



Little Wormwood Scrubs  
Ten-year Management Plan  
2010-2019  
(Annually Reviewed)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

## Acknowledgements

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs

Groundwork Trust

**Directorate of Family and Children's Services**

Directorate of Planning and Conservation

Directorate of Transport, Environment and Leisure Services

Quadron Services Limited

Regular users of the park

St. Charles Ward Members

William Sutton Housing Association

LBHF and RBKC Parks Police Services

Think before you print  
Only print this document if necessary.

It may only be necessary to print out pages of specific interest, rather than the full document.



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## Foreword

The Royal Borough is one of the most densely populated Boroughs in the United Kingdom with possibly the least amount of public green open space. It is, therefore, **the Council's policy to maintain all its parks at an excellent standard, to renew the infrastructure and to ensure that our parks are something we can all be proud of.**

I am very keen that all residents and park users should have an opportunity to become more closely involved in managing the future development of these green lungs. We need to ensure that we are providing a full range of the facilities and services that local residents would like to see and clearly this will vary from place to place around the Borough.

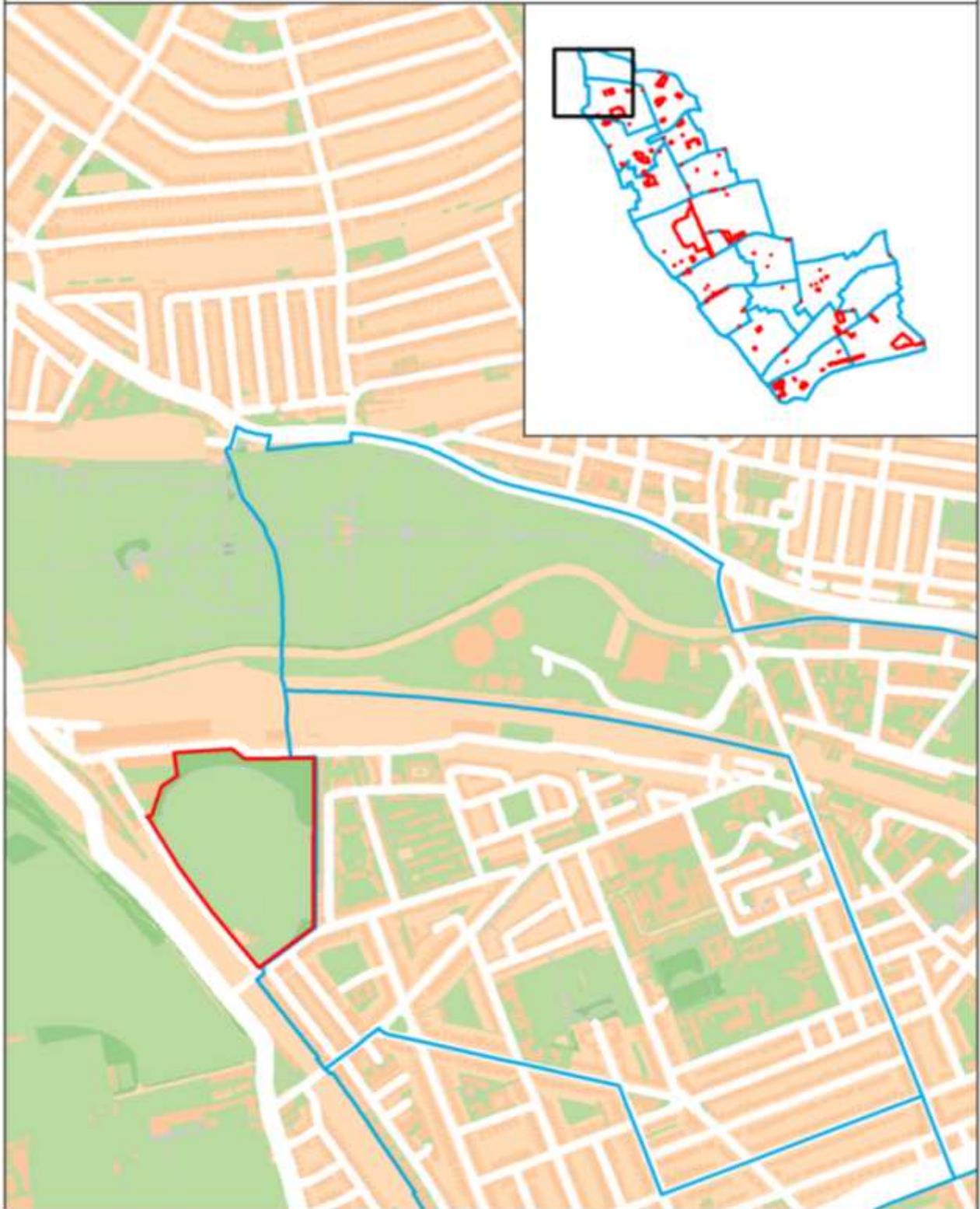
In pursuit of excellence, the Council wants each of the eight major parks to gain and **keep the prestigious Green Flag Awards. Whilst Holland Park, St Luke's Gardens and Kensington Memorial Park already hold Green Flag status, it is our intention that, from 2007, each one of the other parks will be brought up to Green Flag level and that this year Little Wormwood Scrubs will gain its Green Flag status.**

This management plan for Little Wormwood Scrubs sets out our proposed plans for the park over the next ten years. The plan is intended to enable us to achieve the highest horticultural and environmental quality, to ensure continuous top-quality maintenance and to provide facilities for people to play, walk, exercise or relax. All this needs to be managed to ensure that there is something for everyone in the **Borough's parks.**

If you have any comments you would like to make about the content of this plan, please send them to The Leisure Services Development Officer (Parks), The Stable Yard, Holland Park, Ilchester Place, London W8 6LU.

Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown  
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environmental Management and Leisure

# Little Wormwood Scrubs Location



<p><b>Title: LWS location</b></p>	<p>Ref: LWS Location Date: 13/09/10 Author: Monica Castello Status: Final</p>	<p><b>TEL: PARKS</b> The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Holland Park W8 4LQ 020 7938 8192 monica.castello@rbc.gov.uk</p> 
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## 1. Background

1.1 **Little Wormwood Scrubs, also known as 'Little Scrubs' to local residents, has never before had a Management Plan properly put in place.**

1.2 Day to day management for this site was transferred under local agreement from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in April 2008.

1.3 The strategic importance of Little Wormwood Scrubs is recognised by the Royal Borough and consequently the site will undergo improvement both in parallel with **and as a part of the borough's Ten-year Parks Strategy**, with the proposed works physically starting in 2009.

1.4 In 2008 an extensive public consultation took place with the Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs, other groups and individuals to gain an insight into the community needs and encourage greater use of the park. This consultation involved discussion with a number of different groups including parents and carers, young people, regular users of the park, the Parks Police and Park staff (Quadron Services Ltd).

1.5 The Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan will sit along side several other strategies and initiatives; these are elaborated on later in the plan. It is important to note, however, that this is a plan to improve the site and manage the day-to-day operations of the park as it is now and is not a plan to restore the park to the footprint of an earlier time.

## 2. Introduction

2.1 Name: Little Wormwood Scrubs

2.2 Map Reference: TQ 230 820

2.3 Location: The Park is located just outside of the St Charles ward in the north of the Borough. There are two entrance points to the park: from Dalgarno Gardens (two pedestrian and one vehicular), and through the Housing Estate (pedestrians only) off Sutton Way.

2.4 Size: approx. 7.2 Ha

2.5 Age: Approximately 120 years. (Acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works from the Bishops of London in 1886.)

2.6 Ownership and Management: The Trustees of Wormwood Scrubs (London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham) have charged the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea with the day-to-day management of the site.

2.7 Maintenance: The site is maintained by an external contractor; currently Quadron Services Ltd.

2.8 Significant features and main uses of the park: The Park consists of a large open area consisting of amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub, scattered trees and woodland. See [Appendix Two](#) for detailed ecological description from 2002 / 2003 surveys. The majority of the park currently consists of amenity grassland. A large area of un-mown semi-improved neutral grassland occurs to the northern central area of the park and includes a good range of grasses. In the centre of this area are patches of scrub. In addition, there is an area of dense scrub in the north-eastern corner of the site. A young secondary woodland is establishing along the western and northern margins.

There is an adventure playground with an adjoining One o Clock club on the west side of the park and a smaller toddlers playground located on the east side. There are also dog toilets.

**The Early Year's Centre is run under licence from the Directorate of Family and Children's Services for younger children as a drop-in centre. The adjoining Adventure Playground (rebuilt in 2009) is managed under similar arrangements. The playground alongside of the Thai Café is managed by the Directorate of Transport, Environment and Leisure Services.**



2.9 Brief History: ([See Appendix Five](#)). Little Wormwood Scrubs has been a public park since 1886. The land originally part of the Bishops of London lands and was acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1886. The land is currently held in trust by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham but is managed under a 20-year lease by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

## 2.10 Known issues affecting the Park:

### Social

The Park has historically had some issues with anti-social behaviour such as dog fighting and dog fouling which are being addressed positively as a part of this plan. Most of the anti-social activities associated with the park were a direct consequence of the lack of daily management and supervision of the site.

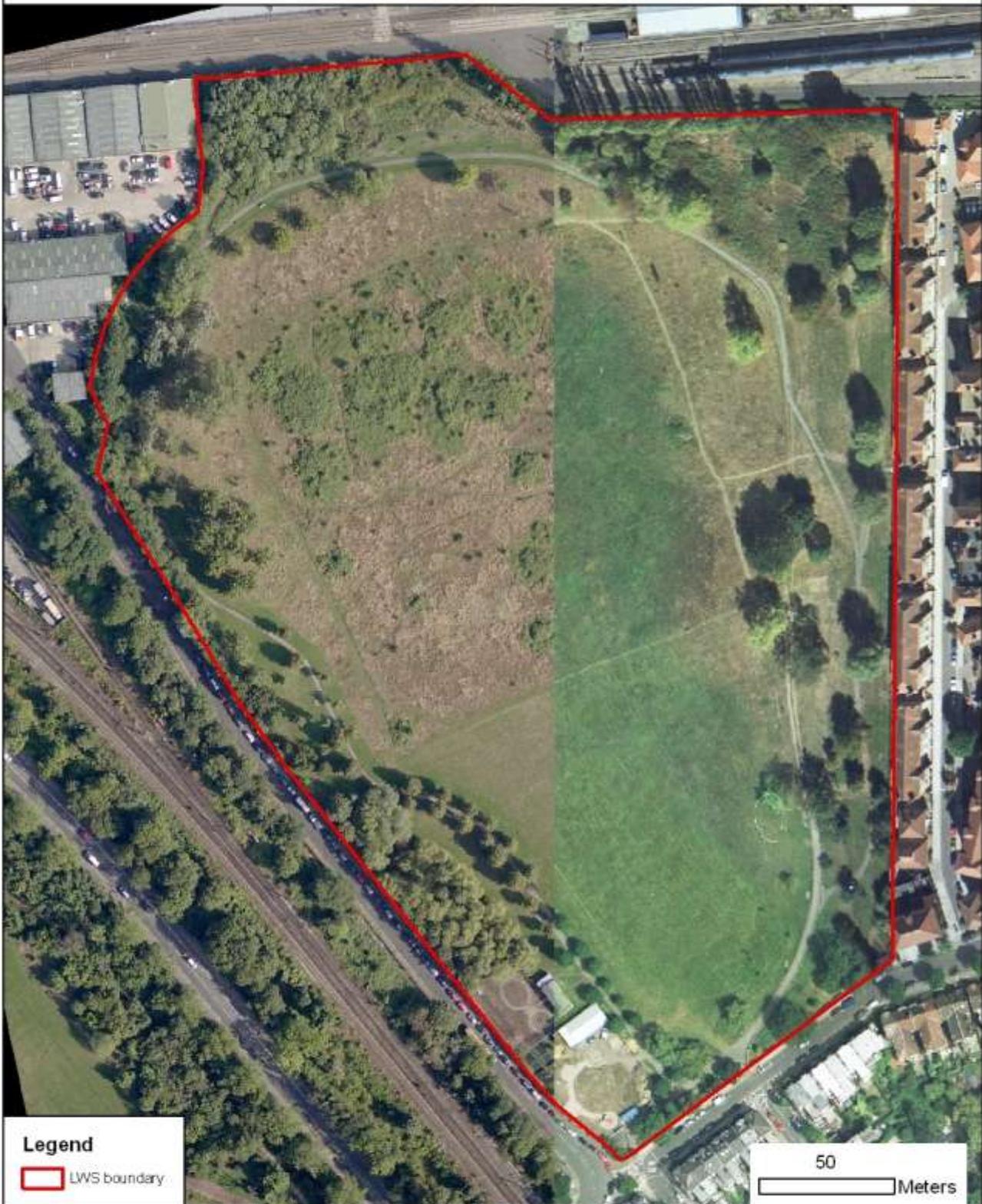
### Ecological

The site has a high ecological value as recorded through the Ecology Appraisals ([Appendix two](#)). However, it is evident from recent site inspections and through the examination of the aerial photography (Figures 1 and 2 below) that the encroachment of the scrub habitat into the semi-improved neutral grassland is now compromising the integrity of the grassland. If this remains unmanaged, the site will be heavily encroached. It is important that a management regime is implemented to ensure the continuing diversity of habitats on the site.

Additional features of concern are:

- The presence of Japanese knotweed on in the north-eastern corner
  - The damage caused to trees by dogs stripping the bark
- Lack of structural diversity to the existing woodland

## Little Wormwood Scrubs: Aerial Photography (2004 RH photo/ 2006 LH photo)



<p><b>Little Wormwood Scrubs</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea 00021896 (2009)</p>	<p>Ref: LWS-Aerial (2004 / 2006)</p> <p>Date: 09/05/2009</p> <p>Author: S. Lovell</p> <p>Status: Draft</p>	<p><b>TELS: Ecology</b></p> <p>The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Holland Park Ecology Centre 020 7930 8185 seakie.lovell@rbkc.gov.uk</p>
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Figure 1: Aerial view of Little Wormwood Scrubs taken in 2004 and 2006.

## Little Wormwood Scrubs: Aerial Photography (2008)



<p><b>Little Wormwood Scrubs</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">N</p>	<p>Ref: LWS-Aerial (2004 / 2006)</p> <p>Date: 06/05/2008</p> <p>Author: S. Lovell</p> <p>Status: Draft</p>	<p>TEL: S: Ecology</p> <p>The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea</p> <p>Holland Park Ecology Centre</p> <p>020 7938 8185</p> <p>ss@kcl.gov.uk</p>
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Figure 2: Aerial view of Little Wormwood Scrubs taken in 2008 showing the rapid encroachment of the scrub into the semi improved natural grassland.

Funding: Following the transfer of management responsibility mentioned above the park is to undergo major improvements in conjunction with rather than as a part of **the Royal Borough's Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015**. The improvements are due to be carried out in two phases. The funding for phase one has been allocated by the 2009/10 capital programme.

#### Additional Funding: Mayors Priority Parks Initiative

In November 2008 the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, launched an initiative to give 10 grants of up to £400,000 to 10 parks across London. The grants were awarded based on a public vote and Little Wormwood Scrubs was one of the ten winning parks. A grant agreement is in place and the costs of the works will be shared 60:40 rather than the different works being split between the two budgets.

#### Additional Funding: Play Pathfinder Initiative – **Family and Children's Services**

This programme is a key part of the national play strategy, Fair Play, launched in April 2008. As a play pathfinder authority the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea will receive around £2 million capital funding plus significant revenue funding. Play pathfinders will work with children, young people and their communities to develop innovative play sites with challenging equipment and natural landscapes in order to give all children the opportunity to play actively outdoors. The play sites will also be accessible for disabled children. Little Wormwood Scrubs is one of several Play Pathfinder sites in the borough and the redevelopment of the **Adventure Playground was undertaken in 2009 by the directorate of Family and Children's Services** under the play pathfinder.

The indicative phases are:

Phase one which commences in summer 2009 will incorporate a temporary works **base and yard for the Grounds Maintenance contractor's staff, improvements to the** footpaths, tree works based on the 2008 tree survey, increasing biodiversity opportunities and the transformation of a dogs only to a dogs-excluded area along the Dalgarno Gardens frontage. There are likely to be changes made to the younger **children's play provision in this phase as well.**

Phase two is likely to see a new building replacing the diverse collection of buildings as well as completion of all other projects started earlier. The specific improvement plan is shown in Section 6 below. A new adventure playground is being installed as part of the Play pathfinder initiative (as described above).

2.12 The Management Plan: Although the management plan has principally been written by one person several groups and partners have contributed to its completion.

Thorough public consultation with regard to the future use of the park has heavily influenced the plan, as have various strategies and documents detailed further on in the plan. Colleagues from other departments within the Council have also participated in its conclusion.

The plan has been specifically laid out in order to comply with the Green Flag Award **Scheme criteria and in accordance with guidelines set by CABE Space: "A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans"**. The end result is a working document accessible to all those involved in managing and maintaining Little Wormwood Scrubs. Although limited paper copies are available, the need to update the plan at least once a year means that it is best kept in an electronic format.

This Management Plan is a public document and can be accessed via the internet. It is reviewed annually ahead of the submission of an application for Green Flag status and this review process offers the opportunity for reflection on success as well changes in direction necessitated by changing circumstances.

### 3. Wider Policy Context

Outlined below are strategies, policies and reports that have aims and objectives that directly link, or have an impact on the Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan 2008-2017. Although direct references may not be made to each and every **document, all are relevant; brief overviews of each of the documents' aims and objectives are outlined below.**

National Context:

#### 3.1 Green Flag Award Scheme Criteria

The Green Flag Award Scheme was set up in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in England and Wales. The Little Wormwood Scrubs Management plan has been written to comply with the Green Flag criteria: A Welcoming Place, Healthy Safe and Secure, Clean and Well Maintained, Sustainability, Conservation and Heritage, Community Involvement, Marketing and Management. In accordance with **advice set out by the Green Flag Award Scheme CABE Space, 'A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans', has also been referred to in order to produce a Management Plan that is concise and effective.**

#### 3.2 Green Spaces, Better Places: The Urban Green Spaces Taskforce. 2002

This report sets out 52 recommendations for both local and national Government to **consider in order to 're-vitalise parks and green spaces'.** There is a strong emphasis on working in partnership with the local community in order to achieve this. The Urban Green Spaces Taskforce was established in 2001, following the Urban White Paper of 2000, to advise the Government on improving the quality of our urban parks, play areas and green spaces.

The report recognises the importance of the Green Flag Award Scheme and suggests **that the Government establishes 'nationally acceptable quality standards for managing and maintaining parks and green spaces' based on the schemes values** (CABE Space was subsequently established in 2003 following this report). The Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan is influenced by this report and upholds its core values.

#### 3.3 Living Places: Cleaner Safer Greener ODPM 2002

**This report sets out the Government's vision for public spaces "everybody's local environment should be cleaner, safer and greener". Section three of this specifically looks at Urban Parks and Green Spaces and responds to the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce: Green Spaces, Better Places. The report describes good parks as "vital" with among others the Green Flag Award Scheme being highlighted as a strategic partner.**

**The Royal Borough shares the opinion that 'everyone has a right to good parks and green spaces close to his or her home or place of work'. In this report emphasis is placed on the importance of local leadership with regard to improvement of parks and green spaces; the Royal Borough holds local leadership in high regard and it is believed that through the implementation of the Borough's Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015 and subsequent park management plans that this leadership will be evident and improvements in our parks will be noticeable.**

3.4 Planning Policy Guide 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation  
The Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan has been compiled with this policy in mind ensuring that all improvements to the park are to benefit the community as a whole. New space is not being considered; however, in accordance with PPG 17 the **management plan is in place to "improve the value of existing facilities"**. Those with disabilities are also being considered when installing new play equipment in accordance with.

### 3.5 Disability Discrimination Act 2005

In accordance with this Act the Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan highlights areas in which the Park is improving various sections of the Park in order to make the Park more accessible to disabled people.

Regional Context:

### 3.6 **The Mayor of London's: Guide to preparing Open Space Strategies, Best practice guidance of the London Plan 2004**

**This strategy informed the Royal Borough's Ten-Year Parks Strategy 2006-2015 and therefore feeds into the Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan. The main aim is to have strategies in place that "identify ways of protecting, creating and enhancing them [parks and open spaces] and improving the quality through better management". The Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan will provide better management for the Park.**

Local Context:

### 3.7 The R.B.K.C. Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015

Although Little Wormwood Scrubs is not included in this document, the Parks Strategy impacts heavily on the Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan. The strategy sets out plans over the next ten years to improve the major parks in the Borough, with the exception of Holland Park, which has been the focus of substantial investment and improvement already. Obtaining and keeping Green Flag status for each of the eight major parks in the Borough is laid out under objective one in the **strategy: to 'Ensure high standards of maintenance, management and safety in the parks'**. Holland Park and Kensington Memorial Park already hold Green Flags and each year from we aim to bring of the other parks up to the Green Flag level.

### 3.8 The R.B.K.C. Little Wormwood Scrubs (LWS) Public Consultation Report June 2008

The Strategy and Service Development Division in Transport Environment and Leisure Services carried out public consultation during the summer of 2008 to find out what local residents and users of the park would like to see improved in the park. The consultation has influenced the changes proposed for the park and has consequently informed this management plan ([Appendix one](#) reports on the findings of the second stage of the consultation process). Although specific local consultation on specific issues may be necessary later, no further wide-scale consultation is anticipated as a part of this management plan.

### 3.9 The R.B.K.C. Cabinet Business Plan 2008/09;

The Cabinet Business Plan sets out the Council's plans for the next three years and the budget for the coming year. The Council's main aims have been updated so as to define the Council's contribution to a 'Better City Life', 'Really good services', 'Responding to Residents', '21 Projects for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' and 'Renewing the Legacy'. Within it the parks and open spaces are held in high regard. With 84 per cent of the Borough's residents having no access to a garden of their own it is crucial that the parks and open spaces in the borough are maintained to a high standard. The Business Plan refers to the Parks Strategy.

