

East Sheen Common Management Plan



January 2024 – December 2025



East Sheen Common Management Plan 2024-25: Foreword

East Sheen Common is a vitally important asset for local people and visitors. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will maintain and manage the Common to the highest standards.

This management plan is based on the use of an audit of the park following central government guidance known as PPG 17. This is explained within this document, but the approach is based on common sense. We believe that it is important to get the simple things right. Is the green space clean and tidy? Is the grass cut? Are the trees and shrubs well maintained? Is any graffiti removed effectively and quickly?

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is top priority and it is hoped that this document will provide a framework for continuing and improving dialogue. The site will be maintained appropriately, and the local community will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities and infrastructure. In particular, the borough works closely with the local Friends group (Friends of Sheen Common). We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the Common.

Parks Officers, working closely with colleagues in Continental Landscapes and using a partnership approach, regularly monitor East Sheen Common. Members of the local community are also encouraged to let us know their impressions about the level of maintenance as well as their ideas. It is hoped that the resulting observations and ideas will result in continually improving management and maintenance practises.

Whilst the Council is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks, the Common is a long established local green space that is well maintained. The Common has seen major capital investment over the last few years, most notably the Council have installed a new woodland play area valued at just under £100,000. Major changes to the Common are not envisioned however the pavilion was refurbished in summer 2022. The action plan at the end of this document reflects this perspective.

The current financial situation will inevitably have a detrimental effect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough's parks and open spaces. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Continental Landscapes and the Friends of Sheen Common to maintain standards. In addition, we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the boroughs parks, one of our most valuable assets.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Management Plan for East Sheen Common provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the Common. It utilises the methodology outlined in the Government's Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG 17) in order to audit the state of provision of features and facilities on the Common.

The Plan includes an Action Plan, which we aim to achieve within the remit of current budgets. The Plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the Common namely:

- The Friends of Sheen Common and borough residents;
 - The Parks and Open Spaces Service;
 - Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond;
 - Elected members, ward councillors and portfolio holders;
 - National agencies;
 - Local businesses; and
 - Partners and contractors
- 1.2 The Plan will run from January 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.

2. National Context

- 2.1 Parks are managed areas of the green environment which provide opportunities for a range of formal and informal leisure, passive and active sport, recreation and play.

- 2.2 The significance of parks, open space and countryside provision is clear:

- There are an estimated 27,000 public parks in Britain, visited an estimated 2.6bn times each year (Common Select Committee, 2016).
- There is an estimated 85,847 hectares of Publicly accessible green space in Great Britain, 73,400 in England. (*Natural capital accounts containing information about green spaces in urban areas*, Office for National Statistics, August 2019)
- 18.13 % of Greater London is designated Public Open Space; with 3.5% Local Parks and Open Spaces & 5.2% Metropolitan Parks (Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, 2023).

- 2.3 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality 'public realm' facilities such as parks can assist in making an area as an attractive place to live and work and can result in a number of benefits in terms of economic development and regeneration. A local park can also play a part in promoting healthy living as a place for people to exercise.

- 2.4 The benefits of safe and accessible parks and open spaces can be summarised as follows:

Social

- providing safe outdoor areas for all members of the local population
- providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising
- providing easily accessible recreation as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits
- providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a range of outdoor sports and activities
- providing an educational resource or outdoor classroom

Economic

- adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues for public services
- contributing to attracting visitors, including using parks as venues for events
- encouraging tourism into the area
- helping to create an attractive local image
- helping to reduce social exclusion and its associated costs to society

Environmental

- providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity
- helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity
- absorbing pollutants in the air and ground water
- providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials
- providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities, and by providing walking and cycling routes through urban areas

3. Relationship to Council Aims and Objectives

The Council recognises that its parks and open spaces and management of these contribute to the:

- overall vision and priorities of the Council
- quality of life of local people
- physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- greening, attractiveness and increasing biodiversity and quality of green space in the area
- tackling the climate emergency; improving air quality and minimising green house gas emissions
- minimising flood risk and sustainable drainage

Accordingly, this Management Plan and the Parks and Open Spaces Service are guided by and are in agreement with the aims, objectives and principles of the Councils' plans and strategies. These can be found on the webpages below:

[Council policies and plans - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

[Draft Local Plan: Submission - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

[Parks and open spaces policies and plans - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

[Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment 2023 & Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy 2023](#)

3.1 **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**

Our borough has the largest area of public open space per head of population of any London borough. We have a local and national reputation for quality and leadership in the delivery of excellent parks. To ensure the quality of our parks and open spaces remains at a high level, following public consultation, we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed:

The strategic principles are as follows:

1. Parks and Open Spaces will be a sustainable legacy for future generations.
2. Parks and Open Spaces will continue to define our borough.
3. Parks and Open Spaces will enrich the life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
4. The Council will lead in the delivery of excellent Parks and Open Spaces services.
5. Parks and Open Spaces will offer positive experiences to all visitors.
6. Through innovation, the future development of Parks and Open Spaces services will be ensured.
7. Increased community participation in Parks and Open Spaces will be encouraged and supported.
8. Parks and Open Spaces will be celebrated as centres of excellence.

The current strategic principles are being reviewed and will be consulted on and updated in spring 2024.

3.2 **Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Richmond**

The main aims of the plan are:

- To conserve and enhance the variety of habitats and species in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, in particular those which are of international or national importance, are in decline locally, are characteristic

to the borough and/or have particular public appeal, which can raise the profile of biodiversity.

- To ensure that Richmond upon Thames' residents become aware of, and are given the opportunity to become involved in, conserving and enhancing the biodiversity around them.
- To raise awareness and increase stakeholder involvement in maintaining and, where possible, enhancing species and habitats of importance.

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be found online here: [Richmond upon Thames \(habitatsandheritage.org.uk\)](http://Richmond upon Thames (habitatsandheritage.org.uk))

3.3 Parks Improvements

The Council have a commitment to continued improvement in our Parks and Open Spaces by improving existing infrastructure and developing and installing new facilities. The Council continues to have a cyclical investment programme to ensure that parks and playgrounds are up to standards, this includes £300k a year for park improvements and £150k for play. One aim of the management plan is to maintain the gains that we have achieved in previous years.

The Council list all major improvement projects on our webpage, which can be found here:

[Latest parks updates - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

4 Site Description

4.1 Outline History of East Sheen Common

East Sheen Common has long been important to local people, records dating back to the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) show that it was used as common land for grazing animals and wood found there was used for fuel and tools. It lies within the former Manor of Mortlake, which includes the area now known as Mortlake and East Sheen, Barnes, Putney and Wimbledon. Latterly it has been referred to as the Manor of Wimbledon, after the manorial residence was transferred in 1547 from Mortlake to Wimbledon. The Manor of Mortlake was given by King Edward the Confessor to the See of Canterbury. At the reformation it was returned to King Henry VIII in exchange for other estates. It was then held by various people until its purchase by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. In 1744 she gave it to the Earl Spencers.

In the Middle Ages the Common would have been managed as part of the Manor of Mortlake as a local resource under a strictly controlled Commons system. The Common would have provided timber, fuel and an area of grazing for livestock. At this time, it is likely that the Common would have consisted of open heathland with a scattering of oaks managed for timber, fuel, or fodder. Records show that one of the main crops at the time was Gorse, cut for fire. During the eighteenth-century a considerable amount of gravel extraction occurred across the Common to satisfy the need for building materials for the construction of houses in the Sheen and Mortlake area.

In 1880 the common was sold to a number of Gentlemen Residents for £2500. As part of this arrangement a further £1000 was paid to the Inns of Court Volunteers to compensate them for the loss of the rifle range (then on the common). These Gentlemen formed themselves into the East Sheen Common Preservation Society Ltd (ESCPS) with the intention of creating a ladies Golf Course on the Common.

Over a period of years, public disquiet arose over the management of the Common by ESCPS. As a result the local Authority proposed a scheme certified by the Board of Agriculture and confirmed by Parliament in the Metropolitan Commons (East Sheen) act 1898. Thus the local Authority became responsible for management and regulation of the Common (though not the owner). In 1908 the ESCPS gave the Common to the National Trust.

4.2 **General Information**

4.2.1 **Land Tenure**

The site is owned by The National Trust and is managed by the Parks and Open Spaces Service of the London Borough of Richmond.

The enabling acts which confer the specified powers to the Council to administer and maintain the land are listed below:

- Open Spaces Act 1906;
- Local Government Act 1972; and
- Local Government, Planning & Land Act 1980.

4.2.2 **Location**

East Sheen Common is situated on the northern boundary of Richmond Park in the southwest area of the East Sheen ward. The Common's northern and eastern boundaries are shared with private housing. The East Sheen Common Cemetery runs along the western perimeter.

In terms of 'green space' the provision of Richmond Park and East Sheen Common means that the local area is well provided for. The Common is regarded as a local facility for those people living in the vicinity.

4.2.3 **Access**

As a free and open facility East Sheen Common has the potential to provide inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by train, bus, car and foot can currently access the site.

4.2.4 **Local Transport**

Train: Mortlake rail station is a 17 minute (0.8 mile) walk from the Fife Road entrance.

The station is on the main line from London Waterloo to Richmond in Travel card Zone 3. The station is typically served by six South Western Railway services each hour.

North Sheen rail station is a 22 minute (1.1 mile) walk from the West Temple Sheen entrance. The station is on the main line from London Waterloo to Richmond in Travel card Zone 3. The station is typically served by five South Western Railway services each hour.

Bus: There is a bus stop on the Upper Richmond Road (Bus Stop V) which is a 10 minute (0.5 mile) walk from the Fife Road entrance. The 33, 337, 493, 969 (and N33) serve this bus stop.

There is another bus stop on Upper Richmond Road (Bus Stop U) which is a 9 minute (0.4 mile) walk from the West Temple Sheen entrance. Alternatively the bus stop on Rocks Lane, by Barnes Station is served by the 33, 337, 493, 969 (N33) bus routes.

London Underground: The nearest London underground services is Richmond Station. It is served by the overground and the district line.

4.2.5 **Landscape & Topography**

The site slopes gently down from south to north, with the highest point adjacent to Richmond Park being at about 30m AOD and the lowest point at the northern end at about 15m AOD. It extends to approximately 21 hectares in total.

The south-eastern area (approximately 2.5 hectares) contains amenity grassland laid out with a football pitch in winter and with a cricket field in the summer, together with tennis and bowls facilities. The remainder of the site consists of mature woodlands with a seasonal pond near the eastern boundary. Near the center 19th century gravel recovery has left humps and hollows, some of which form damp patches.

A number of ditches run down the Common, mainly carrying run-off from Richmond Park, some of which feed the pond and ultimately run into a surface water sewer in Sheen Road to the north.

4.2.6 **Listed Historic Buildings**

There are no listed buildings within the Common.

