Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2023 - 2026

November 2023

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

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1.0 Introduction

This management plan has been written by Richmond Council's Ecology Policy and Planning Officer as part of the Council's 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 Borough of Richmond (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 three-year management plan.

2.0 Terms of Reference

This management plan is designed to inform and outline the maintenance of the Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve ("LoM"). The LoM is owned by Richmond Council and it is intended that the site be managed by a selected organisation (Nature Conservation Contractor – NCC) working in partnership with the Council to ensure all aspects of this management plan are implemented in a cost-effective manner, working as necessary and agreed in conjunction with Council contractors, community organisations and volunteers.

Throughout this management plan our goals are to:

1. Maintain and enhance the site for its environmental, historical and cultural value.
2. Protect the ecology of the mixed habitats with appropriate management and planting to ensure sustainability, conservation and support biodiversity both generally and specifically as set out in Richmond's biodiversity policy and plans.
3. Enrich the wildlife sanctuary by increasing biodiversity while at the same time maintaining the site as an attractive natural space which invites exploration and encourages use for educational and well-being purposes.
4. With the support of the Leg o'Mutton Management Advisory Committee and Habitats and Heritage (H&H) engage with a wide cross-section of the community to enhance the visitor experience.
5. Submit the site for suitable external assessment (eg Green Flag or London-in-Bloom awards) and gather evidence to support its continued conservation designation and value to the community.

To deliver these goals, 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, while having regard to the vision which takes a ten year and longer view.

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

3.0 Site Description

3.1 Site Details

Location	Leg o' Mutton, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13 9JS
Grid Reference	TQ 21774 77398
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	Local Nature Reserve Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (# RBI 2)
Area	8.0 ha
Key habitats	Reedbed; scrub and broadleaf woodland
Key species	Shoveler (wintering); Pochard (breeding); Common tern (breeding); Song Thrush (breeding); Herons (breeding), Bats and native Black Poplar

3.2 Site description

Leg o'Mutton is a reservoir built in 1838 as part of the Metropolitan Water supply. Following its disuse, there were plans to convert most of the site into housing. This was fought by the Local' Riverside Residents Association and the plans were rejected in 3 Public Enquiries in the 1960s, and then finally in 1972, it was concluded that there should be no housing development. The site was acquired by the Council in 1970 and allowed to develop into a Local Nature Reserve which today provides essential habitats for many birds. The Leg o'Mutton Management Advisory Committee grew from the former Local Resident's Riverside Association.

The site consists of a large body of shallow fresh water, reedbeds, woodland, hedgerow scrub and small areas of grassland. The reservoir makes up the majority of the site. The inner slopes of the reservoir consist of brick and concrete but are significantly vegetated due to mosses and plants establishing in cracks and areas where soil has gathered. The reservoir is topped up as necessary from the Thames via a pipe system at the south end. The site is fenced, with six entry gates for pedestrians and can be accessed at any time. There is a narrow footpath that runs around the perimeter of the reservoir. The Thames Towpath can also be reached from the reserve. Between the site and the Thames is a further area of woodland which is owned and managed by the Port of London Authority so forms no part of this management plan.

3.3 Designation

This site is designated as:

- A Local Nature Reserve (LNR). These are sites that have importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. Local Nature Reserves have protection under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities. Full details of designation and Local Plan can be found in Appendix 6 and 2 respectively.
- A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). These are sites have been classified as having importance for biodiversity and have protection against damaging

operations under the Local Plan. Full details of designation can be found in Appendix 5

3.4 Flora and Fauna

The reservoir hosts small breeding numbers of the commoner waterfowl. Pochard (*Aythya farina*), a scarce breeding duck in Britain (500 pairs annually in 2010s), has bred here since 1986. Common terns (*Sterna hirundo*) bred on the floating rafts from 1991 but then stopped until they started to breed again in 2015. A new dedicated tern raft was added in 2016 and another in 2019.

Winter brings larger numbers of waterfowl including Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata)*, Gadwall (*Mareca strepera)*, previously at numbers of national significance but which have recently declined not only due to the weather and the development of the reserve but also because of movement between the river, the reservoir and due to the creation of the WWT London Wetland Centre.

The marginal habitats of reedbed and scrub need some light touch management. The northern reedbed and western-edge fringe holds small numbers of breeding Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) and wintering Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*). At the southern end, the marginal zone includes Water Cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), Celery-Leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Trifid Bur-Marigold (*Bidens tripartita*) and the probably introduced Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Frog-Bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*). Beneath the water, Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*) both grow in large quantities and floating vegetation includes Star-Wort (*Callitriche spp.*), Duckweeds and Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*). Around the reservoir, the artificial banks have become vegetated by trees including Willows (*Salix spp.*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), a variety of mosses and herbaceous plants – noteworthy amongst the latter Common Cornsalad (*Valerianella locusta*). Since 2021 Purple Loosestrife has established and spread throughout the reedbeds, control is now required.

Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibious*) and Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) are noted as being previously recorded (Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames, London Ecology Unit, 1993*)* but the origin of these records and current status is unknown and perhaps doubtful. Smooth Newt (Lissotriton vulgaris) is present, along with Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*), Blue-Tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*), Migrant Hawker Dragonfly (*Aeshna mixta*) and at least nine species of fish. A non-native Marsh Frog **(***Pelophylax ridibundus)* has been heard calling during the summer months and Stag Beetles (*Lucinus cervus*) are regularly seen.

