



Ham Pond

Management Plan

May 2024 – March 2029

Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	2
2.0	Terms of Reference	2
3.0	Site Description	3-11
4.0	Policies	12-13
5.0	Site Vision and Objectives.....	14
6.0	Maintenance Prescriptions	15-26
7.0	Management Map	27-28
8.0	References	29
9.0	Glossary	30-31
10.0	Appendices	32-35

Appendix 1.	London Borough of Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan
Appendix 2.	London Borough of Richmond Council Local Plan
Appendix 3.	London Borough of Richmond Council Nature Conservation Policy
Appendix 4	London Borough of Richmond Council Tree Policy
Appendix 6	SINC designation for Ham Common west inc Ham Pond
Appendix 7	Common Designation for Ham Common

Document Management	
Document title	Ham Common Pond Management Plan
Date modified	May 2024
Status	Final
Classification	Public
Author	Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group (HPAAG) Tasha Worley, Ecology Policy and Planning Manager
Contact details	
Main point of Contact	Tasha Worley
Email	Tasha.worley@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk
Telephone	020 8831 6125

1.0 Introduction

This management plan has been written in partnership between the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group and Richmond Councils' Ecology Policy and Planning Team as part of the Councils' commitment to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Each site is managed in accordance with the habitat and species action plans of the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, London Borough of Richmond Borough (LBRuT) Policies, general good habitat management practice and current legislation.

1.1 Caveat

The implementation of prescriptions in this management plan will be subject to available budget. It is anticipated that additional external funding may need to be secured to realise the complete fulfilment of the five-year management plan.

2.0 Terms of Reference

This management plan is designed to inform and outline the maintenance and enhancement of Ham Pond from landscape, conservation and visitor perspectives through the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group and Richmond Council working in conjunction with Council contractors organisations.

Throughout this management plan the goals are to:

1. Protect and enhance the ecology of the open water and marginal habitats of the Site with appropriate management.
2. Protect and enhance the island through appropriate management.
3. Maintain and enhance the Site to make it an attractive leisure and environmental asset for local residents and visitors alike
3. Enhance the visitor experience by creating an attractive natural space which invites exploration and encourages use for educational and well-being purposes.

To deliver this vision, this plan considers the sites history, ecology, and visitor use; it draws together existing data on its trees, habitats, and species with new surveys; it sets out defined objectives and the prescriptions to deliver and maintain the site over the next five **years**, while having regard to the vision which takes a ten year and longer view.

The management plan should not be regarded as fixed; the prescriptions provide a framework and guidance that enable reaction to changing conditions. Reviewing progress and monitoring key features on a regular basis is important in ensuring the site is managed appropriately and in a sustainable way, as such as a management review will be carried out annually by the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities group and the Council.

3.0 Site details

Location	Ham Pond, Ham Common, Richmond, TW10 5HD
Grid Reference	TQ180720
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Common• Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)• Site of Metropolitan Importance (SLINC) – RiL13
Area	0.32Ha
Key habitats	Ponds and Reedbeds
Key species	Bats and common amphibians

3.1. Site Description

Ham Pond is a large pond set on the western edge of the formal Ham Common a triangle of acid grassland lined around the perimeter and through the site with splendid Lime avenues. The pond has always been a focus of local interest and appreciation. Originally rain fed it is now kept topped up with a pipe connected to the mains water, whilst this provides a more constant water level it does introduce treatment chemicals which can trigger algal blooms. Housing is on the western and northern sides and Ham Common woods lies to the east beyond the busy A307 which links Richmond to Kingston through Ham. Beyond the woodland to the east lies the magnificent Richmond Park and to the west the bend of the River Thames nestles Ham meaning that Ham Common and Ham Pond is part of an important wildlife corridor. The grassland of Ham Common is acid grassland and the red tinge of the sheep's sorrel can be seen in the summer months.

3.2. Background

The pond is believed to have formed originally in a pit left by digging gravel for roadmaking in mediaeval times or earlier. It provided a vital drinking place for the animals which the villagers kept on the common; cattle still grazed there as recently as 1932. For most of the rest of the 20th century the pond remained bare and somewhat neglected. It was, however, known for its impressive summer display of white water-lilies. The pond was dredged in 1990 and the water-lilies removed along with most of the other aquatic vegetation, leaving it with a somewhat stark, bare appearance. Some planting of marginals then took place in September 2000. A public meeting was held to encourage an informed discussion on the future care of the pond. The view that emerged was that considerably more could be done to encourage wildlife and enhance the pond's appearance without damaging its character. Plans would need to be prepared and agreed by all parties and funding would need to be found. The Ham Pond Group was established to carry these ideas forward.