4.2.7 **Ecology**

East Sheen Common is a good example of relatively young, developing woodland. Except for the amenity section, the Common is almost completely wooded. The dominant tree is oak (*Quercus robur*) with scattered ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), birch (*Betula pendula* & *B. pubescens*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and a few Spanish chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). There is an understory tree and shrub layer of hazel (*Corylus avellana*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), laburnum (*Laburnum anagyroides*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). There is also dense-growing evergreen holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and young seedlings of Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and beech.

A number of dying birch trees, which are short-lived species, provide valuable habitat for woodpeckers and fungus. The standing deadwood on this site also provides ideal habitats for bats. The wooded and boundary areas are home to many common bird species including tawny owls, blackcaps, blackbirds, wrens, robins and song

thrushes, which nest on this site. Also seen are goldcrests, firecrests and mistle thrushes, the latter being a red-list species. Ring-necked parakeets, an invasive species native to southern Asia, are also found on the Common.

The ground layer is sparse and often dominated by ivy or it may be absent owing to the dense shade or intense human activity. There is bramble, dandelion, lesser celandine, a few grasses and cow parsley. The majority of the ground herb layer consists broadly of three main types – bare leaf litter; thick cover of mixed ivy, bracken and bramble; and this same mix under a thicket of saplings.

The key habitats of this site are the broadleaf woodland, wet woodland, ditches, seasonal pond and scrub. The key species are bats, song thrush, stag beetle, woodpecker and fungi.

4.2.8 **Facilities**

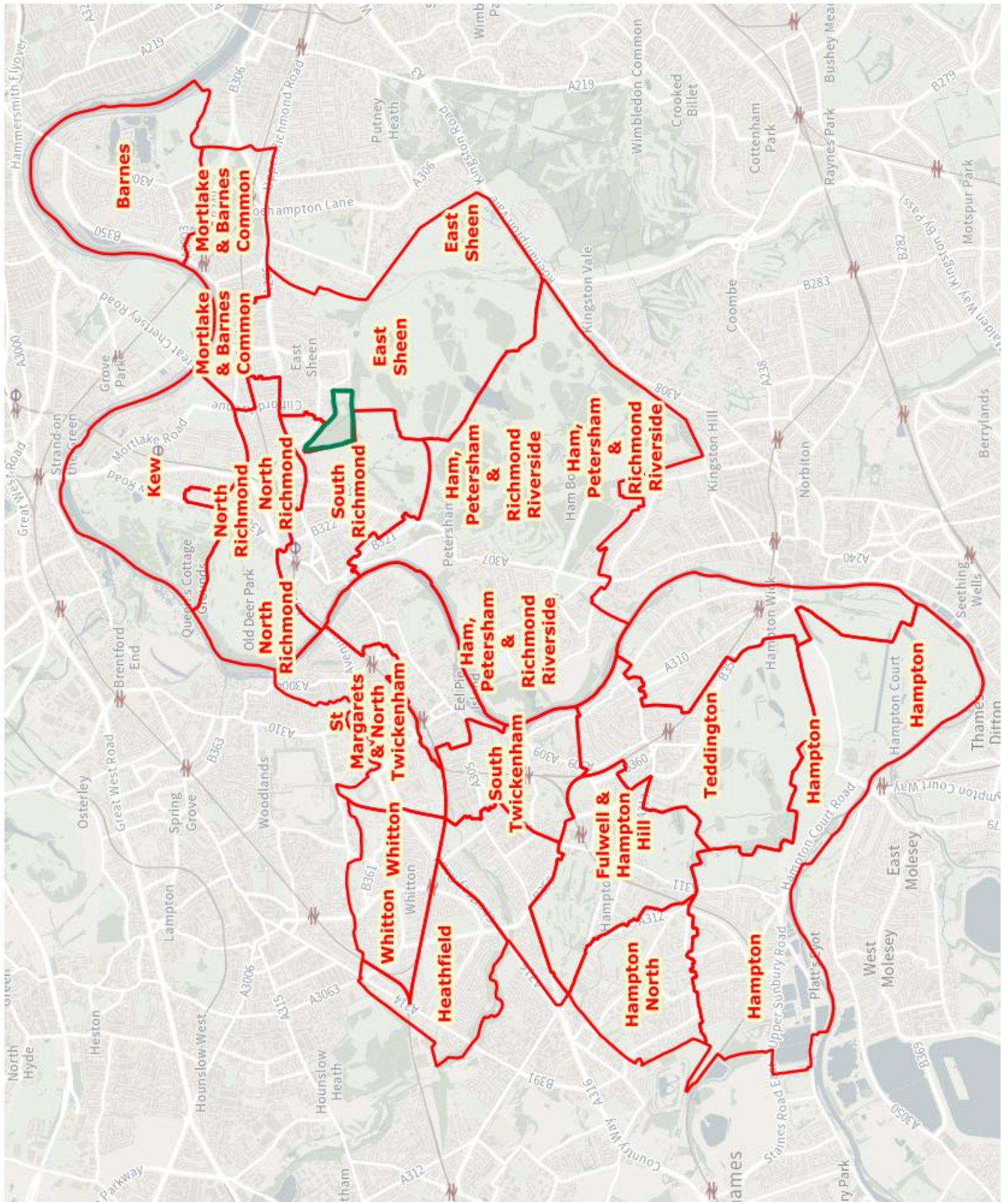
East Sheen Common contain the following facilities:

- A children's play area
- Football pitch
- Bowling green
- Tennis courts
- Cricket square
- Pavilion with children's' nursery, with space for tennis, cricket and bowls

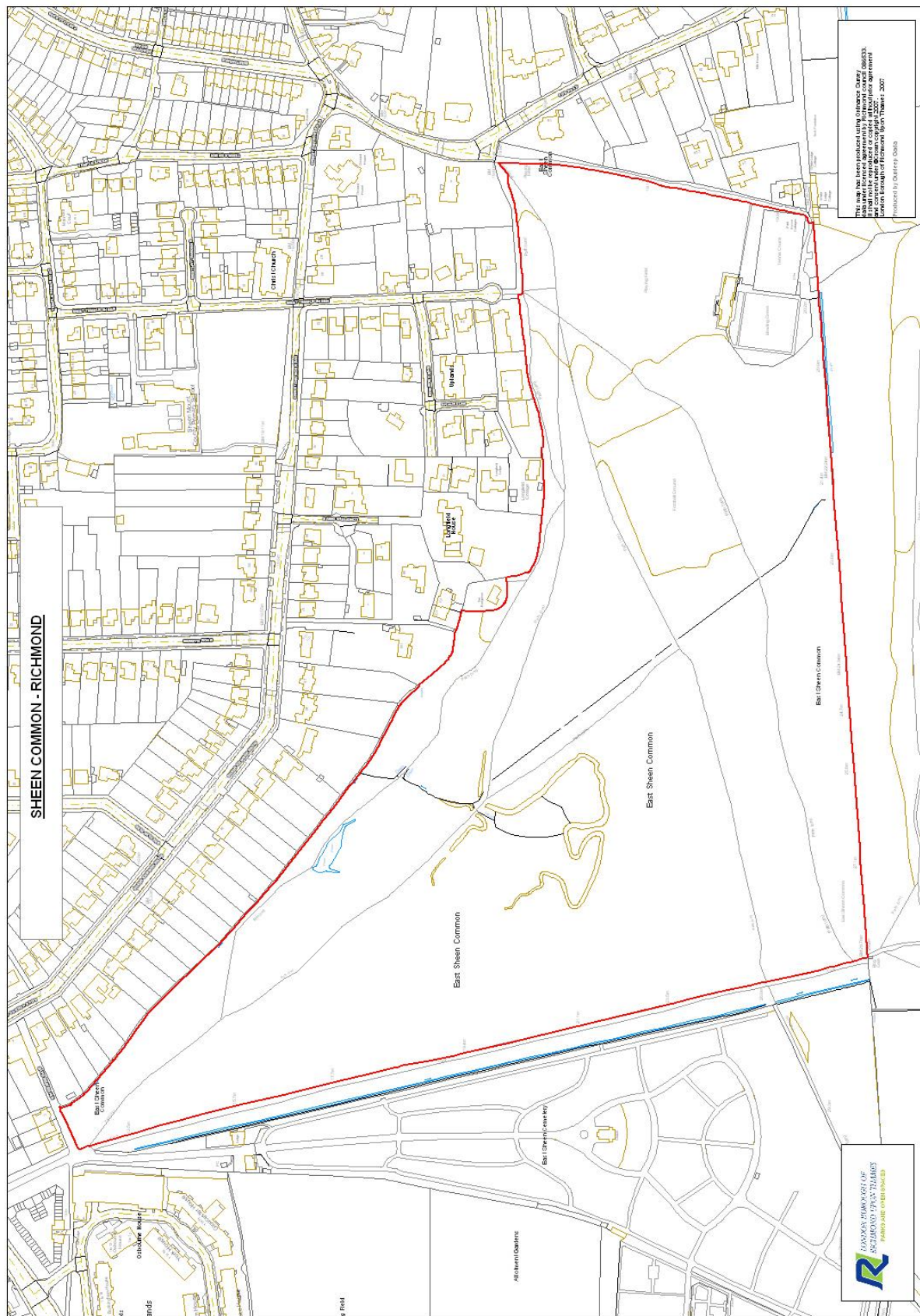
4.2.9 **Maps and Plans**

On the following pages, please find:

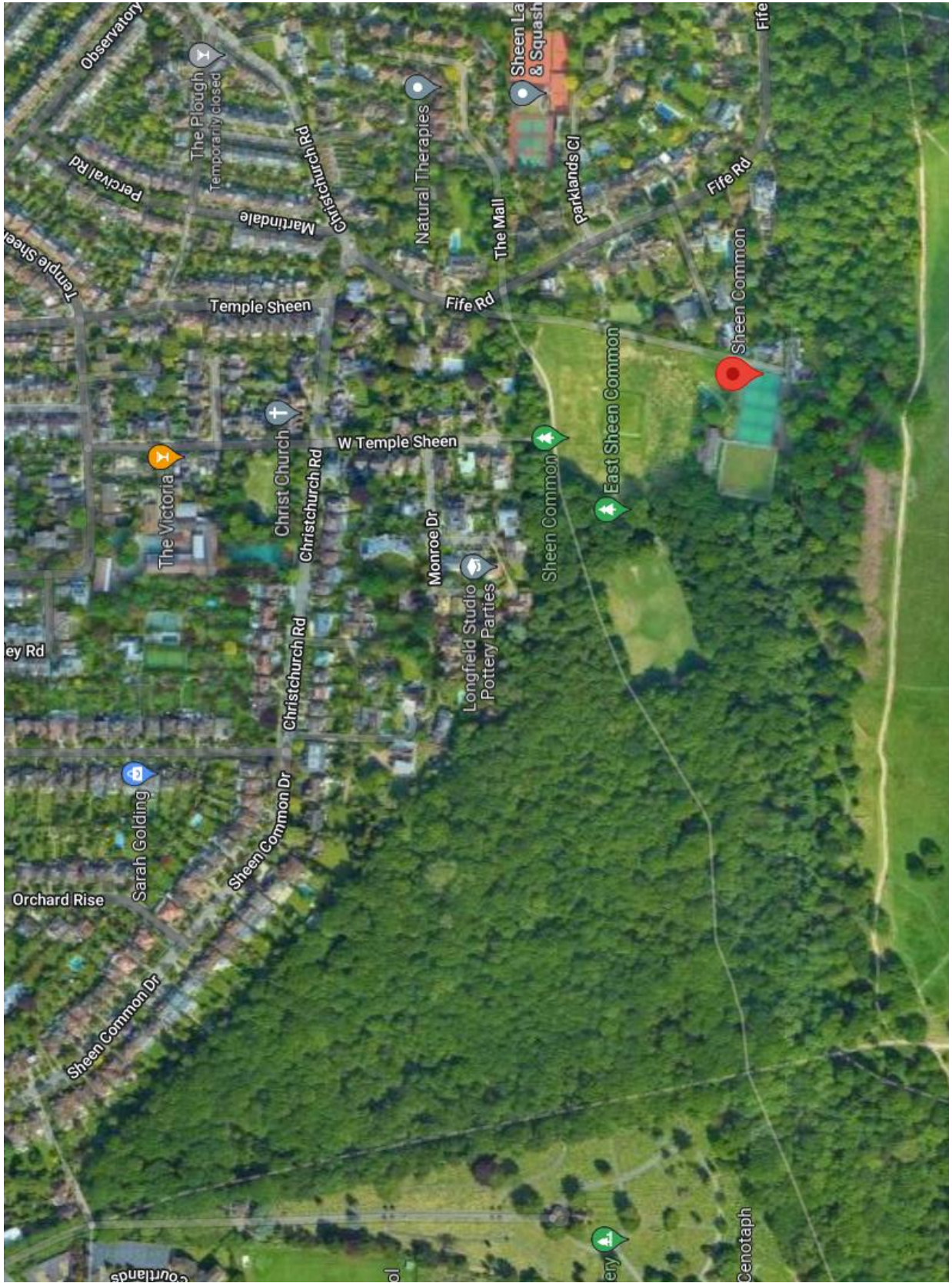
- Location map of East Sheen Common within the borough
- Plan map of East Sheen Common
- Aerial photo of East Sheen Common



Map 1 East Sheen Common annotated in Green



Map 2 Boundary Map



Map 3 Aerial Map

5. Audit of facilities

5.1 The main reasons for undertaking a Local Assessment are:

- to plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to ensure, as much as possible, that there are appropriate types of parks and open spaces required;
- to work towards ensuring an adequate provision of high quality, accessible green space to meet the needs of the community;
- to identify the gap between current and desired levels of need and demand, quality and quantity of provision;
- to assist in achieving standards such as the Green Flag Award

5.2. Desirable Outcomes of the Local Assessment

A local assessment of green space will enable planning to be effective and achieve key outcomes required by National Planning Policy Framework

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the identified needs of residents and visitors;
- provision of a park that is 'fit for purpose' – the right type in the right place;
- to provide an appropriate balance between new provision and enhancement of existing provision;
- setting locally derived provision standards.

5.2.1 It is intended that this management plan helps to achieve these outcomes in terms of providing an analysis of existing provision and a plan to effectively maintain and, where appropriate, develop the facilities and infrastructure of the Common.

5.2.2 In addition, it produces a series of actions which will help to achieve the standards laid down for Green Flag Award parks:

- A welcoming place;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Clean and well-maintained;
- Environmental Management;
- Landscape and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing and communication
- Overall Management.

5.3 Methodology

The methodology used was prescribed in the Government's Planning Policy Guideline note 17 (PPG17) for the provision of public open space. This consisted of a review of the following key areas of provision:

- Main entrance;
- Boundaries;
- Roads, paths, cycleways and access;
- Parking;
- Information available;
- Planted areas;
- Grass areas;
- Cleanliness;
- Provision of litter bins;
- Seating;
- Children's play space;
- Sports and recreation;
- Buildings including toilets;
- Health and safety;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Access for people with disabilities.

5.3.1 Main Entrance

The main entrance for vehicles and pedestrians is located on Fife Road, with another maintenance vehicle and pedestrian entrance on Kings Ride Gate. There is a pedestrian entrance from West Temple Sheen and from Richmond Park through Bog gate. There is no public parking on the site.



Figure 1 Entrance from Fife Road



Figure 2 Entrance on Kings Ride Gate

5.3.2 Boundaries

The southern boundary of the Common borders on Richmond Park. The northern and eastern boundaries are marked by the fences and walls of private residences. The western boundary of the Common is marked by fencing around East Sheen Common Cemetery.

5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

East Sheen Common is directly adjacent to Richmond Park. There is pedestrian access to Richmond Park via Bog Gate. The main entrance for vehicles and pedestrians is located on Fife Road. The road directly in front of the Fife Road entrance is private access road for the Parkholme and White Lodge Cottages. There are two other entrances; one from Kings Ride Gate (both pedestrians and vehicles) and the other from West Temple Sheen (pedestrian only).

The main footpath runs up the western side of the site, adjacent to the Cemetery, between Kings Ride Gate and Bog Gate. A second substantial path runs south-east from Kings Ride Gate towards the sports pitches and Fife Road with numerous secondary paths crossing the site.

The uses of this site consist of bird watching, photography, school sessions, walking, running, football, cricket, tennis, bowling and dog walking.

There is directional signage to the play area and the bungalow, so visitors are able to find their way.



Figure 3 Directional signage to the play area and bungalow

5.3.4 Parking

There is a car park on site which provides disabled parking bays for bowls club members and residential parking for houses on sites. It also provides a turning circle for deliveries and domestic waste collections. Users visiting the clubs are able to be dropped off but there is no public parking in this car park. However, there is free parking on Fife Road and (limited) parking at Kings Ride Gate with further parking on Christchurch Road near the West Temple Sheen pedestrian access.



Figure 4 Turning Circle and Parking Area

5.3.5 Information

Information relating to East Sheen Common is available on the parks section of the Richmond Council website:

https://richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/find_a_park/sheen_common

The parks signage is attractive and durable giving appropriate contact details. It uses easily understandable symbols to deter users from inappropriate and anti-social behaviour.



Figure 5 Noticeboard by the entrance on Fife Road which displays relevant contact details

5.3.6 **Cleanliness**

The Common is kept free of litter and graffiti by the Councils Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Contractor, Continental Landscapes. Bins are emptied daily, and the site is litter picked at the same time.

The site is popular for dog walkers. Most dog walkers are local residents and do clean up afterwards. Residents and users can report dog fouling to the Council for it to be removed.

5.3.7 **Planted Areas**

There are limited formally planted areas on the Common. The main planted areas surround the bowling green.

In 2024-25 the Parks Team will look for more opportunities on site for formal planting that can add interest.

5.3.8 **Scenic Quality**

East Sheen Common has great scenic value being adjacent to Richmond Park. This is enhanced by the extensive woodland. The cricket field and bowling green provide a village feel to the Common, as well as the surrounding housing. The play area is a great addition to the scenic value of the Common, it provides a small oasis in the woodland for children to play surrounded by their natural environment.

Visitors are able to walk through the woodland and be submerged in nature, there are various different habitats that can be seen including ponds.

5.3.9 **Grass Areas**

The grass area consists of amenity grass land, including football pitches, cricket pitches and a bowling green. The grass areas are in fairly good condition considering the activity on site. Reinstatement works are ongoing; these include verti-draining, spiking, harrowing and overseeding. Areas of longer grass have been designated on site, which have a cut and collect maintenance regime to provide a graded vegetation with the planted hedges along north and east boundaries with the houses.



Figure 6 Cricket Field

5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins

Provision of litter bins is adequate, particularly in the main area of the Common. Dog waste can now be disposed of in normal litter bins and these bins are emptied daily by the Council's grounds maintenance contractor. The bins are labelled with QR codes to report when they are full and have lids to stop wildlife from accessing them.

5.3.11 Seating

There is plenty of seating available in the Common. There are several benches around the cricket pitch and football pitch, with further benches in the woodland and play area.

Members of the public are able to donate memorial benches to the Common in dedication to their loved ones. There is a bench in the play area dedicated to George Weedon who was an East Sheen resident and gymnastic champion. George was a three-time champion of British Floor Gymnastics, who became a gymnastics coach and PE teacher and was a respected member of the local community. For more information on George Weedon, please see the Friends of East Sheen Common's webpage here:

[George Weedon — Friends of Sheen Common](#)

5.3.12 Children's Play Space

The play area and nature trail are exciting additions to the Common. It is in excellent condition having been constructed in 2021. The play area consists of two slides, a basket swing and a swing set, climbing nets and a play tower, among other equipment. It has appropriate signage. It is a natural play area made primarily from wood, designed to be in keeping with the surroundings. Surfaces are even and safe, consisting of copious woodchip.

The play area was designed with the community in mind, the project was delivered with the Friends of Sheen Common who applied for the additional funding to make it possible.



Figure 7 Woodland Play Area

5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets

There is a pavilion between the cricket pitch and the tennis courts which also serves the adjacent bowling green. The pavilion also contains a children's nursery (which doubles at the weekend as the cricket pavilion). The pavilion contains a number of toilets but none are currently accessible to the general public on a daily basis. When the cricket club is present, their participants/visitors are able to use the toilets. The Tennis coaches also have access to the toilets.

The Pavilion was refurbished in 2022, the exterior was repainted and interior building works were completed including refurbishment of the toilets.

The Parks Team are looking into making toilets available for the general public on a daily basis. We hope to have this introduced in 2024.

We have previously investigated mobile catering for the site, unfortunately there was no appetite from suppliers to have a facility here.

5.3.14 Health and Safety

The paths and the playground are in good condition and present no obvious dangers to members of the public.

5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value

There is great ecological value in East Sheen Common, and it is designated a Common, a Local Nature Reserve and a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. The main habitat is mature broad-leaved woodland which is noted as a Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat. There is an under-storey of bramble, holly and self-sown saplings. The site provides ample habitat to support the red listed Song Thrush and the Richmond Biodiversity Action species the Stag Beetle. The pond links to the ditches from Richmond Park and has good populations of frogs and toads spawning each year and has benefited from being deepened and lined in the centre providing all year round standing water. This means that the site provides a mosaic of habitats ideal for a thriving ecosystem.

The woodland is now being managed by Barnes Common Limited to aid with nature conservation and preservation of the woodland. Their contract to manage the site was awarded for 1 year beginning on the 1st of April 2023 with the option to renew for 2 years. The contract is being renewed for a further 2 years as of 1st April 2024. The site is being managed in accordance with the management plan, please find this in appendix 1.

5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

Access along the main path is good from Kings Ride Gate to Bog Gate (and onto Richmond Park). There is also good access from Fife Road and across the amenity areas with access from there via a new hoggin path to the playground.

Other paths through the woodland are accessible during dry conditions.