Woodland lies around the western and southern edges of the site and consists of a range of species, including Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Oak (*Quercus robur & Quercus pedunculate*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), regenerating English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), various Willow (*Salix spp.*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), and a line of veteran hybid Poplars (*Populus x canadensis*) all of which support many insects, mosses, lichens and fungi. Birds are also supported by the trees including previously breeding Tawny

Owl (*Strix aluco*) and numerous Grey Herons (*Ardea cinerea*), which nest in a mature London Plane (*Platinus hispanica*). Hoof fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*) is present on a dead Poplar tree, which is unusual as this fungus is rare in southern Britain and is mainly found in Birch and Beech trees. As many of the veteran hybrid Poplars are coming to the end of their lifespan more native Black Poplar (*Populus nigra* native subsp. *betulifolia*) will need to be added to the three planted in approx 2000, which are doing well. A disease resistant Elm has been planted adjacent to the entrance off Ferry Lane (along with further planting along the towpath) to extend the range of the White-letter Hairstreak Butterfly (*Satyrium w-album*) which relies solely on the elms. The eastern side of the reservoir has a small area of grassland with scattered scrub. Spotted Medick (*Medicago Arabica*), uncommon in London, persists in the grassland.

Although the woodland field layer is generally species poor, wild flowers grow along the path verges and woodland edge, including Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*; being the food plant of the Green-veined White Butterfly (*Pieris napi*) which has been sighted here), Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus*) and Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). Other wild flowers include; Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*), Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Wall Barley (*Hordeum murinum*), Common Knotgrass (*Polygonum*), Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) and White Dead-nettle (*Lamium album*). Prickly Sow Thistle (*Sonchus asper*), Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) can also be found on the reserve. Many of these wildflowers are larval and food plants for a number of different insects.

Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*) is in high density on this site, mainly around the boundary edges but also in places on the reservoir slopes. Other boundary hedgerow species found include; Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Hedge Crane's-bill (*Geranium pyrenaicum*) and Hedge Mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*).

The wooded and boundary areas home many common bird species including Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), which nest on this site. Rose-Ringed Parakeets (*Psittacula krameriare;* also known as Ring-Necked Parakeets), an invasive non-native species native to southern Asia, can also be seen on the reserve. Six possibly seven species of bat are found on this site three species of Pipistrelle - Common, Soprano and Nathusius (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus, Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Pipistrellus nathusii*), two nyctalus species - Noctule and Leisler's (*Nyctalus noctula* and *Nyctalus leisleri*), one myotis species (almost certainly Daubenton's - *Myotis daubentonii*), and possibly Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*) but this is hard to separate from the Nyctalus species. It has been recorded in the past at the site though.

3.5 Community involvement

There has been a Management Advisory Committee for the reserve since the 1970's. Chaired by a local ward Councillor, the Committee represents local residents' interests in the reserve and brings together specialist knowledge and is a vital role in agreeing management proposals for the reserve. A member of the committee represents the LoM on the Thames Towpath Group.

3.6 Access

The reserve lies between the Thames and Lonsdale Road in Barnes. The main entrance for service vehicles is via Ferry Lane between the Swedish School and the reservoir, off Lonsdale Road, and the most used entrance is also off this lane; there are two other entrances from the road and three more from the towpath. Inside, a footpath runs around the entire perimeter of the reservoir. Vehicle access is possible for a small utility vehicle from one a dedicated vehicle entrance from the towpath.

The uses of this site consist of bird watching, photography, light exercise and slow walking, educational sessions (including nature and history walks/talks for school children and adults), wellbeing walks (eg social prescribing) and dog walking (dogs must be kept on leads but this is sometimes disregarded and requires regular monitoring).

3.7 Constraints

As a Local Nature Reserve with a high population of nesting birds, much of the site management must have regard to the autumn and winter seasons, to ensure inevitable disruption is as far as possible minimised.

Parts of the footpath are bordered by only sparse vegetation on the reservoir side which increases the threat of disturbance to nesting birds from people and dogs. An area of the invasive Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) lying in the north-east corner of the reserve has been treated but requires monitoring to ensure it does not regenerate.

There is occasional fly tipping, mainly around the boundaries. There is also the possibility of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The site has attracted rough sleepers, especially in summertime and when water levels are low. The Council has policies and protocols to manage rough sleepers and the NCC may be required to liaise with the Council's Enforcement Contractors, local homeless charities, the Police and/or others as necessary.

Cyclists are an infrequent issue. Dogs off leads are more of a recurring problem. Closing gaps in the perimeter fencing, improved education, better signage and increased monitoring would help minimise this.

Illegal fishing on the reservoir can have serious repercussions due to wildlife getting caught in discarded line and weights. Removing the large carp does reduce the problem and regular netting is required.

Silt build up, poor water quality from the Thames and climate change all have the serious potential to affect the range of wildlife able to live in the reservoir and the banks (see appendix 8).

3.8 Evaluation

The key habitats of the site are the freshwater reservoir and marginal zone, reedbed and scrub. The key species are Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) (wintering), Pochard (*Aythya farina)* (breeding), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) (breeding), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) (breeding), native Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)**,** Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)* and Spotted Medick *(Medicago arabica)*. There is occasional antisocial behaviour and dogs off leads are a cause of concern as they disturb the birdlife throughout the year and particularly at nesting time The biggest concerns are the buildup of silt, water quality and the impacts of climate change. However, a new local flood resilience project has the potential to help alleviate these issues.

4.0 Policies

4.1 Strategic Principles for Parks and Open Spaces

The Borough of Richmond 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 control dogs and other activities in our parks and open spaces. These can be found here. https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_enforcement_and_legislation#pspo.

4.2 The London Plan

The Mayor for London is responsible for the strategic planning in London. Duties include producing a 'Spatial Development Strategy' for London - the London Plan. Local (Local Authority level) plans must be in 'general conformity' with the plan. The London Plan 2021 recognises "the current and potential value of open space to communities, and to protect the many benefits of open space including those associated with sport and recreation, regeneration, the economy, health, culture, biodiversity, and the environment".

