



The Copse
including Petersham Avenue
Great South Avenue
and Melancholy Walk
Management Plan
March 2024 – February 2029

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Author	Tasha Hunter, Ecology Policy and Planning Officer

Contact details

Main point of Contact	Tasha Hunter
Email	Tasha.hunter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk
Telephone	020 8891 1411

1.0 Introduction

This management plan has been written by Richmond Councils' Ecology Policy and Planning Team as part of the Councils' commitment to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Each site is managed in accordance with the habitat and species action plans of the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, London Borough of Richmond Borough (LBRuT) Policies, general good habitat management practice and current legislation.

1.1 Caveat

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

2.0 Terms of Reference

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

Throughout this management plan the goals are to:

1. Restore and enhance the site to make it an attractive leisure and environmental asset for local residents and visitors alike.
2. Protect and enhance the ecology of the mixed habitats with appropriate management and planting.
3. Enhance the visitor experience by creating an attractive natural space which invites exploration and encourages use for educational and well-being purposes.

To deliver this vision, this plan considers the sites history, ecology, and visitor use; it draws together existing data on its trees, habitats, and species with new surveys; it sets out defined objectives and the prescriptions to deliver and maintain the site over the next five 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 as a management review will be carried out annually by the Council.

3.0 Site Description

3.1 Site details

Location	The Copse Meadlands Drive, Sandy Lane, Richmond TW10 Ham Avenues, Ham Common, Sandy Lane and Petersham Road, Richmond TW10
Grid Reference	TQ176728 & TQ174726
Ownership	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Designation	Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (# RiL04) The Ham Avenues are included within the boundary of the Grade II* listed Ham House on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens #1209
Area	The Copse - 9.67ha; Ham Avenues – 2.3ha
Key habitats	Acid grassland, veteran trees and native semi-natural woodland.
Key species	Bats and Badgers

3.2 Site description

3.2.1 General site description

Ham Avenues and The Copse sit to the southeast of the River Thames near to where the river bends as it passes through Ham. To the northeast is Eel Pie Island and to the southwest is Teddington, including Teddington Lock where the River Thames ceases to be tidal. To the east is Richmond Park and Twickenham is to the west.

3.2.2 The Copse

The Copse sits nestled within three of the five Ham Avenues (those covered by this management plan), to the south of Melancholy Walk and Petersham Avenue and to the east of the Great South Avenue. Beyond the Avenues are the Palm Centre (to the west) Ham House and Gardens (to the north west) and the Ham Polo club and German School to the north and north east respectfully. To the east is the Russell School with residential to the south.

The main habitats are lowland acid grassland (a National Priority Habitat), semi-improved grassland, native semi-natural woodland and some impressive veteran trees. The connections from the River Thames to Richmond Park via the Copse and Ham Avenues create a really important wildlife corridor for numerous species.

The site is extremely popular with walkers and horse riders using the bridle and permissive horse paths.

3.2.3 Ham Avenues

Ham Avenues are a series of five interconnecting tree lined Avenues, only three of which are covered by the management plan; Petersham and Great South Avenues and Melancholy Walk. All of which have are legally designated Public Rights of Way and Bridleways (definition in section 8). The remainder of the horse paths in Ham and within The Copse are

permissive horse paths which have no legal status. The grassland in front of the tree line is managed as meadow grassland, and behind the tree line a combination of native hedges or scrub habitat.

The Avenues are a unique historic managed landscape and designated as a Grade II* listed Park and Garden landscape due to their exceptional rarity, designed to give vistas to and from the National Trust's Ham House. The more formal Avenues are in balance with a less managed natural environment behind tree line that is a haven for wildlife and helps create a narrow green corridor.

3.3 Designation

This site is designated as:

- Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) the definition of MOL can be found in *Section 8*
- The Copse and Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues - A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). full details can be found in *Appendix 6*
- The Ham Avenues are included within the boundary of the Grade II* listed Ham House on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens #1209, a link to the description can be found here [HAM HOUSE, Non Civil Parish - 1000282 | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/ham-house-non-civil-parish-1000282/)

3.4 History

3.4.1 The Copse

Formerly part of the grounds of Ham House, the site is now owned by the Council. Relics of the past landscape can be found, in the form of an avenue of Lime trees along the northern edge of the field, now known as The Ham Avenues. The Copse lies to the south of Ham Avenues and Ham House.

3.4.2 Ham Avenues

The Avenues are a remainder of the original Ham House gardens developed in the 1670's by the then owners, the Dysart family. The Avenues radiated from the house as a display of wealth and power. Formerly on the English Heritage risk register as a place at risk of being lost forever, it was removed following restoration works by the Thames Landscape Strategy in the early 2000's, new Lime trees were planted, the wooden path edging and bridlepaths restored where necessary and new gates and fencing were installed using volunteers and painted their traditional white colour.

3.5 Ecological Interest Features

3.5.1 The Copse - Flora and fauna

The Copse has a mix of Nationally important lowland acid grassland, semi-improved grassland, broad leaved woodland with some splendid veteran oaks. The ancient Oaks form a woodland stand, many with gnarled twisted trunks and broken limbs.

3.5.2 The Copse - Lowland dry acid grassland

The acid grassland at the Copse is more species-rich than other acid grasslands found in Ham (Ham Common formal and Ham Common Woods). The constant species are Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Cat's-Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Additional species included Sweet-Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Mouse-Ear-Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Bird's-Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), the latter a London Notable species.

