



# **Pesthouse Common Management Plan April 2023**

**April 2023 – March 2028**



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### Document Management

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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 Borough (LBRuT) Policies, general good habitat management practice and current legislation.

### 1.1 Caveat

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

## 2.0 Terms of Reference

This management plan is designed to inform and outline the restoration and maintenance of Pesthouse Common from conservation, landscape and visitor perspectives by Richmond Council working in conjunction with Council contractors and community organisations.

Throughout this management plan our goals are to:

1. Restore and enhance the site to make it an attractive leisure and environmental asset for local residents and visitors alike.
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 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 refined objectives and the prescriptions to deliver and maintain the site over the next three 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	Pesthouse Common, Queens Road, Richmond, TW10 6HF
Grid Reference	TQ 18987 74785
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	A Common Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (# RiL06) Public Open Space (POS) Metropolitan open Land (MOL)
Area	1.0 ha
Key habitats	Grassland
Key species	Song thrush & Small Tortoiseshell butterfly

### 3.2 Site description

Pesthouse Common is an area of improved rough grassland with a small exotic wildflower meadow. The boundary consists of a substantial herb layer including nettles, surrounded by a line of trees, which provides protection for many species. The small tortoiseshell amongst other butterflies, rely on these nettles to lay their eggs. The grassland makes up the majority of the site, to which there is full public access.

### 3.3 Designation

This site is designated as:

- A Common, Full details can be found in Appendix 5
- A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). full details can be found in Appendix 6
- Public Open Space, the definition of POS can be found in Section 8
- Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) the definition of MOL can be found in Section 8

### 3.4 Ecological interest and features

Most of the site comprised semi-improved neutral grassland. The most frequent species of grass within the less frequently cut areas were false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum*) and cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Other grasses included red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*) and California brome (*Ceratochloa carinata*). Forbs included abundant creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), frequent common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*). Other less abundant species included greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), hedge bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), hairy tare (*Ervilla hirsute*), bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and wild onion (*Allium vineale*). Meadow clary (*Salvia pratensis*) was rare.

In the more frequently cut areas along the western boundary of the site perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*) and wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*) were prominent. Herbs included, white

clover (*Trifolium repens*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), yarrow, knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), and lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*).

There was a line of six mature horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) trees, three young pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*) and one young ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) tree. The eastern boundary of the site comprised a line of mature trees including lime (*Tilia sp*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Present was also grey willow (*Salix cinerea*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). There were also mature street trees on the northern and southern boundary. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*) is present on this site mainly around the boundary edges; and attracts a vast amount of fauna including 32 different types of insects, 12 of which have a red data book status. Bramble thickets also provide essential nesting areas and food for many species including protected species such as the song thrush and hedgehog.

### **3.5 Access**

This site runs parallel with Queens Road and lies north of Richmond cemetery and to the west of Christ's School. The entire boundary of the site is open for pedestrians; vehicle access is either via the access road to Christ's School or the schools playing fields access road at the other end of the site. A pedestrian path runs through the centre of the reserve. The uses of this site consist of photography, school sessions and walking.

### **3.6 Evaluation**

The key features of this site are the improved grassland and line of horse chestnut trees, which provides a key commuter corridor for bats and birds.

### **3.7 Constraints**

There is the possibility of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) is present on site (North east corner) and is on the Councils treatment programme.

## 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](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 Intent to publish London Plan <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/current-london-plan>, last updated in 2016 and currently being reviewed, 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".

### 4.3 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames planning strategies

#### 4.3.1 Local Plan

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' Local Plan, adopted July 2018 and March 2020, 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 Local Plan can be found in Appendix 2.

#### 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 Pesthouse Common. The plans that will have most relevance are: broad leaved woodland, neutral grassland, bats, song thrush, hedgehog and stag beetle.

#### 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 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, infrastructure and cleanliness.

Install directional signal.

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

With support from the Council and Habitats and Heritage (H&H), raise the profile of Pesthouse Common.

Ensure volunteering work parties are regularly 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 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.

## 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 management is not set in stone and must be reviewed and updated based on evidence observed on site, even year to year, so that management is in response to the observed condition or any environmental change.

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

AC - Arboriculture Contractor

Appropriate Council Officer - This will be advised when the contract starts

GMC - Grounds Maintenance Contractor

LBRuT - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

NCC – Nature Conservation Contractor

\*Minor trees – Trunks and limbs with a diameter of 10cm or less at 1.3m height off ground (Diameter at Breast Height)

\*\*Brash piles - No more than 4no cubic meter brash piles to be on site at any one time, all excess to be removed off site, to avoid fire hazards

### 6.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

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

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

- Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds.
- Maintain small patches of successional areas and scrub between September - February on an 8-year rotational cycle.
- Prevent bramble leaders or scrub encroachment onto meadow and amenity grasslands.
- Ensure that scrub is retained at all stages of rotation and avoid cutting adjacent patches in consecutive years.
- Remove any exotic species present. Where in abundance, remove over an appropriate period of time by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Any cordwood should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value; small brash piles\*\* should be created excess brash should be removed to avoid fire hazards.
- All stems must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards.
- Arboriculture Contractors may be required for larger trees (guide of >10cm diameter at 1.3m height off ground), NCC to advise the Appropriate Council Officer of any urgent trees works with 24 hours and non-urgent cases should be included within monthly reports.
- 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 – **GMC**

Improve and maintain the meadow grassland to increase the diversity and abundance of floral and grass species.

