



# Beveree Wildlife Site Management Plan

2026 – 2030



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## **1.0 Introduction**

This management plan has been written by Richmond Councils' Ecology 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, the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy, 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.

## **2.0 Terms of Reference**

This management plan is designed to inform the restoration and maintenance of Beveree Wildlife Site from nature conservation, landscape and visitor perspectives. This will be achieved by Richmond Council working in conjunction with Council contractors and community organisations.

Throughout this management plan our goals are to:

1. Restore the site to make it an attractive leisure and environmental asset for residents and visitors.
2. Protect and enhance the ecology of the mixed habitats with appropriate management and planting.
3. Enhance the visitor experience by creating an attractive natural space which invites exploration and food production.
4. With the support of Habitats and Heritage (H&H) explore the potential to develop a Friends group and engage with a wide cross-section of the community.



To deliver these goals, this plan considers the sites' history, ecology and visitor use; drawing on existing data, it sets out refined objectives and the prescriptions to deliver and maintain the site over the next five years.

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



### 3.0 Site Description

#### 3.1 Site details

Location	Beaver Close, Hampton, TW12 2BZ
Grid Reference	TQ 13866 69730
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (# RiL18)
Area	1.78 ha
Key habitats	Meadow grassland and scrub/woodland edges
Key species	Bats, song thrush, stag beetle, pollinators

#### 3.2 Site description

Beveree Wildlife Site sits off a cul-de-sac, adjacent to the Hampton and Richmond Football Club (HRFC) on the East and is surrounded by residential housing for the remainder. For a small site it has a good variety of habitats such as native semi-natural woodland, native hedgerow and bramble thickets which surround a flat area of meadow grassland. There is an area of amenity grass on the eastern (top) part of the site which is also used by HRFC for their training. To the west of this, a grassland scrape and earth bank was created in early 2025 on a small area of rough grassland.

The insect rich areas are used by nature lovers, photographers and people who like to take time out from their busy lives to have a quiet lunch break. An informal footpath allows access to the majority of the site and around the boundary edges of the woodland. This site is only 1.5 miles away from Hatherop Park and 1.7 miles away from Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve and numerous large back gardens back onto the site. Beveree Wildlife Site therefore plays an integral part in maintaining a rich wildlife corridor for many species.





### 3.3 Designation

The wooded parts of this site are designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, full details can be found in *Appendix 4*. It is an aim of the management plan to get the whole site designated and upgraded to one of a 'Borough' importance through appropriate management.

### 3.4 Ecological interest and features

This site has a considerable range of flora and fauna given its size. Local residents believe that the site was once an orchard during the popular market gardening period in the 18th century, a time where fruit growing was encouraged by royalty. Oak (*Quercus robur* & *Quercus ilex*), elm (*Ulmus procera*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) are all found in the woodland area, which support many varieties of fungi and lichen, as well as providing shelter for roosting bats and over-wintering birds.

The site also supports important hedgerow species and tall herb vegetation, such as hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), as well as berry-producing plants, important for birds, like hawthorn (*Crataegus mongyma*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and ivy (*Hedera helix*), ivy being the main food plant for the holly blue butterfly (*Celastrina argiolus*) and the swallowtail moth (*Ourapteryx sambucaria*). Many insects rely on this type of vegetation for the larval stage of their life cycle, including that of the garden cosmet (*Mompha subbistrigella*), a micro-moth that feeds on broad-leaved willowherb (*Epilobium montanum*), which can be found on this site. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) grows on the edges of the woodland, and these thickets are able to attract a vast amount of fauna including 32 different types of insects that rely on bramble with 12 of these having red data book status.

A number of grass species frequent the meadow, such as false-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), which is the main food plant of the small skipper butterfly (*Thymelicus sylvestris*), and perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), white (dutch) clover (*Trifolium repens*), hairy tare (*Vicia hirsute*), lesser trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*) and wild carrot



(*Daucus carota*) are all floras that are thriving in the grassland meadow and in turn attracting a variety of different bees such as the tawny mining-bee (*Andrena fulva*) and also the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). Many invertebrate species have been identified on this site, including longhorn beetles, hoverflies, dragonflies, spiders and shield bugs. The hawthorn shield bug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*), Roesel's bush-cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*) and the globular springtail (*Sminthurides weichseli*) are amongst the vast range of species found at Beveree Wildlife Site.