4.3 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames planning strategies

4.3.1 Local Plan

Richmond upon Thames' Local Plan, adopted July 2018, recognises the importance of open space in the Borough. The extensive areas of open land create a varied and distinct landscape prominently defined by Richmond Hill and the River Thames valley in addition to Kew Gardens, two Royal Parks and many smaller open spaces and water courses. The importance of open space as an urban structure, providing relief from the built environment, is

acknowledged, as is the importance of providing for play and recreation. These collectively contribute to quality of life in the Borough.

The role of ecology and open space's ability to provide a range of habitats is recognised, leading the Borough to protect areas of nature conservation value and to manage and enhance wildlife habitats. The strategy seeks to promote open space as a network of recreational, ecological and landscape assets which both serve the people of the Borough and help enhance and preserve the Borough's physical entity. Richmond's current Local Plan can be found in Appendix 2 and a draft Local plan is currently undergoing consultation for adoption in 2024 which can be found here Draft Local Plan - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

4.3.2 Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan

To conserve Richmond's biodiversity, the decline of valuable species and habitats needs to be reversed. The origination of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 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. Each BAP contains a number of species or habitat action plans (SAP's and HAP's)that are pertinent to the local area.

Richmond's BAP prioritises 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 Richmond Action Plans covering selected species and habitats for Richmond which can be found in the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, see 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 the Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve. The plans that will have most relevance are: Reedbed, Veteran trees, Black Poplar, and Bats.

4.3.3 Richmond Nature Conservation Policy

Richmond Council adopted a new Nature Conservation Policy in 2019 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 Richmond 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 where possible improve the quality of the reservoir and its surrounds as a nature reserve, whilst improving the visitor experience on site.

5.2 Objectives

From the site goals 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*

Protect, maintain and improve the habitat quality on site to support key species.
Monitor the key habitats and species to ensure management action is achieving the site vision.

5.2.2 *Objective 2: Visitor access*

Maintain the footpath, infrastructure and cleanliness.

5.2.3 *Objective 3: Education, wellbeing and community involvement*

Develop a programme of information and communication (most likely using website and apps) and encourage educational, well-being, exercise, bird watching, and other interests use of the site. Provide information which will enhance visitors' enjoyment of the site, (such as by nature trails, tree identification through the seasons, a daily updated 'sightings board' at each end of the reservoir, to note what can be seen) and taking advantage of the ubiquity of mobile devices to avoid the need for costly and wasteful print.

5.2.4 *Objective 4*: Publicity and Communication.

With support from the Council, LoM Management Advisory Committee and Habitats and Heritage (H&H) raise the awareness of the LoM and communicate with local residents and interested parties.

5.2.5 *Objective 5: Management planning*

Review the 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, management objectives.

Some aspects of this Management Plan are based on a ten year or longer view, and it might therefore be helpful to develop and formalise a 20 year Strategic Plan, helping to define the Vision and Mission against which future Management Plans can be set.

5.2.6 *Objective 6: Longer Term Planning issues*

Water management and Silting are seen as a long-term issue. It will be important to test water quality over one season to understand any changes and then develop long term plans to improve the quality by appropriate means, such as aeration or silt management, as well as actively investigating better sources for topping up than directly from the Thames. A Local Flood Resilience Plan (2020 - 2026 funded by the Environment Agency) has the potential to implement a project which may help absorb these problems.

The magnificent hybrid poplars are nearing the end of their lives and most of those still standing have undergone drastic tree surgery to reduce the risks of branch failure for safety reasons. The remaining poplar will be reduced in autumn 2023 and from then on regularly monitored and pollarded. Three black poplars were planted in approx. 2000 to provide the next generation of large riverside trees and more are proposed in the next 5 years.

6.0 Maintenance Prescriptions

The following detailed prescriptions are designed to manage the site features to deliver the site vision and objectives; the detailed management aim 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 responds effectively to the observed condition or any environmental change.

Key to terms used within the prescriptions and work programme
AC - Arboriculture Contractor
ACC - Appropriate Council Officer
GMC - Grounds Maintenance Contractor
LBRuT - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
NCC – Nature Conservation Contractor
SINC – Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
(DBH, Diameter at Breast Height)
**Brash piles – when creating brash piles, fire hazards to be considered with excess brash removed off site

6.1 Objective 1: Nature Conservation

*6.1.1 Prescription 1: Manage early successional scrub – **NCC***

Scrub is defined as transitional, or climax vegetation dominated by locally native shrubs, usually less than 5 m tall, occasionally with a few scattered trees.

Successional scrub is a dynamic habitat and must be controlled in order to prevent adjacent habitat such as reedbed and grassland from disappearing, however it is also valuable in its own right through providing nesting opportunities for birds and overwintering invertebrates.

- In the marginal and bank side areas, maintain a mosaic of successional ages by annually cutting bramble and scrub between Nov-Feb on a ten-year rotational cycle, never cutting more than 1/10 of the site in any one year and avoiding cutting adjacent patches in consecutive years.
- Any cordwood should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value; small brash piles** should be created where appropriate.
- All stems must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards and where necessary (on footpaths and in viewing windows) use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Undertake specific management of Holly that is outcompeting other species due to warmer winters and leaving floral voids beneath it.
- A range of flowering plants with different temporal ranges to be encouraged by scrub control.
- Hibernacula to be created in differing aspects to create a range of microclimates and a temporal range of flowering plants.
- Remove any invasive non-native species present. Where in abundance remove over an appropriate period of time (to be discussed with Appropriate Council Officer if

necessary) by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Works to be carried out outside of bird nesting season unless visually checked for nesting birds.

