



# Hampton Common

January 2022 – December 2023

**Hampton Common Management Plan 2022-23: Foreword**

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

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

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is a 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 the park's facilities or infrastructure. In particular the borough works closely with the Friends of Hampton Common. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the park.

Parks Officers, working closely with colleagues in Continental Landscapes and using a partnership approach, regularly monitor Hampton Common. Members of the local community and Friends of Hampton Common 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, as well as careful consideration of ideas to improve and maintain the park.

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 to maintain high quality standards. In addition, we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the borough's parks, one of our most valuable assets.

<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>National Context</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Relationship to Council Aims &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Site Description</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Audit of Facilities</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Vision and Objectives for the Gardens</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Management of the Gardens</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Achievements and Action Plan</b>	<b>24</b>

**1 Introduction**

1.1 This Management Plan for Hampton Common provides guidance 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 should be achievable within the remit of current budgets. The Plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the park namely:

- Users of the park and borough residents;
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service;
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond;
- Elected members, ward councilors and portfolio holders;
- National agencies;
- Local businesses; and
- Partners and contractors.

1.2 The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.

**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 sports, 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)
- 17.99% 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:

**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





BMX Track upgrade

**3 Relationship to Council 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 biodiversity of the area

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 following plans and strategies. These can be found at: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**3.1 Richmond’s Community Plan**

The Community Plan describes the Council’s vision for the borough and outlines the steps that will be taken, through partnership working, to achieve this vision. The vision is for a borough where:

- local people are engaged and involved in their communities.
- a vibrant and sustainable community and voluntary sector helps residents play a full role in community life.
- the local character of the environment is protected, and development is high quality and compatible with local character.
- our towns and local centres are attractive, viable for businesses and contribute positively to the quality of life of residents and visitors.
- people can live as independently as possible in the local community with good health and wellbeing.

For further details of the Community Plan please visit: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2011**

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, following public consultation, we developed a series of strategic principles by which the 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 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.

**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

**3.4 Parks Improvement Programme 2012 – 2018**

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



**Play area upgrade 2014**

**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: [https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond\\_compressed.pdf](https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond_compressed.pdf)

**4 Site Description**

**4.1 Outline History of Hampton Common**

There is very little specific information available about the history of Hampton Common. It has been a green space for several hundred years and was a tract of heathland with scattered trees – mainly oaks – on the southernmost edge of Hounslow Heath when an 1811 Act of Enclosure formed an area of smallholdings and market gardens known as New Hampton (later to be known as Hampton Hill). The common was reduced as the population grew, particularly swelling during the 1850s due to construction of the water works at Hampton and the extension of the railway line linking Teddington and Hampton.

More history on the area can be found at <http://www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk>

**4.2 General Information**

**4.2.1 Land Tenure**

The site is owned by and managed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

**4.2.2 Location**

Hampton Common is situated in Hampton North, off Oak Avenue and Buckingham Road.

**4.2.3 Access**

As a free and open facility Hampton Common provides 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 which is open between dawn and dusk.

**4.2.4 Local Transport**

**Train:** Hampton Common is approximately 22 minutes’ walk from Hampton station, on the overground line from Waterloo, or can be reduced to just 9 minutes using the 111 bus.

**Bus:** Hampton Hill and the surrounding area are well served by bus routes, including the 111 and R70 which pass Hampton Common.

**Car:** There is limited roadside parking on Oak Avenue and Buckingham Road.

**Cycle:** Cycle racks are available on site.

**4.2.5 Landscape & Topography**

Hampton Common is a group of open fields separated by boundary hedges and wooded belts. The ground is generally flat.

**4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings**

There are no listed buildings within the park.

**4.2.7 Ecology**

Hampton Common is a large open space that along with Oak Avenue Wildlife Site, Hatherop Park and Kempton Park Reservoirs forms a ‘strong green corridor’. There are lots of niches for wildlife but still opportunities to do more.