### 3.10 The R.B.K.C. Community Strategy 2005-2015 (The Future of Our Community)

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership (KCP) Steering Group prepared this Strategy for the Royal Borough. The Partnership is an umbrella group that brings together a mix of large and small organisations and partnerships within the borough including the Council, the police, the Primary Care Trust, the business community and the voluntary and community sector. The strategy is organised around eight themes dealing with aspects of life in the Royal Borough: Environment and Transport, Culture Arts and Leisure, Safer Communities, Health and Social Care, Homes and Housing, Community Equality and Inclusively, Learning, Work and Business. Although parks and open space sits mainly in Culture, Arts and Leisure there are of course overlaps with several of the other themes. The Goal for Culture, Arts and Leisure is: **"A borough where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy its public parks and open spaces and wide variety of high quality cultural, artistic and leisure activities."** This management plan will be a step further to ensuring that the goal is achieved.

### 3.11 The R.B.K.C. Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008

This strategy has been prepared by the Community Safety Programme Board (CSPB). The CSPB is part of the KCP, which is responsible for developing and delivering the Community Strategy for the Borough, see above. The vision of the Community Safety Strategy is to make Kensington and Chelsea safer. The vision is laid out in six key points, summarised: (1) encouraging residents to take responsibility for reducing their chances of becoming a victim, (2) maximising opportunities via public and private agencies to design out crime, (3) increasing the likelihood of offenders being caught, (4) confronting antisocial behaviour, the illegal use of drugs and the misuse of alcohol, (5) encouraging parents to take responsibility for their children, and (6) educating children and young people and offering support when offending behaviour becomes apparent. Safety is very important in the **Borough's parks, designing out crime is something that the strategy highlights and is a high priority when considering improvements to the park.**

### 3.12 The R.B.K.C. Environment Strategy 2006-2011

This strategy supersedes the Environmental policy statements that have gone before it since 1990. It is much more ambitious and challenging as it sets out how the Council will demonstrate leadership in developing sustainable solutions to local, regional and global environmental problems. The Council is aware that is willing to lead by example with its new Environment Strategy. Being the biggest employer in the borough the Council is intending to stretch its own performance in order to encourage others to follow its example. The strategy is split into seven main themes: Sustainable Energy, Waste and Recycling, Transport, Pollution and Environmental Quality, Development and Construction, Procurement and Resource Use, and Ecology and Biodiversity. The Environment Strategy links heavily with Parks and Open Spaces and highlights the need for our parks to gain Green Flag status.

### 3.13 The R.B.K.C. Arts Strategy 2004-2008

The Arts Strategy is intended to be a framework for use by all those who have an interest in the arts, including organisations and artists, participants and audience members. It examines the views of the arts community and suggests a strategic direction for the future. Links with parks and open spaces focus on holding more arts **events in parks as part of an 'Arts in Parks' program to be held annually across London.** A new Strategy is under preparation.

### 3.14 The R.B.K.C. Play Strategy 2006-2009

#### **The Royal Borough's Play Strategy highlights the importance of play in children's**

lives. The parks and open spaces are central to this and the strategy aims to maximise the use of parks and open spaces ensuring that playgrounds in parks are of a high standard and accessible to children with disabilities wherever possible. The redesign of the park will be looking to include, in its design, facilities suitable for disabled children.

### 3.15 The R.B.K.C. Sports Strategy 2008-2015

Although there is no intention to develop specific sports facilities on the site – the larger Wormwood Scrubs playing fields are close by and much more appropriate for the purpose – there is recognition of the value of informal games space and this has been provided. Other opportunities for improving health through physical activity are recognised as well and outdoor gym equipment is proposed as a part of the perimeter walk / run.

### 3.16 The R.B.K.C. Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2004-2006 (under revision as LBAP 2009/10-2014/15)

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) ensures that the Council continues to make a significant contribution to the protection and improvement of the natural environment working closely with landowners, local organisations and residents of **the Borough. The Borough's parks and open spaces need to preserve and enhance** natural areas to encourage flora and fauna to flourish. The revised LBAP is in preparation at present. More thought with regard to biodiversity is being incorporated in the Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan, as is evident through the following pages.

### 3.17 The R.B.K.C. Communications Standards

New standards have been recently implemented for when producing Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea material. Standards are in place for when using the new borough logo, use of fonts and colours. These will be taken into consideration when designing signage and promotional materials for the parks.

### 3.18 The Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment act 2005

#### The R.B.K.C. Fouling of Land by Dogs order 2006

New by-laws came into effect on 29 January 2007. On specified land, including the parks and open spaces, it is an offence to fail to do the following: remove dog faeces, and put and keep a dog on a lead when directed. It is also an offence to take more than two dogs onto specified land. This order is similar to the 1996 order. This will replace the by-law regarding dogs at present and will be printed along with the other by-laws on the back of parks entrance signs as is detailed in the plan.

### **3.19 The LBHF and R.B.K.C. Local Development Plans (LDP's)**

The Local Development Frameworks developed by each delivers the spatial planning strategy for the two boroughs. Unitary Development Plans (UDP) preceded the new LDP's and stressed the need to "maintain and increase the provision and quality of open space of local and metropolitan value". Given that Little Wormwood Scrubs is surrounded by a railway line and road on two sides and R.B.K.C. housing on the other two sides, it is extremely likely that at the next Boundary Change opportunity the Commission will be successfully lobbied to redraw the boundary so that this site sits exclusively within the Royal Borough's boundaries. (This will also require a change of Trusteeship.) The R.B.K.C. Local Development Framework is linked closely with the Community Strategy as community and public engagement a fundamental requirement of the planning system. Through this Management Plan we will be maintaining and enhancing the quality of Little Wormwood Scrubs.

### 3.20 The R.B.K.C. Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification

The works specification outlines what is expected of the Grounds Maintenance Contractor with regard to maintenance in the Parks and Open Spaces in the Borough; the present Contractor is Quadron Services Ltd. They are contracted to provide this service until 2019.

### 3.21 The R.B.K.C. Events Strategy 2009 (in preparation)

### 3.22 Parkscape (Draft Document)

This is a policy document that is a direct development of the Royal Borough's Parks Strategy 2006-2011 and is complementary to *Streetscape* the best practice guide produced by the Royal Borough to shape the streets and public realm. Part One introduces the concept of Parkscape and explains the policies and standards adopted by the Council. It goes on to deal with individual elements of Parkscape design and their application in Royal Borough parks and open spaces. Part two contains detailed specifications and standard details this section is loose bound and will be updated as necessary.

### 3.23 Partnership Guidelines:

#### The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

It is important to note that while the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea manages this site, it is leased from and still lies within the boundaries of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and is consequently bound by its by-laws and other regulations. Below are some of the strategies, policies and reports that have aims and objectives held by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham that directly link, or have an impact on the Little Wormwood Scrubs Management Plan.

#### LBHF Corporate Identity Guidelines

These are the guidelines that have been implemented for when producing London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham material. Guidelines are in place for when using the borough logo, use of fonts and colours. These will be taken into consideration along with our own R.B.K.C. corporate identity guidelines when designing signage and promotional materials for the park.

## LBHF By-laws

Little Wormwood Scrubs still lies within the boundaries of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and therefore the by-laws set in place by that borough still stand. These by-laws will be placed on the signage in the park along with the LBHF logo but will be enforced by parks police from both boroughs.

### Notes:

It should be noted that planning permission for major works must be obtained from both boroughs.

Licensing for events and other activities is still regulated by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

#### 4. The Management Plan

This plan highlights existing key issues relating to the main management and maintenance elements of Little Wormwood Scrubs, identifying objectives accordingly. Actions have been laid out in conjunction with the objectives in order to make sure that the objectives are achieved.

The content and structure of the plan has been laid out in table format to comply with the Green Flag criteria and 'A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans' by CABE Space. The Green Flag criteria are laid along the left hand side of the table with the CABE Space guidelines to 'A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans' along the top.

Linking policies and documents are covered in more depth in section 3.

## 4.1 A WELCOMING PLACE

### The Visitor Perspective

#### **Residents' Panel:**

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has established a Residents' Panel, as a cost effective means of handling the growing number of consultation surveys undertaken by the Council. The Panel is surveyed four times a year.

The Panel has an ongoing process of recruitment. This is intended to replace members who leave the Panel, for example members who no longer wish to participate or who move out of the Royal Borough. Panel members who do not return questionnaires on two or more consecutive occasions are also replaced, in order to maintain the cost effectiveness of running the Panel.

**Residents' Panel members stay on the Panel for a maximum of two years. This is** because Panel members become more knowledgeable about the way in which the Council works, and therefore cease to be representative of the population as a whole. Recruiting new members to the Panel also enables more members of the public to have the opportunity to take part. The number of Panel members currently stands at 1121.

The following information was taken from the results of the 2008 Residents Panel Survey: Parks. A new survey will be undertaken in 2011.

- The top three activities respondents use the parks for are for walking (74 per cent), to relax (62 per cent) and for general exercise (45 per cent).
- **Respondents from the North of the borough are most likely to use the borough's** parks for general exercise, meeting friends and taking children to play.
- 11 per cent of respondents from the North of the borough list Little Wormwood Scrubs as the park they visit most often.
- 10 per cent of respondents visit Little Wormwood Scrubs at least once a month.

#### Consultation:

In 2008 following the transfer of management of the site, The Royal Borough carried out a consultation to find out what residents would like to see happen in Little Wormwood Scrubs. The results showed that the most popular ideas were to:

- Improve the buildings for play services and environmental education
- **Move all the play equipment to the same area, and put in new equipment**
- **Manage the woodland and scrub areas and remove some of the undergrowth**
- **Put in information boards to tell people about the park and its wildlife**
- Improve and widen the path to make it suitable for walking and running.

(The full results are available as [appendix one](#))

#### Mystery Shopping:

**In 2010 a mystery shopping resident review was carried out on the borough's major** parks, including Little Wormwood Scrubs. The parks were mystery shopped to the Green Flag Award Criteria. Out of five individual visits to Little Wormwood Scrubs, four of the visitors were satisfied with the overall experience of visiting the park.

## GOOD AND SAFE ACCESS

Background/Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are three entrances to the park via: Dalgarno Gardens and Sutton Road. All are suitable for disabled access. They could, however, be more visually appealing.</li> <li>The vehicle entrance has been re-levelled and resurfaced to aid vehicle access as well as general accessibility. A bollard has also been installed to restrict access to authorised vehicles only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Discrimination Act 2005.</li> <li>The R.B.K.C. Community Strategy 2005-2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve the visual appearance of the entrances to the park.</li> <li>To have clear vehicular access to the park for Parks vehicles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the improvements planned for the park the entrances are to be improved in phase one of the improvement project. At present this has not been timetabled.</li> </ul>

## EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The three entrances to the park are all suitable for disabled access.</li> <li>The whole of the park is open to the public with certain areas designated for specific age groups. More could be done in the park to engage with teenagers as well as provide relative sanctuary from dogs / dog mess.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Discrimination Act 2005.</li> <li>The R.B.K.C. Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015.</li> <li>The R.B.K.C. Community Strategy 2005-2015.</li> <li>The R.B.K.C. Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008.</li> <li>The R.B.K.C. LWS Public Consultation Report 2008.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve the park <b>so that everyone's needs</b> are fully met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The redevelopment of the park has been set out in two stages. See Section 6.</li> </ul>

## SIGNAGE

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New entrance signage was installed in 2008 to reflect the change in management.</li> <li>• Interpretation of the history of the site could improve local ownership and identification with the site.</li> <li>• There is a notice-board on site that holds information about the park. More effort needs to be made to ensure that the information is kept current to enable visitors to the park to be fully informed of events in the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The R.B.K.C. Corporate Identity Standards</li> <li>• LBHF By-laws</li> <li>• Parkscape</li> <li>• The R.B.K.C. Community Strategy 2005-2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain all entrance signage in the parks to a good quality in order to create a welcoming entrance to the park. The parks By-laws are printed on the reverse of the signs.</li> <li>• To consider developing best-practice guidance in relation to signage as an extension of the <b>Council's Streetscape manual 'Parkscape'</b>.</li> <li>• To utilise and regularly update notice-boards to provide information about ongoing improvements in the park and events in the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new signs have by-laws printed clearly on the reverse side stating acceptable behaviour in the parks. This will limit the need for excess signs in the park.</li> <li>• The Parks Team has been working with the Highways Team responsible for the <b>'Streetscape' manual</b> to compile a similar code of practice for the parks and open spaces. The <b>'Parkscape' manual</b> addresses among other issues signage, buildings and pathways.</li> <li>• <b>The Park's team will</b> assemble the relevant information and ensure that it is displayed and updated as necessary. A notice board will be updated weekly during the improvement works to inform park users about what we are doing and the timescales involved.</li> <li>• The Grounds Maintenance Contracts Manager and Park supervisory staff will ensure that this is being done with monthly checks.</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The park is managed to provide a healthy, safe and secure atmosphere and environment for all those who visit the park and for those who work in it.

### Parks Police

**The Royal Borough's Parks Police Service provides a reassuring uniformed presence in the borough's parks and open spaces and in the borough's two cemeteries at Hanwell and Gunnersbury.** Their mission is to ensure that those parks and open spaces remain safe and welcoming places for everyone. This role is underpinned by a Parks Policing Pledge that outlines how the service will be delivered.

The team consists of one Inspector, two Sergeants and fifteen Constables. They **assist in delivering the Royal Borough's duty to "do all it can to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour", by adopting a problem-solving approach,** and working with local communities to reduce problems in our Parks. There is a nominated liaison Officer for each park.

The enforcement of byelaws and environmental protection laws also form a core part **of the Service's duties, and Officers are sworn in as Constables and have powers of arrest** within the parks. The Service also forms part of the local authority response to major incidents, and works closely with the Metropolitan Police and other agencies to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Mobile, Cycle and Foot Patrols regularly visit the outer parks and open spaces, both during operating hours and out of hours to deter trespassers. Some parks are also covered by CCTV which is monitored by Council staff.



## SAFE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily safety inspections are carried out by the contractor on all play equipment and facilities within the park. Any unsafe areas are marked off and any faults are logged on to the workbook by contract/Park staff and repairs are then carried out. This can be quite a drawn out process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The R.B.K.C. Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> <li>Service Level Agreement with General Services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain a high level of equipment and facility inspection, and ensure that repairs are handled quickly and efficiently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract /Park staff to continue to report any repairs to the workbook. The Leisure Services Manager (Parks) then prioritises the repairs and finally the General Services team carry out the repairs.</li> </ul>

## DOG FOULING, FIGHTING AND DAMAGE TO TREES

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog fouling, fighting and destruction of trees are important issues for the park.</li> <li><b>The existing "dogs only" area is not fit for purpose</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little Wormwood Scrubs Consultation 2008.</li> <li>The R.B.K.C. Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2006.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a cleaner and safer park free from dog fouling.</li> <li>The dog exercise area to be replaced by a dog-free area for people scared of dogs in particular to enjoy.</li> <li>To encourage dog owners or carers to take more responsibility for their dogs, in turn creating a safer park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Dog Control Orders came into effect on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 – replacing previous bye-laws. Dog handlers can be penalised if they: do not remove dog faeces, or do not place their dog on a lead when requested, do not leave the park if requested.</li> </ul>

## PERSONAL SECURITY

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●In the 2008 Residents Panel the majority of residents stated they felt very safe or quite safe in the <b>borough's parks</b>. Anti-social behaviour, however – dog fighting and damage to trees - still continues to be a problem and this needs to be addressed.</li> <li>●The park is monitored by the Parks Police who visit the park regularly. They provide comfort for the public. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Enforcement officers are also available should they be required to attend an incident.</li> <li>●There is always a park keeper on site which adds to a feeling of safety in the park.</li> <li>●The Contractor has produced risk assessments to ensure safe working practice for all works carried out in the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●The R.B.K.C. LWS Public Consultation Report 2008.</li> <li>●The R.B.K.C. Community Strategy 2005-2015.</li> <li>●The R.B.K.C. Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008.</li> <li>●The R.B.K.C. Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008.</li> <li>●A full set of Risk Assessments are held in the Parks Office at Holland Park along with the Contractors Health and Safety Policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●To ensure that all who visit the park feel safe and secure at all times.</li> <li>●In case of emergency Parks Police numbers need to be displayed on boards near the entrances to the park.</li> <li>● Parks Police from both local authorities to provide a visible presence and support in the park on a regular basis.</li> <li>●To ensure that the use of mobile CCTV is backed up with regular visits from the Parks Police.</li> <li>● To maintain the park in a safe and secure condition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●To ensure that when incidents occur in the park a quick response is made by Parks Police in order to deal with the problem.</li> <li>●Parks police from both local authorities to continue to visit the park on a regular basis.</li> <li>●Parks Police to continue to have regular meetings with the Enforcement department and the Metropolitan Police on the state of the parks.</li> <li>●When excess signs are removed from the <b>Park the Park's Police</b> telephone number will be placed in the notice board.</li> <li>●PCSO's from St. Charles Ward to be requested to patrol Little Wormwood Scrubs as well.</li> <li>●The current Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Quadron Services Ltd., has an active health and safety policy statement. All employees are provided with information, instruction, training and supervision so that they are able to carry out their duties and responsibilities in a safe manner.</li> </ul>

## APPROPRIATE PROVISION OF FACILITIES

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Play equipment is monitored daily to check that it is safe to use. If any piece of equipment is declared unsafe, due to vandalism, it is sectioned off and the need for repair is noted.</li> <li>● Tree planting at present is only very minimal. Many of the existing trees are in urgent need of remedial works.</li> <li>● Toilet Facilities at present are only available on site for young people and their carers if using <b>the Children's One o'clock club or Adventure Play</b> facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Play Strategy 2006-2009.</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Environmental Strategy 2006-2011</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Local Biodiversity action Plan 2004-2006</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. LWS Public Consultation Report June 2008.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To provide safe usable play equipment for children of all ages and abilities.</li> <li>● To provide boundaries to the Park with new shrub and tree planting, creating a safe natural enclosure.</li> <li>● To keep under review the option for the provision of toilets that are safe for all park users to use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As noted before any faults are to be logged on to the workbook for repair. The Grounds Maintenance Supervisors will be trained as ROSPA inspectors to check up on any reported damage or defects in more detail.</li> <li>● All phases of the initial plan to include tree planting. The Tree Survey 2008 will inform remedial works. Annual tree planting programmes to be drawn up.</li> <li>● The new building proposed under Phase 2 may include wider provision of toilets. The staffing of the toilets also needs consideration especially in the summer months.</li> </ul>

## QUALITY OF FACILITIES

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All facilities in the park are maintained to a safe standard with daily monitoring as stated previously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To continue to provide safe facilities for all park users to enjoy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Through regular monitoring by Parks/contractor staff the park should be kept safe and secure.</li> </ul>

## 4.3 Clean and Well Maintained

The park is managed to provide a clean and well-maintained litter free environment. Any graffiti or vandalism is always dealt with quickly and efficiently.

The grounds maintenance contract has specific guidelines regarding the cleaning and maintenance of sites and equipment.

### Monitoring

**The park is monitored jointly by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract Manager and the contractor's Area Supervisor on a weekly basis. The park is monitored from a visitor perspective ([Appendix Eight](#)) and the criteria are based on the Green Flag Award key criteria ([Appendix Seven](#)).**

### Inspections

Inspection of facilities is carried out at the following frequencies:

Play equipment (including safety surfaces): Is visually inspected daily by the park keeper and a weekly report on the play equipment is completed by the Area Supervisor. RSS, a play inspection company, carry out a detailed monthly inspection of the play equipment. The detailed monthly inspection is inclusive of minor repairs such as the tightening, oiling or replacement of loose or worn bolts and fixings. The results of all three inspections are sent to the Council's Contract Manager for action.

Furniture: Is visually inspected daily by the park keeper. Minor repairs are carried **out by the contractor, all other damage and defects are reported to the Council's** Contract Manager for action.

Paths and hard surfaces, fences, railings, walls, boundaries and drains are all **inspected daily for damage or graffiti. Any damage is reported to the Council's** Contract Manager for action.

### Damage and defects

Maintenance issues identified by council or contractors staff are reported to the Parks Administrator. The issues are logged on a database and actions for repair or **replacement are assigned by the Council's Contract Manager. Repairs are carried out by either the grounds maintenance contractors, building contractors, the Council's** facilities management team or, in the case of playground repairs, the play equipment manufacturer.

### Graffiti

In accordance with the contract specification graffiti is removed immediately on discovery using an approved graffiti remover. Graffiti absorbed into brickwork, on stone or unpainted woodwork is referred to the Parks Administrator for consideration by the responsible Graffiti Management team within the Council.

## LITTER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In accordance with the specification all litterbins are emptied by 10am daily. In the summer months when the park is used heavily it is necessary to empty the bins more than once.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The RBKC Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To keep the park clean and presentable all year round.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Park Keeper and Grounds maintenance Contracts Manager are to continue with their regular checks and continuous monitoring that the park is kept clean.</li> </ul>

The Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification sets out the following standards for the removal of litter from Little Wormwood Scrubs Gardens:

- Litter bins are emptied at least once per day and as necessary after that.
- The first emptying of litterbins shall be completed by 10am.
- Litter shall be cleared from all hedges, plant beds, herbaceous borders, pathways, hard surfaces, shrub beds and tree bases at least once per day.

**This is monitored by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract Manager. (See [Appendix Eight](#) for copy of monitoring sheet).**

Once litter is collected, it is removed from site by the cleansing team and brought back to Holland Park where SITA, the borough's waste management contractor, collect it.

## GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND HORTICULTURE

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●The park is maintained to a very high standard. A strict Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification must be adhered to.</li> <li>●Annual bedding schemes are continually being re- worked in partnership with client council officers and site based contractor management team with consideration to horticultural improvement and climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●The RBKC Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>●The RBKC Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●The park should be landscaped in such a way that it is accessible to all but also displays horticultural excellence, with a wider use of herbaceous plants and perennials and reduced dependence on annuals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Client Council officers and contractor staff should continue to work together on improving the bedding schemes, drought tolerant plants should be considered for summer bedding.</li> </ul>

### Bedding Schedules

On two occasions per year the Contractors strip and prepare the beds, supply plants and replant to plans approved by the Grounds Maintenance Contract Manager. The summer bedding operation normally begins in week No.20 and is completed by the end of week No.25. The spring bedding operation normally begins at start of week No.38 and is completed by the end of week No.43.

