



Terrace Fields Management Plan

March 2024 – February 2027

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1.0 Introduction

This management plan has been written by Richmond Councils' Ecology Policy and Planning Officer 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 upon Thames (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 of Terrace Field. Terrace Field is owned by Richmond Council, and it is intended that the site (as defined by the map in *Section 7*) be managed by a selected organisation, the Nature Conservation Contractor, (NCC). The Nature Conservation Contractor working in partnership with the Council to ensure all aspects of this Management Plan are implemented in a cost-effective manner, working as necessary and agreed in conjunction with Council contractors, community organisations and volunteers.

Throughout this management plan our goals are to:

1. Maintain and enhance the site for its environmental, historical and cultural value
2. Protect the ecology of the mixed habitats with appropriate management and planting to ensure sustainability, conservation and support biodiversity both generally and specifically as set out in Richmond's biodiversity policy and plans
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 site's 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 three 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 a management review will be carried out annually by the Council.

3.0 Site Description

3.1 Site details

Location	Petersham Road, Nightingale Lane and Richmond Hill, Richmond, TW10 6UZ
Grid Reference	TQ18732396
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (# RiL05) Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) Public open Space (POS)
Area	2.19ha
Key habitats	Neutral grassland, scrub, hedgerows
Key species	Ivy broomrape, stag beetle, house sparrow

3.2 Site description

Terrace Fields is located on a steep hill, below Terrace Walk and the famous Turners viewpoint at the top. The site is situated on the east bank of the River Thames about 750 metres upstream from Richmond Bridge. The site is bounded by residential and commercial housing on the south and east, Terrace Gardens, a public amenity park to the north-west and Petersham Meadows to the southwest. The habitats present include semi-natural grassland, hedges, scrub and woodland within the site. The hedges provide an important habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife. There are footpaths running through the site and along the top of the slope, providing easy access for visitors coming to admire the views and gardens.

3.3 Designation

This site is designated as:

- A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), full details can be found in *Appendix 5*
- Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) the definition of MOL can be found in *Section 8*
- Public Open Space (POS) the definition of POS can be found in *Section 8*

Terrace Fields also has protected views and vistas covering parts of the site, see 7.2 for locations, which are protected under a 1902 Act of Parliament (see 3.3.1) and Policy LP5 of the 2018 Local Plan.

3.3.1 History

Richmond's Terrace Walk and Field are intrinsically linked, but very different in character. Terrace Field is a natural green landscape and Terrace Walk is a very formal avenue of trees either side of a popular walkway lined with benches. Turner is said to have painted his famous view from the top of the hill.

Terrace Walk (which was on common land within the royal manor of Richmond) was constructed during a period of improvement of the area in the 1700 and went on to become

a very fashionable place for London society to visit. Since then, it has been used as a promenade, viewpoint, celebrated in literature and art and used for filming and more recently the site for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacon in 2022.

From the early 17th century, brickworks, known as the Tile Kilns, and a wharf, together with workers' houses, occupied parts of the riverside, and clay digging occurred along the lower slopes of Richmond Hill. The Tile Kilns below the Terrace were closed down in 1767, and part of the area adjacent to the north-west of the Terrace was developed as Montagu (later Buccleuch) House. The closure of the kilns led to fear that the area would be developed and the prohibition of building was confirmed by an Act of Parliament in 1785, when the land, 9 acres (about 4 hectares) of grazed meadow on the slope from the Terrace down to the Petersham Road, was given to the Vestry as part of the Royal Bounty. It became Richmond Parish Charity land and was known as the Terrace Field. Meanwhile the Terrace Walk had been reconstructed in 1774 and extended towards Richmond Park. In 1902 an Act was passed for preserving the view from Richmond Hill, the first example of a landscape view being legally protected.

The site remains a public open space managed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

3.4 Site Interest Features

3.4.1 Flora and Fauna

3.4.1.1 Grassland

Semi-improved neutral grassland is the principal habitat within Terrace Field, with the main grass species including abundant Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cock's-Foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and False Oat-Grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) are also frequent throughout the sward. Perennial Rye-Grass (*Lolium perenne*) is abundant on the trampled areas adjacent to the paths. The most frequently occurring herbs are Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*). Common Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), Ladies Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Wild Onion (*Allium vineale*) are also frequently found. Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Wood Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*) can be occasionally seen. These provide food for many of our insects such as bees, moths, beetles and butterflies. Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) is a poisonous plant which is also found on this site; however the Cinnabar moth relies on this species for its population to thrive. The coarse grasses have a tendency to dominate requiring frequent cutting to reduce competition and allow wildflowers to thrive. A small wet area has developed on the north-western side of the site, potentially due to land drains, it will be interesting to see if this remains with time.

