



Hatherop Park Management Plan

January 2024 – December 2025

Hatherop Park Management Plan 2024-25: Foreword

Hatherop Park is an important asset for local people and visitors. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames aspires to maintain and manage the park to the highest standards.

This management plan is based on an audit of the park following 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 or infrastructure. In particular the borough works closely with the Friends of Hatherop Park. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the park.

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

The current financial situation will inevitably have a detrimental affect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough’s parks and open spaces. The tightening of available budgets seems likely for the foreseeable future. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Continental Landscapes and the Friends of Hatherop Park, 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.



Hatherop Park main field summer 2023

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for Hatherop Park provides a framework for the management and any relevant development of the park. 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 in the park.

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 park namely:

- The Friends of Hatherop Park and borough residents;
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service;
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames;
- Elected members, ward councilors 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 (GiGL, 2019).

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 that are available to 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’s Aims and Objectives

The London Borough of Richmond recognises that its parks and open spaces 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](#)

3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Richmond borough has the largest area of public open space per head of population of any London borough. The Council has 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 we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed. The principles were devised following a public consultation.

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 Opens 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.

3.3 Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Richmond

The main aims of the plan are:

- To conserve and where possible enhance Richmond’s variety of habitats and species, in particular those which are of international or national importance, are in decline locally, are characteristic to Richmond or have particular public appeal, which can raise the profile of biodiversity
- To ensure that Richmond 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))

3.4 Parks Improvement

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:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_improvements_and_conservation/latest_parks_updates

4. Site Description

4.1 Outline History of Hatherop Park

Hatherop Park has developed from being a typical 1930’s recreation ground used primarily for winter sports activity, to being a highly valued community asset. This improvement and development has been primarily driven by the wish of the Council to upgrade all of its parks and open spaces in recent years but also by the formation of the highly successful and dedicated ‘Friends of Hatherop Park’, inaugurated in December 2003.

4.2 General Information

4.2.1 Land Tenure

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

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

Hatherop Park is situated on the boundary of Hampton & Hampton North wards, towards the western end of the borough. In terms of green space Bushy Park, Home Park and Hampton Court provide an impressive list of well-recognised, green space in the area. However, these are not regarded as 'local' and would not be considered in the same way as Hatherop Park. At 8.42 hectares, it is easily the largest amenity open space in the area.

Hatherop Park is situated on the western boundary of a relatively large residential area and would currently cater for pedestrian access from that area. Other major influences would be an adjacent sports ground (west) under the ownership of London Borough of Hounslow, disused reservoirs and associated land, under the ownership of Thames Water, and an allotment site.

4.2.3 Access

As a free and open facility Hatherop Park has the potential to provide fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by train and bus and car can currently access the site.

4.2.4 Local Transport

Train:

Hatherop Park is approximately 15 minutes' walk from Hampton Station, which is on the overground London Waterloo line.

Bus:

R70 from Richmond via Twickenham stops in Broad Lane at the junction of Oak Avenue. 2 minutes walk.

H25 from Hatton Cross

111 from Heathrow

4.2.5 Landscape & Topography

The park's layout is irregular in terms of overall shape, comprising of a large rectangular space with a long narrow spur running off to the west. The main area is amenity grass, which is relatively level and flat. The spur area is re-claimed land,

which has been capped and is therefore noticeably higher. This area has established 'scrub' coverage.

Towards the south western end of the site a small sunken area is being ecologically developed and contains a small water body and bog area. Planting across the site is limited and generally only used as a boundary treatment.

4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings

There are no listed buildings on the site.

4.2.7 Ecology

The nature conservation part of Hatherop is an open area with a diverse range of plants, flowers and fungi growing over the seasons. This site consists of a large area of young 'wasteland' (far from waste in wildlife terms) on the former Council burning ground. There is also a pond and an area of regenerating elm scrub and nettle beds.