### General maintenance

Flower beds, shrub beds and hedges are cultivated at least once every two weeks; weeds and debris are removed and (in flower beds) plants dead headed to leave a neat, tidy and level finish.

## BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<p>As with equipment and facilities within the park buildings and infrastructure are also checked daily for any repairs that may be needed. Any repairs needed are logged on to the workbook by contract/Park staff and repairs are then carried out. This can be quite a drawn out process.</p> <p>If graffiti is found on any of the buildings within the Park it is removed as quickly as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No contractor works buildings are also located in the park for the grounds maintenance staff</li> </ul>	<p>The R.B.K.C. LWS Public Consultation Report June 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The R.B.K.C. Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> </ul>	<p>To ensure that all buildings and infrastructure within the park are clean and well maintained, and that there is a quick response time to repairs needed.</p> <p>To continue to provide quick and efficient removal of graffiti.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A works yard and store is an imperative</li> </ul>	<p>Contract /Park staff to continue to report any repairs to the workbook. The Leisure Services Manager (Parks) then prioritises the repairs and finally the General Services team carry out the repairs. Consideration should be given to making this process more efficient.</p> <p>To consider the resurfacing of paths in phase one.</p> <p>Parks contractor staff are equipped to deal with most graffiti and should continue to wash it off if they are able. For graffiti that is either engrained on wood or a tarmac surface a sub-<b>contractor "Graffiti solutions" should be</b> contacted through the Leisure Services Development Officer (Parks), once informed of the problem by the Contractor.</p> <p>Under Phase one of the initial improvement plan to include a temporary yard and buildings. In phase two to see if these can be formalised and build more robustly.</p>

## EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with <b>the contractor's</b> Health and Safety policy all staff are appropriately trained with the equipment they use. The equipment is regularly serviced and when not being used is stored away in the <b>contractor's yard</b>. Play equipment is monitored daily to ensure that it is suitable for use. If maintenance works need to be carried out this is noted in the workbook as noted previously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RBKC Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that all equipment in the park is maintained to a high standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor/Parks staff are to continue to monitor equipment to make sure that it is safe to use and must be fully aware of the health and safety conditions in which to use the equipment.</li> </ul>

## PATHS AND HARD SURFACES

A mechanical ride-on sweeper is used on paths and hard surfaces once per week. Using a mechanical sweeper has the added benefit of discouraging weed growth on paths without the use of herbicides.

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paths and hard surfaces are maintained in a clean, safe and serviceable condition at all times.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RBKC. Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To keep the park clean and presentable all year round.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Park Keepers and Grounds Maintenance Contracts Manager are to continue with their regular checks and continuous monitoring that the site is kept clean.</li> </ul>

## FURNITURE

For the purposes of this document the term "Furniture" is to include, seats and benches, picnic tables, litterbins, signs, signposts and signboards, drinking fountains and bollards.

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The contractor maintains park furniture through daily checks.</li> <li>● Wooden furniture is painted once per year.</li> <li>● Signage is cleaned at least quarterly and as necessary in between.</li> <li>● The contractor carries out minor repairs to park furniture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The RBKC. Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To keep all furniture clean, structurally safe, graffiti free and in good repair all year round.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Park Keepers and Grounds Maintenance Contracts Manager are to continue with their regular checks and continuous monitoring that the site is kept clean.</li> <li>● To continue to report defects promptly and carry out repairs as quickly as possible and to a high standard.</li> </ul>



## 4.4 Sustainability

The park is managed to maintain sustainable development through the recycling of green waste and careful consideration of bedding plants.

### Green Waste

Included in the Grounds Maintenance Contract as part of the on-going programme of sustainability, all green waste is brought back to Holland Park to be recycled in the **composting area and used around the borough's parks and open spaces.**

### Commercial Waste

Waste generated by visitors is usually placed in the bins. However, this waste is mixed and may contain sharps, needles and dog faeces and would present a risk to parks staff if they were asked to separate it for recycling. As a result, this waste and other litter is collected from site by the waste management contractor, SITA.

### Sustainable Procurement

This is achieved in the following ways:

- Parks benches are purchased from J and J Learmonths and are made from sustainably sourced wood in accordance with their environmental policy.
- Compost is peat free where possible. Where peat is used it is from sustainable sources (see [Appendix six](#) for William Sinclair Environmental Policy).
- Paper use: This management plan is distributed electronically and only available in printed format upon request, when using an electronic copy is not an option. Publications relating to the park are only printed if necessary but are all available online.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Royal Borough is committed to managing all of its parks, including Kensington Memorial Park, in an environmentally sustainable manner. However, improvements can and are always being made.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RBKC Environment Strategy 2006-2011.</li> <li>The RBKC Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>The RBKC Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2004-2006</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that the Park is managed to protect and enhance biodiversity and to improve sustainable practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By closely following the Environment Strategy 2006-2011 and following guidelines set out below.</li> <li>Quadron Services, our Grounds Maintenance Contractor, will be aiming to gain ISO 14001</li> </ul>

## PESTICIDES

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of pesticides and chemicals in the park is kept to a minimum in the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RBKC Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>The Environment Strategy 2006-2011.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To use little or no pesticides and use organic alternatives if appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the Grounds Maintenance Contract Manager to continue to research organic alternatives to chemicals and pesticides.</li> <li>Continue to use organic alternatives such as Garlic Barrier to ward off pests, and Savona, made from fatty acids, used to treat white-fly.</li> </ul>

Currently only Glyphosate is used on this site. The use of this herbicide is strictly controlled and only used if sweeping and hand-weeding are unsuccessful.

## PEAT USE

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peat is not used in the park where possible. Recycled mushroom compost is used in the spring to aid water retention. It is not used in the winter, as it is too rich for the bulbs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RBKC Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>The RBKC Environment Strategy 2006-2011.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To keep Kensington Memorial Park, along <b>with all the Borough's</b> Parks, as peat free as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain our policy of not using peat where possible in this park and other parks within the Royal Borough and to continue with the use of Mushroom compost in the spring.</li> </ul>

## WASTE MINIMISATION

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All green waste in the park is collected and taken to Holland Park to be composted. Once mulched down it is then redistributed around the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RBKC Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>The RBKC Environment Strategy 2006-2011</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to recycle 100 per cent of green waste in the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to recycle leaves and green waste and re-use for mulch.</li> <li>To consider ways of reducing our Carbon Footprint.</li> </ul>

## ARBORICULTURE AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks trees are monitored and pruned in accordance with the Grounds maintenance specification. Any major works are carried out as and when is considered necessary by the Grounds Maintenance Contracts manager. For health and safety reasons, however, this should be formalised.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RBKC Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To inspect all the trees throughout the park every three years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grounds Maintenance Contract Manager to implement action on this, and consider drawing up a scheduled time-table.</li> </ul>

The parks service purchased ezytreev software in spring 2010. This allows for more effective and accurate monitoring of parks trees with capability for on-site tree data collection, tree data management and ordering of tree works with an integrated digital mapping system.

## 4.5 Conservation and Heritage

### Ecological Enhancement

Biodiversity is a term which simply means 'the variety of life'. In order to ensure high biodiversity within woodland, we need to provide a whole range of habitats and microhabitats. This is done by encouraging high plant diversity, managing the structure of the wood to provide a variety of microhabitats and retaining 'waste' products such as rotting wood.

Little Wormwood Scrubs is managed to conserve and protect the natural surroundings of the park.

## CONSERVATION AND NATURE

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●The Park as a whole has been listed as a Conservation Area in a site of Local Importance. Its major habitats, as listed in the Borough Ecological Survey, include:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amenity grassland</li> <li>2. Semi-improved neutral grassland</li> <li>3. Woodland as well as scattered trees</li> <li>4. Planted Shrubbery Scrub</li> </ol> </li> <li>●More could be done to develop nature sites in the Park, as at present there is little to focus on.</li> <li>●A limited number of species has been recorded on the site and more needs to be done to broaden the biodiversity of the site through changed management regimes as much as introductions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2004 -2006 (amended)</li> <li>● The Draft R.B.K.C. Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 - 2015</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Public Consultation 2008</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●To increase the habitat creation and to improve the ecological value resulting in an overall biodiversity net gain within the park.</li> <li>●To enhance the growth of wild flora and fauna in the park.</li> <li>● Gain a better understanding of the biodiversity on the site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Establish a habitat / land use map identifying the areas of habitat establishment, accompanied by detailed actions required to establish these habitats.</li> <li>●The Grounds Maintenance Specification will be modified to take into account the specific needs of designated areas of taller grass, brambles, woodland etc.</li> <li>●Establish a biodiversity survey strategy for the site</li> </ul>

HABITAT ESTABLISHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT – OVERVIEW MAP

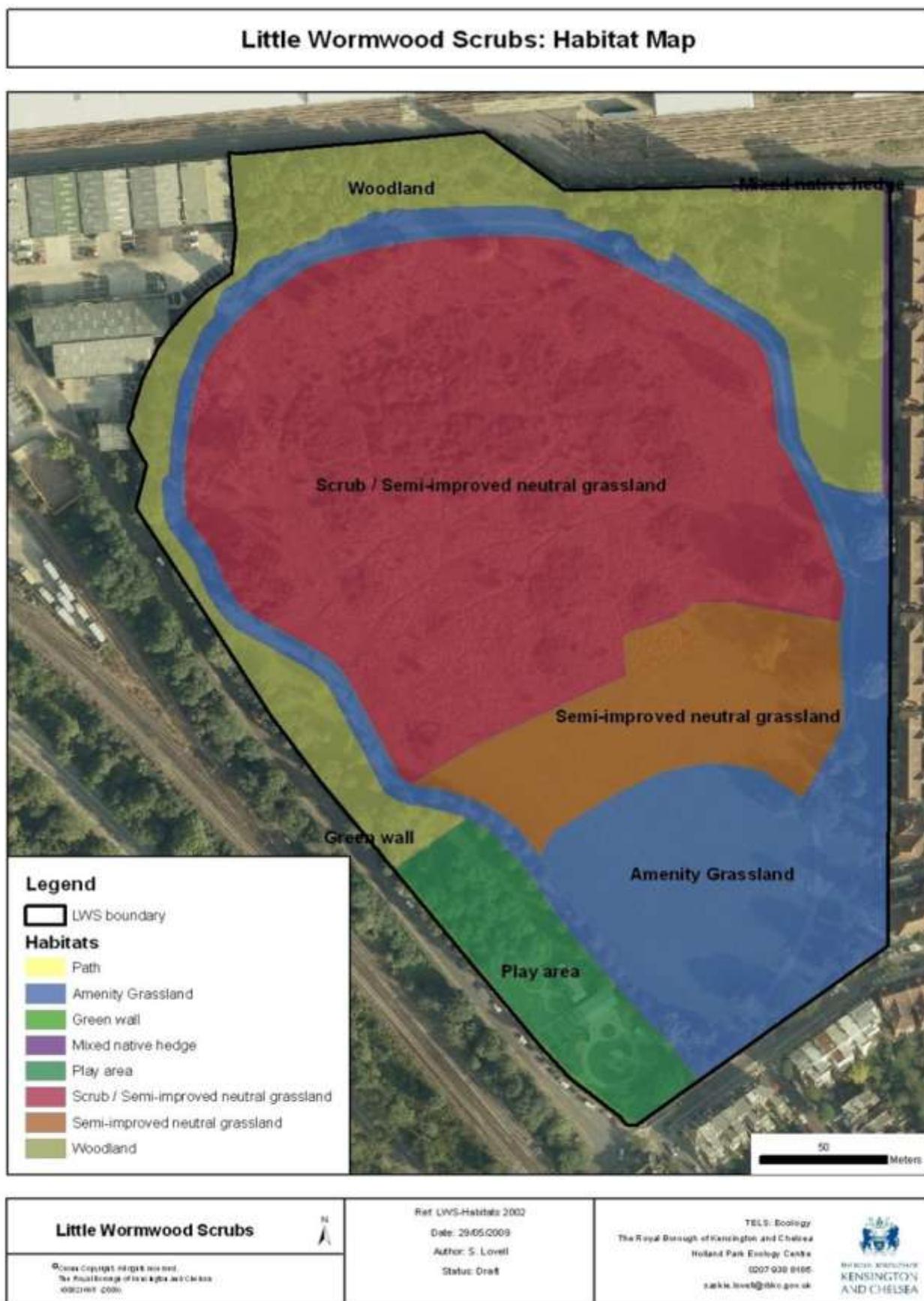


Figure 1: Overview habitat map

WOODLAND

The following habitats need to be established within the woodland parcel.



Figure 2: Woodland management map

## Woodland planting

The more different types of plants there are within a wood, the greater the variety of food sources available for invertebrates, birds and mammals. This will include the leaves, flowers (of insect-pollinated plants), fruits, nuts and seeds of the plants. The presence of a variety of plants with different flowering and fruiting periods will also ensure that food of one kind or another is available most times of the year. In addition, if one particular plant species has a bad year, it will be less likely to have devastating effects on the animal population because there will be other alternative food sources.

The following woodland habitats should be established and maintained (Figure 2):

- Willow coppice (Area 1)
- Mixed semi open broadleaved woodland (Area 2)
- Mixed closed woodland (Area 3)
- Hawthorn stand (Area 4)
- Mixed open broadleaved woodland (Oak) (Area 5)

<b>Woodland area</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
2, 3	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
2, 3	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
2, 3	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
2, 3	Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
2, 3	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
4	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>
4	Midland Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i>
2, 3	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
2, 3	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
3	European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
3	Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
2,3	Native Black-poplar	<i>Populus nigra betulifolia</i>
2, 3, 4	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
4	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
2, 3, 5	Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
2, 3, 5	English Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
1, 2, 3	White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
1, 2, 3	Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
1, 2, 3	Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
1, 2, 3	Bat Willow	<i>Salix Coerulea</i>
1, 2, 3	Crack-willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
2, 3	Common Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>
2, 3	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
2, 3	Wild Service-tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>
2, 3	Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
2, 3	English Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>

RBKC to supply and plant – Authorised Tree Officer to deliver

Consideration should be given to thinning the trees to promote greater structural diversity and encourage the development of ground vegetation. The willow coppice along the western boundary and the woodland section along the northern boundary would benefit in this respect. Thinning here should concentrate on removing non-native poplars and weaker specimens, to allow the native trees to develop to their full potential.

The planted trees should be kept free from competing weeds and well watered whilst establishing.

In addition, the following features should be managed:

Woodland edges

Fern bank

Open glade

Loggeries

Woodland Edges

The edges of woodlands are important transition zones between one type of habitat and another. These transition zones often have a higher biodiversity because of the mingling of two different habitat types.

The woodland edge should be maintained by cutting back to ground level on a six-year rotation. This should be carried out by dividing the area into three and cutting one third every 2 years (Figure 3). This should be carried out in late autumn / winter. **The woodland edge to the east of the 'Hawthorn Stand' should be carefully managed to protect the common lizard's refugia.**

Woodland edge management should be undertaken using hand tools.

RBKC authorising officer (Ecologist) must be consulted prior to works.

**LWS: Woodland Edge Management**

**Legend**

**Woodland edge management**

cut back year



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Ecology Service



Date: 02/10/2016  
Scale: 1:10k

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Figure 3: Woodland edge management map.

## Fern bank

A fern bank should be established in the north-eastern corner of the site. This bank is located adjacent to the boundary wall of the industrial buildings.

The following hardy fern species should be planted as the site is within their natural distribution range. The species in bold should be the dominate species planted along the bank. The ferns should be planted in spring, ferns in bold should be the dominate species.

RBKC to supply ferns

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Lady fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
Hard fern	<b><i>Blechnum spicant</i></b>
Scaly male fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>
Broad buckler fern	<b><i>Dryopteris austriaca</i></b>
Narrow buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>
Male fern	<b><i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i></b>
Common polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>
Soft shield fern	<b><i>Polystichum setiferum</i></b>

## Open Glade

Increasing the light levels under the main tree canopy will greatly benefit plant diversity within a woodland. To achieve this, the canopy should be opened up by thinning out poorer specimens of trees to create glades, or by planting young trees a greater distance apart. This will allow more light to reach the woodland floor. This in turn encourages the development of field and ground layers within the wood. It is recommended that a glad be created at the edge and extending into the Hawthorn stand.

Groundwork London to deliver

## Loggeries

Should be established and maintained at four locations within the woodland zone. Wood from each section should be stored on at the loggery sites.

Groundwork London to deliver

## Wildflower Meadow Extension and Fruit Tree Establishment

The area of Japanese knotweed to the northeast of the site has been treated with herbicide, bramble clearance and tree planting (fruit and nut trees) has been undertaken.

In order to diversify the area shown in the following map (Figure 4) and ensure the newly planted fruit trees mature, further works on the invasive species must be undertaken.

Bramble and creeping thistle should be pulled and roots dug out. When manual removal is not appropriate then herbicide spot treatment should be applied to the leaves of the target plant. Japanese knotweed should be treated *in situ* using a suitable herbicide spot treatment.

## Quadron

RBKC authorising officer (Ecologist and Parks Officer) must be consulted prior to herbicide use.



Figure 4: Wildflower meadow establishment area

This area should be reseeded using the following seed mix in spring.

	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Latin name</b>
Wild Flowers	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
	Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
	Birdsfoot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
	Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi - (Silene flos-cuculi)</i>
	Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
	Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
	Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
	Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
	Pepper Saxifrage	<i>Silaum silaus</i>
	Betony	<i>Stachys officinalis - (Betonica officinalis)</i>
	Wild Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Grasses	Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
	Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
	Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
	Quaking Grass	<i>Briza media</i>
	Crested Dogstail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
	Slender-creeping Red-fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
	Smaller Cat's-tail	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>

RBKC to supply seed  
Quadron and Groundwork London to deliver

## SEMI -IMPROVED NEUTRAL GRASSLAND

The following management regime needs to be established.

Biannual cutting of the meadow will be undertaken in spring (April) and late summer (August / September), see following map (Figure 5). An early cut in July should be undertaken every five years. The spring cut allows long grass to be maintained over winter which provides additional cover for biodiversity.

The cutting of the meadow grass should be carried out using scythes.

The grass cuttings should be left on the ground for two days post cutting to allow for seeds and invertebrates to fall to the ground.

This material should then be collected and removed from the grassland area to ensure the nutrient / biomass content of the does not increase.

Care should be taken to try and preserve meadow anthills during the cutting. In order to preserve the grassland and anthill, vehicles should not be used in the scrub / semi-improved neutral grassland areas.

Turkey oak saplings should also be removed from this area.

Selected planting of the following wildflower plugs will be undertaken to encourage further plant diversity.

- Hardheads (*Centaurea nigra*)
- Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- **Bird's**-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)
- Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
- Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)

RBKC authorising officer (Ecologist) must be consulted prior to works.

Quadron and Groundwork London to deliver, RBKC to supply plants

# Little Wormwood Scrubs: Semi-improved Neutral Grassland Management



<p><b>Little Wormwood Scrubs</b></p>	<p>Ref: LWS-Habitats 2002 Date: 29/05/2009 Author: S. Lovell Status: Draft</p>	<p>TELS: Ecology The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Holland Park Ecology Centre 0207 999 9199 s.lovell@rbc.gov.uk</p> 
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Figure 5: Grassland management map

## SCRUB

Scrub Management and Ecology (Mortimer *et al* 2000)

Scrub in Britain is almost entirely a product of man's activities. In primeval landscapes, scrub would have occurred in at least five situations and local examples can still be found. These situations are:

- in primary successions such as dunes, on exposed coasts
- as high altitude montane scrub
- as ecotones between woodland and open habitats
- as natural regeneration within treefall gaps.

The majority of scrub results from secondary successions. In the lowlands, the breakdown of traditional grazing and cutting regimes on marginal land has been a major stimulant for scrub development.

Many invertebrates and birds are associated with specific vegetation structures. This results in large ongoing changes in insect and bird communities as a result of the massive structural changes that accompany scrub development in succession.

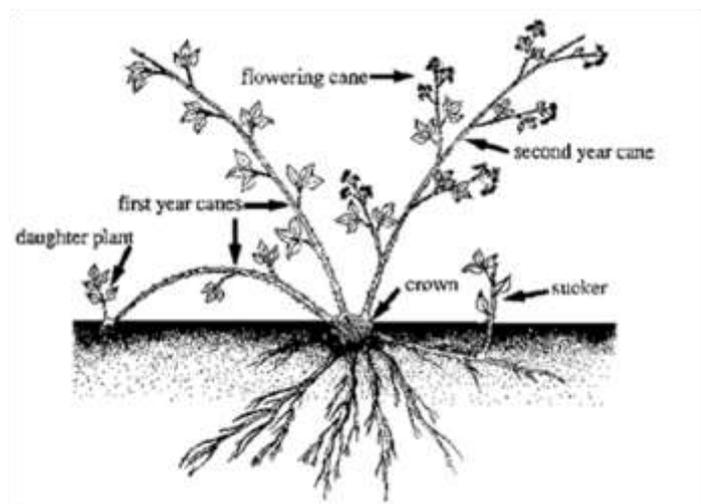
Scrub often exists as a mosaic with grassland and other open vegetation. Spatial patchiness is an extremely important habitat feature for many plants and animals. In the case of invertebrates, fine-scale mosaics of structure and plant composition provide a diversity of niches and a variety of food and shelter. Edges are particularly important and intimate mixtures of grass, scrub and woodland may be advantageous to many insects. Similar structural patchiness can result in very rich bird communities. The maintenance of such mosaics is a difficult management challenge.

Scrub is often felt to be both beneficial and a nuisance on the same site, especially in the English lowlands where invasion of species-rich grassland is a very common problem.

Much management of scrub in lowland England aims to develop and maintain mosaics of scrub and grassland, which are believed to favour the widest range of flora and fauna.

### Little Wormwood Scrubs Management

The aerial photography taken over the last 10 years (Figure 6) is a clear indication of the scrub encroachment into the semi-improved neutral grassland. These images also show how the bramble stands are merging as a result of the growth pattern of bramble (adjacent diagram).