### **3.5 Community involvement**

In 2016 a 'Friends of Beveree' was established with the aim of protecting and enhancing the site. However, this group is no longer active.

### **3.6 Access and visitor experience**

This wildlife site is situated off Beaver Close, a small cul-de-sac, and is directly adjacent to the Hampton and Richmond Football Club. The only access point and pedestrian access runs from a private car park through the centre of the reserve and around the boundary edges. This site cannot withstand large heavy machinery as the footpaths are thin in places, but the main central path running through the meadow is wider and leads up to the amenity grass where regular maintenance is required. The site has a number of uses including photography, picnicking, dog walking and sports.

### **3.7 Constraints**

There is evidence of fly tipping and the possibility of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. A stand of Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) along the boundary with adjacent HRFC has been identified, and this is being treated by the Football Club. Tree of Heaven (*Alnus altissima*), another invasive species, is present within the woodland.



The amenity grass and woodland are on a higher ground level than the rest of the site and there are some very steep slopes surrounding the site as a result. These tend to accumulate windblown and fly tipped rubbish and garden waste.

### **3.8 Evaluation**

The key feature of the site is the semi-improved grassland which is surrounded by semi-natural woodland. The site is hindered by some low-level antisocial behaviour and the presence of Japanese Knotweed. Due to its location and connectivity Beveree Wildlife Site plays an integral part in contributing to a rich wildlife corridor for many species. Further work into getting the site recognised and valued would see an improvement to the site.





## 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. Our parks and open space management will have biodiversity, climate change and sustainability at the forefront.
2. Community participation with our Friends and Community Groups will continue to be encouraged and supported.
3. Our parks will promote active, healthy living and social inclusion for people of all ages and abilities.
4. The management of Parks and Open Spaces will create a sustainable legacy for future generations.
5. The quality of our Parks and open spaces will continue to define LBRuT.
6. Richmond will lead in the delivery of excellent parks and open spaces services.
7. Through innovation, the future development of the parks will be ensured.
8. Richmond's Parks will offer positive experiences to all visitors.

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](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_enforcement_and_legislation#pspo).



## **4.2 Nature Conservation Policy**

During 2019, Richmond Council adopted a 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 2*.

## **4.3 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 3*.



## 5.0 Site Vision and Objectives

### 5.1 Site vision

To conserve, maintain and improve the quality of the scrub, meadow grassland and woodland habitats, whilst improving the visitor experience on site.

### 5.2 Objectives

From the site goals (*Section 2.0*) 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:

#### 5.2.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

Maintain and improve the habitat quality on site to ensure key species are in optimum conditions.

#### 5.2.2 Objective 2: Visitor access

Maintain the amenity grass, pathways, boundaries, infrastructure and cleanliness.

#### 5.2.3 Objective 3: Publicity, communication, and community involvement

With support from Habitats and Heritage (H&H), raise the profile of Beveree Wildlife Site and communicate with residents and interested parties.

Ensure volunteering work parties are available and tasks are wide ranging to cater for different abilities.

#### 5.2.4 Objective 4: Monitoring and Management planning

Monitor the key habitats and species to ensure management action is achieving the site vision.

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



## 6.0 Maintenance Prescriptions

The following detailed prescriptions are designed to manage the site features to deliver the site vision and objectives. The management is not set in stone and must be reviewed and updated based on evidence observed on site, so that management is in response to the observed condition or any environmental change.

*Key to terms used within the prescriptions and work programme*

<b>AC</b>	Arboricultural Contractor
<b>GMC</b>	Greenspace Management Contractor
<b>LBRuT</b>	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
<b>H&amp;H</b>	Habitats and Heritage
<b>NCC</b>	Nature Conservation Contractor
<b>Minor trees</b>	Trunks and limbs with a diameter of 10cm or less at 1.3m height off ground (Diameter at Breast Height)