3.5.3 The Copse - Semi-improved grassland

Species found in the 2019 Phase 1 Habitat Assessment (Salix Ecology 2019) included Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) with abundant False Oat-Grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Frequent Cock's-Foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Perennial Rye-Grass (*Lolium perenne*) and Yorkshire-Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) were both occasional species while Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Sheep's-Fescue (*Festuca ovina*) and Tufted Hair-Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) were rare. Forbs included frequent Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzonerae autumnalis*), Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

3.5.4 The Copse - Native semi-natural woodland

The canopy layer includes abundant large and veteran Common Oaks (*Quercus robur*) along with occasional Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and a number of ornamental Maples (*Acer spp.*) as well as Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). A large mature Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) grows on the west margin of the woodland. The dense and extensive scrub layer includes abundant Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*) frequent Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*). There are occasional Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Whitebeam saplings (*Sorbus spp.*), Yew (*Taxus baccata*), and coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are all rare.

The herb layer is poorly represented and largely confined to the more sunlit path-sides and woodland edges. Cock's-Foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) was the only frequent species, while Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), False Oat-Grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), Perennial Rye-Grass (*Lolium perenne*) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) all occur occasionally.

3.5.5 The Copse - Veteran trees

There are several overmature/veteran Oaks on the site. These trees provide important habitats for wildlife, with features including major cavities in large limbs, a high proportion of dead wood in the canopy, loss of bark and numerous crevices. The holes provide nesting sites for Woodpeckers (*Picidae spp.*), Treecreepers (*Certhia familiaris*), Nuthatches (*Sitta europaea*), Tawny (*Strix aluco*) and Little Owls (*Athene noctua*) and plenty of roosting opportunities for Bats. Invertebrates that reply on decaying wood include the magnificent

Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) Britain's largest terrestrial beetle, which is common throughout Richmond borough.

3.5.6 Ham Avenues - Flora and fauna

The Ham Avenues consist of a parallel row of Lime Trees running along either side of the Public Right of Way, with a scrub or native hedge behind the trees and grassland in front.

The grassland in front of the trees is for the most part semi-improved grassland. The sward typically comprises Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), False Oat Grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Clumps of Cock's-Foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) is frequent and Annual Meadow Grass (*Poa annua*) occurs at the edges of the habitat. Perennial Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*) and Wall Barley (*Hordeum murinum*), are the most abundant along Great South Avenue which has higher visitor numbers, including more dogs. The wildflowers present include Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) as well as the non native Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*) which favours damp shady areas and can quickly spread through both seeds and rhizomes.

Behind the tree lines are a mix of native hedge and scrub made up from Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, creating an important habitat and connecting corridor for nesting birds and mammals. There are many Badgers in the area feeding on the abundant food sources. A number of Bat species routinely use the Lime avenues to get from their roosts in Richmond Park to their feeding grounds over the Thames. Bird species include Woodpeckers, Chiff Chaffs (*Phylloscopus collybita*), Great Tits (*Parus major*), Blue Tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) and Little Owls (*Athene noctua*). Many species of butterfly can be seen including Red Admirals (*Vanessa atalanta*) Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) and Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*).

3.5.6 Ham Avenues – Avenue trees

Lime (*Tilia x europaea*) trees of varying ages line the Avenues, the eldest being in Melancholy Walk with the most recent being planted in the 2007 – 2009 by the Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS) restoration project. The trees are regularly monitored by the Council Tree Team and any necessary tree works carried out. Should any trees need to be removed for health and Safety reasons they are replaced with Lime trees. The trees along the Avenues require regular maintenance to lift and prevent the tree canopies from merging and affecting the protected views and vistas. Basal growth from the bases of the limes needs regular pruning to ensure a clear vista.

3.6 Community Involvement

There are two main groups interested in The Copse and The Ham Avenues, The Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities group and the Thames Landscape Strategy

3.6.1 The Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group

The Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group is a local group that was formed in 1933 and represents the residents of Ham and Petersham in all aspects of village life.

The objectives of the Group are:

To advance citizenship for the public benefit by protecting and improving the quality of life of people living in, working in, or visiting the area of Ham and Petersham, in particular by promoting and encouraging:

- 1) a sense of civic pride amongst members of the local public and the fostering of community involvement and the capacity to effect necessary change;
- 2) high standards of planning, urban design, landscaping, infrastructure and transport;
- 3) the conservation, creation of or improvement to lands, buildings, open spaces, waterways, amenities, features of historic interest and the individual character of localities, especially by adherence to the principles and practice of sustainable development, and the avoidance, removal, or improvement of features that are unsightly or, in the public interest, undesirable

[Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group - Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group](#)

3.6.2 The Thames Landscape Strategy

The Thames Landscape Strategy formed in 1994 is a non profit partnership organisation whose remit is *To conserve, promote and enhance for the future, one of the world's great river landscapes between Weybridge, Hampton and Kew*

Their objectives are:

- To champion community action by bringing together a partnership of organisations, individuals and community groups that have an interest in the Arcadian Thames.
- To implement the policies, projects and management proposals set out in the Thames Landscape Strategy and to develop new initiatives and opportunities.
- To improve sites of nature conservation value and create new opportunities for biodiversity and flood risk management.
- To protect and enhance historic buildings, historic parks and gardens, landscapes and ancient monuments.
- To raise awareness of the Thames Landscape Strategy, increase educational opportunities and promote understanding of the Thames environment and ways of protecting, conserving and enhancing that environment

'Landscape is not only seen with the eye, it is felt in the heart'

The Thames Landscape Strategy is about people, and the ways they connect with their physical, aesthetic, historic, natural, recreational and spiritual landscape. At the core of this organisation, is the acknowledgement that landscape assessment is based on more than aesthetic or heritage interest alone.

