



Hatherop Conservation Area 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 Hatherop Conservation Area from nature conservation, landscape and visitor perspectives. It will be delivered by Richmond Council working in conjunction with 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 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. Support the Friends of Hatherop Park and Oak Avenue LNR.



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	Broad Lane, Hampton, TW12 3PA
Grid Reference	TQ 12310 70326
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (#RiBII15)
Area	4.2 ha
Key habitats	Pond, meadow grassland, scrub, woodland, ruderal
Key species	Bats, slow worm, grass snake, song thrush, cuckoo, stag beetle, brown hairstreak butterfly and other pollinators

3.2 Site description

Hatherop Conservation Area is the northern part of Hatherop Park, situated to the west of the borough of Richmond, adjacent to the border with the London Borough of Hounslow and north of the River Thames. The conservation area accounts for 4.06 ha of the 9.3 ha park. The site is popular with dog walkers, those studying nature and ramblers.

The Site is bordered by railway tracks to the southwest, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Kempton Reservoir Nature Reserve) to the North, Twickenham Rugby Club to the east and to the south, London Borough of Richmond Council sports pitches. It sits to the west of a large residential housing area.

The conservation area was previously the Council's burning ground and when such practices ceased the land was capped with donated topsoil. Since then, it has developed through habitat succession into a mosaic of neutral grassland, scrub and woodland habitat. On the southwestern side the land slopes down to the railway tracks forming a strip of scrub/woodland, which is a haven for bird activity. There is also an unlined pond in the south-western corner of the site, and the



water levels are probably assisted by the drainage from the slope. Unfortunately, there is also run off from the railway which brings contaminants with it, although recent efforts to restore vegetation around the pond margins appear to have helped to filter out some of these.

To the north of the Conservation area is a compound which was used by previous Council Arboriculture Contractors and is now obsolete. The compound has been reduced in size and is now used for Parks storage; the remainder of the area has now been returned to nature with some minor landscaping. This area is a known hotspot for reptile species including slow worm and grass snake. Two purpose-built hibernacula have been created in this area.

3.3 Designation

Hatherop Conservation Area is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, full details can be found in *Appendix 4*.

3.4 Ecological interest and features

On the opposite side of the railway track are a number of reservoirs belonging to Thames Water, which combined with Kempton Reservoir SSSI on the north side means that the surrounding area is extremely important for bird life. The capping of the site with donated topsoil is a likely reason why the conservation area has an interesting range of plant species.

New trees have been planted within the amenity section of the site on a regular basis in the last 10 years to increase and diversify the tree stock. These new trees are growing well and are principally planted around the perimeter of the Park to maintain the open feel of the site.

3.4.1 Flora

The grassland areas are dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) in some areas with frequent cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Other areas are



characterised by an abundance of red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Frequently occurring Forbs include perforate St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), hoary mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and dove's-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*). Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) is occasional. Red bartsia (*Odontites verna*) and Hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*) are rare. Other notable species found include Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*). Fungi are well spread around the site including: *Hygrocybe* sp., *Geastrum* sp., *Ramaria* sp., *Rhodotus* sp., *Mutinus* sp.

The areas of scrub along the southern boundary of the site bordering the railway line include plum (*Prunus domestica*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.). There are large stands of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) distributed across the site.

The woodland on site is mostly young secondary woodland. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) forms much of the canopy in the north-west corner of the site with occasional field maple (*Acer campestre*) and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*). Blackthorn, young ash and hawthorn are the main species within the shrub layer. The ground layer is heavily shaded in most places and is, consequently, relatively species-poor, however between 2023 and 2025, some thinning work has taken place and ground flora has responded positively, with wood avens (*Geum urbanum*) flowering in abundance. Bramble and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) however are the most common species recorded in the ground flora. There is belt of woodland along the northern boundary of the site, dominated by English elm (*Ulmus procera*) with occasional ash, pedunculate oak and Swedish whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia*).

Large stands of tall herbs are located at the western and eastern ends of the site. Common nettle is the most abundant species in most areas. However, in some areas greater mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*) and Guernsey fleabane (*Conyza*



sumatrensis), black horehound (*Ballota nigra*), green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*) and mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) are frequent.

The pond on site has recently been enhanced using grant funding obtained from the Mayor of London. The pond was deepened and widened, and planted with a variety of marginal and floating plant species with the help of the Friends Group. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) trees on the banks of the pond were re-coppiced to allow more light into the pond, and arisings were used to create hibernacula and to build a dead-hedge across the front of the pond to prevent dog disturbance. Since this work was undertaken, the vegetative cover in and around the pond has increased exponentially, with tussocky grasses flourishing and dense stands of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) emerging during the spring.