The Group's early meetings included representatives of Richmond Council, the Ham and Petersham Association, the Ham Amenities Group and interested local residents. It was chaired initially by the ward Cllr and later a local resident. Its task was to enhance the pond both as a visual and social amenity and as a wildlife refuge, and subsequently to maintain it so as to preserve its improved appearance and historical 'village pond' character. Funds were raised locally and from grant providers, particularly a large grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to re-establish and plant an island, reinforce the banks with coir 'logs', introduce low

level fencing and plant around the pond. A means to control the water level was installed both to top it up in dry weather and to extract water after heavy rain.

3.3. Island

A tithe map of the district as it was in 1841 clearly shows an island in the pond. In 1858 this island was removed by order of the local Vestry; its material being used to help fill in an unwanted smaller pond nearby. Re-establishing this island was a major item in the programme of work undertaken by the Ham Pond Group following its formation in 2000. Because the pond is quite deep at that point, the new island was built on a foundation of gabions (stone-filled wire cages) and topped with soil. Plants were established, their roots being meant to stabilise the soil, but thanks to wave action when water levels were high in winter, combined with heavy grazing by the birds, the island was gradually eroded. The Group took three actions in response: first (in autumn 2010) a large quantity of stones and clay soil were added to the island to help resist erosion; second (in autumn 2011) an overflow pipe was installed (see details below) to reduce the threat of winter flooding and thirdly (in July 2012) the island was replanted using biodegradable coir rolls and matting combined with netting to protect the new plants from the birds. The goat willow on the Island grows rapidly and needs to be coppiced/pollarded annually, provided this is carried out regular it can be done carefully by volunteers if not it requires a specialist contractor.

In 2024 the Council and the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group funded a major overhaul to two thirds of the islands perimeter edge. Raising one side to cope with increased rainfall using scaffold poles, wire mesh, backfilled with large stone and soil with pre-planted coir rolls. This will last another 10-20 years.

3.4 Water supply

In the 20th century the water level in the pond used to get very low in dry summers, revealing unsightly expanses of mud. As part of the Group's initial work programme early in the 2000s, a mains water supply was installed with an automatic ballcock control near the island. The control proved less than satisfactory (coots built their nests on it), and in time it was removed and instead the tap on the input pipe (access via a manhole). The pipe's outlet is on the island, so that when water needs topping up in the summer, the input water trickles through the reeds helping with oxygenation and chemical treatment. Volunteers monitor the water levels throughout the year and in hot years such as in 2018/2019 the water tap needs to be kept turned on for most of the summer months.

3.5 Overflow pipe

In the Group's early years, the water level used to rise so high in the wet winters that the island was almost covered and damaging erosion was caused both there and elsewhere. After long negotiations between the Group, the Council, their contractors, and Thames Water, who are responsible for the drain, an overflow pipe to a nearby surface drain was installed in 2011/12.

3.6 Community involvement

The main group associated with the pond are the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group who have dedicated volunteers to support pond tasks when required.

3.6.1 The Friends Group of Ham Pond

The Friends Group of Ham Pond formed in 2000 from a response to get action for improvements to the pond. They have since amalgamated with the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenity group whose aims and tasks are:

- maintaining the overall appearance of the pond as it is now; this includes regular attention to shrubs which would otherwise get overgrown, maintenance of fences, and taking action to deal with erosion of banks, including those of the island
- caring for the ecosystem of the pond and encouraging biodiversity;
- keeping a stock of equipment for use in these tasks (loppers, bowsaws etc.);
- seeking funding when necessary;
- keeping local residents informed and acting on their responses and questions;
- liaising closely with Richmond Council who have overall responsibility for the borough's open spaces, including Ham Common and its pond;
- dealing with a very wide variety of unforeseen events, liaising as necessary with the local police and with schools; overall to take any necessary initiatives, acting as prime mover in all matters relating to the pond.

3.6.2 The Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group

The Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group is a local group that was formed in 1933 and represents the residents of Ham and Petersham in all aspects of village life.

