 1828 Observatory Compound Walls built.
- 1830 Burns Monument, designed by Thomas Hamilton, built.
- 1830-9 Greenside Church, designed by James Gillespie Graham, built.
- 1831 Dugald Stewart Monument, designed by W.H. Playfair, built.
- 1838 First reference to seats on Calton Hill (although they had been on the hill for some years prior to 1838).
- 1844 Political Martyr's Monument, designed by Thomas Hamilton, built.
- 1848 Trinity College Church demolished.
- 1866 Forrest's statues removed from the hill.
- 1887 Portuguese Cannon placed on Calton Hill.
- 1893 Old Observatory House extended.
- 1895 City Dome, designed by Robert Morham, completed.
- 1895-8 City Observatory interior altered.
- 1896 Royal Observatory moved to Blackford Hill.

- During the 20th century there has been very little additional development of note. Various proposals have been put forward for the completion of the National Monument although none have been progressed.
- 1936-9 St Andrew's House, designed by Thomas Tait, built.
- 1940 Five cannon removed from Calton Hill.
- 1968 Royal High School moved to Barnton. The building has remained largely empty since.
- 1995 Calton Hill included in Edinburgh World Heritage Site designation.
- 1998 Parliament Cairn built.
- 1998 Conservation Plan commissioned.
- 2015 City Observatory considered for redevelopment into a modern art gallery, office and café, after lying derelict for more than five years.
- June 2016 More than £300,000 awarded to project to restore City Observatory. New gallery space expected to open in 2018.

### Royal High School (New Parliament House)

- 2.20 The building was refurbished post 1968 to accommodate a new devolved legislation for Scotland. However, as the 1979 devolution referendum failed to provide sufficient backing for a devolved assembly its debating chamber was later used for meetings of the Scottish Grand Committee.
- 2.21 Subsequently the building has been used as offices for departments of Edinburgh Council, including The Duke of Edinburgh's Award unit and the Sports and Outdoor Education unit, and briefly as a City Art Centre.
- 2.22 With the introduction of Scottish devolution in 1999 the Royal High School was suggested as a potential home for the Scottish Parliament. Since then a number of other uses have been put forward, including a home for a Scottish National Photography Centre.
- 2.23 It is now owned by the City of Edinburgh Council who, in 2015, initiated a project to lease the building to be used as a luxury hotel. Two hotel planning applications have now been refused by the Council
- 2.24 The Royal High School Preservation Trust has also put forward an alternative plan to use the building as a music school. This scheme currently has both Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission.

### City Observatory

- 2.25 Redevelopment plans were unveiled in April 2015, and approved in October 2015. The A-Listed Observatory complex will become a contemporary visual arts space, and is expected to open to the public in 2018. Collective are involved in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to save the site, which is on the Buildings at Risk Register. The City Observatory is seen as an important piece of Scotland's heritage, which should be preserved.
- 2.26 Collective's website notes the following *'Historically the City Observatory complex was a place to house telescopes and observe the stars, but observatories are also places to view, to reflect upon a city, to bring people together; laboratories to research and places to follow academic pursuits. Collective are developing a new kind of City Observatory for Edinburgh, encouraging engagement, connecting with the locality through the acts of looking, thinking and importantly producing in relation to the historic culture of the site.'*

## Composition and Context of Calton Hill

- 2.27 Figure 1 illustrates the basic composition of Calton Hill and provides names for the main features of the site. The cultural significance of the site and its constituent parts is summarised below.
- 2.28 Figure 2 illustrates Calton Hill Park in the context of the Edinburgh City Centre. This indicates relationships with the wider city, including important views and its relationship to the World Heritage Site.

## Cultural Significance of Calton Hill

- 2.29 The concept of cultural significance refers to the qualities of a place that help understand the past, enrich present lives, and which will be of value to future generations. Assessment of cultural significance is based on a variety of criteria including aesthetic, architectural, archaeological, historic, scientific and social value.
- 2.30 Cultural significance also varies in importance and, any such assessment is influenced by the current values and perspective of time: the cultural significance of any aspect will vary over time. The purpose of identifying different levels of cultural significance is to establish a rational hierarchy within which the relative importance of each aspect of significance can be related to the others and that of the whole place.
- 2.31 The cultural significance of Calton Hill is summarised, by topic, with ratings as defined by the Calton Hill Conservation Plan 1999 below<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Summarised from the Calton Hill Conservation Plan (August 1999), Chapter 3 Statement of Cultural Significance

Topic	Rating (conservation Plan 1999)	Features / Comments
Topography and Townscape	Rated 'A': of Exceptional Significance and International Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important visual feature when seen from a variety of locations across the city (including along the axis of Princes Street).</li> <li>• Has fundamentally influenced the physical development of Edinburgh (any residential development has been restricted to the lower slopes of the hill and follows the existing contour of the ground).</li> <li>• William Stark (19<sup>th</sup> C Edinburgh architect) identified that the lower slopes provided the more interesting views and suggested street plans should be designed to relate to site topography. This set the pattern for much of the subsequent street planning in the area between Leith Walk and Easter Road.</li> </ul>
The New Town & The Enlightenment	Rated 'A': of Exceptional Significance and International Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the New Town stemmed from a period, generally known as the Enlightenment (following the Act of Union of 1707).</li> <li>• Particular emphasis on the teaching of language and philosophy of Greece. Thus, Edinburgh came to be associated with the ideals and traditions of ancient Greece.</li> <li>• Symbolic linking of Edinburgh to the origins of classical civilisation, which has been uppermost in the mind of anyone proposing to build on Calton Hill. As a result, every building on the hill is in a sense a monument (even those like the observatories, which were built to fulfil a practical function), and designed to celebrate the importance of their site.</li> <li>• Calton Hill is the principal eminence of the New Town and its most significant topographical feature.</li> <li>• Princes Street was precisely aligned with its south summit Calton Hill which was later topped by the Nelson Monument which in turn was sited, in part at least, to terminate the vista eastwards along Princes Street.</li> </ul>
Buildings and Monuments	Rated 'A': of Exceptional Significance and International Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First developments on Calton Hill were built purely for practical use; however, its prominent location resulted in it being the inevitable choice for siting memorials to people and events of importance. (List of monuments and dates of construction included under Chronology of Development).</li> </ul>
Burial Grounds	Rated 'A': of Exceptional Significance and International Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three burial grounds are associated with Calton Hill. These are said to contain some of the finest 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century monuments, memorials and lairs in Scotland (the most impressive collection being housed in the southern portion of Old Calton).</li> </ul>
Public Park	Rated 'A': of Exceptional Significance and International Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1775 the Town Council was petitioned to lay out a public walk around Calton Hill. This walk is an example of one of the earliest in Britain, constructed at a time when town councils were only just providing ordinary street footpaths. After the construction of this walk Calton Hill was developed as a pleasure ground, with other walks being added.</li> <li>• These walks still provide a series of outstanding views across the Old and New Town including the classic view along Princes Street; to Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags; and further to the Pentland hills, the Firth of Forth and Fife.</li> <li>• On the eastern part of the hill, looking towards Holyrood Park, natural features so dominate that the city surrounding the base of the hill can be overlooked.</li> <li>• The Conservation Plan notes that Calton Hill is <i>'primarily contemplative [...] it provides space for people to walk quietly; to meet and converse; to take more vigorous exercise or just sit and enjoy the prospect.'</i></li> </ul>
Science	Rated 'A': of Exceptional Significance and International Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Astronomical Institute founded in 1812 and based on Calton Hill was the first British Society devoted solely to Astronomy.</li> <li>• The City Observatory was established as the "Royal Observatory of Edinburgh" by George IV and was the original location of the world-famous Royal Observatory.</li> <li>• Pioneering astronomical research of international importance was carried out at Calton Hill by, among others, Thomas Henderson, the first Astronomer Royal, and Charles Piazzi Smyth who developed many types of scientific instruments.</li> <li>• The observatory buildings housed the first scientific time keeping service in Edinburgh which was based on the study of star positions.</li> <li>• Installations such as the time-ball housed at the top of the Nelson Monument and the one-o'clock gun at the castle, provided accurate time signals for Edinburgh and mariners in the Firth of Forth. The time keeping service was relayed, using telegraph signals, to cities throughout the country and British Empire.</li> <li>• Many other cities, including Cincinnati, adopted elements of the time-keeping methods developed in Edinburgh.</li> </ul>
Scientific Instruments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The collection of instruments associated with Calton Hill is of international importance to the study of astronomy and time.</li> <li>• The Adie Transit Telescope, first housed in Transit House and now owned by the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, is on display in the City Observatory and the collection of instruments bought to equip the City Observatory is still largely intact.</li> <li>• Several uncatalogued collections of early photographic plates and other miscellaneous items are still stored in the City Observatory.</li> <li>• The telescope housed in the City Observatory is the best publicly accessible telescope in Scotland and is still in regular use.</li> <li>• Many of the instruments are currently stored off-site in places such as the Royal Museum of Scotland. The return of them to the observatory will enhance their significance and is an obvious priority assuming that suitable security and environmental conditions can be provided.</li> </ul>
The Arts	Rated 'A': of Exceptional Significance and International Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The body of work created by notable painters and printmakers is said to be unrivalled, even by that related to Edinburgh Castle.</li> <li>• The National Galleries of Scotland's collection of over 70 items in various media includes works by Sandby, Turner and Paolozzi and there are also collections of coloured prints in the New Club, the Edinburgh City Arts Centre and CityLibrary.</li> </ul>

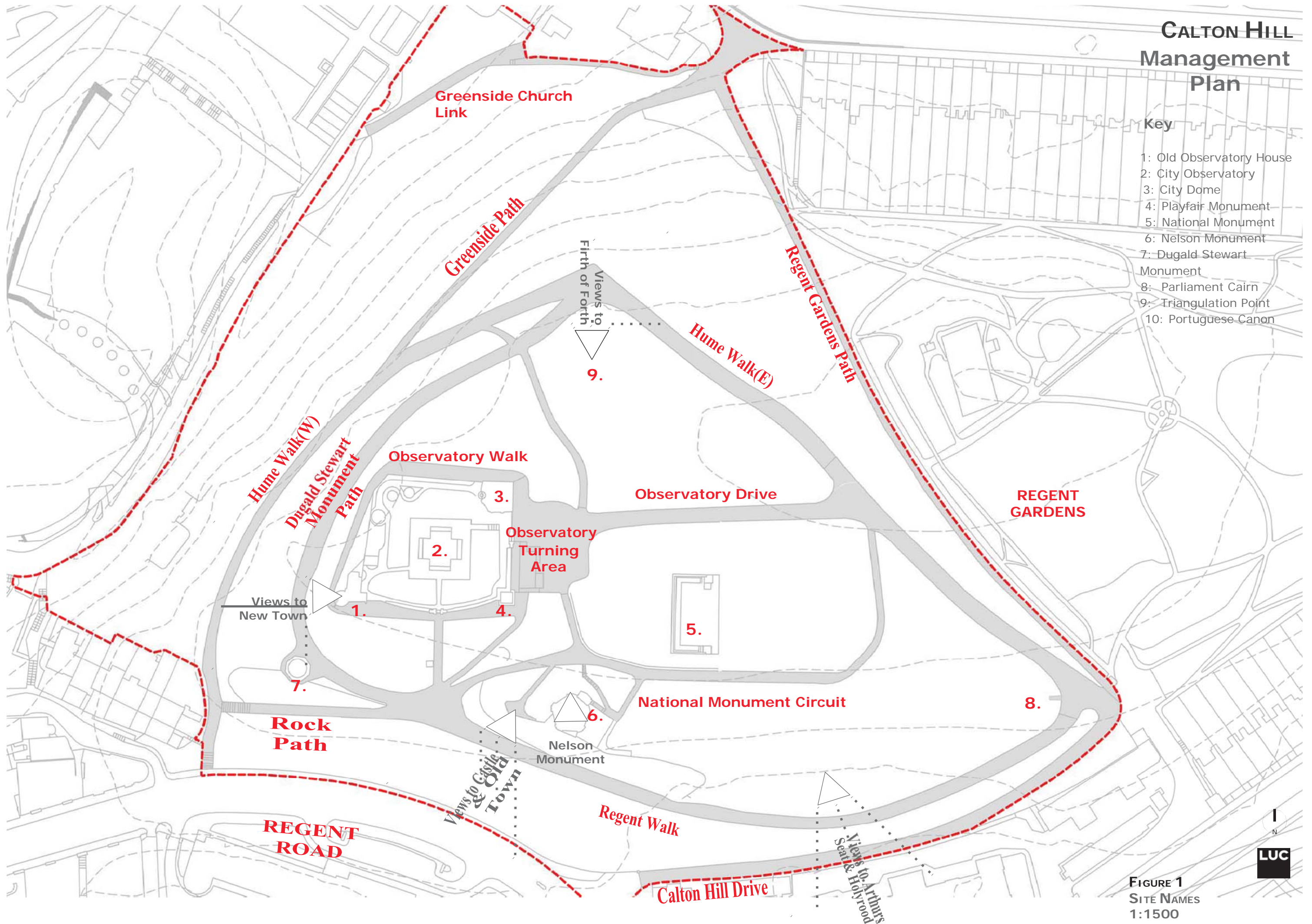
Topic	Rating (conservation Plan 1999)	Features / Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Historic Environment Scotland 'Canmore' database lists c.500 entries relating to the hill.</li> <li>The first recorded panorama drawn by Robert Barker is a view of Edinburgh taken from Calton Hill which was exhibited in 1788.</li> <li>An aquatinted panorama dated 1793, drawn by Robert Barker and engraved by J Wells, is taken from the roof of Old Observatory House and demonstrates exceptional historical views.</li> <li>The hill also features in many early photographs including late 19<sup>th</sup> century prints by Thomas Begbie.</li> <li>Many writers have expressed opinions about the hill including notably Robert Louis Stevenson, Lord Cockburn, and Queen Victoria.</li> <li>Rock House, the last house in the terrace of High Calton, was used by David Octavius Hill as a studio for his pioneering photographic partnership with Thomas Adamson. More than 400 sitters came to Calton Hill to have their likenesses taken in the garden so that the photographer could take advantage of the conditions of light occasioned by being just above the level of smoke and fog.</li> </ul>
Geology	Rated 'B': of Considerable Significance and National Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calton Hill has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of its geology as part of the wider Arthur's Seat volcano complex.</li> <li>Various exposed outcrops of rock, quarry faces, and the south west face below the Governor's House are identified as particularly significant.</li> </ul>
Habitat	Rated 'C': of Some Significance and Local Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although lacking rarities, due to exposure, Calton Hill has considerable local wildlife value as a semi-natural area of woodland and grassland located in the city centre. There is also a report of a rare arachnid on the crag above Calton Hill.</li> </ul>
Archaeology	Rated 'C': of Some Significance and Local Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigations have concluded that over much of the hill the effects of soil processes, vegetation change and the numerous building works have altered the upper levels of the soil profile and effectively truncated any archaeological remains. Few areas of unequivocal merit have therefore been identified.</li> <li>Calton Hill occupies a key strategic location and has undoubtedly been used often in the past. It is probable, therefore, that currently hidden archaeological remains and materials do exist.</li> <li>There is evidence to suggest that the hill may have been used in prehistoric times as a fort, possibly located in the area around the triangulation point, although evidence of earlier use of the hill is limited to a reported find of a bronze-age collared urn now lost.</li> <li>Herman Lyon's mausoleum is also of importance and has undergone some recent investigations; the integrity of this buried structure should be protected.</li> <li>The existing built structures, including retaining and boundary walls, are themselves of great importance as standing archaeology and archaeological analysis of each helps inform knowledge of their development and significance.</li> </ul>
The People	Rated 'C': of Some Significance and Local Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calton Hill has been visited by many of the most important figures in Edinburgh's history and, since the 18th century, has been enjoyed by the people of Edinburgh for recreation and exercise. Apart from Robert Forrest who lived for a short period in a cottage adjacent to the National Monument, and the occupants of the Nelson Monument and Old Observatory House, no one has lived on the hilltop.</li> <li>A book titled The People of Calton describes people who have lived in Regent/Royal/Carlton Terraces and in High Calton. These include an unusually high proportion of people who have made important and sometimes unusual contributions to the life of Edinburgh, including Robert Burns' Clarinda who lived for part of her life at High Calton.</li> <li>Thomas Henderson, the first Astronomer Royal, and his successor Charles Piazzi Smyth both worked at the observatory and contributed hugely to the science of astronomy.</li> <li>The famous preachers John Wesley and Rowland Hill preached to crowds of thousands on the hill.</li> <li>One of the most well-known photographs of the hill, taken by Thomas Begbie, shows the hill being used by washerwomen with their sheets spread out on the grass and it is entirely characteristic of the hill that such mundane chores should be carried out amongst the monuments.</li> <li>Today the hill is enjoyed by people from all over the world, tourists and locals alike, who still come to enjoy the views, take exercise, or simply to spend a short while in contemplation amongst its monuments.</li> </ul>



# CALTON HILL Management Plan

## Key

- 1: Old Observatory House
- 2: City Observatory
- 3: City Dome
- 4: Playfair Monument
- 5: National Monument
- 6: Nelson Monument
- 7: Dugald Stewart Monument
- 8: Parliament Cairn
- 9: Triangulation Point
- 10: Portuguese Canon