3.4.2 Fauna

This site is of particular interest for bird species, with records of species such as goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*), cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*), blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*). Diverse communities of butterflies and other invertebrates are also supported by the mosaic of habitats on site, including brown hairstreak (*Thecla betulae*), whose eggs have been found on young blackthorn stems on site, white-letter hairstreak (*Satyrrium w-album*) and purple hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*).

Surveys undertaken during 2023 discovered a healthy population of slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*) on site and frequent sightings of grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*). The pond was also surveyed for amphibians, and a population of smooth newts (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) along with high numbers of the non-native marsh frog (*Pelophylax ridibundus*) was discovered.



3.5 Community involvement

The Friends of Hatherop Conservation area and Oak Avenue LNR group have been in place since 2019 with the aims of protecting and enhancing both sites. They are active on site carrying out management tasks as well as running guided wildlife walks and talks for local residents. With all aspects of site management on Hatherop Conservation area, the Friends would like to be involved in all decision making and timings.

3.6 Access and visitor experience

The main access is on Broad Lane where the Hatherop Park site entrance opens into the amenity part of the site. This becomes a gravel path as it heads into the conservation area, leading to the compound in the north of the site. There is a second entrance to the site at this end, which comes from the 'green link', a public footpath and bridleway which connects Hatherop Conservation Area with Oak Avenue LNR.

A number of informal desire lines meander their way through the grassland, scrub and woodland habitats on site, and a recycled plastic boardwalk and stairs border the pond, making this area a key destination for visitors.

3.7 Constraints

The site is quite enclosed in areas and therefore can attract anti-social behaviour and may feel unsafe for some people. The scrub land is in danger of encroaching too much onto the grasslands, which will threaten the diverse range of wildflowers thriving here.

Invasive species such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia Japonica*), tree of heaven (*Alnus altissima*) and goats rue (*Galega officinalis*) occur occasionally on site, however these are being actively treated by LBRuT.



3.8 Evaluation

The key feature of the site is the diversity of the semi-improved neutral grassland interspersed with a mosaic of secondary broadleaved woodland and scrub. It has significant bird and reptile interest, in part due to its proximity to Kempton Nature Reserve SSSI and other large water bodies. The site is hindered by low-level antisocial behaviour.



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.

1.

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 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 meadow grassland, pond, scrub 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 pathways, boundaries, infrastructure and cleanliness.

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 Hatherop Conservation Area and communicate with the Friends group, 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

AC	Arboricultural Contractor
GMC	Greenspace Management Contractor
H&H	Habitats and Heritage
FoHP	Friends of Hatherop Park and Oak Avenue LNR
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)

6.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

Prescription details	Description
<u>1. Scrub and minor tree maintenance</u> Responsibility: NCC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coppice 10% of woody scrub per year. - Prevent bramble leaders or scrub encroachment onto grassland, ruderal and pond areas. - In the meadow margins, maintain a mosaic of successional scrub ages by annually cutting and removing bramble and scrub on a ten-year rotational cycle. - Remove any exotic species present and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth. - Halo-cut blackthorn around feature poplar tree (T1). <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season unless a pre-works bird nesting survey has been conducted by an Ecologist. - All stems must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards. - Any cordwood should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value; small brash piles should be created.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work should be carried out with hand tools to avoid impacts to reptiles. Avoid removal or disturbance of any features which could be potential hibernacula such as brash/log piles. - If machinery is used to cut scrub, an ecological method statement supplied by the Appropriate Council Officer will need to be followed (see Ecological Method Statement 2 in Appendix 6 as a guide). - Consider minimal/phased removal and sensitive techniques for cutting back stands of blackthorn, to safeguard the eggs of hairstreak butterflies.
<u>2. Management of trees over 10cm DBH (diameter at breast height/1.3m)</u> Responsibility: AC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey and manage tree stock in accordance with LBRuT policy. <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AC to liaise with Appropriate Council Officer and NCC before undertaking any works on site.
<u>3. Meadow grassland maintenance</u> Responsibility: NCC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland in Compartments B and C to be cut annually during September, to a sward height of 10cm.



- Grassland in Compartment A to be cut once every third year, to a sward height of 10cm.
- Remove all cuttings from the site or add to designated composting area on site.
- Remove undesirable weeds such as broad-leaved dock and hoary mustard during mid-summer and top off seedheads of other vigorous species such as hogweed prior to grassland cutting.