- Litter pick before cutting any grass.
- Meadow 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.
- Grass to be cut twice a year leaving 5% uncut per year. Once the diversity has been increased the cutting regime will be revisited.
- The 5% area should be rotated around the site per year and marked on the site map for reference.
- A 0.5m buffer zone should be left along the scrub parcels.
- A minimum of a 1m buffer zone should be left around the Japanese knotweed until such time eradication has been confirmed by the Council's invasive species contractor.

#### 6.1.3 Prescription 3: Woodland – Woodland and tree belt management – **NCC**

All woodland works are to be in accordance with the LBRuT woodland strategy.

- Remove any exotic species present. Where in abundance remove over an appropriate period of time by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- In collaboration with LBRuT Arboriculture Contractor halo around any potential mature veteran trees carefully and sensitively.
- In agreement with the Appropriate Council Officer selective planting can be carried out.
- Any cordwood should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value, small brash piles should be created, excess must be removed off site to avoid fire hazards.
- All stems must be cut to ground level avoiding any trip hazard creation.
- Contractors may be required for larger trees\*, Appropriate Council Officer to be advised of any works required within 24 hours.
- 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.

#### 6.1.4 Prescription 4: Invasive 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 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 for dissemination to the Grounds Maintenance Contractor/Arboriculture Officer as appropriate

## 6.2 Objective 2: Visitor Experience

#### 6.2.1 Prescription 5: Amenity Grass and pathside strip maintenance – **GMC**

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

- Any issues to be reported to the Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.
- Benches and park furniture to be neatly stimmed round.

#### 6.2.2 Prescription 6: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures - **GMC/NCC**

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

- Grounds Maintenance Contractor to cut 0.5m pathside strips on a monthly basis, Nature Conservation Contractor to report any issues to the Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.
- Overhanging vegetation / branches (vertical edging) should be checked and pruned regularly to ensure visits to ensure height clear above the path is maintained. Tree 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 Team.
- Infrastructure and signage should be checked regularly, and any defects reported to the Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.

#### 6.2.3 Prescription 7: Litter collection – **NCC/GMC**

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

- Litter picks to be carried out on a regular basis, any large items or fly tip to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.
- Regular scavenge picks to be carried out by GMC.

### **6.3 Objective 3: Publicity, communication, and community involvement**

#### 6.3.1 Prescription 8: Publicity and communication – **NCC**

The Council is keen for the NCC to raise the profile of Pesthouse Common and ensure regular communication with residents and interested parties.

- NCC to advertise their events through social media and on-site posters
- NCC to submit a twice-yearly work summary/future task list for agreement with the Appropriate Council Officer at review meetings.

#### 6.3.2 Prescription 9: Community involvement – **NCC**

Residents and the local community are very important to the Council and it is a requirement that a greater element of community involvement is available to residents should they want them.

- NCC to carry out an annual community day inviting residents to visit the site and get involved.
- NCC to ensure that a wide variety of tasks are available for different abilities
- NCC to ensure Risk assessment and Method Statements are up to date and relevant.
- NCC with the support of H&H and LBRuT to support residents to get involved with appropriate tasks safely and efficiently, with appropriate training and guidance.

### **6.4 Objective 4: Monitoring and Management Planning**

#### 6.4.1 Prescription 10: 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 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.
- Every year identify a key community or group to monitor to inform management success. Examples are breeding song thrushes and other woodland birds, foraging bats; key plants such as meadow cranes-bill; or groups such as deadwood invertebrates. Expert help should be sought where required.

#### 6.4.2 Prescription 11: 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 Appropriate Council Officer outlining details of projects undertaken, numbers of volunteers and items of note.
- This should include a simple summary of the work completed with an annotated map to be discussed at an annual review meeting (in November) with the Appropriate Council Officer.
- 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 4-year period (next in 2028) to evaluate achievements of the site vision and objectives. At this time useful feedback from those involved in management together with requirements for further funding and resources should be considered and used to produce an updated management plan for the next four- or eight-year period, as appropriate.