**FIGURE 1**  
SITE NAMES  
1:1500

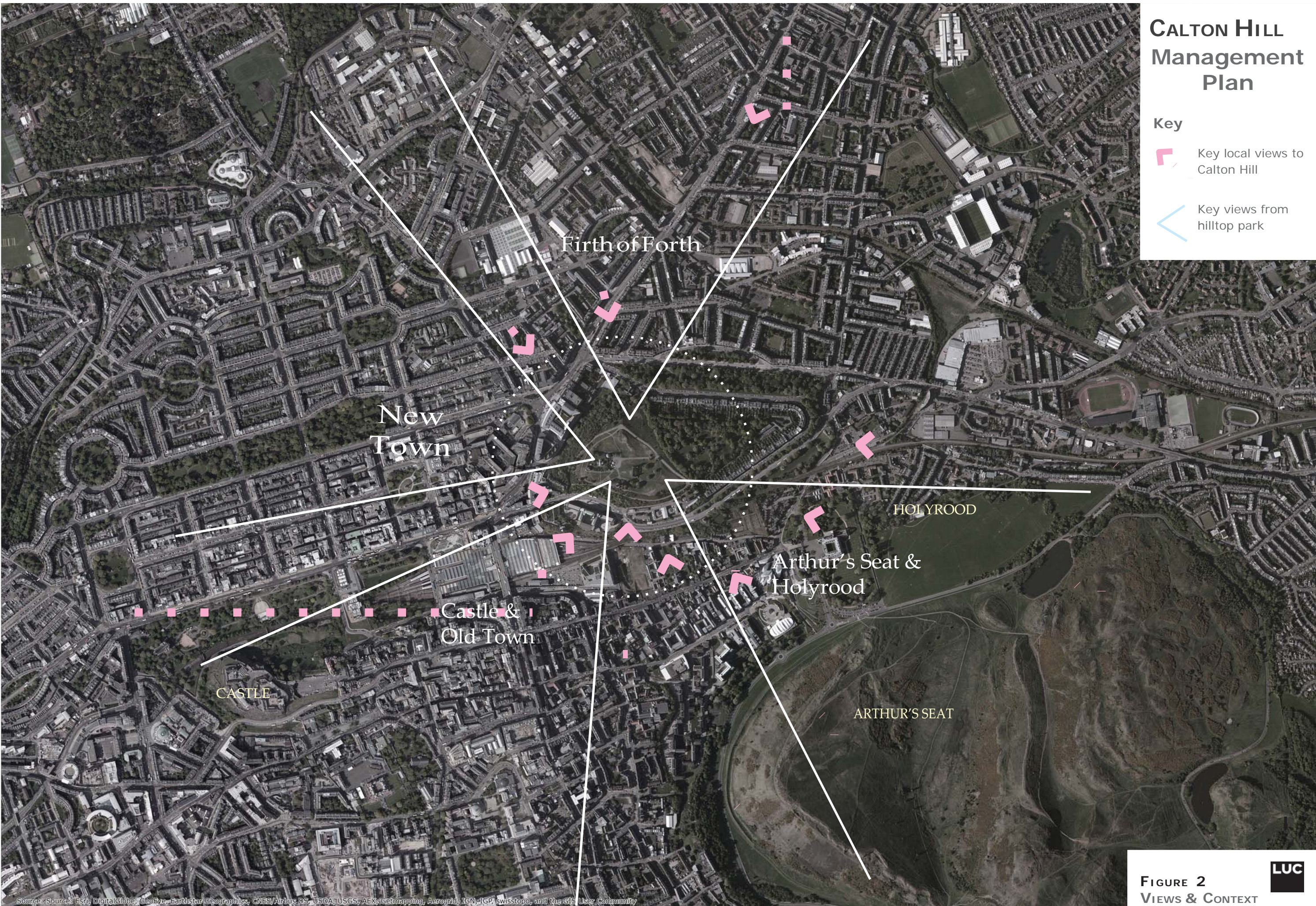


# CALTON HILL Management Plan

## Key

 Key local views to  
Calton Hill

 Key views from  
hilltop park



Source: Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

FIGURE 2  
VIEWS & CONTEXT



## Role and strategic significance of Calton Hill in City of Edinburgh policies and documentation

### The Edinburgh Local Development Plan (2016)<sup>ii</sup>

- 2.33 The current Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in November 2016; it replaces the previous City Local Plan. It shows Calton Hill as Open Space being within a designated Conservation Area. There are several policies within the LDP of relevance to Calton Hill. These include the policies outlined below:
- 2.34 **Policies Des 1; Des 3; Des 4 and Des 11:** These policies relate to the quality of design and development required by the City Council, and have particularly relevant provisions to prevent damage to the character of Edinburgh's townscape, to the setting of important townscapes, buildings and landscapes, and on key views and skylines. These policies have particular relevance to Calton Hill, given its prominence in the city views and its role in defining the character / identity of Edinburgh.
- 2.35 **Policy ENV 1 World Heritage Sites:** Development which would harm the qualities which justified the inscription of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh as World Heritage Sites or would have a detrimental impact on a site's setting will not be permitted (note also: World Heritage Site Management Plan (2011-16) and Draft Management Plan (2017-22)).
- 2.36 **Policy ENV 2 Listed Buildings – Demolition:** Proposals for the total or substantial demolition of a listed building will only be supported in exceptional circumstances, taking into account:
- the condition of the building and the cost of repairing and maintaining it in relation to its importance and to the value to be derived from its continued use;
  - the adequacy of efforts to retain the building in, or adapt it to, a use that will safeguard its future, including its marketing at a price reflecting its location and condition to potential restoring purchasers for a reasonable period;
  - the merits of alternative proposals for the site and whether the public benefits to be derived from allowing demolition outweigh the loss.
- 2.37 **Policy ENV 3 Listed Buildings – Setting:** Development within the curtilage or affecting the setting of a listed building will be permitted only if not detrimental to the appearance or character of the building, or to its setting.
- 2.38 **Policy ENV 4 Listed Buildings – Alterations and Extensions:** Proposals to alter or extend a listed building will be permitted where those alterations or extensions are justified, will not cause any unnecessary damage to historic structures or diminish its interest and where any additions are in keeping with other parts of the building.
- 2.39 **Policy ENV 5 Conservation Areas – Demolition of Buildings:** Proposals for the demolition of an unlisted building within a conservation area but which is considered to make a positive contribution to the character of the area will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Proposals for the demolition of any building within a conservation area, whether listed or not, will not normally be permitted unless a detailed planning application is submitted for a replacement building which enhances or preserves the character of the area or, if acceptable, for the landscaping of the site.
- 2.40 **Policy ENV 6 Conservation Areas – Development:** Development within a conservation area or affecting its setting will be permitted which:
- preserves or enhances the special character or appearance of the conservation area and is consistent with the relevant conservation area character appraisal;
  - preserves trees, hedges, boundary walls, railings, paving and other features which contribute positively to the character of the area; and
  - demonstrates high standards of design and utilises materials appropriate to the historic environment.
- 2.41 **Policy ENV 7 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes:** Development will only be permitted where there is no detrimental impact on the character of a site recorded in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, adverse effects on its setting, or upon component features which contribute to its value. Elsewhere, adverse effects on historic landscape features should be minimised. The restoration of Inventory sites and historic landscape features is encouraged.
- 2.42 **Policy ENV 8 Protection of Important Remains:** Development will not be permitted which would:
- adversely affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument or other nationally important

archaeological remains, or the integrity of their settings;

- damage or destroy archaeological remains of more local significance which the Council considers should be preserved in situ.

- 2.43 **Policy ENV 9 Development of Sites of Archaeological Significance:** Planning permission will be granted for development on sites of known or suspected archaeological significance if it can be concluded from information derived from a desk based assessment and walkover survey, and if requested by the Council, a field evaluation, that either:
- No significant archaeological features are likely to be affected by the development.
  - Any significant archaeological features will be preserved in situ and, if necessary, in an appropriate setting with provision for public access and interpretation.
  - The benefits of allowing the proposed development outweigh the importance of preserving the remains in situ. The applicant will then be required to make provision for archaeological excavation, recording and analysis, and publication of the results before development starts, all to be in accordance with a programme of works agreed with the Council.
- 2.44 **Policy ENV 11 Special Landscape Areas:** Planning permission will not be granted for development which would have a significant impact on the special character or qualities of Special Landscape Areas. This includes Calton Hill SLA.
- 2.45 **Policy ENV 14 Sites of National Importance:** Development which would affect an SSSI will only be permitted where an appraisal has demonstrated that:
- the objectives of the designation and the overall integrity of the area will not be compromised; or
  - any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance.
- 2.46 **Policy ENV 15 Sites of Local Importance:** Calton Hill is a Local Nature Conservation Site. The Edinburgh Biodiversity Action plan also has relevant actions for associated habitats and species.
- 2.47 **Policy ENV 18 Open Space Protection:** Calton Hill is classed as Open Space and so detrimental development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

### New Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal<sup>iii</sup>

- 2.48 Throughout the appraisal the prominence of Calton Hill, and its visibility from a number of points across the city are noted. The monuments and observatory on Calton Hill are described as 'principal features'.

### The Edinburgh Skyline Study (transposed into the Edinburgh Design Guidance)<sup>iv</sup>

- 2.49 Edinburgh's skyline is an essential part of the character and appearance of the city, and is an important asset to protect. Edinburgh's Skyline Study identifies the key views in the city and forms the basis for the non-statutory guidance on the protection of key views. Four of the key views identified within central Edinburgh are from Calton Hill. There are also five key views identified, from where the main focus is Calton Hill. These include from the Castle Ramparts, Camera Obscura, North Bridge, Jeffrey Street, Cranston Street, and Princes Street.

### Edinburgh Street Design Guidance

- 2.50 This Guidance includes many elements relevant to Calton Hill, including commentary on appropriate lighting, footpaths, trees, planting, landscape, surface materials etc.

### Review of Local Landscape Designations<sup>v</sup>

- 2.51 This study notes the following potential pressures upon landscape integrity in relation to Calton Hill:
- built development affecting appreciation of the hill form and skyline;
  - path erosion and damage resulting from visitor pressure.
- 2.52 The following enhancement potential is also noted:
- management of vegetation to enhance the landscape character and views;
  - path improvement to manage and enhance the visitor access and experience.

## Current Uses / Activities

- 2.53 Calton Hill is a public open space currently used for a range of informal uses and activities and is popular for walking and sightseeing. It is also used for a variety of more formal activities and events, including those listed below:
- **Photoshoots** for events and products such as for Scottish Food & Drink, political, BT Sport, Barbour, Nationwide, Great Edinburgh Run, Warburton, Musselburgh Race course - Edinburgh Cup Launch, EIFF Vehicle Partner, Eleni L and Pret a Manger.
  - **Filming**, including for a number of **channels** (BBC Alba, BBC 1, BBC Current Affairs, BBC News, BBC Wales, BBC Hogmanay, CBeebies, TSN Canada, CNN, Cactus TV, Forth One), **events** (including Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo), and **television shows** (including Britain's Got Talent, Good Morning Britain, The Nation's Favourite, Location, location, location, Dickinson's Real Deal, Kevin Bridges, The One Show and Antiques Roadshow). Calton Hill has also been used for filming by SE Film Production Ltd., and City of Edinburgh Council Promo films.
  - **Fundraising** events such as WALK it Scotland for Crohns, Sport Relief Challenge, and Carers UK 50 Hill Challenge.
  - **Cultural and Recreational** events such as The Culture Show, Edinburgh Film Festival, Artsnight, Maggie's Culture Crawl, Beltane Fire Festival, Whisky Welcome (including bagpipe workshop), Bicycle Ballet, Murley Dance at the Fringe, Grey Goose Camionette, Culinary Journey and Afternoon Tea.
  - **Military events** such as Trafalgar Day.
  - **Sporting** events such as Survival of the Fittest, Seven Hills of Edinburgh Race and Challenge
  - **Conference** events, including Lloyds One Group Conference.
  - **Religious celebrations** such as Easter Dawn Worship, Beltane, and the Dussehra Hindu Festival.
  - **Hogmanay celebrations**, including Edinburgh's Hogmanay Midnight Fireworks and Torchlight Procession.
  - **Wedding celebrations**, including wedding ceremonies and photography.
  - **Protest events**, including the Worldwide March Against Government Corruption.
  - **Educational events**, including Calton Hill Geology Walk.
- 2.54 The subject of uses is discussed in further detail within the Management Plan to follow.





# 2 | Site Appraisal

## 2 Part Two: Appraisal of Calton Hill Park

### Introduction

3.1 This chapter provides a 2016 appraisal of the Hilltop Park reflecting the findings of site surveys, desk reviews and consultations during the study period. This addresses three key subject areas:

- the physical composition and condition of the park landscape;
- the uses of the park by all parties (e.g. visitors, Edinburgh residents and operators);
- an assessment of associated issues, categorised as 'Risks, Threats & Constraints' and 'Needs & Opportunities'.

### Condition

#### Access Network

3.2 The access network within the Hilltop Park comprises a number of circular walks and interconnecting ramps. These have been laid out to negotiate the significant level changes over Calton Hill, and to provide terraces at different levels from which views of the city and more distant panoramas can be obtained. The existing access routes represent the product of sequential development and alterations. It is believed the original paths were unmetalled but have subsequently been widened and surfaced in bitumen macadam to withstand vehicular access and to provide more stable surfaces on the steeper slopes. Fig 3 illustrates the current composition and condition of the access network within the Hilltop Park.

- **Calton Hill Drive:** this route represents the main vehicular route into the Park from Regent Road, adjacent to the Royal High School. It is framed by walls on both sides and is approximately 5m wide with an asphalt surface.
- **Regent Walk:** a level route cut into the south slope of the hill and running below the Nelson Monument ridge. It is framed between basalt cliffs and a parapet wall and is approximately 4m wide. It has a predominantly unmetalled surface of crushed grey whinstone with vegetation encroachment from the sides.
- **Hume Walk (West & East):** represents the main circular walk running around the hill at the lower level and linking with Regent Walk at its eastern end. Hume Walk extends northwards from the entrance steps from Regent Road where it is tightly confined by rock cuttings; it then becomes more open although edged by a parapet wall on its western side. It varies from approximately 3.5m to 5m wide and is predominantly surfaced in asphalt/DBM. The western section is however unmetalled/ crushed stone aggregate with the remnants of an earlier bitmac surface present in some locations. Hume Walk is edged by whinstone setts and double sett channels for much of its length. Vegetation encroachment has obscured the edgings for significant lengths.
- **Dugald Stewart Monument Path:** a mid-level route which runs around the west side of the Observatory Hill (overlooking the New Town and Hume Walk). It links with Hume Walk on the northern side of the hill and with the Hume Monument area below the Observatory. It is unmetalled and surfaced in crushed stone aggregate with grass edges.
- **Observatory Drive and turning area:** the route from Hume Walk to the Observatory's main entrance and vehicle turning area, this is approximately 5m wide and surfaced in asphalt with sett edgings. This forms part of the main service route for the Observatory and Nelson's Monument and is in sound condition. The large asphalt turning area also accommodates essential parking by arrangement (e.g. for disabled visitors). The extensive turning area is functional but detracts from the setting of the Observatory and National Monument in its current form.

- **Observatory Walk and Ramps:** the Observatory is encircled by a high-level terrace which runs outside the Observatory compound walls. It has different characteristics on each side of the Observatory:
  - South: a wide bitumen macadam surfaced terrace adjacent to the grass slope and connected by narrow stepped ramps from the lower level paths and main junction / arrival area;
  - West: partially narrow terraced route with parapet walls and railings for safety (above cliffs);
  - North: terraced route with internal verge and steep grass slopes below;
  - East: vehicular turning head as described above.
- **National Monument circuit:** a metalled path runs around the east and south sides of the National Monument area linking with the Nelson's Monument paths and ramps on the south side of the Observatory. This route is narrower at c. 3m wide and has grass edges.
- **Nelson Monument Paths:** a network of metalled paths and steps leading up to the entrances of Nelson's Monument and the viewpoint over Regent Walk to its west. Paths are c. 1.5m wide.
- **Greenside Path:** a cross-park route which connects with Hume Walk in the west and the Royal Terrace entrance in the north. It is approximately 3m wide, is predominantly surfaced in asphalt and has double sett channels for much of its length. Vegetation encroachment has obscured the edgings for significant lengths, some of which is growing through the railing on the path's northern side.
- **Greenside Church Path:** path connecting Greenside with the Royal Terrace entrance, at the back of Greenside Church. It is approximately 4.5m wide at the Greenside Row end, narrowing to between 2.5 and 3m where it runs alongside the church, with short flights of steps. Adjacent to Greenside Church the path is framed by walls on both sides, with overhanging woodland on its south side. The path is unmetalled/comprised of crushed stone aggregate which has eroded in places.
- **Regent Gardens Path:** one of the main cross-hill routes connecting the park entrance at Royal Terrace to Calton Hill Drive. The path is between approximately 3.5 and 4.5m in width, and composed of crushed stone aggregate steps with setts as treads. The path is edged by a high wall containing Regent Gardens on its eastern side, with overgrown vegetation on both sides.
- **Desire Line routes and erosion areas:** a number of desire line paths have been worn by heavy footfall and these have created scars in the grass areas, some leaving bedrock exposed as the result of soil erosion. The erosion areas are illustrated on Fig 3 and these lead to the 'honey-pot' areas at viewpoints and at monuments. The notable desire line routes include:
  - The Triangulation point area;
  - The south ridgeline overlooking Holyrood Palace and Arthur's Seat;
  - Routes between the Hume Monument area and the Observatory Terrace.
- **Drainage issues:** the steepness of several access routes determines that surface water runoff can be damaging to path surfaces, especially where the routes are unmetalled. Heavy rain conditions cause the scour of aggregates in these areas. Unmaintained/blocked drainage infrastructure exacerbates problems by increasing the overland flow of surface water. In addition to surface water damage; a significant drainage problem exists at the Regent Road steps entrance where a blocked sewer (from Nelson's Monument) is discharging above and through the steps. This being the principal pedestrian entrance from the city centre, makes resolution of this problem a priority item.

#### Access Network -Key Issues:

- Vegetation encroachment along footpaths;
- Erosion of unmetalled footpath surfaces due to surface water run-off;
- Historic steps becoming worn and locally unstable;
- Scarred grass due to erosion along desire lines and at 'honey-pots';
- Blocked drain at the Regent Road steps; and
- Observatory Drive turning area detracts from the setting of the Observatory and National Monument.

# CALTON HILL Management Plan

## Key

-  Hilltop Park boundary
-  Asphalt
-  Whinstone
-  Desire lines
-  Sett pavement

## Key Issues

1. Vegetation encroachment
2. Blocked drainage
3. Erosion at honeypots
4. Steps deteriorating
5. Erosion at desire lines

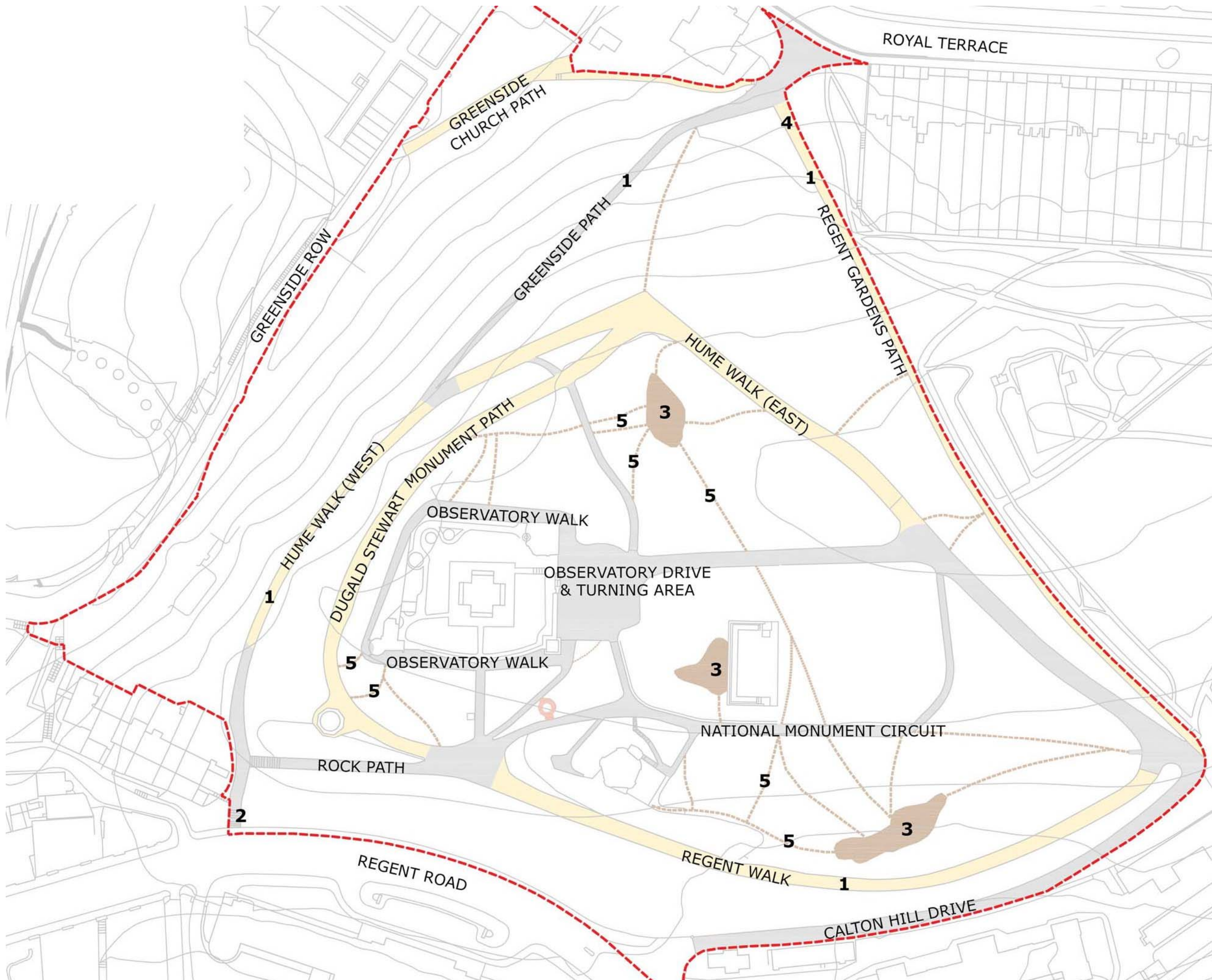


FIGURE 3 ACCESS NETWORK 1:1500





## Structures

3.3 Fig 4 illustrates the current composition and condition of the structures within the Hilltop Park. These are described below for Walls (W) Steps (S), Structures (Str) and Railings (R):

