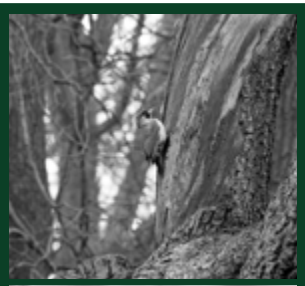
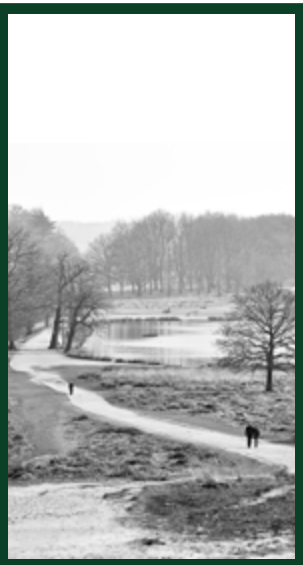
RICHMOND PARK








THE ROYAL PARKS

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019 - 2029

"I grew accustomed to wide horizons and to an unimpeded view of the sunset. I have never since been able to live happily without both".

BERTRAND RUSSELL
1872-1970

PARK MANAGER'S FOREWORD

Richmond Park extends to over 950 hectares and represents a significant natural and cultural landscape that is both a historic park and a city park. It forms part of a network of green and blue spaces across London, linking landscapes and acting as stepping stones for the movement of wildlife. The park is characterised by its mosaic of habitats, protected species and opportunities for enjoyment and recreation. Since enclosure by Charles 1, it has first and foremost been – and remains - a deer park.

I am delighted to introduce this, the third iteration of the Richmond Park Management Plan. The plan has been re-written in a new format which we hope will reflect the importance that we place on creating robust and thoughtful plans for our parks to satisfy their needs in the short and medium term yet also reflecting a vision for future centuries. In looking back at the achievements of the last 25 years it is amazing to reflect on how many positive changes have taken place and particularly the steps taken to conserve and enhance the many rare species and habitats found in Richmond Park. We could not have achieved much of this without our hugely valued army of community stakeholders and volunteer support.

In the last 10 years we have delivered a wide range of projects and introduced new ways of managing the Park: a completely restructured golf course with an exceptional modern clubhouse, the Isabella Plantation has been transformed using HLF funding to provide modern, accessible facilities together with enhanced ponds, lawns and expanded plant collections. Pembroke Lodge has grown as an exceptional business together with a garden setting that includes a wonderful new rose garden, perennial borders and invertebrate friendly meadows. We have invested in managing and protecting our precious veteran trees and this has included extensive programmes to remove the invasive Rhododendron ponticum which had become widespread across the Park, this has allowed transformative changes to take place in the woodlands. A variety of projects have been undertaken to protect and enhance habitats such as the Beverley Brook, gorse and thorn protection to name a new. We are indebted to all those who have supported these projects through grant aid and local fundraising.

Of all the Royal Parks, Richmond Park is perhaps the one that has the most difficult balance to find in satisfying the needs and wishes of our millions of visitors annually with our duty to conserve and manage increasingly fragile, rare and precious habitats. Those that have experienced Richmond Park over the years will recognise that the landscapes that they love are threatened as never before by many factors outside our direct control. I recognise that during the period of this plan there may come a time when difficult conversations may need to take place to ensure that the precious landscapes that people love to visit are not compromised by this use to the detriment of future generations.

In reading this plan, my team managing this wonderful park, will be pleased to work with those who wish to contribute their constructive thoughts and wishes to us.

SIMON RICHARDS
Richmond Park Manager

CONTENTS

PREFACE

TRP LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTS

TRP LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

'Who' are we... 'why' we manage the way we do

The Landscape Strategy is a public document which sets out The Royal Park's (TRP) overarching ethos and principles regarding landscape management. It sets the parks within their London context and presents their importance.

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS

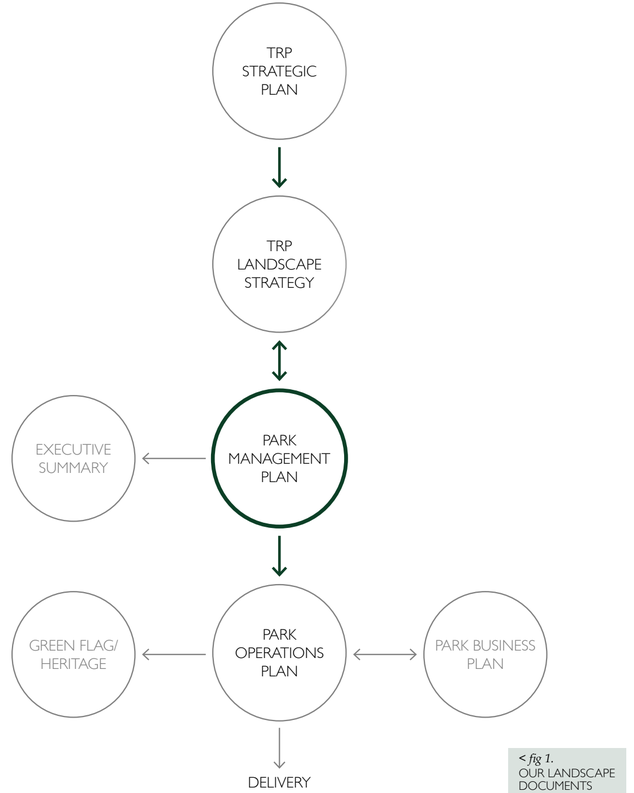
'What' we will do... 'what' we want to do

The Management Plan is a 10 year plan which directs effective park management. The plan is strategic in nature, setting out the 100 year vision for the park and the broad objectives which will guide its management.

PARK OPERATIONS PLANS

'What we deliver... 'when', 'who' and 'how'

The Operations Plan is prepared every year as the working document for the management of the park. It contains the park's annual Action Plan and Business Plan while it also records progress made in the previous year.



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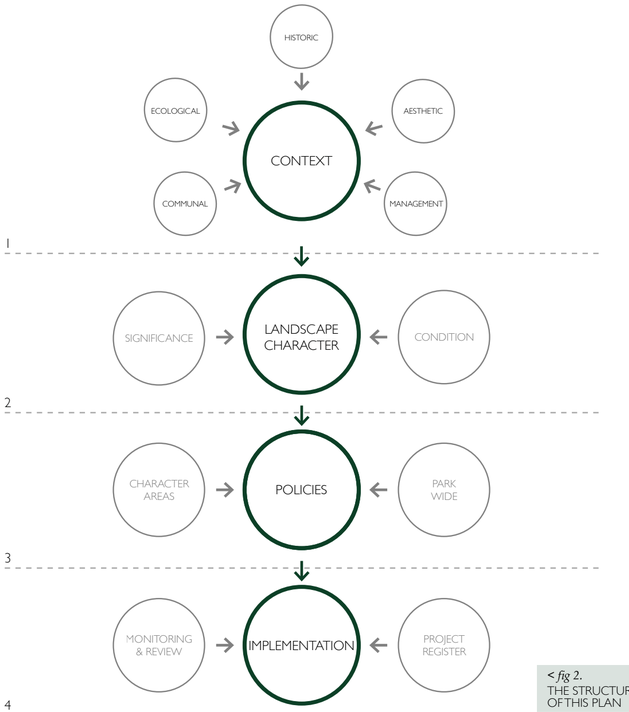
OUR LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTS



< *fig* 2.
THE STRUCTURE OF THIS PLAN

STRUCTURE OF THIS PLAN

PART 1 - CONTEXT

The Royal Parks view the park's landscape as one which has been developed over countless years by natural processes and layers of human interaction. This part brings together key information required to understand the shaping of the park we manage today.

PART 2 - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The park is recognised as an entity in its own right with its own character. In this part the park is broken down into landscape character areas. These character areas are a tool for understanding and subsequently helping to determine the management priorities for each distinctive area of the park.

PART 3 - OUR POLICIES

This part builds on the identification of opportunities and priorities set out in part 2. It brings these together to articulate policies for the park's management as a whole.

PART 4 - IMPLEMENTATION

This part describes the main mechanisms for recording, monitoring and reviewing the delivery of the Management Plan's priorities and policies.

It includes the Project Register, a dynamic and active component, that combines the Character Area Priorities, developed in part 2, and the park wide policies, developed in part 3. The Project Register identifies and lists potential projects which TRP aim to develop and deliver over the next decade subject to availability of resources.

PROCESS

The development of this plan has been a collaborative process which began with formulating a new simple framework which required a re-think of the existing document. The Landscape Management Officer led a series of focused workshops which involved the Richmond Park Management, Landscape, Ecology and Arboriculture Teams. Within these workshops we began trialling a new methodology and process to generate and agree on future management priorities and policies.

Collaborative working encouraged a creative and respectful environment where individuals felt free to share ideas and challenges fostering better working relationships. Through this new approach enthusiasm for change soared, discussion increased and team spirit became evident. As a result of this collective effort there is a sense of ownership, not only of the plan itself, but of the process developed.

A series of targeted consultation events allowed TRP to present and test our proposals to Friends Groups and external specialists incorporating their knowledge and expertise.

An online survey was conducted to discover 'what is individually valued' within Richmond Park by Friends, volunteers and special interest groups.

An internal draft was circulated to all Heads of Departments and specialist staff members. The draft was then approved by the Landscape Portfolio Board and the Executive Committee (Excom) along with the Board of Trustees of the charity.

A final draft was shared with Natural England and Historic England.

GUIDANCE

The development of the Management Plan was guided by current best practice and by expertise within The Royal Parks.

Particular reference was made to government publications and documents, the European Landscape Convention guidance documents, Natural England publications, Land Use Consultant's (LUC) 'Richmond Park Historical Survey 1984' and the Max Lankester's 'Whats in a name: Features of Richmond Park' produced for the public by the Friends of Richmond Park.

Our approach to assessing heritage values and significance was guided by the methodology for assessment of significance set out in Conservation Principals, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, English Heritage 2008 (Historic England).

In assessing landscape condition, reference was made to the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment - October 2014, Christine Tudor, Natural England.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Richmond Management Plan has been prepared by The Royal Parks, namely:

Simon Richards - Park Manager
Adam Curtis - Assistant Park Manager
Jo Scrivener - Assistant Park Manager
Jane Pelly - Head of Landscape
Alex Ioannou - Landscape Management Officer (lead)
Gillian Jonusas - Arboricultural Officer
Alister Hayes - Head of Programmes, Volunteering & Conservation
Samantha Wilkinson - Ecology Officer
Claudia Watts - GiGL Royal Parks Officer
Richard Flenley - Consultant
Max Rush - Photographer

We are particularly grateful to Friends, neighbours, interest groups and organisations who have participated in the process - through workshops, events and meetings - to inform and shape the Management Plan.

The Draft Plan was provided in December 2018 for review and now incorporates consultation responses from Natural England and Historic England.

We would like to thank Daniel Hearsum for his contributions and the use of material from The Hearsum Collection to this report.

PART 1

CONTEXT

The Royal Parks view the park's landscape as one which has been developed over countless years by natural processes and layers of human interaction. In this part we bring together key information required to understand the shaping of the park we manage today.

OUR PARKS

1. KENSINGTON GARDENS

'To protect and enhance Kensington Gardens' rich landscape heritage, its royal associations, its connections with children, with wildlife and with the creative culture of arts.'

2. HYDE PARK

'To balance the need between conserving the historic landscape and meeting the demands of current and potential visitors and popular events. To respect the vernacular elements of built and natural heritage, boast fine horticulture and be a refuge for a diverse and well protected wildlife.'

3. THE REGENT'S PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

'To conserve the historic parkland with its unique regency setting offering a broad range of opportunities for sport, well-being and culture while enhancing the quality and diversity of wildlife habitats.'

4. ST JAMES'S PARK AND THE GREEN PARK

'To respect the historic landscape of the formal seventeenth century layout that characterises the outer park. Conserve the picturesque landscape of the inner park, providing the setting for national ceremonial events and be as a green haven in the heart of London.'

5. BROMPTON CEMETERY

'To celebrate one of the great and most intact Garden Cemeteries of the mid-19th Century. To conserve its environment and built heritage while providing much needed facilities and improving public access.'

6. GREENWICH PARK

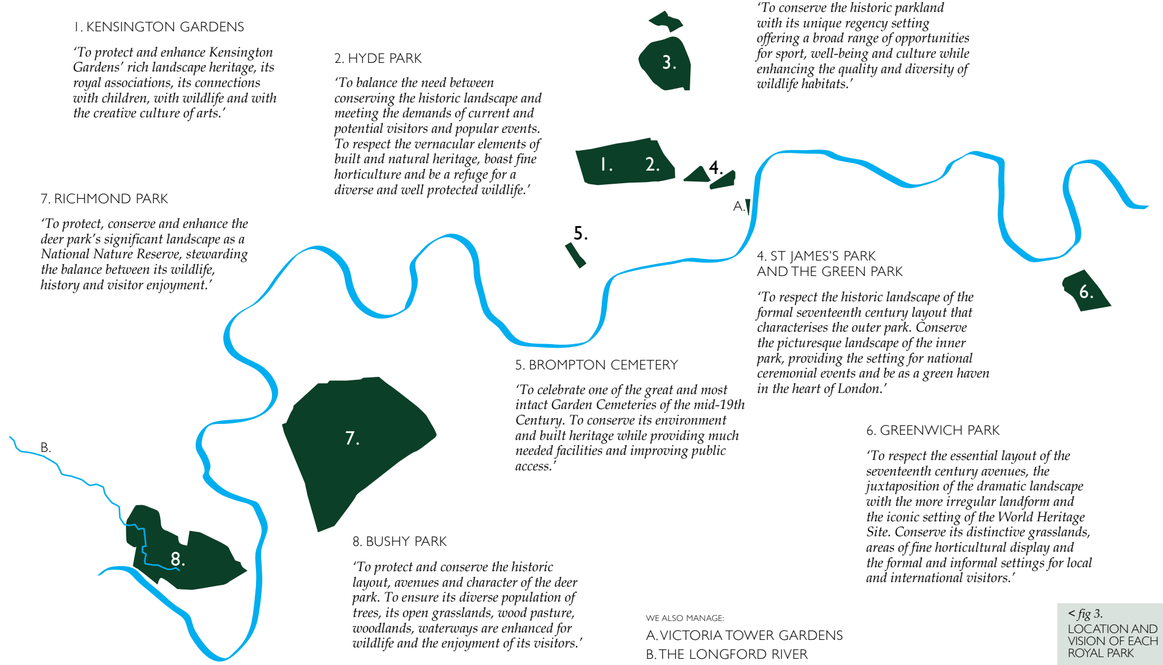
'To respect the essential layout of the seventeenth century avenues, the juxtaposition of the dramatic landscape with the more irregular landform and the iconic setting of the World Heritage Site. Conserve its distinctive grasslands, areas of fine horticultural display and the formal and informal settings for local and international visitors.'

7. RICHMOND PARK

'To protect, conserve and enhance the deer park's significant landscape as a National Nature Reserve, stewarding the balance between its wildlife, history and visitor enjoyment.'

8. BUSHY PARK

'To protect and conserve the historic layout, avenues and character of the deer park. To ensure its diverse population of trees, its open grasslands, wood pasture, woodlands, waterways are enhanced for wildlife and the enjoyment of its visitors.'



WE ALSO MANAGE:

A. VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS

B. THE LONGFORD RIVER

< *fig 3.*
LOCATION AND VISION OF EACH ROYAL PARK

MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

This section outlines the management context which enables us to deliver our set purpose.

'To manage the Royal Parks effectively and efficiently, balancing the responsibility to conserve and enhance the unique environments with creative policies to encourage access and to increase opportunities for enjoyment education, entertainment and healthy recreation.'

THE ROYAL PARKS CONTEXT

Richmond Park is the largest Royal Park, covering an area of 955 hectares. It is situated in south-west London in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

The Royal Parks comprise St. James's Park, The Green Park, Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park and The Regent's Park with Primrose Hill in inner London. Richmond Park, Bushy Park and Greenwich Park are linked to historic royal river palaces along the Thames in outer London.

PARK MANAGEMENT

Park management for a big multifaceted site like Richmond Park is complex. It concerns the organisational structures of different authorities and systems. It requires sourcing and allocating increasingly scarce resources from a number of bodies with ever changing demands and expectations.

AUTHORITY TO MANAGE

The Royal Parks charity manages the park on behalf of the Government. Powers for day to day management have been delegated to the Board of Trustees offering governance through the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Senior Management Team. The Board of Trustees include representatives from The London Mayor's office, the Royal Household and currently 3 of the 4 London Boroughs where the Royal Parks are located.

The Board of Trustees and Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) work closely together and the balance of representation provides a suitable forum to make balanced decisions. As with all aspects of public service, national and local politics may influence the park and this may change depending on political representation at local, regional and national level.

Significant management decisions may require DCMS approval/instruction and may require changes to the legislation that determines the parks management. If legislative changes are required, then it is the role of Parliament to consider and make such amendments.

THE ROYAL PARKS CHARITABLE OBJECTS

- To protect, conserve, maintain and care for the Royal Parks, including their natural and designed landscapes and built environment, to a high standard consistent with their historic, horticultural, environmental and architectural importance;
- To promote the use and enjoyment of the Royal Parks for public recreation, health and well-being including through the provision of sporting and cultural activities and events which effectively advance the objects;
- To maintain and develop the biodiversity of the Royal Parks, including the protection of their wildlife and natural environment, together with promoting sustainability in the management and use of the Royal Parks;
- To support the advancement of education by promoting public understanding of the history, culture, heritage and natural environment of the Royal Parks and (by way of comparison) elsewhere;
- To promote national heritage including by hosting and facilitating ceremonies of state or of national importance within and in the vicinity of the Royal Parks.

DESIGNATIONS AND COMPLIANCE

The park is protected for its wildlife, heritage and landscape and therefore management needs to comply with the relevant legislation. Natural England (NE), Historic England (HE), the local planning authorities and the Forestry Commission are all statutory bodies who may need to approve or deny certain activities.

RICHMOND PARK MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Park Manager
Is responsible for the overall strategic and optimal management of the park. They are responsible for managing stakeholder relationships, approving all commercial and non-commercial endeavors including with the local planning authority. They play an important role in identifying projects and potential development/restoration work, securing funding as required from internal Royal Parks' funds and from external funding agencies.

Assistant Park Managers
Provide support for the Park Manager and are in regular direct communication with the maintenance contractors, pre-planning and adjusting programmes of work. They are involved in building relationships with stakeholders and working with volunteers. They oversee practical implementation of management projects, maintenance works and carry out inspections, quality checks and assess the service levels of the day to day operations.

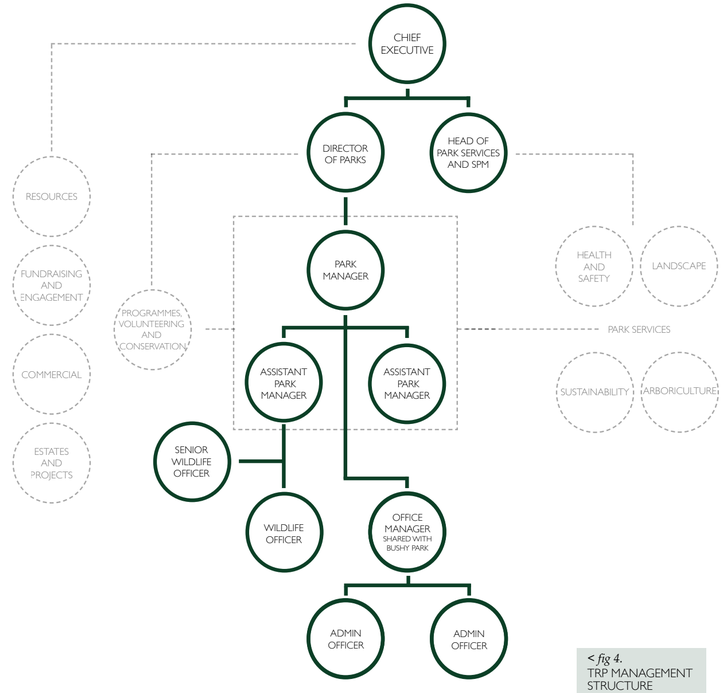
Park Services Team, Ecology Team and Other Directorates
The various directorates provide technical and specialist skills and support to the Park Management Team. The teams work closely together to ensure that any actions within the parks are implemented to the highest quality and sensitivity.

Landscape & Tree Maintenance Contractors
Landscape and Tree Maintenance is undertaken by contractors under the direction of the Park Management Team.

Facilities Maintenance Contractor
Is responsible for the maintenance of the hard landscape areas of the park, services and buildings maintenance. Routine repairs and maintenance are covered under the contract.

Other important contracts include the gate locking and toilet maintenance contracts.

Main Challenges:
To effectively manage the park within the economic and human resource constraints imposed by commercial contracts whilst at the same time managing visitor numbers that are increasing at an exponential rate.



< fig 4.
TRP MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

RESOURCES

Government funding for TRP over the last 25 years has seen the proportion of expenditure paid to maintain TRP fall from around 80% in 2004 to 25% in 2018. The gap in funding has had to be covered by introducing other revenue sources. This has been challenging but so far largely successful. In the same period maintenance expenditure has remained largely constant whilst visitor numbers have more than doubled. The new Royal Parks charity is expected to become largely self-financing over time as the proportion of government aid continues to decline.

Changes in sources of revenue have influenced where funding is allocated. Originally government funding was largely unrestricted and spent on "the core routine main maintenance of the parks. Income generated from events, catering, filming etc. has required an increasing proportion of the income earned to be spent managing, sustaining and expanding these commercial activities, as a result, park management staff are increasingly occupied supporting commercial activity.
Grant funding from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund comes with restrictions on where money can be spent, and the priorities of awarding bodies can differ from the priorities of TRP. Grants are incredibly valuable, usually for specific projects such as the Isabella Plantation restoration that often add real value and improvements for community benefit, but they seldom provide sustainable revenue funding for ongoing routine maintenance.

All the Royal Parks, including Richmond, are endowed with built assets that have largely been managed to provide reliable endowments and long-term income streams. The park now hosts 3 mass participation events annually on the parks roads that are closed for the purpose. The golf course provides public facilities and revenue, as do buildings for catering concessions and these are well received. The filming industry often use the park as a location and locate unit bases in the car parks. Nine of the parks residential lodges previously occupied by staff have been let at advantageous market rents providing a sustainable income stream.

A more commercial approach to the management of assets does create some issues. Rental values and house prices in Richmond are generally beyond the reach of land based professions and only 4 lodges are now retained for operational staff to be on-call 24 hours a day. The park provides over 1500 car park spaces and over 8 miles of roads used by commuters and park visitors. However in 2010, the idea of pay and display parking was first introduced by the then Labour government. The lack of popularity over parking charges and politicization of the debate ensured that the new coalition government reversed this decision. The incoming MP stated that "Given the current economic climate, we will need to find alternative sources of income instead" of which donation boxes were noted. This will be introduced in 2019. However it is only right to consider whether this approach is sensible given the charging regimes in place elsewhere, likewise the free provision of road access to through traffic is a cost which it might not be considered to be one borne by the charity.

As well as financial constraints there are pressures on other resources. The Royal Parks Constabulary was absorbed into the Metropolitan Police in 2005 and at that time 19 police officers were dedicated to Richmond Park (this had previously reduced from a complement of 45 officers and staff in 1992). Pressures on the MPS mean there are now just 8 officers policing both Richmond and Bushy Parks, the MPS contention is that this is an adequate number of officers for the volumes of crime, however this fails to recognize that offences under the Royal Parks Regulations are not considered as crime in terms of standard MPS statistics. There is now considered to be a lack of challenge to visitor behaviour and park regulation enforcement is at times strained. The transfer of the Policing budget to the Home Office at the time of handover also coincided with a withdrawal from certain duties. As a consequence park gate locking is now done at additional cost by a security firm.

Public sector funded work was traditionally prioritised on a basis of what work was urgent and what work was important. Increasingly resources are allocated based on what opportunities there are, what demands or expectations come with these resources. As a charity TRP are now better placed to explore and develop the roles of volunteering, philanthropy and charitable fund raising.

Main Challenges:
To define what the appropriate level of corporate contribution Richmond Park is able to make towards being a self-funded charity. Opportunism should not override core management purpose of protecting and conserving the park.

To establish the correct level of on-site support to ensure high standards of stewardship are retained - ensuring staff, both directly and indirectly employed and volunteers are appropriately supported, trained and valued.

To work to retain at least the current levels of policing going forward, together with an allocated resource supporting volunteers.

INFLUENCES

Park users make direct approaches to Park Management about issues that concern them. Park users are better able to influence management when they work collectively to represent their interest or sector of the community through stakeholder groups. There are a number of stakeholder groups and a number of people are representatives on more than one group. The existing stakeholders groups are:

- Richmond Park Wildlife Group
- Safer Parks Panel
- Friends of Richmond Park
- Richmond Park Cyclists
- Richmond Biodiversity Partnership

More complex problems can sometimes be managed with help from partner organisations. Frustrations can sometime occur when complex issues cannot be resolved particularly if resolutions and resources are difficult to identify. Stakeholders priorities are not necessarily always aligned either with TRP or each other.

Local Councillors and Members of Parliament can support or lobby against management decisions through the TRP Board and directly with Government.

Main Challenges:
How to challenge and reject overtures from many stakeholders who seek to exploit the Parks as a perceived solution to external needs and pressures.

To be able to respond effectively to single interest driven campaigns driven by social media possibly at the expense of traditional democratic processes.
How the charity will define its role in being prepared to stand independently and act decisively to promote the long term needs of the park

PRESSURES

Visitors to the park have increased 2-fold in the past 10 years and 4-fold in the past 25 years. The park is highly valued by visitors and provides many benefits to many people by improving well-being and quality of life that cannot be overstated. In the 2018 Ipsos MORI visitor survey for The Royal Parks, Richmond Park Received a visitor satisfaction return of 99% of visitors rated the parks as excellent or good. During the annual Green Flag judging, Richmond Park is amongst the highest scoring sites in the country ranked in the excellent or exceptional band scores. These returns from external auditors indicate that the park is appreciated and well managed.

It is 22 years since Dame Jennifer Jenkins chaired and published her review on the condition of The Royal Parks. Good progress has been made and many of the projects identified in the report have been completed.

During mid-week and during inclement weather the park can still feel quiet and peaceful. However, increasingly on sunny weekends and evenings, to many visitors, the park feels it is becoming overrun and at, if not over, the threshold of what the park can sustain.

In key areas tensions continue to build between different user groups or visitor numbers and the park environment. They cannot easily be resolved and delivering management proposals so that negative impact is within acceptable limits will require resources at a time when they are reducing and difficult to prioritise.

Visitor numbers are continuing to rise whilst resources become increasingly difficult to allocate, dog numbers have increased in line with visitor numbers. This management plan requires looking back and forward for a period of at least ten, if not twenty years. With current resources it is hard to predict what the park will be like for the next generations.

The on-going pressures cause concerns shared by managers, governance, stakeholders and the public. The emotive nature of Richmond Park and frustration with limited resources could cause the issues to become divisive between different parties. In the longer-term, collective stewardship will be essential for this management plan to deliver what the park needs.

RISK

The Park Management Team review risk as part of its annual business planning cycle.

The key risks which need to be addressed on a regular and continuing basis are:

- potential deterioration of the collective park assets - loss of ecological, communal, heritage and aesthetic significance
- failure to maintain the SSSI leading to loss of statutory designation
- incoming infections, pests or diseases which might affect trees, deer or other wildlife
- health and safety in respect to public access
- potential congestion leading to overuse, physical damage , confrontations and conflict between park users
- loss of respect for the rules and regulations

Main Challenges:
To work with contractors, stakeholders, partners and external bodies to ensure the effective minimising of risk at every stage of management operations.

To be pro-actively 'horizon scanning' for possible and future risks.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Richmond Park, like the other Royal Parks, is policed by a dedicated unit of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), based in the park. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the MPS and TRP which sets out policing priorities across the estate.

At the present time Richmond Park does not suffer from significant levels of serious crime (as recognised by the MPS), and the nature of offences and disturbances is not, in the main, of serious consequence (although there are of course exceptions). However breaches of the Royal Parks Regulations are frequent and largely unchallenged. This particularly creates tensions with certain stakeholder groups.

Main Challenges:
At its peak the RPC employed 45 police officers and support staff dedicated to Richmond Park when the park received around 1 million visitors a year. Today there are 8 police officers dedicated to Richmond and Bushy Park and the visitor numbers when last surveyed in 2014 were 5.5 million

With ever increasing visitor numbers, Park Managers need to pro-actively find ways of communicating Park Regulations as well as educating visitors regarding acceptable behaviour. These behaviours may not be criminal, but nevertheless may be damaging to the park or negatively impacting on other visitor's experience.

LEASES, LICENCES AND CONCESSIONS

A number of properties are owned by the Crown Estate and are leased to individuals, these include Thatched House Lodge and White Lodge. A number of properties owned by TRP are also let under licence, including a number of the gate lodges. Pembroke Lodge is leased to TRP from the Crown Estate and then sub-let to the catering concessionaire.
Two reservoirs are licensed to Thames Water. These are located between Kidney Wood and Sidmouth Wood.

Catering concessions are operated at Pembroke Lodge, Roehampton Pavilion and mobile facilities at Pen Ponds. The Golf Course is operated by a concession and a concession is let to a cycle hire company - Parkcycle - which operates at Roehampton Gate car park.
Licences are granted to utility companies when required for laying cables and pipes across the park and for their repair and retention.

The Freebord is licensed for an annual fee to adjoining property owners who wish to use the land. There are a number of restrictions, and property owners are not allowed to erect any buildings or plant, prune or cut down any trees in the Freebord without consent.

Main Challenges:
To effectively seek to enhance each concession to increase revenue and improve the visitor experience.

DATABASE AND ARCHIVE

Effective management of the park is increasingly reliant on requiring a range of software to enable work programmes to be undertaken.

- Landscape maintenance data (principally an inventory of land use and rates for scheduled work) is held in the 'CONFIRM' database.
- The 'Arbortrack' database is TRP's arboricultural management system. The system allows tree data to be stored electronically and linked to a mapping system which is compatible with geographical information systems (GIS).
- The Royal Parks works in partnership with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), to set up and manage a biological recording system which holds accurate and validated data on species and habitats and environmental information for all of the Royal Parks.
- The Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) is a thorough resource and tool used for heritage assets within the park.

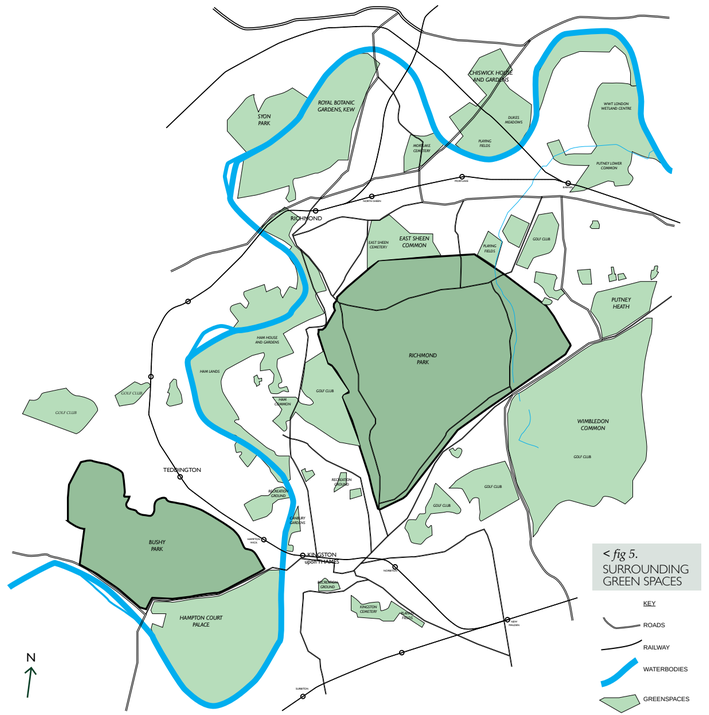
Until 2017, The Royal Parks was part of central government and its records were subject to the Public Records Acts. Because of this, most of the historical records of The Royal Parks are deposited at The National Archives in Kew and records created up to the time at which The Royal Parks became a charity will remain subject to the Public Records Acts. All other physical records, including various photographs, maps and some artefacts are held centrally at the Parks headquarters building in Hyde Park. Since 2004, The Royal Parks has been using an electronic records management system (EDRMS) to store and manage most of its archived records that have been created in electronic formats. These are managed in the same way as physical records.

The Hearsum Family Ltd, based in Pembroke Lodge, has accumulated a large collection of historic material related to the Royal Parks. In 2007 TRP in partnership with the Friends and Hearsum Family opened a small visitor centre at Pembroke Lodge.

Main Challenges:
Data monitoring is especially important to better inform management practice and to help meet TRP's statutory obligations to conserve biodiversity.

Databases can quickly become out of date. The CONFIRM system relies on map data collected in 1996.

IT investment is needed in a GIS system to give comprehensive integrated mapping of services; trees; ecology; furniture & artefacts; hard works and soft works features.



POLICY CONTEXT

This section describes the key national, regional and local designations, policies and strategies which provide the strategic policy framework for the management of Richmond Park

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS

Richmond Park is a site of both national and international importance for wildlife conservation, being designated as a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSI), a **National Nature Reserve** (NNR) and **Special Area of Conservation** (SAC).

These designations primarily relate to the ancient trees and dead wood habitats, the invertebrate assemblage and the areas of acid grassland.

The park was designated as a **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**, in 1992, excluding the the golf courses, Pembroke Lodge Gardens and the Gate Gardens. The SSSI designation recognises its diverse deadwood beetle fauna associated with the ancient trees found throughout the parkland.

SSSIs are designated and protected under national legislation by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended and strengthened by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; they are chosen to represent the UK's best nature conservation sites.

The Park also supports lowland acid grassland which is a habitat of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. Habitats of principal importance are the habitats in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC, 2012). Lowland acid grassland is also both a London and London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) states that:

- Public bodies have a duty in exercising their functions to take reasonable steps to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs (Section 28G).

- There is an obligation to give notice to Natural England of any operation likely to damage the SSSI. The operation can then only be carried out with the consent of Natural England (Section 28E).

The park was designated by English Nature (now Natural England) as a **National Nature Reserve (NNR)** in 2000 for its habitats and in recognition of its importance as a recreational resource for the London area.. NNR's are designated primarily on the basis of their value for nature conservation, supporting the UK's most important habitats, species and geology, but also on the basis of their importance for scientific research, recreation and opportunities to experience wildlife at first hand.

Richmond Park is one of the 10 largest NNR's in the country, but what makes the Park unique is its accessibility. The terrain is very comfortable, and the landscape is appealing to many visitors who can travel here quickly and easily – it is understandably a very popular place to visit. Indeed Richmond Park's 5.5 million visitors per year matches the number of visitors to all 163 NNRs managed directly by Natural England. That is particularly impressive and challenging given that Richmond is less than 2% of the matching 66,800 a area.

Natural England and the other NNR managing partners have developed "The National Nature Reserve Strategy", a joint approach that puts NNRs at the heart of 21st century conservation.
http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6291868196798464

The park was designated as a **Special Area of Conservation (SAC)** in 2005 due to the population of Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus* supported on the site. Stag beetle is considered to be globally threatened and is listed as a Species of Principal Importance in the UK Post- 2010 Biodiversity Framework. It is a protected species through its listing in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

SACs are designated and protected under the EC Habitats Directive which has been transposed in to UK law as the Habitat Regulations. SACs form part of a Europe wide network of protected sites supporting Europe's most important habitats and species. If a plan or project which is not connected with or necessary for the management of the SAC is considered likely to have a significant effect on the site, an appropriate assessment must be carried out to determine whether it will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to its designated interest features.

The park (including the golf courses) was registered in October 1987 as a Grade I listed landscape on the Historic England 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England' and is entered on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), reference number 1000828 (Appendix 3).

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES

- **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006:** The Royal Parks has a statutory duty to further the conservation of biological diversity in the UK. The implementation of TRP biological recording strategy provides a means to record and monitor biodiversity gains.

- **Wildlife & Countryside Act** (1981 as amended), particularly in relation to management that may affect protected species.

- **Water Framework Directive 2000:** The WFD became part of UK Law in 2003 and requires all water bodies to reach "Good Ecological Status" or for artificial or heavily modified water bodies "Good Ecological Potential" by 2015, 2021 or 2027 depending on feasibility. The objective of GEP is similar to good status but takes into account the constraints imposed by social and/or economic uses. The objective is to achieve GEP by 2027.

- **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: and 2010-2015 Policy Paper (DCMS) - Conservation of Historic Buildings and Monuments.** TRP is obligated to put in place measures to protect and conserve its buildings, monuments, sites and landscapes of historic interest and to regulate operations or activities affecting them.

- **Reservoirs Act 1975:** provides the legal framework to ensure the safety of large raised reservoirs and applies to reservoirs that hold at least 25,000 cubic metres of water above natural ground level. The Act affects the management of Pen Ponds. As reservoir owners (Undertakers) TRP have ultimate responsibility for the safety of their reservoirs. This requires engineers' input for inspections, construction and supervision with periodic reviews.

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**, must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. Sections most relevant to the parks are section 15 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment'; and section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

The London Plan 2016 (consolidated with alterations since 2011) is the overall strategic plan for London, and it sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital over the next 20-25 years. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London. London boroughs' local plans need to be in general conformity with the London Plan, and its policies guide decisions on planning applications by councils and the Mayor. On 13 August 2018 the Mayor of London published a version of the new draft London Plan.

https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan

London Environment Strategy 2018
This is the first strategy to bring together approaches to every aspect of London's environment, integrating the following areas:

- air quality
- green infrastructure
- climate change mitigation and energy
- waste
- adapting to climate change
- ambient noise
- low carbon circular economy

London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames:
Local Plan - Adopted 3 July 2018

The Thames Landscape Strategy:
This is an integrated environmental planning and management strategy for the Thames landscape between Hampton and Kew. It was initially prepared in 1994 by a consortium of the Countryside Commission, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency, Royal Fine Art Commission, The Royal Parks and the boroughs of Elmbridge, Hounslow, Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames. It is an agreed framework for statutory, advisory and promotional activities. It influences decisions made on applications for financial assistance and is a material consideration in regulatory decisions.

Greater London Archaeological Priority Areas
Richmond Park is an Archaeological Priority Area. An APA is a defined area where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries. APAs are set out in the London boroughs' local plans. They inform the practical use of national and local planning policies for the recognition and conservation of archaeological interest. The Greater London APAs are based on evidence held in the GLHER.

National Planning Policy Framework
This was updated on 19 February 2019 and provides a framework within which this plan was produced.

TRP STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

The Management Plan has been guided by:

- Richmond Park Management Plan 2008-2018

In addition, the plan has been prepared within the context of The Royal Parks regulations, legislation and policies which are listed on our website:

https://www.royalparks.org.uk/managing-the-parks/park-regulations-legislation-and-policies

‘A keen frost and a grey hanging fog have numbed and silenced all life within the park. Not a sound trembles through the heavy air.’

EDWARD THOMAS
1878–1917

HISTORIC CONTEXT

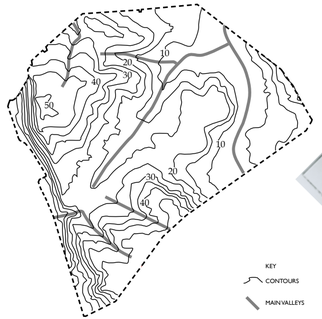
This section presents a visual timeline of prominent landscape changes since the park's emparkment. Below each map there is a short description of the main protagonists and key evolutions.

A more detailed analysis of the history of Richmond Park is contained in the Richmond Park Historical Survey 1984.

Historic Value:
The ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. Historical understanding that comes from 'reading' the landscape that is observable; it gains in value by depth and completeness.

Associative historical values are made through people identifying and connecting a place with cultural heritage; literature, art, music, film, scientific or technological discoveries.

Historically appropriate continuing use of a place which 'illustrates its relationship between design and function' and enhances its value.



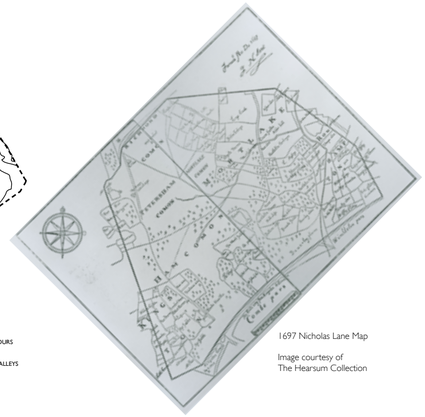
PRE-1637

PRE-EMPARKMENT

The varied geology and undulating topography have always influenced the area's land use.

From at least 6000 BC onwards there has been human occupation and management in the area, as evidenced by prehistoric remains within the park.

Some evidence of past land uses remains to this day with remnants of field boundaries, trackways, hedgerows, wood pasture and ridge and furrow, providing echoes of the past. The tradition of pollarding is etched into the structure of veteran trees.



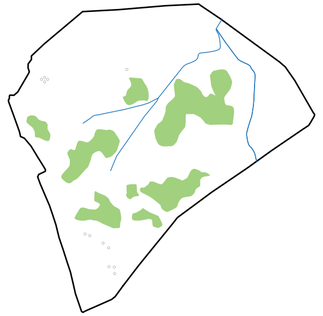
1697 Nicholas Lane Map

Image courtesy of
The Hearsum Collection

1637

THE EMPARKMENT

Charles I (r.1625-1649) enclosed Richmond New Park, as it was called, introducing a new sophisticated hunting concept from the continent, known as the Royal Forest. This was a defined enclosed tract of land within which a particularly harsh body of laws was enforced for the purpose of preserving certain wild animals for hunting. Within these defined areas only the King had the rights of hunting or of cutting trees.



1673

1649 - 1660

THE PARK UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH

After the execution of Charles I an Act of Parliament passed for the sale of all Crown land except, among other buildings and lands, the New Park, near Richmond. A following Act gifted the park to the Corporation of the City of London. It passed with a proviso that timber for the use of the navy be expected. However any intentions which the City of London had of making profit from the park was stopped by a Resolution in Parliament stating that the park *"should be preserved a park, still without destruction; and to remain as an ornament to the City and a Mark of Favour from the Parliament to the said City."*

So the park was preserved and open for all people to pass and repass until the time of the Restoration of the Royal Family.

1741-1745

1660 - 1727

THE RESTORATION

The Park was returned to Charles II on his restoration to the throne in 1660. Like his father, he used it as a hunting park although for some years thereafter, there was not a strong royal presence.

Some planting activity in this period focused on Petersham Lodge creating the formal and terraced garden depicted by Kip (c.1710), but the gardens appear to have lasted no later than 1750. Elsewhere, White Lodge was built as a hunting Lodge by George I in 1727 replacing the nearby Old Lodge, (formerly Hartleton Farm). The Queen's Ride, setting up the vista to White Lodge and named after Queen Caroline, also dates from this period.