The Thames Landscape Strategy accounts for this specialness – setting out ways to conserve and enhance this unique landscape for the benefit of all, for the next 100-years
[Thames Landscape Strategy \(thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk\)](http://thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk)

3.7 Access

3.7.1 *Ham Copse*

The main access is on Meadlands Drive that runs alongside the site with several access points. Pedestrian access can also be gained via Sandy Lane, Ham Street (via Cut Throat Alley) or next to Ham House via Melancholy Walk. It is possible to walk through to the river between Ham House and Ham Polo Club. The site is accessible at all times but due to the nature of the site not all paths are surfaced.

3.7.2 *Ham Avenues*

The Ham Avenues can be accessed at many points along their length from the towpath, Ham Street, Sandy Lane, Ham Common, Upper Richmond Road, Petersham Road and Ham Gate Avenue. There is free public access at all times.

3.7.3 *Bridleways and permissive horse paths*

Horses have been an important feature of Ham and Petersham for many years, used by kings and noble people for hunting and pleasure in Richmond Park. It is therefore no surprise that there are several stables locally, as well as the internationally renowned Ham Polo Club which sits to the north of Petersham Avenue. To facilitate the exercise and movement of horses, there are a series of Bridleways and permissive horse paths that cross Ham, originally linking Ham House and the royal manor with Richmond Park through the formal Ham Common and Ham Gate Avenue (not covered in this management plan).

The definition of a Bridleway and permissive horse path can be found in Section 8 and a map of the Bridleways and horse paths can be seen in 7.3.

3.8 Constraints

The Copse and Ham Avenues are popular destinations as well as local walking routes by residents, dog walkers, horse riders and commuters. All of these put pressure on the semi natural paths which require regular maintenance. Nutrient enrichment from dog fouling and bramble constantly challenge the acid grassland habitat and open areas, requiring more intensive management. The veteran trees need specialist care and management which may require temporarily closing or diverting paths to allow nature to take its own path rather than heavy tree pruning to reduce the risk.

3.9. Evaluation

The site is mainly lowland acid grassland with an area of woodland and scrub. The acid grassland is a Habitat of Principal Importance and a target habitat for the Richmond

Biodiversity Action Plan. The site is popular with residents and visitors for recreation such as dog walking and horse riding as well as commuting; a careful balance needs to be struck.

4.0 Policies

4.1 Strategic Principles for Parks and Open Spaces

The borough has the largest area of public open space per head of population of any London borough. We have a local and national reputation for quality and leadership in the delivery of excellent parks. To ensure the quality of our Parks and Open Spaces remains at a high level, following public consultation, we have developed a series of strategic principles by which parks will be managed.

1. Parks and Open Spaces will be a sustainable legacy for future generations.
2. Parks and Open Spaces will continue to define our borough.
3. Parks and Open Spaces will enrich the life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
4. The Council will lead in the delivery of excellent Parks and Open Spaces services.
5. Parks and Open Spaces will offer positive experiences to all visitors.
6. Through innovation, the future development of Parks and Open Spaces services will be ensured.
7. Increased community participation in Parks and Open Spaces will be encouraged and supported.
8. Parks and Open Spaces will be celebrated as centres of excellence.

All Council owned and managed parks and open spaces are controlled by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). These orders impose various restrictions to dog control and other activities in our parks and open spaces, these can be found here. https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_enforcement_and_legislation#pspo.

4.2 The London Plan

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

4.3 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames planning strategies

4.3.1 Local Plan

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

importance of open space as an urban structure, providing relief from the built environment, is acknowledged, as is the importance of providing for play and recreation. These collectively contribute to quality of life in the Borough.

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

4.3.2 London Borough of Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

To conserve Richmond's biodiversity, the decline of valuable species and habitats needs to be reversed. The origination of the Biodiversity Action Plan was one of the agreements resulting from the Rio 1992 Earth Summit (for more information see website - <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmselect/cmenvaud/616/61604.htm>) promoting the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources and to encourage protection.

Richmond's BAP priorities habitats and species that are rare, in decline or characteristic of Richmond, and aims to use them to help raise the profile of biodiversity in the borough. The BAP's strategy is based around protecting and celebrating local wildlife and improving the quality of wildlife habitats and the environment in our borough.

There are currently twenty Biodiversity Action Plans covering selected species and habitats for Richmond; they are listed in Appendix 1. The Council is committed to developing and implementing the objectives enshrined in these plans into their management practices; although these are not all relevant to The Ham Copse and the Ham Avenues. The plans that will have most relevance are: Acid Grassland, Neutral Grassland, Broad Leaved Woodland, Bats, Song Thrush and Stag Beetle.

4.3.3 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Nature Conservation Policy

Richmond Council adopted a new Nature Conservation Policy in which the Council recognises the special and diverse wildlife found within its Borough and its' duty to protect and preserve biodiversity. The Policy outlines the ways the Council will achieve this through management of its land, planning obligations and monitoring. The policy can be found in Appendix 3.

4.3.4 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Tree Policy

Richmond Council has a tree management policy which recognises the benefits of trees and outlines a responsible management approach towards trees within the Borough. This can be found at Appendix 4.

5.0 Site Vision and objectives

5.1 Site vision

To conserve, maintain and improve the quality of the acid and neutral grasslands, scrub and woodland habitats, whilst improving the visitor experience on site.