**Littlewormwood Scrubs  
Aerial photography (1999 - 2008)**



**Title:** Scrub succession over 10 years  
 1:1,500  
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Date: 23/11/2010

Status: Final



Figure 6: Aerial photography showing bramble growth

The aim of the management for this area is not to remove the bramble scrub but to enhance its biodiversity value by ensuring a mosaic structure is maintained, by creating bramble stands of varying ages and diversifying the bramble dominated areas. Creating structural diversity increases animal, plant and invertebrate diversity by creating a variety of microhabitats which increases the biodiversity potential of the site. Without management, the bramble stands will not only encroach into the grassland, but will grow together thus reducing the structural diversity of the scrub which in turn reduces biodiversity potential.

The large bramble stands should not be removed entirely, but cut back around their circumference to half their original size (Figure 7).

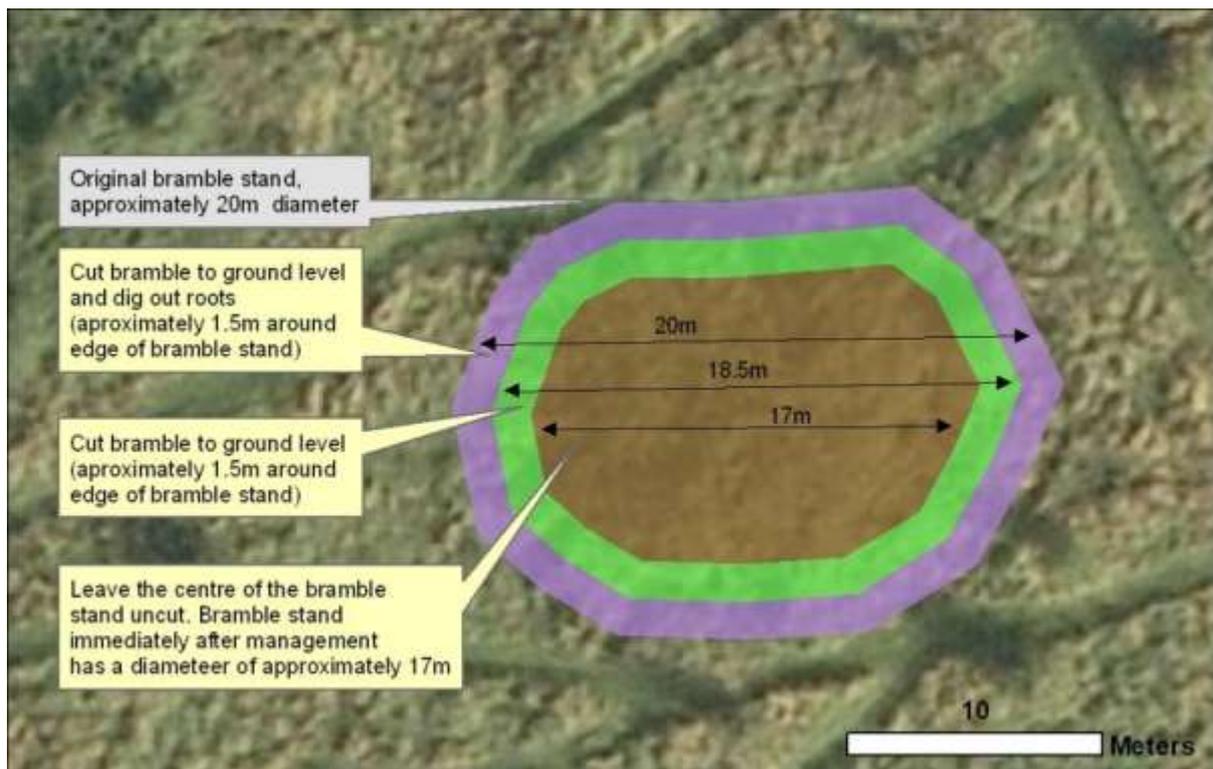


Figure 7: Example of bramble stand management

The bramble stands should be cut back on a four-year rotation. This should be done by divided the area into fourths and cutting back the bramble stands located within the one fourth annually (Figure 8).

Turkey oak saplings should also be removed from this area.

The cutting back of the bramble stands should be carried out with hand tools.

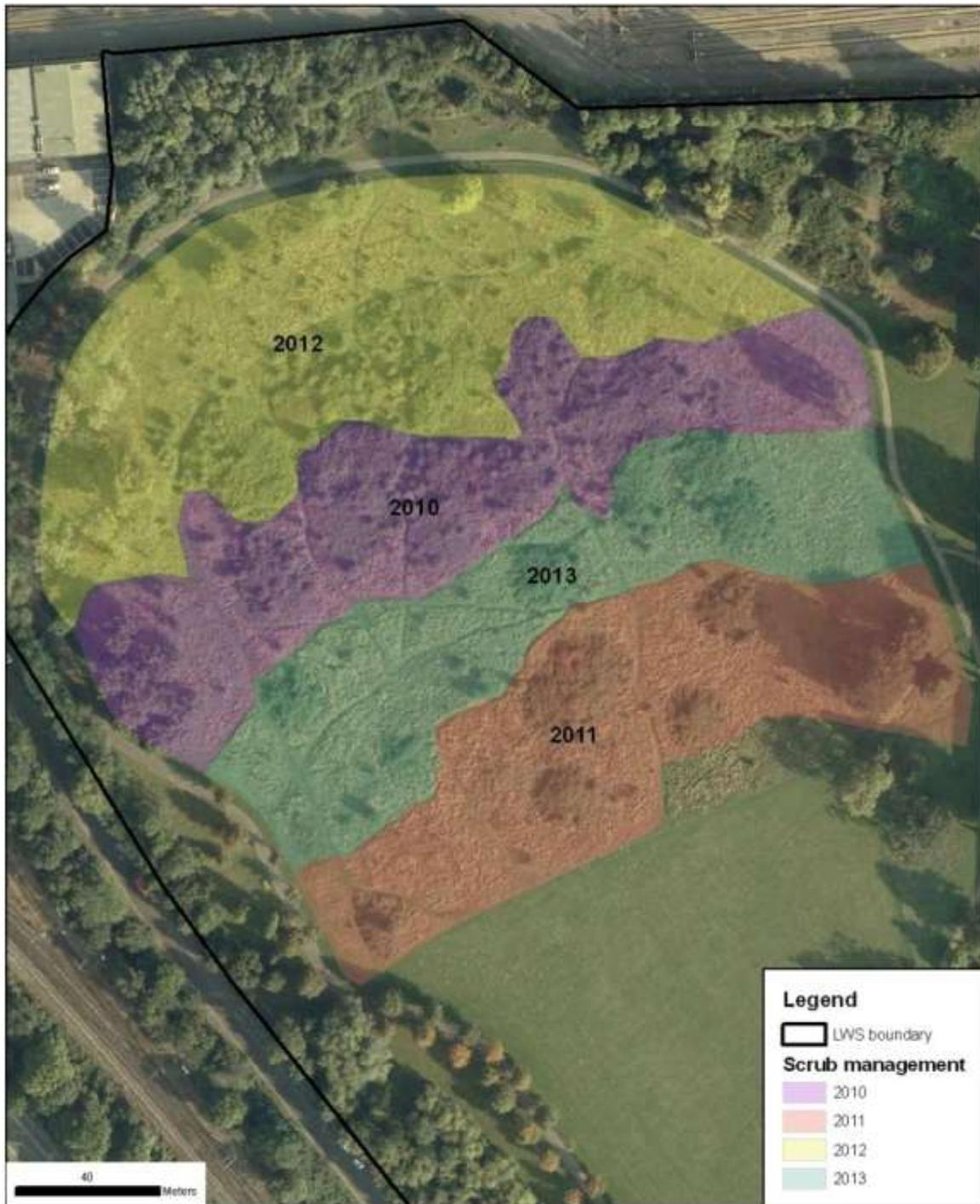
Vehicles should not be used in the scrub / semi-improved neutral grassland areas.

*Juniperus communis* (common juniper) and *Rosa canina* (Dog rose) should be planted post bramble clearance, in areas where a bramble monoculture exists.

RBKC authorising officer (Ecologist) must be consulted prior to bramble clearance and additional planting within the scrub / semi-improved neutral grassland areas

Quadron

## Little Wormwood Scrubs: Scrub Management



<p><b>Little Wormwood Scrubs</b></p>	<p>Ref: LWS-Habitats 2002 Date: 29.05.2009 Author: S. Lovell Status: Draft</p>	<p>TELS: Ecology The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Holland Park Ecology Centre 0207 908 0185 saskia.lovell@rbkc.gov.uk</p>  <p>THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF <b>KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA</b></p>
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Figure 8: Bramble management zones

Quadron and Groundwork London to deliver

## ENHANCEMENT OF SITE BOUNDARY

Quadron and Groundwork London to deliver

It is recommended that green walls and an extensive wildlife hedge are established along the site boundaries (Figure 9).

### Green wall

The eastern boundary should be established as a green wall, this will provide further shelter and food. A variety of species should be used on the wall, which includes fragrant species (night-time and day), nectar rich and fruiting. The following native species are recommended:

Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*)

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*)

Hop (*Humulus lupulus*)

Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*)

### Wildlife Hedge

Hedges are important features for many reasons, providing food and cover for a range of species and acting as corridors which wildlife will use them to travel along to reach other habitats. They have landscape and historical value and are distinctive features of the English, countryside.

A native mixed species wildlife hedge should be planted along the entire length of the eastern boundary and continued along half of the northern boundary. Native species that provide a variety of different structures for habitats and food sources such as nectar and berries should be used. Understorey plants at the base of the hedge should also be established as these provides cover and food for ground dwelling or ground foraging animals.

The most prevalent form of mismanagement is flailing or cutting too frequently. Hedges which are cut or flailed to the same width and height on an annual basis rarely flower or fruit (depriving animal species of a food supply) and become too dense and compact to provide suitable nesting habitat for many birds. Conversely, a hedgerow that has not been managed (cut, coppiced or laid) for many years eventually loses the essential characteristics of a hedgerow and becomes a line of trees. This habitat is usually considerably less valuable to wildlife. Therefore, the hedge should be laid and managed accordingly.

See appendix 4 for details on the wildlife hedging species and management.

Hedgelaying involves cutting nearly all the way through the base of the stems and laying them over at an angle of about 30 degrees. The cut stems (pleachers), are laid parallel to each other. Typically, hedges are staked vertically and bound horizontally for strength and to achieve the thickest possible hedge. Stumps are cut as cleanly as possible; this is where regrowth is required. Eventually a new hedge will grow from the established root system. Meanwhile, the laid pleachers act as a stock barrier and protect the regrowth from browsing.

### LWS hedge management

- The hedge should be allowed to grow to a height of 2.4 – 3.6m in height before laying (a laid hedge will be at least half the height).
- Hedge laying should be carried out by suitably trained individuals.
- The hedge should be trimmed (pruned) every 2-3 years.
- Cutting of hedge base vegetation, particularly in autumn, should be avoided where possible.

Laying should be carried out every 10-15 years.

Gaps in the hedge should be filled using the following species:

Common name	Latin name	Comments
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Good shelter plant
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hardy native plant similar to Green Beech with mid-green leaves, suitable for heavy wet soils, and frost pockets. Green catkins from late spring to autumn, turning to clusters of winged fruit in autumn providing food for wildlife. Shade tolerant
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	The berries attract wildlife.
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Slow growing, but valuable in wildlife hedge. It supports large variety of insects, produces nuts in August-September
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Forms the basis for many hedges : tough, fast growing, good source of food for birds and insects. Mammals; birds for berries; many insects; wood mouse eats fruit; good protection for nesting birds. Hawthorn flowers and fruits on old growth, so trimming should to be carried out very carefully, preferably only on alternate years.
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Good host for bean aphid; Fruit poisonous to mammals
Beech	<i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Forms thick shelter when used in hedges : widespread use in Scotland for hedging, since leaves are retained until new growth starts in late Spring; good food source for small mammals when mature
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Dense hedge plant which retains foliage all year round, except in harsh winters, making it an excellent refuge for wildlife. White flowers produced in July are attractive to insects. Black berries make it an extremely valuable food source for foraging birds. Do not use the domestic variety .L ovalifolium
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Important for Butterflies; good nesting thicket. flowers very early in the year, and good source of nectar and insects for birds in spring
Dogrose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Important for Birds on fruit; insects on flowers
Viburnum	<i>V. opulus</i> Guelder Rose	Produces large, white flowers and red fleshy fruit which attract a variety of animals Important for Birds; wood mouse attracted by fruit; insects on flowers flower early, and nectar and pollen attract insects

## Wildlife hedge wildflower strip

The wildflower strip planted along the hedge boundary will need to be enhanced. For the following 3 years (2011 – 2013) wildflower plugs and seeds of native province will need to be planted in spring, in order to establish this wildflower strip.

The following species should be planted

Understory Plants (Key species in bold)

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Latin name</b>
<b>Purple loosestrife</b>	<b><i>Lythrum saclicaria</i></b>
<b>Yarrow</b>	<b><i>Achillea millefolium</i></b>
<b>Agrimony</b>	<b><i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i></b>
<b>Garlic mustard</b>	<b><i>Alliaria petiolata</i></b>
Wild garlic	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i>
Wild angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
<b>Cow parsley</b>	<b><i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i></b>
Nettle leaved bellflower	<i>Campanula trachelium</i>
<b>Common knapweed</b>	<b><i>Centaurea nigra</i></b>
Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>
Rough chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>
<b>Wild basil</b>	<b><i>Clinopodium vulgare</i></b>
<b>Foxglove</b>	<b><i>Digitalis purpurea</i></b>
<b>Teasel</b>	<b><i>Dipsacus fullonum</i></b>
Hemp agrimony	<i>Eupatorium annabinum</i>
<b>Meadow sweet</b>	<b><i>Filipendula ulmaria</i></b>
<b>Hedge bedstraw</b>	<b><i>Galium mollugo</i></b>
<b>Meadow cranes-bill</b>	<b><i>Geranium pratense</i></b>
<b>Hedge cranesbill</b>	<b><i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i></b>
Herb bennet	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
<b>Wood avens</b>	<b><i>Geum urbanum</i></b>
<b>Bluebell</b>	<b><i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i></b>
<b>St Johns wort</b>	<b><i>Hypericum perforatum</i></b>
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>
<b>Field scabious</b>	<b><i>Knautia arvensis</i></b>

Yellow archangel	<i>Lamiaeastrum aleobdolon</i>
White dead nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Henbit dead nettle	<i>Lamium amplexicaulis</i>
red dead nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
<b>Meadow pea</b>	<b><i>Lathyrus pratensis</i></b>
<b>Oxeye Daisy</b>	<b><i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i></b>
<b>Toadflax</b>	<b><i>Linaria vulgaris</i></b>
<b>Bird's foot trefoil</b>	<b><i>Lotus corniculatus</i></b>
Honesty	<i>Lunaria Annua</i>
<b>Ragged robin</b>	<b><i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i></b>
<b>Musk mallow</b>	<b><i>Malva moschata</i></b>
Common mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
Sweet cicely	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>
<b>Ribwort plantain</b>	<b><i>Plantago lanceolata</i></b>
<b>Cowslip</b>	<b><i>Primula veris</i></b>
<b>Wild primrose</b>	<b><i>Primula vulgaris</i></b>
<b>Self heal</b>	<b><i>Prunella vulgaris</i></b>
<b>Meadow buttercup</b>	<b><i>Ranunculus acris</i></b>
Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
<b>Sorrel</b>	<b><i>Rumex acetosa</i></b>
<b>White campion</b>	<b><i>Silene alba</i></b>
<b>Red campion</b>	<b><i>Silene dioica</i></b>
Hedge mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>
<b>Betony</b>	<b><i>Stachys officinalis</i></b>
<b>Hedge woundwort</b>	<b><i>Stachys sylvatica</i></b>
<b>Greater stitchwort</b>	<b><i>Stellaria holostea</i></b>
Sagewood	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
<b>Upright hedge parsley</b>	<b><i>Torilis japonica</i></b>
Great mullein	<i>Verbascum</i>
Dark mullein	<b><i>Verbascum nigrum</i></b>
<b>Tufted vetch</b>	<b><i>Vicia cracca</i></b>
<b>Common vetch</b>	<b><i>Vicia sativa</i></b>
Dogs violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>

Cornflowers may also be added to add colour to this boundary. Yellow rattle can be sown in autumn as a suppressor of grass vigour in the event.

This strip should be cut using scythes in early spring to allow the spring growth to come through. Leaving the seed heads over winter will provide additional food for birds and will also provide over-winter plants for invertebrates.

## Little Wormwood Scrubs: Boundaries



<p><b>Little Wormwood Scrubs</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">N</p>	<p>Ret LWS-Habitats 2002                  Date: 29.05.2009                  Author: S. Lovell                  Status: Draft</p>	<p>TEL: Ecology                  The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea                  Holland Park Ecology Centre                  0207 958 2166                  s.lovell@rbkc.gov.uk</p>  <p>THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF                  KENSINGTON                  AND CHELSEA</p>
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Figure 9: Boundary enhancements

## FAUNA

- Bird boxes variety of types and sizes will be erected around the park in suitable locations
- Maintain bird feeding stations
- Bat boxes will be erected
- Invertebrate nest boxes should also be erected along the western boundary wall.  
RBKC to supply boxes, feeders and bird seed

## Nesting birds

- Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:
  - kill, injure or take any wild bird
  - take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built (it is important to be aware that nest building starts from the moment the first twig is laid)
  - take or destroy its eggs.
- To ensure nesting birds are not disturbed
- Hedge maintenance or the cutting of scrubby vegetation should normally be undertaken from December to February inclusive.
- It should not be undertaken between March 1st and July 31st inclusive, unless there are immediate safety issues.
- August should also be avoided whenever possible.
- If it is necessary to undertake maintenance during the nesting season, the hedge or scrub should be checked thoroughly for nests.
- If nests are present, or you are in doubt, work must not proceed unless there is a safety issue.
- In all cases in the summer months, the most limited cut to achieve the objective should be undertaken.

## INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

Japanese knotweed is an invasive exotic tall herb which is present in the north eastern corner of the site. It is recommended that this plant be eradicated before it spreads further in accordance with DEFRA advice.

Ragwort should be pulled before it sets seed and removed from site, bagged and sent to landfill. Ragwort removal should be carried out in accordance with DEFRA advice. Ragwort is the larval food for the Cinnebar moth, therefore allowing to grow but not set seed ensures this food source is maintained.

Creeping thistle is spreading within the meadow and, although a useful plant in many respects, needs to be controlled. This can be achieved either through spot treatment with herbicide or by pulling/spudding individual plants. Topping the thistles before they flower and set seed can also be used to help prevent their further spread. Other invasive tall herbs such as docks and ragwort may also need to be controlled from time to time.

Turkey oak is a species that is colonising the site. It is recommended that self-seeded turkey oak species be removed from the grassland / scrub areas in order to preserve these habitats.

## Quadron

## BIODIVERSITY SURVEYS

The following surveys strategy should be implemented:

- Carry out vegetation based habitat surveys of LWS every 10 years to reassess Site of Nature Conservation Importance status, to identify new habitats, and assess degraded habitats
- Carry out quantified bat surveys every 7 years to monitor bat species populations
- Carry out quantified bird surveys every 5 years to identify changes and recognise population trends of birds
- Carry out quantified multi-taxa invertebrate surveys every 10 years to understand what species are present in the borough by providing baseline data.
- Carry out quantified fungi surveys every 10 years to understand what species are present.
- Carry out quantified mammal (excl. bats) surveys every 10 years to monitor mammal species and populations
- Carry out quantified reptile surveys every 10 years to monitor species and populations.
- Grounds maintenance staff should also maintain records of species observed on site. These will be collated annual and sent through to the regional biological records centre through the Boroughs service level agreement.

## REFERENCES

Mortimer, S.R., Turner, A.J., Brown, V.K., Fuller, R.J., Good, J.E.G., Bell, S.A. Stevens, P.A., Norris, D., Bayfield, N. and Ward, L.K., (2000), The nature conservation value of scrub in Britain, August 2000, JNCC Report 308, 191 pages.

## CONSERVATION OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no buildings of significant heritage in the park. The current buildings need to be considered for updating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The R.B.K.C. Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>The R.B.K.C. LWS Public Consultation.</li> </ul>	<p>To create buildings that are fit for purpose for the park.</p>	<p>Suggested proposals for phase 2 of the improvements to the park include a new joint purpose use building to replace the play huts.</p>

## 4.6 Community Involvement

### Links with the Community

The Park is managed to provide for all aspects of the community. Through public consultation the park is managed in accordance not only with the wishes of all those who visit the park, but also with non-users to encourage higher usage.

### The Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs

As set out in their constitution, the Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs aims are:

- To ensure that all usage of the Little Wormwood Scrubs is in accordance with its legal status as Common Land.
- To promote Little Wormwood Scrubs as a resource for both leisure and for wildlife and plants.
- To represent all groups within the community that has an interest in Little Wormwood Scrubs. These groups include but are not limited to:
  - Naturists and environmental groups
  - Families with children
  - Young people
  - Dog walkers
  - Other walkers (including the elderly)
  - Local residents (including ethnic minorities)
  - Disabled people
- To support, co-operate with and pressurise the relevant authorities to further the above interests.
- To raise funds for projects that improves Little Wormwood Scrubs.
- To liaise with other voluntary organisations and schools to develop projects that improves Little Wormwood Scrubs.

More information on the Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs can be found on their website: [www.flws.org.uk](http://www.flws.org.uk)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING OUTREACH WORK

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough consultation has taken place to assess what it is that the local community want out of their park. Many groups were consulted.</li> <li>• The Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs have been a very active force behind the transfer of the park to the Royal Borough and are keen to see improvements made for the benefit of the park and local community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The R.B.K.C. Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015.</li> <li>• The R.B.K.C. LWS Public Consultation Report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a park with high quality facilities for all park users.</li> <li>• To establish relationships with under-represented groups and to identify possible ways of working together with them to enhance the park.</li> <li>• To involve the community in day to day management opportunities through a team of volunteers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By taking into consideration all that was stated through the consultation.</li> <li>• A minimum of three programmed meetings are to take place annually with Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs to inform them of the management issues relating to the park and discuss areas of joint interest.</li> <li>• To consider working with local schools on planting projects within the park in connection with the <b>'In Bloom'</b> campaigns from 2009 onwards.</li> </ul>



Local school children from St Charles Primary School planted the mixed native species wildlife hedge along the eastern boundary in November 2009. This hedge will provide a valuable habitat for local biodiversity by providing food and cover for a range of species.