^ *fig 6.*

v *fig 7.*

John Lewis, a humble but brave local brewer, tried to enter Richmond Park on foot at Sheen Gate in 1755 after a carriage had been admitted by gatekeeper Mary Gray. When Gray refused to let him pass without a ticket, he took the matter to court. In 1758, after some delays, The Surrey Assizes found in his favour, giving him the choice between pedestrian gates or ladder stiles for public access. He opted for the stiles and two were placed at Sheen and Ham. They were opened to the public in May 1758 at an event attended by 'a vast concourse of people from all the neighbouring villages'. John Lewis is commemorated by an epitaph in Richmond parish church and a plaque on Sheen Gate.

Copper entrance tokens to Richmond Park, Mid 18th Century. When Richmond Park was a private Royal hunting ground, the public were excluded for reasons of royal privacy and safety. Nonetheless, access was granted to a privileged few on production of a ticket or "card of admission". Some of the passes are pierced for suspension from a key.

Figures courtesy of
The Hearsum Collection

1727 - 1761

THE PARK UNDER WALPOLE AND PRINCESS AMELIA

During the reign of George II, the park was under Robert Walpole's Rangership which saw hunting reaching its peak and White Lodge become a royal resort. Because of this the park required a higher degree of management and stricter control over public access. Ladderstiles were removed, gates were shut and people were only admitted into the park when presenting a ticket.

During Princess Amelia's Rangership (1751-1761) the right of free admission was gradually limited. People roused into defiance as they felt they had a right to access. After a series of trials, Princess Amelia's Rangership was a turning point in the history of the park. The public had established in law the rights of access, and the ruling that ladderstiles and gates were to be re-installed was enforced.

1754

1761 - 1814
THE EARL OF BUTE AND GEORGE III

The Rangership of the Earl of Bute, 1761-92, and then George III 1792-1814, brought extensive repairs, additions of lodges and replanting of woodlands. During these periods the park was managed increasingly for the purpose of venison production and game preservation.

1771-1813

1801-1844
THE SIDMOUTH YEARS

Under Viscount Sidmouth there was considerable change in the appearance of the park with the establishment of new plantations. The first new woods, planted in 1819 were Sheen Wood, Sheen Cross Wood and part of Spanker's Hill, followed by the largest, Sidmouth Wood (1822-23). Over 30 years Viscount Sidmouth undertook a systematic programme of plantations covering 300 acres. The other aspects of the old royal hunting ground were disappearing as the park was transformed into a game preserve.

1850-1867

1844-1904
DEER FARMING AND GAME PRESERVATION

During the mid 19th century deer farming was the dominant activity in Richmond Park. The requirements of deer management and game preservation had in effect restricted public access to the park just at the time when an expanding urban population was demanding more access to parks and open spaces. By the end of the 19th century it was clear that the intentions of the 1872 Royal Parks and Gardens Regulations Act had not been put into effect and in the face of rising public discontent, the continuation of the park as an exclusive game reserve was untenable.

A large camp for various volunteer brigades was established in an area to the east of Beverley Brook, where Richmond Park Golf Course is now situated. The Royal Flying Corps also had a base close by, near Kilcat Corner, during WW1.

Images courtesy of The Hearsum Collection

^ *fig 8 & 9.*

^ *fig 10*

The South African Military Hospital was opened in June 1916 with 300 beds, after merging with neighbouring Richmond Military Hospital at the beginning of 1918, the hospital had over 1,000 beds. It remained open until 1921, performing over 2,000 operations and treating more than 9,500 patients.

Image courtesy of The Hearsum Collection

1901-1918
EDWARD VII TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Edward VII *"was pleased to command that steps be taken to render all parts of Richmond Park more accessible to the public than heretofore. With this object His Majesty has given directions that the preservation of game in the park shall be discontinued and that the woods hitherto closed shall be thrown open where possible without injury to the timber or without detriment to the preservation of the order in the park."*

In the years before WWI there was increasing pressure on the park for other activities and demands for 'public recreation', wildlife conservation had taken over from game preservation. During the war years considerable areas of the park were put to special uses. Nearly 100 acres near Sheen Gate were used for growing oats and potatoes while garden allotments were established in the north west corner.

A London Transport poster by Charles Paine celebrating the beauty of Richmond Park - 1925

Image courtesy of The Hearsum Collection

^ *fig 11.*

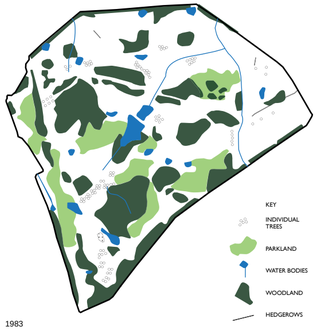
1919 - 1938
THE INTER-WAR YEARS

During the inter-war years a new set of demands were made on the park, revolving around the increasing demand for public recreation. Parallel with the responses to these demands were changes in the status and importance attached to wildlife conservation and the management of the park. Both the deer herds and the wildlife of the park were now regarded as part of the character of the place and provided an essential ingredient to 'public amenity and recreation'.

^ *fig 12.*

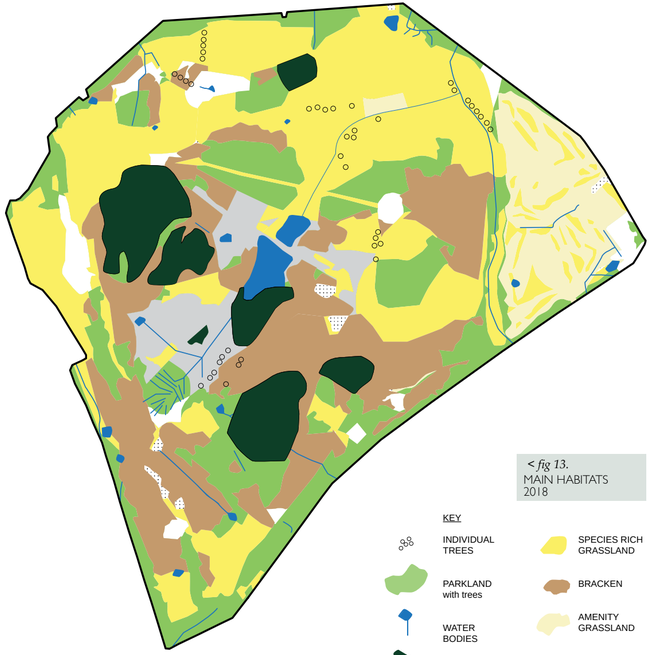
During the Second World War, Pembroke Lodge became the base for a military unit, the GHQ Liaison Regiment, known as 'Phantom Squad'. It undertook rigorous training in wireless communication and cipher, often in Richmond Park.

Image courtesy of
The Hearsum Collection



1983

1999



< fig 13.
MAIN HABITATS
2018

1939 - 1982

THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND RECOVERY

During WWII almost one third of Richmond Park, in the north east section, was under the plough (c250hectares). Pen Ponds were drained in case they were used as landmarks by enemy aircraft and the deer herd was reduced to below 100.

In the 1950's the Superintendent, Joseph Fisher began the creation of the woodland gardens in the Isabella Plantation and a significant amount of replanting of trees was carried out by George Thomson in the 1960's and 70's.

New measures were taken to meet the visitor pressure with more and better facilities.

1983 - 1991

THE LATE 80'S

Richmond Park (including the golf course) was registered in October 1987 as a Grade I listed landscape on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, highlighting the park's exceptional historic interest.

During this time detailed historic record mapping and tree and artefact surveys were carried out.

In October 1987 hurricane force winds - The Great Storm - resulted in the loss of many hundreds of trees.

1992-2018

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATIONS TO PRESENT DAY

In 1992 Richmond Park was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest giving it legal protection ensuring that the nationally important diverse deadwood beetle fauna, associated with the ancient trees found throughout the parkland was recognised.

The park was designated as a National Nature Reserve in 2000, for its habitats and in recognition of its importance as a recreational resource for the London area. In 2005 Richmond Park was designated as a Special Area of Conservation for its assemblage of invertebrates associated with dead and decaying wood.

During these years there was a focus on conservation and the refurbishment of Pembroke Lodge and its Gardens for public enjoyment as well as an HLF Lottery funded restoration and public access project of the Isabella Plantation.

Richmond Park emerges from its historical record as a place whose character is semi-natural, managed, arranged and, to some degree, designed - albeit with a strong response to and expression of nature. The challenge for the future is to maintain the park's essential character, with its managed deer herds, its ancient and successional trees, its extensive open ground and biodiversity balanced with the need to accommodate the reasonable demands and pressures of public access.

BOUNDARIES AND GATES

At the time of emparkment the park was surrounded by a red brick wall with six main gates. Further gates have been added over time including gates for pedestrian access, giving a present-day total of 12 gateways (5 road gates and 7 pedestrian gates).

Today the majority of the12.7 km (7.8 miles) boundary, 10.2 km (6.3 miles) is still brick wall.The boundary wall is Grade II listed as it is of special architectural and historic interest.

The Freebord or 'deer leap' is a strip of Crown-owned land 5 m (16'6") wide, running around most of the external perimeter of the park, the main function of which is to allow access to the outside of the boundary wall for inspection and repairs. It is licensed for an annual fee to adjoining property owners who wish to use the land.There are a number of restrictions, and property owners are not allowed to erect any buildings or plant, lop or cut down any trees in the Freebord without consent. Even with these restrictions, landowners' management of the Freebord can significantly affect the setting of the park.

Main Challenges:
The boundary wall requires increasing upkeep and maintenance due to its ageing and declining structural integrity and a lack of vegetation management (particularly on the outside).

FURNITURE AND SIGNAGE

Park furniture and signage is predominantly made of timber in keeping with the informal and semi-natural character of the park.

Benches are widely distributed throughout the park, with a higher number of formal benches in Pembroke Lodge gardens and gate gardens. Rustic benches are found elsewhere in the park.

There are a number of litter bins present in the park, mostly concentrated around Pembroke Lodge, gates and in car parks. The locations of the bins are constantly reviewed.
Signage within the park is mostly related to vehicle, cycle and horse control (most signs are located at the main entrances, road junctions and car parks). Work has recently been undertaken to reduce the proliferation of different sign styles and designs around the gates. Map information boards are provided at each of the main gates and in the Isabella Plantation, and interpretation display boards associated with the National Nature Reserve status of the park are located at strategic points (mainly near entrances) around the park.

The rural nature of Richmond Park is taken into account, along with the impact on the landscape, when considering the design and installation of any park furniture or signage.

Main Challenges:
Maintaining minimal and coherent signage consistent with the informal and semi-natural character of the park.

Sponsored/Commemorative or Legacy furniture creates high expectations for their management.The need for TRP to develop a policy consistent with available management budgets has been recognised.

ROAD AND PATH NETWORK

Roads Open to Motor Traffic
There are approximately 14 km of surfaced roads open to traffic in the park, forming the perimeter road that links the park gates. Speed restrictions of 20 mph operate in the park.

Roads Closed to Motor Traffic
There are 6 km of surfaced roads through the centre of the park which are open to cyclists and pedestrians only.They provide access to some buildings and to the car park for disabled visitors at the Isabella Plantation.

Road engineering
All of the park roads have evolved over time, essentially as rural tracks that now have a sealed surface. As such they have not been designed or engineered to accommodate current levels of traffic.These roads will continue to require considerable investment to maintain a good standard of surfacing.

Recent works on the road networks incorporated the creation of 8 raised tables courtesy crossings to enhance pedestrian comfort when crossing the roads. As far as possible, improvements to the road networks have been designed to be distinctively non-urban in style and in keeping with the park landscape.

Footpaths and Cycle Ways
The 12 km Tamsin Trail leisure path, opened in 1997, runs around the perimeter of the park for the use of cyclists and walkers. It has a non metalled, self binding aggregate surface which needs periodic repair and maintenance.

The traffic free cycle Quietway runs from Roehampton Gate to Ham Gate creating connections within the park but also to the wider London cycle network, as part of National Cycle Route 4.

Horse Rides
There are 12 km of riding tracks throughout the park. A diversionary route to the north of Gibbet Wood was opened in 2008 enabling the permanent closure of the Broomfield Hill Ride allowing landscape restoration to take place.

Considerable work has been done recently to enhance the horse ride network in Middle Mire that included surfacing, with an unbound gravel, and improving drainage.

Car Parks
There are nine car parks, including one purpose-built for disabled visitors at the Isabella Plantation and another for golfers. Robin Hood Gate, the Isabella Plantation and Golf Course car parks are tarmacked, Pembroke Lodge and Roehampton car park are partially tarmacked while Kingston Gate, Sheen Gate and Broomfield car parks have unbound surfaces.

The condition of the roads and path network is monitored and both regular planned and reactive works are programmed as required.

Main Challenges:
Roads:
The roads add an urban quality to the semi-natural and informal character of the park. There are traffic build ups during peak hours and on busy holiday weekends.

The lack of formal drainage, lateral support (kerbs) and substructure leads to the need for more frequent repairs.

There is a growing backlog of maintenance requirements for service paths and the road network as usage increases.

Road Users:
Due to increasing visitor numbers and visitor expectations there are increasing reports of conflicts between road users. Increased visitor numbers and movement also impact on the landscape visual character.

Horse Rides:
The tracks can be visually dominant in places where dark cinders have been used, and can suffer from waterlogging and erosion on slopes leading to braiding.

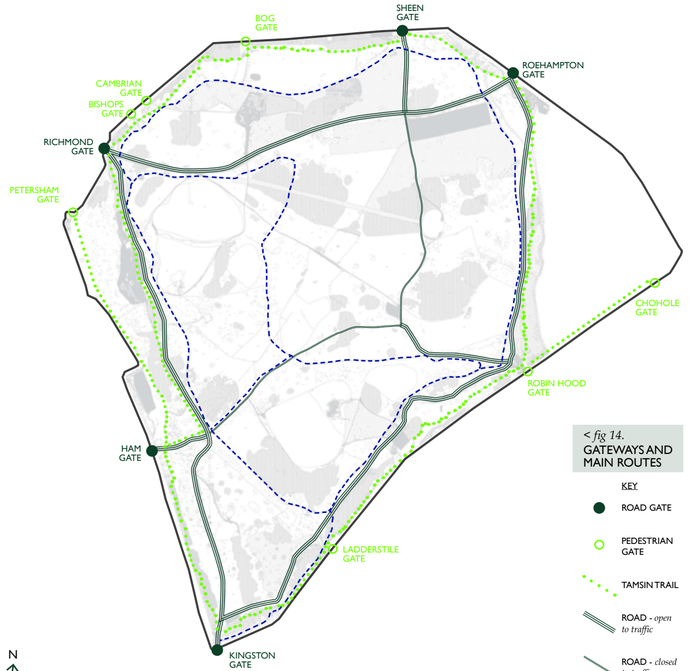
Car Parks:
Due to unlimited visitor demand for free parking there are often queues backing up onto park roads and car parked on verges.

The current condition of unsurfaced car parks leave much room for improvement and are a significant source of complaint.

BUILDINGS AND MAIN STRUCTURES

Richmond is unusual as a Royal Park in not being orientated around a major palace or building.The buildings within the park are relatively modest and unobtrusive. Although there are 60 individual buildings in the park, only four are of particular significance:

- **White Lodge** - built by King George I as a suitable base for hunting in the park and now home to the Royal Ballet School.
- **Thatched House Lodge** - was first mentioned in 1673 as residence for the park keepers. In 1727 it became the home of Sir Robert Walpole. Now a private residence.
- **Pembroke Lodge** - King George III granted the Lodge to the Countess of Pembroke, and between 1788 and 1796, Sir John Soane and Henry Holland extended the building, renaming it after the Countess. Since 1997 it



< *fig 14.*
GATEWAYS AND MAIN ROUTES

has been licenced to the Hearsum Family to restore and operate as a public catering and private hire venue.

- **Holly Lodge** (Bog Lodge) - was the head keeper's lodge in the late 18th century and is now the administrative headquarters of the Richmond Park Management Team.

There are also six smaller complexes and a number of smaller individual buildings including the Tudor water conduits.

There are 11 listed buildings/structures within the park (Table 1). These buildings, modest and rural in style, make a substantial contribution to the character of the park. There are a number of post war buildings, primarily built to accommodate maintenance needs, which we are working to integrate into the landscape.

Main Challenges:
To carefully balance the management requirements of the park with the positive benefits of alterations to or the establishment of new uses for existing buildings which have the potential to provide useful income generation, with the impact on the landscape character of the park.

MONUMENTS/DESIGNATED & OTHER SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE ASSETS

Richmond Park is an Archaeological Priority Area (APA). According to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries within the park. Past Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) records and surveys coupled with the GLHER indicate landscape features of potentially national significance.

The park has no monuments and the few visible artefacts are concentrated at the park entrances, at Pembroke Lodge, on the golf course and in the playgrounds (refer to Land Use Consultants Artefacts Survey 1983).

Main artefacts include:
- King Henry's Mound
- Horse troughs
- Conduits
- Drinking Fountains

Main Challenges:
To critically assess the impacts and carefully manage any expectations linked to any potential sites for new artefacts.

ARCHAEOLOGY

TRP adopted a Archaeological Policy in 2018 to provide suitable protection for known and unknown features using a traffic light system to identify areas of potential archaeological significance.

Not all archaeological features within the park are highly visible but are significant due to their extraordinary survival, so close to central London. They comprise an extensive tract of relict rural landscape which contains visible evidence of human activity extending over some 6000 years.

Prehistoric Period
Numerous finds of prehistoric implements within the park demonstrate the presence of man from 6000 BC onwards. These include prehistoric barrows (e.g. King Henry's Mound, Oliver's Mound in Sidmouth Wood and King's Clump at the southern end of the park), a possible hillfort site on the north side of Broomfield Hill and the possible remains of a prehistoric cursus within Sidmouth Wood. The GLHER holds entries of other finds within the park from this period.

Romano-British Period (AD43 - 410) and Saxon Period (410 - 1066)
No extant earthwork features from either the Romano-British period or the Saxon period have yet been identified within the park. However, archaeological finds from both periods suggest some occupation and it may only be a matter of time before other evidence of use and activity during these periods is identified.

Medieval Period (1066 - 1635)
The most extensive archaeological features surviving within Richmond Park relate to the medieval period. Among the most striking remains are:
- Field boundaries in the form of low earthworks which originally supported planted hedges or fences. Most of these banks are known to have been in existence when the park was created in 1637 and many still support ancient oaks and stumps, survivors of the original hedgerow trees;
- The presence of "ridge and furrow" throughout the park dating from the 14th, 16th and 17th centuries. The best remnants can be found under woodland (e.g. north of White Lodge and the western part of Barn Wood). On the golf courses much of the ridge and furrow survives, post-dating the creation of the park;
- A medieval highway (indicated by extant earthwork boundaries) which crossed the park between Mortlake and Kingston;
- A continuous 1 mile stretch of hedgebank including a causeway in the northern part of the park;
- Medieval conduits in Conduit Wood and adjacent to King Henry's Mound;
- A half mile of earthworks that indicate a route of a hollow-way in the south (from near Ham Cross towards Dann's Pond);
- An enclosure on the south side of the stream that runs from Dann's Pond towards Ham Cross;
- The sites of twelve buildings that existed in the early 17th century (no surface remains are visible);
- A medieval ditched boundary in the south west portion of the park which probably divided the medieval Borough of Kingston from the Manor of Ham.

Recent Archaeology (1635 onwards)
More recent archaeological features are not as extensive as those of the medieval period. They include features associated with drainage systems during the Victorian period, earthworks associated with wartime activity, remains of a tile kiln in High Wood, remains of various boat houses around Pen Ponds, the 1930's bandstand once sited near Richmond Gate and numerous quarry pits resulting from the extraction of sand, gravel and clay during the 18th to 20th centuries.

Significant Areas of the Park
Work undertaken by Greeves in 1992 has provided a record of the most sensitive areas of Richmond Park.

The Royal Parks are currently developing an Archaeological Management Strategy which seeks to identify the known and likely archaeological potential of the park and the relative value or importance of its resources/assets. The assessment also aims to establish the cultural value of protected designated and non-designated heritage assets within the park, including a focus on any contributions to that value made by their settings. It also tries to establish the sensitivity of these assets to changes to their setting in particular considering how such changes may reduce the cultural value of the assets.

Figure 15 references the three tier system of heritage potential/heritage asset significance completed within the strategy.

Main Challenges:
Although no major threats to archaeology have been identified, archaeological remains are at risk from ongoing activities such as disturbance of the land surface, use of machinery, localised ground works, tree planting and erosion.

LISTED BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES
v Table 1.

White Lodge (Royal Ballet School)	I
Barn and Stables to White Ash Lodge	II
Boundary Walls to Richmond Park	II
Ham Gate Lodge	II
Game Larder - Courtyard of Holly Lodge	II
Holly Lodge	II
Pembroke Lodge	II
Richmond Gate	II
Richmond Gate Lodge	II
Thatched House Lodge	II
White Ash Lodge	II

< fig 15. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & LISTED BUILDINGS

"Landscape provides the context and consequence for all decisions. Its not enough to simply have a good landscape policy; this understanding must be fully integrated throughout all aspects of the plan and policies. Landscape is an essential part of a sustainable future and is strongly interrelated to all social, economic and environmental policies."

NATURAL ENGLAND

'Any landscape is composed not only of what lies before our eyes but what lies within our heads.'

MEINIG. D & JACKSON. J
The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes
1979

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

This section describes the 'living' components that have come to make up the essential character of Richmond Park.

These different living elements are found across the park and together create the specific and the distinctive character of Richmond Park.

Ecological Value:
ecological value is based on the understanding that biodiversity encompasses all the plants and animals that are present within a given place, the habitats they need to survive, and the processes that operate in the natural environment.

For humans, biodiversity is our natural heritage and is what we depend on and can often benefit from. These range widely, providing cultural, social (health and well-being) and economic benefits.

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Richmond Park forms part of a network of green and blue spaces across London, linking landscapes and acting as stepping stones for the movement of wildlife. The park is characterised by a mosaic of parkland trees and woodlands, acidic and neutral semi-improved grasslands with over 30 ponds (including small and ephemeral ones), the Beverley Brook, and the smaller Sudbrook. At 955 hectares, the park supports a highly diverse wildlife community developed over centuries. The park is internationally designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its population of stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* - a globally threatened species.

Richmond Park is nationally designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its diverse deadwood beetle fauna associated with the ancient trees found throughout the parkland. The park supports the most extensive area of nationally important lowland acid grassland in Greater London (Natural England, 1992). It is London's largest National Nature Reserve (NNR) gaining this status to protect its most important habitats and species, but also in recognition of its importance as a recreational resource, its geology, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research.

Locally, the park offers opportunities for schools, specialist interest groups and visitors to experience wildlife at first hand, and to learn more about nature conservation. The park makes up 40% of the publically accessible green space in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames, and has an estimated value of £2 billion for recreation, physical and mental health and property (Natural Capital Account For London. GLA. Nov 2017).

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Richmond Park is underlain by London Clay which was laid down about 50 million years ago at a time when the temperature was significantly higher than the present. The London Clay environment has been compared with Malaysia today; hot and wet. The clay includes the sandier layers at the top, known as the Claygate beds which had just the right amount of sand required for brick making used for the park perimeter wall. The high ground near Kingston Gate includes the Claygate beds but faulting along a line linking Pen Ponds to Ham Gate has allowed erosion on the high ground around Pembroke Lodge. Both high points are capped by the much younger Black Park Gravel, which is only about 400,000 years old, the earliest of the Thames series of terraces formed after the great Anglian glaciations. Younger Thames terrace gravels are also to be found in Richmond Park.

The Black Park Gravel is composed predominantly of flint pebbles originating from the hard grey layers within the softer, white Cretaceous chalk of the Downs and Midlands. The pebbles are rounded indicating a long period of erosion by flowing water. When the Black Park Gravel was deposited, it was on the bed of the Thames but the river has since cut down through the rising land as the weight of the glaciers was removed. The 40m steep slope between the park and the modern River Thames in Richmond is the result of erosion at roughly the rate of 1cm per century.

Streams have at various times cut down into the clay, creating distinct valleys where alluvium and a mixture of eroded material known as head are found. The drainage pattern centres on four main drainage units: the Beverley Brook and its direct catchment; the Isabella/Pen Ponds catchment which drains to the Beverley Brook; the Dann's Valley/Ham Bottom area which drains to the Sudbrook; and the Conduit Wood/Bog Gate area draining towards Richmond and Sheen.

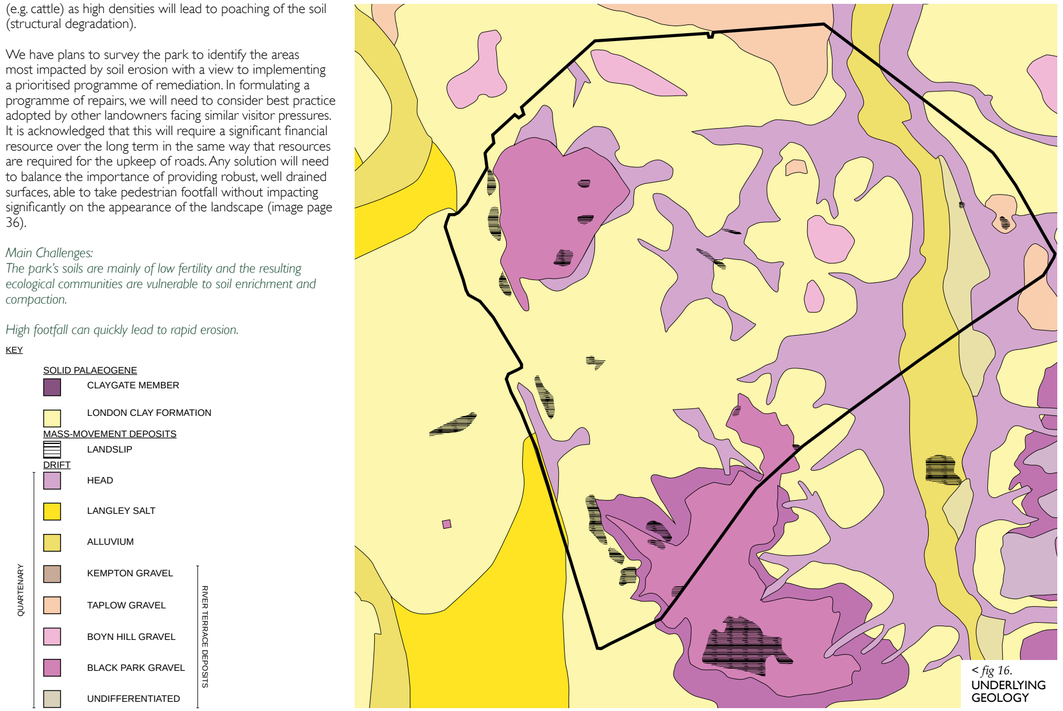
The topsoils over the park are mainly fine sandy loams to fine loamy sands and the majority possess moderate to well-defined structures. The subsoils across much of the park are mottled or gleyed from depths ranging 0.3m to 0.7m. The intensity of mottling increases with depth, with the soils eventually becoming gleyed in some soil profiles. There are six soil profiles influenced by the vegetation type and management (profiles influenced by grassland, woodland and bracken), topography (low points of the park) and parent material (coarser textured soil and heavier soil).

The light textures and defined structures allow the soils to provide reasonable drainage and adequate aeration (oxygen supply). However, fine textured soils such as these are prone to structural degradation if they are subjected to compaction, e.g. foot traffic from people or livestock. Compaction is observed alongside the majority of the footpaths across the park. The vulnerability of the soils to structural degradation also has implications for stocking densities of grazing livestock (e.g. cattle) as high densities will lead to poaching of the soil (structural degradation).

We have plans to survey the park to identify the areas most impacted by soil erosion with a view to implementing a prioritised programme of remediation. In formulating a programme of repairs, we will need to consider best practice adopted by other landowners facing similar visitor pressures. It is acknowledged that this will require a significant financial resource over the long term in the same way that resources are required for the upkeep of roads. Any solution will need to balance the importance of providing robust, well drained surfaces, able to take pedestrian footfall without impacting significantly on the appearance of the landscape (image page 36).

Main Challenges:
The park's soils are mainly of low fertility and the resulting ecological communities are vulnerable to soil enrichment and compaction.

High footfall can quickly lead to rapid erosion.



< *fig 16.* UNDERLYING GEOLOGY

'I have seen so many different facets of wildlife within the park, especially while on my early morning bike rides, by simply stopping and being still.'

PARK VISITOR
TRP Survey
2017

Erosion caused by high footfall on slope towards Pen Ponds causeway

HYDROLOGY AND DRAINAGE

The present-day drainage pattern within the park is predominantly determined by topography whilst the park's water requirements for irrigation are principally met from mains supply. Supply of water for the maintenance of streams in the Isabella Plantation is mainly met by a recirculation system from Pen Ponds (any shortfall in dry summer months is made up from mains supply).

A comprehensive drainage scheme was implemented between 1856 - 1861 covering at least 80% of the park's area, with only the larger woodlands remaining undrained. The current condition of this man-made drainage network is poor and deteriorating, allowing small pockets of boggy, damp grassland now of ecological interest to return. Damp and boggy areas are less desirable for visitors but provide an excellent means of creating refuge areas and controlling the further spread of bracken which avoids damp conditions. The park is seasonally short of water and it is desirable to continue to increase water retention and the amount of wet areas in the park. The park's few low-lying permanently damp grasslands, are dominated by tussock grasses, tufted hair grass *(Deschampsia cespitosa)* and purple moor-grass *(Molinia caerulea)*, combined with rush and sedge species. The Beverley Brook suffers from flash floods as heavy rain quickly runs off surrounding urban areas.

Main Challenges:
To maintain much loved water features with an improved 'natural' approach to 're-wet' the park, enhance water retention and habitat development and management.

Greater seasonality of rainfall can result in parched grasslands, dry ponds, fire risk and conversely flooding and erosion.

The complex historic system of watercourses and the large extent and variety of forms of water in the park are an ongoing maintenance commitment.

Continuing to review the extent of culverted systems and examine cases for re-opening where the nature conservation value of the park could be enhanced.

HABITATS

The park can be described as lowland parkland and wood pasture, a mosaic comprising broad habitats which can be further characterised using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC).

The park's broad habitats include:

GRASSLAND

Approximately two thirds of the park is dominated by grassland with areas of bracken. Since emparkment, most of the grasslands have been managed by deer grazing. The park's unimproved neutral and acid grasslands make a vital contribution to the semi-natural quality of the park, as well as providing fodder for the deer. The anthills are characteristic of the undisturbed grassland areas and, support a range of invertebrates and plants which are adapted to dry conditions and frequent disturbance.

A condition assessment undertaken by Natural England (2010) concluded that the frequency of positive indicator species of flora in the park's acid grasslands is relatively low and sward height is above the target range, indicating under-grazing. Natural England recognises that TRP has developed a grassland management strategy which, as it is being implemented, will result in an improvement in the condition of the areas of acid grassland in the park and an example of this is the ongoing management of bracken to reduce dominance and vigour. TRP has conducted a targeted field trial of cattle grazing over a number of years which has resulted in increases in both cover and frequency of positive plant indicators in addition to other species.

Careful management is required to balance the need to conserve and enhance grassland biodiversity, recreation and to meet the needs of the grazing deer. Large areas of previously artificially improved grassland are cut annually and the grass is removed from the site to remove excess nutrients. Small areas are cut annually for hay in order to promote growth of the grass to provide grazing for the deer. Hay, as a by-product, is used for feeding the deer herd in winter.

Over one third of the grassland has been disturbed as a result of more than three hundred years of management including excessive drainage in the 19th century; attempts to improve fertility by manure and sewage sludge spreading in the 19th and 20th century (most recently between 1981 and 1986); cultivation and use as army encampments during the First and Second World Wars, and use as an Olympic village in 1948. Currently, a number of small areas of grassland within the park are improved grasslands used for amenity (including the polo field).

The grassland areas are classified according to their floral communities using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) (Rodwell, 1992) although a number of intermediate community types are also noted. A more comprehensive description may be found in the 2016 National Vegetation Classification survey of Richmond Park and a summary of this is appended in the Park Management Plan.

1) Dry Acidic Grasslands

Fescue grassland is the most widely distributed and abundant grassland type across much of the park, particularly in the north and far south of the park, the total area being approximately 211ha. It also is the most common grassland type in the 'rough' of Richmond Park Golf course. The sward is co-dominated by common bent and Yorkshire-fog grasses with Cock's-foot grass occurring occasionally. Herbs are not very varied, the most frequently occurring included white clover, lesser stichwort and cat's-ear. There is considerable variation in species richness between stands of this community type across the park.

A more sparsely distributed type of fescue grassland occurs in The Bog, Sheen Plain, Broomfield Plain and Ham Cross. Smaller stands are recorded in Dann's Valley and Petersham Park. Although similar to the grassland above, sheep's sorrel is frequent and sheep's-fescue can sometimes replace the more dominant red fescue. There are areas that are characterised by a closely rabbit grazed sward.

A grassland type with wavy hair-grass, heath bedstraw, cat's-ear and occasionally occurs in a few Character Areas including The Conduit, Sidmouth Wood and Pond Slade. Mat-grass mixed with common bent and Yorkshire fog with sheep's sorrel is found in Sidmouth Wood.

2) Neutral Grassland

In The Bog, Petersham Park and the Flying Field coarse-leaved tussock grasses, notably false oat-grass are conspicuous and generally dominant together with red fescue, common bent and Yorkshire fog. A number of herbs are also under represented in the park including ribwort plantain and hogweed. A similar type of neutral grassland is distributed in the north of the park in Sheen Plain and the Beverley Plain. However this community is characterised by the co-dominance of perennial rye-grass and crested dog's-tail. Small stands are also recorded in the Flying Field, Spankers Field, Petersham Park and Ladderstile Belt

These are also species-poor, grass-dominated swards characterised by the abundance of perennial rye grass but have an absence of crested dog's-tail. It is widely distributed across the park, principally along road verges, paths, desire lines and other heavily used areas. These are typically very species poor swards with perennial rye-grass overwhelmingly dominant. Few other species are present but these included white clover and yarrow. There are some relatively species rich areas within the rugby field in the Flying Field, in Spankers Hill Wood and opposite the Pembroke Lodge car park in Sidmouth Fields.

3) Wet Grassland, Rush Pasture, Mire, and Swamp

Recorded in Sheen Plain, Kingston Slopes, Pen Ponds Valley, Beverley Brook and Spankers Field this grassland type has a coarse sward dominated by tufted hair-grass accompanied by rushes including soft rush, sharp-flowered rush and hard rush. A range of other species are recorded less frequently including Yorkshire fog and common bent. These are relatively species poor swards with few, infrequent herbs including tormentil, germander, speedwell and white clovers recorded in Pen Ponds Valley with other smaller stands in the Flying Field and Ham Cross. There are varieties of this grassland type which included marsh thistle, common ragwort and common nettle, in lower lying wetter areas and alongside streams and ponds, soft rush is partly or wholly replaced by hard rush.

Purple moor-grass with frequent Yorkshire fog, soft rush and tormentil is mainly found in the less well drained areas in the centre of the park close to Pen Ponds. It also occurred in a mosaic, particularly where bracken had been treated with the herbicide Asulox. There are two small stands of highly dominant greater pond sedge immediately adjacent to Pen Ponds. The only other species recorded is Yorkshire fog, bracken and sharp-flowered rush.

4) Tall Ruderal Vegetation

Recorded adjacent to the Roehampton Gate car park in the Beverley Plain, cock's-foot, wall barley and perennial rye-grass are constant within the sward of tall vegetation that often grows on previously cleared areas. The only other frequent species recorded is white clover. This community occurs widely throughout lowland Britain. It is often found on verges, recreational areas and waste ground that have been re-seeded but only occasionally mown and usually forms a mosaic with other communities, the degree of trampling and disturbance being major determinants in the occurrence of one community or another.

A different community of species-poor tall herb vegetation of common nettle, cleavers with cock's-foot, broad-leaved dock and creeping thistle is recorded in two small areas on the Richmond Park Golf Course. This community is found throughout lowland Britain, on disturbed, nutrient-rich soils, usually where there are patches of bare or lightly covered ground, in which thistles can establish themselves. It is typically found in poorly managed meadows, on waste land, on disturbed verges and tracks, and in cleared woodland or young plantations.

Main Challenges:
Undergrazing, diversifying sward height, low species diversity, nutrient enrichment (including excrement and air pollution), recreation and trampling.

The significant threats to acid grassland are the spread of bracken, nutrient enrichment through dog fouling and diffuse atmospheric deposition of nitrogen oxides and insufficient grazing pressure.

Expanding the cattle-grazed areas of the park may help to achieve greater botanical diversity of the acid grassland but needs to be considered alongside amenity use (including dog-walking).

Increasing pressure is causing erosion and soil compaction in some areas.

The continued need for hay cutting which prevents ant hill development.

BRACKEN

Bracken is the second most extensive ground cover at approximately 171ha and it appears throughout many of the woodlands. It is primarily associated with the sandy drift and clay loam soils, although within these areas it avoids waterlogged conditions and has largely avoided areas disturbed over the last 100 years. Areas of bracken make a positive contribution to the qualities of the park and provide important cover for deer, rabbits and some species of bird such as reed bunting and stonechat nest in it. However, it can displace grassland and form a species-poor monoculture. The further spread and density of bracken, therefore, needs to be controlled such that it does not threaten areas of open grassland. Some of these stands are within areas treated with the bracken herbicide Asulox including within the Flying Field, The Conduit, Pond Slade, Pen Ponds Valley, The Mire and Dann's Valley. In some areas of the park, bracken stands still occur in a mosaic with other habitat types.

Main Challenges:
Securing resources for the ongoing control of bracken.

Ensuring birds and breeding bird territories are not adversely affected by the control or removal of bracken.

Ensuring deer are not deprived of their nursery areas or favoured spots for sheltering.

Protection of Adder's tongue fern and other fern species from bracken and herbicide spraying.

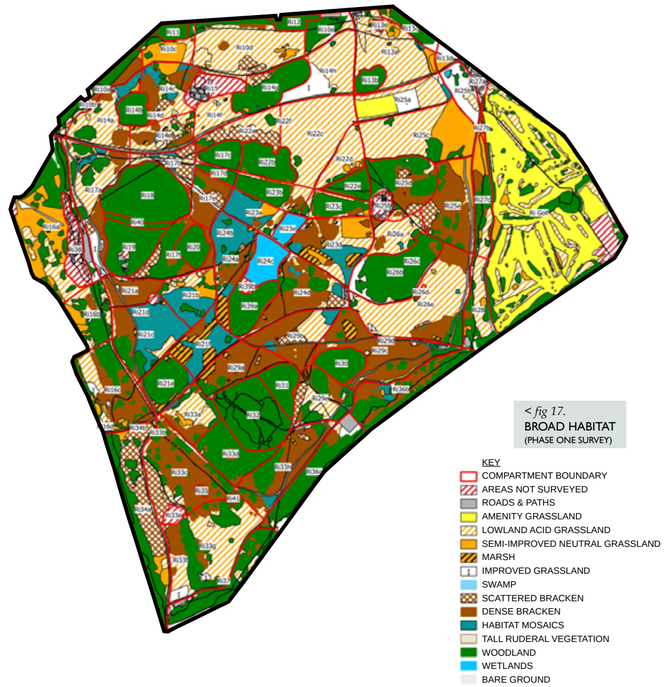
Uncontrolled spread of ragwort which can colonise bare ground following bracken control.

SCRUB

Scrub provides a valuable niche for nesting songbirds and other wildlife. Native nectar and berry-bearing shrubs can be a valuable source of food for many birds and invertebrates including pollinating species and those inhabiting decaying

GROUND FLORA VEGETATION COMMUNITY AREAS
**excluding woodlands, and scrub*
< *Table 2.*

Community	Area (ha)	% of ground flora*
U4b	211.75	36.96
U20c	138.40	24.16
Amenity grassland	60.21	10.51
Habitat mosaics	41.80	7.30
MG1a	37.99	6.63
U20a	32.66	5.70
M25b	9.86	1.72
MG6a	9.49	1.66
MG7b	7.65	1.34
U1f	5.90	1.03
MG10a	3.73	0.65
MG9b	3.14	0.55
MG9a	2.81	0.49
U1b	2.21	0.39
MG7a	1.98	0.35
U2a	0.95	0.17
MG10b	0.61	0.11
OV23a	0.56	0.10
OV25b	0.55	0.10
Unclassified acid grassland	0.33	0.06
OV26d	0.12	0.02
S6	0.09	0.01
U5	0.06	0.01
Total	**572.86**	**100.00**



< *fig 17.*
BROAD HABITAT
(PHASE ONE SURVEY)

wood. Although the park does contain a number of veteran hawthorns, scrub habitats are under-represented in deer parks, where browsing pressure removes woody vegetation below a height of about 2 metres. Management to encourage scrub has been successful and several scrub enclosures have allowed the regeneration of hawthorn and gorse near to Holly Lodge, Conduit Wood, Ham Slopes and Broomfield Hill. Some years on, fencing around a number of enclosures now requires repair or replacement, in other instances the fencing around individual hawthorn enclosures can be removed where bramble now forms a natural layer of protection. TRP is reviewing existing enclosures to determine whether new planting or regeneration could be encouraged to ensure continuity of habitat, and to identify potential areas where scrub habitat could be diversified with mixes such as blackthorn, rowan, holly and elder. Creating new areas of scrub should, however, only be considered in conjunction with the browsing needs of the deer population and be considered as complimenting the parkland rather than replacing it.

The targeted, large-scale removal of the non-native invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* has dramatically increased the potential to create a diverse scrub/shrub layer in areas of enclosed woodland such as Sidmouth Wood and in gardens such as the Isabella Plantation. A considerable amount of work has been already been carried out in the previous management plan period to establish native shrub layers in these and other areas of the park.

TREES AND WOODLAND

It is estimated there are around 120,000 trees in the park. The dominant species is English oak, followed by hawthorn, beech, birch, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut and hornbeam, with smaller numbers of lime, ash, willow, alder, cedar, scots pine, field maple, red oak and the ornamentals and exotics found in the Isabella Plantation and Pembroke Lodge Gardens. There is a small population of the rare native black poplar and new plantings of potentially Dutch Elm Disease-resistant elm cultivars. Ancient and veteran trees, predominantly oak pollards, are scattered across the park.

The variety of habitats and landscape features where trees are found include wood pasture/parkland, closed canopy broadleaved woodland divided into enclosed and open woods, individual clump/group plantings, shelterbelt, riparian, gate and ornamental gardens. It also includes trees on the park Freebord and trees on Richmond Park golf course.