5.2. Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

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

5.3 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:

5.3.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

Maintain, improve and extend the acid grassland habitats on site to ensure this Nationally important habitat increases in size as well as quality.

Maintain and improve the woodland habitat.

5.3.2 Objective 2: Visitor access

Maintain the amenity grass, pathways, Bridleways, permissive horse paths, infrastructure and cleanliness.

Reinstate lost Public Rights of Way where applicable and review permissive horse paths, making amendments where necessary.

5.3.3 Objective 3: Community involvement.

With support from the Council and Habitats and Heritage (H&H), raise the profile of The Copse and The Ham Avenues and communicate with HPAAG, the TLS, local residents and interested parties.

5.3.4 Objective 4: Management planning and Monitoring

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

Look ahead to the next management plan period, factoring in potential further enhancements and management objectives.

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

***Optional element to be costed separately and subject to funding.**

6.0 Management Prescriptions

The following detailed prescriptions are designed to manage the site features to deliver the site vision and objectives; the detailed management aims and rationale are given where relevant. The management is not set in stone and must be reviewed and updated based on evidence observed on site, month to month or even year to year, so that management is in response to the current conditions or any environmental change.

Key to terms used within the prescriptions and work programme

AC - Arboriculture Contractor

ACO - Appropriate Council Officer

GMC - Grounds Maintenance Contractor

LBRuT - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

NCC – Nature Conservation Contractor

**Brash piles – when creating brash piles, fire hazards to be considered with excess brash to be removed off site.

6.1 Objective 1: Nature conservation

6.1.1 Prescription 1: Scrub and minor tree maintenance - 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.

Scrub is a dynamic habitat and must be controlled in order to prevent adjacent habitat such as grassland from disappearing. It is also valuable in its own right through providing nesting opportunities for birds and overwintering invertebrates. Scrub of differing ages throughout a site creates a valuable habitat mosaic for a greater species diversity. Elm scrub is of particular importance to the White-Letter Hairstreak (*Satyrium w-album* - a S41 Species of Principal Importance (of the NERC Act 2006)) which relies on Elm for all parts of its lifecycle.

- All scrub works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds by an Ecologist.
- Rotationally coppice 15% in each compartment to ensure a range of ages is available for different invertebrates. Map works carried out each year for reference.
- Annually cut back bramble leaders or scrub encroachment onto meadow and amenity grassland.
- Areas of permanent dense scrub to be left unmanaged, and only trimmed if encroaching grassland areas.
- Remove any non native species present. Where in abundance, remove over an appropriate period by thinning to allow natural succession and use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Any cordwood and small brash piles** should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value.
- All stems near paths must be cut to ground level to avoid creating any trip hazards.
- Remove canopy deadwood and mature growth of ivy on trees within 2m of paths.
- Where tree pruning is required, wounds should be kept to the minimum diameter necessary.
- All scrub along Ham House and the Palm Centre walls (T5) and Petersham Avenue to be removed permanently.
- All ivy on listed walls to be Ivy free at all times (T5).
- Scrub adjacent to the Holly Hedge (S1) is to be cut on alternate years.

6.1.2 Prescription 2: Acid grassland maintenance - **NCC**

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

- Litter pick before cutting any grass.
- Hay cutting must not be carried out during high winds or extreme wet weather.
- Grass in sections G1/G3/G4/G5 to be cut twice a year leaving 5% uncut per year, before the end of March and after the 15th September. If there is insufficient growth in March, a second cut should be done in October.
- Grass in the G2 to be cut once a year leaving 5% uncut per year, after the 15th September.
- The 5% area not cut each year should be rotated around the site and marked on the site map for reference.
- A 0.5m buffer zone should be left along the scrub parcels.
- Once diversity has been increased the cutting regime will be revisited.
- Increase the acid grassland permanently through pushing back trees and scrub.

6.1.3 Prescription 3: Avenue meadow grassland maintenance - **NCC**

Maintain the meadow grassland to enhance the diversity and abundance of floral and grass species.

- Litter pick before cutting any grass.
- Hay cutting must not be carried out during high winds or extreme wet weather.
- A metre pathside strip to be cut monthly during the growing season (March – October).
- Twice a year all the grass is to be cut and removed, from the path edge to just behind the tree line. The cut to be carried out before the end of March and again after the 15th September.
- Benches and park furniture to be neatly stimmed round.

6.1.4 Prescription 4: Woodland - **NCC**

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

- All woodland works are to be in accordance with good practice.
- All woodland works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds by an Ecologist.
- Remove 20% of non native species such as Sycamore and Norway Maple per compartment per year, over a 5 year period by thinning to allow natural succession. If required use stump treatment to prevent regrowth.
- Where non native trees are of a good size, ring barking can be carried out to create standing dead wood.
- Exceptions to removals are mature non native trees that are beginning to show bird or bat roosting features, these should be left unless their removal will contribute significantly to acid grassland or pond enhancements.
- Following the first 5 years of non native control, woodland management will be revised to look at the woodland structure and understory.
- Where tree works are required alongside path, stems must be cut to ground level avoiding any trip hazard creation.
- Any cordwood and small brash piles** should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value.
- Remove canopy deadwood and mature growth of ivy on trees within 2m of paths.

- Where tree pruning is required, wounds should be kept to the minimum diameter necessary.
- In collaboration with Appropriate Council Officer halo around any mature or potential veteran trees carefully and sensitively.
- In agreement with the Appropriate Council Officer selective planting can be carried out.
- Potential veteran trees should be reported to Appropriate Council Officer
- Bat checks and surveys are required as per best practice.