3.4.1.2 Hedgerow

A large, mature unmanaged hedge with mature trees forms the southern and part of the western boundary of the site. The most frequent species were Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Sycamore (*Acer campestre*) and Wild Plum (*Prunus domestica*). Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), Ash saplings (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) are frequent. Mature trees include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), and Field Maple. The hedge is approximately 30m long with an understory of mainly Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). Sycamore and Ash saplings have begun to take over the hedge and will need controlling to restore the hedge integrity and ensure they do not advance into the surrounding grassland.

A garden Privet hedge (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) runs along the eastern boundary of the site at the top of the hill, which combined with the lines of mature trees, Lime (*Tilia x europaea*) and Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), planted along the terrace at the top of the hill, frames the view from Terrace Walk.

There are a few Ivy Broomrape (*Orobanche hederae*) individuals which is a London notable species found at the top of Nightingale Lane.

3.4.1.3 Woodland

Small areas of woodland can be found adjacent to the southern boundary and at the northwestern boundary with canopy species including Sycamore, Ash, mature Pedunculate Oak, Field Maple, Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Yew (*Taxus baccata*), young English Elm and frequent Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground flora is predominantly Ivy, Bramble and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), an edible plant for humans. A number of tree specimens are reaching maturity and have the potential to become veterans with correct protection and management.

3.4.1.4 Scrub

Patches of bramble and nettles provide good undergrowth to support nesting birds and produce berries for food but a balance will need to be struck to ensure loss of the neutral grassland.

3.5 Community involvement

Currently there isn't a dedicated Friends group for the site, but the Council would welcome applications to form one. In the meantime, The Richmond Society has an active interest in Terrace Fields and they are kept up to date with any changes, see [The Richmond Society](#) for more information.

3.6 Access and Visitor experience

There are a variety of pedestrian access points around the field from Petersham Road, Nightingale Lane, Richmond Hill and Terrace Gardens. Due to its location on top of

Richmond Hill overlooking the world famous Turner View ([The view from Richmond Hill - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)) the site is extremely popular especially on a warm summers day. It is however very steep and not accessible to those with limited mobility. The vehicle access to Terrace Fields is along Petersham Road at the bottom of the hill or vehicles can access Terrace Walk from Richmond Hill.

3.6.1 *Unauthorised access points*

In recent years two unauthorised access points and desire lines have been created from Nightingale Lane through the field towards Terrace Gardens and Terrace Walk. Whilst public use of Council sites is welcomed, these additional access points and desire lines impact the management of the site and therefore have been cordoned off. The access points are under semi mature trees which should be allowed to develop at their own pace creating nooks and cracks for birds, bats and invertebrates rather than managed. The desire lines have less of an impact as bare soil is good for solitary bees and wasps, but unrestricted paths have a tendency to move and expand, degrading a greater area of grassland.

3.7 Constraints

The steep slopes of the fields does make it more difficult to operate machinery and carry out routine maintenance work; specialist machinery is required for the steeper bank.

Being a popular site, especially in the summer months, can mean disturbance and increased littering which is a hazard for machinery and wildlife.

3.8 Evaluation

The site is a popular site for visitors and one of the most interesting sites for floral species found in Richmond. The site will benefit from increased management around the periphery of the site and possibly an increased mowing regime where the coarser grasses are.

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](#)

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 2024 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 Terrace Fields. The plans that will have most relevance are: neutral grassland, broad leaved woodland, bats, and song thrush.

4.3.3 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Nature Conservation Policy

Richmond Council adopted a new Nature Conservation Policy 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 neutral grassland, scrub, hedge, and woodland habitats, whilst improving the visitor experience on site.

5.2. Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

Currently parts of the site are under a Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS). The HLS aims to deliver significant environmental benefits. It involves more complex environmental management regimes utilising advice from local advisers, to develop a comprehensive agreement over a longer period of time. Richmond Councils HLS agreement is a 5-year scheme due to finish in 2027.