We have plans to produce a Tree Strategy for the park which will include an audit of the existing tree stock and planting patterns. The strategy will review the impact of past planting and consider the appropriate mix of closed woodland, open wood pasture and grassland. The impacts of climate change and pests and diseases will be considered in terms of the expected need to diversify tree planting. Issues related to the safe use of the park by the public will need to be factored in. Areas where trees should not be planted will be identified to prevent future problems with over-crowding and important views and vistas becoming obscured.

Woodland

Trees planted in blocks to form close canopy cover. In the park many of the larger broadleaved woodland blocks were planted in the early 1800's for timber harvesting. Before harvesting could take place the market for timber trees (eg. for ship building, house building) disappeared. The trees were not thinned or felled and subsequently many of these blocks remain, with even age and height, tall straight trees, the dominant species of which is English oak. Examples include Sheen Wood, Sheen Cross Wood and Sidmouth Wood. These blocks are now seen to hold great conservation and amenity value which heavily outweigh their value in timber and are managed with this in mind.

Fenced/Enclosed Woodland

Free from deer grazing, the older enclosed woods such as Sidmouth Wood, Prince Charles's Spinney and Pen Ponds Plantation have a more layered structure of uneven age class vegetation, with mature trees of mixed native and exotic species, natural regeneration and a shrub/scrub layer often of high value to wildlife.

Sidmouth Wood has become an optimum habitat for roosting bats and nesting birds, undisturbed by the public.

Prince Charles's Spinney, Queen Elizabeth Plantation and areas of Sidmouth Wood have undergone significant management activity in recent years, including the clearance of invasive non-native *Rhododendron ponticum* and its replacement in places with a mixed understorey. Gradual *Rhododendron ponticum* clearance is also taking place in Pen Ponds Plantation and the southern boundary line is being planted with a mixed woodland understorey.

Other enclosed woodlands include the smaller Two Storm Wood, planted in 1993 around several existing old oak pollards and mature ash, horse and sweet chestnut. The younger planted trees, the majority of which are commemorative, are often of poor form and in need of thinning. Regeneration includes undesirable turkey oak and sycamore. Other enclosed woodlands include Bog and Teck Plantation and Spanker's Hill Wood which have been unmanaged for a number of years and still have areas of *Rhododendron ponticum* within their boundaries.

Main Challenges:
Threat from tree pest and disease, including Acute Oak Decline (AOD) and Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) – although the latter appears less able to flourish in more densely planted, closed canopy, cooler and darker conditions.

Resource requirement to continue with the programme of rhododendron clearance, thinning and more pro-active management of these woodlands, including review of extensive birch regeneration in Prince Charles's Spinney and sensitive clearance of rhododendron in Teck Plantation.

Continued over-shading and need for haloing/competition release of veterans in un-cleared areas of Prince Charles's Spinney and Sidmouth Woods.

There is an increasing threat to trees of poor form that are developing in areas that are physically inaccessible to carry out proper disease management e.g. in Two Storm Wood.

There is an increasing need to protect trees which present health and safety risks in the form of fencing. It is also a requirement to reduce compaction over the root zones of certain trees. An appropriate mix of fencing styles needs to be agreed where the fencing is likely to be in place for many years.

Wood Pasture and Parkland

This habitat, which has persisted in the park for several hundred years, has an official definition agreed by the Habitat Action Plan technical advisory group and published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee at the end of 2011: "Wood pasture is classified as a mosaic habitat valued for individual park-like trees particularly veteran and ancient, and the fauna, flora and fungi it supports, including a number of species that only occur in wood pasture and parkland. Grazing animals are fundamental to the habitat's existence and many sites are also important historic landscapes".

The dominant tree species in this habitat in the park is veteran oak but it also includes other species such as beech, hawthorn and sweet chestnut. The dead and decaying wood associated with these trees provide the specialised habitat which supports the population of saproxylic invertebrates which is one of the features for which the park is designated as a SSSI.

In many areas of open parkland groups of trees were planted around older surviving veterans during the 1960s, presumably with a view to succeeding them. In many cases these trees are now out competing the veteran trees.

Main Challenges:
Attrition of finite veteran tree population. Many of the trees in this landscape are old, out-of-cycle oak pollards with very heavy limbs on decayed boles and at risk from extreme weather events, catastrophic limb shedding and structural collapse.

Loss of the unique and rare habitats associated with the finite population of veteran trees which support the population of saproxylic invertebrates.

Threat from increasing visitor numbers. As numbers increase and visitors push out in to previously less well-used areas, there is an increased risk to tree health from soil compaction, fire and vandalism, and the need to carry out more intensive health and safety based tree work. "Stand alone" veteran trees characteristic of this habitat are particularly attractive for picnickers and focal points for summer leisure events.

Threat from tree pest and disease. Research has indicated that the invasive non-native tree pest Oak Processionary Moth favours oak in open, unshaded and sunny habitats typical of the wood pasture landscape.

Threats to veteran trees from adjacent younger trees will require decisions as to whether to reduce or remove some of these younger trees.

Open/Unenclosed Woodland

These woodlands, open to deer, the public and dogs, are subject to grazing and trampling and have a simple structure of older trees with younger underplanting protected by tree guards. They include many Sidmouth era early 1800 plantings such as Sheen Wood, Sheen Cross Wood, Spankers Hill Wood and Kidney Wood and later plantings including Lawn Plantation, Killcat Wood and Gibbet Wood. The predominant species is oak but also includes good numbers of sweet chestnut. The health of the trees in these woods is generally mixed with a significant number showing symptoms of Acute Oak Decline with accompanying crown thinning and dieback, sometimes followed by tree death. It also includes Queen Elizabeth Plantation, enclosed and planted in 1947 with a mix of broadleaved species around numerous existing old oak pollards. The Plantation was opened up in the 1990's and although some thinning work has taken place, including sensitive haloing around a number of the veteran trees, further management work is required.

Main Challenges:
Threat from tree pest and disease, including AOD and OPM. AOD is particularly prevalent in some of the big, Sidmouth era blocks of unenclosed woodland including Sheen Wood, Sheen Cross Wood and Kidney Wood.

Increasing visitor numbers in some areas causing soil compaction, environmental damage from dog fouling and pollution. Threat (particularly to the establishment of young trees) from squirrel damage.

Over-shading of veteran trees and lack of woodland management resulting in the need for thinning and requirement for further Rhododendron ponticum clearance.

Shelterbelt Planting

Trees planted at varying times in the past which act as a screen, both visual and physical, between the park and the outside world. This varies between the mixed-aged boundary plantings of beech between Kingston Gate and Broomfield Hill car park, the Sidmouth era planting of now mature oak stretching from Kingston Gate to Ham Gate and the mixed mature planting of oak, sweet chestnut and some lime between Bog Gate and Teck Plantation.

Main Challenges:
Loss of oak, particularly from Acute Oak Decline in some stretches. For example the boundary planting immediately north of Kingston Gate toilets which has left clear views out to nearby houses.

Failure of beech to establish or thrive due to squirrel damage – noticeable in places along the Ladderstile to Broomfield Hill boundary planting and in Sidmouth Wood.

The need to maintain the shelterbelt to screen the park from overlooking and intrusive developments.

Veteran and Ancient Trees

Richmond Park is among the top five sites in the UK for ancient and veteran trees and their associated invertebrate assemblage, which is a rare habitat across Europe.

The terms "ancient" and "veteran" are often used synonymously but are actually two separate definitions. The term veteran has associations with a battle-scarred survivor and this alludes to the features that define a tree as a veteran – these include cavities, rot holes, deadwood, lightning strikes, loose bark, cracks and splits. A tree can develop veteran features as a result of damage without being very old although the older it is the more likely it is to have developed these features. i.e a veteran tree is often old.

Ancient trees are trees with the features above but they are also chronologically very old for their species and will be at the stage in the ageing process when they are beyond full maturity. This will also result in a very wide girth and hollowing trunk. An ancient tree is always a veteran but a veteran tree isn't always ancient. Furthermore, the age at which a tree is classed as ancient depends on the species – 150 years old is ancient for a birch but relatively young for an oak.

A useful overarching definition which can encompass both ancient and veteran trees is found in "Veteran Trees: A Guide to Good Management" H. Read 2000 where it is a tree "that

is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition". Richmond Park has a population of both veteran and ancient trees.

The 2017 veteran tree survey recorded 1,156 veteran trees (not including hawthorn), 993 living and 163 dead. There are 1,021 veteran oak, 36 veteran beech, 29 veteran sweet chestnut and smaller numbers of hornbeam, willow, ash, field maple and birch. The total includes 3 veteran native black poplar which are particularly rare and unusual trees and are the subject of a National Species Biodiversity Action Plan in their own right.

Many of the veteran trees pre-date enclosure and are an important part of the park's cultural and historic landscape. With their associated decay, hollowing, aerial and lying deadwood they provide rare and specialised habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife including birds, bats, mammals, invertebrates, and fungi. Many of these are threatened or notable species and include a large number of specialised saproxylic invertebrates - one of the features for which the park is designated as a SSSI. While it is difficult to accurately age veteran trees, it is estimated that most of the veteran oak pollards are between 4-500 years old, with a very few older than 600 years. They occur throughout the park in wood pasture and woodlands, shelterbelt, remnants of old hedgerows and the ornamental gardens.

Pollarding is a historic method of management that led to these trees being originally treated as "working trees" – from a young age the branches were regularly cut above the browse height of the deer and the timber used for a variety of purposes – animal fodder, firewood, fencing. Because pollarding kept the size of the crown small, the trees became much less likely to fail in high winds and consequently lived for hundreds of years, gradually developing enormous girths, hollowing and other features so valuable for biodiversity.

Over the last two hundred years, as pollarding for the above purposes declined, many of the previously cut limbs have become huge and heavy while growing from decayed and structurally compromised trunks. Management today requires sensitive tree work involving specialist techniques planned over many years to gradually reduce the weight of these limbs, prevent collapse and encourage vigour. An equally important aspect of veteran tree management is their release from competition and over-shading by adjacent, younger more vigorous trees. Care must be taken to carry out this "haloing" gradually to prevent damage to the tree and its biodiversity from sudden exposure and dessication.

In an increasingly busy park, where risk management necessarily plays an important role, good practice management of these valuable, fragile and often structurally compromised trees, may take the form of fencing off the tree or diverting pathways. Discouraging public access where compaction of the soil and root system around the base of the tree threatens its health is also best practice.

As important as conserving the existing veterans in the park is the sustainability of the population and the creation and provision of replacements. This is essential to provide continuity of environment/habitat for the biodiversity dependent on these trees. It can be done by ensuring the continued presence of ancient, middle-aged and young trees and over the last two decades has also included the recruitment of young trees into a pollarding programme.

These "new generation" pollards are introduced to this management technique at a young age with the careful removal of a limited number of branches. Over time a larger number of branches will be removed in a cyclical pruning programme, eventually with a 7-12 years cycle dependent on species and climatic conditions. The health and development of all these trees is closely monitored.

Main Challenges:
Threat of heavy limb breakage and structural collapse leading to premature death/loss of veteran trees.

Threat from increasing visitor numbers resulting in compaction of root zones, damage from fire and vandalism and the need for increasing risk based tree work.

Threat from competition and over shading from adjacent younger and more vigorous trees, particularly in woodland situations after periods of management non-intervention.

Threat from pest and disease. Veteran trees have hosted the highest numbers of Oak Processionary Moth nests in the park, including several with over 100 nests per tree in 2017. This leads to varying levels of defoliation, the impact of which requires further research. Veteran hawthorn and hornbeam are also subject to attacks from parakeets which leads to extensive bud and seed damage. A small number of veteran oak are exhibiting the symptoms of Acute Oak Decline in 2017.

Managing the balance between public safety and the sustainability of the veteran tree population and its associated habitats.

Deadwood Habitat

Richmond Park was designated a SSSI due to its diverse deadwood beetle fauna associated with the ancient trees found throughout the parkland. It was also designated as a SAC in 2005 due to the population of Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus*. These beetles are saproxylic insects – that depend on dead or decaying wood for at least part of their life-cycle.

Veteran trees, with their standing/aerial deadwood and associated fallen timber contribute one of the most important habitats for biodiversity, supporting a wide range of flora and fauna such as fungi, lichens, beetles, birds and bats. There are over one thousand veteran trees in the park.

Decaying wood associated with these trees consists of a complex series of changing microhabitats. Its value to different species depends on the length of time it has been decaying, the time and cause of death, tree species, age range, aspect and climate. The broad spreading canopies and wide hollow trunks of old trees are particularly important. The cavities that form in them due to the decay of the heartwood provide valuable nesting and roosting sites for bats and birds which then feed on the wide range of insects living in the deadwood.

Decaying wood in the UK is home to almost 1800 invertebrate species. A 2006 survey identified 347 in Richmond Park, of which 138 have conservation status. To ensure the continuity of this population a broad age range of trees is necessary and the presence of ancient/veteran, middle-aged and young trees is vital.

Living veteran trees support many species and the longer it is kept alive the more decaying wood it will generate. Prolonging the life of an ancient/veteran tree through specialist tree surgery and management helps ensure continuity of the habitat.

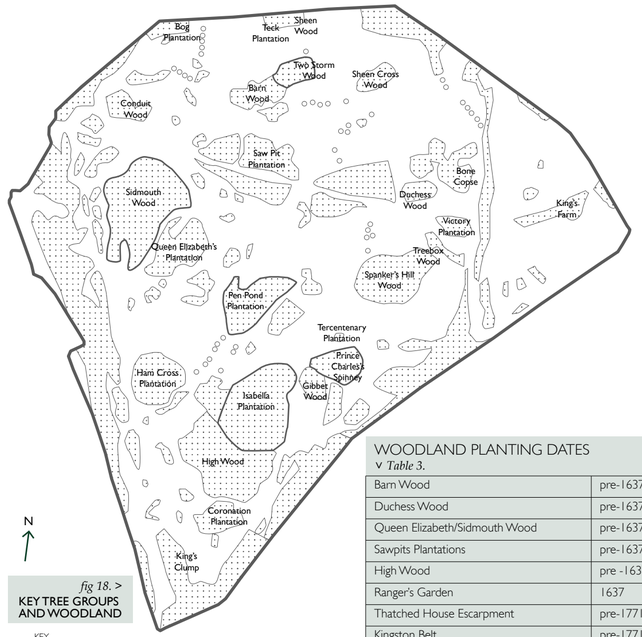


fig 18. >
KEY TREE GROUPS AND WOODLAND

KEY

FENCED WOODLAND

OPEN WOODLAND

WOODLAND PLANTING DATES
v Table 3.

Barn Wood	pre-1637
Duchess Wood	pre-1637
Queen Elizabeth/Sidmouth Wood	pre-1637
Sawpits Plantations	pre-1637 & 1874-5
High Wood	pre -1637 & later
Ranger's Garden	1637
Thatched House Escarpment	pre-1771
Kingston Belt	pre-1771 & 1826
Sheen Cross Wood	1819
Sheen Wood	1819
Spanker's Hill Wood	1819,24,77
Sidmouth Wood	1822-3 & 1830
Pen Ponds Plantation	1824
Upper Pen Pond Plantation	1824,65,69
Kingsfarm Plantation	1825
Conduit Wood	1829
Kidney Wood	1829
Ham Belt	1829
Isabella Plantation	1831,45,61, 65 & 1927
Hornbeam Walk	1834
Pembroke Lodge	1834
Star and Garter Hill	pre-1850
Richmond Gate Woods	pre-1850
Broomfield Hill Plantations	pre-1850 & 1888
Tile Kiln Plantation	1860-64
Killcat Wood	1864
Lawn Plantation	1883
Gibbet Wood	1878
Jubilee Plantation	1887 & 1896-7
Lower Pen Ponds	1903
Teck Plantation	1905
Pen Ponds Western Clumps	1906
George V Jubilee Plantation	1935
Golf Course Roehampton Vale Belts	1936
Tercentenary Plantation	1937
Queen Elizabeth Plantation	1947
Prince Charles's Spinney	1949
Coronation Plantation	1953
White Lodge Plantation	1973-9
Queen Mother's Copse	1980
Two Storm Wood	1993
Bone Copse	1995
Corretts Copse	200

Management of the deadwood resource in the park involves both protecting the existing biomass and ensuring the continuation of the supply of deadwood, and includes the following:

- Sensitive management of living veteran trees using specialist pruning techniques including natural fracture and retrenchment pruning to prolong their lives and increase vigour.
- Retention of aerial deadwood where risk management will allow, including using "deadwood stabilising" techniques rather than complete deadwood removal.
- Retention of standing deadwood as "monoliths" – the retention of standing trees in public areas by significantly reducing the height and spread and leaving them to decay in a standing position.
- Retention of fallen deadwood in situ in large pieces close to the parent tree.
- Where veteran trees represent a safety risk, rather than removing or monolithing them, the tree can be fenced or other target zone management measures put in place to mitigate the risk.
- Native nectar and berry bearing trees and shrubs provide a vital source of food for many birds and insects, including many of those inhabiting decaying wood. An aspect of park management includes ensuring there is a sustainable population of these flowering plants, including hawthorn, elder, rowan, bramble, ragwort and thistle.

Main challenges:
Ensuring the sustainability of the deadwood resource, including sensitive management of the ancient and veteran trees and ensuring the continuity of a wide age range in the tree population.

Managing the threat to the deadwood resource from increasing visitor numbers and behaviour – trampling and destruction, den-building, fire-setting and vandalism.

Maintaining plentiful nectar and pollen sources (blossom-bearing trees and shrubs) in key areas, for example near ancient and veteran trees to support invertebrates associated with these trees.

Commemorative Trees (Sponsored Trees)

In the last few decades hundreds of sponsored trees have been planted. While the majority of them are growing well there have been increasing conflicts between best practice management of these trees, park priorities and the constraints placed on them by sponsorship, which is often necessarily emotionally charged. A clear example of this is in Two Storm Wood where thinning of the existing sponsored trees is urgently required to save as many as possible from perishing due to over-crowding.

Future tree sponsorship will only take place if there is a clear pre-existing need for individual tree planting or for a specific project. Management of the tree will remain solely the responsibility of, and at the discretion of, The Royal Parks. This may include recruitment of the tree to the new generation pollard programme or eventual removal, following consultation, if circumstances require it. Going forward, a strategy will be implemented to manage the situation in Two Storm Wood.

Sawmill

The woodlands of Richmond Park represent a significant resource. While the priority for the SSSI is the retaining of volumes of deadwood on site as habitat, the sawmill at Holly Lodge has historically cut and used timber for a limited range of in-park uses (tree crates, benches etc). The capacity to maintain a sustainable production and end use of park timber should be retained. Going forward this process will be monitored for interaction with tree pest and disease producing a human and animal health risk e.g. Oak timber may be contaminated with OPM material, but this should be balanced with the risks of importing timber from elsewhere.

Tree Risk Management

Applicable to all trees in the park is the implementation of The Royal Parks Tree Risk Management Strategy – the programmed cyclical inspection of trees for risk management purposes. The frequency of inspection and amount of detail recorded for each tree is dictated by one of the 4 risk zones in which it is located. This is based on human footfall, zone 1 being the highest risk zone eg. Pembroke Lodge gardens, to zone 4 which are enclosed woodlands with no public access eg. Sidmouth Wood. All inspection data is recorded on the Arbortrack tree management software system. Tree work specified as a result of the inspections is routinely programmed and takes place predominantly over the autumn and winter period.

AQUATIC HABITATS AND WETLANDS

There are a series of ponds and areas of open water in the park; the numerous smaller ponds, springs and ditches suffer less from human disturbance and are more natural and of greater ecological interest for both flora and fauna. In addition, numerous ditches criss-cross the park; most are lined with rushes and other moisture loving plants. This range of habitats in the park and their varying conditions support a diverse wildlife community.

Freshwater specialists were commissioned by TRP to monitor the quality of its larger waterbodies across the estate. The monitoring programme provided an understanding of the ecological status of each lake and pond based on water chemistry analysis and biological data. Over the years many waterbodies across the parks, including those in Richmond Park, have been found to have high nutrient levels and turbidity, substantial levels of silt and impoverished macrophytic and invertebrate communities.

Animal and human activity has also raised a number of issues including bank erosion, increased disturbance to pond margins and beds and substantial accumulations of litter and debris. Furthermore, the appearance of invasive non-native aquatic plants such as New Zealand pigmyweed, floating pennywort and water fern has added an additional complication to the management of the park's precious water resource. Typically, these invasive species have grown and spread rapidly to out-compete native species, depleted oxygen levels within the water and the mat-forming species have covered pond surfaces to dramatically reduce access to water for some species – all to the detriment of the biological community.

To counteract and resolve the issues described, a relatively recent programme of creating new ponds, small seasonal ponds, opening culverts and restoring ditches has helped to improve and diversify the pond and wet habitats as well as contributing to the ground water resource by retaining and storing water within the park. The majority of these positive interventions have received external funding including projects partly funded and supported by the Friends of Richmond Park through their Ponds and Streams Programme.

Water mains are routinely monitored and any leakages into the groundwater are located and repaired.

There are over 25 permanent ponds and approximately 10 ephemeral ponds in Richmond Park, many created in the 19th century, though new additions including the Jubilee and Attenborough Ponds. Their creation has increased open standing water in the park and expanded the potential for movement of species within the network. Opening up a ditch from Martin's Pond to Robin Hood Gate by removing the deteriorated infrastructure of a Victorian drainage system has provided new habitat and connected areas of freshwater.

Pen Ponds are the largest areas of open water in the park. The close proximity of Pen Ponds car park makes it a popular recreational area particularly with dog owners. The consequent heavy trampling has severely reduced bankside vegetation around some of the margins. The water bodies are important for water birds throughout the year including species of conservation concern such as pochard, common tern and mallard. Part of Upper Pen Pond including the area of reedbed is enclosed and acts as a wildlife refuge.

Improvements to existing ponds include the ongoing control of non-native aquatic plants in Ham Dip Pond, Ham Gate Pond and the interconnecting ditches. Removal of substantial accumulations of silt from Ham Gate Pond and the selective treeworks to reduce both overshading and excessive leaf fall into the water have also resulted in marked improvement to its ecological quality, evidenced by a 2017 Odonata survey which recorded 14 species of dragonfly and damselfly at the site. Permanent fencing has been erected around Ham Gate Pond to protect the wildlife it supports; disturbance by dogs being one of the main factors negatively affecting the abundance of Odonata but of equal concern is the continued presence of New Zealand pigmyweed in Ham Gate Pond which will be prevented from spreading.
In 2012/13 TRP was awarded almost £120k by SITA Trust to make extensive improvements to the Isabella Plantation's network of ponds and streams. The project included de-silting all three ponds, the creation of substantial areas of reedbed in Peg's Pond – a habitat of principal importance in the UK, in-channel improvements to the streams to vary flow characteristics, the addition of submerged woody debris to Still Pond to provide an opportunity for specialised aquatic invertebrates to establish over time. All ponds were re-surveyed post project to reveal a marked improvement in water and habitat quality. A particular highlight is the change to Peg's Pond which is now in 'good' ecological condition with a score of 89% (formerly 50%) and considered to be a 'priority pond' under Pond Conservation's PSYM (Predictive SYstem for Multimetrics) classification.

The Beverley Brook flows northwards across the east of the park, approximately 14% of its 14.3km length occurs within the park. It has been heavily modified over the years with only a small fraction of its banks considered natural and unaltered (South East Rivers Trust, 2015). As a consequence, it lacks the features of a healthy channel such as marginal vegetation, a variation in depth and flow and habitat features including backwaters and woody debris. It has also suffered from poor water quality - particularly from contaminated road run-off which has been discharged into the watercourse outside the park .

A river restoration project developed and funded in partnership with TRP, South East Rivers Trust (SERT), the Friends of Richmond Park, the Environment Agency and the Beverley Brook Catchment Partnership has delivered a number of enhancements to benefit the river ecosystem. These include the addition of woody debris to vary the flow characteristics of the river; re-profiling steep and heavily poached banks to improve marginal habitat; narrowing and re-meandering the channel to create more diverse flow patterns and the temporary exclusion of deer and dogs to allow banks to stabilise and vegetation to establish. Native marginal planting has created a more diverse and complex plant community and the addition of native tree species such as willow, alder, black poplar, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel is providing habitat and a food source for birds and insects and also shade and cover for fish.

Work to improve the quality of the water entering the Beverley Brook within Richmond Park has involved excavation of a silt trap in the Richmond Park golf course to intercept the contaminated sediment that would normally flow into the Brook via a ditch. Further downstream, the creation of a wetland area has added a new habitat with over 20 species of native plant as well as retaining some of the finer sediment moving through the system to prevent it entering the brook. In 2017 a new 3-metre diameter Downstream Defender (silt trap and oil interceptor) was installed onto an existing surface water drain near to Roehampton Gate. It will trap and remove pollutants and prevent road-derived contaminants such as sediment, heavy metals and hydrocarbons from entering the Beverley Brook. This work is in line with the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to achieve sustainable water resources, to manage and control impacts at source to eliminate the discharge of hazardous substances.

Follow-up surveys of invertebrates, fish and macrophytes which will provide a scientific measure of the impact of the work. Future improvements will include the removal of a redundant headwall to allow the area to re-naturalise and the nearby creation of an artificial nest bank for kingfishers which are seen along the brook. Also the removal of stone banks and the concrete bed found at the confluence of the Pen Ponds stream and Beverley Brook will present another opportunity for banks to re-naturalise. In addition to this, a proposal to widen the lower section of the Pen Ponds stream to create a backwater is being considered (subject to consent by the statutory authorities). A backwater would provide an important habitat for a range of aquatic species but would also act as a fish 'fry bay' during times of low flow and as a refuge area during peak flows to prevent either displacement or 'wash-out'.

Main challenges:
Managing the threat to water resources from increasing visitor numbers and dogs off leads – disturbance of wildlife, the erosion of soft banks and marginal vegetation and the subsequent increase in water turbidity caused by dogs entering water bodies. Research is required to measure whether there are any impacts caused by worming agents found on dogs to the aquatic invertebrate assemblage in popular ponds.

Resource requirement to continue with the management of aquatic habitats to both maintain their ecological attributes and improve their value for wildlife.
As a result of climate change, the park is likely to become increasingly short of water in the summer but may conversely be subject to flooding after intense rain, especially in winter but also at other times of year. TRP will continue its programme to

increase ecologically functional wet areas in the park and to provide ecosystem services as flood storage areas.
Threats to water bodies caused by invasive non-native aquatic plants. Ongoing resource requirement to monitor them and responsive management controls to reverse their spread or eradicate where possible.

HORTICULTURAL AREAS

The horticultural areas of the park support a wide range of native flora and fauna though opportunities continue to be sought to enhance areas to benefit more species. The Isabella Plantation is an organically managed woodland garden where native plants commonly grow alongside exotics. Fringes and shelterbelts have been planted with native nectar and berry-bearing trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter for wildlife. The removal of invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* has seen its replacement with a mixture of native shrubs to add species diversity and complexity to the understorey layer. The delivery of a SITA Trust funded project to restore the garden's ponds and streams network has resulted in new areas of reedbed and the addition of native marginal plants along pond edges. The removal or control of invasive plants such as skunk cabbage has reduced overshading on streams and opened up areas for more native marginal and aquatic planting.

Pembroke Lodge Gardens are laid out in a more formal style, particularly the area surrounding the Lodge itself which has features such as hedging, seasonal bedding and mixed borders containing ornamental shrubs and herbaceous perennials. However, the addition of more meadow areas to the garden and an increased range of flowering plants over the seasons has diversified planting for the benefit of pollinators and extended the period over which flower resources are available. Adding variety to the gardens may also enhance visitor experience and stimulate interest in wildlife-friendly gardening.

AMENITY AND IMPROVED GRASSLAND

The bulk of this grassland forms the greens and fairways of Richmond Park Golf course and is closely mown and species-poor. There are great opportunities to enhance and connect the series of fairways and these will take into account routes for wildlife such as great crested newts, birds and badgers. As the golf courses will soon celebrate their centenary we will maintain its landscape and wildlife qualities as an intrinsic element of the park.

There were dozens of sports pitches throughout the park ninety years ago. Due to the provision of facilities elsewhere these have mainly reverted back into the semi improved grasslands, although the pitch lines can often be detected. Four rugby pitches remain near Sheen Cross, a polo field and designated kite flying areas. They remain open to the deer to graze and for the public to use outside formal matches.

BUILT STRUCTURES, BARE AND TRAMPLED GROUND, PATHS AND RIDES

Although primarily used for other purposes, these man-made features can support a diversity of wildlife. Historic built structures such as the earth barrows at King Henry's Mound, mediaeval ridge and furrow, the conduits and reservoirs have all been colonised by plants and animals often not found elsewhere in the park. The perimeter wall made with local brick supports mosses and lichens although invasive plants such as buddleia can threaten the structure and needs to be controlled. Bare ground in particular is beneficial to invertebrates which need the extra warmth for burrows and absorbing sunlight. Conversely the routes for people, horses and cars can act as partial barriers to the movement of wildlife such as grass snakes, beetles and reptiles.

SPECIES

Deer

At enclosure, the park was thought to have had some 1500 deer but, since this time, numbers have fluctuated considerably (from a peak in 1830 of some 2000 deer to less than 100 deer during World War II). Other stock have also previously been grazed in the park, most recently approximately 400 sheep were grazed after the last war up until 1980. Currently the deer population in the spring is around 630; 330 Fallow deer *(Dama dama)* and 300 Red deer *(Cervus elaphus)*. This represents a reduction of nearly 150 deer since the mid 1980s, when the policy was to spread sewage sludge as a means of increasing the availability of deer forage, combined with a reduction in supplementary feeding during winter months. Since 1985 the use of sewage sludge has been abandoned and a full programme of winter-feeding has been reintroduced.

As part of standard deer management the deer are culled to maintain a healthy deer population of a relatively constant size, with a roughly equal ratio between red and fallow and with balanced age classes and sex ratios. The objective is to maintain a sex ratio of 2 males to 5 females - similar to other deer parks managed for amenity and venison. Currently around 150-200 deer are culled each year over two 6 week periods. The male cull begins on the first Monday of February and the female cull begins on the first Monday of November. The park is closed to the public during culling from 8pm to 7am. Venison is sold to game wholesalers. TRP believe that shooting is the most humane and effective way of controlling numbers but will keep this policy under review in the event that alternative, viable methods of control become available.

Main Challenges:
Humans:
Increasingly social media is driving visitor behaviour towards hand feeding and close contact for photography. As a result deer are becoming increasingly socalised and no longer fearful of humans. This risks physical contact and may result in future demands for segregation.

Close human contact and handling of the deer results in disturbance which may cause young deer to be abandoned by their mothers.

Traffic:
At the peak of the birthing season, the park gates are open until 9.00pm. When the deer are very young their mothers hide them in the bracken during the day and at dusk fetch them out. At this time the deer are very active and so vulnerable to being run over. In 2003 the speed limit was reduced to 20mph and the average casualty rate fell from 20-30 per annum to 2-3 per annum, however numbers of casualties are again rising to around 10 per annum.

Dogs:
Deer deaths continue to be associated with dogs. Problems associated with dogs include deer being forced to run into moving traffic and young deer being separated from their mothers.

Mammals

Mammal records from the park are mainly derived from occasional observations and records from interested individuals. A survey of small mammals undertaken in 1996 (Reeve and Jones, 1996) indicated that the mammal populations of the woodland areas were comparable to similar sites elsewhere but the populations in grassland areas was relatively low. A further study, which commenced in 1999, showed small mammal populations rose as a result of bracken control by rolling. Richmond Park Wildlife Officers continue to monitor setts and badger activity in the park.

A 2009 bat survey of the park recorded a total of 139 bats which were trapped over a ten-day period. Nine species were found, specifically; common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius's pipistrelle, Leisler's, noctule, brown long-eared, Daubenton's, Natterer's and serotine bat (Greenaway, 2009). With the exception of serotine, which appears to be less numerous in the park, all other species appear to be present in good numbers with either breeding in evidence or a very strong likelihood of it. The results illustrate the rich bat fauna associated with the park and its importance as a resource for foraging and roosting bats in London. A further survey carried out by Whitby (2011) reiterated recommendations for a detailed study to identify core foraging habitats for brown long-eared and Natterer's bats to help in the conservation of these vulnerable species - regarded as such because they are not normally associated with urban areas. Artificial lighting disturbance on bat habitats from increasing development on the perimeter remains of major concern.

Reptiles and Amphibians

TRP has relatively few records relating to reptiles and amphibians; however, the grasslands support good populations of grass snake and common lizard. The wetlands of the park support populations of common frog, common toad, smooth newt and Great Created Newt (GCN) - a European Protected Species. Great crested newts surveys were undertaken as part of a continuing programme of surveys initiated by Froglife in 2010. The presence/likely absence surveys of over 30 ponds and marshy areas established that GCN were present in two ponds in Richmond Park. To safeguard existing populations and boost the site's carrying capacity, TRP worked in partnership with Froglife to improve the pond quality. This included phased de-silting and tree work to reduce overshading of the pond margins. The harvested wood was stacked in piles to create hibernacula for reptiles and amphibians. Additional surveys in 2014 and 2015 re-confirmed the presence of GCN at the same ponds, future monitoring is required.

Main Challenges:
GCN populations may become isolated and also vulnerable to declining or changing habitat quality. TRP will seek to continue monitoring and improve existing habitat including the connections between suitable ponds and their associated terrestrial habitat and also create additional habitat to benefit GCN and other amphibians.

Birds

Approximately 115 species of bird are recorded in the park each year. In 2016 the total number of breeding bird species was 51, a decrease on previous years and in part thought to be the result of the breeding success of some species being reliant on one or two pairs only (Richmond Park Bird Recording Group, 2016). The Park supports birds associated with wetlands such as heron, kingfisher and reed warbler and a wide range of breeding and overwintering water birds. In 2017 it was confirmed that sand martins bred for the first time using the nesting bank installed on Pen Ponds in 2011.

Hole-nesting birds are equally important including species such as little owl, woodpeckers, tawny owl, kestrel and jackdaw, as are woodland species (nuthatch, tree creeper, woodcock, sparrowhawk). Concerns remain that if ring-necked parakeet numbers continue to increase they may have an adverse impact on native cavity nesters or compete with native birds for food resources. Parakeets can also cause extensive damage to trees, voraciously stripping buds and seeds of several species, including hawthorn, horse chestnut and hornbeam.

Birds of open parkland include skylark, meadow pipit, starling and green woodpecker. In 2017 the Bird Recording Group reported 20 breeding territories for the ground nesting skylark, the highest number for several years. This success no doubt due to new signage and the renewed efforts of volunteers, the Metropolitan Police and staff in raising public awareness of skylark nesting areas and their vulnerability to disturbance by visitors and dogs.

The larger raptors have been observed in the park with red kites sighted during the spring and summer of 2017 and breeding success for a pair of buzzards in the park – the first record for at least 100 years (Bird Group, 2017).

Historic bird records are in the form of a considerable amount of raw data, with records from various sources extending back to the 1930s (e.g. Wilson 1935 et seq.). Bird monitoring based on the standard walk method also started in 1999 and is still carried out on a regular basis by members of the Richmond Park Bird Recording Group. The records supplied by the group have enabled trends in bird numbers to be identified, such as the statistically significant increase in ring-necked parakeet and jackdaw.

Butterflies and Moths

Due to the efforts of volunteer and professional recorders, we have developed a good knowledge of the moths and butterflies in the park. Butterfly surveys (of one kilometre squares) have been undertaken annually by the Butterfly sub-group of the Richmond Park Wildlife Group since 1999. Since 2003 monitoring has taken place using the Butterfly Conservation standard transect protocol. At the end of each survey season both sets of data are submitted to Butterfly Conservation for use in national statistics. Some 30 species have been recorded, the majority of which breed in the park. The most significant populations are the grassland species, such as the small heath, and the purple hairstreak, which breed in the canopies of oak trees.

A moth survey was carried out during 2009-2010 with further casual daytime surveys undertaken in 2011. The sampling method was by light-trapping, but daytime searches for larvae and leaf-mines were also carried out by the surveyor. The results demonstrate that the park supports a very rich community of moths. A total of 728 moth species have now been recorded in the park; 46 of these species have Nationally Scarce or Threatened status. The nationally scarce or threatened species of moth have been recorded across a range of habitats. The drier grasslands support species such as *Pediasia contaminella*, whereas the wetter habitats are favoured by the nationally scarce dotted fan-foot *(Macrochilo cribrumalis)*, the larvae of which feed on rushes and sedges. Another scarce species, the rosy marbled moth *(Elaphria venustula)*, frequents dry open woodlands. Richmond Park is

a stronghold for the UK BAP priority species the double-line moth *(Mythimna turca)*, which is restricted to just a few sites in its south eastern distribution.

Since the identification in the park in 2009 of a breeding population of the invasive, non-native insect Oak Processionary Moth, The Royal Parks has implemented a pro-active control programme for this pest which includes limited pesticide spraying, surveying and manual removal of nests. The average annual number of nests removed is around 9500 and the control programme will continue to be a resource requirement in the future.

Stag Beetle

The stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* is the largest terrestrial beetle and a protected species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Richmond Park, alongside Wimbledon Common, is at the heart of the south London centre of distribution for stag beetle. Larvae develop in decaying tree stumps and fallen timber of broad-leaved trees in contact with the ground, especially of oak among other species, and the presence and continuity of this resource in Richmond Park is essential in the conservation of this species. Through their transect walks and targeted field visits, the Beetle Group – a sub-group of the Richmond Park Wildlife Group - have recorded flying adult beetles, looked for signs of emergence from decaying timber and noted the remains such as wing cases (elytra). This has added greatly to our knowledge of the distribution of stag beetles across the park.

Invertebrates

It is widely acknowledged that Richmond Park supports an exceptionally high species richness of invertebrates, including many rare and nationally scarce species in important assemblages. More than 1350 species of beetle have been recorded in the park. The Park is particularly important for saproxylic invertebrates associated with veteran trees and the retention of deadwood both aerial and ground contributes to the value of this invertebrate assemblage for which Richmond Park is recognised as one of the top 5 sites in the UK. A major survey of saproxylic invertebrates (Hammond, 2006) developed our knowledge of this group and provided a useful baseline for future monitoring. An incredible 347 species of saproxylic beetle were recorded of which 138 species have conservation status either as notable or Red Data Book. Very rare species include a number of click beetles such as the cardinal click beetle *Ampedus cardinalis*, the rusty click beetle *Elater ferrugineus* and *Procraerus tibialis*.
Saproxylic organisms may be defined as those that are dependent, during some part of their life cycle, upon dead or dying wood of over-mature, damaged or dead trees (standing or fallen), upon wood-inhabiting fungi, or upon other species associated with this habitat (Hammond & Harding, 1991).

Ant-hills formed by the yellow meadow ant *Lasius flavus* are an important landscape feature of the park. Colonies form mounds in undisturbed grassland, often where the soils are poorest for cultivation due to low nutrient levels, aspect or hydrology. There are many thousands of these mounds in the park; their size can give an indication of the mound's age as they increase in volume with time. The mounds also contribute topographic, microclimate and habitat features favourable to many of the more characteristic acid grassland plants which can be out-competed in the longer grass areas. As they often support a more diverse flora they may be more attractive to grazing deer and rabbits. The ants `farm' aphids feeding on grass roots and they have a major influence on the patterns of many other species of plant and animal such as green woodpecker.

Informal surveys have also revealed a rich fauna of *Aculeate hymenoptera* (bees, ants, wasps) with 170 species recorded so far (Baldock, 2004). The Park also supports important invertebrate fauna associated with wetland habitat (ponds, ditches, reedbeds) and deer droppings.

Main challenges
Ensuring the diversity and continuity of the deadwood resource is maintained; many saproxylic invertebrates are extremely selective in their habitat requirements and some have poor dispersal ability making them particularly vulnerable to any habitat change or loss.

Although we have accumulated a wealth of baseline data over the years, TRP is reviewing the surveys that need to be repeated or updated. For example the last spider survey, which provided a list of 139 species, was carried out by Edward Milner in 1996.

Managing the threat to the deadwood resource from increasing visitor numbers and behaviour – trampling and destruction, den-building, fire-setting and vandalism.

Managing visitor pressure in some areas to reduce the levels of erosion and compaction that occurs on anthills through trampling.

Managing the threat to ground nesting birds and mammals due to disturbance by dogs off leads.

Flora

Only limited data are available regarding mosses and liverworts, although a UK BAP priority species, veilwort *Pallaviciana lyellii*, is present and is monitored by the Flora Group (a sub group of the Richmond Park Wildlife Group). This liverwort is restricted to only a few sites in the south of England and is classified as 'Vulnerable' in Europe. In the park the population is threatened by deer disturbance and eutrophication. Other flora of the park have been systematically surveyed by the Flora Group to provide comprehensive records in each km2 of the park. The acid grasslands of Richmond Park are of regional importance and form a valuable mosaic of wetter and drier habitat types varying in species composition according to local soil and drainage conditions.

The characteristic grasses of the park's acid grassland include (among many others), common bent *(Agrostis capillaris)*, brown bent *(Agrostis vinealis)*, early hair grass *(Aira praecox)*, wavy hair-grass *(Deschampsia flexuosa)* and Mat-grass *(Nardus stricta)* – the latter two being London notable species. In less well-drained areas, the species mix shifts to favour velvet bent *(Agrostis canina subsp. montana)*, purple moor-grass *(Molinia caerulea)* (another London notable), tussock grass *(Deschampsia cespitosa)*, plus a great variety of rushes, woodrushes and sedges.

Other characteristic plant species of the acid grassland include tormentil *(Potentilla erecta)*, sheep's sorrel *(Rumex acetosella)*, mouse-eared hawkweed *(Pilosella officinarum)* and heath speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), London notable harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), and two nationally notable species, brown sedge (*Carex disticha*) and upright chickweed (*Moenchia erecta*) are found in the park's acid grasslands.

In the park, the acid grassland generally benefits from deer grazing and light disturbance, which maintains an open grassland, helping to prevent invasion by bracken and halts succession to woodland.

Other London notable species recorded during 2016 ground flora survey were: Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathrus nissolia*), Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*), Buck's-horn Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*) and Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*).

Fungi

The first baseline survey of fungi was undertaken in 2008 when 289 species were identified (Overall, 2009). The combined efforts of both professional and amateur field mycologists over the years has resulted in more than 350 species of fungi being recorded for the park. Richmond Park's complex of habitats holds a diverse range of fungal species across many genera of the major fungal groups. Deadwood piles and standing dead wood support significant finds such as *Spongipellis delectans*, *Coriolopsis gallica*, *Schizophyllum amplum* and *Glaeoporus dicrous*, all of which are very rare or vulnerable throughout England and Ireland. The grassy roadside verges and some of the acid grassland areas were also identified as hotspots for fungi. The oak polypore *(Piptoporus quercinus)*, which is a heartwood rotting species associated with veteran oak trees, was found at several sites across the park. It is classified as Endangered in Britain and is protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The distinct lack of Boletus species was thought to be due to either bracken shading or the possibility that they form part of the deer herd's diet. Conversely, deer assist in the distribution of fungal spores around the park, either by ingestion or by transporting them on the surface of their body. Deer droppings also provide a very fertile food source for various types of fungi.

