



DOG HILL SCOUT & COMMUNITY CAMPSITE



Management Plan: 2020 – 2025



Dog Hill Scout and Community Campsite MANAGEMENT PLAN: 2020 – 2025

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SITE DETAILS



DOG HILL SCOUT and COMMUNITY CAMPSITE

Nestling in the foot hills of the Lancashire Pennines, in Shaw, "Dog Hill" is a brilliant local asset situated on the edge of the moors, perfect for walking and other outdoor activities. Our Centre offers activities to young people from across North Manchester and beyond.

Maintaining positive mental health and well-being to relieve the stress of COVID-19 is critical to avoid longer term psychological costs from the pandemic. Walking and access to natural spaces is known to have positive effects on well-being that could be especially beneficial in the current crisis.



Dog Hill Scout Activity Centre has facilities for overnight accommodation both indoors and outdoors. The bunkhouse sleeps 16+ people. And there are 5 camping areas at present.

Dog Hill Scout Activity Centre offers activities to scouts from across North Manchester and beyond. Also ideal for DofE expeditions, Forest Schools, Bushcraft, Survival Weekends and all types of outdoor activities.



We will also run the scouts Naturalist and Survival badges. We offer activities for young people and families:- Archery, Axe Throwing, Beaver waterfall hike, Bird box building, Bouldering twister, Bush craft session, Crate stacking, Cub hike, Orienteering, Pond dipping, Pioneering, Shooting, Scout hike, Team building.



The Bunk House has a fully equipped kitchen and dining space for both indoor or outdoor use, the kitchen can be used as an indoor cooking space for camps under canvas.

INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan sets out a programme for the future management, maintenance and development of Dog Hill Scout and Community Campsite. It is a guide for volunteers, users and everyone involved with the site to see how it will be managed and improved, and what the priorities are for its future.

The purpose of the Management Plan is:

- **To facilitate efficient and effective management of the site.**
The Management Plan will be used as a tool allowing everyone involved in the site to understand their role in putting into place the policies, practices and procedures involved in running the site efficiently and effectively.
- **To strategically plan for future improvements and development.**
The Management Plan will enable strategic planning and policy to be put into practice on the ground. Site improvements and development will meet local requirements and priorities whilst being consistent with broader policies for the whole borough and Greater Manchester.
- **To ensure improvements are sustainable.**
The Management Plan sets a framework for the sustainable development of the site. It contains objectives and long-term goals that are based on consultation and the input of key stakeholders. This input and involvement is necessary if improvements are to be sustainable.
- **To maintain continuity and consistency in service delivery.**
The Management Plan will inform whoever is responsible at any given time for managing the site with all the information they require to manage and maintain it. This will provide continuity in maintenance and operational procedures and consistency in service delivery.
- **To justify revenue and resources for the site.**

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Name:	Dog Hill Scout and Community Campsite
Location:	Buckstones Road, Shaw, Oldham, Greater Manchester OL2 8LJ
Electoral Ward:	Shaw & Crompton, Oldham Borough
Grid Reference:	SD 953 509
Area:	11 acres
Tenure:	The Scout Association Trust Corporation (SATC) holds the title to freehold, leasehold and long-term Licence land interests in land as 'Custodian Trustee' on behalf of Scout Units.
Maintenance:	Dog Hill Scout and Community Campsite Management Committee manage the site.
Designations:	Community Forest (non statutory) and a Source Protection Zone (Zone 2).

1.1 ACCESS

Dog Hill Scout and Community Campsite lies approximately 1.6 km miles north east of Shaw Town Centre

By car

The site is accessed from Buckstones Road using a relatively narrow and poorly surfaced track.

By bus

The 435 bus takes you to Hillside Avenue opposite Grains Road, Buckstones Estate. The site is a 16 minute walk from here.

By Metrolink

The Rochdale Metrolink stops at Shaw and Crompton Station, a 35 Minute Journey from Manchester. From the campsite it's just a 25 minute walk to the tramstop.

On foot, horse or bicycle

The site is accessible.