## 6.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

Prescription details	Description
<u>1. Scrub and minor tree maintenance</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> NCC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevent bramble leaders or scrub encroachment onto meadow and amenity grasslands.</li> <li>- Remove any exotic species present and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.</li> </ul> <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season unless a pre-works bird nesting survey has been conducted by an Ecologist.</li> <li>- All stems must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards.</li> <li>- Any cordwood should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value; small brash piles should be created.</li> <li>- Follow Ecological Method Statement 2 (<i>Appendix 6</i>) as a guide for best ecological practice.</li> </ul>
<u>2. Management of trees over 10cm DBH (diameter at breast height/1.3m)</u>	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Survey and manage tree stock in accordance with LBRuT policy.</li> </ul>

<b>Responsibility: AC</b>	<u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AC to liaise with Appropriate Council Officer and NCC before undertaking any works on site.</li> </ul>
<u>3. Meadow grassland maintenance</u>  <b>Responsibility: NCC</b>	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grassland to be cut twice a year, during April and September, to a sward height of 10cm.</li> <li>- Remove all cuttings from the site or add to designated composting area on site.</li> <li>- Remove undesirable weeds such as burdock and creeping thistle during mid-summer, and top off seedheads of other vigorous species such as hogweed prior to grassland cutting.</li> </ul> <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10% of meadow habitat should be left uncut each year, alternating between areas.</li> <li>- A litter pick must be undertaken before cutting grass.</li> <li>- Meadow cutting must not be carried out during high winds or extreme wet weather.</li> <li>- Follow Ecological Method Statement 2 (<i>Appendix 6</i>) as a guide for best ecological practice.</li> </ul>



#### 4. Woodland management

**Responsibility:** NCC

##### Tasks

- Remove any exotic species present and stump treat to prevent regrowth.
- Maintain a mixed woodland understorey and increase light reaching the field layer by thinning/coppicing dense sections on a 10-year rotational cycle.
- Carry out phased halo thinning around potential mature veteran trees, retaining understorey species of high biodiversity value such as hazel or hawthorn.

##### Considerations

- Cordwood should be stacked for habitat / deadwood value and brash piles.
- Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season unless a pre-works bird nesting survey has been conducted by an Ecologist.
- Follow Ecological Method Statement 1 (*Appendix 5*) as a guide for best ecological practice.

#### 5. Hedgerow management

**Responsibility:** NCC

##### Tasks

- Lay hedgerow in Year 5 of the management plan.

##### Considerations

- Monitor for the encroachment of Japanese knotweed from neighbouring land.
- Stakes for hedge laying can be generated by woodland coppicing.

## 6.2 Objective 2: Visitor Experience

Prescription details	Description
<u>6. Amenity grassland and pathside maintenance</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> GMC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amenity grass and 0.5m pathside strips to be maintained as per the standard specifications of the Greenspace Management Contract.</li> <li>- Cut back overhanging vegetation along pathways and around the edges of amenity grassland area up to a height of 2.4m, as specified in the Greenspace Management Contract.</li> <li>- Benches and park furniture to be neatly strimmed round.</li> </ul> <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Issues involving larger branches or the necessity to work at height will need to be referred to the Appropriate Council Officer for liaison with the Arboriculture Contractor.</li> </ul>
<u>7. Maintain pathways, boundaries, check site and structures</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> NCC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Top up and maintain woodchip pathways.</li> <li>- Carry out weeding along pathways.</li> </ul>

	<u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infrastructure and signage should be checked regularly, and any defects reported to the Appropriate Council Officer within 7 days unless urgent.</li> </ul>
<u>8. Litter collection</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> GMC, NCC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Litter picks to be carried out on a regular basis, any large / hazardous items or fly tip to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.</li> <li>- Bins will be emptied by the Parks Cleansing Team.</li> </ul>

### 6.3 Objective 3: Publicity, communication, and community Involvement

<b><i>Prescription details</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
<u>9. Publicity and communication</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> NCC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NCC to advertise their events through social media and on-site posters.</li> </ul>
<u>10. Community involvement</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> LBRuT	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H&amp;H and LBRuT to explore the resurrection of the <i>Friends of Beveree Wildlife Site</i>.</li> </ul>