The flora is diverse, and probably the best example of wasteland in the Borough. There is great potential for teaching about ecological processes of colonisation and succession as well as plant identification. Among the many colourful, common wild flowers are several species, which are scarce in London including balm (*Melissa officinalis*), hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*), Greek dock (*Rumex cristatus*) and spotted medick (*Medicago arabica*). On hot days the site is swarming with butterflies and grasshoppers and many bird species use the site including whitethroat, goldfinch, stock dove and green woodpecker.

The trees on the site have been managed on a reactive basis since the park was opened in the early 1900's, with many of the trees being "self sown". They are a prominent feature in both the local and wider landscape, and characterise the Park. Volunteers, with the aim of increasing and diversifying the tree stock, have planted new trees adjacent to the railway line. The dead elms in the northwest provide a valuable source of standing dead wood for woodpeckers, invertebrates and fungi. A dense bed of nettles among the regenerating elms provides food for the caterpillars of butterflies such as small tortoiseshell, comma and peacock.

The pond is interesting as, although it does not appear on older maps two large coppiced alders indicate that this has been a wet habitat for some time. There is diverse emergent vegetation, some of which may have been introduced. TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) has constructed a boardwalk around the pond. They have also planted reeds and other marginal plants creating a habitat for wildlife, including frogs, as well as for aesthetic value. The common reed (*Phragmites australis*) planting contributed to targets set within the Richmond, London and UK Biodiversity Action Plans and more planting will be carried out in the future.

4.2.8 Facilities

Hatherop Park contains the following facilities within the park:

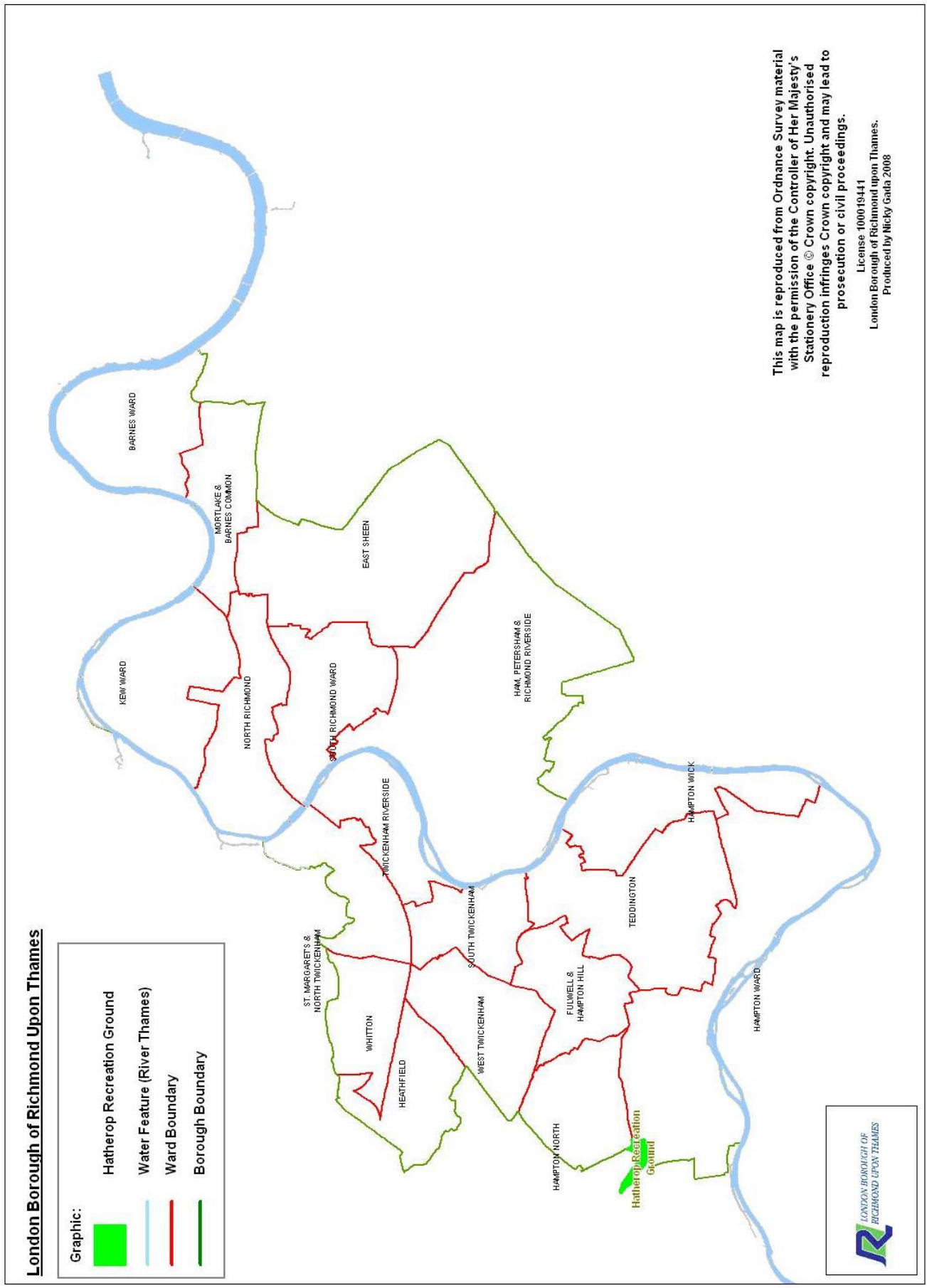
- A children's play area equipped to LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) standard