6. Vision and Objectives for the Common

6.1 Vision for the Common

In line with the wishes of the local community and as a result of the development of this Management Plan, the future vision for the East Sheen Common is to:

- Continue to appropriately maintain and develop this well used site with its wide range of amenities for all ages and interest groups, whilst maintaining the structural and biological diversity of the broad-leaf woodland habitat.

- Maintain use of the Common so as to improve community safety and reduce vandalism
- Continue to invest in the facilities and infrastructure of the park by means of this Management Plan

6.2 **Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Common**

- To identify and cherish the special character of East Sheen Common;
- To ensure that the management of the Common protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site, including both flora and fauna:
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of East Sheen Common as plants grow and mature;
- To ensure that all landscape improvement works are supported by a commitment to maintenance of the same;
- To ensure that the Common is promoted and managed in order to provide a high-quality service for the people using it;
- To meet the demands and expectations of the local community primarily as a recreational, diverse and enjoyable place;
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management and development of East Sheen Common. To this end, to consult and work closely with the Friends of Sheen Common.

7. **Management of the Common**

7.1 **Introduction**

This section sets out guidelines and general principles to be followed in delivering the vision and objectives outlined above.

7.1.1 **The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Service**

The Parks Service is overseen by the Head of Culture, assisted by the Parks Service Manager. It is made up of two teams, the Parks Service also use consultants when needed.

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a Parks Operations Manager, two Parks Officers, an Ecology Policy and Planning Manager, an Ecology Policy and Planning Officer, Allotment Officer and a Parks Support Officer.
- The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council-managed parks and open spaces, as well as assisting with planning issues. The team consists of a manager, seven tree officers and a technical support officer.

We value diversity and are committed to delivering a service that puts equality of opportunity as a priority.

Management of the park needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of the park within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by major borough-wide capital investment Parks Improvement Programmes between 2005 and 2010 and 2012 and 2017.

7.1.2 Delivery partners

The Council works and consults with the Friends of Sheen Common. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users’ and residents’ views, the facilities offered, and any impact that is made on their lives. Continued working with the Youth Partnership has a very high priority in relation to the continued management of the park. The Council also works with a number of external companies who offer fitness classes in Sheen and other parks. For more information, please visit: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/fitness_activities_in_parks/fitness_training_in_parks

For parks maintenance, a new approach was introduced from April 2013, with services split into eleven separate lots and being delivered through a framework contract. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractors’ operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent standards. As a framework, the contracts will also be available for other authorities and organisations in London and the south-east of England.

Parks Framework contract: February 2018 – February 2021 (renewed March 2021 – 2025)

Following an open and thorough procurement process that began in spring 2017, contractors were appointed to seven service areas to start 36 month contracts in February 2018 (now renewed to 2025). Evaluation was on an 80% cost and 20% quality basis.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Amenity Landscape Management | 5 Parks Patrol |
| 2 Arboriculture Management | 6 Events Management |
| 3 Oak Processionary Moth Management | 7 External Planting |
| 4 Play Inspection & Maintenance | |

Procurement was written in an output style with built-in quality measures and performance indicators and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to East Sheen Common

Continental Landscapes are the main grounds contractor, undertaking amenity management (grass cutting, shrubs, hedges, sports bookings and pitch maintenance), small works (hard landscaping, infrastructure and furniture installation, etc.) gate locking operations, plus undertaking play inspection and maintenance. They also undertake parks cleansing alongside existing street cleansing and graffiti removal to create a joined-up operation.

KPS are the arboriculture contractor, working closely with the Council's tree team who undertake inspections and specify works, with Bartlett Tree Experts undertaking Oak Processionary Moth management.

Events in parks are managed by The Event Umbrella, a company who specialise in managing outdoor events in the public sector.

Park patrols are undertaken by Parkguard, a company specialising in education, support services and enforcement in parks and open spaces.

Our contractors take appropriate actions to ensure their health and safety of their staff and a safe working environment through proper training, risk assessments and inspections. These may vary depending on the contractor, further details of these can be made available upon request.

Barnes Common Limited are now contracted to manage the woodland for nature conservation. Their contract began on 1st April 2023 and is being renewed for a further two years as of 1st April 2024.

7.2 **A Welcoming Place**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that East Sheen Common continue to be a welcoming area.

7.2.1 **Graffiti removal**

As a part of our aim to make the Borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The full details of the borough's commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed at: www.richmond.gov.uk

There is an agreement with the Council's street cleansing contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is offensive it will be removed within one working day of notification.

7.2.2 **Signage**

Signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly.

7.2.3 **Pathways**

All paths will be inspected annually with contract monitoring throughout the year. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible. Pathways through the woodland area can become overgrown during the summer months. Arrangements are made for these to be cut regularly throughout this time.

7.3 **Healthy, Safe and Secure**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that East Sheen Common continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

7.3.1 **Community Safety**

All contractors working on the Common undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing.

In addition, the local Police Safer Neighbourhood team regularly patrols the Common on foot.

7.3.2 **Dog fouling**

The Council and their contractors make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible for their dog's waste as the dangers of humans coming into contact with dog faeces are well known.

Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

All general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog waste.

The Council has adopted Public Space Protection Orders relating to Dog Control. These have been renewed in 2023 for a further 3 years. They can be found online here: [Dog Control PSPO \(richmond.gov.uk\)](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/dog-control-pspo)

7.4 **Clean and well maintained**

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the Common is clean and well maintained.

7.4.1 **Grass Maintenance**

Grass surfaces within the Common are mainly classed as amenity grass.

Amenity turf is those areas used for general recreation and formal and informal sports and can include wide-open spaces or those areas planted with trees and shrubs. The height of this grass is kept between 25 to 70 mm throughout the year. The level of maintenance will depend on the level of use, with increased repairs, fertilising, and scarifying of those areas subject to heavy wear. Most repair works to turf are carried out in the autumn or spring, with areas either re-turfed or seeded.

Grass edges, whether they are against paths, fences or walls will be cut at the same time as the rest of the grass using strimmers in most areas.

7.4.2 **Trees**

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturists, this is in order to identify and remedy any unacceptable risks to people using the sites, an example of this is the prophylactic treatment of oak processionary moth or the removal of trees that are extensively decayed compromising their structural integrity.

Tree pruning is only carried out where necessary for risk management purposes or where formative pruning is necessary; this approach allows Richmond's parks to retain a natural landscape with well-formed specimens. Where there is a particular characteristic by way of species composition, size or natural distribution the

Council seeks to maintain this through selecting appropriate replacement and new trees. All tree works are in accordance with our Tree Management Policy.

At East Sheen Common the management and maintenance of trees is carried out on trees along the pathways. The Ecology Policy and Planning Team have created a woodland management plan where tree works are carried out in the woodland by Barnes Common Limited in the interest of nature conservation. This includes restoring grassland or understory thinning.

Richmond Council encourages the Friends of Sheen Common to consider the tree population within parks and to communicate with the parks and open spaces team in order to make improvements and ensure that there is continuity in the way that the trees are managed.

The woodland is largely comprised of oak which can be subject to oak processionary moth. The Council manages this through an annual programme of prophylactic treatment by a specialist contractor.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Common and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis by the park cleansing contractors.

When the Green has high numbers of visitors and large amounts of litter is expected the parks cleansing contractors will carry out additional visits to empty the bins. The full litter bags will be collected and removed from the site on the same day. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

7.4.4 Park Furniture and Fittings

The grounds maintenance contractors ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. They will be cleaned when required. Repairs will be requested by contractors on a Defect Report and carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture, so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

Playgrounds are visually inspected weekly by the grounds maintenance contractor and any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly. In addition, playgrounds are operationally inspected quarterly and there is an annual inspection to ensure that the playground meets RoSPA standards.

7.4.5 Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean, with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the Grounds Maintenance Team.

Paths will be kept in a good state of repair all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out as promptly as possible.

Drains and gully's will be inspected regularly by our Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Continental Landscapes.

7.5 **Sports Facility Maintenance**

All sports surfaces are maintained in accordance with the needs of each sport.

Football Pitch

- The public are able to book the football pitches from September to April.
- During the playing season, they are over-marked weekly and spiked and chain harrowed when needed.
- At the end of the playing season the posts are removed, and sockets covered and goal mouths are inspected to identify necessary maintenance.
- The pitches are over seeded with a rye grass mixture.

Cricket Table

- Our grounds maintenance contractor Continental Landscapes maintains the table.
- The table is cut weekly.
- Wickets are prepared as and when booked.
- It is fertilised in April, July and September.
- At the end of the season the table is scarified in 4 directions, spiked and top dressed with loam soil.

Tennis Courts

- The courts are jet washed annually to remove moss and debris from the playing surface.
- Nets are replaced when required.
- The tennis courts are being refurbished in January to February 2024. This includes resurfacing, lining and fencing.

Bowling Green

- Swish/drag brush green daily to remove dew
- Mow green 8-10mm weekly, lower height of cut by 2mm increments at weekly intervals until down to 5mm
- Apply moss killer if required (Allow 7 days after treatment before scarifying)
- Scarify green in two directions, overseed and lightly top dress where needed
- Apply Spring/Summer fertilizer
- Roll green with 150 - 250kg roller when required
- Clean ditch of debris as required
- Trim edging of green when required

7.6 **Environmental Sustainability**

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the Common is managed in a sustainable way.

7.6.1 **Recycling**

At present we do not have recycling facilities available on the Common. However, residents can recycle at some of our other parks and open spaces as well as the cafes situated within them.

7.6.2 **Recycling green waste**

The Council's ground maintenance contractor takes all green waste to Townsmead recycling centre and KPS the Council's tree management contractor recycles woodchip where appropriate.

7.6.2 **Pesticides**

The use of pesticides on the Common will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An exception to this is the annual spraying of the [oak processionary moth](#).

The Council have an integrated Pest Management Policy which can be found online at:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/25346/integrated_pest_management_policy.pdf

7.7.1 **Biodiversity**

Current Management

The management of the woodland area is as per the contract management plan and works are being undertaken by Barnes Common Limited. The management plan has the following key objectives:

- To increase structural diversity of the woodland and tree species composition
- Maintenance and provision of glades and rides
- To provide a range of wetland habitats including open water, ephemeral ponds, marsh, and wet woodland
- To improve the biodiversity value of ditch network
- To maintain and enhance the pathways through the site
- To remove or control invasive species
- Ensure appropriate management of all identified veteran and notable trees
- Maintain and increase the levels and diversity of decaying woody habitat
- Increase the provision of suitable features for wildlife
- Set up extensive wildlife monitoring throughout the woodland
- Maintain the woodland management plan and associated mapping as a dynamic document
- Control of anti-social behaviour within woodlands

Future Management/Proposals:

There is further potential for ecological enhancement for this site ranging from simple management changes to establishing rotational coppicing programmes creating new glades and wetland improvements. Various species surveys have been undertaken to help inform future enhancement projects.

Future projects could include creating new glades to encourage more open sunny areas which would support invertebrates which then pass the benefits up to the top predators such as kestrels, sparrowhawks and owls.