The objectives of the Group are:

To advance citizenship for the public benefit by protecting and improving the quality of life of people living in, working in, or visiting the area of Ham and Petersham, in particular by promoting and encouraging:

- 1) a sense of civic pride amongst members of the local public and the fostering of community involvement and the capacity to effect necessary change;
- 2) high standards of planning, urban design, landscaping, infrastructure and transport;
- 3) the conservation, creation of or improvement to lands, buildings, open spaces, waterways, amenities, features of historic interest and the individual character of localities, especially by adherence to the principles and practice of sustainable development, and the avoidance, removal, or improvement of features that are unsightly or, in the public interest, undesirable

[Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group - Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group](#)

3.7 Constraints

Excessive duck feeding has resulted in rat colonisation at the pond and in particularly burrowing under the platform creating access holes. Repairs are implemented as quick as possible. The duck feeding has also resulted in exceptionally tame wildfowl, the swans come very close and peck at clothing looking for food.

As well as encouraging rats, excessive feeding attracts greater bird numbers, which puts pressure on the existing habitat and increases nutrient levels in the water from defecation. To avoid algal blooms, a bio-chemical is applied to the pond annually

Signs have been displayed to ask residents not to over feed birds and only feed directly into the water to avoid feeding the rats and pigeons.

Figure 1: A map of Ham Pond within Ham Common



©Crown Copyright All Rights Reserved. Richmond Licence Number AC0000825287 (2024)

4.0 Policies

4.1 Strategic Principles for Parks and Open Spaces

The 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 have developed a series of strategic principles by which parks will be managed.

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.

All Council owned and managed parks and open spaces are controlled by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). These orders impose various restrictions to dog control and other activities in our parks and open spaces, these can be found [here](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_enforcement_and_legislation#pspo).

4.2 The London Plan

The Mayor for London is responsible for the strategic planning in London. Their duties include producing a 'Spatial Development Strategy' for London - the London Plan. Local (Local Authority level) plans must be in 'general conformity' with the plan. The London Plan 2021 recognises "the current and potential value of open space to communities, and to protect the many benefits of open space including those associated with sport and recreation, regeneration, the economy, health, culture, biodiversity, and the environment". [The London Plan 2021 - Table of Contents | London City Hall](https://www.london.gov.uk/london-plan/2021-table-of-contents)

4.3 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames planning strategies

4.3.1 Local Plan

Richmond upon Thames' Local Plan, adopted July 2018, recognises the importance of open space in the Borough. The extensive areas of open land create a varied and distinct landscape prominently defined by Richmond Hill and the River Thames valley in addition to Kew Gardens, two Royal Parks and many smaller open spaces and water courses. The importance of open space as an urban structure, providing relief from the built environment, is acknowledged, as is the importance of providing for play and recreation. These collectively contribute to quality of life in the Borough.

The role of ecology and open space's ability to provide a range of habitats is recognised, leading the Borough to protect areas of nature conservation value and to manage and enhance wildlife habitats. The strategy seeks to promote open space as a network of recreational, ecological and landscape assets which both serve the people of the Borough and help enhance and preserve the Borough's physical entity. Richmond's current Local Plan can be found in Appendix 2 and a draft Local plan is currently undergoing consultation for adoption in 2025 which can be found here [Draft Local Plan - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.](#)

4.3.2 London Borough of Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

To conserve Richmond's biodiversity, the decline of valuable species and habitats needs to be reversed. The origination of the Biodiversity Action Plan was one of the agreements resulting from the Rio 1992 Earth Summit (for more information see website - <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmselect/cmenvaud/616/61604.htm>) promoting the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources and to encourage protection.

Richmond's BAP priorities habitats and species that are rare, in decline or characteristic of Richmond, and aims to use them to help raise the profile of biodiversity in the borough. The BAP's strategy is based around protecting and celebrating local wildlife and improving the quality of wildlife habitats and the environment in our borough.

There are currently twenty Biodiversity Action Plans covering selected species and habitats for Richmond; they are listed in Appendix 1. The Council is committed to developing and implementing the objectives enshrined in these plans into their management practices; although these are not all relevant to Ham Pond. The Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan is undergoing a review with completion in September 2025. The plans that will have most relevance are: Acid Grassland, Ponds, Reedbeds and Bats.

4.3.3 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Nature Conservation Policy

Richmond Council adopted a new Nature Conservation Policy in 2019 in which the Council recognises the special and diverse wildlife found within its Borough and its' duty to protect and preserve biodiversity. The Policy outlines the ways the Council will achieve this through management of its land, planning obligations and monitoring. The policy can be found in Appendix 3.

4.3.4 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Tree Policy

Richmond Council has a tree management policy which recognises the benefits of trees and outlines a responsible management approach towards trees within the Borough. This can be found at Appendix 4.

5.0 Site Vision and objectives

5.1 Site vision

To conserve, maintain and improve the quality of the acid and neutral grasslands, scrub woodland and pond habitats, whilst improving the visitor experience on site.