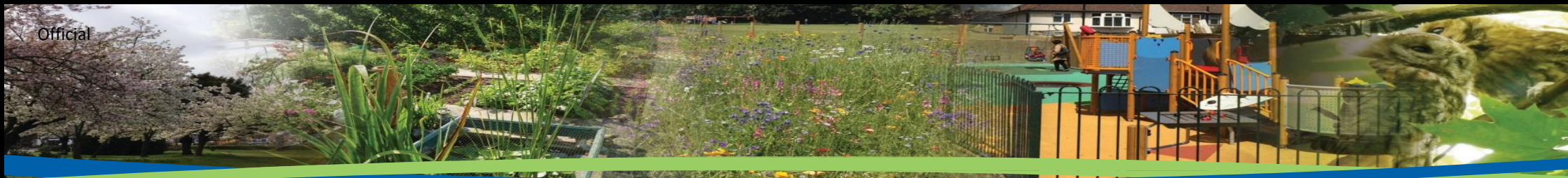


## 6.4 Objective 4: Monitoring and Management Planning

Prescription details	Description
<u>11. Habitat and species monitoring</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> LBRuT	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Every year identify a key ecological community or species group to monitor to inform management success. Expert help should be sought where required.</li> </ul> <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report any incidental sightings of species to H&amp;H.</li> <li>- Where a sighting is imminently important to the management of a site (such as bird nesting or badger setts), the NCC must inform the Appropriate Council Officer prior to continuation of work.</li> </ul>
<u>12. Review management and work plans</u>  <b>Responsibility:</b> LBRuT/NCC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Twice yearly site visits will be undertaken with the Appropriate Council Officer and NCC to assess work progress and any issues encountered.</li> <li>- At the end of each calendar year, the Management Plan and Work Programme will be reviewed and updated as necessary.</li> </ul>

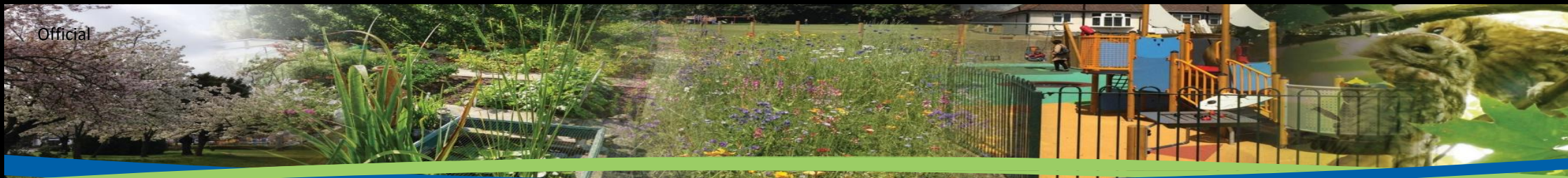
6.5 Table 1 – Beveree Wildlife Site Work programme 2026 – 2030

Prescription	Priority	Year and compartment					Usual Timing	Lead resource	Prescription details	Comments
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030				
P1: Scrub and minor tree maintenance	1	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	Oct - Feb	NCC	Cut back encroaching bramble from meadow. Remove exotic species.	Consider impacts to nesting birds
P2: Trees over 10cm DBH	1	All	All	All	All	All	As required	AC	Carry out tree safety works as required, in liaison with Appropriate Council Officer and NCC.	Consider impacts to bats and nesting birds
P3: Meadow grassland maintenance	1	A B	A B	A B	A B	A B	Apr – Sep	NCC	Undertake bi-annual hay cut in spring and autumn months.	Leave 10% of meadow uncut.



P4: Woodland management	1	A	A	A	A	A	Oct – Feb	<b>NCC</b>	Remove and stump treat exotic species. Thin woodland by coppicing selected semi mature trees and areas of dense holly on a 10-year rotational cycle. Phased halo around potential mature veteran trees.	Consider impacts to bats and nesting birds
P5: Hedgerow management	1					A	Oct – Feb	<b>NCC</b>	Lay hedgerow using traditional methods	Consider impacts to nesting birds
P6: Amenity grassland and pathside maintenance.	1	C	C	C	C	C	April - Nov	<b>GMC</b>	Amenity grass, 0.5m pathside strips and overhanging vegetation along pathways to be cut as per GM contract specification. Ensure benches and park furniture are neatly cut round.	
P7: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	<b>NCC</b>	Woodchip paths when required. Keep paths clear of overhanging obstructions, keep borders clear of weeds.	