There is a proposal to replace some the dead-hedge around the pond with a living hedge to provide further protection for the amphibians in the pond and additional habitat for other wildlife. We will look to do this in April 2024.

Both bird and bat boxes will be erected on the trees before bird nesting season in 2024 around the site to provide additional roosting as many of the trees are not mature enough to provide natural cavities where birds or bats could roost.

The areas of scrub will also be maintained on a rotational basis so that there is enough habitat/cover for birds to nest and feed during the winter months.

7.8 **Community Involvement**

This is crucial to the management of the Common. Engagement with the local community is carried out by working with the Friends of Sheen Common.

The Friends of Sheen Common were formally established in 2008 and have already done much to promote the park particularly by organising several community events. They have created a dedicated website: <https://www.friendsosheencommon.co.uk/>

The Friends are active on social media (Twitter and Facebook) and have a mailing list for their occasional newsletter. They are able to update the local and wider community regarding any news about East Sheen Common.

The Council continues to work with the Friends. In recent times they have been instrumental in promoting the installation of the new playground which was completed in 2021. They have also been involved in discussions over the future of the pavilion and, in particular, ways in which the pavilion can be of more benefit to the wider public.

In addition, the Friends act to monitor activities on the Common, reporting back to the London Borough of Richmond where appropriate, and carry out volunteer groups to keep the paths clear and the ditches free-running.

7.8.1 **Parks Events**

The Council encourages the hire of parks to appropriate organisations. The Friends of Sheen Common and ward councillors are consulted before permission is granted for any new event. An evaluation process is held after each event.

Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found at: www.richmond.gov.uk

7.9 **Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of East Sheen Common is carried out using a range of measures, including the Council's website and publicity literature, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility. We are able to use the noticeboard to display any relevant information, the Friends, Cricket Club, Tennis Coaches and Bowling Club are able to display posters as well.

The Friends of East Sheen Common, also provide updates on their website, social media and newsletter which reaches the local community.

Other than online marketing, there is word of mouth in the community that works to share news and updates with locals or visitors.

Entrance Signage

A corporate style of signage for Richmond's parks and open spaces was launched in 2007. It was designed to be attractive and informative. Directional signage is on site leading to the play area and on site residential bungalow for ease of delivery/emergency services.

Internet

Information about East Sheen Common is available on the council's website: https://richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/find_a_park/sheen_common

Information on the Friends of Sheen Common can be found on the following link: <https://www.friendsofsheencommon.co.uk/>

The Friends group can found on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sheenfriends> or Facebook: [Friends of Sheen Common - Home | Facebook](#)

General Promotion

In order to create community awareness for all of its facilities, the Parks Service regularly produces articles and press releases about activities and facility development.

8. Achievements and Action Plan

8.1 Achievements

Changes and improvements made at East Sheen Common during 2021-23 were:

- Installation of new natural woodland play area
- Annual renovations of sports pitches to ensure site is usable for all users
- Areas of grass/bare ground fenced off for protection and to aid recovery after increased footfall during the pandemic
- Further removal of invasive species such as cherry laurel, sycamore and the planting of new understory species
- Ditch/drain clearance where required to avoid flooding of paths
- Refurbishment on the pavilion
- New self closing gates installed on the play area

8.2 Action Plan

The action plan for 2024 to 2025 is per below

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2024	2025		
Enforce dog control PSPOs through our enforcement contractor Parkguard Ltd	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team & Parkguard Ltd
Review the condition of the sports pitches with a view to carry out reinstatement works accordingly	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team & Continental Landscapes
Work with the Friends Group to identify improvements to the site	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team and Friends of Sheen Common
Woodland Management to be reviewed and renewed for further 2 years	Y		complete	Ecology Policy and Planning Team & Barnes Common Limited
Resurfacing and refurbishment of the Tennis Courts	Y		Complete in February 2024	Parks Team, Sports Development Team and Contractors.

8.2.1 Development and renewal

As indicated previously, while the section is open to changing demands from the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks, major changes to or developments of the parks' facilities are not envisaged. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance and to plan for effective repair and renewal of the major elements of a park's hard landscaping or infrastructure e.g. path system.

Following on from the previous Green Flag Judging where we were not awarded a Green Flag, the parks team has worked to update the management plan from the recommendations and make changes on site as per the Field Assessment. Details of the actions from the Field Assessment can be seen in Appendix 2.

8.2.2 Community Engagement

The Parks team will continue to work with the Friends of Sheen Common. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

8.3 Operational Commitments

This is presented in tabular form and includes the most important elements of the day to day maintenance of a park, grass cutting, trees and shrubs, litter collection and maintenance of parks furniture. Monitoring and inspection duties are included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are also included in this section.

Element	Action	Frequency
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 20mm & 50mm in amenity area	10-day cycle
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replanting	Annual As necessary
Shrub Maintenance	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required When necessary As required, dependent on species
Litter collection	Collection and emptying	Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	When necessary When necessary
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Every three months
Playground inspection	Visual inspection Operational inspection RoSPA standard	Weekly Quarterly Annual
Infrastructure	Inspection Clearance of paths	Annual When necessary

<p>Biodiversity opportunities and actions</p>	<p>Woodland Management Introduction of bird/bat boxes Selective thinning of the woodland Retain standing deadwood where possible Removal of areas of poorer quality, self-sown, non-native trees to create space for natural regeneration Removal of large areas of Holly and dense undergrowth to allow native understory to establish Pond and wetland maintenance and enhancement</p>	<p>Ongoing Ongoing We will work to the Management plan. Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing</p>
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8.4 Conclusion

This Management Plan is not ‘set in stone’. It provides a framework and guidelines that enable the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to manage the site to a high standard in a sustainable way. The Council is open to the changing needs of local communities and will continue to work closely with the Friends of Sheen Common. The Plan will run from January 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.

9.0 Appendix

Appendix 1 – East Sheen Common Woodland Management Plan 2023-28

East Sheen Common Woodland Management Plan 2023 - 2028

To be completed by the plan author:	
Woodland or Property name	East Sheen Common
Woodland Management Plan case reference	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland	Yes
Plan author name	Tasha Hunter LBRuT



Section 1: Property Details

Woodland Property Name		East Sheen Common	
Name	Tasha Hunter	Owner: National Trust	Tenant: LBRuT
Email	Tasha.Hunter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk	Contact Number	020 8831 6125
Agent Name (if applicable)			
Email		Contact Number	
County	Greater London	Local Authority	London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames
Grid Reference	TQ1955074680	Single Business Identifier	
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		18.4ha	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		No	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan?		Yes 1: Compartments & features 2. Geology	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling Licence	No
		Thinning Licence	No
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	No
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		Yes	

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

2.1 Vision

To provide a leading example for the woodland conservation management of Common land and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within an urban environment. To ensure the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity whilst increasing the levels of awareness, learning and engagement so that the importance and qualities of East Sheen Common are widely understood and promoted within this site and other woodlands within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

2.2 Management Objectives

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	To increase structural diversity of the woodland and tree species composition
2	Maintenance and provision of glades and rides
3	To provide a range of wetland habitats including open water, ephemeral ponds, marsh, and wet woodland
4	To improve the biodiversity value of ditch network
5	To maintain and enhance the pathways through the site
6	To remove or control invasive species
7	Ensure appropriate management of all identified veteran and notable trees
8	Maintain and increase the levels and diversity of decaying woody habitat
9	Increase the provision of suitable features for wildlife
10	Set up extensive wildlife monitoring throughout the woodland
11	Maintain the woodland management plan and associated mapping as a dynamic document
12	Control of anti-social behaviour within woodlands

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

This section should be completed at the 5-year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

Objectives	Achievement

Section 4: Woodland Survey

4.1 Description

<p>Brief description of the woodland property:</p>
<p>1. Location The site is located within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames towards the north-east at national grid reference TQ1955074680.</p> <p>2. Boundaries The park itself is delineated by Kings Ride Gate and Sheen Common Drive to the north; Sheen Cemetery to the west; Sheen Common Playing Fields to the east; and Richmond Park to the south. Upper Richmond Road (A305) lies 80m to the north. Richmond Town Centre is located 1.3km to the west.</p> <p>3. History In the Middle Ages the Common would have been managed as part of the Manor of Mortlake as a local resource under a strictly controlled Commons system. The Common would have provided timber, fuel and an area of grazing for livestock. At this time, it is likely that the Common would have consisted of open heathland with a scattering of oaks managed for timber, fuel, or fodder. Records show that one of the main crops at the time was Gorse, cut for fire. During the eighteenth-century a considerable amount of gravel extraction occurred across the Common to satisfy the need for building materials for the construction of houses in the Sheen and Mortlake area.</p> <p>Maps of the Common dating to 1869 show the Common as being completely open heathland with a rifle range as the main use. In 1880 East Sheen Common was sold by Earl Spencer to several local residents for £2500. The new owners formed the East Sheen Preservation Society Limited with the intention of establishing a ladies golf course. Over the years management of the Common by this society was called into question and the management was taken over by Barnes District Council.</p> <p>In 1908 the Common was donated to the National Trust, who are still the current owners. Under the Local Government Act of 1963 the responsibility for management of the Common passed from Barnes District Council to Richmond Borough Council.</p> <p>4. Topography & Landscape</p> <p>East Sheen Common is predominantly flat. However, the areas of gravel extraction have created an undulating topography in the central and north eastern parts of the Common. Some of the areas which were excavated fill with water in the winter, providing a range of habitat for wetland species. There is an extensive drain system running across the Common which is fed from Richmond Park in two places.</p> <p>Historically the Common would have been comprised of open heathland maintained by grazing rights with a scattering of trees managed for timber, fuel or fodder throughout. Early postcards of the Common show an open vista until quite recently and local naturalist's records describe the Common as being covered with gorse, hawthorn in flower, heath bedstraw and large swathes of heather as late as 1920. Succession has now meant that the Common is dominated by closed canopy broadleaf woodland.</p>

5. Species Distribution

The site is dominated by closed canopy native broadleaf woodland. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is abundant including several large mature specimens. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), is frequent, particularly in compartment 3 and along the southern boundary of compartment 4. Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*) are also frequent whilst hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*) are occasional. Beech (*Fagus sylvaticis*) and Field maple (*Acer campestre*) are rare.

Non-native trees include frequent sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), occasional false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and tree of heaven (*Allanthus altissima*). Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) are rare.

Native species within the shrub layer are Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) which is abundant and dominant in most compartments, apart from compartment 1 where understory thinning took place in 2015. Suckering elm (*Ulmus sp*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are frequent whilst hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) are occasional. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is rare. Invasive Non-native species include frequent cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), occasional snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and Cotoneaster whilst Sweet Bay (*Laurus nobilis*) is rare.

Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) dominate the ground layer. Other species include frequent bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*) and ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*).

Also present is variegated yellow-archangel (*Lamium galeobdolonssp. argentatum*). Other species to note are small balsam (*Impatiens parviflora*) and broadleaved bamboo (*Sasa palmata*). A small number of ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) can be found in compartment 3.