5.3 Objectives

From the site goals (*Section 2*) and informed by the site description and research into key areas, the following objectives have been developed to cover every aspect of the work to be done:

5.3.1 *Objective 1: Nature conservation*

Maintain and improve the open water, marginal and reedbed habitats. Maintain a careful buffer zone with the adjacent acid grassland a National Priority habitat.

Maintain and protect the island with appropriate management.

5.3.2 *Objective 2: Visitor access*

Maintain the viewing platforms, pathways, infrastructure and cleanliness.

5.3.3 *Objective 3: Community involvement*

In partnership with the Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group and Habitats and Heritage (H&H), raise the profile of Ham Pond and communicate with local residents and interested parties.

5.3.4 *Objective 4: Management planning and Monitoring*

Review management regularly and amend work plan as appropriate to ensure site vision is achieved.

Look ahead to the next management plan period, factoring in potential further enhancements and management objectives.

Monitor the key habitats and species to ensure management action is achieving the site vision. Subject to available budget/funding.

6.0 Management Prescriptions

The following detailed work programme is designed to manage the site features to deliver the site vision and objectives; the detailed management aims and rationale are given where relevant. The site management is not set in stone and must be reviewed and updated based on evidence observed on site month to month or year to year, so that management is in response to the current conditions or any environmental change.

Key to terms used within the work programme

AC - Arboriculture Contractor

ACO - Appropriate Council Officer

HPAAG – Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group

GMC - Grounds Maintenance Contractor

H&H - Habitats and Heritage

LBRuT - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

SC - Specialist Contractor

**Brash piles – when creating brash piles, fire hazards to be considered with excess brash removed off site

6.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

6.1.1 Prescription 1: Scrub and minor tree maintenance – **HPA/SC**

Scrub is defined as transitional, or climax vegetation dominated by locally native shrubs, usually less than 5 m tall, occasionally with a few scattered trees.

Scrub is a dynamic habitat and must be controlled in order to prevent adjacent habitat such as grassland from disappearing, however it is also valuable in its own right through providing nesting opportunities for birds and overwintering invertebrates. Scrub of differing ages throughout a site creates a valuable habitat mosaic for a greater species diversity.

- All scrub works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds by an Ecologist.
- Rotationally coppice 15% in each compartment to ensure a range of ages is available for different invertebrates. Map works carried out each year for reference.
- Where possible berries and flowers must be allowed to grow to provide a food/nectar source for birds, mammals, and invertebrates.
- Annually cut back bramble leaders or scrub encroachment onto adjacent amenity grassland.
- Remove any non native species present. Where in abundance, remove over an appropriate period by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Any cordwood and small brash piles** should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value.

- All stems near paths must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards.
- Where tree pruning is required, wounds should be kept to the minimum diameter necessary.

6.1.2 Prescription 2: Amenity grass maintenance – GMC

Grassland around Ham Pond to be carried out by Grounds Maintenance Contractor as per contract specification.

- One metre no mow buffer zone around pond (except at viewing platforms)
- Benches and park infrastructure and furniture to be neatly stimmed round.
- At the end of the year a winter cut of all longer grass to be carried out unless specified by HPAAG
- HPAAG to support Council Parks Officers by reporting any defects noted whilst on site.

6.1.3 Prescription 3: Individual Tree Management – AC

The specimen trees around the pond are very important to the local area in terms of amenity and for biodiversity; appropriate and expert management is required.

- Trees to be surveyed as per Tree Policy and appropriate works raised when required
- All works on trees to be in accordance with the good practice guidance.
- Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds.
- Arisings to be taken off site unless agreed by the ACO
- Bat checks and surveys are required as per best practice.

6.1.4 Prescription 4: Hedgerow maintenance – HPAAG

A small hedge has been planted by the HPAAG and in order to ensure the required vistas, it needs to be managed accordingly

- The length of hedge to be increased to provide a sturdy barrier for unauthorised access to pond.
- Hedges should be pruned annually and left neat and tidy after cutting, with no structural damage to the main trunks, ie rips or tears. Appropriate machinery only to be used in agreement with the ACO.
- Hedges to be maintain either at 1m height or allowed to grow to enable the hedge to be laid, each section to be determined individually.
- Any vegetation more than the annual growth to be checked with Appropriate Council Officer before.
- Berries and flowers must be allowed to grow to provide a food/nectar source for birds, mammals, and invertebrates.
- There should be refuge areas of longer grass alongside hedges with less than 5% bare ground.
- Leaf litter should be left under hedges.