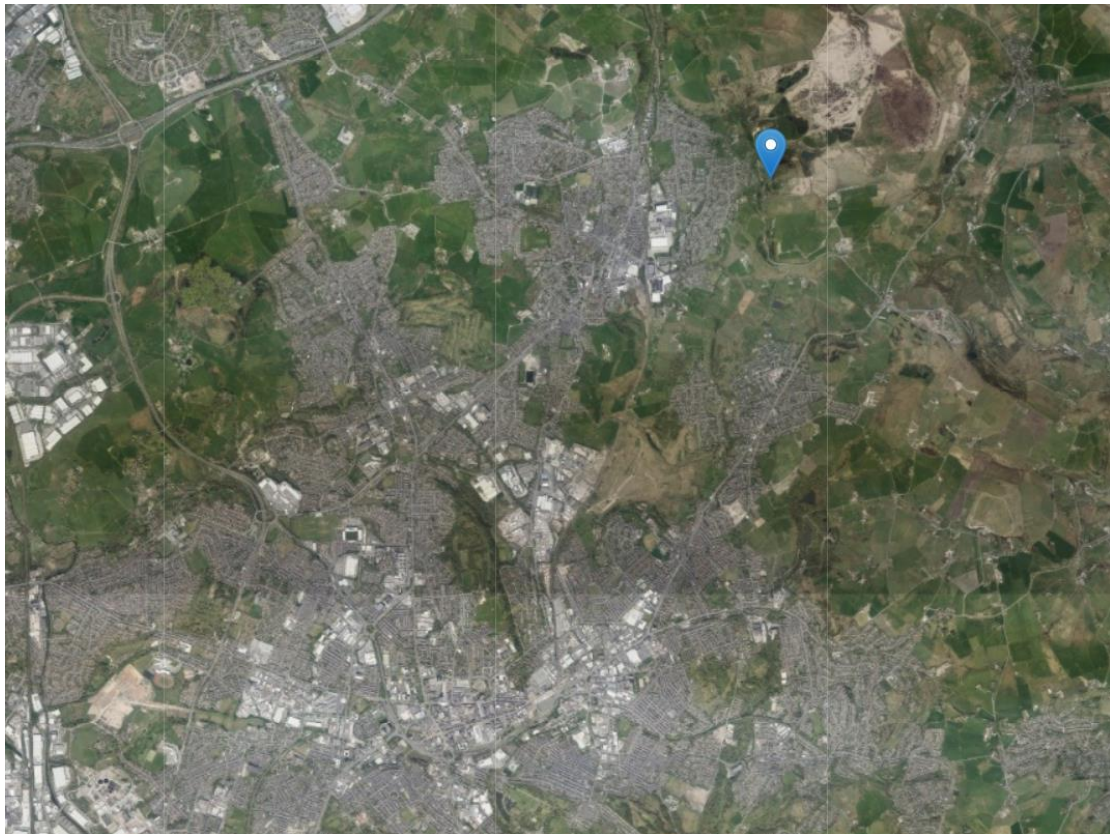
Access around the site

Access throughout the site is via footpaths. The paths around the moorland are rough and not currently suitable for disabled visitors.

1.2 GREENSPACE CONTEXT

Dog Hill Scout Activity Centre is located just three miles off J21 of the M62, on the B6197.

The image below provides a visual representation towards the location of the site.



Dog Hill Campsite Location

1.3 HISTORY OF THE SITE

The campsite is located on Crompton Moor within the township of Crompton, in the Civil Parish of Shaw and Crompton, Oldham, Greater Manchester. Located approximately 2.5km to the north-east of the centre of Shaw and centred at SD 953 509, the site encompasses upland moorland.

The historic township of Crompton straddles the middle reaches of the Beal Valley, lying between Royton to the west and Saddleworth to the east. The River Beal runs in a south to north direction through the township and a number of streams, including Brushes Clough Brook, flow into it from the west and the east. The hilly area of Crompton Gold, in the Pennine foothills, rises to more than 390m AOD up to the long north-south ridge of Crompton Moor in the east, whilst the lowland undulating plains of High Crompton, Low Crompton, and Shaw lie to the west of the river at roughly 200m AOD. The historic Crompton Moor dominates the eastern edge of the township, running north to south for roughly two kilometres and being roughly 1.5km wide.

During the late 18th and 19th centuries Crompton and Shaw emerged as a small industrial town with many of the inhabitants employed in collieries and in large cotton mills. By 1845 there were 14 mills in the area. In the 1870s a reservoir was built in Brushes Clough, at the northern perimeter of the campsite to supply water for sanitation and to the steam-powered cotton mills not just of Crompton and Shaw but to the wider Oldham area.

The original building was paid for by the Platt family who owned a mill making towels (the daughter was a cub leader & sold towels in the indoor market in Oldham). A Dr Anderson, A Prominent local scouter in the 1930's, donated the land to the scouts. The building was restored in the 1970' from the Queens Jubilee fund and the roof and floor replaced more recently in the late 1980's

1.4 LOCAL COMMUNITY AND VISITORS

Dog Hill Scout and Community Campsite Committee encourages the use of the community involvement and participation across all schemes and developments – therefore the community will play a central role in the development of the site.

Resident Opinion Poll

In February 2020 we conducted a community survey and received strong support from 96 people.