Additionally, there are the occasional specimens of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) which is remnant of the old heathland habitat around the fenced glades in compartment 1. Rough meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) is frequent and wood meadow-grass (*P. nemoralis*) occasional. A little sweet-vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) also occurs.

In compartments 8 there is a permanent pond whilst in compartment 13 ephemeral ponds and marsh areas can be found. At the margins of the permanent pond are yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), occasional pendulous sedge (*Carex pendulais*) and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*). Extending across the water's surface is floating sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*).

6. Open Ground

An amenity meadow can be found towards the southern end of the site.

7. Soils

The majority of the Common is sited on Taplow Gravel with the most eastern section and southern boundary sited on London Clay.

8. Rainfall

Average annual rainfall of 622mm.

9. Elevation

23 - 36m above sea level.

4.2 Information

This section identifies features that are both present in the woodland and where.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
Biodiversity- Designations				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	No		Yes	
Special Area of Conservation	No		Yes	
Tree Preservation Order	No		No	
Conservation Area	Yes		Yes	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		Yes	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	Yes: East Sheen Common is part of Richmond Park and associated areas Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMINC).	All	Yes	
Notes				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species				
Bats	Yes	All		Three unspecified species of bats were noted by GiGL from 400m to the west, one from 1992, 80m to the south-east; and one from within the site dating from 2001.
Dormouse	No			
Great Crested Newt	No			
Otter	No			
Sand Lizard	No			
Smooth Snake	No			
Natterjack Toad	No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species				
Schedule 1 Birds	Species: • Song-thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Yes	All	GiGL data search area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>) • House sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) • Willow warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>) • Dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>) • Stonechat (<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>) • Tawny Owl (<i>Strix aluco</i>) • Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) 				
Mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>) 	Yes			Two records from GIGL within the search area of 1km radius of the site.
Reptiles		No			
Plants		No			
Fungi/Lichens		No			
Invertebrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stag Beetle (<i>Lucanus cervus</i>) 	Yes			
Amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>) 	Yes			
Other (please Specify):		Yes			Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>) hairs found on site.
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments		No			
Unscheduled Monuments		No			
Registered Parks and Gardens		No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees		Yes			
Listed Buildings		No			
Other (please Specify):		No			
Landscape					
National Character Area (please Specify):					
National Park		No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty		No			
Other (please Specify):		No			
People					
CROW Access		No			
Public Rights of Way (any)		Yes			
Other Access Provision		Yes			Site is open access
Public Involvement		Yes			Friends of Sheen Common
Visitor Information		Yes			Info boards at main entrances.

Public Recreation Facilities	Yes			Small play area in section 5
Provision of Learning Opportunities	No			
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes	All		
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	No			
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes			Small permanent pond and several ephemeral ponds
Other (please Specify):	Yes			Ditch network across the site

4.3 Habitat Types

This section considers the habitat types within the woodland that might impact/inform your management decisions.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	No			
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	All		
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	Yes	8,13		
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			

Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	Yes	8,13		
Other (please Specify):	No			

4.4 Structure

This section provides a snapshot of the current structure of the woodland as a whole. Ensuring the woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience.

Woodland Type	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Broadleaf	100%	Uneven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary woodland, developed within the last 70 years, interspersed with a limited number of older mature trees. • Pedunculate oak is the dominant upper canopy species. dense stands of holly scattered throughout the understory. • Sycamore, ash, wild cherry and yew are also frequent within the understory. • The herb layer is dominated by bramble and ivy.

Section 5: Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section considers the potential threats that could be facing the woodland.

5.1 Risk Matrix

The matrix below provides a system for scoring risk. The matrix also indicates the advised level of action to take to help manage the threat.

Impact	High	Plan for Action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for Action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for Action
		Low	Medium	High
Likelihood of Presence				

5.2 Plant Health

There are a growing number of invasive pests and pathogens that are impacting the UK's trees. It is expected that [climate change will increase the impact of pests and diseases](#) across the UK with the South East, in particular, expected to see higher annual temperatures. Expected increases in periods of drought may change the suitability of an area to certain trees as well as make them more susceptible to pests and diseases.

The decline in a particular tree species from a pest or disease will impact a wide range of other species that use that tree species as well as driving changes in ecosystem functions. Many species use trees directly for feeding or as habitat. Some species will only use one or a very limited number of tree species. Therefore, a widespread decline in the population of one tree species may drive changes in species that are heavily dependent on it. Tree diseases will have cascading effects on biodiversity, ecosystem function and services. Woodland management may change as a response of tree diseases which in turn will influence biodiversity and ecosystem services. Diseased species will be replaced by other tree species which in turn will influence the biodiversity and woodland functioning. Therefore, it is imperative to identify all current and potential threats to the woodland.

Threat	Poor biosecurity measures & knowledge
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate the public on the importance of what measures they can take to limit the spread of pests and diseases. Ensure all professional arborists/contractors on site follow industry guidance (‘think kit, think transport, think trees’). Monitor and report on pests and diseases that have not yet reached the UK but are considered a key threat i.e. emerald ash borer & Xyella. Keep up to date through CPD and e-learning on latest pests and diseases.

Threat	Ash Dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Ash is frequently found across the site, particularly in compartments 3 and 4. The loss of ash from the site would be of huge detriment to its biodiversity as obligate and highly associated species, would be lost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where needed, mature and semi-mature specimens should be managed appropriately, in line with latest research, to maximise longevity. Trees should be monitored annually during July/August to assess the level of dieback and vitality. Where possible maintain a healthy population of oak, beech, sycamore, hazel, and birch as together they support 84% of ash associated species (oak and beech alone support 74% of ash associated species). Unless deemed a matter of safety infected trees should be retained as decaying wood habitat. Where they do need to be worked every effort should be made to retain the stem as a monolith. Monitor ash trees for evidence of ash dieback resistance within stock.

Threat	Leaf miner (<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>) Bacterial canker (<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> var. <i>aesculi</i>) of Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	The occurrence of horse chestnut is rare across the site.

Threat	Oak mildew (<i>Erysiphe alphitoides</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>This contributes to the decline of mature and post mature trees (through depletion of carbohydrate reserves and moisture stress). It can inhibit natural regeneration due to the high susceptibility of seedlings and young trees. New growth is very susceptible to mildew (coppice and pollarding). It can also kill epicormic growth and diminish capacity to produce new branches. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care should be taken to avoid pruning or coppicing trees under conditions where mildew is likely to be at its most damaging, e.g., where the susceptible new shoots would be developing during the summer release of spores. • Take account of the impact of mildew in hot, dry conditions, extra care should be taken not to expose previously shaded trees too rapidly when removing competing vegetation (“haloing”) of veteran trees. • Oak seedlings and saplings should be protected from shading by vegetation, since mildew impairs their shade-tolerance. This should be done gradually to mitigate the adverse effects of direct sunlight on mildew-affected foliage. • Monitor and record any large outbreaks of mildew.

Threat	Acute Oak Decline (AOD)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Several trees are showing potential signs of AOD (weeping patches on oak stems, cracks in the outer bark)

	<p>from which dark fluid seeps, irregularly oval-shaped lesions in the inner bark and/or cavities behind the outer bark around the seepage point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swab several of the trees showing signs of AOD and send off to Forest Research for analysis. • Monitor annually to assess spread and tree vitality. • Follow Forest Research best practice management for AOD. • Potential for soil amelioration to improve mycorrhizal environment on infected trees.
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Threat	Chronic Oak Decline (COD)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>COD is a complex disorder or syndrome of oak trees in which several damaging agents interact either simultaneously or sequentially to bring about a serious, long-term decline in tree health and condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On its own does not currently pose a serious threat to the UK's overall oak tree population and trees often recover if the causative factors decline. • keep up to date on current research and findings. • Monitor for potential cases across site and interaction with other oak pests and diseases. • Potential for soil amelioration to improve mycorrhizal environment.

Threat	Oak processionary moth (<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>OPM, at present, is more of a public health issue than a plant health issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBRuT implements a method of suppression annually to reduce the health risk to the general public. • Monitor paths regularly and flag nests for removal. • Educate the public about the risks of OPM and discourage climbing of oak trees.

Threat	Sweet chestnut blight (<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>) and Chestnut gall wasp (<i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweet chestnut is rare across the site. • Monitor regional outbreaks of sweet chestnut blight given proximity of the pathogen to East Sheen Common. • Inspect sweet chestnut for chestnut gall wasp as it is present in London. • Report sighting of either pests or diseases to Forest Research.

Threat	Dutch Elm Disease (<i>Ophiostoma novo-ulmi</i>) and Zigzag sawfly (<i>Aproceros leucopoda</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elm is regenerating from suckers across the site. • Larger stems can be felled when dead if needed for safety whilst others retained for habitat. • Monitor for the presence of zig zag sawfly and report with Forest Research if found.

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	NA
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control methods not suitable for busy urban site. • Expectation of increased grey squirrel numbers as warmer winters reduce seasonal mortality rates. • Ad hoc monitoring of impacts.

5.5 Livestock and Other Animals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Dogs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>The high level of dog walking across the site has the potential for substantial wildlife disturbance. Furthermore, the high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus produced from dog waste can influence biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, and co-determine restoration outcomes. There is also evidence of pollution of ponds and watercourses from flea, worm and tick treatments.</p> <p>Protection/Education/Enforcement measures as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education of dog walkers as to potential impacts to sensitive habitats with positive feedback signage and encourage collective responsibility. • Use of temporary fencing or natural barriers to limit access to sensitive areas. • Report any major issues to Park Guard for enforcement.

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Ring-necked Parakeet
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Ring-necked parakeets are an invasive species to Europe. They are early nesters and occupy existing tree cavities, reducing the number of cavities available for native species. They are aggressive towards other species nearby and can destroy nests of native species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor numbers and impact. Keep up to date on latest research and Government guidance.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Soil Erosion
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any felling to be phased over multiple years and there is no area to be clear felled, thus no bare soil will be exposed.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Point pollution
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuelling of chainsaws will be carried out away from sensitive areas whilst ensuring all fuels are in autofill/anti-spill nozzle containers. • Small spill kit carried in vehicles. • All substances hazardous to health follow COSHH guidelines. • All premixed herbicide transported in liquid tight containers.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Diffuse pollution
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any herbicide application to be carried out by appropriately trained people. • Herbicide application is not to be carried out prior to forecast wet weather. • Appropriate herbicide to be applied if application is required near water.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Soil Compaction
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid taking machinery across sensitive habitats and root zones of veteran trees. • Divert or block informal paths where necessary to protect the soil environment around veteran trees and to allow the understory/herb layer to develop and recover. • Where suitable ameliorate soil compaction with the application of wood chip. • Consider further de-compaction measures if appropriate.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Invasive Species
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Initiate a phased programme to reduce or remove the following invasive species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree of Heaven (<i>Allanhus altissima</i>) • False-acacia (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) • Turkey Oak (<i>Quercus cerris</i>) • Holm Oak (<i>Quercus ilex</i>) • Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>) • Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>) • Broadleaved Bamboo (<i>Sasa palmata</i>) • Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>) • Cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster</i>) • Variegated yellow-archangel (<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp. Argentatum</i>) • Small balsam (<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>) • Sweet Bay (<i>Laurus nobilis</i>) <p>As deemed necessary other invasive shrubs and trees may require removal on an ad-hoc basis. Climate change may encourage the increased growth rate and/or survival of further exotic species that may subsequently require control.</p>

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Nitrogen deposition from vehicles
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen deposition can change the composition of plant flora as it favours nitrogen loving plants. • Woodland borders to be maintained and enhance where possible to facilitate the capture of pollution particles.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the ban on BBQs and fires on site through signage and education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and educate smokers on need for careful disposal. • All brash is chipped or stacked for habitat and not burnt.
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Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Planning and Development
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for planning applications that could negatively impact the biodiversity of the site or the surrounding green and dark corridors. • Inform and educate about light pollution impact on nocturnal species.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Anti-Social Behaviour
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Guard to maintain patrols for anti-social behaviour or to impose Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). • Assess potential to develop 'area champions' through a network of FOSC to assist with the cleanliness of the common and reporting of any issues. • Encourage adults to recognise that their behaviours can also be antisocial e.g. green waste, littering, and that it is not just associated with younger generations.