*6.1.2 Prescription 2: Manage established scrub and minor trees – **NCC***

Where scrub is older and denser, it provides habitat for a different group of species such as Song Thrush which are a Richmond Species Action Plan and UK Priority Species

- Create a more open canopy within established scrub in drier areas by cutting on a 10 year rotation, undertaking work every year and cutting no more than one tenth in any one year. Ensure that scrub of all ages is retained at all times.
- Any cordwood should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value; small brash piles** should be created where appropriate.
- All stems must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards and where necessary (on footpaths and in viewing windows) use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Undertake specific management of Holly that is outcompeting other species due to warmer winters and leaving floral voids beneath it.
- Hibernacula to be created in differing aspects to create a range of microclimates and a temporal range of flowering plants.
- Remove any non-native species present. Where in abundance remove over an appropriate period of time (to be discussed with Appropriate Council Officer if necessary) by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Works to be carried out outside of bird nesting season unless visually checked for nesting birds.
- Retain differing stages of decaying wood at different strata where possible.

*6.1.3 Prescription 3: Woodland Management – **NCC***

Broad Leaved Woodland is a Richmond Biodiversity Habitat Action Plan and the woodland at the LoM links in with the woodland along the Thames Towpath and Small Profits Dock, making it an important part of the green wildlife corridor.

- Remove any non-native species present. Where non-natives are the dominant species remove 1 in 3 by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth
- Cordwood should be stacked for habitat / deadwood value and brash piles**
- Retain canopy deadwood away from paths.
- Ivy to only be removed off mature/specimen trees or those which need to be monitored for Health and Safety reasons, elsewhere ivy can be left until reaching canopy layer and becomes a weight issue, in which case control must be implemented.
- 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 with no more than 1/10th of the site cut in any one year.
- Works to be carried out outside of bird nesting season unless urgent and are visually checked for nesting birds.

- Plant native Black Poplar and other suitable native species in appropriate locations as agreed by Appropriate Council Officer and Advisory Committee.
- Provide variation in bat box types, from crevices to domes to attract different species of bat These should be placed at differing heights and aspects to provide a range of micro habitats.

6.1.4 Prescription 4: *Dangerous trees procedure* ***ACC***

The reservoir has a number of large and mature trees and in particular the hybrid poplars are magnificent specimens. They provide good habitat and connectivity for a wealth of species. Appropriate management is integral to their longevity. Where tree conditions provide an unacceptable risk to the public, Health and Safety surveys and remedial works will be carried out.

- All Council Nature Conservation Sites are surveyed by Council Tree Officers on an approved cycle and any required works will be specified and undertaken by the Councils Arboriculture Contractor within an appropriate time period.
- Reactive Health and Safety tree works will be carried out by the Council's Arboriculture Contractor 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.

6.1.5 Prescription 5: Reedbed maintenance - ***NCC***

Reedbed is a dynamic habitat and requires water inundation and regular cutting to prevent it being colonised by woody plants. Reed warblers have been heard singing in the reedbeds and it is an aim to encourage the reed to spread around the site.

- In the northern reedbed remove some of the invading Sallow/Willow saplings.
- If necessary, investigate the costs of introducing a 7-year cutting regime to maintain the habitat quality and prevent succession.
- Marginal reedbeds will need maintenance when non-target species reach 20% of the reedbed.
- Any reed to be cut should be cut two inches above water and all cut stems and thatch build-up removed from site.
- Ensure scrub component remains less than 10% of each reedbed area with a variety of ages.
- Remove Bindweed and new Willow seedlings on an annual basis.
- Seek to control Bindweed and Purple Loosestrife through raising water level during winter-spring period.
- Where reeds are spreading around the edge of the water creating new beds, additional management may be required. To be discussed with Appropriate Council Officer and LoM Management Advisory Committee.

6.1.6 Prescription 6: Floating raft maintenance - ***NCC***

There are currently some 15 rafts of various designs, ages and condition. Some of the older wooden ones are beyond repair but still provide roosting/basking habitat. There are two newer tern rafts installed in 2015 and 2019.

- All rafts should be checked for damage and repaired on an annual basis during the winter months.
- On the tern rafts gravel should be cleaned or replaced, cover on the rafts to be (ridge tiles or similar) provided, and the mooring rope/chains checked.
- If necessary, decoys should be considered to prevent non target species taking up rafts.
- Consideration should be given to the range of rafts provided and the future maintenance either through removing entirely, more radical repairs or replacement.
- Where replacement is necessary, Nature Conservation Contractor to investigate and apply for funding with Appropriate Council Officer and LoM Management Advisory Committee approval.

*6.1.7 Prescription 7: Reservoir screening and barrier protection - **NCC***

Restrict and monitor access and decrease disturbance to the water and marginal areas by creating dead hedges or by using chestnut paling fencing.

- Inspect annually and repair as needed. Use arisings from rotational scrub cutting to create and maintain dead hedges.
- Whilst dead hedges remain a significant feature, leave suitable saplings/scrub wood untreated so there is a supply of coppice brush to maintain the hedges; but treat stumps of exotics and trees unsuitable for dead hedging.
- Consider planting whips of suitable hedging plants so that over time a living hedge can replace dead hedging as a primary means of control.
- Experiment with simple signage (key sign or yellow marker) and investigate the possibility of local schools competing to design a suitable poster, thereby increasing community engagement.
- Prepare an education resource for dog owners on the impact of dogs to wildlife and the importance of dogs on leads at all times within the site, through on-site posters, pamphlets and press releases for local magazines like Prospect and the Bugle as well as for the website (hosted by Barnes Common Ltd) and social media.