**4.2.8 Facilities**

The following facilities are available in Hampton Common:

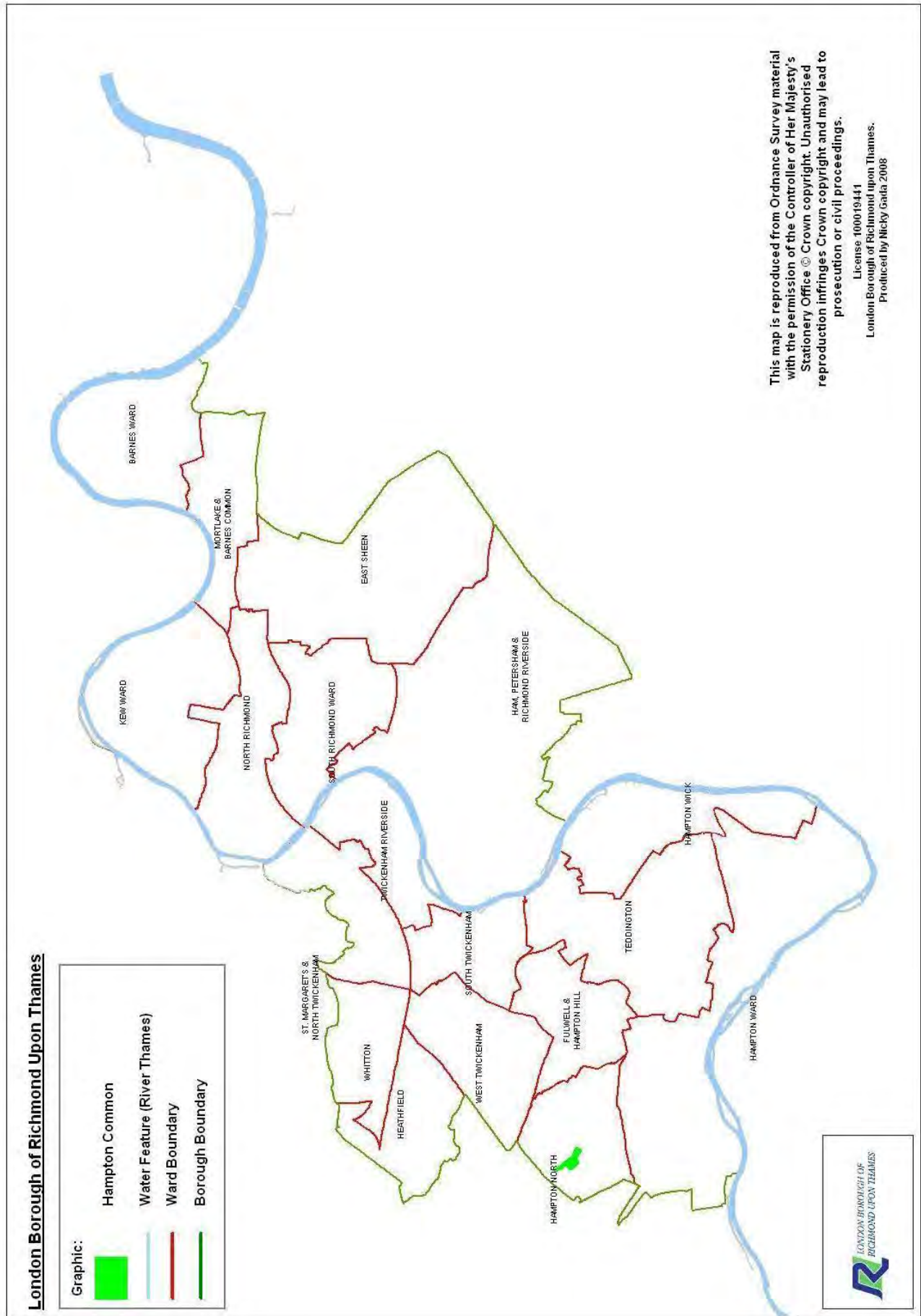
- A BMX circuit
- Cycle stands
- A playground
- Football pitches
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Litter bins
- Benches
- Bulb areas