6.1.5 Prescription 5: Ponds and Wetland areas – HPAAGSC/GMC

Ponds are an important habitat within the common and a priority for the Council. Surveys are required to determine works required for the improvement of the habitat for amphibians and other wildlife.

- HPAAG/Specialist Contractor to remove any large woody material or litter where accessible.
- HPAAG to apply water condition treatment as instructions and liaise with contractor
- Grounds Management Contractor to support the amphibian migration with help installing and removing temporary signage and toad ladders
- HPAAG to support frogs and toads at breeding time when necessary and report any sightings.
- In low temperatures Grounds Management Contractor to break ice on pond before 3pm on a school day
- HPAAG to report any hazards to Appropriate Council Officer as soon as possible after observation.
- Recommendations for any changes of management to be discussed with Appropriate Council Officer at next management meeting or earlier if urgent.

6.1.6 Prescription 6: Reedbed Management – SC/HPAAG/GMC

Reedbeds are an important habitat for wetland areas, providing nesting and invertebrate habitat. there is a balance to be struck with the vistas for the pond and providing wildlife habitat. An annual cutting to reeds within the agreed vistas allowing the periphery reeds to expand to determined limits. Remaining reeds to be cut on a rotational (1/3rd per year) basis as agreed with the HPAAG (see figure 2).

- Where manageable by HAAPG any encroaching reeds to be removed and left in an agreed location for collection by the GMC.
- Where the reeds encroachment is excessive eternal specialist contractors will be required, arising to be left in an agreed location for collection by the GMC.
- Works to be carried out outside of the bird breeding season

6.1.7 Prescription 7: Island Management – HAAPG/SC

The island has just undergone a major refurbishment to approximately 80% of the bankside. A slightly higher level on the eastern side has been created sloping down to the west to provide higher grounds in times of excess rain.

- HPAAG/ Appropriate Council Officer to monitor how the recent works settle.
- Annual check of the island to be carried out by Appropriate Council Officer and any works required to be commissioned. Visits should only be carried outside of bird nesting season.
- HPAAG to support Appropriate Council Officer by reporting any defects as soon as possible

6.1.8 Prescription 8: Invasive and Schedule 9 Species management – LBRuT/SC

Invasive species must be either eradicated or controlled depending upon species. Those species of a hazardous nature such as Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed or Oak Processionary Moth will be treated by LBRuT. Himalayan Balsam and selected non-native herbaceous species should be controlled by the NCC, unless agreed with the Appropriate Council Officer.

- Any treatment of non-native herbaceous species, Creeping Thistle, Holm Oak, False Acacia and Tree of Heaven, must be approved by Appropriate Council Officer prior to commencing and must be done according to best practice.
- Where stands of hazardous non-native plants are identified, Council Parks Officers and Appropriate Council Officer to prepare maps.

6.1.9 *Prescription 9: Water inlet/outlet infrastructure – TFM*

In times when water levels drop additional water needs to be added from the mains which is carried out by the HPAAG when necessary. The infrastructure for this is maintained by the Council's Facilities Management Team as described in 3.5.

- Facilities Management to carry out an annual inspection and service of the equipment.
- HPAAG to support Facilities Management by reporting any defects as soon as possible to ACO.

6.2 Objective 2: Visitor Experience

6.2.1 *Prescription 10: Maintain viewing platforms, boundaries and check structures – LBRuT/GMC*

Provide a welcoming and clean visitor environment with clear entrances, viewing platforms including free from trip hazards.

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks on Infrastructure and signage and commission any repairs required.
- HPAAG to support Parks Officers by reporting any defects noted whilst on site. Emergency works to be reported within 24 hours non urgent within 5 days.

6.2.2 *Prescription 11: Litter collection – GMC*

All Nature Conservation Sites must be kept free of litter. The bins should be emptied under the Parks Cleansing contract at least three times per week.

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks for litter on site and report any hotspots.
- Regular litter picking to be carried out by GMC within 2m of main paths and pavements.
- Scavenge picks and/or deep cleans to be carried out annually by GMC or when required.
- HPAAG to litter pick whilst working on site, any large items or fly tip to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.

6.3 Objective 3: Publicity and communication

6.3.1 *Prescription 12: Publicity and communication – ACO/HPAAG*

The Council is keen to ensure local residents are kept up to date with works on site. ACO and HPAAG liaise with stakeholders as well as other Council contractors and partners such as the LBRuT Parks Enforcement Contractor and the local rough sleep charity SPEAR.

- HPAAG to advertise volunteer days as appropriate.