*6.1.8 Prescription 8: Water level maintenance - **NCC***

The level and quality of the water within the reservoir is integral to the ability of the reservoir to act as high-quality wildlife habitat.

- All proposed water filling to be agreed with the Appropriate Council Officer and LoM Management Advisory Committee before commencing.
- Top up the water as and when required to ensure the water level remains within 10cm of the normal level of 0.75m during the months of February to August inclusive (to facilitate bird nesting) and increase to a level of 0.9m for at least three months between September and January.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to store the equipment required to open the valves for topping up.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to report any defects or maintenance issues with the valve system to the Appropriate Council Contractor.
- Servicing and equipment of the sluice to be maintained by the Councils Facilities Management Team.

- Maintain a monthly log of the reservoir water levels.
- The process for opening, closing the valves and infilling the water can be found in Appendix 7.

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

Invasive species must be either eradicated or controlled depending upon species.
Those species of a hazardous nature such as Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed or Oak Processionary Moth will be treated by LBRuT. Himalayan Balsam and selected non-native herbaceous species should be controlled by the NCC, unless agreed with the Appropriate Council Officer.

- Any treatment of non-native herbaceous species, Creeping Thistle, Holm Oak, False Acacia and Tree of Heaven, must be approved by Appropriate Council Officer prior to commencing and must be done according to best practice.
- Where stands of hazardous non-native plants are identified, Nature Conservation Contractor to prepare map and advise the Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to investigate removal methods for faunal non native species such as carp and terrapins to discuss with the Committee for implementation.

*6.1.10 Prescription 10: Climate Change Specific Adaptions – **LBRuT/NCC/LoM Management Advisory Committee***

Implement a wide heterogeneity of microhabitats to buffer extremes in conditions through;

- Formation of hibernacula with differing aspects
- Thoughtful planting around water edges and artificial floating wetlands for shading of water to limit temperature fluctuations
- Retain differing stages of decaying wood at different strata where possible
- Ensure as wide a temporal range of flowering plants as possible to aid phenological changes for invertebrates
- Use educational walks to engage with the public on the site's connectivity with other green sites in the borough, encouraging private garden owners to have more flowers and wild areas, inform about hedgehog highways, and discuss how local residents can help with dark corridors for bats.
- The LoM Management Advisory Committee to consider writing and submitting relevant articles for the Barnes Prospect.

6.2 Objective 2: Visitor access

*6.2.1 Prescription 11: Maintain viewing points - **NCC***

The viewing points are an important aspect of the visitor enjoyment and must be cut at least annually to ensure that they remain open for viewing throughout the year from the footpath; at the same time discouraging access down to the water. The windows are marked on the site map.

- Ensure dead hedge heights don’t exceed 1.2m and chestnut fencing should only be used where needed and restricted on Lonsdale Road side
- Windows to be cut annually to ensure viewing for visitors. Exceptional growth and blocked view may require further intervention which needs to be discussed with the Advisory Committee and Appropriate Council Officer.

- Self-sown saplings should be coppiced and all stems must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Any cordwood and small brash piles** should be created for habitat/deadwood value.
- Areas of grassland/herbaceous vegetation should be encouraged through scrub control in all windows for butterflies and other invertebrates.
- Remove any non-native invasive species present. Where in abundance, remove over an appropriate period of time (to be discussed with Appropriate Council Officer if necessary) by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Encourage bramble to grow at the top of the banks and on dead hedges/chestnut fencing to deter dogs and visitors' access.

6.2.2 Prescription 12: Maintain footpaths, check site and structures ***– LBRuT/NCC***

Provide a welcoming and clean visitor environment with clear entrance and paths, including free from trip hazards. The circular path network needs to be cut and kept clear for visitors.

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks on Infrastructure (six access gates, eight benches and steps at southerly roadside entrance) and signage and commission any repairs required.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to support Parks Officers by reporting any defects noted whilst on site. Emergency works to be reported within 24 hours; non urgent within 5 days.
- All occurrences of rough sleeping should be reported to the Homeless Charity SPEAR, the Parks Patrol Team and the Appropriate Council Officer as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

6.2.2 Prescription 13 Pathside metre strip maintenance – ***NCC***

To be monitored and implemented by Nature Conservation Contractor in liaison with LoM Committee.

- Nature Conservation Contractor to carry out regular visual checks on metre strips and implement any path side strips or vertical edging required.
- The first cut of the year is needed typically by April/May after the cow parsley has gone over; unless access is restricted and in which case a gentle cut back is required to keep the path and benches open.
- Further cuts are dependent on seasonal growth and a decision to cut made by the LoM Management Advisory Committee in liaison with the Nature Conservation Contractor.
- Checks for bird nesting must be carried out before any works proceed.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to carry out a vertical edging on the footpath once a year after bird nesting season. In cases of rapid growth additional light cuts may be necessary, subject to bird nesting. Cutting should be done with appropriate machinery and left neat and tidy, with no structural damage to the main trunks, ie rips or tears.
- Benches and park furniture to be neatly strimmed round.
- Any vegetation more than the annual growth to be checked with LoM Management Advisory Committee and Appropriate Council Officer first.
- Where possible berries and flowers must be allowed to grow to provide a food/nectar source for birds, mammals, and invertebrates.