Considerations

- 10% of meadow habitat should be left uncut each year, alternating between areas.
- Meadow areas should be assessed on a yearly basis for the requirement for a spring hay cut. In recent years, spring growth has been severely limited.
- A litter pick must be undertaken before cutting grass.
- Cutting must not be carried out during high winds or extreme wet weather.
- Cutting must be carried out following a method which is sensitive to reptile populations. For these reasons, manual scything or horse-drawn cutting is preferable on this site. If machinery is used to cut the meadow, an ecological method statement supplied by the Appropriate Council Officer will need to be followed (see Ecological Method Statement 2 in Appendix 5 as a guide).

4. Woodland management

Responsibility: NCC

Tasks

- Carry out phased halo thinning around any potential mature veteran trees, retaining understory species of high biodiversity value such as hazel or hawthorn.
- Remove and stump treat any exotic species present.
- Maintain a mixed woodland understorey and increase light reaching the field layer by thinning/coppicing dense sections and boundary areas on a 10-year rotational cycle. Due to the small size of this woodland, thinning and coppicing work will be undertaken every other year.

Considerations

- Follow Ecological Method Statement 1 (Appendix 5) as a guide for best ecological practice.
- 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.



5. Pond maintenance	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove vigorous dominant plants from the pond should cover exceed 50% of the surface area. - Remove encroaching bramble from pond banks and boardwalk. - Remove litter and excess leaf debris from pond. - Maintain dead hedging around pond, making repairs as necessary. - Re-coppice willow and alder trees around pond in Year 5.
<i>Responsibility: NCC</i>	<u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor water quality in the pond, reporting any signs of pollution or a change in water quality to the appropriate Council Officer. - Any works in the water must be carried out at a time of year when amphibian breeding activity/larval development has finished. (Oct – Jan).

6.2 Objective 2: Visitor Experience

Prescription details	Description
<u>6. Amenity grassland and pathside maintenance</u> Responsibility: GMC	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.5m pathside strips to be maintained as per the standard specifications of the Greenspace Management Contract. - 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. - Benches and park furniture to be neatly strimmed round. <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Contractor. - Consider minimal/phased removal and sensitive techniques for cutting back stands of blackthorn and elm, to safeguard the eggs of hairstreak butterflies.

<p><u>7. Maintain pathways, boundaries, check site and structures</u></p> <p>Responsibility: NCC</p>	<p><u>Tasks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out weeding along pathways. - Keep paths clear of overhanging obstructions. <p><u>Considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure and signage should be checked regularly, and any defects reported to the Appropriate Council Officer within 7 days unless urgent.
<p><u>8. Litter collection</u></p> <p>Responsibility: GMC, NCC</p>	<p><u>Tasks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Bins will be emptied by the Parks Cleansing Team.

6.3 Objective 3: Publicity, communication, and community Involvement

<i>Prescription details</i>	<i>Description</i>
<u>9. Publicity and communication</u> <i>Responsibility: NCC/FoHP</i>	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FoHP to advertise their events through social media and on-site posters. - FoHP and NCC to each submit a twice-yearly work summary/future task list for agreement with the Appropriate Council Officer at review meetings.
<u>10. Community involvement</u> <i>Responsibility: FoHP</i>	<u>Tasks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FoHP to carry out an annual community day inviting residents to visit the site. - NCC, H&H and LBRuT to support the FoHP to carry out any tasks they wish to do safely and efficiently, with appropriate training and guidance. <u>Considerations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that risk assessment and method statements are up to date and relevant for all events and tasks.

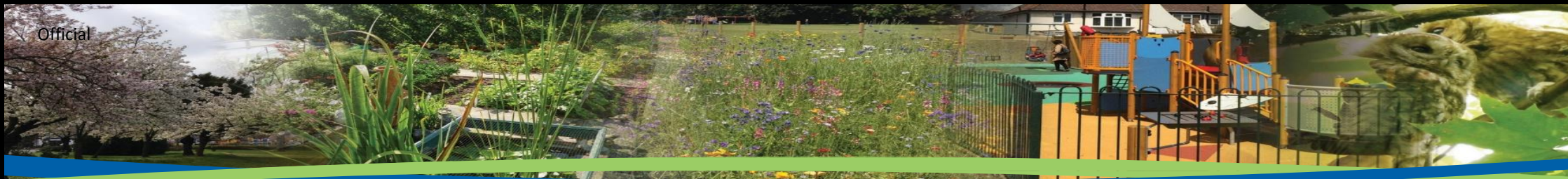
6.4 Objective 4: Monitoring and Management Planning