6.1.5 **Prescription 5: Veteran tree management – NCC or specialist tree contactors*

Veteran trees are an important part of the woodland setting; appropriate and expert management is required to increase their longevity.

- A veteran tree survey and schedule of works to be produced with required works listed on a priority basis.
- All works on potential veteran trees to be in accordance with the good practice guidance.
- Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds.
- Any arisings to remain near the base of original tree in small brash piles. Only if there is an unacceptable fire hazard should excess to be removed off site.
- Remove canopy deadwood and mature growth of ivy on trees within 2m of paths unless agreed with LBRuT Arboriculture Team.
- Bat checks and surveys are required as per best practice.

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

6.1.6 *Prescription 6: Avenue trees – NCC or specialist tree contractor*

All specimen Avenue trees are to be managed in accordance with the LBRuT Tree Policy (Appendix 4), ensuring the vista is clear and any failed trees are replaced with Limes.

- Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds.
- The canopy of the Avenue trees is to be kept a minimum of 4/5 metres above ground level and gap of 4-5 between tree lines, ensuring the vista is kept clear as per Local Plan Policy LP5
- All arisings to be removed offsite unless requested by the Appropriate Council Officer for habitat creation behind the tree line.
- Remove canopy deadwood and mature growth of ivy on trees within 2m of paths.
- Where Avenue trees are to be removed for Health and Safety reasons, new Lime (*Tilia spp*) trees are to be replanted by LBRuT within the next growing season.
- Where tree pruning is required, wounds should be kept to the minimum diameter necessary.
- Basal growth on the tree bases to be pruned at the same time as the hay cut is done.
- Bat checks and surveys are required as per best practice.

6.1.7 *Prescription 7: Hedgerow/scrub behind Avenue trees - NCC*

The hedgerow is a significant habitat/feature within the site and the landscape;

- Works should be carried out outside of bird nesting season (for definition see Section 8) unless first checked for nesting birds.
- 25% of the hedges on each Avenue should be cut per year ensuring that the sections are not adjacent to each other.
- If required, sensitive trimming near roadsides/paths can be carried out more frequently provided bird nesting checks are carried out.

- There should be refuge areas of longer grass alongside the hedge with less than 5% bare ground.
- Appropriate machinery/tools that do not cause unrestricted damage must be used to cut the hedge at all times and hedges left neat and tidy after cutting, with no structural damage to the main trunks, ie rips or tears.
- Any vegetation more than the annual growth to be checked with Appropriate Council Officer before.
- Berries and flowers must be allowed to grow to provide a food/nectar source for birds, mammals, and invertebrates.
- Leaf litter should be left under hedges.

6.1.8 *Prescription 8: Glade *creation and management – NCC*

Glades provide larger areas of open habitat within a woodland which have varying levels of vegetation structure favoured by invertebrates. A new glade is required to enhance the diversity.

- Existing glades are to be increased on a phased approach.
- In Year 1, a location for one new glade to be determined and agreed with Appropriate Council Officer and stakeholders.
- The location of the glade should be based on existing openness and lack of mature or significant native trees. Ideally non native trees should be removed.
- ***Glade should be approx. 30m by 30m and a price for their creation should be submitted as a separate cost within the tender submission.**
- Manage existing glades by keeping open with graduated vegetation.
- Following approval in year 1, ***new glade to be created in year 2.**
- All stems near paths must be cut to ground level avoiding any trip hazard creation.
- Any cordwood and small brash piles** should be stacked for habitat/deadwood value.
- Once the new glade is created, they must be managed as open glades.
- New glade is to be digitally mapped and added to the Council records.
- Where tree pruning is required, wounds should be kept to the minimum diameter necessary.

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

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.

6.2 Objective 2: Visitor Experience

6.2.1 **Prescription 10: Amenity grass maintenance – GMC/NCC*

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

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks on amenity grass areas and commission any works required.
- *Grass in front of White gates on Great South Avenue to be cut on an amenity grass schedule.
- *Benches and park infrastructure and furniture to be neatly stimmed round.
- Nature Conservation Contactor to support Council Parks Officers by reporting any defects noted whilst on site.

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

6.2.2 *Prescription 11 Pathside metre strip maintenance – **GMC/NCC**

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

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks on metre strips and vertical edging and commission any works required.
- *Grounds Maintenance Contractor to cut 0.5m pathside strips on a monthly basis,
- *GMC to cut/prune vertical edging twice a year, before and after bird nesting season. In cases of rapid growth additional light cuts may be necessary, subject to bird nesting. Cutting should be done with appropriate machinery and left neat and tidy, with no structural damage to the main trunks, ie rips or tears.
- *Benches and park furniture to be neatly stimmed round.
- Any vegetation more than the annual growth to be checked with Appropriate Council Officer before.
- Where possible berries and flowers must be allowed to grow to provide a food/nectar source for birds, mammals, and invertebrates.

Nature Conservation Contactor to support Council Parks Officers by reporting any defects noted whilst on site.

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

6.2.3 Prescription 12: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures - **LBRuT/NCC**

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

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks on Infrastructure and signage and commission any repairs required.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to support Parks Officers by reporting any defects noted whilst on site. Emergency works to be reported within 24 hours non urgent within 5 days.

6.2.4 Prescription 13: Bridleway and Permissive horse path maintenance – **NCC**

Provide a welcoming and clean horse-riding environment with clear entrances and paths, including free from trip and eye hazards.