Lichens

Before 2016 the last surveyor to seriously record at the site was F. Dobson who, in 2001, noted 55 taxa and witnessed a revival in lichen colonisation (especially on trees and shrubs) after years of acid rain and poor air quality. In 2016 V. Giavarini assessed the wealth and condition of the lichen flora in Richmond Park and recorded a total of 187 taxa. Lichens were discovered on trees and shrubs, deadwood and worked timber, soils, mosses and various types of stonework including brick, mortar, concrete, sandstone and limestone. The total includes a small group of lichenicolous and allied fungi often referred to as 'lichen parasites'. The park is dominated by both acidophilous (on bare lignum and wood) and nitrophytic species of lichen (enriched tree bark). *Cyphelium notarisii* which grows on worked timber is the only tax on to have 'Near Threatened' (NT) status. All other species are of 'Least Concern' (LC).

Twenty species currently have rarity status. Two of these, *Absconditella lignicola* and *Verrucaria ochrostoma* are regarded as 'Nationally Rare' while 18 others are 'Nationally Scarce'. Two of the species not refound: *Thelocarpon pallidum* and *Sarcosagium campestre var. campestre* (discovered by Peter James during the second half of the 1990's) are Nationally Rare and Nationally Scarce respectively.

Richmond Park's proximity to central London has resulted in its exposure to abnormal levels of air pollution and decades of acid rain. London had been plagued with poor air quality since the thirteenth century and this has continued to be the chief threat to lichen colonisation. This is evident today in the widespread acidification of ancient tree bark; a legacy of the sulphur dioxide era following WWII. Although lichens are recovering, shown by the number and quality of those species found during the survey, they are still threatened by eutrophication caused by nitrogen deposition.

PESTS, DISEASES AND INVASIVE SPECIES

The control of invasive plant species is tailored to the park. In Richmond Park the principal invasives are bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), rhododendron *(Rhododendron ponticum)*, ragwort *(Senecio jacobaea)*, creeping thistle *(Cirsium arvense)* and the aquatic invasive plants New Zealand pigmy weed *(Crassula helmsii)*, floating pennywort *(Hydrocotyle ranunculoides)* and water fern *(Azolla filiculoides)*. Species are normally managed by targeted manual removal.

A 2011 NVC survey noted an increase in bracken cover of approximately 20ha over a 7-year period. These significant findings prompted TRP to review bracken management in the park and to restore areas lost to invasion, particularly those of good quality acid grassland. Although control measures had already been implemented, the ongoing programme was strengthened and expanded to target control more effectively. A combination of methods are used, namely rolling (using equipment drawn by Shire horse) and chemical treatment (spraying) using the selective non-residual herbicide Asulox. Cutting takes place late in the season to create compost as it is not as effective as rolling or chemical treatment. Methods are selected according to a number of factors, for example, the terrain and the presence of anthills nearby may mean the careful, targeted use of herbicide is the only practical option. Treatment of bracken dominated vegetation with Asulox appears to have been very successful. In all these areas, bracken, although still frequent, was not the dominant species. In drier areas, grasses became much more prominent and species associated with acid grassland such as sheep's sorrel and heath groundsel were recorded. Treatment of bracken by cutting and rolling may take longer to have an effect as the majority of the treated vegetation is still recorded as dense bracken although there are exceptions where bracken was scattered and less dominant. Much of the bracken is harvested and composted for use as peat-free mulch in garden areas.

Although bramble can be invasive it has great value for wildlife and for browsing deer. It provides cover and is a food source for birds and is an effective natural barrier stopping deer eating hawthorn and allowing the regeneration of woodland. The most extensive stands of bramble are found within woodland areas totalling 41ha with large dense stands in Sidmouth Wood. There were also small dense stands of bramble distributed across the park totalling 70ha. Bramble does appear to be invading some of the woodland glades and some open areas of grassland. This is likely to result in increased shading and consequent reduction of species diversity.
Ragwort is distributed across the grassland areas of the park. In most areas, the species was occasional or frequent, however there were a few compartments such as near White Lodge and Pen Ponds where ragwort is abundant or dominates the sward. Some control would be desirable in these areas and alongside permissive bridleways as well as in areas cut for hay to reduce the risk of poisoning to horses. Ragwort is an important food plant for at least 70 species of invertebrates including specialists such as cinnabar moth and therefore some flowering ragwort will be retained in the park.

Main Challenges:
A number of issues affect the condition of grassland habitats:

bracken, bramble and ragwort invasion; nutrient enrichment through historic agricultural improvement, dog fouling, atmospheric nitrogen deposition from vehicles and aircraft etc; trampling in areas of high use especially along paths and close to car parks; and insufficient grazing pressure. Resources will be required to maintain these species in balance.

Tree pest and disease is an increasingly significant and high profile national issue and at a local level has an increasing impact on tree management in the park. It has the potential to impact the way people and animals use the park and the long-term landscape and biodiversity value of the site.

TRP has an Animal Pest Control Policy (2018), an Integrated Horticultural Pest Management Policy and an Oak Processionary Moth Management Strategy. These adopted policies guide the management of pests throughout the parks. Prevention and control measures are also monitored as part of ISO14001 particularly relating to the use of pesticides. The pest and diseases listed below are the most prevalent in the park in 2019.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) - *Thaumetopoea processionea*

A non-native invasive insect pest of oak trees was first found in the UK in 2006 and in Richmond Park in 2009. The caterpillars carry toxic hairs which can pose a significant threat to human and animal health, causing severe skin rashes, eye irritation and sometimes breathing difficulties. The caterpillars feed on oak leaves and large populations can extensively defoliate trees, increasing their vulnerability to other pathogens and environmental impacts including climate change. Experience to date has indicated that the human and animal health risk from OPM arises as much from old nests that it has not been possible to remove, as from "active season" summer nests, which are more visible and pro-actively managed.

OPM is a particular problem in Richmond Park where the dominant species is oak often growing in open, wood-pasture habitat which research indicates is favoured by the moth. Numbers of nests removed has increased from 6 in 2009 to 9700 in 2017. Intensive pro-active management includes targeted pesticide spraying, surveying for and manual removal of nests. Preliminary research indicates that pesticide spraying, even with the most Lepidoptera specific pesticide available for use against OPM in the UK, has a significant negative impact on non-target Lepidoptera. The Park Management Team work closely with Natural England to ensure the scale of spraying is as limited as possible. However, the very high levels of infestation in the park combined with high visitor numbers and a vulnerable oak population (veteran oak and those suffering from AOD), have led to targeted spraying being considered as one of the necessary management tools in the strategic control of this pest.

Resources and budget required to manage the pest are significant and include the arboricultural officer, additional staff and contract personnel, spraying and nest removal by contractors. Thousands of hours of surveying time is donated by a large number of experienced and dedicated volunteers, an invaluable support in managing the impact on the park.

The Royal Parks at Richmond Park has been actively engaged in OPM research, both self commissioned and government-funded in partnership with The Forestry Commission and Forest Research since 2011. This includes monitoring the effectiveness of pesticide spraying, molecular ecology and natural parasitoids, population ecology, use of pheromone trapping for mapping population spread and the effect of pesticide spraying on non-target Lepidoptera.

The Royal Parks support the DEFRA led campaign 'Action Oak' launched in May 2018 that has the aims of raising awareness of the tree pests and diseases, conducting research and horizon scanning.

Acute Oak Decline (AOD)

A relatively new disease of mainly native oak trees, most prevalent in the midlands and south-east England. It is characterised by necrotic "bleeding" stem lesions and thinning and dieback in the crown. Some trees die within 4-6 years of onset of symptoms while it appears that some go into a period of remission. A suite of bacteria is associated with the lesions and the native Buprestid beetle is frequently found on affected trees. Management requires increased monitoring and inspections of symptomatic trees and increased intervention in the form of deadwooding, monolithing and occasionally felling of dead trees. It has the potential to impact the park on a landscape scale with accompanying affects on biodiversity.

Hundreds of oak trees in the park exhibit symptoms of AOD. It is particularly prevalent in Sheen Wood, Sheen Cross Wood, areas around Kingston Gate, Lawn Plantation, Kidney Wood and Isabella Plantation. Since 2010 TRP have worked in partnership with Forest Research on various government funded AOD research projects in the park including long-term monitoring of affected sites, epidemiology, taxonomy of organisms associated with AOD including entomological and bacteriological studies, dendrochronological studies and work investigating the pre-disposition of oak to the disease. The facilitation of research is ongoing. It has also supported research into soil amelioration measures and foliage treatments.

Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker – *Pseudomonas syringae pv aesculi*

A bacterial disease which kills strips of the bark and cambium of horse chestnut trees, often leading to the rapid decline and unpredictable failure of large limbs and sometimes death of both young and mature trees. Around 75% of horse chestnuts in the park have bleeding canker. Mature trees can sometimes be managed over time with canopy reductions but with consequent loss of landscape value. Horse chestnuts have structurally weak timber post death making the management of their decline more short term compared to other species. Moribund or dead trees are managed by monolithing or felling, all timber is left on site as valuable deadwood resource, particularly favoured by the stag beetle.

Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner – *Cameraria ohridella*

Pupae of this non-native moth cause severe damage to the foliage of the tree resulting in early season browning and shedding of all foliage. Severity can vary year by year. While not lethal in itself repeat infestation over several years can reduce the biological vigor of the tree increasing vulnerability to other pathogens including bleeding canker. In bad years it can cause severe degradation of visual amenity on a landscape scale. There are no practical measures that can be undertaken in the park to control this pest.

Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp (OCGW) – *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*

This insect, of Asian origin, was discovered in the UK for the first time in 2015 and affects european sweet chestnut trees. It was discovered at several sites in Richmond Park in 2016. Activity by larvae of the wasp cause abnormal growths(galls) to form on buds, leaves and leaf stalks. It is a low impact pest, the wasp posing no threat to people or animals. In high numbers it can weaken the tree, making it more vulnerable to other pathogens, including the more serious sweet chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*). Severe attacks can result in tree decline. Under the advice of the Plant Health Authorities, control to date has involved monitoring of the outbreak.

The following tree pest and diseases are likely to become an issue within the 10 year life time of this plan – Sweet chestnut blight, Chalara ash dieback and *Phytophthora ramorum*. Asian Longhorn Beetle, Emerald Ash-borer and *Xylella fastidiosa* are high on the DEFRA pest risk analysis list.

Animal and Bird Pests

Squirrel damage, particularly to hornbeam, beech, sycamore and field maple can have a significant negative impact on the ability of young trees of these species to establish in the park and can also affect the life expectancy of older specimens, particularly veterans, following pruning works. Parakeets attack and destroy buds and seeds of several species but are particularly damaging to hornbeam, horse chestnut and hawthorn. Measures to control these pests should continue to be investigated and employed.

Main Challenges:
Direct risk to human and animal health (eg. from toxic hairs of OPM) and an indirect risk by contributing to decline and sometimes death of trees – these require greater monitoring and tree work intervention to reduce the risk to the public from failing trees.

Increased resource requirement for effective monitoring and control of pest and disease – many of these are new in the last 10 years and have greatly increased the amount of staff, contractor and volunteer time required to manage them.

Threat to long-term tree cover, diversity and associated biodiversity due to declining vigour and death of trees.

How to manage pests and diseases sustainably with the least impact on other biodiversity in the park eg pesticide spraying for the control of OPM in targeted areas of the park.

Ongoing resource requirement to monitor distribution and impact of pest and disease and to contribute to national research efforts.

Resource requirement for "horizon scanning" for incoming pest and disease and to develop effective contingency plans eg. for Phytophthora ramorum or Xylella, control of which may include partial closure of the park.

Resource requirement for development of TRP Biosecurity Policy and its implementation.

The potential threat to the provision of food for the deer from losses in the oak, horse chestnut and sweet chestnut population due to pest and disease. Seeds/fruit from these species form an important part of the diet of the deer herds.

Research

Since 2010 the park team have facilitated a large number of government funded research strands on tree pest and disease, particularly on AOD and OPM. We have also actively commissioned our own research on the implications of management programmes on non-target wildlife. In the future we will continue to work closely with partner organisations, including DEFRA, The Forestry Commission and Forest Research on this crucial area of park management. Programmes such as the government sponsored Action Oak and the Sustainable Soils Alliance will be supported.

BIOSECURITY

Nationally and locally, risks are posed to our trees, shrubs and other plants from the spread of pest and disease. Global traffic and high levels of international trade with materials potentially containing pest and disease present has increased pathways for pathogen introduction. This, compounded with changing weather patterns, makes it increasingly likely introduced pathogens can survive in the UK. Biosecurity is required on two levels - firstly on the sourcing and buying of new planting stock and then on its internal management once growing in the park.

While being an active participant in the national discussion on biosecurity The Royal Parks has developed procedures for procurement of new tree stock. We are developing our biosecurity policy, in line with other organisations for all pant material. This includes the Arboricultural Association's "Biosecurity in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry" position statement.

TRP Tree Purchasing Procedures

Current practice:

- Source all trees from approved suppliers, nurseries and garden centres with a proven track record and a bio-security policy.
- Be certain that the supplier has a procedure for managing pests and diseases, both for plants coming in and plants going out.
- Specify exact requirements on our purchase order forms.
- All plants placed in quarantine until inspected by a suitably experienced member of TRP staff.

TRP will be working towards the improved tree purchasing procedure below:

- Plant passports should be in place on identified genus with known transferable pest or diseases problems.
- Plant passport types: Normal (N) = supplier to source. Replacement (RP) = Supplier to supplier. Protected zone (PZ) = Protected zone to protected zone.
- No Quercus, Platanus and Castanea should be purchased and imported directly from European suppliers. Require proof from supplier that the plants have been grown on in the UK for over a year and are free from notifiable diseases.
- Do not source trees from unknown suppliers.
- Inform supplier and relevant authorities immediately if any problems are identified and notifiable.

- Plants should be grown on in a strictly managed quarantine area for one growing season before being planted out in the park.

Main Challenges:
Securing resources and carrying out the implementation of the Biosecurity Policy and identifying suitable quarantine areas. Managing the lead time required to deliver planting schemes from design to completion.

CLIMATE CHANGE

As Climate Change impacts are becoming more evident, urban parks will play an increasing role in adaptation and mitigation. TRP acknowledges the need to adapt, existing sustainable systems to further improve air quality and temperature by creating cooling effects and reducing carbon emissions; flooding prevention through water retention; promoting biodiversity; and many others.

The relationship between parks and air quality is increasingly cited as an economic benefit of city parks and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is currently working nationally on new, improved estimates. Urban areas experience higher average temperatures because they absorb heat more readily, use more energy and have lower ventilation (Met Office, 2012). Green areas within cities play a role in regulating this effect and they reduce the burden of heat stress during periods of elevated temperature. The overall contribution of London's parks is estimated to be £594 million. This figure is estimated by Doick & Hutchings (2013) who assume that the overall contribution of London's green spaces reduces urban temperatures by 2°C during heat waves. The economic value of cooling is based on the number of lives saved due to cooler peak temperatures, which is monetised through the value of avoiding premature death. Richmond Park also stores carbon dioxide in the growth of trees and organic matter in soil.

Main Challenges:
There is an increasing focus on the beneficial role that urban parks play in a changing climate, but the challenge is how to recognise that locally and for Richmond Park to secure the benefits and budgets related to public health, the improvement in well-being, healthcare savings and business productivity.

SUSTAINABILITY

In our approach to sustainability TRP strives to balance economic, environmental and social factors in a way that will prioritise resource conservation and protection of the urban park environment now and for future generations. TRP recognizes that with increased population density more pressure will be placed on our parks. We are acutely aware that the relationship of Richmond Park to the surrounding area also raises wider sustainability issues, including increased traffic use and visitor access, a need for reconfiguration of existing infrastructure including improved public transport links and a need to reduce the impacts of road traffic is required.

Since 2014, accreditation to the ISO Environmental Management standard, 14001:2015 has assisted TRP in striving to minimise and eliminate environmental impacts, both direct and indirect to Richmond Park, reducing our impact on natural resources such as water, land, clean air and biodiversity while pursuing every effort to reduce emissions, increase efficiency in renewable - low carbon initiatives through solar gain, and hybrid fleet technologies while promoting more sustainable practices – in terms of waste management via circular economy models and water use via abstraction.

Our 10-year Sustainability Strategy 2015-2025 has four fundamental pillars:

- ensure conservation and protection of our unique landscapes
- mitigate and adapt the impacts of climate change
- provide environmental excellence and financially viable parks to the public
- continue to improve well-being, fairness and education across all the communities we serve

As urban parks play a significant role for quality of life in an increasingly urbanised society, TRP strive to provide significant ecosystem services, benefitting our local communities environmentally, aesthetically, recreationally, psychologically and economically. They are underpinned by the commitments TRP make in its sustainability action planning. We believe that all aspects of our own operation should be carried out in such a way as to have a minimal adverse impact on the environment. This is ingrained in TRP environmental policy, objectives, targets and reflected in everyday procedures and operations in the Royal Parks. For example, it is TRP policy to ensure that all purchased timber is from a sustainable source such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. In turn, there is scope for TRP to apply for full FSC certification for the timber products arising from the woodland areas in the park. To date, Lower Sidmouth Wood at Richmond Park has achieved certification.

Main Challenges:
To protect, conserve and enhance the park whilst mitigating and managing the increasing demands placed on it by the local and London's expanding population together with more visitors from further afield.

'"Landscape management" means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.'

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Cow grazing trial within a paddock near Holly Lodge

'In terms of a complex phenomenon like landscape we need these multiple perspectives. We must be able to combine objective information from empirical science with lived experience of human subjects. We need both the insiders and the outsiders. Both, in their own way, are experts.'

THOMPSON, I. H.
Rethinking Landscape: A Critical Reader
2009

'I see Richmond Park as integral to my well being. My husband and I walk often together and when my children are home from university they often come for a walk with the dog too. (especially if a bacon roll at Pen Ponds cafe is on offer!)'

LOCAL RESIDENT
TRP Survey
2017

Visitors following the circular Tamsin Trail

COMMUNAL CONTEXT

This section describes the informal and organised social actions and interactions that occur within Richmond Park.

Communal Value:
'the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, their collective experience or memory closely bound up with associations of historical and aesthetic values (which) tend to have additional and specific aspects.'

Commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meaning of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it, or have emotional links with it.

...Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence.' Social values may be actions and happenings that are associated with a place.

PUBLIC ACCESS

The park can be accessed through 7 pedestrian and 5 road gates. It is open to pedestrians 24/7 apart from during the 6 week deer culls. Currently the five road gates are open all year round from dawn till dusk, with exact times posted on the TRP website and at the gates.

Information boards and orientation maps are provided in key areas of the park. Richmond Park is accessible by car, bus routes and by limited public transport. The roads through the park are crown roads and are not public rights of way with their opening arrangements determined by TRP. Commercial traffic is not permitted to use the roads. TRP operates a volunteer run request-stop minibus service that operates around all the park's car parks with the Isabella Plantation as its destination on Wednesdays in the summer.

Pedestrians
The park is open to pedestrians at all times, except when specifically notified in relation to the deer cull. Certain woodlands, wildlife refuges, gardens of residential lodges and working areas are closed to the public for conservation and safety reasons. The park is well connected to long distance walking routes.

Dogs
There are currently few restrictions on dog walkers with some exceptions during the deer birthing season and near skylark nesting areas when visitors are advised to keep their dog on a lead. The disturbance to the park's wildlife, the degradation of its habitats (due to dog urine and faeces) and conflicts with other park visitors are monitored. Restrictions are constantly under review and it is anticipated that greater restrictions will need to be introduced in the near future to limit further damage and disturbance. Such measures will be fully consulted on with all park user groups.

Pembroke Lodge and its gardens together with the three gate gardens are currently the only areas where dogs are not permitted. Dogs need to be kept on a lead within the Isabella Plantation, next to Pen Ponds, Bishop's Pond and Adam's Pond (when signs are displayed during the bird nesting season) and anywhere deer are in close proximity.

Horse Riders
Riding is permitted throughout the park during dry conditions (in the mornings only at weekends) but it is restricted to the bridle tracks in wet conditions. Significant stretches of the tracks have been restored, largely funded by horse riders, further isolated sections would benefit from improvements.

Cyclists
Cycling is only permitted on the park roads and on designated shared paths (principally the metalled footpaths and the Tamsin Trail).

There are four categories of cyclist observed within the park:
- Leisure cyclists - who use the Tamsin Trail
- Commuters - who use the park roads
- Weekend sports recreational cyclists - who use the park roads
- Children (under 12) - who can cycle on any route.

The park is well connected to long distance cycling routes (NCR4) and Transport for London's (TfL) Quiet Routes.

Park Roads
The park roads are in constant use by visitors: pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders and vehicle users. Due to the volumes of users and through traffic, there is an observed increase in tensions between all users. This can lead to the need for physical and behaviour change measures being undertaken.

The principal bus routes passing the Park are the No. 371 (Richmond via Ham and Norbiton to Kingston), No. 65 (Kingston to Ealing along the west side of the Park) and No 85 (Putney via Roehampton to Kingston).

Main Challenges:
Visitor numbers are continuing to rise whilst resources become increasingly difficult to allocate and dog numbers have increased in line with visitor numbers.

Due to Richmond Park's location there is a lack of proximity to main public transport nodes and bus stops. There is poor or limited sign posting to the park from public transport hubs.

Tensions on the road will continue unless control measures are introduced based around highway engineering works, information and education.

Current restrictions are widely ignored and there is therefore a need to monitor, review and enforce current use and explore the need for future restrictions.

EVENTS

Richmond Park is not suitable for major events, music concerts or other activities due to the sensitivity of its SSSI, SAC and NNR and listed landscape status. The Royal Parks Events Strategy allows a maximum of three large events per year. The current focus is on developing a range of quiet recreational pursuits that broaden interest in the park. A wide range of small events (200-300 people) are permitted such as 'Park Run'.

The Holly Lodge Centre organises occasional events during the year, as well as running courses and hosting activities.

Pembroke Lodge hosts weddings, small events and social gatherings within its grounds.

Main Challenges:
Due to increased visitor numbers and expectations there are increasing occurrences of unlicensed events within the park.

Unlicensed events within the park increase risk and can raise Health and Safety issues.

With reduced coverage from the MPS, TRP can struggle to find sufficient staff dedicated to manage licensed and unlicensed events.

VISITOR PROFILE

Richmond Park receives approximately 5.5 million visitors every year (2014) - not including the millions who simply drive through the park. The visitor numbers have more than doubled since the 1995 survey. If this number continues to increase at this rate during the 10 year life of this Management Plan this growth in visitor numbers would severely threaten the park's protected status, habitats and wildlife, history and archaeology and landscape character.

The Ipsos MORI survey, commissioned by TRP in 2018, indicated that although the majority of visitors are from London, since 2006 the proportion of overseas and UK visitors has increased from 8% to 20% in 2018.

37% of visitors travel to Richmond Park by car with a considerable increase in visitors arriving by bike growing from 10% in 2006 to 17% in 2018.

Most visitors (49%) stay for an average of 1 to 2 hours.

The percentage ages of visitors that participated in the survey were in the following age brackets, 6% aged 16-24, 23% aged 25-34, 21% aged 35-44, 17% aged 45-54, 18% aged 55-6, 13% aged 65-74, 3% aged 75+.

Visitors come to the park for a range of reasons. Around 32% come for 'a stroll or walk', 15% visit the park specifically to cycle and 13% come to walk their dogs.

In the survey 99% of respondents said they felt 'Very Safe' or 'Quite Safe'. 74% said they felt 'Very Safe' and 24 % said they felt 'Quite Safe'.

Main Challenges:
Certain demographic groups can be under-represented due to Richmond Park's location.

Demand for parking and other services can at time outstrip availability.

Wear ant tear as a consequence of rising visitor numbers could risk irreversible damage and result in the loss of statutory designations.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Catering Facilities
There is a café at Roehampton, catering, wedding and conference facilities at Pembroke Lodge and catering kiosks at the Pen Ponds and Broomfield Hill car parks, plus other seasonal mobile outlets.

Catering facilities are open 9am–6pm in the summer and 10.00am-4.00pm in winter.

Play
There are two playgrounds in Richmond Park:

- A large playground at Petersham Gate, which is a local playground for Petersham village residents
- A small area for toddlers at Kingston Gate. With the breadth of natural play opportunities in the park, additional formal play provision in the park is not considered a priority

Toilets
There are nine toilet facilities, located at Isabella Plantation, Pembroke Lodge, Roehampton Café, Richmond Gate, Robin Hood Gate, Kingston Gate, Sheen Gate, Petersham Gate (all with access for less able), and Ham Gate.

Cycle Hire
Bicycles can be hired from the seasonal Parkcycle concession at the Roehampton car park.

Car Parks
Parking is provided free of charge across 9 car parks, 7 main car parks (Pembroke Lodge, Robin Hood Gate, Roehampton, Pen Ponds, Broomfield Hill, Sheen Gate and Kingston Gate), 1 disabled car park (at the Isabella Plantation accessed via Ham Cross) and one associated with the golf course. The Pen Ponds car park is also used for training purposes by the Wheeler Archer Foundation who support and promote wheelchair racing for para-athletes.

Main Challenges:
Increasing visitor numbers puts pressure on the scale of existing facilities which have not changed in extent. The café at Roehampton Gate has around 40 seats and was provided as a temporary replacement for the Golf Pavilion that burnt down in 2004 that had a far greater capacity. It is poorly served by utilities and the appearance and quality of this site is far from what might be deemed to be appropriate in a listed landscape.

Other sites are constrained by a lack of power, water or sewerage connections.

Toilet provision is seen as an essential park service by visitors but an unnecessary expense by others, yet there remain no alternative facilities outside the park and the scale of the park is such that the existing facilities should be retained, however their internal condition in many cases is lamentable when compared with other similar organisations – (excluding local authorities.). Raising funds to cover maintenance provision is likely to continue to be a challenge.

Most park visitors arrive by car, yet the condition of some car parks is poor with a general reluctance to prioritise investment in them in recent years, particularly after the political decision to prevent charging. The first impression gained by visitors is poor compounded by confusing signs of poor quality. Pembroke Lodge car park in particular is in a half finished state which plays particularly poorly with the need to present Pembroke Lodge to an international clientele using the wedding venue.

Overall car park capacity is severely limited at weekends with the result that increasingly the public decide to park at will and the Police lack the resources to manage this behaviour. It is also the case that Kingston Gate car park is increasingly patronised by staff and visitors to Kingston Hospital who benefit from the free parking that is not available to them in their workplace. This further reduces capacity for park visitors particularly at weekends.

ORGANISED & INFORMAL ACTIVITIES

Richmond Park provides a range of facilities for formal sports with:

- two 18 hole Golf Courses (86 ha)
- four rugby pitches
- the Tamsin Trail - shared pedestrian and cycle - 12km)
- 12 km of bridle track
- a cycle hire concession

Informal activities include:

- Football
- Running
- Jogging
- Walking
- Picnics
- Kite flying
- Model aircraft flying
- Model boat sailing
- Dog walking
- Children's play
- Horse riding
- Sports and leisure Cycling

Main Challenges:
Due to increased visitor numbers and visitor expectations there is a need to correspondingly increase positive information and messaging regarding appropriate areas for informal and informal activities to reduce conflicts between different user groups.

Due to the high numbers of sports cyclists that use the 7.1 mile road network, there are increasing occurrences of excessive speeding and inconsiderate road behaviour. This is exacerbated by the use of social media and apps, such as Strava, which unwittingly promote inappropriate behaviour.

LEARNING

The Holly Lodge Centre
A unique small charity in the heart of Richmond Park. Founded in 1994 as part of a Royal Parks initiative to enable education with a range of community groups. The Centre became a charity in 1999 with the aim to provide inspirational and curriculum-based programmes on science, nature and history, with a particular focus on people with disabilities. The Centre engages over 7,000 visitors a year from school and community groups, young people and adults. The Centre is run by two staff and more than 80 highly trained volunteers.

Due to their 25 year presence in the park, the Centre has developed strong relationships with the surrounding boroughs and local communities. Their income comes from TRP, donations from individuals, community groups, trusts and fundraising events.

Main Challenges:
The launch of The Royal Parks charity in July 2017 has meant that the organisation has had to review and integrate its delivery of learning within the Royal Parks.

TRP will work with local Richmond Park partners, including The Holly Lodge Centre, to develop a refreshed learning offer for its visitors and communities in the years ahead.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Richmond Park has an extensive and diverse volunteer community, which includes the Friends of Richmond Park (FoRP), Richmond Park Wildlife Group (RPWG), OPM Volunteer Surveyors, wildlife surveyors, horticultural and conservation volunteers and occasional visiting corporate groups. Volunteers add huge value to the park, supporting projects, delivering events, operating the Visitor Centre and assisting TRP in delivering labour intensive tasks that extend the capacity of our contractors. These not only benefit the park and enhance visitor experiences but provide the opportunity to discover new skills, learning opportunities and social benefits for those who take part.

Volunteer Community Ranger Service
TRP have committed resources from 2018 for a 3-year pilot programme to recruit and train a volunteer ranger service which will initially serve Richmond and Bushy Park, followed by Greenwich Park. A full-time co-ordinator will develop training material, recruit volunteers and develop a programme enabling the volunteers to engage with the public regarding their behaviour as well as augmenting the Police by allowing the remaining MPS Officers to concentrate on Regulation enforcement.

The Royal Parks Guild
The Guild and associates are current and former TRP employees, commercial and political associates and partners who give support to the TRP Horticultural Apprenticeship Programme, carry out historical park research and promote other activities as "ambassadors" of TRP.

The Richmond Park Wildlife Group
The Group consists of TRP staff and volunteers who meet quarterly to discuss a range of issues concerning the management and planning in relation to the conservation of the park. It has sub groups which are actively involved in species and habitat monitoring throughout the park. The bird sub group organises a weekly walk for amateur ornithologists.

The Friends of Richmond Park

The Friends run a series of community engagement activities which include leading guided walks, family events, specialised history and nature courses for members and carry out fund raising for park conservation projects. They have staffed the Pembroke Lodge Visitor Centre since 2007, participate in practical conservation activities, litter clearance, write leaflets and books for public use and support school and group informal visits. TRP acknowledges the Friends as one of the largest, most active and supportive Friends group in the country.

Main Challenges:
In key areas tensions can build between different user groups or visitor numbers and the park environment.

To resource and develop the ability to support and lead volunteers and partners.

To ensure that statutory compliance around issues such as safeguarding is delivered seamlessly.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Isabella Plantation Access Project

The Royal Parks secured nearly £2 million from the Heritage Lottery (HLF) and Big Lottery Funds Parks for People award to deliver the 'Isabella Plantation Access Project' (IPAP) between 2010 and 2015. The legacy of this project will continue to use volunteers to focus on improving access via the seasonal bus service, recruiting and supporting the garden volunteers, particularly for those with special needs and enhancing biodiversity.

The World War 1 Project

TRP was awarded a £90,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2017 to deliver a 20-month programme of activities relating to the First World War across the Royal Parks. Richmond Park will be playing host to a number of free events designed to explore the park's history and highlight the relationship between the park in wartime and today.

The programme will be an opportunity to engage a broad audience with the way the park has played a central role in national history and in people's lives, both those living locally and from across the world. The programme also offers a chance to draw together and develop a working partnership between the Holly Lodge Centre, the Hearsum Collection, the Richmond Local Studies Archive and The Royal Parks.

The legacy of this project will be the sharing of information and learning resources focussed on Richmond Park in WW1, accessible to all through The Royal Parks' website, as well as relationships with local stakeholders and the emotional and social impact experienced by participants, whether audience or volunteers, as part of their engagement with the project.

Mission: Invertebrate

Richmond Park is part of 'Mission: Invertebrate', a TRP initiative that aims to raise awareness of invertebrates and their habitats in The Royal Parks through family learning days, school sessions, competitions and citizen science projects. The Holly Lodge Centre is currently working with TRP in the implementation of Mission: Invertebrate, a project funded by the Peoples Postcode Lottery.

TRP Shire Horse Team

In 2012 TRP began working with a contractor to deliver our shire horse programme. They trade as Operation Centaur and have a license to use the former police stables within the Holly Lodge complex.

They work across our other parks and reinforce their work by delivering projects for other organisations such as Historic Royal Palaces. Operation Centaur are highly valued for their community engagement work and for their specialism in the use of working horses to undertake conservation work such as bracken control.

Park Open Days

TRP aspire to lead a largely volunteer run open day every 2-3 years, with staff and stakeholder groups volunteering their time to engage with the public. In the past the event has attracted up to 3000 people and has offered over 80 stalls demonstrating the diversity of wildlife and a glimpse of management activity behind the scenes.
Main Challenges:
Maintain and foster a good working relationship and a common vision with all partners.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

In light of perceived use and behaviour pressures the Friends of Richmond Park in conjunction with TRP produced a leaflet in 2017 that promoted the tag line 'Tread Lightly in Richmond Park'. This leaflet was closely followed by a film called 'Richmond Park National Nature Reserve' presented by Sir David Attenborough.

There are a number of visitor behaviours, exacerbated by ever increasing visitor numbers that are increasingly impacting on the park infrastructure, its wildlife, its landscape and the enjoyment of the park by other visitors. These include, cyclists who do not make way for pedestrians, people who get too close and worry the deer, dog walkers who do not keep their dogs under control or on a lead when directed to and do not pick up dog waste; visitors who drop litter and who do not place it in the bins provided or take it home with them.

The most successful campaign, that has influenced visitor behaviour positively, has been TRP's push for visitors to keep dogs on leads in the most sensitive sites during birthing season.

Main Challenges:
It is increasingly evident that with limited resources to enforce park regulations, TRP will be looking for ways of challenging and changing visitor behaviour including awareness campaigns, small interventions "to nudge" visitors towards appropriate behaviour.

< *fig 19.*
BEHAVIOURAL INFLUENCES

'Entering the park gives a feeling of endless nature, walking in silence, between trees, forest, flowers, lakes, wild life takes over all sensations of stress. It encourages us to walk longer, to breathe better. It is my best medicine, all year long. We always feel wonderful during and after each visit to Richmond Park.'

LOCAL PAINTER
TRP Survey
2017

Grazing deer beside one of the busy network links

AESTHETIC CONTEXT

This section describes the elements, found within Richmond Park, that people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from. It explores the aspects that lead visitors to form cognitive perceptions and associations with its unique sense of place.

Aesthetic value:
the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Something can gain in aesthetic value over time as people's aesthetic values change or develop. A full spectrum of sensory and cognitive perceptions and associations are instruments of aesthetic reception, coming together at a scale that engages the person in intense awareness; a 'bodily engagement with the environment, (which) when integrated in active perception, becomes aesthetic.'[1]

[1]Berleant, A. (n.d.). Living in the landscape. Lawrence, Kan.: University Press of Kansas.

VIEWS

Views from and into Richmond Park are critical to the perception and character of the park. Some views within the park (particularly where traffic is obscured), remain almost timeless, whereas others with vantage beyond the park are ever changing. The view from Sawyers Hill towards the City, was one in which St. Paul's Cathedral was, until the second half of the twentieth century, the dominant feature; it is now dwarfed by surrounding development. An analysis of the principal views is provided in fig 20.

Views from Richmond Park:

- the listed view from King Henry's Mound eastwards across the Thames Valley to St Paul's Cathedral some 10 miles away (strategic linear view in the London Plan *https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/planning-guidance-and-practice-notes/london-view-management*)
- the view west from King Henry's Mound over the Thames Valley to Windsor, with similar views from the ridge on both north and south sides of Pembroke Lodge
- the distant view to the north east to the ever changing City skyline seen from Sawyer's Hill
- the view northwards from Sawyer's Hill embracing a wide sweep of distant landscape and skyline from Brentford and Harrow round to Highgate including the Wembley Stadium Arch
- the view from Sawyer's Hill southeast towards Wimbledon Common in which the windmill is still visible and onwards to the North Downs
- the views towards St Matthias Church, particularly those from Sawyer's Hill and the Bog
- the view of the central London skyline from Broomfield Hill
- the views out to the Alton Estate in Roehampton

Views within Richmond Park:

- the vista along the tree lined avenue of Queen's Ride to White Lodge from Sawyer's Hill
- Repton views from White Lodge to Pen Ponds

The planting of trees around the boundaries of the park is of great importance in screening much of the urban influences, constraining the visual extent and contributing to the impression of a rural landscape. The woodland blocks surrounding the core area act to maintain its tranquillity and seclusion from the activity of the outer park. Nevertheless, the visitor's experience of the park can be polarised depending on when they visit. Factors such as visiting during peak times (mainly weekends) or non-peak times and seasonality play a role in shaping a visitor's experience.

Views into Richmond Park:

Richmond Park is seen, even from a number of miles away as a low crowned, wooded skyline as seen for example from the elevated section of the A4 at Brentford, (and even from the gallery of St. Paul's Cathedral) and at closer quarters in passing along the A3 at Roehampton Vale.

The importance of Richmond Park's views was brought to the forefront in 2017 by the impact of development in the Stratford area. The multi-storey Manhattan Loft Gardens has compromised the historic view of St Paul's from King Henry's Mound even though built beyond the protected area. The Royal Parks recognises the importance of actively campaigning to protect and grow awareness of the importance of such aesthetic attributes of the parks.

Main Challenges:
The linkage and continuation of views within the park need continual monitoring and vigilance.

Maintain boundary screens. Plan tree planting to ensure views are not blocked in time.

The linkage and continuation of views out of the park can be threatened by external factors, such as new development, sometimes at a great distance from the park.

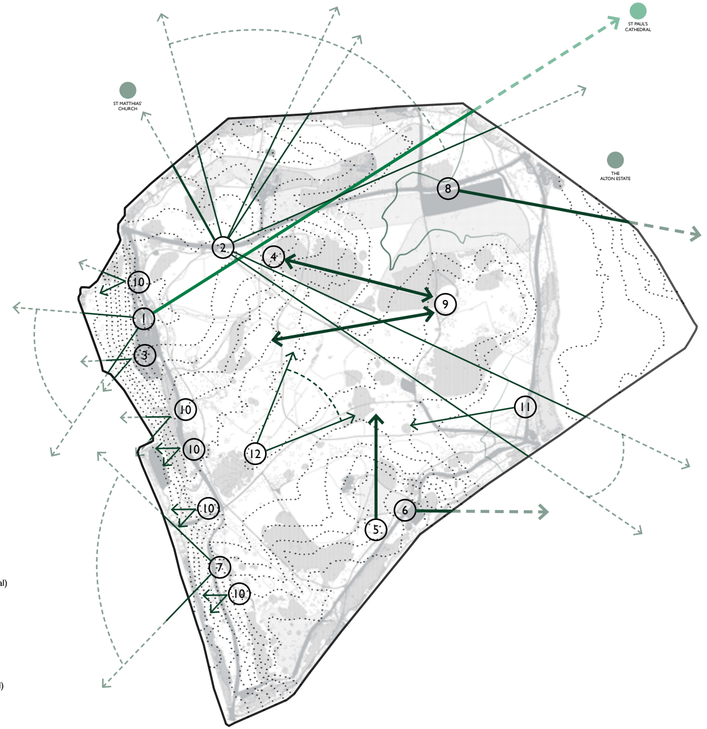
The need to control the quantity and density of development immediately adjacent to the park.

LIST OF VIEWING POSITIONS

1. **King Henry's Mound**
   protected eastward view to St Paul's Cathedral
   westward views out to Thames Valley
2. **Sawyers Hill**
   across park and further to Brentford, Harrow, Hampstead skylines
   across park and further to Wimbledon Common
   out to St. Matthias Church
3. **Pembroke Lodge**
   further out to Thames Valley and Surrey Hills
4. **Queens Ride**
   to and from White Lodge
5. **Broomfield Hill**
   across park and further to surrounding boroughs
6. **Broomfield Hill**
   across park and further to Wimbledon Common
7. **Thatched House Lodge**
   out to Sudbrook House and further to Thames Valley
8. **Sheen Cross**
   across park and further to Roehampton
9. **White Lodge**
   to and from Pen Ponds Valley (Repton view)
10. **Kingston Scarp**
    across and further out to Thames Valley
11. **Spankers Field**
    westward to Tercentary Plantation on skyline
12. **Pond Slade**
    across Pond Slade

KEY

- Key view, two directions
- Key view, single direction
- Distant view (external)
- Vista view (internal)
- Focal Point (external)
- Viewing Position
- Vista view (external)



< fig 20.
KEY VIEWS

TOPOGRAPHY

Situated on the south side of the Thames, the park lies about 15 kilometres or just under 10 miles south west of central London. Its varied geology and undulating topography has resulted in a mosaic of habitats which include fragments of ancient, ornamental and open and closed woodland, many individual ancient oak and beech pollards, stands of bracken, extensive areas of both dry and wet acid grassland, ponds and streams and improved grasslands and gardens.

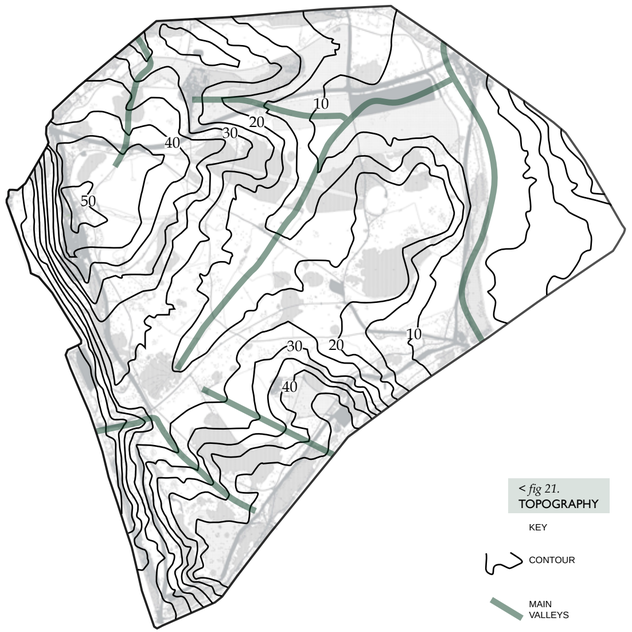
The park's highest point lies to the west near Pembroke Lodge, some 50 metres above sea level compared with about 10 metres in Sudbrook Park almost immediately below. On the other side, the land slopes gently east across a series of shallow valleys down to the Beverley Brook, a distance of about three kilometres. These valleys, an essential element in the park's character, tend to carry water on a seasonal basis.

Main Challenges:
Changes in topography and levels provide access restrictions.

Unintentional damage caused by a continuing increase in visitor numbers who compromise the character and ambience of a place that "they seek" to find.

To maintain the character of the park, whilst at the same time minimising restrictions on visitor access which are required to protect and conserve its special habitats.

In heavy downpours and long wet periods there are increased risks in regards to hydrology and drainage.