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Open Access Site
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased footfall must be managed by appropriate provision of suitable paths and protection of areas where high levels of wear and tear are occurring. • Redirect or close informal paths where needed. • Regularly assess damage from cycles and temporarily fence off areas.

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Sporting Events
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	NA

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational Costs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd sector approach controls overheads. • Urban setting inevitably higher cost than rural, but outweighed by per capita benefits from wellbeing, climate resilience, habitat restoration and educational potential. • Monitor and where suitable apply for grants to assist with costs.

5.10 Climate change resilience

Threat	Provenance
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favour natural regeneration over planting where possible. • Where natural regeneration of a desired species is not possible source local native seed/saplings genetically adapted to current and future predictions of climatic conditions in the Southeast. • Use Ecological Site Classification Decision Support System (ESC-DSS) as a guide to suitability of certain native species to the area.

Threat	Lack of Diversity
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Pedunculate oak makes up the majority of the canopy layer across the woodland. Should a pest or disease dramatically impact the population of <i>Quercus Robur</i>, akin to Ash dieback, the woodland would be heavily impacted, as would its biodiversity given our native oaks support over 2300 species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After completing the removal of invasive species and selective holly thinning assess the potential to enhance, without detriment to the oak woodland, native tree species diversity that may be suitable for the site; Identifying those tree species that support a high amount of oak-associated biodiversity.

Threat	Habitat fragmentation/edge effect
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess woodland in relation to the surrounding landscape and look to increase green and dark corridors as well as habitat connectivity. • Small habitat patches have a disproportionately high value for biodiversity conservation which must be noted when deciding on appropriate protection for the site. • Assess the path network and if appropriate close or divert informal pathways that have fragmented important habitat.

Threat	Increased pests and diseases
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Increased temperatures are expected to increase the number and impact of pests and diseases associated with trees in the UK. Therefore, it is important that the woodland is regularly monitored looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests and diseases detailed in section 5.2 • Crown thinning • Drought stress • Leaf discoloration • Degree of canopy closure • Leaf retention • Flowering • Fruiting

Threat	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase level of structural heterogeneity. • Maintain and increase light levels through removal of invasive species and encouragement of natural regeneration of desired species. • Create optimal conditions for the continuation of veteran and notable trees. • Increase in natural events such as storms and droughts as well as pests and diseases will create temporary canopy gaps to further enhance structural diversity.

Section 6: Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan.

Management Objective / Feature	Management Intention
<p>To increase structural diversity of the woodland and tree species composition</p>	<p>The woodland is currently entering a dark phase with closed canopy and limited light levels resulting in a lack of structural diversity. Lack of extensive management has meant holly has come to dominate the understory, further reducing species composition and structural attributes, which determine habitat quality. Increasing the biodiversity value of the woodland will increase its resilience to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out selective holly thinning across each compartment so it is no longer dominant and treat stumps accordingly to prevent regrowth. • Phase thinning works across the lifetime of the plan and focus on areas of highest conservation value first. • Retain small clusters of holly to maintain habitat for birds such as goldcrest as well as to provide winter food source. • Carry out annual follow up treatments where holly regeneration persists from stumps. • Maintain holly around the boundaries of the Common to act as a screen to the urban surroundings. • Monitor natural regeneration of the understory and species diversity. Use fixed point photography to illustrate changes.
<p>Maintenance and provision of glades and rides</p>	<p>Glades are incredibly valuable to wildlife. They mimic natural processes such as storms and open areas of woodland to sunlight, which in turn promotes vegetation complexity, creates microclimates and increases the provision of invertebrates. The creation of any glades and rides should not disturb any rare woodland plants, old canopy trees, rare insect communities or destroy areas of dense understorey supporting rare woodland specialists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glade creation should at first focus on the ponds and wetland areas. (See following objective for further information). • Small expansionary work can be carried out on the existing fenced grassland glades within compartment 1. Sensitive removal of overhanging limbs of more mature trees and monolith creation for small diameter oaks. Sun-exposed, bare, sandy soil can be retained due to its high biodiversity value. • Ad hoc cutting of encroaching bramble may be required within and around the fenced glades to maintain the herb layer. This should be done on rotation to create structural variation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of any further glades should be driven by the removal of invasive species i.e., where invasive species are dominant and being removed then this may be a suitable site for glade creation. • The removal of invasive species and holly thinning across the site may also create temporary small transitional glades. • Carry out an ash dieback survey in compartment 3 and 4. Ash is dominant in these compartments and so ash dieback may naturally create glades if the trees are heavily infected. This should be monitored and considered prior to creating more glades than those described above. • Ride creation can focus upon the path that runs from Bog Gate, Richmond Park, north to Kings Ride Gate, where a 2m herbaceous layer can be created either side of the path.
<p>To provide a range of wetland habitats including open water, ephemeral ponds, marsh, and wet woodland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a survey for aquatic invertebrates on the permanent pond to establish baseline data and to demonstrate the absence of any important species. • Carry out invertebrate surveys on the ephemeral ponds as temporary pools full of leaf litter can have an important fauna including rare ground beetles which specialise in this habitat • Remove small diameter terrestrial tree species that have invaded the permanent pond, ephemeral ponds, and marsh/wetland areas. • Gradually increase the sunlight levels on the permanent pond to increase the levels of marginal vegetation. • Maintain and improve natural barriers around the wetland habitats to inhibit human and dog access. • Do not remove wetland tree species that provide structural habitat within the water and surrounding area. If deemed suitable these species can be coppiced on rotation to vary light levels further. • Carry out water quality tests for the permanent pond as well as the ephemeral ponds.
<p>To improve the biodiversity value of ditch network</p>	<p>Ditches can support a great deal of aquatic wildlife as well as acting as small wetland corridors amongst much drier surroundings. They are also responsible for supplying the other wetland areas across the Common.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus initial ditch work on clearing any immediate blockages within the ditch network. • Carry out water quality tests across several points within the ditch system. • Clear 1/5th of the ditch system per year. • Protect areas of the ditch network where light levels are conducive to the growth of marginal vegetation.
<p>To maintain and enhance the pathways through the site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the main pathway through the woodland is kept at approx. 2.0m wide, other paths to be kept no greater than approx. 1.2m, with no litter, overhanging vegetation or trip hazards.

<p>To remove or control invasive species</p>	<p>Complete removal of the following invasive species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree of Heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>) • Holm Oak (<i>Quercus ilex</i>) • Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>) • Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>) • Broadleaved Bamboo (<i>Sasa palmata</i>) • Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>) • Cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster</i>) • Variegated yellow-archangel (<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp. Argentatum</i>) • Small balsam (<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>) • Sweet Bay (<i>Laurus nobilis</i>) • Buddleia (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>) <p>Control of the following invasive species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • False-acacia (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>). They often have good habitat features and any veteran trees should be retained due to presence of brown rot decay which can support certain saproxylic invertebrates. Several false-acacia hang over properties, compartments 7 and 8. • Turkey Oak (<i>Quercus cerris</i>). Where appropriate these can be heavily crown reduced but maintained as standing deadwood. • Monitor, annually, areas where invasive species have been removed, identifying any regrowth and treat accordingly.
<p>Ensure appropriate management of all identified veteran and notable trees</p>	<p>The veteran trees on site are a key visual, biodiversity and cultural component of the tree population and require special management. The cost profile for veteran tree management will differ from that for other trees on the site, with the expectation that greater resources will be made available to retain trees where problems arise. Although the site does not have any ancient trees there are numerous mature trees that possess good veteran features, and as such have a disproportionately high level of biodiversity due to the number of microhabitats within the tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and survey veteran trees across the site, listing any appropriate works and prioritising any trees in need of urgent works. • All veteran tree work should be carried out in line with current best practice as detailed by the Ancient Tree Forum. • Risk mitigation should favour target management over tree management. Therefore, reducing the amount of safety work that should be required on veteran trees. Where work must be carried out it should be sympathetic to the aesthetic and habitat of the trees. • Keep up to date with latest research and training on veteran tree care and implement where necessary.
<p>Maintain and increase the levels and diversity of decaying woody habitat</p>	<p>Decaying woody habitat is imperative to a healthy woodland ecosystem. Therefore, to improve this:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where safe and species appropriate, standing decaying stems should be retained. • Where appropriate ringbarking of invasive species can be used to provide standing decay wood i.e. Turkey oaks & Norway maple. This should not be done on suckering species (false acacia, tree of heaven). • Any felled tree should be left in situ or moved to appropriate areas of minimal disturbance to decay naturally. • Selected felled timber can be dug into the ground to provide suitable underground decay conditions. • Felled trees should be kept as large as possible and not cut up into small pieces.
<p>Increase the provision of suitable features for wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where felling has taken place and stumps are large enough, hoverfly lagoons can be created. • Bird boxes and bat roost features can be carved directly into suitable stems and branches i.e., where removing invasive species but stems are retained or creating glades. Assess the provision. • Stag Beetle loggeries can be created from cut logs as can hibernaculums.
<p>Set up extensive wildlife monitoring throughout the woodland. To be priced separately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use static bioacoustics devices across the woodland to survey for bat species present. • Set up standardised bird and butterfly transects. • Survey for dragonflies and damselflies along Beverley Brook and ponds during summer season. • Annual aquatic invertebrate surveys of river and wetland areas. • Survey and map trees with potential roost features for bats. • Small Mammal Trapping • Moth Trapping • Involve the local community in species recording where possible. • Survey and map trees with suitable decay features that may support saproxylic invertebrates. If suitable sites located carry out flight interception trap surveys. • Maintain pan species list for the site and send to GIGL. Inform local residents and visitors.
<p>Maintain the woodland management plan as a dynamic document</p>	<p>Woodlands are dynamic structures exposed to numerous internal and external environmental forces that cannot be predicted or results anticipated. As such this plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be reviewed and, if necessary, updated annually to make sure vision and objectives are still relevant. • at year 3 of this 4-year plan work should commence on assessing the effectiveness of this plan and completing a new woodland management plan. • Annual meeting in September to discuss planned works. Provide six monthly reports of progress.
<p>Control of anti-social behaviour within woodlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where informal groups are a focus of persistent anti-social behaviour and alternative methods of deterring behaviour (engaging in discussion, respecting the needs of CYP for wellbeing) have failed:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Park Guard, local police and community safety to resolve the issue(s).
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Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
All woodland management works	Friends of Sheen Common				
All woodland management works	LBRuT (Parks Service Manager, Arboriculture Manager, Ecology, Policy and Planning Officer				
All woodland management works	Ward Councillors and Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee)				