## APPROPRIATE PROVISION FOR THE COMMUNITY

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A new Adventure Playground was installed in 2009 as part of the Play Pathfinder programme. A new complimentary toddlers playground was installed in 2010 as part of the improvements project.</li> <li>● Formal sports facilities in the park are considered unnecessary due to the close proximity of the extensive main Wormwood Scrubs.</li> <li>● There is a Thai café and local general store on the edge of the park for the provision of food, and drink etc.</li> <li>● There are problems with anti-social activities associated with dogs at present which need to be rectified. Dog toilets are located by each of the main entrances to help with dog fouling.</li> <li>● The Friends organise a very successful annual event in the park to raise the profile of the space as well as their activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Community Strategy 2005-2015</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. LWS Public Consultation Report.</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015.</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Arts Strategy 2004-2008.</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Play Strategy 2006-2009.</li> <li>● Disability Discrimination Act 2005.</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2004-2006.</li> <li>● The R.B.K.C. Sports Strategy (in preparation).</li> <li>● PPG 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To provide space for older children to relax in the park without encroaching on the <b>younger children's</b> space.</li> <li>● To provide improved play areas for younger children.</li> <li>● To provide informal kick-about space for all ages.</li> <li>● To create a balance between all those who use the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maintain the new playgrounds to a high standard so that they don't fall in to a state of disrepair.</li> <li>● To provide a dog-free area close to entrance to the park that is closest to the general store.</li> <li>● To keep the outside area of the Thai café, dog-free.</li> <li>● To continue to assist and encourage community events in the park as they prove very popular with children and adults alike.</li> </ul>

## 4.7 Marketing

The park is marketed through a variety of leaflets and on the Internet to publicise the site and the facilities it offers.

### Website

The borough's website is utilised as much as possible with the site having its [own web page](#). This page contains general information about the site as well as information on the history of the site, a map showing its location, directional information, photographs and news and updates on any works or developments that are due to take place.

### Social media

Social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook allow the parks service to reach a new audience. Tweets/ updates include information about events, interesting facts, improvement works, closures and awards.



### Branding

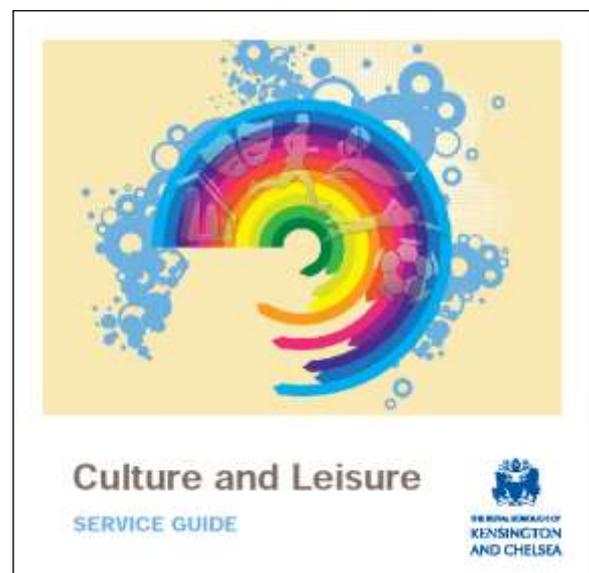
The Royal Borough has a distinctive brand and this is evident on all park signage, posters and park keeper uniforms. Having this branding in place ensures that visitors to the park know what standard to expect and who to report any comments to.

### Leaflets and guides

Very few leaflets are produced for Little Wormwood Scrubs, only for events such as bird walks and open day events. The borough's Leisure and Culture guide contains information about the site and is available to all residents.

### Press

The 'Royal Borough' a free paper produced by the Royal Borough is distributed to every resident and is used by the Parks Team to promote its parks and open spaces. As well as this there are several local newspapers which often publish articles about the borough's parks and open spaces.



## APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<p>The park is actively promoted through the Arts and Leisure Services leaflet and through the parks and gardens website.</p> <p>The Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs promote their group <b>and the park's aims</b> on their website</p>		To promote the park as a community resource.	Leisure Services Development Officer (Parks) will update the webpage to contain accurate information about the park.

## PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE INFORMATION

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
Information was provided about the <b>park's redevelopment</b> via the consultation process.		To ensure that park users are kept updated with regards to improvements in the park.	Contractor/Parks staff will make sure that the notice board is updated by contractor/parks staff with regard to improvements in the park.

## EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
There is no educational information displayed in the park, provision for learning is provided in the Ecology Centre in Holland Park.		To look for appropriate methods and locations for educational and general information about the Park.	Information boards, improved web access and web pages, publications etc.

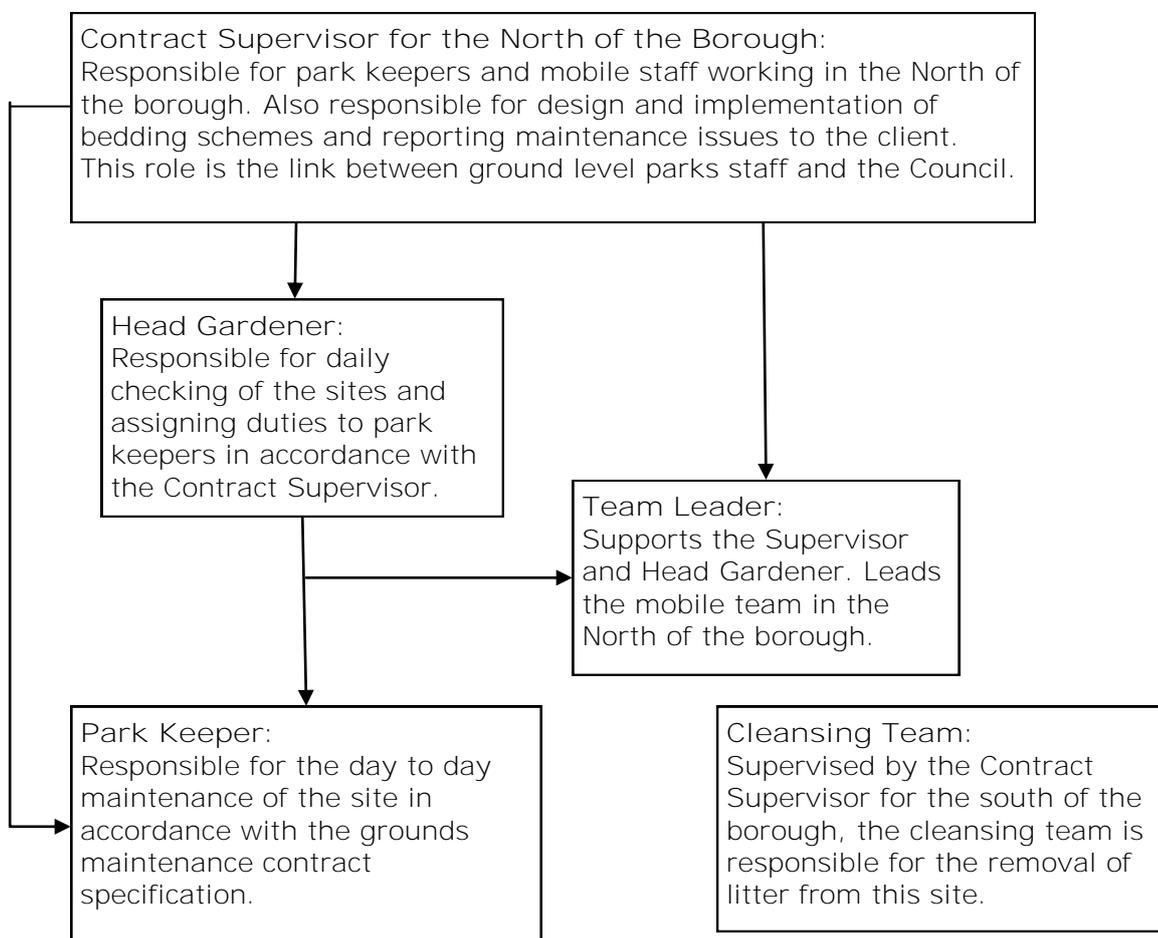
## 4.8 Management

The Park is managed in accordance with the guidelines set out above. As stated previously this is the first management plan of its kind for Little Wormwood Scrubs and the belief is that the park will benefit from having it in place.

Management Structure:

**The Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract Manager, based in Holland Park, is responsible for the running of the Council's parks through the grounds maintenance contract and reports directly to the Leisure Services Manager (Parks). The Council's Contract Manager is supported by the Contract Manager supplied by the Grounds Maintenance Contractors. Together they are responsible for the day to day running of the parks and open spaces as well as the maintenance of the sites.**

Contractors staffing for Little Wormwood Scrubs:



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Background/ Issues: Where we are now?	Policy Context/ linking documents:	Objectives: Where we want to get to?	Actions: How will we get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This is the first management plan that has been written for this Park. Over the next ten years all of the <b>Borough's eight</b> major parks will have management plans implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The RBKC Ten-year Parks Strategy 2006-2015</li> <li>● The RBKC Environment Strategy 2006-2011</li> <li>● The RBKC Cabinet Business Plan 2006/07-2008/09</li> <li>● Green Spaces, Better Places: The Urban Green Spaces Task-force 2002.</li> <li>● Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM 2002</li> <li>● Green Flag Award Scheme Criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To have a well managed park capable of winning and maintaining Green Flag status.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By implementing and maintaining this management plan.</li> <li>● The management plan will be reviewed annually.</li> </ul>

## 5. How will we know when we have arrived?

In order to provide park users with the best possible park it is essential that the above actions are adhered to in order to ensure that the objectives are achieved. Feedback from the Green Flag Award Scheme will also be used as a guide when reviewing the plan. The plan will be reflected upon annually, however, it will not be fully updated for ten years. A review, however, will be carried out in 2010 to ensure that major works to the park are on track.

The Indicative Works Plan, over the next few pages, details the proposed time frame.

## A Welcoming Place

Issue	Proposed Time -Table	Lead	Result
Improve entrances to the park.	2009/10	Project Manager	The vehicle entrance has been improved and new pathways and railings have created better pedestrian access to the park.
To have obstructed vehicle access to the park so that only authorised access is possible.	2009	Project Manager	As part of the entrance improvements a bollard has been installed controlling vehicle access to the site.
To update entrance signage to the park ensuring that by-laws are printed on the back and remove excess signage.	2009	Project Manager	New entrance signage was installed in 2009 bearing the logos of both boroughs.
Include changes to the park so that they comply with <b>'Parkscape'</b> the house-style manual for all parks in the Borough.	2012	Leisure Services Manager	
Update the notice board as necessary.	Continuous	Leisure Services Development Officer	

## Healthy, Safe and Secure

Issue	Proposed Time-Table	Lead	Result
Review the way that repairs and maintenance are managed.	Continuous	Grounds Maintenance Manager	
To update notice boards with the Parks Police telephone numbers.	Continuous	Quadron Parks Police	
Remove the dog-run and replace with dog toilets.	2008	Grounds Maintenance Manager	Achieved. The dog run will be transformed into an ornamental garden in spring 2011.
<b>New 'Fouling of the Land by Dogs' Order to be enforced.</b>	Continuous	Parks Police (LBHF and R.B.K.C.)	Ongoing
Improved tree and shrub boundary planting and maintenance so as to open up clear lines of vision for walkers etc.	2009/10	Grounds Maintenance Manager Quadron Services Ltd Groundwork	Over 50 trees were planted on this site during improvement works in 2010. From February 2012 tree data will be available for this site once works arising from the latest inspection have been carried out.

## Clean and Well Maintained

Issue	Proposed Time -Table	Lead	Result
Revised Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification.	2008/09	Leisure Services Manager  Quadron	Achieved
Continual reassessment of work standard.	Continuous	Grounds Maintenance Manager  Quadron Area Supervisor	
Review the way that repairs and maintenance are managed.	2008	Grounds Maintenance Manager	Achieved
Resurfacing of pathways.	2009	Project Manager	The first stage of footpath resurfacing was completed in December 2009.
Re-evaluation of need for public toilets	PHASE 2	Project Board	<i>A temporary works yard including public toilets and a changing places facility were installed in 2011.</i>

## Sustainability

Issue	Proposed Time -Table	Lead	Result
Quadron Services Ltd. to gain ISO 14001	Ongoing	Contracts Manager – Quadron Services	
Research organic alternatives to chemicals and pesticides.		Quadron Services  Leisure Development Officer	
To implement a tree inspection program to inspect the trees every three years.		Grounds Maintenance Manager	<i>All of the trees on site were inspected in 2011.</i>
To plant boundary shrub and trees		Quadron Services	

## Conservation and Heritage

Issue	Proposed Time -Table	Lead	Result
To plant boundary shrub and trees		Ecology Service Manager  <b>Contractor's</b> Supervisor for the North	
To manage the brambles		Ecology Service Manager  <b>Contractor's</b> Supervisor for the North	
To develop a new grass cutting specification and regime.		Ecology Service Manager  <b>Contractor's</b> Supervisor for the North	

## Community Involvement

Issue	Proposed Time-Table	Lead	Result
Regular meetings with the Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs.	At least three programmed meetings to take place annually.	Grounds Maintenance Manager	
Replacement and <b>repair of children's</b> play area equipment.	Continuous	Grounds Maintenance Manager	A new toddlers playground was installed in place of the old one in summer 2010.

## Marketing

Issue	Proposed Time-Table	Lead	Result
Update the Parks website.	Continuous	Parks Development Officer	The improved parks website is due to be launched in March 2012
Update the notice board as necessary.	Continuous	Quadron	
Information about the park to be placed in the new park notice boards.	Continuous	Quadron	

## Management

Issue	Proposed Time-Table	Lead	Result
Annual review of management plan.	Annual	Leisure Services Manager  Ecology Service Manager  Parks Development Officer	The management plan was updated in January 2011.

## Appendix One: Results of Second Phase of Consultation

### 1. Introduction

The first, qualitative phase of consultation on Little Wormwood Scrubs was completed in June 2008. Using the information gathered, officers developed a set of proposals for the park and produced a leaflet with a questionnaire detailing these.

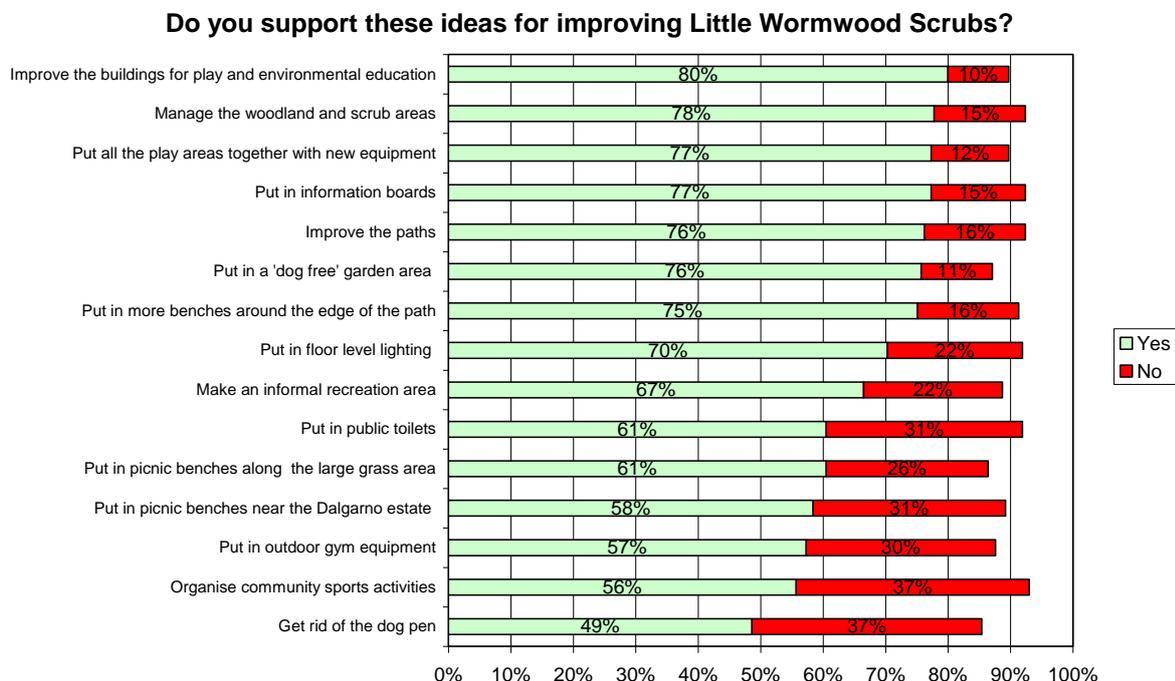
Consultation leaflets were delivered at the end of August to all homes within a 400m area of the park (within R.B.K.C.), and additional copies were distributed via the local community centre, Play huts in the park, the William Sutton Community Office, local health centres, Positive Age Centre, and in the park itself. 185 people returned questionnaires before the closing date of 30 September. In addition, a year 5 class at Barlby primary school completed a worksheet about the park and improvements, and three people sent in comments via email.

The majority of those who responded were regular park users – 60 per cent said they visited LWS at least once a week, with a quarter going every day. The most common reason given for going to the park was relaxation, followed by wildlife and nature and taking children to play.



### 2. Opinion on the ideas in the leaflet

The chart below shows the levels of support and opposition for each of the ideas put forward in the leaflet.



The most popular ideas were improving the buildings for play and environmental education, managing the woodland area and improving the play areas. The ideas that attracted the most opposition were getting rid of the dog pen, organising community sports activities, and putting in outdoor gym equipment. Overall, however, all ideas received more support than opposition (though not all received over 50% support, some people choosing not to answer some of the questions).

## Children's results

The children in Robinia Class, Barlby school were asked about the same options. They did not agree with all the proposals, in particular the majority did not want to get rid of the dog area or put in picnic benches, as they were concerned about dog mess, dogs running around in the park, and picnic benches being vandalised or making the park dirty. The most popular ideas with the children were a big grass space for playing games (the informal recreation area), lights on the path, sports training, new paths and a new playground. Some thought that public toilets were very important, but others were very worried about them being smelly and getting vandalised like in other parks they went to.

### 3. Priorities for improvement

People were asked to say what they thought the Council's top 3 priorities should be for improving the park. The most commonly mentioned priorities were again,

- managing the woodland and preserving its wild nature,
- improving the paths and
- improving the play areas and play services.

### 4. Scores and comments on individual ideas

#### a. Manage the woodland and scrub areas, and remove some of the undergrowth

Yes	No	No reply
77.8%	14.6%	15%

Comments:

Most of the comments were around not over-managing the area and losing the wildness of it. Others were approving removal of the undergrowth to improve feelings of safety.

#### b. Put in information boards to tell people about the park and its wildlife

Yes	No	No reply
77.3%	15.1%	7%

Comments:

Some people were concerned that these would be vandalised and were a waste of time. Other comments were that there should not be too many of them, that they are a good idea **to involve people in the park, that people weren't bothered about having them.**

#### c. Make the large grass area into an informal recreation area

Yes	No	No reply
66.5%	22.2%	12%

Comments:

Some people felt this was very important to widen the use of the park, as the current grass area is dangerous because of holes and dog mess. Others said that this area already was a **recreation area and change wasn't necessary. Others felt that people should go to Big Scrubs** for games and not play in Little Scrubs.

#### d. Organise community sports activities in the park

Yes	No	No reply
55.7%	37.3%	11%

Comments:

The majority of those who opposed this said that there are plenty of other places in the local area for sport and so more facilities are not needed on Little Scrubs. Others felt that this

e. Put in picnic benches near the entrance to the Dalgarno estate

Yes	No	No reply
58.4%	30.8%	14%

Comments:

People who live in this area of the estate were very concerned about this option. They felt that it would cause noise and disturbance to them in their homes, and asked that benches be placed away from residential properties out of consideration.

f. Put in picnic benches along the edge of the large grass area

Yes	No	No reply
60.5%	25.9%	8%

Comments:

Some people felt that picnic benches are not necessary in the park, others were worried about vandalism, and attracting antisocial behaviour and litter. Those supporting the idea commented that it would be nice to have somewhere to sit and read, eat, and take children.

g. Put in more benches around the edge of the path

Yes	No	No reply
75.1%	16.2%	11%

Comments:

Some people stressed there should not be too many benches. Others were concerned about wooden benches being vandalised.

h. Get rid of the dog enclosure

Yes	No	No reply
48.6%	36.8%	8%

Comments:

This was perhaps the most controversial issue in the questionnaire. People were very concerned that getting rid of the dog pen would mean more dangerous dogs in the park, more dog mess, and more problems with dogs off leads. Many of those who commented felt that another larger dog area should be reinstated, saying that the current area does not work because it is too small, and that the previous larger area was well used.

i. Create a 'dog free' garden area

Yes	No	No reply
75.7%	11.4%	9%

Comments: Though the majority supported this idea, some people thought this garden area should be bigger than proposed, others felt it would be difficult to enforce. Some parents were worried about using the old dog pen area as the grass may be contaminated with dog mess which would not be safe for children.

k. Put in public toilets

Yes	No	No reply
60.5%	31.4%	13%

Comments: A number of people who supported this idea did so with the proviso that the toilets must be well looked after and clean, some specified that they only supported the idea if they were staffed. Others who opposed the idea said they feared toilets would be a magnet

l. Improve the buildings for play services and environmental education

Yes	No	No reply
80.0%	9.7%	8%

Comments: There were positive comments about the existing services offered by the play huts, but requests for the external facilities to be upgraded. Environmental education was a popular idea with many people.

m. Put all the play areas together and put in new equipment

Yes	No	No reply
77.3%	12.4%	8%

Comments: A few people felt that the play equipment did not necessarily need replacement, and some felt that the separation of the areas was a good idea. Others who supported the idea of putting it all together asked that within that, there were still different area for different age groups. A few people commented that money would be better spent on staff to involve children and young people, than on equipment.

n. Install outdoor gym equipment (e.g. monkey bars)

Yes	No	No reply
57.3%	30.3%	10%

Comments: Many of those who opposed this idea said that these were not necessary as there were similar things in Big Scrubs. Others were concerned about vandalism, antisocial behaviour, and putting too many things into the park. People who were in favour of putting equipment in commented that it would be a good activity for young people, some asked that it be suitable for adults as well.

o. Widen the improve the path to make it suitable for walking and running

Yes	No	No reply
76.2%	16.2%	8%

Comments: Some people specified that though they thought the path should be improved, **they didn't want it to be widened. A few people thought the paths were fine as they are, and** more than one person requested that the paths not be made suitable for vehicles and asked the parks police to stop driving around them. In general however this was a popular option and seen as a priority by many people including some who have had accidents on the paths in the past.

p. Put in floor level lighting between the play huts and the Dalgarno Gardens gate

Yes	No	No reply
70.3%	21.6%	10%

Comments: Some people felt that lighting was not necessary; one person was concerned that lights would be vandalised. Some thought that lighting between the entrance to the Sutton estate and the front entrance of the park would be a good idea as people use it to cut through.