P8: Litter collection	<b>1</b>	All	All	All	All	All	All year	<b>NCC GMC</b>	Litter pick when on site, any sharps/inappropriate/ large/bulky litter and fly tipping to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer.	
P9: Publicity and communication	<b>2</b>	All	All	All	All	All	All year	<b>NCC</b>	Advertise volunteering events and raise profile of Beveree Wildlife Site through social media and on-site posters.	Work with LBRuT Comms, H&H
P10: Community involvement	<b>1</b>	All	All	All	All	All	All year	<b>LBRuT</b>	Explore the feasibility of resurrecting the <i>Friends of Beveree Wildlife Site</i> .	H&H to provide support where necessary
P11: Habitat and species monitoring	<b>2</b>	All	All	All	All	All	As appropriate	<b>LBRuT</b>	Monitor key ecological communities and species groups to inform management.	H&H to provide support where necessary
P12: Review management plan and work programme	<b>1</b>	All	All	All	All	All	Nov	<b>LBRuT NCC</b>	Biannual site meeting to discuss progress. Annual review of management plan prescriptions.	



## 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.



## 7.0 Management Map







## 8.0 References

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## 9.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, habitats and species relevant to Beveree Wildlife Site, [online] available at - [FINAL-RBAP-2025-2\\_compressed-2.pdf](#)

### Appendix 2

Richmond Council Nature Conservation Policy [online] available at [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/16895/lbrut\\_nature\\_conservation\\_policy.pdf](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/16895/lbrut_nature_conservation_policy.pdf)

### Appendix 3

Richmond Council Tree Policy [online] available at - [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/6899/tree\\_policy.pdf](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/6899/tree_policy.pdf)

### Appendix 4

Beveree Wildlife Site designation

**Site Reference:** RiL18

**Site Name:** Beveree Wildlife Site

**Summary:** A narrow strip of woodland around the edge of a football ground.

**Grid ref:** TQ 138 697

**Area (ha):** 0.6

**Borough(s):** Richmond upon Thames

**Habitat(s):** Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

**Access:** Free public access (part of site)

**Ownership:** London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

**Site Description:**

A bank of mixed woodland runs along the edge of Hampton Football Club's ground. The canopy is a mix of planted and self-sown trees, including Scots pine



(*Pinus sylvestris*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercus robur*), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and cherry (*Prunus* sp.). A dense understorey includes elder (*Sambucus nigra*), privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) mock-orange (*Philadelphus* sp.), holly (*Ilex aquilifolium*) and regenerating elm. The ground flora is dominated by ivy (*Hedera helix*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), with a fine display of bluebells (*Hyacinthoides* sp.) in spring.

An overgrown hedge, now a narrow strip of woodland, runs south from the bank, alongside the football pitch. This has a canopy of tall ash and poplar (*Populus* sp.) over hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and damson (*Prunus domestica* ssp. *insititia*). A small meadow beside the hedge is dominated by meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), with a few common wildflowers.

The site as a whole is accessible via the entrance to Hampton Football Ground, Station Road. However, the path through the bank itself is overgrown and there may be branches to climb over.

<b>Site first notified:</b>	01/01/1993		
<b>Boundary last changed:</b>	01/02/2000		
<b>Citation last edited:</b>	10/04/2007	<b>Mayor Agreed:</b>	
<b>Defunct:</b>	N	<b>Last Updated:</b>	10/04/2007





*Boundaries of the SINC designation.*

## ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT 1

### Woodland and Tree Management



<b>Relevant protected species</b>	Bats, nesting birds, badgers
<b>Relevant legislation</b>	Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006, Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
<b>Ecological details</b>	
<p><u><i>Bats and nesting birds</i></u></p> <p>It is a legal offence to kill, injure or disturb a roosting bat, or cause damage or destruction to its roosting place. Furthermore, it is a legal offence to damage or destroy a bird's nest whilst it is in active use. Birds listed on Part 1, Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are further protected from disturbance whilst actively nesting.</p> <p>Trees are frequently used by roosting bats and nesting birds, particularly where they are located in areas of high-value habitat, such as woodlands and river corridors. The following features will typically be used:</p> <p><i>Nesting birds:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tree cavities</li> <li>- Trunk forks/crown breaks</li> <li>- Between branch forks</li> <li>- Amongst dense ivy</li> </ul> <p><i>Roosting bats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tree cavities</li> <li>- Cracks/crevices in trees</li> <li>- Behind loose, flaky bark</li> <li>- Behind dense ivy stems (minimum 5cm diameter)</li> </ul> <p><u><i>Badgers</i></u></p> <p>It is an offence to wilfully kill, injure or take a badger; or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or disturb a badger in its sett.</p> <p>Badgers are frequent in the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. They typically live in large family groups in a series of underground tunnels and chambers known as a sett. Many setts are present in our woodland habitats.</p>	