### 6.5 Objective 5 : Tree Health and Safety works

#### 6.5.1 Prescription 12: 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 1 – Pesthouse Common work programme 2023 - 2028

Prescription	Priority	Year and compartment					Usual Timing	Lead resource	Prescription details	Comments
		23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28				
P1: Scrub and minor tree maintenance	1	B1 B2 W1	B1 B2 W2	B1 B2 W3	B1 B2 W1	B1 B2 W2	Nov - Feb	NCC	Remove 20% of areas B1 and B2 per year and return to grassland. Coppice 20% and cut back bramble suckers/leaders from perimeter scrub W1, W2 and W3 Per year	JKW on site
P2: Meadow grassland management	1	SI	SI	SI	SI	SI	March and Mid Sept	GMC	Undertake hay cut in grassland areas after before April and after mid-September.	JKW on site
P3: Woodland, tree belt management	1	W1	W2	W3	W1	W2	Nov - Feb	NCC	Coppice 20% per area per year. Cut back bramble and other suckers/leaders from invading the grassland. Arb Contractor when necessary.	
P4: Invasive species management	1	All	All	All	All	All	April - Oct	LBRuT/NC C	Monitor and report any new stands to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours. Control balsam and any other non-native herbaceous species	
P5: Amenity grassland and pathside maintenance	1	All	All	All	All	All	April - Nov	GMC	Cut desire line through grassland as per amenity grass schedule	Ensure benches and park furniture are neatly cut round
P6: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	NCC	Keep paths and boundaries clear of overhanging obstructions. Report any defects to the Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours	JKW on site
P7: Litter collection	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	NCC	Litter pick when on site, any large/bulky litter and fly tipping to be	

								reported to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours	
P8: Publicity and Communication	<b>1</b>	All	All	All	All	All	All	<b>NCC / H&amp;H</b>	Raise profile of Pesthouse common through social media and on-site posters
P9: Community involvement	<b>1</b>	All	All	All	All	All	All	<b>NCC / H&amp;H</b>	Encourage community participation through appropriate social media and events
P10: Monitor key species and habitats	<b>1</b>	All	All	All	All	All	All	<b>NCC</b>	Suggest that the presence of the key flora and fauna species are monitored in order to inform management.
P11: Review plan and work programme annually	1	All	All	All	All	All	Sept	<b>LBRuT /NCC</b>	Annual meeting in September to discuss forthcoming year.
P12 Tree Health and Safety works	<b>1</b>	All	All	All	All	All	As required	<b>ACC/NCC</b>	Report health and safety works to Tree Technical Support Team

## 6.6. Priority levels

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 7.0 Management map

### 7.1 Map 1 - To show site features and management actions



## 8.0 Glossary

### 8.1 Bird Nesting Season

Bird nesting season (BNS) is classed as from the 1<sup>st</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve, [online] available at - <https://swlen.org.uk/our-work/biodiversity/>

### **Appendix 2**

Richmond Council Local Plan, [online] available at -  
[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/planning/planning\\_policy/local\\_plan](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/planning/planning_policy/local_plan)

### **Appendix 3**

Richmond Council Nature Conservation Policy – link  
[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 4**

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 5**

Common Designation for Pesthouse Common  
tbc

### **Appendix 6**

SINC designation for East Sheen and Richmond cemeteries and Pesthouse Common

#### **Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation**

**Site Reference:** RiL06

**Site Name:** East Sheen and Richmond Cemeteries and Pesthouse Common

**Summary:** Two cemeteries and a common with a good range of grassland habitats and plenty of trees.

**Grid ref:** TQ 191 746

**Area (ha):** 15.69

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

**Habitat(s):** Acid grassland, Scattered trees, Scrub, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

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

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

#### **Site Description:**

These three open spaces, adjacent to Richmond Park, provide a range of wildlife habitats, complementing the higher quality habitats in the adjacent National Nature Reserve. East Sheen Cemetery is a well-tended, modern cemetery with a good number and variety of trees. Most of these are quite small, but at least one supports a clump of mistletoe (*Viscum album*), a rare and declining plant in London. The short-mown turf between the graves contains a few common wildflowers, including sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), which indicates an acid soil. Richmond Cemetery, immediately to the south, is an older burial ground, dating from the late 19th century. It contains plenty of mature trees, with horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), lime (*Tilia* sp.) and false acacia (*Robinia*

pseudacacia) around the edges, and holly (*Ilex aquilifolium*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*) scattered throughout. The grassland is much more diverse than that of its neighbour, and includes primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), hairy sedge (*Carex hirta*), hedge bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*) and meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), the latter scarce in London. The long-abandoned south of Richmond Cemetery consists of a tangle of woodland and scrub, variously dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*). Male fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*), Lady fern (*Athyrium felis-femina*) and enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) grow beneath the trees. A glade in the middle has a rich flora, including bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*), smooth tare (*V. tetrasperma*), greater bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and heath groundsel (*Senecio sylvatica*), the latter a scarce plant in London, indicative of acid soils. Pesthouse Common consists of rough grassland, bounded by tall limes and horse chestnuts. Its tall grass supports few wildflowers but complements the more managed grassland habitats of the cemeteries.

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

#### **Appendix 7**

2019 Habitat survey (Salix Ecology)

Please see attached PDF.