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 habitat quality on site to ensure key species are in optimum conditions. Enhance the neutral grassland and control the advancing bramble scrub and woodland belt.

5.3.2 *Objective 2: Visitor access*

Maintain the amenity grass, pathways, infrastructure and cleanliness.

Maintain the vistas which contribute to the character of the local and wider skyline.

5.3.3 *Objective 3: Publicity, communication, and community involvement.*

With support from the Council and Habitats and Heritage (H&H), raise the profile of Terrace Fields and communicate with the Richmond Society, 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. (optional – to be costed separately)**

6.0 Management Prescriptions

The following detailed prescriptions are 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 prescriptions and work programme

AC - Arboriculture Contractor

ACO - Appropriate Council Officer

GMC - Grounds Maintenance Contractor

LBRuT - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

NCC – Nature Conservation Contractor

**Brash piles – when creating brash piles, consider fire hazards and excess brash must be removed off site.

6.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

6.1.1 Prescription 1: Scrub and minor tree maintenance - **NCC**

Scrub is a 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.
- Remove scrub permanently from areas S2, S4, S5 and S6 during 2024/25, allowing the grassland to restore, repeating cutting in the following years if required.
- Remove scrub permanently from area S1 over a 2-year period, allowing the grassland to restore, repeating cutting in the following years if required.
- Push back the scrub from S3 by 50% over 2 years allowing the 25% to be permanent grassland and 25% to develop into a buffer zone.
- From year 4 mow 20% of buffer zone in parcel S3 on a rotational basis.
- From year 2 (unless further years of scrub removal are required) parcels S1, S2, S4, S5 and S6 to be under the meadow grassland management (prescription 2).
- Annually cut back bramble leaders or scrub encroachment onto meadow and amenity grassland.
- Ensure that remaining scrub is retained at all stages of rotation and avoid cutting adjacent patches in consecutive years.
- 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 must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards.
- Remove canopy deadwood and mature growth of ivy on trees within 2m of paths.
- Where tree pruning is required, wounds should be kept to the minimum diameter necessary.

6.1.2 *Prescription 2: Meadow grassland maintenance – NCC*

Improve and maintain the meadow grassland to increase the diversity and abundance of floral and grass species. The grassland is currently under a Natural England Higher Level Stewardship biannual cutting regime.

- Litter pick before cutting any grass.
- Hay cutting must not be carried out during high winds or extreme wet weather.
- Cut the grass achieving a sward height of 10-15cm and any cuttings should be removed off site, a small proportion can be used to create a hibernaculum as per good practice.
- The steeper part of the bank to be cut using appropriate machinery and left in a neat and tidy manner.
- 5% of grass to be left uncut per year, the 5% area should be rotated around the site per year and marked on the site map for reference.
- A 1m buffer zone should be left along the scrub parcels.
- Once diversity has been increased the cutting regime will be revisited.

6.1.3 *Prescription 3: Woodland – NCC*

Due to lack of previous woodland management, the first 5 years of management are concentrating on removal of non native species. Following that a resurvey will be done and a new plan drawn up.

- All woodland works are to be in accordance with the LBRuT woodland strategy.
- Remove any non native species such as Sycamore and Norway Maple through a phased approach over a 5 year period by thinning or ring barking to allow natural succession and if required use stump treatment to prevent regrowth. Where trees are of a good size, ring barking to be carried out to create standing dead wood. Exceptions are individuals that are beginning to show bird or bat roosting features, which should be left unless their removal will contribute significantly to neutral grassland enhancements.
- All stems must be cut to ground level avoiding any trip hazard creation.
- Any cordwood and small brash piles** should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value
- Remove canopy deadwood and mature growth of ivy on trees within 2m of paths.
- Where tree pruning is required, wounds should be kept to the minimum diameter necessary.
- In collaboration with Appropriate Council Officer halo around any mature or potential veteran trees carefully and sensitively.
- In agreement with the Appropriate Council Officer selective planting can be carried out
- Bat checks and surveys to be carried out as per best practice.

6.1.4 *Prescription 4: Wetland area – NCC*

Monitor emerging wetland area to determine if this is a permanent change to the ground conditions or a misconnection.