**4.2.9 Maps and Plans**

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Hampton Common within the borough
- Plan map of Hampton Common
- Aerial photo of Hampton Common





This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

License 100019441  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.  
Produced by Nicky Galda 2008











**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 and to recognise a duty to equality and diversity to provide equally for diverse groups of users
- 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 and London in Bloom

**5.2 Desirable Outcomes of the Local Assessment**

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

These are:

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

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

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;
- Sustainability;
- Conservation and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing; and
- Management

**5.3 Methodology**

The methodology used is 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/recycling;
- 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**

There are several entrances onto the Common: two access sections on Oak Avenue, three gates on Buckingham Road, open access along Tangle Park Road and access via a short alleyway from Morland Close. The two regarded as main entrances are:

- (1) The northernmost end of Buckingham Road, through a gateway set in the boundary hedge, and
- (2) The southern access point on Oak Avenue. Both these entrances have noticeboards, good visibility and surfaced footpaths.

**5.3.2 Boundaries**

There is a thick hedge and fence along Buckingham Road; an open section with bollards on Tangle Park Road and open sections with knee rail on Oak Avenue. The park’s boundary with neighbouring residences is a mixture of fencing and thick, tall hedgerows.

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



There are surfaced footpaths linking the main entrances in Oak Avenue and Buckingham Road with the key site features such as the playground and BMX track and also with the Morland Close entrance. There are also grass paths, particularly linking the different parcels of the Common, and these are kept under review for surfacing. There are no public rights of way.

**5.3.4 Parking**

Hampton Common does not have a public car park. It would not be practicable or desirable to create a public car park in a green space of this nature.

Available car parking in the immediate area is limited to on street car parking on Buckingham Road, Oak Avenue and Tangle Park Road.

**5.3.5 Information**

Information relating to Hampton Common is available on the parks section of the Council’s website: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://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**

Part of the contractor’s duties is to pick up litter and to ensure that the site is kept clean at all times.

**5.3.7 Planted Areas**

There are no shrub or flower beds in Hampton Common. However, there are attractive mature and recently planted trees. These are healthy and well maintained. There are swathes of bulb planting, including daffodils as well as wildflower meadows.

**5.3.8 Scenic Quality**

The park is an attractive open space with fine views across it. It is mostly very natural in its scenic quality and the few facilities do not detract a great deal from this. The hedges and woodland belts soften the impact of surrounding housing.

**5.3.9 Grass Areas**

The amenity grass is in good condition for the football it hosts.

**5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins**

There appears to be an adequate supply of bins, but this should be monitored. Additional shared use bins were installed over past two years at request of Friends Group.

### 5.3.11 Seating

There are a satisfactory number of seats in the play area. Additional seating has been installed over the past few years at request of Friends Group.

### 5.3.12 Children's Play Space

There is a playground in Hampton Common with equipment for the under 7s and 7-13 age groups. It is well maintained and in a good condition.

Outdoor fitness equipment is available and comprises of several pieces for use by all age groups and all abilities. For more information, please visit: [http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/organise\\_park\\_event/fitness\\_activities\\_in\\_parks/fitness\\_equipment\\_in\\_parks.htm](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/parks_and_open_spaces/organise_park_event/fitness_activities_in_parks/fitness_equipment_in_parks.htm) The equipment aims to encourage borough residents to exercise and socialise whilst outdoors in parks. The project places particular emphasis on providing facilities in parks for young people.

There is a BMX circuit on the Common with some natural play elements, linking the circuit to the outdoor fitness equipment.

### 5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets

There are no park buildings at Hampton Common. There are two former Council Officer residences, one each on Oak Avenue and Buckingham Road, but these are now privately owned.

### 5.3.14 Health and Safety

The paths are in good condition with a new section linking the play area to Oak Avenue installed in 2012 to make the park more accessible. The playground and BMX track are well maintained. The service has a generic risk assessment for parks and open spaces which is reviewed each year.