- HPAAG to provide summaries of work for ward councillors and press releases when required by Appropriate Council Officer
- HPAAG to report any signs of rough sleeping or antisocial behaviour/vandalism to Appropriate Council Officer as soon as possible.

6.4 Objective 4: Management Planning and Monitoring

6.4.1 Prescription 13: Review Management and Work Plans – **LBRuT/HPAAG**

The plan should be seen as a live document for ongoing editing and updating, no plan can anticipate every situation or environmental response and it is vital that management be reviewed every year and the subsequent work programme adjusted. To ensure that management remains on track to deliver the site vision and objectives, the completed actions must be reviewed each year and if necessary, the following years actions updated.

- Unless otherwise agreed in writing a yearly report should be submitted to the Appropriate Council Officer outlining details of projects undertaken, number of volunteers and items of note
- This should include a simple summary of the work completed with an annotated map to be discussed at an annual review meeting (in November) with the Appropriate Council Officer.
- A minimum of twice yearly site visits will be undertaken by the Appropriate Council Officer to assess Habitats and any issues.
- This management plan will be fully reviewed at the end of every 5-year period (next due in 2029) to evaluate achievements of the site vision and objectives. At this time useful feedback from NCC and stakeholders along with requirements for further funding and resources should be considered and used to produce an updated management plan for the next five or ten year period, as appropriate.

6.4.2 Prescription 14: Monitor key species and habitats. – **FoHP/SC**

To inform future management plans, species and habitat information should be collated. Key species and habitats including, but not restricted to, those featured within the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan and those classed as 'priority' by the Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.

- On each site visit, any sightings to be collated and reported back to the Appropriate Council Officer and Habitats and Heritage (H&H) for recording.
- Where a sighting is imminently important to the management of a site (such as bird nesting, uncovering of a badger sett/fox earth etc) the impacts must be discussed with the Appropriate Council Officer and a decision taken to continue the works or not.
- Specific surveys will be carried out dependant on available funding suggestions for these surveys are listed below in Table 1.

6.4.3 Table 1 – Species surveys required

Survey type	Expected timing	Survey details

Ash dieback survey	June-Aug	Carry out basic ash dieback survey across the site. Survey should follow health categories detailed by the Tree Council.
Ancient and veteran tree survey	Jan-Dec	Identify, number tag and map all veteran and ancient trees. Produce a schedule of required works in priority order
Amphibian survey	Mar-Jun	Survey suitable waterbodies for amphibians during springtime to determine a) presence/likely absence and b) population size where present.
Breeding bird survey	Mar-Sep	Carry out a breeding bird survey in Ham Common Woods.
Survey and map Potential Roost Features (PRF's)	Jan-Dec	Survey large willows and build a QGIS database of all trees with PRF's.
Invertebrate survey	May-Sept	site wide invertebrate survey including interception traps for saproxylic invertebrates
Moth trapping		Set up light traps to survey for moth species
Bioacoustic surveys for bats	May-Oct	Use static bioacoustics recorders to survey for bat species across the site each season
Maintain pan species site list and send to Habitats and Heritage	Jan-Dec	Keep up to date records of all species recorded and send records to Habitats and Heritage <u>Richmond Biodiversity Partnership - Habitats & Heritage (habitatsandheritage.org.uk)</u>

6.6 Table 2 – Ham Pond Work programme 2024 – 2029

Prescription	Priority	Year					Usual Timing	Lead resource	Prescription details	Comments
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29				
P1: Scrub and minor tree maintenance	1	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	Oct - Feb	HPAAG/SC	Rotationally coppice 15% per area per year. Cut back bramble and other suckers/leaders from grassland. Remove non natives.	Precautionary approach for hibernating hedgehogs
P2: Amenity Grass management	1						March - Oct	GMC	The grass is cut as per the amenity grass schedule leaving a one metre buffer around the ponds edge.	
P3: Individual Tree Management	1						As required	AC	Trees to be checked as per Tree policy and any required works commissioned.	Bats and nesting duck/bird checks to be done before works commence. ACO and HPAAG to be advised
P4: hedgerow management	1						Sept - Feb	HPAAG	To be maintained at a 1m height or allowed to grow for laying at a later date	
P5: Pond and wetland area management	1						Sept - Feb	HPAAG/SC		As per best practice
P6: Reedbed management	1						Sept - Feb	HAAPG/SC	Vistas to be kept cleared, works to be carried out during autumn months.	As per best practice