< *fig 21.*
TOPOGRAPHY

LIGHTING

Apart from lighting in the immediate vicinity of buildings, TRP intentionally does not provide any external lighting within the park.

Lighting of buildings and roads adjacent to the park is of significant concern due to its potential detrimental effect on wildlife. Increasingly residential properties on the park boundary are designed to maximise the benefit of views into the park creating light spill.

Through the planning process TRP should be consulted on any proposed development within half a mile of the park boundary. In practice it is often only in relation to developments on the park boundary that we (if at all) are consulted.

Main Challenges:
To constantly monitor and enforce TRP policies for existing buildings and events.

To be aware of changes to the surrounding built fabric and enforce a clear policy for minimising light pollution on the park.

To actively engage with planning officers and committees in the three surrounding boroughs

HORTICULTURE

Although Richmond Park is essentially seen as being more semi-natural in character, horticulture plays an important role within the park further strengthening and broadening its appeal.

Pembroke Lodge Garden and the Isabella Plantation are the main horticultural areas within the park and are described in more detail within the Landscape Character sections of this plan. Although very different in style, the standard of horticulture both within Pembroke Lodge Gardens and the Isabella Plantation is very high and is maintained by dedicated, skilled and experienced teams of gardeners, currently employed by the Landscape Maintenance Contractor.

Pembroke Lodge Gardens surround Pembroke Lodge, a very popular public restaurant and private functions business that generates revenue for The Royal Parks. The Lodge Gardens are laid out in a more formal style particularly surrounding the Lodge with features such as a parterre, hedging, seasonal bedding and mixed borders containing ornamental shrubs and herbaceous perennials as well as paved areas for alfresco dining. The presentation of the gardens is important and acts as a draw for the public restaurant and functions business. Over recent years the gardens have been updated and improved. Most recently the original rose garden with its collection of floribunda and hybrid tea roses has been replaced with a more contemporary offer, which uses traditional cottage garden and more modern naturalistic styles of planting to mix a wider range of roses in with other shrubs and herbaceous perennials to extend the seasons of interest. With the addition of more meadow areas to the garden and an increased range of flowering plants over the seasons there has been a positive move to diversify planting for the benefit of pollinators. This phased improvement will continue with the aim of further improving the visitor experience.

Isabella Plantation, at 40 acres is the largest ornamental garden in any of The Royal Parks. It is a woodland garden which includes internationally important collections of Rhododendron and Camellia, a National Collection of Azaleas as well as many rare and unusual trees and shrubs. The plantation is classified as part of the park's designation as a Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) and the gardens are managed organically, with nature in mind and with native plants commonly growing alongside exotics throughout. It has its own nursery which acts as a quarantine area for bought in stock and a poly/shade tunnel, standing out and field beds which allow for the propagation and growing on of azalea and rhododendron.

Despite being in the centre of the park the Plantation is a popular visitor attraction with over 300,000 visitors per year from all over the world with peak visitor numbers occurring at the height of azalea flowering in April/May and in October when autumn colour is at its finest. The Plantation has a strong local community connection with many loyal regular local visitors. Garden volunteering continues as one of the most important legacies of the Heritage Lottery Funded Isabella Plantation Access Project, which completed in 2015. Weekly sessions offer volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds, including those with learning difficulties, the opportunity to support the garden team in delivering a range of tasks and gain practical experience in horticulture.

The Park also has a three gate gardens at Kingston Gate, Roehampton Gate and Robin Hood Gate. These gardens are small in size and offer the public easily accessible places near to gates and perimeter car parks to visit, with tree planted lawns and benches to allow rest, relaxation and play whilst enjoying the shelter and year round interest the surrounding shrub borders offer. Public toilets and the front gardens of gate lodges within the park have also been planted up with trees, shrub and herbaceous perennials to soften buildings and to make these areas appear more attractive within the parkland setting. The Royal Parks Offices at Holly Lodge also have mixed borders, hedges and lawns, and in summer and spring seasonal bedding is added into beds, containers and hanging baskets around the Lodge. The management of these areas falls to the parks Landscape Maintenance Contractor and its Estates section which are responsible for grounds maintenance within the wider Park and the main garden areas.

The park also supports The Royal Parks Apprentice scheme: a three year course which offers students the opportunity to work within Isabella Plantation, Pembroke Lodge Gardens and the Estates section to gain practical experience in horticulture. This is supported with a day release scheme to gain formal qualifications in horticulture. Richmond Park aims to recruit one apprentice annually.

Main Challenges:
To continue to work with other gardens and collection holders on the identification and addition of plants to the Isabella Plantation National Collection of Wilson 50 Kurume Azaleas.

To use new planting schemes within garden areas to directly benefit pollinators and wildlife whilst also to helping to educate the public on wildlife friendly gardening.

To continue to deliver improvements and high standards of horticulture.

Increase resilience for climate change: in particular extreme weather events such as flooding, high winds and extremes in temperature which can result in droughts in summer causing demands on water resources and irrigation.

Sustaining a skilled workforce –maintaining skills levels and experience against the continued increase in the cost of living and low wages offered within the horticultural industry. The introduction of the National Living wage has eroded pay differentials reducing the incentive to train to take responsibility on promotion.

Find ways of managing increasing visitor pressure and usage of garden areas resulting in wear and tear of infrastructure and plant damage.

To continue to think creatively about the use of green space - there are opportunities to improve the public offer whilst also making a saving on expenditure or enhancing income through improved horticulture.

To find funding and resources to support volunteer opportunities within the park.

LAND USE

Remains of medieval field boundary and ridge and furrow provide evidence that parts of the park were cultivated as well as used for pasture before its enclosure. Farming and grazing continued in the area now used for golf well into the 20th century, particularly during the World Wars. Inquisitive visitors can find traces, take time to search for visual clues in the landscape and peel back the layers of time.

The underlying pattern of bracken, dry and wet grassland survives. Superimposed over the years are not only woodland plantations and the bright green of improved pastures but also the medieval and pre-seventeenth century ridge and furrow and old hedgebanks, many of which are marked by ancient pollarded trees, which are themselves of historical as well as ecological significance. The Pen Ponds and later ponds reflect attempts to provide deer watering holes and improve drainage.

Main Challenges:
Ensure awareness and sensitivity of past land use, archaeology and current habitats to inform any possible changes in usage and management operations.

Recognise the potential for damage that can be caused to fragile archaeology by the use of machinery.

WELL-BEING

In London's increasingly crowded and built up environment, Richmond Park's 2,500 acres of open green space is a vital resource that impacts positively on the health and well-being of its visitors.

Richmond Park provides one of the largest green spaces for cycling and walking in London. By protecting the Parks' trees, flora and fauna, wildlife and habitats there is a positive contribution to the health and well-being of those who do not participate in active recreation or sports.

The park offers areas and facilities that encourage exploration, for play and for social interaction: key requirements for childhood development and for the health and well-being of people of all ages.

Main Challanges:
To make and sustain partnerships with national and regional strategic agencies and organisations with complementary aims.

Over recent years has been loss, and quality of, open green space in London resulting from the pressures on land for housing and development exerted by population and economic growth.

To foster links to secure more resources, to pilot and showcase new technologies, and to share research findings and good practice in the use of parks for health and well-being outcome.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

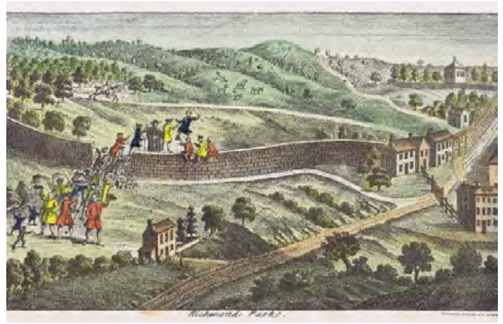
Through careful management the park has retained the essence of an ancient deer park, making a vivid contrast to the surrounding suburbia. The herds of wild deer are especially dramatic and unusual in an urban park, captivating people of all ages and backgrounds. The deer are depicted in oil paintings, watercolours, prints, hundreds of postcards and photographs in every medium from glass slides to digital. Notable artists who have captured images of the deer in the park setting include Sir Edwin Landseer, Sir John Lavery, Thomas Rowlandson, Spencer Gore and James Lewis. White Lodge has been the home of the Royal Ballet School since 1955 where it provides dance and academic facilities and accommodation for students.

The large tracts of semi-natural landscape appear entirely wild and inspire a broad range of art together with much literature, from prose by George Eliot to poetry by James Thomson. Artists find interest in both the obvious aspects of the wide panoramas with majestic veteran oaks and the less apparent tiny wild flowers. The exceptional urban biodiversity attracts much creative work from broadcasters like Sir David Attenborough, Ludwig Karl Koch to keen amateur photographers.

Eminent architects Roger Morris, Sir John Soane and Decimus Burton have enhanced the built environment of the park with a spectrum of architecture from the grand Palladian style to a rustic thatched cottage orne'. Contemporary architecture is represented well at the golf clubhouse.

Perhaps the greatest creative attraction of the park is as an oasis of tranquillity for quiet contemplation of natural beauty. It has been home to four Prime Ministers and the philosopher Bertrand Russell, who lived at Pembroke Lodge throughout his childhood, remarking *"I grew accustomed to wide horizons and to an unimpeded view of the sunset. I have never since been able to live happily without both"*.

^ *fig 22.* A View in Richmond Park by Sir Edwin Landseer, 1844. Courtesy of The Hearsum Collection



^ *fig 23.* Richmond Parishioners, without permission, enter the park through the wall to carry out the tradition of 'beating the bounds', circa1751. Courtesy of The Hearsum Collection

< *fig 24.*

The Stag Hunt, by Joan Palmer Carlile - showing a family hunting trip in Richmond Park

© Trustees of Lamport Hall

^ *fig 25.*

Visitors in the Isabella Plantation

Courtesy of Richard Flenley

fig 26. >

Deers playfully rutting

Courtesy of The Hearsum Collection

PART 2

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The park is recognised as an entity in its own right with its own character. In part 2 the park is broken down into Landscape Character Areas. These character areas are a tool for understanding and subsequently helping to determine the management priorities for each distinctive area of the park.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RICHMOND PARK

Richmond Park is an important and significant example of a Royal Deer Park. It exudes an unmistakable landscape character which is in great contrast to most other open spaces in the London area. This is largely due to it being emparked and managed throughout the centuries principally as a deer park. Its large and relatively uninterrupted scale, its wide viewshed, its visible ecological heritage of ancient trees, rough grassland textures and associated wildlife and its continuous history of public access and all elements which add to its unique character.

Richmond Park embodies the rich mosaic of a medieval deer park. Found within its boundary wall are grazing herds of deer, an ancient tree population with its browsed tree lines, rolling topography with its extensive grasslands and stands of bracken, waterbodies and boggy grounds as well as its buildings and artefacts.

Despite its 'pre' history as an agricultural landscape and extensive periods of cultivation, remnants of these activities have over time softened and fused into the 'designed' landscape, gardens/horticultural areas (such as Isabella Plantation and around the Lodges) which were driven by Royal associations and patronage.

Over 480 years of continuous, if locally interrupted, parkland and deer park management has resulted in a park character which is one of fluidity, informality and semi-naturalness. This has contributed to Richmond Park's significance for nature today. It recognised by its status as a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) and its inclusion on the Nature Conservation Review (NCR) list, placing it amongst the top nature conservation sites in the country. It is also of international importance, since Britain possesses more and larger oak pasture woodland sites than any other country in Europe and as such Richmond Park is one of the premier sites for this habitat in Britain.

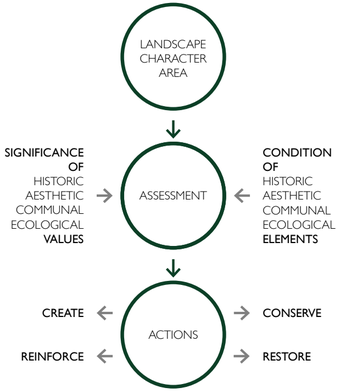
This statement of significance is the starting point for developing our policies and management principles which ensure that the significant values and elements of Richmond Park are restored, conserved, reinforced and/or new ones created.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

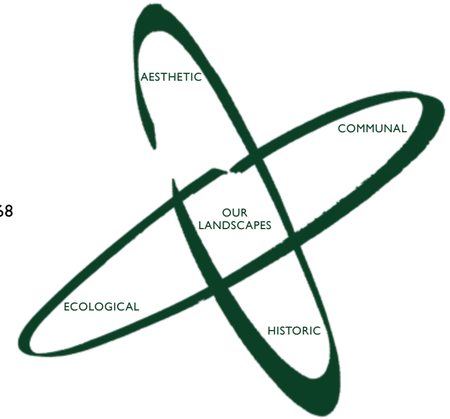
We recognise that Richmond Park as an entity in its own right, its overall character exudes throughout the park landscape. However, on a finer grain the park contains an extraordinary wealth of natural, ecological and human elements that create a myriad of complex, distinct and interlocking Landscape Character Areas which host particular identities, each with a unique 'sense of place'.

In this section of the plan we have subdivided Richmond Park into Character Areas allowing us to identify and describe the unique combinations of values and elements which contribute to the variations in character of the park landscape.

Assessing the distinct Landscape Character Areas of the park helps us to identify and understand the management challenges of each particular area.



^ *fig 27.*
ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



^ *fig 28.*
SIGNIFICANCE DIAGRAM

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

TRP understands that any landscape is formed by a unique set of natural processes and human interactions.

By using Historic England's articulation of significance as guidance[2] as a basis we have expanded the definition to create our own set of values that allow us to understand, interpret and devise a set of priorities that help us achieve a holistic approach to managing our extraordinary park landscapes.

These values are:

Historic Value:
The potential of a place to yield evidence (physical remains) about past human activity and the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present (tends to be illustrative or associative)... Historical understanding comes from 'reading' the landscape, that is observable and gains in value by completeness. Associative historical values are made through people identifying and connecting a place with cultural heritage; literature, art, music, film, scientific or technological discoveries. Continuing use of a place as is historically appropriate, that 'illustrates its relationship between design and function' enhances its value. [2]

Ecological Value:
Ecological value is based on the understanding that biodiversity encompasses all the plants and animals that are present within a given place, the habitats they need to survive, and the processes that operate in the natural environment.

For humans, biodiversity is our natural heritage and is what we depend on and can often benefit form. These range widely, providing cultural, social (health and well-being) and economic benefits.

Aesthetic Value:
The ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Something can gain in aesthetic value over time as people's aesthetic values change or develop, as has happened with several art movements. A full spectrum of sensory and cognitive perceptions and associations are instruments of aesthetic reception, coming together at a scale that engages the person in intense awareness; a 'bodily engagement with the environment, (which) when integrated in active perception, becomes aesthetic.'[3]

Communal Value:
The meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, their collective experience or memory closely bound up with associations of historical and aesthetic values (which) tend to have additional and specific aspects.

Commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meaning of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it, or have emotional links with it. Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence.' Social values may be actions and happenings that are associated with a place. [2]

[2] Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance. (2017). [ebook] London: English Heritage. Available at: https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-enviroment/conservationprinciplespoliciesguidanceapr08web.pdf/ [Accessed 28 Sep. 2017].

[3] Berleant, A. (n.d.). Living in the landscape. Lawrence, Kan.: University Press of Kansas.

LANDSCAPE CONDITION

We have various tools at our disposal to assess overall landscape condition as well as the individual elements that make up the landscape. In terms of overall landscape condition we refer to Natural England's Landscape Character Assessment methodology and the Landscape Institutes's Landscape Visual Impact Assessment guidelines to form our approach. For the purposes of our management plans and to facilitate analysis each landscape character area condition is classed as good, moderate or poor. These are defined as follows:

Good condition - Landscape with a strong coherent character and sense of place, a distinctive place, well managed and well maintained.

Moderate condition - Landscape character which is generally intact but with some detractors (elements that detract from the overall coherence), not all elements well managed and maintained and may be inconsistent.

Poor condition - Landscape character is fragmented and incoherent, lacks distinctive character with a number of detractors, poorly managed and maintained, and lacks a clear sense of management and maintenance.

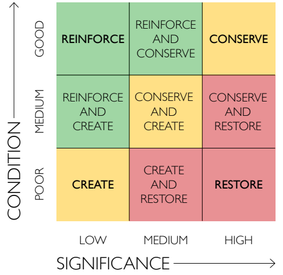
With regard to component landscape elements TRP has a wide range of surveys, maintenance and health and safety inspection regimes that help us to assess the condition of our landscape elements.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA ASSESSMENT

We set the **Significance** of an area against an assessment of its **Condition** as a tool to highlight the appropriate management **Actions** for each **Landscape Character Area.**

We use a simple traffic light system to visually correlate each Character Area's significance and condition. This allows us to quickly identify the most significant and critical areas i.e. a highly significant character area in poor condition should be addressed as a priority, where as a character area of low significance in good condition would be seen as a low priority.

In response to the **Significance** and therefore the sensitivity of each landscape character area along with its **Condition** we can make a range of management decisions that result in possible **Actions** (fig 27).



^ *fig 29.*
SIGNIFICANCE VS. CONDITION MATRIX

Definitions of our possible **Actions**:

Create:
...to construct or form a new attribute within a place to generate a desired change.

Reinforce:
...to strengthen a value, or to support a particular element, of a place by assigning additional material, funding or effort in order to enhance its role or impact.

Restore:
...to return a place to a known earlier state, on the basis of compelling evidence, without conjecture.[4]

Conserve:
...the process of managing change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.

[4]adopted from Historic England

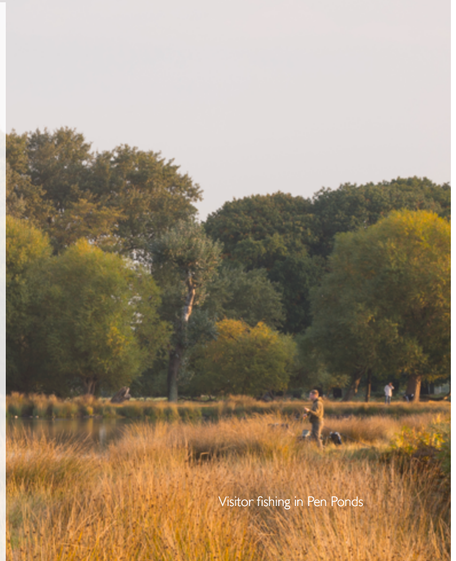
'Exploring and understanding the landscape character of any area requires systematic investigation of the many different factors that have helped to create and influence that location. They include geology and landform, the natural attributes of soils and the vegetation associated with them, and both the historical and current influences of human land use and settlement.

The interactions between all these factors create the character of the landscape.'

THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY & SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

'It is very important as a place to get away from the urban environment in which we live. We go several times a week and never tire of visiting a different part of the park, some of which we are still discovering for the first time, even after 40 years!'

MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK
TRP Survey 2017



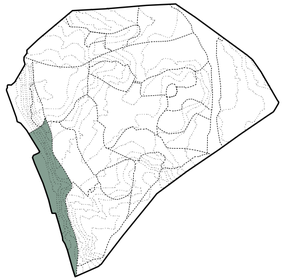
Visitor fishing in Pen Ponds

RICHMOND PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

1 KINGSTON SLOPES
2 PEMBROKE LODGE
3 PETERSHAM PARK
4 THE CONDUIT
5 THE BOG
6 SHEEN PLAIN
7 BEVERLEY PLAIN
8 LADDERSTILE BELT
9 BROOMFIELD PLAIN
10 DANN'S VALLEY
11 HAM CROSS
12 SIDMOUTH WOOD
13 FLYING FIELD
14 SPANKERS HILL
15 SPANKERS HILL WOOD
16 SPANKERS FIELD
17 THE MIRE
18 ISABELLA PLANTATION
19 POND SLADE
20 PEN PONDS VALLEY
21 QUEENS RIDE
22 BARN WOOD AND TWO STORM WOOD
23 GOLF COURSE
24 HOLLY LODGE
25 WHITE LODGE

^ *fig 30.*
RICHMOND PARK CHARACTER AREAS

1
THE KINGSTON SLOPES



The Kingston Slopes lie west of the park road forming a narrow strip along the park boundary. They form the southward continuation of the Pembroke ridge/Petersham banks down to Kingston Gate.

They are generally well-wooded scarp slopes with open tracts of grassland, a mix of bracken and smaller clumps of bramble. The scarp slopes create opportunities for extensive westward views across the wooded landscape of the Thames Valley with the urban centres of Teddington, Twickenham, Feltham and Sunbury. The Heathrow control tower stands out and in the distance the Surrey Hills and Windsor Great Park form the horizon.

The steep scarp slope allows for some visual and acoustic refuge on the lower ground below the road.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Ham Gate Lodge is the oldest gate lodge in the park and is Grade II listed (Entry Number:1263362).

The ancient oak inside a fence south of Pembroke Lodge is called Martin's Oak because it features in a watercolour painting entitled "Richmond Park", painted in 1850 by the English Romantic painter John Martin (1789-1854). The tree was already massive at the time of the painting and had a bench seat around the base. The painting is now held at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The tree is difficult to age but is at least 700 years old.

Ecological Value
Ham Gate Pond is one of the Ham Ponds (along with Ham Top Pond and Ham Dip Pond), the water flows via a small ditch into the Sudbrook stream. The pond provides habitat for a significant population of toads.

Slumping of the scarp slope provides opportunities to observe the geological layers of this area.

There is a large significant veteran tree population to the south of Pembroke Lodge between the road and the top of the Petersham escarpment.

Hornbeam Avenue is located to the south of Pembroke Lodge and suffers from heavy visitor footfall as it is on the Tamsin Trial and the main route from Pembroke Lodge to Ham Gate.

Communal Value
Martin's Oak, named after the painter John Martin, is situated within this area and is well known locally.

The Tamsin Trail, providing off road cycling, is a defining linear attribute of this character area.

Aesthetic Value
From the top of the Kingston Slopes there are extensive views westwards from numerous vantage points.

The relative seclusion and tranquility along the boundary wall is valued by local walkers and dog owners.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
Ham Gate Lodge is in good condition.

The brick boundary wall is intact along the westward perimeter of this section.

Martin's Oak is now fenced to keep visitors safe from potential branch failures and to protect the health of this important tree by preventing compaction of the root zone.

Ecological Elements
We will work to enhance the acid grassland as the soil in the area currently has a pH level between 4.0-6.0 and a 0 on the phosphorous index.

Maintain the improved water quality of Ham Gate Pond and continue to enhance its capacity for wildlife.

Continue to restrict the encroachment of bramble whilst using it as a nursery species to encourage the establishment of hawthorn

Maintain and enhance the shelter belt to restrict light spill from adjacent properties.

We will explore opportunities to reduce surface wear and erosion in the area immediately south of Pembroke Lodge including Hornbeam Avenue, as well as taking measures to further protect the health of the veteran trees in these heavily compacted areas.

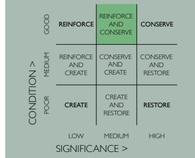
Communal Elements
A protective fence has been erected around Martin's Oak to reduce compaction and risk.

The Tamsin Trail requires on-going maintenance as it is intensively used by cyclists traveling between Pembroke Lodge and Kingston Gate along with those completing a loop of the park.

Aesthetic Elements
The declining population of Horse Chestnuts detract from park views and alternative replacements are needed.

THE KINGSTON SLOPES PRIORITIES

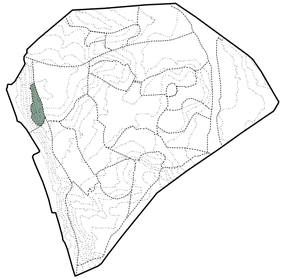
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
REINFORCE				
Continue the upkeep and maintenance of the Tamsin Trail and improve signage.			○	○
Continue to manage the shelterbelt planting and explore ways to reduce light spill into the park.		◑	○	◑
Continue to manage scrub and bramble in a way which allows self-seeding hawthorn to establish.				◑
Work to enhance and extend the acid grassland habitat and restore where bracken has overtaken.				●
CONSERVE				
Maintain the integrity and seek to promote Martin's Oak and the adjacent burial mound.	●	○	●	◑
Ensure the continued monitoring and upkeep of the boundary wall.	◑			○
Continue to maintain and monitor the condition of Ham Gate Lodge.	◑			



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A strong coherent character with opportunities to enhance biodiversity through habitat management.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

2
PEMBROKE LODGE



The enclosure of Pembroke Lodge Gardens covers some 4.5ha, and extends along the crest of the Richmond Park's westward facing escarpment commanding magnificent panoramic views across the Thames Valley.

Originally marked as a Molecatcher's Cottage, the residence became known as Hill Lodge and was subsequently renamed Pembroke Lodge after the Countess Elizabeth of Pembroke, who lived there until her death in 1831. The cottage itself was altered and extended under the direction of the famous architect Sir John Soane between 1788 and 1796.

In 1847, Queen Victoria granted tenure of the Lodge to Lord John Russell the Prime Minister at the time., During Russell's stay, Pembroke Lodge became a hub of social activity with visitors from the worlds of politics and literature, including the Prince Consort, Palmerston, Gladstone, MacAulay, Thackeray, Dickens, Browning, Wordsworth, Tennyson and Lewis Caroll. Bertrand Russell, the famous philosopher, mathematician, writer, Nobel Laureate and grandson of Lord John Russell also lived there as a child.

Much of the garden's layout seen today evolved under the direction of Lord John Russell during the period of 1846-78. At this time it was essentially a woodland garden with carpets of daffodils and bluebells and even then was noted for its old oak trees.

During World War II the Lodge was requisitioned by the RAF and used by the Phantom Squadron, as headquarters for the regiments officers, which included David Niven actor, memoirist and novelist.

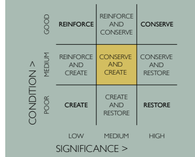
In the 1960's the Lodge was opened as a public tea rooms but in time the Lodge gradually fell into disrepair. The granting of a lease from the Crown Estate to The Royal Parks and the subsequent license arrangement with the current catering concessionaire, The Hearsum Family Ltd in 1997 put in train a 10 year programme of repair, renewal and redevelopment of the Lodge and its facilities. The main building was extended and refurbished to include facilities for private events and is now an important wedding and functions business, generating important income for TRP. The Hearsum family have continued to work in partnership with TRP to improve the Lodge and its surrounding area. Improvements have included relandscaping on the main approach to Pembroke Lodge from the car park with the creation of a catering kiosk, the renovation of an existing toilet block to include accessible facilities, and the addition of a Visitor Centre staffed by the Friends of Richmond Park. More recently TRP has also resurfaced and landscaped the southern section of the car park.

Today the gardens' characteristic woodland areas with wonderful veteran trees are still present to the north and south of the Lodge. Over time formal additions have been made such as parterres, hedging, seasonal bedding and mixed borders containing ornamental shrubs and herbaceous perennials as well as paved areas for alfresco dining. With its exceptional views including the protected view through to St Paul's Cathedral from King Henry's Mound and facilities such as tea rooms, adjacent car park and public conveniences this area has become a visitor honeypot.

A Royal Parks Guild apprentice masterclass workshop took place to helped shape the *Pembroke Lodge Site Analysis & Landscape Strategy*. Over recent years the gardens have been updated and improved following many of the principles laid out in these documents. This has included path realignment and resurfacing; relandscaping at Poet's Corner and King Henry's Mound; the addition of mixed and herbaceous borders; improvements to the Dell area and more recently the addition of a new Rose Garden. This phased improvement will continue with the aim of further improving the gardens and the visitor experience.

Historic photographs of Pembroke Lodge, 1910.
Courtesy of The Hearsum Collection

Pembroke Lodge Gardens,
Darren Williams



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
MODERATE
A distinct area of formal parkland with a few detractors which offer potential for enhancement.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Pembroke Lodge is a Grade II listed Georgian mansion.

At the north end of the gardens stands a prehistoric burial chamber from the Bronze Age, better known as King Henry's Mound; an extraordinary viewpoint and landmark with a protected view to St Paul's Cathedral. (Listed in the London View Management Framework 2012).

A large collection of veteran trees are found on the North and South Lawns, a number of which pre-date the park's enclosure.

Ecological Value
The shelterbelts include a wide mix of exotic and native tree and shrub species that provide food and shelter for birds and for insects.

There has been a deliberate move to add and protect more meadow areas to the garden and increase the range of flowering plants over the seasons to diversify planting for the benefit of pollinators

Communal Value
Pembroke Lodge provides a unique venue for weddings and functions as well as being a busy cafe open to the public.

The adjacent car park houses an accessible toilet, catering kiosk and a Visitor Centre run by volunteers from The Friends of Richmond Park who offer advice and information to the visiting public, the centre is also an outlet for park related maps and resources.

Pembroke Lodge car park provides free parking for the Lodge and access to walks in the wider parkland including a popular walk to Pen Ponds.

The Lodge and gardens are a meeting point and accessible destination within Richmond Park, popular with families who have free year around access to the gardens and the Lodges' public catering facility.

Aesthetic Value
The escarpment, where the Lodge is positioned, is the highest point in the park and provides commanding views to the East and West.

The gardens provide a sharp contrast to the wider parkland with a number of significant historical and horticultural features.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The continued protection and celebration of the protected 'Linear View' towards St Paul's Cathedral from King Henry's Mound is of great importance.

Pembroke Lodge has been fully renovated and the licensee is responsible for delivering an annual planned programme of building maintenance both internally and externally.

Ecological Elements
All veteran trees within Pembroke Lodge Gardens are included in the annual Veteran Tree Survey and Risk Management Survey. Pembroke Lodge's North and South Lawns have been enclosed with estate rail fencing in order to mitigate risk to the public and to improve tree health by reducing root compaction. Enclosure will also allow the long grass areas to be managed more sensitively as woodland meadow incorporating bulb planting.

The new meadow areas of annual and perennial wildflowers at Poet's Corner highlight an opportunity for the garden to be used to promote and educate visitors about the benefits of wildlife friendly gardening.

Communal Elements
As a very popular visitor attraction the Lodge and its garden are maintained to a high standard..

Pembroke Lodge currently houses the Hearsum Collection which has a diverse range of heritage material, with over 5,000 items relating to The Royal Parks.

Aesthetic Elements
The unique views out of the Lodge gardens will be maintained and the removal and replacement of *Rhododendron ponticum* from the shelterbelt will continue.

A continuing programme of improvement has diversified the style and range of planting on show within the gardens and attracts a broad range of visitors to the park and Lodge.

Most recently the original rose garden with its collection of floribunda and hybrid tea roses has been replaced with a more contemporary offer, which uses traditional cottage garden and more modern naturalistic styles of planting to mix a wide range of roses in with other shrubs and herbaceous perennials to extend the gardens seasons of interest.

The South Lawn garden has created additional outdoor space for weddings and private events and increased potential for income generation. It has also added attractive planting to the garden and additional alfresco dining space for the public outside of use for private events.

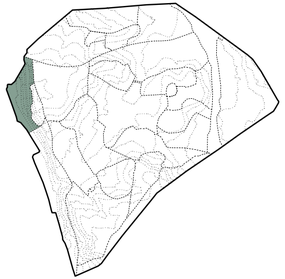
The Park Management Team is constantly striving for the gardens to be of exemplar status and is keen to progress phased improvements to the gardens as and when funds and resources allow.

PEMBROKE LODGE PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Protect and promote views towards St Paul's Cathedral from King Henry's Mound	●			
Continue with efforts to maintain and improve health of veteran trees within the gardens.				●
REINFORCE				
Maintain the historic character of Pembroke Lodge whilst continuing to evolve its landscape to suit its purpose as a public garden, restaurant and private functions business.	●	○	○	○
Continue striving to achieve high horticultural standards in the upkeep and presentation of Pembroke Lodge gardens.		●		
Continue to support the education and development of horticultural apprentices and staff.			●	
Plants entering the gardens from nurseries and other collections should continue to be subject to regular checks for pest and disease and undergo a quarantine process.		○		●
Continue to promote opportunities for education of the public on wildlife friendly gardening.			◑	
CREATE				
Continue to strengthen the dynamic nature of the gardens by continuing to implement the garden Masterplan	○	○	○	○
Continue to implement ideas highlighted within the "Pembroke Lodge Site Analysis & Landscape Strategy" with a particular focus on improvement to the setting of King Henry's Mound.	●	○		○
RESTORE				
Look into opportunities for the restoration of Pembroke Lodge garden's only pond and failing that explore opportunities for recycling of water from Petersham Park to create a new water feature within the garden.		○		◑
Explore ways of drawing visitors in to the underused south western Dell area of the garden.			◑	
Continue with the phased removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* from perimeter shelterbelt belt areas within the gardens and replant with a diverse and interesting range of trees and shrubs. Where suitable open up and enhance views into parkland and beyond.		○		◑

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

3
PETERSHAM PARK



Petersham Park is an area of some 25ha lying below the Pembroke scarp. Until 1834 it remained separate from the main park, being associated with Petersham Lodge. When rebuilding the lodge in 1692, the Earl of Rochester acquired a further 39 acres which were laid out as formal and elaborate terraced gardens, making use of the scarp slope and the spring line for water supplies, with the skyline feature of King Henry's Mound on the upper slope.

Today, it retains some degree of geographical separateness and character, although it remains fully open and accessible to the public and to deer grazing. Little trace remains of the formal landscape in areas of grassland and scattered parkland trees, but Petersham's separate identity continues to this day with the significant groups of cedars. They recall the already mature specimens which were of note to Edward Jesse when Petersham was repurchased and incorporated into the park in 1834.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Located just below Pembroke Lodge Gardens is a well and a conduit house indicated as a conduit on the 1794 plan by Thomas Richardson. These used to supply water to Richmond.

The Russell School was founded and located in Petersham Park in 1851 by Lord John Russell who had been granted the lease on Pembroke Lodge by Queen Victoria in 1847. The school was very badly damaged during WWII and was pulled down in 1943. The school was rebuilt on a new site outside the park on the other side of Petersham Road.

Although prints and descriptions exist of 'New Park' it is unlikely that this formal landscape was fully realised in its entirety.

Ecological Value
There are a number of small stands of acid grassland within Petersham Park.

There is a great diversity of tree species within Petersham Park including cedars, limes and ash which are distinct to this area; this includes a significant number of veteran trees.

The Elm Avenue seeks to provide habitat for the rare White Letter Hairstreak butterfly.

Communal Value
The valued playground and toilet block provide a great resource for the local community in this much visited corner of the park.

There is an important connection to the Thames Path and the 'Capital Ring' walk at Petersham Gate; this links the park to the wider network of green spaces in London and along the Thames Valley.

Aesthetic Value
Limited echoes of a past formal landscape can be experienced within Petersham Park creating a distinctive sense of place. The Elm Avenue, planted in 2018, seeks to reinforce this past formality.

The topography of this character area defines it physically and separates it visually from the rest of the park.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The historic layers found in this area along with the integration of Petersham Park into Richmond Park present opportunities for education and intepretation.

The historic well provides an opportunity to harvest and collect water, however the building suffers from vegetation encroachment.

Ecological Elements
We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing acid grassland and work to improve ant hill establishment.

There are opportunities to improve the ecological diversity of the shelterbelt that runs along the Pembroke terrace that leads to Richmond Gate.

There are opportunities to diversify the tree species within this area in line with its rich horticultural history. This will include the establishment of a new elm avenue planted in 2018, starting from a point adjacent to the playground at Petersham Gate. The avenue and small clumps of trees consists of Ulmus "New Horizon", one of the new cultivars of Resista elms, bred to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease.

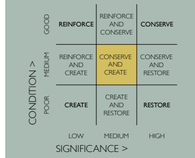
Communal Elements
There is scope to improve the play offer within the existing playground including better toilet facilities and a small refreshment kiosk.

It is recognised that the footpath from Richmond Gate to Pembroke Lodge serves as an important communal link with Richmond town.

Aesthetic Elements
There are opportunities to create viewing breaks in the shelter belt along the footpath between Richmond Gate and Pembroke Lodge to enhance views to the west reflecting the 19th Century terrace walk.

PETERSHAM PARK PRIORITIES

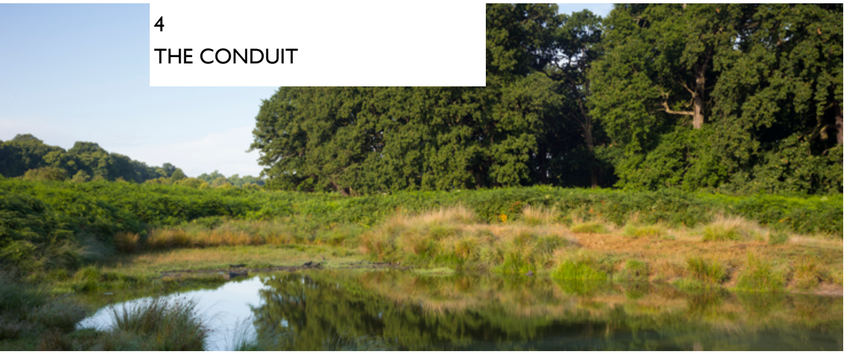
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Ensure that the distinct formal parkland character of Petersham Park is retained and promoted.	○	○	○	○
Continue efforts to monitor and maintain the well and conduit house, while seeking for opportunities to reinstate them.	●			
CREATE				
Explore possibilities for improving the play provision, facilities and immediate setting of the playground.		○	◑	
Seek to create 'viewing windows' through the vegetation on the north section of the shelterbelt.		○	○	
REINFORCE				
Work to enhance and extend the acid grassland habitat where possible within the character area.				●

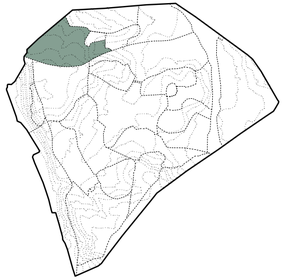


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
MODERATE
A landscape that echoes its past formality and is defined by the natural ramparts that slope up towards the rest of the park.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

4
THE CONDUIT





The Conduit area is formed of a mosaic of habitats, including grassland, bracken, protected areas of scrub and open woodland. A shallow valley at its heart creates a secluded and enclosed area with clumps of gorse and hawthorn giving it its own unique character.

The densely wooded boundary and brick wall create an effective barrier limiting views from within the park to the north.

There is a distinct line of fenced mature trees that echo historic field boundaries.

The open slopes have been used to trial cattle grazing with resulting improvements to the grassland quality and areas of gorse and hawthorn have been enclosed to create nesting habitat for birds.

There are captivating views eastwards across the park and out towards central London from Sawyers Hill.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Located within Conduit Wood is a conduit, likely to be one of the three conduits which supplied water to Richmond Palace. It is marked as the White Conduit on the plan of 1637.

Historic field boundaries are marked by veteran trees, tangible reminders of Richmond Park's agricultural past.

The First World War South African Military Hospital was located in this character area and there are still visible signs of its foundations.

Ecological Value
There are a number of ponds within this character area which provide vital habitat for wetland flora and fauna.

Areas of gorse and hawthorn provide nectar sources and cover for birds.

Communal Value
Many residents value this area due to its proximity and access to adjacent residential areas making it popular with regular park users.

The current meeting point of the weekly 'Park Run' is located within the character area.

Park Managers have allowed Conduit Pond to become a sacrificial 'dog pond' allowing dogs to swim and exercise.

Aesthetic Value
There are important views North East towards central and north London from Sawyers Hill, the highest point on the northern edge of the park.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The veteran field boundary trees have been protected by timber fencing, and are regularly monitored.

The historic conduit is in very poor condition so efforts will be made to restore and conserve the artefact and function.

We will work to identify traditional parish boundaries and reinstate boundary markers where appropriate.

Ecological Elements
We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing acid grassland in this character area.

A section within this character area was used as a trial grazing area testing traditional land-use techniques to deliver the needed enhancement of the park's grassland habitats.

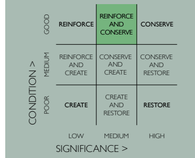
Communal Elements
Richmond Park supports the considerate use of the park for small and informal sporting events, such as 'Park Run'. We will work with park users to minimise compaction and disturbance of habitats and other visitors

Like all the other ponds in the park, the monitoring of water quality and safety of the 'dog pond' is an important consideration for visitor experience.

Aesthetic Elements
The historic field and parish boundary trees create linear markers in the landscape which define and frame spaces.

THE CONDUIT PRIORITIES

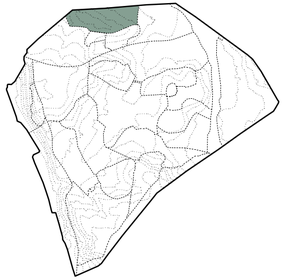
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
REINFORCE				
Continue to monitor and implement measures for the re-establishment of ant hills across the area.		○		●
Work closely with 'Park Run' to reduce the impact of weekly events.		○	○	
Support increasing biodiversity and maintaining water quality in the area's waterbodies and wetland habitat.		○		◑
Continue to manage the fenced scrub while seeking ways to link them in order to extend and enhance the habitat for biodiversity.		○		○
Work to enhance and extend the acid grassland habitat where possible within the character area.	○	○		●
Continue monitoring Bishops Pond and work to improve water quality.	○	○		●
Continue to upkeep and enhance the dense boundary screening.	◑	◑		
CONSERVE				
Continue efforts to maintain and promote historic field and parish boundary trees that are found in this area and reinstate boundary marker stones where appropriate.	○	○	○	○
Continue to maintain and monitor the condition of the conduit.	◑			○



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A contained landscape to the northern edge of the park offering undulating topography with a hidden valley rising towards open higher ground.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

5
THE BOG



The Bog is named after the gate which is sited on the north western edge of the park. A large area of this character area was for many years very poorly drained, and was in effect a bog. It was not drained until 1855.

For a few years the gate was known as Queen's Gate as it was created in 1736 for Queen Caroline, who would use her private right of way across East Sheen Common (North of the gate) to approach the Queen's Ride on her way from Richmond Lodge to White Lodge. Caroline died in 1737, and some time later the gate acquired its current name.

The area is characterised by open grassland species, notably *Festuca ovina, Lathyrus nissolia* and *Spergularia rubra* as well as large groupings of ant hills. The Bog has poor drainage and boasts open views from higher ground to the east and beyond the park.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Sheen Wood was planted in 1819 and continues to dominate the Northern boundary.

Records of Bog Gate date from 1736 when Queen Caroline was issued with a license to make a road across Sheen Common to a new gate into the park. The gate remained private until 1894 when it was opened as a response to public pressure.

Teck Plantation was planted in 1905 and remains a fenced woodland to the eastern edge of the character area adjoining Sheen car park and Sheen Wood.

Bog Plantation is a fenced woodland located to the western edge of the character area adjacent to Bog Gate.

Ecological Value
There is distinct boundary planting along the Northern boundary wall. It is a very linear ecological corridor which presents a strong textural contrast with the grassland.

Teck Plantation contains a number of trees that fell in the 1987 storm and are regenerating as 'phoenix' trees.