- Nature Conservation Contractor to carry out visual checks on permissive horse paths and Bridleways and implement any repairs required.
- Maintain vegetation alongside Bridleways and permissive horse paths at a 3m width by 3m height to ensure horses and riders can safely pass.
- Top up surfacing on a regular basis but no less than every two years, unless agreed with Appropriate Council Officer.
- Ensure Bridleways and permissive horse paths are free from compaction and can free drain, preventing puddles forming with an annual harrow.
- Maintain Bridleways and permissive horse path surfaces as per national guidance.
- NCC to assist LBRuT review of permissive horse paths when required.

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

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

- Council Parks Officers to carry out visual checks for litter on site and report any hotspots.
- Regular litter picking to be carried out by GMC within 2m of main paths and pavements.
- Scavenge picks and/or deep cleans to be carried out annually by GMC or when required.
- Nature Conservation Contractor to litter pick whilst working on site, any large items or fly tip to be reported to Appropriate Council Officer within 24 hours.

6.3 Objective 3: Publicity and communication

6.3.1 *Prescription 15: Publicity and communication – NCC*

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

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

6.4 Objective 4: Management Planning and Monitoring

6.4.1 *Prescription 16: Review Management and Work Plans – LBRuT, NCC*

The plan should be seen as a live document for ongoing editing and updating, no plan can anticipate every situation or environmental response and it is vital that management be reviewed every year and the subsequent work programme adjusted. To ensure that management remains on track to deliver the site vision and objectives, the completed actions must be reviewed each year and if necessary, the following years actions updated.

- Unless otherwise agreed in writing a monthly report should be submitted to the Appropriate Council Officer outlining details of projects undertaken and items of note
- This should include a simple summary of the work completed with an annotated map to be discussed at an annual review meeting (in November) with the Appropriate Council Officer.
- A minimum of twice yearly site visits will be undertaken with the Appropriate Council Officer to assess work progress and any issues.
- This management plan will be fully reviewed at the end of every 5-year period (next due in 2029) to evaluate achievements of the site vision and objectives. At this time useful feedback from NCC and stakeholders along with requirements for further funding and resources should be considered and used to produce an updated management plan for the next five or ten year period, as appropriate.

6.4.2 Prescription 17: Monitor key species and habitats. - NCC

To inform future management plans, species and habitat information should be collated. Key species and habitats including, but not restricted to, those featured within the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan and those classed as 'priority' by the Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.

- On each site visit, any sightings to be collated and reported back to the Appropriate Council Officer and Habitats and Heritage (H&H) for recording.
- Where a sighting is imminently important to the management of a site (such as bird nesting, uncovering of a badger sett/fox earth etc) the impacts must be discussed with the Appropriate Council Officer and a decision taken to continue the works or not.
- ***Species surveys to inform site management. Surveys are listed below in Table 1.**

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

6.4.3 Table 1 – Species surveys required

Survey type	Expected timing	Survey details
Ash dieback survey	June-Aug	Carry out basic ash dieback survey across the site. Survey should follow health categories detailed by the Tree Council.
Ancient and veteran tree survey	Jan-Dec	Identify, number tag and map all veteran and ancient trees.
Breeding bird survey	Mar-Sep	Carry out a breeding bird survey at The Copse.
Set up butterfly transect route across the site	Apr-Sept	Liaise with Butterfly Conservation Trust to see if possible to set up official transect. If not carry out monthly butterfly transect following same survey methodology.
Survey and map Potential Roost Features (PRF's)	Jan-Dec	Survey woodland areas and build a QGIS database of all trees with PRF's.
Mammal Surveys	Jan-Dec	Survey woodland using live capture traps for mammals.
Invertebrate survey	May-Sept	Site wide invertebrate survey including interception traps for saproxylic invertebrates.
Moth trapping		Set up light traps to survey for moth species.
Bioacoustic surveys for bats	May-Oct	Use static bioacoustics recorders to survey for bat species across the site each season.
Maintain pan species site list and send to Habitats and Heritage	Jan-Dec	Keep up to date records of all species recorded and send records to Habitats and Heritage Richmond Biodiversity Partnership - Habitats & Heritage (habitatsandheritage.org.uk)