Quotes from the survey included:

- The site is in a great location for access to the moor and surrounding areas. It is close to railway stations (Greenfield) with direct links to Manchester, but equally the camp is far enough away for you to feel separated from norms of urban life.
- Dog Hill is great! So much scope for development and growth, 1st Chetham's will definitely be back to stay and help out!"
- This site has a lot of potential and is in an amazing area for hikes etc., but has been underfunded for many years.
- With the proper investment and commitment the site would be an asset not just for Shaw but for the whole Oldham district for future generations to come.
- Backwoods camping, hiking across the Moors by the Crompton Way. For those with problems it helps them get back on their feet.

59 strongly agreed, 15 agreed, 2 neutral that raising funds to improve the site would be money well spent.

The results demonstrated the sites potential and the level of local support. Investment in the site infrastructure is now needed in order to protect this resource for the next generation.

2.0 THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Dog Hill Scout and Community Campsite:

Our vision is to increase use of the site from the local community and scouting in General. We want Dog Hill campsite to be:

- A site where children can have fun and learn about their heritage and gain skills.
 - A base to explore the surrounding countryside for walks, canoeing and climbing.
 - A site that can be camped on safely with all the facilities.
 - Somewhere people can escape from their urban surroundings and encounter a diversity of wild plants and animals.
 - A destination for school groups to come and explore nature and the diverse habitats that the site offers.
 - Somewhere children are safe to have fun and play with friends with no risk of harm – providing the parents with peace of mind
 - Visitors can learn new skills in a safe environment
 - That offers peace and tranquillity, and meets local people's recreational and educational needs.
 - Nature is allowed to thrive without the risk of development.
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Aim 1: Improving access and camping infrastructure

To generate increased income from scout and community camping we are currently fundraising for the following works. Please also refer to Figure 1 below:

Access

- Install a maxi track system to provide vehicle access & turning point; area (5.7m x 12m).
- Excavate and lay new 20m long, 1.8m wide permeable block paved path leading to bunk barn.
- Adjacent to picnic area, create drop of point for vehicles by laying permeable ABG recycled plastic interlocking SUDS cellular units.

Reclamation

- To the south, along route running east west, clear and re open the route. Salvage old walling stone on one side and retain on site for re use. Include budget for archaeological assessment along route.
- Rebuild walls using reclaimed stone on site.
- Install interpretation sign and directional waymarkers to celebrate old routes of the past.

Tent pitches

- Create three defined tent pitches by clearing boulders, harrowing the ground with two follow up visits to flail grassland.
- Create new retaining dry stone walled sections (30 linear metres) to assist with defining tent pitches, using reclaimed stone.
- Plant hedge rows to define parts of the three tent pitch locations (148 linear metres); include for tree shelters.

Figure 1. Phase One Physical Improvements



Aim 2: Longer term objectives

Year 1 (2021)

1. Market the site as a bunkhouse activity centre using partners and social media.
2. Keep on top of existing maintenance reinvesting revenue from camping into site improvements.
3. Seek capital funding to replace internals of toilet block.
4. Construct a semi-permanent large sheltered area to weatherproof the bookings
5. Build links with the owners of Brushes Clough reservoir with a view to have canoeing activities. We had permission from NWWA.
6. Lay 2 concrete tracks on road to carpark and improve water run off management.
7. Continue to develop the shooting, archery range & 5 a side football field.
8. Service septic tank
9. Re-marketing and encouraging Oldham District groups to commit to at least 1 camp a year to provide the funds to develop the site.
10. Review Pricing – Scouting is exceptionally cheap compared with the other activities our young people have access to. Introduce discounts for hard up groups.
11. Reach out to external organisations to get work done e.g. Community Payback, Prince's Trust, Groundwork etc.
12. Bouldering Wall,

Year 2-5 (2022-25)

1. Build on bookings year on year by maintaining links with successful bookings, aiming to generate repeat bookings for the same activity every 2 years.
2. Re-visit pricing annually ensuring our income covers our expenditure with a view to re-invest every penny into the site
3. Switch to renewable energy – promote this with the young members and local press. If we switch power to solar we would be entirely self-sufficient for water and energy with only servicing costs to consider.
4. Create more camping areas.

Beyond 2025

1. Look to increase the land holding making strategic land purchases to improve the value of the site, this could incorporate existing structures to improve our building portfolio.
2. Build a Barn – seek planning permission for a “Barn/Hayloft” type construction into which we could put all the mowers, tractors and activity equipment inside alongside a climbing wall – high ropes loft.
3. Secure funding to replace the old bunkhouse with a bigger more modern structure.

5.0 CONTACT DETAILS

For further information about this Management Plan, please contact:

Bookings@doghillscouts.com

Dog Hill Scout Activity Centre is located just three miles off J21 of the M62.

Located on the B6197

**Buckstones Road
Shaw
Oldham
Greater Manchester
OL2 8LJ**

For additional information in regard to the site please visit:

<http://www.doghillscouts.com/home/4594725601>