- Monitor and maintain records of changes of size and change in species communities.
- Report any hazards to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours of observation.
- Recommendations for change of maintenance to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer at next management meeting.

6.1.5 *Prescription 5: Hedgerow – NCC*

The hedgerow is a significant habitat/feature within the site and the landscape; it should be maintained as per the Natural England HLS agreement, at least 2m in height and a minimum

of 0.75m in width (measured from the centre of the hedge) where possible. Due to site boundary constraints the two sides need to be managed differently.

Southern side

The southern side of the hedge, adjacent to Nightingale Lane, needs to be kept clear of obstructions and needs a greater degree of maintenance than the northern section.

- The southern side should be cut back twice a year, before and after bird nesting season.
- Further light touch management may be required (subject to bird nesting) should growth be excessive during the growing season.

Northern side

The northern side within Terrace Fields is to be managed more gently and less intensively.

- 25% of the hedge should be maintained per year ensuring that the sections are not adjacent to each other. Works should be done between October – February.
- Within each section to be managed and where areas of Ash and Sycamore are starting to dominate, self-sets are to be removed and if necessary new Hawthorn whips (and other species as best practice) to be planted to regain the diversity and integrity of the hedge.

General

- The hedge should be left neat and tidy after cutting, with no structural damage to the main trunks, ie rips or tears. Appropriate machinery must be used.
- 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 the hedge with less than 5% bare ground.
- Leaf litter should be left under the hedge.

6.1.6 *Prescription 6: Invasive and Schedule 9 Species management – LBRuT/NCC*

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. 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, Nature Conservation Contractor to prepare map and advise the Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.

6.2 Objective 2: Visitor Experience

6.2.1 **Prescription 7 Pathside metre strip maintenance – GMC/NCC*

To be carried out by Grounds Maintenance Contractor in liaison with NCC.

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks on metre strips and vertical edging and commission any works required.
- ***Grounds Maintenance Contractor to cut 0.5m pathside strips on a monthly basis,**

- *GMC to cut/prune vertical edging twice a year, before and after bird nesting season. In cases of rapid growth additional light cuts may be necessary, subject to bird nesting. Cutting should be done with appropriate machinery and left neat and tidy, with no structural damage to the main trunks, ie rips or tears.
- *Benches and park furniture to be neatly stimmed round.
- Any vegetation more than the annual growth to be checked with Appropriate Council Officer before.
- Where possible berries and flowers must be allowed to grow to provide a food/nectar source for birds, mammals, and invertebrates. Nature Conservation Contactor to support Council Parks Officers by reporting any defects noted whilst on site.

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

6.2.2 *Prescription 8: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures - LBRuT/NCC*

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

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks on Infrastructure and signage and commission any repairs required.
- Nature Conservation Contractor 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.

6.2.3 *Prescription 9: Maintain Vista - NCC*

Maintain vista from Richmond Hill to Asgill House through a three-year coppice maintenance regime.

- Nature Conservation Contractor to rotationally coppice elms and other native vegetation, to ensure that vista is available from the designated viewing location on Terrace Walk.
- Any non native species to be removed and treated as appropriate.
- **Debris should be neatly piled to create habitat/dead hedge or removed off site.

6.2.5 *Prescription 14: Litter collection – GMC/NCC*

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.
- Nature Conservation Contractor 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 11: Publicity and communication – NCC*

The Council is keen to ensure Friends groups and local residents are kept up to date with works on site. NCC to liaise with stakeholders as well as other Council contractors and partners such as the LBRuT's Park Enforcement Contractor and the local rough sleep charity SPEAR.

- Nature Conservation Contractor to liaise with interested parties before each season's work.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to provide summaries of work for ward councillors and press releases when required by Appropriate Council Officer
- Nature Conservation Contractor to report any signs of rough sleeping or antisocial behaviour/vandalism to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours of sighting.

6.4 Objective 4: Management Planning and Monitoring

6.4.1 Prescription 12: Review Management and Work Plans – **LBRuT, NCC**

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 monthly report should be submitted to the Appropriate Council Officer outlining details of projects undertaken 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 with the Appropriate Council Officer to assess work progress 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 13: Monitor key species and habitats. - **NCC**

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.
- ***Species surveys to inform site management. Surveys are listed below in Table 1.**

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

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.