Communal Value
There is a distinct informal path network within the Bog Gate area and it is heavily used by dog walkers who enjoy the opportunity to allow dogs to exercise freely in this area.

Aesthetic Value
There is a distinct feature red oak (*Quercus rubra)* which is framed between Sheen Wood and Two Storm Wood.

The Bog Gate area has a distinct dialogue with spaces outside the park, including Richmond Cemetery and East Sheen Common.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
Bog Plantation requires minimal intervention. However, continued work is required to protect the boundary wall and the drains that pass through it.

Teck Plantation should be managed with the privacy of the neighbouring properties in mind.

Ecological Elements
We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing acid grassland in this character area.

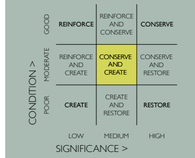
Work to remove *Rhododendron ponticum* from Teck Plantation whilst conserving the valuable 'phoenix' trees.

Communal Elements
Increasing usage results in more 'desire' lines being created across the park. This reduces continuity of habitat and in time degrade grassland leading to erosion and compaction. The Bog is heavily used by dog walkers.

Aesthetic Elements
The Bog provides a sense of space and open sky valued by city dwellers. However, this space is compromised at times by the noise and visual intrusion of air traffic passing by on the approach to Heathrow airport.

THE BOG PRIORITIES

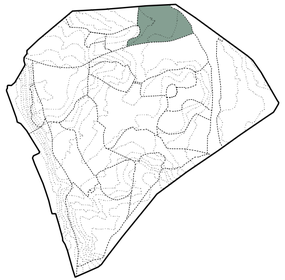
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CREATE				
Explore potential for re-wetting areas seeking to encourage the storing and slow releasing of surface water run-off.	●	○		●
Explore possibilities of allowing and encouraging watercourses within the area.				●
Work to enhance and diversify the shelterbelt along the park boundary.		○	○	
CONSERVE				
Maintain the Bog and Teck Plantation as no access areas.	○	○		●
Work to minimise the impact of air traffic.		◑		◑
RESTORE				
Work to enhance and extend the acid grassland habitat where possible within the character area.				◑



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
MODERATE
This is an exposed, open landscape with channeled views but has lacked a clear management objective.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

6
SHEEN PLAIN



Sheen Plain is essentially the northern perimeter between Sheen Gate and the Beverley Brook, bounded by the Richmond to Roehampton Road to the south, but showing the contrasts of the dry gravelly plateau to the north of Holly Lodge, and the "bog" to the north west. The area contains several important tree belts and clumps including Sheen Cross Wood planted in 1819. It also includes Adam's Pond excavated in 1754 and desilted 10 years ago.

Sheen Plain is an area of particular archaeological significance with the sites of the former Hill Farm with oaks marking the lines of ancient hedgerows, and the medieval trackway of the Warple Way.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
The boundary wall is an exceptional and visible element which forms the northern edge of the character area. It is a constant reminder and evidential connection to the park's emparkment and long history.

Evidence of a field boundary, which pre-dates the park's enclosure, exists as an important tangible historical landmark.

The historic and cultural significant Shrew Ash once stood here, it was believed to have curative properties.

Sheen Wood, planted in 1819, is an open woodland located to the western edge of Sheen Plain adjoining Sheen car park.

Ecological Value
Acid grassland communities occur in this character area and the presence of ant hills is considered indicative of a lack of disturbance over many years.

There is a grouping of black poplars, *Populus nigra*, which is the rarest native timber tree in Britain.

Communal Value
Sheen Gate car park is an important access point into the park.

Aesthetic Value
There is a feeling of openness in Sheen Plain enhanced by extensive views across the park and out towards Roehampton.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
Sheen Wood requires constant monitoring as it has high levels of Acute Oak Decline.

The boundary wall is in a favourable condition. However we will continue to protect and monitor the health of the shelter belt.

A modern replacement of the Shrew Ash has been planted to echo this historically significant tree.

Ecological Elements
We will review the continued need for hay cutting within the improved grassland areas to reduce the fertility of the ground.

Ant hills are present but often not flourishing due to human trampling and disturbance.

This is a hotspot for Acute Oak Decline, especially within Sheen Wood.

The condition of Sheen Gate car park is poor and will be resurfaced when funds permit.

Communal Elements
The constant use of informal path networks, produced by desire lines, has led to a great disturbance of the character area's biodiversity elements and increased pH levels of the grassland areas due to dog fouling.

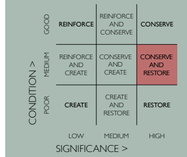
Visitors are able to sail model boats on Adams Pond.

Aesthetic Elements
Maintain the sense of openness, regularly review to asses any encroachment or disturbance to views.

The condition of the fencing that encloses Adams Pond is deteriorating and requires permanent replacement.

SHEEN PLAIN PRIORITIES

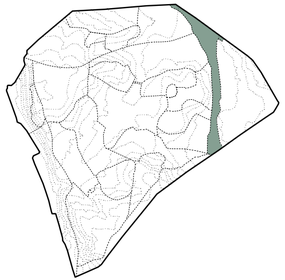
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
RESTORE				
Carry out an assessment of the area, soil quality tests to review hay making as a management method.	○	○		◑
CONSERVE				
Continue to monitor and review the views out across Roehampton.	○	○	○	○
Ensure that the sense of openness, distinct to Sheen Plain is retained.		●		
Seek to install a permanent fence to protect the western end of Adam's Pond.				●
Maintain Sheen Gate Car park's accessibility. Seek to resurface when funds permit.			◑	



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
MODERATE
A large scale wood-pasture landscape which incorporates elements that requir attention.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

7
BEVERLEY PLAIN



The Beverley Plain is the narrow, mainly open flood plain area on the west bank of the Beverley Brook, punctuated by Killcat Wood and running south from Roehampton Gate and car park.

The Beverley Brook itself was one of two streams illustrated on the earliest plan of Richmond Park (1637) which showed it crossing the eastern corner of the park. The Brook was widened and straightened in 1924 and again in 1938 to improve drainage.

The name seems to come from the Saxon term *beofor-lac*, which means a beaver stream; beavers will have been common here before they became extinct in the 11th or 12th century. It is a stream vulnerable to sudden high flows from flash flooding after extreme weather events.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
The Beverley Brook flows from the New Malden area north through Richmond Park to join the Thames. Originally the 'Beaver's Stream', it's banks were straightened in the early years of the last century and some work has been recently undertaken to re-naturalise its flow.

The Beverley Plain used to form part of the boundaries between the Parishes of Mortlake, Wandsworth and Ham.

Ecological Value
The Beverley Brook is one of south London's five tributary rivers to the Thames. However, its source is now a sewage treatment plant and the Brook suffers from urban catchment run-off.

Recent efforts to boost its value for biodiversity particularly for fish and bird predators (such as kingfisher and heron) appear to be improving water quality and show the potential the river has.

Communal Value
The north section of the Beverley Plain is intensely used as a picnic site. With easy access from the Roehampton car park it is a great attraction for informal games and a family day out.

The Roehampton cafe and cycle hire facilities are exceptionally busy and frequently cannot cope with public demand in their current state.

It is an important ecological corridor through Putney Lower Common, Barnes Common, Palewell Common, Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park and has been developed into the Beverley Brook Walk.

Robin Hood car park and toilets are located to the south of the character area, it is a very popular visitor facility.

Aesthetic Value
The linear form of the Beverley Plain, squeezed between the boundary river and road, allows visitors to walk along the banks.

The Brook's willow pollards delineate and create a buffer between the main park and the golf courses.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
Wandsworth Council is developing plans for the regeneration of the Alton Area. We will seek to maintain communication with the council and, where necessary, work to promote positive outcomes for the park.

Ecological Elements
We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing acid grassland in this character area.

There is opportunity for more research to study the flight paths of bats around Richmond Park. This research would identify and then aid decisions for maintaining or increasing tree cover along the vital links.

There is a need to catalogue the improvements, made by TRP staff and volunteers providing in-channel works creating a meandering course and creating alterations in water speed which is resulting in naturally forming gravel banks required by sprawling fish.

There are great opportunities for creating off-channel water features.

Communal Elements
The existing cafe was envisaged to be a temporary facility when installed in 2004. It is life expired and sits uneasily in the centre of the car park surrounded by a mixture of poor quality infrastructure. Likewise the public toilets are in poor condition.

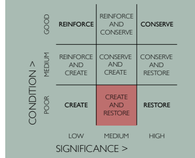
The area around the car park has become extremely busy and doesn't function as well as it could. There are plans to re-route the road, reduce the amount of tarmac, create more parkland and offer park access from the Roehampton estate. Delivery will rely on securing a funding source.

Robin Hood car park and toilets are in a good condition.

Aesthetic Elements
With enhancements the Plain can become more visually appealing to sit and walk next to. Thanks to recent efforts, visitors can once again hear the sound of flowing water.

BEVERLEY PLAIN PRIORITIES

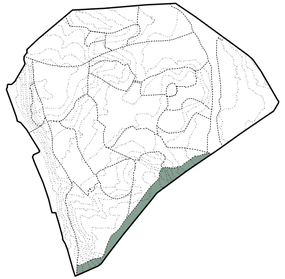
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CREATE				
Seek to enhance the Brook for biodiversity and water quality by carrying out bank re-profiling and/or in-channel improvements.		○	○	◑
Explore the creation of habitats along the banks and margins of the Brook.		○		◑
Implement a regular programme of re-pollarding the willows and explore a replanting strategy.		○		◑
Explore the re-landscaping, improvement of public facilities and better access on the current site of Roehampton car park complex.		●	●	○
RESTORE				
Continue the removal of redundant infrastructure in waterway.		●		●
Continue to identify, monitor and improve conditions of bat flight paths.				○
Work to enhance and extend the acid grassland habitat where possible within the character area.	○	○		●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
POOR
A medium scale river plain which tightly follows the Beverley Brook. Views of temporary buildings and visitor facilities are the main detractors.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

8
LADDERSTILE BELT



The **Ladderstile Belt** runs from Kingston Gate to Robin Hood Gate. It is a relatively narrow band of well wooded ground mainly at plateau level, with a valley down to Kingston Gate, and one at Broomfield Hill that descends into the Beverley Plain at Robin Hood Gate.

Ladderstile Gate was one of the six original gates installed when the park wall was completed in 1637.

It had both a gate and a step ladder which was called a 'ladder stile, it retained the name 'ladderstile' since it was the last gate to lose its stile around 1884.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Kingston Gate Lodge dates from 1906 replacing an earlier building shown on Roque's Plan of 1741/5.

There are quite complex earthworks on the northern and eastern slopes with remains of what have been considered an Iron Age hillfort.

Ecological Value
The most distinguishable feature of the Ladderstile Belt is its Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris L.*) woodland on the plateau which descends into beech and hornbeam woodland towards Robin Hood Gate.

The wooded nature of this belt is dominated by oak and pine with bracken and grass understorey

Communal Value
The enclosed Kingston Gate Playground, located adjacent to Kingston Gate car park, is well used by families.

There are 2 car parks provided for park visitors within this character area, the unsurfaced Kingston Gate car park and the largest unsurfaced car park in Richmond Park, Broomfield Hill car park.

The car park at Kingston Gate is frequently occupied by staff and visitors to Kingston Hospital and other commuters. Often leaving little space for park visitors.

Aesthetic Value
The Ladderstile Belt is a narrow linear undulating landscape.

There are distinct desire lines; the Tamsin Trail and a horse ride, which follow the topography and allow visitors to have a sense of progression through the cathedral-like column of pine trees.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The area's name alone tells us something about the history of the park and provides opportunities to develop learning and interpretation which would inform visitors about the historic confrontations which revolved around public access to the park.

Continue to monitor and conserve the integrity of the hillfort remains.

Ecological Elements
Continue measures to monitor and manage bramble cover across Dark Hill.

Communal Elements
The location of the playground, adjacent to the busy Kingston car park, is not ideal and is under review.

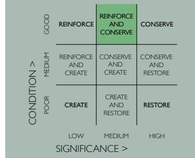
A reassessment of access to the car park at Kingston Gate should be carried out to enhance its value to park visitors.

Aesthetic Elements
Maintain the views out towards Roehampton and the views in to Spanker's Hill.

Light spill along the boundary detracts from landscape character and impacts negatively on species that depend on darkness.

LADDERSTILE BELT PRIORITIES

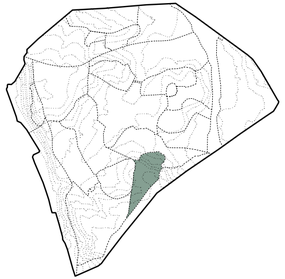
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
REINFORCE				
Continue to maintain and diversify the boundary screening to reduce overlooking and light spill from outside the park.		○		●
CREATE				
Explore options of re-locating Kingston Gate Playground.		○	◑	○
CONSERVE				
Continue to monitor and review the views out across Roehampton and inwards towards Spanker's Hill.		◑	○	
Ensure that the distinct planting balance throughout this area is maintained.		○		●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A coherent dense pine woodland which has tightly framed linear corridors giving a clear sense of place.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

9
BROOMFIELD PLAIN



Broomfield Plain is an undulating area which wraps around the south side of the Isabella Plantation and up to the crestline of Broomfield Hill.

It forms the 'springline' for the Isabella stream. Richardson's plan of 1771 shows this area as Black Heath and on maps of 1843 and 1851 it is shown as Broom Hill. There are two theories as to the derivation of the areas current name: (i) Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) used to grow here or (ii) it used to be called Bloomfield because of the variety of spring flowers which used to appear here.

There were already several trees in this area, but Prince Charles's Spinney was re-planted in 1951, when Prince Charles was three years old.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Gibbet Wood derived its name from there being a gibbet at the top of Kingston Hill. It hung by the roadside of possibly the main commuting route from London to Portsmouth. A gibbet consisted of a wooden or metal frame in which to display, as a deterrent to others, the corpse of someone who had been hanged from a gallows.

The site of Prince Charles's Spinney has continuously been wooded on most, if not all, historic maps.

Ecological Value
To the north of the area there is the Prince Charles's Spinney, which is enclosed, and Gibbet Wood which is open.

Throughout the parkland landscape there are significant veteran oak, field maple, sweet chestnut and ash trees.

Communal Value
Broomfield Plain is mostly used as a thoroughfare with desire lines made by visitors who walk between the car parks and Ladderstile Belt to the Isabella Plantation.

The area forms part of the well used walking 'Circuit of Isabella' which rings the Isabella Plantation.

Corrett's Copse was planted in 2004 as a group of native trees funded by the Corrett family.

Aesthetic Value
Broomfield Plain is an area of rolling open parkland which is used as a transitional space by visitors. There is a strong contrast between its expanses of grassland and dense woodland.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
There is a need for continual monitoring and sensitive management of the veteran trees within Gibbet Wood and Prince Charles's Spinney.

Ecological Elements
The structure of Prince Charles's Spinney could be improved.

Communal Elements
The monitoring and 'when needed' improvements of the path network, between the Ladderstile Belt and Isabella Plantation, will be maintained.

Due to heavy usage of the 'Circuit of Isabella' rates of erosion and the appearance of desire lines need be monitored.

Corrett's Copse requires further assessment and thinning when required.

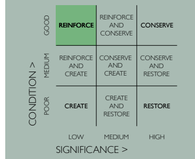
Aesthetic Elements
The views out towards north London and Wembley Arch need to be maintained.

The area's semi-natural feeling is reinforced by the parkland trees and informal benches.

Service paths and ditches within this area require on-going monitoring and regular maintenance.

BROOMFILED PLAIN PRIORITIES

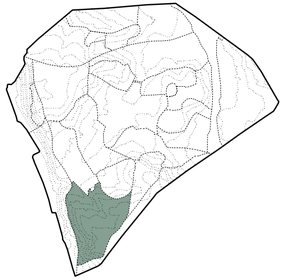
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Continue to monitor bracken spread and control by rolling and thinning.				●
Continue to positively manage the desire lines that bisect the area.		○	○	○
REINFORCE				
Continue the monitoring and sensitive management of the veteran trees within this area.				●
Continue to monitor and review the views out towards North London and Wembley Arch.	○	○	○	○
CREATE				
Plan to continue to re-structure Prince Charles's Spinney where it remains un-thinned.				●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
An undulating lowland of distinct parkland with widely spaced trees bordered by dense woodland.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

10
DANN'S VALLEY



Dann's Valley follows a defining linear geological fault that creates a distinct character area. Strong deer browsed clumps of beech provide seasonal leaf colour and dark shade. The understorey is heavily dominated by bracken that contributes to feelings of remoteness and containment within the valley.

To the west of Dann's Valley the ground drops away and its geology is exposed through slumping and erosion on the scarp slope.

The area to the south of Thatched House Lodge contains a plateau, known as the Camp Site, where the former WWII military camp was located and was subsequently used as athletes accommodation for the 1948 Olympics, prior to its removal in the late 1950s.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
High Wood has the highest population of veteran trees within Richmond Park. It dates from pre-1637 with later additions and has been an important part of the park's ecosystem.

A WWII military camp site was located on the plateau around Dann's Valley.

Kings Clump is a circular mound with a diameter of 10 metres and up to 1 metre high (and no traces of a ditch). It was planted with conifers in 1910. Slight scarps to the north, south and east of the mound may be associated with the WWII military camp.

Ecological Value
The topographical and geological feature of the fault line, which forms the centre of the Dann's Valley defines and determines it's ecological character.

Dann's Pond first appears on maps of 1754; it is named after Alfred Dann, a Gamekeeper in the 1870s. There is a presence of great crested newts which breed in Dann's Pond and hibernate in the surrounding woodland.

Dark Hill has a significant collection of veteran trees and is impacted by visitor footfall coming into the park from Kingston Gate.

Communal Value
Most of the area is hidden and its relative quietness is valued by regular local visitors, however the plateau is known for informal picnics and gatherings as it is easily accessible from Kingston Gate car park.

The Sugar Maple Plantation consists of 100 sugar maples which were planted in 1969 by the Government of Ontario to commemorate 100 years of representation in the UK.

Aesthetic Value
Dann's Valley has distinct undulations and there are numerous gravel pits within the area which are physical remnants of the past land use of the park.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
We will continue the monitoring and sensitive management of the veteran trees within High Wood and on Dark Hill.

The remains of the WWII military camp should be conserved.

Ecological Elements
Bracken rolling has been occurring to contain bracken and an assessment on whether more should be done should be completed.

There is a need to strengthen and enhance the ecological attributes of Dann's Valley as a wildlife corridor.

Dann's Pond is in its final phase of management to improve its condition and aesthetic character.

The mire contains rare liverworts.

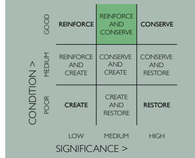
Communal Elements
The poor structure of the Sugar Maple Plantation (*Acer saccharum*) group needs to be addressed to reinforce the original design intent and enhance the impact of the feature.

Aesthetic Elements
The area is heavily dominated by bracken which helps to reinforce its remoteness and less traversed character.

There are distant views north west to the gilded temple Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Southall. There are also wide views to the west from the top of the scarp immediately north of Thatched House Lodge. Future tree planting needs to be planned in such a way as to conserve the views.

DANN'S VALLEY PRIORITIES

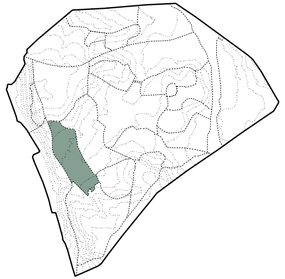
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Continue the monitoring and sensitive management of the veteran trees within this area.	○			●
Complete the restructuring of vegetation in the Dann's Pond enclosure.				◑
Take steps to protect the physical remains of the WWII Camp Site and consider interpreting its history.	○			
REINFORCE				
Seek to maintain and enhance the Canadian sugar maple plantation's structure and form		◑	○	◑
Ensure future tree planting strategy does not compromise the views from this area.	◑			◑
CREATE				
Seek to enhance watercourses and waterbodies throughout this area for biodiversity and water attenuation.				◑



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
An undulating, in places steeply sloping topography with interlocking small scale valleys and woodland landscapes.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

11
HAM CROSS



Ham Cross is characterised by Ham Cross Plantation at it's southern end, a mature open oak woodland with a bracken dominated damp understorey. To the north the area opens out into a parkland landscape with clusters of mature trees leading up to White Ash Lodge enclosure.

The wooded areas are used as a nursery for the deer herd and is home to flocks of birds particularly wood pigeons and crows.

Bounded to the west by the crest of the Kingston Slopes escarpment, the damp conditions have lead to the open expanses being dominated by textured grasses and sedges. The area is crossed by historic drainage channels leading towards
Pen Ponds.

This area encloses the western boundary of Pond Slade and creates an effective filter to the visual intrusion of traffic.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
White Ash Lodge is a Grade II listed building which first appears on plans in 1754 and is one of the oldest buildings in the park.

Ham Cross Plantation was planted in 1829 by Viscount Sidmouth who was the Deputy Ranger of the park at the time. Ham Cross Plantation is an important refuge for the deer population.

Ecological Value
White Ash Pond first appears on maps in 1861. It was one of nine new ponds constructed in the mid-19th century as watering places for deer and cattle.

The waterways and ditches which transect the area are being managed to provide ephemeral diverse wetland habitats.

The area is characterised by scattered groups of oak and horse chestnut.

Young oak pollards that were planted in 2002 are being maintained.

Communal Value
The area is valued as a peaceful refuge for deer with woodland acting as a visual buffer protecting the inner core of the park.

Middle Road is closed to vehicular traffic making it highly valued by riders, walkers and cyclists. It is heavily used by cyclists at peak commuter times and is the access road to the Isabella Plantation car park.

Aesthetic Value
Due to the wet conditions and deep ditches within Ham Cross Plantation, visitors tend to observe deer from the fringes of the wood.

It is popular with photographers and inquisitive visitors who make their way off Middle Path.

The view across this area to White Ash Lodge should be conserved.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
White Ash Lodge is in very good condition, last refurbished in 2016. Recent additional buildings negatively impact on the setting of the Lodge, as seen from the south.

Ecological Elements
We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing acid grassland in this character area.

Dense bracken and minimal intervention with the network of drainage ditches within Ham Cross Plantation creates a refuge and wallowing area for deer.

There has been a loss of trees within Ham Cross Plantation from Acute Oak Decline and elsewhere from horse chestnut bleeding canker.

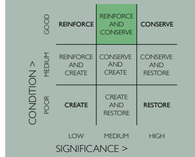
Bracken control will continue to be undertaken in this area by rolling and spraying along the roadside to increase visibility and control bracken spread.

Communal Elements
Middle Path, the closed road through the area, has had safety and signage improvements to enhance access for cyclists and walkers and the path's relationship with the adjoining horse ride.

Aesthetic Elements
This area suffers from little visual intrusion with Ham Cross Plantation acting as an effective buffer to road traffic.

HAM CROSS PRIORITIES

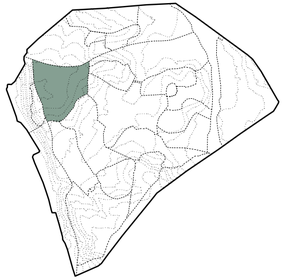
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Continue to manage Ham Cross Plantation for deer refuge and protect it accordingly.	◑			●
Remove the buildings at White Ash Lodge at the earliest opportunity.	○	●		
REINFORCE				
Continue to implement bracken rolling in this area as a management technique.		○		●
Seek to maintain waterways and ditches throughout the area while seeking to enhance them for biodiversity.	◑	○		●
Continue to monitor and maintain young oak pollards within this area.	○	○		●
Continue efforts to replant trees due to losses in this area from pests and diseases.				●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
An open parkland landscape with wide views contained by areas of medium density wet woodland.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

12
SIDMOUTH WOOD



Sidmouth Wood character area is located at the apex between Sawyers Hill and the road between Richmond Gate and Kingston Gate.

From 1813 until his death in 1844 Henry Addington, ennobled in 1805 as Viscount Sidmouth, was the Deputy Ranger of the park. He occupied White Lodge from as early as 1802, having become Prime Minister in 1801. He enclosed and planted many of the plantations which exist today but is famously linked to Sidmouth Wood.

Sidmouth Wood was laid out, enclosed and planted in 1819 (extended 1830), it was planted to incorporate the vista line from King Henry's Mound to St. Paul's and the Driftway.

The area is mainly enclosed woodland from which the public are excluded but also includes fine acid grassland on its northern and western sides and the unenclosed Kidney Wood.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
A reservoir is located just within Sidmouth Wood by Sidmouth Fields, clearly shown on the 1867 OS map, that originally stored water pumped directly from the Thames and from 1929 it supplied Kew Gardens with untreated water.

Another conduit is located in the north east corner probably on the location of the spring-head marked on Eyre's plan of 1754. An account of 1877 may refer to this reservoir, it explains that a conduit which supplied water to White Lodge was insufficient so other supplies were found.

In the area opposite Pembroke Lodge car park - Sidmouth Fields - there is presence of ridge and furrow that reveal the park's historic land use.

Ecological Value
Sidmouth Wood provides preferential feeding and maternity roosting areas for bats. Brown Long Eared bats favour the birch in this area.

Nesting birds, such as buzzard and hobby and other visitors such as red kite, raven and overwintering woodcock prefer the structured woodland as a sanctuary during the day.

Communal Value
The Driftway which divides Sidmouth Wood in two, allows for an enclosed walk through the almost 200 year old woodland.

The Way Gates (St Pauls Tercentenary gates) were installed in 2011 to celebrate 300 years of the St Paul's vista from King Henry's Mound.

Aesthetic Value
A notion of a visual corridor which allows the uninterrupted view between King Henry's Mound and St Paul's Cathedral is shown on maps dating from 1754. This visual corridor is of great importance not only locally, but nationally.

The nearly 180 degree views from Sawyers Hill allows visitors to see distant views across Brentford, Harrow, Hampstead, Wimbledon Common and The North Downs as well as the panoramic view of central London.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The reservoir is in very poor condition and requires monitoring and assessment for future management.

Ecological Elements
This area should remain as a wildlife sanctuary without public access.

We will continue the work being carried out to clear *Rhododendron ponticum* and diversify the woodland age structure.

We will continue to create glades and plant young trees to increase light penetration and promote woodland regeneration.

We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing acid grassland in this character area.

Sidmouth Wood is a bat maternity area and the protection and conservation is important. There is also a need to enhance the habitat corridor between Sidmouth Wood Triangle and Queen's Ride as bats and other species use this link to navigate the park.

Sidmouth Field is under pressure from the high numbers of visitors and dogs.

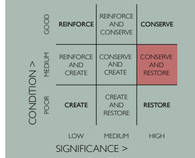
Communal Elements
The walk which encircles Sidmouth Wood is very popular and is susceptible to erosion, the path networks must be maintained to reduce risk for visitors.

Due to its proximity to Pembroke Lodge car park, Sidmouth Field is very popular for family picnics and viewing the deer, which frequently congregate here.

Aesthetic Elements
The important view of St Paul's Cathedral is protected and the regular maintenance along the vista line in Sidmouth Wood is part of the regular programme of preventing the view being encroached.

SIDMOUTH WOOD PRIORITIES

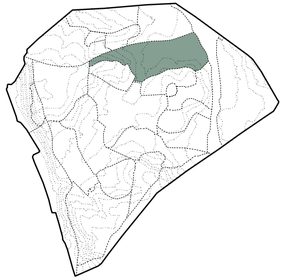
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Maintain the fencing of the plantations to exclude deer and the public with the aim of reinforcing the use as a wildlife sanctuary.	○			●
Continue to facilitate and maintain the walking network around and through Sidmouth Wood.			○	
Monitor and assess the reservoir that is located within the character area.	○	○		
RESTORE				
Continue to clear glades to increase light penetration to allow a varied woodland structure.		○		●
Continue programme of planting new trees in order to diversify the woodland structure and age range.		○		
Enhance boundary screen planting to provide habitat and increase seclusion within Sidmouth Wood.				●
Work to enhance and extend the acid grassland habitat where possible within the character area and restore where bracken has overtaken				●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
MODERATE
A large scale closed canopy plantation with a single aged structure with opportunities for habitat enhancement.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

13
FLYING FIELD



The **Flying Field** forms the largest expanse of open gently sloping and level ground within the park, it not only incorporates the Flying Field but also Crown Field and the rugby pitches. It was cultivated during WWII and during earlier times. The Field is crossed by straight drainage channels leading east to the Beverley Brook (marked by occasional willow trees along the banks). The open ground provides views across the park to the woodlands on the slopes of Duchess Wood on one side and Barn Wood and Two Storm Wood on the other. The towers of the Alton Estate dominate the skyline beyond the park boundary.

The open ground continues to be used for sporting activities although these have been limited in recent years. The biodiversity of the grassland is poor having been 'improved' to increase grassland productivity for the deer as well as for sports with fertiliser up to the 1980's. Hay cutting has been used to reduce the fertility of the grassland in recent years and Crown Field is home to the largest population of skylark in the park.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
The continued occasional use of the polo field contributes to the long history of polo being played in Richmond Park.

Ecological Value
Crown Field is recognised to have a particular value to skylark within the park. The conservation of the skylark habitat is important in this area and measures will continue to be taken to minimise visitor impact.

There has been an increase in the number of ant hills in recent years across the Flying Field indicating that the biodiversity of the grassland is slowly recovering as mowing areas are being reduced.

Communal Value
Rugby is played on the polo field and the Flying Field is the only area where the flying of model airplanes, drones and kites is allowed.

Aesthetic Value
The Flying Field is the most expansive area within Richmond Park with an unmistakable sense of openness and long views across gentle slopes that are unique to this part of the park.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The formal sporting activities of rugby and polo have long been associated with this area. Demand for these activities will be kept under review; it is anticipated that provision will remain at current levels.

Ecological Elements
Grassland recovery will be prioritised in this area and bracken will be kept under control. Efforts will continue to enhance the recovery of the acid grassland. We will assess the current status of the grasslands to inform future management practices.

The drainage ditch which links Pen Ponds to the Beverley Brook should be enhanced for biodiversity.

Communal Elements
Walkers desire lines leading through to Pen Ponds will be monitored and when erosion or habitat degradation is evident, action will be taken to divert users.

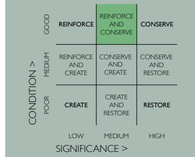
The high numbers of visitors in this easily accessible area can cause issues between the grazing deer and dog walkers. We will continue to promote considerate behaviour around deer and use positive enforcement where necessary to protect them.

The recently introduced Volunteer Community Ranger trial service will support future engagement.

Aesthetic Elements
The feeling of openness and the expanse of the fields are valued by visitors. These open prospects will be maintained as well as views out of the park to the east.

FLYING FIELD PRIORITIES

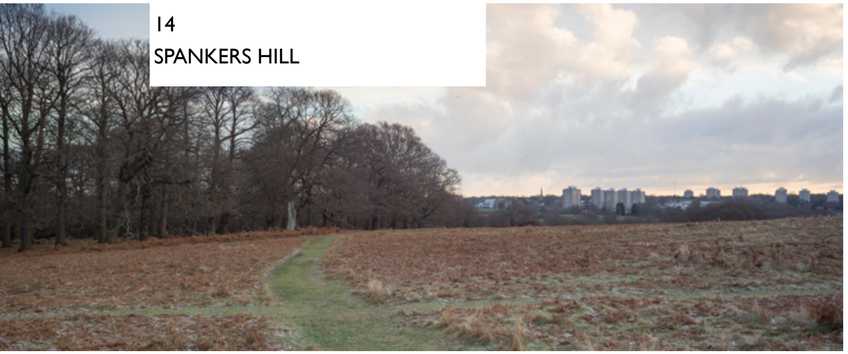
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
REINFORCE				
Continue to enhance aquatic and marginal habitats, concentrating first on the Pen Ponds ditch and at the junction with the Beverley Brook.		○		◑
Continue to engage visitors and promote considerate behaviour on the Flying Field using Volunteer Community Rangers			●	○
Continue positively managing desire lines that bisect the area, concentrating on those leading ot Pen Ponds.		●		●
CONSERVE				
Continue to monitor survey and support the skylark habitat that exists within this area.			○	◑
Continue to monitor and review the views out toward Roehampton.		○		○
RESTORE				
Work to enhance and extend the acid grassland habitat where possible within the character area.				◑

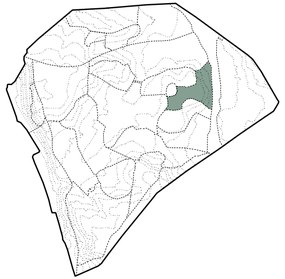


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
MODERATE
A large scale expansive field with gently sloping topography and potential to enhance the lowland acid grassland.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

14
SPANKERS HILL





Spankers Hill crowned by the Palladian villa known as White Lodge wraps round and down to the road.

Its convex slope, enclosed by the woodland of Duchess Wood and Spankers Hill Wood, boasts views beyond the park boundary eastwards with expanses of sky contributing to the feeling of exposure and elevation.

The bracken which dominates the open slopes provides refuge for deer and diffuses into the mature open woodlands to the north and south.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
There is a significant view to the east facade of White Lodge.

Ecological Value
The area is heavily covered by bracken and enclosed by mature open woodland with important veteran trees creating an important area for deer refuge.

Communal Value
It is one of the quietest and least busy areas within the park but is used by dog walkers and offers peace and tranquility to visitors.

Aesthetic Value
The plateau at the top of the hill provides extensive views of the golf courses, Roehampton and the prominent towers of the Alton Estate.

From the top of the plateau there is an captivating view westward across Pen Ponds, reminiscent of a wild landscape with mature trees, bracken and glimpses of open water.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
Work with the Royal Ballet School to reduce the visual impact of vehicles parked in front of the White Lodge.

Ecological Elements
There is a need to continue controlling bracken by rolling. Continue to cut and mulch the bracken for use within the Isabella Plantation.

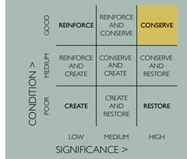
Continue to sensitively manage the veteran trees in this area and introduce more hawthorn on the eastern slopes.

Communal Elements
The condition of the horse ride that crosses this area would benefit from improvement.

Aesthetic Elements
Maintain the character by retaining views from and into the park.

SPANKERS HILL PRIORITIES

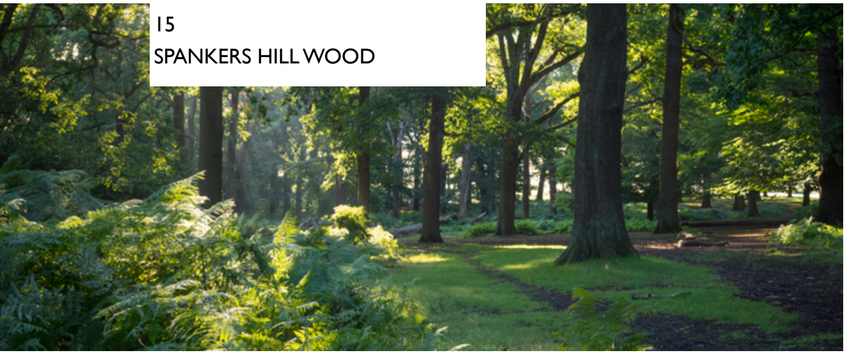
CONSERVE	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
Continue to manage bracken cover in order to balance the need for deer refuge.		○		●
Continue the sensitive management of the veteran trees and introduce hawthorn.	○	○		●
Continue to monitor, maintain and review the views that form a large part of this area's character.	○	●	○	

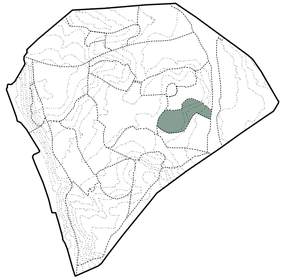


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A sloped landscape with views out of the park which is dominated by dense bracken.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

15
SPANKERS HILL WOOD





Spankers Hill Wood was planted in 1819 and subsequently added to in 1824 and 1877.

The woodland's name, much like its character, is alluring and its origin is unknown.

The mature woodland cloaks the steep shoulder of Spankers Hill forming a backdrop to the gentle slopes of Spankers Field.

Spankers Hill Wood contains many unique mature specimens of trees such as London plane, sequoia and cedar. Their grouping, along with the wood's proximity to White Lodge presumes that part at least was planted as ornamental woodland to be viewed from the Lodge.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Spankers Hill Wood is dominated by oaks but was likely embellished with exotic species due it's proximity to White Lodge. Its southern perimeter is lined with pine trees.

The historic site of Hartleton Farm was located in this area.

The wood forms part of the historic parish boundary system.

Ecological Value
The recent removal or *Rhododendron ponticum* has opened up areas of the wood to pedestrians causing some issues with tree risk management. The decaying trees nevertheless provide a significant resource for bats, birds and invertebrates.

Communal Value
Due to the proximity and accessibility of the woods from the car parks at Pen Ponds and Robin Hood Gate there is significant footfall within the wood with evidence of tree climbing and den building.

Aesthetic Value
The ornamental trees provide a distinct dimension to the woodland character.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The historic parish boundary lines can be traced in this area and would benefit from interpretation and celebration.

Ecological Elements
Extensive clearance of *Rhododendron ponticum* has taken place with partial cover remaining which limits the biodiversity of the woodland understorey.

The pond which is located within the wood has been successfully de-silted and is in favourable condition, but is prone to excessive accumulations of dead wood.

The concentration of sweet chestnuts on the north eastern side of the wood are in poor condition and subject to regular monitoring and tree work intervention.

Acute oak decline is also present in the wood.

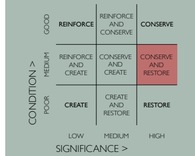
Communal Elements
There is a popular walk along the Southern perimeter of the woods that begins at the Pen Ponds car park.

The large veteran cedar will continue to be fenced off to provide protection and reduce compaction.

Aesthetic Elements
Maintain and enhance the exotic trees.

SPANKERS HILL WOOD PRIORITIES

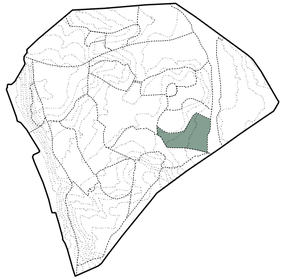
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Continue minimal intervention and management of the area.	○	○		●
Explore interpretation of past land uses e.g. Hartleton Farm and parish boundaries.	○		○	
RESTORE				
Continue the removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* and allow natural regeneration of native understorey.		○		●
CREATE				
Look to create additional enclosures where dead wood can be stacked to decay undisturbed.				●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A distinct mature mixed woodland on sloping ground.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

16
SPANKERS FIELD



Spankers Field is a gentle concave slope which emerges from the foot of Spankers Hill Wood and dips into the Mire. This warm sunny slope is popular with picnickers and walkers and is often frequented by herds of browsing deer.

The well browsed acid grassland covers the freely draining topography blending into dense stands of bracken and parkland trees on its periphery.

Although bounded by roads on two sides the convex nature of the landform provides a wide sweeping panaroma with southeasterly views over the park and out across Wimbledon Common and beyond.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
No significant evidence.

Ecological Value
Established scrub enclosures have been planted around Spanker's Wood which have added diversity to the woodland structure.

The southern perimeter of the area is lined with significant veteran trees.

Communal Value
Due to the distinct topography the field is used by the public for picnics and kite flying.

Aesthetic Value
There are expansive views out over the adjacent Wimbledon Common, its windmill and across Roehampton.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
No significant elements.

Ecological Elements
An annual crop of grass is removed in order to lower nutrient levels created by past sewage sludge treatment of this area.

We will assess the current status of the grasslands to inform future management practices.

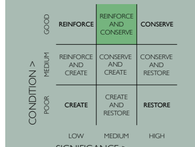
More structure is required at the woodland edge. Additional scrub enclosures can be located along the perimeter of Spanker's Wood.

Communal Elements
There is the opportunity to increase habitat for biodiversity through the creation of interesting woodland edge backdrops.

Aesthetic Elements
Maintain the vast skyscape and views out of the park across a wooded landscape.

SPANKERS FIELD PRIORITIES

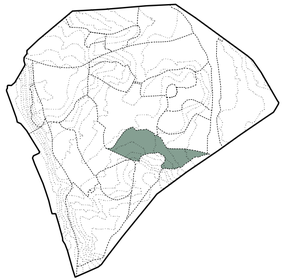
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
REINFORCE				
Work to enhance the woodland edges and scrub interfaces with the grassland areas.		○	○	◑
Continue to review and where possible add native scrub enclosures.		○		◑
CONSERVE				
Work to enhance the acid grassland habitat where possible within the character area.				●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A sweeping curved topography of expansive grassland cover with vistas beyond the park with a strong periphery line of parkland trees.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

17
THE MIRE



The Mire contains a patchwork of marshland and rough textured grassland that is dominated by dense stands of bracken.

The area has an open aspect and is bounded by the Isabella Plantation, Prince Charles's Spinney, Tercentenary Plantation and Gibbet Woods to the south and the Pen Ponds Plantation and refuge area to the north.

There are views out from a concave slope along a strong axial view east between Spankers Wood, Prince Charles's Spinney and Gibbet Woods. This provides the opportunity to appreciate the relationship between the park, the sky and distant tree line.

At the centre there is an area of open woodland pasture with bracken understorey adjacent to a significant expanse of lowland acid grassland.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Tercentenary Plantation was enclosed and planted in 1937, mostly with beech trees, to commemorate the Coronation of George VI, and the 300th anniversary of the enclosure of the park by Charles I. George VI planted the 100th tree - an oak.

Ecological Value
Due to wet ground conditions there is low visitor footfall which has allowed this area to evolve into a significant area of wetland habitat. At the same time the dense stands of bracken are important to the deer population especially during the birthing season. The Pen Ponds Plantation is recognised as a vital deer refuge area.

Communal Value
There are quiet long distance dog walking and horse riding routes that traverse this area.

Aesthetic Value
Tercentenary Plantation stands as a prominent landscape feature within the bracken dominated area.

Due to the topography of the Mire there are a number of different experiences within its landscape that are joined by distinctive recurring eastward views.

From the expanse of lowland acid grassland there are glimpses of Pen Ponds through the open woodland.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The Tercentenary Plantation is in generally good condition and we will continue to monitor its structure and form.

Ecological Elements
There is potential to enhance the condition of existing lowland acid grassland through bracken control and grassland restoration.

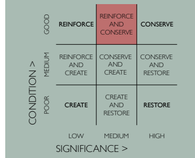
The areas character will be enhanced by reinforcing wetland habitats through the retention of water in the park.

Communal Elements
The horse ride which transects this character has recently been restored and drainage problems were successfully resolved.

Aesthetic Elements
Ensure distinctive tree planting is retained to reinforce wood pasture effect between the small plantations.