- **W1: Regent Road perimeter:** the Regent Road perimeter of the park is defined by a buff sandstone ashlar retaining wall c. 1.6m high comprising a plinth course, a wall of three consistent courses then a cope. It is approximately 200m long extending between Calton Hill (road) and the gateway adjacent to the Royal High School Lodge house. It is consequently highly visible from the adjacent Regent Road. It appears to be in sound condition overall although there is potential for vegetation damage at the wall head level.
- **W2: Calton Hill Drive - North:** the above wall terminates at the Hilltop Park gateway on Regent Road, where the park's perimeter wall changes to a basalt rubble structure averaging approximately 1m high, although varying along its length to accommodate rock outcrops. The top half of the wall is covered by vegetation (predominantly ivy, gorse, grass and broom). It appears however to have undergone recent repointing and is in sound condition with only very localised stonedisplacement.
- **W3: Calton Hill Drive - South:** the retaining wall on the south side of Calton Hill Drive is approximately 3m high (on the Royal High School side), and is topped with a railing approximately 1.5m high. It runs between Regent Road in the west and Regent Gardens Path in the east. The wall and railing appear to be in sound condition, although there is some vegetation encroachment at the eastern end in proximity to the crash barrier.
- **W4: Regent Walk:** a rubble stone wall with random rubble cope runs along the south side of Regent Walk. It appears to be in poor condition overall and there is potential for damage from vegetation encroachment. The north side of Regent Walk is contained by rocky outcrops in the west, grading to hill slope in the east, both of which are well vegetated. There is a railing at path level below Nelson's Monument, which is misshaped and subject to vegetation encroachment.
- **W5: Hume Walk – West:** an ashlar wall with cope approximately 1.2m in height runs along the western side of Hume Walk (West), between the rocky outcrops leading up from Regent Road in the south and the junction with Greenside Path. The wall appears to be in sound condition although is subject to some vegetation encroachment.
- **W6: Rock Path:** a rubble stone wall with random rubble cope runs along the south side of Rock Path, which leads up to the Nelson Monument, and is approximately 1.2m in height. It appears to be in sound condition. A cast-iron handrail with lion's head motif runs up the middle of Rock Path and appears to be in reasonable condition.
- **W7: Observatory Terrace:** a low (c. 0.5m in height) random rubble wall contains the path running along the eastern side of the Observatory. A handrail (c. 1m in height) provides a safety barrier to the rocky cliff face below the north-west corner of the Observatory. The handrail appears in sound condition although vegetation has encroached the wall.
- **S1: Regent Road Entrance:** a flight of steps leading to Hume Walk (West) from the Regent Road entrance. The steps are in reasonable condition although there is an on-going problem with a blocked drain leading to sewage running down the steps towards Regent Road. A cast-iron handrail with lion's head motif runs up the middle of the steps and appears to be in reasonable condition.
- **S2: Rock Path Steps:** a flight of steps leading from Hume Walk (West) to Rock Path. The steps are in reasonable condition although there is some weed growth along the sides. A cast-iron handrail with lion's head motif runs up the middle of the steps and appears to be in reasonable condition.
- **S3: Nelson Monument:** a flight of steps zig zags up to the entrance to Nelson's Monument from the National Monument Circuit. The steps are in reasonable condition although they are of utilitarian design and there is no handrail on the lower flight of steps and some shrub planting overhangs the path.
- **S4: Portuguese Cannon:** a short flight of steps with sett treads, and edged with setts, leads up to the Portuguese Cannon from the south. The steps are in good condition.
- **Str1: Parliament Cairn:** a stone cairn with a beacon on top, built to commemorate the vigil for a Scottish Parliament which took place at that location. The cairn is in good condition.
- **Str 2: Herman Lyons' mausoleum:** is a subterranean structure built in 1795 as the first recorded Jewish burial site in Edinburgh. It is inaccessible but potential vulnerable to illicit excavations.

- **R1: Greenside Path:** a black-painted cast-iron railing approximately 1.2m in height runs along the north side of Greenside Path, preventing access to the wooded slope below. The railing is in reasonable condition although overgrown vegetation grows through onto the path in many places, and litter is collecting under parts of the railing.
- **R2: Regent Walk:** a short section of green-painted railing approximately 1m in height runs along the north side of Regents Path, below Nelson's Monument. The purpose of the railing may be to prevent access to the cliff face in this location. The railing appears misshapen and rusting in places.
- **R3: Nelson Monument – East:** a green-painted metal railing approximately 1.2m in height runs along the edge of the gorse at the top of the cliffs between Nelson's Monument and a location west of the Arthur's Seat viewing area. Vegetation has encroached upon the railing. A more modern railing also encloses the garden area and footpath up to Nelson's Monument from the east.
- **R4: Nelson Monument – West:** green-painted metal railings approximately 1.2m in height contain the viewing area to the west of Nelson's Monument. The railing is rusted in places.
- **R5: Dugald Stewart Monument:** green-painted metal railings approximately 1.2m in height run along the southern side of the path leading to the Dugald Stewart Monument from the east. Vegetation has encroached through the railings. Litter has collected at the base of the railings, particularly at the back of the monument.
- **R6: Crash Barrier:** a steel crash barrier, approximately 0.5m in height and located on concrete plinths is located at the bend on Calton Hill Drive, opposite Regent Walk. The barrier appears incongruous with the stone wall and railing beyond it.

### Structures -Key Issues

- General vegetation encroachment damaging walls and railings;
- General litter collection at the base of railings;
- Damaged railings along the north side of Regent Walk;
- Blocked drain at Regent Road steps;
- Incongruous modern crash barrier at the top of Calton Hill Drive.

## Furniture, Lighting, Signage & Facilities

3.4 Fig 5 illustrates the current distribution of the furniture within the Hilltop Park. These are described below:

- **Benches:** benches are not evenly distributed across the Hilltop Park. There are concentrations of seating along the south facing Observatory Terrace and at the Arthur's Seat viewing location 'honey-pot' (known as the South Viewpoint). Elsewhere benches are located at the north facing viewing point on Hume Walk, on Observatory Drive and on Regent Walk. Benches are typically black-painted, wrought iron and traditional in style. There are seating bays on Observatory Drive / Hume Walk (East) which do not contain benches. The Council report that there is a waiting list for presentation benches on Calton Hill and this may lead to further inconsistency in style and quality unless specific designs could be conceived suited to the Calton Hill context.
- **Litter bins:** bins are concentrated in the busiest parts of the Hilltop Park i.e. around the Observatory. Litter bins are often located alongside benches. Bins are traditional in style, either square or round, and painted in green and gold. The bins themselves are in good condition, however general issues with litter collection have been noted, e.g. overflowing bins, despite some bins having sensors to indicate when they are nearly full.
- **Bollards:** there are bollards at either end of Regent Walk, at the eastern end of the Dugald Stewart Monument Path and at the north-eastern corner of Observatory Walk. Bollards are traditional in style and painted green. They appear to be in good condition.
- **Hand rails:** there are hand rails running along the centre of the Regent Road and Rock Path steps. Both sets of hand rails are cast-iron with a lion's head motif and appear to be in reasonable condition. There are also hand rails around Nelson's Monument. Railings are further described in Paragraph 3.3.

- **Signs:** there are small map-based signs at the Regent Road steps entrance and at the Royal Terrace entrance. Other entrances are not signposted. Elsewhere signs are strategically located at viewing points (North Viewpoint, South Viewpoint, Nelson's Monument) and adjacent to structures, providing interpretation. Many of the signs have suffered from vandalism or weathering. Some of the signs for the Collective Gallery are attached to lighting posts, and these too have been vandalised in some locations.
- **Lighting:** street lamps are located along Hume Walk, Rock Path and around the National Monument. Consultation has revealed that there are issues with lighting at Greenside Path, where the footpath can be in darkness. There are also 'blackspots' between lights which can be disorienting and make access difficult. The lighting generally lacks sophistication and fails to complement the character of the landscape and its monuments. The new stainless-steel columns appear alien in this context and are particularly obtrusive in the vicinity of the Observatory. Given the inherent interest of the architecture, the rock faces and walls on the site, there is clearly scope for a more sensitive and interesting lighting scheme which could enhance the experience of Calton Hill, in sympathy with its picturesque qualities, and cognisant of the Observatory's setting and periodic need for 'dark sky' conditions.
- **Information & Communication Technology:** outdoor Wifi is now up and running in the city centre using the SSID Edifreewifi, and this includes the top section of Calton Hill (not the entire space), which is being supplied from wireless access points sited on Nelson's Monument powered through point-to-point equipment from City Chambers/Harvey Nichols. City of Edinburgh Council confirm it would be difficult to spread the wifi signal further over the hilltop park due to a lack of higher assets on which to place the wifi equipment. ICT (City of Edinburgh Council) are currently examining options for bringing fibre connectivity to the new developments at the Observatory.
- **Servicing for events:** there are currently no external service points for events on Calton Hill, and this necessitates the use of generators and imported facilities.

#### Furniture, Lighting & Signage -Key Issues

- Orientation signage and waymarking within the site and at its main entrances is inadequate and fails to provide essential information on accessibility for the less mobile and disabled visitors
- Missing benches from path recesses along Observatory Drive / Hume Walk (East);
- Periodically overflowing bins;
- Vandalism and weathering of signs;
- Interpretive signage requires to be refreshed and in some locations the signs are wrongly located;
- Unlit paths and unsuited lighting columns.

#### Trees, Woodland & Scrub

3.5 Fig 6 illustrates the current distribution and composition of the trees and woodland and semi natural scrub within the Hilltop Park, as well as grasslands. These are described below:

- **Parkland specimen and self-sown trees:** (see note 3 on Fig 6) to the east and south of the National Monument there are several groups of well-established mature specimen trees, including sycamore, ash, elm and whitebeam. To the north there tends to be a pattern of younger self-sown individuals, particularly across the north-east facing slope. Some of the older elms are known to be affected by Dutch Elm Disease, though some new healthy elms are also establishing.

**Parkland native trees scrub:** (see note 2 on Fig 6) the semi-natural grassland slopes immediately above Hume Walk and Regent Walk are being progressively colonised by trees and scrub, particularly to the west and south of the Hilltop Park. In these locations, there is a pattern of well-established small woodland groups rather than a scattering of individual trees. Species include ash, sycamore, elm, birch, alder, and hawthorn (as well as substantial areas of gorse and broom). In some places these groups screen views, for example views south from between Nelson Monument and Parliament Cairn, and views from Dugald Stewart Monument. These groups result in a loss of the semi-natural grassland, and have the potential to significantly change the more open character of the hilltop.

Large areas of gorse and broom exist to the west of the Observatory compound, and on south-facing slopes to the north and south of Regent Walk.

**Greenside woodland:** (see note 1 on Fig 4) a mature woodland has established itself through planting and natural regeneration on the once open west-facing slope above Greenside Row. It includes a wide range of species, including elm, ash, sycamore, maple, holly, rowan, cherry and birch. Some of the elms are known to be affected by Dutch elm disease. This woodland largely screens historic views west from Hume Walk, with only glimpsed views currently available. It requires management, particularly thinning of trees in poor condition, monitoring of tree disease and the opening of 'viewing windows' to restore historic views. This area of woodland has very steep topography making access for maintenance operations difficult and potentially dangerous without specialist equipment and working methods.

- **South woodland:** this area contains a structural/amenity woodland, planted some time ago. In many places it is overgrown and intrudes on historic views from Regent Walk. Species include mainly sycamore, ash, elm and birch, with many of the trees in poor condition, and some affected by an abundance of ivy. The thinner, eastern section of the woodland (behind Old Royal High School) is dominated by gorse and broom. It requires management, particularly thinning of trees in poor condition, control of ivy, monitoring of tree disease and the opening of 'viewing windows' to restore historic views. This area of woodland also has steep topography making access for maintenance operations difficult and requiring specialist equipment and working methods.

#### Trees, Woodland & Scrub - Key Issues

- Lack of management to promote suitable age distribution of naturally regenerating woodland, and to remove trees in poor condition or which may be unsafe;
- Extensive screening of historic views from Hume Walk and Regent Walk by mature vegetation;
- Encroachment of self-sown trees into valued semi-natural grassland, also leading to a change in the historic character of the Hilltop Park;
- Control of species such as ivy, gorse and broom;
- Tree diseases such as Dutch Elm and potentially Chalara dieback of ash;
- A legacy of late 20<sup>th</sup> century inappropriate tree planting which introduced formal/ ornamental trees (whitebeams) into prominent locations
- Requirements for specialist maintenance and access methods for the steep woodland areas, and difficulties of timber extraction.

#### Grasslands

- **Amenity grassland:** a relatively small area of the overall Hilltop Park is maintained as close-mown amenity grassland, limited to the south of the Observatory compound and west of the National Monument, where the heaviest footfall occurs. These areas are marked by considerable erosion and scarring, both alongside metalled paths and as worn by new desire paths.
- **Semi-natural grassland:** the species-poor acid grassland across the site is recognised as being of local interest within the citation for 'Arthur's Seat Volcano' geological and botanical SSSI, specifically in relation to Calton Hill. The citation also notes ongoing attempts at the establishment of sticky catchfly and rock whitebeam in work to improve biodiversity. Several areas are severely eroded, particularly around the triangulation point, and the area between the Nelson Monument and Parliament Cairn. This is exacerbated by shallow soils in some places, on the underlying volcanic rock. In some places, the rock is completely exposed. In addition, there are several places where self-sown tree and shrub species are encroaching on the area, and it is also affected by pernicious weeds including rosebay willowherb, creeping thistle, and ragwort. A close-mown margin of 1m is maintained around the grassland where it meets with metalled paths /surfaces. Longer grass regimes involve cutting without lifting the arisings, which is not suitable for the development of biodiversity in the grassland.

### Grasslands - Key Issues

- Excessive wear and tear of grassland areas, particularly due to heavy footfall and soil erosion.
- Maintenance of valued species-poor acid grassland, recognised of local interest within the SSSI citation, including how to maintain diversity.
- Cost and resource limitations which prevent the optimum grass cutting regime for habitat development in the long grass areas of the site
- Control of self-sown tree and scrub species encroaching on grassland.
- Control of pernicious weeds including rosebay willowherb, creeping thistle and ragwort.

## Uses & Access

### Access

- 3.6 Calton Hill is a public open space currently used for a range of informal activities and is popular for walking, and sightseeing. On the west side of the hill, part of Hume Walk and the Greenside Path have Core Path status, bringing additional responsibilities for their maintenance. General vehicular access is not permitted to avoid traffic impacts on the Hill and associated conflicts with pedestrians. Cycling is allowed on the Hill as defined by the Land Reform Act, Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and the Management Rules for Public Parks & Greenspace [.http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20178/park\\_management\\_and\\_rules/251/accessing\\_our\\_parks\\_and\\_greenpace](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20178/park_management_and_rules/251/accessing_our_parks_and_greenpace).
- 3.7 Access is consequently gained predominantly by foot from Regent Road and from Blenheim Place / Royal Terrace. From the city centre, the main pedestrian route is from Princes Street to Waterloo Place, then Regent Road. From here two routes into the park are available: i) the steps opposite New St Andrews House, and ii) Calton Hill Drive, a long ramp behind the former Royal High School. From Royal Terrace / Blenheim Place two ramped paths cross the Park along its boundaries: i) Greenside path and ii) the Royal Terrace Garden path. A further link to Greenside Row is provided by the Greenside Church Path.
- 3.8 The steepness of the paths and the presence of steps at the Regent Road entrance makes Calton Hill a challenging site for the less mobile. Whilst wheelchair access could be achieved on the Calton Hill Drive and possibly on Greenside Path, the length of the routes and their gradients (steeper than 1:20) would make this restrictive to most. Vehicular access for disabled visitors has consequently been controlled entry on Calton Hill Drive. These controls are also used for other essential vehicular access (refuse collection, servicing, maintenance, contract works) and special visitors. The 1999 Conservation Plan included an Access Audit, undertaken by the ADAPT Trust. Many of the issues discussed in this report remain valid, although the recent restrictions to vehicular access are a change from the 1999 position.
- 3.9 General access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act apply to the wider hill, and these can be impacted upon when large events are held, and where access is restricted to extensive areas. In these circumstances City of Edinburgh Council has informed that a s.11 Order under LR(S)A is required to legitimately restrict access rights for the period of the event.
- 3.10 Pedestrian access within the park is relatively unrestricted, although boundary walls and railings are present along access routes and around key monuments. A notable exception is the front of the National Monument, which can be accessed by the able-bodied climbing up the monument structure to sit and walk amongst the columns. This is a popular activity, although carries health & safety risks (due to the potential fall height), and could lead to damage to the monument.

### Access -Key Issues

- Steepness of paths and presence of steps is a constraint to access by the less mobile, disabled and for cyclists;
- Controlled entry at Calton Hill Drive but no on-site presence;
- Path surfacing eroding in places.

### Views/ Sightseeing

- 3.11 Pedestrian activity on the hill is high, especially during the summer period and festival times. Use of the park (and its monuments) for their views is, and always has been, an essential characteristic of Calton Hill. The circular walks permit views from all sides of the hill and from a range of vantage points. In addition, the Nelson Monument and the curtilage of the Observatory offer spectacular views in all directions. The key vantage points are well trafficked and where these are not on the established footpaths, erosion of the grass has taken place. Key vantage points are:
- **Nelson Monument tower:** views in all directions over the city (including Princes Street axis) and beyond;
  - **Nelson Monument base - west:** views to Old Town and over New St Andrews House;
  - **Nelson Monument base - east and cliff ridge:** views to Arthur's Seat, Old Town and Holyrood;
  - **Observatory Terrace:** main panoramic views to the north and west, with views over Calton Hill monuments to the east and south;
  - **National Monument:** this offers a popular but illicit vantage point for views over Calton Hill for those capable of climbing onto the monument's plinth;
  - **Triangulation Point:** main panoramic views to the north and west, with views over Calton Hill monuments to the south and south west;
  - **Regent Walk:** glimpsed views to Arthur's Seat, Old Town and Holyrood;
  - **Dugald Stewart Monument path:** main panoramic views to the west over the New Town;
  - **Hume Walk:** glimpsed views to the west over the New Town;
- 3.12 In addition to sightseeing many visitors use the park's circular paths for walking, dog walking, keeping fit and passive recreation (e.g. reading, sunbathing). In fine weather conditions visitors picnic in the park – on the grass or using the benches. The Collective Gallery's catering stand also provides refreshments for eating under cover or outdoors. Some guided tours visit the park and create periodic congestion on the paths (especially on the west side of the Observatory).

### Views -Key Issues

- Illicit access to the National Monument plinth;
- Erosion of grass at popular vantage points e.g. Trig Point, South Viewpoint;
- Vegetation encroaching on views e.g. overgrown gorse at the South Viewpoint overlooking Arthur's Seat.

### Events

- 3.13 Calton Hill is also used for a variety of more formal activities and events, including those listed below:
- **Photoshoots** for events and products such as for Scottish Food & Drink, political, BT Sport, Barbour, Nationwide, Great Edinburgh Run, Warburton, Musselburgh Race Course - Edinburgh Cup Launch, EIFF Vehicle Partner, Eleni L and Pret a Manger.
  - **Filming**, including BBC Alba, BBC 1, BBC Current Affairs, BBC News, BBC Wales, BBC Hogmanay, CBeebies, TSN Canada, CNN, Cactus TV, Forth One, **events** (including Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo), and **television shows** (including Britain's Got Talent, Good Morning Britain, The Nation's Favourite, Location, location, location, Dickinson's Real Deal, Kevin Bridges, The One Show and Antiques Roadshow). Calton Hill has also been used for filming by SE Film Production Ltd., and City of Edinburgh Council Promo films.