### Potential impacts from woodland and tree works

Without necessary precautions, the following potential impacts may occur as a result of woodland and tree management works:

#### *Bats*

- Killing or injury of roosting bats
- Damage or destruction to a bat roost
- Disturbance of roosting bats

#### *Nesting birds*

- Killing or injuring of a nesting bird/destruction of eggs
- Damage or destruction of an active bird nest
- Disturbance of an active bird nest (Schedule 1 listed species)

#### *Badger*

- *Damage to a badger sett*
- *Obstruction of access to a badger sett*
- *Disturbance to badgers whilst occupying a sett*

### Mitigation measures

*The following general management and mitigation measures must be followed during the works:*

#### **Bats**

##### ***Prior to works:***

- Ensure that at least one arborist with appropriate training and/or accreditation to conduct aerial bat scoping inspections is present on site.
- Review any site-specific information which has been provided by the Local Authority Ecologist (for example, trees which have been previously identified as suitable for roosting bats).
- Visually inspect all trees from the ground to identify any cavities or other features which could support roosting bats. Any trees with no potential roosting features can be scoped out at this stage.
- Appropriately trained arborist to carry out an inspection of any potential roosting features using an endoscope or high-powered torch as necessary.
- If bat roosting activity cannot be ruled out by the inspection, or it is considered that the tree has potential to support roosts of more than just occasional individual bats, do not proceed with works to the tree and contact the Local Authority Ecologist.
- If, following the aerial inspection, the tree is considered unsuitable for roosting bats, it can be scoped out. Trees considered to be of low roosting suitability (likely



to support no more than occasional individual bats) can also be scoped out provided that it has been confirmed that there is no roosting activity taking place on the day of works.

***During works:***

- Sometimes, it will not be possible to conduct a thorough aerial inspection on a tree, such as where access is restricted or there is an abundance of ivy cover. If the tree is considered likely to have at most low suitability for roosting bats, soft-felling techniques may be deployed, gently lowering sections of the tree to the ground to be carefully hand searched. If this technique is to be used, the Local Authority Ecologist should be informed prior to starting works.

***Further information***

- *Appendix A* provides a flow-chart detailing the process of scoping for bats in trees.

***Nesting birds******Prior to works:***

- Prior to any works taking place during the active nesting season (March to end of August), a nesting bird survey must be completed by a qualified Ecologist. The Ecologist completing the survey will provide further advice to arborists on site.
- Works should proceed with caution outside of this period, particularly in the 'shoulder seasons' of February and September. Some species of bird often breed outside of the typical nesting season, in particular the frequently encountered wood pigeon, which is known to nest throughout the year. Ivy-covered trees often conceal wood pigeon nests through the autumn and winter when deciduous foliage is lost from trees.
- It is necessary to make every possible effort to confirm the absence of active bird nesting in trees prior to carrying out works. This may mean that an aerial inspection is required.

***During works:***

- To safeguard nesting birds, it may be necessary to employ soft-felling techniques to trees with dense ivy cover, gently lowering the tree to the ground in sections. If this technique is to be used, the Local Authority Ecologist should be informed prior to starting works.

## **Badgers**

### ***Prior to works:***

- Review any site-specific information which has been provided by the Local Authority Ecologist (for example, any previously recorded mammal holes or confirmed badger setts).
- Carry out a walkover of the working area. Any previously unidentified mammal burrows should be noted and reported to the Local Authority Ecologist.
- Where mammal burrows including badger setts are present, an appropriate works exclusion zone will be advised by the Ecologist.