THE MIRE PRIORITIES

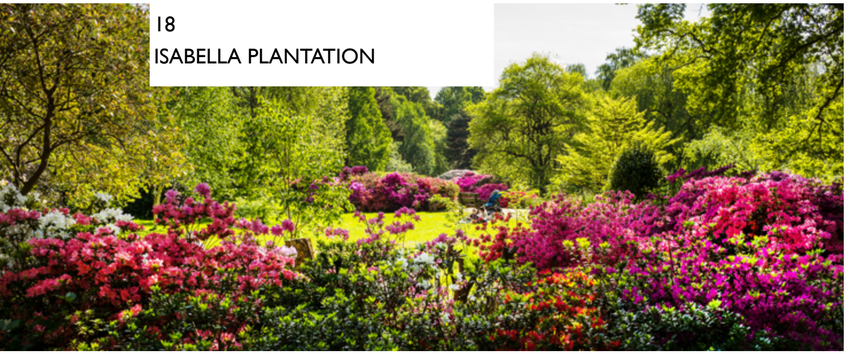
REINFORCE	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
Continue bracken control, specifically throughout the grassland mosaic		○		●
Continue the clearance of *Rhododendron ponticum* within the Pen Ponds Plantation and replant the perimeter.		○		●
Work to enhance the marshland habitats for biodiversity.		●		●
Maintain the newly created open ditches and promote water retention to create opportunities for water attenuation in other areas.				●
Continue to review and where possible add native scrub enclosures.				●

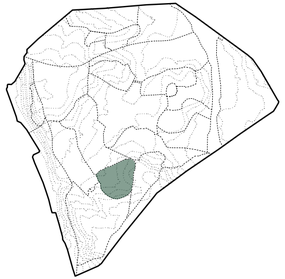


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A dynamic landscape comprising of extensive mosaic of ephemeral marsh, dense bracken and low lying acid grassland habitats. It is generally less disturbed by human activity and with some areas of tree pasture.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

18
ISABELLA PLANTATION





Located in the central southern section of Richmond Park, the **Isabella Plantation** is a fenced woodland area originally enclosed and planted with trees in 1831, with additions and further planting in 1845, 1861, 1865 and 1927. The origins of the 'woodland gardens' can be traced back to initiatives by Joseph Fisher in about 1950 and closely related to similar initiatives at Bushy Park. The gardens were first opened to the public in 1953 and are divided into the publicly accessible and widely visited Woodland Gardens (17.5ha) and the non-accessible sanctuary area (6.4ha) which also houses the nursery ground and garden staff facilities. Today in excess of 300,000 people visit Isabella Plantation each year.

Isabella Plantation holds a varied and important collection of ornamental trees and shrubs dominated by the genus Rhododendron. Many of the trees and shrubs held are rare. Its internationally important plant collection is similar in quality to other prestigious British woodland gardens including Savill and Valley Gardens at Windsor, Leonardslee, Exbury and Wakehurst Place.

Isabella was the name of the wife of Lord Sidmouth who originally enclosed the Plantation. However, the name was attached to this area prior to enclosure, so its origin must lie elsewhere. Richard's map of Richmond Park dated 1771, refers to this area as "Isabel Slade". One theory has it that "Isabel", meaning dingy yellow refers to the colour of the topsoil; whilst "Slade" meaning shallow valley refers to the areas topography.

The Royal Parks secured nearly £2 million from the Heritage Lottery (HLF) and Big Lottery Funds Parks for People award to deliver the 'Isabella Plantation Access Project' (IPAP) which focused on access and biodiversity and delivered a range of improvements to the Plantation between 2010 and 2015.

The detailed management of the Plantation is contained with the Isabella Plantation Conservation Plan: *https://www.royalparks.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/52006/HLF-Scheme-Conservation-Management-Plan-Feb-2012.pdf*

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
The "Wilson 50" are a selection of 50 evergreen Kurume azaleas collected by the famous plant hunter Ernest Wilson from Kurume in Japan. He introduced them to America via the Arnold Arboretum in 1919, and then to England. The Plantation's Wilson 50 collection was started in 1991. It is now recognised as a National collection by Plant Heritage.

The Plantation has a varied and important collection of ornamental trees and shrubs many of which are rarely seen in public gardens.

The Plantation contains in excess of 1,200 Rhododendron which include over 50 different species and about 120 known hybrids, many of which are old hybrids. It also holds a large collection of Camellia which includes many old *Camellia japonica* cultivars, some *Camellia x williamsii* hybrids as well as an expanding collection of *Camellia sasanqua* varieties.

Ecological Value
Isabella Plantation is part of Richmond Park's conservation designation as a SSSI; the site is managed very much with nature in mind and the gardens are run on organic principles. Native plants are commonly grow alongside exotics throughout the Plantation.

The perimeter and shelterbelt areas are planted with native nectar and berry bearing trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter for birds, bats and insects. Ponds and streams are planted with native aquatic and waterside plants.

Communal Value
The communities around the park have built strong emotional links with the gardens since the Plantation was established. Public engagement projects have revealed that there are countless living memories and a very strong local interest in the Plantation.

The ponds and ditches within the Plantation are abound with communal activities, from pond dipping to setting the atmosphere for respite and well being.

Aesthetic Value
It has year round seasonal colour and successfully blends exotic with native shrubs and trees.

It's peak period for colour is between late April and early May when evergreen Kurume azaleas flower with bluebells and emergent foliage alongside it's ponds and streams.

Recent tree planting aims to provide a spectacular display of autumn foliage.

ISABELLA PLANTATION PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
The establishment of reed beds within Peg's Pond would favour reed bunting (a priority species in the London Reedbed HAP) and reed warbler (a Richmond Reedbed HAP flagship species). It may also offer opportunities for new species to colonise.		○		◑
Good cultural practice should be continued by gardeners using hand tools and machinery. They will be cleaned with anti bacterial disinfectant between cuts to reduce the risk of spread of disease through wound entry from tree to tree.			○	●
The removal and control of invasive species (*Rhododendron ponticum*) in fringe and shelterbelt areas continues to provide an opportunity to establish more deciduous native scrub to provide valuable habitat, break evergreen cover and improve air flow and circulation, thus reducing the spread of existing pests and diseases such as scale insect and sooty mould and safeguard the plant collection against its colonisation by potential new disease threats such as *Phytoptera.*	○	○	◑	◑
Maintain a balance between the garden's popularity as a place for public enjoyment and the protection of its important plant collection, semi-natural character and ecology from damage and disturbance by the use of education, interpretation and signage.	●	●	●	●
Selected areas of the Plantation cleared of *Rhododendron ponticum* should be left open in order to spread visitor load and reduce pressure and damage to existing established open space.		○	●	○
Continue to maintain and improve health of veteran trees within the gardens	●			●
Consider the appropriate number of dead trees that are maintained in the garden for habitat value and are also used to support a range of climbing plants.				○
Buy in and plant out repeats of important hybrid and species Rhododendron where renovation is not possible. Use Hyde Park nursery to propagate varieties of Rhododendron and Camellia that are characteristic of the Plantation and are no longer available for purchase in the nursery trade	●	○	○	○
Review current pruning regimes to ensure that areas of the Plantation do not become overgrown. Introduce a programme of formative tree pruning to ensure the longevity of trees and shrubs.		◑		◑
REINFORCE				
Continue to maintain the Plantation's existing National Collection of Wilson 50 Kurume Azaleas through propagation and identification. Wherever possible exploit existing and new connections and find new ways to locate missing Wilson's.	●	○	●	◑
Maintain links with other Wilson 50 collections including Exbury, Savill Gardens and Kew Gardens	○		○	
Expand our collections of Acer, Betula, Cornus, Magnolia, Stewartia, Liquidambar and Nyssa with suitable species and cultivars. However native canopy trees should remain dominant to maintain the appropriate levels of shade under which the ornamental garden and wildlife are sustained.	◑		○	○
Extend the gardens seasons of interest further by increasing its range of autumn colour, berry bearing, winter and late summer flowering trees and shrubs.		○	○	○

CONDITION

Historic Elements

Many of the trees, shrubs within the Plantation were planted during the 1950's and 60's. A lack of intervention has meant that there is a dominant single aged structure to much of the planting. Selective renovative pruning is ongoing to create structural diversity, to ensure continued longevity and maintain healthy vigorous trees and shrubs.

Ecological Elements

During the recent refurbishment, the Plantation's ponds and streams were opened up to allow light into stream channels and water was held back to create a diversity of habitats. The Plantation's 3 ponds were de-silted while Peg's Pond was also extended and reed beds, a nationally scarce and priority habitat for London, were added. Funding also allowed for the installation of a non-mains reliant irrigation system which harvests water from the parks natural supply at Pen Ponds.

Funding was provided for a new fully accessible toilet block at the Peg's Pond Gate entrance to the Plantation that was completed in August 2014. The building is energy efficient and has been built using sustainable materials. No flush, low water toilets and large underground tanks provide a low carbon solution to waste emptying. Power is provided by a trickle charge of electricity that charges a bank of batteries, providing power for lighting and a log fueled biomass boiler that creates heat for hot water.

Communal Elements

Funding allowed TRP to establish a range of community focused initiatives, these schemes are an important legacy of the project. These include regular garden volunteering opportunities for able bodied groups and a group consisting mainly of young adults with learning disabilities making the transition from adolescence into adulthood.

A free seasonal weekly minibus service runs between Easter and the end of October. This service provides free public transport to help visitors gain better access to the park and the Isabella Plantation.

The project delivered a range of physical access improvements. These improvements included resurfacing and redesign of the Peg's Pond disabled user's car park; a new fully accessible toilet block and upgrade of the existing toilet block to include baby change and disabled facilities. A network of accessible paths now provide a range of longer and shorter routes around the Plantation along with improved seating, waymarking and signage.

Aesthetic Elements

The removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* has provided an opportunity to open up the Plantation to create areas of lawn, glades and has introduced new views within the Plantation. Additional lawns have added further structural and visual diversity to the Plantation and also help relieve visitor impact on previously limited open space.

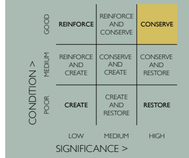
Rhododendron ponticum removal has allowed planting of more native and exotic trees and shrubs within the Plantation. There has been a deliberate effort to extend the range of rare and unusual trees and shrubs to extend the gardens range of seasonal interest adding plants that provide autumn colour, winter fruit and flower and late summer interest. The work undertaken above has set the scene for public enjoyment for the next fifty years.

REINFORCE

Continue to monitor and control pest and diseases to minimise their impact on the Plantation and the public.			○	●
Continue to with a programme of work that demonstrates sound horticultural practice particularly with regard to the the renovative pruning of shrubs and replacement of important plant groups through propagation or the purchase of new stock.		◑		○
Plants entering the gardens from nurseries and other collections should continue to be subject to regular checks for pest and disease and undergo a quarantine process.				●
Put structures and funding in place to continue to support garden and transport volunteers			◑	
Increasing visitor numbers have caused damage to water bodies, the ecology of the Plantation and its plant collection. We will continue to work on reinforcing positive behaviour using the Volunteer Community Rangers.			◑	
Work with specialist groups, collectors and professionals supporting tours and visits to the Plantation. Use these visits to gain contacts and exchange information on plants. Work with specialists to help identify and name unlabelled Rhododendron and Camellia stock.			○	○
Continue to reinforce the Plantation's profile as an important woodland garden by exhibiting at the Royal Horticultural Societies London plant competition and other relevant shows where possible including those held by the RHS's Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group.	○	○	○	○
Continue to support the education and development of horticultural apprentices and staff.	○	○	○	○
Continue to promote opportunities for and education of the public on wildlife friendly gardening.			○	○
Review the existing Isabella Plantation Conservation Management Plan on a 5 year cycle.	◑	◑	◑	◑

CREATE

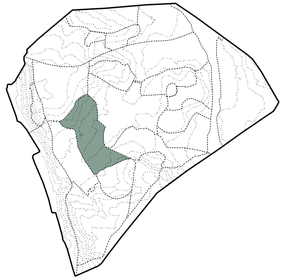
Selective canopy thinning and removal of trees in some areas of the Plantation would be beneficial to let in more light, increase airflow and reduce humidity, allowing understorey shrubs to flourish and help to reduce the spread of pest and disease The removal of mature Turkey Oak and other non native species should be considered in some areas to create opportunities for the planting of English Oak.		○	◑	○
Consider what other species of tree can be planted alongside oak in the future to provide similar levels of shade				◑



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
The Isabella Plantation is a 40 acre woodland garden set within a Victorian woodland plantation planted in the 1830's.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

19
POND SLADE



Pond Slade consists of an open landscape bowl characterised by tussocky wet grassland; drainage channels fall gently north towards Pen Ponds. An almost complete backdrop of woodland hugs the skyline encircling this open bowl creating a coherent and contained landscape with a sense of tranquility and serenity.

Queen Elizabeth Plantation is located to the northern end of the area. Middle Road runs along its southern edge which is closed to vehicular traffic and provides access to the Isabella Plantation, allowing quiet oversight from passing cyclists, riders and walkers at a distance.

A distinctive clump of veteran trees marks the way north towards Pen Ponds. The distinctive glistening stems of the birch trees of the Pen Ponds Plantation gives a hint of the watery landscape beyond.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Queen Elizabeth Plantation was planted in 1947.

The area is transected by historic drainage channels leading towards Pen Ponds.

Ecological Value
The area is characterised by its mosaic of habitats including purple moor-grass, rush pasture and bracken expanses.

Long and short ear owls have been recorded hunting in the area.

Pond Slade is one of the most intensive rutting areas and so is highly significant to the deer population.

Communal Value
The area is crossed by Middle Road and numerous other informal paths which are popular for walkers and cyclists where they can observe the deer.

Aesthetic Value
The Pond Slade is encircled by a tree lined horizon with no views out of the park giving its remote character.

The mosaic of habitats bring with them seasonal variations in colour and texture.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
Queen Elizabeth Plantation contains a number of veteran trees and 'haloing' is required to ensure their longevity.

Ecological Elements
We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing acid grassland in this character area.

We will work to enhance the condition of the lowland purple moor-grass and rush pasture habitats

This area is the most likely to have optimum benefits from extensive cattle grazing.

The continuation of bracken control by rolling and spraying will continue on higher ground.

The stream that returns water to Pen Ponds from the Isabella Plantation should be regularly monitored for the presence of garden plants. These should be removed if found.

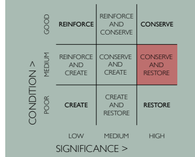
Minimal intervention with the network of drainage ditches will continue to enhance wetland habitats.

Communal Elements
The path that transects the Pond Slade to the south of Queen Elizabeth Plantation has notable erosion caused by high visitor numbers moving between Pen Ponds and Pembroke Lodge.

Aesthetic Elements
A beautiful coherent gently contoured landscape protected from external intrusions.

POND SLADE PRIORITIES

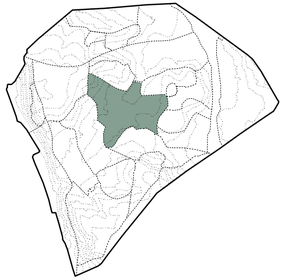
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Maintain the wooded surround and uninterrupted skyline that creates the area's distinct qualities.		◑		○
Continue to the 'haloing' of veteran trees to reduce competition for elements such as space and light.				●
Work to maintain the balance between the grassland and bracken habitats within the area.		○		●
Monitor and keep ditches clear of invasive plants.				●
RESTORE				
Work to enhance the condition of the lowland purple moor-grass and rush pasture habitats.	○	◑	○	●
Explore options for extensive grazing as a potential grassland management technique.	○			●
Explore ways to restore the path that bisects Pond Slade, to the south of Queen Elizabeth Plantation.		○	○	
Protect existing and plant new hawthorn.		○		◑



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
An expansive bowl-like landscape with ephemeral expanses of boggy ground with clustered bracken areas and an uninterrupted woodland periphery.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

20
PEN PONDS VALLEY



Pen Ponds are a popular destination for visitors, a short accessible walk from the car park that provides dedicated parking for disabled badge holders and a bustling kiosk.

Looking down across the ponds from White Lodge, the valley forms a coherent whole but contains a number of disparate habitats. The man-made ponds have softened over time with the southern end now a protected enclosure with well established reed beds backed by a distinctive mixed birch woodland. Elsewhere, some marginal waterside planting, lone willows and a small clump of hawthorn survive. However the impacts of visitor pressure are evident with erosion around the pond margins and scarring of the open bracken dominated slopes leading up towards Sidmouth Wood.

The ponds attract a variety of wildfowl and invertebrates whilst skylarks nest on the open slopes below White Lodge.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
The origin of Upper Pen Pond was probably a smaller pond dug in 1636 by Edward Manning on behalf of Charles I. Lower Pen Pond was probably dug for its gravel as were several other ponds in the park.

Both Pen Ponds probably assumed their present form at the end of the 17th century, when known as "The Canals". The "Pen" in the name is a reference to a deer pen, of which there were many in the park.

Ecological Value
A proportion of Upper Pen Pond is fenced from deer to provide a valuable wildlife sanctuary whilst the open slopes are important for nesting skylark.

Open water and marginal habitats are of importance to the wide range of wild fowl and aquatic species.

Communal Value
This area is a focal point for walkers, bird watchers and anglers with the causeway creating a highly valued vantage and crossing point in the heart of the park.

Fishing is an occasional activity in a small specific controlled zone.

The Leg of Mutton Pond is designated as a 'sacrificial' pond where dogs are allowed to swim.

The kiosk and disabled parking create a popular meeting point particularly valued by wheelchair athletes who train on the roads leading from the car park.

Aesthetic Values
Humphry Repton impressed the importance of the advantage of views into the park from White Lodge. The view from White Lodge across Upper and Lower Pen Ponds is a key view encapsulated in his designs for White Lodge.

The causeway allows for easily accessible interaction with water and wildfowl highly valued by visitors.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The Pen Ponds are categorised as reservoirs by the Environment Agency. The condition of their water quality and water quantity is monitored as well as the integrity of the banks. There is an obligation to monitor overflow at the threshold of the embankment according to the Reservoir Act. We are also obliged to keep the spillways clear of obstruction.

Ecological Elements
There is a mosaic of grassland habitats with opportunities to enhance their ecological diversity, bracken will be managed to limit encroachment.

Inappropriate public behaviours are causing significant negative impacts on both habitats and species around Pen Ponds.

Work to improve the water quality of Pen Ponds will continue.

Communal Elements
High footfall on the paths leading to the causeway and around the pond perimeter are being continuously eroded and compacted.

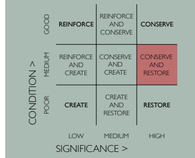
Aesthetic Elements
The difficulties of keeping a balance between visitor numbers and nature conservation are highly apparent within Pen Ponds Valley. These conflicts can have a negative impact on visitor experience and on the quality of the park landscape and ecology.

We will continue to coordinate with the Ballet School to maintain Humphry Repton's views across the park from White Lodge.

This core area of the park is significant as it is free of visual intrusions and reads as an extensive, uncluttered, semi-wild landscape. Steps need to be taken to limit the impact of signs and other park furniture.

PEN POND VALLEY PRIORITIES

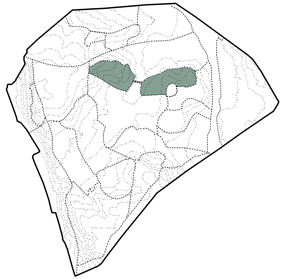
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Maintain the wildlife sanctuary of Upper Pen Ponds.				●
Work to maintain and enhance the distinct matrix of habitats found within the valley and monitor bracken encroachment.		◑		●
Monitor and maintain views to White Lodge.	●	●		
Continue to monitor the skylark nesting habitat found in Lawn Field.				●
RESTORE				
Work to restore and minimise erosion of the footpaths, causeway and upper slopes.		○	○	○
Seek to enhance existing and create new waterside, island and aquatic habitats and refuge areas.		◑		●
REINFORCE				
Continue to influence and manage visitor behaviour through information and interpretation.			●	○



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A series of significant waterbodies set in a shallow valley landscape with occasional trees and scrub, with open grassland on higher ground.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

21
QUEEN'S RIDE



White Lodge was conceived as a hunting lodge for George I. He died in 1727, while it was under construction, and the project was taken over by George II and Caroline of Ansbach.

The Queen's Ride was created in 1736 for Queen Caroline, as part of a series of largely private roads en route to Richmond Lodge located on the site of the present Kew Gardens.

The framed view down the ride provides an uninterrupted view of White Lodge from the high ground of Sawyers Hill. It is the only accessible visual axis within Richmond Park making it a unique and unexpected landscape feature (the other, the enclosed Sidmouth Wood/St Paul's vista). The ride creates a formal setting to the Lodge and eludes to its historic grandeur as a home for Queen Caroline.

The dense mature woodland, which forms the edges of the ride, creates a strong contrast with the open linear nature of the ride. It links Sawpit Plantation to Duchess Wood bisected halfway by the stream leading out of Pen Ponds.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
The Queen Mother's Copse, located behind the White Lodge was planted in 1980, the year of the Queen Mother's 80th birthday.

Duchess Wood is one of the oldest woodlands within the park with many significant veteran trees.

Ecological Value
A high volume of Richmond Park's dead wood is found in Sawpit Plantation which was planted between 1873 and 1874. Natterers bats are known to fly from Sidmouth Woods to Queens Ride illustrating the importance of these connected woodlands.

Communal Value
The Queen's Ride is a significant cultural landscape feature that physically evidences Royal associations.

Aesthetic Value
The undulating topography tricks the eye when looking down the ride, shortening the distance, making the journey along it a revealing and an elongated one.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The linear nature of the ride will be maintained and any further encroachment of woodland on the view will be prevented.

The tree population that defines the Queen's Ride is of an even age and there is a need to plan for successional planting.

Ecological Elements
We will work to protect, enhance and where possible increase the existing lowland purple moor-grass and rush pasture in this character area.

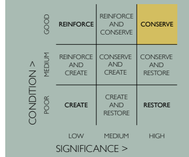
The condition of the horse ride that transects this area is in poor condition.

Communal Elements
The Queen's Ride is a direct experience of a landscape that has survived from the past. It has not been diminished by change allowing visitors to experience a unique sense of place.

Aesthetic Elements
Although hidden and no longer open to vehicles, the Queen's Ride is the most formal element within Richmond Park.

QUEEN'S RIDE PRIORITIES

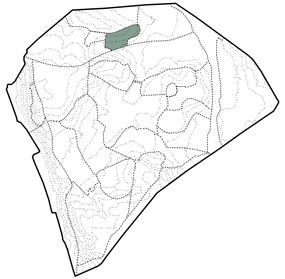
CONSERVE	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
Maintain the historic view to and from White Lodge down the Queen's Ride.	●	●	●	○
Work to maintain, monitor and enhance deadwood habitats.	○	○	○	●
Explore opportunities to conduct repairs to the horse ride when funds allow.			○	
Continue planning the successional planting of the Ride to maintain the historic landscape feature.	●	●	●	●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A long formal avenue of mature woodland framing the White Lodge.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

22
BARN AND TWO STORM WOOD



Even though the two woods blend at canopy level they have distinct structural and ecological characteristics.

Barn Wood existed pre-1637 and has remained a woodland since this time. An oak dominated open woodland with established veteran trees and a diverse understorey.

Two Storm Wood was named following the great losses the park sustained during the storms of 1987 and 1990. It was replanted and enclosed as a commemorative woodland in 1993. Its eastern part consists of relatively young dedicated trees while the western side contains many longer established trees.

Two Storm Wood is encircled by a railed metal fence that excludes deer allowing it to have a dense woodland structure, with a young tree and bramble filled understorey. In contrast Barn Wood is an open woodland with predominantly large veteran trees and significant quantities of dead wood.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
This area is of archaeological significance with the site of the former Hill Farm with oaks marking the lines of ancient hedgerows and the Mediaeval track ways of Deane's Lane and Warple Way.

Ecological Value
The veteran trees and associated deadwood habitats are of high importance.

Communal Value
The Prince of Wales funded the new plantings within Two Storm Wood. In order to commemorate the event the Prince of Wales's feathers were incorporated at the gates of the wood.

Aesthetic Value
The numerous veteran trees are highly evocative of the character of the park and their pre-emparkment origins provide a significant physical link to the past.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The maintenance of the Warple Way will continue in order to preserve a reminder of the historic track way. The remaining of hedge banks marking Deane's Lane should be protected.

Ecological Elements
The veteran trees will be monitored and sensitively managed.

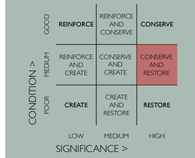
Two Storm Wood is in poor condition due to over planting and under thinning. The trees suffer from etiolation. There will be a new approach to the management and maintenance of Two Storm Wood to enhance conditions for the development of veteran trees and the diversity of the woodland understorey, but is compromised by dog walkers.

Communal Elements
Two Storm Wood provides a distinct experience as one of the few fenced woodlands where visitors are permitted access. It is popular with visitors that seek quiet, enclosure and shelter.

Aesthetic Elements
The contrast between the two woodlands will be maintained with management actions focusing on habitat enhancement.

BARN AND TWO STORM WOOD PRIORITIES

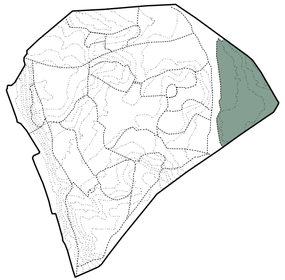
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Maintain the Warple Way and Dean's Lane through Two Storm Wood.	●	○	○	○
Monitor and sensitively manage the veteran trees of both woodlands.	●	○		●
RESTORE				
Work to enhance conditions for the development of veteran trees and the diversity of the woodland understorey within Two Storm Wood.	●	●	●	●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
An impressive area of woodland that creates a series of different spaces and scale due to its high volume of large veteran trees.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

23
GOLF COURSES



The Richmond Park **Golf Courses** are managed under contract by Glendale Golf on a 25 year license which started in 2007. During their tenure Glendale Golf have worked with The Royal Parks to alter the design and layout of the Princes and Dukes Golf Courses, so that the entrance and parking for the golf course is no longer within the park and is now at the southern end of the courses directly off the A3.

The Clubhouse is energy efficient and built to BREEAM standards and utilises ground source heating provided by the adjacent clubhouse pond. A new driving range and academy course, designed for use by schools and those wishing to try golf have been built on the original site of The Royal Parks Chohole tree and shrub nursery in the south east corner of the site.

The golf courses are not included within the Richmond Park SSSI but contain many of the attributes of the main park.

The golf courses were created in the mid 1920s when the park usage was far lower than it is now. The Royal Parks will consider whether it remains appropriate for nearly 20% of the park to be allocated to this single user group.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Historic Common Land and remnants of ridge and furrow.

The park wall is listed but has been replaced by railings along most of the eastern boundary.

Ecological Value
One of two sites in Richmond Park where Great Crested Newt are present.

Mixed native hedgerow provides habitat value along the Beverley Brook boundary.

Veteran oak and hawthorn are scattered across the Golf Courses and are managed directly by The Royal Parks.

Wherever possible 'outside of play' deadwood is retained as standing or fallen timber as a biodiversity resource.

Pond and ditches cross the golf course act as important corridors and habitat for wildlife.

Some areas of grassland away from areas of play are important due to the absence of deer and dogs.

Communal Value
The 'Pay and Play' golf course with a 'welcome all' attitude to golf offers a range of rates and initiatives to attract a diverse range of golfers of differing ability and experience.

The academy course and driving range offer those of all abilities including schools and local community groups the opportunity to try golf.

The Chohole shared access path along the southern boundary of the Golf Course has opened up access for cyclists and pedestrians, and provides a much needed link into the park from the Roehampton area.

Courses play out from a modern clubhouse clad largely in wood and concealed in the landscape by an acid grassland green roof and high grass banking. A large wall of glass provides expansive views over the golf course to the park beyond. The building includes offices for administration, a small cafe and dining area as well as changing rooms, toilets and a meeting room for golfers and club members.

The clubhouse cafe is 'open to all' and is a useful resource for surrounding residents.

Aesthetic Value
The clubhouse is a landmark building for the park, which uses natural and sustainable building materials and is designed to sit comfortably within the landscape. The outlook of the building makes the most of views across the golf course and wider parkland.

In some areas the golf course borrows views from the park and vice versa. It is therefore important that original planting on the course is preserved and maintained and that there continues to be a similarity in the style and type of native tree and shrub planting on the course as in the wider parkland for the purposes of both biodiversity and aesthetics.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The underlying archaeology of this area of the park, with clearly defined mediaeval ridge and furrow evident, means there is a general presumption against excavation and irrigation of these areas.

Kings Farm Plantation clearly marks the boundary of the former site of Kingsfarm Lodge and should be retained.

Throughout the Courses old field boundaries and Veteran Oak pollards remain as reminders of its time as parkland and formerly agricultural and common land and should be preserved and maintained intact.

Ecological Elements
There is opportunity to improve habitat by adding native marginal and aquatic planting to ponds and managing tree and scrub around ponds to improve light levels.

Ditches outside of play should also not be cut grass up to the water but rough grass should be allowed to establish to provide increased refuge for wildlife.

There are opportunities outside of play to link areas of rough grass to ditches, ponds and hedgerows to create wildlife corridors with continuous links through the course.

Rough and semi rough should continue to be used to add a more natural look to the courses. Fairways should avoid being cut up to edges of woodland or under individual or groups of trees to avoid compaction and add further refuge for wildlife.

Where opportunity allows, gaps in boundary screening could be addressed by planting with native hedgerow species.

Woodland areas such as along the southern golf course boundary adjacent to the Chohole Shared Access Path and Kings Farm Plantation are managed as non public areas providing a refuge for wildlife with a presumption of non intervention unless it is needed for safety management.

All tree and scrub management on the Golf Course with the exception of veteran trees is the responsibility of Glendale Golf and should be carried out in line with the agreed Tree Risk Management Strategy 2017 with the Tree and Scrub Management Strategy completed in 2018.

Communal Elements
The newly redeveloped Golf Course is a strong tool for engagement with the local community particularly the Roehampton and the Alton Estates.

The new clubhouse café is an important draw for the local community with meeting room facilities for local community groups.

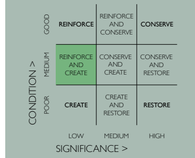
The responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Chohole Path lies with the licensee, Glendale Golf

Aesthetic Elements
The upkeep and maintenance of the clubhouse, surrounding pond and landscape lies with the Licensee Glendale Golf.

The Royal Parks understands the need for the golf courses to have speed and ease of play but work to establish a balance between the clipped and manicured play areas and the more natural elements such as rough grassland, semi rough, woodland edge, hedgerow and scrub planting. There should be a sensitive approach to the management of these courses that recognises their setting within the wider park for the purposes of both aesthetics but also biodiversity.

GOLF COURSES PRIORITIES

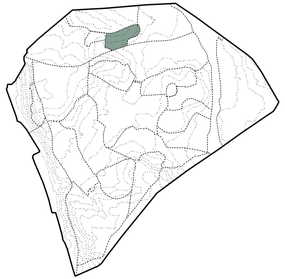
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Ensure that archaeological features such as field and parish boundaries and ridge and furrow and retained and protected.	◑			
The established pond and ditch network are maintained and management for conservation upon following recommendations highlighted within the Grassland, Tree and Scrub and Water Features Management Strategy for the Golf Course.	◑			◑
Retain veteran tree populations on the golf course by sensitive and appropriate management for tree risk, tree health, biodiversity and their associated deadwood habitat.				●
Ensure the continued presence of Great Crested Newt on the Golf Course by the inclusion of recommendations for habitat improvement and continued protection within the Grassland, Tree, Scrub and Water Features Management Strategy and wherever possible working with outside organisations and specialists to gain advice on best practice.				◑
RESTORE				
Ensure that the licensee delivers their contractual obligations by replacing the western boundary fence line as well as ongoing maintenance obligations along the Beverley Brook within the lifetime of the contract.			○	
REINFORCE				
Assist Glendale Golf in the delivery and establishment of new native hedgerow and boundary planting to enhance biodiversity and security on the Golf Course.		○		◑
Consider and where suitable, support initiatives by the licensee to generate more income.			◑	
Ensure that Glendale Golf carry out appropriate management of grassland, trees and scrub and water features assisting Glendale Golf. Glendale Golf will also be required to complete an annual action plan that ensures delivery of recommendations highlighted within the relevant plans.				●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A parkland course with strong expansive internal views edged by clumps or lines of trees.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

24
HOLLY LODGE



Holly Lodge is the administrative headquarters of the park comprising offices for The Royal Parks' management team, wildlife officers, arboricultural officer and ecology team.

The associated buildings accommodate the works maintenance contract staff, The Metropolitan Police Operation Command Unit and a group of separate buildings/facilities used by partners.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
Holly Lodge is on the site of Hill Farm, which is shown on the 1637 plan of the Park. The lodge was known as Coopers Lodge (on Rocque's plan of 1741-5), Lucas's Lodge (on Richardson's plan of 1771) and by the early 18th century was referred to as Bog Lodge or Head Keeper's Lodge. The name of Bog Lodge came from the Bog to the north of the Lodge which was drained in 1855.

The old Venison House is a 2-storey stock brick building with tiled roof (appears on the 1850 plans) and is a Grade II listed building. The stables accommodate the Shire Horse Team which carry out conservation work in the park as well as working with community groups.

The sawmill is located within the yard and has historically cut and used timber for a limited range of in-park uses.

Ecological Value
The new orchard will introduce a range of flowering fruit trees which will provide value to invertebrates and birds.

The nature trail, which includes dipping ponds, are home to a wide range of wildlife. The perimeters are planted with hedges of mixed native species providing continuity of habitat.

Communal Value
The Holly Lodge Centre has a specialised sensory garden, working allotment, adventurous nature trail, Victorian classroom and Pharmacy all used to provide a range of educational activities.

Holly Lodge provides meeting facilities for internal and external stakeholders, particularly focussed on nature conservation. The Shire Horse team works with disabled and disadvantaged community groups. TRP has provided office space for the Thames Landscape Strategy community partnership for 25 years. Holly lodge is also the base for the new Community Ranger Volunteer service trial.

Aesthetic Value
Holly Lodge still retains the feel of a working farm albeit with a 21st Century community focus. It is the beating heart of the Park.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
The existing Holly Lodge probably dates from the mid 18th century. It was extended in the 19th century and was for many years the home of the headkeeper. It is built of stock brick with a tiled roof and is classed-as a grade II listed building.

Overall in good condition, but some buildings require refurbishment or re-planning to reflect newly emerging management requirements.

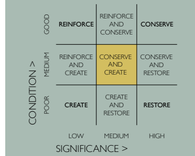
Ecological Elements
The landscape surrounding Holly lodge has mostly been planted in the last 25 years and is rapidly providing a significant contribution to a range of species and habitats not commonly found elsewhere.

Communal Elements
The accommodation at Holly Lodge is increasingly pressured by demands for new uses and services. Buildings will need to be adapted to reflect these new demands.

Aesthetic Elements
The Holly Lodge complex is well screened, confined and will continue to have a minimal impact on its surroundings.

HOLLY LODGE PRIORITIES

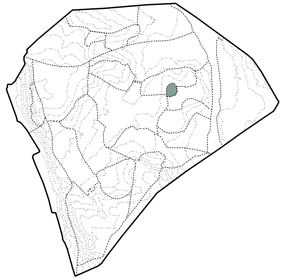
	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
CONSERVE				
Carry out a review the future use of the Sawmill.	○	○	○	◑
REINFORCE				
Continue to support and work in partnership with the Holly Lodge Centre to develop the educational facilities and activities.			●	
Continue to support the Shire Horse Team to provide community engagement and park management.			●	○
CREATE				
Celebrate the newly established orchard and encourage community engagement.			●	◑



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A cluster of buildings concentrated around a yard area which have a distinct sense of continuity.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

25
WHITE LODGE



White Lodge is not part of TRP's jurisdiction but is an important Grade I listed building, historical feature and landscape element.

It has been the home of the junior section of The Royal Ballet School since 1955. Ongoing dialogue will continue as TRP monitors usage and the link between the building and the wider park.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Value
White Lodge is a Grade I listed building. By the reign of George I, the Ranger's Lodge (Old Lodge) was falling into disrepair. The King therefore had no suitable base for hunting in the Park, so he ordered that a new lodge be built. In 1726-27 the design was approved and expenditure authorised. The Lodge was originally known as Stone Lodge and subsequently called New Lodge to distinguish it from the neighbouring Old Lodge. Between 1744-58 the two flanking brick pavilions, known as the Queen's and King's Pavilions were added.

Henry Addington, later Viscount Sidmouth, was Prime Minister from 1801 to 1804. He lived at White Lodge from 1802 until his death in 1844. In 1805 the Lodge was given its own private gardens, later to be landscaped by Humphry Repton, a leading landscape designer of the time. Repton sketched out 'Before' and 'After' images of the gardens and advocated *"a decided artificial Character... boldly reverting to the ancient formal style...[which is preferable to] the uncleanly, pathless grass of a forest, filled with troublesome animals of every kind, and some occasionally dangerous."* Not all of his formal proposals appear to have been adopted.

Ecological Value
The boundary screen planting provides a varied and dense refuge for a variety of fauna.

Communal Value
The Royal Ballet School holds at least one public open day annually.

Aesthetic Value
The view along Queens' Ride to the western façade of White Lodge is a unique element of formality in the Richmond Park landscape.

CONDITION

Historic Elements
White Lodge is managed and used by the Royal Ballet School with a collection of adapted classrooms and later additions.

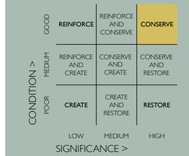
Ecological Elements
TRP will work with the Royal Ballet School to ensure that the boundary screens are managed in the optimum way for nature conservation.

Communal Elements
TRP will support endeavours by he Royal Ballet School to promote wider community activity.

Aesthetic Elements
The view to White Lodge at the end of Queens ride will be maintained and the impact of vehicles on the east façade as seen from the park will continue to be considered.

WHITE LODGE PRIORITIES

CONSERVE	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
Continue to work with the Royal Ballet School to maintain the relationship between White Lodge and the park.	●			
Work with the Royal Ballet School to maintain adequate boundary screening that allows for the historic views, reduces light spillage and provides habitat.	●	●	●	●



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:
GOOD
A grand white Georgian house that commands views down the Queen's Ride and across Pen Ponds.

● High Priority ◑ Medium Priority ○ Low Priority

PART 3

OUR POLICIES

Part 3 builds on the identification of opportunities and priorities set out in part 2. It brings these together to articulate policies for the park's management as a whole.

MANAGEMENT

MNG.1 PARK MANAGEMENT
TRP will strive to promote, lead and deliver best practice in park management.

We will encourage and support research and share results with partner organisations, interest groups and professionals.

MNG.2 DESIGNATIONS AND COMPLIANCE
TRP will continue to carry out its statutory duties.

We will continue to be informed by strategic and local planning documents.

MNG.3 RESOURCES
TRP will seek grant funding where possible to create, reinforce, restore and/or conserve the character of Richmond Park.

We will build the commercial capability and practices of the organisation to ensure that we are maximising the opportunities presented through our commercial contracts.

We will develop new income streams that reflect the intrinsic qualities of the parks.

We will improve the quality of our buildings to maximise their financial value to the charity, and social value to park visitors.

MNG.4 INFLUENCES
TRP will manage the Park consistent with the requirements of its Charitable Objects.

We will continue to effectively communicate and discuss matters concerning park management with partners and stakeholders, taking their opinions on board.

We will ensure that the needs of the Park take precedent over external pressures.

We will aspire to balance the needs of partners and stakeholders with ongoing decision making and management programmes.

We will continue to consult and seek the views of our stakeholders when necessary.

MNG.5 PRESSURES
TRP will no longer promote ever increasing levels of access without being aware of the negative consequences of so doing. We will seek to stabilise visitor numbers at around 2018 levels.

We will manage existing uses and discourage new uses.

We will seek to understand the effects of climate change and support research that informs the impacts that climate change is already having in areas such as drought, tree and plant health.

We will horizon scan effectively to be as best prepared as we can be in the face of future threats.

We will seek to work with our surrounding stakeholders to deliver the best sustainable outcomes for the park..

We will gather data to ensure that decisions related to the use of Richmond Park are based on robust evidence.

MNG.6 RISKS
TRP will continue to deliver robust health and safety management, particularly in relation to tree related risks by using a risk zone approach.

MNG.7 SAFETY AND SECURITY
TRP seeks to provide a safe environment for all visitors, to maintain current low levels of crime. Law and order will be sensitively maintained in accordance with the park regulations and implemented by the Metropolitan Police's Royal Parks Operational Command Unit (TRP OCU).

MNG.8 MAIN LEASES, LICENCES AND CONCESSIONS
TRP will continue to balance revenue generation providing the best visitor experience, ensuring that where appropriate all licences and concessions are let through an open competitive tender process and are monitored throughout its duration.

MNG.9 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS
TRP will continue to consult with Natural England, Defra, the Environment Agency and Historic England as required.

We will work in partnership with organisations such as Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), the Metropolitan Police, Local Authorities, Transport for London and Forestry Commission. We will share knowledge and disseminate information with other organisations and professionals.

We will continue to contribute to the Thames Landscape Strategy supporting plans for improving Thames connections.

MNG.10 DATABASE AND ARCHIVE
TRP will continue to seek to invest in evolving technologies and systems that will aid in more effective and efficient management.

We will continue to store and manage our electronic and physical archived records in accordance to best practice.

HISTORIC

HIS.1 BOUNDARIES AND GATES
TRP will protect and conserve the historically and architecturally important park boundary wall and associated gateways.

We will continue to enforce and monitor the condition of the freebord.

As statutory consultees we will participate in and advise on planning applications for developments adjacent to the park to ensure that proposals avoid detrimental impacts on the park.

HIS.2 FURNITURE AND SIGNAGE
TRP will work towards the provision of consistent styles and designs of park furniture and signage that respect and reinforce the rural character of the park.

Signage will generally be kept to a minimum, informing as opposed to restricting visitors, with a presumption against provision within the core area of the park.

HIS.3 ROAD, PATH NETWORK AND CAR PARKING
TRP will resist any further increase in the extent of hard surfacing.

We will continue to maintain the current level of car park provision and introduce voluntary car park charging.

We will continue to work towards reducing the impacts of road traffic and car parks on the managed semi-natural character of the park.

We will promote the use of public transport and explore, with external partners, improved information and links to the park from transport nodes.

HIS.5 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

TRP will maintain buildings and structures to a high standard of physical repair and visual quality, in a manner appropriate to the park. Improvements will be made to buildings or structures in response to business needs.

New buildings will only be considered where deemed essential for public use and enjoyment, and when no existing building can be re-purposed.

TRP will support the fundraising for the proposed new Visitor Centre to be located near Pembroke Lodge and for which planning consent has been granted.

HIS.6 MONUMENTS/DESIGNATED & OTHER SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE ASSETS

TRP will maintain, protect and celebrate existing monuments and artefacts in consultation with Historic England.

We will not compromise the semi-natural character of the park and there will be a presumption against inclusion of any new monuments unless they are considered both essential and appropriate.