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

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

- Due to the complicated nature of this site, litter picks to be carried out by NCC whilst on site, with any large/hazardous items to be reported to the Appropriate Council Officer for removal within 24 hours.
- Where appropriate and when water levels are low, NCC to remove litter from the reedbed, if necessary, chest waders may be required.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to collect and move any litter or rubbish from rough sleepers or fly-tipping to site boundary for Grounds Maintenance Contractor to collect.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to remove animal carcasses to site boundary for Grounds Maintenance Contractor to collect.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to report any controlled or dangerous substances to the Appropriate Council Officer for removal within 24 hours.

6.2.4 Prescription 15: Perimeter boundary maintenance – ***GMC***

The site boundary vegetation must not obstruct adjacent pathways, roads and highway signage.

- Grounds Maintenance Contractor to maintain the outside perimeter hedge twice a year, before and after bird nesting season, ensuring that pedestrian access is available along the adjacent paths.
- In cases of rapid growth, additional light cuts may be necessary, subject to bird nesting. Cutting should be done with appropriate machinery and left neat and tidy, with no structural damage to the main trunks, ie rips or tears.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to report any defects within 24 hours to Appropriate Council Contractor for liaison with Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

6.3 Objective 3: Education, wellbeing and community involvement

6.3.1 Prescription 16: Education, wellbeing and community involvement ***– LoM Management Advisory Committee and H&H***

The community is important to the Council and it is important that residents are encouraged to get involved with their local Nature Conservation Site should they wish to. The Council would like to see volunteers involved within the site management tasks, as well as a greater element of educational and wellbeing aspects included within the site, such as guided walks or educational talks.

- To better understand the nature and needs of the community.
- To promote awareness of the Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve as a community asset.
- To promote greater community engagement and collaboration.
- To work in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders.
- To enhance the community value of Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve by delivering community benefits.

- Where appropriate prepare and submit the site for external awards such as London in Bloom.
- Committee to provide wildlife, bat and history walks and talks as and when convenient.

This is separate to the main contract and is dependent on grant funding by the Leg o'Mutton Management Advisory Committee

- To provide a programme of targeted outdoor education projects to local residents and visitors, including families and curriculum learning for school children and teachers. Nature Conservation Contractor to put forward ideas along with associated costs.

6.4 Objective 4: Publicity and Communication

*6.4.1 Prescription 17: Publicity and Communication – **NCC***

The Council and the LoM Management Advisory Committee are keen for the NCC to raise the profile of the LoM and communicate with local residents and interested parties. NCC to liaise with stakeholders as well as other Council contractors and partners such as the LBRuT Parks Enforcement Contractor and the local rough sleep charity SPEAR.

- A quarterly work summary/future task list should be produced for submission to the Appropriate Council officer and LoM Management Advisory Committee.
- Nature Conservation Contractor representative to attend LoM Management Advisory Committee meetings and Richmond Biodiversity Partnership meetings.
- Conservation activities should be advertised through social media (and can be shared with the Council social media), site posters and any other media deemed appropriate.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to liaise with interested parties before each season's work.
- Nature Conservation Contactor to provide summaries of work for ward councillors and press releases when required by Appropriate Council Officer
- Nature Conservation Contractor to report any signs of rough sleeping or antisocial behaviour/vandalism to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours of sighting.

6.5 Objective 5: Management planning

*6.5.1 Prescription 18: Monitor key species and habitats - **NCC***

In order 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.

- All species 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, goldilocks buttercup or the developing

community in the wet woodland; or groups such as deadwood invertebrates. Expert help should be sought where required, from volunteers if possible.

- Key species are currently identified as: Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), Pochard (*Aythya farina)*, Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), native Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)**,** Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)* and Spotted Medick *(Medicago arabica)*. Lesser spotted woodpecker has been recorded on this site, but not in recent years. Other species of note for monitoring are herons (*Ardea Cinerea*) (for the size of the heronry in the context of the Thames estuary) and the presence of nesting owls.

6.5.2 Prescription 19: Review management and work programme – ***LBRuT and NCC***

The plan should be seen as a live document for 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. In order 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 must be updated, and plan reviewed.

- Unless otherwise agreed in writing quarterly report submitted to Appropriate Council Officer and LoM Management Advisory Committee prior to Management Advisory Committee meeting, outlining detail of projects undertaken, numbers of volunteers, site defects 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 and LoM Management Advisory Committee**.**
- Six monthly site visits and review meetings (March and September) will be undertaken with the Appropriate Council Officer to assess work progress and any issues.
- A more major review should be undertaken every 5 years to check that the vision and objectives remain correct. Every 9 years, plans should be put in place for completion of the new plan in advance of the new period.

6.6 Objective 6: Longer term site planning

6.6.1 Prescription 20: Sediment build up – ***LBRuT/NCC/LoM Management Advisory Committee***

Sediment levels within the reservoir is becoming an issue with less available open water and a potential build-up of contaminants from cumulative water filling from the River Thames. A major project is required to reduce the sediment either a) off site or b) via a project to create a permanent mud flat and/or islands. This option is dependent on sediment contamination. Testing has been carried out on the sediment and once the results are known, proposals can be put forward.

- Nature Conservation Contractor, Appropriate Council Officer and LoM Management Advisory Committee to be involved in potential sediment options.
- ACO and possibly Nature Conservation Contractor to attend and contribute to any proposal meetings and ideas about long-term issues.

6.6.2 Prescription 21: Water inflow machinery – ***LBRuT/NCC/LoM* Management *Advisory Committee***

The valve system for inputting water to the reservoir is aging and there is a concern that the valve will break leaving the valve either permanently open or closed. To prevent this, the valve has been left open and the inflow is being controlled by the flap on the foreshore. This is not a permanent solution and investigations are ongoing to examine the valve in detail.