6.5 Objective 5 : Tree Health and Safety works

6.5.1 *Prescription 18: Dangerous trees procedure ACC/NCC*

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

6.5 Table 2 – The Copse (Co) and Ham Avenues (Ha) Work Programme 2024 - 2029

Prescription	Priority	Year and compartment					Usual Timing	Lead resource	Prescription details	Comments
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29				
P1a: Scrub and minor tree maintenance	1	All	All	All	All	All	Oct - Feb	NCC	Coppice 20% per area per year. Cut back bramble and other suckers/leaders from grassland.	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P1b: Scrub and minor tree maintenance	1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	Oct - Feb	NCC	Cut back S1 every two years	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P1c Scrub and minor tree maintenance	1	T5	T5	T5	T5	T5	Oct - Feb	NCC	Cut back scrub in grassland along Ham House and Palm Centre Wall annually.	Listed wall to be vegetation free at all times
P2a: Acid grassland maintenance	1	G1 G3 G4 G5	G1 G3 G4 G5	G1 G3 G4 G5	G1 G3 G4 G5	G1 G3 G4 G5	March and September	NCC	Cut and remove at a height of 100 – 150 mm	Ensure Trees and Parks infrastructure are neatly cut round
P2b: Acid grassland maintenance	1	G2	G2	G2	G2	G2	September	NCC	Cut and remove at a height of 100 – 150 mm and remove	Ensure Parks infrastructure are neatly cut round
P3: Avenue meadow grassland maintenance	1	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW, PA GSA	June and September	NCC	After cow parsley has set seed but before plant gets too woody. Cut and remove at a height of 100 – 150 mm	Ensure trees and parks infrastructure are neatly cut round round
P4: Woodland management	1	W1 W2 W3 W4 W5	W1 W2 W3 W4 W5	W1 W2 W3 W4 W5	W1 W2 W3 W4 W5	W1 W2 W3 W4 W5	Oct - Feb	NCC	Remove 20% of non native species from each compartment per year. Halo round any potential mature specimens.	Woodland management to be revisited once non- native species are removed.
P5: Veteran Tree Management	1	All	All	All	All	All	As per best practice	NCC	Following veteran tree survey, a schedule of works to be prepared and followed in accordance with H&S priorities.	All veteran tree works to be in accordance with current best practice.
P6: Avenue Trees management	1	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	Oct - Feb	AC	Lift and prune back Avenue trees to ensure clearance for bridle paths and vista. Basal growth to be done April and September in line with haycut.	.

P7: Hedgerow/scrub behind Avenue trees maintenance	1	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW PA GSA	MW PAG SA	MW PA GSA	Oct - Feb	NCC	25% of the hedge per Avenue to be cut back per year.	Precautionary approach with regard to hibernating hedgehogs
P8: Glade *creation and management	1		*W2						Identify a new glade location in W2 for agreement with ACO. Maintain existing glades.	Precautionary approach for hibernating hedgehogs. Avoid bird nesting season
P9: Invasive species management	1	All	All	All	All	All	April - Oct	LBRuT NCC	Monitor and report any new stands to ACO within 24 hours. Control balsam and any other non-native herbaceous species	Treatment must be done according to best practice.
*P10: Amenity grassland	1	GSA	GSA	GSA	GSA	GSA	GSA	GMC	Area in front of white gates on Great South Avenue to be cut as per amenity grass schedule	Ensure trees and parks infrastructure are neatly cut round
*P11: Pathside metre strip maintenance	1	All	All	All	All	All	April - Nov	GMC/NCC	Pathside strips to be cut and removed on a monthly basis.	Ensure trees and parks infrastructure are neatly cut round
P12: Maintain pathways, boundaries and check structures	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	GMC	Report any defects to the ACO	
P13: Bridleway and Permissive horse path maintenance	1	All	All	All	All	All	As best practice	NCC	Keep a 3m wide by 3m height path for horses.	
P14: Litter collection	1	All	All	All	All	All	All year	GMC/NCC	Litter pick when on site, any large/bulky litter and fly tipping to be reported to ACO within 24 hours	
P15: Publicity and Communication	1						All year	NCC	Liaise with interested parties and prepare brief summaries of works when required	
P16: Review plan and work programme annually	1						Sept	LBRuT /NCC	Annual meeting in September to discuss works for forthcoming year.	
P17a: Monitor key species and habitats.	1	All	All	All	All	All	As appropriate	NCC	Sightings to be reported to ACO and Habitats and Heritage as appropriate.	
*P17b: Monitor key species and habitats. Optional Survey work	1	All	All	All	All	All	As appropriate	NCC	Provide species surveys as per best practice to inform management plan	
P18 Tree Health and Safety works	1	All	All	All	All	All	As required	ACC/NCC	Report health and safety works to Tree Technical Support Team	

* Optional element to be priced separately

6.6 Key to abbreviations

MW – Melancholy Walk
PA – Petersham Avenue
GS – Great South Avenue

6.7. Priority levels

- 1 – Very important for the maintenance of the key habitats, species or visitor amenity (i.e. annual meadow cut) and should reflect the bare minimum of what should be achieved each year.
- 2 – Of secondary importance to the key tasks, to be done if more time / resources are available (i.e. coppicing / thinning a secondary woodland boundary to a meadow, or additional survey work); priority 2 tasks could become 1s if not completed for a number of years.
- 3 – Luxury, wish list tasks: nice to do but not important if resources are not available; these items might become priority 2s over time if not completed but are unlikely ever to reach priority 1 unless significant change in other factors.

1 – Priorities in **Green** mean the task was not completed as scheduled.
R – Reactive, unplanned work, may be coupled with a numerical priority, i.e. R1.

7.0 Management map

7.1 Map 1 - To show overall site for The Copse and Ham Avenues



Target Notes:

- 1 – Artificial badger sett;
- 2 – Outlier badger sett;
- 3 – Main badger sett;
- 4 – Annex badger sett;
- 5 – Ham House boundary wall

7.2 Map 2 – Great South Avenue southern side



8.0 Glossary

8.1 Bird Nesting Season

Bird nesting season (BNS) is classed as from the 1st March – 31st July inclusive however some birds (for eg herons) breed outside of this period and this is going to become increasingly common with climate change. All breeding birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/garden-hedges/hedge-law/>

8.2 Bridleway and Permissive Horse paths

8.2.1 Bridleway

Bridleway" means a highway over which the public have the following, but no other, rights of way, that is to say, a right of way on foot and a right of way on horseback or leading a horse, with or without a right to drive animals of any description along the highway; extract taken from [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(c. 69\) \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/2007/1000/Wildlife-and-Countryside-Act-1981-(c.-69).)

8.2.2 Permissive horse path

Permissive horse paths are paths that Richmond Council have allowed horses to use for recreational purposes. These paths may be changed from time to time in accordance with management objectives with the site.