HIS.7 ARCHAEOLOGY

The Archaeological Policy will be used to guide all excavations and avoid potentially destructive land management activities.

TRP will ensure that archaeological remains are protected in situ both from damage resulting from works undertaken and the wear and tear caused by park visitors.

TRP will promote, record and enhance awareness of historic and cultural landscape features such as parish boundaries, hedgerows and ridge and furrow cultivation.

ECOLOGICAL

ECO.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

TRP will seek to reinforce and enhance soil profiles and structures through management techniques. The importing of soils will generally not be permitted.

We will promote an appreciation of the park's geology through learning and interpretation.

TRP will survey the park to identify the areas most impacted by soil erosion with a view to implementing a prioritised programme of remediation.

ECO.2 HYDROLOGY AND DRAINAGE

TRP aims to minimise the reliance on mains water supply and will explore options for sustainable water management.

We will aim to retain water in the park and seek to enhance wetland habitats whilst reinforcing their informal and semi-natural appearance.

ECO.3 HABITATS

TRP will continue to prioritise the management of the acid grassland and deadwood habitats in line with Richmond Park's SSSI status.

We will consult, as required, with Natural England, DEFRA, the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations with regard to habitat mangement.

TRP will aim to balance the management of biodiversity potential with that of the historic landscape, public access and recreation. Our aim will be to support an appropriate range of habitats and within these encourage as much structural and species diversity as possible.

There is a presumption against species reintroduction in the park, since, if the correct habitat management is undertaken the species should naturally colonise. If a nearby source is not available, some reintroduction may need to be carefully considered.

New grass areas will only be seeded with park sourced material.

We will seek to enforce park Regulations and other legislation to ensure that there is no collection or removal of any flora or fauna unless part of an agreed survey or other scientific study.

We will develop a Biodiversity Strategy to enhance monitoring and surveying methods.

ECO.4 TREES

TRP will manage the trees in the park in a manner that recognises their landscape, ecological, historic, cultural and aesthetic value and in the context of increasing pressures of visitor footfall, pest and diseases and climate change.

A Tree Strategy will be produced for the park which includes an audit of the existing tree stock and planting patterns.

We will be pro-active in meeting these challenges and work with partners and stakeholders to encourage and recognise best practice in woodland and tree management, tree work and protection and the specialist skills required for veteran tree management.

We will meet our statutory duty of care in tree risk management while recognising and prioritising the key role trees play in the provision of habitat and biodiversity.

We are aware of the potential conflict between trees and events, buildings and construction, and will seek to ensure best practice at the design, specification and implementation stage of all projects and events. We will work with contractors to ensure best practice is followed in implementing the above.

ECO.5 VETERAN TREES

TRP will seek to carry out best practice management of veteran trees in order to prolong their lives and protect their associated biodiversity. We recognise the international and national importance of the Richmond Park tree population and the numerous threats to their longevity.

The programme of recruiting young trees into a pollard cycle, the "new generation pollards" will be maintained and monitored for success.

We will continue to recognise the importance of the lying and aerial deadwood habitat associated with veteran trees, and implement management methods to protect and enhance it. Trees that will become the veterans of the future will be identified and nurtured with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of the population and the habitats it provides.

An annual survey of all veteran trees based on risk zones will continue to be undertaken.

The specialised management of veteran trees and plans to ensure the sustainability of the population will be included in the proposed future Tree Strategy for Richmond Park.

ECO.6 DEER

The deer are an integral part of Richmond Park being historic, cultural and aesthetic elements and essential to the creation of its unique landscape and biodiversity.

TRP will maintain the deer herds to meet the following objectives:

- deer should be visible to the public but elusive
- stocking density should not exceed limits for a healthy deer herd
- deer stocking should not exceed a level where excessive supplementary feeding is required
- deer numbers should provide sufficient grazing pressure to maintain the floristic diversity of the grasslands

We will aim to minimise deer deaths as a result of dog worrying and vehicle collisions by seeking to improve visitor behaviour through information and enforcement.

Deer retreat areas such as Pen Ponds Plantation and Ham Cross Plantation are acknowledged and respected and will remain protected, additional retreat areas may be created as a response to increasing levels of use by the public and their dogs.

ECO.7 SPECIES

TRP will identify priority and characteristic species and produce a Richmond Park Biodiversity report every 5 years.

TRP will protect and conserve nationally protected species such as bats, stag beetle, great crested newt and skylark.

We will produce targeted action plans to help manage characteristic, culturally valued or flagship indicator species such as hawthorn, beetles, yellow meadow ant, bees and wasps, and butterflies and moths.

With the Richmond Park Wildlife Group, TRP will further develop, species survey and monitoring methods including scientific recording.

We will support citizen science projects and local or national surveys such as the monthly bird walk.

TRP will deliver species engagement and learning programmes such as Mission Invertebrate and THLC

We will seek to raise awareness and understanding of species and their habitat requirements through working with partners within and connecting to the park, sometimes across London and Surrey.

ECO.8 PESTS, DISEASES AND INVASIVE SPECIES

TRP will take a rigorous and pro-active approach to the management of tree pests and diseases.

We will meet statutory health and safety obligations while seeking to minimise the impact of control methods on biodiversity.

We will work with our statutory partners and other stakeholders to fulfil our obligations and continue to facilitate scientific research, as the key to the future effective management of these threats.

We will continue to make every effort to protect the park from the introduction of any new pests, diseases and invasive species.

We will monitor and control and remove, where possible, any known pests and plant species.

We will continue to enforce strict criteria for planting and sourcing of new plant species to ensure they are not infected with diseases.

We will continue to explore, support and contribute to research and trials of new organic methods in combating pests, diseases and invasive species.

ECO.9 BIOSECURITY

TRP will implement biosecurity measures to limit, where possible, the introduction of new pest and diseases and limit its spread, where present.

ECO.10 CLIMATE CHANGE

TRP will aim to manage the park's habitats to optimise ecological resilience in order to buffer perturbations in the climate and to facilitate natural adaptation of wildlife communities.

We will attempt to assess likely impacts through monitoring and assessment of observed changes and through anticipation of the projected impacts of climate change on biodiversity and will develop specific actions in response.

ECO.10 ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION

TRP will use and share data collected to inform and update management prescriptions for the principal habitats of the park. The management prescriptions will take account of biodiversity objectives for the Boroughs, London and nationwide.

An enhanced monitoring programme for the park's key habitats and wildlife will be designed as part of the People's Post Code Lottery funded Mission: Invertebrate programme.

We will continue to contribute to the GiGL database project and all records will continue to be digitised.

ECO.11 SUSTAINABILITY

TRP will seek to deliver our Sustainability Strategy through our approach to park management.

We will maximise opportunities to use and generate renewable energy.

We will strive to embed a sustainable approach into our purchase of all raw materials and aim to reduce the overall impact of the associated emissions

We will concentrate efforts on the management, reduction and recycling of waste as well as continue to encourage visitors to take their litter home with them.
We will continue to monitor noise levels and seek to

minimise its impact on the wildlife and park visitors.
We will seek to improve air quality through traffic management.

COMMUNAL

COM.1 PUBLIC ACCESS
The park will maintain access to pedestrians at all times, except when specifically notified in relation to the deer cull.

There will be restricted access to areas of the park to fulfil deer and nature conservation, health and safety requirements and to fulfil landscape management objectives.

Access for all and Disability Discrimination Act compliance is an objective throughout the park and all its constituent buildings.

COM.2 EVENTS
TRP will host up to three major events per annum in the park in accordance with our strategy Hosting Major Events in The Royal Parks (2015).

The guide to Small Events in The Royal Parks (2010) sets guidelines regarding the size, location, times and season of small events. All event organisers will work in accordance with the guiding principles set out in the Major Events Strategy.

COM.3 VISITOR PROFILE
The Royal Parks will continue efforts to widen the diversity of visitors and seek to engage with new audiences, recognising the risk associated with further footfall.

COM.4 VISITOR FACILITIES
TRP will ensure that any new facilities are concentrated in areas of existing use and around the outer areas of the park and do not detract from the essential character of the park. There is a general presumption against the provision of new facilities in the park except where exceptional need is demonstrated.

- **Education:** The Royal Parks will seek to improve and increase the provision of education opportunities in the park.
- **Catering:** The Royal Parks will ensure that catering facilities in the park are of a high standard, provide value for money and cater for a wide range of park visitors. We will continue to review current provision and seek enhancement opportunities.
- **Play Facilities:** A review of existing play areas will be undertaken to assess the appropriateness of their location, play experience, setting and linked facilities. TRP recognises the importance of play in a semi-natural setting and any changes to play provision will be guided by The Royal Parks Play Strategy (2015-2020).

COM.5 ORGANISED AND INFORMAL ACTIVITIES
The Royal Parks will continue to promote the use of Richmond Park as a place that contributes to health and well-being. TRP will continue efforts to educate and inform visitors of the need to balance recreation with the conservation of finite park resources for future generations.

Main activities include:
- **Dog Walking:** The TRP leaflet 'Guidance on dogs in the Royal Parks' offers advice and our policies for dogs within the Royal Parks. TRP will work with dog walkers and the police to significantly reduce dog faeces in the park. TRP will work with dog walkers to reduce the disturbance of deer and other wildlife. The importance of the park as a SSSI, SAC and NNR means that provision of access for dogs is constantly under review.
- **Sports Pitches:** The sports pitches will continue to be maintained as long as demand exists. Should demand for this facility reduce, a proportion of the pitch areas could be managed as semi-natural grassland.
- **Golf Course:** TRP will aim to integrate the golf course visually into the wider park landscape ensuring that the courses are managed to realise their biodiversity potential, whilst aiming for the best playing standards and facilities. TRP will aim to consider the appropriateness of golf provision in time for the next management plan cycle and before the completion of the current contract.
- **Cycling:** TRP will seek to manage the increasing numbers of sport cyclists to reduce conflicts with other park users. We will monitor speeds and behaviours, improve signage, continue to enforce Park Regulations and seek opportunities for engagement. We will reserve the right to introduce physical restriction should the above measures fail to moderate behaviour.
- **New Activities:** The Royal Parks is aware that potential new activities can occur in the park. We will seek to engage users, minimise conflict and continue to enforce Park Regulations.

COM.6 LEARNING AND INTERPRETATION
TRP recognises that the park has extraordinary potential for outdoor learning. TRP will further explore the park as a resource for learning. We will provide an appropriate level of interpretation to enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of the park.

The unique Holly Lodge Centre, will be fostered and encouraged. The relationship between the Centre and TRP will be developed as the new Learning and Development Department agrees a new direction and strategy.

TRP will continue to support and work with the Holly Lodge Centre, ensuring that all facilities and activities are sensitively designed and are appropriate to the wider park.

Any provision of learning and interpretation will be appropriate to the landscape character of the park.

COM.7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
TRP will seek greater engagement with the local and wider communities, as well as encourage engagement with the under represented.

We will continue to explore the use of social media, mobile applications and other new ways of interacting and engaging with our visitors.

COM.8 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING
We will continue to support the TRP Guild, a voluntary group whose relationship with The Royal Parks includes support for the horticultural apprentice programme and historical park research.

We will continue to commit resources to the 3-year pilot programme to recruit and train a volunteer ranger service with a view to making the service permanent if the trial is judged to be successful.
We will continue to initiate citizen surveys, involving local communities and interested groups.

COM.9 BEHAVIOUR CHANGE
TRP will seek ways to promote positive behaviours to reduce visitor conflict between different user groups, the park environment, and the management processes.

AESTHETIC

AES.1 TOPOGRAPHY
The natural landform of the park is essential to the character of the park and will be conserved and celebrated.

AES.2 VIEWS
Key views and vistas within and from the park will be maintained and internal visual connections will be conserved and reinforced through appropriate management.

We will support others to promote the protection of specific views including the protected view from King Henry's Mound to St. Paul's Cathedral (including its immediate skyspace and beyond the Cathedral dome).

We will work with statutory authorities to ensure they meet their obligations regarding planning and development notification.

We will continue to pro-actively seek to minimise external features and elements that would dominate the landscape, e.g. extensive balconies and glass façades.

AES.3 LIGHTING
Lighting within the park will be kept to an absolute minimum with no road lighting or reflective markings.

The park gates will continue to be closed to traffic at dusk maintaining an important refuge for wildlife and for the safety of the deer herd.

We will work with adjacent land owners to ensure that there is minimum light spillage into the park from adjacent properties and activities.

AES.4 HORTICULTURE
Richmond Park is known for its rural and semi-natural qualities. It is also of national importance for nature conservation. Ornamental planting is located in the Isabella Plantation, Pembroke Lodge and other enclosed garden areas.

- **Isabella Plantation:** The Isabella Plantation will be managed to retain and where possible improve its status as one of the finest woodland gardens in the country, whilst affording shelter to wildlife. Interpretation and accessibility will be promoted as well as opportunities to spread visitor footfall to the outer areas of the garden during peak times.
- **Pembroke Lodge Gardens:** The gardens will be maintained and enhanced in line with the Pembroke Lodge Masterplan to maintain their popular appeal and enhance accessibility, whilst retaining their informal woodland qualities which delight visitors throughout the season. The future development of the gardens will need to reflect the commercial requirements of Pembroke Lodge.

AES.5 LAND USE
The park comprises areas of approximately 25% open grassland, 25% closed canopy woodland and 50% wood pasture the overall aim will be to maintain this current balance.

AES.6 WELL-BEING
We will seek to work collectively with educational and community partners to develop projects and programmes to grow our range of learning activities and well-being opportunities.

We will continue to promote the use and enjoyment of Richmond Park for public recreation, health and well-being including balanced provisions of sporting, cultural activities and events.

^ *fig 31.*

Photograph of road users on a busy weekend

Courtesy of
Richard Flenley

^ *fig 32.*

Historical image of road usage

Courtesy of
The Hearsum Collection

Photograph of Leg of Mutton Pond on a busy weekend

Courtesy of
Richard Flenley

fig 33. v

Photograph of East Sheen showing livestock grazing

Courtesy of
The Hearsum Collection

fig 34. v

^ *fig 35.*

Photograph of deer in the park on open parkland

Courtesy of
Max A Rush

^ *fig 36.*

Historical image of deer

Courtesy of
The Hearsum Collection

Visitors taking selfies in close proximity to the deer

Photograph
by Max Rush

fig 37. v

A visitor feeding deer from a car, dated 1934

Courtesy of
The Hearsum Collection

fig 38. v

PART 4

IMPLEMENTATION

Part 4 describes the main mechanisms for recording monitoring and reviewing the delivery of the Management Plan's priorities and policies.

It includes the Project Register, a dynamic and active component, that combines the Character Area Priorities, developed in part 2, and the park wide policies, developed in part 3. The Project Register identifies and lists potential projects which TRP aim to develop and deliver over the next decade subject to availability of resources.

IMPLEMENTATION

This Management Plan sets out 100 year vision for the management of Richmond Park and is to be used as a source of information and guidance for the future development of the park.

In the 10 year life span of this Plan it is intended that it will support the basis for decision making, guidance for routine park maintenance and for prioritising projects according to Landscape Character Area Priorities, Park Policies and Project Register.

Consideration of the allocation of resources takes place in the Project Register. Where additional resources will be required, the Park Manager will decide on priorities for funding and the selection of the delivery mechanisms. Grant applications are considered but only if the objectives of the grant are in line with management objectives including high level stewardship. New approaches are considered where appropriate.

TRP strategies and policies will guide park operations and decision making when new opportunities or issues arise.

MONITORING

Monitoring of the park's stated management aims and policies may be applied at two distinct levels:
a) general approaches and focus for priorities,
b) specific application through projects.

Arenas that collate and assess multiple achievements are:

- Monthly progress reports from the Park Manager to the Director of Parks – monthly reports to Excom.
- Annual Green Flag and Green Heritage judges' comments.
- External audits - including IOS14001, health and safety condition reports and Ipsos Mori or visitor satisfaction surveys

The processes for monitoring the implementation of policies and aims which are stated in this Management Plan include:

- Park Business Plans (updated annually)
- The annual Operations Plan
- Arbotrack tree management software
- The Built Environment Register of Maintenance Projects
- Landscape Projects Register
- Ecology Projects Register
- Hydrology and Utilities Projects Lists
- Cyclical Maintenance Fund Project Tracker

Monitoring the effects of the management policies and projects is fundamental for the successful implementation of the plan. This process should relate achievements to policies and aims, and provide feedback to shape future amendments to the Management Plan or its management policies.

In order to understand the success of the Landscape Character Area Priorities, Park Policies and Project Register it is necessary to maintain up-to-date information.

The key areas for monitoring at Richmond Park are:

- **Trees:** risk management and tree health
- **Landscape:** 10 year rolling Character Area Assessments and ideally, 5 year re-prioritising exercises.
- **Condition:** quality of presentation in ornamental gardens, hard surfaces, buildings and monuments, furniture and water infrastructure.
- **Park Community:** social inclusiveness and accessibility.
- **Views:** protection and management of views and skyspace.
- **Ecology:** continual enhancements to biodiversity
- **Presentation:** quality and effectiveness of cleansing operations.
- **Events:** location, frequency and scale of events in relation to the park.
- **Archaeology:** presentation, protection, conservation management and interpretation

REVIEW

The Management Plan will be reviewed at the end of the first five year period. The purpose of this review is specifically to incorporate information newly available (e.g. visitor surveys, ecological surveys, tree surveys), take changing circumstances into account (security, traffic movements), and assess achievements over the first five years in terms of (a) policy and (b) projects. The review should set out further aspirations for park management and a timetable for future plan review.

It is important that this Management Plan is seen as a 'dynamic' document that is flexible and responsive to change.

As new information becomes available consideration may need to be given to modifying or changing prescriptions. Such changes should always be assessed in the light of the Management Plan framework and should not have an adverse impact upon the essential spirit of place *(genius loci)* of the park. In keeping with best practice, significant changes of direction should be widely consulted to gain consensus before adoption.

SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS

v *Table 4.*

Play Equipment	Regular maintenance inspections ROSPA annual inspections
Buildings & Infrastructure	Regular inspections Quadrennial surveys
Tree Stock	Health and Safety inspections Disease inspections Detailed analysis for strategic work
Ecology	Phase 1 Habitat Surveys National Vegetation Classification Surveys and other surveys. Richmond Park Wildlife Group
Water	Water Quality Inspections
Landscape Standards	Annual Green Flag inspections Landscape Maintenance Contract & Facilities Management Reports
Deer	Annual Census and Veterinary Inspections
Visitor Profile	Ipsos Mori Surveys
Catering Provision	Mystery Shopper Inspections
Policing	Safer Parks Panel
Visitor Relations	Friends of Richmond Park

THE PROJECT REGISTER

The Project Register is a dynamic component of the Management Plan and sets out potential projects and management actions for the The Royal Parks over the next 10 years.

The implementation of all future projects and the timescales of delivery are dependent on funding and resources.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT TIMESCALE

- First Quarter of the Plan
- Second Quarter of the Plan
- Third Quarter of the Plan
- Fourth Quarter of the Plan
- Aspirational Projects

RICHMOND PARK PROJECT REGISTER 19-29

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
01	**Elm Avenue** Work to establish a new avenue of elm trees in Petersham Park and monitor their resistance.	Petersham Park	Aesthetic Ecological	Create	ECO.3 ECO.4	
02	**Beverley Brook and Tributaries Enhancements** Seek to improve water flow and habitat opportunities by exploring in-channelling and re-profiling	Beverley Plain Golf Courses	Ecological Aesthetic	Create Restore Reinforce	ECO.2 ECO.3	
03	**Hearsum Collection** Work with the Hearsum Collection Charitable Trust to develop opportunities for the education and preservation of park heritage.	Pembroke Lodge	Historic Communal	Create Conserve Reinforce	HIS.1	
04	**Nursery and Welfare Facilities** Review the staff welfare facilities with a view to statutory compliance and adequate provision. Create areas to quarantine incoming plants in-line with the requirements of the TRP Biosecurity Strategy.	Isabella Plantation Pembroke Lodge Sidmouth Wood	Communal Aesthetic	Create Restore Reinforce	MNG.1 HIS.5	
05	**Sustainable Timber Production** Review the most effective way of converting park timber to usable products for reuse within the park.	Holly Lodge	Ecological Aesthetic	Conserve	ECO.11	
06	**Pen Ponds Pump** Assess and replace the Pen Ponds Pump and irrigation system that feeds the Isabella Plantation.	Pen Ponds Valley	Aesthetic Ecological	Restore	ECO.2	
07	**Petersham Playground and Facilities** Explore opportunities of playground refurbishment and the re-purposing of the toilet block to provide better catering experience.	Petersham Park	Communal Aesthetic	Create Reinforce	HIS.5 COM.4 COM.6	

RICHMOND PARK PROJECT REGISTER 19-29

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
08	**Roehampton Improvements** Work with Wandsworth Council and others to develop positive communal, ecological and aesthetically pleasing improvements to visitor facilities.	Beverley Plain	Communal Aesthetic	Create	COM.1 COM.4 ECO.3	
09	**Spanker's Hill Wood Pond** Work to enhance pond and surrounding habitat.	Spanker's Hill Wood	Ecological Aesthetic	Create Reinforce	ECO.2 ECO.3	
10	**Pen Ponds Island and Bankside Restoration** Work to improve the conditions on existing islands and banks.	Pen Ponds Valley	Ecological Aesthetic	Restore	ECO.2 ECO.3	
11	**Two Storm Wood Improvements** Bring the wood back in line with current best management practise.	Barn Wood & Two Storm Wood	Ecological Aesthetic	Restore	ECO.3 ECO.4	
12	**King Henry's Mound** Assess and formulate a design for the re-landscaping of the mound.	Pembroke Lodge	Historic Communal	Conserve Restore Reinforce	HIS.1	
13	**Pembroke Lodge Gardens** Implement the phased landscape re-design work and community enhancements within the Gardens in line with the developed Masterplan.	Pembroke Lodge	Ecological Historic Aesthetic Communal	Create Conserve Restore Reinforce	ECO.1 COM.4	
14	**Extensive Grazing** Seek to explore options of grazing in trial sites in certain areas of the park in order to enhance biodiversity.	Pond Slade	Ecological	Conserve Reinforce	ECO.3 AES.3	

RICHMOND PARK PROJECT REGISTER 19-29

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
15	**Richmond Park Tree Strategy** Produce a Tree Strategy which includes an audit of the existing tree stock and planting patterns.	Park Wide	Ecological Historic Aesthetic Communal	Conserve Restore Reinforce Create	ECO.8	
16	**Water Leak Programme** Continue to identify sources of mains water leakage into the park's waterbodies and networks.	Park Wide	Ecological	Restore	ECO.9 ECO.11	
17	**Ground Maintenance Mapping** Carry out an initial scope of producing accurate electronic base maps prior to the re-let of the Landscape Maintenance contract.	Park Wide	Ecological Historic Aesthetic Communal	Create	MAN.6	
18	**Notable Species List** Develop and assemble a list of the most notable and key species within the park.	Park Wide	Ecological Historic	Create	ECO.1	
19	**Entry Point Signage** Audit and renew the information signs at entry points for visitors.	Park Wide	Communal Aesthetic	Create Reinforce	HIS.3 COM.1	
20	**Waste Management Information Sharing** Work towards informing visitors of what happens to waste.	Park Wide	Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce	ECO.11	
21	**Volunteer Community Ranger Service**	Park Wide	Communal	Create Conserve Reinforce	COM.7 COM.8 COM.9	
22	**Play Condition Assessment** Assess the condition of all playgrounds, prioritise and seek funding.	Park Wide	Communal	Create Conserve Reinforce	HIS.5 COM.4 COM.6	

RICHMOND PARK PROJECT REGISTER 19-29

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
23	**Sponsorship/Legacy/Commemorative Strategy** Develop a strategy to coordinate the sponsorship and placement of commemorative features.	Park Wide	Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce	COM.4	
24	**Open-Day** Hold a Park Open Day every 3 years.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce	COM.8	
25	**Public Transport Review** Carry out a review of internal and external public transport links to the park.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce	HIS.4 COM.1	
26	**Historical Survey** Carry out a review/update of the Richmond Park Historical Survey of 1984.	Park Wide	Ecological Historic Aesthetic Communal	Create Conserve Restore Reinforce	HIS.6	
27	**Richmond Park Scrub and Hedgerow Strategy** Create a document which audits existing stock, outlines future management opportunities and additions of scrub and hedgerow.	Park Wide	Ecological Aesthetic	Create Reinforce	ECO.3	
28	**Conduit Houses Project** Explore opportunities of renovation, re-purposing and interpretation of historic conduits.	Park Wide	Historic Communal	Restore Reinforce	ECO.8	
29	**Deer Management Review** Appoint and carry out a review of deer management procedures based on the 1989 Southampton Deer Study.	Park Wide	Ecological	Conserve Reinforce	ECO.6	
30	**Review of Road Use** Undertake a Movement Strategy with a view to determining appropriate use of road and cycling network.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce	HIS.4 COM.1	

RICHMOND PARK PROJECT REGISTER 19-29

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
31	**Habitat Condition Assessment** Appoint and carry out a condition assessment of park habitats.	Park Wide	Ecological Historic	Reinforce	ECO.1	
32	**Water Quality Survey** Appoint and carry out a quality and condition PSYM base survey of all waterbodies. Predictive SYstem for Multimetrics, (pronounced sim)	Park Wide	Ecological Aesthetic	Conserve Restore Reinforce	ECO.1	
33	**Horse Ride Restoration and Maintenance** Continue the restoration of the network	Park Wide	Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce Conserve	HIS.4	
34	**Erosion** Carry out a park wide survey to identify the areas most impacted by soil erosion with a view to implementing a prioritised programme of remediation.	Park Wide	Ecological Aesthetic Communal	Create	ECO.1	
35	***Rhododendron ponticum* Management Programme** Complete and maintain the systematic clearance of *Rhododendron ponticum* from woodland areas.	Park Wide	Ecological Aesthetic	Reinforce	ECO.2 ECO.4	
36	**Road Safety Audit** Appoint and carry out audit. To occur on 10 year cycles.	Park Wide	Ecological Aesthetic	Create Reinforce	HIS.4	
37	**Inclusive Access Audit (including DDA)** Carry out an Inclusive Access audit of the park publicly accessible networks. To occur on 10 year cycles.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce	MNG.3 HIS.4 COM.1	
38	**Fencing Programme** Continue phased approach to fencing specific elements (ponds, scrub and veteran trees) with appropriate permanent fencing	Park Wide	Ecological	Conserve Reinforce	HIS.2 HIS.3 ECO.3	

RICHMOND PARK PROJECT REGISTER 19-29

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
39	**External Review** Seek to carry out an external review of the overall condition of Richmond Park, 25 years following the Jenkins Review.	Park Wide	Ecological Historic Aesthetic Communal	Create Conserve Restore Reinforce	MNG.1	
40	**Re-wetting Programme** Explore possibilities of increasing the percentage of wetland habitats	Park Wide	Ecological Aesthetic	Create Restore	ECO.3 ECO.9	
41	**Car Parks** Consider opportunities to resurface the 3 most degraded car parks and identify funding streams. 1. Pembroke 2. Kingston 3. Sheen	Park Wide	Communal Aesthetic	Restore	HIS.4	

'The metaphor of the palimpsest can be useful in explaining how to read a landscape. A palimpsest was a piece of goat's hide on which medieval scribes wrote. When they needed to reuse the valuable skin, they would scrape away the original text with a knife before writing over the traces. As a result, a palimpsest would come to hold traces of earlier layers of writing. This is comparable to the way many landscapes have developed.'

ROBERT HOLDEN & JAMIE LIVERSEDGE
Landscape Architecture
2014

PHOTO CREDITS

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cover (View of Pen Ponds Causeway), pg 74 - Darren Williams
pg 54, 80, 82, 87 - Alex Ioannou
pg 32/33, 110(bottom), 121(top) - Mark Laing
pg 53, 128 - Gillian Ionnaus
pg 59 - Richard Flenley

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

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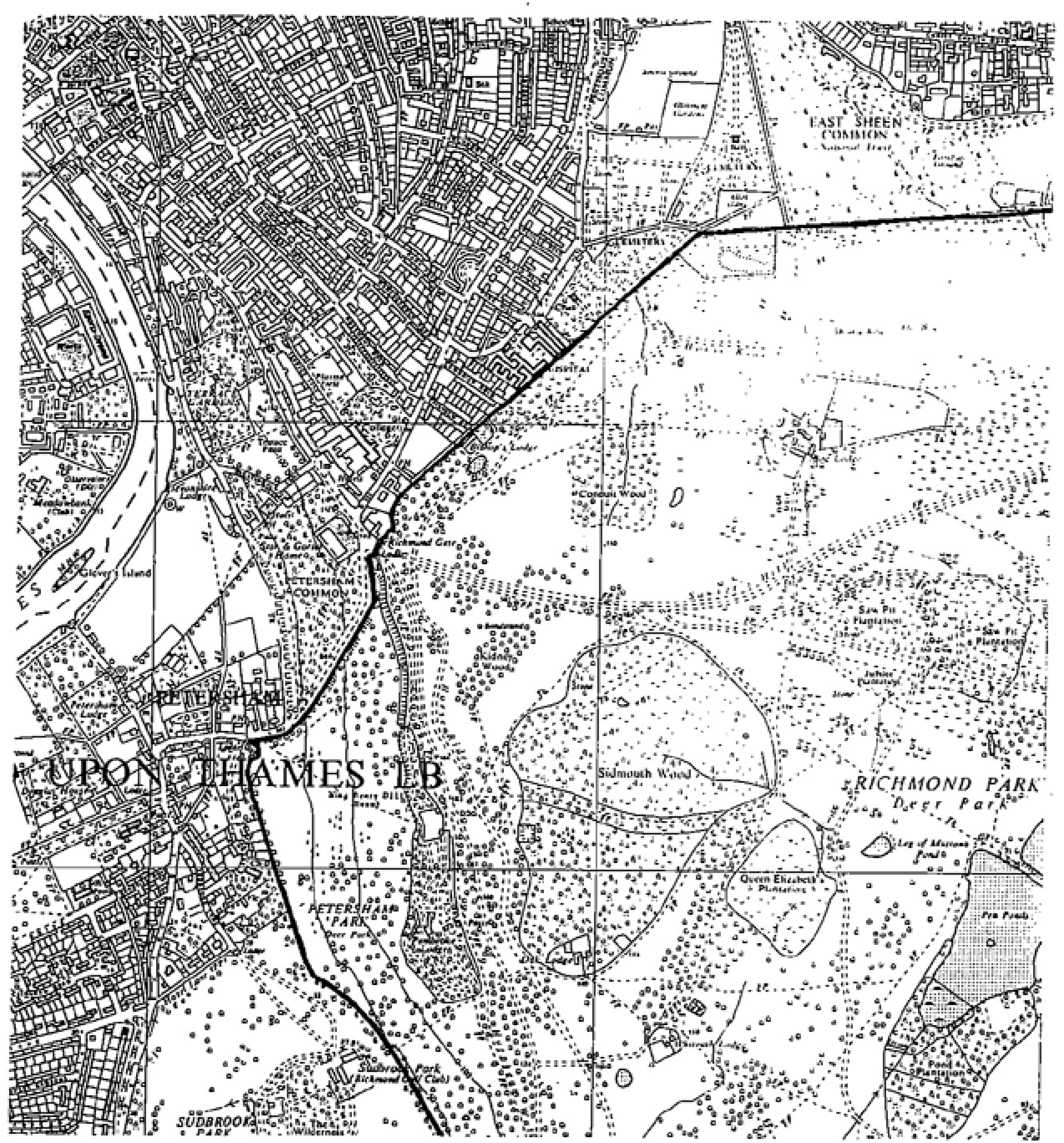
APPENDIX 2

EXTRACT FROM NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

APPENDIX 3

REGISTER OF PARKS AND GARDENS OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST



NOTES

The boundary shown may be varied as knowledge of the history of the site improves. It is in any case desirable that the influence of the surroundings on the enjoyment of the site be recognised.

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REVISIONS

DRAWING TITLE

RICHMOND PARK

GREATER LONDON

Extent of garden and other land of historic interest. 1 OF 3

English Heritage

Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London W1X 1AB
Telephone 071-973 3000

NORTH

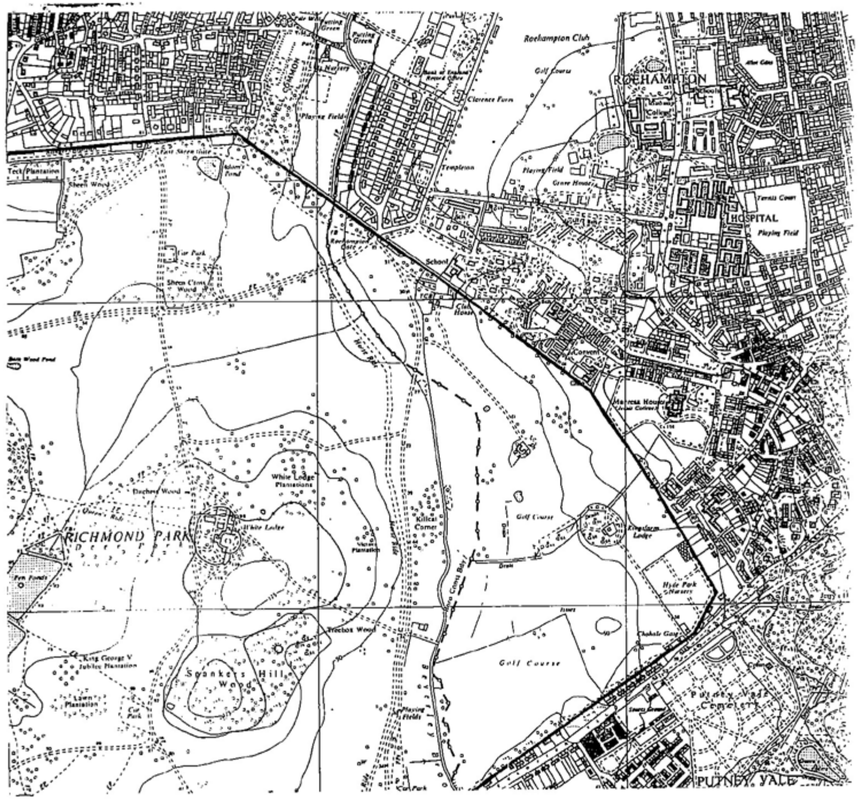
OS REF. TQ2073

DRAWN DLJ

DATE JULY 1991

SCALE 1:10,000

DWG NO. GD 1823



NOTES

The boundary shown may be varied as knowledge of the history of the site improves. It is in any case desirable that the influence of the surroundings on the enjoyment of the site be recognised.

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REVISIONS

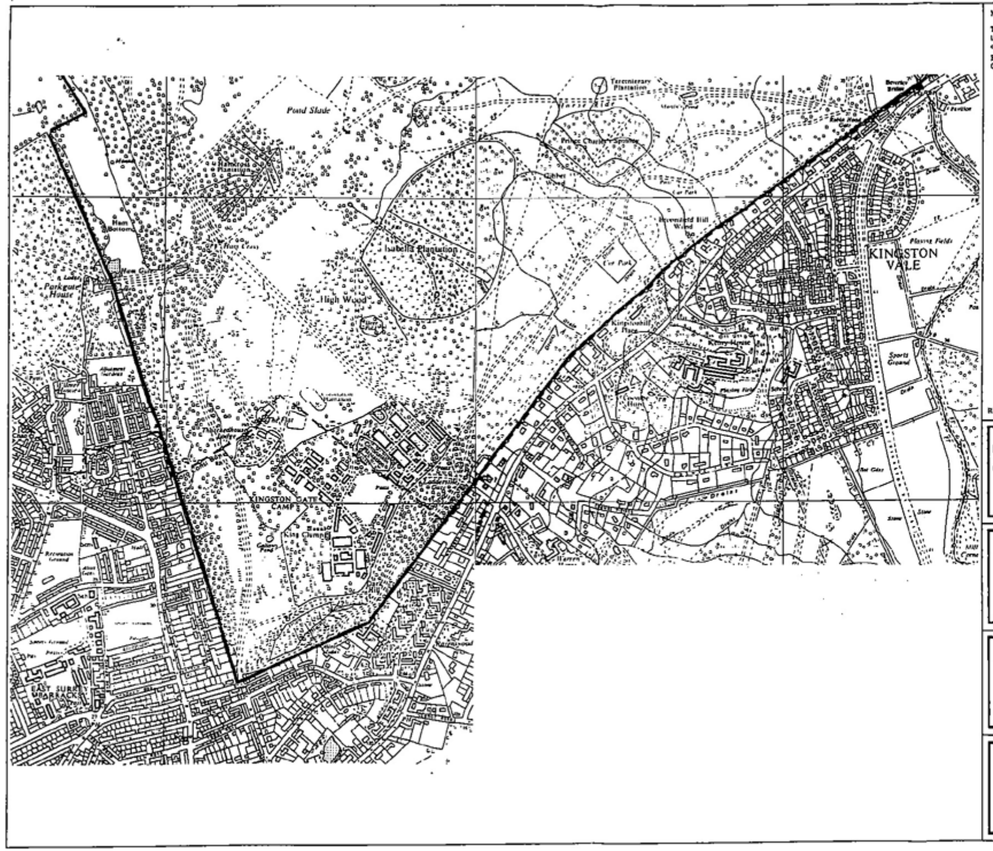
DRAWING TITLE
RICHMOND PARK
GREATER LONDON
Extent of garden and other land of historic interest. 2 OF 3

English Heritage

Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London W1X 1AB
Telephone 071-973 3000

NORTH

OS REF. TQ2073
DRAWN DLJ
DATE July 1991
SCALE 1:10,000
DWG NO. GD 1823



NOTES

The boundary shown may be varied as knowledge of the history of the site improves. It is in any case desirable that the influence of the surroundings on the enjoyment of the site be recognised.

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REVISIONS

DRAWING TITLE
RICHMOND PARK
GREATER LONDON
Extent of garden and other land of historic interest. 3 OF 3

English Heritage

Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London W1X 1AB
Telephone 071-973 3000

NORTH

OS REF. TQ2073
DRAWN DLJ
DATE July 1991
SCALE 1:10,000
DWG NO. GD 1823

REGISTER OF PARKS AND GARDENS OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST

RICHMOND PARK

GREATER LONDON

RICHMOND UPON THAMES

NGR: TQ2073

Date Registered: 01 OCT 1987

Grade: I

Site Reference Number: 1823

Royal deer park and public open space, with woodland, gardens, water features and various residences. Park developed from C17 onwards, c.954ha.

The 'New Park' (to distinguish it from the 'Old Deer Park' to west, beside the Thames) was first enclosed 1637 by Charles I, with a wall c.13km in length. The area of the park has not changed appreciably since then. A total of 486 trees, all English oak, have been identified as ancient trees, present when Richmond Park was first enclosed. The 24ha area of Petersham Park, to west of Pembroke Lodge, was originally part of Richmond Park, and was leased to the Hydes in 1686, and then returned to Richmond Park in 1833. The surface is undulating, with high areas to west (by Henry VIII's Mound), to east (by White Lodge and Spankers Hill Wood), and to south-east (by Broomfield Hill). Water features include the Pen Ponds, in the centre of the park, and Beverley Brook, which runs south-north across the eastern corner of the park. Many lesser streams or drains, generally flowing to north-east to the Pen Ponds, and beyond to the Beverley Brook.

Numerous entrances, with lodges, gates, or both, along boundaries, including Bog Gate to north, Roehampton Gate to north-east, Robinhood Gate to south-east, Ladderstile Gate to south-south-east and Kingston Gate to south. Ham Gate Lodge to south-west, Richmond Gate Lodges to north-west. Within the park, lodges and residences include Bog Lodge to north, White Lodge to east, Thatched House Lodge to south, White Ash Lodge in centre west, and Pembroke Lodge to west. Pembroke Lodge was originally a mole-catcher's cottage, and was developed for the Countess of Pembroke by George III, the architect being Sir John Soane. White Lodge (since 1955 the Royal Ballet School) begun c.1727-29 by Roger Morris for George I, enlarged 1751-52 by Stephen Wright, with further additions 1801 by James Wyatt. Extensions in later C20 for Royal Ballet School. In 1805 Humphry Repton was called in to lay out c.2ha of grounds round the house. Thatched House Lodge begun mid-C17, enlarged by 1716, when it was known as Aldrich's Lodge; and again considerably c.1727, possibly by William Kent for Sir Robert Walpole. The thatched house which gives the lodge its present name is a summerhouse, c.1727, in the c.2ha grounds of the Lodge.

The Queen's Ride, from White Lodge to Sawyers Hill (oak and sweet chestnut avenue), and the Hornbeam Walk from Pembroke Lodge, were developed in mid-C18. In the 1840s the 34ha Isabella Plantation was planted by Lord Sidmouth. Within the Isabella Plantation, the 17ha Woodland Garden was redeveloped from 1950 onwards, begun by J M Fisher (who had also begun the Waterhouse Plantation at Bushy Park in 1949), and principally from 1951 by George Thomson, as ornamental woodland and water gardens. An additional water supply is pumped from the Thames.

Public access to Richmond park was secured by early C20, and in mid- and later C20 some public recreational facilities have been developed, including two golf courses, football and rugby pitches, and a polo field. Wildlife protection areas have been declared in all the enclosed plantations within Richmond Park.

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Date of Print: 19 MAY 1999

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Extract from National Monuments Record

NMR No	Description	Grid Reference
TQ 17 SE 10	Richmond Park. Mediæval deer Park.	TQ 19 73
TQ 17 SE 12	Kings Clump. Mound, possibly a round barrow.	TQ 1952 7089
TQ 17 SE 19	Oliver's Mound. site of mound, possibly a round barrow	TQ 192 735
TQ 17 SE 21	King Henry's Mound. Post Mediæval prospect mound, possibly an earlier standing or belvedere, allegedly a prehistoric round barrow	TQ 1860 7315
TQ 17 SE 22	Not named. Mound	TQ 1892 7211
TQ 17 SE 57	Not named. Mound	TQ 1898 7184
TQ 17 SE 58	Not named. Mediæval field boundaries in Petersham Park	TQ 187 724
TQ 17 SE 59	Not named. Mediæval ridge and furrow in Petersham Park	TQ 1869 1760
TQ 17 SE 60	Not named. World War II mobile radar control units for anti aircraft guns in Petersham Park	TQ 183 730
TQ 17 SE 61	Not named. Site of avenue between King Henry's Mound and Oliver's Mound	TQ 1860 7315 TQ 192 735
TQ 17 SE 62	Petersham Park. Post Mediæval Park and garden; site of Petersham Lodge	TQ 185 730 TQ 187 713
TQ 17 SW 35	White Lodge Garden. Post Mediæval garden designed by Humphry Repton c 1805	TQ 206 732

Source :
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments of England (1995) Richmond Park, Richmond Upon Thames – An Archaeological Survey by The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

THE
ROYAL
PARKS