- **Fundraising** events such as WALK it Scotland for Chrohns, Sport Relief Challenge, and Carers UK50 Hill Challenge.
- **Cultural and Recreational** events such as The Culture Show, Edinburgh Film Festival, Artsnight, Maggie's Culture Crawl, Beltane Fire Festival, Whisky Welcome (including bagpipe workshop), Bicycle Ballet, Murley Dance at the Fringe, Grey Goose Camionette, Culinary Journey and Afternoon Tea.
- **Military events** such as Trafalgar Day.
- **Sporting** events such as Survival of the Fittest, Seven Hills of Edinburgh Race and Challenge
- **Conference** events, including Lloyds One Group Conference.
- **Religious celebrations** such as Easter Dawn Worship, Beltane, and the Dussehra Hindu Festival.
- **Hogmanay celebrations**, including Edinburgh's Hogmanay Midnight Fireworks and Torchlight Procession.
- **Wedding celebrations**, including wedding ceremonies and photography.
- **Protest events**, including the Worldwide March Against Government Corruption.
- **Educational events** including Calton Hill Geology Walk.

3.14 A number of the events are well promoted and attended, bringing concentrated visitor pressures to Calton Hill together with a range of associated issues including: noise, litter and antisocial behaviour. These impact significantly on the nearby residents, leading to complaints (mainly about noise). These impacts together with the physical effects of main events on the fabric of the park, determine that an events programme and framework is required to bring clarity to the type, number, frequency and location of events to be permitted on the hill.

#### Events -Key Issues

- Need for an Events Programme and Framework which responds to the carrying capacity of the park (and neighbourhood) and the ability to address maintenance and remedial work requirements;
- Events closing the Hilltop Park at short notice;
- Litter collection not undertaken promptly after some events;
- Erosion exacerbated by large numbers of visitors during events e.g. Hogmanay.
- Lack of in-ground services on the Hill necessitate the use of generators and imported facilities with potential pollution and noise impacts.

#### The Nelson Monument

3.15 The Nelson Monument is open to the public as a paid entry facility and it allows visitors to climb the tower for views over the city and beyond. It also has a small museum and interpretation facility dedicated to Admiral Nelson and explaining the function of the tower and time ball for maritime navigation. The elevated location of the Monument on a rock outcrop coupled with its internal access arrangements (confined spiral staircase) makes this attraction difficult to access for the disabled and less mobile. It is nevertheless a popular attraction, especially for tourists and sightseers.

#### Nelson Monument Activities - Key Issues

- Difficult to access for the disabled.

#### The Collective Gallery

3.16 The Collective Gallery is currently under construction as part of the development and interpretation of the Observatory complex at the heart of the Hilltop Park. This project is being supported by HLF, City of Edinburgh Council, EWH, Creative Scotland and others and will see the Observatory and Dome buildings restored and converted for arts and science based activities, events and exhibitions. The Observatory compound and garden will also be enhanced and modified to allow disabled access to the Observatory. A new development providing a restaurant and public toilet facilities is also

proposed for the north-west corner of the compound, utilising its elevation to accommodate a cantilevered section with views over the Observatory compound wall towards the New Town and Firth. The Observatory developments will create a new attraction and facility at Calton Hill which will add to its appeal to all parties and will generate new cultural activities in the park. The latter will include some night-time events and restaurant operation which will bring visitors to the park at night. These activities will require servicing and it is likely that night time vehicular access will be required for visitors to the new restaurant. The increase in night time activity and access related to the Observatory is likely to be a deterrent to anti-social activity during night hours.

#### The Collective Gallery/ Observatory - Key Issues

- Ongoing building works;
- Requirement for vehicular access in the future.

#### Maintenance operations

- 3.17 **Maintenance and cleansing operations** are undertaken by City of Edinburgh Council and these involve vehicular access for refuse bin emptying and collection. Grassland maintenance involves drive-on machinery as well as smaller machines, strimmers and herbicide sprays.
- 3.18 Littering is an issue, especially during the summer season and associated with events. Litter clearance is undertaken by the Council but in the busiest periods the build-up can occur rapidly between clearance visits. The volume of litter deposited has resulted in litter bins overflowing and creating local eyesores. New large bins have addressed this problem but have introduced bins which are intrusive due to their size and often prominent locations. The large size of the litter bins (i.e. housing wheelie bins) determines that they are currently emptied by compactor vehicles which require generous hard-standings for access and turning, or are forced to overrun grass areas.
- 3.19 The large events on Calton Hill generate significant quantities of litter and while arrangements are put in place with the organisers, for litter clearance (and any post event remedial works), there can be delays to the clean-up operations leaving the core of the park in disarray.

#### Maintenance Operations - Key Issues

- Limited resources;
- Lack of integrated management;
- Large volumes of litter deposited;
- Graffiti not dealt with promptly;
- Vegetation encroachment.

#### Antisocial behaviour

- 3.20 Calton Hill suffers from some antisocial behaviour. This is generally during hours of darkness and is a deterrent to park visitors and use of the park by local residents during the evening/nighttime. The antisocial and criminal behaviour has involved occasional mugging, threatening behaviour, drug abuse, vandalism, graffiti and anonymous intimate activities. These activities tend to be localised, with problem areas along the most screened sections of the Regent Gardens Path, Greenside Path, and within the scrub areas above Regent Walk. Inter-visibility and the presence of lighting are important factors in the location of these activities. Areas that are well lit, exposed to view, and subject to higher levels of visitor activity are less affected by antisocial behaviour, suggesting that management and physical enhancements could be used to deter and reduce these negative activities. The increased visitor activities associated with Collective's development of the Observatory have been attributed to recently reduced levels of antisocial behaviour on the hill, and it is hoped that this trend will continue, and be supported by physical enhancements and improved maintenance in the future.
- 3.21 Graffiti and fly-posting is a recurrent problem at Calton Hill with the prime targets including lighting columns, litter bins, signs and the higher walls (especially ashlar). This activity presents a negative impression for visitors, especially if left unattended for a length of time.

### Antisocial Behaviour - Key Issues

- Personal safety threats;
- Litter in antisocial 'hotspots';
- Localised vandalism and graffiti;
- Some areas poorly lit.

## Assessment

3.22 In summary, the key issues related to the above subjects can be interpreted in the following categories: 'Strengths', 'Risks, Threats & Constraints' and 'Needs & Opportunities' as follows:

### Strengths

- architectural heritage
- Edinburgh townscape contribution & city icon
- views and picturesque qualities
- cultural and scientific significance (e.g. Enlightenment, National Monument, Observatory, Nelson Monument and Collective Gallery)
- natural heritage significance (e.g. SSSI)
- tourist attraction
- amenity value as a public park
- venue for events
- local community interest

### Risks, Threats & Constraints

- visitor footfall erosion
- visitor 'congestion' and litter generation

- localised vandalism and graffiti
- weathering & climate change damage
- self-seeded vegetation impacts
- loss of views
- antisocial behaviour/ personal safety threats
- difficult access for the less mobile/ disabled
- uncoordinated and unsympathetic furniture
- potential future impacts of vehicular access to the Observatory
- limited management & maintenance resources
- lack of integrated management










### Needs & Opportunities

- management of visitor pressures including access control measures
- accessibility improvements
- personal safety/security enhancements
- infrastructure conservation & repairs
- prioritised public realm/landscape enhancements
- safeguard & restore views
- improve facilities for visitors and site uses
- improve litter clearance management & associated facilities
- establish integrated management
- modify maintenance regimes to meet strategic objectives
- increased community participation

3.23 The above assessment summary has been used as the basis for defining the strategic objectives for the management of Calton Hill as discussed in the following chapter.

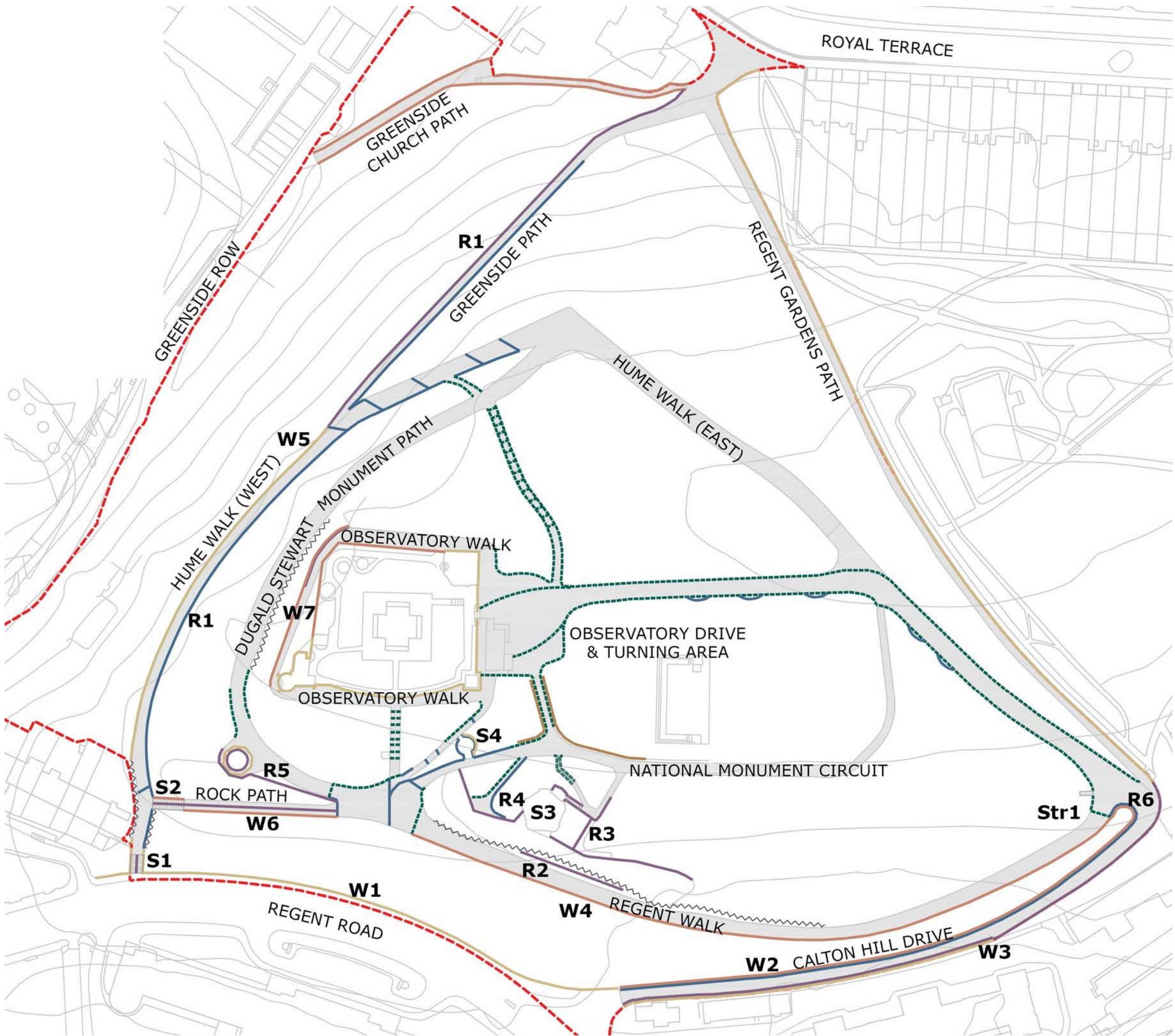
# CALTON HILL Management Plan

## Key

-  Hilltop Park boundary
-  Rock outcrops
-  Ashlar walls
-  Rubble walls
-  Railings / handrails
-  Boulders
-  Sett channels
-  Sett edgings
-  Steps

## Key

- W1 Regent Road perimeter
- W2 Calton Hill Drive-North
- W3 Calton Hill Drive-South
- W4 Regent Walk
- W5 Hume Walk -West
- W6 Rock Path
- W7 Observatory Terrace
- S1 Regent Road Entrance
- S2 Rock Path Steps
- S3 Nelson Monument
- S4 Portuguese Cannon
- Str1 Parliament Cairn
- R1 Greenside Path
- R2 Regent Walk
- R3 Nelson Monument -east
- R4 Nelson Monument - west
- R5 Dugald Stewart Monument
- R6 Crash Barrier





**FIGURE 4**  
STRUCTURES  
1:1500



# CALTON HILL Management Plan

## Key

-  Hilltop Park boundary
-  Signage / interpretation
-  Benches
-  Litter bins
-  Lighting columns
-  Bollards

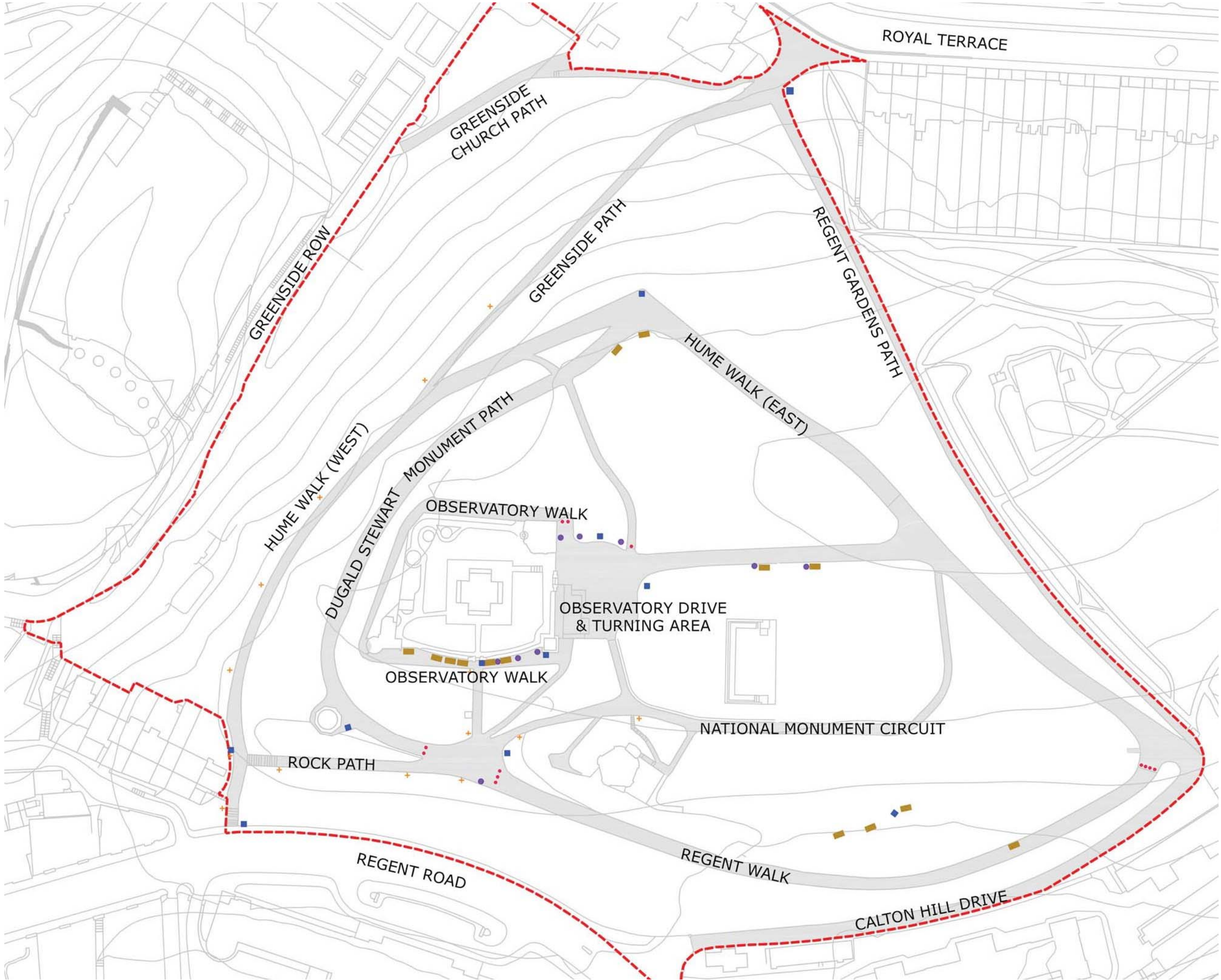










FIGURE 5  
FURNITURE  
1:1500



# CALTON HILL Management Plan

## Key

-  Mature natural regeneration (Greenside)
-  Natural regeneration (more recent)
-  Structure planting / amenity woodland
-  Mature garden tree planting (Nelson Monument)
-  Former garden unplanted (Nelson Monument)
-  Self-seeded & Specimen Trees
-  Amenity grassland
-  Semi-natural grassland

1: Mature woodland on Greenside slope, includes species such as elm, ash, sycamore, maple, holly, rowan, cherry and birch. Some trees with Dutch Elm Disease, and potential for ash die-back. The woodland largely screens historic views from Hume Walk.

2: Natural regeneration continuing to spread up slope, often blocking historic views and encroaching on semi-natural grassland. Some extensive areas of gorse and broom.

3: Self-seeded and specimen trees of a range of ages are scattered across the hill top, including ash, sycamore, elm and whitebeam.

4: The former garden of the Nelson Monument mainly comprises mature tree species. Small garden to the east currently under restoration.

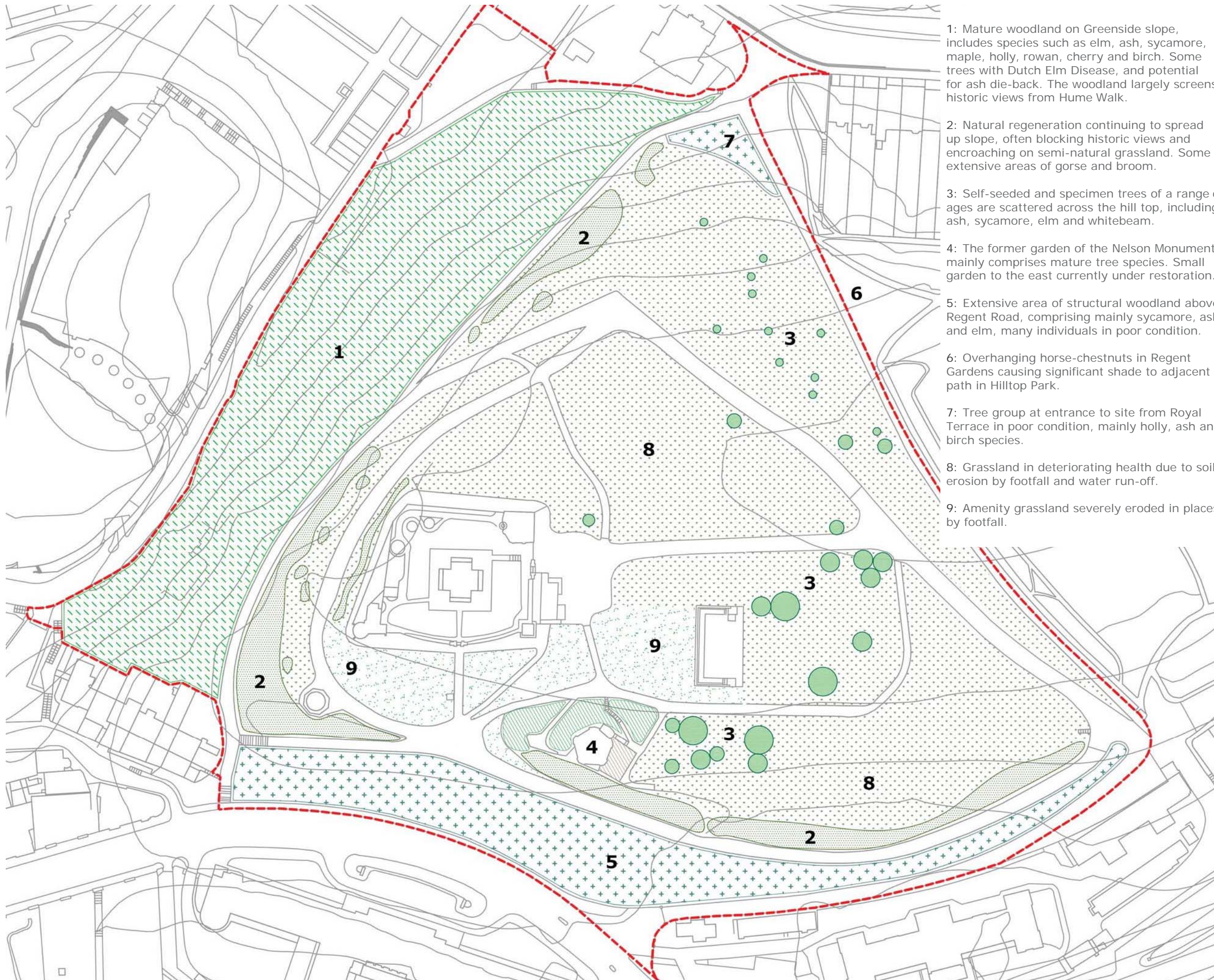
5: Extensive area of structural woodland above Regent Road, comprising mainly sycamore, ash and elm, many individuals in poor condition.