P7: Island Management	1					Sept - Feb	ACO/HPAA G/SC	Annual inspection of island integrity and revetment. Commission any repairs	Outside of bird nesting season unless urgent repairs required
P8: Invasive and Schedule 9 Species management	1					As required	LBRuT/SC	Manage non-native invasive species as required in line with best practice.	Treatment must be done according to best practice.
P9: Water filling apparatus from pond – the road side	1					April - Nov	TFM	Annual inspection and any works required. Respond to any filling emergencies	Ensure pond is able to be topped up to prevent fish mortality
P10: Maintain viewing platform, boundaries and check structures	1					All year	LBRuT/GMC	Report any defects to Aco for logging with GMC for action. Larger repairs to be assessed by Parks Officer for the site.	
P11: Litter collection	1					All year	GMC/HPAA G	Bins to be emptied at least 3 times a week as per contract requirements. Litter pick when on site, any large/bulky litter and fly tipping to be reported to ACO within 24 hour. GMC to collect litter after HPAAG pond tidy ups'	
P12: Publicity and Communication	1					All year	HPAAG/H& H/SC	Liaise with interested parties and prepare brief summaries of works when required	
P13: Review plan and work programme annually	1					Sept	LBRuT/HPA AG	Annual meeting in September to discuss works for forthcoming year.	
P14: Monitor key species and habitats.	1					As appropriate	HPAAG/SC	Sightings to be reported to ACO and Habitats and Heritage as appropriate. When funding available species surveys to be commissioned to inform management	

6.6 Priority levels

1 – Very important for the maintenance of the key habitats, species or visitor amenity

(i.e. annual meadow cut) and should reflect the bare minimum of what should be achieved each year.

2 – Of secondary importance to the key tasks, to be done if more time / resources are available (i.e. coppicing / thinning a secondary woodland boundary to a meadow, or additional survey work); priority 2 tasks could become 1s if not completed for a number of years.

3 – Luxury, wish list tasks: nice to do but not important if resources are not available; these items might become priority 2s over time if not completed but are unlikely ever to reach priority 1 unless significant change in other factors.

1 – Priorities in red mean the task was not completed as scheduled.

R – Reactive, unplanned work, may be coupled with a numerical priority, i.e. R1.

* Optional element to be priced separately and is dependent on funding



8.0 References

- Archer, J., Curson, D. (1993) Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames: Ecology Handbook 21: London Ecology Unit. Great Britain.
- Greater London Authority. The London Plan [online]. Available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/london-plan>
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council (2013), Habitat and species action plans [online]. Available at: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/habitat_and_species_action_plans
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council. Richmond upon Thames Open Spaces Strategy [online]. Available at: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/str_main_report.pdf
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council. Byelaws and Local Legislation [online]. http://www.richmond.gov.uk/byelaws_and_local_legislation
- Rackham, O. (2006) Woodlands: HarperCollinsPublishers, London.
- Rodwell, J.S. ed. (1991) British Plant Communities. Vol I: Woodlands and scrub. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- RSPB (2007) Pond Management [online]. Available at: http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/pondsforwildlife/pond_management.aspx
- Streeter, D., Hart-Davies, C., Hardcastle, A., Cole, F. & Harper, L. (2009) The Most Complete Guide to the Flowers of Britain and Ireland. London, UK: Collins.
- The Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group [online]. Available at: [Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group - Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group](#)

9.0 Glossary

9.1 Bird Nesting Season

Bird nesting season (BNS) is classed as from the 1st March – 31st July inclusive however some birds (for eg herons) breed outside of this period and this is going to become increasingly common with climate change. All breeding birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/garden-hedges/hedge-law/>

9.2 Bridle way and Permissive Horse paths

9.2.1 Bridle way

Bridle way" means a highway over which the public have the following, but no other, rights of way, that is to say, a right of way on foot and a right of way on horseback or leading a horse, with or without a right to drive animals of any description along the highway; extract taken from [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(c. 69\) \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

9.2.2 Permissive horse path

Permissive horse paths are paths that Richmond Council have allowed horses to use for recreational purposes. These paths may be changed from time to time in accordance with management objectives with the site.