- LBRuT's Facilities Management team to progress the investigation of the condition of the valve and commission any repairs taking 6.6.3 into consideration.
- Appropriate Council Officer to check with the LoM Management Advisory Committee and Nature Conservation Contractor before making decisions, unless in an emergency.
- If required Nature Conservation Contractor to support Appropriate Council Officer with site visits and relevant support.

6.6.3 Prescription 22: Eels – ***LBRuT/NCC/LoM Management Advisory Committee***

Eels are entering and being trapped in the reservoir during the water top ups, a temporary solution to allow the Eels to return to the River Thames will need to be discussed and implemented, should a major scheme not be viable in the next couple of years. Committee, Nature Conservation Contractor and LBRuT to discuss immediate and long-term options to remove existing Eels and prevent new Eels coming in with the inflow pipe.

- Appropriate Council Officer to liaise with LBRuT Facilities Management team to ensure Eels are considered with any repairs to the inflow machinery and keep LoM Management Advisory Committee and NCC informed.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to support Appropriate Council Officer with any changes on site that need to be submitted to contractors.

6.6.4 Prescription 23: Flood resilience for Barnes – ***LBRuT/NCC/LoM Management Advisory Committee***

Barnes is an area with flooding issues and a Flood Resilience Project has been implemented to look at ways that Climate Change and flash flooding can be accommodated within SUDS and similar schemes. One potential project is to divert street gully water to the Leg o'Mutton through a treatment mechanism as top up water instead of inputting River Thames water which can bring contaminants and wildlife such as Eels and non-native species. The LoM Management Advisory Committee needs to be involved within any discussions.

- The Nature Conservation Contractor to represent the LoM Management Advisory Committee at any meetings, feedback and collate views.

6.4 Table 1 – Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve Work programme 2024 - 2027

Prescription	Priority	Year and compartment			Usual Timing	Lead resource	Prescription details	Comments
		24/25	25/26	26/27				
P1: Early successional scrub maintenance	**1**	C D E F G	C D E F G	C D E F G	Oct - Feb	NCC	Maintain 10% of early successional scrub in each compartment per year. Cut back bramble and other suckers/leaders from grasslands.	Avoid bird nesting
P2: Manage established scrub and minor trees	**1**	C D E F G	C D E F G	C D E F G	Oct - Feb	NCC	Maintain 10% of established mature scrub in each compartment per year	Avoid bird nesting
P3: Woodland management	**1**	C D E F G	C D E F G	C D E F G	Oct - Feb	NCC	Maintain 10% of woodland in each compartment per year, predominately removing non-native species	Bird nesting and bats
P4: Dangerous Tree procedure	**1**	All	All	All	Oct - Feb	AC	AC to carry out H&S works, advance warning given when possible.	Bats, Herons, owls and Kestrels
P5: Reedbed maintenance	**1**	B, G	B, G	B, G	Oct - Feb	NCC	Maintain habitat quality and prevent succession through cutting and removal of scrub	Avoid bird nesting
P6: Raft maintenance	**1**	A	A	A	Oct - Feb	NCC	All rafts to be checked over the winter months and replaced where necessary	Avoid bird nesting
P7: Reservoir screening and barrier protection	**1**	All	All	All	Oct - Feb	NCC	Maintain barrier to reedbed and marginal vegetation	
P8: Water level maintenance	**1**	A, D	A, D	A, D	As Required	NCC	Maintain a constant (not to drop less than half a metre from 'normal') level of water	Water level should be left whilst wetland birds are nesting

P9: Invasive species management	**1**	All	All	All	As Required	LBRuT / NCC	Monitor and report any new stands to LBRuT. Control balsam and any other non-native herbaceous species	As per good practice
P10: Climate Change specific adaptions	**1**	All	All	All	As Required	LBRuT NCC LoM Com	Implement Climate Change adaptions as listed.	
P11: Maintain viewing points	**1**	C, D, E	C, D, E	C, D, E	Oct - Feb	NCC	Annual programme of rotational clearance	Avoid bird nesting
P12: Maintain footpaths, check site and structures	**1**	All	All	All	All year	NCC	Keep footpaths clear of overhanging obstructions, check structures. Cut back vegetation so no over hanging on paths.	Avoid bird nesting
P13: Pathside Metre strip maintenance	**1**	All	All	All	All year	NCC	Half a metre cut back around path, Committee to advise of first cut back for the year. Vertical edging to be done in liaison with NCC	Mindful of fledging birds
P14: Litter collection	**1**	All	All	All	All year	GMC/NCC	GMS to carry out litter duties except where down the slope or in water when NCC need to assist	Report hazardous/flytip litter to ACO
P15: Perimeter boundary maintenance	**1**	All	All	All	All year	GMC	Hedge and vegetation trimming twice yearly	Avoid bird nesting
P16 Education, wellbeing and community involvement	**1**				All year	NCC/LoM Com	Raise profile of LoM and provide walks and talks	Work with H&H / LBRuT Comms
P17: Publicity and Communication	**2**				As appropriate	NCC	Encourage community participation through appropriate social media.	H&H to provide support where necessary
P18: Monitor Key Species	**1**	All	All	All	As appropriate	NCC/ LoM Com	Suggest that the presence of the key flora and fauna species are monitored in order to inform management.	H&H to provide support where necessary
P19: Review management plan and work programme	**2**				As appropriate	LBRuT / NCC LoM Com	Quarterly meetings with LoM Committee to discuss forthcoming works. Digitally map completed works.	Annual walk round with ACO and LoM Committee.