Set up butterfly transect route across the site	Apr-Sept	Liaise with Butterfly Conservation Trust to see if possible to set up official transect. If not carry out monthly butterfly transect following same survey methodology.
Invertebrate survey	May-Sept	Site wide invertebrate survey including interception traps for saproxylic invertebrates.
Moth trapping	May-Sept	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>

6.5 Objective 5 : Tree Health and Safety works

6.5.1 Prescription 18: Dangerous trees procedure ACC/NCC

- All Council Nature Conservation Sites are surveyed by Council Tree Officers on the approved cycle and any required works will be specified and undertaken by the Councils Arboriculture Contactor within an appropriate time period.
- Reactive Health and Safety tree works will be carried out by the Council's Arboriculture Contactor as required. However minor remedial works may be carried out by the NCC with prior approval of the Arboriculture Manager.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to report any hazardous trees to the Tree Technical Support Team immediately.

6.5 Table 2 – Terrace Fields Work programme 2024 - 2029

Prescription	Priority	Year and compartment					Usual Timing	Lead resource	Prescription details	Comments
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29				
P1a: Remove scrub permanently to restore grassland	1	25 % of S2	25 % of S2	*S2			Oct - Feb	NCC	Permanently remove 50% of scrub over 2 years to restore grassland before end 2025/26, *repeat in following years if necessary. Leave 50% as dense scrub	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P1b Remove scrub permanently to restore grassland	1	S4 S5 S6	S4 S5 S6	S4 S5 S6			Oct - Feb	NCC	Permanently remove scrub to restore grassland before end of 2024/25. *If necessary, repeat in 2025/26	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P1c Remove scrub permanently to restore grassland	1	50 % of S1	50 % of S1	*S1			Oct - Feb	NCC	Permanently remove 50% of scrub to restore grassland before end 2025/26, *repeat in following years if necessary.	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P1d Push back front of parcel by 50% to restore grassland/buffer zone	1	25 % of S3	25 % of S3	*S3			Oct - Feb	NCC	Push back parcel by 50% to retain 25% grassland and 25% buffer before end of 2025/26	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P1e Cut back 10% of buffer scrub	1	G1	G1	G1	G1 S3	G1 S3	Oct - Feb		Cut back buffer scrub on 10 year rotation scrub	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P2: Meadow grassland management	1	G1	G1	G1	G1	G1	March and Mid Sept	NCC	Undertake 'cut and collect' hay cuts	HLS specify 15th Sept onwards for hay cuts.
P3: Woodland management	1	W1 W2	W1 W2	W1 W2	W1 W2	W1 W2	Oct - Feb	NCC	Coppice 20% per area per year. remove non native species.	
P4: Wetland area	1	G1	G1	G1	G1	G1	As required	NCC	Monitor and maintain the wetland area for discussion with ACO.	
P5a: Hedge	1	H	H	H	H	H	Oct -	NCC	25% of the hedge to be cut per	

maintenance (north side)							Feb		year. Remove Ash and Sycamore saplings if required. Leave berries and flowers.	
P5b: Hedge maintenance (south side)	1	H	H	H	H	H	Oct - Feb	NCC	Roadside to be cut back twice a year before and after BNS. *Potential light trim maybe required in excessive growth for Health and Safety purposes	*Subject to bird nesting
P6: Invasive and Schedule 9 Species management	1	All	All	All	All	All	As required	LBRuT / NCC	Monitor and report any new stands to ACO within 24 hours. Control balsam and any other non-native herbaceous species	Treatment must be done according to best practice.
*P7: Pathside maintenance	1	All	All	All	All	All	April - Nov	GMC	Pathside strips to be cut and removed on a monthly basis.	Ensure trees and parks infrastructure are neatly cut round
P8: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	LBRuT	Report any defects to the ACO	
P9: Maintain views and vistas	1	V1	V2	V3	V1	V2	All year	NCC	Maintain vista from Richmond Hill to Asgill House through a three-year coppice maintenance regime.	Debris should be neatly piled to create habitat/dead hedge or removed off site.
P10: Litter collection	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	GMC	Litter pick when on site, any large/bulky litter and fly tipping to be reported to ACO within 24 hours	
P11: Publicity and Communication	1						All year	NCC / H&H	Liaise with interested parties and prepare brief summaries of works when required.	
P12: Review plan and work programme annually	1						Sept	LBRuT /NCC	Annual meeting in September to discuss works for forthcoming year.	
P13.a: Monitor key species and habitats	1	All	All	All			As appropriate	NCC	Sightings to be reported to ACO and Habitats and Heritage as appropriate	
*P13.b: Monitor key species and habitats Optional Survey work	1	All	All	All			As appropriate	NCC	Provide species surveys as per best practice to inform management plan	