- A youth facility comprising of a shelter, ball court and outdoor multi gym
- A pavilion containing toilets, changing rooms and a kitchen space designed for a refreshment's kiosk
- One full size pitch, plus two 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5
- Dog Free Area, fenced off as part of the children's play area
- Nature Conservation Area
- An outdoor gym area

4.2.9 Maps and Plans

On the following pages, please find:

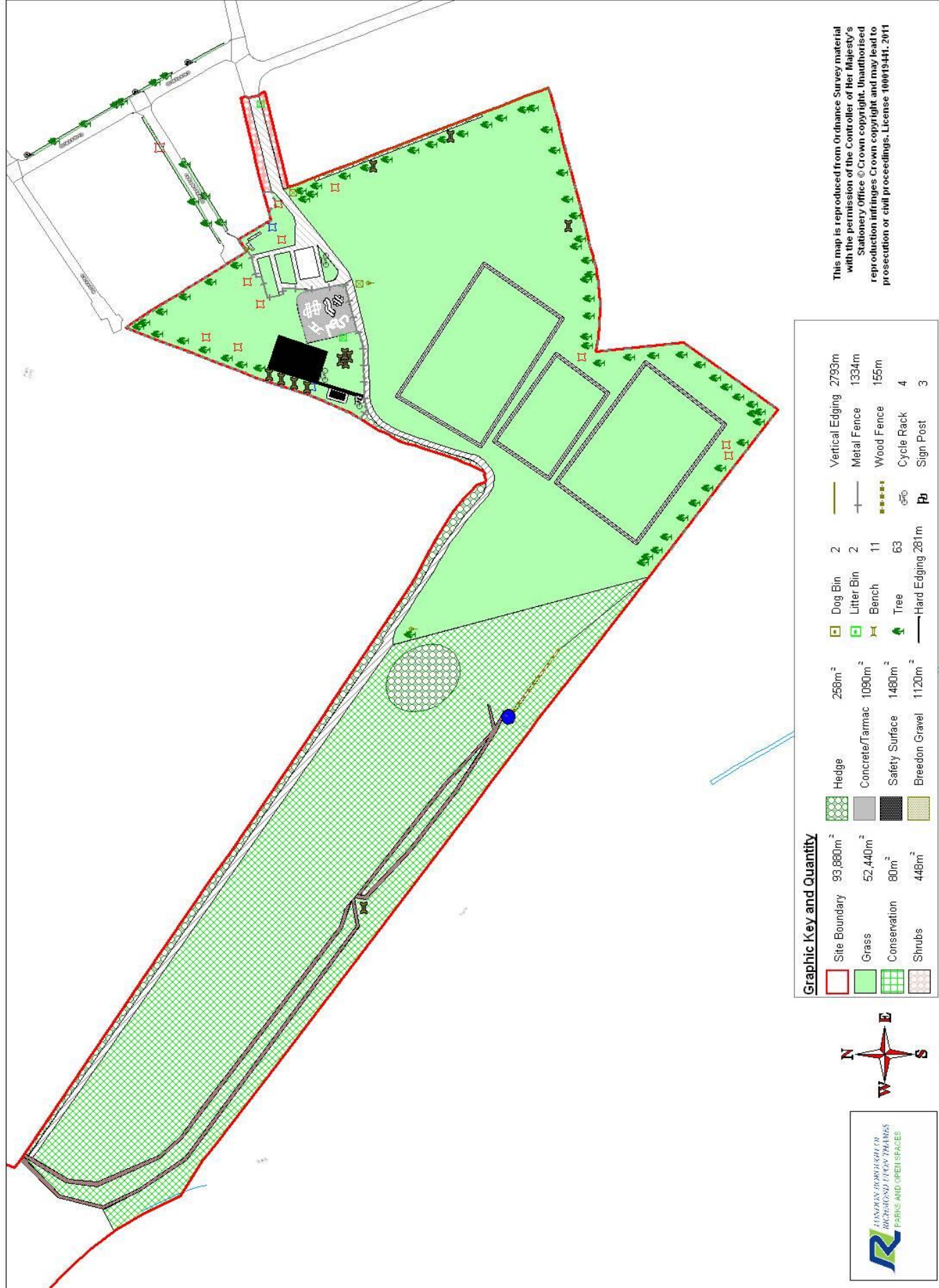
- Location map of Hatherop Park within the borough
- Plan map of Hatherop Park
- Aerial photo of Hatherop Park



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Graphic Key and Quantity

Site Boundary	93,980m ²	Hedge	258m ²	Dog Bin	2	Vertical Edging	2793m
Grass	52,440m ²	Concrete/Tarmac	1090m ²	Litter Bin	2	Metal Fence	1334m
Conservation	80m ²	Safety Surface	1480m ²	Bench	11	Wood Fence	155m
Shrubs	448m ²	Breedon Gravel	1120m ²	Tree	63	Cycle Rack	4
				Hard Edging	281m	Sign Post	3



Hatherop Park aerial photograph



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 provided;
- 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 the National Policy Planning 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 park’s facilities and infrastructure.

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;
- Buildings including toilets;
- Health and safety;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Access for people with disabilities.

5.3.1 Main Entrance

The main entrance to Hatherop Park is in good condition. The wrought iron gates and fencing are in good condition. The council signage is clear and helpful. In addition, the sign advertising the Friends of Hatherop Park is also a good initiative promoting community involvement in the site. The tarmac roadway has been resurfaced and does not present any trip hazards. The shrubbery lining the entrance has been replanted in recent years in partnership with the Friends of Hatherop Park. The borders do provide a good habitat for insects and birds.

5.3.2 Boundaries

To the west of the park the boundary is marked by chain link fencing along the adjoining allotment site and the railway line. The fencing is in a reasonable condition. To the east the park has a common boundary with the neighbouring Twickenham Rugby Club. This is marked by shrubs and trees but is not fenced allowing access from many points. To the east the boundary is marked with a mature privet hedge bounding the houses in Hatherop Road. Gaps have appeared in the hedge over the past few years.

