

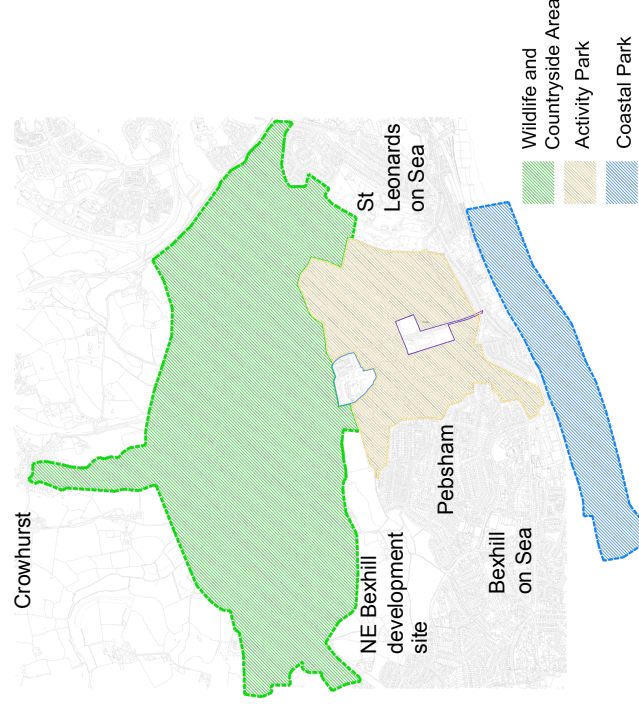


FROM LANDFILL TO LANDSCAPE

The 'green gap' between Hastings and Bexhill was designated as the Combe Valley Countryside Park some 20 years ago. Covering 600 hectares, the Park concept comprises three quite different character areas:

Wildlife and countryside area including the Combe Haven SSSI and Filsham Reedbeds Local Nature Reserve
Activity park including the Bulverhythe playing fields, Glyne Gap Site of Local Nature Conservation as well as the landfill site, currently undergoing restoration
Coastal park from Bulverhythe beach to Glyne Gap

In recent months environmental regeneration charity Groundwork, working with the local authorities and Sussex Wildlife Trust, have been 'breathing new life' into plans for the Park to achieve its potential. Part of this has been about creating a realistic development strategy, capable of achieving change at a time when there are huge constraints on public funding. Equally important has been the emphasis placed upon raising awareness about the Park and to encourage engagement in surrounding communities.



Before



After

View from SE

COMMUNITY LED MANAGEMENT

The park is surrounded by lots of different communities from Sidley to Hollington and the recently formed 'Friends of Combe Valley' will play a key role in the future of the park including hands on management of facilities such as the Discovery Centre. For information about how to get involved see: www.friendsofcombevalley.co.uk

A not-for-profit, 'Community Interest Company' (CIC) is currently being set up to oversee the Park's future management and improvement. Involving representatives from a wide range of organisations with an interest in the Park including local authorities, statutory agencies, local businesses and landowners and community groups, the CIC will put the needs of the whole community at the heart of the Park.

NEW DISCOVERY CENTRE

The park is currently underused, partly due to a lack of basic facilities. A new discovery centre constructed from recycled shipping containers will be developed over the coming year as a first step in the parks transformation. It will provide essential facilities such as toilets as well as a café for visitors to get refreshments, a base for park activities and a multi-functional meeting and education space. The centre will also create an on staff site presence, providing informal 'policing' and a welcoming place for visitors to get information about what to do in the park.



View from North East

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