### 5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value

Hampton Common's position next to Oak Avenue means that it is part of an important corridor for wildlife. With its rough grassland, small patches of bramble, hedges and the mature trees on site, food and shelter is provided for insects, birds and mammals. The site could be improved through planting fruiting trees, relaxing the mowing schedule further and creation of dead wood habitats. Although it would have to be on a relatively small scale to accommodate the sports facilities on site, it would still be of benefit to the biodiversity.

### 5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

This factor has been included not only to ensure maximum accessibility for those in wheelchairs and for the elderly and the less able-bodied, but also to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act. Access to Hampton Common is good by virtue of the surfaced paths and easy access gates.

**6 Vision and Objectives for Hampton Common**

**6.1 The overall vision for Hampton Common is to:**

“Maintain and improve the park so as to continue to provide a park where there are opportunities for outdoor contemplation, recreation and education in keeping with its urban location”.

**6.2 The key objectives for Hampton Common are:**

- To continue to work closely with the Friends group and users of the facilities so as to adequately maintain and improve the facilities;
- To ensure that Hampton Common is a place that is secure, safe to use and is clean and well maintained;
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the park;
- To ensure that the park is promoted and managed in order to provide a high-quality service for the people using it;
- To continue to encourage and promote community involvement in the management of the park.
- To ensure that the management of the park protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site;



The view across Hampton Common

## **7 Management of Hampton Common**

### **7.1 Introduction**

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

#### **7.1.1 Parks Service**

The Parks Service is overseen by the Head of Culture, assisted by the Parks Service Manager. It is made up of three teams:

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a parks operations manager, a parks officer, an ecology officer and a support officer.
- The Development team which is responsible for consultation and the planning and initiation of projects. The team consists of a group of local expert consultants coordinated by the Service Manager and assisted by the parks 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, four tree officers and a 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 Hampton Common within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by a major borough-wide capital investment Parks Improvement Programmes between 2005 and 2010, and 2012 and 2017.

#### **7.1.2 Delivery partners**

The Council works with the Friends of Hampton Common in consulting with local people regarding their views of the facilities and any impact that is made on their lives. Continuing this working is a very high priority in relation to the 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 indicators and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to Hampton Common:

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

KPS are the 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 Hampton Common 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 on the LBRuT website [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

There is an agreement with Council’s Street Scene Contractor Continental Landscapes to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is racist or offensive it will be removed within one working day of notification.

### 7.2.2 **Signage**

Park signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any repairs will be carried out promptly.

### 7.2.3 **Pathways**

All paths and hard surfaces will be inspected annually. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible. 'Desire lines' will be assessed for permanent construction.

## 7.3 **Healthy, Safe and Secure**

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

### 7.3.1 **Community Safety**

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

### 7.3.2 **Dog fouling**

The Mobile Litter gang, ParkGuard and the Parks Service make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible, particularly close to areas where people are liable to be eating or children playing. Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

The Council is currently in the process of phasing out dog bins and replacing these with multi-use bins. All general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog waste.

Richmond has adopted dog control orders.

## 7.4 **Clean and Well Maintained**

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

### 7.4.1 **Grass Maintenance**

Grass surfaces within the park are mainly classed as amenity grass. Amenity turf can be described as 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 20 and 50mm 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.

Some areas of grass are cut less frequently where possible, allowing a rough grassland habitat to develop.

**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 Hampton Common to consider the tree population within parks and to communicate with the parks and open spaces team in order to make improvements and ensure that there is continuity in the way that the trees are managed.

Hampton Common contains over 1,000 trees, the site is one of the Council’s largest collection of native specimens including birch, yew, oak, beech, holly, lime, hawthorn, hornbeam, common ash, cherry, field maple and hazel, all providing a valuable habitat for wildlife. Lines of mature oak denote historic land boundaries making them heritage specimens. Non-native ornamental plantings have been introduced which include white horse chestnut and Norway maple.

**7.4.3 Cleansing**

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Green 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 Common 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 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**

The football pitches are all maintained by contractors. In addition to regular mowing, the contractors undertake pitch marking, sports bookings and pitch renovation at the end of each season.