5.3.3 **Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access**

The roadway into the site has been resurfaced and is in good condition. The tarmac gives way to gravel beyond the playground. There is a tarmac path from the playground through to the ball-court. The gravel roadway leads down to a well-established secure compound that is used by council contractors to recycle tree cuttings from across the borough.

5.3.4 **Parking**

There is no public parking in Hatherop Park.

5.3.5 **Information**

Information relating to Hatherop Park is available on the parks section website: www.richmond.gov.uk

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.

5.3.6 **Cleanliness**

Although the site seems fairly clean and tidy, there is some evidence of litter and this is a concern particularly after weekend football matches. Litter is also being blown across from the neighbouring rugby ground. There is evidence of occasional dog fouling but issues are reported to the Council's enforcement contractor to monitor the behaviour of dog owners.

5.3.7 **Planted Areas**

There are virtually no formally planted areas in the park apart from the entrance. The exception to this is the perennial display of daffodils along the eastern boundary in the spring.

5.3.8 **Scenic Quality**

Hatherop Park is a large open space that has scenic value, particularly from the plateau of the nature area offering views across the nearby disused Kempton reservoir.

5.3.9 **Grass Areas**

Most of the area is amenity grassland. This is in good condition and well maintained. The nature area has recently been added to those areas in the borough which have an annual cut and collect regime. This is designed to promote the spread of wildflowers and reduce encroachment by scrub and self-sown saplings.

In addition, a strip of grass approximately five metres around an area of the perimeter of the playing field area is left to grow and cut once a year to promote biodiversity.

5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins

There are plenty litter bins in the area. These are mainly located around the playground and ball court areas.

5.3.11 Seating

The park has 10 benches available for visitors to sit on. One of these is a memorial bench. The playground area is also well provided with seating.

5.3.12 Children’s Play Space

The children’s play area is in good condition, has a good variety of equipment and is well used. In addition, in the adjoining area, a ball court, teen shelter and outdoor multi gym have been installed. These are in good condition and appear well maintained and largely free of graffiti.

5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets

Between October 2009 and October 2010, a new pavilion was installed in Hatherop Park.

The pavilion contains toilet facilities, changing rooms, and provision for a refreshment kiosk. The football club currently run a kiosk service at weekends and on match days.

5.3.14 Health and Safety

The paths, furniture 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 and potential to Hatherop Park. There is a large area of grassland (mentioned above in section 5.3.9) that is a wildlife area. This, coupled with the neighbouring green spaces, allows the park to host a thriving ecosystem. The conservation area of Hatherop Park has been identified as an important nesting site for many birds such as House Sparrow, Cuckoo and Redwing amongst others.

5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

Access to the park is along a tarmac roadway that stretches as far as the playground and continues into the ball court. Access beyond these areas would be difficult for some people with disabilities.

6. Vision and Objectives for the Park

6.1 The overall vision for Hatherop Park:

Following consultation with the local community and as a result of the development of this Management Plan, the future vision for the Park is to:

‘Continue to support the transformation of the park into a well-used open space with a wide range of amenities for all ages and groups and to maintain the facilities and infrastructure to the highest standards’.

6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Park

This section sets out the aims and objectives for the management of Hatherop Park as follows:

- To identify and cherish the special character of the Park
- To ensure that the management of the Park protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the Park
- To ensure that all landscape improvement works are supported by a commitment to maintenance of the same
- To ensure that the Park is promoted and managed in order to provide a high-quality service
- To meet the demands and expectations of the local community primarily as a recreational, diverse and enjoyable place
- To promote the educational value of the site and to encourage local schools to use the Park for a wide variety of educational purposes
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management and development of the Park

7. Management of the Park

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. In 2022 Public Realm funding allow improvements in all wards covering – Sports pitches, Outdoor gyms, Playgrounds and pathway access.

7.1.2 Delivery partners

The Council works and consults with the Friends of Hatherop Park. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users and local residents regarding their views of the facilities and any impact that is made on their lives. Continued working with the Friends has a very high priority in relation to the continued management of the park.

