

Woodland Management Plans for the London Borough of Richmond

1.0 Summary

1.1 Woodland management plans are being drawn up for the following sites in support of a Woodland Grant Scheme which will fund capital works to enhance the access, amenity and nature conservation value of each site:

- Part of Barnes Common (S.W. Quadrant)
- Beveree Wildlife site
- Crane Park
- East Sheen Common
- Ham Lands
- Ham Common Woods
- Leg O' Mutton
- Petersham Common

2.0 Management aims and objectives

2.1.1 The following is a summary of the main aims and objectives of the management plans covering the above sites

2.2 Enhance biodiversity value

2.2.1 **Improve woodland structure.** There should be trees of various ages, as well as established canopy, shrub and ground layers of vegetation at each site. There should also be open spaces, glades and wide paths which increase the amount of habitat for a variety of species.

2.2.2 **Promoting natural regeneration.** Trees should regenerate naturally so that the woodland is perpetually renewed.

2.2.3 **Controlling non - native invasive species.** These species may crowd out native species and reduce woodland biodiversity and should, ideally, be absent from each site.

2.2.4 **Increase levels of standing and dead wood.** Dead wood increases the habitat available for fungi as well as a variety of invertebrate species which in turn support other groups of species such as birds.

2.2.5 **Maintain integrity of veteran trees.** Veteran trees in the borough have high cultural as well as biodiversity value

2.2.6 **Maintaining hedgerows.** Hedgerows may be important boundary features, act as visual screens and may have high biodiversity value.

2.2.7 These aims may be achieved through a combination of the following management practices:

- Woodland thinning to allow greater light penetration and to promote natural regeneration and development of ground flora.
- Direct removal or treatment of non-native invasive species
- Widening paths and managing path edges as a scrub zone to increase the number of habitats available to a variety of species
- Creating glades to vary the habitat structure of the woodland
- Creating or enlarging areas of coppice to further vary the structure of the woodland.
- Tree surgery on veteran trees, planting future veteran trees.
- Maintain hedgerows through light trimming and planting to fill in gaps.

2.3 Improve Access

- 2.3.1 Maintain existing paths by regular strimming through the summer months
- 2.3.2 Create new paths at Ham Lands and Crane Park and maintain by regular strimming
- 2.3.3 Install waymarkers at Petersham Common and East Sheen Common
- 2.3.4 Install steps at Beveree Wildlife Site and Leg O' Mutton
- 2.3.5 Install a bridge over the River Crane in Crane Park
- 2.3.6 Install kissing gates at Leg O' Mutton
- 2.3.7 Install horse barriers at Ham Common Woods

2.4 Improve amenity value

- 2.4.1 Install interpretation panels at Ham Lands, Ham Common Woods, Petersham Common, East Sheen Common
- 2.4.2 Install Benches at Barnes Common, Ham Common Woods, Leg O' Mutton, Petersham Common.