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

6.5 Table 1 – Hatherop Conservation Area 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 H	A B C H	A B C H	A B C H	A B C H	Oct - Feb	NCC	<p>Cut back encroaching bramble and woody scrub from grassland and pond areas.</p> <p>Coppice 10% of woody scrub per year.</p> <p>Cut and remove bramble patches on a 10-year cycle.</p> <p>Remove and stump treatexotic species.</p> <p>Halo-thin blackthorn around poplar tree (T1).</p>	Consider impacts to nesting birds, reptiles, brown hairstreak

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	B C	A B C	B C	B C	A B C	Sep	NCC	Undertake hay cut in September.	Consider impacts to reptiles. Assess need for additional spring cut. Leave 10% of meadow uncut.
P4: Woodland management	1	E F	E F	E F	E F	E F	Oct – Feb	NCC	Remove exotic species. Thin woodland by coppicing selected semi mature trees on a 10-year rotational cycle. Phased halo around potential mature veteran trees.	Consider impacts to bats and nesting birds
P5: Pond management	1	D	D	D	D	D	Oct – Jan	NCC	Remove vigorous dominant plants from the pond should cover exceed 50% of the surface area.	Consider impacts to amphibians and nesting birds



									Remove litter and excess leaf debris from pond. Maintain dead hedging around pond. Re-coppice willow and alder trees around pond in <i>Year 5</i> . Monitor water quality in the pond.	
P6: Amenity grassland and pathside maintenance.	1	All	All	All	All	All	April - Nov	GMC	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.	Consider impacts to nesting birds, brown hairstreak and white letter hairstreak
P7: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	NCC	Keep paths clear of overhanging obstructions, keep borders clear of weeds.	
P8: Litter collection	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	NCC FoHP	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	2	All	All	All	All	All	All year	FoHP	Raise profile of Hatherop Conservation Area through social media and on-site posters.	Work with LBRuT Comms, H&H
P10: Community involvement	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	FoHP	Encourage community participation through appropriate social media and events.	H&H to provide support where necessary
P11: Habitat and species monitoring	2	All	All	All	All	All	As appropriate	LBRuT FoHP	Monitor key ecological communities and species groups to inform management.	H&H to provide support where necessary
P12: Review management plan and work programme	1	All	All	All	All	All	Nov	LBRuT NCC FoHP	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 Hatherop Conservation Area, [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

Appendix 3

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

Appendix 4

Hatherop Park SINC designation

Site Reference: RiBII15

Site Name: Hatherop Park

Summary: An open area with a diverse and colourful range of wildflowers.

Grid ref: TQ 121 704

Area (ha): 4.2

Borough(s): Richmond upon Thames

Habitat(s): Pond/Lake, Ruderal, Scattered trees, Scrub, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Tall herbs

Access: Free public access (part of site)

Ownership: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames



Site Description:

This site consists of a large area of young 'wasteland' (far from waste in wildlife terms) on the former Council burning ground. There is also a pond and an area of regenerating elm scrub and nettle beds. The flora is diverse, and probably the best example of wasteland in the Borough. There is great potential for teaching about ecological processes of colonisation and succession as well as plant identification. Among the many colourful, common wild flowers are several species which are scarce in London including balm (*Melissa officinalis*), hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*), Greek dock (*Rumex cristatus*) and spotted medick (*Medicago arabica*). On hot days the site is swarming with butterflies and grasshoppers and many bird species use the site including whitethroat, goldfinch, stock dove and green woodpecker.

Site first notified: 01/02/2000

Boundary last changed: 01/02/2000

Citation last edited: 09/03/2011 **Mayor Agreed:**

Defunct: N **Last Updated:** 09/08/2019

ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT 1

Woodland and Tree Management



Relevant protected species	Bats, nesting birds, badgers
Relevant legislation	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.
Ecological details	
<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"> - Tree cavities - Trunk forks/crown breaks - Between branch forks - Amongst dense ivy <p><i>Roosting bats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree cavities - Cracks/crevices in trees - Behind loose, flaky bark - Behind dense ivy stems (minimum 5cm diameter) <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



Relevant protected species	Reptiles, nesting birds, mammals including badgers and hedgehogs
Relevant legislation	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006, Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
Ecological details	
<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">- 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.- 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.- 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.	
Ecologist contact details	Tasha Worley – Tel: 07764 201796 John Salisbury – Tel: 07890 946991