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 indicator and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to Hatherop Park

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 arboricultural 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.

7.2 A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Hatherop Park continues 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 site will be inspected daily for 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. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible.

7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure

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

7.3.1 Community Safety

All contractors working in the park 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. Incidents of ASB are reported to the Council’s enforcement contractor and the local police who carry out patrols.

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)

7.2.3 Clean and Well Maintained

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

7.4.1 Grass Maintenance

Grass within Hatherop Park is 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 15 and 25mm 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 will be 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.

Areas of grass on the perimeter of the amenity turf are being left to flower and seed in the summer/autumn to encourage insects and butterflies and the conservation grasslands are closely monitored for their benefits to local biodiversity.

7.4.2 Trees

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalists, 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.

Richmond Council encourages the Friends of Hatherop Park 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.

Hatherop Park is surrounded by perimeter plantings which are a mixture of native and non-native. The site contains wooded areas which provide an important wildlife habitat. This site also contains many young ash trees and the site will be important in monitoring the effects of ash dieback and hopefully identifying resistant specimens.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the park and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis before 10.30am each day by the park cleansing contractors.

The park cleansing contractors carry out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping/blowing of paths. This applies to all surfaces, paths, lawns and beds.

When the park 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. Items will be cleaned on a monthly basis or more frequently when heavily used. 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 inspected twice a week by the grounds maintenance contractor and any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly. In addition, there is an annual inspection to ensure that the playground meets ROSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) standards.

7.4.5 Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the grounds' maintenance contractor.

Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying between March and November.

Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gulleys are inspected regularly.

7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance

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

Football pitches

The general public book the football pitches from September to April. During the playing season they are overmarked weekly and spiked and chain harrowed monthly.

At the end of the playing season the posts are removed, and sockets covered. The pitches are over seeded with a rye grass mixture.

7.5 Sustainability

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

7.5.1 Recycling

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

7.5.2 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 Conservation and Heritage

The Council's ground maintenance contractor takes all green waste to Townsmead recycling centre.

7.6.1 Pesticides

The use of pesticides in Hatherop Park will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making.

7.6.2 Biodiversity

Current Management

The management of the conservation area includes work on the pond area, the small copse and the scrub around the periphery of the football pitches. The maintenance is undertaken by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and is occasionally complimented by the Friends of Hatherop Park.

TCV over the past few years have cleared areas of scrub (mainly bramble), created a wildflower meadow (details below), planted trees, created a pathway with wooden edging from the football pitches down to the pond using woodchips from the compound, helped to control the Japanese Knotweed by cutting the dead stems down in the winter months, worked on the pond and undertaken regular litter picks throughout the site. The hedge that runs along the railway line was traditionally hedge-laid to create a thick wildlife corridor and will be completed over a number of years.

The wildflower mix included 80% grasses and 20% wildflowers for an area of neutral soil.

Herbs: Yarrow, Black Knapweed, Meadow Buttercup, Self Heal, Ribwort Plantain, Birds-foot Trefoil, Ox-eye daisy, Autumn Hawkbit, Common Cat's-ear, Perforate St. John's Wort, Field Scabious, Bulbous Buttercup, Yellow Rattle, Common Sorrel, Lady's Bedstraw and Salad Burnet.

Grasses: Fine Bent (Common/Brown bent), Crested Dogs-tail, Meadow Foxtail, Red Fescue, Smooth Meadow Grass and Common Quaking Grass.

The meadow has annual 'cut and remove' hay cuts at the end of August to the beginning of September, to ensure the nutrient level does get too high.

Green Roof:

The pavilion in the park was constructed with a sedum Green Roof. Green roofs last longer than conventional roofs, reduce energy costs with natural insulation, create peaceful retreats for people and animals, and absorb storm water, potentially lessening the need for complex and expensive drainage systems. On a wider scale, green roofs improve air quality and help reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect, a condition in which city and suburban developments absorb and trap heat.