6: Overhanging horse-chestnuts in Regent Gardens causing significant shade to adjacent path in Hilltop Park.

7: Tree group at entrance to site from Royal Terrace in poor condition, mainly holly, ash and birch species.

8: Grassland in deteriorating health due to soil erosion by footfall and water run-off.

9: Amenity grassland severely eroded in places by footfall.



**FIGURE 6**  
TREES & SHRUBS  
1:1500





3 | A Vision for the Future of Calton Hill



## 4 Part Three: A Vision for the Present and Future of Calton Hill Vision Statement

4.1 The vision for Calton Hill Park is, through a combination of physical enhancements and revisions to its management and maintenance, to create a parkland environment that is complementary to its inherent landscape characteristics and to its exceptional landmark buildings. This implies an ambitious but carefully considered programme of works which will enrich the experience of the park for its users, while safeguarding its important heritage and cultural values. The Vision must embrace changes which remove the air of neglect and which create a park which is notable for the quality of its public realm, the setting of its monuments, its panoramic views and its facilities for visitors. The prominence of Calton Hill in physical, visual and cultural terms demands that this prominence is underpinned by a high-quality environment which is maintained to a high standard for the enjoyment and safety of all. It is essential that the Picturesque qualities of the park, with its combination of rugged topography, semi-natural vegetation and monumental structures be respected in all physical enhancements and in changes to maintenance regimes. Sustainability is also an important part of the Vision which necessitates that future management combats the negative impacts of visitor pressures and addresses the effects of climate change.

### Objectives

4.2 The above Vision can be translated into a number of objectives categorised under the following headings:

- Heritage Protection/Conservation & Physical Enhancement;
- User Experience;
- Management & Maintenance.

4.3 The categories embody the key aspects of the Vision, but also address the criteria used for Green Flag Awards.

#### H: Heritage Protection/Conservation and Physical Enhancements

4.4 The following objectives relate to the protection, conservation and enhancement of Calton Hill's heritage values and characteristics:

- **H1: Protection of cityscape contributions & visual relationships:** Calton Hill and its monuments are important features in the cityscape of Edinburgh, and have been valued as such for several centuries and especially since the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the development of the New Town and Calton Hill area introduced new skyline features as captured in historic artworks. Calton Hill is visible from many parts of the city with several significant and planned views from high vantage points, on road axis and from other landmark buildings.
  - **H1 Objective is: to safeguard key views to and from Calton Hill from impacts by new development (buildings, earthworks and planting) and to ensure that townscape and visual impact assessments are undertaken for new developments around the city which could restrict or block views of Calton Hill. The latter should consider the impacts on the whole of Calton Hill (including the hill flank woodlands), not just the hilltop monuments.**
- **H2: building & monument care & conservation:** The integrity and safe condition of the architectural features on Calton Hill is essential to the experience of the site and to the safety of visitors in proximity to the structures. The architectural heritage value of these structures also creates an obligation for their care and conservation so that they can continue to function and contribute to the character of the park indefinitely. The relationship between the individual buildings and their landscape setting on Calton Hill is also important, and should be considered in future management and development initiatives

- **H2 Objective is: to support measures to maintain and repair the fabric of the buildings and monuments and to seek to ensure that they are protected from vandalism and/or damage by visitor wear & tear.**
- **H3: Preserving picturesque characteristics:** Calton Hill is notable for its picturesque qualities, where fine pieces of architecture are placed carefully within an otherwise semi-natural and rugged context, and in which the strong topography of the volcanic hill is used to advantage for views to and from the buildings and the park as a whole. The perceived wildness/lack of formality within the landscape contrasts with many other city parks and is a distinguishing characteristic of Calton Hill, made especially distinctive due to its proximity to the city centre.
  - **H3 Objective is: to carefully consider how the picturesque characteristics of Calton Hill can be maintained and enhanced, maintaining the contrasts between the perceived wild/naturalness of the volcanic hill and the civility of its monuments, without this being an excuse for minimal maintenance. This objective should apply to how the maintenance regimes are applied, and to the placement, design and selection of public realm components, and how these could impact on the setting of monuments/views between monuments.**
- **H4: Public Realm Enhancements & infrastructure repair:** The public realm of Calton Hill is currently of a ubiquitous and utilitarian character which fails to complement the significant monuments or their dramatic landscape setting. Damage has occurred to the landscape infrastructure from erosion, weathering, self-seeded vegetation and vandalism, and this is also detrimental to the experience of the park.
  - **H4 Objective is: to upgrade the public realm of Calton Hill in a manner that responds to its character zones (Fig 7), which provides long term solutions to infrastructure damage, and which provides the maximum benefits for park users. This requires a strategic approach to public realm enhancements wherein a higher specification and greater formality is applied to the busy core area (Monuments Zone) while controlled informality is developed in other areas to reinforce the picturesque characteristics and contrasts.**
- **H5: Archaeological protection:** The extent of historic ground disturbance on Calton Hill determines that the potential for archaeological features has been greatly reduced. The Conservation Plan 1999 identifies two potential subjects of interest: a possible prehistoric fort (on the Telegraph Knoll) and Bronze Age collared urn. It concludes that whilst there is limited evidence, the site remains sensitive to ground disturbance. Herman Lyons' mausoleum has recently been investigated and this requires ongoing protection together with interpretation. It is also important that the archaeological value of the buildings is also recognised, protected and interpreted.
  - **H5 Objective is: to improve the archaeological knowledge of Calton Hill, and to ensure previously undiscovered archaeological features are not damaged unwittingly by ground disturbance or inappropriate activities in the park. This implies the need for further archaeological investigations of sites where developments are considered and where visitor erosion is problematic. The archaeological value of the buildings and standing structures should also be understood and interpreted.**
- **H6: Natural heritage protection & enhancement:** Calton Hill is designated as part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI, notable for its Geological significance and the richness of its associated plant communities. Calton Hill has numerous rock outcrops, disturbed woodland, scrub, and species poor acid grassland, and like the other SSSI sites is subject to high visitor numbers.
  - **H6 Objective is: to protect the exposed geology and enhance the biodiversity of the site in line with SNH management objectives for the SSSI. This implies a combination of visitor management as well as grounds maintenance measures.**

#### U: User Experience

4.5 The following objectives relate to how the User Experience at Calton Hill could be enhanced. These are closely related to several of the criteria applied by 'Green Flag Award', and it is understood that obtaining Green Flag status is an aim of the City of Edinburgh Council.

- **U1: Access:** Calton Hill is a popular park for visitors to Edinburgh and local residents; it is consequently accessed by large numbers of people who mostly enter the site on foot. The

topography and steep gradients, the presence of steps on key routes, and the rough textures of the un-metalled paths are however a constraint to the less mobile and disabled visitors. The obstacles presented by topography make effective orientation and waymarking essential, but this is currently inadequate. Site entrances are currently poorly defined and lack essential information for visitors to plan routes and to understand what is on Calton Hill and how to get there, taking into account any mobility constraints.

- **U1 Objective is: to improve accessibility for Calton Hill in physical terms without detriment to the landscape character and heritage assets of the site. This implies focused enhancements to surfaces, steps and associated orientation/waymarking, together with management controls to permit essential vehicular access (e.g. for disabled visitors and servicing).**
- **U2: Views:** the role of Calton Hill as a viewpoint is an essential part of the park experience and cultural value. Previous visitor surveys have identified that 'views' are the most important reason for their visits and there is consequently a need to ensure that these experiences are safeguarded, restored and enhanced.
  - **U2 Objective is: to restore lost views and maintain/enhance, as priority, all the key views over the city in multiple directions and from different levels within the site. This requires all of the viewing experiences to be considered to ensure that they are optimised, be they major panoramas or glimpses through vegetation. This also implies consideration of internal views to ensure that the interrelationships of monuments are not compromised.**
- **U3: Safety/ security:** Calton Hill's topographic isolation and limited access points determines that personal safety becomes an issue, both perceived and real, during hours of darkness. These issues tend to be localised within the most heavily screened areas of the park, but act as a deterrent to access and impact negatively on the reputation of the park.
  - **U3 Objective is: to make Calton Hill a safe, welcoming and attractive place to visit through a range of measures (e.g. improved inter-visibility; effective lighting; staffing and responsiveness to vandalism/ crime events). Such measures should aim to deter those intent on anti-social behaviour and thereby broaden the appeal of Calton Hill. Positive messages regarding improvements in safety/ security should be broadcast.**
- **U4: Facilities:** Calton Hill currently has limited visitor facilities, of mediocre quality. Only the Nelson Monument has toilet facilities and within the park, furniture and wayfinding signage and interpretation suffers from vandalism, is dated and or missing.
  - **U4 Objective is: to improve facilities for visitors and to maintain them in good condition to serve visitor needs effectively and sustain a positive image for Calton Hill.**
- **U5: Cleanliness:** Calton Hill is subject to pressure from littering, resulting in overflowing bins and despoilation after large events. The introduction of large litter bins has improved the capacity of the receptacles but has also made the bins intrusive features in the landscape.
  - **U5 Objective is: to deter littering by visitors as much as possible and to establish a maintenance regime which times and efficiently collects litter so that Calton Hill is notable for the absence of litter and dog waste. Secondly to ensure that litter bins do not detract from the quality of the landscape and setting of monuments.**
- **U6: information/ interpretation:** Calton Hill has a number of interpretation signboards situated strategically within the park. These are becoming dated and some have been damaged by vandalism. Some are also wrongly positioned. The Nelson Monument museum and the future Observatory (Collective Gallery) have their own interpretation.
  - **U6 Objective: To interpret Calton Hill and its component parts in an integrated manner which can reinforce the identity of the site as a whole while addressing the multiple subjects represented by the site (physical, cultural, scientific and philosophic). This must also ensure that the information delivery mechanisms are tailored to the user groups, sustainable and editable in the longer term.**

## M: Management and Maintenance

- 4.6 The following objectives relate to how management and maintenance of Calton Hill could be enhanced. The recent re-structuring of City of Edinburgh Council services and responsibilities may have addressed some of the following; alternatively, the new structure may provide an opportunity to establish revised protocols and systems.
- **M1: Clarity of management responsibilities & authority:** Calton Hill and its constituent buildings/monuments is currently managed by a number of services within the City of Edinburgh Council and despite a recent internal review, it is unclear to agencies outside City of Edinburgh Council and the general public who is accountable for the management of the site overall.
    - **M1 Objective is: to establish clarity for all parties (internal and external to City of Edinburgh Council) the management responsibilities for Calton Hill, and to designate a 'lead' party with overall responsibility to coordinate actions and respond to issues raised by the public and other agencies.**
  - **M2 integrated/collective management:** Calton Hill contains a range of heritage assets and infrastructure with different sensitivities and requirements for management/maintenance. This demands that management is holistically integrated.
    - **M2 Objective is: to establish a management forum which enables all responsible services (and key stakeholders) to determine management strategies and actions in a joined-up fashion, thereby enabling the best use of resources and ensuring that all aspects of management are addressed proactively and simultaneously, rather than individually and ad-hoc.**
  - **M3 Stakeholder involvement in management process:** there is significant local interest in the condition and management of Calton Hill, with potential for representation in the management process, and or assistance in maintenance through volunteering.
    - **M3 Objective is: to establish a Friends Group for Calton Hill and to allow representation/involvement by stakeholders in the management and maintenance processes. The latter should also aim to augment the maintenance capabilities of the Council through voluntary inputs.**
  - **M4 Prioritised application of maintenance resources:** it is recognised that resources available to City of Edinburgh Council are limited and that this is a potential constraint to investment in the infrastructure and to the maintenance regimes applied on the site. This consequently requires the careful prioritised application of maintenance resources.
    - **M4 Objective is: to apply capital and maintenance resources in a strategic and prioritised manner which focuses investment in areas of greatest heritage significance, visitor activity and prominence.**
  - **M5 Use of appropriate specialists and machinery:** the use of inappropriate machinery or the application of repairs without careful consideration of the heritage significance of Calton Hill can be damaging to the heritage or visually intrusive.
    - **M5 Objective is: to ensure Calton Hill is subject to conservation and maintenance in a manner that is fitting to the particular elements of the landscape, and that appropriate conservation skills (and materials) are employed in the works.**
  - **M6 Application of Sustainability principles in maintenance:** the natural and built heritage significance of Calton Hill demands that maintenance practices apply sustainability principles in the specification of materials and in work practices. This is required to meet Council policy and Green Flag Award criteria.
    - **M6 Objective is: to apply sustainability principles in the management and maintenance of Calton Hill with specific focus on the provenance of planting; the use of fertilisers and herbicides, and the sourcing of materials and components for the public realm.**

# CALTON HILL Management Plan

## Key

### Management Zones

- 1 Observatory Zone
- 2 Core Area
- 3 Nelson's Monument & Garden Zone
- 4 Parkland- semi natural grassland, scrub & trees
- 5 South plantation woodland
- 6 West scrub woodland



FIGURE 7  
MANAGEMENT ZONES





# 4 | Operational Management



## 5 Part Four: Operational Management

5.1 This chapter translates the Strategic Objectives defined in Chapter 4 into an Action Plan structured as the three categories: Heritage Protection & Conservation; User experience; and Management / Maintenance. The Action Plan is shown below in tabular form and is supported by the aspirational improvements plan (Fig 8), which illustrates the potential scope of park enhancements. It is recognised that resources and budgets are currently limited but the plan is intended to guide improvements over a period of time, wherein changes could be made incrementally as and when opportunities arise. The table indicates where these proposals are in accord with the 2007 Management Plan.

**Table 1**

Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management/Maintenance Actions
<b>HERITAGE PROTECTION &amp; CONSERVATION</b>	<b>H1: Protection of cityscape contributions &amp; visual relationships</b>		a) City of Edinburgh Council planning policy/guidance to ensure the visual impact of new developments within Edinburgh city centre are subject to Townscape & Visual Impact Assessment, to ensure they do not obstruct key views to and from Calton Hill.
	<b>H2: Building &amp; monument care &amp; conservation</b>	a) Individual monuments and buildings to be maintained and conserved in accordance with best conservation practice, appropriate to their listed status and contribution to the World Heritage Site.	b) The future upkeep of buildings and monuments on Calton Hill may require the temporary introduction of heavy machinery, contractors' compounds and scaffolding etc. This necessitates careful planning to avoid damage to the landscape and infrastructure; equally the safety of visitors to Calton Hill should be a priority with measures to re-direct pedestrian movements and explain the objectives of the ongoing works.  c) The planning of monument conservation works may allow economies of scale and efficient use of specialist skills if timed simultaneously; these possibilities should be examined jointly by those responsible for their care.
	<b>H3: Preserving picturesque characteristics</b>	Fig. 8 illustrates a range of potential enhancements to the landscape and public realm of Calton Hill, which would serve to preserve and potentially improve its picturesque characteristics and the user experience. These are described under H4 below.	The maintenance of Calton Hill should respond carefully to the picturesque qualities of the site and consider the impacts of regimes, placement and design of new elements in the landscape.  Specific actions relate to:  a) avoiding the introduction of new elements which intrude on the visual interrelationship of monuments;  b) specifying or designing bespoke items of furniture and signage which are fitting to the character of the site, and their location within the site;  c) applying a hierarchical and character – led maintenance approach which creates more formality in the core area (between the monuments) but preserves wilder/more natural characteristics in the outer areas;  d) regular maintenance inputs to preserve views from vantage points and from linear routes/circuits.

Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management/Maintenance Actions
	<p><b>H4: Public Realm enhancements &amp; infrastructure repair</b></p>	<p>This objective recognises the essential need to conserve and repair the infrastructure of Calton Hill, and the potential to improve the public realm for the benefit of users, and to provide a setting of appropriate quality for a site of such prominence and heritage value.</p> <p>Specific proposals (as illustrated on Figure 5.1) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Repair of blocked sewer at the Regent Road steps</li> <li>b) Repair of damaged rubble walls at locations indicated on Fig.4</li> <li>c) Repair of damaged railings/metal fences at locations indicated on Fig 4</li> <li>d) Extension of metal fencing above Regent Walk (cliff) to prevent access into the gorse/ broom and to define new access route to viewpoint</li> <li>e) Restoration of masonry steps at Regent Road entrance and adjacent link to Nelson Monument</li> <li>f) Replace steps to Nelson Monument with more appropriate detail/specification (natural stone carefully integrated with the slope/ rock outcrop)</li> <li>g) Replace deteriorating steps near Parliament Cairn with more appropriate detail/specification</li> <li>h) Remove boulders from the Observatory forecourt area and redefine grass edges with a more discrete solution to prevent vehicle overrun and pedestrian erosion</li> <li>i) Resurface core area paths with higher specification materials (e.g. coloured asphalt) linking the monuments and enhancing the main arrival/congregation areas</li> <li>j) Introduce a natural stone pavement on the south and east sides of the Observatory Walk and enhance (and widen) the stepped ramp to the Observatory south gateway</li> <li>k) Replace the bus turning area with a stone paved forecourt for the Observatory, capable of accommodating vehicle overrun but providing a high quality hard space for events</li> <li>l) Upgrade the unmetalled paths to a suitable quality surface, including restoration of sett edgings/channels and associated drainage</li> <li>m) Introduce a high-quality range of coordinated furniture and signage; reinstate missing benches into niches and ensure the colour scheme for all components is coordinated (currently there are several shades of green, black and bare steel)</li> <li>n) Rationalise desire line paths and redefine the viewpoint honey pots to reduce erosion - potentially using boulders salvaged from the Observatory area (subject to no detrimental impacts on archaeology)</li> <li>o) Restoration of the small garden at the Nelson Monument to improve the setting of the monument and potentially provide interpretation &amp; amenity</li> <li>p) Remove the intrusive highway crash barrier from the top of Calton Hill Drive</li> <li>q) enhance public realm at the park entrances to create a positive first impression, announce the gateways, provide effective orientation information and create a richer sense of place</li> <li>r) develop a lighting plan in line with the Edinburgh Lighting Strategy that balances the need to provide adequate lighting for users whilst reducing light-pollution on the wider environment. Plan to consider changing column lighting type for less intrusive format, especially on the south of the Observatory where lower level (bollard lighting would be more appropriate)</li> <li>s) upgrade floodlighting to monuments, and consider how the introduction of sensitive feature lighting could enhance the nightscape of Calton Hill and improve security, whilst reducing light pollution. Specifically, there are opportunities for subtle feature lighting of rock cliffs, steps, walls and paved surfaces which could reduce the need for column lighting</li> </ul>	<p>Potential upgrades to the landscape and public realm of Calton Hill will bring an obligation for suitable aftercare to ensure it is maintained in good order. This should involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>t) Develop design guide for Calton Hill which addresses all components of the public realm (e.g. materials, furniture, lighting, signage; planting; colours etc.).</li> <li>u) Review and update the interpretation of Calton Hill and the content of interpretation, orientation/ waymarking signs to reflect current knowledge and needs for visitor accessibility.</li> <li>v) Remedial work undertaken by appropriate specialists to ensure that consistent quality of workmanship is retained.</li> <li>w) Any replacement items should be of equivalent specification and quality to avoid the incremental loss of consistent quality.</li> <li>x) Vandalism and graffiti should be attended to quickly to deter follow up problems and to preserve a positive image for Calton Hill.</li> <li>y) Appropriate machinery should be deployed for maintenance operations which does not damage the public realm (e.g. size of vehicles capable of fitting access routes and negotiating corners etc.).</li> <li>z) Removal of inappropriate formal tree planting (e.g. lines of whitebeams).</li> </ul>



Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management/Maintenance Actions
	<p><b>H5: Archaeological protection</b></p>	<p>a) Subject to findings of archaeological investigations of the Triangulation Point knoll, it is proposed to curtail erosion in this area and to protect the surface of the knoll through the introduction of gravel surfacing (with geotextile) framed by salvaged boulders to enclose the space/restrict access onto the surrounding grass. Careful selection and placement of the boulders should allow the introduction of boulders with minimal impact on the surface of the hill.</p> <p>Potential measures to repair and protect Herman Lyons' mausoleum, subject to investigation findings.</p>	<p>b) The current uncertainty about the presence/location of archaeological interest at Calton Hill suggests that a precautionary principle should be applied, and that this should involve archaeological investigations and/or watching brief during any ground breaking for development. The latter may include excavations for tree planting as well as for foundations for furniture.</p> <p>c) Archaeological protection and management measures should be prescribed by policy and/or guidance for Calton Hill.</p> <p>d) The Triangulation Point knoll has been identified as a potential prehistoric archaeological site, although this has not been proven. Given its popularity as a viewpoint and venue for event bonfires, there would be merit in undertaking archaeological investigations of this area to inform future management/protection strategies.</p> <p>e) Interpret findings of archaeological investigations, and of the recent investigations of Herman Lyons' mausoleum.</p>
	<p><b>H6: Natural heritage protection &amp; enhancement</b></p>	<p>The main capital works required to support natural heritage protection and enhancement include:</p> <p>a) Realignment of the desire line path and reduction in the width of the viewpoint area above Regent Walk involving a new gravel surfaced path, use of salvaged boulders to provide a cordon, and introduction of seats which could double as viewing platforms (to allow views over the gorse).</p> <p>b) Introduction of gravel surfacing to rationalised paths over the Trig Point Knoll and use of salvaged boulders to restrict erosion over the top of the knoll.</p> <p>c) Planting of groups of native trees at small sizes on the grassland hill flanks, taking care to avoid blocking views from the hilltop and circular walks.</p> <p>d) Management of exotic trees in the former garden area of the Nelson Monument and National Monument area, including selective replanting where losses have occurred.</p> <p>e) Restocking as required for woodland areas (i.e. where regeneration is not present or where mature tree losses have left sizeable gaps in the woodland).</p>	<p>The SSSI status of Calton Hill determines that management should consider how the geological interests and habitats could be protected and potentially enhanced, in accordance with the SSSI management strategy prepared by SNH.</p> <p>Protection of these assets relates primarily to the control of pedestrian erosion, but also measures to accommodate climate change impacts (e.g. flood events/ extreme runoff and scour).</p> <p>Specific management measures include:</p> <p>g) Rationalisation and reduction of pedestrian erosion along desire line routes and at honey pot viewpoints (see capital works measures).</p> <p>h) Re-cultivation of grass area with seeding provenance to match the local habitat mixes.</p> <p>i) Maintenance of meadow grassland areas with a regime which can promote diversity (e.g. cutting to promote flowering and maximise seed production; with removal of arisings).</p> <p>j) Removal of inappropriate non-native/formal tree planting from the parkland hill slopes and introduction of native trees and scrub species.</p> <p>k) Management of the hill flank woodlands (Greenside and Regent Road) to maintain species and age diversity, promoting native tree species and understorey.</p> <p>l) Management of Greenside Woodlands should provide greater opportunities for native planting and scrub development, whilst the Regent Road woodlands should retain mixed planting representative of the designed</p>

Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management/Maintenance Actions
			<p>landscape (i.e. including Sycamore, Lime and Horse chestnut amongst native species).</p> <p>m) Develop tree planting and maintenance guidance for the woodlands and garden areas of Calton Hill.</p>
<b>USER EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>U1: Access</b>	<p>The topography and layout of Calton Hill presents numerous constraints to access for the less mobile and disabled, and the heritage values of the site make certain types of significant interventions inappropriate (too damaging to the character and heritage of the site). There are however a number of measures which could improve access within the site for all users, these include:</p> <p>a) Repair of masonry steps where becoming worn, uneven and unstable (utilising sandstones which match the existing)</p> <p>b) Resurfacing unmetalled paths to create a more level surface for wheelchairs and prams, and addressing drainage scour problems</p> <p>c) Development of new ramps/stepped ramps where there are currently steep desire line paths (i.e. from the Dugald Stewart Monument Path to Observatory Walk)</p> <p>d) Improvement of path surfaces generally with higher specification treatments as described under H4 together with localised improvements to levels</p> <p>e) Reinstatement of lost benches for resting points, and potential introduction of new benches in suitable locations</p> <p>f) DDA compliant access developments within the Observatory compound</p> <p>g) Improved signage and information provision regarding key features, circuits, access to viewpoints, locations of facilities and levels of difficulty. Entrance signs and key junctions (decision points) require careful consideration to ensure visitors are made aware of the access conditions on Calton Hill, and the routes to key features</p> <p>h) Potential installation of entry control mechanisms at the Calton Hill Drive/Regent Road entrance, subject to achieving a solution which is fitting for the heritage context</p>	<p>i) At a strategic level access to Calton Hill from the city centre needs to be promoted and explained to both visitors and Edinburgh residents. This will require consideration of city wide orientation and interpretation signage, as well as other media. Essentially this will make clear the entrance locations for Calton Hill, main routes from the city centre, access constraints at Calton Hill and the attractions/heritage values of the site.</p> <p>j) A key challenge for access management will be control of vehicular access to the hill top for disabled visitors, for service vehicles and for night time visitors to the Observatory (events and restaurant). These will require access control measures on Calton Hill Drive, and reciprocal management of vehicles arriving at the Observatory – for turning and parking. The latter will require definition of responsibilities for operating the control measures and the maintenance of associated electronic control gates.</p> <p>k) The pressure of visitor numbers and activities on Calton Hill is causing erosion problems and measures to restrict numbers, especially at major events, could help to reduce erosion</p>
	<b>U2: Views</b>	<p>Optimising views from Calton Hill will mostly involve the maintenance actions identified, but the internal views will benefit from the public realm enhancements and associated maintenance as described under H4. Of specific relevance to the Observatory function, path lighting and floodlighting should be positioned and designed to minimise impacts on the night sky, and to allow control of light levels (e.g. dimmable lights).</p>	<p>Preserving and creating viewing opportunities is an important requirement for Calton Hill. This requires regular attendance especially where vegetation growth has or threatens to block views. In maintenance terms, this requires the following actions:</p> <p>a) Regular inspection of views from key viewpoints and from circular walks to identify where encroachment is occurring and the appearance of any discordant features</p> <p>b) Intervention measures to remove obstructions and to open-up views. These will vary in scale but may include: crown lifting and pruning, selective tree felling /scrub clearance, trimming and pruning of vegetation to a certain height</p> <p>c) Interpretation of the hill as a viewpoint and observatory site, and maritime navigation function.</p>
	<b>U3: Safety/ security</b>	<p>Several works could assist in achieving security benefits for Calton Hill, these include the following actions:</p> <p>a) Regular removal of debris at the base of the National Monument to deter/prevent climbing on the monument.</p>	<p>Addressing the real and perceived security issues at Calton Hill will be largely a management requirement involving the following actions:</p>

Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management / Maintenance Actions
		<p>b) Improvements to lighting and/or adjustment of column locations where there are currently 'black-spots'</p> <p>c) Prevention of access into gorse and broom scrub through the introduction of metal fencing above Regent Walk</p>	<p>d) Establishment of Friends Group and encouragement of neighbourhood watch to deter anti-social and criminal behaviour.</p> <p>e) Timely responses to vandalism repairs and to the removal of graffiti from walls, signs, lighting columns and furniture.</p> <p>f) Increased presence of City of Edinburgh Council rangers and possibly extended involvement of police after serious incidents.</p> <p>g) Maintenance of vegetation to increase visibility in problem areas (e.g. selective clearance and pruning of vegetation from the cliffs of Greenside Path and crown lifting where branches overhang the Royal Terrace Garden Path).</p> <p>h) Prevention of access into gorse and broom scrub.</p>
	<p><b>U4: Facilities</b></p>	<p>The development of the Observatory site and introduction of new restaurant and publicly accessible toilet facilities will improve the facilities for users of Calton Hill, and will also significantly add to the attractiveness of the site as a visitor destination.</p> <p>There are potentially other opportunities for improvements to facilities which include:</p> <p>a) possibly extended access to the Nelson Monument museum</p> <p>b) Possible future introduction of fibre connectivity to the Observatory and potential extension of the EdiFreeWiFi provision in the park</p> <p>c) Integrated/in-ground electrical and water service point for external events in the Observatory Forecourt</p> <p>d) Better and well sited furniture</p> <p>e) Viewpoint telescope(s)</p> <p>f) Possible provision of access assistance devices (e.g. electric wheelchairs/buggies)</p> <p>g) Introduction and sensitive location of cycle racks for visitors to Calton Hill</p> <p>h) Possible introduction of alternative people-movers for transporting visitors to the top of the hill (e.g. electric minibus shuttle, cycle rickshaws, horse-drawn carriage)</p>	<p>In addition to capital works, there would be a management role in administering/operating new facilities and services on Calton Hill</p> <p>Other facilities which could potentially enhance the user experience would include:</p> <p>i) The provision of guided tours. This could provide a service for visiting groups, educational parties and individuals</p> <p>j) Hosted themed educational events within the park (e.g. covering architecture; astronomy; geology, wildlife, art &amp; photography)</p> <p>k) Person to person assistance on the site, potentially for the less mobile and disabled visitors</p>
	<p><b>U5: Cleanliness</b></p>	<p>Improving cleanliness at Calton Hill is principally a management requirement. The main capital works to support these actions include:</p> <p>a) Installation of litter bins, lighting columns and other furniture which is resistant to graffiti paint and fly-postering (these should also be of consistent colour)</p> <p>b) Ideally smaller litter bins would be used (and emptied more regularly) to avoid their visual intrusion; a review of bins should consider where smaller less intrusive bins could be used, retaining some large bins in strategic locations</p>	<p>Volumes of litter and its delayed clearance, together with graffiti and flyposting have been identified as issues requiring management action by the local community.</p> <p>The recent introduction of large bins has mitigated this problem but has introduced intrusive features. Potential management actions to address cleanliness issues are as follows:</p> <p>c) For clearance after large events measures should be put in place for immediate and comprehensive litter removal to allow the site to be returned to good order within the shortest space of time. Bond agreements with event organisers should be used to reinforce clearance and remedial works.</p> <p>d) Litter bins should be sited with regard to their visual impact as well as their accessibility, generally this should seek to locate them discretely in the landscape, rather than prominently against the main monuments.</p>

Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management / Maintenance Actions
			<p>e) Site signs should deter littering/encourage the use of bins for litter and dog waste, or 'take it home' messages.</p> <p>f) Graffiti and fly posters should be removed quickly and the use of fly poster-resistant coatings used on lighting columns and litter bins.</p> <p>g) Measures to improve security as defined under U3 should be applied to deter antisocial activity and modify conditions in problem areas so that these activities can be more effectively policed and monitored.</p> <p>h) The more frequent presence of rangers in the park would help to deter littering and antisocial behaviour</p>
	<p><b>U6: information/interpretation</b></p>	<p>Capital works proposals to improve information/interpretation provision for Calton Hill include:</p> <p>a) There is a need to replace the existing orientation and interpretation signs for Calton Hill which are becoming dated and damaged. This should be informed by a new/refreshed wayfinding and interpretation strategy, and should be cognisant of the interpretation work ongoing for the Observatory.</p> <p>b) New wayfinding and signs for Calton Hill should not be intrusive or formal installations unfitting to the character of the site (i.e. generally avoiding finger posts), but should be of bespoke design and low level.</p> <p>c) Orientation signs and other media used within the city of Edinburgh and more widely should be reviewed to more effectively communicate the heritage importance of Calton Hill and how to get there. Reference should be made to the Council's forthcoming Wayfinding project.</p> <p>d) Entrance signs on Regent Road and Royal Terrace require careful consideration, together with their associated public realm. These should present a sense of place, provide adequate space for pedestrian congregations and provide essential information to explain the significance of Calton Hill and access arrangements. Interpretation of the former Nelson Monument kitchen garden by simple reinstatement of the historic tree framework (some of which remains).</p>	<p>In addition to capital works, there would be a management role in administering/providing new activities and in maintaining new information systems, these would potentially include:</p> <p>e) The provision of guided tours. This could provide a service for visiting groups, educational parties and individuals (as U4)</p> <p>f) Hosted themed educational events within the park (e.g. covering architecture; astronomy; geology, wildlife, art &amp; photography) (as U4)</p> <p>h) Development of electronic information systems for park visitors (e.g. improved information on City of Edinburgh Council/EWH websites; Apps for interpretation of Calton Hill)</p> <p>i) Development of literature for education, orientation and interpretation including leaflets, guidebooks; school education packs</p>
<p><b>MANAGEMENT &amp; MAINTENANCE</b></p>	<p><b>M1: Clarity of management responsibilities &amp; authority</b></p>		<p>The range of services involved in the management of Calton Hill can make it difficult for the public and other organisations to understand who is responsible for what, and who has overall responsibility for coordinating actions. It is consequently proposed:</p> <p>a) To clearly establish for all parties the management responsibilities for Calton Hill, and to designate a 'lead' party with overall responsibility to coordinate actions by the City of Edinburgh Council services.</p> <p>b) To provide a single point of contact for the public to channel concerns or suggestions to City of Edinburgh Council regarding Calton Hill. This would record and transfer the issues to the relevant service and respond to the public regarding actions taken.</p> <p>c) Use a system of performance monitoring and responding to the public/stakeholders on actions taken to address public concerns/complaints and suggestions.</p>

Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management / Maintenance Actions
	<b>M2 integrated / collective management</b>		<p>City of Edinburgh Council's new management structure is in its early stages and this provides an opportunity for the establishment of a management forum which enables all responsible services (Parks, Greenspace &amp; Cemeteries; Locality and Museums/Heritage) to hold collective meetings and determine management strategies and actions in a joined-up fashion. Actions:</p> <p>a) Establish cross service management forum for Calton Hill and make appropriate City of Edinburgh Council allocations for attendance and follow up actions</p> <p>b) Examine how certain maintenance tasks might be shared or undertaken collectively for greater efficiency and effectiveness (e.g. litter picking and grass cutting)</p>
	<b>M3 Stakeholder involvement in management process</b>	The establishment of volunteering programmes will likely involve capital outlay for the facilities, materials and equipment used by the volunteers.	<p>Actions:</p> <p>a) Establish a Friends Group for Calton Hill and determine how such a group could contribute to the management process (e.g. through volunteering; fundraising; organising events; involvement in management forums with City of Edinburgh Council).</p> <p>b) Provide opportunities for Stakeholder organisations to be involved in the management process (e.g. periodic workshops with City of Edinburgh Council forum).</p> <p>c) Set up a volunteering programme for Friends and other interested parties to assist in park maintenance and conservation works. These would require guidance and City of Edinburgh Council support but may include: periodic clean-ups; vegetation management; certain conservation works under supervision.</p>
	<b>M4 Prioritised application of maintenance resources</b>	Maintenance operations will likely require some periodic replacements for damaged or worn landscape components. Appropriate capital provisions need to be made for reinstatement works of a matching specification/quality, rather than inferior/make-shift provisions.	<p>Apply capital and maintenance resources in a strategic and prioritised manner which focuses investment in areas of greatest heritage significance, visitor activity and prominence. This objective will require;</p> <p>a) Refinement of the maintenance regime to meet the specific requirements for each management zone. This should address the specific requirements for habitat development, heritage protection, and amenity.</p> <p>b) Investigate potential funding sources (Fund Raising Strategy) to augment Council budgets for park maintenance and enhancement (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund).</p>
	<b>M5 Use of appropriate specialists and machinery</b>	It is possible that new machinery is required by City of Edinburgh Council (purchased or hired) for specialist maintenance/conservation works. Materials appropriate for conservation works (e.g. matching stone and lime mortar, cast iron work etc.) will potentially be more expensive than proprietary products.	<p>Planning of works on Calton Hill should be subject to best conservation practice (as UNESCO Burra Charter and HES Stirling Charter).</p> <p>Management should also ensure that conservation and</p>

Strategy	Objective	Capital Works Proposals	Planning/Management / Maintenance Actions
			<p>maintenance is undertaken in a manner that is fitting to the particular elements of the landscape, and that appropriate conservation skills (and materials) are employed in the works. This objective may involve the following actions:</p> <p>a) Assemble and deploy specialists in conservation for works at Calton Hill (and other comparable sites) where they are needed to address element of heritage significance</p> <p>b) Include essential conservation guidance/ specifications within a design guide or separate document.</p>
	<p><b>M6 Application of Sustainability principles in maintenance</b></p>	<p>The application of sustainability principles will necessitate the purchase of materials which have been selected for their provenance; durability, low carbon characteristics. This may incur higher costs than other proprietary products</p>	<p>To apply sustainability principles in the management and maintenance of Calton Hill with specific focus on the provenance of planting; the use of fertilisers and herbicides, and the sourcing of materials and components for the public realm. This objective requires:</p> <p>a) Translation into sustainable design and management statements, with specifications for works which meet the sustainability targets.</p>



**Key**

- Stone Pavement
- Coloured asphalt / Resinbound surface
- Asphalt / DBM
- Amenity grass
- Meadow grass / wildflowers
- Gravel paths / hard-standings

**Figure 8**  
**Landscape Improvements**  
 not to scale



# Calton Hill Management Plan

**Key**  
Capital Works proposals as  
referenced in Chapter 5

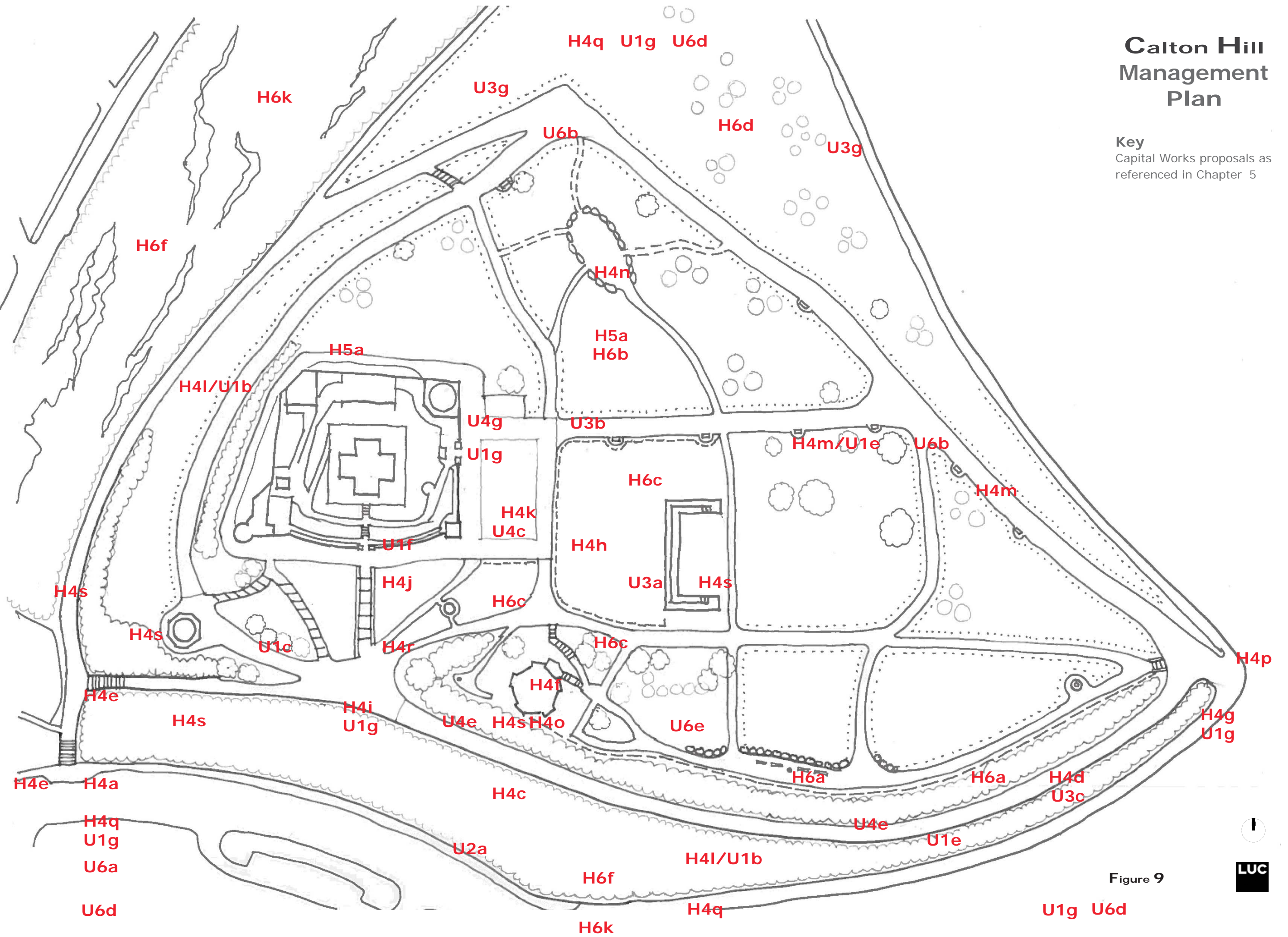


Figure 9





H4r  
/U1  
h

ProP  
osal  
Plan



5 | Management Structures



## 5 Part Five: Management Structures & Responsibilities

### Introduction

- 5.1 This short chapter makes initial recommendations for the management structures and responsibilities for Calton Hill. It reflects much of the content of Strategies M1–M6 as described in the preceding table, but provides some supplementary information.