## 5. Other comments and suggestions

117 people made additional comments about Little Wormwood Scrubs, these were on a wide range of topics. One of the common themes were the preservation of the wildness of the park;

***"I love the wildness and nature in the park and the blackberries! so would be great to have it improved but not at the expense of the wildlife"***

There were also many comments about dogs as a major concern for park users,

***"The dog mess is out of control - a lot of people especially with staffies and such dogs simply don't care about where their dogs go. This has to stop."***

***"Most of the time owners are unable to control their dogs unless they are on a lead. As a regular runner in the park I am deeply concerned about being chased by dogs. I was bitten by one in 2005 and I am still trying to find the owner"***

Antisocial behaviour and the need for security was another comment theme;

***"Regrettably I think the only satisfactory solution is to employ a park attendant, full time in daylight hours: and when necessary prosecute them, and advertise the courts' actions. a cursory visit by Parks Police is inadequate"***

***"make a safer place for elderly people children . 16 over they become dangerous. Not all of their but children aged under 7 needs also a safer park like St Marks Park. We all be so happy"***

Several people made comments about being hopeful that improvements would make a difference to the park:

***"I used to run around LWS every morning many years ago. I began to feel unsafe due to a lack of lighting and overgrowth so I stopped. It would be a great pleasure to start again and also enjoy the benefits of having a park at my door"***

***"I am really pleased this is being addressed! Thank you"***

One of the most common suggestions was for a café;

***"It would be lovely to see more elderly people sunning themselves on west-facing seats! I think public toilets would encourage this as would a dog free garden. How about a day time cafe? To get a good cup of coffee from a kind of hut in a park draws everyone in."***

***"make it more communal. Plant more flowers and open a cafe restaurant"***

More than one respondent thought that opening up the underground streams in the park would be a good idea, to improve drainage and add to the amenity value of the park.

## 6. Profile of respondents

How often do you go to Little Wormwood Scrubs?					
25.4%	Every day	16.2%	Once a month or more	3.2%	Never
35.1%	Once a week or more	10.3%	Less than once a month		

What do you use the park for? (please tick all that apply)					
35.1%	Taking children to play	36.2%	Wildlife and nature	13.0%	Events or organised activities
33.0%	Sport or exercise	24.3%	Walking your dog	7.0%	Another reason
24.9%	Meeting friends	41.6%	Relaxation		

What is your age group?					
3.8%	Under 16	4.3%	20-29	16.2%	60-74
3.8%	16-19	60.0%	30-59	6.5%	over 75

Are there any children under 16 in your household?			
28.6%	Yes	55.7%	No

Do you, or does anyone in your household have a disability?			
13.0%	Yes	71.4%	No

How would you describe your ethnic origin?			
2.2%	Asian or Asian British	75.1%	White or White British
0.5%	Black or Black British	4.3%	Mixed
4.9%	Other		

## Appendix Two: Ecological Appraisals

A: Greenspace Information for Greater London: Protected species and habitats records for Little Wormwood Scrubs

Species group	Common name	Scientific name	Protected status
bird	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National
flowering plant	Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia	<i>Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia</i>	BAP Priority London
insect - moth	Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	BAP Priority London; BAP Priority National
terrestrial mammal	Pipistrellus	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	BAP Priority London; Cons Regs 1994 Sch2; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.4a; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.4b; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5a; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5b; W&CA Sch 5 Sec 9.1
	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	BAP Priority London; Cons Regs 1994 Sch2; Hab&Spp Dir Anx 4; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.4a; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.4b; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5a; W&CA Act Sch5 Sec 9.5b; W&CA Sch 5 Sec 9.1

Habitat type	Area (ha)
Amenity grassland	9.63
Native hedge	0.08
Neutral grassland (semi-improved)	4.66
Planted shrubbery	0.32
Scattered trees	0.36
Scrub	0.71

B: The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea: Ecological Survey 2002: Little Wormwood Scrubs Park L 5

Grid Reference = TQ 229 819

Area (within Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) = 8.9 ha

2002 Survey Reference: 12126/02-05

Planning Status: Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

Major habitats: Amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees, scrub, tall herb.

Justification for designation: The site includes quite extensive areas of semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub, the latter uncommon in the local context. It has additional value as one of a group of nearby open spaces that together form an important part of the Boroughs wildlife habitat.

Description: The current survey covered the whole the Park though the eastern margin only lies within Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the habitat here comprises amenity grassland. However, the adjacent habitats in Hammersmith and Fulham form an important part of the wildlife resource available to the residents of North Kensington.

A large area of unmown semi-improved neutral grassland occurs to the north of the park and **includes a good range of grasses including common bent, red fescue, smaller cats tail, cock's foot, Yorkshire fog, meadow barley, false oat and perennial rye grass.** Herbs include yarrow, greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), black knapweed and stone parsley. An amazing number of field grasshoppers were noted during the survey along with frequent, relatively large ant nests – possibly yellow meadow ants which were recorded at Scrubs Wood prior to its development. Meadow brown and small/Essex skipper were also recorded. Areas of young bramble and hawthorn scrub occur within the grassland and currently add to its ecological value by providing a habitat mosaic suitable for wheatears and whinchats, (reported from neighbouring Wormwood Scrubs Park), though further colonisation could become detrimental. Two kestrels were seen hovering above the site suggesting the presence of small mammals associated with the unmanaged grassland.

Much more extensive scrub including semi-mature trees occurs along the western and northern margins. Predominant species comprise blackthorn, goat willow (*Salix caprea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), grey poplar, crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), white willow (*Salix alba*), **sycamore and elder.** **Roughland with much bramble, cock's foot and Yorkshire fog** occurs along the northern boundary with the railway line. A stand of the London notable sea couch occurred here, probably introduced with imported substrate.

The Borough Bat Survey found one pipistrelle when it surveyed the part of the park currently within Kensington and Chelsea though it is expected that the count entire park would be higher. A fuller mammal and bird survey is highly recommended for this site.

Data Sources: Borough Ecological Survey 1993, Nature Conservation in Hammersmith and Fulham – Ecology Handbook 25 (1993), Borough Bat Survey 1994, Borough Ecological Survey 2002.

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Ecology Consultancy Ltd (ECL) was commissioned by Whitelaw Turkington Landscape Architects to undertake an ecological survey and appraisal of Little Wormwood Scrubs Park, an area of public open space located in the northern part of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. A master plan is currently being developed for the future management of the park. An evaluation of existing ecological resources is required to inform the master planning study.

1.2 This document reports on the findings of the ecological survey and provides an assessment of the current ecological status of the site. An extended phase 1 habitat survey of the site was carried out on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2003. Habitats were described and mapped following standard Phase 1 survey methodology (JNCC 1993), as adapted and developed for Greater London by the London Ecology Unit and its successor the GLA Biodiversity Unit (GLA 1999, LEU 1994).

1.3 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterization and prediction of the natural environment. However, it is considered that sufficient detail was gathered to enable an objective assessment of the ecological value of the site.

## 2.0 Site Context & Status

Little Wormwood Scrubs comprises a c. 7.2 hectare area of public open space located in the northern part of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (grid reference TQ 230 820). It is bounded by Mitre Way on its western side, by the North Pole Channel Tunnel Rail Link depot in the north and by Dalgarno Gardens in the south. The eastern boundary backs onto public housing along Sutton Way.

Historically the park formed part of the common grazing lands of the Bishops of London. It was acquired and developed as a public open space by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1886. It is now managed by the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham.

Topographically the site falls slightly from north to south, with the 20 metre contour running roughly across the centre of the site. Artificial mounds have been created on the western and northern margins. The site is entirely located on London Clay.

Little Wormwood Scrubs is a non-statutory Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation, **as designated in the Borough UDP and described in Ecology Handbook 25 'Nature Conservation in Hammersmith & Fulham' (Archer & Keech 1993).**

### 3.0 Baseline Survey

Habitats within Little Wormwood Scrubs Park are shown on Figure 1 and are described in turn below. A plant species list for the site is presented in Appendix 1.

#### 3.1 Amenity Grassland

Amenity grassland covers much of the park. This consists of a sward of perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* and other turf grasses, with frequent white clover *Trifolium repens*. Only a limited diversity of other herbs occur in this habitat, mainly species which are able to tolerate frequent cutting and trampling, such as yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, daisy *Bellis perennis*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, great plantain *P. major* and dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg. In places the amenity grassland has been allowed to grow moderately long but for the most part it is maintained short by frequent mowing.

**Grassland in the vicinity of the former One O'clock Club and childrens playground has recently been left un-managed.** This mainly consists of a long sward of perennial ryegrass, with some coarser species such as cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* around the margins. Creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* is abundant here and ribwort plantain frequent.

#### 3.2 Semi-improved neutral grassland

A large area of grassland in the north-central part of the park has been allowed to grow un-cut in recent years. This has developed a more diverse and interesting flora and can be classified as semi-improved neutral grassland. The sward is generally tall and rank, with species such as meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, false-oat grass, cocksfoot and tall fescue *Festuca arundinacea*. In places however it gives way to a shorter, finer turf of common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*. Associated herbs include hardheads *Centaurea nigra*, common vetch *Vicia sativa*, field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, creeping buttercup and stone parsley *Sison amomum*, amongst others. Creeping thistle *Cirsium avense* is spreading and forms a large patch in the middle of the area. Scrub species such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., dog rose *Rosa canina* agg. and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* are also beginning to colonise the area.

#### 3.3 Scattered trees

Mature trees occur around the periphery of the central grassland areas and along the park boundaries. They include specimens of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, Turkey oak *Q. cerris*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, London plane *Platanus x hispanica*, false acacia *Robinia psedacacia*, hybrid black poplar *Populus x canadensis* and lime *Tilia x vulgaris*, amongst others. More recent tree planting has also been carried out, including an avenue of horse chestnut along either side of **the path to the east of the former One O'clock Club and, to the north of this, an area of mixed, open planting comprising species such as alder *Alnus glutinosa*, hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, Turkey oak, horse chestnut and Lombardy poplar *Populus nigra* 'Italica'.**

### 3.4 Woodland/Scrub

A substantial amount of tree and shrub planting has taken place in recent years along the western and northern edges of the park, which have now developed into areas of young secondary broadleaved woodland.

An area of developing crack willow *Salix fragilis*, white willow *S. alba*, poplar *Populus spp.* and ash **woodland occupies the area immediately to the north of the children's playground.** Bramble and tall herbs such as cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, nettle *Urtica dioica* and garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* are beginning to colonise the ground below the trees.

A dense scrubby thicket of native tree and shrub planting occurs on the boundary with the **North Pole depot. This includes species such as pedunculate oak, Scot's pine** *Pinus sylvestris*, aspen *Populus tremula*, white willow, hawthorn, dog rose, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and hazel *Corylus avellana*, amongst others. When the park was surveyed by the London Ecology Unit in 1999 (Hewlett 1999) this area contained an open glade but this has now been engulfed by trees and shrubs.

A bank of higher ground in the north-eastern part of the park, near the North Pole depot, supports a mosaic of bramble scrub and rough grassland vegetation comprising species such as false-oat grass, cocksfoot etc. A small patch of Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, an invasive exotic herb, also grows here. To the west this passes into a dense scrubby area of hawthorn, elder, bramble, ash and crack willow.

### 3.5 Hedgerows

The western boundary with Mitre Way is marked in the north by a tall dense hedgerow, growing on top of a bank. It consists mainly of large bushes of cherry plum *Prunus cerasifera* and wild plum *Prunus domestica*, together with a little hazel, hawthorn and false acacia. The bushes cast a heavy shade and the ground below is largely bare. To the north this gives way to a narrow belt of sycamore, false acacia and crack willow, with bramble below. Another patch of Japanese knotweed occurs here.

A non-native hedge of *Forsythia* and other ornamentals runs along the southern boundary with Dalgarno Road. Elm *Ulmus sp.* trees survive alongside the hedge at its eastern end, in the dog exercise area. More Japanese knotweed occurs here, on the eastern boundary with adjacent properties.

### 3.6 Fauna

A detailed survey of the birds, mammals and other fauna of Little Wormwood Scrubs was beyond the scope of the present study. However a note was made of any animals seen during the habitat survey and these give an indication of the value of the park and its component habitats for various groups.

A good range of bird species were noted, especially in the areas of denser tree planting and around mature trees etc. These included wood pigeon, collared dove, green woodpecker, chiffchaff, wren, blackbird, great tit, long-tailed tit and magpie. Whitethroat was observed in the scrub colonising the central grassland area, whilst carrion crow and starling were seen feeding on the amenity grassland. Hewlett (1999) additionally notes the following species from the park: kestrel, feral pigeon, blue tit, robin and swift.

The only mammal noted on the site was grey squirrel but it is likely that a limited range of other species also use the site, including fox and possibly bats. The exterior of the buildings **of the former One O'clock club were checked for evidence of roosting bats but none was found.**

Some of the long grassland, especially areas such as that in the north-eastern part of the site which is on south-facing slopes amongst bramble scrub, appear suitable for common reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm. The railway land to the north and west of the site, which was formerly overgrown with open birch woodland, grassland and scrub and was known as Scrubs Wood and Little Scrubs Wood, used to support a large population of common lizards. These were translocated to specially created habitat in Wormwood Scrubs Park and elsewhere when construction of the North Pole Depot destroyed the habitat. It is possible that the species still survives in adjacent suitable habitats such as occur in Little Wormwood Scrubs. A search of suitable microhabitats failed to find any reptiles but there remains the possibility that they occur.

Anthills of the yellow meadow ant *Lasius flavus* are beginning to develop in the semi-improved neutral grassland area. Common blue and small white butterflies were also seen here. Speckled wood butterflies were noted along scrub and woodland margins. It is likely that a fuller survey would reveal the presence of a wide range of invertebrate groups and species in the more informal areas of the park.

#### 4.0 Evaluation

Table 1 evaluates the nature conservation value of Little Wormwood Scrubs using the criteria for nature conservation sites adopted by the Greater London Authority (See Appendix 2). The evaluation is based on data collected during the field visit in May 2003 and information contained in the London Ecology Unit report on the site (Hewlett 1999).

Table 1 – Evaluation of the site against GLA criteria

GLA Criteria	Remarks
Representation	None of the habitats present in the park can be regarded as the best examples of their type, either in Greater London or in Hammersmith & Fulham. Nevertheless, taken as a whole, the site is representative of urban parkland habitats.
Habitat rarity	The habitats present are typical of many urban parks and open spaces and are widespread in Greater London. However there are few similar sites in Hammersmith & Fulham, with the nearby Wormwood Scrubs Park being the largest and best known example. Semi-improved neutral grassland is a particularly scarce habitat, occurring in only a handful of sites - with the best example being in Kensal Green Cemetery which lies to the north of the site.
Species rarity	No rare species have been recorded from Little Wormwood Scrubs.
Habitat richness	A good range of habitats are present in the park, especially in the more informally managed northern and western parts. There is good structural diversity here, with gradations from open grassland, through scrub to mature trees and closed woodland.
Species richness	Species richness is generally low although parts of the semi-improved neutral grassland are moderately rich in associated wildflowers.
Size	The site is of relatively large size for an Inner London Borough.
Important populations	So far as is known the site does not support any important plant or animal populations.
Ancient character	Most of habitats present are of comparatively recent origin. Some of the mature trees (e.g. pedunculate oak) may date back to the former meadowland landscape although most probably post date the establishment of the park.
Re-creatability	With the exception of mature trees, all of the habitats are relatively easily re-creatable.
Typical urban character	The site is a typical example of an urban park.
Cultural or historic character	None known.
Geographic position	The site is located close to several other sites of wildlife importance including Wormwood Scrubs Park, the Grand Union Canal, Kensal Green Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery and adjacent railway land. It therefore forms part of a valuable network of habitats in the northern part of Hammersmith & Fulham which extends into neighbouring parts of Kensington & Chelsea.
Access	There is free public access to the site.
Use	The site is well used for informal recreation.
Potential	The site has significant potential for enhancement through sympathetic management and habitat creation.
Aesthetic appeal	The park provides an attractive open landscape.

It is clear from the above that Little Wormwood Scrubs is of significant ecological value in the context of Hammersmith & Fulham. The former London Ecology Unit designated Little Wormwood Scrubs as a non-statutory Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (Archer & Keech 1993) and this designation was subsequently adopted by the Greater London Authority and incorporated in the Hammersmith & Fulham UDP. The designation was made in **the early 1990's before the north**-central part of the park was allowed to develop as an informal grassland area. This has undoubtedly led to a significant increase in ecological value and it is therefore possible that when the designation is reviewed the site will be elevated to Borough Importance.

As noted above, the informal western and northern parts of the park are the areas of greatest ecological interest. The following features are of particular note:

- The extensive area of long, un-managed semi-improved neutral grassland, which is moderately rich in wildflowers and provides good invertebrate habitat.
- Mature trees, including pedunculate oak, Turkey oak, ash, poplars and false acacia. These provide foraging and nesting habitat for birds. Some individuals contain good amounts of dead wood and may be important for invertebrates and for bats and cavity nesting birds etc.
- Areas of developing scrub and young woodland, which provide good cover and nesting habitat for birds and other wildlife. The structurally complex margins of these areas are of particular importance as edge habitats, rich in nectar sources and invertebrate food plants.
- South facing banks with a mosaic of scrub, trees and rank grassland. These areas are also rich in nectar sources and invertebrate food plants and may also be important for reptiles such as common lizard, if present.
- The dense hedgerow along the western boundary, which provides good cover and nesting habitat for birds. Shrubs such as cherry plum, wild plum, hawthorn etc. are an early nectar source for insects and later provide berries for fruit-eating birds and other wildlife.

Ecological interest in the southern part of the park is largely restricted to mature trees and to scattered shrubs, which provide foraging and nesting cover for birds. The non-native hedge along the southern boundary may also have some limited value in this respect and also provides a nectar source for insects. The amenity grassland areas are of comparatively low ecological value but do provide foraging opportunities for some birds (e.g. starling, thrushes) and may be used by roosting gull flocks in winter.

## 5.0 Recommendations

Little Wormwood Scrubs is clearly an important area of public open space in North Hammersmith, both as a recreational resource and as a site of ecological value. The future management and development of the park must continue to provide for recreational use and enjoyment by local people. However, within the framework of this objective, it should be possible to further develop and enhance the ecological value of the park. As noted above, the existing ecological interest is concentrated in the northern and western parts of the park. Maintaining this area as a more informal area of parkland whilst concentrating the more intensive uses in the southern and formal part of the park would seem appropriate. Some outline recommendations for ecological management are outlined below.

### 5.1 Meadow management and development

The area of semi-improved neutral grassland in the north-central part of the park has already **developed considerable ecological interest since mowing ceased in the 1990's. In order to** enhance this area further, and to prevent further scrub encroachment, it is recommended that a meadow management regime be established. The grassland should be divided into two roughly equal areas. One half of the meadow should be cut each year in August/September on rotation. Care should be taken to try and preserve meadow anthills during the cutting. Ideally, the arisings should be collected up and removed from the site, as this will help to limit the build up of nutrients in the soil. Existing shrubs and scrub areas with the meadow provide a useful habitat feature, attracting species such as whitethroat. These areas should therefore be retained but further scrub encroachment should be prevented. Creeping thistle is spreading within the meadow and, although a useful plant in many respects, needs to be controlled. This can be achieved either through spot treatment with herbicide or by pulling / spudding individual plants. Topping the thistles before they flower and set seed can also be used to help prevent their further spread. Other invasive tall herbs such as docks and ragwort may also need to be controlled from time to time.

Implementing a meadow management regime as outlined above can be expected to lead to a gradual increase in wildflower diversity. If desired, the process could be speeded up by introducing additional wildflowers. A variety of techniques have now been developed for introducing wildflowers to existing grassland, including direct drilling of wildflower seed, spreading hay from established wildflower meadows and planting wildflower plugs. All will require that the existing vegetation is controlled during the establishment phase and that gaps are created in the turf, either by cutting/scarifying, turf removal or herbicide application. It is recommended that if this approach is used it should be used on relatively small areas initially and should avoid those areas which already have established wildflowers. Only a limited range of common meadow wildflowers should be used. The following are appropriate for the clay soils that occur at the site:

Hardheads *Centaurea nigra*  
Ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*  
**Bird's-foot** trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*  
Red clover *Trifolium pratense*  
Meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*

### 5.2 Woodland and scrub management

The woodland and scrub areas along the western and northern margins of the site could be allowed to develop unmanaged. Consideration should however be given to thinning the trees and shrubs to promote greater structural diversity and encourage the development of ground vegetation. The willow, poplar and ash plantation on the western boundary would particularly benefit in this respect. Thinning here should concentrate on removing non-native poplars and weaker specimens, to allow the crack willow, white willow and ash trees to develop to their full potential. In the longer term some of these trees could be managed as pollards, a traditional form of management which produces a valuable range of micro-habitats for wild-life.

The margins of the scrub and woodland areas are important habitats in their own right. They are structurally complex environments and support a variety of nectar sources and invertebrate food plants. They are valuable feeding and nesting areas for birds and may also be important foraging areas for bats. The margin along the southern edge of the northern woodland thicket is particularly important in this respect. Rotational cutting of vegetation along scrub/woodland margins should be carried out in order to maintain a graded edge with a variety of woody and herbaceous species. Each edge management zone should be divided into three, with one third cut every two years over a six-year rotation. All woody and herbaceous vegetation within each sub-zone should be cut back to ground level and allowed to regenerate. The work should be carried out in the autumn and winter months, outside of the bird breeding season.