Future Management/Proposals:

The wildflower meadow will continue to have its annual hay cut and selective weed removal such as docks, nettles, thistles and coarse grasses and if needed over time, more plants will be added. The maintenance of this area will also include cutting back the overhanging branches and vegetation to ensure the area is not overshadowed and there is enough light for the wildflowers to establish.

Both bird and bat boxes were erected on the trees 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.

Continuing the hedge-laying project along the railway to create a thick wildlife corridor and opening up views of the reservoir.

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.

The patches of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) will continue to be monitored and treated if necessary.

- In 2009 6 bat boxes were installed in the pond area of the park.

We will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.

7.7 Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of the park. The park has been developed in close co-operation with the Friends of Hatherop Park. Working closely with the group will continue. We are also trying to encourage more interaction using vision plans as a catalyst for this.

7.7.1 Parks Events

In relation to Hatherop Park the policy of the council is to encourage the hire of parts/all of the park to appropriate organisations or groups and to promote and hold its own events and activities.

Local ward Councillors are consulted before permission is granted for any new major 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

7.8.1 Marketing

Promotion and marketing of Hatherop Park 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.

Entrance Signage

There is an existing entrance sign, which was installed after funds were raised by the Friends of Hatherop Park. A corporate style of signage for Richmond’s parks and open spaces was launched in 2007. Hatherop Park was one of the first parks to benefit from these attractive and informative signs.

Internet

Hatherop Park features on the council’s website and can be accessed from the Parks and Open Spaces link: www.richmond.gov.uk

Information of the Friends of Hatherop Park can be found at: <http://e-voice.org.uk/hatherop-park/>

General Promotion

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

8. Achievements and Action Plan

8.1 Achievements

Changes and improvements made to Hatherop Park in 2022-23 were:

- The Playground was enhanced in 2022 using Public Realm funding. A large activity trail and a new accessible roundabout was added to the site.
- The ponds boardwalk was extended in 2022 and steps were formalised to increase access into the area.
- The main entrance to the site was replants and protective fencing was added to the area.
- Extensive works to improve the light around the pond and protective dead hedges and hibernacula’s were added in 2023.
- Extensive clearance of scrub to increase the invertebrate basking areas was done in 2023.
- In 2022 and 2023 trees were planted around the entire site to replace those lost and increase numbers.
- The multi-use-games-area had all the faded line marking renewed in 2023.



Hatherop Park Conservation area – grass snake basking © Stivi Musievski

8.2 Action Plan

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2024	2025		
Remaining space from former compound to be landscaped and planted with native shrubs to provide habitat interest. The builder's waste and rubble will be removed as the landscaping progresses.	Y		In progress	LBRuT/Continental/Ecology officer
Add accessible picnic benches to replace old metal ones in the playground	Y		In progress	LBRuT & Continental

8.2.1 Development and renewal

The Council is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough’s parks. It is not envisaged that there is likely to be any other major addition to the parks’ facilities. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance and to plan for effective repair and renewal of the major elements of the park’s hard landscaping or infrastructure e.g. path system.

8.2.2 Community Engagement

The Parks team intends to continue to work with the Friends of Hatherop Park. The Council has and will continue to consult with the Friends and local ward councillors in relation to any new initiatives. 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 also included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are included in this section.

Element	Action	Frequency
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 15mm & 25mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Shrub Maintenance	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required Annual As required, dependent on species
Litter collection	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Playground inspection	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Twice per week Monthly Annual
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly inspection with contractors
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual

Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Pond management Hedge laying Hay cut Scrub clearance Woodland glade creation Planting of disease resistant elms Hibernaculum creation	Annual
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8.4 Conclusion

This Management Plan is not ‘set in stone’. It provides a framework and guidelines that enable the Council 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 Hatherop Park. The plan will run from January 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.