### Current Management Structures & Responsibilities

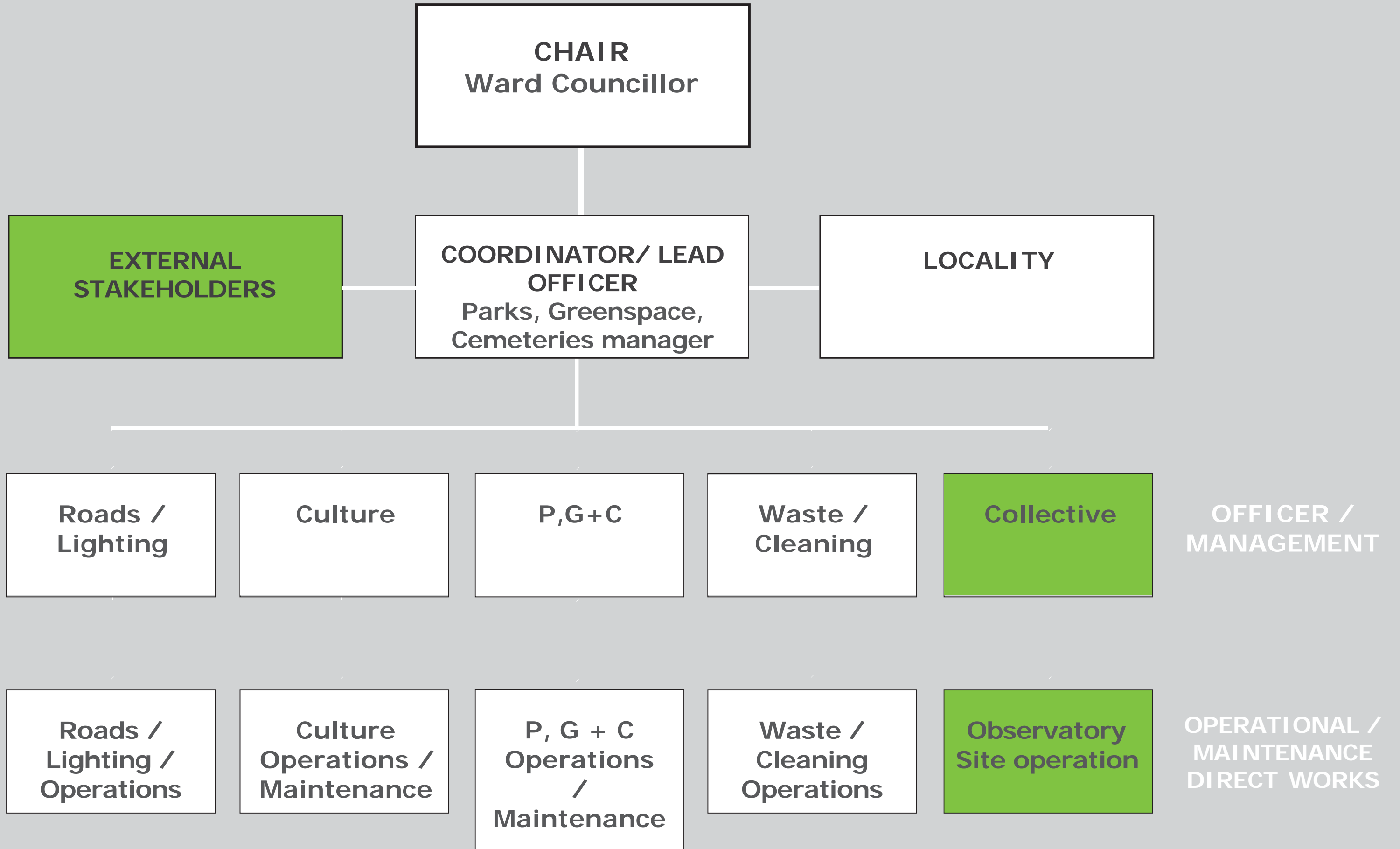
- 5.2 The City of Edinburgh Council has recently been restructured and management responsibilities have been modified. The assets of Calton Hill remain however the responsibility of several Council Services, although the main responsibilities lie with the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service; and the Locality Service. In addition to these, the City of Edinburgh Council Culture Service is responsible for the care of the monuments on Calton Hill, and the Waste & Cleansing Service for litter management.
- 5.3 Currently the main responsibilities for the management and maintenance of Calton Hill are shared between the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries (PG&C) Service and the South East Locality Service, who draw on support from Transport, Waste & Cleansing. PG&C have “strategic” management responsibilities and grounds maintenance duties, while Locality supports communities/users develop and improve the site. There is currently no established Forum for these teams to meet and address management issues collectively but City of Edinburgh Council have confirmed that this is under consideration.
- 5.4 Under the new structure David Jamieson (Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Manager) has the lead responsibility for the coordination of management/maintenance by the City of Edinburgh Council teams.
- 5.5 Specific responsibilities for the management of Calton Hill can be defined as follows:
- grass & woodland/scrub and tree maintenance/biodiversity management: by PG&C
  - paths and steps maintenance/repairs (metalled and unmetalled) by PG&C in first instance, but could be referred to Facilities Management or Roads subject to scale and complexity of requirements;
  - wall & railing maintenance/repairs: by PG&C in first instance, but could be referred to Facilities Management or Roads subject to scale and complexity of requirements;
  - furniture & signage provision and maintenance: by PG&C and Locality;
  - litter collection & bin provision: by Waste & Cleansing;
  - graffiti removal and vandalism repairs: by Waste & Cleansing;
  - lighting provision & maintenance: by Lighting Team in Roads;
  - care/conservation of monuments: by Culture Service;
  - management of events including bond arrangements with event organisers: by PG&C and Locality;
  - management of vehicular access/disabled driver access: Strategic: – PG&C, Day to Day :– Locality);
  - Park Rangers regularly visit and patrol Calton Hill along with other parks in their locality.
- 5.6 Currently the public contact either PG&C, Locality or Culture regarding Calton Hill. This depends on the subject (e.g. buildings or parkland) and there is no specific ‘single’ contact for the site as a whole. This lack of a single point of contact is frustrating for many, although the Council’s website does provide contact details for the public to submit questions and concerns. Collective report that they are subject to

questions from visitors on-site regarding Calton Hill, which is testament to the ongoing need for more effective communication between the Council and the public on Calton Hill management issues.

- 5.7 There is currently no established forum in which stakeholders (outside City of Edinburgh Council) regularly discuss the management of Calton Hill, although this Management Plan has involved a multi - agency steering group which represents a positive example of stakeholder participation and which might form the basis for ongoing involvement.

### Proposals for Future Management

- 5.8 The above summary of management responsibilities confirms the complexity of the structure and resources required to manage city parks and their associated components and activities. Clearly there is a requirement for different skill sets and resources but cohesion and communication, both internally and externally can become difficult across so many services/teams unless measures are put in place to simplify and streamline communications and management decision making. The Management & Maintenance Strategy (M1 to M6) defines a number of recommended actions (some of which may be already in place). These aim to provide clarity for all parties and to provide a system which can draw on the combined knowledge and resources of the different services and stakeholders. Going forward it is considered essential that the management structure for Calton Hill:
- is inclusive – to represent all key interests;
  - but has clearly defined authority/leadership;
  - is accountable – i.e. each service and team to demonstrate how delegated actions/targets have been delivered;
  - is supportive - i.e. each service/team working together for the benefit of the park, not in silos;
  - has good communication –between different City of Edinburgh Council services and teams, and stakeholders;
  - is responsive to the public and other stakeholders.
- 5.9 In addition, the management teams should ideally be well resourced in terms of staff and expertise, and have adequate budgets to deliver the management and maintenance service expected by the public and visitors to Edinburgh. It is recognised that pressures on local authorities make optimum resourcing a major challenge, and this necessitates the careful and prioritised deployment of resources.
- 5.10 The following organogram represents a proposal for improved future management and communication between all relevant parties. Key aspects of this proposal are as follows:
- Local Ward Councillor as Chair to provide elected authority to the Forum and its agreed actions;
  - David Jamieson (Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Manager) would act as City of Edinburgh Council coordinator and lead officer for the Calton Hill Forum;
  - External Stakeholders would have inputs through the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Manager to allow their representations to be put to the forum. External stakeholders would include the Calton Hill Friends Group (to be established); SNH; HES; University of Edinburgh and other relevant interest groups. Separate stakeholder meetings may be required in parallel to the Calton Hill Forum;
  - The Calton Hill Management Forum would comprise representatives from: P&GC; Locality; Culture; Roads; Waste & Cleansing and Collective (as the only non-Council manager of facilities on Calton Hill). This forum would be responsible for delivering actions agreed by the group through their own services and direct works resources.
  - The Forum meetings would be used to agree strategic decisions (taking into account stakeholder inputs) and to assign actions across the services responsible for the management of Calton Hill’s assets. Follow-up meetings would be used to review progress, to check that assigned actions have been completed, and to assign new actions.



**CHAIR**  
Ward Councillor

**EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS**

**COORDINATOR/ LEAD OFFICER**  
Parks, Greenspace,  
Cemeteries manager

**LOCALITY**

Roads /  
Lighting

Culture

P,G+C

Waste /  
Cleaning

**Collective**

OFFICER /  
MANAGEMENT

Roads /  
Lighting /  
Operations

Culture  
Operations /  
Maintenance

P, G + C  
Operations  
/  
Maintenance

Waste /  
Cleaning  
Operations

**Observatory  
Site operation**

OPERATIONAL /  
MAINTENANCE  
DIRECT WORKS

## Appendix 1 Photographs

Views: key views from vantage points



Arthur's Seat from Regent Walk



Princes Street from top of the Nelson Monument



Firth of Forth from Hume Walk



Nelson Monument from Princes Street



North Edinburgh and Firth of Forth from North Viewpoint



Princes Street from the Nelson Monument Viewpoint



Arthur's Seat from South Viewpoint



Edinburgh Castle



Calton Hill from North Bridge

Views: internal views between monuments



Nelson Monument from Rock Path



National Monument and Nelson Monument from Regent Drive



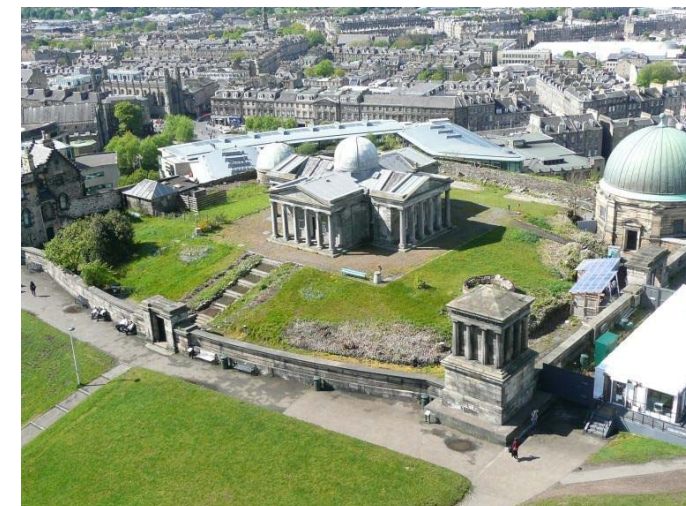
National Monument from top of Nelson Monument



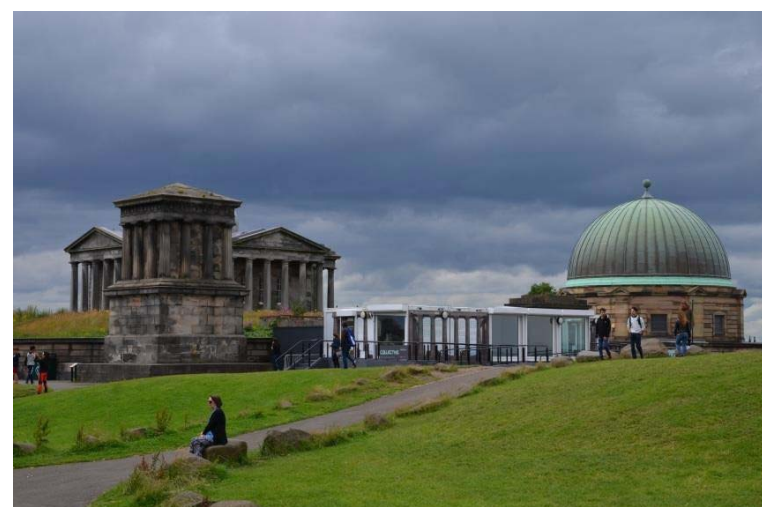
Dugald Stewart Monument



Dugald Stewart Monument from Monument Path



Observatory from top of Nelson Monument



Observatory and Collective



Observatory from Nelson Monument

Paths, Access and Entrances



Access from Regent Road



Access from Regent Road



Access from Blenheim Place / Royal Terrace



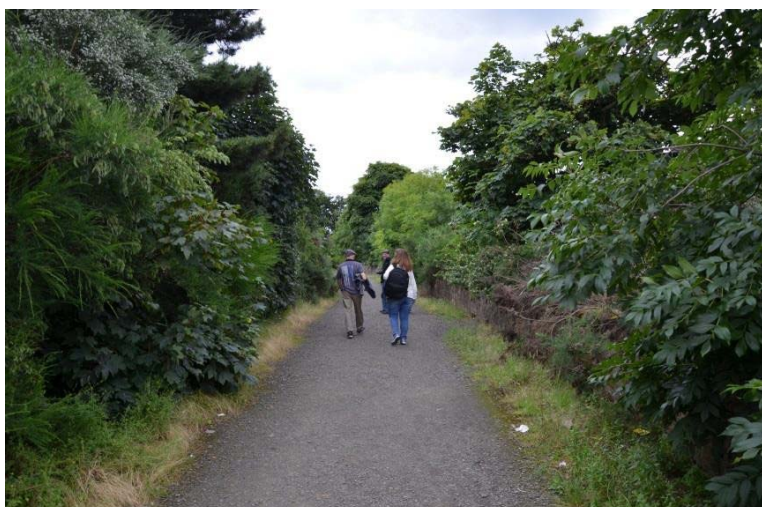
Calton Hill Drive Access Road



Greenside Row Access



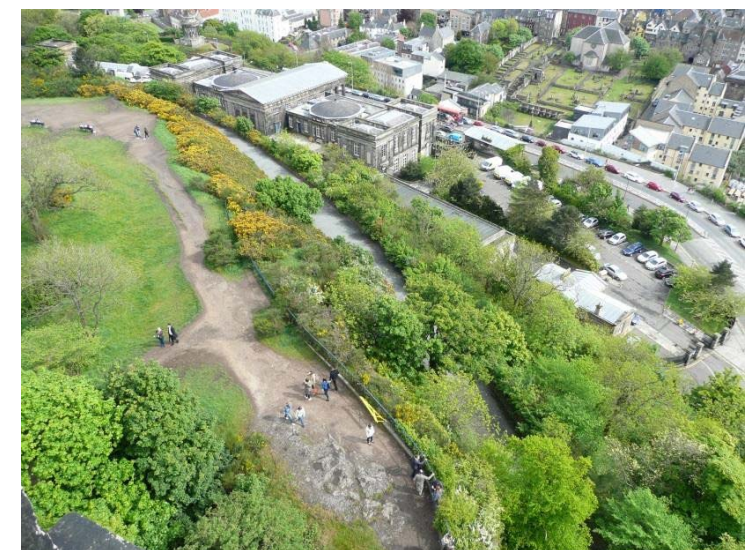
Regent Gardens Path



Regent Walk



Hume Walk



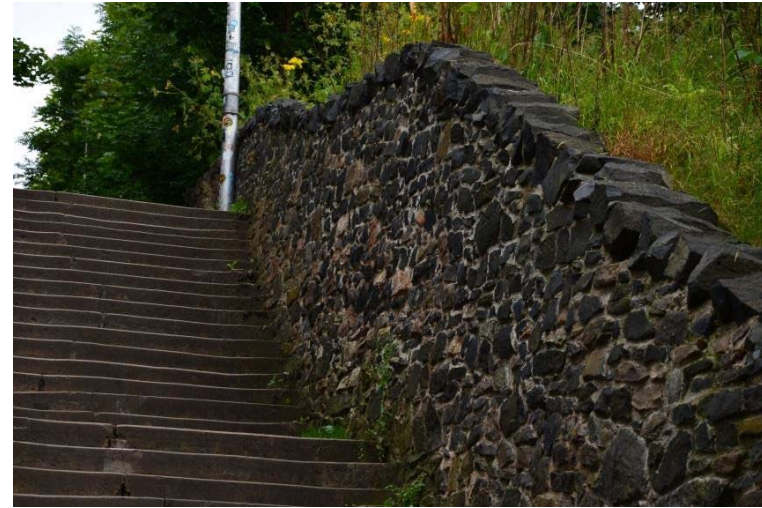
Path Between Nelson Monument and Parliament Cairn



Structures



Ashlar Wall on Hume Walk



Rubble Wall on Steps from Hume Walk



Rubble Wall on Regent Walk



Bow Top and Spiked Fencing



Ornamental Railing at Dugald Stewart Monument



Guard Rail at National Monument



Curved Top Guard Rail at Observatory Walk



Boulders at Observatory Forecourt



Crash Barrier at Calton Hill Drive / Regent Gardens Path

Furniture



Lighting Column



Viewpoint Interpretation Board



Wayfinder Signage



Large Litter Bin



Typical Bench



Bench and Bin at Old Observatory House



Bollards and Bin at Calton Hill Drive



Wheelie Bin at Regent Walk

Trees, Woodland & Scrub



Acid Grassland



Amenity Grassland



Self-Sown Trees and Scrub (north-facing slope)



Greenside Woodland: Mature Natural Regeneration



Natural Regeneration at Hume Walk



Mature Specimen Tree



South Woodland: Mature Amenity / Structure Planting



Pernicious Weeds: Willowherb, Ragwort, Thistle



Gorse and Broom between Calton Drive and Regent Walk

## Appendix 2

### Review of the 2007 Landscape Management Plan

The following table summarises how and whether the actions recommended in the 2007 Management Plan have been taken forward over the last 9 years. This addresses the Calton Hill Park proposals only and does not include the London Road Gardens which are not part of this plan.