### 5.3 Scattered Mature Trees

Existing mature trees should be retained. Dead wood in the canopy and standing dead trees should be retained wherever possible, as they provide a habitat for a varied range of fauna - for example feeding and nesting opportunities for woodpeckers and other birds and roosting sites for bats. Dead wood and standing dead trees can be a safety hazard and this consideration must take precedence in areas of high public use. All trees should therefore be subject to regular safety inspections. Any trees that do need to be felled or subjected to tree surgery should be inspected for the presence of roosting bats prior to the start of work. All bat species and their roosting sites are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

### 5.4 Hedge Management

The existing mature hedge on the western boundary is a useful habitat feature and should be retained. It would however benefit from occasional trimming to maintain a dense structure. Such work should be carried out in the autumn and winter months, outside of the bird breeding season. Any gaps should be filled by new planting of native hedging shrubs such as hawthorn, blackthorn etc.

Consideration could be given to planting a new hedge along the western boundary of the site, alongside the fence of the adjacent housing estate. This should be a mix of native nectar and berry-bearing shrubs such as hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, spindle, holly and dog rose.

### 5.5 Control of Invasive Plants

Three small clumps of Japanese knotweed were found within the park during the current study (see figure 1). This is an invasive exotic tall herb which is listed under Section 14 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Under the Act it is an offence to cause this plant to grow or to spread in the wild. It is recommended that this plant be eradicated before it spreads further. The plant should be treated with glyphosate herbicide during the growing season, with care taken to avoid damage to non-target species. Several repeat treatments are likely to be necessary to achieve complete eradication.

## References

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- Nature Conservancy Council 1993 Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Appendix 1: Plant Species List Recorded from Little Wormwood Scrubs

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Remarks
<i>Acer c.f. cappadocicum</i>	Capadocian maple	R	Young planted tree
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	F	Scattered trees
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	O	Scattered trees, secondary woodland
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	R	Young planted tree
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	O	Amenity and semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse chestnut	O	Scattered trees
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping bent	F	Amenity and semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	O	Woodland/scrub
<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Italian alder	R	Young planted tree
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	R	Planted tree
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow foxtail	A	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren brome	O	Scrub/grassland margins
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	A	Woodland/scrub
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	R	Scrub margins
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False-oat grass	A	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	O	Scrub margins etc.
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	O	Amenity grassland
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	Barberry	R	Planted shrub
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft brome	O	Amenity grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White bryony	O	Woodland/scrub margins
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush	R	
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large bindweed	O	Woodland/scrub margins
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	<b>Shepherd's</b> purse	O	Amenity grassland
<i>Carpnus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	O	Planted tree
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar	R	Young planted tree
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Hardheads	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouseear	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat hen	R	Disturbed areas
<i>Choisya ternata</i>	Mexican orange	O	Non-native hedge
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	A	Semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub margins etc.

Estimated using the DAFOR scale as follows: D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Remarks
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub margins etc.
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	R	Disturbed areas, scrub margins etc.
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Cornus sanguineus</i>	Dogwood	O	Planted in woodland
<i>Coronopus squamatus</i>	Swinecress	R	Disturbed areas
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	O	Planted in woodland, hedge etc.
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	Cotoneaster	F	Non-native hedge
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> cv. ( <i>Flore pleno</i> )	Red-flowered hawthorn	O	Planted shrub
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	F	Scrub, hedge, planted in woodland
<i>Crepis capillaries</i>	<b>Smooth hawk's-beard</b>	R	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	<b>Beaked hawk's-beard</b>	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Eleagnus loureiri</i>	Eleagnus	R	Planted shrub
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Couch	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great willow herb	O	Scrub margins etc.
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broadleaved willow herb	R	Secondary woodland
<i>Escallonia sp.</i>	Escallonia	O	Non-native hedge
<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>	Eucalyptus	R	Young planted tree
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	R	Planted in woodland
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	R	Young planted trees
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed	O	Several small patches
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall fescue	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland
<i>Forsythia sp.</i>	Forsythia	F	Non-native hedge
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	O	Scattered trees
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	F	Scrub margins, woodland, disturbed areas etc.
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill	R	Semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb robert	O	Woodland, scrub
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy	R	Woodland, scrub
<i>Hebe sp.</i>	Hebe	O	Planted shrub
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	D	Woodland, scrub

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Remarks
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary mustard	R	Disturbed areas
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley	O	Paths, disturbed areas etc.
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	R	Semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	R	Planted in woodland etc.
<i>Ilex x altaclerensis</i>	Highclere holly	R	Planted shrub
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	O	Disturbed areas, scrub margins etc.
<i>Lamium album</i>	White dead nettle	O	Scrub margins etc.
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead nettle	O	Disturbed areas
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	O	Scrub margins
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn hawkbit	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress	O	Scrub margins etc.
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Garden privet	F	Non-native hedge
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass	D	Amenity grassland
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Wilson's honeysuckle	O	Non-native hedge
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow	O	Scrub margins etc.
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	R	Disturbed areas
<i>Parthenocissus sp.</i>	Virginia creeper	O	Climber
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green alkanet	O	Scrub margins
<i>Philadelphus sp.</i>	Mock orange	O	Planted shrub
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly ox-tongue	R	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scot's pine	R	Young planted tree
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland
<i>Plantago major</i>	Great plantain	O	Amenity grassland, disturbed areas
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane	O	Scattered trees
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	F	Amenity grassland, disturbed areas
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth-stalked meadow-grass	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough-stalked meadow-grass	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub margins
<i>Populus c.f. 'Balsam Spire'</i>	Hybrid balsam poplar	O	Young planted tree

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Remarks
<i>Populus c.f. x generosa</i>	Generous poplar	R	Young planted tree
<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	Hybrid black poplar	O	Scattered trees
<i>Populus x canescens</i>	Grey poplar	O	Scattered trees
<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	Lombardy poplar	O	Scattered trees
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	R	Planted in woodland
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	R	Planted in woodland
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry plum	O	Hedge
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Wild plum	F	Hedge
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	O	Hedge
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey oak	O	Scattered trees
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate oak	O	Scattered trees, planted in woodland
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	R	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	A	Semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False acacia	R	Scattered trees
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Creeping yellow-cress	O	Around buildings in vicinity of One <b>O'clock Club</b>
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	O	Scrub, woodland etc.
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	Rose species	O	Planted shrub
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	F	Scrub, woodland etc.
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub margins, woodland etc.
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood dock	O	Scrub, woodland etc.
<i>Salix alba</i>	White willow	O	Woodland
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack willow	F	Woodland
<i>Salix x sepulcralis</i>	Weeping willow	R	Scattered trees
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	F	Woodland, scrub
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water figwort	R	Woodland margin
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary ragwort	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Ragwort	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	O	Disturbed areas
<i>Sison amomum</i>	Stone parsley	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard	O	Scrub, hedge etc.
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	O	Woodland, scrub etc.

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Remarks
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	O	Woodland, scrub etc.
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	O	Planted shrub
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac	R	Roughland, planted shrubbery
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony	R	Scrub
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	O	Amenity grassland etc.
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved lime	R	Young planted tree
<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	Common lime	O	Scattered trees
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	<b>Goat's</b> -beard	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	R	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	F	Semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland
<i>Tussilago far-fara</i>	Coltsfoot	O	Scrub margins etc.
<i>Ulmus sp.</i>	Elm	R	Tree in SE corner
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	O	Woodland, scrub, tall herb etc.
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder rose	O	Planted in woodland
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	O	Semi-improved neutral grassland

Nomenclature follows Stace, C. 1997 New Flora of the British Isles (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

## Appendix 2: Factors Considered in the Evaluation of Sites for Nature Conservation Importance

### Representation

The best examples of each major habitat type are selected. These include typical urban **habitats such as abandoned land colonised by nature ("wasteland")**. Where a habitat is not extensive in the search area it will be appropriate to conserve all or most of it, whereas where it is more extensive a smaller percentage will be conserved.

### Habitat Rarity

The presence of a rare habitat makes a site important, because the loss of, or damage to, only a few sites threatens the survival of the habitat in the search area.

### Species Rarity

The presence of a rare species makes a site important in a way that parallels rare habitat.

### Habitat Richness

Protecting a site with a rich selection of habitat types not only conserves those habitats, but also the wide range of organisms that live within them and the species that require more than one habitat type for their survival. Rich sites also afford more opportunities for enjoyment and educational use.

### Species Richness

Generally, sites that are rich in species are to be preferred, as this permits the conservation of a correspondingly large number of species. However, some habitats, such as reed beds, heaths and acid woodlands, are intrinsically relatively poor in species.

### Size

Large sites are usually more important than small sites. They may allow for species with special area requirements. Large sites may be less vulnerable to small-scale disturbances, as recovery is sometimes possible from the undisturbed remainder. They are also more able to withstand visitors, by diluting their pressure within a wider space. Size is also related to the richness of habitats and species, and so is used as a surrogate for these other two criteria where information is incomplete.

### Important Population of Species

Some sites are important because they hold a large proportion of a species for the search area (e.g. waterfowl populations or colonial birds such as heron and jackdaw).

### Ancient Character

Some sites have valuable ecological characteristics derived from long periods of traditional management, or even a continuity in time to the woodlands and wetlands which occupied the London area before agriculture. Ancient woodlands, old parkland trees and traditionally managed grasslands tend to have typical species that are rare elsewhere. These habitats deserve protection also because of the ease with which they are damaged by changes in management, ploughing, fertiliser and herbicide treatment.

### Re-creatability

Habitats vary in the ease with which they can be re-created and the length of time required; for example ponds can be created from scratch with reasonable success within a few years, but woods not only take much longer – at least decades – to mature, but even when they do not contain the same flora and fauna as ancient woods on undisturbed soils. In addition to the ecological reasons why certain habitats cannot be recreated, many sites are not capable of being recreated because of practical reasons such as land availability and cost. **The more difficult it is to recreate a site's habitats the more important it is to retain it.**

### Typical Urban Character

Features such as canals, abandoned wharves, walls, bridges, tombstones and railway sidings colonised by nature often have a juxtaposition of artificial and wild features. Some of these habitats are particularly rich in species and have rare species and communities of species. Their substrates may have a particular physical and chemical nature which allows species to thrive that are rare elsewhere. They may also have particular visual qualities. Such areas are often useful for the study of colonisation and ecological succession.

### Cultural/Historic Character

Sites such as historic gardens with semi-wild areas, garden suburbs, churchyards and Victorian cemeteries which have reverted to the wild may have a unique blend of cultural and natural history.

### Geographical Position

This criterion is operated through the use of search areas. Each of the criterion (in this list) is used to facilitate a comparison of candidate sites within a given search area (metropolis, borough or locality within a borough) and thus they do not take absolute values independent of the search area. Obviously, criteria that show a site to be valuable for a larger search area than London (a region or nation, for example) mean that it is very likely to be important for London. The converse is not necessarily so.

### Access

Access is an important consideration, especially in areas where there may be few places for large urban populations to experience the natural world. Nature conservation is not restricted to the preservation of wildlife, but goes hand in hand with the enjoyment of it by all people, from the specialist naturalist to the casual visitor. Some access is desirable to all but the most sensitive of sites, but direct physical access to all parts of a site may not be desirable.

### Use

The importance of a site can include its established usage, (e.g. for education, research or quiet enjoyment of nature).

### Potential

Where a site can be enhanced by modest changes in management practices this gives it value. Opportunity exists where a site is likely to become available for nature conservation use, or where there is considerable local enthusiasm about it, or where a voluntary group is willing to use and manage it. Potential in this context can be for habitat enhancement through management, for educational or nature conservation amenity use. Where such potential could remedy a deficiency, or is readily capitalised, it is considered important.

### Aesthetic Appeal

This factor is the most difficult to measure, but it includes such factors, which contribute to a countryside feel, as seclusion, views, variety of landscape and habitat structure, colour, and natural sounds and scents.

## Grading of Sites in the London Area

### Sites of Metropolitan Importance

These are defined as those sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built up areas of London.

### Sites of Borough Importance

These are defined as those sites which are important on a borough perspective in the same way as the Metropolitan sites are important to the whole of London. Although sites of similar quality may be found elsewhere in London, damage to these sites would mean a significant loss to the borough. As with Metropolitan Sites, while protection is important, management of the borough sites should usually allow and encourage their enjoyment by people and their use for education.

Since 1988 Borough sites are divided, on the basis of their quality, into two grades, but the GLA stress that they are all important on a borough-wide view.

### Sites of Local Importance

A Site of Local Importance is one which is, or may be, of particular value to people nearby (such as residents or schools). The GLA state that Local Sites are of particular importance in areas otherwise deficient in nearby wildlife sites.

### Reference:

Greater London Authority 2002. *Connecting with London's nature. The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy*, Greater London Authority, London.

Appendix 3: Photographs

Unmanaged semi-improved neutral grassland in the north-central part of the park



Planted woodland/scrub developing on the northern boundary with the North Pole depot. Note structurally **diverse 'edge' habitat** on southern margin, grading into grassland.



**Interior** of the 'willow' woodland on the western boundary.



Mature hybrid black poplar tree, one of a number of mature trees around the periphery of the park.



## Appendix three: Recommended species for habitat enhancements

### Woodland tree species

- Willow coppice (1)
- Mixed semi open broadleaved woodland (2)
- Mixed closed woodland (3)
- Hawthorn stand (4)
- Mixed open broadleaved woodland (5)

Woodland area	Common name	Scientific Name
2, 3	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
2, 3	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
2, 3	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
2, 3	Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
2, 3	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
4	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>
4	Midland Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i>
2, 3, 5	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
2, 3, 5	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
3	European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
3	Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
5	Black-poplar agg.	<i>Populus nigra</i> agg.
2, 3	Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
2, 3, 4	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
4	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
2, 3, 5	Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
2, 3, 5	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
1, 2, 3	White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
1, 2, 3	Goat	<i>Salix caprea</i>
1, 2, 3	Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
1, 2, 3	Bat Willow	<i>Salix Coerulea</i>
1, 2, 3	Crack-willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
2, 3	Common Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>
2, 3	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
2, 3	Wild Service-tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>
2, 3	Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
2, 3	English Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>

## Little Wormwood Scrubs - Tree Works



Title: LWS - Tree works



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## Wildlife hedge

Hedges are important features for many reasons, providing food and cover for a range of species and acting as corridors which wildlife will use them to travel along to reach other habitats. They have landscape and historical value and are distinctive features of the English countryside.

### RECOMMENDED HEDGE SPECIES LIST (Key species in green)

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMENTS
FIELD MAPLE	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Good shelter plant
HORNBEAM	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hardy native plant similar to Green Beech with mid-green leaves, suitable for heavy wet soils, and frost pockets. Green catkins from late spring to autumn, turning to clusters of winged fruit in autumn providing food for wildlife. Shade tolerant
DOG WOOD	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	The berries are enjoyed by and attract wildlife.
HAZEL	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Slow growing, but valuable in wildlife hedge. It supports large variety of insects, produces nuts in August-September
HAWTHORN	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Forms the basis for many hedges : tough, fast growing, good source of food for birds and insects. Mammals; birds for berries; many insects; wood mouse eats fruit; good protection for nesting birds. Hawthorn flowers and fruits on old growth, so trimming should to be carried out very carefully, preferably only on alternate years.
SPINDLE	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Good host for bean aphid; Fruit poisonous to mammals
BEECH	<i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Forms thick shelter when used in hedges : widespread use in Scotland for hedging, since leaves are retained until new growth starts in late Spring; good food source for small mammals when mature
PRIVET	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Dense hedge plant which retains foliage all year round, except in harsh winters, making it an excellent refuge for wildlife. White flowers produced in July are attractive to insects. Black berries make it an extremely valuable food source for foraging birds. Do not use the domestic variety <i>L. ovalifolium</i>
BLACKTHORN	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Important for Butterflies; good nesting thicket. flowers very early in the year, and good source of nectar and insects for birds in spring
DOG ROSE	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Important for Birds on fruit; insects on flowers

VIBURNUM	<i>V. opulus</i> Guelder Rose	Produces large, white flowers and red fleshy fruit which attract a variety of animals Important for Birds; wood mouse attracted by fruit; insects on flowers flower early, and nectar and pollen attract insects
BIRCH	<i>Betula pubescens and Betula pendula</i>	Birds favour seed
CRAB APPLE	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Exceptionally important ecologically. It supports over ninety different species and produces a crop of fruit in late summer, important for numerous species of birds and small mammals Best grown as a small hedgerow tree and not trimmed: excellent food source for insects.
ELDER	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Birds on fruit; insects on flowers; poor hedgerow tree for stock checking; capable of growing almost anywhere; very valuable in the informal wildlife hedge
WYCH ELM	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Insects - white hairstreak, comma and large tortoiseshell butterflies; nest sites for birds
FIELD ROSE	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Low growing, clump forming shrub, which provides excellent food for birds.
GEAN OR WILD CHERRY	<i>Prunus ayium</i>	Important for Fruits for birds; Fruits and seeds for small mammals
HONEYSUCKLE	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Important for Bees and other insects
PENDUNCULATE AND SESSILE OAK	<i>Quercus robur and Quercus petraea</i>	Probably the most important tree, capable of supporting staggering amount of wildlife; insects, birds, mammals, lichens
ROWAN	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Insect fauna, fruit for birds
SWEET BRIAR	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Its leaves and blooms form an important habitat for numerous species of butterfly. It also produces hips, which are consumed by birds.
SWEET CHEST-NUT	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Good source of food for small mammals
VIBURNUM	<i>Viburnum lantana</i> Way-faring Tree	Produces white flowers in May, followed by red berries in September . It attracts wildlife all year round-important for birds; wood mouse attracted by fruit; insects on flowers
WILD SERVICE TREE	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Attractive rare native deciduous tree, with maple-like leaves which turn from green to yellow then orange and finally purple-red in autumn. Rounded heads of small white flowers May to June followed by clusters of speckled brown fruit which ripens in September
WILD CHERRY	<i>Prunus Avium</i>	<b>Also known as Gean (pronounced with hard 'G')</b> . Important source of food for birds and small mammals
WILD PEAR	<i>Pyrus pyraster</i>	Good source of food for birds and small mammals

UNDERSTOREY PLANTS (Key species in green)

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
AGRIMONY	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	MEADOW PEA	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
BETONY	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	MEADOWSWEET	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
<b>BIRD'S FOOT TREFOIL</b>	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	MUSK MALLOW	<i>Malva moschata</i>
BLUEBELL	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	PRIMROSE	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
COMMON KNAP- WEED	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	PURPLE LOOSE- STRIPE	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
COW PARSLEY	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	RAGGED ROBIN	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>
COWSLIP	<i>Primula veris</i>	RED CAMPION	<i>Silene dioica</i>
DARK MULLEIN	<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	SELF HEAL	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
FIELD SCABIOUS	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	SORREL	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
FOXGLOVE	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	ST JOHNS WORT	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
GARLIC MUS- TARD	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	TEASEL	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
GREATER STITCHWORT	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	TOADFLAX	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
HEDGE BED- STRAW	<i>Galium mollugo</i>	TUFTED VETCH	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
HEDGE CRANES- BILL	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	UPRIGHT HEDGE PARSLEY	<i>Torilis japonica</i>
HEDGE WOUND- WORT	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	WHITE CAMPION	<i>Silene alba</i>
MEADOW BUT- TERCUP	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	WILD PRIMROSE	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
MEADOW CRANES-BILL	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	YARROW	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
CELANDINE	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	NETTLE	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
COMMON MAL- LOW	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	NETTLE LEAVED BELLFLOWER	<i>Campanula trachelium</i>
COMMON VETCH	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	OXEYE DAISY	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
DANDELION	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	RAMSONS	<i>Allium ursinum</i>
DEAD NETTLE	<i>Lamium purpureum, La- mium amplexicaulis</i>	RED DEADNETTLE	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
<b>DOG'S VIOLET</b>	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	RIBWORT PLANTAIN	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
GREAT MULLEIN	<i>Verbascum</i>	ROUGH CHEVRIL	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>
HEDGE MUS- TARD	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	SAGE WOOD	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
HEMP AGRIMONY	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	SWEET CICELY	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>
HENBIT DEAD- NETTLE	<i>Lamium amplexicaulis</i>	VALERIAN	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>
HERB BENNET	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	WHITE DEAD NET- TLE	<i>Lamium album</i>
HONESTY	<i>Lunaria Annua</i>	WILD ANGELICA	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
HYSSOP	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	WILD GARLIC	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
		WOOD AVENS	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
		YELLOW ARCHAN- GEL.	<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon,</i>
		YELLOW RATTLE	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>

### *LWS Hedge Planting*

- *Prepare a raised surface for the new hedge line by ploughing two ridges together.*
- *Ensure the ground is free of grass before planting.*
- *On poor ground, incorporating well-rotted manure will help establishment.*
- *Plant between October and March, ideally before January while the soil is still warm and there is more moisture available.*
- *Plant 4-6 plants per metre in staggered double rows.*
- *Ideally use two-year-old plants.*
- *Ensure that the roots do not dry out during transfer.*

### *Hedge Management*

The most prevalent form of mismanagement is flailing or cutting too frequently. Hedges which are cut or flailed to the same width and height on an annual basis rarely flower or fruit (depriving animal species of a food supply) and become too dense and compact to provide suitable nesting habitat for many birds. Conversely, a hedgerow that has not been managed (cut, coppiced or laid) for many years eventually loses the essential characteristics of a hedgerow and becomes a line of trees. This habitat is usually considerably less valuable to wildlife.

Hedgelaying involves cutting nearly all the way through the base of the stems and laying them over at an angle of about 30 degrees. The cut stems (pleachers), are laid parallel to each other. Typically, hedges are staked vertically and bound horizontally for strength and to achieve the thickest possible hedge. Stumps are cut as cleanly as possible; this is where regrowth is required. Eventually a new hedge will grow from the established root system. Meanwhile, the laid pleachers act as a stock barrier and protect the regrowth from browsing.