8.3 Green Belt

Green Belt (GB) is a national policy designation and there is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt. In line with the NPPF, the Green Belt serves five purposes:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns and
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

8.4 Metropolitan Open land

Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) is open land or water which is of significance to London as a whole or a part of London, either publicly or privately owned, and with or without a public access, which either:

- a) Contributes to the physical structure of London and helps to separate and/or define London's distinctive communities'
- b) Contributes to the establishment of London's special character by providing attractive breaks in what would otherwise be continuous urban development
- c) Creates a significant visual open space experience when used, passed or crossed
- d) Contains natural features, buildings or landscape of historic, recreational, agricultural, natural conservation or scientific interest, worthy of protection on account of their value nationally or to the whole part or a part of London
- e) Includes open air facilities, especially for leisure, recreation and sport of importance for the whole or a part of London; or
- f) Forms part of a green chain of related open spaces and linking footpaths, bridleways, riverside and canal walks and towpaths

Some open spaces and gardens which themselves might not be of significance to London as a whole, but which combine visually and physically to form a larger significant open area or green wedge are included.

8.5 Other Open Land of Townscape Importance (OOLTI)

Open areas, which are not extensive enough to be defined as Metropolitan Open Land, but act as pockets of greenery of local significance, contribute to the local character, and are valued by residents as open spaces in the built-up area. These areas can include public and private sports grounds, some school playing fields, cemeteries, allotments, private gardens, areas of vegetation such as street trees and mature trees. OOLTI is a local policy and new designations are made by the council as part of the plan-making process. This is different to the national policy designation of 'Local Green Space'.

8.6 Public Open Space

Public Open Space is parks and similar land for public use, whether provided by the Council, or privately, where access for the public is secured by virtue of legal agreements.

8.7 Richmond Biodiversity partnership

The Richmond Biodiversity Partnership (RBP) is an independent consortium of local specialists and organisations concerned with wildlife and biodiversity across Richmond Borough. Chaired by Habitats & Heritage, the Partnership regularly updates and publishes the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan (see 4.3.2), a strategy document that details plans for the protection and management of habitats and species of national, regional or local significance and those that are on the Red List of Threatened Species across the Borough

8.8 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 (SINC's). Over 1500 SINC's 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.

8.8.1 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.

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

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

9.0 References

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10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1

Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan, habitats and species relevant to The Copse and Ham Avenues, [online] available at - [Richmond Biodiversity Partnership - Habitats & Heritage \(habitatsandheritage.org.uk\)](http://Richmond Biodiversity Partnership - Habitats & Heritage (habitatsandheritage.org.uk))

Appendix 2

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

Appendix 3

Richmond Council Nature Conservation Policy [online] available at -
https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/16895/lbrut_nature_conservation_policy.pdf

Appendix 4

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

Appendix 5

SINC Designation for The Copse

Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation

Site Reference: RiBII10

Site Name: The Copse, Holly Hedge Field and Ham Avenues

Summary: lime trees A flowery meadow, a stand of ancient oaks and an historic avenue of combine to provide habitat for a wealth of animals and plants.

Grid ref: TQ 174 726

Area (ha): 11.88

Borough(s): Richmond upon Thames

Habitat(s): Scattered trees, Secondary woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Veteran trees

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

Ownership: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, National Trust

Site Description:

Holly Hedge Field is an attractive, flowery meadow. Parts are quite rough and dominated by cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), while areas of finer grassland display sheets of bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) intermingled with other wildflowers, including meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), which is rare in London.

The Copse is a stand of ancient Oaks (*Quercus robur*). Their gnarled trunks and twisted branches contain much dead wood and many holes, providing habitat for invertebrates,

fungi, hole-nesting birds and probably roosting bats. Also included in the site are the historic avenue leading north to Ham House and, to the south, the horse ride leading from Holly Hedge Field to Ham Common. The avenue in the north is mainly of common Lime (*Tilia x europaea*), merging into young Oak woodland in the western edge. In the east some gaps occur, which are filled by rough grassland providing good habitat for invertebrates. The horse ride in the south provides cover for birds and mammals in an area otherwise dominated by short-mown amenity grassland. The ride is flanked on either side by dense scrub and trees.

Site first notified:	01/01/1993	Boundary last changed:	01/02/2000
Citation last edited:	01/02/2006	Mayor Agreed:	
Defunct:	N	Last Updated:	06/06/2007

Appendix 6

Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Prescriptions

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

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

HK16 – restoration of grassland for target features.

This option is aimed at adjusting the management of existing semi-improved or rough grassland which is known to provide good conditions for target species and to protect other features such as historic sites.

The restoration of semi-improved and rough grassland will strengthen the mosaic of pastoral landscapes. This option may be applied to grassland Priority Habitat types, but which occur in land parcels that are extensively managed for topography and location, for example species-rich upland calcareous grassland in large allotments. It may also be used to restore grassland which has limited biodiversity value, but which has been created under a classic scheme for other objectives, such as protection of the historic environment.

HK18 – Supplement for haymaking.

This option aims to ensure the continuation or re-introduction of hay-making on sites where the ready availability of livestock and /or the climatic difficulty of hay-making means that they would otherwise be grazed and not cut. These fields will have high existing or potential value as meadow land. This option can also help to reduce diffuse pollution, benefit the integrity of the historic landscape as well as reinforcing the landscape character of the area. It will also help ensure hay-making techniques and traditions are not lost to future generations.