Table 2

2007 Policy	2007 Proposals	Still Relevant	Actioned	More Work Required
<b>Picturesque Character</b>	Picturesque quality to be considered in all planning & management	Yes	Ongoing.	<p>If the picturesque quality is intrinsically tied to a sequence of viewpoints, there is a lot to be done to restore views – particularly from the west side (Hume Walk between Regent Road and North Viewpoint) and the south side (Regent Walk) – views are very limited by screening from vegetation on these routes, and as a result seem poorly used.</p> <p>Several areas feel quite unsafe and insecure – the narrow eastern path bordering Regent Gardens, the connection to Greenside Row from Royal Terrace ('Greenside Church path', and to a lesser degree, the main Greenside Path).</p> <p>More could be made of the 'dramatic natural topography' and geology – rock outcrops etc. (and SSSI). The 'wildness' of the hill top is compromised by the extent of wear and tear across significant areas of grassland. Arthur's Seat is a key wild feature. Wildness also reduced by industrial sized bins and litter.</p> <p>Which of the semi-natural vegetation is key to the picturesque character – more likely to be the grassland?</p> <p>Are the routes which were originally designed to accompany the 'artfully-placed' buildings, critical to their appreciation? Are they still appreciated as much from each of the various desire-lines/worn informal paths?</p> <p>External views into the Hilltop Park are relatively unaffected by current condition, but would be affected if planting/natural regeneration removed, at least until establishment of replacement vegetation.</p> <p>Management of planting/natural regeneration on north and east slopes. Careful consideration of what can be planted and maintained in its place, or whether existing planting can be maintained.</p> <p>Consider a different strategy for waster control? More frequent emptying bins? Bins that are smaller, more discreet, but more regular?</p> <p>'Friends of Calton Hill'?</p>
	Develop sense of place, with emphasis at arrival points	Yes	Main arrival points marked by small, worn interpretation boards (footpaths from Regent Road and Royal Terrace).	New interpretation, clearer signage, consistent/integrated style in street furniture, lighting, interpretation, materials etc. Establish a Design Guide?
<b>Urban Form &amp; City Views</b>	Maintain the inter-relationships of the neighbouring parts of the Hill	Yes	Paths maintained to connect different neighbourhoods, but some disconnect between areas, particularly where separated by roads – could benefit from continuation of street scape style, additional signage and interpretations, recognition on maps etc.	<p>Heritage Trails not clearly promoted on the ground as a specific route to follow e.g. 'Athens of the North'.</p> <p>App not promoted in signage/interpretation/QR codes etc. For example, QR codes could easily direct visitor to an audio guide explaining what the monuments are. App only available for iPhone and not Android.</p>
	Maintain views and vistas of the Hill from key locations, by off-site planning and	Yes	Vegetation currently screening important views from historic walks.	Consideration required of what can be planted in place, or whether programme of continual pruning etc. required.

2007 Policy	2007 Proposals	Still Relevant	Actioned	More Work Required
	management of the vegetation on the Hill.			Tree / vegetation survey required? Establish whether redesign required, or whether existing planting can be managed over time without being unsightly in views towards the Hilltop Park. Restrict to lower hillslopes? The lack of maintenance in the past may mean that management of existing planting is no longer an option.
	Restore & upgrade floodlighting of the Hill's principal built features	Yes	No – confirmation required. Current flood lighting cages look dated and in some places light will be screened by overgrown vegetation.	Establish who is responsible for lighting (Roads?), and whether a plan is in place.
<b>Repair, Restore &amp; Upgrade Designed Landscape Features</b>	Comprehensive programme of repairs to paths, roads, edgings, steps, walls, retaining walls, railings and fences	Ongoing	Evident that several repairs have been made, particularly to walls, but still several locations/elements in needs to repair or replacement. Work currently underway at Nelson Monument gardens?	Consistent vernacular needs to be established – quite a mix at present – ornate iron railings, bow top fencing etc. with sudden changes/contrasts. Some consistency in choice of RAL 6005 / Buckingham green colour for railings and bins. Confirm status of work at Nelson Monument gardens. Develop Design Guide? Establish whether these features would all be dealt with by one team, or several. A coordinated approach is required.
	Re-establish a historic pattern of planting restricted to the lower Hill slopes	Yes	2007 plan specifies: "Re-establish a historic pattern of planting restricted to the lower hill slopes including: – planted, naturalised woodland on Regent Road slopes – semi-natural woodland/scrubland on Greenside Place slopes	Requires consideration of what constitutes the 'lower slopes' of these locations. Which maps detail the historic planting? How are these areas accessed (safely)?
	Preserve and restore historic planted features, including the Nelson's Monument gardens and National Memorial outline.	Yes	Work currently underway at Nelson Monument gardens?	What evidence do we have of historic planting? How will it be managed and maintained? How to show and maintain the outline. Consider planting proposed within the Observatory compound. Confirm status of work at Nelson Monument gardens.
	Redesign the garden in the Observatory compound, with DDA compliant access	Yes	Yes – Calton Hill City Observatory Project being dealt with by Malcolm Fraser Architects.	Consider whether any continuation of design principles outside the compound might be appropriate?
	Remove naturalised or overgrown vegetation where intrusive and not part of historic planting		As above.	
	Maintain planted tree cover as amenity woodland with existing and suitable native forest species	Yes	Requires agreement of extent, and appropriateness of method.	Confirm whether this is with reference to Greenside woodland?
	Develop age diversity in woodland and tree population generally	Yes	No – in order to establish and maintain an area which will continue to regenerate in the future.	Tree / vegetation survey required?
	Develop a design guide of materials,	Yes	Not aware of this document being produced – who would	Critical to establishing a better sense of place, and connections to wider

2007 Policy	2007 Proposals	Still Relevant	Actioned	More Work Required
	detailing and furniture appropriate for the Hill, including patterns for restoration of historic features		take responsibility?	Green Infrastructure.
	Develop shortlists for suitable species for use on the Hill	Yes	Not aware that is has been actioned.	Tree / vegetation survey required? Consider plants which may complement SSSI. Consider planting list, and site-specific grassland developed by Scotia Seeds, for the Scottish Parliament gardens. Look at which are most successful, native or have been used historically.
<b>Panoramic Viewpoint</b>	Manage vegetation and other features to restore or enhance the planned and panoramic views from the Hill.	Yes	As above.	
	Manage vegetation to restore or enhance the planned views from the routes on the Hill.	Yes	As above.	
	Provide interpretation of the Hill as a viewpoint, including history of its function	?	Interpretation boards installed but now becoming damaged and dated (one in the wrong location).	
<b>Remove Intrusive features</b>	Remove highway crash barrier	Yes	No	Crash barrier still there – very intrusive! Still to be removed
	Remove rows of inappropriate small amenity trees	Yes	Some amenity trees have been removed.	Further clearance required.
	Remove inappropriate and defunct types of fence, bollards, furniture and lighting; replace according to design guide	Yes		Identify specific features to be removed / replaced. Develop Design Guide. Consider reuse / relocation of boulders.
	Remove pump house structure on south slope of the Observatory and replace with unobtrusive alternative	No		
	Remove vehicular traffic from the Hill	Yes	Some vehicle access still allowed, but coaches now park at Regent Street instead of on the hill top.	Resolve / remove / redesign turning circle now partially obscured by Collective gallery structures.
<b>Facilitate Easy Access</b>	Adapt access routes and features to requirements of DDA	Yes	Current access for disabled people, via route for vehicles i.e. transported to hill top.	Consider the suggestion of creating a new access from Greenside – but very steep. Ramps possible at main entrance from Regent Street? See Access Report (Appendix 9)
	Investigate alternative means of vehicular transport for delivering people to the hilltop	Yes	If the road is not required for coaches, it could be reduced in width for smaller vehicles.	Seek advice from relevant Council teams.
	Inform visitors of the routes to and on the Hill (and Gardens) by signage	Yes	The interpretation boards in place show the paths of the Hilltop Park, but not the wider network of routes.	Also consider other means of communicating routes information, e.g. printed maps, digitally etc.
	In the short term manage access by coaches to the hilltop to avoid traffic conflicts on the access road	No	Access to hilltop by coaches now removed.	Are there any exceptions?
	Plan pedestrian circulation and signing based on three circular walks and two cross-Hill	Yes	Signage shows paths, but not routes as such. LMP refers only to existing formal paths, and not to established	Consider options for establishing informal routes in a way which avoids excessive wear and tear – mown paths, trip rails, reinforcement, robust

2007 Policy	2007 Proposals	Still Relevant	Actioned	More Work Required
	routes		desire lines / worn routes.	species etc. Consider possibility of new formalised routes or areas of hard-standing / reinforced ground. Hume Walk – Regent Walk loop requires views to be reinstated if to be well-used, particularly Regent Walk, which isn't really a route to get from A to B (i.e. it does not connect neighbourhoods like some of the other paths do).
	Restore degraded routes including surfacing, drainage, fences, walls and lighting	Yes	Minor repairs ongoing (e.g. to walls).	Needs to be as part of an integrated approach, which also considers how to re-establish use of paths currently under user (particularly Regent Walk). Safety and sense of security needs to be considered as part of this strategy. How are maintenance requirements recorded and planned? Is the site inspected at regular intervals? How are action points taken forward? Who is responsible?
	Restore deteriorating steps including treads, sub-structure, handrails, lighting etc.	Yes	As above.	As above.
	Construct new path/steps between Dugald Stewart Monument and Observatory	Yes	Not yet actioned. Very worn path leads between the two at present.	Who is responsible for making this happen? Can it be considered as part of the overhaul of the observatory compound? Though not part of the site, it could be timed to coincide?
	Establish programme of maintenance and repair of routes	Yes	Confirmation required.	Who is responsible?
	Plan regular access to the Observatory Compound	Yes		Consider future uses and development of the compound – evening access etc. Connections to wider path network e.g. as for Dugald Stewart Monument desire line above. DDA requirements?
<b>Provide Good Signage</b>	Provide non-intrusive direction and information signs	Yes	Information signs / interpretation boards exist – they are non-intrusive, but also quite easy to miss and do not give a very high level of information.	Consider whether it may be appropriate for some signage to be more noticeable, particularly at access points. Consider how signage works in relation to views. What information do we want to portray? How else do people access information? How can it be made robust?
	Ensure adequate signage and information on routes to the Hill from the city centre	Yes	Confirmation required.	Check how Calton Hill is shown on wider city centre information boards and maps. Any current plans or opportunities to upgrade?
<b>Planned Programme of Interpretation</b>	Prepare an interpretative strategy to inform people about the Hill, its heritage and access etc.	Yes	A strategy has been implemented, but is showing signs of age, and is in need of replacement.	Consider how to show routes (not just paths). What information do people need / want? How can it be supplemented e.g. an app?
	Implement a signing plan covering routes to and on the Hill	Yes	In place. Many of the signs are in need of repair.	Consider successes / failures of existing signage. Retain and repair, or replace.
	Develop a programme of guided historical	Yes	Lots of independent guided tours are available. Self-	Confirm whether this is a still and goal, and how it would be run.

2007 Policy	2007 Proposals	Still Relevant	Actioned	More Work Required
	tours of the walks and buildings		guided trails established by EWH.	
	Develop a dedicated interpretation facility on the Hill associated with refreshment and toilet facilities	Yes	Partially, as part of development of observatory compound.	Consider how this will function and at what times. Consider whether further facilities would be required.
<b>Develop Nature Conservation Value</b>	Manage grassland and the use of grassland areas to achieve sustainable vegetation cover, with emphasis at South Top (railings at Nelson's Monument) and North Top (Trig point).	Yes	Some action for specific locations, e.g. railings at Nelson's Monument. Confirmation required of what process is in place during Beltane and Hogmanay.	Consider consulting with seed specialists to consider what species may be most tolerant of intensive use and most appropriate for this location in terms of locality / providence. Consider consulting with product specialists on potential for surface reinforcement / stabilisation. Consider whether any barriers required, or programme for temporary fencing might be required to allow periodic recovery of damaged ground.
	Develop habitat value of woodlands and scrub; encourage age and species diversity	Yes	Confirmation required of any ongoing maintenance for this e.g. selective thinning etc.	Consider actions for gorse, and associated fire risk. Consider potential impact of tree disease on species populations. Consider compatibility with SSSI.
	Protect areas of geological sensitivity and outcrops of scientific value	Yes	Yes – check details of SSSI protection measures e.g. as at South Top.	Consider how their value can be communicated. Liaise with Scottish Natural Heritage where appropriate.
<b>Conserve Archaeological Value</b>	Engage an archaeologist with a watching brief to oversee all ground-breaking construction works on the Hill	Yes – ongoing action	Unclear – should be required as standard condition on any planning permission	Liaison with City of Edinburgh Council Development Management to ensure appropriate archaeological conditions are applied as required (likely achieved through City of Edinburgh Council archaeologist anyway)
	Locate, identify and record all features of archaeological value through historical research and ground investigations	Yes	No. Unlikely that this will happen unless specific funding made available for detailed survey. Archaeological investigations likely to be reactive.	Potential for use of LiDAR data to identify previously un-recognised features on the hill. (May be available through third party suppliers, or could be commissioned separately if desirable.)
	Establish policies and procedures for the protection of areas and features of archaeological value	Yes	No.	Broadly, sufficient protection should be provided for non-designated / previously un-recognised archaeological features through the City of Edinburgh Council Local Plan and SPP. However, identification of 'sensitive areas' could be undertaken in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council archaeologist for incorporation in DM systems (i.e. triggering consultation when necessary)
	Interpret archaeology together with other features of cultural interest for the benefit of visitors	Yes	No. There is little in the way of tangible archaeological remains on the hill that could be effectively interpreted and presented to visitors. Instead, interpreting and presenting Calton Hill's place in the development of Edinburgh's historic landscape could be a more useful focus.	Understanding and presenting Calton Hill's place within Edinburgh's wider historic landscape could be a more useful / fruitful approach – allowing interesting and engaging interpretation of the city panorama. The sequence of development of the monuments on the hill, and the ways in which the asset has been used by Edinburgh's people through time should also be considered.
<b>Encourage Appropriate Uses</b>	Continue and encourage the primary use of the Hill for walks and viewing	Yes	Yes – ongoing.	Paths are shown in interpretation boards, but specific routes could be promoted. Historic routes require restoration of views across the city.
	Maintain and develop the infrastructure on the Hill for large seasonal events within the framework of the conservation policies	Yes	Large events still take place e.g. Beltane, Torchlight Procession.	Careful consideration required of suitability of different surfaces for intensive use, whether temporary options would be appropriate, how the site is repair/restored if damaged following a large event. What risks are associated with large events, and how can they be



2007 Policy	2007 Proposals	Still Relevant	Actioned	More Work Required
				mitigated? Requires feedback from consultees on what infrastructure is required.
	Conserve buildings within the Observatory Compound in order to allow continued use by the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh and others	Yes	Yes – Calton Hill City Observatory Project being dealt with by Malcolm Fraser Architects.	Consider relationships with wider hilltop park.
	Plan path lighting and floodlighting to avoid additional light pollution affecting astronomical observation	Yes	Yes? Modern lighting column installed – do these limit light pollution?	Flood lighting still requires redesign.
<b>Safe and Attractive Environment</b>	Tackle areas attracting anti-social behaviour through vegetation management, secure barriers, improved lighting and self-policing	Yes	No? Unclear whether any actions have been taken on these measures.	Confirm if any measures have been taken. If so, are they successful? How do/would these measures work alongside conservation policies? Which anti-social behaviour is the biggest concern?
	Provide lighting to all main cross-hill routes and garden paths	Yes	Lighting columns installed along wooded sections of some paths (exceptions being Regent Walk, the wooded section of the access road, and the Regent Gardens path). No columns in more open hilltop areas – flood lighting instead.	Many of the routes still feel insecure at night time due to lack of light. Consideration required of what type (if any) lighting would be appropriate for open hill top paths.
<b>Good Conservation Practice</b>	Planning and design of all works to be carried out in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter (UNESCO) and Stirling Charter (Historic Scotland)	~	Arguable. (This is quite dated and these are by no means the only measures of conservation quality and best practice)	Would be more prudent to state that planning and design of works should be carried out in line with best practice approaches to conservation, in accordance with the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement and the World Heritage Site Management Plan.  Any assessments accompanying planning applications should satisfy the requirements of SPP, HESPS and <a href="#">ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage Properties</a> (i.e. ensuring that the key planning tests for Scottish legislation are met and that effects on OUV are properly understood).
<b>Environmentally Sustainable Principles</b>	Manage the Hill (and Gardens) within the carrying capacity of the sites			
	Use the existing path system and underused paths to spread the pressure of visitors more widely over the site		No. Underused paths remain out of use while views are screened, and/or security is a concern.	To promote greater footfall on underused paths, open views need to be restored.  Paths worn in to grass by desire lines require careful analysis to consider necessity for formal paths.  In several places, existing paths are severely worn at the edges, indicating they are not currently wide enough to accommodate level of footfall.  Consideration required of possible use of trip rails, and programme of restoration for worn areas, if it is not desirable to establish them as formal or planned paths. It may be appropriate in some instances to widen paths.
	Control the number of people attending events or otherwise plan the events to avoid damage to the grassland, other surfaces and monuments	Yes	Yes? Requires confirmation of current control measures and their success or failure.	As above - careful consideration required of suitability of different surfaces for intensive use, whether temporary options would be appropriate, how the site is repair/restored if damaged following a large event.
	Deal with the problem of erosion of grassland in a manner that avoids drawing attention to the problem, is long term, protects geological	Yes	No.	Understand what measures have already been tried or considered.  Consideration required of how to make grassland more able to cope with

2007 Policy	2007 Proposals	Still Relevant	Actioned	More Work Required
	values and avoids increasing the area of paved surfaces.			intensive use – robust species or structural reinforcement? Management is key – if areas become damaged – how can they be restored? Can they be temporarily closed to allow grassland to recover?
<b>Priorities, Programmes and Resources</b>	Coordinate management, maintenance, provision of services and events to achieve conservation of the site for the benefit of visitors & users with the involvement of the local community	Yes	Yes – events on going.	As point above – how best to achieve this? Feedback required on current practices.
	Establish a permanent coordinating committee or working group of officials and stakeholders to oversee & help coordinate conservation and management in the long term including community representation	Yes	No?	To be confirmed by stakeholders.
	Establish a Friends of Calton Hill organisation	Yes	No.	Confirmation required of whether any actions taken on this.
	Develop a Marketing strategy for the attractions of the Hill in conjunction with the interpretation strategy.	Yes	No.	To be confirmed by stakeholders.
	Budget and fund-raise for a medium-term restoration process tackling landscape conservation in order of priority	Yes	Ongoing.	Confirmation required of current strategy and priorities for stakeholders.
	Budget for annual management costs which will maintain the investment on the Hill, and recognises the site's importance to the city's culture and tourism economy	Yes	Ongoing.	Understand how this works and how it shapes the management plan.

<sup>i</sup> LDN Architects, (1999), Calton Hill Conservation Plan.

<sup>ii</sup> Edinburgh City Council, (2015), The Edinburgh City Local Plan. [available online at: <http://edinburghcouncilmaps.info/dev/plans/eclp/chap4.htm>]

<sup>iii</sup> Edinburgh City Council, (2015), Conservation Area Character Appraisals. [available online at: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/750/new\\_town\\_conservation\\_area\\_character\\_appraisal](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/750/new_town_conservation_area_character_appraisal)]

<sup>iv</sup> Edinburgh City Council, The Skyline Study. [available online at: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20065/conservation/249/the\\_skyline\\_study](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20065/conservation/249/the_skyline_study)]

<sup>v</sup> Edinburgh City Council, prepared by LUC, (2010), Review of Local Landscape Designations. [available online at: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/72/review\\_of\\_local\\_landscape\\_designations](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/72/review_of_local_landscape_designations)]