9.3 Green Belt

Green Belt (GB) is a national policy designation and there is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt. In line with the NPPF, the Green Belt serves five purposes:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns and
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

9.4 Metropolitan Open land

Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) is open land or water which is of significance to London as a whole or a part of London, either publicly or privately owned, and with or without a public access, which either:

- a) Contributes to the physical structure of London and helps to separate and/or define London's distinctive communities'
- b) Contributes to the establishment of London's special character by providing attractive breaks in what would otherwise be continuous urban development
- c) Creates a significant visual open space experience when used, passed or crossed

- d) Contains natural features, buildings or landscape of historic, recreational, agricultural, natural conservation or scientific interest, worthy of protection on account of their value nationally or to the whole part or a part of London
- e) Includes open air facilities, especially for leisure, recreation and sport of importance for the whole or a part of London; or
- f) Forms part of a green chain of related open spaces and linking footpaths, bridleways, riverside and canal walks and towpaths

Some open spaces and gardens which themselves might not be of significance to London as a whole, but which combine visually and physically to form a larger significant open area or green wedge are included.

9.5 Other Open Land of Townscape Importance (OOLTI)

Open areas, which are not extensive enough to be defined as Metropolitan Open Land, but act as pockets of greenery of local significance, contribute to the local character, and are valued by residents as open spaces in the built-up area. these areas can include public and private sports grounds, some school playing fields, cemeteries, allotments, private gardens, areas of vegetation such as street trees and mature trees. OOLTI is a local policy and new designations are made by the council as part of the plan-making process. This is different to the national policy designation of 'Local Green Space'.

9.6 Public Open Space

Public Open Space is parks and similar land for public use, whether provided by the Council, or privately, where access for the public is secured by virtue of legal agreements.

9.7 Richmond Biodiversity partnership

The Richmond Biodiversity Partnership (RBP) is an independent consortium of local specialists and organisations concerned with wildlife and biodiversity across Richmond Borough. Chaired by Habitats & Heritage, the Partnership regularly updates and publishes the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan (see 4.3.2), a strategy document that details plans for the protection and management of habitats and species of national, regional or local significance and those that are on the Red List of Threatened Species across the Borough

9.8 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

London's most valuable and special places for wildlife are recognised by the Mayor and London borough councils as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Over 1500 SINC have been identified across the capital. Within Richmond Borough there are 55 (as of 2019) and some are also designated as Local Nature Reserves or as internationally or nationally important sites for the habitats or species found within them. Many SINC are places where residents and visitors can enjoy nature close up.

There are three tiers of SINC depending upon their importance; Metropolitan, Borough and Local levels.

9.8.1 Metropolitan Importance - contain habitats or species important at a London Level for example bats or acid grassland. These sites may not all have public access.

9.8.2 Borough Importance – contain habitats or species important at a borough Level for example stab beetles. These sites may not all have public access

9.8.3 Local Importance - contain habitats or species important at a local level such as graveyards. These sites have open public access

10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, habitats and species relevant to Ham Common Woods, [online] available at - https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond_compressed.pdf

Appendix 2

Richmond Council Local Plan, [online] available at - [Draft Local Plan - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/17991/nature_conservation_policy_statement.pdf)

Appendix 3

Richmond Council Nature Conservation Policy – link

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/17991/nature_conservation_policy_statement.pdf

Appendix 4

Richmond Council Tree Policy [online available at] -

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/18699/tree_policy.pdf

Appendix 5

SINC designation for Ham Common west

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: RiL13

Site Name: Ham Common West

Summary: An area of short acid grassland with an attractive pond

Grid ref: TQ 177 719

Area (ha): 8.51

Borough(s): Richmond upon Thames

Habitat(s): Acid grassland, Pond/lake, Scattered trees

Access: Free public access (all/most of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Site Description: The western part of Ham Common consists of close-mown acid grassland, with an attractive pond. The wooded, eastern section of the common is included in the Richmond Park Site of Metropolitan Importance. The pond is fringed with a few

weeping willows (*Salix x sepulcralis*). There is a diverse marginal vegetation, particularly on the northern edge. This includes round-fruited rush (*Juncus compressus*), which is rare in London. The rush is naturally-occurring here, while many of the more colourful species, such as marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) and yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) have been planted. White water-lilies (*Nymphaea alba*) float on the water's surface, while curled pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) grows beneath the surface. The extensive grasslands surrounding the pond, seem at first glance to be too closely-mown to be of any ecological interest. However the abundance of sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) throughout the sward indicates that this is acid grassland. Part of the grasslands are used for cricket and the common is popular for informal recreation.

Site first notified: 01/01/1993 **Boundary last changed:** 01/02/2000
Citation last edited: 16/01/2007 **Mayor Agreed:**
Defunct: N
Last Updated: 07/02/2007

Appendix 6

Common designation details for Ham Common Woods including Ham Common West

Registration Authority	Greater London Authority
Registration number	CL64
Borough	London Borough of Richmond
Area	48.69ha
Description of site location	Partly wooded area adjacent to Richmond Park, south of Richmond