### ***During works:***

- If the Ecologist has given the instruction that works may proceed, the following factors must be considered:
  1. Where will machinery and equipment (such as chippers and diggers) be sited? This must be away from any badger setts or mammal burrow entrances.
  2. Where and how will the tree fall when it is felled? This must be away from any badger setts or mammal burrow entrances. Soft-felling techniques may be required to gently lower sections of wood to the ground.
  3. Where will logs and woodchip be stacked? This must be away from any badger setts or mammal burrow entrances.

### **Ecologist contact details**

John Salisbury – Tel: 07890 946991

## ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT 2

### Grassland and Scrub Management



<b>Relevant protected species</b>	Reptiles, nesting birds, mammals including badgers and hedgehogs
<b>Relevant legislation</b>	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006, Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
<b>Ecological details</b>	
<p><u>Nesting birds</u></p> <p>It is a legal offence to damage or destroy a bird's nest whilst it is in active use. Birds listed on Part 1, Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are further protected from disturbance whilst actively nesting. During the active nesting season (March to end of August), birds nest in scrub habitats and sometimes in rough grassland.</p> <p><u>Badgers</u></p> <p>It is an offence to wilfully kill, injure or take a badger; or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or disturb a badger in its sett.</p> <p>Badgers are frequent in the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. They typically live in large family groups in a series of underground tunnels and chambers known as a sett.</p> <p><u>Reptiles</u></p> <p>All native reptiles in the UK are legally protected from killing or injury. Native reptiles which are commonly encountered in London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames include slow worms, grass snakes and common lizards. Reptiles are typically active between the months of March and October, where they will often be found on the edge of meadows where rough grassland interfaces with bramble scrub. During the winter months, they are less active and often take shelter underground or within dense piles of logs, stones and debris.</p> <p><u>Hedgehogs</u></p> <p>Despite not being legally protected, hedgehogs are considered to be a species of conservation importance, and the Local Authority has a duty to ensure their protection. Hedgehogs will be found in rough grassland and scrub habitats throughout the year, building hibernation nests in the winter.</p>	



### Potential impacts from woodland and tree works

Without necessary precautions, the following potential impacts may occur as a result of grassland and scrub management works:

#### *Nesting birds*

- Killing or injuring of a nesting bird/destruction of eggs
- Damage or destruction of an active bird nest
- Disturbance of an active bird nest (Schedule 1 listed species)

#### *Badger*

- *Damage to a badger sett*
- *Obstruction of access to a badger sett*
- *Disturbance to badgers whilst occupying a sett*

#### *Reptiles*

- *Killing or injury of reptiles*

#### *Hedgehogs*

- *Killing or injury of hedgehogs*

### Mitigation measures

*The following general management and mitigation measures must be followed during the works:*

#### **Prior to works:**

- Scrub cutting works should take place outside of the active bird nesting season (March to end of August).
- Review any site-specific information which has been provided by the Local Authority Ecologist (for example, location of badger setts, presence of reptiles on site etc.). Where protected species are known to be present, the Ecologist may provide a site specific method statement, request the use of specific equipment or machinery, and/or be present on site to supervise works where necessary.
- Visually inspect scrub and grassland areas prior to cutting, and report any concerns to Local Authority Ecologist prior to commencing work. Dense habitat piles of rocks, rubble, wood and debris within scrub should be treated with caution as this may provide shelter to wildlife.

#### **During works:**

- A phased cutting technique should be used for the cutting of bramble scrub, cutting first to a height of approximately 300mm before cutting all the way down to ground level on the second cut. This gives animals a chance to escape.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vehicles should avoid tracking over bramble scrub before it has been cut, and care must be taken not to crush any habitat piles beneath the scrub. Side-arm flails are preferable for this task if machinery is required.</li><li>- Any habitat piles within scrub and grassland must carefully be dismantled by hand or left in situ. Contact the Local Authority Ecologist before dismantling any sizeable habitat piles.</li><li>- Grassland should be mown in a pattern that encourages any wildlife to disperse away towards peripheral habitats, for example, spiralling outwards from the centre of the meadow.</li></ul>	
<b>Ecologist contact details</b>	Tasha Worley – Tel: 07764 201796 John Salisbury – Tel: 07890 946991