Section 8: Monitoring

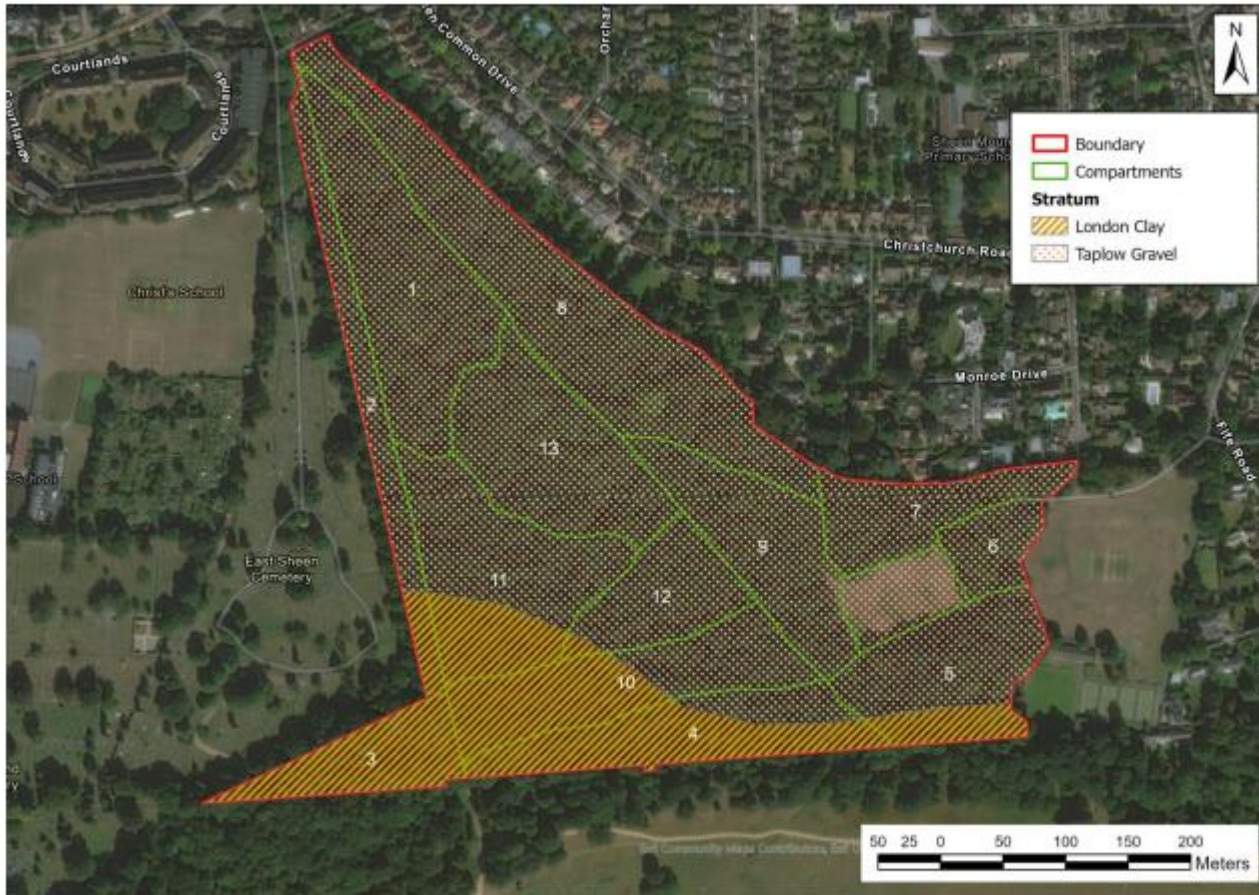
Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
To increase structural diversity of the woodland and tree species composition	Natural regeneration of understory where holly has been removed.	Visual	Annually	LBRuT Contractor	
Maintenance and provision of glades and rides	Increased light levels around fenced grassland areas with improved herb layer.	Visual	Annually	LBRuT Contractor	
To provide a range of wetland habitats including open water, ephemeral ponds, marsh, and wet woodland	Development of marginal wetland species around the pond with increased light levels. Increase in aquatic invertebrates.	Visual & survey	Every 2 years	LBRuT Contractor	
To improve the biodiversity value of ditch network	All ditches are wet during winter with no blockages. Marginal vegetation developing along certain stretches.	Photographic records and written records.	Every 2 years	LBRuT Contractor	
To maintain and enhance the pathways through the site	Clear pathways and sightlines.	Visual	Every 6 months	LBRuT Contractor	
To remove or control invasive species	All stated invasive for complete removal are eradicated and the remaining are under control and rare.	Survey	Every 2 years	LBRuT & LBRuT Contractor	

Ensure appropriate management of all identified veteran and notable trees	All veteran and notable tree are mapped, and any appropriate works needed carried out.	Written and photographic records	Ongoing	LBRuT Contractor	
Maintain and increase the levels and diversity of decaying woody habitat	Decaying wood habitat is prevalent across each compartment of the site. Increase in associated decaying wood species.	Survey	Annual	LBRuT Contractor	
Increase the provision of suitable features for wildlife	Hoverfly lagoons, stag beetle loggeries, hibernaculum and suitable roost and nesting features created across the site.	Walk over survey/mapping	Every 2 years	LBRuT Contractor	
Set up extensive wildlife monitoring throughout the woodland To be priced separately	Monthly Species and habitat data sent to Greenspace Information for Greater London.	Survey	As good practice	LBRuT Contractor	
Maintain the woodland management plan and associated mapping as a dynamic document	Objectives remain relevant and achievable.	Written updates	Annual	LBRuT & LBRuT Contractor	
Control anti-social behaviour	Reduction in anti-social behaviour.	Visual	Ongoing	LBRuT & LBRuT Contractor	

Appendix- Maps





Appendix: Useful links

Biodiversity in woodlands helps climate change

https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2021/01/20_0042_leaflet_cc_factsheet_biodiversity_wip07_acc.pdf

Biodiversity at multiple scales in support of resilient woodlands <https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2018/07/fcrn033.pdf>

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan: https://swlen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/LBRuT_BAP_2019-06-06_version.pdf-resized.pdf

Veteran and Ancient Tree Management Guide https://ancienttreeforum.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ATF_book.pdf

Practical Management of Veteran Trees <https://www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/resources/videos/veteran-tree-management/>

Trees: A Lifespan Approach <https://www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Trees-a-lifespan-approach-Nev-Fay-et-al.pdf>

The importance of decaying wood <https://treesforlife.org.uk/into-the-forest/habitats-and-ecology/ecology/dead-wood/>

Ecological impact of Ash dieback <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/1352bab5-3914-4a42-bb8a-a0a1e2b15f14>

Oak- associated biodiversity in the UK <https://catalogue.ceh.ac.uk/documents/22b3d41e-7c35-4c51-9e55-0f47bb845202>

Appendix 2 – Actions following Field Assessment

Criteria	Recommendation	Action
A Welcoming Place	Brown tourist signs	East Sheen Common would not be eligible for one of these signs as per the guidance set out by London Development Agency
	Unauthorised access signage	The signage here is for the access road which is private, visitors travelling need to be aware that the road is private
	Contact information	Contact information is provided in the noticeboard and on badging sign
	Out of date information in noticeboard	Outdated information was removed from the noticeboard
	Ad-hoc signs found throughout the site	Signs are placed throughout the site to update users where needed, any outdated signs are removed
	A-frames on site to be removed	A-frame was removed
	Potential for development of interpretive signage	The Parks Team will investigate refreshing the interpretation boards to provide updated information in 2024
	Flag pole requires refurbishment	The flagpole will be removed in 2024 as it is no longer in use
Healthy, Safe & Secure	Gates to play area were not self closing	These were replaced in 2023
	Ensure the fencing around play area is inspected	The fencing is inspected weekly, quarterly and annual as part of the play inspection. Any repairs will be actioned as and when.
	Cricket machinery present on site	The Parks Team have asked the cricket club to store their machinery inside where possible or out of the way of children
	Concrete for bins and benches not in use	Removed or benches replaced where appropriate
Well Maintained & Clean	Bins and signs need to be cleaned as per contract	This is ongoing, site visits are undertaken and issues are highlighted to the contractor
	Review types of bins to standardize to larger bins	The Parks Team aim to ensure that parks furniture is standard across all sites, these bins are used across the borough
	Concrete planters around bowling green	These will be removed in 2024
Environmental Management	Parks managers and contractors to promote the reduction in pesticide usage	The Council has an integrated pest management policy

	Introduced relaxed mowing regimes	There is relaxed mowing on site around the eastern border, grass in the woodland is managed inline with the woodland management plan
Biodiversity Landscape & Heritage	Opportunities exist for exploring and extending the historical information at this could include background of where the park was in mediaeval times	N/A
	Perhaps consider to engage with communities and also Parks staff and management the importance of East Sheen Common throughout the years and what it means to users today this could be further developed in an informal way by recording stories time sections relevant to each person this could include personal memories of anecdotal stories such as the Cricket Field learning about nature and stories of war time and for example the importance of what it means to them social engagement and recent history of how the Common was used during covid Pandemic	This is a larger project that the Parks Team will keep in mind for the future development of the site
Community Involvement	Attempt to work with and partner community groups and engagement with other park users	The Parks Team are in communication with the cricket club, bowling club and nursery regarding their needs and reaching out to the wider community
	Bowling Green should be for public use	The Nursery is situated in the pavilion and uses the bowling green space for outdoor play; therefore it cannot be opened for regular use by the public. Any member of the community is able to sign up to the bowling clubs membership and play alongside the club
	How is access to the pavilion being identified and can other partners use when required	All partners (bowling club, cricket club, nursery and tennis coaches) have access to the pavilion to use their areas when required. The Parks Team are exploring opening the toilets for public use.

Marketing and Communication	Quatify the effectiveness of word of mouth and assess footfall figures	The Parks Team have noted that word of mouth is effective in the management plan. On other sites we have installed 'people counters' which calculate the number of entrances and exits in other parks in the borough, this is currently on trial. If successful we will look to move the counters and assess at East Sheen Common.
Management	Suggestion to carry out regular walkthroughs of the site with the green flag scoring sheet	The site is visited by the Parks Officers and contractors throughout the year to ensure that it is being maintained in line with our management plan and contract specification. We will ensure that we assess with the green flag scoring sheet prior to judging