P20: Sediment	**2**	A	A	A	As required	ACO/NCC/ LoM Com	Participate in appropriate discussions when required	
P21: Water inflow machinery	**2**	D	D	D	As required	ACO/NCC/ LoM Com	Participate in appropriate discussions when required	
P22: Eels	**1**	D	D	D	As required	ACO/NCC/ LoM Com	Participate in appropriate discussions when required	
P23: Flood Resilience	**1**	All	All	All	As required	ACO/NCC/ LoM Com	Participate in appropriate discussions when required	

6.5 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 if resources are not available; these items might become priority 2s over time if not completed.

7.0 Management map

7.1 Map to show site features and management actions

7.1 Map to show ancient and veteran trees

8.0 Glossary

8.1 Bird Nesting Season

Bird nesting season (BNS) is classed as from the 1st March – 31st July inclusive however some birds (for e.g. 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 Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities. Parish and Town Councils can also declare LNRs but they must have the powers to do so delegated to them by a principal local authority. LNRs are for people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it. They range from windswept coastal headlands, ancient woodlands and flower-rich meadows to former inner-city railways, long abandoned landfill sites and industrial areas now re-colonised by wildlife. They are an impressive natural resource which makes an important contribution to England's biodiversity. Attribution statement: © Natural England copyright

8.3 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 stag 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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Richmond Biodiversity Group (2009b) Reedbeds Habitat Action Plan. Richmond upon Thames: LB Richmond.

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Appendix 1

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, habitats and species relevant to Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve, available [online] at - https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond_compressed.pdf

Appendix 2

Richmond Council Local Plan, available [online] at - https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/planning/planning_policy/local_plan/draft_local_plan/draft_local_plan_publication_version

Appendix 3

Richmond Council Nature Conservation Policy available [online] at https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/17991/nature_conservation_policy_statement.pdf

Appendix 4

Richmond Council Tree Policy available [online] at - https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/sbgcak2l/tree_policy.pdf

Appendix 5

Leg o'Mutton Site of Importance for Nature Conservation designation

Site of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation
Site Reference: RiBI02
Site Name: Lonsdale Road Reservoir
Summary: An attractive lake beside the River Thames, providing excellent birdwatching opportunities.
Grid ref: TQ 217 773
Area (ha): 8.17
Borough(s): Richmond upon Thames
Habitat(s): Marsh/swamp, Pond/lake, Reed bed, Secondary woodland
Access: Free public access (all/most of site)
Ownership: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Site Description: Situated beside the River Thames, this attractive, reed-fringed reservoir (also known as 'Leg O'Mutton Reservoir' due to its shape) is very important for water birds, amphibians and bats. Nesting birds include pochard (a nationally scarce breeding bird) mute swan, tufted duck, common tern and grey heron. Much greater numbers and variety of waterfowl are present in winter, with good numbers of shoveler, tufted duck, pochard, cormorant and gadwall. This is one of the best sites in London for feeding bats, with common and soprano pipistrelles, noctule and Natterer's bats all recorded. Four species of amphibians can be found, including the specially protected great crested newt. Reeds fringe much of the lake, and more diverse aquatic vegetation is present at the southern end, including bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and frogbit (*Hydrochaeris morsus-ranae*), both rare in London. The reservoir is surrounded by woodland, mostly of sycamore (Acer

pseudoplatanus). Birds nesting in the woodland include lesser spotted woodpecker, blackcap and willow warbler. Lonsdale Road Reservoir is a Local Nature Reserve and there is free public access.

Site first notified: 01/01/1993 Boundary last changed: 01/01/1993
Citation last edited:01/09/2005 Mayor Agreed:
Defunct: N Last Updated: 05/03/2007

Appendix 6

Leg o'Mutton Local Nature Reserve designation

Name	Lonsdale Road reservoir (Leg of Mutton Reservoir) LNR
LNR Type	Urban, Biological
Area	8.19 hectares
Grid reference	TQ 217 773
Location	Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13 9QN
Date of declaration	01.01.1990
Planning Authority	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Owner/Manager	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1008996&SiteName=lonsdale%20road%20reservoir&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=

Appendix 7

Leg o'Mutton water filling procedure

In order to add water to the reservoir it is important to be fluent with the tide times/tables. It is also useful to be added to the Thames Water sewage overflow warning system which can be done at https://my.thameswater.co.uk/dynamic/cps/rde/xchg/corp/hs.xsl/3644_9989.htm

There are 3 steps that need to be carried out to add water to the reservoir

1) Open river end on foreshore. This needs to be done at low tide the day before the predicted high tide. A spanner is provided, and welly boots and a second person are required for health and safety
2) 1.5 hours before predicted high tide the sluice needs to be opened using the provided tools. The cover needs to be removed and opened by rotating the 'key clockwise 37.5 turns. Once open leave for 3 hours, you should be able to see and hear the water coming out into the first pool area, but in order for it to get into main reservoir the water level needs to over top the sand bar. Each 3-hour opening will raise the water level by between 3 - 5cm.
3) After 3 hours the sluice needs to be shut by turning the key 37.5 turns anticlockwise and the cover replaced.
4) During the low tide on the following day the river end will need to be closed

Please note

- Tools are currently stored with BCL at their Vine Road storage, there are handles for the cover and ‘key’ plus a bar and a spare set.
- Do not leave tools on site, a replacement set is approximately £160.00
- A tide high enough for filling is classed as above 7.0m for a major fill or a smaller amount can be filled at a high tide of 6.0m.
- High tide at Leg o’Mutton is +44 minutes from London Bridge or +4minutes for Hammersmith
- Mud is exposed if below 0.6m and it is hard to get level much above 0.95. For habitat purposes it should stay at 0.75m for much of year, but a period around 0.9 helps control weeds in reeds and prevent succession

Appendix 8

Climate Change and the Leg o’Mutton presentation Emma Little, August 2022