P14 Tree Health and Safety works	1	All	All	All	All	All	As required	ACC/NCC	Report health and safety works to Tree Technical Support Team	
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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 green 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

7.0 Management map

7.1 Map 1 - To show site features and management compartments



Target Notes: 1 – Wetland area

8.0 Glossary

8.1 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/>

8.2 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.

8.3 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.

8.4 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'.

8.5 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.

8.6 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

8.7 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 (SINCs). Over 1500 SINCs 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's are places where residents and visitors can enjoy nature close up.

There are three tiers of SINC's those important at Metropolitan, Borough and Local levels.

8.2.1 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.

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

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

9.0 References

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10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, habitats and species relevant to Terrace Fields, [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/draft-local-plan-london-borough-of-richmond-upon-thames)

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 Terrace Fields

Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: RiL05

Site Name: Terrace Field and Terrace Garden

Summary: A hay meadow and park with spectacular views over the River Thames.

Grid ref: TQ 182 740

Area (ha): 6.6

Borough(s): Richmond upon Thames

Habitat(s): Amenity grassland, Hedge, Planted shrubbery, Scattered trees, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland

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

Ownership: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Site Description:

Terrace Field, on the steep slope of Richmond Hill, commands wonderful views over the River Thames, Petersham Meadows, the woodlands of Petersham Lodge, and Orleans House. The grassland is of only moderate diversity. The sward is dominated by cock's-foot (Dactylis glomerata) and meadow foxtail (Alopecurus pratensis), with wild flowers including meadow vetchling (Lathyrus pratensis), common vetch (Vicia sativa), cow parsley (Anthriscus sylvestris) and bulbous buttercup (Ranunculus bulbosus). There are some fine old field maples (Acer campestre) along the top edge of the field beside the road, and an overgrown hedge at the bottom. A very rare spider, Philodromus praedatus, has been found in the roadside trees.

Terrace Garden, adjacent to the field, is a more formal park. Here amenity grassland, mature

planted trees, shrubberies and flower beds predominate, contrasting with the wilder hay meadow and scrub of the field. These habitats, while of less intrinsic interest than the hay meadow, provide a diversity of habitat structure and more niches for animals and plants dependant on woodland, scrub and trees. In places in the park the mowing regime has been relaxed, allowing a more diverse vegetation to develop and providing more useful habitat for grassland invertebrates.

Site first notified:	01/01/1993	Boundary last changed:	01/01/1993
Citation last edited:	12/01/2007	Mayor Agreed:	
Defunct:	N	Last Updated:	07/02/2007

Appendix 6

Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Prescriptions

HB12 – Maintenance of hedges of very high environmental value (1 side)

General description of the management required:

This option manages hedgerows that support target species of farmland birds, insects or mammals such as the tree sparrow, brown hairstreak and dormouse. It also maintains hedgerows which make a significant contribution to the local landscape character and/or are historically important boundaries.

HC15 – Maintenance of successional areas and scrub

General description of the management required

The aim of this option is to maintain habitat mosaics at the field and landscape scale for specific BAP species and to protect soils and watercourses. It is also suitable adjacent to woodland to enhance or maintain the quality of the woodland edge environment. This option is not appropriate on archaeological sites, or where scrub will be detrimental to the landscape. The option will require some form of regular management of vegetation.

HK7 – restoration of species-rich, semi natural grassland.

This option is targeted at grasslands that are potentially rich in plant and associated animal life. They are often on difficult ground and may have suffered from management neglect or they may have been selected for agricultural improvement. The botanical diversity of such grassland may be enhanced by simply amending existing management practices. However, on many sites pro-active restoration management will be required involving introduction of seeds and creation of gaps for their establishment. Substantial changes of livestock type, timing or grazing or control of dominant species may also be required. The options can also contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology, and the promotion of good soil conditions.