### *LWS hedge management*

- *The hedge should be allowed to grow to a height of 2.4 – 3.6m in height before laying (a laid hedge will be at least half the height).*
- *Hedge laying should be carried out by suitably trained individuals.*
- *The hedge should be trimmed (pruned) every 2-3 years.*
- *Cutting of hedge base vegetation, particularly in autumn, should be avoided where possible.*
- *Laying should be carried out every 10-15 years.*

## Appendix four: Animal Handling Advice

### BIRDS, BATS AND HEDGEHOGS

#### Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird

- take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built (it is important to be aware that nest building starts from the moment the first twig is laid)

- take or destroy its eggs.

To ensure nesting birds are not disturbed

- Hedge maintenance or the cutting of scrubby vegetation should normally be undertaken from December to February inclusive.

- It should not be undertaken between March 1st and July 31st inclusive, unless there are immediate safety issues.

- August should also be avoided whenever possible.

- If it is necessary to undertake maintenance during the nesting season, the hedge or scrub should be checked thoroughly for nests.

- If nests are present, or you are in doubt, work must not proceed unless there is a safety issue.

- In all cases in the summer months, the most limited cut to achieve the objective should be undertaken.

#### Young Birds

*It's common in spring and summer to find young birds sitting on the ground or hopping about without any sign of their parents.*

This is perfectly normal, so there's no need to be worried. The parents are probably just away collecting food - or are hidden from view nearby, keeping a watchful eye.

The young of most familiar garden birds fledge once they are fully feathered, but before they're able to fly, they spend a day or two on the ground while their feathers finish developing.

Tawny owl chicks are mobile at a very early age, and can be seen climbing in and around their nest tree before they are even half grown.

If you find a fledgling or young owl, the best thing to do is to leave it where it is.

#### What if the bird is in danger?

Fledglings should be left where they are, in the care of their parents. Removal of a fledgling from the wild will cut its chances of long-term survival to a small fraction, and should only be done as a very last resort.

If the bird is on a busy path or road or other potentially dangerous, exposed location, it makes sense to pick it up and move it a short distance to a safer place. Make sure you put it down within hearing reach of where it was found so its parents can find it.

Handling a young bird does not cause its parents to abandon it. Birds have a poor sense of smell and do not respond to human smell in the same way as mammals.

### Can I put it back in its nest?

If the young bird is unfeathered or covered in fluffy down (a nestling) and has obviously fallen out of a nest by accident, it may be possible to put it back.

If this can't be done, the chick is dependent on humans for survival, and it should be passed on to an expert rehabilitator, such as a local vet.

The RSPB does not run bird hospitals or a rescue service. The [RSPCA](#) (England and Wales), [SSPCA](#) (Scotland) and [USPCA](#) (Northern Ireland) are the national charities that help and advise on sick and injured birds and animals. [Tiggywinkles](#) and The [Swan Sanctuary](#) also take in wild birds in need of care

### Bat Found on the Ground



*Always wear gloves to handle bats. If you need help, call the Bat Helpline - 0845 1300 228*

A bat found on the ground during daylight hours is likely to be in trouble already.

Bats are protected, so it is normally illegal to keep healthy, flying bats, and a license is needed to handle them. However, anyone who finds a bat that is ill or injured may take care of it in whatever way is most humane and practical with the objective of its rehabilitation to the wild. There are a number of experienced bat rehabilitators in the UK, so in these circumstances please contact the Bat Helpline on 0845 1300 228 for assistance - they will be able to put you in touch with your nearest bat rehabilitator.

### Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are a priority species. In the events that ground staff see a hedgehog in one of the parks, please report the sighting to Saskie Laing (RBKC Ecology Service) .

Hedgehogs are often injured by strimming and mowing. In the late-Spring and Summer, hedgehogs like to sleep in long grass. Please check with your foot, for slumbering hogs, before commencing your work.

Hedgehogs are almost totally Nocturnal - they are active only at night, from dusk, onwards, and spend the daylight hours asleep. So, if you find one out in the day, something may be wrong! Very sick hogs/hoglets found by members of the public, are found wondering (and often wobbling) about in daylight. Sick or injured hedgehogs can be found at any time of the year.



If you find a sick or injured hedgehog, please, wearing a pair of gardening gloves, pick the poor hog up and carefully put him/her in a small cardboard box. Sick hedgehogs, and those in shock, need warmth. Within the bottom of the box, place a hot water-bottle, well wrapped in a towel. obviously, the hedgehog placed on top of the heat-source, not underneath it.

If an injured hedge is found please contact the Ecology Service or contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk) to locate the nearest treatment centre.

## Appendix five: A Brief History of Little Wormwood Scrubs

Researched and compiled by the Friends of Little Wormwood Scrubs

In the beginning there was only one Wormwood Scrubs. Part of the ancient forest of Middlesex standing on 38 million year old, agriculturally inhospitable London marl. It had resisted attempts at cultivation, unlike the rich well drained alluvial and gravel deposits of the **Thames floodplain to its south. It was considered "waste" ground of the Manor of Fulham, used for "despasting cattle and swine of copyhold tenants".**

The ancient track of Turvens Lane passed along the east side of the Scrubs going north to the Harrow Road. In 1844, following the road, an embankment was built for the Bristol, Birmingham and Thames Junction railway. Later known as the West London Railway. It dissected Wormwood Scrubs and brought Little Wormwood Scrubs into existence.

In 1840 The Ecclesiastical Commissioners and Homage Jury of the Manor of Fulham which administered both parts had let a strip of land in the Little Scrubs to gun maker Charles Lancaster of 151 New Bond St as a rifle range. A feature of this was a mechanical running deer target. The range was situated about half way up Little Wormwood Scrubs and the deer target track ran along the banks of Counters Creek with the shooting range at 90 degrees to it.

**Counters Creek, one of London's lost rivers, is central to the story of Little Wormwood Scrubs.** It rose to the north in Kensal Green Cemetery and emptied into the Thames at Chelsea Creek. It marked the Parish Boundary between Kensington and Hammersmith and formed the basis for the ornamental ponds.

Little Wormwood Scrubs boundaries have changed substantially over the years. In the Tithe apportionment of 1847 it was 26 acres. In 1859 the Great Western Railway took a strip of 12 acres in the north of Little Wormwood Scrubs for sidings and maintenance buildings. This took away an area known as Wormholt Wood, a very old piece of forest.

The Homage Jury of the Manor of Fulham agreed in 1870 to exchange the northwest corner (now Mitre Way Industrial Estate) occupied by a gasworks and the Red House farm for 5 acres at the south east corner.

This land bounded on one side by the railway, the other by the eastern edge of the Scrubs stretched from North Pole Road to a arch in the Railway embankment at Mitre Way/ Dalgarno **Gardens. It was purchased for £300 by Arthur Dalgarno Robinson. The vicar of St Helen's** Church on St Quintin Avenue (built on the site of Notting Barns farm) he had also founded St Clements in Treadgold St and St Andrews in Silchester Road. He was known as philanthropic **vicar and had established a "ragged" school in the Notting Dale Potteries. The land he bought was for designated for use as "Glebe Land", land used to make money for the Church. The** result was the dense housing development that took place in Bracewell Road, while Arthur built a large vicarage at the bottom of Brewster Gardens, now demolished. The space is now occupied with two houses, Coronation Court and the Post Office and row of shops.

**In 1880 The Ecclesiastical Commissioners passed on their responsibility and "leased" the** whole of the remaining land to the Metropolitan Board Of Works, the forerunner to The London County Council and Greater London Council. They built Dalgarno Rd (later Gardens), named in honour of Arthur Dalgarno Robinson for his good work for the poor in the Parish.

Not much changed on the Little Scrubs – **1890 saw "agricultural draining" but in 1891 a** petition was presented to the Metropolitan Board of Works from local residents asking that there be no playing of cricket on the little Scrubs.

**Minutes for the Metropolitan Board of Works council meeting On 7th April 1891 say "We have for some time past had our attention called to Little Wormwood Scrubs – certain of the inhabitants of the locality desires that it should be layed out as a park. Meanwhile one of the pleas for a park is that it would be more suitable for the recreation of old persons and young children. And there is ample room for the rougher games on the larger Scrubs".**

The Metropolitan Board of Works could not recommend the work necessary to create a park **but "The Council do prohibit the playing of all games except Lawn tennis and games for children on Little Wormwood Scrubs".**

In 1892 another petition, was presented to the Metropolitan Board of Works by colourful Hammersmith MP Sir William Bull on behalf of residents of North Kensington and Hammersmith who were keen to proceed with a plan for converting Little Wormwood Scrubs into a park.

On 5th July the Metropolitan Board of Works said that beyond drainage work, the erection of a boundary fence and the planting of trees nothing had been done to Little Wormwood Scrubs **since possession had been obtained. They agreed that a "portion of the brook on the eastern boundary should be widened and kept full by means of weirs and that a gravel walk should be formed alongside with a plantation for shade". The cost for this was estimated at £720. In May 1893 M Macey was authorised to carry out further improvement works "and construct un-climbable fences to protect the shrubberies and stream improvement works". Obviously "vandalism" was a problem then.**

**However in February 1894 the minutes state: "The expenditure upon the improvements has been £760 3s 6d as against £720 authorised, an excess of £40 3s 6d. This increase was partly due to the heavy cost of excavation for the stream owing to the exceptional hardness of the ground during last summer". Eventually the cost for all the work done on the stream, the improvements and a path entirely round Little Wormwood Scrubs was £1,100. An extra £380 was voted through to cover the shortfall. For the period quite a considerable sum of money.**

In May 1894 it was discovered that part of the money the council intended to use to drain footpaths was not needed so it was put to good use planting a shrubbery on the north **perimeter "so as to screen the R carriage depot which a joins the councils land". Some of this planting still remains with the rare pine trees that are almost hidden by the copse.**

In 1904 London County Council the successor to the Metropolitan Board of Works wanted to encourage live music in its open spaces so authorised the construction of bandstands in some of its parks. The winning tender for the one to be built on Little Wormwood Scrubs was from a Duncan Tucker of Tottenham with a price of £357 10s. It was to be positioned in the centre of the park circled by trees and to be constructed of oak with window panes in sliding sashes. Though from the photographs of the bandstand there does not seem to be any glazing.

1912 bought a petition from local residents to allow dogs off the leash on Little Wormwood Scrubs. Then obviously due to public demand 1919 saw the construction of public toilets in the north west corner. While in 1921 the London County Council undertook cleaning and puddling of the rivulet. Further concreting of the Counters Creek rivulet took place in 1924 at a cost of £1,230.

1926 saw draining of what was described as the Hockey Field (a space yet to be identified) at a cost of £490. Further agricultural draining took place the following year.

It is difficult to ascertain exactly when the ponds and weirs were removed. The 1935 OS map **shows them intact but the 1955 OS map shows the shape of the park, with children's play-ground and toilets, shelters but no ponds.** The last buildings that were constructed in this period were two staff lodges in 1962.

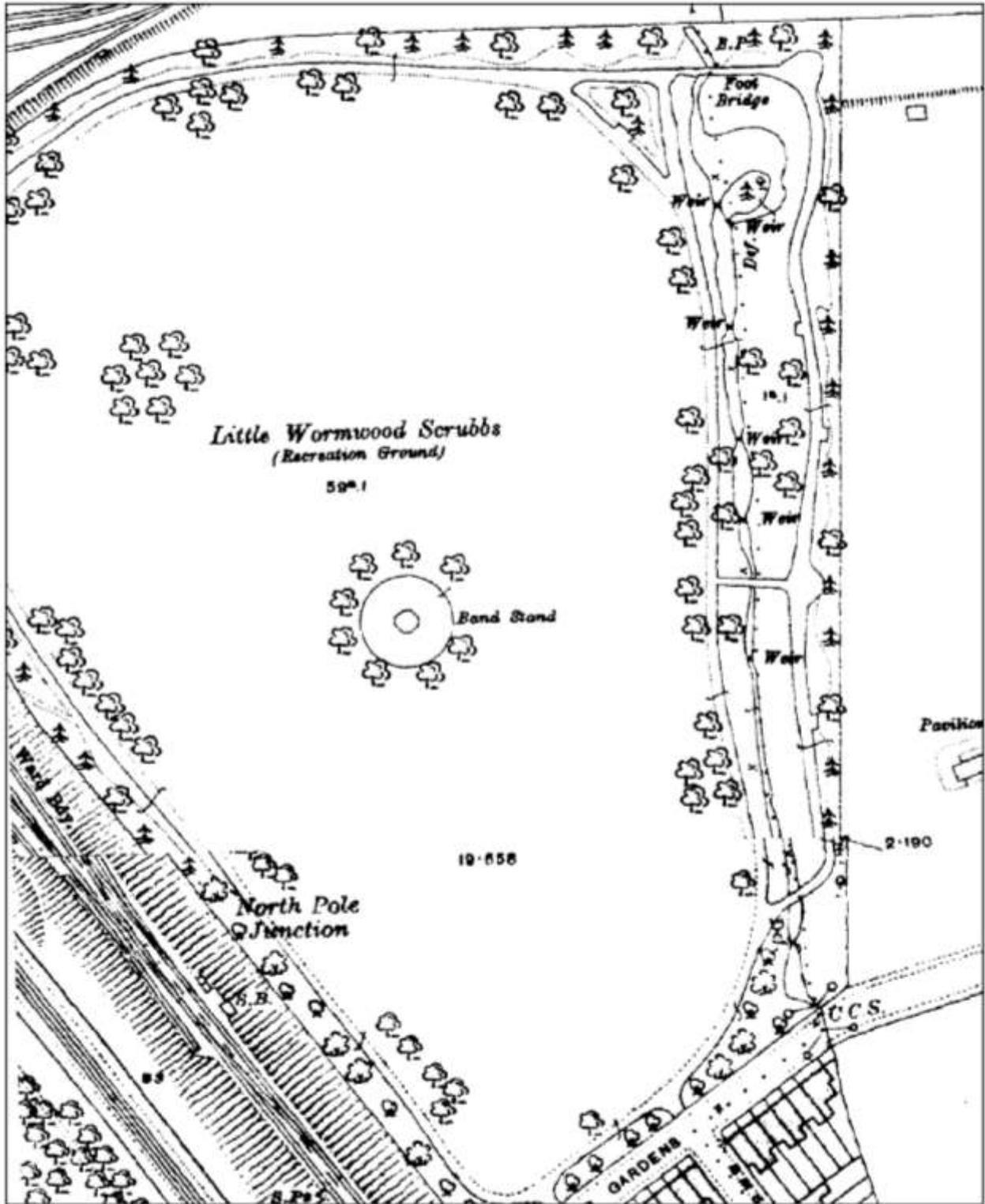
In 1971 stewardship of Little Wormwood Scrubs passed and was handed to the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. In 1977 the play area which had been situated in the north-west corner was moved to the south-**east corner with a "One O Clock Club" being built along side** changing rooms and storage. These constitute the buildings there now. The jigsaw that is the full history of Little Wormwood Scrubs has still to be assembled. More research is needed on the changes that have occurred in the last 25 years. We hope to fill in the gaps and welcome all contributions to this story. We certainly need to create an oral history of the Little Scrubs.

Little Wormwood Scrubs has always been passed by and forgotten about, its boggy wildness even avoided any of the military use suffered by the big Scrubs.

It was also always hanging half way between Kensington and Hammersmith. For historical reasons – the parish boundary between Hammersmith and Kensington ran down the route of **Counters Creek. The "owners" frequently were struggling to deal with what they had,** swapping bits of the land to make some use of it.

The story of the last 120 years tells of the isolation of Little Wormwood Scrubs, as it chronicles the pressure from residents to make things happen and create what people want from an open space. And it tells us the different things that different people want at different times from a naturalised open space. Current users of Little Wormwood Scrubs like the oasis in the Western urban desert. It is still providing residents with what they want. Tastes might have changed in the last 130 years but not the needs.

# Little Wormwood Scrubs 1915



<p>Title: Little Wormwood Scrubs</p>	<p>Ref: LWS 1915 Date: 15/09/10</p>	<p>TELE: PARKS The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Holland Park W8 6LU 020 7636 8192 monica.castello@rbc.gov.uk</p> 
<p><small>© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea 00021668 (2010)</small></p>	<p>Author: Monica Castello Status: Final</p>	<p><small>THE ROYAL BOROUGHS OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA</small></p>

## Environmental Policy

William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd. recognises that its products and operations have an effect on the environment in a number of differing ways. The majority are advantageous, such as the greening of urban landscapes and the overall improvement of homes and gardens, but some are not. Sinclair is committed to continually strive to reduce these negative environmental impacts.

Therefore in conducting its business Sinclair will:

- Meet or exceed all relevant environmental legal requirements.
- Reduce the level of carbon emissions associated with our growing media. In 2003 we emitted around 8.7kg CO<sup>2</sup> per m<sup>3</sup> growing media produced. This was reduced to 7.5kg in 2005 and we aim to achieve a figure below 7.0kg by 2010. The independently measured and monitored carbon footprint of J. Arthur Bower's 70L Multi-Purpose Compost is 25g/L.
- Actively promote peat alternatives wherever appropriate to market conditions. We will increase the use of recycled materials as alternatives to peat in our growing media. We used around 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> of recycled materials in 2003, 12,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2005 and have already exceeded our 2010 target of using 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>. We will continue to increase our usage.
- Regenerate worked-out peat fields in accordance with requirements identified in our planning consents. In many areas this will involve regeneration as wetland. Our current performance is to achieve 75% re-establishment of mire bio-diversity within 10 years of cessation of peat extraction, and we aim to improve on this. Protect peatland areas of high conservation value which adjoin, or are adjacent to, our worked-out peat fields in a proactive way.
- Continue to harvest peat from areas of low current conservation value and harvest peat in accordance with the International Peat Society and International Mire Conservation Group, Wise Use Guidelines (2002).
- Reduce, reuse or recycle wastes where economically possible, and ensure wastes are disposed of in accordance with best practice. Seek to minimise the packaging associated with our products. Over the last eight years the weight of plastic packaging we have used per m<sup>3</sup> of growing media has been reduced by around 20%.

Paul Smith,  
Technical Manager, with specific responsibility for overseeing environmental issues for William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd.  
January 2009.

## Appendix Seven: Summary of the Green Flag Key Criteria

### Key Criteria

The following is an outline of the Key Criteria against which every park or green space for which an application is made, will be judged. Where certain criteria are not met, an applicant may provide justifications that will be taken into account in the judging process. Similarly, where changes in management practice are in progress but not yet fully implemented, transitional phases will be acknowledged and viewed positively.

Parks or green spaces will inevitably offer a variety of facilities and be managed and developed in response to a wide range of opportunities and constraints. Judging criteria will be sufficiently flexible to allow for these as well as recognising and encouraging innovation.

In principle any facility or feature which the park or green space offers, should conform to the relevant key criteria, but the range of facilities offered and their appropriateness to the needs of the user community will also be taken into account.

#### 1. A Welcoming Place

The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park or green space should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting. Features of particular importance are:

- Good and safe access
- Good signage to and in the park or green space
- Equal access for all members of the community

#### 2. Healthy, Safe, and Secure

The park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately. Particularly important issues are:

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use.
- The park or green space must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse.
- Dog fouling must be adequately addressed.
- Health & Safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park or green space, and clearly sign posted.

#### 3. Clean and Well Maintained

For aesthetic as well as Health and Safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed, in particular:

- Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately addressed.
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained.
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.

#### 4. Sustainability

Methods used in maintaining the park or green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Specifically:

- An environmental policy or charter and management strategy should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Pesticide use should be minimised and justified.
- Horticultural peat use should be eliminated.

- Waste plant material in the park or green space should be recycled.
- High horticultural and arboricultural standards should be demonstrated.
- Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures should be used.

#### 5. Conservation and Heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features, wildlife and fauna.
- Landscape features.
- Buildings and structural features.
- These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment.

#### 6. Community Involvement

Management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park or green space user groups as possible. Management should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use.
- Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved.
- Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community.

#### 7. Marketing

- Marketing strategy in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved.
- Promotion of the park or green space as a community resource.

#### 8. Management

A Green Flag Award application must have a management plan or strategy in place that reflects the aspirations of Local Agenda 21 and clearly and adequately addresses all the above **criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park or green space's management**. The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed. Financially sound management of the park or green space must also be demonstrated.

Appendix eight: Parks Monitoring Sheet.

Site:	3	2	1	
<b>ITEMS TO BE CHECKED</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
1 Were entrance signs visible announcing the site and did they provide contact details for complaints and praise?				0
2 Were entrances safe and accessible to people of differing abilities?				0
3 Were entrances and car parks clean, litter free and well maintained?				0
4 Were signs throughout the site of good quality, well maintained, and current?				0
5 Where provided, were notice boards displaying up to date, relevant information?				0
6 Were paths in good condition, clean, unobstructed and accessible to different abilities?				0
7 Were any staff on site easily identifiable to the public, knowledgeable and approachable?				0
8 Had any hazards been identified and made safe?				0
9 Were facilities such as toilets, cafés etc. clean, well maintained and open as advertised?				0
10 Were buildings, structures and features on the site in good condition?				0
11 Were walls, fences, steps and other infrastructure in good condition, and without graffiti?				0
12 Was all children's play equipment well maintained and clean?				0
13 Were benches, bins etc. well located, clean and in good condition?				0
14 Was safety equipment present and fit for purpose (if provided)?				0
15 Was lighting, CCTV and other security measures in good condition (where provided)?				0
16 Was there evidence of unacceptable littering?				0
17 Did litter bins appear to be emptied regularly?				0
18 Was dog and other animal fouling adequately controlled?				0
19 Were horticultural standards being maintained?				0
20 Do trees appear to be safe and in good condition?				0
21 Have features requiring or undergoing maintenance been made safe with appropriate signage?				0
22 Did you feel safe during your visit?				0
23 Was the site flying its Green Flag, and was the flag in good condition and recognisable?				0
24 Was the site displaying its Green Flag Award certificate?				0
25 Would you like to make any additional observations? Feedback from public? Feedback from park staff?	<b>Final % score</b>			<b>#DIV/0!</b>

	<b>ISSUES and FEEDBACK</b>	<b>DATE RESOLVED</b>
a		
b		
c		
d		
e		
f		

GREEN = looking good / fully provided / done ORANGE = needs attention at some point / partially provided / partially done RED = needs urgent attention / not being provided / not done

<b>INSPECTOR:</b> G.VINCENT	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TIME:</b>
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