The BMX track is inspected on a daily basis by the contractor operative and monthly by RSS contractors. There are regular thorough checks of the facility and an annual inspection against ROSPA standards.



BMX track at Hampton Common



**7.5 Environmental Sustainability**

The following regimes are designed to ensure that Hampton Common 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**

From a number of points of view, sustainability, environmental considerations and to comply with Local Agenda 21, efforts should be made to recycle green waste. In doing so it is essential to ensure that the recycled waste only includes acceptable material, i.e.

- Grass clippings – these are left in situ in the park
- Grass edgings – reused to fill hollows and dips in the park
- Soft herbaceous cuttings (not woody)
- Broken turfs (after lifting and turfing operations)
- Shredded shrub pruning’s – chipped along with tree waste

Wood chippings from Hampton Common are taken to the compound within Hatherop Park and left there for approx. 1.5 years to mulch down. The mulch is then used on the flowerbeds around the borough as both compost and a weed control.

**7.5.2 Pesticides**

The use of pesticides at Hampton Common will be minimised.

An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making.

**7.6 Community Involvement**

This is crucial to the management of park and will continue to be of the utmost importance. The Council works closely with the Friends group and encourages them in their efforts to apply for grants for the park. Most recently the Council assisted in a bid to the London Marathon Trust to add more toddler play equipment to the play area to increase its play value and appeal to families.

**7.6.1 Parks Events**

The Council encourages the hire of parts of the area to appropriate organisations. 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](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**7.7 Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of Hampton Common is carried out by means of a range of measures to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

**7.7.1 Entrance Signage**

A new corporate style of signage for Richmond’s parks and open spaces was launched in 2007. There are two notice boards on site used to promote work in the park and activities and events held by the Friends Group.

**7.7.2 Internet**

Hampton Common features on the council’s website and can be accessed from the following link at:  
[http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/leisure\\_and\\_culture/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/park\\_details.htm?parkId=184](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_open_spaces/park_details.htm?parkId=184).

The Friends of Hampton Common also produce a newsletter.

**7.7.3 General Promotion**

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

**8 Achievements and Action Plan**

**8.1 Achievements**

Changes and improvements made to Hampton Common during 2020-21 are listed below:

- Increased the number of benches in the park through our small works programme and memorial bench programme.
- Held public consultation on new sports pitch provision on the Common.
- Created new habitat for invertebrates by creating a monolith out of an mature tree

## 8.2 Action Plan

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2022	2023		
Plans to hold trial half season of new 9v9 football pitch	Y		Jan – May 2022	Continental Landscapes / Parks Team
Undertake habitat assessment with a view to making improvements for wildlife.	Y		Ongoing	Parks Team
Explore possibility of upgrading the outdoor gym facilities	Y		Spring 2022	Parks Team
Consult friends on creating long grass areas to aid biodiversity	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team & Friends of Hampton Common

**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. Hampton Common has benefited from major capital investment; therefore, it is not envisaged that there is likely to be any 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, sports facilities, playground.

**8.2.2 Community Engagement**

The Parks team intends to continue to work with the Friends of Hampton Common, Hampton North Safer Neighbourhood Team and local residents.

We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

**8.2.3 Operational Commitments**

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

<b>Element</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 20mm & 50mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during growing season
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Hedge Maintenance	Cutting	Twice per year
Litter collection Recycling	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Obscene/offensive Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Playground & BMX park inspection	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Twice per week Monthly Annual
Monitoring	Monitoring	Weekly
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Planting hedges Planting fruit trees Creation of dead hedges Installation of bird/bat boxes	Programme over 5 years We will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.



	Relaxing mowing regime	
Tree planting	Identify planting opportunities	Programme over 5 years

**8.3 Conclusion**

This Management Plan is not 'set in stone'. It provides a framework and guidelines that enable the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to manage the site to a high standard in a sustainable way. The Council is open to the changing needs of local communities and will continue to work closely with local groups and users. The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.